



PRESS AND JOURNAL

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14 PAGES

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75 CENTS



Submitted Photo

Fire damages a locker room building at the ArcelorMittal steel plant in Steelton, as shown in this photo taken by a firefighter at the scene.

Explosion, fire rock Steelton steel mill

By Noelle Barrett
Press And Journal Staff

One hour could have cost lives. An explosion and fire destroyed a building that housed a locker room, shower facilities, bathrooms and offices at ArcelorMittal steel plant in Steelton at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2. No one was injured – but if the explosion had occurred about an hour later, chances are there would have been fatalities.

“If it would have been an hour or a couple hours later, there would have been people changing,” said Ray Fernandez, a master electrician at the plant. “It would have been pretty ugly.”

About 70 people, split into three shifts, use the building, which also has a repair shop attached to it, Fernandez said.

Fortunately, no one was in the building at the time, and there were no injuries, confirmed Steelton Mayor Tom Acri.

The exact cause of the explosion has not been determined. ArcelorMittal and the Steelton Fire Department are investigating “to see what the start of the fire was, and how it could ignite,” Acri said.

“The building filled up with gas, and I don’t know what ignited it to explode, but the building exploded,” he said. “It brought the building down to its knees. It was flattened.”

The electric and the gas were shut off as quickly as possible, said Fernandez.

Joe Swope, a spokesman for UGI Utilities, said representatives responded to the scene and “assisted local first responders in assessing the situation and in investigating the cause.”

“Following a thorough check of its facilities, UGI confirmed that none of its facilities were involved in the incident and that its system was secure,” Swope said in a e-mail to the Press And Journal.

More than 100 emergency responders were on scene, and firefighters battled the blaze at the South Front Street plant for nearly two hours before bringing it under control, according to Acri.

Acri could see the smoke as he watched the scene unfold from outside the gate of the plant. There were some initial issues with getting

Please See FIRE, Page A6



Press And Journal Photos by Noelle Barrett

The eight-point star, a symbol of baptism and regeneration, on the ceiling of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Middletown, was painted gold so it would stand out.

A 135-year-old church is lovingly restored

By Noelle Barrett
Press And Journal Staff

As the sun begins to set on St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Middletown, the stained glass in the front window glows bright. The inviting images in the window are lit by new lights, just one small touch that is part of a number of renovations recently completed in the 135-year-old church’s sanctuary.

Many of the renovations have a common theme: welcoming and inviting everyone.

The chancel now has a ramp and one small step, instead of four larger steps,

to provide physical access. The sound system was upgraded to improve the ability of those who attend services to hear, but also those who listen on the radio.

It is a theme that also inspired the church to change its mission statement last fall while renovations were being completed. “As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome and invite all of God’s people regardless of age, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or economic status,” the statement reads.

Please See CHURCH, Page A6



New lighting makes the front stained glass window at the church glow at night.



Before



After

The altar in the sanctuary before the renovations, then after the renovations were completed.

FEBRUARY IS



Rock bands to play for Radabaugh family

Local rock bands will perform a concert for the Radabaugh family, whose Middletown home caught fire in October. The concert will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Angle’s Brookside Diner, 1360 Eisenhower Blvd.

Admission to Rock for the Radabaugh family is \$15, with the proceeds benefitting the family. Readers can visit the Rock for the Radabaugh’s Facebook page for more information.

Steel-High approves property tax resolution

Property owners in the Steelton-Highspire School District will not see a real estate tax increase above the state’s Act 1 index for the 2014-15 school year.

The Steelton-Highspire School Board approved a resolution on Thursday, Jan. 23 to keep any tax increase below the index.

The maximum increase allowed in the district under state law is 3.2 percent, according to the index.

Church observes “Parents Day Out” with child care

Looking to celebrate Valentine’s Day early but can’t find a babysitter? The New Thing Community Church is hosting a “Parents Day Out” from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9 during which parents can drop off their children for a couple hours.

Kids will be able to watch a movie, play games, make crafts and eat snacks while their parents enjoy time together.

The church is located at 2285 W. Harrisburg Pike in Lower Swatara Twp.

To register, readers may call the church at 717-388-1065 or Janet Hock at 717-585-9469.

They made history



Photo by Bill Darrah

The players and coaches of the Middletown Area High School girls’ basketball team

The Middletown Area High School girls’ basketball team won its first division title in team history when it beat Steelton-Highspire, 50-45, on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Now the Blue Raiders will play for the Mid-Penn Conference championship, facing another division winner, Mechanicsburg, in a semifinal game on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at Cumberland Valley High School. Read more about it on page B2 in our Sports section.

LOWER SWATARA TWP.

Worker dies from injuries on leaf crew

By Jim Lewis
Press And Journal Staff

A Lower Swatara Twp. employee died in Penn State Hershey Medical Center on Thursday, Jan. 30 from injuries he received when a leaf vacuum machine ran over him while he was working with a crew on a township street, authorities said.

Brett D. Shope, 27, of Middletown, was injured while working on a leaf pickup crew near Westerly Court and Pennsylvania Avenue when the vacuum machine ran over him around 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 30, police said. He had been listed in critical condition at the hospital after the accident, a hospital spokeswoman said. Shope was raking leaves into the

leaf machine when the accident happened, said Richard Brandt, chief of the Lower Swatara Twp. police. The machine sucked leaves into the back of a dump truck that towed it.

Two other workers – one operating the leaf machine, the other driving the dump truck, were on duty, but no one saw how Shope was injured, said Brandt.

Because Shope was injured badly, police never had a chance to interview him, he said.

“How it happened, we’re not quite sure,” Brandt said. “That will always be a little bit of a mystery.”

Dauphin County’s Accident Reconstruction Team concluded it was an

Please See WORKER, Page A6

Copper wire, fittings taken from site

More than 2,700 pounds of copper wire and copper and brass fittings were stolen from a construction site at TE Connectivity on Fulling Mill Road in Lower Swatara Twp., police said.

The theft occurred sometime on Monday, Jan. 13 and Tuesday, Jan. 14, police said. The items are valued at \$2,595.

Authorities are asking area recyclers to look out for the items, and asking anyone with information about the theft to call police at 717-939-0463.



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EMPLOYMENT

THE NUTRITION Group, a leader in food service management, is seeking part time and substitute cafeteria employees for the Middletown Area School District. Monday through Friday/Daylight shifts are available. The Nutrition Group offers competitive wages. Contact Sarah at (717) 948-3333, ext. 6010 for details or pick up employment applications: Middletown Area High School, 1155 North Union Street, Middletown, PA 17057 in the main office. (2/5)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE CHANGE

The Finance Committee Meeting of the Middletown Area School District Board of School Directors has been changed from Tuesday, February 18, 2014 to Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Middletown Area High School Library, 1155 North Union Street, Middletown, PA.

2/5-1T #118
www.publicnoticepa.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary have been granted in the following estate. All persons indebted to the said estate are required to make payments and those having claims or demands are to present the same without delay to the Executor named below.

ESTATE OF GENNARO L. PASTORE, late of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, (died January 3, 2014). Sandra M. Pastore, Executor and Michael Cherevka, Attorney: 624 North Front Street, Wormleysburg, PA 17043.

2/5-3T #119
www.publicnoticepa.com

MIDDLETOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Preliminary Budget Notice and Act 1 Referendum Exception Notice

NOTICE is given that the Proposed Preliminary Budget for the General Fund of Middletown Area School District for the 2014-2015 fiscal year is available for public inspection at the school district offices, 55 West Water Street, Middletown, Pennsylvania, and will be presented for adoption as a Preliminary Budget Proposal at a school board meeting to be held in the Large Group Instruction room of the Middletown Area High School, 1155 North Union Street, Middletown, Pennsylvania at 7:00 p.m. on February 18, 2014. The Preliminary Budget Proposal may be amended before adoption.

Pursuant to Act 1, the Pennsylvania Department of Education publishes an index % applicable to the School District. The School District real estate tax increase for the next fiscal year is limited to the index % unless the proposed tax rate is approved by voters pursuant to a referendum or the School District qualifies for an Act 1 exception. As a result of special circumstances covered by an Act 1 referendum exception, a tax rate % increase above the index might be required to balance the School District budget for the next fiscal year. The tax to be levied is required to provide a quality education program as reflected in the School District Preliminary Budget.

