

FREE

August 22-September 4, 2019

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DEADLINE: AUGUST 30



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NEWSPAPER, LLC

Volume 16, No. 17
www.mt-peaks.com

National Night Out brings back true sense of community

Wright, Rice and Fairview Township police departments hosted the annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6 in the Wright Township Municipal Park.

There were many displays, food, entertainment, and giveaways during the event.

Many organizations were in attendance including the Victim's Resource Center, the Department of Health, 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 and Life Flight. Smokey the Bear was on hand to entertain the kids along with a bounce house, face painting, and pony rides. Child identification kits were provided for the kids.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. 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.



Two year old Cole Krofchok sits on the Life Flight helicopter.



Officer Brunner of the Pennsylvania Special Response Team looks on as Jacob Elliott, 6, tries to lift and wield a heavy battering ram.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

There were many places for the large crowd to visit and gather information.



At left: Four year old Bryson Wren is not too sure about touching this very large snake.



At right: Brooke and Jaxon Van Stone walk around the grounds with their new fire hats.

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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.

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 Lehigh Valley 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.

BEER FESTIVAL

The Hazleton Rotary Wine & Beer Festival will be held on **Saturday, August 24** at the Hazle Township Babe Ruth Field, 601 Hazle Township Boulevard, Hazleton from 12 noon-6:30 p.m.

The event includes beer, wine, food, crafts, tricky trays, games, 50-50 tickets and the car show is returning. Entertainment includes Ostrich Hat from 12-3 p.m. and Kartune from 3-6 p.m.

All proceeds benefit Hazleton Rotary Club community service projects.

Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at door; \$5 designated driver (non-drinking admission) and ages 13-20. Free admission for children 12 and

under. All children under 18 must be attended to by an adult. Must be 21 to drink. Purchase tickets from hazletonrotary.ticketleap.com or from a Rotary Club member. Go to www.hazletonrotary.org and Rotary Club of Hazleton Facebook page for list of businesses selling tickets and for updated information.

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 Flow-

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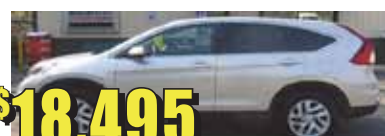
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Places To Go ... Things To Do ...

Continued from page 2

er Warehouse, 65 Elizabeth Street, Forty Fort. They can also arrange for pick up.

AUGUST 25 CHS 1970 CLASS MEETING

The Crestwood High School class of 1970 will hold its third class meeting at King's Pizza in Mountain Top on the deck on **Sunday, August 25** starting at 2 p.m. to pick out the menu choices and time for the 50th reunion to be held on Saturday, October 17, 2020.

AUGUST 27 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 **August 27** at 12:30 p.m.

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.

AUGUST 28 QUILTERS CLUB MEETING

Mountain Top Quilters will meet at the Marian Sutherland Kirby Library, 35 Kirby Avenue, Mountain Top on **Wednesday, August 28** at 6:30 p.m. They meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

New quilters are welcome to attend. Contact Judy Gober at 570-262-3858.

AUGUST 31 CHICKEN BBQ

Stairville UMC is holding its annual Amish chicken bbq on **Saturday, August 31** from 12 to 4 p.m. Dinner includes a half chicken, French fries, corn on the cob, vegetable, salad bar and cupcake for \$12 per dinner. Take out or eat in. Live music and a bake sale. Stop by for a spectacular dinner and enjoy the music! Stairville UMC is located at 1790 Stairville Road, Wapwallopen.

SEPTEMBER 3 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEETING

The Mountain Post American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 781

will hold its monthly meeting on **Tuesday, September 3** at 7 p.m. All members are urged to attend. Installation of all officers will take place at the legion home on Saturday, September 7 starting at 6 p.m.

TNR CAT WORKSHOP

No Nonsense Neutering will be at the Fairview Township municipal building on **Tuesday, September 3** at 7:30 p.m. to speak about TNR (trap, neuter, release). Please show your support by attending. Topics will include how to do TNR, best practices in colony care and how to help free roaming cats be good neighbors. If you know of anyone feeding cats, please encourage them to attend. This workshop can be a

life saving two hours.

SEPTEMBER 4 PADRE PIO PRAYER MINISTRY

Padre Pio Prayer Ministry will be held on **September 4** with a 6 p.m. mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayers to Padre Pio, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction at St. Faustina Kowalska Church, Hanover Street, Nanticoke.

SEPTEMBER 7 MUD BOG

Slocum Township Volunteer Fire Department will host its annual mud bog at the Slocum Township Fire Hall

See Places To Go, page 6

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Crestwood Menu

Elementary Schools

Breakfast available daily. Available daily: peanut butter and jelly sandwich, assorted deli sandwiches and wraps.

Week of August 26

Monday: Cowboy burger with cheese, onion rings and bbq sauce or popcorn chicken with a dinner roll; featured veggies: tater tots, baby carrots, frozen 100% juice cup, choice of milk

Tuesday: Nachos grande, tortilla chips or cheeseburger on a bun; featured veggies: refried beans, tomato and onion salsa, choice of fruit and milk

Wednesday: Hot ham and cheese on a pretzel roll or hot dog on a bun; featured veggies: potato triangles, fresh cucumber slices, choice of fruit and milk

Thursday: Beef and cheese lasagna, garlic bread stick or chicken patty on a bun; featured veggies: steamed corn, romaine salad, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Stuffed crust pizza or meatball hoagie on a roll; featured veggies: green beans, celery sticks, choice of fruit and milk

Week of September 2

Monday: No school, Labor Day

Tuesday: Mini corn dog nuggets or cheeseburger on a bun;

featured veggies: green beans, spinach salad, choice of fruit and milk

Wednesday: Hot turkey sandwich or hot dog on a bun; featured veggies: mashed potatoes, green pepper strips, fruit-ed jello, choice of milk

Thursday: Cheesy beef and mac pasta with soft pretzel stick or chicken patty on a bun; featured veggies: steamed carrots, corn salad, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Homemade cheesy pizza or meatball hoagie on a roll; featured veggies: roasted sweet potatoes, chick pea salad, choice of fruit and milk

Secondary Campus

Breakfast available daily. Grill line open daily with cheeseburgers, chicken patties, grilled chicken and pizza. Assorted salads, wraps and sandwiches available daily.

Week of August 26

Monday: Cowboy burger with cheese, onion rings and bbq sauce or popcorn chicken with a dinner roll; featured veggies: tater tots, baby carrots, choice of fruit and milk

Tuesday: Mini corn dog nuggets or chicken parmesan on a bun; featured veggies: baked beans, tomato and onion salsa, choice of fruit and milk

Wednesday: Penne pasta and meatballs, garlic bread or meatball hoagie on a roll; featured

veggies: steamed corn, romaine salad, choice of fruit and milk

Thursday: French toast sticks with sausage links or barbecue rib on a bun; featured veggies: potato triangles, fresh cucumber slices, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Philly style cheesesteak wrap with sauce, peppers and onions or buffalo chicken stromboli; featured veggies: steamed peas, fresh cucumber slices, choice of fruit

and milk

Week of September 2

Monday: No school, Labor Day

Tuesday: Asian sesame chicken over rice or chicken parmesan on a bun; featured veggies: green beans, spinach salad, choice of fruit and milk

Wednesday: Texas toasted cheese sandwich or meatball hoagie on a roll; featured veggies: tomato soup, steamed

peas and carrots, choice of fruit and milk

Thursday: Hot turkey and gravy sandwich or barbecue rib on a bun; featured veggies: oven roasted sweet potatoes, green pepper strips, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Hot ham and cheese baked hoagie or Italian style stromboli; featured veggies: potato wedges, chick pea salad, choice of fruit and milk

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 August 26

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

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

Wednesday: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, broccoli, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, fresh melon, milk and coffee

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

Friday: Roast pork w/sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, carrots, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, baked apples, milk and coffee

Week of September 2

Monday: Center closed for Labor Day

Tuesday: Franks & beans, coleslaw, corn chowder, crackers, margarine, Greek yogurt, milk and coffee

Wednesday: Lemon pepper

fish, whole wheat macaroni & cheese, stewed tomatoes, peas, margarine, orange, milk and coffee

Thursday: Grandparents Day Lunch: Honey mustard chicken, mashed sweet potatoes, brussels sprouts, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, fresh apple slices, milk and coffee

Friday: Boneless pork ribs, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, vanilla 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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Places To Go ... Things To Do ...

