



**The first wild-flower of the year is like land after sea. ~ Thomas Wentworth Higginson, "April Days,"**



**Mountain laurel blooming on Fanucci's Hill outside Glen Lyon**

## Newport Township Public Business

*By John Jarecki ~* The following are items of Township business discussed or acted upon at meetings of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners from January to March, 2018.

**January 2, 2018:** Magistrate Donald Whitaker administered the oath of office to newly re-elected Commissioners John Zyla and John Vishnefski. The Commissioners then voted to appoint Paul Czapracki as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and John Zyla as Vice-Chairman. They also voted to appoint Jeremy Blank as Township Police Chief, Attorney Christopher Slusser as Township Solicitor, and PennEastern Engineers as Township Engineer for 2018.

Township Resident Palmira Miller, Co-Chair of the Newport Township Community Organization-American Legion Food Distribution Program, gave a report on the Program's activities for the year 2017. She said that the Program served an average of 196 people per month, and that an average of 48 volunteers per month contributed a total of

1522 volunteer hours over the course of the year. The Program is implemented in cooperation with the Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank, a division of the Commission on Economic Opportunity.

The Commissioners approved Ordinance #1 of 2018, which modifies the qualifications for the position of Newport Township Manager. Township Manager Peter Wanchisen explained that it is helpful to make this change because we now have in place safeguards, including a financial oversight consultant, to prevent fraud by Township employees. We can therefore reduce the required financial skills needed by the Township Manager, which would open the position to people having greater administrative skills. This Ordinance eliminates the requirement that the Manager have at least an associate degree in business administration, accounting, or a financial related degree. Instead it requires him or her to have an adequate knowledge or experience in financial matters.

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**VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 15**

Township Manager Peter Wanchisen mentioned the following items in his report:

- 1) An audit was conducted in December 2017 of the Liquid Fuels funds that the State gives to the Township each year for use on Township roads. No violations were found or recommendations made.
- 2) The State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) recently sent the Township an additional reimbursement of \$4,033 as part of a State grant covering 85% of the cost of the new walking trail constructed last year in the Wanamie Recreation Park. This money brings the total amount of State reimbursement for the trail to \$20,013.
- 3) The Luzerne County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is asking Newport Township, as well as other local municipalities, to enroll in its cost-sharing program for animals brought to their shelter. The State requires that municipalities take care of stray dogs to the extent of giving them medical care if necessary. Jeremy Blank, Township Police Chief, says that the Newport Police find about 10 stray animals a year. They keep them in the Municipal Building, and their owners usually come to claim them.

If we participate in the program, we have two options: a one year subscription that would cost us \$95 per stray animal found in the Township and taken to the SPCA, or a five year subscription costing a variable fee per animal starting at \$19 and increasing to \$95 at the end of the five year period.

One of the problems involved with this is that the Township has no way of verifying that an animal brought to the SPCA by an individual was actually found in Newport Township. Another problem is that the SPCA has given out very little information about its finances, how much money it has and what it is doing with its money. The Township has until March 31 to make a decision about this.

4) The Township has completed a number of major projects in 2017, including road repairs, a new pole building to house large road equipment, and a road salt shed. We have paid for these projects and have ended the year with a good amount of money in Township accounts. We have found and eliminated waste in the Township budget and are now on the verge of having money that we can use to apply for matching grants for use on Township projects.

5) I would like to thank the Newport Township Lions Club and the Newport Township Community Organization for donations made to purchase tools and equipment for the Township Police and Street Departments.

**February 5, 2018:** Paul Czapracki, Chairman of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners, administered the oath of office to four new Newport Fire Police Officers: Larry Ace, Jeffrey Mierzwa, David Manovicz, Joseph Morek, and one Nanticoke Fire Police Officer, Fred Kraft.

All current Newport Fire Police Officers will also be sworn in as Nanticoke Officers. The dual oaths will result in faster response times and simplify the work of the commanding officer at the scene of an emergency.

Newport Fire Police Captain Leonard Paczkowski said that in 2017 the Fire Police worked at 100 incidents providing 300 hours of volunteer work assisting the Township Police, Fire, and Street Departments, and the Emergency Management Service and Sewer Authority.

Fire Chief Jason Kowalski announced that in February the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) will hold an emergency management training course for local elected officials and emergency workers.

The Commissioners voted to add Frank Petrone of Wanamie to the Township's list of part time employees who will be assigned as needed to ensure that the Township always provides necessary services to its residents. His starting salary will be \$11.00/hour.

The Commissioners voted to approve getting a \$2,000 Township credit card in order to speed up purchases from merchants and vendors for Township use. These purchases will be secure against theft because they will go through the same bill approval process as other Township bills.

Township Manager Peter Wanchisen mentioned the following items in his report:

- 1) Part time Police Officer Tyler Edwards resigned as of February 1, 2018 in order to take a full time position elsewhere.
- 2) I attended a meeting on January 31, 2018 concerning the Luzerne County SPCA's cost sharing program for stray animals. Representatives of 35 or 40 communities attended. Many of the people who attended were concerned about the SPCA's unwillingness to provide financial information about its operations, for example the salary of its executive director.

Meanwhile, I have contacted the Blue Chip Animal Rescue Facility in the Back Mountain. A worker there said that, for a small donation, they would take care of the small number of stray animals found in Newport Township each year and not claimed by their owners. This is an alternative to the SPCA's program.

3) I would like to publicly thank Steve and Carolyn Phillips for their generosity and cooperation in allowing the Township to store equipment free of charge in their garage.

4) We entered into a cooperation agreement with Plymouth Township to use their street line painting equipment during the spring of 2018. This reduces the cost of line painting by 75%.

**March 5, 2018:** Commissioner John Zyla said that we have a serious problem of people speeding on their ATV's through Township streets. As an example of the problem, he mentioned that he had just seen a video recording of an accident at the corner of Market and Newport Streets in Glen Lyon in which a man was hit by an ATV. It is illegal to operate an ATV on public roads in Pennsylvania. Mr. Zyla said that he was asking the Board of Commissioners to write a letter to Township businesses requesting that they not serve people who drive to their place of business on an ATV because of the danger of injury or death arising from misuse of these vehicles.

Commissioner John Vishnefski and Fire Chief Jason Kowalski spoke about the lack of an emergency generator in the Municipal Building, which is also the site of the Township's Emergency Management Agency (EMA). They said that a grant of \$1500 per year is available and can be used as a partial payment for such a generator. Township officials are looking in such places as the State surplus for a generator suitable to our needs.

Township Manager Peter Wanchisen included the following items in his report:

1) Commissioners John Zyla, John Vishnefski, and Debbie Zaleski attended the emergency management training session given by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA).

2) A coalition of municipalities has submitted to the Luzerne County SPCA some proposed amendments to its cost-sharing program with those communities for the care of stray animals. The municipalities are interested in more financial transparency from the SPCA before they participate in the program.

(Note: On March 6 the Citizens' Voice reported that the SPCA board has agreed to provide all 76 municipalities in Luzerne County with quarterly reports on shelter finances and stray animal intake numbers for each municipality.)

