



# THE JOURNAL-HERALD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 • Volume 41 – No. 2

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(USPS 277440)

CONTINUING: *THE WHITE HAVEN JOURNAL*  
ESTABLISHED 1879–141<sup>ST</sup> YEAR, NO. 36

CONTINUING: *THE WEATHERLY HERALD*  
ESTABLISHED 1880–141<sup>ST</sup> YEAR, NO. 10



**THE ROCKPORT CHURCH** in Lehigh Township is getting a facelift, thanks to the generosity of a local man. Dan Shields received his \$1,200 stimulus check as part of the COVID-19 relief package, and decided to use it to benefit the community. He not only purchased paint to spruce up the the exterior of the old church, he also applied the paint. Lehigh Township Supervisors expressed their appreciation at their August 3 meeting, and discussed ways to continue the work, such as obtaining use of a bucket truck to paint the bell tower and other areas too high to be reached by ladder. Supervisors' chair Larry Skinner voiced the hope that attention might now be turned to the inside of the historic building. A 501-C3 has been formed to protect and rehabilitate the structure.

*JH: Ruth Isenberg*

## White Haven joins county DUI task force

by Ruth Isenberg

Following a public hearing with no comments at the start of their July 27 meeting, White Haven Borough Council voted to permit the White Haven Police Department to be part of the county DUI Task force. Atty. Sean Logsdon explained that the Task Force had been put together by the Luzerne County District Attorney's office to coordinate DUI enforcement activities such as checkpoints. Both the mayor and police chief were in favor of joining the task force, and council's vote in favor was unanimous.

The report from engineer Don Totino included information about a meeting held July 20 with PennDOT regarding Route 940 traffic, specifically at the intersection of Church and Berwick Streets. PennDOT said they would install a bituminous curb to take care of some of the storm water affecting Ed Gower's property. Safety concern regarding the intersection were also discussed. Rep. Gerald Mullery's office recommended getting the intersection in on the PennDOT 10-year plan.

Mayor Fred Meier complained that if drivers stop where the white line is painted at the STOP sign at the

intersection, they cannot see around the corner. Police Chief Tom Szoke noted that state law requires a driver to stop at the line, then pull up to where they can see safely.

Totino continues to work on the interactive Zoning Map and hopes to have the changes done by the end of the year.

Atty. Logsdon had good news in the solicitor's report. Mrs. Kiel has forwarded the money for the demolition of her property to the borough. She had been given until July 31 to take things out of the building. As of the meeting, he was just waiting on her for the deed. Once it is recorded, the contractor can begin demolition. Borough manager Linda Szoke said the neighbors had requested a meeting with the contractor before work begins.

Council approved changes to the Police and non-uniform pension plans to make them IRS compliant. Contributions had been capped at .6%, below the average. The change raised the contribution level to 1.5% for non-uniform employees. Council member Bob Lamson noted this action doesn't affect

See **WHITE HAVEN**, page 6



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# Editorial

## Learning a new way

**by Ruth & Seth Isenberg**

Both Weatherly Area and Crestwood have put a lot of time in planning for the opening of school, and now we get to where the rubber meets the road. The decisions about how to move students to the schools when classes are being held, and how to move students to educators when classes are not, are complicated—and very important.

It's all well and good to have on-line classes, but efforts need to be ramped up to make sure that the students engage. First up is a need to make sure connectivity is available in all areas. There are multiple complaints about internet service in our communities, and often service outages. Cable provider Atlantic Broadband is working to upgrade lines, some of which have been in place for years. More reliability will be a necessity for online learning.

Custom programs online will work for self-motivating students. As for the rest, this year is going to be a social experiment.

School teaches on many levels, in the classroom and in the interactions between students, and between students and teachers and administrators and staff. These interactions are extremely important because they teach the skills these young people will need to get on in the world around other people.

Without a chance to develop social skills, those students may find themselves at a disadvantage when they enter the work world.

Patience will be needed on everyone's part. Let's not lose sight of the real goal—preparing young people to succeed in a complicated world.

# From the Archives

**From  
The Weatherly Herald,  
Thursday, August 6, 1970  
James Faust and Cletus  
Milan, Publishers**

The groundbreaking for the new Carbon County Home was held last Wednesday. A photo shows Carbon County Commissioner Albert Koch with a shovel full of dirt, with officials looking on. Notable among these are committee member Irvin Neifert of Weatherly, and commissioner Bud Angst. More than 100 people turned out for the event.

Also on the front page is a photo of Weatherly Borough Council members Paul Younker, Paul Ratajczack and Rosebud Drolles looking over a scaled model of the new Carbon County Home with Weatherly borough manager Carl Wagner.

According to the general contractor, E. F. Sutter, work is expected to begin within 10 days.

George and Jowen Nunnermacker, just married at St. John's Lutheran Church in Jim Thorpe on Saturday (attended by some Weatherly families), were on a Pan American World Airways flight to San Juan from New York that was hijacked to Cuba. The plane didn't stay long in Havana, making its way to Miami before continuing to San Juan. The couple promised a good story when then returned from their trip.

Cub Pack #7 held a Cub Olympics recently at Eurana Park including a spear throw, high jump, basketball throw, 30-yard dash and 120 yard-dash. A baton relay was won by Mrs. Wheeler's Den 3.

The issue reprints a family story told by Albert Titus about the family's small children's encounter with a rattlesnake as the children were outside swimming. The family's German Shepherd kept the kids safe. Albert shot the snake, cut its head off and buried it.

Ronald Kelshaw has been accepted as a member of the freshman class at Moravian College in Bethlehem.

An inside photo shows members of the Lehigh and Lausanne Sportsmen's Club righting tombstones that had been vandalized in the St. Joseph's Cemetery, and also fixing the wrought iron fence.

**From the Sidelines,  
by Don Garber**

Walter Burke of Weatherly RD 1 reported a copperhead kill this past week. Garber added a reminder to step carefully when in the woods.

The Weatherly 4-H Horse and Pony Club will host the Carbon County roundup competition this Saturday at the Henry property. There will be 18 events, with first and second place winners allowed to compete in the District finals in Northampton. Congressman Dan Flood is expected to attend.

Football season tickets are still available, with a limited number on the 50-yard line.

Football practice will get underway on August 18.

*In memory of Garber,  
who passed away this past  
October.*

About 26 men came together for an evening of softball on Sunday, hosted by Rick Garber and the Rev. Donald

Stump. They tried to play on Saturday but were rained out after an inning and a half was played. They men plan to try another game next Sunday.

The Valley 13 All-Stars lost their two games over the weekend in the PA Babe Ruth 13 Tournament, 24-4, then 9-2. It's double-elimination, so the team was eliminated.

**From The Journal-Herald  
August 9, 1990  
Clara and Jay Holder,  
Publishers**

Front page photos for this issue show New Bridge Festival committee chairman Chickie Gower receiving a plaque in appreciation of her work in leading the committee to a successful first-ever event. Committee secretary Steve Timinsky made the presentation. A second photo shows some of the committee, including Dolly Daneker, Kate O'Donnell, Gower, Timinsky, Harvey Morrison, Lois Gower, Margaret Reilly, Electra O'Donnell, Tom Pardi, Marie Morrison, Marie Piro, Ed Gower, Linda Kistler, Lew Kistler, Joe Lehman and Jay Holder.

The event made a \$3,672 profit

The committee voted to organize towards holding another Homecoming July 6 & 7 in 1991.

Dennison Township supervisors are discussing joining with the White Haven Municipal Authority to offer sewage services to the Middleburg section of the township. The township will need an act 537 study, so the township's engineer was directed to prepare one.

