

Volume 16, No.15

Fairview communities show appreciation to retiring bus driver

Like most youngsters, June 11 was an exciting day for students at Fairview Elementary School. It was the last day of school for the year and they were looking forward to summer vacation.

At the same time, it also was a sad and emotional day for students and parents who live in the Briar Brook, Bow Creek, and Bow Creek Estates developments in Fairview Township. That's because June 11 was most likely the last day

Providence Place

that Pattie Ostrowski, who had been driving children in these neighborhoods to school for nearly 30 years, would be behind the wheel of the school bus.

Students, parents, grandparents, and even former passengers lined Ostrowski's route to tell her how much they loved her and appreciated all that she had done for them over the last three decades. They held signs, brought flowers and cards of appreciation for the woman who had driven two generations to school.

"I couldn't believe it,"

Pattie Ostrowski is overcome with emotion, gifts and signs from the students on her last day on the ob.

Ostrowski said of the sendoff she received. "There were signs telling me they love me and will miss me. There were cards and notes. It broke my heart. There were even students who had already graduated hugging me."

Ostrowski has been employed by Rinehimer Bus Company for 39 years. Since 1992 she has driven the route that includes Briar Brook. Bow Creek, and Bow Creek Estates. In some cases, she was driving a second generation of students to school. "I love my job," Ostrowski offered. "I've seen kids who were on my bus when I first started driving now putting children of their own on my bus. They are like family," she added.

Rinehimer Bus Co. manager Paul Gallagher praised

See Ostrowski, page 7



bye to Miss Pattie.



gown to say goodbye.

tie Ostrowski. At left: Sara Hoeft dons her cap and

Nora Grauel, Autumn Grauel, Kevin Schlude, Ben Co-Will, Hannah, Cat and Ben Ziegler say good- slett, Christopher Schlude, and Maren Schlude display the signs for Ostrowski on her last day.

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

EVERY TUESDAY MT. TOP CARES MEETING

Mt. Top Cares meets **Tuesdays** from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church, 175 S. Main Road in Mountain Top.

Mt. Top Cares is a support group for those who have been affected by a loved ones substance use disorder.

For more information email mttopcares19@gmail.com or call 570-262-3793.

UNTIL OCTOBER 27 FARMER'S MARKET

The Mountain Top Rotary sponsored farmer's market is held every Sunday at Crestwood High School, 281 S. Mountain Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until October 27.

The market features fresh vegetables, fruits, herbs, honey, eggs, hot sauces, baked goods, confectionery treats, gourmet dog treats and a Caribbean food truck.

JULY 26 & 27 FLEA MARKET

White Haven United Methodist Church will hold its annual flea market with treasures galore on Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Food will also be available. White Haven United Methodist Church is located at 900 Buffalo Street in White Haven.

JULY 27 & 28 SUMMER KIDS FEST

Valley Community Church will host a summer kids fest on **Saturday, July 27** from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and on **Sunday, July 28** at 10 a.m. The event will feature carnival style games, puppets, prizes, popcorn and snow cones, creative Biblical story telling, food and drinks, castle moon bounce. The event is located at 4 Rittenhouse Place in Drums. To register go to harborofhope@netzero.com. For more info text 570-599-8123.

JULY 28 CAR SHOW

The Sons of the American Legion, Mountain Post 781 will hold its 6th annual car show at the American Legion, 1550 Henry Drive in Mountain Top on **Sunday, July 28** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All vehicles welcome. \$10 show vehicle registration starts at 10 a.m. Dash plaques for the first 100 vehicles. Free admission to the general public. Proceeds benefit local veterans and their children. Food and refreshments will be available.

For advanced registration call 570-474-2161 or email mtsal0781@gmail.com.

BASS TOURNAMENT

The Blytheburn Lake Association will sponsor a bass tournament on **Sunday**, **July 28** from 6:30 to 11 a.m. on Blytheburn Lake.

10-15 boat limit, 2 people per team. Boats must be on the water by 6:20 a.m. sharp. No lines in the water until 6:30 a.m. All boats must be in sight and lines out of the water at 11 a.m. No exceptions.

Bass tournament rules: Any dead bass will be assessed a one pound penalty. All bass must be at least 15" to weigh in. No live bait! Artificial lures only.

\$40 per team; 40% to club and 60% to prize pot. \$10 lunker (optional). 100% will go to winner.

70% of pot goes to 1st place, \$30% of pot goes to 2nd place. Breaking any rules will result

in disqualification and there will be no refunds.

Please contact 570-466-2082

to sign-up for the tournament and for more information.

JULY 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 Wednesday July 31, Thursday, August 1 and Monday, August 5 or register by mail, call 570-762-0379 for See Places To Go, page 4





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Mountain Peaks



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

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information or visit www.mountaintoparealittleleague.com.

AUGUST 6 MYSA SOCCER REFEREE TRAINING

For anyone who'd like to referee youth soccer games this fall, there will be a free workshop at the Kirby Library on Tuesday, August 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn about MYSA's youth soccer program, including the rules of the game, referee pay rates, and more. Must be 14 years of age. Workshop is for new and returning referees. For more details or to sign up, send a text to MYSA's Referee Coordinator, Tammy Velehoski, at 570-479-3219.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Wright, Rice and Fairview Township police departments will hold their annual law enforcement National Night Out on August 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Wright Township Municipal Park behind the municipal buildings.

There will be plenty of parking along with many displays, food, entertainment, and giveaways. They will also be taking donations for local dog fosters, sanctuaries, and rescues. Please bring any new, unopened dog food, snacks, along with any new or lightly used items to donate for the local rescues and sanctuaries who will be attending, such as Sandy Ford's Rescue

Dogs, Murielle's Place Senior Dog Sanctuary, and your local NEPAPET foster.

