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NEWSPAPER, LLC

June 11-24, 2020

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DEADLINE: JUNE 19

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www.mt-peaks.com

Welcome Back! Mountain Top begins to show signs of life



Customers of Ill Guys in Mountain Top were glad to be able to go out and enjoy dinner on the outdoor seating area.



The outdoor seating areas at Cavanaugh's Bar and Grill in Mountain Top were filling up on quickly on the first night of outdoor dining.

With Luzerne County now under the yellow phase of reopening more people are out and about. Restaurants are now offering outside dining and retail businesses have begun to open again. Each business has its own guidelines, some taking temperatures

before entering and wearing masks, some businesses have one way to enter and another to exit. If you are unsure of a businesses' guidelines you can call ahead of time and they will be happy to explain their policy to you.

More photos, page 2

The basketball courts along with the rest have the park facilities have opened to the public once again. Many kids came out to participate in some much needed outdoor activity.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

Naomi Loscombe helps Dave and Grace Colarusso find the perfect shoes at Gino's Shoe Store as they reopened on Friday, June 5.

Mountain Top begins to open with many outdoor activities



Jay Kotowski photo

Michael, Carol and Mackenzie Stiefel enjoying hot dogs on the outside patio at Abe's in Mountain Top.



Construction has now begun on many outdoor projects around the area.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

Adelina's was busy on the first day of deck-side dining as many came out on the gorgeous evening to enjoy being able to eat out again.



King's Restaurant was finally able to open for deck side dining and many came out to enjoy the beautiful evenings.

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Christian Senchak remembered in touching memorial celebration

A Day of Remembrance for Christian Senchak, who tragically succumbed to injuries caused by an unfortunate accident one year ago, was held on the anniversary of his death Sunday, May 31.

The day was dedicated to the young man who was a joy to everyone he knew. Fellow classmate, Hope Kline says, "His smile lit up the room and he is loved and missed by everyone, and we wish the best for all those close to him."

Throughout the day many classmates, family and residents from the area stopped by the memorial that was put in place following the incident to put flowers, memorabilia at the memorial base and to show their love and remembrance, and to let everyone know that Christian will never be forgot-

ten.

Around 12:30 a parade of vehicles and motorcycles arrived at the memorial where family and friends met to pay respect, memorialize, remember and pray.

Jaki Kline related, "As a mother myself, I know I would always want my child to be remembered by their friends and classmates and not forgotten. So, I came up with the idea to help do that and got the word out to the class of 2025 to show their love and remembrance for Christian by stopping by the memorial and give flowers, cards, poems or whatever gives them the fondest memories of Christian. I am reminded of their graduation song from 2019, Living in the Hall of Fame, which will be their everlasting song to the



Fellow classmate, Hope Kline puts a bouquet of flowers at the memorial of her friend.

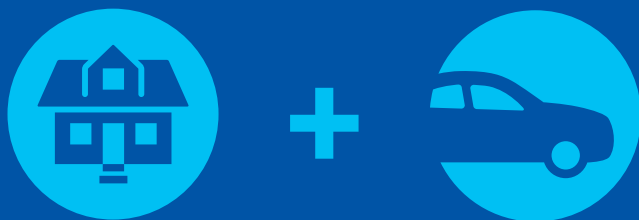
class of 2025. Listening to the words and relating it to Christian knowing that his candle will burn with the brightest flame, the world will know his name, and he will forever be "Living in the Hall of Fame".



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

Grandparents, Nancy Senchak and Paul Smith, put a photograph of Christian at the memorial.

Friends of Christian Senchak sit behind his memorial waiting for the parade to come by. From left are Samantha Bruder and her children Emma and Cayden.



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

NOW FALL YOUTH SOCCER REGISTRATION

Mountain Top Youth Soccer Association, in concert with US Youth Soccer and Eastern PA Youth Soccer, is moving forward to give our youngsters the opportunity to play "the beautiful game" once again, come August/September/October. They'll play if it's safe, but if some or all of the season must be canceled, a refund proportional to the canceled part of the season will be available, minus the cost of the uniform, which of course is yours to keep. To register youngsters age 4 through 18, please visit: https://system.Gotsport.Com/programs/6719984t2?Reg_player

All 2020 registration will be completed online. If your child registered for spring soccer, please do not make payment for fall soccer online. Instead, mail your payment (\$100/player) to MYSA, P.O. Box 102, Mountain Top, PA 18707. For any questions, please reach out to kristen.cavanaugh7@gmail.com.

JUNE 13 SENIOR PARADE

Slocum Township Fire Company will hold a parade on **June 13** to honor all 2020 graduates who reside in the township. They are encouraging any senior to decorate their vehicle and take part in the parade. They will use their usual carnival parade route, down Slo-

cum Road from the fire house, across Schmidt's Road, up Lily Lake Road towards Blue Ridge Trail, turning right onto Blue Ridge Trail to Slocum Corners and right to the firehouse.

Line up will be at 11 a.m. at the fire hall.

JUNE 14 FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Venturing Crew 461 of the American Legion Post 781, 1500 Henry Drive in Mountain Top will be holding a flag retirement ceremony on **June 14** at 7 p.m. Join them to remember the flag and what it represents. Please wear a mask and respect social distancing.

To join scouting please contact Shelia Bender at 570-436-6276.