Continued from page 4

grounds on **September 7**. Registration is from 7-10 a.m. for trucks and quads. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Open to the public. Come and watch from the side lines!

Stock and modified classes \$20 for one run in each pit, classes include 4, 6 and 8 cylinder. ATV classes include 2WD, 4WD and UTV. \$10 for one run in each pit.

REE & EDDIE ENGLER BENEFIT

The Trooper Ree & Eddie Engler annual memorial benefit was started in honor of PA State Trooper Royce Engler in 2013 by his brother Eddie and his family. Ree was a PA State Trooper who passed away in a motorcycle accident August of 2012, and the memorial fund was created to donate proceeds to the Pennsylvania State Police Troopers Helping Troopers Foundation, which

aid fellow Pennsylvania State Police families in their time of need.

For the past six years there has been great success in the fundraising effort each September at the annual motorcycle ride and benefit concert. Unfortunately, Eddie Engler passed away unexpectedly in July of 2016 due to a heart condition.

A portion of the proceeds from the event each year are allocated to purchasing an AED for a selected local organization in honor of Eddie, as well

as continuing the donation to Troopers Helping Troopers in honor of Ree.

The annual memorial motorcycle ride & concert will be held on **September 7** at the American Legion Post 781 in Mountain Top.

Registration for the ride is at 10 a.m. and the ride departs at 11 a.m. Both motorcycles and cars are welcome to participate.

The memorial celebration is held from 1 to 9 p.m. This is a family friendly event and

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

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all are welcome. This year's celebration includes live entertainment from PB&J, Hangin' with Fog, Alibi, Big Country, all who donate their time and talent for the event. There is a large raffle tent with over 100 prizes including baskets and gift certificates. There is also face painting, a balloon artist, and pony rides for the kids.

The price for admission to the event is a donation of \$20 which includes all food, beverages, and activities, and kids under age 12 are free.

SEPTEMBER 8 MEAT SHOOT

The Mountain Post American Legion will hold its annual meat shoot on **September 8**. There will be a bake sale with food and refreshments available for sale. Open to the public. For additional information please contact Martine at martine.columbo@aol.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus St. Jude Council #6440 is **Tuesday, September 10** at 7:30 p.m. in the library of St. Jude's school. All current members are asked to attend. New members are always welcome. Please call the Recorder, Stanley R. Gutkowski III, for more information at 570-474-5785. Visit them at www.stjudekofc6440.org or like them on Facebook at stjudekofc6440.

**SEPTEMBER 10
GARDEN CLUB MEETING**
The Mountain Top Garden Club will meet on **Tuesday, September 10**. This meeting

will be held at George Burger and Sons Garden Center at 6 p.m.

They will enjoy a nursery tour by George Burger, owner of George Burger and Sons in Mountain Top on Route 309. George will talk about the various types of "shrubs beyond yew" that we can plant to enhance our landscapes. The meeting is open to the public.

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.

SEPTEMBER 12 SENIOR EXPO

In her continuing effort to improve the quality of life for older residents in the Hazleton area, Rep. Tarah Toohil (R-Luzerne) will host a Senior Citizens Expo on **Thursday, September 12**.

The free event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Boscov's wing of Laurel Mall, 106 Laurel Mall Road in Hazle Township.

Toohil's senior expo will feature dozens of exhibitors from nonprofit agencies; local, state and federal governments; and area businesses that will provide information on benefits and services available to older residents on a wide range of topics, including health care, insurance, nutrition and exercise, fire safety, financial planning, fraud protection, government and personal safety.

In addition, a number of health screenings will be offered, courtesy of area health care providers, including glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure and colon cancer. Please note that the blood work and glucose tests will be performed from 8-10 a.m. Participants are reminded to refrain from eating after midnight.

A basket raffle will take place at 12:30 p.m. Seniors are reminded to bring a return

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 25: ALYSSA GOLDEN • 1 P.M.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31: SISTER ESTHER • 8 P.M.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: FRANK MARCINKOWSKI ON THE PATIO • 1 P.M.

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

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address label for easier registration. Ticket holders must be present to win a prize.

For more information, please contact Toohil's district office at 570-453-1344.

SEPTEMBER 13 PASTIE SALE

St. Martin In The Field Church on Church Road in Mountain Top is holding a pastie sale with pick up on September 13 from noon to 3 p.m. Pasties are \$8 each and

your order must be placed by August 30. To order call Joan Barry at 570-474-5587.

SEPTEMBER 13, 14 PIZZA SALE AND FLEA MARKET

A flea market will be held on September 14 at St. Paul's Church in Mountain Top from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Tables available. Please contact Lois Scott 570-239-7421. A pizza sale in conjunction with the flea market will also take place on Friday September 13 from 6-8 p.m.

and September 14 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The church is located at 316 S. Mountain Blvd. in Mountain Top.

SEPTEMBER 15 K OF C SOCCER CHALLENGE

Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge sponsored by St. Jude Council #6440 will be held on September 15 from 1-4 p.m. behind St. Jude School.

It is open to all boys and girls age 9-14. Please bring a

copy of your birth certificate to registration. Each child gets 15 free kicks. Scoring is based on where the ball crosses the goal. Council winners will compete at the next level in October.

For more information, contact info@stjudekofc6440.org.

SINGSPIRATION

Stairville United Methodist Church is holding its annual Singspiration on Sunday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m. Music will be provided by local church choirs and talented individuals plus con-

gregational choices of hymns throughout the evening. Following the evening's music fellowship and light refreshments will be held in the fellowship hall. Come on out for a great evening of music, food and fellowship! Stairville UMC is located at 1790 Stairville Rd. in Wapwallopen.

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Knights of Columbus installs officers



The St. Jude Knights of Columbus Council #6440 recently held its installation of officers at Sand Springs Golf Club Tuesday, July 16. The ceremony was conducted by District Deputy Jason Kowalski and he was assisted by Pastor Father Joe Evanko, St. Jude's Parish. After the ceremony, a meal was served followed by fellowship.

Shown at left, officers present at the ceremony; standing, from left, Recorder Stanley R. Gutkowski III, Trustee John Borek, Financial Secretary Joe Holmes, Trustee Drew Zavada, and Warden Michael Diakun; seated: Chancellor Dave Jaques, Outside Guard Antonio Zucco, Deputy Grand Knight Mark Rongone, Pastor St. Jude's Father Joe Evanko, Grand Knight Robert Murphy, District Deputy Jason Kowalski, and Inside Guard Joe Dombroski. Absent from the photo was Trustee Tony Biago, Advocate Thomas M. Marsilio, Esq. and Treasurer Brian Craine.



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Panamanian exchange students share their culture with residents of Mountain Top Senior Care and Rehab Center

The Mountain Top Senior Care and Rehab facility hosted its 3rd annual presentation by Wilkes University exchange students from Panama on Friday, August 16 at 2 p.m.

Residents of the facility were treated to a program given by the students from Panama where they wore traditional costumes, sang and danced to traditional music. The program is a way for the residents to be able to experience the culture of the people of Panama. The exchange students are part of the university's International Engagement Department and the students are a part of the Panamanian Governments IFARHU program and are selected to participate and receive scholarships to attend Wilkes University.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Students end one of their country's popular dances with the residents of Mountain Top Senior Care looking on.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Danny and Carol Saunders purchase some fresh vegetables from Lori Cotrone of Creekside Farms in Dorrance.

Rotary Club sponsors farmer's market

The Rotary Club of Mountain Top sponsors the farmer's market held in the Crestwood High School parking lot every Sunday through October 20. Just a few of the home-grown items you can find are local produce, honey, meats, baked goods, fermented foods, coffee and much more.



