

**FREE**

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DEADLINE: AUGUST 28

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# Mountain Peaks



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## School set to start in early September

## Plenty of summer activities to enjoy before school begins

Students in the Crestwood School District won't be heading back into their school buildings on September 2 as district officials had hoped. Rather, the district announced last week that students will begin the 2020-2021 school year using virtual learning platforms until at least October 1.

Meanwhile, St. Jude School, along with other Luzerne and

Lackawanna County Scranton Diocese Schools, have pushed back their opening to September 8.

Crestwood Superintendent Robert Mehalick made the announcement concerning the virtual classes in a video posted online on August 12. The announcement came two days after the state Department of

*See School, page 8*



Anna Bonick enjoys some time sitting around the fire on a warm summer evening. She is the daughter of John and Kristen Bonick.



There is always some type of activity for the Bensavage kids to enjoy. Painting on this day are Charlotte, Natalie, Luke and Logan Bensavage. They are the children of Mark and Samantha Bensavage.

Merrick Powell loves to feed the animals around his poppa's yard. Merrick is the son of Jacob Powell and Samantha Cipriani.



Kevin Gallagher works hard at shucking some fresh corn for the cold winter months ahead.



Pete Modrovsky upholds the Modrovsky boys' tradition and loves playing baseball. Pete is the son of Michael and Kim Modrovsky.



Dawn Swicklik, co-owner of Design Works by Dawn & Ivy, enjoys as much time as she can with her horse, Malu.



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

### CANCELLED MOUNTAIN TOP SOCIAL CLUB

All regular meetings of the Mountain Top Social Club are cancelled until further notice. For information about trips call Cathy Medeiros at 570-261-5016. For any other questions about the club call Rich Powell at 570-751-6249. Watch the paper for updates.

### CHS CLASS OF 1970 REUNION

Due to the pandemic, the Crestwood High School Class of 1970 voted to reschedule its 50th class reunion to 2021.

The reunion was originally scheduled for the weekend of October 16 and 17, 2020. With the Governor's orders of limiting 25 at an indoor event, the committee felt it needed to change the date to September 11, 2021. The icebreaker will be held on Friday, September 10 at The Cabin at Edgewood.

### SENIOR EXPO

Due to the ongoing public health crisis, Rep. Tarah Toohil (R-Luzerne) announced that

her annual Senior Citizens Expo has been canceled.

The event is normally scheduled to take place in September at Laurel Mall in Hazle Township.

Toohil's Senior Expo annually attracts hundreds of older residents who attend to learn about the programs and services available to them from dozens of exhibitors.

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Mountain Top National Night Out, traditionally held in early August, will not be held this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Sadly, we decided to cancel our annual National Night Out this year due to the difficulties associated with safely distancing as well as limitations on crowd sizes during this pandemic," Wright Township police chief Royce Engler wrote in an email to participants.

### NOW GUN RAFFLE

The Rotary Club of Mountain Top is currently conducting an Old West Gun Raffle. Tick-

ets are \$10 each with 20 days worth of prizes in October.

Winning numbers will be based on the first evening Pick 3 PA daily lottery number drawn.

See your Mountain Top Rotarian for tickets or stop by the Farmer's Market to purchase.

### AUGUST 22 SCAVANGER HUNT

The Mountain Top Community Association (M.A.C.A.) is hosting a scavenger hunt on **Saturday, August 22** from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register from 10:30-noon at the Wright Township Municipal Building, Route 309 and Park Drive, Mountain Top or preregister

online at MACA18707@aol.com. \$25 per team. Limit five people per team.

Hundreds of dollars worth of prizes. Solve a riddle, go there, take a team selfie and email or text photo to them.

Hunt begins at noon sharp. Teams with most correct selfies by 3 p.m. wins. Each

team member gets a free food voucher from Abe's Hot Dogs.

Proceeds benefit M.A.C.A. community event programs.

### AUGUST 23 & 30 FARMERS MARKET

The Rotary Club of Mountain

See Places To Go, page 7

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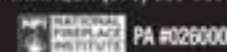


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## News in Brief ...

### Rice Township gets grant to repair the Ice Lakes dam

The \$508,833 grant funded by the H2O PA and the Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer Programs was announced by State Rep. Gerald Mullery. It was one of three approved for Luzerne County by the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

"The residents and officials of Rice Township have faced numerous challenges and setbacks over the past five years to get the Ice Lakes Dam repaired," Mullery said. "To be able to secure state funds which will fully cover the cost of the repairs will end this nightmare and return the beauty and tranquility of the Ice Lakes for residents and visitors to enjoy."

Bob Pipech, Chairman of the township board of supervisors, shared Mullery's sentiment. "This funding will help us put the Ice Lakes dam project to bed," Pipech said. "On behalf of myself and Rice Township, we can't thank Rep. Mullery enough in assisting us through this process these past five years. I know the residents around the Ice Lakes will be grateful and all those who use the Ice Lakes recreationally will be happy as well." The township applied for the grant last December.

Township officials have been dealing with the Ice Lakes dam issue for over four years. In late summer of 2015, property owners around the lake notified the township, which owns the lake, that the water level was dropping. At the time, engineers determined the problem was a valve in a drainpipe in the dam.

After several delays beyond

their control, in December 2017 supervisors awarded A.R. Popple a \$179,500 contract for repairs to the dam. However, in mid-May, the contractor halted work on the project, leaving behind a muddy lakebed. The township subsequently hired attorney Raymond Wendelowski to negotiate a settlement with Popple's bonding company. That negotiation did not bring about an agreement, prompting supervisors to vote to file a lawsuit against A.R. Popple and its bond company, Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Co. to recover costs associated with project.

To get the project completed, supervisors advertised for bids on the project in March of 2019, but none were received.

A second advertisement in June resulted in four bids. Latona Trucking was the lowest of the four bidders at \$490,833. Other bidders were James T. O'Hara, \$591,760; Ken Rauch Excavating, \$621,709; and Linde Corp., \$864,805. The township previously received a Local Shares Account (gaming) grant and a grant from the state Department of Community and Economic Development to be used for the project. Township secretary/treasurer Jeff Beck said in June that \$135,000 remained from those grants.

Mullery added, "I want to thank the Department of Community and Economic Development for recognizing the importance and necessity of all

three projects."

The other grants were \$391,000 for Hazle Township for the Hollywood Area Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement project and \$78,341 for White Haven Borough for improvements to the storm sewer system along Pine and Berwick Streets.

### Revenue down in Fairview Township

Fairview Township supervisors learned at their August 4 meeting that township revenues

are down approximately \$93,000 compared to the same time in 2019.