JUNE 21 HOAGIE SALE

Slocum Township Fire Company is holding a June hoagie sale with pickup scheduled for **June 21** at noon. Orders must be placed by June 16. Choices include an American hoagie which contains bologna, ham,

hard salami, American cheese, lettuce and tomato with an option of including onions or a turkey hoagie which includes turkey, American cheese, lettuce and tomato with an option of onions.

To order call 570-868-6255, message them on Facebook or contact any member.

JULY 11

CARNIVAL FOOD SALE

Slocum Township Fire and Ambulance is holding a carnival food drive thru on July

AUGUST 28 GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Kiwanis Club of Mountain Top golf tournament origi-

See Places To Go, page 23

Crestwood offering new summer lunch program

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Crestwood School District food service has served 44,356 meals to the students and children of the Crestwood School District and surrounding communities in the Greater Mountain Top area. That's 22,178 breakfast meals and 22,178 lunch meals since March 16. The Grab & Go meal program ended on Wednesday, June 10. They will be closed

Friday, June 12 for graduation preparations and celebrations.

Starting Monday, June 15, Crestwood School District will be offering a new summer meals program. The program will offer five days of meals on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. only throughout the summer break.

On Monday you will receive two breakfasts and two lunches for Monday and Tuesday meals, on Wednesday you will receive three breakfasts and three lunches for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday meals.

Please follow social distancing and remain in your vehicle. Food service staff will place meals in your unoccupied back seat or trunk.

Free meals are available to all children 18 and under at these sites: Crestwood Secondary Campus, 281 South Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top; White Haven Public Library, 121 Towanda Street, White Haven and Slocum Township Fire Hall, 1923 Slocum Road, Wapwallopen.

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The Good Boys Barkery offers healthy, all natural organic treats for dogs

Serina Steinbrenner noticed a short time ago that her two dogs seemed to be becoming bored with the treats she was buying for them online during the Covid-19 pandemic. So, instead of searching for more products available from online retailers, she decided to make her own treats for her dogs. She also wanted to make sure her pets were eating healthy foods.

She researched recipes for all natural, organic dog treats and the result was not only homemade treats for her dogs, but a new business, The Good Boys Barkery.

"I was determined to make healthy treats for my dogs," said the 26-year-old Steinbrenner. "I wanted to make sure they were all natural and organic."

After coming up with a recipe for peanut butter cookies that her dogs enjoyed, Steinbrenner decided to go into business making cookies and cakes for dogs. She offers peanut butter cookie and pumpkin cakes both in different sizes, shapes, and decorations.

"The cookies are a bit harder and crunchier, but the cakes are a softer treat," she related. Both are all natural. The cookie ingredients include peanut butter, unsweetened apple sauce, pumpkin, coconut oil and two types of flour. The cakes are made of pumpkin, unsweetened apple sauce, honey, eggs, and coconut oil.

Before she could offer her products for sale to the public, Steinbrenner had to submit them to the state Department of Agriculture for lab testing. "That way we can label them 'guaranteed analysis' (for protein, fat, fiber, and moisture),"



Serina Steinbrenner with her two dogs, a mixed breed named Bandit and Ghost, an Australian cattle dog.

she explained.

Steinbrenner, who works during the day in the office of her family business, Steinbrenner Auto Sales and Service

in Mountain Top, said her products have been well-received. "It's been great, so far," she said of her sales. "I started out making Easter baskets. They



Serina Steinbrenner displays some of the treats fresh out of the oven.

were a big hit." She said her birthday cakes for dogs also are quite popular. The cakes come in mini and large sizes and she makes donuts for dogs as well.

She has photos of her treats on her Facebook and Instagram pages. Both can be found by searching The Good Boys Barkery. She noted the logo

on her social media pages is the outline of the heads of her two dogs, an Australian cattle dog, and a mixed breed, both rescue dogs.

Orders can be placed through her social media pages or by emailing TheGoodBoysBarkery@gmail.com. Steinbrenner will make deliveries locally or the orders can be picked up.

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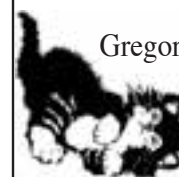
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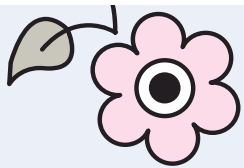
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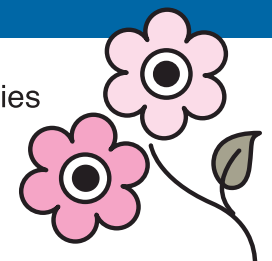


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Slocum Township receives new ambulance

Slocum Volunteer Fire Company took delivery of a brand new 2019 Ford Braun 450 with auto litter ambulance on Friday August 2, 2019. The ambulance came with a price tag of \$202,000.

Besides the new ambulance the Fire Company received 12 new air packs and 1 RIT (rapid intervention teams) on July 31, 2019. The "Scott Air Packs" Oxygen Tanks SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) cost \$92,000 and were paid for through subscription drives, and other fundraisers. The Company also applied for grants.



Assistant Fire Chief Ron Burd, Jr. stands next to the new self-contained breathing apparatuses that need to be replaced every 15 years.

Mountain Peaks/
Claudia Strycharz
photos

The brand new Ford Braun 450 ambulance has been in service since late last year.



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News in Brief ...