The School District intends to seek approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education or the County Court as required by Act 1 for an exception (allowing increase of the real estate tax as reflected in the School District Preliminary Budget. On written request by any School District resident or taxpayer, the School District will provide a copy of the referendum exception application.

David A. Franklin, Secretary
2/5-1T #117
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Community newspapers have a strong bond in connecting local readers with advertisers.

Derby donation



Submitted photo

Officials from the Prince Edwin-Spring Creek Lodge 486, Free and Accepted Masons, present a donation to Cub Scout Pack 97, Londonderry Twp., for the purchase of a new Pinewood Derby track. Pictured are: adults, from left, Worshipful Master Edward Barrick, Junior Warden and Youth Chairman David McDade, Cub Scout Master Mark Matak and Assistant Cub Scout Master Chris Coleman; back row, Bryce Coleman, Kyle Hoyt and Gabe Silks; center row, Luke Spangenberg, Bryce White, Mason Barrick and Nicholas Ricco; and front row, Jaime Gallick, Riley Coleman, Riley Lewis, Thomas Hanft and Colton Matak.

MAHS students win business challenge



Submitted photo

The two teams from Middletown Area High School that qualified for the regional competition in the Entrepreneurship Challenge are: front row, from left, Eric Belles, Emily Orris and John Ponnert; back row, Alex Mosher, Arlo Antle and Christian Roberts.

Two teams from Middletown Area High School finished in the top five at the Entrepreneurship Challenge on Nov. 12 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey, qualifying them for the regional competition on Tuesday, March 11.

The contest, sponsored by Economics Pennsylvania, tests students' ability to

take an idea for a start-up business from basic elements to a viable business plan.

Seventy-five business plans were entered in the local contest.

The team of Arlo Antle, Alex Mosher and Christian Roberts placed in the top five with a business plan for "EZ Keyz," a key ring sen-

sor that wirelessly unlocks doors. The team of Eric Belles, Emily Orris and John Ponnert also placed with their "How To App," an application that solves college-level mathematics problems.

The top three winners at the regional competition will qualify for the state competition.



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Take action NOW at savepublicnotices.org.

Town Topics

News & happenings for Middletown and surrounding areas.

Blue & Gold Club meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Blue & Gold Club will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9 in the Middletown High School library.

All club members are welcome to attend.

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Bingo mania

Londonderry Fire Company, 2655 Foxianna Rd., Middletown, will hold a Bingo Mania on Sunday, Feb. 9. Doors and kitchen open at noon; bingo starts at 2 p.m.

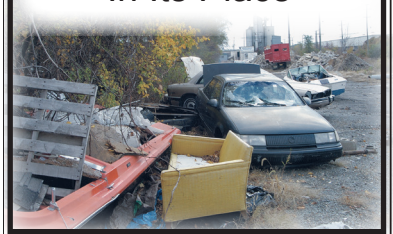
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Booster Club pasta dinner

The Middletown Boys Basketball Booster Club is sponsoring an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9 at Middletown American Legion, Post 594, 137 East High St., Middletown.

Readers can purchase tickets at any home game or contact Sandy Harper at slharper@verizon.net or 717-986-0399; Chris Phillips at Middletown Area High School; or Matt Kleinfelder at Middletown Area Middle School. Tickets are also available at the door.

Please, Put Litter In Its Place



CHURCH

Continued From Page One

On Sunday, Feb. 2 – exactly 135 years to the day the church was originally dedicated – members of the congregation and the community gathered to celebrate the first church service since renovations began.

A fresh coat of white paint, tan trim, and red carpet replaced the beige and mauve paint and yellow carpet that was there before. But many of the changes were a nod to the past.

“We’re renewing the sanctuary, but in doing so, we focused on restoring some of the historic

elements of this space,” said Ellen Willenbecher, a lifelong member who helped coordinate the renovations. “It was part of our gratitude for the detail and the beautiful work that our forefathers and mothers had given to this space in 1879.”

One of the timely elements was recreating a raised plaster design that fills the walls and surrounds the stained glass.

Cherry wood now is a background to the original gold cross that hangs on the front wall, and a cherry wood arch enhances the Victorian gothic architecture that is original to the sanctuary, said

Pastor Dr. J. Richard Eckert. “Your eyes are drawn to the cross, I think,” he said. “Then, the arches draw your eyes up. One of the amazing things is that little gold star up [on the ceiling] that has been overlooked a long time.”

The eight-pointed star on the ceiling is a symbol of baptism and regeneration, new birth and new life.

“It has all that meaning, reminding us of Jesus’ love and life. Because of it, we have a new life,” Eckert said. Several church members, including Willenbecher, Herr Moore, Michael Dougherty, and Sharon Beard, were heavily involved with the project – and having everyone come together to get the work done has been one of the best parts of the project, Eckert said.

“It has been beautiful to watch each step occur,” he said. “I believe that the spirit, the hand of God was guiding us, and we were receiving something beyond what we could imagine.”

The church, at Spring and N. Union streets, is inviting the community to an open house and hymn sing, where residents can see the work for themselves, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23.

Noelle Barrett: 717-944-4628, or noellebarrett@pressandjournal.com



St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Middletown was dedicated exactly 135 years ago on Feb. 2.



New cherry wood highlights the gold cross above the altar.



Submitted photo

Attending the check presentation ceremony at Penn State Harrisburg are, from left, Annie Stover, Mutoya Niyibizi, Samantha Henderson, Andy Dessel, Jennifer Bear, Feel Your Boobies founder Leigh Hurst, Laurie Dobrosky and Jason Fluke.

Campus ball raises \$2,500 for foundation

A Penn State Harrisburg student group raised more than \$2,500 for the Feel Your Boobies Foundation, a cancer awareness organization based in Middletown.

The Penn State Harrisburg Lion Ambassadors raised the money at their annual Boobies Ball in October. They presented a check to Feel Your Boobies

founder Leigh Hurst on Friday, Jan. 31 at the Olmsted Building on campus.

The ball was launched in 2005, and since has raised more than \$10,000 for the Feel Your Boobies Foundation. The 2013 ball attracted more than 300 students.

The foundation provides free breast health materials to Penn State Har-

risburg and other colleges in the area and throughout the country.

“The work done by the foundation to increase awareness of breast cancer in young women resonates with our students,” said Laurie Dobrosky, assistant director for alumni relations and the advisor to the Lion Ambassadors.

Car crashes into downtown building; motorist arrested

By Noelle Barrett
Press And Journal Staff

A York County man was arrested after he allegedly struck a South Union Street building with a car he was driving and fled around 2 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, police said.

Reuben Jason Estrada, 30, of Dover, was charged by Middletown police with DUI, DUI-highest rate, failure to stop at the scene of an accident, involvement in an accident causing damage to unattended property and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle after he struck the building housing Raudenbush Engineering at 29 S.

Union St., according to Chief Steven Wheeler.

The accident damaged the front of the building, Wheeler said.

Police officers apprehended Estrada several blocks away near the 7-Eleven convenience store on East Main Street, Wheeler said.

Estrada did not have the car owner's permission to drive the vehicle, Wheeler said.

Estrada was suspected of DUI and was also wanted for warrants issued in York County, according to Wheeler.

Estrada was taken to Dauphin County Judicial Center for processing, where he allegedly refused to submit to chemical testing, Wheeler said.

“PennDOT will be notified of his refusal to submit to chemical testing, which could result in suspension of his operating privileges in addition to any penalty imposed if convicted of the charges filed,” according to a press release issued by Middletown police

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WORKER

Continued From Page One

accident, Brandt said. Shope graduated from Middletown Area High School in 2004. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, according to his obituary, and his Facebook page is filled with hunting and fishing photos, and scenes of the Susquehanna River. His funeral was scheduled to be held on Monday, Feb. 3 in Hershey.

Noelle Barrett: 717-944-4628, or noellebarrett@pressandjournal.com

FIRE

Continued From Page One

water from a few of the hydrants, and firefighters had to bring some water in from the town, Acri said.

“They did a good job of bringing it under control, considering what they had – a lot of steel beams and things,” Acri said.

Steelton firefighters remained on scene to deal with hot spots for several hours, and were called back later Sunday evening for more hot spots, he said.

“The fire was burning pretty good

for awhile,” recalled Fernandez. “It was still smoldering a bit [Monday] morning.”

