

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Editorial | Page 2 |
| Archives | Pages 2 & 3 |
| Public Notices | Page 3 |
| Penn Lake | Page 3 |
| Veterans Corner | Page 4 |
| Weatherly Area School Board | Page 5 |
| White Haven This Week | Page 6 |
| Weatherly This Week | Page 7 |
| Coming Events | Page 10 |
| Seth's Sightings | Page 11 |
| Classifieds | Pages 12-13 |
| Puzzles | Page 13 |
| Puzzle Answers | Page 15 |
| Journal Sports | Pages 14-16 |

THE JOURNAL-HERALD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016 • Volume 35 – No. 30

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CONTINUING: *THE WHITE HAVEN JOURNAL*
ESTABLISHED 1879–137th YEAR, NO. 12

CONTINUING: *THE WEATHERLY HERALD*
ESTABLISHED 1880–136th YEAR, NO. 38

Heritage Hill residents wed after falling in “love at first sight”



Mr. and Mrs. George Bolinsky were wed at Heritage Hill on February 13. Pennsylvania State Senator Mario Scavello officiated.

Story and photos by Stephanie Grega

Betty Lamb, 84, and George Bolinsky, 89, who met three months ago at Heritage Hill Senior Community in Weatherly, were married on the afternoon of February 13. Anxiously waiting for the ceremony to begin, the bride, dressed in a stunning white wedding gown with a lovely bouquet of flowers in hand, shared her feelings about her big day and the love of her life.

“When I met George, it was love at first sight and it was very exciting. Loving George is like being in Heaven. I love everything about him, and he just makes me melt...I know I’ll be happy for the rest of my life with him,” said Betty. When asked how she felt on her wedding day, she replied, “I’m happy as a spring chicken. I feel wonderful today, like a Queen!”

Betty moved to Heritage Hill in March, coming from Alburdis in the Lehigh Valley, and

met George when he moved to the community in October. George lived in Arrowhead Lakes in the Poconos for many years, and then spent time in Florida.

Betty has a very active social life, is always out and about, and enjoys spending time with friends. She introduced George to activities and events, and they were always seen walking around the community together.

The couple agree it was love at first sight, and have

been inseparable since they met. After a 3-month courtship, the lovebirds went to a local jeweler to pick out Betty’s engagement ring. George proposed right in the store.

Both were married before. Betty has two children, a daughter and a son who walked her down the aisle at the ceremony. George has no children.

“Betty and George are like your first true love—sweet, adoring; they have become one in the same. They truly enjoy each other’s companionship...Watching this unfold before our eyes has been an absolute joy,” said Heritage Hill Executive Director Denise Langman.

The couple’s family and friends gathered to watch the heartwarming wedding ceremony. Betty chose to decorate the room and wedding cake in her theme of cream and

sage colors, with white rose accents. Pennsylvania State Senator Mario Scavello officiated. After the ceremony, a reception with dancing, hors d’oeuvres, and champagne was held to celebrate the union.



Heritage Hill Resident Philomena Kuchar, 97, caught the bouquet at the wedding reception.

Police ride-along okayed in White Haven

by Ruth Isenberg

White Haven Police Department can now host a college student studying criminal justice, following action to approve a ride-along program during the January 25 council meeting. The student will sign a release, and spend 150 hours with the police department, according to Chief Tom Szoke, but will not be permit-

ted to go on calls. Borough insurance coverage will apply. The borough already has an applicant.

Bids for the roof at the municipal building and for Hemlock Street Park are being prepared, to be opened at the February meeting.

Please turn to page 3



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Editorial

Looking forward to 2016

by Seth Isenberg

It looks like 2016 is going to be a year of opportunity for our area. Changes that started in 2015 are gaining momentum in these cold winter months. Our welcome mat should be out; and our White Haven and Weatherly warmth should be ready as new people present themselves as business people and as new neighbors.

These last two weeks our front page has featured some of that change. There's much more in the pipeline. The downtowns of both White Haven and Weatherly should enjoy fresh infusions of entrepreneurs. We need to get ready to support them.

As a side note, if you would like to add your new business to White Haven or Weatherly, contact the borough offices where staff is there to help. Also contact us here at *The Journal-Herald* to get the word out.

If all of what I hear is out there in the works for this year comes to pass, our area will see significant progress that will benefit us all.

Weatherly council rescheduled

Due to the chance of bad weather, the Weatherly Borough Council meeting for Monday, February 15 was postponed.

The meeting has been rescheduled for today, Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m. at the borough building conference room.

L&L selling soup & potato cakes

L&L Rural Volunteer Fire Company will be selling potato cakes along with cream of potato and vegetable bean soup on Friday, March 4 from noon to 6 p.m.

Potato cakes are \$1 each and soups are \$6 per quart.

To order, call Teresa at 570-427-4317. The deadline to place an order is Monday, February 29.

From the Archives

31 years ago in

The Journal-Herald

The Weatherly, East Side and Beaver Meadows boroughs' Magistrate's position was filled by appointment by Paul John Hadzick of Weatherly. Hadzick was the District Justice until being narrowly defeated by Andrew Moisey in 1981. Moisey retired in June of 1984, leaving the office vacant. The state and county then considered eliminating it. After hearings before Carbon County Judge John P. Lavelle, with the townships (Banks, Packer, Lehigh and Lausanne) and boroughs objecting to being consolidated because of the long distances to the next Magistrate's office, the district was kept, but covered only part-time. Hazdzick was nominated by Governor Dick Thornburgh and confirmed in a vote by the PA Senate in November. Hadzick's term is until January of 1986. He announced he would be candidate for the full six-year term in this year's election.

Signs designating approaches to the White Haven Business District are still being considered. Some prices have been obtained, but additional ones are being sought. The committee will hold off on ordering signs until a suitable slogan and logo have been chosen. To that end, it was decided to hold a contest. A \$50 prize will be awarded to the contestant who supplies the best slogan, and another \$50 prize will go to the one who designs the best logo.

Jay E. Holder is White Haven's new Mayor, sworn in on February 18. Holder, a Republican, will serve in the \$1 a year position until the end of

the year. Holder and his wife, the former Clara R. Hamm of Weatherly, have been the publishers of *The Journal*, now *The Journal-Herald*.

John Kudlick was appointed to the position of principal at Weatherly Area Elementary School by the W.A. School Board, effective February 14.

Dennison Township will see that the Fire House building will be completed. The supervisors signed documents to get the Little Nescopeck Creek project at Glen Oaks. The work includes removal of channel deposits, construction of an embankment and installing 24" thick rock protection from a private bridge downstream for approximately 125 feet.

The brand new movie theater in The Galleria at Split Rock features *STARMAN* starring Jeff Bridges as its first-ever movie in its 250-seat hall with complete concession service.

The White Haven Little League is in grave danger of losing its charter. Little League rules require a minimum of four teams with twelve players per team. The over 30 years-old league may be forced to reduce to two teams and merge with another league in another town.

The Kidder Township Fire Co. #1 will host a Pool Tournament on February 23 featuring their "famous" homemade pizza.

McDonald's at the Turnpike presents The White Haven Basketball Classic February 28 through March 3 at the Keystone Gym at the White

Haven Center. Six local teams plus a travel team from Hastings, NY.

Candy Jeffries' Hair Fashions has opened a salon in the Split Rock Hotel Galleria with new hair stylists Charlene and Angel to give you that special look.

Peggy's Bridal Shop in Leighton is offering one of a style to a school gowns starting at \$49.

From *The Weatherly Herald* February 18, 1965

Daniel H. Switch, president of the Rotary Club of Weatherly, announced that next week, the club will celebrate 60 years of the founding of Rotary. There will be a joint meeting and dinner with the Leighton, Jim Thorpe, Nesquehoning and Lansford clubs on Feb. 23 in Leighton.

The Weatherly Lions Club will sponsor a benefit on Feb. 26 at the High School Gym, with dancing to the music of Elwood Faux and his eight piece orchestra. Proceeds will go toward the High School Band Uniform Fund. Student tickets are 50¢ and adults \$1.

From *The Journal-Herald* February 16, 2012

St. Paul's Lutheran Church will host its Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper on Feb. 21 in the Parish Hall in White Haven.

The Freeland Police Association will host an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Freeland VFW. The association raised \$5,000 in the last year and a half through donations and fundraisers.

Please turn to page 3

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Letters Testamentary in the Estate of John Lesho, late of the Borough of Freeland, Pennsylvania (died November 19, 2015), have been granted to Leeann O. Wagner, Executrix. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make payments and those having claims to present the same without delay to:

George R. Hludzik, Esquire
67 West Butler Drive
Drums, Pennsylvania, 18222

2/25

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Letters Testamentary have been granted to Kimberly A. Miller, Executrix in the Estate of John T. Skuba, late of Wright Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who died on January 9, 2016. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make payment and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to Kimberly A. Miller, Executrix, c/o Stephen B. Killian, Esquire, 575 Pierce Street, Suite, 303, Kingston, Pennsylvania, 18704.

STEPHEN B. KILLIAN,
ESQUIRE

575 Pierce Street, Suite 303
Kingston, PA 18704
(570) 718-1200

2/25

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Registration of Fictitious Name was filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on January 8, 2016 for:

STEWART'S DRIVE IN

located at 127 West Chestnut Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania 18201.

The name and address of the owner of the business is T & L Foods, Inc., 127 West Chestnut Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania 18201.

This was filed in accordance with 54 Pa.C.S.A. §311.

CONRAD A. FALVELLO,
ESQUIRE

Supreme Court ID No.: 19339
FALVELLO LAW FIRM, P.C.
314 Main Street, Suite A
Sugarloaf, PA 18249
570-788-4191

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Certificate of Organization was filed with the Department of State, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and approved effective January 1, 2016. The name of the Limited Liability Company is **Stanley Lobitz, M.D., LLC.**

This entity has been organized pursuant to the provisions of the Pennsylvania Limited Liability Company Law of 1994.