Fairview moves forward with basketball court renovations

Fairview Township supervisors at their June 2 meeting moved forward with renovations to the basketball courts at Memorial Park, but scrapped plans, at least for now, to install

a walking path around the soccer/baseball fields.

Supervisors awarded a \$62,720 contract to Chilewski Enterprises for the basketball court renovations. The firm was the lone bidder for the work. The township received a \$60,562 grant from the state Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program for the basket-

ball court renovations.

They voted to reject all bids for the construction of the approximately one-quarter mile walking path. Four bids were received for the walking path work. Bidders were Chilewski Enterprises, \$131,284.44; EBI LLC, \$149,176.00; Pioneer Construction Co., \$97,497.50; and Rutledge Excavating, \$135,805.

The lowest of the four bids for the walking path was nearly double the \$50,000 grant from the state Department of Community and Natural Resources that the township received for the project.

Board chairman Michael Iorio reported the township's summer park program is on hold.

Doddo resigns

Fairview supervisors accepted the resignation of zoning officer John Doddo effective June 16. They voted to appoint Carl Alber to the zoning officer position. Alber also is the Dallas Township zoning officer where he works Monday through Thursday. He will continue in that position and will have office hours in Fairview Township on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and evenings by appointment.

MTHC receives unsolicited donations

Mountain Top Hose Company No. 1 President David Hourigan told Fairview supervisors the department has received numerous unsolicited dona-

tions, including a recent donation of \$1,000. "These donations are very welcome," Hourigan commented. He pointed out the department has participated in several birthday celebrations at the request of residents. He noted one parent whose child celebrated a birthday made a \$250 donation.

COG compost site now open

The Mountain Top Council of Governments (COG) compost facility in the Crestwood Industrial Park opened on Wednesday, June 10. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Permits are required to dump yard waste, and they

See News in Brief, page 10

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News in Brief ...

Continued from page 9

are available at the site for anyone who does not have a 2020 permit. Cost for permits is \$25 for Fairview Township residents and \$10 for Wright Township residents. There is no charge for permits for Wright Township residents 65 and older. Proof of residency is required. Wright Township supervisor Donald Zampetti said the township will make up the difference in the fee cost for its residents from its general fund budget.

The opening of the COG site was delayed because of the breakdown of a machine known as "The Beast" which is used to grind yard waste and branches. The machine broke down at the end of the 2019 season, leaving a great deal of waste that needed to be processed before the facility could open. Cost for parts needed to repair the machine was over \$10,000 which the COG treasury did not have until receiving 2020 contributions from Fairview and Wright Townships. Fairview Township roadmaster Tim McGinnis said repairs took township road crews much of the month of May to complete.

Masks required at recycling centers

If you aren't willing to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at the Rice Township recycling center, stay away.

That was the message from township supervisors at their June 2 meeting after a situation in which employees had to deal with someone who was not willing to follow those rules. "This is to protect our employees and the public,"

supervisor Robert Pipech stated. "Social distancing and wearing a mask will be strictly enforced," he added.

The recycling center is open Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Masks also are required at the Wright Township recycling center. Large signs are in place at the entrance to the center advising people that masks are required for entry. That center is open Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rice opens park

Rice Township supervisors at their June 2 meeting voted to open the ball field and other open areas of the township park. Playground equipment will remain closed until the area is in a "green" condition to protect children.

In other news ...

The township is still trying to find a company to paint the new pickleball court. Engineer Andrew Pasonick reported he has contacted several firms

but has not been able to find a company to do the work.

Pasonick reported work is progressing for the demolition of the former township fire company building. Last month supervisors awarded a \$28,600 contract to raze the building to Brdaric Excavation. The township received a \$62,950

grant from the Luzerne County office of Community Development for the project.

Supervisors approved the purchase of a roller from A&R Supply at a cost of \$9,800 and a tile-bed trailer from Wide World RV Center for \$4,350.

See News in Brief, page 11



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News in Brief ...
Continued from page 10

Pipech reported the roller has been used for paving projects done by township employees.

Seven waivers were approved for the Woodberry Manor planned residential development (PRD). Presidential Lands requested the waivers which deal primarily with details of road construction and installation of sidewalks.

Township secretary/treasurer Jeffrey Beck reported the zoning officer has issued permits for construction of five new homes. Also, Beck reported

township finances are in the same shape as May of 2019.

Clean up hoping to happen in October

The Wright Township annual spring cleanup program was postponed due to Covid-19, but township supervisors are hopeful the program can be conducted in early October.

Wright Township Municipal reopens

Wright Township has announced that its municipal building is again open for business.

Motorcycle parade a big birthday surprise

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic many families are coming up with out of the ordinary ways to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and graduations that involve social distancing.

One Mountain Top mother of three, Velia Coppola, wanted to celebrate her son Nico's third birthday in a really big way. Since he is absolutely infatuated with motorcycles she thought a parade of motorcycles would be the perfect way to celebrate.

It began with a Facebook post asking for anyone that rides motorcycles to meet at Crestwood High School at



Nico's Uncle John Barna was in the motorcycle parade and stopped to give Nico a high five.

Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

11:45 a.m. on Sunday, May 24. Well over 100 bikes and other vehicles showed up and left at noon to drive past Nico's house

so he could see them. Nico, his sister Anabella and brother Rocco along with their mom, grandmother, aunts and others watched in amazement as all of the motorcycles rumbled by, riders honking their horns and waving at Nico. No one expected such a wonderful turnout. What a great birthday surprise for a little boy who turned three on May 26.