**See ARCHIVES, page 11**

# Public Notices

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Letters Testamentary have been granted to Philip Engman, Esq. of Wellington, Florida in the Estate of PHILIP DAVID ENGMAN, A/K/A PHILIP ENGMAN, late of White Haven, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania who died on June 24, 2020. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make payment and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to the Executor named:

**PHILIP ENGMAN, ESQ.**  
9134 DUPONT PLACE  
WELLINGTON, FL 33414

8/13

## NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Lehigh Township will hold a hearing at the Lehigh Twp. Municipal Building, 1741 South Lehigh Gorge Drive, Weatherly, Carbon County, PA, on Thursday, August 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., prevailing time, for the purpose of hearing the following matters:

A Minor Subdivision Application for Robert G. Richeson and Lori L. Faust to subdivide Parcel No. 92-27-A6 into two lots, located at 53 South Lehigh Gorge Drive, Weatherly, Carbon County, PA.

A Reverse Subdivision Application for Thomas W. Morelli, Jr. to combine Parcel No's. 92-27-A58.03 and 92-27-A49, located at 169 Indian Run Road, Lehigh Township, Carbon County, PA.

All persons are welcome to attend and be heard. If you are a person with a disability and wish to attend this hearing, and require an auxiliary aid, service, or other accommodation to participate in the proceedings, please contact Christine Hoffman, Board Secretary at (570) 371-8552 to discuss how Lehigh Township may best accommodate your needs.

**Cynthia S. Yurchak, Esquire**  
Solicitor, Lehigh Township  
Planning Commission  
121 Carbon Street, POB 49  
Weatherly, PA 18255

8/6

## PUBLIC NOTICE

At their regular meeting on July 7, 2020, the Packer Township Supervisors voted to extend the Declaration of Disaster Emergency for 60 days. Call 570-427-8969 regarding the declaration and any questions you may have.

**Stephanie Stolpe, Secretary**  
Packer Township Supervisors



**Atty. Cindy Yurchak**

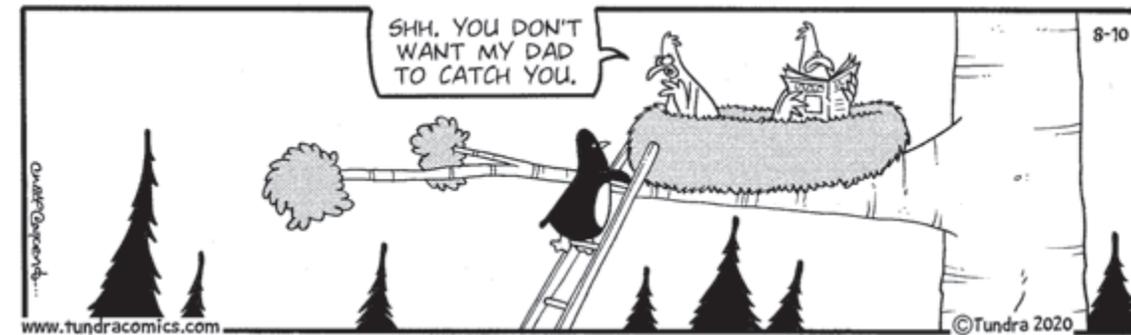
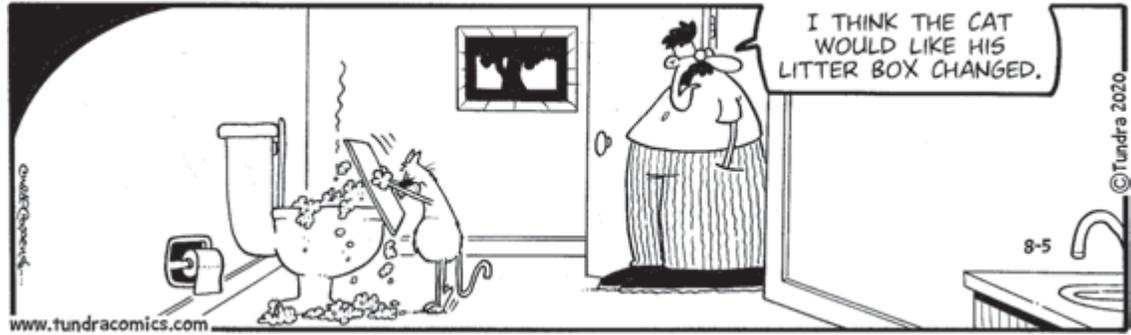
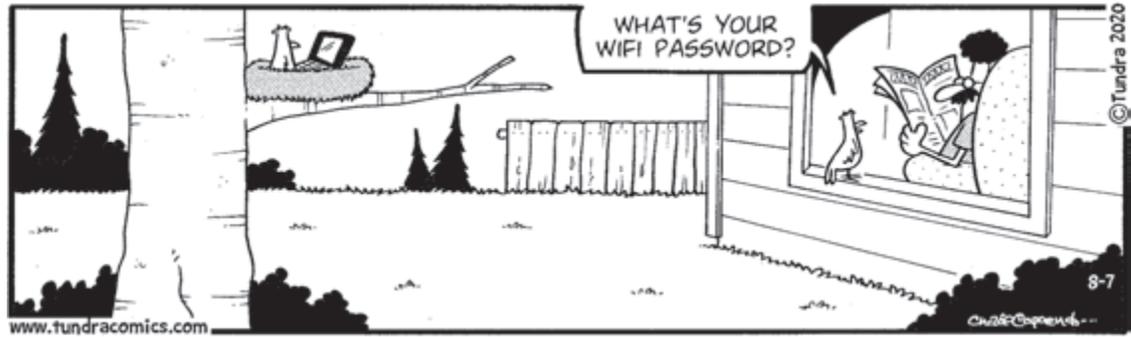
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for 29 Years

- Family Law
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Chad Carpenter's  
**TUNDRA**

THE OFFICIAL END OF THE WILD WEST

BARKEEP! FUZZY NAVEL! PULP FREE.

YOU GET CALLED A BIG, BAD WOLF LONG ENOUGH, EVENTUALLY YOU START TO BELIEVE IT. BLOWING DOWN HOUSES, DEVOURING GRANNIES, TELEMARTETING. IT'S A DOWNWARD SPIRAL.

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FIRST, WE'LL SNEAK AROUND FROM THE SOUTH, THEN WE'LL BREAK INTO SEPARATE GROUPS...

HEY! TONY'S WEARING A WIRE!

UH OH! HE'S BEEN MADE!

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# Death Roll

## KATIE O'DONNELL

Katie O'Donnell, 84, of White Haven, died Friday, July 31, 2020, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center.

Born in Hazleton, she was the daughter of the late Charles E. and Mildred Electra Sipler O'Donnell and was a graduate of White Haven High School, Class of 1953. She was a member of St. Patrick's Church, White Haven and being a very civic minded woman, she was involved with local politics.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded by her sister, Roseann Timinsky; grandnephew, Jason Reinhart and brother-in-law, Lewis Reinhart.

She is survived by her sister, Jean Reinhart of Laceyville; nephews, Stephen (Eliza Fuhrey) Reinhart of Laceyville, and Timothy (Christine) Reinhart of Montgomery; nieces, Mary T. Chaconis of Hagerstown, MD and Ann Timinsky.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be conducted on Saturday, August 22, in St. Patrick's Church, White Haven at 11 a.m. with interment in the parish cemetery.

Visitation will be from 10:30 a.m. until time of service at the church.