Local partners and participants are the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Building Blocks Learning Center, Lehigh Valley Health Care, Boy Scout Troop 106, Victim's Resource Center, and the Department of Health. Other partners with displays will be the Wright Township, Fairview Township, and Rice Township Police Departments, US Marshall Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, Pennsylvania Capitol Police, US Homeland Security, Pennsylvania State Police, Luzerne County District Attorney's Office, local fire departments, the US Army, PA Fish Commission, helicopters from Life Flight and Med Vac, Hunzinger Karate, Ayers Towing, and CDE Exotics. Food vendors will include Webby's Concessions, Boyer's, Abe's Hot Dogs, Josie's Italian Ice, the Sweet Lush Cupcake Camper, and more! Entertainment will be provided by the KRZ Skybox and Smokey the Bear will be around to entertain the kids along with a bounce house. face painting, and pony rides. Special Olympic champion Aaron Keller will also be on hand for a meet and greet and to display his medals. Child identification kits will be provided for the kids. There will also be plenty of raffles and contests along with baskets to be chanced off.

annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

AUGUST 11 **CORNHOLE COMPETITION**

A cornhole competition will be held on August 11 with registration starting at noon. First

National Night Out is an

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Watch our videos at LVHN.org Health Center at Mountain Top LVPG Obstetrics and Gynecology-Mountain Top 237 S. Mountain Blvd. A Practice of Lehigh Valley Physician Group-Hazleton NOW Accepting New Patients, Call 888-402-LVHN Scott Muir, DO **Richard Greco, DO Jill Snyder, DO** GRADUATE OF CORNELL BOARD-CERTIFIED BOARD-CERTIFIED IN OBSTETRICS AND UNIVERSITY AND IN OBSTETRICS AND **GYNECOLOGY** PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE **GYNECOLOGY** OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE Lehigh Valley Health Network LVHN.org 888-402-LVHN

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bag thrown at 1 p.m. The event will be held at Mountain Top American Legion Post 781 off Church Road in Mountain Top.

Ages 2-102 (if you can toss a bag you can play) are welcome.

Cost is \$40 pre-registration and \$50 the day of the event for a team of 2. The top team will get a cash prize. There will also be a basket raffle.

Soft drinks and catering by The Pig Guys included in price! Event is BYOB. Other specialty tournaments may be available. To register please send check or money order along with your name, your partner's name, a team name and ages to: Mountain Top Junior Comets, P.O. Box 552, Mountain

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Email mtjuniorcomets@ gmail.com or like them on Facebook - Mountain Top Jr. Comets or text Gary at 570-760-5962 for more info.

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.

Call Cathy 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.

MOUNTAIN TOP GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The Mountain Top Garden Club will meet on Tuesday, August 13 at Nescopeck State Park at 12:30 p.m. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with garden club members after the presentation and walk in the park.

They will be enjoying a discussion by Megan from the Nescopeck State Park about native plants and plants that are considered invasive in Pennsylvania. Megan will garden to show you the many varieties growing there. The meeting is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

New Garden Club members are always welcome. They offer educational presentations, creative activities, plenty of gardening information to share, and exclusive discounts on plants at several local garden centers. Their mission is to help beautify the Mountain Top area by planting many beautiful gardens throughout the town.

If you have any questions or would like to join, please email the Garden Club at mtgardenclub@gmail.com.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TO MEET

gion Mountain Post 781 will meet on August 13 at 6 p.m. at the Post Home. For information, contact Lenny Biel at 474-2161 or mtsal0781@ gmail.com.

AUGUST 19 FUND RAISING MEETING AT AMERICAN LEGION

Fund raising meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 781 off Church Road in Mountain Top.

All members are invited to attend. They are looking for fresh ideas and for people who want to help veterans, the Legion and community. Everyone is welcome, Legionnaires, Social Members, Auxil-

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Mountain Peaks

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 29

Monday: Herb roasted turkey, mashed sweet potatoes, brussels sprouts, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, fruit bread pudding, milk and coffee

Tuesday: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, broccoli, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, cottage cheese & berries, milk and coffee

Wednesday: Oven baked

chicken legs, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, fresh melon, milk and coffee

Thursday: Roast pork with sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, carrots, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, baked apples, milk and coffee

Friday: Turkey a l'orange, new potatoes, snap peas, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, grapes, milk and coffee

Week of August 5

Monday: Franks & beans, broccoli slaw, corn chowder, crackers, margarine, Greek yogurt, milk and coffee

Tuesday: Lemon pepper fish, whole wheat macaroni & cheese, stewed tomatoes, peas, margarine, orange, milk and coffee Wednesday: Honey mustard chicken, mashed sweet potatoes, brussels sprouts, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, fresh apple slices, milk and coffee

Thursday: Boneless pork ribs, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, vanilla pudding, milk and coffee

Friday: Turkey cacciatore, whole wheat penne, broccoli, margarine, fresh fruit salad, 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.



Tuesday TACO NIGHT 2 FOR \$3.00



Wednesday WING NIGHT *Friday TAKE-OUT Special!* 2 Dozen Wings Large Square Pizza \$25.00



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Full menu available 7 days a week

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Ostrowski for her dedication to the children who rode her bus. "She is one of our absolute stars," Gallagher said of Ostrowski. "We are very proud

of her and so pleased she works for Rinehimer," he added. The 67-year-old Ostrowski

had no plans on retiring at the end of the school year. However, after a snafu over lack of clearances for some drivers, Crestwood School Board cancelled its contract with Rinehimer and eventually awarded a pact to G. Davis Bus Co. "I would love to be back come August, proudly and happily," Ostrowski related. "But I will not go with Davis," she stated emphatically.

One of the 2019 Crestwood graduates who rode on Ostrowski's bus was Sara Hoeft. Though she had already graduated, Hoeft donned her cap and gown to greet her bus driver on her last day. Her

BURGER'S

mom, Paula Hoeft, described Ostrowski as irreplaceable. "She truly cared for every one of her students," Paula Hoeft offered. "She took the time to really know the kids, and they in turn got to know her."