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We've Got Mail ...

Reader responds to Mountain Peaks news articles

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to two things from the last issue, which I will do in order.

The response of some people to the posting of speedtrap locations on a social media group was very chilling. This was the policy of moderators to the Mountain Top News Facebook page of removing posts they personally disagree with. Every website has a section called Terms of Use or something similar. All users are required to abide by this. I decided to skim the terms of one social media site that encourages community groups. There is a section dealing with overzealous moderation. The website encourages people who feel that their posts were improperly removed, to report this to the website for evaluation. The site encourages the free expression of ideas, and as long as people posting comply with the site's terms, posts should be allowed. They do not want the personal views of moderators to interfere with the free expression of ideas. The solution to dealing with free speech you do not like, is more free speech. People are free to publicly reply to posts or send private messages, as long as they are civil. Censoring people for expressing their views is quite disturbing, and not allowed on that particular website. I encourage people who like censorship to visit a cemetery on Memorial Day and look at all the flags on the

See Mail, page 43

Mt. Post 781 claims League WVAL championship

Mountain Post 781 recently won the 2019 Wyoming Valley American League baseball championship. Mt. Post defeated Swoyersville 2-1 in the final to claim the title.

The team set a franchise record with 21 season wins and finished as one of the top ten teams in the state of Pennsylvania.



Team members, from left, row 1: Zach Andrews, Shea Makowski, Matt Talerowski, Francisco Mendoza, Nico Schwartz, Mick Bafunno, and Max Albee; row 2: Coach Stew Caladie, Stewart Caladie, Matt Dean, Derek Petroch-

ko, and Michael Palmiero; row 3: Coach Dave Darden, Manager Tony Caladie, Corey Chalk, Don Shaw, Justin Darden, David Wickiser, Dillon Shaw, Tom Borum, Coach Kyle Goynes, and Coach Jim Talerowski.



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Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin photo

2019 Comets introduced at Meet the Comets night

With the football season about to start, the Crestwood football program sponsored a program in the school auditorium to introduce the 2019 Comets. All football players, cheerleaders and band members in grades 7-12 were intro-

duced to the audience. The band and cheerleaders both performed short routines. The Comets 2019 football season opener is at home on Friday, August 23 against the Wilkes-Barre Wolfpack.

Mountain Top Verizon distributes back packs



Joel Walsh, the new manager of the remodeled Verizon Wireless Mountain Top store, at the annual backpack giveaway on Sunday July 21. Both student backpacks and numerous school supplies were presented to Wyoming Valley children to begin the 2019-2020 school term.





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Victoria from Australia, 17 yrs.
Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Victoria plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.



Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs.
Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

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News in Brief ...

Veteran assistance available at

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American Legion Mt. Post 781 Service Officer will answer and assist veterans with personal questions about benefits and services. Meetings are at 1550 Henry Drive in Mountain Top on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 6

p.m. Any questions please call 570- 678-7105.

Appeal briefs filed for Dorrance Township

Dorrance Township solicitor Donald Karpowich told supervisors at their August meeting that the Blue Ridge Trail Planned Residential Develop-

ment (PRD) appeal briefs have been filed by the township with the court of common pleas.

Following the recommendation of the township planning commission, Dorrance Township supervisors denied approval of the proposed PRD last December following nearly two years of hearings and meetings on the project.

The township's planning commission cited several deficiencies in the plan in their recommendation to supervisors to deny approval. The area for which the PRD is planned is zoned conservation. A PRD is a permitted use in that district, however the developer needed to obtain conditional use approval from the township. In August 2017 supervisors gave

conditional approval to allow the project on a 2-1 vote. The developer had 12 months to submit a site design plan to the township for review to determine if it meets all requirements for a PRD. It was that plan which the supervisors decided not to approve.

In other business ...

See News in Brief, page 17



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Proposed ordinance banning feeding of stray and feral cats put on hold in Fairview

A proposed ordinance that would ban feeding of stray and feral cats in Fairview Township was put on hold at the supervisors' August 6 meeting after they heard from nearly a dozen residents opposed to the proposal.

Nearly 20 residents turned out for the meeting, filling the municipal building meeting room. After listening to the residents who opposed the measure, and one resident who supported it, supervisor Mike Iorio said he would move to table the ordinance until the board's September meeting.

"We will table this for 30 days," Iorio stated. "I expect a group of people to come to us with a plan to control (the feral and stray cats). Come to us with a plan and we will look at it," he added. "If not, we will vote on it," he said of the



Marie Ryan describes the ordinance as "inhumane and evil"

proposed ordinance. Iorio and supervisor Fred Rose voted to table the amendment to the code of ordinances. Supervisor Robert Orloski Jr. was absent.

While describing himself as neither an animal lover nor an animal hater, Iorio told residents he would put the concerns of a township resident

over animals. "When it comes to a choice between a resident living in the township or animals, the resident will win," Iorio stated.

The proposed amendment states that "No person shall feed or in any manner provide or place food or water for any feral or stray cat which is not



Shelly and Michael Daikon listen to someone speak.

under the ownership or legal possession of such person on any public or private property."

It came about after Forest Road resident Mike Daikon told supervisors at their June meeting 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.

Daikon spoke at Tuesday's session and was the only person to speak in favor of the

See Ordinance, page 28

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos
Mark Zluchowski stacks some metal for welding at SK Sales in the Crestwood Industrial Park.



Making a double scoop of strawberry ice cream at the Milkhouse Creamery in Mountain Top is Sarah Dagostin whose parents own the creamery.



Jody Dymond of J. DE Construction works in the basement of a home in Nuangola.



Ivy Housenick of Design Works in Mountain Top is cutting Debbie Diotaiuto hair.



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News in Brief ...

Continued from page 14

Karpowich also told supervisors a \$12,500 bond has been posted for a logging operation off St. John's Road. The bond covers possible damage to a stretch of road less than one mile.

A letter was read from township sewage enforcement officer William Brior regarding the septic at 7856 Blue Ridge Trail. Brior told supervisors Danny Singer of Singer Septic Cleaning reported the on-lot septic system was inspected on August 7 at which time the tank was opened, and he found no issues with the system. As a result of Singer's report, Brior has determined that the prop-

erty has a viable septic system which is allowable under the PA Sewage Facilities Act and therefore the home on this property can be occupied and the current septic system utilized.

Supervisors voted to advertise for a full-time road department worker. The position requires operating equipment, road maintenance, plowing and township property maintenance. A valid Class B CDL driver license with airbrakes preferred but not required. Starting salary based on experience. Applications will be accepted until September 4, 2019.

Supervisors hired John Wengrynek for grounds maintenance on an as needed basis at a rate of \$15 per hour.

only if the zoning hearing board grants a special exception.

Wapwallopen man wants to open micro-brewery in Mountain Top

George Merenich is hoping to open a micro-brewery and locate the facility in the former Geisinger clinic at 12 Kirby Avenue, Fairview Township. Before he can move forward with his plans, however, Merenich must receive approval from the township's zoning hearing board. The property, at the corner of Kirby Avenue and North Main Street, is in a Highway Commercial (HC) zone. Micro-breweries are a permitted use in an HC zone,

only if the zoning hearing board grants a special exception.

Fairview Township zoning hearing board did approve a special exception request for Lanahu Ales to operate the micro-brewery. George Merenich, owner of Lanahu Ales, told the zoning hearing board the business will be closed on Sundays and Mondays with hours of 4-9 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday. He also plans to have a food truck in the parking lot.

The board's approval was conditioned on the hours of operation set forth by Merenich. Additionally, only one food truck will be allowed on the

property at one time and the trucks must connect to the building's electrical power, rather than a generator.

Fairview awards road improvement contracts

Fairview Township supervisors awarded contracts to Linde Corp. for two road improvement projects at their August 6 meeting. Both projects are funded by grants from the Luzerne County Conservation District. Linde was awarded a contract in the amount of \$96,351.30 for improvements to Gracedale Avenue. The company also received a

See News in Brief, page 20



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A SALUTE TO AMERICAN LABORERS



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos
Pouring a beer at Cavanaugh's Bar and Grille in Mountain Top is bartender Jamie Antosh.