The plant, which is one of three rail producers in North America, according to the ArcelorMittal website, was set to return to normal production Tuesday, Feb. 4, Fernandez said.

A spokesman for ArcelorMittal did not respond to e-mail and phone requests for information.

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MIDDLETOWN AREA BOYS' BASKETBALL

Middletown's playoff hopes take a hit

Losses to Rollers, York Suburban damage Raiders' postseason dreams

Middletown tops Susquenita for Senior Night victory

By Larry Etter
Press And Journal Staff

Any hopes the Middletown boys' basketball team had of making the District 3 playoffs faded away last week as the Blue Raiders won just one of their three games.

Following a loss on Tuesday, Jan. 28 to Steelton-Highspire, the Raiders bounced back with a nice victory over Susquenita on Friday, Jan. 31. But Middletown fell back a step on Saturday, Feb. 1 in a non-league loss to York Suburban.

The win left the Raiders (9-11, 7-7 in the Mid-Penn Conference Capital Division) well short of the goal of 12 victories that Coach Chris Sattelle felt his team would need to qualify for postseason play.

The season was scheduled to wrap up this week with a non-divisional contest at Central Dauphin East on Tuesday, Feb. 4 and a final game against Greencastle-Antrim, another non-divisional foe, on Thursday, Feb. 6. That game will be played at the Middletown Area Middle School.

Still, a pair of wins in the final two games would end the season on a positive note for the Raiders.

**Middletown 45
Susquenita 28**

The Raiders' Senior Night victory over visiting Susquenita on Friday

in Middletown was no thing of beauty, but it was still a win.

Coming off a humbling 80-41 defeat at the hands of Steelton-Highspire on Tuesday, Middletown got off to a slow start against the Blackhawks (2-19, 0-14) and led by just 4 points, 15-11, at the game's halfway point.

But a 17-10 scoring advantage in the third quarter propelled the Raiders to a 32-21 lead after three quarters, and the home team cruised to the final decision.

Junior guard Ladhellis Charleston led the way with a game-high 17 points in the victory.

Sattelle honored his seniors by sending four players out on the floor who were not normally included in the starting five. Along with regular starter Cody Fox, Sattelle had Dylan Danilowicz, Bobby Harper, Levi Varner and Bradley Phillips lead off the game against the Blackhawks. That group played the first 4:00 of the contest and gave way to the regulars with a 3-2 lead at the 4:11 mark of the opening period.

Shortly after Charleston, Nick Drawbaugh, Mel Fager and Brandon Harper took over, Harper suffered a deep cut on his chin and had to leave the game. The promising 6'6" sophomore went to a hospital for stitches and did not return.



Middletown seniors posing for a photo with their parents on Senior Night, from left, Levi Varner, Bobby Harper, Cody Fox, Bradley Phillips, Mel Fager III, Nick Drawbaugh and Dylan Danilowicz.

Photo by Jodi Ocker

With both teams struggling on offense in the first half, points were at a premium. After Susquenita edged ahead, 6-4, with 1:11 left in the first quarter, Charleston drove the baseline for the tying bucket and added a free throw to give the Raiders a 7-6 lead with 51 ticks left.

The score remained unchanged until Susquenita's Shane Smith made one of two foul shots to knot the score at 7-7 at 5:43 of the second stanza.

Thirty-three seconds later, Danilowicz converted his own steal into the go-ahead points and the Raiders never trailed from that point on.

Fox's reverse layup off a Drawbaugh assist, a short jumper by sub Osman Kamara and a buzzer-beating layup by Varner offset a pair of Blackhawk goals by Jake Nace and led to a 15-11 lead for the Raiders at the break.

Middletown got another scare when

Fox went down hard earlier in the period, but the tough senior guard came back to play the second half.

Charleston, who registered 11 of his points in the third quarter, led the Raider charge to start the second half

Please See RAIDERS, Page B4

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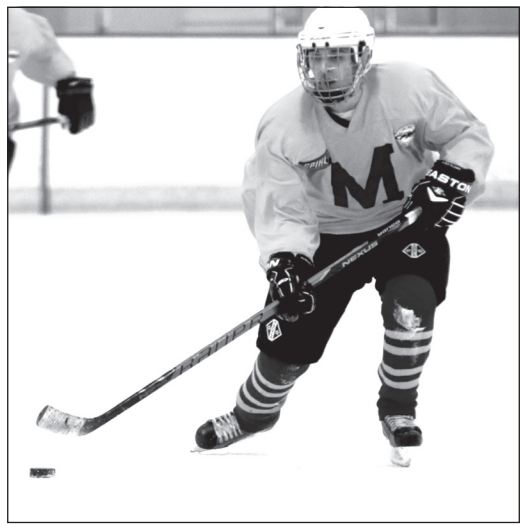
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MIDDLETOWN AREA ICE HOCKEY



Middletown's C.J. Gabner, center, moves up the ice against Penn Manor.



Middletown's Nick Maneval, center, makes a pass against Penn Manor.

Crisswell scores hat trick in Senior Night loss to Penn Manor

Senior Noah Crisswell scored a hat trick on Senior Night, but Middletown fell to Penn Manor, 11-3, on Friday, Jan. 31 in a CPHL game at Twin Ponds East.

The Blue Raiders (4-12-1, 9 points) have one game left in their season, a scheduled road game against powerful Susquehanna Twp. (14-2-0, 28 points) at 7:45 p.m. at Twin Ponds East.

Crisswell scored two goals within 25 seconds in the second period to bring Middletown to within four, 6-2, at 11:26, but Penn Manor (14-2-0, 28 points) broke the string with a goal to take a 7-2 lead.

Crisswell's third goal of the second period, at 15:09, brought Middletown again within four, 7-3.

Kyle Petoni and Lindy Vicari each scored a hat trick for Penn Manor. Middletown goalie Robert Allen made 49 saves. Penn Manor outshot Middletown, 60-19.

Middletown 4 Northern York 3

Nick Maneval, the team's leading scorer, scored two goals and C.J. Gabner scored a goal and tallied three assists in the Raiders' victory over Northern York (1-16-0, 2 points) on Monday, Jan. 27 at Twin Ponds East.

Maneval's second goal of the game, at 5:29 of the third period, gave Middletown a 4-1 lead, and the Raiders held off the Polar Bears for the win.

Maneval's first goal at 14:03 of the



Middletown's game against Penn Manor was the last scheduled home game for seniors C.J. Gabner, left, and Noah Crisswell. Crisswell scored a hat trick in the game.

Photos by Phil Hrobak

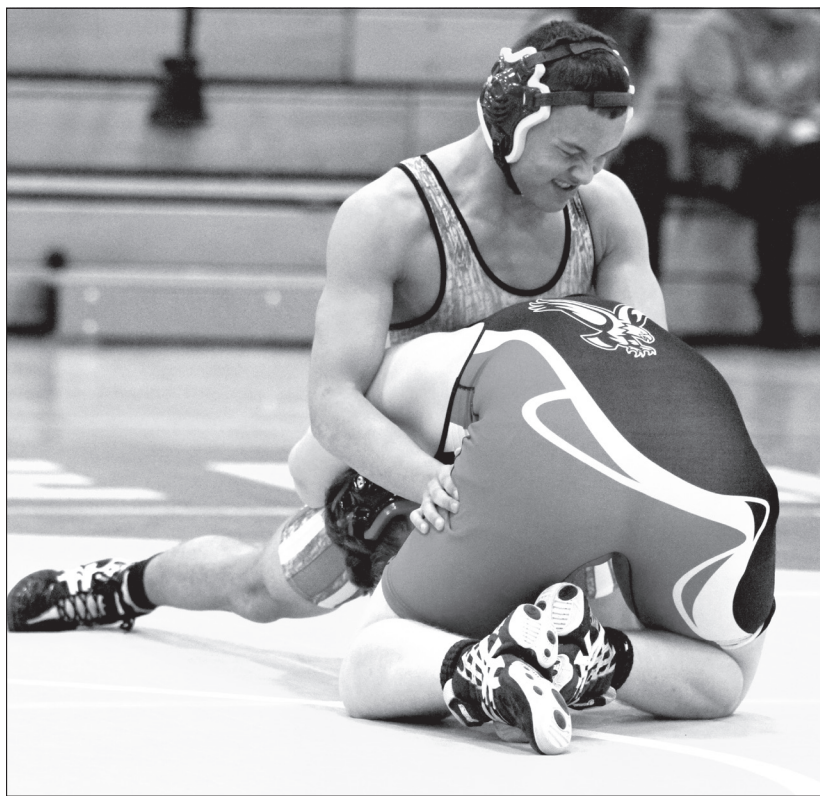
first period tied the game, 1-1, before the Raiders took charge with a two-goal second period.