"You need to be careful what you buy and do over the next quarter," township secretary/treasurer Barbara Wasiakowski stated as part of her monthly financial report. As of July 31, the township had \$285,201.86 in its general fund and \$195,119.40 in its state aid fund (Liquid Fuels). The township had \$93,535 income in July and paid bills totaling \$154,996. The bulk

*See News in Brief, page 6*



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# Surprise 90th birthday party held for Dan Frascella

A surprise drive by birthday party arranged by his family and friends was held for Dan Frascella's 90th birthday on Friday, August 7 at 12 p.m. The drive-by party was held in the parking lot near the grove at St. Jude's Parish.

Approximately 40 vehicles lined up, some decorated and some not, but all held close friends, past colleagues, and acquaintances.

Each car took a turn to drive up and wish Dan a happy birthday. Mr. Frascella was surprised by all the people who came and the beautiful decorations, all of which made his day very special.

Dan has done much for our community over many years as a volunteer and Wright Town-



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

Everyone in the procession takes a few minutes to wish Dan Frascella a happy birthday and to wish him well.

ship supervisor, and has made a large number of friends and acquaintances. Many of them

came out to wish him a happy birthday on the special occasion of his 90th birthday.



Dan Frascella, with his daughter Janet and son Dan wait for the procession of cars to come by and wish him a happy birthday.



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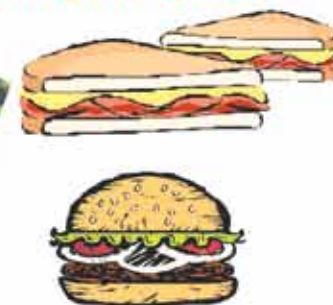
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## News in Brief ...

### Continued from page 4

of the township's income for July was \$41,505 from earned income tax.

Supervisors did vote to spend \$8,695 to update the current township code of ordinances. General Code Co. will update the code to include all ordinances and amendments adopted since 2008. Supervisors said the work will provide better access to the code for staff and residents.

They also voted a \$1 an hour wage increase to Edward Kresge who works at the Mountain Top Council of Governments (COG) compost site.

After hearing a plea from Michael Hanlon of South Hill Court for paving of his street, supervisors promised to look into funding the project. The resident told supervisors he has lived on South Hill Court for 30 years and in that time the road has not been repaved. He noted snowplows push the loose and crumbling pavement onto his property. "The street is falling apart," he commented.

Township road master Tim McGinnis told supervisors the township has applied for a gaming grant of approximately \$300,000 for drainage work and paving of Park Lane North, which intersects with South Hill Court, and nearby Deer Path Drive. Supervisors decided if the township gets the gaming grant, it will pave South Hill Court with township funds.

### In other business ...

On the recommendation of zoning officer Carl Alber, supervisors voted to terminate the township's contract with Code Inspections, the township's third-party inspection firm. Solicitor Donald Karpowich was authorized to negotiate

a contract with BHW Inspections. Alber noted BHW is a local company, which Code Inspections is not. Code Inspections is headquartered in Horsham. Its nearest offices, according to its web site, are in Wyalusing and Dushore. BHW is located in Plains Township.

Police Chief Phil Holbrook reported township police investigated four motor vehicle crashes in July, issued 47 traffic citations and 14 warnings. He reported the department borrowed the speed warning trailer from the district attorney's office and has placed it at problem areas throughout the township along with conducting speed enforcement.

Supervisors also noted work

has begun on the refurbishing of the basketball court in Memorial Park. The work includes resurfacing of the court, new support poles, backboards and rims.

### Police purchase tactical shields

The Fairview Township police department was able to purchase two tactical shields thanks to donations from three township businesses. Police Chief Phil Holbrook reported Twin City Builders recently purchased one shield while Carone's Market and Triangle Pharmacy split the cost of a second. The department now has the shields in all three of its cruisers.

### Will Crestwood build a garage for buses?

Last Month, Wright Township supervisors received a letter asking if Crestwood School District plans to park school buses on the secondary campus and possibly build a garage there. Supervisors stated they had no knowledge of such a plan.

However, reports that such a plan is in the offing continue to circulate. Superintendent Robert Mehalick was asked if there is any merit to the reports.

"At this time, we have had one very preliminary discussion about staging our buses

somewhere on the secondary campus," Mehalick said in an email. "There has been nothing more than one short discussion and there has been no follow up to that discussion," he added.

### Hearing on dirt bike track controversy postponed

The Wright Township zoning hearing board's hearing on the four-year-old controversy over the operation of a dirt bike track in a rural area of the township scheduled recently

*See News in Brief, page 16*

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

Continued from page 2

Top's farmers market will open on **August 23 and 30** with the following vendors on site in the Crestwood High School parking lot: Mrs. D's Welsh Cookies, J & A Farms, Ten Mile Mushrooms, High Meadow Micros, Fermented Delights, Simply Delicious Desserts, Keiner Apiary and Sugar Plum. In the weeks to follow vendors will also include Creekside Farms, OHF (Fruits) and Rock Farms.

The farmer's market runs on Sundays throughout the summer from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### AUGUST 28 GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 31st annual St. Jude golf tournament is scheduled **Friday, August 28** with a 1 p.m. shotgun start at Sand Springs Country Club, Drums. Tournament fee is \$75 for single junior golfer, \$90 per single golfer or \$360 for captain &

crew. Cost includes green fees, beverages & snacks, and prizes.

Indicate which school the \$25 (per golfer), \$10 (junior golfer) tuition credit should be applied: St. Jude, Holy Family Academy or Holy Redeemer High School. Make check payable to: St. Jude School and return by August 10 to reserve your spot. Mail to St. Jude Golf Tournament, 422 S. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top, PA 18707. Questions, call St. Jude School at 570-474-5803.

### GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Kiwanis Club of Mountain Top golf tournament originally 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 see their Facebook page or call Brian at 570- 868-5861.

### AUGUST 29 HOAGIE SALE

Dorrance Township Fire Department is holding a hoagie sale on **Saturday, August 29**. Deadline to order hoagies is August 16.

You can choose from turkey and cheese or American with cheese, condiments and toppings included. Each hoagie is \$6.

Pickup is Saturday, August 29 from 10 a.m. to noon at the fire hall.

You can place your order with any department member or call or text orders to Joan at 570-574-0626, Teresa at 570-599-7210 or Heather at 570-592-5353.

### AUGUST 30 CHICKEN BARBECUE

St. Jude Parish in Mountain Top is holding an authentic, original recipe chicken barbecue on **August 30** from noon to 2 p.m. The event is takeout only and dinners can be picked up at the entrance to the grove.

Orders must be purchased by August 21. Place your order on their website at [www.stjc.org](http://www.stjc.org) or drop in the collection box in church. The dinner is \$12 and includes 1/2 chicken, cole slaw, baked potato and fire roasted corn on the cob.