Mariangela Carannante is one of those parents who Ostrowski drove to school when she was a child. She spoke fondly of her. "Ms. Pattie was my bus driver when I attended Fairview," Carannante commented. "She was



From left: Lexi, Hailey and Ava Coltrane with Ostrowski.

the greatest then and is the greatest now. It goes to show you that she has been doing this for so long not just because it's a job, but because she loved her kids. And that's exactly how she treated every single one of these children, like they were her own. She greeted my children and us parents with a smile every morning and after-

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iary, Sons of the American and the Riders. The next meeting will be **Monday**, **August 19**.

AUGUST 23, 24 COMMUNITY SUMMER FUN FEST

Mountaintop Family Church's 17th annual community summer fun fest will be held August 23 and 24 at 5 p.m. at the Mountaintop Hose Fire Company picnic grounds. Everything is 25 cents!! Food includes hot dogs, funnel cakes, ice cream, haluski and pizza. There will also be games, face painting and inflatables including a giant slide, an obstacle course, and more. If you would like more information. contact the church office at

570-474-0900 or katie@mfcchurch.com.

AUGUST 24 SYMPHONY AT THE LAKE

A Symphony at the Lake featuring the Lehighton Band, "A Road Trip Through the Decades" will be held on **Saturday, August 24** at the Community Building at Penn Lake, 1744 Lakeview Drive, White Haven.

The free admission will include 6 p.m. refreshments and beverages and the 7 p.m. concert.

The event is presented in partnership by the Greater White Haven Chamber of Commerce, the White Haven Area Community Library and the Penn Lake Association.

For more information, call

570-582-9934; 570-899-4818; 570-443-8776.

WILDCAT ROUNDUP

The annual reunion of the West Hazleton Wildcats will be held on **August 24** beginning at noon at the Faith United Church of Christ hall, 21 Faith Drive, Hazleton (across from Walmart on the Airport Beltway). The reunion includes all alumni, teachers and anyone who attended the former West Hazleton High School.

Reservations are due by August 15. The cost is \$28 for the buffets at noon and 5 p.m.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. A buffet including roast beef and roast turkey, side dishes, coffee and soda will be available. There will be prizes, awards and crab races. Please bring memorabilia to share. For information and reservations contact Robert Hildebrand at 570-788-2515.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Whiskers World fifth annual golf tournament will be held at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club in Mountain Top on **Saturday**, **August 24** with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start. Scramble (captain & crew) is \$360 per team (\$90 per player).

Tournament includes: longest drive competition, closest to the pin, pot of gold hole (50/50), flight prizes, 50/50 drawing, raffle baskets and

dinner & beverages.

Contact Tom Buckler at 570-954-2888 or Thomasbucklerjr@gmail.com to register your team. Please make checks payable to Whiskers World, Inc., 100 William Street, Plains, PA 18705.

Hole sponsors are available. Bronze sponsor \$50, Silver sponsor \$100, Gold sponsor \$250, Platinum sponsor \$500. They will also be in need of raffle baskets. They can be dropped off at The Flower Warehouse, 65 Elizabeth Street, Forty Fort. They can also arrange for pick up.







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Ostrowski ...

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noon" she offered.

Like many parents who spoke about Ostrowski, Carannante pointed out how safe she made them, and their children feel. "We never felt worried to have our kids ride Pattie's bus," she related. "They always felt safe and we always felt reassured that they were okay, and that's all we ever wanted," she said. "When we heard the news that Ms. Pattie may not be coming back, I cried. I don't think anyone can ever replace her," she added.

Ostrowski emphasized that the safety and trust of children was paramount in her job. "I was a face they were used to seeing every day," she explained. "Trust is so important. We see those children every day. They rely on us for

Carla Pierri Calabrese's children rode on Ostrowski's bus more than two decades ago. She said she always felt her children were in good hands back then and now her grandchildren rode on her bus. "When I found out she was my grandkids bus driver I was over the moon happy," Calabrese commented. "My grandchildren were so lucky to have her as their bus driver just like their mom was. She is a beautiful person with a beautiful soul. I'm so sad to see her go."

their safety."

Erin Sutliff talked about the calming influence Ostrowski had on the children on her bus. "She is welcoming and always had a smile every morning," she said. She has put my heart at ease knowing that my daughter would get to and from school safely."

She noted that one morn-



Ostrowski with Allison Sutliff.

ing when her daughter was in kindergarten, she had a rough morning and was upset going to school. "Miss Pattie called me after the kids got to school to tell me that our daughter was happy and laughing by her next stop. There are not many people that would take the time to do that. As a mom that is priceless," she added.

Michael Schlude is another



Heath Williams, left, and his brother Colin, say goodbye to Pattie Ostrowski.

parent who praised Ostrowski for her ability to make children feel safe. "Pattie has been driving for many, many years and cared for the children like her own," he commented. He said she always gave parents the assurance that she would take care of their children. "We cannot have had a better person to watch over our kids on the



Isla and Macie Centak with their favorite bus driver.

way to school," he said. "She started each day with a smile that made everything OK."

Even a few weeks after her last day, Ostrowski got choked up when talking about the outpouring of love and appreciation she received. "It was a beautiful day, but it was sad to realize it may be my last day," said Ostrowski. "But I guess I must have done it right."



Mountain Peaks

Mountain Peaks

Nearly 200 year old barn on South Main Road is dismantled

A barn on the former Wech farm along South Main Road in Wright Township which dated back to the 1800s was dismantled earlier this month. But while a part of Mountain Top history was lost in the demolition, much of the wood from the nearly two-century-old structure will find a new home.

Mountain View Enterprises of Loganton, PA was hired by the property's current owner, Bruce Fine, to tear down the old barn. Fine's company, 628 Holdings Co., LLC, of Wapwallopen, purchased the 112-acre property from the Wech estate in December 2017 at a price of \$650,000. While Fine has not presented any development plans to Wright Township, the area is zoned conservation which would allow homes to be built on lots of at least one acre.