Arrangements are by Lehman Family Funeral Service, Inc., White Haven. Visit [www.LehmanFuneralHome.com](http://www.LehmanFuneralHome.com) for additional information.

## GEORGE T. PREBULA

George J. Prebula, 88 years of age, a lifelong resident of



Weatherly, passed away on Monday, July 27, 2020, at home on his family's

farm in Buck Mountain, Lausanne Township.

Born Friday, March 4, 1932 in Weatherly, he was the son of the late George and Theresa (Chippi) Prebula. He was also predeceased by his sister, Helen Strizak; and brothers, John and Michael Prebula.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 63 years, Margaret J. (Hill) Prebula; daughters, Margaret A. Prebula of Hazleton, Mary J. Fisher and her husband Joshua of Hazle Twp., Georgina M. Getz,

wife of Edgar of White Haven; grandchildren, Virginia, Josh, Jeramie, Nelson, George, and Mandy; and four great-grandchildren.

George worked for Beltrami's in the Eckley Breaker as a welder for many years; however, his true vocation was farming. He cultivated the soil and cared for the livestock on his multi-generational farm in Lausanne Twp. Time spent with family and driving his tractor is what made George the most happy.

George served honorably in the United States Army

Private arrangements have been entrusted to the Philip J. Jeffries Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Weatherly.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com).

## JASON J. LAPUTKA

Jason J. Laputka, 45 years of age, passed away July 28, 2020 after a brief illness.

He was born in Weatherly on September 18, 1974 to Emil Laputka and the late Bernadette (Marnell) Laputka.

Surviving are sister Brandy (Laputka) Meiser and companion Jason Trainor; nieces Donna Parise and Madylin Blackwell; great-nephew Jacob Errichetto; his roommate/best friend Tara Bartek whom he loved dearly; and his best buddy Monty, his Great Dane. Aunts, uncles and cousins also survive.

Jason attended Weatherly Area High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society and graduated in the top 10 in his class. He went on to attend Kutztown University, receiving a bachelors in business management. Living in Easton, Jason worked for Linde Gas in logistics.

Jason had a passion for all sports. His favorite teams were the New York Yankees, New York Giants and the North Carolina Tarheels but he loved to play golf. He also had a passion for cooking and won awards for his chili. Jason had a huge heart and would do anything for his family and friends.

Private arrangements have been entrusted to the Philip J. Jeffries Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Weatherly.

Online expressions of sympathy or a fond memory can be expressed by visiting [www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com).

*Happy Birthday  
in Heaven*



**JOHN  
A.  
DIAS**

This day is remembered and quietly kept,  
No words are needed we shall never forget.  
For those we love don't go away.  
They walk beside us every day.  
Unseen and unheard, but always near,  
So loved, so missed and so very dear.

*Love, Your Family*



**Philip J. Jeffries  
Funeral Home  
& Cremation Services**

A Branch of Holmes - Griffiths F.H., Inc.  
211 First Street, Weatherly, PA 18255

**570-427-4231**

*E. Franklin Griffiths III F.D.  
Philip J. Jeffries F.D./Supervisor  
[www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com)*

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*Guiding families through  
difficult times.*

## Lehman Family Funeral Service, Inc.

White Haven, PA

*PATRICK M. LEHMAN, PRESIDENT  
RUSSELL C. TETER, JR., SUPERVISOR*

Serving White Haven, Weatherly and surrounding communities

[www.LehmanFuneralHome.com](http://www.LehmanFuneralHome.com)

*Branch of Lehman Family Funeral Service, Inc.*

**(570) 443-9816**

## PEDAL POWER

All but four Pennsylvania counties have greenway plans to promote biking and non-motorized transportation.

**9** bike routes through PA = **2,282** miles of bike routes



# Death Roll

## TODD W. SANDEFER

Todd W. Sandefer, husband, father, brother, uncle, 47 years of age, of Yeakle Street, Weatherly, passed away suddenly on July 28, 2020, in Summit Hill.

Born Thursday, February 8, 1973, in Coaldale, he was the son of the late Ronald and Pamela Marie (Davis) Sandefer. He was also predeceased by his daughter, Carissa Lynn Sandefer; and sister Susan Hentzel.

Surviving are his wife of 5½ years, Angela Lynn (Bartholomew) Sandefer; daughters, Alexa Shea Sandefer of Nesquehoning, and Helena Carolyn Sandefer of Philadelphia; brother, Scott Sandefer and his wife Margie of Leighton; sister, Marci J. Sipler, wife of Harry of Weatherly; step-daughters, Jillian N. Bartholomew of Beaver Meadows, and Bria N. Bartholomew of McAdoo.

Todd attended Tamaqua Schools. A hard worker, A talented carpenter Todd did construction most of his life. He always looked on the positive side of life. Todd enjoyed riding dirt bikes, gardening, fishing and spinning records as a DJ.

Todd loved his family and will be missed by all.

Private arrangements have been entrusted to the Philip J. Jeffries Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Weatherly.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com)

## VA offers debt relief to Veterans through year's end

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced its commitment to extend debt relief to veterans adversely impacted by COVID-19 to the end of 2020 by suspending certain debt collection actions.

The department recognizes veterans and beneficiaries are

still being greatly impacted by the coronavirus prompting the extension of financial relief.

"Veterans and their families should be focused on their health and safety during the pandemic," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "VA is taking action to give those with pending debts greater flexibil-

ity during these challenging times."

VA is suspending all actions on veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Treasury Department. This includes the suspension of collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, whichever the Veteran prefers.

For benefit debts, veterans should contact the VA Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648.

For health care debts, Veterans should contact the Health Resource Center at 1-866-400-1238 or <https://www.pay.gov> for payments.

## VA expands funding for emergency response for veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness during COVID-19 pandemic

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced it is allocating an additional \$400 million of its coronavirus relief funding to enhance the department's emergency relief response for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) allocated \$17.2 billion for the Veterans Health Administration of which \$700 million is devoted to expanding services for and addressing the challenges faced by Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

"The additional allocation of CARES Act funding will support the continuity of care of vulnerable Veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "With this additional funding, VA's Homeless Programs Office can provide more homeless prevention assistance and emergency housing to make it possible for Veterans to maintain appropriate physical

distancing and to ensure they are living in safe conditions."

The newly allocated funds will be used for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF). SSVF offers several ways to secure housing for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

In total, \$602 million of coronavirus relief funding has now been allocated for this

program, which will also help the Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program place Veterans in safe housing to isolate them from the virus.

Other coronavirus relief funding devoted to providing emergency shelter and supportive services for Veterans includes \$88 million for the Grant and Per Diem Program

and \$10 million for the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program.

VA is hosting a national webinar July 17 to support budgeting and planning for grantees of the SSVF funding. Learn more about how VA is working to protect Veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic and about VA's homeless programs.

## SCAM ALERT: Rental Property Scams

Renting a home or apartment is a big expense and an even bigger one when the rental is a scam. Scammers look for easy cash by collecting the first month's rent, a deposit, and application and background check fees and then bolt before handing over the keys. Numerous versions of rental frauds abound – some are bait-and-switch while others will attempt to rent out properties that are

already leased or otherwise unavailable.

Renters signing leases and putting down money based on units similar to a model unit is on the rise, and would-be renters are losing hundreds or even thousands of dollars. When renting a new place, watch out for scammers who ask you to sign before seeing anything or request payment via wire transfer, peer to peer apps or cash. Do your re-

search on the property and owner, and read agreements carefully.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360 and speak to trained staff or volunteers for help with a fraud encounter.