### HOAGIE SALE

The Slocum Township Fire Company is holding its August hoagie sale on **August 30**. Orders are due by August 25. Choose from turkey and cheese: turkey, cheese, tomato, lettuce and onions if desired or American: ham, bologna, hard salami, American cheese, tomato, lettuce and onions if desired. The 12 inch hoagie is \$5. Preorders are required. Message their Facebook page or call them at 570-868-6255 and leave a message with your order.

### AUGUST 31 DOG PARK PURSE RAFFLE

The Wright Township dog park bingo has been reinvented as a designer purse raffle. Anyone who purchased a bingo ticket may exchange it for a raffle ticket at P&D Pet Supply, Triangle Pharmacy or The Woman's Boutique & Consignments. Additional tickets are for sale at these locations. Cost is \$20. All 23 purses will be raffled off on **August 31**. Prizes will feature purses by

See Places To Go, page 10

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## School ...

*Continued from page 1*

Health and the State Department of Education issued new guidelines for return to school.

Previously, the district gave parents two options for their students' return to school. They could send children back full-time for in-person instruction or enroll them in the Crestwood Cyber Academy and learn from home.

Mehalick said in his August 10 announcement that students enrolled in the Crestwood Cyber Academy will continue to use that platform. Students who were planning to return

for in-person instruction will be taught through a "distance learning" platform.

The Department of Health and Department of Education on August 10 released an analysis showing the seven-day rate of transmission of the coronavirus in each county and grouped those rates into three categories: low, moderate and substantial. The department's recommendation on how to reopen is based on those categories.

Districts that are in areas with a low transmission rate could adopt a partly remote or a full in-person instruction model. For areas with a moderate transmission rate, districts can use

a blended approach or a fully remote model. The state recommends a fully remote model for districts in communities with a substantial transmission rate.

At a school board work session on August 13, Mehalick said the decision to return virtually was based on what he described as "significant changes" in Department of Health and Department of Education guidelines. Luzerne County, at the time of the announcement, was in the moderate category.

At that board meeting, Mehalick told school directors and members of the public listening online that trusted medical professionals on whom he was

relying for advice had told him that Luzerne County was not far from moving into the substantial category.

"These are strong recommendations from the Department of Health and Department of Education. Only a fool would not adhere to them," Mehalick stated.

St. Jude School had planned to resume classes on August 31. However, on Friday the Scranton Diocese announced that the opening date would be pushed back to September 8. Mehalick said Crestwood School District will provide transportation for St. Jude's students.

Parents of students in St.

Jude School have the option of enrolling their students for full-time in person instruction or in the Diocese of Scranton Virtual Academy. The online classes will be taught by diocesan teachers. Sister Ellen Fischer, SCC, school principal said students who attend school in person will have their temperatures checked daily upon entering school. Students will be required to wear masks throughout the school day. She said desks have been placed six feet apart and hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building. Students will eat lunch in their classroom.



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## Places To Go ...

### Continued from page 7

Tori Burch, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Coach, Dooney & Burke and LuLuLemon!

Several baskets were also donated to the bingo, they are on display at P&D Pet Supply. Tickets for the basket raffle are 3 for \$2 or 10 for \$5.

### SEPTEMBER 12 DORRANCE TOWNSHIP CLEAN UP

Dorrance township's annual cleanup will be held Saturday, **September 12** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. behind the municipal garage. The cleanup will be limited to residents only and proof of residency will be required. There will be a \$15 fee for each carload; \$20 each

for small pickup trucks and pull behind trailer loads; and \$50 each for trucks over three-quarter ton.

Fee for batteries is \$3 each and all white appliances \$10 each. All freon must be removed from refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers or they will not be accepted. Tires will be accepted at the following charges: \$2 each for 13, 14, and 15-inch tires, no rims; \$5 for 16-inch and larger tires no rims; \$5 for truck tires, no rims. Tractor trailer tires will not be accepted.

The following will not be accepted: electronic devices, asbestos, shingles, wood, paint cans, propane tanks, household garbage or any hazardous materials.

Anyone caught dumping items at any other time will be prosecuted.

The township volunteer fire company will be available to assist residents who need a truck. A reasonable donation is requested. To arrange for a truck through the fire company, call the township garage at 570-868-2005 and leave your name, phone, and address prior to Friday, September 4.

Anyone wishing to clean up any township road is asked to call the township garage for bags. The bags can be placed on the side of the road and will be picked up by the road crew.

### SEPTEMBER 20 CHICKEN BARBECUE

The Slocum Township Fire

Company is holding a drive thru chicken barbecue on **September 20**. You must preorder your dinners. Dinner includes chicken, baked potato, vegetable, homemade apple sauce and a dinner roll. Each dinner is \$10. Message their Facebook page or call them at 570-868-6255 to place your order. Orders are due by September 14.

### NOVEMBER 28 CHS CLASS OF 1980 REUNION

The Crestwood class of 1980, will celebrate its 40th class reunion on **Saturday, November 28** at the Woodlands Inn, Wilkes Barre, at 5 p.m. The icebreaker will be held Friday, November 27, at King's Restau-

rant, Mountain Top, at 7 p.m.

They are seeking classmates.

If you haven't already received an invitation, email Marie Helfrich Shovlin at mariehelf@hotmail.com, call Molly Rother Mendofik at 570-262-4628, or find them on Facebook "Crestwood High School Class of 1980" with contact information or for more details.

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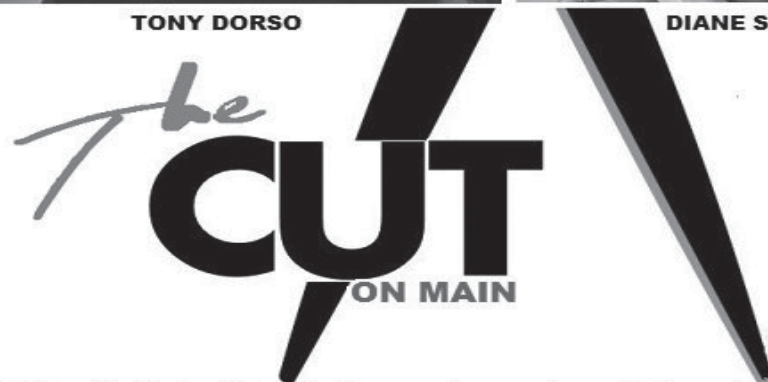
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schedule your next appointment.





## Gardening has been in the blood of Albert and Florence Drum for many years

Albert and Florence Drum have lived in their home in Mountain Top since 1972, and before that the home belonged to Albert's parents who moved there in 1935 when Albert was only five years old.