Elam Fisher, owner of the firm hired to remove the barn, said his company will work to re-purpose as much of the wood as possible. Fisher and his three workers did not use heavy equipment to demolish the barn. Rather they painstakingly dismantled it by hand over a five-day period, careful



Workers from Mountain View Enterprises dismantle the nearly 200 year old barn on the histhis month.

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to preserve as much of the wood as possible.

Fisher, who estimated the barn was built in the 1800s, said beams from old structures like the Wech barn are often sold for use in home construction and remodeling. The beams, he said, frequently are used for fireplace mantles. In addition, the wood siding is often used in the interior of new homes.

"There is nothing better than re-purposing old wood," Fisher commented.

Wright Township tax collector Barbara Macko, who lives nearby, was saddened to see the barn razed. She said the farm was most recently operated by the late Robert Wech who grew hay and had vegetable gardens. His father, Harry Wech, operated the farm before him. "It was a busy farm at one time," Macko commented. The longtime Wright Township resident noted her late father and Harry Wech both operated farms. "They worked together," she noted.





Dorrance supervisors table vote on lawn care

Dorrance Township supervisors put off action to hire a lawn care service at their July 8 meeting that lasted less than 10 minutes.

Steve's Lawn Care submitted a proposal to complete the lawn mowing, trimming and backpack blowing at the municipal grounds and sports fields for the remainder of the 2019 season for \$9,520. The company offered a five percent discount option if half is paid in July and half in October for a total of \$9044. Supervisors tabled a vote on the proposal.

New address for mailing Wright Township taxes

Wright Township Tax Collector Barbara Macko has announced that tax bills will be mailed August 1. Please note the new mailing address on the tax form which is 256 South Main Road, Mountain Top, PA 18707. Any questions call Barbara at 570-474-0995.

Firefighters wanted

Recruiting fire department members is a challenge faced by volunteer fire departments not only in our area, but also across the country.

Some of our local departments are trying to meet that challenge by encouraging young men and women to become involved as junior firefighters. In fact, one local department has a very robust junior firefighter program. "Our junior program is pretty active, and we have a fair retention rate," Wright Township fire chief Dave Pettit related. The organization currently has six junior firefighters: Jay Bhovsar, Nathan Gutkowski, Joshua Hooper, Dylan Price, Kyle Price, and George Petrick.

Pettit pointed out the department also has a few junior firefighters who recently turned 18 and some other candidates who are or will be finishing the training for Fire Fighter I certification in the very near future. "We encourage junior members as we do other members," Pettit stated.

"It is sometimes difficult depending on what they plan to do after high school, that normally dictates if they remain active or not," he noted.

The junior firefighter program allows members to join at age 14 and participate until they reach age 18 when the state allows them to be active in all aspects of firefighting and rescue.

Mountain Top Hose Com-

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pany No. 1 currently has three junior members, Kyle Johns, Ryan Smith and Rachal Kohl. A fourth junior, Patrick Lyle, recently turned 18 and now serves as a captain in the department.

"An important component of our operations is the recruitment and participation of younger people to both help with our tasks and to learn about firefighting," Mountain Top Hose Company No. 1 president David Hourigan said recently. "Serving as junior firefighters, they help us maintain our facilities and equipment," Hourigan explained. He said junior members also help with department events. "Although

there are age restrictions on what they can physically do, they are able to attend classes and training sessions, gaining knowledge and skills for future use," Hourigan noted.

Both fire department officials lauded the young members for their dedication. "These individuals devote time to us, balancing their schoolwork, part-time jobs and other responsibilities to help us," Hourigan said.

Rice Township to tar and chip roads

Rice Township is moving forward with plans to double tar and chip two township roads.

Supervisor Bob Pipech, the township's road master, reported Pocono Spray patching is scheduled to apply the tar and chips to Henry Drive and Prospect Road beginning July 29. Pipech estimate the work would take two days.

Supervisors authorized

Pipech have both roads "polymer fog sprayed" at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. The fog spraying will be applied bout two weeks after the tar and chipping. This process helps keep the stone aggregate securely in place and creates a surface similar to newly paved asphalt.

Rice Township supervisors voted at their July meeting to sell the municipality's Case backhoe with accessories to Nuangola Borough for \$7,500. Rice Township recently purchased a JCB backhoe through a gaming grant. Supervisors also voted to purchase a Hydro Tek hot water pressure washer through the state COSTARS program at a cost of \$4,295. The new machine will replace the current 30-year-old unit which is no longer usable since parts are no longer available, supervisors reported.

Wright Township addresses dead tree issue in park again

Wright Township officials took further steps at their July

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meeting to address the issue of dead trees throughout the municipal park, particularly in the area of the playground.

Supervisors voted to hire Sun Tree tree removal company to remove additional dead trees in the park's "tot lot" at a cost of \$1,800 for one-day's work. To facilitate the work, supervisors said the playground will be closed while the tree cut-

ting is under way. The trees to be removed were marked by forester John Hopkins.

Last month supervisor hired Sun Tree at the same cost for one day. The company took down approximately 60 dead trees in the playground and along Park Road. The agreement called for cutting down the trees, but not removal. As a result, there are many felled trees in the playground and along the road. Members of the township's recreation board, along with some residents, have expressed concern about danger to children and parents posed by the felled trees in the playground.

In order to remove the dead trees, supervisors have decided to allow members of the public to take the timber for firewood. Anyone who wishes to remove the timber from the playground or along the park road must sign a waiver at the township secretary's office. The secretary is available during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

In other news ...

To accommodate requests for building permits, supervisors voted to increase Strategic Municipal Group's availability by one hour each week. The firm, which handles the township's zoning matters, will have a representative available from 3 to 7 p.m. every Wednesday through the end of October.

