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Mountain Peaks



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NEWSPAPER, LLC

July 11-24, 2019
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DEADLINE: JULY 19

Volume 16, No. 14
www.mt-peaks.com

Area celebrates America's birthday



Nine year old Alexis Stec and her sister Kayla, 6, wait for the parade to start.

At right: Hundreds stopped by the 4th of July festival at Crestwood High School following the parade. There was live music, food, games for children, a petting zoo and pony rides.

"I have never seen a parade like this before, it's just beautiful" said a first-time parade watcher standing along Route 309 waiting to see her grandchildren who were part of Mountain Top on the Move's 32nd annual Fourth of July parade.

Because of the changed route this year, patriots came out early, to claim their spots along 309 from St. Jude's down to Crestwood High School. Participants included federal, state, county and local government officials, area businesses, military personnel, scouting organizations, civic and veteran's groups, schools, churches, and

See America, page 8

Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin & Claudia Strycharz photos



Jake Adzema looks fierce as he gets to the end of his cream pie on Wednesday, July 3 at the Independence Day children's pie eating contest sponsored by Abe's Hot Dogs in Mountain Top.

Dianne Hoppersberger and AJ Coldwell share a laugh at the American Legion Mountain Post 781 Independence Day celebration on July 4.



Grand Marshal Jack Frankfield with his wife Audrey, wait for the parade to start.



Wychock's Beverage was just one of the many Mountain Top Area businesses that took part in the 32nd annual Fourth of July parade.

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Places To Go ... Things To Do ...

JULY 15-19 SOCCER CAMPS

A Mountain Top Premier Camp will be held at the MYSA Complex in Mountain Top from **July 15 to 19** from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily for kids ages 7 to 10.

Directed by UK Soccer/Balylhoo professional coaches, the objective of the Premier soccer camp is to provide the player the opportunity to have fun while learning the fundamental techniques necessary to play the game.

\$99 per player includes camp ball and certificate/evaluation. To register: <https://tms.ezfacility.com/OnlineRegistrations/Register.aspx?CompanyID=3379&GroupID=2450443>.

A Mountain Top Elite Camp will be held at the MYSA Complex in Mountain Top from **July 15 to 19** from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily for kids ages 11 to 14.

A comprehensive program designed for the elite player. The Elite camp program is designed to advance the level of individual players with a demanding technical curriculum. Tasks covered during the week long camp will be differentiated to challenge specific ages and abilities.

\$99 per player includes camp ball and certificate/evaluation. To register: <https://tms.ezfacility.com/OnlineRegistrations/Register.aspx?CompanyID=3379&GroupID=2450444>.

JULY 15, 31 AUGUST 1, 5 MOUNTAIN TOP AREA LITTLE LEAGUE FALL BALL

Mountain Top Area Little League is again offering its popular fall ball (baseball &

softball) program, for boys and girls. Age based on 2019 regular season. Season runs late August thru mid October. Registration fee is: \$47

Boys and girls ages 7-8 (Coach Pitch/Minors Fall Ball); Boys ages 8-11 (Minors/Majors Fall Ball); Girls ages 9-12 (Softball Fall Ball).

All registrations are at the Alberdeen Complex from 6:30-8 p.m. on **Monday, July 15, Wednesday July 31, Thursday, August 1** and **Monday, August 5** or register by mail, call 570-762-0379 for information or visit www.mountaintoparealittleleague.com.

JULY 16 MT. TOP CARES SUPPORT GROUP

Mt. Top CARES is a support group for those who have been affected by a loved ones substance use disorder. Whether that loved one is still actively using, is in recovery or has lost their battle, their loved ones are not alone.

CARES is peer to peer support offered by those that have been on the same journey.

They adhere to many of the twelve step practices and principles, but are not a twelve step group, nor are they a replacement for professional counseling.

The goal of CARES is to offer a safe place for people to share their story, to find support, understanding and empathy.

The initial meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 16** from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church, 175 S. Main Road, Mountain Top. For questions call 570-262-3793 or email mttopcares19@gmail.com.

JULY 20 SUMMER CRAFT SHOW

The Nuangola Library will be holding a summer craft show on **Saturday, July 20** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the historical Nuangola Lake pavilion located on Raeder Avenue in Nuangola. There are a lot of activities going on at the lake and the craft show will be one of the highlights. Tables are \$20 each and run 8 ft. x 8 ft.

Vendors call Lorraine at 570-868-6308 for information.

CHS CLASS OF 1987 PARTY

CHS Class of 1987 will have a 50th birthday party on **Saturday, July 20** starting at 1 p.m. at the Mountain Top American Legion grove. Cost is \$25 per person to include a buffet dinner starting at 5 p.m. with water, soda, beer, DJ. Event will also be a BYOB event. Anyone attending is asked to please bring an appetizer/snacks or dessert. All classmates are urged to attend. For more information see their

Facebook page Crestwood High School Class of 1987 or you can contact Susan Dancheck Barney at 570-771-2179.

JULY 21-25 WHITE HAVEN MINISTERIUM VBS

The White Haven Area Ministerium invites all children age 4 by September 1, through grade 6 to explore where God's power can take them at

See Places To Go, page 4

2019 Summer Festival



SAT. 7-13: 1-10 PM
SUN. 7-14: 1-7 PM

ACTIVITIES Games for kids & adults

DELICIOUS FOOD
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SATURDAY, JULY 13

1-2 p.m.: Community Youth Band & Cellar Dwellarzz Jazz Band
2-4 p.m.: The Frost
5-6 p.m.: The Frost
6-9:30 p.m.: Kartune
9:30-?: Fireworks
SUNDAY, JULY 14
1-3 p.m.: Donny Dee
3-6 p.m.: Fuzzy Park Band

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Places To Go ... Things To Do ...

Continued from page 2

Vacation Bible School 2019, To Mars and Beyond! This space adventure includes exciting music, amazing science, creative crafts, fun games (so wear appropriate clothing), and memorable Bible stories that will help children experience God's amazing power.

The adventure starts on **Sunday, July 21 through Thursday, July 25**, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. each evening at St. Patrick's Church, 411 Allegheny Street, White Haven.

Registration forms are available at St. Patrick's Church office, Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., online at www.mountainviewnepa.org or call Deb at 570-868-3324.

There will also be an adult class offered: Christianity 101 - Answers to questions about the fundamentals of the Christian faith, which will run from 6:15 until 8:15 p.m. in the church hall. All are welcome.

JULY 22-25 SUMMER ADVENTURE CLUBS

Mountaintop Family Church will be hosting its Summer Adventure Clubs for children in the community from **July 22 through July 25** from 6 -8 p.m. The theme this year is *Child of The King: Put on the Armor of God!*

There will be great Bible stories, games, music, snacks and much, much more! Contact the church office at 570-474-0900 or katie@mfcchurch.com to register.

JULY 23 SMALL BUSINESS PARTNERS MEETING

All small businesses owners serving Mountain Top and surrounding areas are invited to the Mountain Top Small Business Partners meeting on **July 23** for an 8 a.m. breakfast meeting (cash only). The meet-

ings are every second Tuesday of the month for lunch and every fourth Tuesday for breakfast.

Mountain Top Small Business Partners is local small business owners/managers joining forces to build stronger business support and networking. For more information go to www.mtopsmallbusiness.com.

JULY 23 & 24 AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

The Marian Sutherland Kirby Library will sponsor an AARP Driver Safety class on **Tuesday and Wednesday, July 23 and 24**, from 1 to 5 p.m. each day.

The class focuses on ways to cope with the age-related changes that affect older drivers and takes place in the classroom, not in an actual vehicle. The course is designed for adults age 50 and over and includes group interaction

and discussion. Pennsylvania mandates a 5% discount on auto insurance for drivers age 55 and over who complete the course. Spouses listed on the policy must take the course, and there can be no recent chargeable claims and no high-risk drivers to qualify for the reduced rate, which is effective for 3 years. Persons with specific questions about eligibility should contact their insurance company.

Registration is required and

may be done by visiting the library located at 35 Kirby Avenue in Mountain Top, or by calling 570-474-9313. Participants should bring driver's licenses and writing utensils to the first class, along with cash, check, or money order payable to AARP. The fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for nonmembers. AARP members are asked to bring their membership cards.