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Velia Coppola holds her son Nico Barna and waves at all the motorcycles and cars that drive by wishing Nico a very happy third birthday.

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MMI honors middle school students during virtual 2020 Mid-School Awards ceremony

MMI Preparatory School honored middle school students for their academic achievements during a virtual 2020 Mid-School Awards ceremony.

Students were recognized for their work in subjects, contests, and competitions. Lisa Marie Ferry, Dean of Students, announced the award winners.

MMI recognized its newest members to the National Junior Honor Society. Students who are inducted into this society have demonstrated high aca-

demical performance in their mid-school years. NJHS inductees are: Diane Arias Tejada, Teagan Bonham, Emily Borchick, Andrew Burns, London Chehovich, John Drobnock, Reed Floryshak, Caylee Herseim, Emily Hunsinger, Angelica Jimenez, Caitlin Lenahan, Lex Lispi, Gianna Longworth, Edgar Lopez-Rodriguez, Frankie Martinelli, Nathaniel Neidlinger, Robert Orbin, Sophia Plonk, Dominic Raifsnider, Jakob Rossi, Jason Salio, Kathryn Sissick, Nathan Sissick, Abigail Sparich, Connor Strecker, Blake Warren, and Leo Zvonik.

Sophia Plonk, Abigail Sparich, Robert Orbin, and Nathan Sissick each received the Freeland American Legion's Good Citizenship Award.

Caylee Herseim was awarded a Certificate of Achievement from the National Geographic Society for her winning performance at the school level of the National Geography Bee.

Ethan Lloyd, Nathaniel Neidlinger, Corrigan Nolasco, Robert Orbin, and Leo Zvonik were

recognized for being the winners of the Year-Long Competitive Session of the Stock Market Game through PFEW. This year's team out-performed their peers and finished third in Pennsylvania and first in the region with a relative return of 23.11 percent above the performance of the S&P 500.

Several seventh and eighth graders were presented with awards for their performances in the AMC 8 Math Contest. Seventh graders Avery Pohida and Jason Roberts captured first place, Lydia Chen and Evan Pedri finished in second place, and Chloe Allen and Danica Karlick earned third place awards. Eighth graders Frankie Martinelli and Nathaniel Neidlinger were first, Diane Arias Tejada and Leo Zvonik finished second, and Emily Borchick, Caylee Herseim, and Emily Hunsinger came in third.

Bryce Radzwich was honored for capturing first place in the Sixth Grade Science Fair for his project, *Protect Your Melon*. David Yamulla (*Making Graph-*

ite Glow) finished second, and Frederick Blaine (*What Kind of Potato Conducts Electricity the Best?*) came in third. Honorable Mention awards went to Ben Gombeda (*Snack Energy*), Joseph Mayernik (*Absorbency Rate of Paper Towels*), Erica Schwear (*The Vibration of Sound*), and Madelyn Young (*Which Local Soil Sample Is Composed of the Most Rare-Earth Metals?*).

Erica Schwear, Blake Warren, Dominic Raifsnider, Silvia Roberto, Ethan Lloyd, and Emily Hunsinger were recognized for participating in the PMEA String Fest.

Andrew Burns and Kendall Orozco were each presented with a Certificate of Merit for performing exceptionally on the American Classical League National Introduction to Latin exam. Diane Arias Tejada (Cum Laude), Nathaniel Neidlinger (Magna Cum Laude), and Leo Zvonik (Silver Maxima Cum Laude) each received a Certificate of Honorable Merit for their performance on the National Latin Exam.

Subject award winners are: Social Studies: Sixth Grade Geography: Gabriel Horvath, Seventh Grade Ancient Civilizations: Kendall Orozco, and Eighth Grade Current Events: Nathaniel Neidlinger; Math: Sixth Grade: Frederick Blaine, Seventh Grade: Kendall Orozco, and Eighth Grade: Nathaniel Neidlinger; English: Sixth Grade: Serena Novotney, Seventh Grade: Kendall Orozco, and Eighth Grade: Diane Arias Tejada; Science: Sixth Grade: David Yamulla, Seventh Grade: Nina Day, and Eighth Grade: Sophia Plonk; Health: Daniel Griffith; Art: Sixth Grade: Christian Schultz, Seventh Grade: Chloe Allen, and Eighth Grade: Angelica Jimenez; Chorus: Sixth Grade: Ava Genetti, Seventh Grade: Corey Buchman, and Eighth Grade: Caylee Herseim; Strings: Sixth Grade: Frederick Blaine, Seventh Grade: Danica Karlick, and Eighth Grade: Ethan Lloyd; Greek: Madelyn Young; Latin: Seventh Grade: Corey Buchman, and Eighth Grade: Andrew Burns.

Abigail Lapinski graduates from Holy Redeemer High School



Abigail Lapinski

Abigail Lapinski, Mountain Top, is a 2020 graduate of Holy Redeemer High School. She graduated with high honors as well as winning the National Honor Society Scholarship for excellence in academics and leadership. Abby will attend Penn State, University Park to pursue her degree in nursing. She is the daughter of Barry and Tracey Lapinski and has a sister Brooke who are all extremely proud of her accomplishments.