The old homestead has had gorgeous flower beds since 1935 when Albert's parents started building the beds and planting flowers. Albert says of his dad, "My father went down the road and found some good black dirt and hauled it up to the house and searched the property for all the round stones lining all the flower beds." There are some old apple trees from an old orchard and a small vegetable garden besides the flower beds.

The flower beds are all annuals that are from seeds

from the previous year and started in pots to be planted when the weather is exactly right in the spring. Some of the large asters are from purchased seeds.

The seeds are planted in pots on the living room floor on blankets spread out to protect the floors by both Albert and Florence. When asked how long it takes to plant the largest flower bed Florence says, "It takes several days to plan out and plant the gorgeous 85-foot-long flower bed alongside the driveway." The couple prefers to plant annuals because they can plant them in straight lines and patterns etc. This year the large garden is made up of mainly marigolds, asters, petunias, and ageratum plus in another garden there can be found gladiolas.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Albert and Florence Drum stand next to their 85 foot long flower bed that has been alongside the driveway since 1935 when Albert's parents first began planting flowers there.

The poppys that do come up every year are from plants planted many, many years ago and some have double poppy flowers. Many of the original

gardens are grass now, but the ones that the Drums continue to plant and maintain are spectacular.

The Drums have been mar-

ried for 66 years and together enjoy the gardens and the apples from their trees, which Florence cans for apple pies and apple sauce.

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*Cleanse To Heal:* Anthony William

*Weird Al Seriously:* Lily E. Hirsch

*When My Time Comes: Conversations About Whether Those Who Are Dying Should Have The Right To Determine When Life Should End:* Diane Rehm

*Too Much And Never Enough:* Mary L. Trump

*The Book Of Delights: Essays:* Ross Gay

*When Time Stopped: A Memoir Of My Father's War And What Remains:* Arianna Neumann

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The library is taking patron requests by phone for items that are available at the M.S. Kirby Library. Library staff will collect the requests and have them ready for pick up at a scheduled appointment time. Appointments may also be made for copy/fax, scanning and printing of documents by staff members. Contact the library for more information on any of these services.

Call 570-474-9313 Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 to 4:30 to make an appointment to come in and choose a Surprise

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# Whiskers World holds annual golf tournament to benefit cats

Whiskers World's sixth annual golf tournament was held on August 8 at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club in Mountain Top with a 1:30 shotgun start. Captain and mate format with two players per team. Cost was \$200 per team.

Tournament included Longest Drive Competition, Closest to the Pin, Pot of Gold Hole (50/50), flight prizes, 50/50 drawing, raffle prizes, dinner and refreshments.

Whiskers World is a 501c3 non-profit, all volunteer organization comprised of a group of animal loving friends who have, for over 10 years, been

caring for homeless animals with their own money. Collectively, they have taken care of well over 1,000 cats. They trap, neuter and return them to their colonies. They then continue to care for them, feeding them daily and providing shelter for them. They provide veterinary care when needed, rehabilitate and home any cats that cannot be returned to their existing colonies. The charity was formed in order to hopefully raise more funds to further their mission and eventually build a shelter so that they can help even more animals live happy, healthy lives.



Devon Woolfolk, Matt Wotherspoon, Daniel Zlockie and Mike Nicotera are all set to play golf.



Mountain Peaks/Shannon Griffiths photos  
Phil Semenza buys some raffle tickets from Donna Fountain.



Members of the Whiskers World organization, Brenda Buckler and Donna Fountain, show the posters of the many cats they have available for adoption.

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## News in Brief ...

**Continued from page 6**

was postponed.

The zoning hearing board voted 3-0 on July 17, 2018 to dismiss a notice of violation letter issued by former township zoning officer Andrew Holter to Mick and Melissa Gentilesco. The board decided the track, located on Yeager Road, does not constitute a

private recreational facility, as charged by Holter, a violation of the township's zoning ordinance.

The township subsequently voted to appeal its zoning board decision to Luzerne County Court. Township solicitor Jack Dean reported last October that Judge Fred Pierantoni determined the township's zoning hearing board

made an error in its decision regarding the case. The judge sent the matter back to the zoning hearing board.

### Mullery bill to provide relief to restaurant, bar and club workers

A bill introduced by state Rep.

Gerald Mullery, D-Luzerne, has been included in a legislative package announced on July 28 by House Democrats to provide relief to owners and workers of Pennsylvania restaurants, bars and clubs impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The food service industry is among one of the hardest hit industries in Pennsylvania due to Covid-19," Mullery

said. "These hardworking business owners and their staff lost wages and profits through no fault of their own and they need assistance now. We need to do everything we can to ensure their businesses survive this pandemic."

Mullery's bill would waive the liquor license renewal fee

**See News in Brief, page 17**



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## News in Brief ...

### Continued from page 16

for any bar, restaurant or club that suffered more than a 25 % downturn in business due to the virus. The other bills in the package include:

- Earmarking CARES grant funding from the federal government to be directed to small, community restaurants

instead of national chains to ensure those dollars are invested back into the region.

- Earmarking CARES grant funding from the federal government for Pennsylvania breweries, distilleries and wineries forced to reduce capacity to protect patrons. Most of these businesses are small and family-operated and help

support multiple community efforts, and this funding will help keep them in operation.

- Expanding access to outdoor dining for restaurants and diners, including removing limitations concerning public thoroughfares, fees and delays in approval. Scientific evidence is growing that outdoor activity is a much lower risk than

indoor dining, and helping restaurants add space outdoors can help them stay open while giving people an opportunity to get out and enjoy themselves.

- Increasing the discount for restaurants and bars holding liquor licenses when they purchase wholesale alcohol from 10 % to 15 %, putting more

money back in the pockets of operators to keep their doors open and staff employed.

Eliminating the \$500 off-premise catering permit fee to allow more restaurants to safely cook food in kitchens and deliver it to safe outdoor locations, as well as remove the

*See News in Brief, page 20*



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## Ivan Hoyt helps to restore Johnny Ott's PA Dutch folk art in Lenhartsville Hotel

Wapwallopen folk artist, Ivan E. Hoyt in collaboration with Steve Stetzler, the owner and chef at the Deitsch Eck Restaurant located in the historic Lenhartsville Hotel has recently begun the task of restoring the Pennsylvania Dutch folk art paintings of the late self described hexologist, Johnny Ott on the walls of the restaurant's dining room. Ott was the owner, proprietor, and resident folk artist at the Lenhartsville Hotel through the late 1940s until his death in 1964. In addition to his responsibilities as the hotel keeper, Ott was also a very talented self-taught artist. He painted Pennsylvania Dutch hex signs, in traditional and his own original motifs that he

sold at the hotel to the many tourists that traveled the then heavily used Old Route 22, as well as venues like the early Kutztown Folk Festival. In the early 1950s Ott decorated the dining area of the hotel with his charming folk art which he painted directly on the walls. Some of the paintings represent the daily life of the Pennsylvania Dutch and some just illustrated the whimsy of Ott's creation.