Supervisors also voted to replace the traffic signal timing box at South Mountain Boulevard and Crestwood Drive. Northeast Signal Co. will replace the timing box, which is more than 20 years old, at a cost of \$4,745. Officials hope replacing the box will held alleviate traffic con-

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gestion on the highway. They decided to hold off on replacement on sensors in the road on Crestwood Drive and the driveway to McDonald's.

Police Chief Royce Engler, in his monthly report, noted the department addressed speeding concerns on Route 309 raised at the June meeting. Chief Engler reported enforcement patrols were conducted on the highway between Crestwood High School and Rockledge Drive. Police made one DUI arrest and issued three speeding citations in the area. The department issued 109 traffic citations throughout June and 43 traffic warnings. They investigated six motor vehicle crashes.

Supervisors reported the township's road department received a thank you card signed by several residents of Taylor Circle for their snow removal efforts over the last winter and cleanup of cinders during the spring. The Slocum Township Fire Co. held its annual bazaar on Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday, July 14 from 2 to 10 p.m. on the fire hall grounds.

There were pony rides, a bounce house and games for the children and on Saturday a special breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon and the fireman's parade at 4 p.m. There were all the great bazaar foods for all to enjoy and live entertainment each evening.

The weather was perfect for a weekend bazaar and many

Hailey Molnar enjoys a pony ride after she had her face painted.

Mountain Peaks/ Claudia Strycharz photos



Slocum Township Fire Company hosts annual bazaar

came out to grab a bite to eat, listen to music and let the kids

Two-year-old Boone Peters laughs as he eats his ice cream.

enjoy playing games and the pony rides.



Mt. Top Area Little League 9-10 All Star Team announced



The team had a great run advancing to Fedak, Caiden Wright, Brayden Belanchik, the PA District 16 semifinals where they Maximus Bleiler, Colin King and Miles Mc lost to Greater Pittston Area Little League. Shea; row 2: Cody Butler, Mattingly Van-

The team practiced hard, played hard and denberg, Gianni Piccolotti, Jack Rodghad a great overall experience. The play- ers, Patrick LeRoy and Jacob Jeckell. Not ers, from left, row 1: Grady Seltzer, Jaxson shown: Coaches Kline, Jeckell and Rodgers.

Art in the Park program held at NSP



plains to the children how to paint using the point of the paintbrush.

At right: Nine-year-old Abigail Boettger practices painting lines on her canvas.

Mountain Peaks/ Claudia Strycharz photos

Nescopeck State Park held an Art at the Park were able to create one-of-a-kind paintings 8 through 16.

aught by local artist Jan Lokuta. Participants able to take home their masterpieces.

program on Sunday, July 21 for children ages on canvas with step-by-step instruction from Mr. Lokuta.

The fun program began at 1 p.m. and was At the end of the program everyone was

Summer Nature Camp held at **Fairview Elementary School**



Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin photo Students help Camp Coordinator Raelene Macking dispose of invasive bamboo by carrying it to the dumpster.

Nearly forty elementary students gathered at Fairview Elementary School on July 16 for the first day of the 2019 Summer Nature Camp at the Rich Zimmerman Bow Creek Nature Trail. Raelene Macking, a teacher at Fairview Elementary, is the camp coordinator and carries on the work Rich Zimmerman started over 25 years ago

The nature trail is a classroom where students observe the changes in nature, look at plants, follow tracks and look for wildlife. The goal of the camp is to stimulate interest and foster an appreciation for nature and the outdoors. With hands-on teaching, the students learn to understand the environment and their responsibility in maintaining it.

Future cheerleaders participate in camp



Mountain Peaks/ Claudia Strycharz photo Varsity cheerleaders and this year's cheerleading camp participants take time out for a group photograph.

The award-winning Crestwood High School varsity cheerleaders held a cheerleading camp on Thursday and Friday, July 11 & 12 in the Crestwood Middle School gym. The camp was for children ages 6-11 and cost \$35 per cheerleader. This year there were 27 participants in the fun camp, which is also a fundraiser for the high school cheerleaders. Cheerleaders learned spirit cheers, jump and motion technique, stunting, fun and games. All participants received a T-shirt on Friday. The camp was coordinated and run by Kerri Fey, cheerleader coach, her assistants and the varsity cheerleaders.



Mountain Peaks/ Claudia Strycharz photo Brothers Eli and Miles Metz love soccer and are having fun kicking the ball around the complex.

Summer soccer camps held for kids

The Mountain Top Youth Soccer Association held a Mountain Top Premier Camp at the MYSA Complex in Mountain Top from July 15 through July 19 for kids ages 7 to 10. The camp was directed by UK Soccer/Ballyhoo professional coaches. The objective of the Premier soccer camp was to provide players the opportunity to have fun while learning the fundamental techniques necessary to play the game and was focused on individual skill development with a technical curriculum that was specific to age and ability.

MYSA also held a Mountain Top Elite Camp at the same time for kids ages 11 to 14. This camp was a comprehensive program designed for the elite player. The Elite camp program was designed to advance the level of individual players with a demanding technical curriculum



Nuangola Lake pavilion abuzz with vendors and shoppers

The Nuangola Library held a summer craft show on Saturday, July 20 at the historical Nuangola Lake pavilion in Nuangola. There were a lot of activities going on at the lake and the craft show was one of the highlights of the day. It was very hot and humid, but that didn't stop many from stopping by to do a little shopping or enjoy a hotdog, piece of pie and a drink.

Heller Orchards marking 100th anniversary this year

Nuangola Library board nember, Saly Shea sells a jar of fresh honey to District Magistrate Ferris Webby.