See Places To Go, page 10

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FNCB opens in Mountain Top with ribbon cutting and open house

First National Community Bank (FNCB) held its ribbon cutting and open house recently at its newest location at 360 South Mountain Boulevard and its manager promises the financial institution will live up to its motto "Simple Better."

"We are a true community bank," manager Dakota Jones said of the newest bank in Mountain Top. Jones explained that the institution, founded more than a century ago in Dunmore, remains a locally owned and operated bank today. "Our headquarters is in Dunmore," he stated. "Not like some of the big banks with headquarters in San Francisco, Las Vegas or other parts of the country."

Jones emphasized that local ownership means decisions are made locally, not across the



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

Preparing for visitors to the new FNCB Bank are Linda and Ryan Drust, Mike Cummings and Sam Morsola.

country. "That makes a huge difference," he offered. "It's a different feeling knowing that I can call an underwriter who is just 20 miles up the road," he noted.

The Mountain Top branch, near Dollar General, is the bank's 17th location and its ninth in Luzerne County. It has nearby offices in Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton and Nanticoke. "We



Welcoming everyone to the open house at FNCB are, from left, Head Teller Amber Brezna; Dakota Jones, Bank Manager and Kris Toronzi Assistant Manager.

are local people. We are part of the community," Jones related. He pointed out that the bank's management and staff take its name to heart. "The emphasis is on community," he noted.

Jones said there was a huge turnout for the bank's recent

open house. "People were stopping in to welcome us and tell us they are happy to have us in the community," he related.

The Mountain Top branch is open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 to noon.

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Active Adult Center Menu

Active Adult Centers sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging for Luzerne and Wyoming Counties offer hot noon meals Monday through Friday to people age 60 and over.

This menu is a guide — some diets may vary.

If you did not order a lunch and would like one, call the center at 570-868-8517 to check for any cancellations.

Week of July 15

Monday: Stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, dilled carrots, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, cherry gelatin, milk and coffee

Tuesday: Asian BBQ turkey, brown rice, mixed Asian vegetables, crackers, margarine, fresh fruit salad, milk and coffee

Wednesday: Chicken pot

pie, roasted red potatoes, green beans, margarine, fresh pineapple, milk and coffee

Thursday: Roast beef, parsley boiled potatoes, peas & carrots, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, apple bread pudding, milk and coffee

Friday: Chicken primavera, whole wheat penne, tomato basil soup, crackers, margarine, mixed berries, milk and coffee

Week of July 22

Monday: Swedish meatballs, whole wheat noodles, broccoli & carrots, margarine, fresh melon, milk and coffee

Tuesday: Caribbean fish, brown rice, Caribbean vegetable blend, black bean & corn salad, margarine, fresh orange, sugar cookie, milk & coffee

Wednesday: Chicken cordon

bleu, mashed potatoes, roasted zucchini & yellow squash, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, fruit sorbet, milk and coffee

Thursday: Fiesta pork chop, oven roasted potatoes, chuckwagon corn, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, fresh fruit salad, milk and coffee

Friday: Open face roast beef sandwich on whole wheat bread, mashed potatoes, cream of broccoli soup, margarine, rice pudding, milk and coffee

Seniors are invited to attend lunch daily. Regular and health plus menus are available. The suggested donation is \$2. Make your reservations at least one day in advance by calling 868-8517 before 1 p.m.

The center is located at 460 South Main Road, Mountain Top.



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SUNDAY, JULY 14: JOE GIGAN ON THE PATIO • 1 P.M.
SATURDAY, JULY 20: BETTER WITH BEER • 8 P.M.
SUNDAY, JULY 21: CHRISTIAN FROM THE FROST DUO • 1 P.M.

News in Brief ...

Weis Markets opens beer-wine café

Weis Markets recently announced it has opened a beer-wine café in its store on South Mountain Boulevard.

The café sells more than 600 varieties of imported and domestic wines including ones from Pennsylvania vineyards, as well as a chilled section. The café also offers over 400 varieties of domestic, imported and craft beer, including a local beer section. The café

sells beer and wine Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

For more information, visit WeisMarkets.com.

Fairview Township supervisors hear complaint about cats

Fairview Township supervisors heard a complaint at their June meeting from Forest Road resident Mike Daikon who told them he has a problem with

feral cats on his property.

Daikon told supervisors that a neighbor is feeding cats which are defecating on his property, in his shrub bed, and making a mess of his grass. He asked the supervisors if they could pass an ordinance to make it illegal to feed stray or feral cats. Following a discussion, supervisor Michael Iorio made a motion to amend the township code or ordinances. The motion to amend the ordinance was approved unanimously. Before the change becomes law, the amendment must be advertised and voted

on at the supervisors July 2 meeting.

In other business ...

Supervisors voted to reject the lone bid of \$84,498 received for construction of an approximately one-quarter mile walking path at Memorial Park. Supervisors said the bid was over budget. They plan to re-bid the project in early winter 2020. The township received a grant from the state Department of Community and Natural Resources to build the walkway.

Bids for the Gracedale Avenue road project were tabled as

the lowest was nearly \$40,000 more than a grant received for the project. The township received a \$58,000 state grant for the work. The scope of the project was changed, and it was re-bid in June after original bids also came in over budget. The township is going to contact the state Department of Community and Natural Resources to determine if the deadline to spend the grant funds can be extended.

Supervisors did award a contract to Bob LaSota Construction to replace the roof on the municipal building at a cost of \$12,775.

Supervisors accepted the resignation of police officer Shawn McCole and hired David O'Brien as a full-time officer.

Zoning officer John Doddo told supervisors he is being inundated with complaints about high grass and dead trees. He reported he has been sending out courtesy letters notifying the owners of these violations and give them 30 days to address the problems. If they are not corrected, he said the township will cut the grass and remove the dead trees and put a lien on the properties.

Supervisor Fred Rose reported the township's annual summer park program got underway on June 17 with approximately 20 children participating. Rachell Pickett was appointed park program director at \$10 per hour. Other staff appointed were: Coit Holbrook, assistant park director at \$9 per hour; park aides Taylor Tomalinas and Cassidy Brumagin, \$7.50 per hour; Andrew Lehman, Nathan Dunsmuir, and Courtney Stone at \$7.75 per hour; and Alexandria Briggs-Reichart at \$9 per hour.



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America ...

Continued from page 1

ordinary citizens. The parade was sponsored by First Keystone Community Bank.

The Grand Marshal this year was Jack Frankenfield, a barber who served the Mountain Top area for nearly 60 years before retiring last year. Also honored this year was Aaron Keller, who won a Gold Medal in the Special Olympics earlier this year.

At Crestwood High School, where the parade ended, there was a festival in the parking lot with live music, food, games for children, pony rides and a petting zoo.

American Legion Mountain Post 781 then held a flag raising ceremony. Members of the American Legion Mountain Post 781 Venturing Crew 461 laid a wreath at the foot of the flag and Al Finn played taps.



John and Mary Dopp enjoy the parade.



Lucy Brown fills a plate with chicken for her table at the American Legion Post 781 picnic.



Members of Scout Pack 63, sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church in Drums, wave and throw candy as they make their way down S. Mountain Boulevard.

There was near total silence as members of American Legion Mountain Post 781 raised the flag, a Venturing Crew member laid a wreath at the base of the flag and Al Finn plays taps.



Mountain Peaks/
Norberta Kosin
photos

Special Olympic Gold Medal winner Aaron Keller, far right, stands on top of the Special Olympics float along with other competitors.



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Places To Go ... Things To Do ...

Continued from page 4

JULY 23 & AUGUST 13 MOUNTAIN TOP SOCIAL CLUB MEETINGS

The Mountain Top Social Club will meet at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church on Route 309 in Mountain Top on July 23 at 1 p.m. This will be a ice cream social. The next meeting on August 13 will be an auction so bring something to sell. The next trip to the Hollywood Casino will be July 25. Bus departs St. Paul's at 9 a.m. and departs St. Aloysius at 9:30 a.m. and leaves the casino at 4 p.m. The cost is \$26 d per person with a rebate of \$30 slot play and a \$5 food coupon.

If interested, call Cathy

We've Got Mail ...

Malkemes family thanks community

Dear Editor,

Thank you to all who came out to walk, run and roll with us for the 3rd annual ALS Walk in memory of Ken Malkemes Jr.