Middletown goalie Dustin Wolfe

made 18 saves in the victory. The Raiders outshot Northern York, 40-21. Maneval leads Middletown in goals (18), assists (10) and points (28).

MIDDLETOWN AREA WRESTLING

Eagles take flight late, beat Middletown, 42-24



Photos by Phil Hrobak

Dover broke an 18-18 tie by winning five of the final six bouts and beat Middletown 42-24 in wrestling on Monday, Jan. 27 in Middletown.

Three Middletown wrestlers won by pins: Corbin Stetler at 132 pounds, Todd Houser at 145 pounds and Logan Stoltzfus at 106 pounds.

Stetler's pin of Andrew Rhodes at 1:10 lifted the Blue Raiders (5-9) into an early 6-6 tie with the Eagles (9-5).

Middletown's Bobby Johnson followed with a 6-4 decision over Dover's Zachary Pelkey at 138 to stake the Raiders to a 9-6 lead.

Houser then pinned Dover's Tad

Middletown 195-pound wrestler Aaron Gray, at left, top, shows determination in a preliminary exhibition bout against a Dover wrestler.

Middletown's Todd Houser, below, center, pins Dover's Tad Pequignot in a 145 pound bout.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lion women lose grip on playoff spot

Losses to St. Mary's, 8th-ranked York force a must-win game in Frostburg

By Adam Clay
For The Press And Journal

Penn State Harrisburg's Kaitlyn Carmo proved to herself and the rest of the Capital Athletic Conference that she is one of the best guards in the league, scoring 28 points in the Lions' 60-54 loss to St. Mary's on Saturday, Feb. 1 in St. Mary's, Md.

The loss forces the Lions (5-14, 1-10 in the conference) to get hot quickly and win on the road if they hope to stay in the playoff race. Penn State Harrisburg is two games behind St. Mary's for the final playoff spot. The Lions travel to Frostburg State, which is still in the race for the playoffs, for a showdown on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Carmo has been having a tremendous rookie season with her aggressive but poised play from the shooting guard position. She currently leads the Blue & White in points, steals, field goal percentage and 3-point percentage.

She is also the second in rebounding only behind teammate Kiara Carter.

Lucky Snypse provided strong numbers off the bench for the Lions, leading the team with nine rebounds, while Middletown Area High School grad Hannah Jorich and Carmo were the assist leaders, each passing the ball off for three.

Penn State Harrisburg started the first half strong by jumping out to an early 19-8 lead in the first 9:00 of play.

Snypse's layup with 7:10 to play gave the Lions a 21-12 lead before the Seahawks (7-11, 4-7) started to claw back. St. Mary's used a 13-2 run over a six-minute period to tie the game, 25-25, with 1:00 left in the first half.

Both teams picked up the intensity in the second half, and would not allow any big runs. With about 10:00 left in the game, the contest was tied, 42-42.

Things stayed tight through the second half as both teams exchanged buckets and neither team built a lead greater than three points.

Both teams had a chance to win the game in the end. But it was the Seahawks who used four consecutive free throws to finally break the game open a bit and pull out the victory.

York 63, Lions 30

When a Top 10 team comes to your gymnasium, it adds a huge element to the game. But No. 8 York was also undefeated when it visited Middle-



Photo by John Diffenderfer

Penn State Harrisburg's Kaitlyn Carmo (13), shown in a game against Christopher Newport, scored 28 points in the Lions' 60-54 loss to St. Mary's.

town on Wednesday, Jan. 29, and the chance to hand the Spartans their first loss added a whole other element to the matchup.

The Lions knew that this would not be an easy task - they knew they had start the game off strong. But York caught Penn State Harrisburg sleeping early, opening the game with a 16-2 run in the first 9:00.

The Lions didn't let the run faze them, however. They responded with an 8-0 run to bring themselves within reach.

After a back-and-forth first half, Penn State Harrisburg trailed by only 6 points, 23-17, with 4:11 to play before halftime.

Unfortunately, as the half came to a close, the Spartans showed why they are a Top 10 team, going on an 11-0 run to take a 34-17 lead at the intermission.

As the second half started, the game had changed. The early effort and intensity the Lions had showed during most of the first half had been squashed by the power of the Spartans' shooting and overall solid play in the second half.

Carmo was strong for the Lions in the loss, pulling down 14 rebounds, scoring 5 points and blocking two shots.

Jasmine Yanich and Carmo led the Lions in scoring with 7 points each.

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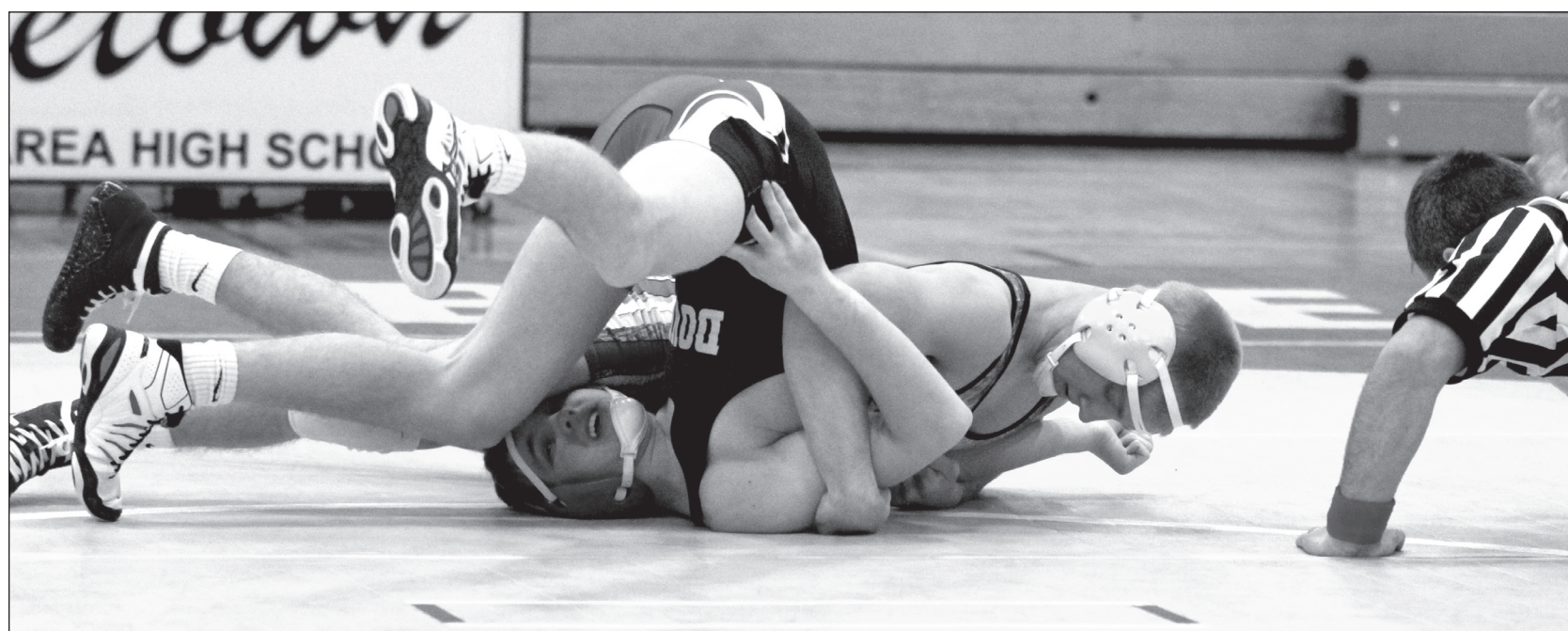
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Church

First Church of God Middletown

First Church of God, 245 W. High Street, Middletown, invites you to join us for worship at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. this Sunday. Childcare is provided. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:15 a.m. Classes for special education are also available.

Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. classes are available for Youth (grades 6-12), FROG Pond (grades 1-5) Kindergarten (4-5 years old), Nursery (infants-age 3), and Adult classes, which offer a variety of Bible studies and electives.