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Drums Lioness Lions Club presents 2020 scholarship

The Drums Lioness Lions Club has recently announced Brinn Gammer as the recipient of its 2020 scholarship award. The club annually presents an award of \$250 to the graduating female Drums resident in the Hazleton Area School District with the highest grade point average.

Gammer, the salutatorian of the class of 2020, attended Hazleton Area Academy of Sciences, and graduated with a grade point average of

102.0375. She plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania and major in the biological basis of behavior.

She was featured as a Standard Speaker Class of 2020 Scholastic Superstar, received the Hazleton Rotary Club Memorial Scholarship, and was named a Dessen Scholar in the Junior Leadership Hazleton program. Additionally, she is an international, state, and regional winner of Health Occupations Students

of America research competitions.

Gammer served as president of the mock trial team, and was named a Commended National Merit Scholar, National AP Scholar Award winner, and was featured twice as an outstanding Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership alumna.

Additionally, she is the founder of The Unidas Project, an organization that "helps break the silence that muffles cries for help and the pleas

of those in need, especially the abused, mentally ill, and underrepresented minorities."

She is a member of the National Honor Society, and serves as a junior staff volunteer at the Hazleton Integration Project Community Center, and as an assistant catechist and youth group member at St. John Bosco Roman Catholic Church. She is also a member of the executive council of her graduating class, and is employed at Panera Bread.



Brinn Gammer

The Drums Lioness Lions Club helps to provide needed services for individuals and organizations within the community. They support the efforts of Lions Clubs International in the areas of blindness and vision loss, diabetes, pediatric cancer, and the environment. New members are always welcome and may get more information by visiting the Drums Lions Lioness Club Facebook page or e-mailing drumslionesslions@hotmail.com.



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Misericordia announces dean's list

Students at Misericordia University qualify for the dean's list with a 3.55 grade point average or higher. The following students were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2020 semester: Lauren Balogh, Drums; Anna Carellas, White Haven; Noah Dean, Mountain Top; Jade Fallbright, Mountain Top; Maxamiliano Gariano, Mountain Top; John Guszak, Wapwallopen; Abigail Harrison, Mountain Top; Arielle Jones, Mountain Top; Aoife McTavish, Mountain Top; Jordyn Pavelitz, Mountain Top; Karla Swartwood, Mountain Top; Nicholas Toronzi, White Haven; Carlos Torres-Teran, Mountain Top; Katelyn Vols, Mountain Top.

Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA reopens facilities

After closing its facility on March 27, the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA reopened for child care on June 1, with additional reopening phases to follow in the coming weeks.

In preparation for reopening, the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA has been following guidelines from health experts and local officials to ensure all components of facilities are cleaned and sanitized to meet the highest standards for hygiene and safety. The Y has also modified policies and programs to facilitate safe social/physical distancing practices.

According to Jim Thomas, Executive Director, Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA, the first phase of reopening included child care on June 1. Additional stages of reopening included the pool and outdoor group exercise on June 8 and summer day camp at YMCA Camp Kresge on June 15.

Food and Fun at the Park will be distributing meals “grab

and go” style at four locations throughout the city, as well as the Y, beginning June 22 (locations include the Coal Street Park, Iron Triangle Playground, Huber Park Stanton and Parsons Park, with additional locations pending). The Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA is committed to feeding children this summer, now more than ever, as our community needs support. This year, there will be no facilitated programming, however the Y will try to provide grab and go activities. All children in grades K-12 are welcome and registration is not required.

For more information on outdoor group exercise, which will be held at the Riverfront Commons and Kirby Park and limited to 12 participants per class, contact Lauranel Banks, Wellness Director, at lauranel.banks@wbymca.org.

For more information on the pool, including safety protocols and lane reserva-

tions, contact Andrea Butchko, Aquatics Director, at andrea.butchko@wbymca.org.

For more information on summer day camp at YMCA Camp Kresge (spots are still open), including safety protocols and registration information, contact Mike McElhinney, Senior Director of Camping Services, at mike.mcelhinney@wbymca.org.

For more information on child care (spots are still available in the infant and toddler daycare programs and the preschool summer scholars program at the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA), Power Scholars Academy and the Food and Fun at the Park Program, contact Jennifer Brennan, Director of Education and Child Care Services, at jennifer.brennan@wbymca.org.

For more information about reopening, membership renewal and reactivation and program registration, visit www.wbymca.org.

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Saint Jude School hosts Reptile Man

You can't go wrong with a day full of snakes, crocodiles, and a two headed turtle! Earlier in the year, when school was still in session, Saint Jude School was treated to all that and more with a visit from Cameron, the owner and operator of CD Exotics. Students had an up close and personal encounter with some of Cameron's own animals, learning about the various habitats they come from, their individual diets, and so much more. The highlight of the morning was when Cameron took out a two headed turtle and explained the amazing animal that he, or should we say, they really are! The morning ended with each child getting the chance to pet the crocodile Cameron had extracted from a pool in Maryland. From learning about some amazing reptiles and amphibians, to asking a resident expert a whole lot of questions, teachers and students alike enjoyed the PTG sponsored event.



Above: Students keep their distance as Cameron shows off a crocodile. **From left:** Aurora Roote, Preston Roche, Jaxson Jones, Cameron and the croc, Alivia Sweet, Jenna Medvetz and Jacob Hunsinger.

At left: Rhea Mascarenhas and Clare Grandzol enjoy their time with a live crocodile after the CD Exotics Show.