Our personal experience has compelled us to continue this fight to raise awareness and funds to help local families diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease and support ALS Philadelphia Chapter for their ongoing fight as well.

We are very grateful to the countless businesses, individuals, family and friends, organizations and groups in our community and beyond who contributed to making our event this year a great success.

Please visit alsonehope.com.

The Malkemes family

Medeiros for trips at 570-261-5016, to join call Rich Powell at 570-868-5701 or John Dopp at 570-535-0990.

The next planned trips are

to Silver Birches (the Big Band Music Show) on August 14 and the Bloomsburg Fair on September 23 on Senior's Day.

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Whipped cream pies and Abe's hot dogs make for a whole lot of 4th of July fun

Abe's Hot Dogs in Mountain Top held its first annual whipped cream pie eating contest for children and its second annual hot dog eating contest for adults on Wednesday, July 3 prior to the fireworks and party in Wright Township Park.

The pie eating contest consisted of five children who had a blast getting messy. Prizes were awarded to first, second and third place winners and medals for all.

The hot dog eating contest saw six contestants each hoping to win and donate their winnings to the charity of their choice. However, there could only be one, Stanley Witinski, whose charity was The Make a Wish Foundation. The monetary amount totaled \$340. Abe's Hot Dogs put in \$120, owner Jordan Kotowski matched that amount and Wright Township Supervisor, Matt Howton contributed another \$100.



As part of the 4th of July celebration on July 3, Abe's Hot Dogs held a pie eating contest for kids. From left, winner Maddy Harris, fourth place winner Jake Adzema, Jordan Kotowski, third place winner Matthew Kaslavage, fifth place winner Cliff Witinski and second place winner Regan Richmond.

Winner of the hot dog eating competition Stanley Witinski takes the last bite of his last hot dog to take the win.

Mountain Peaks/
Claudia Strycharz
photos



Abe's Hot Dogs owner, Jordan Kotowski, left, stands with the hot dog eating contestants, next to him is winner Stanley Witinski, Bob Burkett, Harvey Lake aka Johnny Boy Lightning Thunder Struck, Christian Mercadante, Paul Morgan Jr. and Mike Sullivan.



Maddy Harris wins first place in the whipped cream pie eating contest.

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Charlie Liem purchases a golf ball retriever from Steve Mordovsky and his daughter Grace.

Hose Co. sponsors yard sale

The Mountain Top Hose Co. sponsored a community yard sale on the Hose Company grounds on Saturday, June 29 with breakfast being served for a small fee. The event ran until 2 p.m. There were both covered and open spaces available for people to set up their wares. Cost was \$15 for a covered space and \$10 for an open space.

Rice Township takes delivery of backhoe

Rice Township recently took delivery of its JCB super backhoe. The equipment cost \$154,501 and was purchased with the assistance of a \$150,000 state gaming grant.

Township supervisor Bob Pipech, the township's roadmaster, said the backhoe will allow township employees to perform a multitude of tasks including paving projects which previously had to be done by outside contractors. In addition to the backhoe bucket, the machine includes a 94-inch sweeper with sprinkler and a pavement miller for paving projects.

"We are very grateful to Senator (Lisa) Baker and Rep. Gerald Mullery for their assistance in obtaining the grant," Pipech commented. He point-



ed out the grants the township has received have assisted in helping the municipality modernize its equipment.

From left, Ron Miller, Rice Township road department, Township Supervisor Bob Pipech, Senator Lisa Baker and Representative Gerald Mullery.

ed out the grants the township has received have assisted in helping the municipality modernize its equipment.

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Nuangola Grove Center & Theater to present *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

The Theatre at the Grove proudly presents the hilarious musical comedy *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* running July 12 at 7

p.m., July 13 at 7 p.m. and July 14 at 3 p.m.

Winner of the Drama Desk Awards for best book, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spell-*

ing Bee has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by

Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn, this bee is one unforgettable experience.

The production is about an eclectic group of six mid-pubescents who vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming “ding” of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box. A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a delightful den of comedic genius.

Presented through special permission by Music Theatre International (MTI). The cast includes: Rona Lisa Peretti; Alexa Martino; Vice Principal Douglas Panch: John Bubul;



Mitch Mahoney: Jonathan Muniz; William Barfee: Kelly Krieger; Olive Ostrovsky: Abby Martino; Chip Tolentino: Collin McHugh; Logainne Schwartz: and grubeniere: Kaitlyn Bellizia; Leaf Coneybear: Tommy Walkowiak and Marcy Park: Davae Lewis.

Directed by Kelly Krieger and Karl Barbee, music direction by: Andrew Rudenko, choreography by: Sydney Powell and Yeiber Gonzalez.

Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and can be reserved by calling 570-868-8212. Credit cards accepted. The Nuangola Grove Center & Theater is located at 5177 Nuangola Road in Nuangola.



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Second Honors: Grade 2: Zander Rossi, Drums; Jarena Samler, Freeland; **Grade 3:** Logan Sima, Drums; **Grade 6:** Shelli Selby, Freeland; **Grade 8:** Gabriella Rossi, Drums; **Grade 9:** McKenzie Kapuschinsky, Drums; **Grade 10:** Livia Sandu, Drums; **Grade 12:** Mark Lusk, Drums; Saraiha Rossi, Drums

WYOMING SEMINARY LOWER SCHOOL

High Honor Roll: Grade 5: Aarav Gupta, Mountain Top; **Grade 6:** Alexander Ross, Mountain Top; **Grade 7:** Katelyn Hohn, Mountain Top; Jason Pivis, Wapwallopen; **Grade 8:** Nadia Saeed, Mountain Top.

Honor Roll: Grade 8: Owen Rowlands, Hazleton.

WYOMING SEMINARY UPPER SCHOOL

Dean's List High Honors: Jakson Amend, Mountain Top; Jared Bozinko, Mountain Top; Anna Cabell, Sugarloaf; Nicholas Ganter, Mountain Top; Sophie Guichardan, Drums; Allison Hohn, Mountain Top; Aarez Khan, Mountain Top; Jessica Kline, Mountain Top; Caroline Marshall, Mountain Top; Kelsey Reznick, Drums; Kaitlyn Ritsick, Mountain Top; Cameron Shedlock, White

Haven; Emily Urbanski, Mountain Top; Benjamin Zhao, Mountain Top.

Dean's List: Ryan Anderson, Mountain Top; Dante Dalgin, Mountain Top; Charles Dick, Mountain Top; Halle Kehl,


Mountain Top; Andrew Lehman, Mountain Top; Ashleigh Pyke, Mountain Top; Luke Racicky, Mountain Top; Tyler Shedlock, Mountain Top; Ashley Tarud, Drums; Jared Weisenberger, Mountain

Top; Joshua Wufsus, Drums


FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY

6th Grade: Principal's Honors: Thomas Biscotti, Katie Charsky, Luke Colleran,

Owen Kline, Kiley Kondraski, Kevin Luther, Lucy Malia, Elizabeth Sapon-sky, William Savner, Audrey Shebe-lock, Sarah Shipton, Sienna Smith, Ethan Zabroski.




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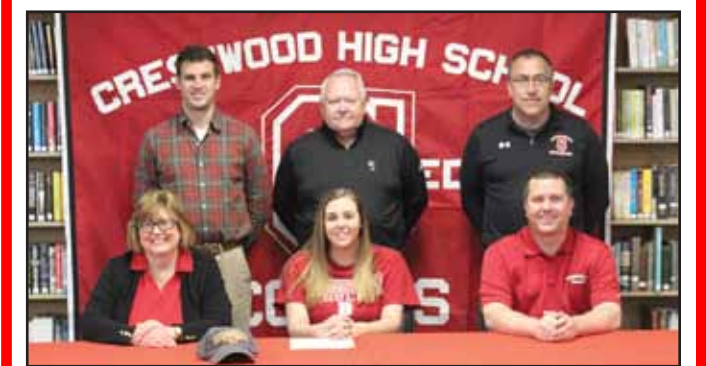
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Williams chooses Bridgewater College



Crestwood student Evie Williams will attend Bridgewater College this fall to continue her academic studies along wit playing on the golf team. Shown at the signing are from left, mother Michelle Williams, Evie Williams, father, Tim Williams; in back are Coach Jeff Bellas, Coach Mark Jarolen and Athletic Director Dean Ambosie.

