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# Mountain Peaks



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February 3-16, 2022

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www.mt-peaks.com

## Comets earn way to D2 tourney, fall to top seed



Tom Robinson | For Mountain Peaks

**Crestwood's Magnus Bibla scores a 12-2 major decision over Abington Heights' Tomas Delosrios recently.**

By Tom Robinson  
For Mountain Peaks

Crestwood worked its way into the last spot in the District 2 Class 3A Dual Meet Wrestling Championships by winning its final two matches before the district deadline.

The Comets, however, were unable to take advantage of the opportunity they earned.

Crestwood drew the top seed and fell to host Abington Heights, 62-7, in Monday's quarterfinals on a night when the Lackawanna League Division 1 champions' coach said his team was particularly tough.

"We were a little sharper than we've been in the last several matches," Abington Heights coach Greg Theony said. "We were a little rusty due to the pause.

"... We came out with some fire."

Sam Jeckell and Magnus Bibla, who have Crestwood's best season records, came up with the wins at Abington Heights.

Jeckell held on for a 1-0 decision at 113 pounds in the second bout to cut the early deficit to 6-3. The sophomore, who is no stranger to tense, low-scoring decisions, improved to 19-9. Jeckell's last four bouts have ended in shutouts, two wins and two losses, and he came out on each side of 1-0 decisions.

Abington Heights won the next nine bouts before Bibla dominated the next-to-last bout, winning a major decision at 215 pounds.

Bibla, a junior, improved to 29-4 while

## Crestwood Lady Comet basketball senior recognized



**Matilde Ortenzi**

The Crestwood girls' basketball team is pleased to recognize senior member, Matilde Ortenzi. Matilde, the daughter of Laura and Carlo Ortenzi, is currently an exchange student from Milano, in northern Italy. Her host family here in the states is Corinne and Al Finarelli.

Matilde enjoys playing and watching games with her teammates, and she shares that the football season was amazing. Matilde played soccer as a defender in Italy, and also enjoys judo, swimming, and riding her snowboard. She plans to return to Italy in June 2022 to attend her last year of high school (in Italy high school is 5 years), and is considering attending college for economics, engineering or physics.

Head Coach Don Hopkins shares, "Matilde is our lone senior this season. This is her first year playing organized basketball. She has been so eager to learn the game in practice. She brings an awesome attitude and work ethic to practices and games. She is becoming a better player every day. She has fit in very well with our team and her teammates like her very much. She is an absolute pleasure to coach, and I wish her success in her future endeavors." The team will celebrate her senior night at a home game in early February.

*See Comets, page 19*

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

### EVERY SUNDAY SPIRITUAL YOGA

Join Stairville United Methodist Church, 1790 Stairville Road in Mountain Top for spiritual yoga on **Sundays** at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own yoga mat. A donation basket will be available and donations are given to the church. The class lasts 1 hour, all levels welcome.

### FEBRUARY 8, 22 SOCIAL CLUB MEETINGS

The Mountain Top Social Club will start its 2022 season on **February 8 and 22** at 1 p.m. inside St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountain Top on Rt. 309.

Members of the club look forward to seeing you at the first meeting so bring a friend with you! Call Sharon Gorka at 570-868-6598 or John Dopp at 570-535-0990 for any questions about the club. For trip information contact Cathy Medeiros at 570-261-5016 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 10 DISCUSSION AT ST. JUDE

"Open Discussion: Life, Loss and Everything in Between" Students in Grades 9-12 are invited to St. Jude's on **Thursday, February 10** from 6-7 p.m. They will meet in St. Jude school cafeteria to discuss what's going on in the world, in our community and in our lives. All are invited regardless of church affiliation. Pizza will be provided. Any questions contact Tricia at 570-474-6315 ext 228 or email tscanlan@stjc.org.

### FEBRUARY 20 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The St. Jude's Knights of

Columbus will host a pancake breakfast on **February 20** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the St. Jude Elementary School. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and any child under 5 eats for free.

The menu will include pancakes, eggs, sausage and more.

### FEBRUARY 25 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Slocum Township Fire Company will hold its annual Lenten soup sale. Preorders only. Orders are due by **February 25**. Pickup will be at the fire hall March 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. Soups will be served chilled.

New England clam chowder \$8 per quart, creamy potato \$6 per quart and vegetable soup \$6 per quart.

Message them on facebook or call 570-706-5582 or 570-574-5751.

### FEBRUARY 26 & 27

#### KRISPY KREME SALE

There will be a Krispy Kreme donut sale on ebruary 26 and

*See Places To Go, page 12*

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# Mountaintop Pub and Eatery takes over old Shalimar building

By Kevin Carroll  
mt-peaks@timesleader.com

With a blessing and an "Amen," Mountain Top's newest hot spot opened its doors to the public.

The Mountaintop Pub and Eatery held its grand opening last month. Before that owner Dean Kline II welcomed Christ United Methodist Church pastor JP Bohanan to bless the new establishment and its employees ahead of the pub's grand opening.

The new pub opened in the spot of the former Shalimar

Motel and Lounge, a popular area establishment for a number of years.

"The Shalimar was the hot spot around here," said Carrie Kline, Dean's wife. "That's our goal, to keep that same energy and be a place for the community to come together."

The Klines just bought the bar a few months ago, but the Shalimar has been a part of their lives for much longer. In fact, the old bar holds a very special place in the hearts of Carrie and Dean.

"It's where my husband and I fell in love," Carrie said. "We

met at the Evergreen Raceway, but we would come here to dance."

With a small group of employees, friends and family members gathered around the bar, the blessing began with a short prayer and a rendition of "Amazing Grace" before Bohanan passed out wafers and what appeared to be grape juice to everyone to serve Communion.

A final prayer sealed the blessing, and everyone came together for a group photo to



Kevin Carroll | Times Leader

Dean Kline II poses behind the bar of his new business, the Mountaintop Pub and Eatery.

See Pub, page 4

## the BIG GAME

Sunday, February 13

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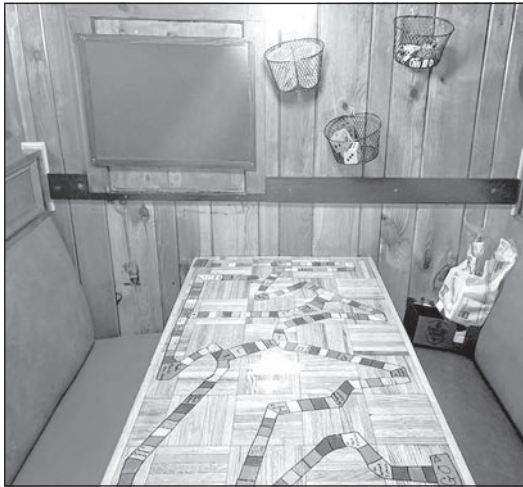
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One of the many unique features at the Mountaintop Pub and Eatery: a family booth featuring toys, a chalkboard and a board game created by Carrie Kline set right into the table.