Mountain Peaks/ Claudia Strycharz

Greg and Andrea Heller know that running a successful apple orchard and fruit farm takes hard work, a willingness to evolve and expand offerings and loyal customers. Without that combination, it's unlikely Heller Orchards in Wapwallopen would be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Greg, who is the sixth generation on his family's farm and the third generation of the Heller family growing fruit, grew up with farming in his blood and the smell of apples wafting through the air. He began operating a forklift at the young age of 9. By age 12, he was spraying trees for his dad on a Massey Ferguson tractor. At the age of 16, he started making cider, pruning trees, and planting them by hand. By the age of 20, he built a pole shed painted the old barn several times, replaced the cider press, installed drip irrigation installed a restroom and an office, planted a pear orchard and planted/re-planted different varieties of apples. By the age of 35, amongst countless jobs, Greg planted a peach orchard and built a packing house

The Hellers were honored when Sen. Lisa Baker and Reps. Gerald Mullery and Eddie Day Pashinski stopped by the orchard recently to take a tour, learn more about its history, and find out how the business operates.

Baker, R-20th, called the Heller Family and the farm and orchard that bears their name, "cornerstones of the community" that "have helped to put Wapwallopen on the apple lovers' map."

Andrea Heller gave credit to her husband, saying he "has an endless passion for



State legislators presented the Heller family Standing, from left, are Greg Heller, Rep. Ed. with Senate and House citations marking the orchard's 100th anniversary. They gathered for the photo inside the 1857 farm house the dog, Sen. Lisa Baker, Quentin Heller, Rep in Conyngham Township where six gen- Jerry Mullery and Kayden Kratz. erations of Hellers have lived and farmed.

farming."

Her husband credited something else.

"We have been growing fruit successfully for 100 years. The one word that comes to mind is 'dedication'. I have dedicated my entire life to this orchard and my mother has dedicated over 50 years of her life to growing the business," Greg Heller said.

The farm's market has been run by Ruth Heller for four decades. She said those who stop in, whether for the first time or the fifty first time, are more than customers. "They are my friends," she said

Mullery, D-119th, noted how important small family farms still are for rural America, but believes just being a small farm doesn't equate to success.

"The quality of fruit and

the values the Heller family has is what makes them so successful in the fruit growing business," Mullery said.

Tarah Toohil, R-116th, whose district is home to the orchard, praised the family for their accomplishment and the product.

"Congratulations to the Heller family on a century of contributing to the success of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry and for producing some of the best-tasting apples anywhere," Toohil said.

Seventeen varieties of apples and five varieties of pears grow at the orchard. In addition, peaches, plums, nectarines, and cherries are also grown and sold by the Hellers.

The 50-acre apple orchard and fruit farm has been a staple near the North Branch of the Susquehanna River and draws in visitors year round

die Day Pashinski, Ruth Heller and Andrea Heller; sitting, from left, are Riley Heller, Pete

> to buy fruit, baked goods, eggs and cider. In addition, the property hosts peach and apple festivals annually.

> Founded by Hoyt Heller in 1919, the orchard began on just 20 acres of land. Hoyt's son Quentin traveled to England in 1954 where he learned that dwarf trees allowed farmers to produce more fruit while using less land. He returned to the states with the trees and became one of the first apple growers in Pennsylvania to pioneer dwarf apple tree nurseries. He and his father cleared additional land to be used for the orchards and expanded the operation to 35 acres.

> Greg added another 15 acres and along with his wife Andrea have grown wholesale operations. Their fruits are now sold at Wegmans. Gerrity's and Mountain Fresh supermarkets.

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Mountain Top resident publishes first novel

Local resident James Halpin recently announced the publication of his first novel, *All the Dying Children*, a murder mystery set in Luzerne County. As of press time, the new release had a perfect 5.0 rating on Amazon.com, with customers describing it as "addicting" and "fastpaced and thrilling."

The story begins with a popular teenage girl committing suicide in a video that goes viral. Her cryptic last words lead authorities to connect her death to a suicide cluster emerging in Luzerne County. Erik Daly is a newspaper reporter with a haunted past who is determined to get to the bottom of the deaths. If he's able to save the dying children, he thinks he just might be able to redeem himself for a terrible tragedy in his past.

The story is set in Luzerne County and features realloca-

Fenstermacher's



James Halpin

tions and institutions everyone will recognize, but the characters and story are entirely fictitious. Halpin said he decided to use the local community as the setting because he wanted the story to be realistic and to resonate with residents.

He also chose to have the protagonist follow in his own footsteps as a reporter in an attempt to break away from the



crime novel mold.

"So many crime novels are told from the perspective of the police," Halpin said. "I thought that by presenting the story from the perspective of a flawed journalist, a reporter who tries to help but ultimately ends up hurting the case, I could present readers with a fresh take on the crime novel while also providing some insight into what it's like to be a modern local journalist. Between slumping sales and fake news accusations, local newspapers face a tough road these days. I wanted to highlight the importance of local journalism and the reasons we do it."

The novel is for sale at Amazon.com, with the eBook priced at 99 cents and the paperback at \$9.99.

Although *All the Dying Children* is Halpin's first novel, he previously published two children's picture books: *Big Butt Dinkleface* and *Teeny Eni vs. the Great Holdini*.

James Halpin, 40, is an award-winning reporter who has worked for more than a decade as a journalist. He is a graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage and is currently employed as a crime reporter for The Citizens' Voice in Wilkes-Barre. Prior to becoming a journalist, Halpin served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa, Japan, and at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He resides in Fairview Township with his wife and two children.

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Programs offered at Nescopeck State Park in August

The following programs will be offered in August 2019. For programs that require registration, please register by using our online events calendar at: http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/ or call 570-403-2006 unless otherwise listed.

Saturday, August 3

Moth Night; 8 p.m.

Ages 10 & up. Registration required. Free.

Join them as they welcome Frank Distefano for a night devoted to moths! Most people don't realize that moths can be as beautiful as their more flamboyant butterfly cousins. And while there are only several hundred species of butterflies native to Pennsylvania, we have almost two thousand native moth species! After a short indoor presentation, you will spend time outdoors to view these beauties of nature. Participants should bring a flashlight and wear sturdy footwear.