Julia Poncavage is winner in 2019 Congressional Art contest



Representative Matt Cartwright congratulates Julia Poncavage as winner in 8th District Congressional art contest.

Julia Poncavage, a ninth grade student at Crestwood High School was a winner in the 2019 Congressional Art Competition for the 8th Congressional district, under Representative Matt Cartwright.

Her artwork will hang in "the tunnel" in Washington, D.C. for one year on display with other winners from across the country.

Julia's Fox in the Bush painting was recognized in Cartwright's district. She will attend a ceremony later this month in Washington, D.C.

Each spring the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since this competition began in 1982 more than 650,000 students have participated.

Julia has been studying art with Sue Hand in Dallas as well as many years with Anita Herron and has achieved many awards for her artwork.



Front row, from left are Molly DeMarzo, Isaac Mertz, Kyle Price, Peter Espiritu; back row: Brandon Whitman, Daniel Swanson, Jared Kotsko, Aiden Mertz, Matt Lemons, Amy Viti, Rob Moulton, team captain; Jake Swartwood, Daphne Belisle, Olivia Grozio and Kate Sklarosky.

Corredores Cubanos participate in Relay for Life

The Corredores Cubanos relay team from Mountain Top recently attended the Relay For Life of NEPA at PNC field. This is the twelfth year that this team has participated. The team is made up of current and former runners of Crestwood Cross Country.

Students present piano recital



Shown at the recital are, row 1: Grace Obmann, Jack Obmann, Elena Seltzer, Kai Hong, and Elysia Cleveland; row 2: Joseph Lettieri, Madalynn Young, Ronan Ness, Rowan Dietrich, Spencer Obmann, and Neal DeAngelo; row 3: Leah Dietrich, Virginia Franks, Molly Grove, Avari DeAngelo, Tyler Cleveland, and Ethan Mao; row 4: Emma Kamowski, Olivia Kamowski, Christopher Bowman, Andrew Murawski, Nathan Thomas, Ben Zhao, and Hannah Beaudry. Seated at the piano is Michele Millington.

The piano students of Michele Millington were presented in recital recently at the Christ United Methodist Church in Mountain Top.

Award certificates and pins were presented to students who participated in the National Piano Playing Auditions. Hannah Beaudry was awarded the High School Diploma in Social Music from the American College of Musicians. Trophies were awarded to those students who performed at Carnegie Hall in April: Zachary Brandreth, James Lanning, Hannah Beaudry, Molly Grove, and Ben Zhao. The award for the Outstanding Pianist of the Year was presented to Hannah Beaudry.

Volunteers help to clean up Nescopeck State Park



Mountain Peaks/ Claudia Strycharz photo Cheyenne Kokinda works at cleaning up the butterfly garden.

Nescopeck State Park held a volunteer workday on Wednesday, July 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in an effort to get the butterfly gardens and landscaping under control. The next volunteer workday will be on July 24 from 9 a.m. to noon. The garden crew will continue to meet every 2-3 weeks throughout the summer. Contact Nescopeck State Park if you are interested in helping.

Saint Jude School celebrates PJAS top honors

Saint Jude School participated in the 85th annual Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition which was held at State College May 19-21. St. Jude received 5 perfect scores, 21 first place, and 10 second place.

Perfect scores were attained by Ethan Brenner, Lainey Conway, Molly Grove, Sydney Kozden and Ahyaan Sayed.

First place scores were awarded to Francesca Basalyga, Katelyn Bozinko, Addison Burick, Avery Chepolis, Margaret Ganter, Carly Glaser, Alexandar Hargreaves, Hillary Hoda, Molly Jameson, Nicholas Kremiski, Lauren Lokuta, Jenna Medvetz, Jack Novelli, George Sabatini, Donato Strish and James Young.

Second place scores were given to Gemma Alberti,



Saint Jude School PJAS participants are, row 1: Molly Grove, Carly Glaser, Alexandra Hargreaves, Avery Chepolis, Lauren Lokuta, Olivia Bilbow; row 2: Natalie Hunsinger, Addison Burick, Lainey Conway, Margaret Mary Ganter and Fransesca Basalyga; row 3: Kayden Ayre, Kyle Kocon, Ethan Brenner, Donato Strish, Jack Novelli, Alex Martin, Ahyaan Sayed and George Sabatini.

Kaden Ayre, Taylor Bayley, Olivia Bilbow, Delaney Curley, Natalie Hunsinger, Kyle Kocon, Alexander Martin, Caden Sparich, Josh Van Pelt.

MMI Preparatory School students compete in PJAS state competition

Nineteen of MMI Preparatory School's 34 competitors placed first in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science state competition at Penn State's University Park campus. An additional 15 MMI students placed second in the competition.

MMI's first place winners were: seventh grader Abigail Sparich; eighth graders Jillian McGeehin, Manal Muhammad, and Jakob Narrow; freshmen Lindsay Horvat, Thomas Mayernik, and Grace Warner; sophomores Louis DeAngelo, Natalie Graham, Aaron Haber, Katherine Lewandowski, Hiba Muhammad, Samantha Sparich, Ella Urosevich, and Darren Zheng; junior Kai Mele; and seniors Nicholas Carrato, Morgan Long, and Zachary Young. MMI's second place winners

were: eighth graders Annabel Dobash and Brenna Eckhart; freshmen Amelia Minzola and Dustin Paul; sophomores Marcus Danchision, Noah Long, Jacqueline Snyder, and Alexandra Young; junior Benjamin Putnam; and seniors Elizabeth Borchick, Daniel DeMelfi, Wesley Guarneri, Alexander Kline, Jessica McClellan, and Coleman Smith.

MMI Dean of Academics Justin Vincent and instructors Michael Mele, Melissa McHale, Susan Moyer, and Amanda Shonk served as advisors for the competition.

Students conduct a scientific research project in one of the 12 Scientific Categories of Research identified by PJAS and then orally present that research to a team of judges.



Pictured are students who earned the ability to compete at the state competition by earning a first award at the regional competition in March, first row, from left: Jillian McGeehin, Annabel Dobash, Natalie Graham, Hiba Muhammad, Katherine Lewandowski, Samantha Sparich, Abigail Sparich, Manal Muhammad, and Amelia Minzola; second row: PJAS Advisor Susan Moyer, PJAS Advisor Amanda Shonk, Brenna Eckhart, Ella Urosevich, Jaqueline Snyder, Elizabeth Borchick, Alexandra Young, Kathryn Sissick, Lindsay Horvat, Grace Warner, and PJAS Advisor Melissa McHale; third row: Noah Long, Coleman Smith, Darren Zheng, Thomas Mayernick, Dustin Paul, Zachary Young, Alexander Kline, and Nicholas Carrato; fourth row: Kai Mele, Daniel DeMelfi, Aaron Haber, Wesley Guarneri, Benjamin Putnam, Jakob Narrow, Marcus Danchision, and Morgan Long; fifth row: PJAS Advisor Michael Mele, David Antolick, Louis DeAngelo, and Dean of Academics/PJAS Advisor Justin Vincent. Missing from photo: Jessica McClellan.

Students at St. Paul's get the chance to learn about butterflies and caterpillars



Above: The children from the Preschool and Playschool Wednesday morning classes with Rick Mikula and his amazing collection.

At right: Lauren Deivert bravely allows Rick to place a butterfly on her nose.

Rick Mikula, the world known butterfly guy paid the students at St. Paul's Preschool and Mountain Top Playschool a visit earlier this year. Rick taught the children all about butterflies and caterpillars, how to care for them as pets, how to make homes for them and how to tell moths from butterflies. It was an amazing day especially once Rick let the butterflies out and gave the children the opportunity to touch them.



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Lucille van den Berg attends Space Academy at U.S. Space and Rocket Center

Lucille van den Berg of Mountain Top recently attended Space Academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center,

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This program is specifically designed for trainees who have a passion for space exploration. Lucille spent the week training with a team that flew a simulated space mission to the International Space Station (ISS), the Moon or Mars. The crew participated in experiments and successfully completed an extra-vehicular activity (EVA), or spacewalk. Lucille and crew returned to earth in time to graduate with honors.