3) Township Manager Peter Wanchisen and Commissioners John Zyla and John Vishnefski attended a meeting at the Luzerne County Court House on February 15, 2018 at which County officials announced a new grant program administered by the County and funded by the Federal Government. The program is intended primarily for projects in financially distressed communities. The Commissioners said that they will submit an application to this program for grant funds for use in resolving a problem with the storm drain system on Railroad Street in Glen Lyon. (For more details about this problem, see the article dealing specifically with this matter on page 5.)

#### **Correction to 2018 Newport Township Budget Article**

by John Jarecki ~ In the article on the 2018 Newport Township Budget in the winter 2018 Newsletter, the property tax rate for 2018 is given as 3.09 mills. It should be 2.97 mills, a change from the property tax rate for 2017 of 2.08 mills. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



# **A MESSAGE FROM THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

## **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP**

THERE IS NO DISPUTING THE FACT THAT NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HAS A LAND MASS THAT ATTRACTS OFF ROAD ENTHUSIASTS FROM NEAR AND FAR, HOWEVER; A DISTURBING PRACTICE HAS SURFACED AND COOPERATIVE AND CORRECTIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED.

THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS HAVE SEEN A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE OPERATION OF OFF ROAD VEHICLES ON TOWNSHIP STREETS AND STATE ROADS. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS OF ATV AND SIDE BY SIDE DRIVERS ILLEGALLY USING STREETS AND PARKING ON SIDEWALKS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS. NOT ONLY ARE THESE PRACTICES ILLEGAL, THEY POSE A SERIOUS DANGER TO NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CITIZENS. BY WAY OF THIS NOTIFICATION, THE COMMISSIONERS ARE REQUESTING THE FOLLOWING:

1. ALL OFF ROAD VEHICLE OPERATORS IMMEDIATELY END THE PRACTICE OF USING TOWNSHIP STREETS AND ROADWAYS.
2. ALL BUSINESS OWNERS OPERATING WITHIN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP DISCOURAGE OFF ROAD PATRONS FROM USING THEIR PRIVATE PARKING AREAS AND PUBLIC SIDEWALKS WHILE THEY CONDUCT BUSINESS THEREBY DISCOURAGING ACCESS FROM PUBLIC ROADWAYS.

THE INTENTION IS TO ELIMINATE THIS PROBLEM SWIFTLY. THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ALERTED AND TASKED WITH ENSURING COMPLIANCE.

### **RECYCLING IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP**

Newport Township takes pride in offering residents a cost effective and efficient way to properly dispose of recyclable materials. Metals, glass, and plastics, when processed properly, reenter the product stream rather than add to waste processing and ultimately landfill bloating. Our Comingle Recycling Program makes it easy. No special sorting of material, no multiple bin distribution, no traveling to a remote site to deposit recyclable material. Just place the red recycle container, place it on the curb on the designated pickup day and you are done. It does not get any easier. And, you will have that warm feeling that comes from responsible disposal of reusable glass, metals, and plastics.

Please remember that recyclables are to be placed curbside no more than 24 hours before pickup. That lessens the chance for any animals being attracted and making a mess.

Thank you for your cooperation in our recycling effort.

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Spring Madness

A little madness in the Spring is wholesome even for the King.  
~ Emily Dickinson





The fourth Ben Frace Lobster Dinner was held at St. Andrew's Church in Alden on January 20. Dinner included a 9 oz. lobster tail, fresh cut fries, homemade cole slaw, and dessert. Judging from everyone's smiles, a good time was had by all. Vicky Frace headed the kitchen crew.



## Bus Stop Café Celebrates 25 Years of Business

*By Eli Panagakos* ~ On January 25, 2018, the Bus Stop Café celebrated its 25th year of business. Located near Patriot Square at 2 East Broad Street in Nanticoke, they have been serving breakfast and lunch daily to their loyal customers since January of 1993. On the 25th, they celebrated with family, friends, and customers with cake as well as a free meal to every 25th customer that walked through the door. What started out as just an idea 25 years ago for owner/operator Eli Panagakos actually turned into a lifestyle and a career. Eli originally opened the Bus Stop Café with his late wife, and continues to run the business today with the help of his daughter Gia and full-time waitress Shannon. The Bus Stop Café would like to thank all patrons, new and tenured for keeping the business alive and successful these past 25 years. For those who are unfamiliar with the Bus Stop Café, stop in Monday through Friday 6 am-2:30 pm or Saturday from 6 am-2 pm.

Pictured l to r: Eli Panagakos, owner; Rich Wiaterowski, Mayor of Nanticoke, and Gia Panagakos, daughter.





## NTCO PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Stephen E. Phillips*

To paraphrase a slogan on a popular World War II poster, the Newport Township Community Organization is looking for a few good men and women to assist it and other like minded volunteer groups in the Municipality to carry out their respective volunteer efforts.

Spring is the time for the Great American Cleanup. Committed Community minded individuals are being sought to assist in picking up highway litter and give a facelift to the Township's Recreation Park in Wanamie.

The Community Organization extends its heartfelt appreciation to Reilly Finishing Technologies for its recent \$1000 contribution to the Group. The money will be utilized to purchase a park bench and other related items for the Coal Street Playground in Glen Lyon.

The monthly food distribution held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the American Legion Post in Glen Lyon continues to serve approximately 100 needy and grateful families. Continued kudos to all the committed volunteers who continue to make this very worthwhile activity a success.

At its recent meeting, the Organization continued its policy of making contributions to various other volunteer entities within the Area. Recent beneficiaries are the Greater Nanticoke Little League and the Township Fire Companies.

This Organization has reiterated its commitment to the Board of Township Commissioners to assist them in their efforts to revitalize the Municipality. The effort will not be easy, and will require aid from numerous sectors including County, State, and Federal governments.

Please remember a unified effort can accomplish substantially more than disjointed actions by a few disgruntled individual groups.

### **Railroad Street Storm Water Drain System in Danger of Collapse**

*By John Jarecki* ~ The most serious Township problem, the Commissioners say, is that the storm water drain system on Railroad Street in Glen Lyon is in danger of collapsing. The storm drain is a four foot high cavity under an asphalt paved sidewalk on the left side of Railroad Street as you are going toward Lee; it extends from Market Street to Stralka Lane. At this time, several holes have opened in the asphalt above the system and have been covered with steel plates. The possibility of further collapse makes it a danger to residents in the area. The storm drain is about 1300 feet in length. PennEastern Engineers estimate that the cost of repairing the full length of the system would be about \$1.7 million, a huge amount considering that projected expenses of the entire 2018 Township budget amount to about \$1.4 million. The Engineers also estimate that, if the Township chooses to do the repair work in stages, the cost of a first-stage repair project of one-third of the system would be about \$646,000.

At their December 2017 meeting, the Commissioners approved a resolution to write an application for a state gaming grant requesting \$1,728,000 for a storm drain repair project that would span all of Railroad Street in Glen Lyon. They also discussed applying for a smaller grant of \$646,000 to repair one-third of the system as the first stage of a multi-stage project if that application was more likely to be approved.