Kevin Carroll |  
Mountsin Peaks

**Pub ...**

*Continued from page 3*

showcase the Mountaintop Pub and Eatery family.

Among the guests at the blessing was local artist Danny Wall, who will have a number of his pieces showcased inside the pub as the Klins aim to shine a spotlight on local artists and their work.

"I'm excited, I've never really done anything like this before," Wall said. "It's so great, too. There are plenty of great artists around here, they just need a place to display their art."

Also on tap at the Mountaintop Pub: a number of local musicians who will be playing live sets on the weekends.

The pub also features a monthly "round-up" program designed to help give back to the Mountain Top community. Patrons will have an option to round up their bill to the nearest dollar amount. The extra cents will be donated to a designated charity or a cause, with a new cause chosen each month.

For February, the Klins have chosen to feature Crestwood football player Mayson Girton, who recently underwent surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his

leg. The extra funds collected from the pub's round-up program will help Mayson's family with their medical bills.

**Active Adult Center Menu**

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

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

**Week of February 7**

**Monday:** Italian sandwich, focaccia roll, cucumber, tomato, onion salad, grapes

**Tuesday:** Salisbury steak, beets, mashed potatoes, whole

wheat dinner roll, chocolate brownie

**Wednesday:** Honet mustard chicken, broccoli, sweet potatoes, whole wheat dinner roll, vanilla pudding

**Thursday:** Vegetable lasagna, cauliflower & peas, whole wheat dinner roll, fresh apple slices

**Friday:** Baked ham, halushki, whole wheat dinner roll, grapes, graham cracker

**Week of February 14**

**Monday:** BBQ chicken salad, whole wheat dinner roll, fresh

fruit salad

**Tuesday:** Roast turkey with gravy, brussel sprouts, mashed potatoes, bread stuffing, fruit crisp

**Wednesday:** Meatballs, spaghetti with sauce, broccoli, cinnamon peaches

**Thursday:** Crispy fish sandwich, vegetable blend, roasted potat wedges, whole wheat sandwich roll, chocolate pudding.

**Friday:** Cheesesteak hoagie, vegetable soup, side salad, jello, birthday cake.

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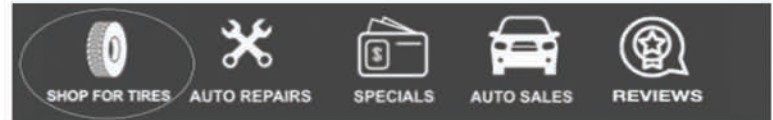
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## Simply Sensational Sweets set to move into new home

Sandi Amandola may not be from the area, but she's found home here. She's been operating Simply Sensational Sweets out of her home, but on February 12, the new store at 427 N. Hunter Highway will have its grand opening.

*Courtesy of Sandi Amandola | Simply Sensational Sweets*



By Ryan Evans  
revans@timesleader.com

Sandi Amandola has worn many hats throughout her life. She's a Navy veteran, she holds a master's degree, she worked as a behavioral therapist for children with autism, and now she's the owner of Simply Sensational Sweets.

She's been running the business out of her home, but at 11 a.m. on February 12, that will change as she opens her new store at 427 N. Hunter Highway in Drums.

It's been quite a journey to say the least.

She started baking, planning and coordinating part-time while she was stationed in Hampton Roads, VA. While many may think taking on a side hustle as an active duty service member might be overwhelming, Sandi just chuckles, "I was at a shore command, so it was basically like a regular nine to five, and then I baked cakes on the side."

In 2010, she was honorably discharged, and began attending college in Texas. Her husband, who was a nuclear elec-

tronics technician, was offered a job at the Berwick power plant while they were living in Houston, so they packed up and headed for Northeastern Pennsylvania, settling in Drums in 2013.

She continued to work in her degree field, however, she says "it got to be a little much." So, she started her event planning business, although that would soon change.

"But in my first year as an event planner, I made more money on the side baking cookies for people," she said. So, she got licensed through the Commonwealth of PA Department of Agriculture and continued on with baking and event planning. The event planning would soon be dropped, and Amandola would be baking full time and amassing what she calls, "a pretty loyal following."

Over the course of the pandemic, things really picked up, to the point where she says she had to start turning people down on custom orders.

"And I was like you know, if we just had a storefront, people

*See Simply, page 7*



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**MEET**  
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## Simply ...

Continued from page 6

could just come in and get what they need instead of having to custom order it and me having to turn them down," and so they started looking. When they found the 427 N. Hunter location, she knew her business had found a new home.

"We went and looked at it and it was everything that we had wanted, so we just kind of jumped on the grenade," she said of the place. Most importantly, it had a second space which she intends on using as a party room, as well as teaching decorating classes and other kinds of communal events.

Amandola has stopped taking custom orders for the time being while she focuses on getting the new store up and running, however, she hopes



that by summertime, she'll be back doing custom work. In the meantime, the store will have a regular inventory.

And in the future? Well, she hopes to continue to build and perhaps open up another store, or a few more somewhere. Whatever the Amandolas choose to do moving forward, you can almost guarantee it will be simply sensational.

## Crestwood Menu

Crestwood School District operates "Offer vs. Serve" meal programs following the guidance of the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs overseen and regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the PA Department of Education.

Due to the recent Covid pandemic, Crestwood School District is providing a reimbursable breakfast and lunch at no charge for all students, regardless of family income. This benefit is set to expire June 30, 2022.

While meals are currently free of charge during the 2021-22 school year, parents/guardians are encouraged to apply for meals benefits. This confidential information is used by both CSD and state agencies to determine funding for a variety of programs. Failure to apply for benefits could disqualify your student/

family from additional benefits that may be available.

In order to qualify for a reimbursable free breakfast or free lunch, students must take all necessary meal components per USDA guidelines.

For lunch, each plate must have at least three components and one component must be a fruit or vegetable to be counted as reimbursable. If the plate does not contain these items, the student will be charged ala carte pricing.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the food service program, contact the Food Service Director at 570-474-6782 ext. 313.

### Elementary Schools and Secondary Campus Week of February 7

**Monday:** BBQ pork rib sandwich or chicken nuggets with roll, curly fries, tossed salad, choice of fruit and milk

**Tuesday:** Nachos grande with beef, cheese, tortilla chips

and roll or cowboy burger on roll, ranch refried bean dip, lettuce and tomato cup, choice of fruit and milk

**Wednesday:** Open-faced turkey sandwich with gravy or hot dog on roll, mashed potatoes, homemade cole slaw, choice of fruit and milk

**Thursday:** Homemade mac and cheese with dinner roll or chicken patty sandwich, stewed tomatoes, cucumber slices, choice of fruit and milk

**Friday:** Stuffed crust pizza or ham and cheese melt on pretzel roll, broccoli and cheese, caesar salad, choice of fruit and milk

### Week of February 14

**Monday:** French toast sticks with breakfast sausage or chicken tenders with roll, tater tots, broccoli salad, 100% fruit juice, choice of milk

**Tuesday:** Italian meatball and cheese hoagie or cheeseburger on roll, steamed green beans, baby carrots, choice of fruit and milk

**Wednesday:** Popcorn chicken mashed potato bowl (Famous Comet Bowl) with dinner roll or hot dog on roll, steamed corn, caesar salad, choice of fruit and milk

**Thursday:** Homemade beef and cheese lasagna with dinner roll or chicken parm sandwich, steamed garden peas, garden salad, choice of fruit and milk

**Friday:** Pepperoni pizza or ham and cheese melt on pretzel roll, steamed carrots, black bean salad, choice of fruit and milk

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## News in Brief ...