With the passage of time, seventy years at this point, several of the paintings were beginning to show their age and Stetzler felt their legacy should be continued. After several conversations with contemporary folk artist, Ivan E. Hoyt of Wapwallopen, it was

determined that Hoyt could reproduce the original Johnny Ott paintings on thin substrate panels that could be affixed over the damaged paintings thus keeping them historically intact as well as improving the dining experience for Stetzler's patrons. Stetzler commissioned Hoyt to do the project early in 2020 and it has recently been completed.

Hoyt, with the help of his wife Dorothy, researched photographs that they had taken of the Ott paintings in the early 1980s prior to any of the damage taking place. One of the three paintings reproduced had been painted over prior to Stetzler owning the restau-

*See Hoyt, page 19*



Pennsylvania Dutch folk artist Ivan E. Hoyt (left) along with Deitsch Eck owner and chef Steve Stetzler (right) hold the reproduced painting Hoyt completed to restore the damaged Johnny Ott original in the historic Lenhartsville Hotel.

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## Hoyt ...

*Continued from page 18*

rant so it is quite fortunate that the Hoyt's had an image of the original paintings.

Folk artist, Ivan E. Hoyt has been painting Pennsylvania Dutch folk art for 48 years and has exhibited his work at the Kutztown Folk Festival for 37 years. He is retired from the Crestwood School District after 33 years of teaching elementary and middle school art. He is a life member of the Pennsylvania State Education Association, National Education Association, and currently holds Master Artisan status with the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen and its Reading-Berks Chapter. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania German Society and in the Pennsylvania German Heri-

tage Center in Kutztown, PA.

Hoyt was first inspired to paint Pennsylvania Dutch folk art after seeing pictures of Johnny Ott plying his skills in "Hexology", a booklet published by the late Jacob Zook of Lancaster County. Hoyt felt it was an honor to restore the work of Ott, an artist whose work he has always admired throughout his career.

The paintings can be viewed while enjoying wonderful Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine at Deitsch Eck Restaurant in Lenhartsville, PA conveniently located off Interstate 78 Lenhartsville exit. Information can be found at [www.the-eck.com](http://www.the-eck.com) or by calling 610-562-8520. Further information about Hoyt's folk art or inquiries can be made through email: [iehex@epix.net](mailto:iehex@epix.net).

## Gift cards donated to Mountain Top Food Bank

The Rotary Club of Mountain Top donated \$3,300 in gift cards from eight local restaurants and Carone's Market to the food bank located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountain Top on Friday, August 7.

The Rotary Club of Mountain Top received an emergency Rotary district grant of \$1,500 due to Covid-19 and they in turn matched that amount and proceeded to go to restaurants on the mountain that had to close for a few months and purchased gift cards each worth \$25.

Many donated more cards than were purchased. The restaurants that gift cards were purchased from were



*Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo*

**John Kanyuck, President of the Rotary Club of Mountain Top, hands over a box of gift cards worth \$3,300 to food bank representatives Marie Duclos and Florence Pedley.**

Junie G's, Chalet, Cavanaugh's Bar and Grille, Adelina's, Butcher Bob's, King's, Abe's Hot Dogs and the Ice House

Pub.

The gift cards will be distributed through the food bank.

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## News in Brief ...

### Continued from page 17

March deadline to submit an application to do off-premise catering, and end the 52-event-per-year cap.

- Eliminating sales tax late payment penalties on restaurants and bars purchasing alcohol from wholesalers and allowing for a repayment grace period when the industry has recovered.

- Requiring business insurance policies to pay damages and benefits when a disaster emergency is declared. An insurance policy that doesn't pay the holder when emergencies arise is worse than no coverage at all – it is money that could have been used to reinvest in the business thrown away. When the pandemic hit,

many policies invoked an "Act of God" loophole to not pay damages, and businesses have suffered.

- Allowing license holders with licenses in safekeeping relief from paying the license renewal or validation fee for one year. Just a few months ago, many of these businesses were making renovations and improvements that would have put them in a position to remove their license from safekeeping and start operating — the virus delay shouldn't stop these entrepreneurs from reinvesting in their communities.

Mullery said quick action is needed on the bills to help mitigate the financial burdens faced by these small businesses.

### Clothing box at American Legion is closed for donations

BSA Venturing Crew 461, chartered by the American Legion Post 781 currently has a clothing donation shed located in the parking lot at the American Legion, 1550 Henry Drive in Mountain Top.

Because of the pandemic the organization running the shed has not been able to do the next step in shipping this clothing overseas and out to those in need. Because of that, they are temporarily shutting the shed down. Please do not bring clothing to the shed at this time.

The scouts are sorry for this inconvenience and will let you know as soon as they are able

to reopen the shed.

Scouting in Mountain Top is still alive and well. For information on how to get involved please contact Sheila Bender at 570-436-6276.

### Rice Township votes to permanently close part of Willowby Road

Rice Township supervisors voted at their August 4 meeting to permanently close Willowby Road from Nuangola Road to its intersection with Front Street. The action was taken for safety reasons, supervisors reported, and follows the demolition of the former Rice Township Volunteer Fire Company fire hall on Willowby Road.

*In other business ...*

Supervisors also gave final approval to the Jennifer's Way major subdivision subject to the developer meeting conditions set by the planning commission.

No action was taken on a bid for double tar and chipping and fog sealing of approximately 1.6 miles of Ice Harvest Road. Supervisors said only one bid was received for the work, \$157,748, submitted by New Enterprise Stone & Gravel. The township plans to use Liquid Fuels funds for the project. As of July 31, that fund had a \$159,116 balance.

The township is expected to re-bid the project later this year.

Supervisors did vote to pur-

*See News in Brief, page 21*



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## News in Brief ...

### Continued from page 20

chase a guaranteed maintenance agreement for the township telephone system from Guyette Communications at an annual cost of \$324, payable quarterly.

### Dorrance closes recycling center

Dorrance Township supervisors announced at their August 10 meeting that the township's recycling center is closed until further notice.

Officials explained the step was taken because of the large amount of trash and unacceptable recycling materials being thrown into the bins. They pointed out the cost of disposal of recyclables has increased

significantly and the program is not working as intended.

### In other business ...

Supervisors will hold a public hearing before their September 14 meeting on a proposed amendment to the township code of ordinances dealing with unattached accessory structures. The amendment will increase the maximum height of accessory structures.

The township's annual cleanup will be held Saturday, September 12 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. behind the municipal garage. The cleanup will be limited to residents only and proof of residency will be required. There will be a \$15 fee for each carload; \$20 each for small pickup trucks and pull behind trailer loads; and \$50 each for trucks over three-

quarter ton.