Jorge Robledo, a cook at Junie G's Restaurant in Mountain Top cooks breakfast for hungry customers.



Bob Ankner, a custodian at Crestwood High School, polishes the school cafeteria floor before the start of the school year.



Dr. Tiffany Wagner, right and Certified Veterinary Technician Beth Simon-ton from South Mountain Veterinarian Hospital examine Lilly.

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News in Brief ...

Continued from page 17

\$62,191.18 contract for work on Sterling Street.

Supervisors also awarded a contract to Mountain Top Paving & Sealcoating to mill and make repairs to the edges of Lake Road. The project will cost \$14,400.

In other business ...

The Mountain Top Joint Sanitary Authority has asked Fairview Township to submit a Local Shares Account (gaming) grant to replace sewer lines in Glen Summit.

New zoning company in Wright Township soon

There soon will be a new company handling zoning issues, code enforcement and building permits in Wright Township.

At their August 13 meeting, supervisors accepted the resignation of Strategic Municipal Group as its zoning and code enforcement officer effective August 31. Township secretary Pam Heard said the company indicated in its resignation letter that the job requirements take more time that is allotted in its contract. The company has performed zoning and code enforcement for the township for about five years.

After accepting the resignation, supervisors voted to hire Barry Isett & Associates as its new zoning and code enforcement firm. The firm will be paid \$10,000 annually, prorated on a monthly basis. The contract calls for Isett & Associates to have a representative in the municipal building one day a week for two hours.

Isett & Associates also will handle building code inspection duties which also had

been performed by Code Inspection Inc.

Supervisors also voted to adopt a new fee schedule for residential and commercial structures pursuant to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code. The resolution to adopt the new fee structure indicates the action is necessary to defray expenses incurred by the township in connection with various applications and permits for which the Isett firm is compensated as inspector under the Uniform Construction Code.

Supervisor Don Zampetti said the new fee schedule will bring the township in line with other municipalities, partic-

ularly those with industrial parks.

In other business ...

Officials also took action to limit the number of animals for which the township will pay for residents to drop off at the SPCA. Supervisors passed a motion to limit residents to a maximum of three animals per year. Residents may drop off more than three animals at the SPCA, but they will be responsible for the fee.

Township secretary Pamela Heard reported the MS4 waiver application is complete and will be submitted to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for review. The waiver application was

prepared by LVIC Civil engineers, Selinsgrove, at a cost of \$2,950.


Supervisors earlier this year tabled action on a proposed MS4 pollution reduction plan prepared by Borton-Lawson Engineering. The action came after the board reviewed the extensive comments on the plan from the township's Environmental Advocacy Committee (EAC) which suggested the

township investigate seeking a waiver from DEP. The township's proposed five-year pollution reduction plan to meet federal Clean Water Act requirements would cost the township more than \$1 million to implement, money the township does not have.

Heard also reported the township is planning to have

See News in Brief, page 21





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Eddie Day Pashinski**
121st Legislative District
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News in Brief ...

Continued from page 20

more dead trees removed from the township park during August. She said the felled trees will be made available to anyone who wants to remove them. She said so far 65 trees have been taken down.

Supervisors gave approval

to the Mountain Top Lacrosse Association (MALAXA) to use the ice rink for boys lacrosse pending submission of insurance. Supervisor Matt Howton will check on the status of the rink's lights since the organization wants to use the rink at night.

Supervisors approved the

route for the Rotary Club of Mountain Top 5k run. The organization must receive approval of the state Department of Transportation since the route includes portions of South Main Road, a state highway.

The also gave Howton permission to sell two dump trucks which are not operable.

ment on Saturday, September 28 at the American Legion Post 781 picnic grove. Competition will begin at 1 p.m. with registration getting underway at noon.

Association treasurer Sgt. Scott Rozitski said the cornhole tournament will replace the organization's annual golf tournament this year. "We decided to do a cornhole tournament so we can include those people in the community who have always wanted to participate but weren't golfers," Rozitski explained.

The entry fee will be \$60 per participant for a total of \$120 for a two-person team.

There will be a competitive division and a casual division, both double elimination, so

teams will have the opportunity to play several games. The entry fee will also include food, refreshments, entertainment, and a t-shirt for participants. Those who don't want to play cornhole can pay a \$25 spectator fee which includes food, beverages, entertainment.

There will be prizes for the first and second place teams in each division, a 50/50 raffle, and prize raffles which will include the custom made cornhole boards made by local woodworkers.

Proceeds from the tournament fund several of association's community service endeavors including the WTPOA scholarship, which

See News in Brief, page 24



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At the check presentation are, from left, Joe Hudock, Adjutant; Mary Grace Eckert, PAWW Ambassador; Paul Pavelitz, Finance Officer; Dave Schiel, 1st Vice Commander; and Len Biel, Commander.

S.A.L. donates to wounded warriors

Mt. Post 781, Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.) recently donated a portion of the proceeds from its car show to the PA Wounded Warriors Inc. (PAWW).

The PAWW is a PA based foundation that helps provide assistance to PA veterans. 96¢ of every dollar goes to PA veterans. More info on this group can be found at pawoundedwarriors.org.

Cornhole competition benefits Mountain Top Junior Comets

Mindy Gordon tosses a bean bag for team Babes and Bags.

Mountain Peaks/ Claudia Strycharz photo



The Mountain Top Junior Comets held a cornhole competition on Sunday, August 11 beginning at noon with registration; the first bag was thrown at 1 p.m. The fundraising event was held at the Mountain Top American Legion Post 781 in the grove. Anyone could participate if you could toss a bag. Cost to play was \$40 per team if pre-registered and \$50 per team the day of the event. The top team received a cash prize. There was also a basket raffle. Soft drinks and food were included in the entry fee. Forty three teams participated in the tournament.



Megan Fedor, takes everyone on a short walk to the children's discovery area to show them the many species of native plants in our area.

Garden Club enjoys informative meeting

The Mountain Top Garden Club's August meeting was held on Tuesday, August 13 at Nescopeck State Park at 12:30 p.m. Everyone brought their own lunch and the club provided beverages and dessert. The meeting was informative as Megan Fedor, Environmental Education Specialist at the park held a presentation on native and evasive plants. Following the indoor portion of the program she took them on a short walk to see firsthand the many plants found in our area. The park strives to remove all invasive species of plants with the help of volunteers throughout the warmer months.



Mountain Peaks/ Claudia Strycharz photos

Above: Everyone has a chance to see how honeybees live in the hive. At right: Harold Keiner explains the beehive to the attendees.



Bee program presented in Nuangola

The last program for the summer to be held at the historical Nuangola Lake pavilion was held on Saturday, August 10 beginning at 10 a.m. Harold Keiner from Keiner's Apiary in Slocum presented an educational and very informative program on the history of beekeeping. From coming to America to present day, including an educational talk on bee castes, their jobs, life cycles, what constitutes a swarm, pollination, honey-making and how we can help bees and all pollinators was discussed.

Trevor Smith advances in golf competition

Mountain Top golfer Trevor Smith, 7, will advance in the regional qualifying match of Drive, Chip, and Putt. Trevor earned a 2nd place in the 7-9 year old age group at the local competition held at Wyoming Valley Country Club. He then went on to earn a 1st place at the sub-regional competition hosted by The ACE Club Oakmont Country Club. Trevor is set to compete in September at the regional qualifier at Oakmont Country Club, Oakmont, PA.

The competition is a joint initiative founded in 2013 by the Masters Tournament, United States Golf Association and The PGA of America. Participants, ages 7-15 who advance through 310 local sites, 61 sub-regional sites and 10 regional qualifying sites in



Trevor Smith on the golf course.

each age/gender category earn a place in the National Finals, which is conducted at Augusta National Golf Club the Sunday before the Masters tournament and is broadcast live by the Golf Channel on April 5, 2020.