James V. Senape, Jr., Esquire
Catherine A. McGovern,
Esquire

Michael B. Senape, Esquire
SENAPE & ASSOCIATES
612-614 Main Street
P.O. Box 179
Freeland PA 18224-0179
570-636-3133
senapelaw.com

Archives...

Continued from page 2

Jim Dulcey and his son Matt presented pieces of Packer Township history to the township supervisors. The Dulceys rescued these items from the old Packer Township Schoolhouse during its demolition. On the front page is a photo of the 6' wide, 4+ tall world map from 1825 that hung at one time in the school.

Swimmers Matthew Cullen and Alan Sirkot both brought home gold medals in their events at the Schuylkill League Swimming Championships last Saturday.

The Weatherly Herald February 1915

The Patriotic Order of the Sons of America "Octette, together with their best girls, enjoyed a banquet at Hinkle's Hotel in West Packer, Friday night." The editor joked that with such a good meal, "Leader Rinker could get very little music out of the boys after that supper."

Do you have an old picture to share with our readers? We can scan your photo while you wait, and publish it in an upcoming Archives. We're also interested in your historical documents and other memorabilia.

Johnson resigns from Penn Lake council

by Seth Isenberg

Penn Lake borough council met on a cold night on February 11, and they were short two members. Richard Campbell was absent, and Robert Johnson submitted his letter of resignation. Members

Paul Rogan, Shaun Kuter and Vince Kimsal voted to accept Johnson's letter with regret, and will seek names to fill the opening. Prepare a letter of interest, then contact a council member or secretary Margo Beckerman to apply.

If the position remains unfilled after 30 days, then it will be the task of the Vacancy Board to seek someone for the job.

Penn Lake's Emergency Management coordinator Wayne Gower attended the

meeting. He had contacted Mayor Deb Kryszicki about the borough signing up with all of Luzerne County into the "Swift" mass notification alert system. Due to a PEMA grant, the sign-up is free for the borough. The system uses text, voice and e-mail to contact people who have signed up with information about weather and general emergencies. White Haven Borough has already signed up. Dennison Township has not. Contacts for the system will be Gower, and White Haven Police Chief Tom Szoke.

A question was asked if the system can be used to notify residents of a late school bus, or delayed recycling truck. This will be looked into.

Council voted 3-0 to sign up. In addition to a reduced council, only 8 citizens attended the short meeting.

Kimsal reported that he plans to have any road work done earlier this year.

More of this meeting in upcoming *Journal-Heralds*.

White Haven...

Continued from page 1

An issue had been raised to the borough about dogs being kept outdoors during cold weather. The Luzerne County dog warden investigated the complaint, and found that the dogs in question were all licensed, and had proper bedding; they were being

raised for hunting, and were hot household pets, and there was no finding of neglect.

On the suggestion of borough manager Linda Szoke, council voted to participate in the 911 mass notification system, at no cost to the borough. EMS coordinator Wayne Gow-

er and an alternate will be notified of county emergencies.

Fire Chief Dean Raudenbush thanked residents for shoveling out fire hydrants during the recent snows.

He also announced changes in the annual fund-raising event. Instead of a carnival with rides, this year the Fire Company will host a bazaar, scheduled for Friday through Sunday, July 22-24.

A committee is being set up to come up with a plan B for a new firehouse, since gaming money does not seem to be forthcoming. Council and the fire company will work together to plan a multi-use structure.

White Haven Ambulance is now serving Penn Lake and

White Haven Poconos, in part because of problems with response times from Bear Creek EMS.

Mayor Fred Meier reported receiving calls at home praising the borough's street cleaning in the recent storms. He raised concern about the 450 truck, saying it gets a lot of use and needs body work and interior work. The 650 truck also needs body work, but council is considering replacing it with another 450. Council will revisit the issue in March.

Water sales for December brought in \$11,399.30. Taxes of \$7,343.12 were also turned in; only \$9,000 is still outstanding from 2015.

The next meeting is Monday, February 22, at 7 p.m.



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Veterans Corner

by John Kearns

I SMELL A RAT

I smell a rat. When you suspect somebody is trying to deceive you behind your back this is what many say. Many veterans that I talk to feel the same way as do patriotic Americans. Senator John McCain smells a rat too, stating “I guarantee you if they don’t have a debrief by the first of March, we’ll have a hearing and we’ll subpoena the 10 sailors involved.” This is supported by retired military veterans who share in the outrage of Iran using our sailors as propaganda.

Worse, they had no right to hold and humiliate them on their knees on the world stage. Many question why our Navy did not oppose the Iranians, were they outgunned? The answer is no, so then why?

Lets take a look at the boats: **A US NAVY RCB** - Riverine Command Boat is designed to patrol rivers and shallow waters and take operational command of the area. Their



speed and small size makes them useful for patrolling waterways such as the Persian Gulf. The boats have a crew of 5 and can carry up to 20 passengers. Forty-nine feet long and 12 feet wide, it has a range of 320 nautical miles. It has the capability to tow other vessels when they become disabled.

Why did they not tow their disabled boat to safety?

The RCBs bristle with weaponry. There are four mounts for machine guns that can handle M2HB.50-caliber heavy machine guns, 2-GAU 19.50-caliber electric mini-guns and 4-M240 medium machine guns. The boats are also equipped with a Mk49 remote control radar directed weapons station equipped with a M2HB heavy machine gun. The RCB’s main cannon is a high-powered automatic gun capable of firing 25mm and 30mm and a special burst cannon. Armor provides protection from up to 7.62-mil-

limeter bullets. Why did they not fight back?

RCBs are packed with sensors and communications gear, precision GPS navigation with direct link allowing command ships to track and always know their position. The infrared sensor system features a thermal imager sensor, laser range finder all on gyro-stabilized mounts to keep images and gun sights stable on a rocking boat. The latest in communications allows the boats to communicate with other navy ships, aircraft and ground forces displaying real time locations. How did they get lost?

Each boat also carries an array of modern deadly portable defensive missiles including FIM92 Stinger anti air and FGM 148 “fire and forget” anti armor missiles. Why did they allow 4 under gunned small boats to take them?

Also, jet skis are built into the back of each boat and can be used by crew to escape

in case the RCB is close to getting overwhelmed or disabled. There are sufficient explosives carried to destroy the boat completely to keep it out of enemy hands. Why did they not escape and destroy the disabled boat? (Note: I do not know what these two boats carried, I am listing Navy standard specs.)

I have served 26 years in our military with all branches, mainly Navy and Marines. When I say “I smell a Rat,” it’s not our Navy sailors I fault but the politics as usual. Our new US rules of engagement, appear to be that it’s better to be captured and humiliated in the face of our enemies than fight back and protect national interests and pride.

I also do not believe for a moment our sailors cried in the face of the enemy, I have seen many a comrade cry not from being afraid of the enemy—for a fallen comrade. Washington DC can say what they want, but millions of veterans, our military, and patriotic Americans feel differently. When the truth finally comes out, I believe our troops were sold out and ordered to stand down to protect a bad deal with our enemy. The only thing that really cried during this outrage and disgrace while John Kerry apologized for America was our national pride as Americans. This is another poke in the eye by liberals at our nation’s freedoms.

Heffley slams Gov. Wolf’s \$2.7 billion tax increase budget

State Representative Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) issued the following statement following Governor Tom Wolf’s 2016-17 budget address:

“Governor Wolf was supposed to address the Legislature with his plan for the 2016-17 budget. Instead, he delivered a campaign speech. I came to work this morning hoping to hear details about how our governor planned to complete a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. I hoped I would hear that we would put our differences aside, finish last year’s budget and start this year’s budget process on a clean slate.

“Instead, Gov. Wolf used this opportunity to deliver

political attacks. He did not name a single budgetary item or mention any of his proposals. Wolf wants to hide the fact that he’s proposed a \$2.7 billion tax increase next year and a \$900 million retroactive tax hike from this year’s budget.

“Once again, he has proposed broad-based tax increases without dollar-for-dollar property tax relief. I cannot support such a proposal. The working families, seniors and small businesses in Carbon County cannot afford additional taxes, and they cannot wait for Gov. Wolf to come to the realization that he needs to work with the Legislature.”



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WASB makes paid and volunteer coaching appointments

by Donnell Stump

As spring coaches were approved by the Weatherly Area School Board during the regular February 10 meeting, board member Chad Obert asked why some of the coaching positions were volunteers. Weatherly Area School District Superintendent Thomas McLaughlin noted those positions are not included in the contract. According to solicitor Dan Miscavige, the contract would need to be negotiated to include those staff positions as paid jobs.

Referring to the Junior High softball position, board member Corey Gerhart commented that it was a pilot program several years ago when it was started. Board member Matt vonFrisch replied that he is not in favor of adding anything to the contract. In fact, he continued, "These positions should come out of the contract."

Head softball coach Margaret Brown was hired at a salary of \$4,648.74 for the season, with Diane Polchin returning as assistant softball coach with a \$1,472.10 salary.

Jeff Haraschak was hired as the assistant baseball coach. He will also be paid \$1,472.10 for the season. The board had previously hired Mike Baran as the head baseball coach during the October 2015 meeting.

Jonathan Kiddish will continue as volunteer track coach.

Mark Kane was retained for a second year as volunteer Junior High softball coach. The volunteer assistant Junior High coach this year will be Anthony Colecio.

Erin Seliga will be added to the substitute teachers list.

The 2016-17 program of studies for the Weatherly Area High School was approved.

Homebound instruction was approved for a tenth grade student.

Two use of facility requests were approved. The WAHS Class of 2016 will host a Midnight Madness lock-in at the school from Friday, March 11 through Saturday morning, March 12.

The Weatherly Area PTA was given permission to host a Scholastic Book Fair Family Day on Saturday, March 12. A faculty preview will be held on Friday, March 11 and classroom visits will continue during the week of Monday, March 14 through Friday, March 18. Saturday, March 19 is the snow date for the Family Day event.