At their March 2018 meeting, the Commissioners said that they would also submit an application for newly available Luzerne County grant money to do the repair work on the Railroad Street storm drain. The Luzerne County grant funds are a promising (but uncertain) source of money because they are primarily intended for financially distressed communities.

Note: On March 16, State Representative Gerald Mullery announced that the State was awarding gaming grants of \$2.74 million to communities in his district, including a \$150,000 grant to Newport Township for repair work on the Railroad Street storm drain system.

## I NEVER KNEW....DID YOU?

### **Buying a Watch in 1880**

*Submitted by Murph Fletcher* ~ If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found. Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-way had already been secured for the rail line. Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and it was the primary way they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station.

And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years. This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them. So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit. That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to spread and before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest is history as they say. The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

Yes, it's a little known fact that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: Richard Sears and partner Alvah Roebuck! Bet you didn't know that! OK, maybe you did, but I didn't!

Now that's History.

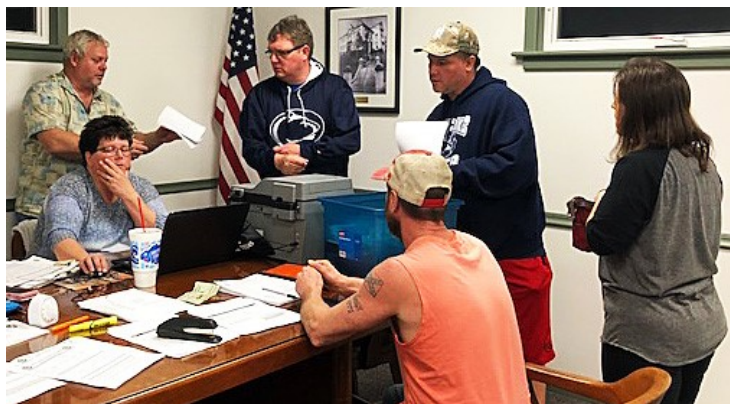
### **Do you remember?**

*By Tom Izbicki*

Polish weddings?  
Drugi (second) lever?  
The Columbus School in Wanamie?  
The Knox Mine Disaster?  
Podkul's Picnic Ground?  
Orphans living at St. Stanislaus?  
Seven Shaft?  
The windows shaking in the Pulaski School when they set off a blast in the mines?  
The Glen Lyon Breaker fire?  
Conyngnam Township joining the Newport Township School District?  
The Family Theatre?  
"Who Stole the Kishka"?  
The Centre Inn?  
The stadium behind Newport High School?  
Verna's dry goods store in Glen Lyon?  
"The professor says, Bartel's"  
Leventhal's Clothing Store in Nanticoke?  
The Miracle of the Bells?  
Injections of the Salk polio vaccine?  
GiGi's Pizza in Glen Lyon?  
The Wilkes-Barre Record?



## Little League Prepares for 2018 Season



By Tom Kashatus ~ Pictured above at the Newport Township Municipal Building on West Kirmar Avenue in February are parents signing up their children for Nanticoke Area Little League for the 2018 season. Standing (L to R) are President Wade Rowles; Vice President George Graboske; Safety Officer Brian Ball; and Crystal Humphrey, parent. Sitting (L to R) are Player-Agent Cheryl Goss and Jason Atkins, parent. Children between the ages of 4 to 16 who attend the Greater Nanticoke Area School District (Nanticoke City, Newport Township, and Plymouth Township) were authorized to sign up for the different levels of Little League play. Officials, parents, and children can feel the excitement to "Play Ball" as over 260 youngsters to date have signed up and will begin to prepare for the 2018 season. The season begins on May 6 at 1:00 p.m. with a parade from the Nanticoke High School Fields Complex to the Hillan Fields Complex in Wanamie. Briefly, the scheduled route is (Nanticoke) Kosciuszko to East Ridge to Hanover to West Church to West Main to (Newport Twp.) Old Newport to Center to Vandermark to West Kirmar to (Glen Lyon) East Main to West Main to Railroad Street to West Main and back to Hillan Fields in Wanamie.

This year Little League International instituted a new bat rule for the boys' major, boys' minor, coach pitch and tee ball divisions which requires all leagues to purchase 2 bats per team with the 2018 USA logo on them. Cost to Nanticoke Area Little League for this mandatory rule change of thirty six bats is approximately \$2,700.00.

The major fundraiser for NA Little League will be a "Night at the Races" event to be held on Saturday, April 28 at the Nanticoke Armory. Please contact President Wade Rowles (570-235-6516) to purchase advance tickets. Baskets for an auction are welcome as are other donations for the event. Tickets will also be available at the door.

President Rowles emphatically stated, "Our goal is to continue to make a difference in the lives of our children and to make it affordable to parents so children can continue to enjoy this great sport! Help from the public is needed and necessary to achieve this goal. Our organization applied for a bat grant from Little League International, but we were turned down. Therefore, in conjunction with our "Night at the Races" fundraiser, we are also seeking donations and asking members of the public to spread the word to attend our affair on April 28th and participate in our 'Opening Day' ceremonies on May 6."

## Cleanup of Pipe Road in Glen Lyon

By Sue Heinz ~ Newport Township Crime Watch and the Nanticoke Conservation Club are joining forces for the second year to do an illegal dumpsite cleanup on April 28 as part of the Great PA Cleanup, registered with Keep PA Beautiful. The target area this year is Pipe Road, starting at the pump house on Spring Street in Glen Lyon. Anyone who wants to volunteer is asked to report to the registration area near the pump house at 8 am to sign in. Gloves, orange safety vests, and garbage bags will be provided to everyone who is willing to help. Refreshments will be available.

Remember: Saturday, April 28 from 8 am. Come for an hour, come for the duration.. Even if you can't help out, come by and let us know that you support our efforts to Keep Newport Township Beautiful. Rain date is Sunday, April 29.

## Reilly Finishing Contributes to Community



Pictured left to right receiving their checks from Reilly's are Michael Wisniewski and Bob Katra; President and Vice President of West Side Park; Larry Marianacci and Kathy Kobylarz, Executive Vice President and Human Resources Manager of Reilly Technologies; and Stephen Phillips and Tom Kashatus, President and Vice President of the NTCO (\$1,000.00).

By Kathy Kobylarz ~ Joseph Reilly, owner of Reilly Finishing Technologies, together with contributions from twenty local Nanticoke and Newport Township businesses/organizations made a charitable donation to the West Side Park of Nanticoke and to the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) for their recreation program, specifically for the Coal Street playground in Glen Lyon. Reilly's charitable event is called "Christmas Tree Lane" which takes place during the holiday season along Alden Road in Nanticoke. It is now in its fourth year and its purpose is to give back to the community. Also it is a good form of advertising for the participants. There are twenty one trees that are planted; and Reilly provides the Christmas lights and electricity for each business displaying their name on signs in front of the trees to be viewed by those who pass by. Sponsors pay a fee and all monies that are raised are donated back to the communities of Nanticoke and Newport Township. Sponsors for 2017/2018 were as follows: Air Excellence; Bob's Auto Service; Broadway Garage; Ceppa's Notary; Corbett Insurance; Dorrance Auto; EMJAZE Signs; Rep. Gerald Mullery; Lecia's Styling Studio; Lee's Oil; Luksh Electric; NTCO; One Stop Auto; Parkway Inn; Petroski Plumbing; The Alden Room at the R Bar and Grill; Reilly Finishing Technologies; Sanitary Bakery; Suburban Oil; W. Peters Enterprises; and Luzerne Bank.