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The church will hold a live online worship Sunday at 10:45 a.m. Visit its website at christonthemountaintop.blogspot.com for details. Replies are also available.

For more information: church office: 570-474-6060, church email: ChristUM-ChurchOffice@gmail.com.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Louis Aita, Pastor
7768 Blue Ridge Trail, Dorrance

570-868-5675

Services have resumed as of May 31 following the CDC guidelines. They welcome visitors and friends to join them for worship every Sunday.

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

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

If you are in need of pastoral care, call Pastor Lou Aita at 570-582-9550 or email him at aital12@ptd.net. E-mail access is emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com and the website is emmanuel-ucc.org.

FAITH CHURCH DRUMS
Service: Sunday 10 a.m.

Keith Evans, Pastor
4 Rittenhouse Place, Drums
570-599-8123

Faith Church Drums phase in June 21: Father's Day at 1 p.m., outdoor service, music and devotion, sit in your car or bring a camping chair, a free Father's Day ice cream to the first 50 fathers.

Sunday, June 28 at 1 p.m.: Church quarantine picnic, hot dogs, music, devotion, all are welcome.

Beginning Mondays and Tuesdays on June 29 and 30: Faith Life Coaching and Counseling. More details coming soon. You can inquire by texting 570-599-8123, \$40 for group, \$60 for Individual sessions.

If anyone is in need of help contact the pastor at 570-764-6444.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Services: Saturday: 6 p.m.
Sunday: 8 & 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Michael J. Kloton, Pastor
Route 309, Drums
570-788-3141

Beginning June 12/13, there will be two Masses at Good Shepherd, 6 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses have begun at 8 a.m. The Bishop has allowed for 25% capacity. For Good Shepherd, this is a total of 67 parishioners.

Attendance at weekend Masses will be by reservation only. Parishioners will call the office of the parish on Tuesday evenings between 5:30-7 p.m. Your name and phone number will be taken (they have been mandated to take names and numbers in the event that they need to backtrace if someone tests positive at a later time). When you call in and a weekend Mass is no longer available, you will be given the choice of a weekday liturgy (the same rules apply for weekday Masses). At this point the Pastoral Council has

decided that you can only sign up for one weekend Mass a month. Remember, this plan is for the present. In the future it will change. Reservations will be taken for those in your household only.

Those on the list will come to the front door of the church. You are to take a seat at the blue tape (with the tape in front of you so that both hands can be on either side of the tape.) This will ensure proper social distancing. Families may sit together. Anyone who comes into the church must wear a mask. There will be a sanitizing station at the entrance and exit of the church. They ask that you sanitize your hands as you enter and leave the church.

Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass. Parishioners will remain in their pew and come up one at a time. Pull down your mask, receive Communion, put your mask up and exit church. You may not go back to your seat after you receive Communion. Once you receive Communion, you will exit by the rear side doors. Please do not exit by the center door. Parishioners are asked not to congregate outside the church.

A basket will be at the entrance of the church for your envelopes. There will be no collection during Mass.

There will be one live-streamed mass each weekend and available for viewing at any time.

Confessions will begin on Saturday, June 13/14, at 5 p.m.

MOUNTAINTOP FAMILY CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m.
Brian Knorr, Pastor

See Worship, page 18

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 17

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Mountaintop Family Church will begin holding modified Sunday services on Sunday, June 7 at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. for one hour. Children and adults will attend service together and there will be limited seating. They ask that anyone who has been sick, has recently been exposed to Covid-19, has a compromised health condition, or is not comfortable attending services to please continue joining them for online services. All other services and activities normally held at Mountaintop Family Church are being held online or are canceled at this time.

MFC is offering online church services at www.mfc-church.com every Sunday morning including worship, Pastor Brian's message and a KidsTown message. Simply go to the website and click on "watch and listen" then choose which service you would like to see. Daily devotions are being offered on the church's Facebook page.

Zoom meetings are being held throughout the week and the links for the Zoom meetings can be obtained by emailing Debbie@mfcchurch.com. Zoom meetings: Men's and Women's Groups are held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Ground Zero56 for grades 5 & 6 is held on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. Starting Point Youth Group for grades 7-12 is held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. KidsTown Church is held on Thursdays at 1 p.m. Canvas Young Adult Group is held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Cup Stacking Club is held on Tuesdays at 12 p.m.

Please contact the church office at 570-474-0900 if you have any questions or would like more information about MFC.

Please continue to check their website, www.mfcchurch.com, for the most up-to-date information about when they will begin offering live services and groups again.

MOUNTAINVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

Service: Sunday 10 a.m.

**Brook Selby, Pastor
5126 N. Lehigh Gorge Dr.,
White Haven
570-443-9438**

The church is closed. They will be live-streaming the service on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

All small groups are still meeting via conference call or video chat. Talk to your small group leader, or contact Pastor if you would like to be a part of one.

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.

The church has resumed regular worship services at 9 a.m. with different procedures due to the Covid-19 virus. They have had the church and outhouse disinfected and sanitized with a special electrostatic spray that kills the corona virus along with other bacteria and molds for 60 days. Guidelines to follow will be given to you when you join them for worship.

On June 14, Pastor Bob Thomas will lead the service which will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the end of the service.

Larry Faust will be the special guest speaker on Father's Day Sunday, June 21.