### Park Master Plan surveys returned

More than 1,000 people have responded to the Wright Township park master plan survey since it was posted online in December, more than twice the number than members of the township's master plan

committee and its consultant had anticipated.

As of last week, 1,039 completed surveys were submitted. The improvement most people want to see in the park is new restrooms.

The survey was developed with the help of Thomas McLane Associates of Scran-

ton, the firm hired by the township to assist with development of the park master plan. The master plan is funded by a \$19,000 grant from the state Department of Community and Natural Resources (DCNR) under its Community Recreation and Conservation Planning program. There is

a 50 percent township match.

Christopher Madden, a member of the township recreation board and the master plan committee, said the original goal was 500 completed responses.

"The more surveys, the better picture you get of what the community wants (in the park)," Madden said. "This great turnout will help us moving forward," he added.

Initially, Madden noted, most

of the responses were from adults so the committee enlisted the help of the Crestwood School District which sent out the link to students across the district. He said the district's cooperation was a big help in getting responses from young people.

Madden said studies show having a master plan for a public park greatly increases the

*See News in Brief, page 9*

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SAT. 12 p.m.-12 a.m. Kitchen closes at 10 p.m.  
SUN. 9 a.m.-12 a.m. Kitchen closes at 8 p.m.  
Monday Closed



## News in Brief ...

Continued from page 8

chances of obtaining grants for the park. "That's the reason we went after a grant to develop a master plan," he noted.

The surveys are just the first

step in the process. The surveys will be followed up by public meetings.

"The process is heavily weighted on community involvement," Madden noted. That will be followed by interviews with key people in the

community. Madden explained that those are people who may have a specific insight into the needs of the park. They can include school and daycare officials, for example.

"We will take the results of the surveys and interviews and develop a consensus of what the public needs and wants," Madden said. "From that, we will develop a master plan. He said it is anticipated the master plan will be completed in time

for the township to apply for grants during 2022.

Reflecting on the large number of responses which cited a need for better restrooms, Madden said recreation board members have been aware of that need for a couple years. Tied for second on the list of features the public would like to see added or improved are a splash pad and a sledding hill, both with 13 percent of the votes.

The park's splash pad has been out of order most of the last couple summers due to the inability to get parts for it.

What did surprise Madden is the frequency of requests for a sledding hill in the park.

Nine percent of the respondents expressed a need for improvements to the ice/roller hockey rink. Other responses to additions or improvements included addition of mountain bike trails (7 percent); improvements to the multi-purpose fields (7 percent); pickleball courts (6 percent); a skate park (5 percent); outdoor classrooms (5 percent); disc golf (4 percent); and improved/additional parking (4 percent).

Most respondents did not feel there is an issue with handicap accessibility to the park. Asked about how well they feel the park is maintained, 65 percent said "good." Tops among maintenance problems cited by respondents were broken playground equipment (20 percent) and poor landscaping (dead trees and leaf litter) 22

See News in Brief, page 11



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## News in Brief ...

Continued from page 9

percent.

Interestingly, when asked if they would be willing to volunteer to help with park cleanups, children's activities, special events, etc., only 15 percent said they would.

Madden said the survey will be available online through the spring. To take the survey, or view results, go to <http://ow.ly/WT9C50HgPQQ>

## Road construction, stormwater bids advertised

Fairview Township recently advertised for bids for its 2022 road reconstruction and stormwater improvements project.

The work includes re-grading grass and rock-lined swales, piping, inlets and complete restoration of Deerpath Drive between Valley View Drive and Park Lane North; milling and paving of Deerpath Drive between Park Lane North and Park Lane East. It also involves installation of stormwater pipes under existing driveways and rock lines-swales, milling, and paving of Park Lane North; and overlay, saw cutting and milling of existing driveways to blend into new pavement on South Hill Court.

Bids opened on February 1.

Last August, the township received a \$200,000, 2019 Local Share Account (LSA) gaming grant for work on Park Lane North and Deerpath Drive, both of which are badly in need of repair. The township had asked for about \$400,000 for the Park Lane and Deerpath Road work.

See News in Brief, page 12

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## News in Brief ...

Continued from page 11

### Plans for mini-golf course in Wright Township move forward

Plans for the miniature golf course adjacent to Malacari's ice cream moved forward last week.

The Wright Township planning commission approved the project's preliminary land development plan along with five waivers.

The 18-hole miniature golf course previously received waivers from the township planning commission. The commission also approved preliminary land development plans for Rob & Melissa Holdings/Mountain Express Truck-

ing to be located on Route 309 at the site of the former Deets Trucking.

### Bloomin' Bagels gets final ok from Fairview Township

Mountain Top Bloomin' Bagels has cleared the final obstacle it faced to move forward with construction of its new location.

Township supervisors at their February meeting approved the final plans for the Bloomin' Bagels shop. The township planning commission gave its stamp of approval at its January 19 meeting.

JAZD Enterprises plans to build a bagel shop at 123 North Mountain Blvd., opposite 10X

Fitness. The company operates Buddy's Bagels on Route 93 in West Hazleton as well as Bloomin' Bagels in Bloomsburg.

#### In other business:

Township supervisors also awarded a contract to Stell Enterprises for much-needed repairs to Deerpath Drive, Park Lane East and Park Lane North. The Plains Township firm was the low bidder at \$253,103.5.

The work includes re-grading grass and rock-lined swales, piping, inlets and complete restoration of Deerpath Drive between Valley View Drive and Park Lane North; milling and paving of Deerpath Drive between Park Lane North and Park Lane East. It also involves installation of stormwater pipes under exist-

ing driveways and rock lines-swales, milling and paving of Park Lane North; and overlay, saw cutting and milling of existing driveways to blend into new pavement on South Hill Court.

The township plans to use a Local Shares Account grant to fund the project. Last summer it received a \$200,000 LSA grant for improvements to Park Lane North and Deer Path.

Township engineer Dennis Peters along with township officials met recently with state Department of Transportation officials to discuss grant opportunities for repair or replacement of a culvert on Dale Drive at the end of Val-

ley View Drive. The township received a \$120,000 LSA grant for the project.

Township officials estimate the cost of the project at nearly four times the grant amount. PennDOT ordered the bridge closed over almost two years ago year ago following an inspection.

Peters said the township's 2021 MS4 report was accepted by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Peters said DEP's comments on the report will be addressed in the 2022.