Sunday evenings: A Collective - Dinner is at 5:15 p.m. and the gathering begins at 6 p.m. Come and share with us. You are not alone in your faith, your doubts and your desires.

Thursdays: 8 a.m., Breakfast Club Bible Study; 6 p.m., Pasta and Prayer Young Adult Bible Study; 6-8 p.m., The Sunshiners meet weekly for a time of Christian fellowship, teaching and worship. They are a group which exists to meet the spiritual needs of persons who are developmentally challenged.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL), supper at 5:30 p.m., classes at 6:30 p.m. Adult classes are: Adult Bible Study, Gospel of John and study of Abraham; Bible Study Book of Romans; Contemporary Culture Class; Craft Class; Balloon Art Class; Financial Peace Class. There is a cost for this class; Zumba. There is a cost for each session; Knitting/Crocheting Circle. There are classes for Youth, grades 4 and 5, grades 1, 2, and 3, Kindergarten, 4- and 5-year-olds, and babysitting for infants through 3 years old. Come join us.

Latino Congregation: Betesda Casa de Misericordia, CGGC, 245 W. High St., Middletown. Estudios Biblicos Domingos, noon; Servicio Evangelistico: Domingos 1:30 p.m.; Contactos: Ricardo and Jeanette Perez (717) 333-2184.

For additional information call the church office at 944-9608 or e-mail us at mtdcog@comcast.net.

Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown Middletown

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. We welcome you for services on Sun., Feb. 9. Church school begins at 9:15 a.m. for all ages. Adult Forum will be continuing their study on the minor prophets of the Bible as they hear from the Rev. Paul Derrickson. Please plan to join us for Worship at 10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary - all are welcome.

We welcome you within our doors, so please feel free to join us. Nursery is available during the service, and there

are also hearing devices for anyone wanting to use one, as well as Bible Listening bags for children to utilize during the service.

Our Easter Eggs are now available. Please call the church office for more information.

The Parish Nurse is available by calling the church office at 717-944-4322. For further information, see our website www.pcmdt.org, visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/PresbyterianCongregation), or call the office.

Geyers United Methodist Church Middletown

Geyers United Methodist Church, Londonderry Township, invites you to worship with us each Sunday at 9 a.m. We offer a Nursery and Children's Church at 9 a.m. each Sunday. Coffee Fellowship begins at 10 a.m. followed by Adult and Children's Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.

Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month. Prayer meetings are held every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

Nonperishable food items are collected for the Middletown Food Bank each Sunday. Campbell Soup labels, education box tops, printer ink cartridges and soda tabs are also collected weekly.

The kids club, D.A.W.G.S. (Dynamic and Wiggly God Seekers), is open to children ages 3 to 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. They meet most Wednesdays and will continue through April. Children will be treated to Christ-centered stories, crafts, games, singing and snacks. Families may attend a free dinner each week prior to the D.A.W.G.S. Club at 6 p.m. in the lower level of the church. D.A.W.G.S.

Club is open to the public. For more information, contact Kathy Meneer at 930-4454 or KarenKathy@comcast.net.

Consider volunteering at Mission Central once a month. For more information or to sign up for our next trip, please call the church office.

Girl Scout Cadettes (grades 6-8) meet every Tuesday from 6-7:30 p.m. The Daisy Troop (grades 1-3) meet every Monday 6-7:30 p.m. Contact Lynn Goodling for Girl Scout information at 439-7932. Cub Scouts meet Thursday nights for first, second and fifth grade dens. Please contact Chris Coleman for Boy Scout information at 648-6036.

Welcome Packets are available in the Narthex. Feel free to pick up a packet to learn more about Geyers United Methodist Church and our activities.

Geyers is located at 1605 South Geyers Church Road, Middletown in Londonderry Township. Pastor Donald Walters and the church office can be reached at 944-6426 or geyerschurch@verizon.net.

Evangelical United Methodist Church Middletown

Worship is a time for joy. Therefore, with a joyous spirit we rejoice. "Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God." Psalm 147:7. Reach out to God and to one another for all are welcomed in our Father's house.

Evangelical Church meets on the corner of Spruce and Water streets at 157 E. Water St., Middletown, south of Main St. behind the Turkey Hill convenience store.

The ministries scheduled at Evangelical United Methodist Church from Feb. 5-11 are always open to everyone. Wed., Feb. 5: 10 a.m., Bible Study in Meeting Room 2; 6 p.m., AA Book Study; 6:30 p.m., Senior Choir rehearsal.

Thurs., Feb. 6: 5:30 p.m., Girl Scout

Open Door Bible Church Middletown

"So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:10

Open Door Bible Church, located at 200 Nissley Drive, Middletown, invites you to worship Jesus Christ with us this week.

Our February 9 Sunday worship service commences at 10:40 a.m. with a 9:30 a.m. Sunday school hour with classes for all ages. Children from

Troop #10067; 7 p.m., Bible Study in Meeting Room 2.

Sun., Feb. 9: 9 a.m., Sunday Church school, with classes for all ages. Adult Sunday school devotional leader for February: June Martin; 10:15 a.m., worship service. The worship center is handicap and wheelchair accessible. Greeters: Joan Rudy, Ed and Mary Anne Naugle and Lexi. Nursery Helpers: Ethel Angeloff, Mike Harris. The altar flowers are given in memory of wife Janet and son, Lynn C. Meinsler presented by husband and father, Charles Meinsler; 11 a.m., Refreshments and fellowship time.

Tues., Feb. 11: 2 p.m., Stitches and Prayers Shawl Ministry; 6 p.m., Finance Committee meeting; 7 p.m., Church Council meeting.

Open Door Bible Church Middletown

ages 4 to second grade are welcome to participate in Junior Church during the morning worship service. We also welcome you to join us at our 6:30 p.m. service. Childcare is provided for children under age 4 during all services and classes.

Wed., Feb. 5: 7 p.m., Patch the Pirate Clubs for ages 4 through grade 6; Prayer meeting.

For more information call the church office at 939-5180 or visit us online at www.odbcpa.org. Better yet, come worship with us in person.

Wesley United Methodist Church Middletown

We worship on Sunday morning at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Our early service is informal and features a Praise Band. Our later service follows a traditional pattern and includes all types of music. We encourage people to "come as you are."

Pastor Dawes' sermon this Sunday is "Jesus as Healer" based on Mark 3:1-6.

A special offering for our Mercy Fund will be received this Sunday. These gifts are used to help persons in our community.

Lenten Small Groups are being formed this month. The group sessions begin in March and will meet weekly during Lent for Bible study, sharing and prayer. A listing of times and places is posted in the gathering area and on our website. Register now for whichever group suits your schedule. All are welcome.

Bolivian Goods are available for purchase after worship services during February. These items have been made by two women's cooperatives in Bolivia. The proceeds support their churches, children and families.

Youth 10x's Better presents a concert fundraiser at Wesley on Sunday at 6 p.m. A variety of creative talent, including Mo Horns and Gospel Jazz Band Focus, will be featured. A love offering to benefit Youth 10x's Better Youth Ministry will be received.

Our Threads of Hope Clothing

New Beginnings Church Middletown

New Beginnings Church invites you to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's church provided. Our congregation meets at Riverside Chapel, 630 S. Union St., Middletown, next to the Rescue Hose Company. Sunday school for all ages is at 9 a.m. We are handicap accessible via ramp at the back door. For additional church information call 944-9595.

Food is collected every Sunday for the Middletown Food Bank.

Pastor Britt's Bible Study is Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Bring your own issues and concerns to discuss how the Bible helps in everyday living. Followers of Faith Bible Study resumes at a later time.

Craft Group is Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; Choir rehearsal on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Intercessory Prayer Group is Thursdays at 7 p.m.; Youth Fellowship is Sundays from 5 to 7 p.m.

Our Sunday worship service is broadcast on the MAHS radio station WMSS 91.1 FM at 3 p.m. every Sunday afternoon. Listen on the radio or the Internet at www.pennlive.com/wmss/audio. Check us out on our website at www.newbeginningschurchmiddletown.weebly.com.

Our yearly "Undies Sundies" are Feb. 9 through 23. We will be collecting

underwear, sweat pants and socks for boys and girls (sizes 6, 8 and 10). The local elementary school nurses are in need of these items for the children.