The board agreed to McLaughlin's request that the original calendar which authorized the use of Friday, February 12 and Thursday, March 24 as snow make-up days be revised to add make-up days at the end of the school year. His reason is to prevent Keystone Exams, scheduled by

the state for a window from May 16 through May 23, and the district's final exams for high school students from overlapping.

Two Turbo Air refrigerated units, at a total cost of \$2,879.84, were approved for purchase for the High School cafeteria. Board president Gerry Fewins asked if the units were to be paid for from cafeteria funds. Board member Bill Knepper asked how much money is in the cafeteria fund. Fewins was told that the coolers would be paid for from the cafeteria fund. Knepper was told that the fund currently has a balance of more than \$19,000.

Over the past few meetings, the board has discussed maintenance issues, including lighting in the middle school parking lot and the damage to the middle school gym floor near the weight room.

At both February meetings, it was reported that the roofer had inspected the roof at the middle school and found no leak as the cause of the damage to the gym floor.

Board member Gerhart suggested that the water is coming up from the ground. He had previously offered the opinion that such a situation was odd since the building has been there for 40 years without such an incident, but suggested a new cause at the February 10 meeting. Gerhart reminded his fellow board members that landscaping changes at the middle school removed shrubbery and replaced the area with stone. He wondered if that could have caused a shift in where the groundwater goes, resulting in seepage which may have damaged the floor from below.

Fewins noted the high school gym floor needs some attention, before that situa-

tion results in costly repair rather than what could be annual maintenance. A property committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 2 at 5:30 before the 7 p.m. caucus session.

A renewal of the Verizon Wireless Services contract was to be on the voting agenda, but following discussion of phone replacement/upgrades during the caucus meeting on February 3, the item was left off. Gerhart asked how many phones are covered by the contract and if they would be eligible to upgrade. Business manager Dave Marsiglio replied that there are 32 phones and suggested that some phones would be upgraded over the summer. Obert asked if they would be upgraded to smart phones, so that e-mail access would be available.

The general operating budget of the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 was approved.

In committee reports, Gerhart reported that exit interviews for fall coaches are being scheduled. He also commended the staff, including the trainer, for the way they handled an injury during a recent High School girls' basketball game.

At the caucus meeting, Sharlene Strauss, a Title I instructional aide in the district, told the board that Judi Kunkle, who was approved for a change of status from Title I to full-time special education instructional aide during that evening's special meeting, had been an asset to the Title I staff. Strauss continued, "I'm sure she'll do a good job, but Title I will be losing a very good employee. Skuttlebut is that the position will not be filled." Strauss is concerned that if that happens, she may be pulled from her current re-

sponsibilities, as would fellow Title I aide Jennifer Coxe, who also attended the meeting. Knepper asked her who had said that. Strauss declined to name someone, repeating that it is just what is being speculated around the school.

Fewins commented, "This makes me mad; we only have this name for three days; why wouldn't you come and ask us?" Strauss responded, "That's why I am here." Fewins told her that the board would be filling that position.

Board member Amy Potisko missed the caucus and special meeting, while Gerry Grega was not in attendance at the regular meeting.

The next meetings will be Wednesday, March 2 with a Property Committee meeting at 5:30 followed by the caucus meeting at 7 p.m. The regular meeting is Wednesday, March 9 at 7 p.m.

2016 officers at L & L

The new 2016 officers for L & L Rural Volunteer Fire Company are as follows:

Business officers: president Mary Macey, vice-president Keith Koch, secretary Dana Maines, assistant secretary Michelle Clark, treasurer Teresa Barna, assistant treasurer Becky Gregory, historian Martha Raynock.

Line officers: Chief Tim Rossman, Deputy Chief Keith Koch, Assistant Chief Steve Kane, Captain Ben Minich, Lieutenant Jay Koch, Engineer Darryl Clark, Assistant Engineer John Geguzis, Fire Police Captain Ray Zeleznock, and Fire Police Lieutenant Mary Jo Minich.

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cans \$16.49 + tax



WHITE HAVEN THIS WEEK

Thursday, February 18
Countdown to Spring:
4 Weeks & 3 Days

Crestwood School Board Work Session & Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – Crestwood High School

Kidder Township Board of Supervisors Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Township Municipal Building

Sunday, February 21

Marine Corps League Detachment 1039 Meeting – 1:30 p.m. – V.F.W. Post 6615

W.H. Area Historical Society Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – For Location Call 570-443-7507

Monday, February 22

Washington's Birthday

Maple Syrup Production Program – 6:30 p.m. – W.H. Area Community Library

Dennison Township Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Township Municipal Building

Tuesday, February 23

W.H. Lions Cub Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Jack's Grille

Penn Lake Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Community House

Wednesday, Every Thursday & Monday Except Holidays

Joy Through Movement – 10:00 a.m. – W.H. United Methodist Church

Every First & Third Thursday Except Holidays

Scrabble Club – 6:30 p.m. – White Haven Area Community Library

Every Friday Except Fifth Friday & Holidays

W.H. Food Pantry – 10:00 a.m. to Noon – Rear, Hickory Hall, White Haven Center

Every Friday, Monday & Wednesday Except Holidays

Free Community Lunch – Serving 11:30 a.m. to Noon – St. Paul's Lutheran Parish Hall

Every Saturday

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – St. Patrick's Parish Center

Every Sunday

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Mountainview Community Church

Every Tuesday

Al-Anon Meeting – 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Presbyterian Church of W.H.

Every Third Tuesday Except Holidays

Book Club – 7:00 p.m. – White Haven Area Community Library

Every Wednesday Except Holidays

Stretch & More – 10:00 a.m. – St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lehigh-Carbon earns FAA Flight school status

The Lehigh Carbon Community College aviation program has been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as a Part 141 Flight School, in addition to its existing status as a ground school. The college now will be able to provide not only the ground instruction required to earn various pilot ratings (or certificates), but also is able to provide the flight training component.

In the past, students have taken their ground training at LCCC, and then have had to

transfer to an outside Part 141 flight school to complete the flight training requirements for their degree. Now, students have the opportunity to complete all of the training requirements at the college.

There are two different types of flight schools from which people can receive flight training to obtain a pilot license: Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 61 and FAR Part 141, both of which provide the student with the specific training required by the FAA. The difference is how

the training is accomplished.

Part 141 was established to certify flight schools by developing and establishing standardized training methods with respect to equipment, facilities, personnel, and curricula, and is reviewed on a regular basis by the FAA to ensure quality training. Students training at a Part 141 school such as LCCC can earn their commercial license in as little as 190 hours, as compared to 250 hours at a Part 61 school.

Each student who completes the program will earn a commercial pilot certificate with instrument rating and a certified flight instructor certificate along with an associate degree as a professional pilot. With these certificates, graduates can be employed as a flight instructor, charter pilot, or corporate pilot. They can also transfer to go on to earn a bachelor's degree in aviation science.

For more information on LCCC's aviation program, located at the Lehigh Valley International Airport, contact Aram Basmadjian, chief flight instructor, at abasmadjian@lccc.edu.

Make maple syrup at the library

White Haven Area Community Library will hold a unique event on Monday, February 22 – a program on "Maple Syrup

Production for the Beginner." The presentation will be by David Schnaithman of Penn Lake, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the li-

brary.

The fun program – from tree to table – is free. Participants

will get to taste the sap and the finished product!

The library will hold its annual membership meeting on Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m. at the library. Committee and financial reports will be given, and new board members elected.

A "Hops & Grapes Festival" will benefit the W.H.A.C.L. on Saturday, April 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. at St. Patrick's parish center. There will be great beers, wine and food – plus door prizes, raffle baskets and music. The all inclusive admission charge is \$20 per person.

WH Seniors plans fun trips

The White Haven Senior Citizen have scheduled their trips for this year.

Single day trips

April 20- Ehrhardt's Dinner Theater in Lake Wallenpaupack Dinner and a show- "Nonsense", the Musical. Cost is \$70, sold out, waiting list only.

May 4- Bucks County Playhouse in Lancaster

In the Mood Big Band music and dance reviews from the 1930's ad 40's. An Italian dinner is included. Cost is \$85.

July 20-Peddler's Village in Lahaska

Shopping and dinner on your own at John's Plain and Fancy Restaurant. Cost is \$35.

October 19- Rainbow Dinner Theater in Lancaster

Dinner and the comedy, "Is there Life after 50?" Cost is \$70.

November 30- American Music Theater in Lancaster

Attend the 2016 Christmas Show and enjoy dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord. Cost is \$90.

Extended trips

The two extended trips are scheduled for May and September.

May 17 to 19- Visit Pittsburgh On this trip, attendees will visit Pittsburgh for 3 days and 2 nights. The trip includes 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners, lodging, Duquesne Incline, a river cruise, and guided tours of the city. The tour locations include University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning Nationality Rooms, Heinz Memorial Chapel, Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, Frank Loyd

Wright's "Falling Waters", and the Flight 93 Memorial. Tickets cost \$400 (Double) and \$500 (Single).

September 11 to 15- Virginia Beach and Colonial Williamsburg

This 5 day, 4 night trip includes 4 breakfasts & 4 dinners, including a Spirit of Norfolk dinner cruise, Norfolk Naval Base,

Join the White Haven Seniors for friends and fun

Are you board, stuck in a rut, or looking for something new to do? Do you want to meet new friends, have fun, and go on trips? Join the White Haven Seniors.

They are planning interesting programs and activities for meetings. During the March meeting, the history of Foster Township will be presented.

WH Seniors meet at the White Haven VFW on Lehigh Gorge Road. During February and March, meetings are on the first Thursday of every month. In April, meetings return to their regular schedule- the first and third Thursday of each month.

The next meeting will take place on March 3.