Welcome Club donates to Candy's Place



Jane Aritz, left, a volunteer at Candy's Place cancer wellness center in Forty Fort, and Executive Director Lisa Orlandini, center, pose with Pam McGovern, president of the Mountain Top Welcome Club. The club recently presented Candy's Place with a donation of \$1,800. Candy's Place used the funds to buy two recumbent bikes for their center.



Pictured with their Gold Cup trophies are, seated, from left, receiving their 1st Gold Cup, 3 years participation: Peyton Popple, Sienna Popple, Peyton Taylor, 2nd Gold Cup, 6 years participation: Emily Schadder; standing: 1st Gold Cup, 3 years participation: Haley Fennell, 3rd Gold Cup, 9 years participation: Emily Fleming, Gwyn Cruz, Erin Barno, 1st Gold Cup, 3 years participation: Mia Murphy, and Aishani Chauhan.

Music students receive Gold Cup

The Pa. Federation of Music Clubs, an affiliate of the National Federation conducted its annual state festival held at Wilkes University. Members include Laura Anderson, Diana Black, Andrea Bogusko, Valerie Grabiec, Judith Katra, Deborah Kelleher, Rebekah Parry, Narda Sperrazza, and Dolores Weed who judged the state festival along with: Jackie Legg, David Meehan, Joanne Monfiletto, Terrie Phillips, and Maureen Salley.

Students performed two memorized pieces and received points toward earning a gold cup trophy. It takes three or more years to earn a trophy.

Also receiving cups but not pictured are: 1st cup, 3 years participation: Abigail Augustine, Samuel Augustine, Amelia Bendick, Tyler Cleveland, Abigail Jerome, Sara Mulea, Dante Passeri, Anna Prusak; 2nd Gold Cup, 6 years participation: Olivia Sellers, Christian Renfer, in violin: Jonathan Renfer, piano: Joyce Renfer, 3rd Gold Cup in piano, 9 years participation: Jonathan Renfer, 6th Gold Cup, the President's Cup, 13 year participation: Alex Kline, 6th Silver Cup, 18 years participation, President's Cup: David Meehan.

General Federation of Women's Clubs initiates six new members

The General Federation of Women's Clubs in Mountain Top initiated six new members recently. The ceremony was performed on May 6 at the Sands Springs Country Club by past president Lois Gutkowski. Each new member received a candle, flower and membership pin.

The club is open to everyone and interested parties are welcome to call President Gaylene at 570-751-6144.

At right: The new members are, from left, Debra Callaghan, Helen Raduta, JoAnn Schaeffer, Karen Shroyer, Ady Burner and Barbara Meza.



St. Jude Parish holds annual picnic

The 66th annual St. Jude Parish Picnic in the Grove was held August 9 through 11 on the parish grounds. The weather was perfect, and the crowds came to listen to the music and enjoy the potato pancakes, homemade pierogi, haluski, fish tacos, grilled corn, funnel cakes and much more. The line on Sunday for the bbq chicken dinner stretched up into the grove.

The picnic was a huge success thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who worked at the picnic to prepare and serve the food; to those who sponsored booths and those who donated to various picnic activities.



Mountain Peaks/ Norberta Kosin photos

The McLaughlin family, Anna, 6, Sadie, 2, dad Sean, Jake, 8, and mom Maureen enjoy their favorite food at the picnic.



Stanley Fisher wants to make sure his great grandchildren, Briana, 4 ½ and Hailey look at the camera as mom, Jessica Metrick balances them on her lap.



Friends Kathy Price, Michele Kollar and Tina Woronko celebrate 30 years of working together at the St Jude picnic.

News in Brief ...

Continued from page 21

is a \$500 scholarship given to a Crestwood graduate who is planning an education in the public service field. Other past recipients include the Mountaintop Food Bank, various youth sports teams, local churches, holiday donations for the needy, a bicycle rodeo, children's fingerprinting programs, the local DARE program, the Crestwood Senior Lock-In, and National Night Out. Also, funds are used for police department training. Recent training was an active shooter course at Crestwood High School attended by members of all Mountain Top police departments.

As with the golf tournament, donations from area businesses help make the event a suc-

cess. Businesses can support the tournament as a gold sponsor for \$150; silver sponsor for \$100 and bronze sponsor for \$50. Gold sponsors will have their name on a cornhole board. Businesses and residents can also donate raffle baskets.

To become a sponsor, donate items, request a sign-up form, or any questions, contact Sgt. Rozitski at 570-474-9251 or by email srozit89@ptd.net. You also can direct message the association through its Facebook page.

Wright Township votes to extend KOZ exemption

Wright Township supervisors voted at their August 12 meeting to extend until 2029

the Keystone Opportunity Zone tax exemption for the former Poseidon Pool property in the Crestwood Industrial Park, a move that could open the way for construction of a large industrial building on the site.

The KOZ designation, if approved by Luzerne County Council and Crestwood School Board, would exempt the property owner from municipal, school and county property taxes for 10 years. Supervisors noted the township currently does not receive any tax revenue from the property. While it would not receive property taxes for the length of the KOZ designation, the township would receive tax revenue from people who may become employed there.

Luzerne County Council is expected to address the

request at its August 27 meeting. Crestwood School Board has yet to vote on it.

Developer Rob Mericle and Wico van Genderen, president of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, addressed supervisors at their work session prior to the regular meeting. Mericle outlined his plans to build a 217,000-square foot industrial building on the 27-acre site. He said the development would result in about 174 new jobs. The developer said his company and the chamber are working to meet requirements of Pennsylvania Act 2 which Mericle said deals with cleanup of environmentally challenged properties. Should the plan go through, Mericle would pay back taxes amounting to approximately \$20,000, according to town-

ship officials.

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund, a subsidiary of the chamber, assumed control of the property after Poseidon Pools closed and filed for bankruptcy in 1998.

Following the supervisors meeting, Mericle said if the other taxing bodies approve the KOZ extension, it would still take about two years to meet the requirements of Act 2 and another six to nine months to construct a building.

Wright Township resident Gary Tredinnick questioned what would happen if the plan goes through and a company who moves into the building leaves after the expiration of the KOZ. Representatives of the Mericle firm said as the owner of the building, they would be responsible for paying the taxes.



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Fairview police department receives state-of-the-art license plate reader

The Fairview Township police department has a new state-of-the-art tool to help officers detect stolen vehicles as well as those with expired or suspended registrations.

The device, a Genetec automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) system recently was installed on one of the department's vehicles. The system, which includes two plate readers, cost \$16,000 and was funded through a Local Shares Account (gaming) grant.

Police Chief Phil Holbrook said since the state no longer issues registration stickers for license plates, the system quickly helps officers identify expired or suspended registrations as well as stolen vehicles. The system consists of two readers mounted on the vehicle's light bar. One faces the front of the vehicle and the other the rear. Holbrook explained that the readers constantly scans for registration plates. When it identifies a plate, the plate and vehicle are displayed on a computer screen in the vehicle. If the plate is registered to a stolen vehicle, a red border appears around the screen. If the plate is expired, a yellow border appears. A blue border means the plate is suspended.

Holbrook said on a recent eight-hour shift, the reader scanned nearly 800 vehicles. It "hit" on 21 plates that were either suspended for lack of insurance or expired. He emphasized that not all those operators received a citation. "We use discretion," he emphasized. "If a plate recently expired, we may issue a warning."

The chief said when a "hit" appears on a license plate, officers verify the information



A close up view of the new plate reader.

by either running it on their onboard computer system or through Luzerne County communications center. He com-

mended township supervisors for their foresight in applying for the grant. "It's a tremendous help," he noted.



The plate reader sits on top of the hood on a Fairview Township police vehicle.



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Camp Cadet is a learning experience for over eighty area young adults

Camp Cadet is a law enforcement academy program for area youth held every summer at Camp Kresge in White Haven.

Over eighty young adults from Luzerne, Wyoming, Sullivan and Bradford Counties attended the week-long free camp. The cadets had to write an essay and complete an application process in order to be chosen to attend. The camp is free because of the Pennsylvania State Police Troop "P" Camp Cadet Board of Directors yearlong fundraising efforts.