We are supporting Mitch Lee who is a Life Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout. His project is for the drums for the Middletown Area Middle School Band. Any contributions are welcome and checks may be made out to Troop 97 and mailed to Mitch at 322 Coneyago St., Middletown, or given to Mitch at church.

Contributions are also being received to help a family outside of Bloomsburg with a 9-year-old son with terminal cancer. The family has experienced unfortunate times, which includes no heat in their home except electric space heaters. Contributions may be mailed to New Beginnings with memo: John Manning Fund.

Anyone interested in Scrapbooking? If interested in being part of a group at New Beginnings call Barb Bogardus at 350-2746.

Acolyte for February: Colin Graham. Children's Church leader for February: Michelle Strohecker.

Pastor Britt's parting words each Sunday: "Nothing in this world is more important than the love of Jesus Christ." We invite you to come and experience this love.

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<p>Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church 10 Spruce Street • 944-5835 Sunday School - 9 am • Morning Worship 10:15 am Evening Worship - 6 pm www.calvaryopc.com</p>	<p>New Beginnings Church at the Riverside Chapel 630 South Union St., Middletown Sunday School - 9 am • Worship Service - 10:30 am Pastor Britt Strohecker <i>Everyone Is Welcome!</i></p>
<p>Ebenezer United Methodist Church "Love God, Love People, Make Disciples" 890 Ebenezer Road, Middletown (Corner of 441 & Ebenezer Road) Phone 939-0766 Sunday Worship: Traditional - 8:45 am • Contemporary - 10:45 am Christian Education (All Ages) - 10 am Christian Child Care - 985-1650 Pastor S. DAVID SIMON www.ebenezerumc.net</p>	<p>Open Door Bible Church 200 Nissley Drive, Middletown, PA (Located In Lower Swatara Township) Pastor JONATHAN E. TILLMAN Phone 939-5180 Sunday School - 9:30 am • Morning Worship - 10:40 am Evening Worship - 6:30 pm</p>
<p>Evangelical United Methodist Church Spruce & Water Sts., Middletown REV. ROBERT GRAYBILL, Pastor Sunday School (all ages) - 9 am Sunday Worship - 10:15 am</p>	<p>Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown Union & Water Sts., Middletown • 944-4322 Church School - 9:15 am • Worship - 10:30 am</p>
<p>First Church of God 235 W. High St., Middletown REV. KIMBERLY SHIFLER, Pastor 944-9608 Sunday School - 9:15 am • Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 am Classes for Special Education (Sunday Morning & Thursday Evening)</p>	<p>St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Spring & Union Sts., Middletown Church Office 944-4651 REV. DR. J. RICHARD ECKERT, Pastor Saturday Worship With Spoken Liturgy - 5 pm Sunday Worship - 8:15 am & 11 am Sunday Church School - 9:45 am Worship Broadcast on 91.1 fm - 11 am</p>
<p>Geyers United Methodist Church 1605 South Geyers Church Road, Middletown 944-6426 PASTOR DON WALTERS Worship - 9 am - Followed by Coffee Fellowship Sunday School - 10:30 am</p>	<p>Wesley United Methodist Church 64 Ann Street, Middletown REV. JIM DAWES, Pastor Phone 944-6242 Sunday Worship - 8:30 and 10:30 am • Come as you are! Follow Jesus, Change the World.</p>

Coming Soon

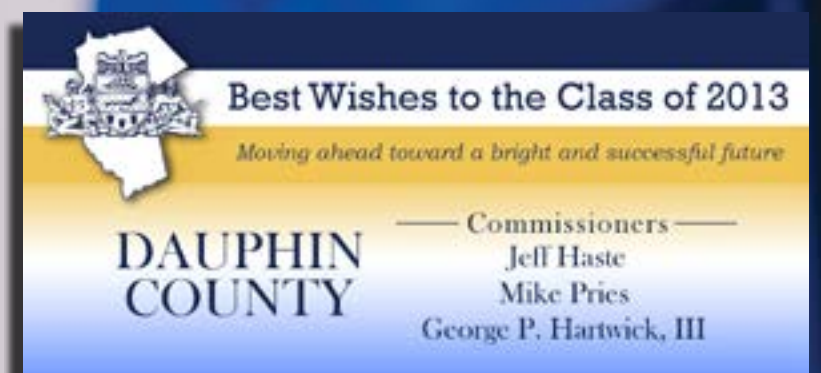
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EDITOR'S VOICE

Two basketball landmarks

There were two noteworthy landmarks reached in Middletown Area High School basketball history recently. True, school isn't just sports, but sports does teach important life lessons – sportsmanship and teamwork among them – and who doesn't want to see local kids achieve in whatever they do, both in the classroom and on the court?

The Middletown girls' basketball team won its first division title in team history on Tuesday, Jan. 28. The Blue Raiders beat Steelton-Highspire, 50-45, while second-place Susquenita lost to Camp Hill, giving Middletown (18-3) the Capital Division title in the Mid-Penn Conference. If you enjoy watching teamwork in action, you should take in a Raiders' game – their spread offense, with its patient passing, is the epitome of it.

Just four days prior, the Middletown boys' basketball team gave Coach Chris Sattelle his 100th career victory when the Blue Raiders beat West Perry, 66-47. Seventy-two of those victories were earned by the Middletown basketball program, while the remaining 28 were earned during Sattelle's stint as coach of Northern York. Congratulations to all.

OTHER VOICES

The (insert opinion here) State of the Union speech

President Barack Obama addressed Congress and the country in his televised State of the Union address on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Did you love it, hate it or feel indifferent about it? Here are some highlights from his speech, and responses from members of both parties:

President Obama

"In the coming months, let's see where else we can make progress together. Let's make this a year of action. That's what most Americans want – for all of us in this chamber to focus on their lives, their hopes, their aspirations. And what I believe unites the people of this nation, regardless of race or region or party, young or old, rich or poor, is the simple, profound belief in opportunity for all – the notion that if you work hard and take responsibility, you can get ahead.

"Let's face it: that belief has suffered some serious blows. Over more than three decades, even before the Great Recession hit, massive shifts in technology and global competition had eliminated a lot of good, middle-class jobs, and weakened the economic foundations that families depend on.

"Today, after four years of economic growth, corporate profits and stock prices have rarely been higher, and those at the top have never done better. But average wages have barely budged. Inequality has deepened. Upward mobility has stalled. The cold, hard fact is that even in the midst of recovery, too many Americans are working more than ever just to get by – let alone get ahead. And too many still aren't working at all.

"Our job is to reverse these tides. It won't happen right away, and we won't agree on everything. But what I offer tonight is a set of concrete, practical proposals to speed up growth, strengthen the middle class, and build new ladders of opportunity into the middle class."

Rob Gleason, chairman Republican Party of Pennsylvania

"President Barack Obama falsely believes that empty rhetoric will compensate for his years of failed leadership.

"President Obama's liberal policies have only succeeded in raising taxes, killing jobs and putting the health care of Pennsylvania families at risk.

"President Obama and the Democrats have left the American people holding the check for their out-of-touch policies, and no amount of liberal spin will change that fact."

Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)

"I am gratified that the president made jobs and the economy the central focus of his State of the Union address. Despite recent economic progress, far too many Americans are still struggling to get back on their feet.

"If you work hard and play by the rules, you should have the opportunity to succeed.

"I was encouraged by the president's emphasis on worker training programs, hiring incentives and pay equity to ensure workers have the chance to get ahead. Responsible development of natural gas is something I have pushed for a long time and the president's proposal will help create jobs in Pennsylvania while at the same time decreasing our dependence on foreign oil.

"I was also glad to see that the president underscored his commitment to early education and research to ensure our nation's long-term global competitiveness."

Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA)

"The president tried to convince us that our economy is better off today than it was when he first took office. However, our national debt is \$18 trillion and growing, the roll-out of the Affordable Care Act has proven disastrous and executive overreach has become the new normal in Washington.

"The president talks about 'income inequality' but his policies have done nothing to help close that gap, much less spur the economy or create jobs.

"I believe the best way to address this divide is to put hardworking Americans back to work. We should invest in our small businesses, our infrastructure, and the next generation of our nation's workforce. More government regulations will only add fuel to the fire, amplifying existing problems that our country cannot afford.