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WEATHERLY THIS WEEK

Thursday, February 18
Countdown to Spring:
4 Weeks & 3 Days

Weatherly Rotary Club Dinner Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – Jack's Grille

Weatherly Borough Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Municipal Building

Tweedle Park & Playground Association Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Park

Weatherly Lions Club Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Borough Building

Sunday, February 21
Spaghetti Dinner – 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. – L & L Fire Company, Laurytown

Monday, February 22

Washington's Birthday

Thursday, February 25

Bingo Night – 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.) – Tweedle Park

Every Thursday

State Representative Doyle Heffley Outreach Office – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Weatherly Borough Building

Senior Menu

Week of February 22:

Monday: Barbecued riblets, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, cottage cheese with peaches.

Tuesday: Tacos.

Wednesday: Chicken, mashed potatoes, Brussels sprouts, roll, rice pudding.

Thursday: Roast beef, boiled potatoes, carrots & beets, roll, orange.

Friday: Stuffed shells, Italian beans, zucchini, cookie.

WAHS Book Donation

On the Wings of Heroes by Richard Peck and *I Had Seen Castles* by Cynthia Rylant have been donated to the

Weatherly Area High School library by Nary Louise Stoffel, in memory of Ken Bush.



HEARTS DANCE ROYALTY CROWNED: Weatherly Area PTA Middle School Hearts Dance Royalty were crowned as the dance was underway on February 5. King Kevin Michaels and Queen Jazzalyn Rodriguez (far left) are joined by their court before the first dance of the night. The court includes (seated, from left) Hailey Wenner, Lauren Berger, and Jada Parker. Standing are Matthew Buck, Ben Howard, and Kenneth Hinkle.

Friendship Club News

by Marjorie Lou Anthony

The regular meeting of the Weatherly Senior Citizens Friendship Club was held Thursday, February 11 at 1:30 p.m. in Salem U.C.C. President Marjorie Lou Anthony welcomed 13 members who were brave enough to come out on such a cold day. Chaplain Theresa D'Andrea read *First Corinthians 13*, followed by the "Lord's Prayer" and Pledge of Allegiance.

As outreach person, President Anthony said she would send a birthday card to Valeria Funk for her 94th birthday on February 28. She also noted that it had been her

own birthday on February 4; the members sang "Happy Birthday" to her. There were no anniversaries. Thank you cards were sent to the "cooks" from the L & L Fire Company for the delicious meal at our Christmas party in December, and to Mary Lloyd for her thoughtfulness in seeing that everybody who did not get a gift from the entertainment committee went home with one.

Please remember to call President Anthony at 570-443-7736 if you know of any member who is ill or has lost a family member.

Travel coordinator Karen Allen reported on coming trips for this year. Information will be published at a later date.

This was a covered dish meeting, and even with only 13 members present we had a variety of food and desserts - everything was so good. Thanks to everybody who helped set up and clean afterward.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 10. The committee will be Joan Chambers, Saxon Brazzillo and Ray Wilkinson.

Bingo was enjoyed by all.

WACL Story Time

The Weatherly Area Community Library will host a children's story time on February 19 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

Guest reader will be Dakota Kane, an eighth-grade

student at Weatherly Area Middle School.

If school is canceled or there is an early dismissal due to the weather, the event will be held on February 26.

LCCC Fall Dean's List

Lehigh Carbon Community College's has announced the

Dean's List for the Fall 2015 semester.

Students with an academic grade point average of at least 3.50 achieve Dean's List status. They include:

Lake Harmony: Joseph Romano.

Weatherly: Myra Bender and Amanda Harley.

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Night with the Nurses

Heritage Hill Senior Community and caregivers across the area will host a Night with the Nurses on February 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Presenting at this month's Night with the Nurses is Laura Sitch, a board certified radiation therapist, medical dosimetrist, and site administrator at Hazleton Cancer Treatment Center.

This gathering gives attendees a chance to interact with each other, discuss problems, get tips, and learn from each other and nursing professionals on how they can better care for senior parents or family members.

Light refreshments will be served for those attending.

This event is free and open to the public, however, seating is limited. RSVP by calling Michelle or Jody at 570-427-4500.



Fresh American & Mediterranean Cuisine

Special weekly theme nights, all starting at 5 p.m.

MONDAY—Wing Night. \$6.⁹⁵/dozen, with 12 different sauces

TUESDAY—Kid's Night, featuring special activities for the kids, and **1 free kid's meal with every paid adult meal**

WEDNESDAY—All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Night.

Mix & match 5 Sauces—5 Pastas—Meatballs or Sausage, \$12.⁹⁵

Specials week of February 19

Appetizer—Guacamole Rings Battered & fried onion rings stuffed with guacamole w/Mexican ranch dipping sauce \$6.⁵⁰

Entrées

Chicken Oscar sauteed chicken breast w/asparagus, crabmeat & Hollandaise sauce \$18.⁹⁵

Pork Milanese pork medallions w/lemon butter & white wine sauce, capers & spinach \$15.⁹⁵

Shrimp Stir-Fry shrimp, shiitake mushrooms, peas, water chestnuts, carrots & almonds w/garlic-teriyaki sauce \$17.⁹⁵

SATURDAY & SUNDAY SPECIAL

14 oz. **Prime Rib** and sides \$25.⁹⁵

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WAHS Senior of the Month



Futures Golf Tournament, and the Black Diamond Basketball Tournament.

Meghan is employed by Whitewater Challengers as a food service worker.

Sponsors for the month of January are Lesko's Used Farm Equipment and Warner's Central Garage, Inc., both of Weatherly.

Meghan Moon, daughter of David and Cathy Moon, Weatherly, has been named Senior of the Month for January at Weatherly Area High School.

Meghan serves as secretary of the Class of 2016, and treasurer of the Weatherly Area High School chapter of the National Honor Society. She is the captain of the Girls' Soccer team, and a member of the Health Careers Club and the Student Government Association.

In the community, Meghan has volunteered her time with the Walk for Alzheimers, the Adopt-a-Thon, the Cornell Bright

L&L Bingo

L&L Rural Volunteer Fire Company will host a bingo on February 28 beginning at 2 p.m.

Doors will open at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at door. To purchase tickets in advance, call Becky at 570-956-3458 or Teresa at 570-427-4317.

Easter egg candy sale

Centenary United Methodist Church will hold a homemade Easter egg candy sale March 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

Cost will be \$8 for a 1-pound box of either butter cream, coconut cream, peanut butter, peanut roll, or an assortment of each.

To order, call Joan at 570-427-8222, Joyce at 570-427-8987, Shirley at 570-427-4652, or the church at 570-427-8091 and leave a message with the order.

The deadline for orders is March 6.

Gray Ladies seeking donations

The Gray Ladies of Weatherwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Weatherly, are in need of items for bingo games and birthday presents.

Items include baby powder, hand lotions, men's and women's socks, necklaces, stretchy bracelets, pins, and monetary gifts.

To donate items, call Phyllis at 570-427-4557 or Sally at 570-427-4472.

Readers—want your organization's activities featured in these pages? Send news tips, press releases and photos to the editor at journalruth@pa.metrocast.net, or call 570-443-9131 xt304.

White Haven Chamber of Commerce Inaugural Awards Banquet

Friday, April 1 • 7 p.m.

The Powerhouse Restaurant

Introducing *The Greater White Haven Hall of Fame*

A dinner to honor community leaders nominated for their years of service to the greater White Haven area.

Entertainment by



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Mike Stankiewicz
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Tickets \$45 per person, \$80 per couple, available at LK Hair and *The Journal-Herald* or by calling 570-582-9934

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Time to plant workshop

Join the Penn State Master Gardeners in Carbon County to learn how to prepare spring planting using best practices. The "It's Time to Plant" workshop will be held at the Environmental Education Center, 151 E. White Bear Drive, Summit Hill on March 26 with the morning session beginning at 10 a.m. The program has been expanded this year to include a full day of learning, with a focus on vegetable gardening.

You must pre-register for this event by March 21 by calling Penn State Extension – Carbon County at 570-325-2788 Ext. 3804, or emailing CarbonExt@psu.edu. Space is limited, so please register early. Please include your name, address, phone number, number of attendees, and what sessions you are interested in.

Program fees are as follows: \$6 per person for the morning session, \$8 per person for the afternoon session, and \$10 per person for the full day. You can pay when you arrive. Please bring a bagged lunch if staying for the day. Water, coffee, and tea will be provided.

Schedule for the day: 10 a.m. – Soils of Pennsylvania; 10:45 a.m. – Composting; 11:30 a.m. – Vegetable Garden Design Made Easy; 12:15 p.m. – Lunch break; 1:15 p.m. – Getting through the gypsy moth infestation; 2 p.m. – Tomatoes – seed to table – You will plant several varieties of tomato seeds in paper pots and take them home to nurture, then plant when the soil is warm enough.

All presentations will be offered by a team of one experienced and one new Master Gardener.

In addition to the presentations, there will be displays on alternative ways to compost, gardening for pollinators, creating a perennial herb garden, Pennsylvania soils, and dealing with ticks.

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Salem UCC Cherry Festival



Salem United Church of Christ, Weatherly, will hold its annual Cherry Festival chicken and waffles dinner on February 20 from 4 – 6:30 p.m. in the social rooms of the church.

The menu includes chicken, waffles, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dessert, and beverage. Take-outs will be available. Ticket prices are \$9 for adults; \$5 for children 4- 12 years of age, and children three and under eat free. Tickets are available by calling Cindy Gerhart at 570-427-4197 or the church at 570-427-4265. A limited amount of tickets will be available at the door.

A 69 item Chinese auction will also be held at the dinner.

Some volunteers who are helping with the dinner include (from left) Linda Garber, Tracy Blackwell, Cindy Gerhart, Ron Gerhart, Sam Ray, and Melodie Heydt.