Fee for batteries is \$3 each and all white appliances \$10 each. All freon must be removed from refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers or they will not be accepted. Tires will be accepted at the following charges: \$2 each for 13, 14, and 15-inch tires, no rims; \$5 for 16-inch and larger tires no rims; \$5 for truck tires, no rims. Tractor trailer tires will not be accepted.

The following will not be accepted: electronic devices, asbestos, shingles, wood, paint cans, propane tanks, household garbage or any hazardous materials.

Anyone caught dumping items at any other time will be prosecuted.

The township volunteer fire company will be available to assist residents who need a truck. A reasonable donation is requested. To arrange for a truck through the fire company, call the township garage at 570-868-2005 and leave your name, phone, and address prior to Friday, September 4.

As in the past, anyone wishing to clean up any township road is asked to call the township garage for bags. The bags can be placed on the side of the road and will be picked up by the road crew.

### Wright Township accepts retirement of two employees

Wright Township supervisors at their August 10 meeting

accepted the retirement letters of two long-time employees, both of whom are eligible for the voluntary employment separation plan approved at the township's July meeting.

Veteran police officer Brian Macko submitted his retirement effective July 31 while long-time public works department employee Chris Kania will retire at the end of October.

The voluntary employment separation plan provides employees who meet certain criteria a \$20,000 incentive if they retire by December 31, 2020. To be eligible, employees must have 25 years of full-time employment in the township or be age 60 or older with a minimum of five

*See News in Brief, page 22*



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## News in Brief ...

*Continued from page 21*

years employment. Employees who want to participate must submit a notice of separation by October 1 and retire by December 31. A \$10,000 incentive will be paid to the employee on their separation and a second \$10,000 on the one-year anniversary of their leaving.

Both Macko and Kania qualify for the incentive. Kania recently completed his forty-seventh year with public works while Macko has served on the police department for 28 years.

Before Macko can receive the incentive, however, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the town-

ship and the Wright Township Police Officers Association must be approved. Solicitor Jack Dean said the township has approved the MOU and it is awaiting approval of the police union.

Police Chief Royce Engler submitted a request to hire a full-time officer to replace Macko, but supervisors voted to advertise for a part-time police officer at a rate of \$18 an hour not to exceed 30 hours a week.

### *In other business ...*

Supervisors voted to apply for up to \$750,000 in grants for two road improvement projects. They authorized an application for a gaming grant not to exceed \$400,000 for paving of Deer Run Drive. The second

grant proposal is for a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant of up to \$350,000 for Park Road. Secretary/treasurer Pam Heard and supervisor Matthew Howton explained the purpose of multimodal grants is to make roads safer for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. She said the grant money will be used to make the road safer for pedestrians using the park as well as bicyclists. The road through the township park frequently is used by motorists as a shortcut from Route 309 to South Main Road.

On the recommendation of Heard, supervisors voted to seek an intern through the SLIP program offered by the Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce

Investment Board. Heard explained the program will allow the township to hire a paid intern for an eight-week period to assist her office in various projects. The township would be reimbursed for costs.

Supervisors approved a proposal from township resident Joseph Otero to erect a bench in front of the township building near the memorial stone as part of his Eagle Scout project. Otero is a student at Crestwood High School.

Supervisor also reported that Dean has clarified the authority of the Mountain Top Council of Governments (COG) to set the rate for permit fees for the compost facility. Earlier this year, the COG set the fee for annual permits at \$25. Wright

Township supervisors voted to charge residents \$10 and no cost for senior citizens. Fairview Township collects the \$25 rate for its residents.

At the July work session there was a question as to whether which body set the rate and if the township had to reimburse the COG for the difference. Howton said Dean determined the COG has the authority to set the rate and bills from the COG have been paid.

### **CSD may have occupancy permit for field house**

The Crestwood School District may have its occupancy

*See News in Brief, page 33*

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## Drums Lioness Lions Club posts recent happenings

The Drums Lioness Lions Club sponsored a supply collection to benefit the Hazleton Animal Shelter recently.

The club also recently presented a monetary donation to Valley Regional Fire and Rescue, Inc. in recognition of their tireless service to our community during the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

The 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



**The Drums Lioness Lions Club recently inducted Kathleen Storaska, left and Jennifer Gerhard, right as new members of the organization. Also shown are, Jeannette Tait, club president, far left; and Lorna Veglia, sponsor, far right.**

always welcome and may get more information by visiting the Drums Lions Lioness Club Facebook page or e-mailing

drumslionesslions@hotmail.com. Members need not reside at a Drums address to participate.



**Club president Jeannette Tait presenting a monetary and pet supply donation to Chris Barkanic of the shelter. Looking on is club secretary Mary Ann Molendini with Buddha, one of the many pets awaiting their forever home at the shelter.**

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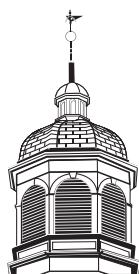


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## Worship Together ...

### CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

JP Bohanan, Pastor

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

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

Regular church services have resumed and they are 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

The church has now reopened for indoor services.

The church will hold Parents Night Out every Friday night from 6-8 p.m. in the summer with games, Christian and clean family movies, Biblical/faith lessons, snacks and food. Cost is \$20 per family.

On Mondays and Tuesdays Faith Life Coaching and Counseling will take place. 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: 9:30 a.m.

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

There are 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. Confessions have resumed on Saturdays from 5 to 5:30 p.m. in Fr. Kloton's office. Please enter and exit through the outer library door (white storm door) located at the ramp entrance to the church. The church is open for private individual prayer until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Reservations to attend Mass will no longer be required. Safety guidelines, however, remain in place. You can only enter the church through the main entrance and you must sit at the blue tape in the pews. Family members may sit together. You must wear a mask during the entire Mass. Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass. Anyone wishing to receive the Eucharist on the tongue is asked to wait until the end. Immediately exit the church through the side doors after Communion. Mass attendance has been below designated capacity. Should they reach capacity, they would have to cut off attendance at the maximum allowed.

There will be one live streamed Mass each weekend on YouTube. The link is: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRogmn\\_HRMSPzAq4XSys-m3w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRogmn_HRMSPzAq4XSys-m3w). You can also access the

*See Worship, page 26*



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## Worship Together ...

### Continued from page 25

Masses through their Facebook page (Good Shepherd Church Drums) and our website (good-shepherd-drums.org).

### MOUNTAINTOP FAMILY CHURCH

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

Mountaintop Family Church is holding modified Sunday services at 9 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.

Sunday morning services are also available through live-stream: MFC web page, [www.mfcchurch.com/live-stream](http://www.mfcchurch.com/live-stream); Youtube, search for Mountaintop Family Church; Facebook, go to Mountaintop Family Church Facebook page.