For more information on church guidelines and services, please contact Diane Webster at 570-379-3713.

See Worship, page 19

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Ribbons placed in front of St. Paul's to thank essential workers



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

White ribbons were recently placed on the front lawn of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountain Top to thank and honor of essential workers that are working to keep us safe and healthy during the Covid-19 pandemic. St. Paul's and the community are so grateful for those who work in the health care industry, first responders that must deal with emergencies of all sorts, custodial, industrial, food service, grocery store workers and many more. Every time you drive past St. Paul's and see the ribbons, take a moment to say a prayer for their safety and health and remember just how important they are.

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 18

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Services:
Faith UMC: 8:45 a.m.
Stairville UMC: 10 a.m.
Slocum UMC: 11:15 a.m.
Scott O. Miller, Pastor
Stairville Road, Mountain Top

All three churches are open for services with masks required and social distancing through the green phase. There is no Sunday School or other church activities at this time.

For any needs or concerns, please contact: Faith UMC: Wilma Baratta at 570-200-5329; Stairville UMC: Christine Kellow at 570-868-3413; Slocum UMC: Charles Herring at 570-868-6478

Pastor Scott can be reached by phone, text, or email at: 570-200-5388, email: somill-

er@susumc.org.
Visit them on Facebook at New Hope Wapwallopen.

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.

The church has reopened for in-person services at 50% of our seating capacity. Please bring your own Bible as they will not be using the pew Bibles, hymnals or bulletins at this time.

Everyone is welcome to join them for a time of Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. If you prefer to join in with Bible study using Zoom, please contact

Pastor John.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOUNTAIN TOP

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
9 Chestnut Street, Mountain Top
570-474-9951

You are invited to join in worship on Sunday, June 14, via Facebook Live or with a little prayer back in the sanctuary if all necessary precautions have been completed. There will be limited seating. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. as we begin the summer schedule. Pastor Neil Partington will deliver the message. Please continue to mail your tithes if possible.

There is also a children's program with study and games on Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. On Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. there is a fireside chat/Bible study for anyone interested. These are Zoom meetings and

can be joined on video at <http://PAiu.zoom.us/j/52653314753> or can be joined by phone at 8773690926, meeting number 5263314753. These numbers will be the same for all meetings including Sunday worship for those who do not have Facebook.

Kudos to all who gave financial gifts to support the B.O.W. project. The goal has been reached and the project is well underway to install cameras and sound in the sanctuary. Continuing the livestream worship service will be a big boost to the church family in the post-Covid days to come.

The church logo t-shirt order has been put on hold until after the "shelter-in" directive is over. You can still reserve one by emailing size and color to the church.

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

Church of Mountaintop PA.

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

The church will continue church services via facebook on Sundays at 9 a.m. This will be the practice until the next council meeting at least. Feel free to reach out to any council member if you have questions. Council is trying to protect church members as best they can.

Sunday morning worship services led by Pastor Brown are still available on St. James site of Facebook beginning at 9 a.m. These services are live and include Bible readings, music and a short message. Most of them last about 1/2 hour.

Even though there are no services, the expenses continue for the church. If you wish to mail in your offering, you can send it to St. James at 619 Birch Road, Wapwallopen, PA 18660.

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Services: Saturday 4 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Father Joseph J. Evanko, Pastor
420 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-6315

St. Jude Church is now open for private prayer from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Friday. The Parish office will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Thursday and parishioners are asked to use the intercom

See Worship, page 20




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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 19

system. Due to the small space and social distance requirements, the Adoration Chapel and St. Jude Shrine will remain closed until further notice.

Daily Masses have resumed following the regular schedule: Monday to Friday, 7 a.m.

On June 13 and 14, weekend Masses will resume with the normal Mass schedule: Saturday 4 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 and 11 a.m. Reservations for weekend Masses are required. To make your reservation, please visit the parish website www.stjc.org for submission. If you have issues with the online reservation system, please call the parish office, 570-474-6315, ext. 221.

Please follow all instructions for attending Mass or visiting the church for private prayer: Do not arrive for Mass more than 15 minutes for daily Mass and 30 minutes for weekend Mass. Enter the center double doors, wearing a mask then stop at the table to sanitize your hands; you will then be guided to your seat. You will stay in your seat until after Mass when the priest will instruct you for communion. You will be guided, as the flow has changed. Keep six foot social distancing at all times referring to the markings on the floor. Once you receive communion you will proceed directly to your car. There will be no gathering of any kind before or after Mass.

When visiting the Church for private prayer as well as daily Mass, please follow as stated above using only the 2 center sections and sit in the marked locations to maintain social distancing.

Gift Card sales have resumed with a limited number of cards

from page 1 only. Please refer to the parish website or call the office for buying procedures.

Vacation Bible School has been postponed. They are hoping to hold a possible "at home" program in July.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

The congregation of St. Mark's invites everyone to join them as they share God's Word and celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday.

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

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

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.

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

All services and activities are temporarily postponed.

The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem, of which St. Martin's is an independent parish, provides live streaming of not only Sunday worship service, but other services throughout the week from the Cathedral of the Nativity. Go to diobeth.org for a full listing. Rev. Timothy Allen, Priest in charge at their sister parish, St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, prays morning, noon and evening prayer on his Facebook page. He has also continued his healing services on Mondays and Wednesdays at noon.