Township solicitor Sean Logsdon reported the township received a proposed inter-

See News in Brief, page 18



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## St.Jude School art classes: trash to treasure

The Saint Jude School art classes learned all about making treasure from trash during some of their recent art classes. Students brought in various items from home and worked with a partner to reuse their finds. Items will be on display as part of the schools Catholic Schools Week celebration.

**At right: Noah Prezelski and Addison Potsko use their trash to make a treasure.**

**At right: First grade students Madelyn Powis, Cate Decowski and Elsa Hauze enjoy their building activity during art class.**

**Far right: Sophia Martin and Michael Ogurkis decide what to build during their art class at Saint Jude School.**



## Pizza Bella to host Mayson Girton Day

Jordan Daniel  
For Times Leader

On February 5 Pizza Bella in Mountain Top will host Mayson Girton Day.

Mayson Girton, a student at Crestwood High School, was diagnosed with a rare form of a life-threatening pediatric cancer, myxoid liposarcoma, after suffering an injury at a Berwick JV football game last year.

Girton's injury was initially treated as a shifted patella but after six weeks of therapy his knee pain remained, which caused the doctors to order a MRI. The MRI showed an incidental finding, which was a mass tumor in the most distal part of his femur so more imaging was ordered and finally a biopsy.

After the biopsy came in, the doctors diagnosed Girton on November 11, 2021, with an

extremely rare form of a life-threatening pediatric cancer. He then underwent surgery on January 5 at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to remove the tumor, which was between his main vessels, nerve and near his femur bone, making the surgery more difficult.

Girton's surgical team was able to remove the tumor and repair his gracilis muscle by creating a flap. As of now, Girton is unable to walk without assistance; however, he is in good spirits and is on the mend mentally and physically.

He and his family are awaiting final pathology to determine future treatment, which may be radiation, chemotherapy or a combination of both. Treatment will depend on the margins obtained and the grade of the tumor.

Not only will Mayson Girton Day at Pizza Bella celebrate Girton's birthday early but 100 percent of the proceeds above food costs are going to him and his family to help with medical bills. People are able to participate by eating in, taking out or having their food delivered.

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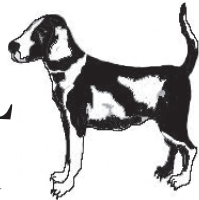
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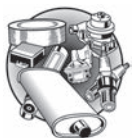


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## Places To Go ... Things To Do ...

Continued from page 12

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### APRIL 23, 25 KIDS FISHING DERBY

The Mountain Top American Legion will host its annual Kids Fishing Derby at the pond located at the American Legion. The Legion will provide prizes for every child, along with food and refreshments to all individuals at no cost. The pond will also be stocked with fish. This year, there will be a second day of fishing for children with disabilities. The Legion is looking for donations to support the event. Donations include: cash/checks to fund purchase of prizes, fish and refreshments; food donations of hot dogs, buns, chips, etc.. Make checks payable to Mt. Post 781 S.A.L. Donations can be dropped off at the post or mailed to: American Legion Mt. Post 781, 1550 Henry Dr., Mt. Top, PA. 18707.

### JULY 9

#### TRAIN EXCURSION

The Rotary Club of Mountain Top is excited to announce the return of its steam train excursion on July 9, 2022. Tickets can be purchased by mailing payment to P.O. Box 244, Mountain Top, PA 18707, or in person at Century 21 Smith Hourigan Group, 69 N. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top. There will be an Event Brite purchase option as well. Tickets are \$70.

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SHREDDED CHICKEN, MILD SAUCE, SHREDDED CHEDDAR  
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## Mt. Top Historical Society presents quilt

The Mountain Top Historical Society recently presented a handmade quilt to the winner of its 2021 quilt raffle. Winner of the quilt was Penny Ditri of Mountain Top.

The quilt was designed and made by Historical Society members Mary McGinnis and Anne Wambold and features 20 churches and two seasonal chapels across Mountain Top. The women traveled across the area taking photographs of the churches. They then printed the photos onto 5 by 7 sections of cloth which were sewn onto the quilt. It is the third quilt the women designed and made as fundraisers for the organization.



Displaying the Mountain Top Historical Society quilt are, from left: Mary McGinnis, Penny Ditri and Anne Wambold.

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# MMI announces 2021-2022 second quarter honor roll

MMI Preparatory School has announced the names of students who achieved Honor Roll status during the second quarter of the 2021-2022 school year and Head of School's List for the Second Semester.

Students are as follows:

**Sixth Grade – Honor Roll and Head of School's List:** Maia Laverty (Mountain Top), Angel Reymunde-Wittmer (Mountain Top), and Xavier Reymunde-Wittmer (Mountain Top).

**Seventh Grade – Honor Roll and Head of School's List:** Caitlyn Carter (Mountain Top), Avari DeAngelo (Mountain Top), Angelina Seeba (Mountain Top), Ruhani Shah (Mountain Top), Amanda Stoffa (White Haven), and Mattingly van den Berg (Mountain Top).

**Eighth Grade – Honor Roll**

**and Head of School's List:** Jozef Dovicak (White Haven), Christopher Laverty (Mountain Top), Cassidy McDermott (White Haven), Sharan Parikh (Mountain Top), and Arushi Solgama (Mountain Top).

**Ninth Grade – Honor Roll and Head of School's List:** Xavier Bleiler (Mountain Top), Aspen Crilley (Mountain Top),

Aubryannah O'Boyle (Mountain Top), Scott O'Boyle (Mountain Top), Kiyam Paknezhad (Mountain Top), and Mia-Lyn van den Berg (Mountain Top).

**10th Grade – Honor Roll and Head of School's List:** Brendon Brobst (Mountain Top), Andrew Burns (White Haven), Ryan Clymer-Sones (White Haven), Kyle Kocon (Mountain Top), Caitlin

Lenahan (Mountain Top), Bobby Orbin (Mountain Top), Kasra Paknezhad (Mountain Top), Connor Strecker (Mountain Top), and Heath Williams (Mountain Top).

**11th Grade – Honor Roll and Head of School's List:** Khristian Banks (Mountain Top), Erica Kline (Mountain Top), Evelyn Lacombe (White Haven), Ty McDermott (White Haven),

Manal Muhammad (Mountain Top), and Lucille van den Berg (Mountain Top).

**12th Grade – Honor Roll and Head of School's List:** Andrew Blasko (Mountain Top), Alex Smith (White Haven), Connor Spencer (Mountain Top), Morgan Strecker (Mountain Top), and Kennedy Tavaris (Mountain Top).

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## Conyngham UMC kicks off first of three movie nights

Inspired by a desire to bring the community together with something fun, the Conyngham United Methodist Church recently opened its doors to the residents of the borough for the first of three scheduled Movie Nights.

“We want to do something nice and uplifting,” said church pastor Graham Truscott. “There’s not a lot going on, our goal is to bring the community together.”

Truscott chose the Disney Pixar movie Up, which he went with for its happy ending and its warm, kind spirit. The movies for the next two movie nights, scheduled for February 5 and 22 at 6 p.m., have yet to be decided but Truscott said that they would share similar themes and vibes with “Up.”