# Inspiring Thoughts

by Ann Adams

One of my favorite verses is Psalm 37:4: “Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” Sometimes it doesn’t seem that way, especially when trials come, but the Word of God is always true. God is always in control; not I.

The key to this verse is the word “delight.” What does it mean to delight in someone or something? I remember the twinkle in my father’s eyes when I brought home his new granddaughter Ruth. It was the same look I had seen in my father-in-law’s eyes when he took his granddaughter Rachel in his arms. It’s that look in a mother’s eyes when she sees her child’s attempt at an artistic creation or a bouquet of dandelions presented with a smile. “Delight” includes the word “light” because eyes usually light up when we experience that joy.

What do we delight in? A new car, the rise in our 401k, a beautiful home, a loving family, a good diagnosis, the Word of God, the Lord Himself? God doesn’t promise there will be no trials, but He does promise to go through those trials with us. When our desires match those of our Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart. God loves to answer prayer and give us the very best. Where is your delight?

## Delight

A mom first sees her newborn child;  
She takes new life in her arms;  
The baby smiles, then coos with joy,  
There’s delight for all around.

A child makes a gift for mom.  
It’s crooked and somewhat wrinkled;  
But to mom it’s a beautiful creation  
That causes her eyes to twinkle.

Do we have that feeling toward our God?  
Do we delight ourselves in our Lord?  
He provides and meets our every need  
And guides us through His Word.

The Lord has given His greatest gift,  
The life of His dear Son.  
Have we put our trust in His sacrifice?  
Do we delight in all He’s done?

It was love that took Him to the cross.  
With joy He endured the shame.  
‘Twas the only way to reconcile us  
And now we praise His Name.

-Ann Adams

# Local students graduate from college

## Kutztown University

Kutztown University has conferred degrees for more than 1,200 students for the Spring 2020 semester.

Kutztown University announces degree conferment twice a year, once in the winter and once in the summer.

Commencement exercises are held in May and December; however, students finish the requirements for graduation throughout the entire year.

Chase Steven Weichman of Weatherly received a Bachelor of Science of Business Administration in Management.

## York College of PA

Over 650 students graduated from York College of Pennsylvania on May 31.

Alexis Hartz of Weatherly graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management.

# White Haven...

## Continued from page 1

the borough’s budget, just the amount a retiring employee could draw down from the state plan. The change would not go into effect until 2021. Council voted to advertise an ordinance to make the change retroactive to 2012, when the last employee retired and two employees joined the borough’s work force.

## MANAGERS REPORT

Luzerne County Council asked for feedback about extending the property tax due date through to the end of the year. Because a county council meeting was set for the following night, it was decided to follow whatever course they took to avoid confusion. (Editor’s note: the deadline was not extended.)

On Szoke’s recommendation, council will remove the “No Parking” signs on Bufaclo Street across from the former fire house.

A payroll deduction at no cost to borough to employees to set up a 401k plan will not cost the borough anything.

## TAX COLLECTOR

Tax collector Kathy Cross reported delinquent taxes collected for May 2020 is \$1,969.65, and current taxes collected for June is \$7,902.09.

## FIRE CHIEF

On behalf of the fire company, council president John Klem stepped away from the table to thank council for its help in getting them into the new building, noting it had been a 10 year process, and that the fire company will be making payments of \$24,000 per year. A formal grand opening will be scheduled.

## MAYOR’S REPORT

The mayor asked what the council was doing about the smell from Standard Farms. He said neighbors were no longer bothering to call to complain, because nothing had been happening. Atty. Logsdon replied that at this point, they are reopening lines of communication, getting more information and finding out what Standard Farms is doing. Next step is to set up a meeting to talk about what is being done.

It was emphasized by the manager, the police chief and council that residents have to call in every night to complain in order to establish a

record. The mayor countered that council ignores the complaints. Lamson said it could be an issue of litigation, and should be discussed in executive session.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Correspondence from American Rock Salt set a storage fee of \$350 for sale leftover from the 2019-2020 winter. The 25 tons must be used by December 31. Public works supervisor Joe Wychock did not anticipate a problem using it by that time.

He has been concentrating on paving and potholes, including on Old 940 up Powerhouse Road, and Chemung to Hazle. He is waiting on a quote from Gerhard Roofing on the former firehouse project, and he thanked Middleburg Auto for help with welding on the Bobcat.

The sinkhole in front of Albees has been filled. Brickwork was done at the firehouse, and an old step was filled in. Mulch was replaced in Lehigh and Pine Street Parks.

Present were council members Charlie Best, Mike D’Agostino, Rose Diel, John Klem, Lamson, Harvey Morrison, and John Zugarek. Council meets next on Monday, August 24.

# Seth's Sightings

by Seth Isenberg

Due to the virus and the limited events, and also due to needing to keep close to help out my uncle who has been sick but is now hopefully on the mend, Ruth and I are doing a lot of driving. There are roads throughout northeast PA with stunningly beautiful views of lush green ridges and valley. On Saturday, we took a ride to Nescopeck for fresh garlic at Pumpkin Hill Farm, and blueberries at Stemmrich's — who sadly are done for the season (too many birds). From there, we cut through Nuangola on the way to Nanticoke and to visit my uncle Slater.

Just out of Nuangola on the Alden Mountain Road, we struck a bear. The bear sur-

vived the impact, and the car survived the damage — which broke a headlight and bent fenders.

I cleaned up the area of the strike, just a bit of headlight glass (no blood) and a few rivets — and no bear nearby either. There seems to be no effect on the driving, so we continue to use it while waiting on repair plans. We drove down to a shop in Tuesday's storm to get the damage looked at. Gorilla Tape has things secured.

Tuesday was a big deal with rain and wind from the tropical storm, though thankfully not a lot of damage. By 5, the sun was out in White Haven.

Last week, after a mid-week

meeting, the two of us went out to dinner in Lake Harmony, as we wanted to eat after 8 p.m. when other restaurants close. Nick's Lake House was our choice, and since we didn't have a reservation, we were seated inside instead of on the deck — which was booked up. Our spot was in a beautiful room with a view of the lake and the folks seated on the deck.

We sat side by side to watch boaters on the lake, and one of the things Ruth sighted was a large storm cloud, headed in our direction. During our meal, the storm arrived. We watched one outside group scramble to move under cover, first a little bit, then a bit more, and then a lot more... and finally, as the wind picked up along with the rain, a full get up and move to a table inside the room where we were seated to a table socially distanced but near to us.

The funniest thing was that within a couple of minutes, a server came by with a fully loaded tray, and walked right past this group and out to where the group had been seated. She was surprised to find the group wasn't there, but quickly recovered and dis-

covered their new location.

This past Friday night, we attended the lone live performance of this summer's Pocono Mountains Music Festival, in the parking lot of the Buck Hill Golf Club. Parking toward the back, we enjoyed the concert from the car, but eventually set up a chair to better enjoy attending a live performance. There was drink service and boxed meals — an added bonus, so we also had dinner with our music.

Sightings this week include a remote farm raising a herd of red deer — the bucks sport impressive antlers still with their velvet covering. We also sighted lots of deer and some fawns, and some wild turkey, and a whole lot of skunks.

The corner where we live seems to be a meeting area for skunks, making us fear we'll have skunk kits soon. One night, as I talked with neighbors, a big male crossed the street ahead of a car, which rolled him. He was unhurt, but mad. We were within view so we all cleared out as he stomped his way over to a safe hiding place under a neighbor's porch (where a smaller skunk had hid earlier... thus the kits idea).