Boy Scouts host Good Friday fish fry

Boy Scouts Venturing Crew 461 will be holding their annual Good Friday Fish Fry at the American Legion Post 781, 1550 Henry Drive in Mountaintop, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Carry out costs \$8 per meal, and includes fish, tartar sauce, fries, coleslaw, and a dessert. Tickets can be purchased in advance, and walk up orders are also welcome.

The proceeds from the fish fry directly benefit the Scouts, and will be used for activities such as camp this summer.

Contact Sheila Bender at 570-436-6276 for tickets or questions.

See Barry Manilow perform "One Last Time"

Barry Manilow announced that he is going to "hit the road" again to perform concerts across North America one last time. The music legend has re-launched his multiple-city ONE LAST TIME! Tour, and will stop in Wilkes-Barre at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza on March 13 at 7:30 p.m. These are part of the last list of cities on his final tour.

With his band of 13 musicians and singers, Manilow said, "We're having a great time putting the show together. We hope to take everyone on an emotional roller coaster. I can't wait to see everyone dancing in the aisles."

After performing more than 400 concerts at the Las Vegas Hilton and Paris Las Vegas from 2005 through 2011, Manilow has limited his concert appearances. The ONE LAST TIME! Tour is a major

undertaking, and as Manilow said, "is my way of thanking everyone for their years of support...one last time!"

The GRAMMY®, TONY®, and EMMY® Award-winning musician's career skyrocketed to superstardom when his mega hit song, "Mandy," topped the charts in 1975. In the spirit of that special year, tickets will be priced to tie into that year and will start at \$19.75 (fees included). Manilow insisted that the average ticket price remain low and that a greater range of ticket prices be available.

Barry Manilow's unparalleled career encompasses virtually every area of music, including performing, composing, arranging, and producing. A Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee, Manilow has triumphed in every medium of entertainment. With worldwide record sales exceeding

80 million, Barry Manilow is ranked as the top Adult Contemporary chart artist of all time with over 50 Top 40 hits.

Tickets are on sale now at the NBT Bank Box Office at Mohegan Sun Arena, Ticketmaster.com, charge by phone at 800-745-3000, or any Ticketmaster outlet. Prices do not include facility fee or service charges. Visit www.mohegansunarenapa.com, or call 570-970-7600 for more information.

General information about the ONE LAST TIME! Tour is available at www.manilow.com. The tour is a co-production of BRE Presents and STILETTO Entertainment.

For more information on Barry Manilow, please visit www.manilow.com, www.facebook.com/barrymanilow, www.twitter.com/barrymanilow.

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Kirby Center presents 'Dancing in the Streets'

Kirby Center will be 'Dancing in the Streets' this spring. Direct from London's West End, Motown Musical Dancing in the Streets will shake up the

F.M. Kirby Center on April 13 at 7:30 p.m.

After wowing audiences all over the UK and spending three years in London's West

End, Dancing in the Streets is back. Experience the energy, the excitement, the emotion and the electricity of Motown in the Ivor Novello Award winning director, Keith Strachan's production of the hit show Dancing in the Streets, the spectacular celebration of classic music from the heart of the Motor City — Detroit.

Motown was a prominent force in breaking down barriers around the world and was responsible for producing some of the world's most influential and enduring songs of the 20th century. The Dancing in the Streets company will re-create the energy, style, and music of the stars of the Motown stable. Together they will certainly

have you dancing in the aisles.

Dancing in the Streets will take you through the Motown repertoire, with classic hits including a selection of: "I Heard It Through The Grapevine", "Baby Love", "My Girl", "Dancing in the Streets", "I'll Be There", "Signed Sealed Delivered I'm Yours", "Stop In the Name of Love". Made famous by artists such as: The Four Tops, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye, Gladys Knight, Lionel Richie, and The Supremes.

"In this show you are never more than a couple of minutes away from a chart-topping pop classic."- The Stage. "The high points though are glorious, from the Temps' "I Can't Get Next to You" — one of the funki-

est numbers in the entire Hitsville catalogue — to the Four Tops' anthemic "Reach Out (I'll Be There)". Stevie Wonder, reincarnated as a teen prodigy, adds a scorching Uptight, while the onstage band does a fine impersonation of the legendary, multiracial houseband, the Funk Brothers. Any devotees of R&B who don't enjoy the show should check their pulse immediately."- The Times.

Tickets are on sale now and available through the Kirby Center box office, online at www.kirbycenter.org, and charge by phone at 570-826-1100. Ticket costs are \$40.50, \$45.50, and \$50.50, plus fees.

Coming Events

FEBRUARY 20, Saturday — Cherry Festival, sponsored by Salem United Church of Christ, Weatherly

FEBRUARY 21, Sunday — Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by L & L Fire Company, Laurytown

FEBRUARY 22, Monday — Maple Syrup Production Program, sponsored by White Haven Area Community Library

FEBRUARY 28, Sunday — Bingo, sponsored by L & L Fire Company, Laurytown

MARCH 2, Wednesday — Pierogie Sale, sponsored by White Haven United Methodist Church (Also Wednesdays March 9 & 16)

MARCH 4, Friday — Clothing Giveaway, sponsored by Freeland Presbyterian Church

MARCH 5, Saturday — Voter Registration Drive, sponsored by Weatherly Lions Club

MARCH 6, Sunday — Breakfast, sponsored by Marine Corps League Det.1039 at St. Patrick's Parish Center, White Haven

MARCH 6, Sunday — Breakfast, sponsored by Albrightsville Fire Company

MARCH 9, Wednesday — Bingo, sponsored by St. Patrick's R.C. Church, White Haven

MARCH 12, Saturday — Chicken & Waffle Dinner, sponsored by Laurel Lodge 467, F.&A.M., White Haven

MARCH 13, Sunday — Breakfast, sponsored by Silver Ridge Hunting Club, Weatherly

MARCH 18, Friday — Candy Easter Egg Sale, sponsored by Centenary United Methodist Church, Weatherly

MARCH 18, Friday — Ham Raffle, sponsored by L & L Fire Company, Laurytown

MARCH 19, Saturday — Children's Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by Weatherly Lions Club & Community Chest

APRIL 1, Friday — Awards Dinner, sponsored by White Haven Chamber of Commerce

APRIL 12, Tuesday — White Haven Area Community Library Annual Meeting

APRIL 19, Tuesday — Spaghetti Supper, sponsored by White Haven Lions Club

APRIL 26, Tuesday — Election Day Dinner, sponsored by White Haven United Methodist Church

APRIL 30, Saturday — Hops & Grapes Event, sponsored by White Haven Area Community Library

MAY 1, Sunday — Spring Shoot, sponsored by Dennison Township Fire Company at L.O.W.L.P.A. Grounds

AUGUST 1, Monday — Golf Tournament, sponsored by White Haven Lions Club

AUGUST 26 & 27, Friday & Saturday — Weatherly Festival

This column is open to all organizations in the Weatherly, White Haven, Freeland, Albrightsville, Blakeslee, Conyngham/Drums, Lake Harmony & Mountain Top areas. If your organization is planning a fund-raising activity, or other special event open to the public, you may have it listed by calling 570-443-9131. There is no charge for this service.

Win a pair of tickets to a
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vs PORTLAND PIRATES

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SUN. 3/6 4:05PM
vs HERSHEY BEARS

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Mail with your check for \$35 in Carbon or Luzerne County, \$40 elsewhere, to The Journal-Herald, 211 Main St., White Haven PA 18661.

Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

I wrote part of this column as the temperatures outside were dropping towards zero on Sunday. Ruth and I were inside, snug and warm. Chess, our English pointer, made short trips outside to do her business — none of her usual dawdling.

By Monday, the cold gave way to a beautiful snow. Tuesday was not so beautiful, rain over ice. At least with the cold and then the rain, it was short. Last year we endured a week and a half of icy cold at a stretch.

During the cold weekend, especially at night, we noticed how little traffic was out on the roads. Things were crisp and quiet — kind of nice. We usually hear at lot of road noise in our house.

We did go out on both days. Saturday, we did some newspaper work and rewarded ourselves with a stop at the Blakeslee Community Center's meatloaf dinner before driving to

the WBS Penguins hockey game that night. Even the cool temperatures inside the Mohegan Sun Arena were warm that night. I wore some warm but ugly flannel-lined jeans, plus a lined shirt and an old-fashioned Long John top, plus heavy socks in winter boots — feeling a bit like a cross between a lumberjack and the Pillsbury Dough Boy. Ruth, who was equally bundled up in nicer looking clothes, tolerated the look, barely. I was warm enough but didn't linger long outside.

There were two Penguins games that weekend, both versus Portland, both lost in overtime. We came, we cheered. On Sunday we hoped to have an early meal in Wilkes-Barre before seeing the afternoon hockey game. At 3:15 p.m., the Red Lobster had a huge line. We decided to try back after the game. Just after 7, we drove back to find an equally huge line of Valentine's Day diners. Ruth went in to the desk to see how long the wait was, returning to say she was told the wait would be an hour and a half. Ha — we drove away.

There were equally huge lines at a couple of other chains buildings nearby. Our favorite pizza palace looked available, but that's not what we wanted. Instead we rolled into Logan's, were told the wait was 15 minutes at the most, and then waited

just 5 minutes for a table. We will not wait an hour and a half — we can always find an independent restaurant or come back another time.

Both of us are doing some heavy reading, mainly mysteries with a Harry Turtledove altered history novel thrown in for

Weatherly student wins Widener leadership award

Samantha Despirito of Weatherly, a junior at Weatherly Area High School, is one of the winners of the Widener University High School Leadership Award, for belonging to Student Government Association and the Envirothon team. She is class treasurer and a junior leadership member of Can Do, a community sports program.

Another local winner is Bailey Wright of Albrightsville, a junior at Carbon Career and Technical Institute, for dedicating her time to the community through her role as a volunteer firefighter and EMT.