"On immigration reform, I'm unconvinced that 'legal status' is anything less than the functional equivalent of amnesty. I've seen very little throughout this debate to assure me that we will permanently secure our borders. Failure to do so will repeat the mistakes of the 1986 amnesty law that gave birth to the illegal immigration crisis our country has faced for the last two decades."

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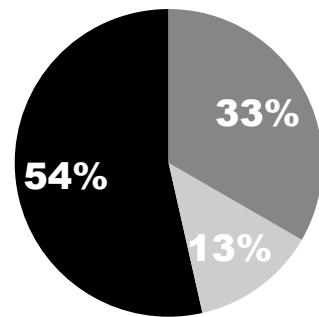
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TOM HORTON

Restoring the Chesapeake will improve our health



My friend Meredith stopped me as I recounted a favorite Chesapeake Bay-of-yore story – about wading decades ago in lush seagrass beds that so cleansed and cleared the shallows you could see to dip crabs sequestered there to shed their shells.

I noted that we could bring back these conditions by reducing runoff of fertilizers and dirt from the land, which would also reduce summer "dead zones" of oxygen-starved water in the channels.

Meredith's an experienced environmental lawyer who got the ecological truth I was voicing; but now she's mother to Grace, 3, and Nicholas, several months. And the Bay question she gets from her current social circle along the Choptank River on Maryland's Eastern Shore is this: "Is it safe for my kids to swim?"

Decades into the Chesapeake restoration, our focus continues on curtailing "eutrophication" by reducing the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus that overfertilize the water, clog it with floating algae, rob light from the seagrasses and quench aquatic oxygen.

We must continue with this, but it will take a deeper and wider engagement from citizens across the six-state watershed.

One opportunity to build a bigger constituency for restoration is to connect human health to Bay health. The overlaps between the two range from diet to climate change to air quality, to an array of toxins bad for both fish and us.

To get a sense of the issue, consider that the Bay and its rivers are riddled with health advisories limiting the consumption of everything from eels and striped bass to catfish and blue crabs to sport fish throughout Pennsylvania.

Another example where we might get more traction: Reducing air pollution further is regarded as a relatively expensive way to cut Bay pollution, even though airborne nitrogen is a significant bay pollutant.

But what if Bay managers and environmental educators included the benefits to human health of reducing air pollution? The EPA estimates their value to Eastern states in the Bay's watershed at \$120 billion.

It's not that no one's tried to connect Bay and human health. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation made a fine report found on Google, "Bad Water 2009." It links increased health risks from harmful bacteria and algae in Chesapeake waters to the nutrients that hamper Bay grasses and oxygen, and ties the heightened toxic risk to warmer Bay water, which is caused by climate change, which in turn is exacerbated by burning fossil fuels that deliver more nitrogen to the Bay.

The foundation report also links harmful nitrates in drinking water to regions with an overabundance of farm animal manure, regions that are also hotspots of Bay and river pollution.

Johns Hopkins' Center for a Livable

Future has connected meat-heavy human diets to our health as well as the Bay's and shown that getting our nutrition from animals is linked to cancer and obesity.

As for water quality, meat production means more fertilizer runoff to streams and residues of drugs fed to farm animals showing up in drinking water.

Increasingly, I find acknowledgement among Bay restoration leaders that fundamental changes in our agriculture will be needed to meet water quality goals, even as the official line remains that tweaks to the existing food system will suffice.

While toxics have the attention of many Bay groups, the governments managing the Bay have supported none of these approaches in a sustained manner and have failed to collect and make transparent enough data to build a solid understanding of environmental health connections.

A coalition of environmental groups is pushing Maryland's legislature to require reporting of who is using what agricultural chemicals and where they are applied. It's voluntary now, and required report-

ing would be a start toward better data.

Companies fracking natural gas in Pennsylvania and New York, and maybe soon in Maryland, do not have to disclose the chemicals they inject into groundwater.

"There's no big tent" bringing together all these

human-environment health issues, said Rebecca Ruggles, director of the Maryland Environmental Health Network, a group began two years ago.

After a false start in 2000, the EPA Bay Program seems ready to take toxics more seriously. A recent EPA report shows nearly three quarters of the Bay and tidal rivers are partly or fully "impaired" by toxics – from mercury and PCBs to endocrine disruptors that may impair sexual development in fish.

The links between Bay toxics and Bay humans often aren't as neat as those between nutrients and seagrasses and oxygen. But as my friend Meredith pointed out, it's what people want to know – and another way to involve them.

Tom Horton covered the Chesapeake Bay for 33 years for *The Baltimore Sun* and is author of six books about the Chesapeake. He teaches writing at Salisbury University, Salisbury, Md.

READERS' VIEWS

The March and a new generation

Editor,

No other public demonstration can match the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of thousands of us gather on the streets of Washington every year, braving the biting winds -- and sometimes snow. We stand to bring hope that one day preborn babies will be protected in the womb again.

We stand to bring hope to women that they deserve better than abortion, and that they can find support.

We do it because no other issue is as critically important in our nation as protecting innocent life from abortion.

For in what other tragedy do 1.2 million Americans lose their lives every year? What other "right" do 64 percent of the women, according to the Elliot Institute, say they felt coerced into exercising?

At the March on Jan. 22 – the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that opened the doors to abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy – hope shined through with the tens of thousands of young faces marching in the cold, the mothers pushing baby strollers, the high school students who sacrificed hours of sleep, the older adults who have been marching for decades.

Christopher Calore, a pro-life leader in Wilkes-Barre, found hope in the sea of young faces. When he first traveled to the March for Life about 35 years ago, "I was the youngest one on the bus and considered 'young.'"

Calore said, at the time, "the general consensus was 'we must gain more and more pro-lifers to stop this tragedy of abortion!'"

"Today, the age of the participants at the March has reversed," he said.

"Now I realize that our prayers of 35 years ago have been answered with time."

Many young people go to the March for

Life already convinced that they need to help preborn babies and their mothers. For others, the experience challenges them with a new perspective.

Zoe, a student from the Erie area, attended the March in 2013. She said, "Being there with hundreds of thousands of people made me really open my eyes and look at how seriously wrong abortion really is."

Jammie, one of her classmates, said the March "brought tears to my eyes and really touched my heart."

A lot has changed in the past 41 years with the pro-life side winning a number of key legislative victories. A record number of protective laws have been enacted in the past few years, ensuring that women have accurate information about abortion, its risks and alternatives, and the support available to them and their families.

More laws now protect viable preborn babies and ensure babies receive proper medical care if they survive an abortion.

As more young people step up and recognize the injustice of killing preborn babies in the womb and the need to help women feeling pressured into the decision, I believe our nation is moving forward to bring about a better future where we respect and defend every human life, born and preborn.

Micaiah Bilger
Harrisburg

The writer is the education director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, Harrisburg.

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“We have a different mayor and a different council...” (Listen online at www.pressandjournal.com)

;) “Middletown Mayor Reid used to have office hours, and I went in to see him from time to time. Will our new mayor do the same? I hope so. I also remember Bob Reid sitting on a lawn chair at the corner of Main and Vine and Emaus and Union with a sign that said ‘I’m your mayor – talk to me.’ That’s a people’s mayor.”

“Will our new state senator, Mike Folmer, be having town meetings like Sen. Piccola used to have?”

;) “Frequency correction: I want WHYL AM 960 back on air ‘cause I like the format.”

:| “I was wondering why the Christmas lights are still up? It took you forever to light them and now it is taking forever to take them down? It is almost February you know. Also, why did Middletown have to BUY trees for the square to be decorated for Christmas when there are already trees planted there? Just wondering.”
(Editor’s note: The Christmas lights have now been taken down for the season.)

;) (“Obama is destroying America. I work for my money and I should keep it. If you are a Democrat please wake up, he is destroying our lives and our children.”)
;) (“Garden Chapel is a awesome church. Check it out.”)
;) (“State of the Union Tuesday night: More lies from Obama.”)
;) (“Obamacare is destroying America.”)

;) “Will our new state senator, Mike Folmer, be having town meetings like Sen. Piccola used to have?”

;) (“Fortunately, the Middletown girls’ basketball team doesn’t have to play Hershey, Palmyra, Lower Dauphin, Susquehanna and Mechanicsburg like the field hockey team does. It would be nice if there were some consistency within the same school.”
(Editor’s note: The divisions in

:| (“I missed the Python Festival at the Elks. Damn! Weather just so darn cold. Repeat it, please?”)