On Sunday afternoon, they will post the video of the service on the church website under the "watch and listen" tab.

Zoom meetings are being held throughout the week and the links for the Zoom meetings can be obtained by emailing [Debbie@mfcchurch.com](mailto: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 completed grades 5 and 6 and

Starting Point Youth for completed grades 7-12 are both 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. Children's Activity Club is held on Tuesdays at 12 p.m.

Mountaintop Family Church will host a blood drive on Tuesday, August 25 from 1-6 p.m. Please sign up for a time slot at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

Please contact the church office at 570-474-0900 if you

have any questions or would like more information about MFC.

### MOUNTAINVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

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


Mountainview services are back on Sundays at 10 a.m. They have several environments for folks to encounter

Jesus! They are: Livestream on Facebook every Sunday at 10 a.m. or @Mountainviewnepa or meet in person, outside on the church lawn in socially distanced circles for each family. Bring your beach umbrella, tents, beach towels, lawn chairs, and your own picnic! You can also park in your car on the perimeter parking lot and watch the service from your car using an FM trans-

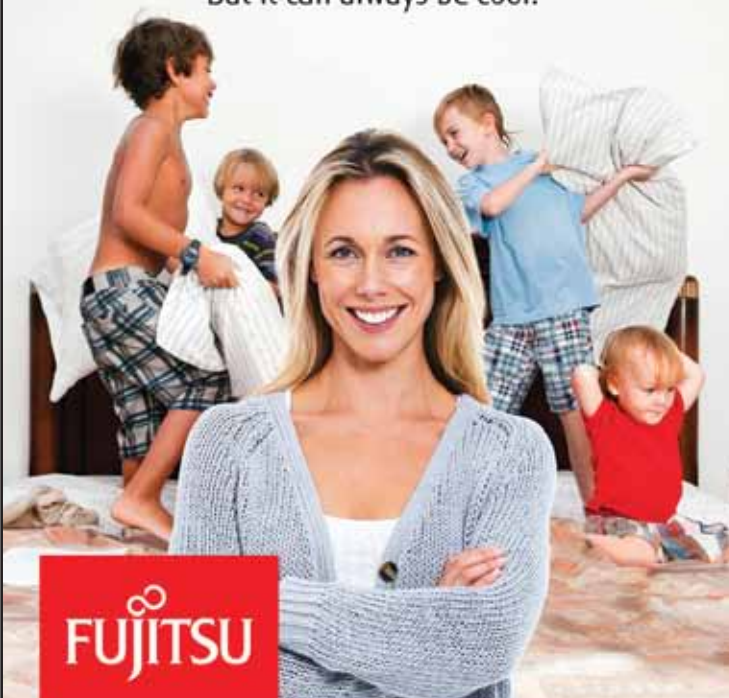
mitter to your radio. If it rains, they meet indoors with social distancing and everyone wears a mask. All small groups are still meeting via conference call or Zoom video chat. Small groups currently include: Wednesday night Discovery Bible study for families, Thursday Small Groups: Evidence That Demands a Verdict, and

*See Worship, page 27*

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## Worship Together ...

Continued from page 26

Sermon Scripture Bible Study Group. Every morning at 7:07 a.m. join Pastor Brook and his wife, and others for a 20 minute devotional Bible reading,

over Zoom.

Contact Pastor Brook for more information about small groups and gatherings: Brook Selby, Pastor 570-580-0808

[www.MountainviewNEPA.org](http://www.MountainviewNEPA.org).



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### 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 23.

On Sunday, August 30 Tom Sitler and Mike Cagis will lead a special musical worship service.

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

### NEW HOPE WAPWALLOPEN CHARGE

**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: [somiller@susumc.org](mailto:somiller@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% 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, August 23, via Facebook Live and back in the sanctuary. There are 2 sanitizing stations available, and masks will be required as well as social distancing. If you have been ill during the 2 weeks prior to any service, you are asked to stay home and join in on Facebook or Zoom. They will continue to make the service available live on Facebook and for replay. Please continue to mail your tithes if you are not attending in person.

There is 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>



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## Worship Together ...

*Continued from page 27*

or can be joined by phone at 267-831-0333 meeting number 5263314753. This is a new call number. These numbers will be the same for all meetings including Sunday worship for those who do not use Facebook.

Some of the church boards are starting to meet in the church. Please check with your board presidents to make sure if you are meeting live or zooming!

The Blood Mobile visit has been rescheduled by Red Cross. Look for news on an October blood drive. Those who had registered have been contacted by Red Cross. If you did not hear from them, please call Jackie.

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.

Remember: the Mountain Top Food Bank is still open Fridays from 9:15 a.m. til 12 noon for those in need of food assistance. It is located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Route 309 in Mountain Top.

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**

Services have begun in the church. Face masks must be worn except for children under 2. They are following social distancing practices. Offering plates will not be passed.

They will be placed so people can place their offerings while entering or exiting the church. Please avoid any physical contact.

If you wish to mail in your offering, you can send it to St. James at 619 Birch Road, Wapwallopen, PA 18660.

The food distributions that St. James has conducting since May 20 have been a great success. The project has been well received and sometimes the cars are lined up for about a half mile. The project started with milk distributions but have developed from milk into boxes of dairy products, meat products and produce boxes, along with the milk. The giveaways will continue on a weekly basis. Time and dates or

contents are not known until close to the date it occurs, so keep informed on Facebook or send your email address to lero@pa.metrocast.net for notices. The food is available to anyone who can use it, you don't have to be a member of St. James. People who do not have computers, therefore no email or Facebook, can call Linda at 570-239-8733 and you will be phoned when a distribution is planned.

Those distributions are held at the pavilion in the back of the church. If picking up food, please use Faux Road to enter the rear of the parking lot and stay to the right as you approach the pavilion, then exit the parking lot by staying to the right and driving straight

ahead to County Road. Quantities of food are not known until close to the time of distribution and is usually gone within an hour. When there is food left that was not distributed, which has happened occasionally, it is given to a food pantry in Millville so nothing goes to waste.

The floor tile fund currently has \$5,802.98. They need approximately \$6,500 to redo the floor in the social hall. The old tiles have been in place for over 50 years and have been deteriorating over the past few decades. At this point, it not only looks bad, some of the spots are becoming a safety issue due to holes, cracks, and

*See Worship, page 29*



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the Zoom link**

**www.nlccmountaintop.com**



## Worship Together ...

Continued from page 28

bumps. If you would like to donate to the fund you can put your donation in an envelope and put "floor fund" on it or you can write a check, put "floor fund" in the memo and send it to the church at 827 E. County Road, Wapwallopen PA 18660. All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

The Cub Scouts have not been meeting and their summer camp experience was can-

celled due to the closure of the camp.