## Newport Township Crime Watch News

By Sue Heinz ~ The following officers were chosen to serve for a second year: President Vern Treat, Vice President Mary Margaret Kashatus, Secretary Amy Saraka, and Treasurer Heidi Jarecki. At the March meeting, Kevin Barrett led a very informative question and answer discussion on Active Shooters.

Crime Watch has begun "officially" planning for the 3rd Annual National Night Out to be held the evening of Tuesday, August 7 at St. Faustina Grove in Sheatown. Be sure to save that date because we'll have the Drunk Goggles and Big Trike, the Dunk Tank, Fire Dept. demonstration, free kids games and activities, good food and entertainment, and maybe a few surprises. We'll be needing baskets for the Chinese Auction and goodies for the Bake Sale. If you can help, let us know. If any organizations, church groups, sports groups, or individuals are interested in setting up a table, contact us on the Crime Watch Facebook page. We're lucky to have Amy Saraka as the event chairman again this year.

We are hoping to host a CPR/Stop the Bleed program in the near future. Watch our Facebook page for further details.

Crime Watch meetings will be on April 12, May 10 and June 14 at the Municipal Building in Wanamie. Please consider coming to a meeting. We'd love to see some new faces.





Above: The Brad Piavis Memorial Field at the Wanamie Recreation Park. Brad is pictured left.

### A Tribute to Brad Piavis

*By Murph Fletcher ~* Brad Piavis was the son of Bob and Patsy Domzalski Piavis of Glen Lyon. He was born on May 28, 1967. When he was 8, he was in third grade at the K.M. Smith School in Alden. He and his friends enjoyed playing Biddy Basketball. Brad was a member of the Warriors team. His greatest desire was to play for the Pirates



Little League Baseball Team along with his brothers, Bob and David.

Brad was also a member of the Cub Scouts and enjoyed outdoor activities. Brad was not feeling well, and he was taken to the doctor who ran a series of tests. The tests found that he had a serious illness, a malignant brain tumor. Through four years of treatment he continued to participate in his activities. While playing basketball at the Glen Lyon playground, he fell and broke his arm. Two weeks later, he fell off his bike and broke the arm again. He enjoyed staying active until his condition worsened, and he had to be home schooled. After Brad succumbed to the illness on March 31, 1979, the Newport Township community dedicated the softball field in the Wanamie Recreation Park (pictured above) to his memory.

### Recreation Then and Now

*By Murph Fletcher ~* Before the establishment of the Newport Township Community Organization, there was no organized recreation program for the children. Yes, there were and continue to be athletic programs which have been successful. However, there was no organized program to encourage the Arts, Crafts, Music, Nature, History, Patriotism, and local customs for the children to learn about. Since the NTCO's Recreation Program began, the children have learned about animals as small as larva to as large as bears. They also learned about flying animals as small as butterflies and as large as eagles. Water animals are on our list of future events. When the event scheduled for that day is completed, the children will then participate in some physical activity, using the equipment at that park, or playing board games or card games, but no electronic games.

In the first four years of the program, we were fortunate to have local skilled people conduct the programs at no charge. The first program consisted of 9 children. As the program grew to attendance of 30 or more children, a decision was made by the NTCO to provide a budget to conduct the program so that the presenters could be paid for their time and for needed supplies. As the program continued to grow through the years, attendance is now at 40 to 60 children. There is a great desire to expand the opportunities to participate in new experiences. Last year we participated in a day camp program. The camp provided four separate events and lunch for the campers on the days we attended. The children's experiences were positive and they requested that we continue again this year. Last year we were fortunate to have transportation supplied through a grant and donations from the Newport Township Lions Club. This year we have an opportunity to attend two separate day

camp. However, transportation and attendance fees may exist. The NTCO has always provided funding for each child. However, with the increase in numbers, funding may not be available. Living in a "distressed" community means that money is in short supply for children's recreation.

The NTCO is seeking grants and donations in order to determine if the goals we have set for this year can be met. You as a reader of this publication can help us achieve our goals by sending a donation to the NTCO to help us continue this successful program. You may specify where your donation goes: to fund a child's day camp attendance, to fund bus transportation, or to help fund our weekly recreation program of paid presenters. This will help to fund existing programs and help develop new activities.

Thank you in advance for your support. Please send donations to: NTCO, 113 Railroad Ave., Wanamie, PA 18634.

### Summer Recreation Sign Up

*By Murph Fletcher ~* Liability sign-ups to participate in the Summer Programs will be held at the Wanamie Recreation Park May 12, 19, and 26, from 9 am to 11 am. Anyone signing up to use the bus for the Day Camp or a field trip will be required to pay a \$10 bus fee. If you sign up to use the bus, and do not cancel ahead of time or do not show up, you forfeit your deposit. If you use the bus for all of the events you selected, your deposit will be returned to you. This is being done so that we do not have the problem as last year, when we had 20 plus signed up for an event and only 6 or 9 showed up. Please see page 9 for the list of events.

### A Brief History Lesson



COAL MINING ITEMS OF AL YARASAVAGE SR.  
TOP LEFT - SAFETY LAMP  
TOP CENTER - COAL PAIL AND ANTHRACITE COAL  
TOP RIGHT - BATTERY FOR HEADLAMP

LOWER LEFT - AIR FILTER MASK  
LOWER LEFT SECOND ITEM - WHALE OIL LAMP AND WICK  
LOWER LEFT THIRD ITEM - WATER CANTEEN  
LOWER MIDDLE - MINER'S POCKET KNIFE  
LOWER MIDDLE - CARBIDE LAMP  
LOWER RIGHT - MINERS SAFETY HELMET AND HEADLAMP

Pictured above are some equipment commonly used by coal miners. In addition to the pick-ax and shovel, the miner used drills to bore holes into which dynamite was placed. Top left is a safety lamp used to determine the presence of dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. Before the safety lamp, the miners would carry caged canaries into the mine tunnels with them. If dangerous gases collected in the mine, the gases would kill the canary before killing the miners, thus providing a warning to exit the tunnels immediately. At the top right is a battery for the headlamp which was attached to the hard hat. On the bottom from left to right is an air filter mask or respirator, which failed to protect many miners from respiratory diseases; an whale oil lamp and wick used to provide light in the nineteenth century before the carbide lamp was invented; a water canteen; a pocket knife; a carbide lamp, which provided light by the controlled reaction of calcium carbide and water; and lastly, the hard hat with a headlamp. The headlamp was safer than any previous methods of providing light in the mines because there was no flame which might ignite. Picture by Al Yarasavage.