Widener University, one of the nation's premier universities for civic engagement and applied leadership, in partnership with WCAU-TV NBC10, recently announced the winners of the Widener University High School Leadership Awards. In its fifth year, the program recognized

a change. We plan to go on a book run to re-stock some of the shelves. We've also started the Blue Bloods series via Netflix, having become tired of Justified. The new season of Dr. Who has arrived on Netflix, with Game of Thrones (last year's episodes) and the most recent season of New Tricks (a British police series we really enjoy) coming soon.

This weekend will include a trip to see my uncle in New Jersey — we'll dine out there, spend-

ing the savings we'll get from tanking up.

The next Penguins game at home is this coming Tuesday — a must win match versus division rival Hershey, who are just two points behind in the standings. We'll find a way to be there. With no other home games until the first Sunday in March there's some extra free time for us to visit some museums on our list including America on Wheels in Allentown.

159 students from high schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware who demonstrated courage and leadership within their communities.

In its fifth year, the program recognized 159 students from high schools throughout the region for their abilities to stand up for what is right, address a wrong, and make a difference in their communities or schools.

"Widener University is proud to have honored nearly 600 students over the past five years through the High School Leadership Awards," said Dr. Julie Wollman, Widener University president. "Civic engagement and leadership are not only integral to the mission of Widener University, they are central to what this year's award winners have accomplished in their communities. I can only imagine their future successes as our next generation of leaders. We welcome them into the Widener family,

and I look forward to congratulating each student this spring at the awards ceremony."

Winners are invited to a celebratory program at the National Constitution Center on March 23, as well as a leadership conference presented by the Oskin Leadership Institute at Widener University in the fall of 2016. Most notably, winners will receive a scholarship of \$20,000 over four years should they enroll at Widener University for undergraduate studies.

For more information regarding the High School Leadership Awards and to view a complete list of winners, please visit the High School Leadership Awards page. For information on each recipient, please contact Meagan Dominick at mdominick@briancom.com or 484-385-2936.

To learn more about Widener University, visit the university's website, www.widener.edu.

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3/4 Jorma Kaukonen
\$32, Show 8 p.m.

3/5 Kashmir - Led Zeppelin Tribute
\$23, Show 8 p.m.

3/11 Jane Lee Hooker
\$18, Show 8 p.m.

3/12 Tartan Terrors St. Patty's Parade Weekend Celebration
\$30, Show 8 p.m.
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Improvement to customer service wins national award for PPL Electric

PPL Electric Utilities' proactive outage alerts, introduced last year to better inform customers and improve service, have been honored in a major industry awards competition.

POWERGRID International magazine has chosen PPL's outage alerts as its Customer Engagement Project of the Year. The utility received the award at the magazine's annual Distrib-uTECH conference in Orlando,

Fla., the electric industry's largest transmission and distribution conference in North America. The awards are open to utilities from across North America.

"Our proactive outage alerts have received a strong positive response from customers, and we appreciate this industry recognition as well," said Christopher Cardenas, Customer Services vice president. "We continue to look for ways to im-

prove our service, keep customers informed, and make doing business with PPL as convenient as possible."

Last April, the utility began proactively sending the alerts to residential customers whenever they have a power outage, to keep them up to date. The alerts tell customers the scope of their outage, and provide estimated restoration times and repair updates when available. Customers also receive an alert after the outage ends.

Customer survey data indicates that nearly 8 in 10 customers are satisfied with the outage alerts, and roughly half say the alerts improved their opinion of PPL.

Customers can choose to receive the outage alerts via email, text message, phone, or a combination. They can also set "quiet hours" when they do not want to receive alerts, and can opt out

of the program if desired. Alert preferences can be set and managed at ppllectric.com/alerts.

In related efforts to better serve customers, PPL Electric Utilities also revamped and improved its online outage map, as another way to share information on repair progress and restoration estimates.

While the company is working harder to share outage information with customers, it's also significantly reducing the number of outages. System improvements such as tree trimming, installing smart grid technology, and upgrading poles and wires prevented about 410,000 outages last year. The average customer is experiencing 30 percent fewer outages than in 2007, and the utility is aiming for a further 15 percent improvement in the coming years.

For more information, visit www.ppllectric.com.

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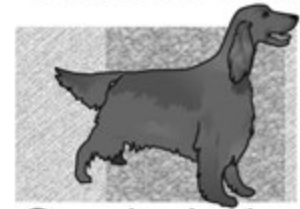
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THEME: THE OSCARS

ACROSS

1. Closet wood
6. Universal time
9. Baby's first word?
13. Courtyards
14. Galley equipment
15. Two-____ like Janus
16. To eat greedily
17. "Much ____ About Nothing"
18. Give a speech
19. *Tarantino's "The ____ Eight"
21. *Matt Damon's nominated role
23. Party bowlful
24. Larger-than-life
25. *Competitor to The
- Oscars' 2016 broadcaster
28. Mt. Everest to Earth
30. Like meters and kilograms
35. Foot curve
37. World's Fair, e.g.
39. Get wool from sheep
40. Hard to find
41. Rekindled
43. "The Road Runner" corporation
44. Not hidden
46. Black Friday event
47. London subway
48. Moves down
50. Theories
52. Relieve from

53. *Oscar-winner De Niro in "Once ____ a Time in America"
55. Club on a card, e.g.
57. Barely adequate
61. *Seven-time nominee Kate
65. Like a lemon, tastewise
66. *____ Cube outta Compton
68. Glittery stone
69. Place to throw shrimp on the barbie
70. *____ Heflin, Supporting Actor winner in 1942
71. With clear mind
72. Moore in "Arthur" and Belushi in "Animal House"
73. Paris in Tour de France, e.g.
74. *What the winner for Film Editing does

DOWN

1. *Witherspoon won for starring in his biopic
2. Europe's highest volcano
3. "Doggone it!"
4. *ABC did it to 2015's Academy Awards show
5. Basket-making fiber
6. Orr's score
7. *Like Max
8. Walk heavy-footed
9. Marketplace
10. Palm tree berry
11. Of higher order
12. Port in Yemen
15. Military units
20. Ritalin, e.g.
22. Deadeye's forte
24. Make comprehensible
25. *Cate Blanchett's 2015 role
26. Audience's approval
27. Nut holder

music

29. *The two leads in 1979's "Kramer vs. Kramer"
31. Not this
32. Happen again
33. More than one iamb
34. *It stars Stallone
36. This location
38. Great masters' medium, pl.
42. Allegro and lento, in
45. *Blacklisted screenwriter
49. Baden-Baden, e.g.
51. *Firth, nominated for 2009's "A ____ Man"
54. EVOO source
56. Imposter
57. Rand McNally products
58. UN civil aviation agency, acr.

59. As opposed to gross
60. *2001 Oscar-nominated movie starring #61
- Across
61. Direct one's way
62. Sites
63. Leave on the cutting room floor
64. Kennedy and Turner
67. Campbell's container

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Comets close regular season with win

Crestwood Boys Basketball

The Crestwood boys basketball team closed out the regular season on a winning note last Thursday, defeating Tunkhannock 63-52 at Tunkhannock. Robbie Hopkins knocked down four 3-pointers on his way to a game-high 22 points to lead the Comets, and Brandon Schmidt added 17. Tony Maloney paced Tunkhannock with 15 points. Sean Harder added 14 and Tyler Faux followed with 13 points. The Comets concluded the regular season with a 16-6 record,

and placed second in WVC Division I at 11-3. They are the fourth seed for the District 2 Class 3A tournament, and were to host a first-round game against #13 Pittston Area on Tuesday evening. The winner of that game gets the West Scranton and Lake-Lehman survivor in Thursday's quarterfinal round.

The semifinals are slated for next Monday, and the Class 3A championship game will be played next Friday evening at 8:30

at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The top three teams from the district advance to the PIAA tournament.

CRESTWOOD (63) Hopkins 7 4-4 22, Schmidt 7 3-4 17, Malkemes 3 3-4 9, Blass 3 0-2 6, J. Klusewitz 1 0-0 3, McCue 1 0-0 2, Foreman 1 0-0 2, Jackson 1 0-0 2, Andrews 0 0-0 0, Gegaris 0 0-0 0, Richards 0 0-0 0. Totals: 24 10-14 63.

TUNKHANNOCK (52) Maloney 4 4-4 15, Harder 7 0-0 14, Faux 5 1-2 13, Hoefert 1 2-2 4, Macko 1 0-0 2, Yu 1 0-0 2, Turner 1 0-0 2, Goodwin 0 0-0 0, Newhart 0 0-0 0. Totals: 20 7-8 52.

Ritsick gains all-star nod, wins home finale

Crestwood Girls Basketball

Crestwood senior Maddie Ritsick has been selected to play in the 40th Annual Pennsylvania vs. Maryland Boys and Girls All-Star Basketball Games. The games will be played April 8-9 at the Harrisburg Christian Athletic

Center. There will be eight different games on these two days. Ritsick is among 208 other high school seniors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey selected for the games.

A two-time all-state selection, Ritsick is averaging an area-best 20.1 points per game this season, has hit 34 3-pointers, and is shooting 73.4 percent from the free throw line, converting 149-of-203 visits, both area highs. On Jan. 21, she became Crestwood's all-time leading girls basketball scorer, surpassing Diane Madl with her 1,487th point. She now has more than 1,600 career points entering the upcoming District 2 Class 3A playoffs.

Ritsick will be continuing her academic and basketball careers at University of the Sciences, a Division II school in Philadelphia, later this year.

Crestwood 56, Tunkhannock 32 - Ritsick scored 14 of her game-high 21 points in the first half as

Crestwood.....16 9 19 19 - 63
Tunkhannock.....11 10 16 15 - 52
Three-pointers: Hopkins 4, Maloney 3, Faux 2.