Conyngham United Methodist Church pastor Graham Truscott (left) mans the projector at Saturday's movie night at the church.

## Fairview announces 6th grade honor roll

Kevin Seyer, Principal, has announced the following sixth grade students have achieved Principal's Honors at Fairview Elementary School for the 1st Quarter of the 2021-2022 school year. The Crestwood School District Elementary Honor Roll (6th Grade) reflects that the student has attained an A in all courses offered. Inclusive are English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science.

The students are Brooke Buchanan, Alekzandria Dutko, Molly Franks, Kathryn Kreider, Paityn Lupinski, Michael Lupo, Juliette Prebola, Claire Savner.

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# CVCO looking for used sneakers for charity

The Conyngham Valley Community Organization wants your used sneakers!

Do you have used sneakers at home that no longer serve you or your family members a purpose? Now is your chance to donate those old stinky sneakers for an awesome cause!! CVCO is very excited to announce that they are hosting its annual Sneaker Drive fundraiser with the sneaker recycling organization, *GotSneakers!*

100% of the proceeds will benefit the United Charities Children's Home!!!

There are two ways you can get involved — either by dropping off your used sneakers at the CVCO gym during the designated times or by making a monetary donation. If you are interested in making a monetary donation, then please send an email to [CVCOinfo@gmail.com](mailto:CVCOinfo@gmail.com) for further instructions.

There will be a donation box set up right outside of the CVCO gym on Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. until March 12 for a contactless sneaker drop off. If you have friends or family that participate in the Shooting Stars program, you could give them your shoes to drop off when they go to practice. If Saturday mornings aren't good for you then email them at [CVCOinfo@gmail.com](mailto:CVCOinfo@gmail.com) for some additional days/times you could come by to drop them off.

Please note they are only collecting sneakers, any other types of shoes will not be accepted. Your sneakers do not have to be in a nice condition for you to donate them. They will accept sneakers



with rips, holes, or even ones that are practically falling apart.

## News in Brief ...

*Continued from page 12*

governmental agreement with the Crestwood School District to allow township police to enforce school bus stop violations supported by evidence from a school bus signal arm cameras.

A statute enacted last year gives police the authority to cite motorists for school bus violations based on evidence from the cameras mounted on buses. The agreement will be on the board's March agenda.

Supervisors reported a letter from Dianne Hoppersberger, president of Mountain Top on the Move, requesting permis-

sion to begin the group's July 4 parade on Route 309 in Fairview Township was received. They did not take action on the request. Last month, Wright Township approved the group's application to use roads in its jurisdiction for the parade. The group hopes to begin the parade near the former Chalet Restaurant and proceed south on South Main Road to the Wright Township municipal building.

Police Chief Dennis Monk reported the township's new police vehicle has arrived at Kovatch Ford and should be in

service within a few weeks.

David Hourigan, president of Mountain Top Hose Co. No. 1 told supervisors the department recently conducted a three-session class for fire police from throughout the Mountain Top area. New members of the Fairview Township Fire Police are Dave Smith, Doug Guignet, Ray Loucks, Jerry Baynas and Dan Titus.

Supervisors voted to hire Roseanne Pinto for cleaning services at the municipal building every other week at \$125 per visit.



## Crestwood Varsity Youth Baseball Camp

Hitting, Fielding, Pitching and Catcher Drills

Join the Crestwood Varsity Baseball Coaches and Players for a fun, instructional 2-Day Camp held at the Crestwood Middle School Gym Sponsored by the Crestwood Baseball Booster Club!!



Event Session 1: Feb 13th  
Event Session 2: Feb 20th  
Times 2pm-4pm both sessions  
Eligibility: Ages 7-12 (boys & girls)  
Where: Crestwood High School  
Camp Fee: \$60 for both sessions  
Checks payable to "Crestwood Baseball Booster Club"  
Via Paypal: Crestwood Baseball Booster Club  
Via Venmo: @Crestwood Baseball Booster Club

Deadline: registration and payments due by February 10, 2022  
Drop payment checks @ 43 Waterman Drive  
Email: [cbbccomets@gmail.com](mailto:cbbccomets@gmail.com)  
Text: 570-262-3599

All participants should dress in athletic clothing and sneakers, bring personal gear. Waivers need to be completed to participate. If participating in the catching stations the players should bring their catcher's gear.  
Bottled water or Gatorade is suggested. No spectators allowed.

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## Comets ...

Continued from page 1

remaining unbeaten against District 2 competition. In the 25 times he has won on the mat (along with four forfeits),

he has produced bonus points for the team 23 times with either pins, technical falls or major decisions. Along the way, Bibla produced a Wyoming Valley Conference Tournament championship.

The hosts earned plenty of

bonus points while ending seven bouts in the first period – six by pin and one by technical fall.

The district loss represents the end of team competition for some teams, but Crestwood still had two Wyoming Valley Conference Division 1 matches to complete.

The Comets are 1-3 in the division with matches remaining against Berwick and Tunkhannock. The loss at Abington Heights dropped the team to 7-11 overall.

Crestwood reached the district tournament by winning its previous two matches and going 4-2 from mid-January on after starting 3-8.

Lincoln Bibla, Chris Smolenak, Nicolas Webb and Santino Casarella all have at least 15 wins and winning records for a team that does not have a senior on its roster.

Abington Heights 62, Crestwood 7


106: Luke Sirianni (AH) pinned Nicholas Webb 0:56; 113: Sam Jeckell (CRE) dec. Brady Kereha 1-0; 120: Mark Lynott (AH) dec. Jack Andrews 4-0; 126: Luke Evans (AH) won by forfeit; 132: Sam Stevens (AH) pinned Santino Casarella 1:19; 138: Brian Heard (AH) tech. fall Ethan Zabroski 16-0; 145: Austin Smith (AH) pinned James Barret 1:38; 152: Anthony Curra (AH) won by forfeit; 160: Sal Schiavone (AH) pinned Logan Jasnoski 1:29; 172: Hutch Lynott (AH) pinned Logan Rolles 1:08; 189: Caleb Marzolino (AH) pinned Lincoln Bibla 0:57; 215: Magnus Bibla (CRE) maj. dec. Tomas Delosrios 12-2; 285: John Gorrick (AH) pinned Aiden Jardine 0:37.

Crestwood 39, Wilkes-Barre Area 33

106: Nicholas Webb (Cre) for-

fiet. 113: Sam Jeckell (Cre) forfeit. 120: Jack Andrews (Cre) forfeit. 126: Isaiah Parker (WBA) forfeit. 132: Santino Casarella (Cre) dec. Aidan Fitzgibbon, 7-3. 138: Lucas Macking (WBA) dec. Ethan Zabroski, 11-5. 145: Keenan Fernandez (WBA) pin James Barret, :58. 152: Nathalie Olarte (WBA) forfeit. 160: Logan Jasnoski (Cre) forfeit. 172: Jayden Pahler (WBA) pin Logan Rolles, 3:29. 189: Lincoln Bibla (Cre) forfeit. 215: Magnus Bibla (Cre) pin Rex Hrabal, :26. 285: Matthew Faust (WBA) pin Chris Smolenak, 42.