Sunday afternoon, we took a very scenic drive to Bloomsburg via PA 339 from Ringtown, then enjoyed a bit of a covered bridge tour in Columbia County.

Closer to home, other than the skunks... it is good to see the men's basketball league using the Eurana Park court in Weatherly, with fans keeping social distances. Some summer activity still goes on.

Even closer, I had another beautiful lily in full bloom, and again it lasted just two days, long enough for a deer to discover and eat it. We also seem to have a tomato-stealing squirrel looking to reduce the crop on Ruth's tomato plants.

Wrapping things up — ice hockey is back, and we seem to be in a blacked out area so cannot subscribe to a video feed, so we are left to listen to the Penguins radio call, then keep watch on the NHL game-cast on my computer. The Penguins and Canadiens have split their two games so far. As a bonus, I watched some of the Celtics game on Sunday — a win. Somehow having the sports to watch makes things a bit better.

Slater now has a daily visit to help him with his day. He seems to be improving, and we're beginning to hope he can be okay with the help — and stay clear of the hospital. This weekend, we'll take him out for a socially safe dinner. Also this weekend, other than monitoring the Penguins games, we plan to attend a dog adoption event in the early afternoon this Sunday as part of the Let's Save the Dogs fundraiser and golf tournament at Split Rock Golf Club.

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## White Haven man is part of mission

# Same day service restores helicopters to mission capable status

by **Jacqueline Boucher**  
Public Affairs Specialist

A rapid response team from Tobyhanna Army Depot increased Soldier readiness by conducting critical repair work on rotary wing aircraft assigned to an Army unit at Fort Drum, New York.

Two technicians volunteered to travel north to repair transponders in several aircraft recently transferred to the 10th Mountain Division's 10th Combat Aviation Brigade. Within 72 hours of notification the team was back at the depot — all aircraft restored to mission capable status.

"There were a lot of people involved in making sure this mission was successful," said Electronics Mechanic Leader Brett Bellas of White Haven. "New batteries were built on short notice, and communications security personnel made sure we had everything we needed prior to departure."

A transponder is an electrical device designed to receive a specific signal and automatically transmit a specific reply. When used in aircraft, transponders help distinguish friendly forces from the enemy.

"While there, the technicians also conducted training with avionics and aviation



**Electronics Mechanic Leader Jason Kilmer repairs the transponder on an AH-64D Apache Attack Helicopter at Fort Drum, New York.**

*Photo by Michael Carson*

crew members," said Mike Carson, chief, C4ISR Directorate, Transponder Branch. "Soldiers learned how to inspect and install batteries to minimize future failures."

Fort Drum helicopters were used to transport Bellas and Electronics Mechanic Leader

Jason Kilmer to Upstate New York and back. The team was able to apply years of experience performing similar work at locations around the world to complete the repairs in four hours.

"The customer was very happy with the results of the

mission," Kilmer said. "We were able to fly there and do what needed to be done [make the aircraft mission capable] all in one day." Kilmer also commended leaders at all levels for their support of the mission.

Bellas and Kilmer are assigned to the Transponder Branch. The technicians said they are proud to play such a vital role in keeping the helicopters flying and supporting the warfighter.

"We get to see [up close and personal] the importance of what we do and how it affects the military members in the field," Bellas said. "It's our way of paying it forward."

Tobyhanna continues to focus on supporting the warfighter how and where that

support is most needed, Carson added.

The speed at which employees react to the warfighter is what sets Tobyhanna Army Depot apart, according to Jody Oustrich, C4ISR Directorate director. The customer called stating they had non-mission capable aircraft and 36 hours later the team was in a helicopter flying to Fort Drum to conduct repairs and upgraded software, he added.

"We were able to complete this mission in half a day and restore all of the aircraft to full-mission capable. Brett and Jason did an outstanding job executing the mission. Employees like them exemplify the Army's value of selfless service."

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# Added to WHACL board

Two new members were elected to the Board of Directors at the annual membership meeting of the White Haven Area Community Library on July 14. Joining the Board are Deb D'Angola and Kathleen Benyo, two members of the community that are well known for their backgrounds in both education and business. The two vacant positions were available with the completion of terms by Sheri Carlton Trutt and Patricia Rader, who were recognized for their service to the library by serving on various committees as well as the Board.

The library Board is pleased to

announce that limited services have resumed at the Engine House. Patrons are able to request books, audiobooks and dvds by phone and email and are able to pick them up at the front door on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 1 PM. Many new, current resources have recently been added to the collection. The Board has also decided to resume copy and fax services as well as accept new membership applications.

For questions or further information, the public can contact the library by calling 570-443-8776 or email at [whacl.library@yahoo.com](mailto:whacl.library@yahoo.com).

# ALA meets Monday, collecting for VA

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 360 in Weatherly will hold its monthly meeting Monday, August 10, starting at 6 p.m. at the post home. Please note all monthly meetings will now start at 6. All members are urged to attend. CDC regulations will apply.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 360 in Weatherly will be collecting

full-size body wash and full-size shampoo. The items will be donated to VA Hospital in Wilkes-Barre in September.

If you wish to donate, please drop off your items at the post home during the pizza sale on August 28th. You may also contact Donna Thomas at 570-427-8474 or Georgia Farrow at 570-427-4527 to drop off items.

# Faith Church, Weatherly Happenings for August

**This Friday, August 7 — Movie Night** at 8:30 p.m. at the Eurana Park Amphitheater. All are invited to join us for a family movie and free popcorn, showing Overcomer. Bring your own lawn chair.

**Wild Water Adventure Day** — Monday, August 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Kids' fun Wild Water Adventure Day at the Weatherly Area Middle School. Fire Truck spray down, snow cones, water games, free hot dogs, free beverages, and a big inflatable slide.

**Music Festival** — Sunday, August 23 at 6 p.m. Faith Church, Weatherly will hold its 2nd annual Faith Fest music night at Eurana park amphitheater. This year we will scale back our music festival due to Covid-19 precautions. We encourage social distancing by bringing your own lawn chair. Masks are encouraged and hand sanitizer will be available.

**Visit our website at [pocononewspapers.com](http://pocononewspapers.com) for in-between-issue stories and events**

# Carbon County property transfers through July 26

## Banks Township

Robert J. Carelli to Ivica Kostic, Maspeth, New York, property at 29 E. Maple St., \$48,000.

## Beaver Meadows

John C. Rayno to John Rayno Jr., 6 Swamp St., Beaver Meadows, property at 6 Swamp St., \$1.

Mary Ann Homanko to Krystna L. Homanko, 40 Third St., Beaver Meadows, property at 43 Second St., \$7,750.

Robert D. Sheer to Alfred John Mitcho Jr., P.O. Box 476, Beaver Meadows, property at 28 Second St., \$55,000.

Gezim Vukaj to Hazir Vukaj, 310 W. Ludlow St., Summit Hill, property at 4 E. Broad St., \$1.

## Kidder Township

David Kellogg to David Pfleger, Voorhees, New Jersey, House 91, Snow Ridge Village, Section A, \$82,900.

William H. Goeckeler to David Brezee, Warren, New Jersey, property at 150 Snow Ridge Circle, Lake Harmony,

\$126,900.

Yolanda M. Fegley to Timothy Huber, 119 Skye Drive, Lake Harmony, Lot 207, Section B, Lake Harmony Estates, \$67,000.

Frank W. Pieri to Kathryn E. Murray, Telford, property at 534 N. Lake Drive, Lake Harmony, \$100,000.