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Steinbrenner graduates from Bloomsburg U.



Madison Steinbrenner

Kevin and Valerie Steinbrenner are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter Madison Steinbrenner.

Madison is a recent graduate of Bloomsburg University. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary Education English and a minor in Education Technology.

While attending the university she was inducted into Kappa Delta Sigma, Tau Delta and Phi Kappa Phi. Madison will be pursuing a master's degree in Instructional Technology.

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Worship Together ...

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
Saturday 6 p.m.

JP Bohanan, Pastor

175 S. Main Road, Mountain Top
570-474-6060

Rev. JP Bohanan invites everyone for worship on the Lord's Day. Professionally staffed nursery available during the 9:30 adult Sunday School hour and the 10:45 worship service.

Holy Communion is served the first Sunday of every month. Sunday School: Children in Pre-K thru 4th grade meet during worship from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grades 5 thru adult meet at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Choir practices Thursday evening at 7 p.m. Cherub Choir, Kids Choir, Adult Bell Choir and Kids Bell Choir also practice on Thursday.

Christ Church offers a community Cancer Support Group meeting the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group meets by appointment. Breakfast Fellowship Group meets at the Chalet, Thursday at 8 a.m.

For more information: church office: 570-474-6060, church email: ChristUM-ChurchOffice@gmail.com; Pastor's email: bohanan.jp@gmail.com. Web: Christonthemountaintop.blogspot.com.

CONYNGHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
411 Main Street, Conyngham
570-788-3960

Religious studies are at 10 a.m. Prayer Circle meets on the first and third Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the church library. Brothers in Christ meet every

Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

The church secretary is available Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10:30-12:30, Thursday 1-3 p.m., Friday 10:30-12:30. Other hours are available, call 570-788-3960.

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.

Michael & Kim Pickreign, Pastors
3577 Church Road, Mountain Top
570-678-7231

Services are casual and family friendly. They are a group of believers passionate about sharing the gospel of Christ, healing broken hearts and seeking liberty for all who are oppressed.

Cornerstone Food Pantry is available for anyone who is in need. Pickups are available Sundays after the service, around 11:45 a.m. and by appointment.

The church is handicap accessible. For further information contact Pastor Pickreign.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Louis Aita, Pastor
7768 Blue Ridge Trail, Dorrance
570-868-5675

This summer, bring your kids to SonQuest Rainforest

VBS. Based on 5 key Bible verses that will transport young minds into a vivid rainforest environment of jungle sounds, sights and smells, where they'll dig into the Bible and meet Jesus in every day's story. Registration forms are on the table in the narthex. In order to prepare enough supplies and snacks, please help by pre-registering your child(ren). Any questions see Pastor Lou.

Teen Talk is for anyone in 7th grade and above. They meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to talk about God and Jesus, how their lives are influenced by them and how they can be an influence to others.

If recycling, place the cans in large bags and drop them off in the large crates at the back of the lower parking lot.

The Wapwallopen Ministerium Food Bank is housed at Emmanuel UCC and is open by appointment only. All contacts are kept strictly confidential.

If you are in need of pastoral care, call Pastor Lou Aita at 570-582-9550 or email him at aitatl12@ptd.net. E-mail access is emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com and the website is emmanuel-ucc.org.

**FAITH UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
Services: Sunday 8:45 a.m.

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

During summer camp the children have fun making words and letters with their hands and body.

MFC holds summer camps

Mountaintop Family Church held its summer camp including Stack Fast and Lego Robotic camps from June 24-27. The Stack Fast camp was for students who have completed kindergarten through 6th grade and like cup stacking; the Lego Robotics camp was for students who completed grades 3-6. There were also many other indoor and outdoor games for the kids to participate in. Snacks and lots of fun were part of the fun camps.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
1448 Slocum Road, Mountain Top
570-868-5640 or 570-954-1547

The congregation invites all to join worship service. Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month.

Sunday School is held from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for children ages 4 through 14.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Services: Saturday: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8 & 10 a.m.

Father Connell McHugh, Pastor
Route 309, Drums

Tuesday night bingo at Good Shepherd Church starts with

See Worship, page 21

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 20

an early bird game at 6 p.m. They play 22 games each week and payouts range from \$50 to over \$500. Regular games pay \$100 each. The kitchen opens at 5 p.m. with special soups, sandwiches, beverages, ethnic foods and a variety of other goodies including fries, pretzels, candy, chips, and more. They also provide complimentary coffee, tea, and cake to players and volunteers.

The Women of Good Shepherd will not have a July meeting. They will be seeking a new chairperson for the upcoming meetings beginning in August. If you would be interested in this position, please call the parish office.

The parish is in the process of planning a retirement party for Fr. McHugh on Sunday, August 18, at 1 p.m. at The Pines in Hazleton. You may call Marilyn Tedesco at 570-

455-7288 for information.

GRACE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**Brian Korner, Pastor
Blue Ridge Trail, Slocum Twp.
570-868-6298**

They are an old fashion Bible believing church still using the 1611 King James Version Bible and singing old favorite hymns.

Mid-week fellowship and prayer meeting is the first Wednesday of every month. Meal at 6 p.m. and prayer meeting at 7 p.m. Some fluctuations with this service can occur, so please call before attending to confirm.

Sunday School classes for children of all ages will help them learn at their level.

Children will love Junior Church during the Sunday morning service. Kids K-4

through 6th grade will be excited as they sing, learn memory verses, get prizes and hear preaching at their level.

A well equipped, well staffed nursery is provided for infants and toddlers.

The church has a bookstore, "Growing in Grace." They have a good selection of KJV Bibles, music, and various other items.

To contact the church call 570-868-6298 or email Kornerb@Truevine.net.

HARVEST CONYNGHAM VALLEY

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.

**Jeff Butala, Pastor
475 Main Street, Conyngham
570-788-1055**

Come and experience vertical worship and unapologetic preaching of God's word! Harvest CV seeks to develop grace and truth worshipers who share the good news of Christ with boldness!

Sunday children's ministry is age specific. Each child is loved and cared for by approved and responsible adults and youth support staff. At Higher Ground, each child is valued and taught the Word of God in age appropriate ways that encourage children to learn and enjoy their time in Harvest's Children's Ministry.

For more information visit harvestcv.org or Harvest Conyn-



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Students from left, clockwise, Abby Bachman, Cainen Mullen, Jonah Partington and Denali Albright work on some crafts with the guidance of counselors.

Presbyterian Church holds VBS

The Mountain Top Presbyterian Church held its annual Vacation Bible School from Monday, June 24 through Thursday, June 28. This year's them was *Fall, Into Jesus*. Classes were named after apples, pumpkins and other fall related items. The children enjoyed bible classes, indoor and outdoor games, music, snacks and a lot of fun with friends.

gham Valley on Facebook.

MOUNTAIN TOP BAPTIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

**Dale Mooney, Pastor
865 Church Rd., Mountain Top
570-868-6863**

Mountain Top Baptist Church invites you to join them for services. They offer a fully staffed nursery for all Sunday worship services for ages 0-3.

Wednesday night at 7 p.m. is a Bible study for the adults. There is a Bible study class for teens and younger ones have fun in the Kids4Truth Club with singing, Bible lessons, memory verses and other activities.

MOUNTAIN TOP FAMILY CHURCH

**Services: Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m.
Brian Knorr, Pastor
209 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-0900**

MFC invites families to church on Sundays during the contemporary services. Come a few minutes early for a continental breakfast with coffee, tea, bagels, and danishes.

KidsTown Children's Ministries takes place during both services for children 8 weeks old through 6th grade. The cer-

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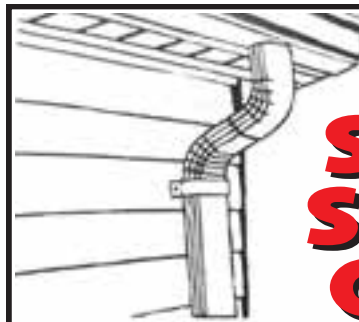


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See Worship, page 22

Worship Together ...

Continued from page 21

tified KidsTown staff provides a safe environment for children to grow in their relationships with God and with others.