Wednesday, August 7

Volunteer Workday; 9 a.m. -12 p.m.

Registration required.

Join them for some gardening in an effort to get the butterfly gardens and landscaping under control. They'll work as long as needed, but not more than 3 hours. The garden crew will continue to meet every 2-3 weeks throughout the summer. All tools will be provided.

Wednesday, August 14

Hiking Series #5: Hickory Run State Park; 9 a.m.

No registration required. Free.

Join a naturalist at 9 a.m. on select weekdays for hikes of varying length and difficulty. The series will visit trails on our public lands including state parks, state forests, state

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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

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.

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.

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Barb Hoffman enjoys a bowl of vanilla ice cream after lunch. St. James holds church picnic

St. James Lutheran Church in Hobbie held its annual church picnic on Sunday, July 14 following worship service that was held at 10:30 a.m. Each family brought a covered dish to share with the church providing meat, rolls, and drinks. Zenith Lutheran Church was also in attendance.

Father Connell McHugh, Pastor Route 309, Drums

Masses will be at 8 a.m. with no Mass on Wednesday.

Beginning on the weekend of August 3 and 4, the weekend Mass schedule will be 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 8 and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. The weekday no Mass on Wednesday. Friday, August 2, is First Friday. Following the 8 a.m. Mass, there will be morning

See Worship, page 21



Continued from page 20

prayer, Divine Mercy devotion, and closing benediction.

The Shepherd's Hands will be meet on Thursday, August 1 at 3 p.m. in the St. Joseph Room. Everyone is welcome and needed!

Tuesday night bingo at Good Shepherd Church starts with 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 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

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Alma Clymer chats with Donna Brown about some of the beautiful crocheted items for sale.

St. Patrick's holds festival

St. Patrick's Catholic Church in White Haven held its annual festival on July 12, July 13 and July 14 on the church grounds. There was live music, a 5K race, plenty of games a flea market and food galore. On Saturday a polka mass was held at 5 p.m. There were many great raffle items and vendors selling homemade items and crafts. The food included American, Italian and Polish items as well as many desserts and a festival favorite, funnel cakes.

their time in Harvest's Children's Ministry.

For more information visit harvestcv.org or Harvest Conyngham 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.

MOUNTAINTOP 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.



See Worship, page 22

Continued from page 21

KidsTown Children's Ministries takes place during both services for children 8 weeks old through 6th grade. The certified KidsTown staff provides a safe environment for children to grow in their relationships with God and with others.

Play Group will be held on Thursday, August 8 at 10 a.m., rain or shine. Play Group is for all infant through preschool age children and their caregivers. School age children are also welcome with their younger siblings through the summer months.

MFC's 17th annual Community Summer Fun Fest will be held August 23 and 24 at 5 p.m. at the Mountaintop Hose Fire Company picnic grounds. Everything is 25 cents. There will be food, including haluski, ice cream, funnel cakes, pizza and pierogies, face painting, games, and inflatables for the kids.

A blood drive will be held on Tuesday, August 27 from 1-6 p.m. Please sign up for a time slot at the information table or at www.redcrossblood.org.

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.

Push the Rock Sports Camp will be held at MMI in Freeland, August 12-16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for kids going into 4th-8th grade. Six area churches are partnering to bring Freeland a camp like they have never experienced before. \$20 registration fee includes lunch each day and a t-shirt. Register at www.mountainviewnepa.org.

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.

Rev. Fran Fink will lead the worship service on Sunday, July 28 and August 4.

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, August 9, at 6:30 p.m. featuring music with Paul and Mary Good from Quakertown, as well as dinner for just \$3.

Mark you calendar for the annual church picnic at Mover's Grove campgrounds on Sunday, August 4 starting at 10:30 a.m. with the worship service, followed by a cook-

See Worship, page 23





dertenski, 2, her grandmother Susan Demko, grandfather James Jasdertenski and Diane Webster eniov lunch.

Mountain Peaks/ Claudia Strycharz photo

Mt. Zion holds church picnic

Mount Zion United Church of Christ held its annual church picnic at Moyer's Grove on Sunday, July 14. Everyone brought a covered dish, goodie, or dessert. Live entertainment was provided. The Friendship Club also held its Chinese auction later in the day.



Continued from page 22

out 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 worshiped 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 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 28. Barb Shudak will present the 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.

They will also be collecting supplies and clothing (new) for Brandons Forever Home. A bin will be located in the narthex. If you have questions please contact Nancy Badal or any of the Presbyterian Women's group.

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



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo Rich Sipes and Colleen Tatar enjoy some of the homemade food on Saturday afternoon.

Good Shepherd festival held July 13, 14

Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Drums held its annual festival on Saturday, July 13 and Sunday, July 14 on the church grounds. There were all the favorite festival foods such as potato pancakes, sausage and pepper hoagies, halupki, haluski, pierogies and much more. Activities and games for children and adults were ready to be played; and there was a bake sale, tricky trays and a cash raffle. Face painting was available for anyone wishing to have some artwork done. Entertainment was provided both days and Saturday night ended with a fireworks display.

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 cel-

ebrated 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

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570-474-6541

Continued from page 23

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.

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 fascinating, 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. 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

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.

With the rising cost of food, clothing and gasoline, many families in the Mountain Top area might find it a struggle to be able to provide the necessary school supplies for their children. St. Jude Parish would like to help elementary through high school students. The Social Action Committee will sponsor a school supply drive on: August 3/4 and August 10/11. Suggested items: backpacks, crayons, pencils, loose leaf paper, spiral notebooks, scissors, glue, gluesticks, markers, erasers, tissues, highlighters, index cards, rulers. Place your donations in the containers marked School Supply Donations during those weekends.

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.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Enjoying dinner as they listen to Christian music are friends Lisa Compton, Elaine Miller and Marty Ryman.