Wyoming Valley West 57, Crestwood 54 - Draig Ruff scored 18 points and helped Wyoming Valley West rally in the fourth quarter to hand Crestwood a Division I road loss last week. Tyler Yanosky added 15 points for Valley West. Jason Klusewitz and Robbie Hopkins led Crestwood with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

CRESTWOOD (54) J. Klusewitz 0 2-2 11, Hopkins 2 0-0 10, Malkemes 3 3-6 9, Foreman 4 1-1

9, Schmidt 2 3-3 7, Blass 2 1-1 5, Andrews 0 0-0 3, Gegaris 0 0-0 0, McCue 0 0-0 0, Richards 0 0-0 0, K. Klusewitz 0 0-0 0. Totals 13 10-13 54.

WVW (57) Ruff 9 0-0 18, Yanosky 5 5-5 15, Austin 0 0-0 9, Anderscavage 2 2-3 6, Frace 1 0-0 5, Saunders 1 0-0 2, Hackett 1 0-2 2, Weaver 0 0-0 0, Bobkowski 0 0-0 0, Judge 0 0-0 0. Totals 19 7-10 57.

Crestwood.....7 13 19 15 - 54
Valley West.....4 18 15 20 - 57

Three-pointers: J. Klusewitz 3, Hopkins 2, Andrews. Austin 3, Frace.

the Lady Comets wrapped up their regular season with a home court victory on senior night. Ritsick went 8-for-12 from the free throw line and knocked down three three-pointers to help the Lady Comets (10-12 overall, 7-7 WVC) snap a four-game losing streak.

Abby Macko added nine points for Crestwood while Emily Shiplett chipped in with five. The Lady Comets earned the ninth seed for the District 2 Class 3A playoffs, which began this week. Crestwood was to open at No. 8 Hanover Area Wednesday evening. The winner of that will likely get top-seeded Nanticoke Area (20-2) in Friday's quarterfinal round. The Trojanettes ousted the Lady Comets in the quarterfinals a year ago.

The Class 3A semifinals are slated for next Monday, with the

championship game Saturday, Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The top three teams from the district move on to the PIAA tournament.

TUNKHANNOCK (32) Barber 2 0-0 4, Ell 1 0-0 2, F. Jones 2 0-0 4, Hammersly 0 0-0 0, Trochak 0 0-0 0, H. Jones 0 0-0 0, Flores 0 0-0 0, Ritz 4 4-6 12, Robinson 1 0-0 2, Avery 1 1-2 3, Stephens 2 1-2 5. Totals: 13 6-10 32.

CRESTWOOD (56) Dillon 1 0-0 2, Shipton 2 0-0 4, Hopkins 2 0-0 4, Cuono 1 0-0 3, Snipas 1 0-0 3, Macko 4 0-0 9, Shiplett 2 0-0 5, Termini 0 0-0 0, Makowski 0 2-2 2, Muse 0 1-2 1, Murphy 1 0-0 2, Ritsick 5 8-12 21. Totals: 19 11-16 56.

Tunkhannock.....6 9 11 6 - 32
Crestwood.....16 16 13 11 - 56

Three-pointers: Cuono, Snipas, Macko, Shiplett, Ritsick 3.

Baseball & Little League

White Haven Baseball signups

White Haven Area Baseball registrations are under way for all ages including T-Ball (4-6), Minor League (7-8), Little League Majors (9-12) and Babe Ruth (13-15). Players must turn 4 years of age by Jan. 1, 2016. New players need to provide a copy of their birth certificate.

The fee for T-Ball through Little League is \$45 for the first child, \$35 for second and \$10 for each additional child. The fee for Babe

Ruth players is \$75.

Registration is this Sunday, Feb. 21 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and Saturday, Feb. 27 from 1-2:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Center. Additional information can be found on the league website at www.league-lineup.com/whitehaven

Weatherly LL Registration

Weatherly Little League will hold registration for the 2016 season on Tuesday, Feb. 23 from 6 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 27 from noon to 1:30 p.m. The fee is \$50 per

child. Registration forms may also be obtained by e-mailing raylaw@ptd.net.

After March 1, a late fee of \$10 will be added to the fee. No registrations will be accepted after March 5. Any child who turns 4 through 12 during 2016 and either resides or attends school within the Weatherly Area School District is eligible.

Anyone with questions can call Cindy Yurchak at 570-427-9817.

Weatherly Swimming

Sirkot swims to pair of golds at SIAL Championships

Weatherly Area senior Jacob Sirkot made his final Schuylkill League Swimming Championship appearance a memorable one. He placed first in both the 50-yard breaststroke and 100-yard individual medley Saturday as part of a record-breaking day at the annual event in Pottsville. He clocked a 1:01.51 win winning the 100 IM by more than five seconds over his closest competitor. He won the 50 breaststroke in 30.83 seconds, with a margin of victory of more than a second-and-a-half.

Weatherly teammate Keith Cullen also enjoyed a strong day at the championships, placing second in the 50 butterfly (26.27 seconds) and third in the 50 backstroke (28.58 seconds). He was edged by just .16 seconds in the 50 butterfly.

The two will be competing in the District 11 Class 2A Championships Feb. 26-27.

Marian freshman Danny Berlitz and Nativity freshman Ryan Schreffler headlined a record-breaking day at the Ned Hampford Natatorium. Berlitz shattered the Schuylkill League, meet and pool record in the boys' 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:42.90, breaking the previous mark of 4:46.49 set by Pottsville's Chris Grabowski in 1999. Schreffler broke the league, meet and pool record in the 100 freestyle, winning in 48.38. The pool record of 48.83 was the second-oldest pool record on the board, set by Upper Perkiomen's Guenes in 1989. The previous

Schuylkill League and meet record was 48.98 set by Pottsville's Keith Grabowski in 1998.

In all, six meet, three league, two pool and numerous individual school records fell by the wayside in the boys competition alone. Berlitz (200 free, 500 free), Schreffler (100 fly, 100 free), Blue Mountain's Mark Boran (100 back, 50 back) joined Sirkot as double winners.

Berlitz nearly broke two pool records, as his meet-record winning time of 1:46.33 in the 200 freestyle was just one second off the league, area and pool mark of 1:45.33 set by Chris Grabowski in 1999. He won the 200 free by 5.21 seconds over Marian teammate Timmy Dando, and also beat Dando by 26-plus seconds in the 500 free.

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Comets' football schedule unveiled

Although Crestwood will bump up from Class 3A to 4A with the PIAA's new six-classification system this fall, little will change for the Comets as they go after more WVC and District 2 hardware on the gridiron. Last week, the Wyoming Valley Conference athletic directors approved a proposed schedule for the 2016 and 2017 seasons, one that looked similar to years past for the Comets.

For Crestwood, most of the opponents have remained the same, though their position in the schedule has changed. Berwick, the team the Comets have opened with for several years, is still on the schedule, but has been shifted to Week 4. The Comets will open at home with Pittston Area, before travelling to Wyoming Area and Coughlin the next two weeks. The Berwick game is at Crestwood.

Pottsville, a non-league opponent the Comets have closed their last few seasons with, is positioned in Week 5 at Crestwood. A new addition, neighboring Nanticoke Area, will host the Comets in Week 6, and Tunkhannock returns to the schedule in Week 7 at Crestwood. The Comets add Hanover Area, a home game in Week 8, followed by games at traditional opponents Wyoming Valley West and Hazleton Area in Weeks 9-10.

The schedule passed by a 16-1

vote, with Lake-Lehman casting the only "no."

The 2016 season will begin Aug. 26-27 in District 2, and the final regular-season play date is Oct. 28-29.

On The Sly

by Steve Stallone, Sports Editor

Crestwood will be aligned in Division 2 of the WVC, with six other schools classified in 4A: Dallas, Wyoming Area, Berwick, Coughlin, Pittston Area and Tunkhannock.

As for the district playoffs, in Class 4A, there are 11 teams (seven WVC, four Lackawanna League) and the proposed bracket allows for three weekends of district play before moving on to the state tournament. The options are an eight-team bracket or a six-team bracket with the top two seeds receiving a bye. The champion will play the District 12 champ in the state playoffs.

The points system for all teams, regardless of class, will also change in the upcoming season. Teams will still receive 100 points for defeating a team in their own classification, but bonus points will now be in increments of 10 rather than 20. For instance, a team earns 150 points for

defeating an opponent five enrollment classifications above the enrollment classification of the winning school.

Crestwood will play up in class only twice, against Valley West (5A) and Hazleton Area (6A). It will bump down in class twice, against Hanover Area (3A) and Nanticoke (3A).

MORE HARDWARE FOR MADDIE - On Sunday evening, the 2015-16 Wyoming Valley Conference girls basketball all-star team was announced. For the third straight season, Crestwood's Maddie Ritsick was front and center. She was chosen Division I Player of the Year for the second consecutive year, a tribute to her determination and hard work coming back from a serious knee injury suffered in last year's playoff opener.

Ritsick, a 5-11 senior forward, averaged 20.1 ppg, knocked down 34 three-pointers, and went the foul line 203 times, making 149 for a 73 percent success rate. Her play helped the Lady Comets to a 7-7 conference record and a 10-12 overall mark heading into Wednesday's District 2 Class 3A playoff opener at Hanover Area.

Ritsick was the Division I Most Valuable Player as a sophomore, and is a two-time all-state player. This year's all-state team will be announced later this month or early

March.

Hazleton Area's Mackenzie Yori is the repeat Division I Most Valuable Player after leading the Lady Cougars to their second straight Division I title. The two are joined on the first team by Kendra Pfeil (Hazleton Area), Taryn Ashby (Pittston Area), Taylor Montana (Berwick), Nikki Wren (Dallas) and Erin Gibbons (Wyoming Valley West). Joe Gaudio of Hazleton Area is the Division I Coach of the Year.

COACHING LEGEND PASSES - Earlier this month, a coaching legend from Western Pennsylvania passed away, leaving a huge void for not only his family and his profession, but for me personally.

Thaddeus "Ted" Haluch, who guided the Alliance College men's basketball teams from 1954 through 1987, died following a period of declining health. He was 90. Known as the "Dean of District 18 Coaches" for his many years on the Alliance bench, Coach Haluch led the Eagles to numerous winning seasons. In 1962-63 and again in 1964-65, he guided the Eagles to the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. He also served as athletic director at Alliance, and was the school's baseball coach for many years.