Mountaintop Family Church will be hosting its Summer Adventure Clubs for children in the community from July 22-25 from 6 to 8 p.m. The theme this year is *Child of THE King: Put on the Armor of God!* They will have great Bible stories, games, music, snacks and much, much more! Contact the church office at 570-474-0900 or katie@mfcchurch.com to register.

A Preschool play group will be held on Thursday, July 25 at 10 a.m. only if it is nice enough to play outside. In the event of bad weather, there will be no play group that day.

A Men's Bible Study is held every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. All men are invited to attend.

Contact the office or email debbie@mfcchurch.com for information.

**MOUNTAINVIEW
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Service: Sunday 10 a.m.
Brook Selby, Pastor
5126 N. Lehigh Gorge Dr.,
White Haven
570-443-9438

Mountainview is a family church. They believe that through their relationships with one another and with Jesus, they will experience the freedom, confidence, and the full life that is available to them. Their mission is to provide an environment where anyone can encounter Jesus' love and guidance.

Every 4th Sunday is Family Sunday, when the children stay in the service and the church

shares communion together.

Young Adults Group: Young adults having fun and discovering what God has for their future, Fridays, 6:45 p.m.

Adult Women's Group meets at 9 a.m. before the Sunday service and are doing a study called, *Knowing God's Word*.

Mom-To-Mom Group: Learning and praying as they encourage one another and study God's Word together. Every other Thursday morning at Mountainview from 10 till noon.

For updated information on Mountainview Community Church, their small groups, and various activities, please visit www.mountainviewnepa.org and Facebook page: MountainviewFMC.

Mountainview is located about 1 mile from the Rt. 437 intersection in White Haven.

**MT. ZION UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Services: Sunday 9 A.M.
Pastors: Bob Thomas and
Rev. Fran Fink

Lily Lake Road, Slocum

Come worship in a real country church. Built in 1891, Mt. Zion still has no running water and uses an outhouse for their rest room facilities.

Pastor Bob Thomas will lead the worship service on Sunday, July 14. The annual church

picnic will be held at Moyer's Grove at 1 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish, goodie, or dessert. The Friendship Club will have its Chinese auction so new or nice items for the auction would be appreciated. Everyone is invited to join them for an afternoon of good food, fun, and fellowship.

Vacation Bible Camp will be Monday and Tuesday, July 15 and 16 from 9 to 11 a.m. for adults. Camp for the youth and adult helpers will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 17, 18 and 19 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. with lunch provided every day. The theme this year is *Building Up on the Rock* (Psalm 127:1 "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain") and will be led by Karen Alderfer.

For more information call Diane Webster at 379-3713.

**NEW LIFE
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Services: Sunday 10 a.m.
570 S. Main Road, Mountain Top
570-868-5155

New Life Community Church, invites you to come and worship the way it used to be.

Until the new pastor arrives, there will only be one service on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

There will be a coffee house, Friday, July 12, at 6:30 p.m.

featuring music with Paul and Mary Good from Quakertown, as well as dinner for just \$3.

Mark your calendar for the annual church picnic at Moyer's Grove campgrounds on Sunday, August 4 starting at 10 a.m. with the worship service, followed by a cookout with hamburgers/hot dogs provided. Please bring your favorite picnic food to share. Games and free swimming in the in-ground pool all afternoon.

Everyone is welcome to join Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

**OLD RIVER CHURCH
WAPWALLOPEN
MINISTERIUM**

Services: Sunday 6 p.m.
Route 239, Wapwallopen

The Wapwallopen Ministerium is holding worship services at the Old River Church, Wapwallopen, on Sundays.

These services are a peek into the way our forefathers

worshipped our Lord. Since there isn't any electricity, they start at 6 p.m. so they have enough light to read scriptures and hymns.

The Ministerium invites everyone to come and experience these unique and inspiring services.

The schedule for this summer is: July 14: New Hope UMC; July 21: St. James Lutheran; July 28: St. John's UCC; August 4: St. Mark's Lutheran; August 11: St. Peter's UCC; August 18: Mt. Zion UCC and August 25: Cemetery Association.

**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF
MOUNTAIN TOP**
Services: Sunday 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
9 Chestnut Street, Mountain Top
570-474-9951

You are invited to join in worship on Sunday, July 14. Elder Dr. Wes Mullen will present the

See Worship, page 23



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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 22

message.

All friends and church family are invited to join in corporate prayer for this time of the church's transition. Prayer will begin at 10 a.m. every Sunday in the Sunday school rooms. Come early for worship and spend time praying for the future of the church.

It won't be long until the new Sunday School year begins. If you are interested in helping please contact the church office or Cheryl Pekar.

Please donate your food items weekly to be given to the Mountain Top food bank. The need is great for packaged items, mayonnaise, coffee and sugar canned corn, red beets, variety soups and cranberry sauce are also needed.

2019 dates to purchase bulletin covers to honor or recognize someone are now available. A month's supply of bulletin covers is \$35. Flowers are also

available to purchase for \$35 for the vases or a special arrangement for the pedestal. Contact Lisa Bachman to schedule flowers or call the church office.

The church office is open Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Email: pbychmt@verizon.net. You can also find them on Facebook.

If you have any questions about the church or its ministries please call 570-474-9951 or find them on Facebook.

STAIRVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Services: Sunday 10 a.m.
Stairville Road, Mountain Top
570-868-5640

The congregation invites you to come and worship with them this Sunday. Communion is celebrated every 1st Sunday of the month. There is plenty of parking behind the church.

Choir practice is every Thursday at 3 p.m.

The J.O.Y. Circle meets every

second Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the large fellowship hall. They make the plans for all church events, new members are welcome along with their new ideas.

Pastoral care call Christine at 570-868-3413 or 570-592-1552.

ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Services: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
Oliver Brown, Pastor
827 E. County Road, Wapwallopen
570-379-3878

Pastor Brown conducts Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month beginning at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Worship services have begun outside in the pavilion at 9 a.m. Help is always appreciated to help get set up before the services.

The annual church picnic for St. James will be held on Sunday, July 14. The worship service will be held at 10:30 a.m. followed by a picnic lunch and fellowship. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish to share with everyone. The church will provide meat, rolls, and drinks. St. James, Zenith, is also be invited.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Tom Raber shows off his 1959 Studebaker Lark to Don Panzarella and Robert Buck.

Valley Community Church hosts car show

The Valley Community Church in Drums held an Independence Day car show on Sunday, June 30 at Rittenhouse Place in Drums. The show ran from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A \$10 donation for vehicles entered and prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. There was popcorn, hot dogs, patriotic music, a movie presentation and concert series as well as a unique children's ministry table.

Shelly Lawton is interested in running a trip to the model of Noah's Ark which was built to the original measurements and specifications listed in the Bible. This is an amazing recreation based on scientific facts and knowledge of the period. It is inspirational, educational, and fascinating. Not only is the ark itself fascinat-

ing, but the story of how and why it was built is also captivating. Anyone interested in taking this 2-3 day bus trip should talk to Shelly (570-854-2161) so she can determine the feasibility of contacting bus companies to set up the trip.

St. James will once again be participating in Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" program. The church will be selling the tickets for \$5 each. The money is a donation to the church when you buy the ticket. Your \$5 pass entitles you to a full day of 25% off discount shopping pass, refreshments, and fabulous register to win prizes on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. This is an easy fund raiser for the church and you benefit by all the great deals at Boscov's. Some lower floor items (small kitchen items,

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See Worship, page 24

Worship Together ...

Continued from page 23

etc.) are only 10% off, but all clothes, coats, jewelry, drapes, towels and much, much more are 25% off. This is a great day to do your Christmas shopping or just shop for new clothes. You can shop till you drop and then leave the store and go for lunch, come back and shop some more, and your ticket is still good for the rest of the day. To purchase a pass, see Darla Frace, Diane Bloss or Teresa Readler or call the church at 570-379-3878. Passes are available until October 16.

Boy Scout Troop 300 continues to meet at St. James Lutheran Church on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 379 meets on Sunday evenings from 6-7 p.m. Kindergarten through 5th grade boys are welcome to join. Call Billy Jo Scott at 570-854-3755 for more info.

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Services: Saturday 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 & 11 a.m.

Father Joseph J. Evanko, Pastor
420 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-6315

Congratulations to Fr. Stephen on being appointed Pastor of Ascension Parish, Forest City and St. James Parish, Pleasant Mount. He will begin his pastorate on July 15, 2019.