The Camp started on Sunday, August 4 and concluded on Friday, August 9. On Thursday, August 8 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. the camp held media day where members of the media could experience Camp Cadet life with the Troop "P" cadets.

This year on media day one of several Pennsylvania State Police helicopters landed in the sports field and the cadets were given the opportunity to see and ask questions on the role of the helicopters and the pilots who fly them.

Camp Cadet develops respect and discipline in the cadets through actual training that simulates the same courses Pennsylvania troopers are required to complete before they serve the public. They experienced a brief study of the physical training, self-discipline and courtesy each male and female trooper undertake in one week. Each cadet was instructed by the finest men and women in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, troopers from their respec-

tive headquarters who know the value of reinforcing good choices and giving direction to those who choose the right path to follow.

There was also a hands-on class study of many of the sciences involved in police work. The dynamics of how the law enforcement world evolves and the necessary means of cause and effect. From the human sciences of team work to the dangerous world of drug consumption and abuse. Not everything is work; the cadets swim and do other activities for fun. No cell phones or other electronics are allowed during the week.

The cadets were between the ages of 12 and 15, and were from Luzerne, Sullivan, Bradford and Wyoming Counties.



Enjoying her Mexican taco lunch in the chow hall at camp is Madelyn Yohey of White Haven.



Part of the daily routine at Camp Cadet involves drills. Whether going to the chow hall or to an activity, the cadets march in proper form.



Corrective action is being enforced on Cadets Robert Panko, Alex Kobusky and Brent Parnell by Sgt. Bucznyski and Trooper Dodson.



Cadet Tavon Hines asks Sgt. Van Buren a question about a part on the nose of the helicopter he flies.

Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

Ordinance ...

Continued from page 15

amendment. "If it's not happening to you, it's not a big deal," Daikon said of the problem which he described as toxic. A cat owner himself, Daikon said he keeps his animals indoors. He said he purchased a natural cat repellent to keep the cats away, but it did not deter the animals from urinating and defecating on his property.

The residents who spoke out against the proposed ordinance described it as inhumane, and unenforceable. They suggested the township look at other options to deal with the issue.

"How is this (amendment) going to solve the problem? How is it going to be enforced?" asked resident Toni Loftus. She questioned if the ordinance is based on evidence that it is the

best way to deal with feral cats.

"I am very upset," said resident Marie Ryan. "It is inhumane and evil," she added. She described the proposed ordinance as an overreaction to a problem. "I don't want to feel like I'm living in a police state," she added. She recommended the ordinance be tabled to allow time for a better solution.

Several residents told supervisors there are more humane ways to deal with the feral and stray cat issue. They suggested trap, neuter and release programs.

Township solicitor Donald Karpowich, who drafted the ordinance, noted that other communities who enacted a no feed ordinance wound up going to a trap, neuter and release program. Karpowich recommended residents examine the trap, neuter and release program adopted in Conyn-

gham Borough where he is solicitor. He offered to provide residents with contact information for the person running the program in that community.

Prior to the end of the meeting, residents collected telephone numbers of persons interested in becoming involved in a trap, neuter and release program.

Editor's Note: No Non-sense Neutering will be at the Fairview Township municipal building on **Tuesday, September 3** at 7:30 p.m. to speak about TNR (trap, neuter, release). Please show your support by attending. Topics will include how to do TNR, best practices in colony care and how to help free roaming cats be good neighbors. If you know of anyone feeding cats, please encourage them to attend. This workshop can be a life saving two hours.

Wyoming Seminary to open 176th year of classes on August 26

Wyoming Seminary will begin its 176th year of classes on Monday, August 26, and will continue a year-long celebration of the school's founding in September 1844.

The Upper School in Kingston will register boarding and day students on Saturday and Sunday, August 24 and 25 for grades nine through 12 and postgraduate. New students will participate in orientation activities on Saturday and Sunday, and will attend a special New Student Retreat on Sunday.

On Monday, August 26, a special opening-of-school convocation service will be held at the Upper School.

The Lower School, located in Forty Fort, will open for its first

day of classes for toddler to eighth grade students on Monday, August 26. Lower School Dean Dr. Kathleen Hanlon encourages all parents of toddler, preschool, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students to attend a Parents' Back to School Night at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 22. A similar Back to School Night for parents of children in first through fourth grades will be held on Tuesday, August 27 at 6 p.m., and for fifth through eighth grades on Tuesday, September 3 at 6 p.m.

For more information about Wyoming Seminary, its programs and activities, call the Upper School at 570-270-2160 or the Lower School at 570-718-6610.



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Ava Groth spearheads project to help children get ready for school year

Ava Groth of Mountain Top is not only a student, but a co-chair for the Women's Junior Auxiliary Post 781 Mountain Top. She attended the Junior Auxiliary meeting this past spring and found out that there was a project to fill backpacks needs for homeless veterans. She thought it would be very fulfilling, so when the Women's Club (GFWC) of Mountain Top contacted her offering to help her with a fundraiser of her choice she knew what she wanted to do. She wanted to help children of veterans that needed help getting ready for school.

Ava did some research and found Operation Homefront, an organization with a similar veteran outreach plus they have a back to school backpack drive around the country. She made the contacts and got



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Ava Groth, stands with representatives of the American Legion Post 781, Sons of the American Legion Post 781, Auxiliary Post 781, GFWC Mountain Top and representatives from Tobyhanna Army Depot. From left are: Tiffney Lane, Chief of Community Services Tobyhanna; Barbara Meza, GFWC; Marcia Finn, President Luzerne/Wyoming County Auxiliary; Ed Groth; Jack Groth; John Columbo, 1st Vice

to work asking local organizations for help. She set up a collection box at Building

Blocks Learning Center and received monetary donations from branches of the Ameri-

American Legion; Lenny Biel, Commander SAL; Ava Groth; John Hudock, SAL Adjunct; Al Finn, Vice Commander American Legion; Donna Smith, GFWC; Leigh Michel, GFWC; Paula Butts, Financial Management Tobyhanna; Lisa Crews, Chief Army Community Services Tobyhanna; Gretchen Bentler, Program Manager Tobyhanna and Christopher Rassmussen, Logistics.

can Legion, including the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, the American Legion,

and the Junior Auxiliary.

Groth, was invited to a Women's club meeting and its members also collected backpacks and school supplies. With everyone's help from Mountain Top 150 backpacks were collected.

Operation Homefront put her in touch with the Tobyhanna Army Depot, who became the recipients of all the backpacks and on Monday, August 19 representatives from the Depot came to Crestwood High School to pick up the backpacks.

Ava would like to thank everyone involved in this effort and for coming together to help bring her idea to fruition. She is thankful that with help from so many they were able to make so many children of all ages and grades ready for this school year.



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Politicians issue statements about closing of White Haven Center

Mullery opposed to White Haven closure

State Rep. Gerald Mullery is opposed to the closure of the White Haven Center, as announced recently by the state Department of Human Services.

"On behalf of the residents, their families and the more than 400 caregivers at the White Haven Center, I am strongly against closing the facility. This is the only home many of the residents have ever known, and while some argue community care is more cost effective, it certainly won't be the same," Mullery said.

The department noted the declining census and cost per resident as key factors in the closure. Mullery contends both statistics are "artificial"

and "self-serving."

"For years, the department has fought tooth and nail against admissions into our State Centers despite tens of thousands on the waiting list for care," Mullery said. "To turn around and cite a low census and cost-per-resident figures is disingenuous at best and fraudulent at worst."

"This decision, made by a lame duck governor, not only will impact the most vulnerable residents of our commonwealth and their families, but will also dramatically affect the Greater White Haven community. Many of the small, family-owned businesses in the area rely upon the patronage of the center's employees."

"A few years ago, when the state Department of Corrections announced it planned

to close SCI-Retreat, SCI-Frackville and SCI-Waymart, the communities rallied and were successful in showing state officials that we needed to keep the facilities open. It's my hope that we will be able to redouble those efforts and maintain the services provided at White Haven Center for years to come," he said.