## VETERANS' NEWS

By Timothy Derr ~ From the Commanders of Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539, Jeffries-Slapikas American Legion Post 971 (Wanamie), and the Chester Stralka Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8353, it is noted that regular monthly meetings for Post 971 and VFW Post 8353 are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 1900 hours in the American Legion Post 539 Social Hall. American Legion Post 539 holds its regular meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 1900 hours in the Post Home Meeting Room. Members are encouraged to participate.

**Contact information:** VFW: Joe Molski at 570-735-3534  
American Legion Post 539: Shawn Swicklik at 570-736-6167  
American Legion Post 971: Ed Kalinowski at 570-592-2762  
As always, the posts are seeking new members. We look forward to having you in our ranks.

Commander Shawn Swicklik (Legion Post 539) would like to extend an invitation to veterans and friends to attend our Veteran's Night, which is held one Saturday each month in the Post Home canteen. Free food is available buffet style. A dish of their choice is welcome, but not necessary, from attendees. A military themed movie is presented. Come and enjoy the camaraderie that begins at 7:00 p.m. A list of dates follows: April 21 and May 19.

**Recent Activities:** Traditionally, veteran's organizations have maintained a close association with Scouting. In keeping with that tradition, members of the VFW, American Legion, and the Sons of the American Legion provided honor guard services at the Wyoming Lodge of the Free Masons 416 for a Flag Ceremony. Jonathan Wilde, an Eagle Scout with Troop 166, was completing his Eagle project, which consisted in part of retiring the existing American Flag, installing a new flag staff, and raising a new flag that had previously flown over the State Capitol in Harrisburg. Jonathan's father, John Wilde who is a member of Post 539, performed the



Eagle Scout Jonathan Wilde, seated second from left, and John Wilde in the background



Post 539 Honor Guard (L to R) Joe Figlerski, Joe Molski, Shawn Swicklik, Mike Pauska, Kyle Pegarella, Bernie Mihneski & Jerry Wenner.



Raising the flag with Jonathan Wilde is Scott Owen of Masonic Lodge 416.

duties of Master of Ceremonies.

Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 participated in the recent National POW/MIA Recognition Day activities held at the Back Mountain Harvest Association's grounds. The event featured guest speakers and a Watchfire. The Watchfire is intended to bring awareness to the fact that so many thousands of American prisoners of war and missing in action have never been accounted for. As long as we remain vigilant, they shall never be forgotten. The Honor Guard duties were performed by members of American Legion Posts 672, 967, and 558. Additionally, Legion Riders from various posts participated. Special guest speaker, Bruce German of Rockville, MD, was featured. Bruce had been one of the American hostages held by the radical Iranian militants during the Iran Crisis which began on Sunday, November 4, 1979. His incredible story was undeniably moving. Go to: <http://www.nytimes.com/1981/01/24/world/former-hostage-says-some-of-the-52-would-not-view-tapes-of-takeover.html>.



Honor Guard and The Watchfire

American Legion Post 539 members Joe Figlerski, Jason Bush, and Kyle Pegarella participated in a collaborative initiative with the State Correctional Institution at Dallas (SCID) which offered an opportunity for thirty five "Wounded Warriors" to hunt the state property during deer season. Fifteen volunteers established posts, drove the disabled veterans to the posts, and dressed eleven buck and two doe for the butcher after a full day of hunting. This is the third year for this initiative to take place at the State Correctional Institution under the direction of Facility Manager Larry Mahally. It has created an opportunity for the disabled veterans to enjoy a day of camaraderie with fellow veterans, friends, and an opportunity to thin out the problematic excessive deer population at SCID.



Pictured left are one of the harvested bucks, and at right is Joe Figlerski (center) taking a break at the SCID Wounded Warrior hunt.

**Upcoming Events:** American Legion Post 539 will have a chicken Bar-B-Q this spring. The date has not been finalized as of this writing. Additionally, a venison roast is also on the planning board. Details will be announced in the next edition.

### Taps:

It is with deep sorrow and regret that we list the names of our recently deceased veteran brothers:



**John Zidek**, of Shickshinny, originally from Mocanaqua, was called to eternal rest by his Supreme Commander on Thursday, January 17, 2017. He graduated from Newport Township High School, Class of 1968. Following graduation, John enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served overseas in Vietnam. John was an infantry rifleman with the 3rd Marines in I-Corps. John received the "Navy/Marine Corps Medal For Heroism Under Fire" when he singlehandedly pulled the crew from a downed helicopter to safety all the

while under intense enemy fire. John left Vietnam as a "wounded warrior" receiving a Purple Heart for being wounded in action. John's medals and awards include: National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation, Navy/Marine Corps Medal and Purple Heart. Lance Corporal Zidek returned to the United States in April of 1970 after having served 13 months in Vietnam. John's ashes are interred at Fort Indiantown Gap. For his obituary, go to: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=john-m-zidek-sr&pid=183779639>



**Frank "Kabitzer" Turner** passed into eternal rest on Friday, October 20, 2017. He grew up in Glen Lyon and attended Newport Township schools. "Kabitzer" as he was known enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1963 to 1967. Frank's overseas duty was performed in Iceland. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Lance Corporal. He is missed by his family and friends, including life-long buddies Mike Figmic and Bernie Mihneski. Frank was a member of American Legion Post

539. At his funeral, Honor Guard duties were performed by the State Correctional Institution Honor Guard of Dallas from where Frank retired. Shawn Swicklik, Commander of Post 539, was the Officer of the Guard. Frank's ashes are interred in the Newport Cemetery at Newport Center. For his obituary, go to: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?n=frank-w-turner-kabitzer&pid=187011940>



## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539 Glen Lyon

By Lorrie Materiewicz

**Auxiliary Yard Sale:** Yard sale season will soon be here and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539 will be jumpstarting with a yard/bake/lunch sale on Saturday, May 5 from 8am-3pm at the Legion Post home at 62 Newport Street in Glen Lyon. Interested vendors may call Lorrie at 570-736-7177. Spots are \$10, tables and chairs are provided. Venue is handicapped accessible with ample parking, and vendors may set up Friday evening. Also, a hot homemade lunch will be available for sale throughout the day, eat-in or take-out. Proceeds benefit the Veterans' Donations Fund. We thank you in advance for your support.

**Auxiliary Clothing Collection:** Many citizens in the Township have been quite generous in the past with donations of gently used clothing to the American Legion Auxiliary. We have collected these donations until we have had sufficient amounts to deliver to whichever organization deemed greatest in need at the time. Unfortunately, storage has become problematic for us at this time, so until further notice, we regret that we can no longer accept clothing donations of any kind unless a specific drive is announced. From our hearts, we thank you for your kind generosity, and please know all your donations have gone to those in genuine need and enriched many lives. We hope to be able to pursue this endeavor sometime in the future.