New Life holds Christian coffee house

New Life Community Church in Mountain Top held a coffee house on Friday, July 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. This month the Christian music was provided by Paul and Mary Good from Quakertown. The duo sang many favorite Christian songs for church members and visitors. Cost for the fun evening that included dinner as well was only \$3 a person.



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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



Parishioners lined up after the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Jude Church on July 13 to say goodbye to Father Stephen Krawontka and wish him well in his new assignment as pastor of Ascension Parish, Forest City and Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, Pleasant Mount. Father Stephen was a senior priest at St. Jude's since December 2017.

Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin photos

Parishioners welcomed Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah as the new Assistant Pastor of St. Jude's and St. Mary's parishes. Father Philbert is from the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana, Africa. He was ordained in 2008 and since has served as Chaplain to Catholic Students at St. Ambrose College of Education, Dorma Akwamu; Assistant Pastor and then Pastor of St. Theresa's Parish, Berekum.

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

St Jude parishioners say goodbye to Father Stephen

and welcome Father Philbert Takyi-Nketiah

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.



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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 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.

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.stpaulsdrums.com or Email: stpaulsdrums@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 Knoeb-



VBS held at Mt. Zion



Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin photo

Students at Mount Zion United Church of Christ take a break for a snack during Vacation Bible School on July 17. The theme this year was *Building Up on the Rock*. Discussions centered on why Jesus is the rock and how to talk to Jesus. VBS was led by Karen Alderfer.

els Amusement Park is scheduled for Saturday, August 17 at 10 a.m. 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

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Mountain Peaks

Worship Together ...

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insights on how to strengthen your marriage at 5:30 p.m.; Single Again: a safe coffeehouse environment for singles desiring to engage in faithbased study and discussions (ages 25-50) at 7 p.m.

For information you can checkwww.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. 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 community 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.



Drums Lioness Club visits veterans



Members of the Drums Lioness Lions Club recently visited veterans at the VA Nursing Home in Wilkes-Barre. The club's community outreach project provided the veterans with socialization, entertainment and refreshments. Members representing the club are, standing from left, Linda Kostic, Carol Crawford and Peggy Gallagher.

Kiwanis present *The Secret Life of Pets* in the Wright Township Park

It was a hazy, hot and humid night, but that didn't deter many from coming out to enjoy a fun night in the park on July 20. The fun began at about 8 p.m. with movie goers beginning to arrive and get a spot in the baseball field. Many came with snacks and drinks and others purchased snacks and drinks at the Kiwanis food stand. The featured movie was a family favorite called *The Secret Life of Pets* which began at dusk. Movies in the Park is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Mountain Top.

At right: Twins Dominic and McKinley Sass, 3, cool off with juice boxes their dad brought to quench their thirst throughout the hot evening.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo



NSP ... Continued from page 19

game lands, and local preserves. Come out to get some exercise, learn about the area's natural history, and relax in the fresh air. Stone Trail and the Boulder Field, length is 2 miles with a most difficult terrain. Meet at Boulder Field at Hickory Run State Park (allow 20 minutes to drive from park office).

Please wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring water. Well-behaved and friendly dogs on a leash are welcome.

Wednesday, August 21

Volunteer Workday; 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Registration required. Join them for some gardening in an effort to get the butterfly gardens and landscaping under control. They'll work as long as needed, but not more than 3 hours.

The garden crew will continue to meet every 2-3 weeks throughout the summer. All tools will be provided.

Wednesday, August 21

The Secret Life of the Veery; 6:30 p.m.

Registration required. Free.

In this informal talk, Dr. Chris Goguen of Penn State Hazleton will discuss his research on the veery, a migratory songbird, that he conducted within the park. Dr. Goguen will share what he has learned about veery nesting habits and nest predators using video cameras at nests. He will also describe his work using radio telemetry to study the behavior and survival of veery fledglings during the first few weeks after these young birds leave their nests.

For more information on any of Pennsylvania's 120 state parks visit DCNR website at www.dcnr.state.pa.us (choose Find a Park) or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS.



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MONDAY-FRIDAY: 7 A.M. TO 3 P.M. (PART TIME) MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M. (PART TIME) DAY SHIFT: 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M. (FULL TIME) NIGHT SHIFT: 7 P.M. TO 7 A.M. (FULL TIME)

Forklift

Wilkes-Barre (Full Time) DAYSHIFT: 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M. NIGHT SHIFT: 7 P.M. TO 7 A.M.

Pittston (Full Time) 1ST SHIFT: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M. 2ND SHIFT: 4 P.M. TO 12 A.M. 3RD SHIFT: 12 A.M. TO 8 A.M. (FULL TIME)

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On left side: Kim Hurt, Mary Kay Independent Sales Director; Allison Latagliata, Library Director Marian Sutherland Kirby Library; Dakota Jones, FNCB Bank/Dakota Jones Entertainment, LLC; Marina Kuchar (and daughter), Tree of Life Music Together; right side: John P. Beshada, Financial Representative Northwestern Mutual; Deborah L. Piatt, PNC Bank Branch Manager, VP; Wendy Griffiths, Account Executive, Mountain Peaks Newspaper; Toni Fritz, First National Bank; Shareen Zaghloul, owner Pet Chores/Your Chores.

Small Business Partners meet

Mountain Top Small Business Partners monthly lunch meeting was held on Tuesday, July 9 at Pizza Bella in Mountain Top. The Mountain Top Small Business Partners is a group of local business owners and managers joining forces to build stronger business support and networking to benefit everyone in the community. Information available on their face book page.

Detweiler earns degree from WGU

Thomas Detweiler of Mountain Top has earned his Bachelor of Science, Business Management degree from Western Governors University (WGU). The online, nonprofit university held its 70th (Orlando, Florida); 71st (Cincinnati, Ohio); and 72nd (Anaheim, California) commencement ceremonies this year to celebrate the graduation of more than 22,000 students from across the country.



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Mountain Peaks