### 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 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.

Weekend Masses have resumed with the normal Mass schedule. Registration is required for weekend Masses. Each Monday they will post the link for St. Jude parishioners to register for the coming weekend Mass. The link will be posted at [www.stjc.org](http://www.stjc.org).

Here are the requirements: You must be a St. Jude parishioner; you may only register for yourself and members of your

household; you will only be able to register for one weekend at a time; each Monday you will need to fill out another registration form if you wish to attend the coming weekend; the deadline for registration is Thursday at 1 p.m.; if you have difficulty with the registration form, call the parish office to place your reservation, 570-474-6315, ext. 221.

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.

31st annual St. Jude golf tournament will take place on Friday, August 28 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start at Sand Springs

Country Club, Drums.

Tournament fee is \$75 for single junior, golfer, \$90 per single golfer or \$360 for captain & crew. Cost includes green fees, beverages and snacks, and prizes. Make check payable to: St. Jude School and return by August 10, 2020 to reserve your spot. Mail to: St. Jude Golf Tournament, 422 S. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top, PA 18707. Questions, call St. Jude School, 570-474-5803.

St. Jude Parish is holding an authentic, original recipe chicken barbecue on August 30 from noon to 2 p.m. The event is takeout only and diners can be picked up at the entrance to the grove.

*See Worship, page 30*

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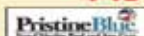
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## Worship Together ...

*Continued from page 29*

Orders must be purchased by August 21. Place your order on their website at [www.stjc.org](http://www.stjc.org) or drop in the collection box in church. The dinner is \$12 and includes 1/2 chicken, cole slaw, baked potato and fire roasted corn on the cob.

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.

**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 Sunday worship service and other services throughout the week from the Cathedral of the Nativity. Go to [diobeth.org](http://diobeth.org) for a full listing. Rev. Timothy Alleman, 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](http://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 reg-

istration 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

*See Worship, page 31*

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## Worship Together ...

*Continued from page 30*

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.

All religious education classes K-8 will be online through

the end of 2020. Decisions moving forward will be determined based on current conditions at that time. They will continue to use their current familiar curriculum. Classes will begin October 4.

Please follow all social distancing markings. No congregating in church or in the parking lot after Mass.

Information changes daily. Visit Saint Mary's website: [stmarydorrance.org](http://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.

Parish office is open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

### 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**

For your health and safety, services will continue to be held outside for the welfare of everyone concerned. The drive in services will be held at 9 and 10:30 a.m. each week. Thank you to all of you for complying with the restrictions. Your compliance has allowed them to gather each week in a safe manner.

For those unable to join the church, Pastor has been recording services from St. John's in Nanticoke that are available on the church's Facebook page and website [www.stpaulsmt-top.com](http://www.stpaulsmt-top.com).

The church office will be open Thursdays from 3-7 p.m. starting September 3. 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. The church has 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 Thursdays, Bible Study has resumed in the parish hall at 1 p.m. Tables have been set up to allow for participants to social distance.

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 you have already read.

The church will once again offer healing services on the first Wednesday of the month (barring any restrictions) the next service is September 2 in

*See Worship, page 33*

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## Worship Together ...

Continued from page 29

the sanctuary. You are asked to wear a mask. They will take all the necessary precautions. Following the service, you are invited to remain for lunch, but they ask that everyone provide their own.

**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 are hosting virtual worship service through an online platform called Zoom. The worship service is at 10 a.m.

**Send your news to  
publisher@mt-  
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## News in Brief ...

Continued from page 22

permit for its new field house if all went well at last Tuesday night's meeting of the Wright Township planning commission.

Representatives of the school district and its engineering firm attended a past planning commission work session at which the project engineer by Martin Moucha of Quad3 Land Planning & Utilities addressed outstanding engineering and legal issues. Also attending from the school district were Robert F. Mehalick, superintendent, Scott Brumagin, supervisor of facilities, and school board members Lauren McCurdy and Barry

Boone. Participants attended in person and by Zoom.

Both planning commission chairman Dr. Thomas Urosevich and Mehalick emphasized the importance that the occupancy of the field house will play in supporting the health and safety of the students during the current pandemic. But they did clarify, however, that all Wright Township codes, and ordinance requirements must be met before the building can be utilized by the students.

After Moucha addressed all the current project issues and concerns, planning commission members voted unanimously to grant conditional approval for the project, provided that certain outstanding engineering tasks are com-

pleted prior to the commission's August 18 meeting. If the project was approved, the township's former third-party inspector, Code Inspections, Inc., will issue the occupancy permit. While Code Inspections no longer is the third-party inspector for the township, the firm is still responsible for the project which was presented during its tenure.

If district failed to meet the requirements for plan approval by last Tuesday's meeting, it will have to wait until the commission's September 15 meeting to get approval.

"I can't over emphasize how critical it is for the school to have this additional space for proper distancing of the students, to include the ability to employ the extra restrooms, that the field house provides," Dr. Urosevich commented following the meeting. "Use of this facility has a direct bearing on keeping our children safe during this true public health crisis, and I do commend Mr. Mehalick for efforts to get the project completed in accordance with our township," he added.



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## Wyoming Seminary Upper School graduates 118 seniors on August 8

Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School celebrated its 176th Commencement on Saturday, August 8 as 118 seniors from seven states in the United States and 12 other countries completed their high school educations.

Sem held its Commencement exercises in Nesbitt Stadium on West Hoyt Street, Kingston. Paige Parsons of

Bear Creek gave the student address. Other students who participated in the program included graduating seniors Allison Hohn, Mountain Top; Kyra Stella, Wilkes-Barre; and Emily Urbanski, Mountain Top. Shailee Desai, a junior from Shavertown and president of the Class of 2021, rang the school's Cokesbury Bell.

Randolph Granger, history

faculty member at Sem, gave the charge to the graduates. In his speech, Granger observed how effectively the Class of 2020 has served as role models for the rest of the student body, and suggested that the graduates were well prepared to help lead in overcoming the many difficulties now facing the country.

In her address to the gradu-

ates, Parsons observed that the class successfully moved through the spring months of quarantine by drawing on the strength they gained from staying connected as a class.

Kevin P. Rea, Wyoming Seminary president, presented awards while Board of Trustees Chair William E. Sor-doni '93 awarded diplomas.

Members of the Class of

2020 from Greater Mountain Top are: Jared Bozinko, Mountain Top; Madison Dompkosky, Mountain Top; Allison Hohn, Mountain Top; Jessica Kline, Mountain Top; Andrew Lehman, Mountain Top; Ashleigh Pyke, Mountain Top; Ashley Tarud, Drums; Emily Urbanski, Mountain Top; Jared Weisenberger, Mountain Top.

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