For more information visit smartintimeless.org or call Patty Siegel at 570-868-5690.

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

St. Mary's Church is once

again open for church Masses. No registration is required for weekday Masses. Registration will be required for weekend Masses. Every Monday they will post the link for Saint Mary's parishioners to register for the coming weekend Mass. Registration will close on the Thursday of that week at 1 p.m.

The requirements are that you must be a Saint Mary parishioner; you may only register for yourself and members of your household; you may only register for one weekend at a time. Each Monday you will need to fill out a new registration form for that coming weekend.

Please call the parish office if you do not have access to social media, or if you need assistance with the registration form 570-868-5855.

Weekend Mass instructions: Doors will open 30 minutes

prior to Mass. You will enter through the main double doors, street side. You must put on your mask before entering the church. Volunteers will provide hand sanitizer and check you in. An usher will escort you to your reserved pew. The congregation is asked to refrain from singing. Eucharist will be distributed at the end of Mass. You will immediately exit the church using the same door. Prayer of thanksgiving can be done walking out or in your car.

At this time, they will not be using the offertory baskets for collections. Offertory boxes will be at the main doors on weekends and at the side door during the week. All envelopes and loose donations may be securely dropped in these boxes.

Please follow all social dis-

See Worship, page 21

TAXES 2019

Don't forget, taxes are due July 15 this year!

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 20

tancing markings. No congregating in church or in the parking lot after Mass.

The church bazaar, which was scheduled for June 27/28 has been cancelled.

Information changes daily. Visit Saint Mary's website: stmarydorrance.org; Facebook

Page: Saint Mary's of Dorrance and Saint Mary's of Dorrance Youth Group or call 570-868-5855 for more information.

**ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Services: Sunday 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Michelle Kaufman, Pastor
316 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top

570-474-6616

On May 29 Luzerne County moved into the yellow phase of Covid-19. Taking into account safe social distancing practices, we can begin to resume many activities that have been avoided the last several months. While social distancing limits the number of people who can gather for worship and taking into the considerations that have been made regarding worship practices, St. Paul's church council has opted to continue outdoor worship services through June at 9 and 11 a.m. each week.

For those unable to join them, Pastor has been recording services from St. John's, Nanticoke that are available on

St. Paul's Facebook and website pages at www.stpaulsmt-top.com.

The church office is currently closed. For those who cannot get out or are in need of assistance please contact the church office and leave a message or contact Pastor Kaufman at 570-443-0832. There are several individuals who have offered to assist those in need.

The Food Bank continues to distribute food to clients every Friday using safe distance practices. If you would like to drop off donations at the church, please do so on Fridays from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations are always welcome, and appreciated.

On Thursday, June 11, the church will resume Bible Study in the parish hall at 1 p.m. Tables have been set up to allow for participants to social distance.

On Monday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m. Movie Night returns featuring Victoria and Abdul. They will ask everyone to social distance.

The church is happy to share that St Paul's mini library (free book exchange) has been installed in the front of the church near the steps to the playground. It is available to both members of the church and the community to take a book to read or drop off books

See Worship, page 22



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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 21

you have already read.

They would also like to invite members of the community to join St. Paul's in supporting our local Covid-19 frontline workers by displaying white ribbons across the property on Route 309. They are all doing their part to help reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus by staying home when possible. Meanwhile, healthcare workers and first responders in all lines of work are rushing in to care for those persons sickened by this virus and providing for basic necessities. St. Paul's would like to honor members of their families and the community by placing white ribbons across the property. If you would

like to honor someone, send them the name(s) of those you would like to honor and \$2.50 (cost of ribbon) and they'll add their name to the ribbon and list. Just one more way we can show our love and support of those who are working hard on behalf of us all.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9 a.m.

Sunday School: 10 a.m.

**Janelle Wigen, Pastor
418 Berwick St., White Haven
570-443-9424**

They will be hosting a virtual worship service through an online platform called Zoom. The worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

Prayer service held at Faith United Methodist Church



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Pastor Scott O. Miller leads a crowd of church members in a special service to pray

and to offer praise to the Lord at Faith United Methodist Church.

A service of prayer and praise was held at Faith United Methodist Church in Slocum on Thursday, June 4 beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the front lawn. Everyone attending wore masks and sat six feet apart. Pastor Scott

O. Miller led the service for members of the New Hope Charge churches of Faith, Stairville and Slocum United Methodist Churches. The service was a time for members to gather and reflect, praise, sing and to pray.

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Knights of Columbus holds food drive

The Knights of Columbus Council #6440 held a no contact drive up food drive in the parking lot of St. Jude's Catholic Church on Saturday June 6 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The food drive was held to help stock the Mountain Top Food Bank located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

The Knights collected enough food to fill several pick up trucks.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Knight Robert Polashenski takes a box of food out of the trunk of Lois Danna.

Places To Go ...

Continued from page 5

nally planned for June 5 has been rescheduled for **Friday, August 28** at Mountain Laurel Golf Club in White Haven.

This tournament is the primary fundraiser for the Club. Please come out and enjoy a much needed day of golf, fun and fresh air with your neighbors for a great cause.

Kiwanis has been active in the Mountain Top Community

for well over 50 years, and supports worthy causes.

For more information on the tournament or about joining the club, please see their Facebook page or call Brian at 570-868-5861.

Send your non-profit events to publisher@mt-peaks.com

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