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**Kris Toronzi**  
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## Worship Together ...

**Editor's Note: If you have any questions about worship times or church activities, please contact the church. Things change quickly due to Covid-19. We try to publish accurate information but things may change between publications.**

### CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Services: Sunday 9 & 10:45 a.m.**

**JP Bohanan, Pastor**

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

Sunday worship is held at 9 & 10:45 a.m. online and in-person. Masks required indoors.

Visit the church's Facebook page: Christ on the Mountain Top or its website: christonthemountaintop.org.

### CONYNGHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

**Graham Truscott, Pastor**

**411 Main Street, Conyngham  
570-788-3960**

Join them for worship on Sundays online on Facebook and in person at 10:30 a.m.

Due to a sharp rise with the Delta variant cases of Covid 19 in the area the church is asking everybody to wear masks in church. Also please practice social distancing where possible. Following CDC guidelines wearing masks also applies to people who have been vaccinated.

Kids and Youth Sunday school at 9 a.m.

There are several programs, ministries, and groups geared towards adults that allow anybody of any age to faithfully participate in the life of the church and to grow in their faith.

Adult Sunday school classes meet every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the social hall. In these classes they dig deep into the Bible. Adult Sunday School classes focus on interpreting Biblical Scripture, understanding historical features of the Scripture, and providing a meaningful message for use in the world today.

There will be a winter family movie night in the sanctuary, showing family friendly films that are fun for all ages.

These movie nights will be Saturday, February 5, and Saturday, February 19, all at 6 p.m.

### EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

**Louis Aita, Pastor**

**7768 Blue Ridge Trail, Dorrance  
570-868-5675**

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

You may drop off bags of aluminum cans in the crates provided for them at the back of the church's lower parking lot and they will get rid of them for you. They collect aluminum

cans to raise money to benefit struggling families in our community. Your contributions help needy families in our area.

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

### 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**

Masks in church are no longer required if you have been fully vaccinated, but they strongly urge everyone to wear a mask for your own protection. Also, those who receive Holy Communion on the tongue are asked to come up at the end of the Communion line. Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms should not enter the church. You are also asked to sanitize your hands as you enter and leave the church.

Bingo at Good Shepherd Church on Tuesdays is back. The kitchen opens at 5 p.m. and the Early Bird game begins at 6 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, call the parish office.

The next joint parish Baptismal Preparation class will be

held at Good Shepherd Parish on Wednesday, January 26, at 6 p.m. in the St. Joseph Room. Enter through the library door (white storm door) located at the ramp entrance to the church. Call the parish office at 570-788-3141 to register. This class is mandatory for all parents who wish to have their child baptized.

The Queen of Our Hearts Rosary Group invites you to pray the rosary in church on Saturdays from 5 to 5:45 p.m. They will pray the rosary, the Infant of Prague Novena, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

### 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 holds Sunday services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. for one hour along

with KidsTown Children's Ministries. During both services, teens are invited to a special youth service after joining the adults in the sanctuary for worship.

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

MFC's Wednesday Small Groups are meeting in person again! Men and women are invited to attend the Men's Small Group and Ladies Small Group; both meet at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Starting Point Youth for students in grades 7-12 meets in the Youth Room from 6:30-8 p.m., Ground Zero56 for students in 5th and 6th grade will meet from 6:30-8 p.m. in the sanctuary and

*See Worship, page 24*

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## Worship Together ...

*Continued from page 20*

the Royal Rangers and Girls Ministry programs for children 4 years old through 4th grade will meet from 6:30-8. Registration forms and payment required for Royal Rangers and Girls Ministries. Please contact the church office if interested. No registration is necessary for Ground Zero or Starting Point Youth.

Young adults out of high school are invited to get together for a time of fellowship, prayer, Bible study and fun! Canvas, a small group for Young Adults meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. at various locations. Contact the church office for more information and to see where they will be meeting this week.

During Sunday morning services and Wednesday programs face masks are strongly recommended for children and leaders to help keep the students safe as well as for those who may have a compromised immune system or are at risk in any way.

Please contact the church office at 570-474-0900 if you would like more information.

**MOUNTAINVIEW  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Service: Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Brook Selby, Pastor  
5126 N. Lehigh Gorge Dr.,  
White Haven  
570-580-0808

There are a wide variety of small groups available to join in person, via conference call

or on Zoom.

Together Family Ministries: Anchor Your Family To Christ. On the 2nd Sunday of the month they will meet for 15 minutes after the service for Together Family Prayer. They will gather together and pray with their children.

On the 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m., they will have Together Family Mornings. They will have juice, snacks and family teaching with practical and meaningful application. Let's give our family the wisdom to stand firm in the face of whatever the world throws at you. This is for the whole family, kids and parents. This is not a dropoff program..

For more information, please

*See Worship, page 22*

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**Worship Together ...**

Continued from page 21

contact Pastor Brook 570-580-0808.

**MT. ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Services: Sunday 9 a.m.  
Pastor: Rev. Fran Fink  
Lily Lake Road, Slocum

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

Rev. Fran Fink will lead the worship service on Super Bowl Sunday, February 6. The church will again participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. They are asking everyone to bring in five food items that will be blessed and distributed to needy families in the community.

On February 13, Bill Bowden will lead the worship service.

For more information about church services 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

Join Stairville United Methodist Church for spiritual yoga on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. Weather permitting, the class is outdoors but there is room to move inside if needed.

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## Worship Together ...

### Continued from page 22

Bring your own yoga mat. A donation basket will be available and donations are given to the church. The class lasts 1 hour, all levels welcome.

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 Her-ring at 570-868-6478.

Pastor Scott can be reached by phone, text, or email at: 570-200-5388, email: 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 join them for in person worship services. You can also join via Facebook Live on the NLCC homepage. Come grow with them as they study God's Word on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in person or via Zoom. Please contact Pastor John for the link.

The 10:30 service includes kinder church for ages 4-6 years and junior church for 7-12 year olds.

Everyone is welcome to their coffee house and movie on Friday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. at a cost of only \$3, and a dessert to share.

For additional information, visit the church's website at [nlccmountain-top.com](http://nlccmountain-top.com).

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOUNTAIN TOP

Services: Sunday 11 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Interim Pastor: Neil Partington  
9 Chestnut Street, Mountain Top  
570-474-9951

You are invited to join in worship on Sunday, February 6. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. Masks are optional. There is a sanitizing station available in the narthex. If you have been ill during the 2 weeks prior to any service, you are asked to stay home and join in on Facebook. They will continue to make the service available live on Facebook and for replay. Please continue to mail in your tithes.

The Fireside Chat Bible study has resumed Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Please note the following numbers: Zoom Link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83505317603>. Meeting I.D. 83505317603, Zoom Phone: 267-831-0333.

Information will soon be available to sign up for small groups. There will be many time options available as the church joins in studying *Purpose Driven Life* in an 8-week study starting the end of February.