Bridge. The left-turn lane going into Penn State is inadequate, due to being too short. It always requires the person turning

“Does anyone remember when there was a farmers’ market on Market Street in Middletown? You want an idea to help the community, Borough Council? Here’s one.”

:| “Read the story about the senior citizens getting scammed of thousands in Lower Swatara Twp. Is that happening in Middletown? Should a task force between police departments be set up to address it? I mean, it’s terrible. We have to take care

:| (“Oh, great – more red lights on North Union Street in Lower Swatara Twp. I hope these have better sensors and timers than the ones on Fulling Mill Road. Next thing you know, we’ll be like Derry Twp., the most guilty of horrible red light timing and sensors!”)

;) (“Great job against Steel-High, Middletown Lady Raiders. What talent!”)

:| (“One would think the borough would find a way for Kuppy’s to have the Cruise-In. Maybe they did, but how would we know?”)

;) (“You can find out a lot by checking Instagram, Twitter and Tumblr. Just sayin’.”)

;) (“It’s sad that some people have become teachers when it’s clear they have no patience, and all they do is holler. Maybe a career evaluation is in order before you stop substituting and become a permanent fixture in some poor kid’s life. Get off your power trip immediately.”)

JOHNPAYNE



The Capitol REPORT

New development zone for HIA property could create jobs

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) announced late last year that property totaling 124 acres at the Harrisburg International Airport has been designated as Keystone Opportunity Zones.

The Keystone Opportunity Zone program provides state and local tax incentives to businesses that locate in a designated zone, also known as a KOZ. The goal of the program is to encourage the redevelopment of abandoned, unused, or underused land and buildings into business sites and residential areas.

A bill passed by the General Assembly in 2011, which I supported, permitted the DCED to designate up to 15 additional KOZs across the state.

The HIA properties designated include the old terminal building site, the former Bethlehem Steel property on the western end of the airport and the site of the former Crawford Station power plant. The old terminal building is expected to be demolished in spring of 2014.

The designations will help bring new business to these sites, which could boost the local and state economy and create jobs.

which will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, April 25 at Hummelstown’s Chemical Fire Company, 249 E. Main St.

Interested residents will have access to free information about health care, state government programs and home-based services available locally.

Representatives from state and local agencies and the health care industry will be on hand to speak with attendees about available options as well as answer any questions or concerns.

For additional information about the Health Expo, contact my Hershey office at 717-534-1323, or visit my website, RepPayne.com.

John D. Payne is a Republican member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He represents the 106th District, which includes most of Middletown, part of Swatara Twp. and all of Royalton, Lower Swatara Twp., Hummelstown, Conewago Twp. and Derry Twp.

of our own.”

:| “Has anyone noticed that there are almost always police cars from other police departments helping Middletown’s cops? What’s up with that? Does Middletown have to pay for that, too?”

:| “When will the new museum be open on Main Street in Middletown? The one that’s in the old dentist’s office? I read the story in the Journal but there hasn’t been any other news about it.”

My annual Health Expo

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SHERRY DEUTSCHMANN



Raising the minimum wage would help business

As a small business owner myself, I don’t see the logic in business people arguing against increasing the minimum wage.

It’s just not logical to pay people a wage that doesn’t even cover basics like food, housing, utilities and transportation needed to get to work.

At \$7.25 an hour, the minimum wage comes to just \$15,080 a year for full-time employees. Think about cashiers or health aides, childcare workers or fast food servers trying to make ends meet on \$15,080.

How can you keep people fully engaged in the success of your business when they are distracted with worry about how they are going to pay rent or keep the lights on?

How can they provide the best customer service when they are struggling to feed their family?

I know firsthand that you don’t need to pay poverty wages to succeed. In fact, paying higher wages is truly beneficial for business.

Since opening our doors in 2002, my company, LetterLogic of Nashville, Tenn., has grown fast. We have no debt, have annual revenues approaching \$30 million, and occupy a large processing center in downtown Nashville with 50 employees.

The Women’s Presidents Organization named us one of the Top 50 Female-Led Businesses in North America for three years running, and we made the INC 5000 list for seven consecutive years.

I know we would not have had this success if we paid minimum wage. Paying better wages has helped our bottom line, not hurt it.

My company has been successful because of our employee-centric culture. We believe that if we take good care of our employees, they will in turn take great care of the customer. It works.

Our starting pay is \$12 an hour, not \$7.25. And we increase wages by an average of 20 percent as soon

as the probationary period is over.

We also pay 100 percent of our employees’ medical, dental, disability and life insurance.

We give them 10 percent of our profits monthly, distributed evenly regardless of job or title.

We help them buy their first homes with grants toward down-payments.

We allow them to bring their children to work when they need to. We reimburse tuition.

And those aren’t all of our employee benefits.

It’s very good for our business. We can count on dedicated employees and higher productivity and morale.

We save money with lower turnover and training costs and reduced mistakes. We have better customer service and satisfaction.

We don’t count on other businesses and taxpayers to subsidize our profits by underwriting food stamps and other safety net assistance for our employees. Why should I be subsidizing the profits of companies that pay wages their employees can’t live on?

When I pay a starting wage of \$12, plus benefits, my employees have more money to spend at other businesses.

The very least other businesses can do is pay a wage that allows their employees to afford the basics.

But today’s minimum wage locks workers into a nightmare of poverty. It isn’t a building block of the American Dream. Adjusted for inflation, the current minimum wage of \$7.25 is worth less than it was in

the 1950s.

The typical minimum wage worker is an adult woman. As Margot Dorfman, CEO of the U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce, has said, “Keeping the minimum wage low keeps women and families down.”

Last increased in 2009 to the inadequate level of \$7.25, the minimum wage is overdue for a raise.

The proposal to increase the minimum wage in three annual steps to \$10.10, and then adjust it yearly after that for the rising cost of living, is very reasonable.

After all, the minimum wage would already be over \$10 now if it had kept up with the cost of living since the 1960s.

Today, women own 30 percent of American businesses. The success of my company – and my personal success – is proof that the American Dream is still possible. But it’s a possibility built on fair wages – not poverty wages.

Public opinion polls show that across the political spectrum, Americans want to raise the minimum wage. President Barack Obama, many members of Congress and many business owners want to “give America a raise.”

Let’s make 2014 the year we get it done.

Sherry Stewart Deuschmann is the founder and CEO of LetterLogic in Nashville, Tenn.

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SEVEN SORROWS BVM SCHOOL

Students win championship at Science Fair

Catherine Lopez and Phillip Bertovic were named grand champions of the Seven Sorrows BVM School Science Fair for students in grades 7 and 8. The two won the opportunity to advance to the Capital Area Science and Engineering Fair at Harrisburg's Whitaker Center in March. Lopez's entry in the competition was titled, "Disinfecting Toothbrushes." Bertovic's entry was titled, "A Whirlwind of Possibilities." The competition was judged by students at Penn State Harrisburg.



Submitted photos
Catherine Lopez, left, and Phillip Bertovic stand next to their winning projects in the Science Fair at Seven Sorrows BVM School.



Student Phillip Bertovic gathers data for the wind turbine project he entered in the Science Fair.



Judge Diane Patch, left, a student at Penn State Harrisburg, interviews Seven Sorrows School student Grant Fleming about his project in the Science Fair.



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Submitted Photo

Timothy Moore, a first grade student at Reid Elementary School, is the first Reid student to reach the highest level obtainable in the "First in Math" Web program.

He loves numbers, and he owns a math title to prove it

Even before Timothy Moore entered kindergarten in 2012, he had an obsession with numbers. He remembers always wanting to play with anything that had clocks or numbers on it. Why? "I just like 'em," he explained. Moore, now a first-grader at Reid Elementary School, likes them so much that he has become the first student at the school to reach the highest level on the "First in Math" Web-based mathematics program used at Reid. Students earn "stickers" for solving problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions, and advance to a higher level for every 500 stickers they earn. Moore had earned 10,031 stickers as of Thursday, Jan. 23, making him the first Reid student in any grade to reach the Grand Champion level. The two closest students to Moore have 5,000 stickers apiece. Whenever he has a free moment at home, he asks to work on First in Math. When he has computer lab at school, he logs in. The program has no levels assigned to more than 10,000 stickers. But Moore said he liked the sound of "Ultimate Grand Champion" for his next level.

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