Senator Baker comments on planned closure of White Haven Center

Sen. Lisa Baker, R-20th, offered the following statement regarding Gov. Tom Wolf's decision to begin the process to close two state centers for severely disabled residents, including the one in

White Haven:

"The decision by the Wolf Administration to close White Haven and Polk Centers will have a dramatic effect on residents and their families — taking and removing some individuals from the only home they've ever known, and forcing families dependent upon state centers to find new

accommodations.

This will create great angst and concern for this vulnerable population and those employees who serve them. Due to their location, there will be questions about the economic consequences as well as about the assurances

See Center, page 31

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Kyle Mummey, PA-C

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Center ...

Continued from page 30

of equivalent care being available within the community, as most residents are classified profoundly disabled and in need of skilled care.

Local officials, workers, residents and families will need to fully participate in the public hearing and push to ensure that families have choices about where their loved ones are being served, including

allowing their loved ones to remain in a state center if they choose."

Toohil issues statement on pending closure of White Haven Center

Rep. Tarah Toohil (R-Luzerne) issued the following statement in response to today's announcement by the Pennsylvania Department of Human

Services that the White Haven Center will close in 2022. The decision affects 429 employees and 112 residents, who will be moved into community-based settings.

"I am a longtime proponent of the White Haven Center, which has provided outstanding care to the most severely disabled members of our community for more than 60 years.

"I am heartbroken and disappointed by the crushing news that it will close, resulting in

difficult, life-altering changes for the hundreds of men and women who live and work there.

"The center is much more than an institution. It is the only home many residents have ever known. They and their families now face uncertainty in making the transition to living situations in the community.

"That is why we are not going to accept this decision and take every measure possible to

get a reversal by the governor and Department of Human Services."

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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.

Calvin Collins, Pastor

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.

They are currently updating directory information. Please stop by the table in the social hall and check your information such as phone number, email address, etc.

Altar Flowers: Most dates are open for the month of September. If you are interested in providing altar flowers or giving a donation, please contact Mary Lou Legg or Heidi Klein.

Book Sale: Friday, September 20 from 2-7 p.m. and Saturday September 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Start collecting your books for the first annual book sale!

A rummage sale will be held on October 18 and 19. More information will follow, but in the meantime, start collecting all those goodies that are "just what I've been looking for" for someone else.

Church office hours: Pastor Calvin will be available Tues-

day, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. At all times, he will be available for pastoral care and concerns and may be reached at 570-788-3960. Hours are subject to change due to visitation.

The church secretary is available Tuesday 10:30-12:30, Wednesday 10:30-12:30, and Thursday 9:30-1:30. Other secretary office hours are available; call 570-788-3960.

Hours are subject to change for emergencies and holidays.

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

The teachers and volunteers at Emmanuel have planned a great Sunday School experience based on a live curriculum. The "textbooks" are their Hands On Bibles, which are packed full of science experiments, crafts, Bible hero biographies, fun facts, FAQs and lots of cool and interesting stuff. There are different activities each week in addition to the Bible lessons, such as the crafts, puzzles and games. Every week there'll be

See Worship, page 33

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 32

something different to explore and experience. The first day will be September 8, which is also Rally Day. So, get your friends and family and join them. There's something for everyone at Emmanuel's Sunday School.

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 Ministe-

rium 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: 6 p.m.

Sunday: 8 & 9:30 a.m.

**Father Connell McHugh, Pastor
Route 309, Drums
570-788-3141**

The next Baptism preparation class with Deacon Jim at Good Shepherd will be held on Thursday, September 19, at 6 p.m. This class is mandatory for all parents wishing to baptize their children even if you have attended a baptism class within the past three years. If you are unable to attend this class, there is a class at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, September 17, at 6 p.m. in the rectory. Please register by calling the parish office.

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.

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

See Worship, page 34

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 33

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 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.

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.

Ground Zero56 meets every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8 p.m. in the sanctuary and is for all students who have completed 5th and 6th grade in the 2018/2019 school year. Students entering 5th grade in

the fall may begin attending Ground Zero on August 28.

Starting Point Youth is for students who completed grades 7-12 in the 2018/2019 school year and meets every Wednesday in the Youth Room. There is a snack shop open from 6-6:30 p.m. and the youth service ends at 8 p.m. Students entering 7th grade in the fall may begin attending Starting Point on August 28.

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

See Worship, page 35

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 34

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.

Pastor Bob Thomas will lead the worship service on August 25.

On Tuesday, August 27 the church will lead a worship and communion service for the residents at Smith Health Care at 9:45 a.m.

Rev. Fran Fink will lead the worship service on Sunday, September 1.

Everyone is always invited to join them for any of the worship services or activities.

Without the efforts of labor, you'd be working Sunday. Thank God by attending church. Have a Happy Labor Day weekend!

For more information call Diane Webster at 379-3713.

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Services: Sunday

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: John Broglin

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.

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 last worship for this summer is 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, August 25. Pastor Bruce Williams 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.

Session will meet on August 27.

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. Classes for all will begin September 8 at 9:30 a.m. A carry-in church picnic will be held after worship.

Starting September 8 the worship service will return to the 11 a.m. time slot.

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

See Worship, page 36



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**NEW LIFE
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Pastor John Broglin

Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Worship Together ...

Continued from page 35

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.

2020 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.

Scott O. Miller, Pastor

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.

Adult Sunday School begins Sunday, September 8 at 9 a.m.

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.

Stairville United Methodist Church is holding its annual Singspiration on Sunday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m. Music will be provided by local church

choirs and talented individuals plus congregational choices of hymns throughout the evening. Following the evening's music fellowship and light refreshments will be held in the fellowship hall.

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.

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 con-

See Worship, page 37



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Betty Wenner has her hands and plates full of delicious food for lunch.



Shirley Zmijewski enjoys her meal in the shade under the tent.

Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

St. Paul's hosts summer picnic

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountain Top held a summer outdoor church service followed by a picnic on Sunday, August 18 on the church grounds. This year several local Lutheran churches were invited and members from all attending brought their favorite dishes to share. St. Paul's provided hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken. It was a hazy hot and humid day, but many came to enjoy great food, live entertainment, praise, worship and fellowship.

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 36

tinues 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

A student backpack blessing will be held on August 24 and 25. Children of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks as we send them off for

a successful school year.

Eighth grade confirmation students: a reminder that you should be reviewing your Confirmation questions. Questions were handed out at the parent meeting and emailed to parents. Please call Molly at the Parish Office, 570-868-5855 if you need a copy or email stmarysdorrance@gmail.com.

Data sheets are due October 6/7. These sheets request your Confirmation name and your sponsor information. Please carefully consider these two important decisions now.

Mass attendance: seventh and eighth grades students should be noting their Mass attendance through the summer. Boxes are in the narthex of St. Jude, or sign the attendance sheet in the back of St.

Mary's.

Come and see how much you will enjoy being a part of St. Jude's adult choir. Rehearsals for this season begin on Wednesday, September 4 from 7-8:30 p.m. Ages 8th grade through adult are welcome. If you can only do half of the year, that's fine. If you'd like more information, call Joe Dubinski or come talk to him after one of the weekend masses.

If you play an instrument, and would like to play for the liturgies, please let it be known. Please call Joe Dubinski, or come up and talk with him after one of the masses.

Attention kids in grades 3-7: the church needs you to join the children's choir. The fall season begins on September

10. They rehearse on Tuesdays from 4:45-5:30 p.m. in the church. Please contact Stephanie, stephaniekulpa@gmail.com for any additional information.

St. Jude youth are selling gift certificates from Old Post Farms, 247 St. Mary's Road, Mountain Top. The certificates are \$10 and can be used to purchase any of the items at the farm including mums, pumpkins, straw, hay bales and perennials. They are valid September 1 until October 13, 2019. Certificates will be sold after all Masses the weekend of August 24/25. Certificates will also be available for purchase in the Parish Office during business hours. Proceeds from the sale will go towards travel expenses for the Youth Group trip to Indianapolis for NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference).