On February 27 there will be a potluck after worship. Bring a dish or dessert to share and fellowship with the church family. All are invited with or without a covered dish.

How you can get involved:

Join the Sunday School class or Zoom Bible study. Volunteer to serve on a board.

The Deacons are requesting the college addresses of any members or friends of the church who are away at school.

The church is collecting diapers and sanitary products for Brandon's Forever Home. For more information see Elder Nancy Badal.

If you have any questions about the church or its ministries call 570-474-9951, email at [pbychmt@verizon.net](mailto:pbychmt@verizon.net) or find them on Facebook: Presbyterian Church of Mountain-top 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 doors are open for worship services on Sunday mornings. Services are also live on Facebook every Sunday morning, you can tune in by opening Facebook and typing St. James Lutheran Church, Hobbie, in the search line.

**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

Please be aware that anyone who is not fully vaccinated against Covid 19 is strongly encouraged to still wear a face mask. If you are experiencing Covid 19 symptoms, please do not enter the church. Call the Parish Office, 570-474-6315 if you have any questions.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Monday evenings from 5:30-7 p.m. in the St. Jude Adoration Chapel.

The youth group is making Valentine goodie bags for the kids at Brandon's Forever Home. They are in need of candy, stickers, etc. to fill the bags. There will be a basket in the narthex to drop off any donations by Sunday, February 6.

Parish wide adult faith formation *What Does It Mean to Believe?* Following Bishop Barron's *The Creed*. Come together to learn, study and reflect on our faith. Please join them on February 15 in St. Jude Church at 6:30 p.m.

Regular office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Closed for lunch 12-12:30 p.m.) Questions, call the office, 570-474-6315, ext. 221.

**ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Services: Sunday 10 a.m.  
3085 Church Road, Mountain Top  
570-868-5358

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## Worship Together ...

Continued from page 23

copal church, incorporating the best of both Catholic and Protestant traditions. As an inclusive church, St. Martin's recognizes divorce and the remarriage of divorced people, male and female clergy, single or married, LGBTQ equality, and a Eucharist open to all baptized persons, regardless of their faith background.

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form unjust structures in society; and, challenging violence of every kind. The charitable work they do individually, and collectively as a congregation reflects their commitment to these increasingly crucial needs in our area.

For more information on St. Martin's services and upcoming events, visit smartintimeless.org or call 570-868-5358.

### 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

Saint Mary's has confession on Saturdays from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

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 info.

Calling all students in fourth grade and older. Altar Server classes will be starting soon. Trained servers may begin serving again. Call the office for information.

Saint Theresa's Guild's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8, at 7 p.m., in the social hall. This is a very important meeting. They will be discussing and making final decisions on the Valentine Luncheon.

Parish office is open Monday and Wednesdays 9 a.m.-1

See *Worship*, page 26



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The goals of the **Active Adult Centers** are to help older adults in Luzerne-Wyoming Counties to remain healthy, active, independent and contributing members of the community as long as possible. **Active Adult Centers** represent an important entry point into the Aging network and into the continuum of long-term care. **Active Adult Centers** are often the first support service sought by an older individual, his/her family or friends. By providing health and wellness services, the role of the **Active Adult Center** is to reverse or delay the need for more intensive services.

**Active Adult Centers** serve as a place for socialization, hot, nutritional lunches, recreation, cultural arts, and health and wellness programs for persons over the age of 60 and of all income levels to help them remain independent and contributing members of the community. Centers are a source of information and referral to available services for older adults.



If you would like to get active, call your local Area Agency on Aging today

Call us at 1-800-252-1512

# Worship Together ...

Continued from page 24

p.m. Molly will be at St. Jude office Tuesdays and Thursdays. Calls will be forwarded on those days.

## ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Services: Saturday 5 p.m.

Sunday: 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Peter O'Rourke,  
Sacramental Minister  
411 Allegheny St., White Haven  
570-443-9944

St. Patrick's Church welcomes all to visit and worship with them. Contact the parish office if you would like to become a member of the parish. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

The Diocese of Scranton strongly recommends that all parishioners and visitors wear a mask while attending Mass, regardless of vaccination status. With the high increase of Covid-19 infections, they have a responsibility to protect their own health and the health of their neighbors.

Confession schedule: Saturday, 4 to 4:45 p.m.; Sunday, 9 to 9:45 a.m. You may also schedule an appointment.

February Bingo is cancelled.

St. Patrick choir is looking for new members. Adults and children in grades 3 and up are invited to join. Practices are on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7 p.m.

Lectors are needed for both masses. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in back of the church or you can call the office at 570-443-9944.

ST. PAUL'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Services: Sunday 9 & 11 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Rev. Michelle Kaufman, Pastor  
316 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top  
570-474-6616

Office hours will be Monday-Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., closed Thursdays. As always, you can call the church office and leave a message for any inquiries.

Through another Thrivent grant, they would like to donate once again to Michalene's Mission. They provide food, clothing, and services to the local homeless population, many of whom struggle with drugs and alcohol. At this time, they could use socks, one or two man tents, and personal sanitary wipes. There is a bin in the narthex to place your items in.

They invite you all to consider joining them on Thursday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. in the Parish Hall for Bible Study! They are currently studying National Geographic's 'Atlas of the Bible: Exploring the Holy Lands.

The Food Bank continues to distribute food to clients every Friday. Drop off donations at the church on Fridays 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9 a.m.

Sunday School: 10 a.m.

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

Sunday morning worship service is at 9 a.m.

The church is using Zoom so you will still be able to attend services. It is held on Sundays at 10 a.m. If you are not able to join a computer, phone or ipad, you can call into the worship service.

The number is 1-646-876-9923. Press the # sign after the prompt. The meeting room ID again is 557 531 789 and the password is 470085.

## ST. PAUL'S DRUMS

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School: 8 a.m.

Todd Glasmire, Pastor  
335 W. Butler Drive, Drums  
570-788-3051

Pastor Todd and the congregation invite you to worship with them every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., and for Bible Study every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m.

They are an active, praying congregation with great plans for after the pandemic. They have a great family of people but have plenty of room to grow.

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WHITE HAVEN

Services: Sunday 11 a.m.

Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

Bill Lester, Leader

305 Berwick Street, White Haven  
570-443-7293

The congregation invites all to come and worship the Lord. If you are looking for a church home, they welcome you.

to come and worship with them every Sunday.

Al-Anon meets every Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. and Fireflies Youth Group meets Fridays from 6-8 p.m.

For more info on their group, check them out on Facebook at Fireflies Youth Ministry.

Sunday School is provided from September-June to children ages 4-12 during worship service, after the Children's Moment. It takes place in the

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## Mountain Top Profile

# Physical therapist: Don't let Covid keep you from therapy

By Ryan Evans  
mt-peaks@timesleader.com

For one Mountain Top resident, taking care of yourself throughout Covid-19 is important to longevity, wellness and mental and physical health.