Bobby D. Robinson to 23 Pineknoll, LLC, Centreville, Virginia, property at 23 Pineknoll Drive, Lake Harmony, \$434,500.

Mary A. Sullivan to Clarissa Scott, P.O. Box 896, Albrightsville, Lot 2, Block A, Hemlock Forest Section, Holiday Pocos, \$40,000.

Roseann Salasin to John Venturini, Scotrun, property at 20 Slalom, Lake Harmony, \$91,000.

Ivonne Barreto to Joseph A. Gandia, 60 Chipmunk Trail, White Haven, property at 61 Chipmunk Trail, \$80,000.

David Snedeker to David Snedeker, 30 Birchwood Road, Lake Harmony, property at 30 Birchwood Road, \$1.

Sabina Pietraszko to Grzegorz Grodzki, Colonia, New Jersey, property at 35 Wood St., Lake Harmony, \$215,000.

Sharon B. Sperber to Pine Breeze, LLC, Middle Village, New York, property at 703 Pine Knoll Drive, Lake Harmony, \$153,000.

Claudette Ginsberg to Blended Realty, LLC, Sugarloaf, property at 55 Midlake Drive, Unit 102, Lake Harmony, \$150,000.

Great Pocono Enterprises to Leon J. Van Dyke Jr., Boyertown, Lot 1011, Section B, Holiday Pocos, \$4,000.

Mary Ann Klinaszewski to Cheryl Sorino, Marlton, New Jersey, property at 346 Laurels Drive, Blakeslee, \$1.

William C. Chavis Jr. to William C. Chavis Jr., Teaneck, New Jersey, Building 65, Section B, Inn at Big Boulder, \$1.

Marc J. Bernstein to Scott D. Plichta, Downingtown, property at 32 Mountainwoods Drive, Lake Harmony, \$285,000.

Christian D. Fehrenbacher to Roman Wilusz, Hazleton, lots 20, 22 and 24, Block H, Section Hemlock Forest, Holiday Pocos, \$37,500.

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation to Brian D. Cwierniewicz, 808-809 B Tanglewood Drive, Albrightsville, property at 808-809 B Tanglewood Drive, \$1.

Larry P. Polansky to Steven Van Sciver, Westhampton,

New Jersey, property at 11 Azalea Lane, Lake Harmony, \$230,000.

Michael C. Claypoole to Scott A. Haines, Wilmington, Delaware, property at 59 Tanglewood Drive, Albrightsville, \$127,000.

Maureen McLaughlin to Jeffrey McVeigh, Newtown Square, property at 208, 809 Pocono Road, Pocono Road and Swamp Hollow Lane, Albrightsville, \$80,000.

John J. Durkin to Amrish Dias, New York, New York, property at 55 Midlake 201H, Lake Harmony, \$170,000.

William J. Liaw to R. Anne O'Toole, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Unit A-132, Midlake on Big Boulder, \$170,000.

Richard H. Morrell Jr. to Jill S. Faulls, Bellmore, New York, property at H-1 Wolf Hollow Road, Lake Harmony, \$35,000.

## Lausanne Township

Robert Alan Harper to Donn Chandler Innes, 1763 Buck Mountain Road, Weatherly, property at 1763 Buck Mountain Road, \$345,000.

## Lehigh Township

Michelle L. Clark to Michelle L. Clark, 1275 S. Stagecoach Road, Weatherly, property at 1275 S. Stagecoach Road, \$1.

David L. Musselman to Mark M. Walters, 1449 Packer Drive, Weatherly, parcel No. 92-27-B12.01, \$8,500.

## Packer Township

James J. Correll to Nancy Davidovich, 781 Spring Mountain Road, Weatherly, property at 779-781 Spring Mountain Road, \$1.

## Weatherly

Sheriff of Carbon County to U.S. Bank, N.A., Irvine, California, property at 409-411 Third St., \$1.

JJMD Realty, LLC, to Seth A. Mansor, 246 Hudsonale St., Weatherly, property at 246 Hudsonale St., \$25,500.

Tammy J. Hoffman to Tammy J. Kates, 375 Maple St., Weatherly, Lot 1, William A. and Irma R. Ritter Subdivision, \$1.

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## Archives...

### Continued from page 2

East Side Borough has a vacancy on council after the resignation of Candace Huseman. Her husband, Elmer, also resigned as tax collector. The Husemans are moving from the borough. Linda Migneco was appointed to serve the final two years of Elmer's term, through the end of 1991. The position will be filled in the 1991 election. East Side Borough is also looking into the possibility of hooking up to the White Haven Municipal Authority's

sewage system.

The White Haven Fire Company is holding its annual carnival at Lehigh Park from Monday through Saturday. Nonweiler Amusement Co. will provide rides and games, there will be bingo and a variety of food.

The Weatherly Area High School cross country team will begin official practice this coming Monday, August 13. Coach Scott Coll and assistant coach Phil Jeffries will be working the team of 10 returning runners and 12 newcomers, mostly freshmen, into

a team by the first meet of the season versus Tamaqua and Schuylkill Haven on September 5.

The Parryville Band will entertain at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Albrightsville's annual cake walk and picnic on August 18.

The sixth annual Pittston Tomato Festival will be held August 23 to 26 on Kennedy Blvd.

The Mountain Laurel Classic pro-am golf tournament will be held August 26, followed by a two day PGA championship event where the best players of the Philadelphia section of the PGA

will competed for a total purse of \$13,000. The pro-am raises money for the Hazleton Easter Seals Society. 30 teams of three amateurs and one PGA professional will compete. Following play, a Hawaiian-style clam bake will be held at the Mountain Laurel's new Victorian-style clubhouse.

This Saturday, The White Haven Bakery will celebrate its first anniversary with an open house from 7:30 to 5:30. Also this Saturday — A Summer Clearance Sale on Mary's Porch (Ladies Fashions for Less), on Route 437 a quarter mile north of White Haven.

## Packer adds Zoom to planning hearing

At the Packer Township Supervisors' meeting on August 3, an audience member asked if the Planning Commission meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 10, regarding updates to the SALDO and Zoning Ordinance would be held via Zoom, as well as in person. Supervisors decided that option could be offered, and secretary Stephanie Stolpe set up the following log-in:

Direct link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88691869397>

Meeting ID is 886 9186 9397

To call in, dial 1-929-205-6099.

**Sports editor Steve Stallone is on vacation this week. He will be back with Sports news next week.**



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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

# THEME: BACK TO SCHOOL

**ACROSS**

1. \*Egg-like curve in math class
5. a.k.a. stand-up paddleboard
8. Not in good health
11. Flick part
12. \*Roll \_\_\_\_
13. Aerosol can emanation
15. On the mountain peak, e.g.
16. Arm bone
17. Grind down
18. \*Proud jacket owner
20. Trident part
21. "Walking \_\_\_\_"
22. Blazer or Explorer
23. Unit of money in Norway, pl.
26. Semiconductor additives
30. Farm layer
31. Agave alcoholic drink
34. Amos or Spelling
35. Analyze
37. Geisha's sash
38. South Korean metropolis
39. Capital of Ukraine
40. T.S. Eliot's "Old \_\_\_\_'s Book of Practical Cats"
42. Get firm
43. Temporary
45. Table linens
47. Where bugs are snug?
48. Nostradamus

- and such
50. Type of rich soil
  52. \*Where one graduated
  56. Boatload
  57. \*Chemistry classrooms
  58. Lake in Scotland
  59. Arabian chieftain
  60. Corset rod
  61. Encore!
  62. Former Chinese leader
  63. "\_\_\_\_ the ram-parts..."
  64. Arctic jaeger