**Get Your Walking Shoes Ready:** Hey, who doesn't know that walking is great exercise? Well, here's an opportunity to double the benefit: exercise and raise much-needed funds to support a local cause! The 2018 Highway Walk for a Healthy Community Northeast PA will be held on Saturday, June 16 at PNC Field in Moosic. This year's walk will support 12 health and human service organizations, including the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO). The CEO is the organization that underwrites and provides the food for the monthly mobile food bank sponsored by the NTCO and the American Legion Auxiliary for the residents of Newport Township. If you register on behalf of CEO, registration is free! For a minimum donation of \$30.00, you will receive a Highway Walk for Community t-shirt; for every \$50.00 donated, you will be entered into a raffle for a grand prize. A fine idea would be to ask friends and relatives to sponsor your walk. To register, refer to the CEO/Weinberg Food Bank website.

### GRAND OPENING OF WALKING TRAIL Cleanup of Parks and Playgrounds

The Newport Township Recreation Board invites all residents to celebrate the completion of the Walking Trail in the Wanamie Recreation Park on Saturday April 7 from 11 am to 2 pm. Hot dogs will be served, compliments of the Board. Anyone who walks the trail will be eligible to win a grand prize. Please join us!

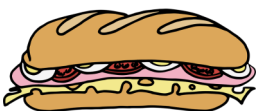
The Board is sponsoring a cleanup of the parks and playgrounds on Saturday, April 21 from 9 am. Volunteers are needed. Please bring rakes. Gloves and bags will be provided.

To mark Arbor Day on April 27, the Board plans to plant flowering trees along the west end of the Walking Trail.

Members of the Board are Judy Pazgan, Kristen Kaminski, Valerie Bartle, and Heidi Jarecki. Recreation Commissioner is Jack Vishnefski.

### Hoagie Sale

An Italian Hoagie Sale will be held on Election Day, Tuesday May 15. Pickup will be between 11 am and 1 pm in St. Adalbert's Church Hall, Glen Lyon. \$6.00 each. Baked goods will also be available. Sponsored by the Altar and



Rosary Society. Order sheets are available at the back of the Church. You can also call Carol Sobotka at 570-736-7149 to place your orders. Thanks!

## Community Events Calendar

As a community service and for your planning convenience, below is a list of Township activities for the next three months. This list includes only those events submitted to this writer prior to newsletter publication deadline by participating organizations. Future events/dates wishing to be included by any township organization may be called or emailed to Lorrie at 570-736-7177; Cptmax262@gmail.com. Thanks!

Date	Organization	Event	Venue	Time
Wed., 25 April	NTCO/Aux.	Food Bank	Legion	6-7PM
Saturday, 5 May	Auxiliary Unit 539	Yard/Bake/Lunch Sale	Legion	8-3PM
Tuesday, 15 May	Altar & Rosary Society	Hoagie Sale	St. Adalbert's	11AM-1PM
Monday, 21 May	Legion/Aux/SAL 539	Memorial Day	Cemeteries	9:30AM
Wed., 23 May	NTCO/Aux.	Food Bank	Legion	6-7PM
Thurs., 14 June	Legion/Aux/SAL 539	Flag Day Ceremony	Legion	6PM
Saturday, 16 June	CEO Walk for Healthy NEPA Walk		PNC Field	TBA
Wed., 27 June	NTCO/Aux	Food Bank	Legion	6-7PM

### Easter Events in Brief

Friday, March 30: The Newport Township Fire Departments and St. Faustina Parish will hold a Good Friday Food Sale in the parking lot of Nanticoke Fitness and Training, West Main Street, Nanticoke.

Saturday, March 31: The Newport Township Women's Activity Group will host "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" at the American Legion in Glen Lyon.

### Spring Bingo

The Newport Township Women's Activity Group will hold its Spring Bingo on Sunday, April 15 at St. Adalbert's Church Hall, Market Street, Glen Lyon. Doors open at 12 noon and play begins at 1:00. Admission is \$2.00. Raffle table, bake sale and home-made food available!

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School for the children in the Township will be held at St. Adalbert's Church, Market Street, Glen Lyon from Monday, July 16 to Friday, July 20. Registration is free. Please call the Parish Office at 570-736-6372 to register and for more information.

NTCO SUMMER FUN (10 am - Noon)		
Date	Location	Event
June 12	Wanamie	Make Ice Cream
June 19	Alden	Presentation, Birds of Prey
June 22	Nescopock State Park	Stream Investigation & Fishing
June 26	Coal St., Glen Lyon	Butterfly Tent
July 3	TBA	TBA
July 6	JCC Camp Dallas	Day Camp
July 10	Wanamie	Tie-dye Shirts
July 24	Wanamie	Police & Fire Company
July 31	Coal St., Glen Lyon	Presentation, Reptiles
Aug 2	JCC Camp Dallas	Day Camp
Aug 7	Wanamie	Pizza Party



## Newport Township Obituaries

*By Tom Kashatus* ~ These obituaries are in reference to individuals who have ties to Newport Township and/or Newport Township High School. The obituaries in this newsletter are published in abbreviated form due to limited space; thus, a more complete obituary can be found on our web site, [www.newporttownship.com](http://www.newporttownship.com), as space available is not a relative issue. The website also has a link leading to the original newspaper obit or that of the funeral home. As usual, your comments are always welcome; and, if someone is missed, please notify this writer at [tomkash@verizon.net](mailto:tomkash@verizon.net) or call (570) 736-6981.

**ZACK**, Dolores M. (nee Mihneski), 84, of Hanover Township, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away December 2, 2017. Dolores was born January 28, 1933, in Glen Lyon. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '51.

**KRUCZEK**, Laura (nee Jachimczak), 90, of Slocum Township, and longtime resident of Alden, Prospect Hill, passed away December 2017. Laura was born July 19, 1927 in Askam.

**DROZDOWSKI**, David T., 53, of Orchard Street, Glen Lyon, passed away December 17, 2017. He was a graduate of John S. Fine High School, Class of '82.

**GORNEY**, Theresa M., 85, of Depot Street, Glen Lyon, passed away December 17, 2017. Theresa was born in Nanticoke, on June 5, 1932, . She was a life resident of Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School Class of '50.

**MINUTI**, Mario, of Laguna Woods, CA, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away December 18, 2017. Mario was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '46 and the University of Pittsburgh. He was employed by General Electric for 42 years.

**SZOT**, Lorraine F. (nee Berjewski), 86, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Newport Township, passed away December 20, 2017. Lorraine was born in Newport Township on October 11, 1931. She attended Newport Township schools.

**CYBULSKI**, Stanley J., 80, of Mountain Top, passed away December 25, 2017. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '55, was a veteran of the US Air Force, and retired from RCA/Fairchild of Mountain Top.

**MACIEJCZYK**, Frances Catherine Kaczmarek, (nee Kapler) 87, of Shickshinny, and raised at Saint Stanislaus Orphanage, Sheatown, passed away December 26, 2017. "Frannie" was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

**ECKROTE**, Joseph, 80, of Wanamie, passed away December 29, 2017. Joseph was born September 15, 1937. He attended Newport Township schools and was a veteran of the US Air Force.