Kevin Barno, MPT, is a physical therapist and owner of Pinnacle Rehabilitation Associates with offices in Kingston, Pittston and Avoca. Over the course of the ongoing pandemic, he says a large number of referred patients have not scheduled their appointments, citing Covid-19 fears as a reason. While he understands the apprehension many may have, he encourages people to follow through with their physical therapy.

Telehealth, of course, is a newer option, however, it's just not the same, particularly in Barno's field. He says he "couldn't

justify" charging patients their \$40 co-pay for treatment via telehealth, as he is not able to provide the "hands on" manual therapy that is necessary for patients with particular issues.

As an example, he illustrated treating a patient with balance problems. "If somebody has a balance problem, you've got to challenge them but you also have to be there to guard them and keep them safe while they work through it." He also mentions that if manual therapy is not incorporated to achieve proper range of motion, certain exercises may cause an increase in symptoms and cause a person to be further from wellness.

"Yes, I can give somebody some exercises. But at the same time, there is manual one-on-one therapy that needs to be included in treatment or the patient is just not going to get better." He also remarks that



Ryan Evans | Times Leader

**Kevin Barno, owner of Pinnacle Rehabilitation Associates, says it's important for folks to continue with their rehabilitation and shouldn't let fears of sickness hinder them from making progress.**

people who choose not to come to therapy — especially those who have been prescribed physical therapy by their doctor — can make things worse simply by staying home and being less active. "People who already have range of motion problems and weakness who don't attend their prescribed physical therapy could potentially have a fall or fracture which can result in an extended hospital stay." This runs the risk of being around even more people than they would encounter by simply attending outpatient physical therapy.

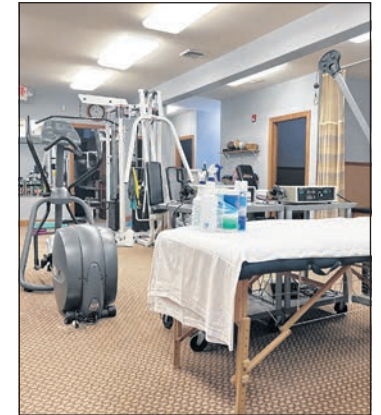
"Pinnacle Rehab follows all the protocols. We are required to be vaccinated as per Medicare. We are masking in the office and patients are required to wear masks — any patient — even if they're vaccinated. We also clean all the treatment tables

and equipment after use. We have the space to keep patients socially distanced and schedule in such a way that there are not too many people there at once."

These practices, he says, have always been standard at Pinnacle Rehabilitation, and the safety of all involved is paramount.

"We want to make it a safe atmosphere not only for patients, but for my staff as well. I don't want my staff to get sick. We want it to be safe for everybody, and I think we're doing our best to do that. We're probably exceeding what maybe needs to be done sometimes."

He encourages those who might be on the fence to call the office and speak to Shannon, the office manager, about cleanliness and protocols or just stop down and see for themselves. Pinnacle Rehab, Barno



**With the amount of cleaning and disinfecting that takes place, Barno says he may have to have some beds reupholstered, however he notes that it's worth it to keep his staff and patients safe.**

says, is a "family atmosphere", and all are welcome. And while there are a litany of physical therapy centers to choose from, Barno hopes anyone in need of therapy will seek treatment for whatever is ailing them.

"Six weeks of physical therapy is much better than an injury getting worse."

And, some time out of the house and off the couch is good for everyone.

Barno has been in practice for 25 years, holding degrees from Wilkes University and Temple University. He went into private practice about 15 years ago and Pinnacle Rehab has three locations: 520 Third Avenue in Kingston, 201 S Main Street in Pittston, and 650 Main Street in Avoca. Parking and evening appointments are available at all locations. To make an appointment or ask questions, you can visit [pinnacle-rehabilitation.net](http://pinnacle-rehabilitation.net) and find phone numbers for the office that is most convenient to you.

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For more information, contact Edward Walkowiak at [edwack3@msn.com](mailto:edwack3@msn.com).

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*A Flicker In The Dark:* Stacy Willingham, donated by Donald Perry in memory of Lisa Perry Annual Fund Drive 2021

*Olga Dies Dreaming:* Xochitl Gonzalez

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*Reckless Girls:* Rachel Hawkins

*The School For Good Mothers:* Jessamine Chan

*The Paris Bookseller:* Kerri Maher, donated by Peggy & David Rediker in memory of Lloyd Ralston Annual Fund Drive 2021

*One Step Too Far:* Lisa Gardner, donated by Elaine Schock Annual Fund Drive 2021

*The Good Son:* Jacquelyn Mitchard

*Violeta:* Isabel Allende, donated by the Mountaintop Eagle in honor of Lara Grubert Dicus Annual Fund Drive 2021

*Quicksilver:* Dean Koontz, donated by Barbara Duda in memory of John Swandick Annual Fund Drive 2021

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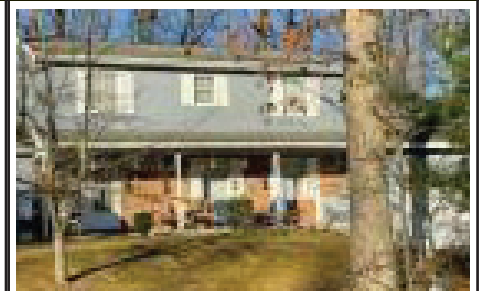
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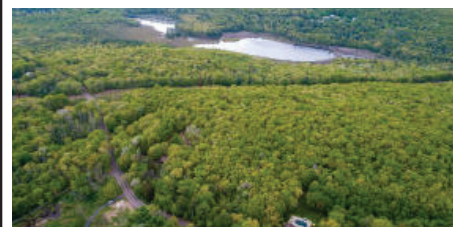
**MOUNTAINTOP** - Beautiful 4BR 2.5 BA 2 story on corner lot. Mod kit, DR w/frpl. Full basement can easily be finished. Home has tons of storage. Beautiful apple & pear trees! Shed in backyard. MLS# 22-0010

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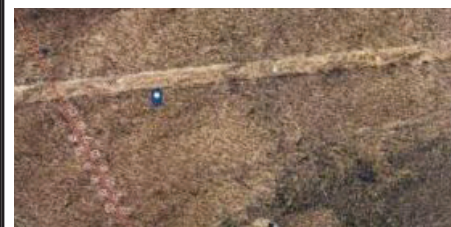
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**ANTONIO 570-262-7652 \$100,000**



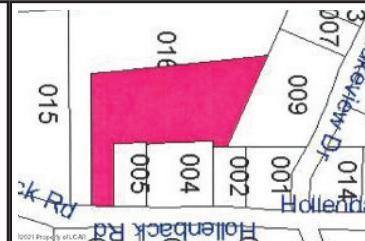
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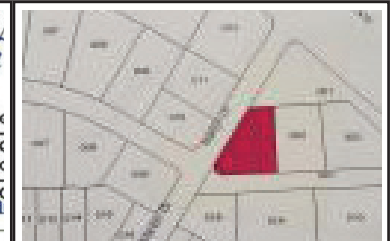
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