**DOWN**

1. \*Type of spoken test
2. \*Class president candidate wants it
3. Loads, two words
4. Greek money
5. Game ragout
6. Of #16 Across
7. Architect's drawing
8. Used to eliminate wrinkles
9. Serve soup, e.g.
10. Sodium solution
12. Arrow poison
13. Establish, two words
14. \*As opposed to public
19. Hostile force
22. "La" precursor
23. Shade of Dockers
24. Pine juice
25. Beginning of illness

26. \*Valedictorian's spot
27. Gallows' rope
28. Comparative form of "true"
29. Muddy or sandy
32. \*2020 classroom venue?
33. NCIS network
36. \*GPA, technically
38. Ingratating behavior

40. George Orwell's Napoleon
41. On pins and needles
44. Grapevine news
46. Part of Old Testament
48. \*Olden day notebook
49. Imprison
50. Dharma teacher
51. Three-layer

- cookie
52. "The Sun \_\_\_\_ Rises"
  53. Pippin's last name, "The Hobbit"
  54. Boring hue?
  55. Actress Perلمان "Modern Family"
  56. Eric Stonestreet

**CROSSWORD**

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# Let's Save The Dogs fundraiser at Split Rock Golf Club

This Sunday, August 9, there will be a Let's Save The Dogs golf tournament, adoption event and fundraiser at the Split Rock Golf Club to

benefit the NEPA Pet Fund & Rescue, Carbon County Animal Shelter, and Red Rock Rescue, Inc. The tournament costs \$100 per player.

Golf kicks off with registration at 9 a.m., and a shotgun start at 10. There's a light breakfast, and then a buffet lunch. To register to golf, call 570 722-9901, or

e-mail to SRINFO@ptd.net.

The dog adoption event will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be basket raffles and other fun-raisers. Stop by

to see the adoptable dogs, try or luck at a raffle and pick up some "Harmoniously Healthy Homemade Dog Treats" by Melody's Munchies.

# In sports, even the mighty fall, including the Yankees

by Mark C. Morthier

Anyone who has followed MLB baseball knows the NY Yankees have a rich tradition of winning. From 1926-1964, the Yankees didn't have a losing season. Only hockey's Montreal Canadians have come close (32 straight winning seasons. In baseball, the Yankees reign supreme—winners of 40 American League pennants and 27 World Series trophies. In second-place, the St. Louis Cardinals, well behind those numbers.

But even the Yankees have gone through extended periods of losing. From 1903-1918, the team had only five winning seasons. And it happened again immediately after the consecutive streak ended in 1965. In 1966, NYY finished in last place with a 70-89 record. Fans stopped attending games, too. On September 22 that year, stadium turnstiles moved only 413 times. Things didn't get much better in 1967 when the Yankees finished next to last and lost 90 games.

After three consecutive losing seasons, the '68 Yankees got back to winning by going four games over .500, but still finished 20 games behind the Tigers. The good news is that New York had a nucleus of young talent with pitchers Al Dowling, Fritz Peterson, and Mel Stottlemyre, infielders Horace Clarke and Gene Michael, and outfielders Roy

White and Joe Pepitone. They still had future Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle, too, who (by then) had moved to first base. But gone were many players from the 1964 pennant-winning club, including pitchers Whitey Ford and Ralph Terry, catcher Elston Howard, infielders Bobby Richardson, Clete Boyer, and Tony Kubek, and outfielders, Roger Maris and Johnny Blanchard.

Even with Mantle retiring, hopes were high in 1969, but the outcome didn't match hope. NYY had yet another losing season (80-81), which was its fourth in five years. It took another year to change the storyline.

In 1970, the club went 93-69 record—the best record since '64. Ralph Houk won the AL Manager of the Year award and catcher Thurman Munson, who batted .302, was named the AL Rookie of the Year. Bobby Murcer, Roy White, Fritz Peterson, and Mel Stottlemyre also had solid years, too. But the problem for the Yankees was the Baltimore Orioles—a team that finished with 108 wins and captured the World Series title.

Baltimore's supremacy wasn't a one-off. The '71 Yankees finished 21 games behind the O's. And even when Baltimore took a dip in '72, the Yankees couldn't make a move. The team finished 4th only three games above .500. Bright spots were reliever

Sparky Lyle, who was secured in a trade, and Murcer, who hit nearly .300 with 33 homers and 96 RBI's. Murcer was the Yankees' only All-Star that year.

But things were about to change in 1973. George Steinbrenner bought the team from CBS, and the team acquired 3rd baseman Graig Nettles from the Cleveland Indians. By July 1, the Yankees were in first place in their division but then went into a slump, ending the year two games below .500.

It was a sad way to say goodbye to the original version of Yankees Stadium. The old haunt needed remodeling, and NYY played the 1974 season at Shea Stadium, home of the New York Mets. The change of scenery and the acquisition of new players (e.g., Chris Chambliss, Lou Piniella) wasn't enough. Yes, the team had a winning record in 1974 (89-73), but the Orioles took the division title...again.

The big news during the off-season was that Bobby Bonds would be joining the club in a trade that sent fan-favorite Murcer to the Giants. Then, on New Year's Eve, the Yankees announced the signing of free-agent all-star pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter. Unfortunately, those improvements didn't add up to a better record in 1975 (only six games above .500). Even before the season's end, Stein-

brenner had fired manager Bill Virdon and replaced him with Billy Martin.

From 1976-1981 the picture changed significantly. The Yankees won four AL pennants and two World Series titles, but in typical Steinbrenner style, the team did it under the leadership of three different managers. The transition from losing to winning was anything but uneventful. Some of that was internal, but external factors weighed heavily. Team captain Thurman Munson died in a plane crash in 1979, and Reggie Jackson left the team at the end of 1981.

The constant firing/hiring of managers took a toll. A losing season in 1982 was the first since 1973 and, even though the team won consistently under Don Mattingly (1983 to 1988), the Yankees never had quite enough to win the division. The closest finish was in 1985 when NYY finished 97-64, two games behind the upstart Blue Jays.

At that point, fans had to remember the good years because the Bronx Bombers would be entering a drought. From 1989-1992, the Yankees lost four seasons in a row, including going a lousy 67-95 in 1990, the team's worst record since 1912.

Things would turn around, as they sometimes do in sports and always seem to do in the Bronx. Today, the Yankees are experiencing the fourth-longest winning streak in sports history — 27 consecutive winning seasons (1993-2019). During that time, they have won seven AL pennants and five World Series.

But our review of Yankees' history tells us something important about sports - even the mighty can fall and, indeed, they often do.

*A two-state weightlifting champion, New York State-based Mark C. Morthier writes about weightlifting and 'old school sports' for The Sports Column.*

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# How a fan in the stands went from Ms. Webb to Web Star

by **Matthew Paris**

It happened seven years ago this January. Katherine Webb, an Auburn University undergraduate and a Miss Alabama USA, was sitting in the stands at a football game. In seconds, she became a national sensation. Here's what happened.

Webb was dating Alabama starting quarterback AJ McCarron. McCarron led the Tide to an 11-1 record in

2012, and 'Bama qualified to play for college football's national championship. After beating Georgia in the national semi, the Tide faced Notre Dame in the championship game.

As UA took the lead, 14-0, the cameras panned the stands and found Ms. Webb. The photo opportunity was too much for announcer Brent Musburger to pass up. He went on and on about her

beauty and how football players score on the dating scene.