**TWYMAN**, Wanda Mae, 63, of Glen Lyon, passed away December 23, 2017. Wanda Mae was born in Chester, PA and was a graduate of Chester High School and Delaware County Nursing School.

**ROSS**, Eugene J., 82, of Glen Lyon, passed away January 2, 2018. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '53.

**KRUPINSKI**, John S. Jr., 83, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away January 7, 2018. He graduated from Newport Township High School, Class of '52. He was a US Army veteran.

**LUTZ**, Adam Christopher, 22, of Nanticoke, passed away November 9, 2018. Adam was born on December 22, 1994. Adam graduated from Greater Nanticoke Area High School, Class of 2013.

**FRINSKO**, Dorothy M., (nee Urbanski), 97, passed away January 10, 2018. She was a life resident of Glen Lyon and a Newport Township High School graduate, Class of '38.

**KOSKO**, Nancy S. (nee George), 69, of Dallas, and formerly of Sheatown, passed away January 6, 2018. Nancy graduated from Newport Township High School, Class of '67.

**FENSTERMACHER**, Eugene R., 90, of Dorrance Township, passed away January 16, 2018. Eugene was born in Dorrance on August 8, 1927. He graduated from Newport Township High School Class of '44, and was a veteran of the US Navy.

**MUMMERT**, Fred Amherst Jr., 66, of Glen Lyon, formerly of Hanover Township, passed into eternal life on January 21, 2018.

**VALAITIS**, Jane (nee Markiewicz), 93, a longtime resident of Sheatown, passed away January 20, 2018. Jane was born on March 21, 1924.. She graduated from Newport Township High School Class of '41.

**HUDACK**, Deborah, (nee Turner), 51, of Wilkes Barre, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away January 21, 2018. Deborah was born on August 7, 1966.

**GAYDOS**, Michael E., 79, of Middletown, DE, and formerly of Dorrance Township, passed away on January 19, 2018. He was born on October 5, 1938. He was a graduate of Newport township High School Class of '56.

**PERNO**, Peter Joseph, 91, of Korn Krest, Hanover Township, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away January 24, 2018. He attended Newport Township schools and was a US Navy veteran serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

**CONDO**, John, 89, of West Railroad Street, Alden, passed away January 21, 2018. John was born in Swoyersville on January 18, 1929. John was a US Army veteran.

**SWEET**, Kelly D., (nee Killian), 57, of Hunlock Creek, and formerly of Glen Lyon, died January 28, 2018. She was a graduate of Northwest Area High School Class of '79.

**WOJCIECHOWSKI**, Pauline, 101, a life resident of Alden, passed away January 31, 2018. Pauline was born on June 29, 1916.

**ADAMCZYK**, Mildred Mary, 83, of Sheatown, passed away December 10, 2017. Mildred was born in Nanticoke on August 12, 1934.

**PRETE**, Michael L., 90, of Alden, passed away February 1, 2018. Michael was born in Hazleton on July 1, 1927. Michael was a veteran of the US Army serving in Korea at the end of World War II.

**STEBER**, Mary Ann (nee Rosmus), 75, a longtime resident of Mocanaqua, died February 9, 2018. Mary Ann was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '61.

**MALEC**, Frank J. Jr., 70, of Hanover Township. and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away February 9, 2018. He attended Newport Township schools. He was a US Navy Vietnam Era veteran.

**KUCHINSKI**, Marilyn (nee Stewart), 76, of Bluffton, SC, and formerly of Wanamie, passed away January 27, 2018. Marilyn was raised in Wanamie, graduated from Newport Township High School Class of '59.

**LUISSER**, Mark, of Wanamie, passed away Tuesday, February 13, 2018.

**COOPEY**, Dorothy M. (nee Cross), 90, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Sheatown, passed away, January 22, 2018. Dorothy was born June 24, 1927, in Philadelphia. She was predeceased by first husband Reese Lewis and second husband Lou Coopey.

**BALLIET**, Helen M. (nee Dula), 90, of Mountain Top, passed away Saturday, February 17, 2018. Helen was born in Nanticoke. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

**OTTAVIANI**, Peter, 65, of Aston, PA, passed away on February 19, 2018. Peter was born in Nanticoke and was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1970.

**GROHOWSKI**, John S., 54, of Kirmar Avenue, Alden, passed away February 21, 2018. John was born January 25, 1964.

**MOTISKO**, Melanie, R. (nee Ruck), 74, of Sheatown, passed away February 23, 2018. Melanie was born May 29, 1943 in Nanticoke.

**WENTZ**, Rosalie T. (nee Skriski), 89, of Nanticoke, passed away February 23, 2018. Rosalie was born in Wanamie. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '46.



## The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township



### May Apple

*By Heidi and Paul Jarecki*  
~ A common sight in the woods in the Township every spring is the May Apple. Those pictured here were found off Kirmar Parkway in Wanamie.

### May Apple Facts

1. May Apple is a perennial native herb found growing in moist soils in rich woods,

thickets and pastures in eastern North America from Southern Maine to Florida and west to Texas and Minnesota.

2. The May Apple is one of the first plants to emerge from the ground in early spring. The flower appears in May but the fruit does not appear and ripen until later in the summer (typically July).
3. Its botanical name is *Podophyllum peltatum* (poe-doe-FILL-um pell-TAY-tum) and means "foot leaf like a shield." The leaves resemble a duck's foot—it was once called that—and they tend to hide the flower and fruit, shielding it. May Apple grows to about 18 inches high. The long stem separates into two large, dark green, palmate, lobed leaves, looking almost like umbrellas. The leaves protect the large white flower on a short peduncle, growing right in between the leaves. May Apple flowers turn into crab-apple size edible fruits.
4. Another name for May Apple is American mandrake.
5. May Apples are woodland plants, typically growing in colonies derived from a single root.
6. May Apple has been used by American Indians as an emetic (an agent that induces vomiting) and as a cathartic (an agent that causes the bowels to be purged). They also boiled the poisonous root, and used the water to cure stomach aches.
7. All parts of the plant are poisonous, including the green fruit, but once the fruit has turned yellow, it can be safely eaten with the seeds removed. The unripe green fruit is toxic. The ripened yellow fruit is edible in small amounts, though when consumed in large amounts the fruit is poisonous. The rhizome (stem), foliage and roots are also poisonous. May Apple contains podophyllotoxin, which is highly toxic if consumed, but can be used as a topical medicine.
8. Two drugs are made from the May Apple, etoposide and teniposide. Etoposide is used for testicular and small-cell lung cancer. Teniposide is used in conditions like brain tumors and infancy leukemia.
9. For those of us old enough to remember "Carter's Little Liver Pills," May Apple was a main ingredient that made the pills a laxative and had nothing to do with the liver at all.