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
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See Worship, page 38

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 37

munion 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.

There will be a meeting for all catechists, aides, and those who are interested in joining the team on Thursday, August 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the dining room. For more information

please call Stacey at 570-332-3801.

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.

Eight grade confirmation students: a reminder that you should be reviewing your Confirmation questions. Questions were handed out at the parent meeting and emailed to parents. Please call Molly at the Parish Office, 570-868-5855 if you need a copy or email stmarysdorrance@gmail.com.

Data sheets are due October 6/7. These sheets request your Confirmation name and your sponsor information. Please carefully consider these two important decisions now.

Mass attendance: seventh and eighth grades students should be noting their Mass attendance through the summer. Boxes are in the narthex

of St. Jude, or sign the attendance sheet in the back of St. Mary's.

With the rising cost of food, clothing and gasoline, many families in our area might find it a struggle to be able to provide the necessary school supplies for their children.

Saint Mary's parishioners would like to lend a hand to those families. Items needed include: backpacks, crayons, pencils, loose leaf paper, spiral notebooks, scissors, glue, glue sticks, markers, erasers, tissues, highlighters, index cards, and rulers. Donations can be dropped off at the church or the parish office.

To ensure privacy, please call the parish office to schedule a time to pick up needed items. You may also pick items from the food pantry the same day. No need to verify proof of income.

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-

See Worship, page 40



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Stephen Perillo and David Griffin of Making a Difference Ministries perform new and traditional Christian songs for the large crowd.

Christian music enjoyed at New Life CC

New Life Community Church in Mountain Top held its monthly Coffee House Café on Friday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. This month featured guest performers from Making a Difference Ministries, Stephen Perillo and David Griffin. The duo sang a variety of new and familiar Christian songs for the large crowd that gathered for a homemade lasagna dinner and the inspirational Christian music. It was a great night of praise and worship, great food and fellowship. Next month's Coffee House Café will be held on Friday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. Cost for the evening of great entertainment and dinner is only \$3 per person.

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Worship Together ...

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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.

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.

Starting school without the tools needed to succeed can put big obstacles in a developing child's way. New backpacks and supplies give children a sense of pride and excitement to go back to school. You can help. The Mission District will be offering filled backpacks to guidance

counselors in local schools for needy children. The church will be collecting various items to fill those bags. Needed items include: pencils, crayons, notebooks, large eraser, colored pencils, markers, packets of loose leaf paper, folders, rulers, pens, scissors, highlighters, pencil box and glue. These items can be brought in and deposited in the narthex.

A flea market will be held on September 14 at St. Paul's from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Tables available. Please contact Lois Scott 570-239-7421. A pizza sale in conjunction with the flea market will also take place on Friday September 13 from 6-8 p.m. and September 14 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.

Now recruiting new members for the adult vocal choir! It's almost time for another year of singing! Consider joining for the 2019-2020 year! The blue signup sheet is in the narthex. See Schyler with questions.

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.

Every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 7 p.m. AA meetings are held, at 6:15 p.m., on Wednesday.

See Worship, page 41

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Worship Together ...

St. Mary's holds picnic for residents of Johnson's Personal Care Home



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Outreach Team member Sandy George hands out home-made sugar cookies to residents of Johnson's Personal Care Home Larry Fassett, Norma Ingram and Margaret Albert.

St. Mary's Community Outreach Team of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dorrance hosted its 7th annual picnic for the residents of Johnson's Personal Care Home in Wapwallopen on Saturday, August 17 beginning at noon. The residents enjoyed good picnic food like hot dogs and hamburgers, salads, beverages, desserts and more. The outing is always a fun time and something fun for the residents to do and look forward to during the summer. Fourteen residents came to the picnic this summer.

Continued from page 40

days 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 celebrat-

ed 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

See Worship, page 42

Worship Together ...

Continued from page 41

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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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.

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Mail...*Continued from page 12*

graves. These soldiers and their families paid a very high price for the freedoms we enjoy. It is a disservice to them to try to censor people.

The group involved here appears to be open to anyone in the area to discuss things about the area, and specifically mentioned was information about safety issues. So again, posting speedtraps also complies with this group's stated purpose. Police operations are a safety issue. Any

police activity in public is free to be watched, recorded, and discussed. Posting such info is not meant to degrade police in any way, and the police said they were fine with posting their activity. One chief noted this is actually required for DUI checkpoints. So as long as posters comply with the website's terms and posts fall within the bounds of the stated purpose of the group, all should be fine.

I am very encouraged that one police department has a policy to issue a lot of warnings, but this raises another question. If many people are being

pulled over, then it proves that the speed limits are likely not in compliance with the 85th percentile speeds of the roads, and need to be raised. Properly posted speed limits see few violators, we are much safer, and the police are not needed to enforce the limits.

Speeding was shown to cause 1.6% of crashes (barely above zero), per data submitted to the federal government by half the states. Most reputable studies show it at under 5%. The real crisis is the lack of properly posted speed limits. Few people realize this. When you stand by

the road, it looks like all cars are flying by. Back up 200 feet and the same cars would have appeared much slower, due to your point of reference changing. Visual estimation of speed will not be accurate in either case.

Regarding drivers obeying some new stop signs, that is always a problem at first, until people get used to the new signs being up. That is why the state typically employs flashing lights and other things to alert people to new stop signs being present.

Regarding the letter in the last issue, some very large PA cit-

ies were mentioned. Any problems there are likely due to the anti-driver policies being implemented in the cities. PennDOT data has shown that the roads over the past few years in the state are the safest they have ever been, despite more miles being driven. So no, there is no safety crisis here.

I have many ideas of things area municipalities can easily do to improve safety, but this letter just addresses the topics from the last newspaper issue.

James Sikorski Jr.

PA Advocate National
Motorists Association

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MOUNTAIN TOP New const.-Polonia Est.-2644SF home features cHW on 1st flr, frpl, lg kit w/isld, 4BR, 3BA, 2nd flr laundry, gas heat, 2 car gar, to be started in fall. MLS# 18-3410
MATT 714-9229 \$389,900



MOUNTAIN TOP Stately 2-story w/4BR, 4BA, finished LL, heated inground pool on large private lot. Large mstr suite w/sitting area, vaulted ceil, 2 add'l rms in LL. MLS# 19-3895
ANTONIO 262-7652 \$379,000



MOUNTAIN TOP New const. ranch home. Features 3BR, 2BA, open flr plan, HW in kit, LR, DR, granite, PVC rear deck. MLS# 19-3160
EVELYN 715-9336 \$298,000



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MOUNTAIN TOP Prime lakefront w/50ft frontage on Lake Nuangola! Motorized boats & jetskis welcome on this lake! Home being sold "as is". MLS# 19-3433
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MOUNTAIN TOP Beautiful setting & ultimate privacy. Completely renovated 4BR, 2BA on acre. Cherry kit w/granite, 2 frpl, custom built-ins, deck, 2 car gar. MLS# 19-1891
DONNA 401-8835 \$222,900



MOUNTAIN TOP Nicely re-done ranch w/ hdwd flrs, 3BR, 2 full BA, vaulted ceil w/ skylights, new roof, large fenced yd. MLS# 19-4126
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MOUNTAIN TOP Lovely raised ranch walk to lake-w/huge FR, shed, wooded setting on 3lots. Frpl, jacuzzi, 2BR, 3 cargrg, deck, patio. MLS# 18-4636
DEE 905-7259 \$155,900



MOUNTAIN TOP Come check this one out! Entire home has been painted, beautiful hdwd flrs. 2BR, 1-1/2BA ranch, newer roof, windows, and furnace. MLS# 18-4863
ANTONIO 262-7652 \$134,900



MOUNTAIN TOP Cozy, well-maintained 3BR, w/lg deck. LR features gas frpl, mod kit & bath, new roof, freshly painted. MLS# 19-2906
LISA 715-9335 \$109,900



MOUNTAIN TOP Investor special! 2BR ranch home with detached garage on dbl lot. Very private. Being sold "as is". Home needs work. MLS# 19-4384
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