The Tide went on to trounce the Irish, 42-14, but Musburger's comments were also part of the post-game conversation. ESPN apologized. The public? Overnight, the number of Webb's Twitter followers jumped from 2k to 175,000. Googling "AJ McCarron's girlfriend" topped 1 million searches. The YouTube video of Webb in the stands

and Musburger's monologue had over 3 million views.

Katherine Webb took advantage of national fame, making media appearances and appearing in a reality television series, *Splash*. And for the record, Webb told the media that she didn't find Musburger remarks offensive.

Where is Katherine Webb today? She's married to McCarron, who's still in football,

playing as the backup quarterback for the Houston Texans. The couple has two children, and Webb loves being a wife and mother.

But on January 7, 2013, millions of eyes were riveted on Webb in what became an iconic moment.

*Austin, TX resident, Matthew Paris, is a screenwriter and author. He writes for The Sports Column.*

# The NBA is back, but will I be back for the NBA?

by **Lynn Buess**

The NBA has restarted the 2019-20 season. But as much as I have been a longtime NBA fan (Portland Trail Blazers, specifically), I'm lukewarm at best about the resumed NBA

season. The reason? Recent global events and the assault upon humanity have caused me (like so many others) to reevaluate priorities and refocus life in new and different directions.

It's clear that something is

wrong in sports today, and I can confirm that conclusion through the application of my specialty, numerology. The clue is in the number 25. Years ago, I dubbed it 'the John Belushi number' to signify that it was associated with many people in the entertainment industry. The number is often related to an adverse social attitude, overindulgence, rebellion, loss of control, delusion, and escapist behaviors. 'Hollywood' also has a 25. The words sport, entertainment, and Coronavirus also have the number 25 included. What

might that all mean?

Indeed, many positive attributes are associated with sports, including the quest for perfection, camaraderie, and fair play. But sports are a business, too. These days, NBA games are presented with blaring sound systems and a sideshow of expensive concessions and paraphernalia. Players promoted as demigods earn more for a single night's entertainment than most fans make in a year. Media-hyped games feature taunting, peacocking, posturing, and pretense in what has become

a sensationalized form of escapism. Sporting events like that seem designed for those with attention deficits. Worse yet, they divert attention from troubling issues of the day.

During the months away from the NBA, I've explored new facets of life, and with rich and rewarding consequences. Time away from the game allowed me to appreciate other endeavors that have far more significant meaning in life. Yes, I'll still watch an occasional game or two. But the NBA will occupy less of my time. I've concluded that we can benefit from occasionally slipping into the world of fantasy, but a steady diet of it disrupts the soul.

I trust that I'm not alone and that other Americans have had similar reactions by 'a pause that refreshes.'

*West Coast resident Lynn Buess is a longtime NBA fan who writes about the sport at The Sports Column. A numerologist by profession, you can follow his work at Numerology Rising <https://forevernumerology.com/>*

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# New Chronic Wasting Disease response plan approved by PA Board of Game Commissioners: Support from all stakeholders – namely hunters – critical to plan success

by Mary Firestone

On Saturday, July 25, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners reviewed and approved the newest form of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Chronic Wasting Disease response plan. Following the initial review period of September 2019 through February 2020, the Game Commission issued a revised response plan in the spring of 2020 for a second round of public review. All told, the Commission received 885 comments on the plan from the public, agencies and organizations. These were incorporated into the final version of the plan. "Development of this plan was truly a collaborative effort," said Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Bryan Burhans. "Our wildlife management staff consulted with many of the nation's leading CWD experts from both the public and private sectors. Agency staff also took into account the many, many comments we received from passionate deer hunters all across the state over a months-long public comment process."

Since the first recorded case of CWD in a captive deer facility in 2012, and just months later in a free-ranging deer, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has mobilized and collaborated with CWD experts from the public and private sectors to mitigate the effects of the disease. CWD is an always-fatal brain disease that affects members of the cervid family including deer, elk and moose. A total of 473 free-roaming deer have tested positive for CWD out of more



**The Game Commission will again in 2020 have head collection bins in various locations around the state. Hunters can drop the heads from their deer in the bins and get them tested – for free – for chronic wasting disease.**

*Photo courtesy PA Game Commission*

than 95,000 deer tested in Pennsylvania since 2012. There is no live-animal test for CWD and no cure. To date, CWD has not been found to infect humans. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends people avoid eating meat from CWD-infected animals.

The Game Commission maintains three Disease Management Areas across the state to control CWD. These are geographic regions featuring special rules for hunters and the general public meant to slow disease spread while increasing the chances of detecting it. When CWD is detected, a 10-mile radius buffer is created around the CWD-positive deer. This buffer is then used as a reference when defining DMA boundaries with roads and waterways. As for the special rules within DMAs, it is illegal to move high-risk parts

(i.e. brains, spinal cords, and spleens) outside the boundaries, hunters are prohibited from using natural urine-based attractants inside the boundaries and feeding of deer is not permitted.

The response plan presented July 25 by the Game Commission focuses on prevention, surveillance and management of CWD, and it relies heavily on communication and cooperation from a key group: hunters. Hunters will notice a change in their opportunities to harvest deer within DMAs this fall. "At the April 2020 Commission meeting, Game Commission staff recommended, and the board of commissioners approved increased antlerless licenses in Wildlife Management Units where CWD had been detected. In addition, the board of commissioners approved a 14-day concurrent firearms

season for antlered and antlerless deer in these WMUs to provide more hunting opportunity," said Christopher Rosenberry, the Game Commission's deer and elk section supervisor. "The antlerless deer license increases and concurrent seasons in these areas eliminate the need for DMAP permits in CWD areas. Because of this, most DMAP units from past years, created specifically for CWD management, have been eliminated."

Hunters can also contribute by participating in Enhanced Surveillance Units. These are areas around specific high priority CWD-positive animals. Samples collected within an ESU will determine the extent of infection in areas at the leading edge of disease expansion. The Game Commission has installed large metal bins throughout the DMAs for the collection of harvested deer heads. The bins, which are similar to those used for clothing donations, keep contents secure and will be checked and emptied every other day through the deer-hunting seasons. All deer heads retrieved from the bins will be tested for CWD, and the hunters who submitted them will be notified of the results, likely within two weeks of drop off.

Several additional strategies were outlined within the Game Commission's response plan, including the ban on movement of high-risk parts from "Established Areas" where the disease is established on the landscape and CWD is unlikely to be eradicated to reduce the movement of CWD from higher prevalence areas to

lower prevalence ones. The Commission will also manage CWD within Containment Zones, small areas immediately surrounding a new, isolated CWD detection. Harvests there will be carried out with landowner cooperation in an effort to remove deer that may have come in contact with that newly discovered CWD-positive deer. The Commission notes, however, that no one strategy will solve the commonwealth's CWD problem in a short time period, and the mitigation of the disease and its effects will require consistent long-term efforts. "Chronic Wasting Disease is a serious threat to Pennsylvania's hunting heritage, the biggest we've faced in our lifetimes," said Pennsylvania Game Commission President Charles Fox.

The Commission said in the response plan that it will strive to use the best available scientific information to continue to improve its response to CWD in order to fulfill its mission to manage and protect Pennsylvania's deer and elk for current and future generations. "We've seen what happens in other states choosing the 'do nothing' approach. CWD not only expands geographically, but disease prevalence rates within deer herds climbs exponentially," said Krysten Schuler, wildlife disease ecologist at the Cornell Wildlife Health Lab. "That doesn't have to be Pennsylvania's future. If the Commission and hunters partner now to support disease response actions, deer and deer hunting can both continue to thrive in Pennsylvania for the long term."