On Saturday, July 13 after the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Jude and on Sunday, July 14 after the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's, there will be a farewell for Fr. Stephen as they thank him for 2 years of ministry and send him forth with blessings as Pastor.

The church will welcome, later this month, Fr. Philbert of the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana, West Africa. He was ordained

in 2008 and has served as a Chaplain to Catholic school students, Assistant Pastor and Pastor in his home diocese.

St. Jude's picnic is set for August 9, 10 and 11. The annual bazaar is fast approaching and they are in great need of basket donations. If you would like to donate a basket but need an idea let them know and they can help. They can also do the shopping and wrapping for you. Basket donations can be dropped off at the parish office during office hours or contact Mimi Murphy at 570-956-6057 or mimifixl@gmail.com.

Helping hands are needed to make haluski on Wednesday, July 24 from 4-7 p.m. and Thursday, July 25 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in St. Jude School kitchen. Any questions, call Therese Smith at 570-868-3458.

The following items are needed for the Mt. Top Food Bank: Boxed soup mix instead of Ramen noodles, noodles, rice, boxed macaroni and

cheese, vegetable soups, cream soups, baked beans, jelly, peanut butter, canned fruit, tuna, ketchup, mayonnaise, pudding, jello, sugar, hot chocolate and coffee.

The Parish office hours are Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: closed and Sunday: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Services: Sunday at 11:15 a.m.
285 Pond Hill Mt. Road,
Wapwallopen
570-735-8531

Are you looking for a relaxed but traditional family church service? The congregation of St. Mark's invites everyone to join them as they share God's Word and celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday.

St. Mark's is a small country church with a big Christian heart! They believe they are called to: Be the body of Christ:

His heart, His hands, His voice!

Like them on Facebook, "St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pond Hill PA", to see pictures and announcements.

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.

Rev. Daniel FitzSimmons, Rector
3085 Church Road, Mountain Top
570-868-5358

St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church is an inclusive and modern Episcopal Church that incorporates into its liturgy the best of both Catholic and Protestant traditions while remaining open to new directions from the Holy Spirit.

Everyone, regardless of their faith or background, is welcome to celebrate Holy Eucharist with them on Sundays. For more information, visit stmartintimeless.org or call Janeann Lokken at 570-868-6895.

ST. MARY'S OF DORRANCE

Services: Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Father Joseph Evanko, Pastor
3529 St. Mary's Road, Dorrance
570-868-5855

The church warmly welcome all visitors! Contact the parish office if you would like to become a member of the parish.

Please remember to register children for religious education. Forms for K-7 can be found in the vestibule of the Church. K-6 grades \$20. Seventh grade \$40., Eighth grade registers on the St. Jude website. Cost is \$75. Please call the parish office with any questions or concerns, or if you would like to volunteer this coming year.

The Knights of Columbus is looking for a few good men! If you are interested in giving

See *Worship*, page 25

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 24

back to your church and community and having fun while doing it call John Baab 516-241-5297.

Office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or by appointment. In case of emergency call 570-474-6315 and follow prompts for emergency.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Services: Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Rev. Michael F. Kloton, Pastor
521 Northumberland Street,
White Haven
570-443-9944

Bible Study is on Tuesday at 5:45 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Weekly Rosary is Wednesday at 6 p.m. in church and, on the first Wednesday of each month, adoration and benediction.

If you would like information about joining the Knight of Columbus, please call Jim Curto at 570-443-8494.

AA meets on Saturday night at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center for a meeting.

Folk Group Choir practices each Monday at 6 p.m. All adults and children, 3rd grade and older are welcome. Questions call Linda at 443-7002.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Michelle Kaufman, Pastor
316 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-6616

The congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Mountain Top encourages you to join them for worship this week. The following is a brief summary of upcoming worship and service opportunities.

Youth from St. Paul's are invited to join youth and staff at St. John's for this year's VBS program, *To Mars and Beyond*. Bible School is scheduled for the week of August 5-9 from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration forms are located on the narthex table.

The Maine Source GiveBack Program is a unique way of giving back to the community. It is a free year-round fundraising program with no selling involved. Any time a member of the

Roar for Jesus theme of VBS at St. James



Preschooler Parker Jones works on a craft that is about Moses, the Exodus and the parting of the Red Sea.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos
Four year old Mia Warhurst works diligently on her tie dye shirt.

St. James Lutheran Church in Hobbie held its annual Vacation Bible School from June 24 through June 28; Monday-Thursday everyone met from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and on Friday everyone met from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

On Friday evening the VBS program with

refreshments was held from 7 to 9 p.m. On Wednesday everyone had fun doing tie-dye T-shirts.

The weeklong program also included bible classes, games, food and a whole lot of fun.

The theme this year was *Roar*.

church swipes their GiveBack card, those purchases will count towards the church's cumulative total. Every purchase you make, counts towards the rebate. Pick up a form and return it to the church today. Forms are on the table in the Narthex.

Bible Study is held every Thursday at 1 p.m. They welcome interested persons to attend. Have some fun with learning; only 2 hours a week with a knowledgeable teacher.

Snacks provided.

Every third Wednesday, at 1 p.m. at the church will be board game day. Please bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Come on out and have some fun.

The first Sunday of each month has been declared "Food Bank Day" and they ask that members bring non-perishable food items in order to keep up with the demand for food.

The Yarn Spinners will contin-

ue to work on the prayer shawls and baptismal blankets for Pastor. If any of you are talented in crocheting or knitting, or would like to learn, you are invited to join them. Lessons will be given by Lois. If you can't make the meetings, call Lois at 474-5502, and volunteer your talents by making the items at your own pace at home.

Every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 7 p.m. AA meetings are held, at 6:15 p.m., on Wednesdays Weight Watchers meetings are in session. Every Thursday NA meets at 6 p.m. Stress & Anxiety Management: Every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The church office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 25

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Lynn Rothrock, Pastor
418 Berwick St., White Haven
570-443-9424

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at 9:15.

Activities at St. Paul's include: youth group for those in grade 4 through 12 the first and third Sunday at 6 p.m. Quilters on Monday at 9:30 a.m., Adult Bible Study on Tuesday at 7 p.m., community lunch each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish House.

ST. PAUL'S DRUMS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Rev. Debra L. Hebden, Pastor
335 W. Butler Drive, Drums
570-788-3051

Pastor Debra and the congregation invite you to worship with them every Sunday. Fellowship time follows the service. Holy Communion is offered on the first Sunday of the month.

Ongoing ministries include Tuesday evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact them at www.stpauls-drums.com or Email: stpauls-drums@gmail.com.

VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Service: Sunday 10 a.m.
Keith Evans, Pastor
4 Rittenhouse Place, Drums
570-578-3252

A blended worship is held at

10 a.m. on Sunday mornings with blended worship music (contemporary and a hymn), encouraging corporate prayer, responsive reading, dynamic preaching, friendly and interactive, Bason's Coffee, brunch foods and more!

VCC church picnic at Knoebels Amusement Park is scheduled for Saturday, August 17 at 10 a.m. Hamburgers, hotdogs and the fixins. Join them for faith, fellowship, and fun!

VCC Growth Groups are held on Tuesdays. Come at various times for different "Growth" groups: Partners in Parenting: Find helpful strategies on parenting at 2 p.m.; Healing is a Choice: Discover emotional healing at 3:30 p.m.; 2R1: Find insights on how to strengthen your marriage at 5:30 p.m.; Single Again: a safe coffee-house environment for singles desiring to engage in faith-based study and discussions (ages 25-50) at 7 p.m.

Find hope in the Valley. Jesus set the example of love and compassion offering everyone a second chance.

For information you can check www.yourvcc.com.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP

Services: Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

David Holmlund, Pastor

526 Robbins Way
Mountain Top
215-237-5514

Westminster Presbyterian Fellowship (a mission work of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church) meets in a family home at 526 Robbins Way, Mountain Top on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Orthodox Presbyterian churches are characterized by care in teaching and practicing God's word faithfully emphasizing historic Protestant doctrine (Calvinism), reverent and traditional worship, and a commitment to loving shepherding and biblical accountability. If you are intrigued, come meet other friendly people in the area who are committed to a biblical and robust expression of the Christian tradition in NE Pennsylvania.