What Coach Haluch did for me personally can never be replaced, nor forgotten. He literally changed my life. As a high school senior, I was un-

certain of where I might be attending college, or what career path I might choose. The one thing I was sure of is I wanted basketball to be a part of it.

I loved basketball, but I was a late bloomer. I was playing junior varsity ball as a sophomore and junior, and didn't even make my varsity team until I was a senior. I had offers to play college football, but basketball was my love and I wanted to pursue that on the college level.

Coach Haluch was the only one to give me that chance. He let me walk on at Alliance, a small school in Cambridge Springs, about an hour north of my home town of Franklin.

Under his guidance and through much hard work, I was able to contribute to the Eagles as a sparkplug off the bench and a defensive stopper during my freshman and sophomore seasons before finally working my way into the starting lineup as a junior. Coach named me captain of the team my senior year, something I took great pride in.

Together, Coach Haluch and my Alliance teammates covered plenty of ground together, battling through three-a-day practices, enduring several lean seasons won-loss wise, and travelling thousands of miles in the school vans. The one thing we had, first and foremost, was a lot of fun along the way. We went on two trips to Michigan for games, and even got to Myrtle Beach, S.C. for a tournament my junior season. We had a blast!

Coach always looked out for us, kept us on the straight and narrow, and preached to us to go to class and get our diploma. Thanks in no small part to Coach Haluch, I graduated from Alliance with a degree in communications, and it got me off on my start to a journalism career I still enjoy to this day. My years at Alliance also enabled me to meet my future wife, Monica, with whom I have raised three wonderful children who are themselves successful in life.

I feel a giant debt of gratitude to Coach Haluch, who gave me a chance when no one else would. He changed my life and steered it in the direction it is still going today. I am forever thankful.

Rest in peace, Coach. "Sto Lat."

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Lady Wreckers make return to district playoffs

by Steve Stallone, Sports Editor
Bill Clinton was in the White House, the first flip phone went on sale, and the Cleveland Browns were headed to Baltimore. Those are just some of the things that were making headlines in 1996. Closer to home, all-time scoring leader Amy Sandt was still knocking down shots from the perimeter for the Weatherly Area girls basketball team, and the Lady Wreckers had just defeated Pius X in the District 11 Class A playoffs.

Twenty years have come and gone since then. Clinton's wife is now running for president, flip phones are pretty much extinct, and the Browns have resurfaced again in Cleveland. And the Weatherly girls basketball program...is still awaiting its next playoff win.

Back in the postseason for the first time since 2004-05, the Lady Wreckers are happy to be where they're at these days, but by no means are they content. "It's been great for the girls," noted head coach Kevin Kringe, who guided the Lady Wreckers to an 11-11 record in this, his second season with the program. "They're really enjoying this. For them to experience all that hoopla, it creates a lot of excitement for the future."

Led by a trio of seniors, two standout freshmen and a handful of role players, the Lady Wreckers have put together their first .500-or-better season in 11 years. Now they have a chance to notch the program's first playoff win in two decades when they take on Shenandoah Valley Saturday evening at 6 at Martz Hall in Pottsville in the opening round of districts. "Now that we're here, we want to make the most of the opportunity," Kringe said.

Kringe took over a program screaming for stability at the top when he came on board in 2014. In the three decades since winning a district championship and reaching the PIAA Class A Eastern semifinals in 1985-86 under Bill Knepper, the Lady Wreckers have endured 13 coaching changes, suffered through 23 non-winning seasons and have reached the playoffs just seven times. Kringe's first team battled through a 4-18 season together as he got to know his players, and they got to know him, his system and his expectations.

"I'm going to be a tireless worker and I'll bring great energy, but I also want the girls to have fun," Kringe said upon his hire in October of 2014. "We're going to be building a foundation from the start, paying attention to detail. We want to start with small steps and get those little victories every day in practice."

"There's an interest there," he said at the time. "I look at Weatherly as a sleeping giant."

Steadily, that giant is waking up. The Lady Wreckers took a giant step forward early this season, beating Nativity 60-53 for their first win over the Golden Girls since their 2004-05 playoff season. A 54-50 win at traditional District 11 power Tri-Valley exactly one month later was another signature victory that proved to be a key to their resurgence.

However, the Lady Wreckers reached their season finale needing



a win at Meadowbrook Christian to seal a playoff berth. "We got emotional when I shared my experiences of not quite finishing in my athletic career and how it felt," Kringe said. "I related it to how we have to make the most of our opportunities and get our 11th win and accomplish something that hasn't been done in a while."

Although they trailed by three points after one quarter, the Lady Wreckers would not be denied. Powered by senior Shelby Berger's career-high 27 points and six 3-pointers, Weatherly blew past Meadowbrook 63-40 to punch its ticket to the district's big dance for the first time in 11 seasons. Afterward, the team stopped at Quaker Steak and Lube in Bloomsburg for a celebratory dinner, has had a pep rally in its honor, and is getting T-shirts made up to signify its next step up the ladder of success.

"For the kids to experience this whole extra week has been huge for them," Kringe said. "The girls have been so receptive to coaching and really try to do what we ask of them. We just have to continue to build the skill set. There were a lot of doubters out there, but we finally broke through. They're starting to kind of believe what I'm saying and what I'm doing, and they're starting to see some of the results."

One of the players who has bought into his plan is Berger, who has emerged as the team's most reliable perimeter shooter after a slow start to her season. "Shelby has gone through such a transformation, with me being her third coach. When I first got here she did not have a lot of interest in basketball," he said. "But one day the light bulb went on and she started believing what I was saying. She wanted to be part of the senior class that got the team back to districts."

After averaging under eight points per game and managing just two 3-pointers through the season's first five games, Berger has caught fire. She's been in double figures in 13 of the team's final 17 games, including three 20-plus point games. The 5-foot-7" guard is second on the team in scoring (11.6 ppg) and leads the Lady Wreckers with 33 triples - 11 of those coming in her last four starts. "She wasn't hitting shots early in the season," he said, "but I told her she put in a lot of work in the summer and eventually she's going to start hitting them. She's really hit

some clutch shots for us."

The play of fellow seniors Lexi Hartz and Jackie Gillott has also been big, even if their numbers don't show it. "They quietly do their job," Kringe said. "Lexi is a jack-of-all-trades. Her ball-handling has improved, she plays in the back of our press, and she's done a good job back there taking more chances this season," he said of the 5'-8" forward, who averages 3.1 ppg, is second on the team in assists and third in rebounds. "Jackie is only 5'-3", but she plays big. She runs around creating havoc on our press, she's undersized but she'll play against other teams' big players, and she has heart. She plays 110 percent all the time."

A big part of the team's breakthrough season has been the freshman backcourt of Emily Zoscin and Megan Peifer. Though much was expected of them after they led their junior high team to back-to-back 10-2 and 16-1 seasons as well as a Schuylkill League North Division title, the two have taken their games up a

Journal-Herald Sports

notch on the varsity level. Zoscin, the team's 5'-7" point guard, is averaging a team-high 13.3 points per game, leads the Lady Wreckers in steals (4.8 spg) and assists (2.2 apg), and is second in rebounding at five per contest. She's also sank 19 3-pointers.

"The freshmen are a huge part of what we do," Kringe noted. "Emily is our floor general. She wants to attack all the time. She's like me, she wants to go-go-go, and win all the battles. We need her to be our top ball-handler and provide scoring for us. When the game's on the line, she's got to make plays for us. "It was hard for her being a freshman, but we needed her to play well for us in order to succeed, and she did that."

Peifer is her 5'-7" running mate in the backcourt, but her game is in the paint. She did not attempt a 3-pointer, but still averaged 9.6 points per game, led the team in rebounds (6.5 rpg) and averaged three steals per night. "Megan's our most physical girl," Kringe said. "She's our leading rebounder and is always looking to attack the glass. She's undersized inside and a lot of bigs played her this season. "She plays up front in our press, she hustles all the time, and a lot was expected of her too. She's still trying to feel her way," he added. "I look for her to expand her game this summer, and I can't wait to coach her another three years."

Juniors Morgan Gower, Tina Caravella and Samantha DeSpirito, and freshman Lindsey Hoffman have also been nightly contributors who have been mainstays in the regular rotation this season. Many were also part of the junior varsity unit that

went 10-9 this season under varsity assistant Scott Zoscin.

The team's ability to mesh - the veteran players and the freshmen - has been a big reason for its success, Kringe said. "We don't have a lot of big statistical numbers, but they've all done a little bit of everything. The seniors had to kind of show the way to the freshmen, and then pass the torch to them a little bit. That's not easy for seniors to do, but they've done that."

And they've come together as a team. "We are like a little family. We have joked together, worked hard in the summer/preseason/inseason, and we've even cried together," he said. "Some losses we had, we had most of our players leaving the locker room crying because they didn't meet our expectations as a team. A parent told me they've never seen that from a Weatherly girls team in a long time. It means something to them."

Although the current players weren't even born yet the last time the Weatherly girls won a playoff game, they understand the significance of where they're at now, and want that ride to continue as they place their stamp on the program's history. "Our ultimate goal was to be at least 11-11 and get to the playoffs, but you always want more," Kringe said. "Now that you're here, you've got a shot. You want to make the most of the opportunity."



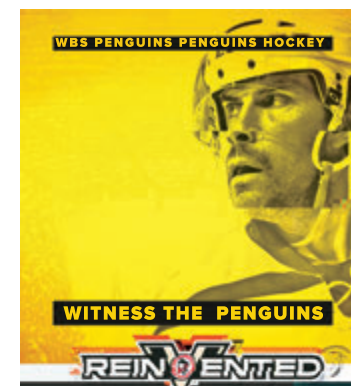
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