They are praying for the Lord to take a weeknight Bible study of local families and grow that into a young congregation with a worship service in town. Here are some of their plans for the summer.

Each week Westminster Presbyterian Fellowship meets for a Bible study from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays. After a time of study and prayer, there are always refreshments to enjoy over conversation.

See Worship, page 27



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Carol Kashuba is interested in some of the many books for sale in the basement of the church.

Sale held at St. Martin in the Fields

The auxiliary of St. Martin in the Field's Lutheran Church in Mountain Top held a yard and bake sale on Saturday, June 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many interested people came to check out the large variety of household items, books and much more.

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 25

This Bible study is open to visitors who want to drop in, but it is fine to contact them if you have questions and simply want to learn more about this regular meeting.

In their church tradition, they enthusiastically use a historic catechism, the Westminster Shorter Catechism, to

help children and even adults learn the biblical faith through questions and answers about the scope of Christian belief.

They are planning a special afternoon fellowship event on July 4 following the parade.

For more information, contact Pastor Dave Holmlund at daveholmlund@gmail.com or 215-237-5514.

WHITE HAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9 a.m.

3rd Saturday 5 p.m.

Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

David Botzer, Pastor

900 Buffalo St., White Haven

570-443-7153

White Haven UMC welcomes everyone in the com-

munity to worship with them on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Communion is shared the first Sunday of the month. A contemporary communion service is held on the third Saturday of the month at 5 p.m.

Sunday School welcomes children Pre-K through 5th grade. Youth Group welcomes those in 6th-12th grade. Both meet every Sunday at 10:15

a.m. following worship.

Adult Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. in the parlor.

If you are in need of pastoral care, call Pastor Dave at 570-443-7153 or e-mail him at dbotzer@hotmail.com.

Check them out on Facebook at White Haven United Methodist Church.

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Boys basketball camp held at CHS



Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin photo

As Coach Atherton watches, teams scrimmage, using the techniques they learned, on the last day of basketball camp at Crestwood High School. This was the 20th year that varsity head Coach Mark Atherton has conducted the camp. There were two sessions – one for boys entering grades 3-5 and the other for those entering grades 6-9. Players learned offensive and defensive fundamentals of basketball during the four-day camp.

National Guild completes piano auditions locally

The National Guild of Piano Teachers, headquartered in Austin, Texas, recently held its annual Guild piano auditions in the local area, announced chairperson, Andrea Bogusko. Serving as adjudicator for the week long event was Dr. Lois Forbes, Collegeville, PA. National Guild teachers include Andrea Bogusko, Judith Katra, Michele Millington, and Diane Shuleski.

Students performed memorized piano programs from 2 to 20 pieces for the judge, and received certificates, report cards, and bronze, silver, or gold medals. Ten year participants received the prestigious Paderewski Gold Medal, performing 10 or more memorized pieces for 10 years.



Pictured with their certificates, from left, are Owen Kline, 8th year National winner; Maria Egidio, 9th year International winner; Molly Grove, National winner; Ciana Cruz, 9th year National; Gwyn Cruz, 10th year Paderewski Gold Medal winner; standing: Hannah Beaudry, H.S. Social Music Diploma winner; James Lavan, and Brendan Shubzda, 8th year National winners. Also participating were International, 3rd year Joseph Lettieri; 2nd year Christopher Bowman; Lyndsey Zhang, 1st year; Lukacs Zhang, National 10th year Paderewski Medal; Dominique Kline, 9th year; Erin Barno, 8th year; Andrew Murawski; Jenna Vincenti, 7th year; Daria Clarke; Megan McLaughlin, 6th year; Leah Dietrich, 5th year; Rio Bantell, Tyler Cleveland, Emma Kamowski, Kyle Kocon, Nadia Saeed, Max Weibrecht, Ben Zhao.

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Felix Rushinski honored by Boy Scouts for service to scouts and our country

A Mountain Top veteran who has been active in the Boy Scouts for 35 years was honored at a Flag Day ceremony held at the Veterans of Foreign War Anthracite Post 283, Kingston.

U.S. Army veteran Felix Rushinski was recognized by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council, Boy Scouts of America, for his service to our country and the Boy Scouts. Rushinski joined the Army in 1966 and served a one-year tour in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division and the 4th Division. While serving in Vietnam, Rushinski was wounded and subsequently was awarded the Purple Heart along with other service medals. After returning from Vietnam, he served as a drill instructor at Fort Benning, Georgia.

A long-time scout, Rushinski has been a member of Boy Scout Troop 60 for 35 years and helped start Troop 433 in Rice Township. He has been a member of American Legion Post 781 for 39 years and a Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Lifetime Member.



Felix Rushinski

The army veteran has resided in Mountain Top for 50 years. He and his wife, Susan, have three children, David, Nicolle and Marcie. He worked as a union carpenter for 38 years, primarily with Sordoni Construction Co.

Certificates of recognition were presented by Rachel Stark, Two Mountains District Executive, and Charlie Jones Two Mountains District Chairman. Wilkes-Barre native Jim Rushton, CFRE, Senior Business Development Officer and Team Leader, Summit High Adventure Base, was on hand to represent the Boy Scouts national office, Irving, Texas.



Felix Rushinski is congratulated by Boy Scout District Executive Rachel Stark while Two Mountains District Chairman Charlie Jones looks on.

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Live Like Erik basketball tournament held



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Playing their first game of the day are Team Brogna (brown) and Team Hopkins (purple).

The 2019 3x3 L.L.E. (Live Like Erik) basketball tournament was held on Saturday, June 22 at the Wright Township park in Mountain Top. The tournament raised funds on behalf of The Erik Fredmund Memorial Fund of The Luzerne Foundation. Approximately 100 participants came out to compete and celebrate the life of Erik. The funds raised will be used to give grants and scholarships to organizations that encourage youth to pursue a positive, healthy, and community focused lifestyle and to students that reflect the qualities Erik illustrated; sportsmanship, acceptance, kindness and friendship. Visit www.luzfdn.org and search for The Erik Fredmund Memorial Fund for more information.

Weisenberger achieves Eagle Scout rank

Jared Weisenberger of Mountain Top, PA joined Cub Scout Pack 106 in 2008 at age six as a Tiger Cub. After advancing through the ranks of Tiger, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos I, and Webelos II, Jared earned his Arrow of Light, the highest Cub Scout award in March 2014. Jared crossed over into Boy Scouts and joined Boy Scout Troop 106 at Christ United Methodist Church in Mountain Top.

Jared's path in scouting, which was very important to him, conflicted with his year round sports schedule. In order to continue the boy scout path, Jared joined Boy Scout Troop 60 at St. Jude's Church in Mountain Top. Jared continued as a boy scout to earn the required ranks as well as 26 merit badges. Jared has served



Jared Weisenberger

in leadership positions within the troop including Quartermaster and Patrol Leader. He participated in numerous community service projects and attended many scout camps including the Kutztown University Jamboree, Camp Acahela, Goose Pond, Camp Rodney and West Point. Jared passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review on March 20, 2019. At the Eagle ceremony held on June 30 at St. Jude's grove, Jared received his Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in scouting, with a Bronze Palm.

Jared's Eagle Scout project was completed at the Marian Sutherland Kirby Library on October 31, 2018. He planned and coordinated the refurbishing of the nature trail behind

the library. The project included extending the trail entrance out to the parking lot, installing ground cover, adding new mulch to the trail, removing downed trees along the path, fixing damaged benches found along the trail, moving the sign to a better location and adding an additional marker at the parking lot entrance. He chose a project that would give back to the local community because of the support he received over the years through food drives and popcorn sales.

Jared will be entering his senior year at Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School in Kingston. He is a three year varsity letter member of the soccer team and ice hockey team. He is also a varsity letter member of the tennis team. His accolades include 2nd place in 2016 and 1st place in 2018 in Soccer District 2 AA as well as being named on 2nd team All Stars in 2018. He was also a member of the 2017 Casey Classic champion ice hockey team and the undefeated 2019 District 2 AA Tennis champions. Jared is a member of the Trucksville United Methodist Church where he has served as an acolyte, usher and volunteer service in the Youth Group.

Jared plans on majoring in business in college.

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