## Taste of the Township



### Pudding and Pie Filling

*By Heidi and Paul Jarecki* ~ Pudding is a type of food, usually milk-based, that can be either a dessert or a savory dish. The word *pudding* is believed to come from the French *boudin*, originally from the Latin *botellus*, meaning "small sausage" referring to encased meats used in medieval European puddings. Many of us grew up with tapioca, rice pudding, bread pudding, and butterscotch pudding that was made from scratch. The constant stirring for long periods of time sure tested the cook's stamina!

Then, along comes instant pudding and pie filling in 1936. The most popular brand of course is Jello. The first flavor was chocolate, a big favorite. Then other flavors were developed.

Now we wondered, does anyone remember Junket? It was popular in the 1950's and 1960's. Junket is also a milk-based dessert, made with sweetened milk and rennet, the digestive enzyme that curdles milk. Junket was often a preferred food for ill children, mostly due to its sweetness and ease of digestion.

Then there are custards, made with milk and egg yolks, sometimes cooked in a double boiler. When starch is added, the result is pastry cream, which is the basis for many French desserts.

Here is an instant pudding pie recipe that is easy to make and tastes great! Thanks to Judy Novak of Alden for passing it along.

#### INSTANT PUDDING CHEESE PIE

- 1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese (room temperature for easier stirring)
- 2 cups cold milk
- 1 package (3 3/4 oz.) Jell-O Lemon or Pineapple Cream Instant Pudding
- 1 baked 9-inch Graham Cracker Crumb Crust cooled

Place cream cheese in a bowl and stir until well softened. Add 1/2 cup of the milk a little at a time, blending until mixture is very smooth. Then add remaining 1 1/2 cups milk and the pudding mix. Beat slowly with rotary beater just until well mixed—about 1 minute. Pour into crust. Chill until set. Makes 8 servings.

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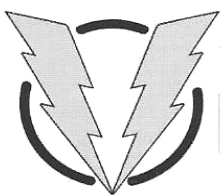
**570-736-6585**

John & Anastasia Vishnefski



## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Every Sunday Oct. to May	Daisy Girl Scouts Troop 32114 Jamie Miller, Troop Leader, (570) 736- 6203	6 – 7:00 p.m.	Municipal Building Wanamie
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month	Sons of Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 Kyle Pegarella (570) 417-2740	7:00 p.m.	Glen Lyon American Legion
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of Month	Altar & Rosary Society of Holy Spirit Parish Heidi Jarecki, President (570) 733-2540	6:00 p.m.	Holy Spirit Parish Basm't St. Adalbert's, Glen Lyon
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of Month	Newport Township Board of Commissioners (Regular Meeting) Paul Czapracki, (570) 736-6859	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Building Wanamie
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of Month	Knights of Columbus Council 1067 V. J. George, Grand Knight (570) 735-3411	8:00 p.m.	Holy Spirit Parish Rect'ry
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of Month	Newport Township Women's' Activity Group Patti Smith, President (570) 313-4399	6:30 p.m.	Various Restaurants
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of Month	Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 Auxiliary Lorraine Materewicz, President (570) 736-7177	6:30 p.m.	Glen Lyon American Legion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Month	Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 Shawn Swicklik, Commander (570) 736-6167	7:00 p.m.	Glen Lyon American Legion
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of Month	Glen Lyon Italian American Sporting Club Paul Stephanick, President (570) 736-6702	7:30 p.m.	Italian Club, Glen Lyon
As needed	Glen Lyon Italian American Sporting Club Auxiliary Faith Kropiewnicki, President (570) 417-8899		Italian Club, Glen Lyon
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of Month (No meeting Jul & Aug)	Consolidated Fire Department Ronald Womelsdorf, (570) 735-8639	7:00 p.m.	Wanamie Fire Station
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov	Newport Township Fire Police Len Paczkowski, Captain (570) 740-7285	6:00 p.m.	Wanamie Fire Station
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month	Newport Township Community Organization Stephen Phillips, President (570) 735-3991	6:45 p.m.	Municipal Building Wanamie
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of Month	Holy Name Society of Holy Spirit Parish Joseph C. Hillan (570) 736-7218	7:00 p.m.	Holy Spirit Parish Rect'ry
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month (No meeting Jul & Aug)	Glen Lyon/Alden Volunteer Hose House John Elmy, President, (570) 735-0531	7:00 p.m.	Wanamie Fire Station
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Month	Newport Township Lions Club Dr. Donald Reese, President (570) 735-5986	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Building Wanamie
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Month	Newport Township Crime Watch Vern Treat, President (570) 574-9783	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Building Wanamie
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday May (Camp) Feb, Sep, Oct, Nov	Newport Township Rod & Gun Club David Czapracki (570) 740-2001	1:00 p.m.	St. Andrews Methodist Church, Alden
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of Month	Newport Township Sewer Authority Mel Dudeck, President (570) 735-1615	6:00 p.m.	Sewer Authority Building Wanamie
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month	Jeffries-Slapikas American Legion Post 971 Paul Kearney, Commander (570) 817-0622 Ed Kalinowski, Adjutant (570) 592-2762	7:00 p.m.	Glen Lyon American Legion



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Monday thru Friday Every week	Rose Tucker Active Adult Center Gail Voyton, Director (570) 735-1670 Laura Dorshefski, Asst. Director	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Rose Tucker Building 145 E. Green Street (Lunch everyday)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month	Stralka-Polnaissek VFW Post 8353 Joseph Molski, Commander (570) 735-3534	7:00 p.m.	Glen Lyon American Legion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Month	Newport Township Recreation Advisory Board Judy Pazgan, President (570) 735-8611	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Building Wanamie
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Month	Newport Township Board of Commissioners (Work Session) Paul Czapracki, President (570) 736-6859	4:30 p.m.	Municipal Building, Wanamie
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month	Newport Township Authority Deborah Zaleski, President (570) 706-0722	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Building, Wanamie
On call of the president	Greater Nanticoke Area Youth Soccer Assn. Brian Ball, President (570) 793-5115 Brian Franks, VP (570) 417-6065	6:30 p.m.	Newport Twp. Rec. Park During Season
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month	Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 Home Association Joe Figlerski, President (570) 762-4723	7:00 p.m.	Glen Lyon American Legion
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Month	Newport Township Lions Club Dr. Donald Reese, President (570) 735-5986	6:00 p.m. (2) R Bar, Alden	(1) Parkway Inn, Alden
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of Month	Nanticoke Area Little League Wade Rowles, President (570) 406-3162 Kim Rowles, Secretary (570) 406-3163 Rich Brogan, Treasurer (570) 262-6013	7:30 p.m.	Newport Twp. Municipal Building, Wanamie

#### Church Services

Holy Spirit Parish (Roman Catholic) Glen Lyon Saint Adalbert's Father Lou Kaminski	Sunday Morning Holy Day Vigil	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. day before
Saint Nicholas Ukrainian rite) (Glen Lyon) Father Roman Petruzshak	Sundays	8:30 a.m.
Saint Andrews (Episcopal) (Alden Station) Father Warwick	Sundays	10:00 a.m.
Holy Resurrection (Orthodox) Alden Station Father	Sundays	10:00 a.m.



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We would also like to remind all residents that all dogs must be on a leash at all times when they are off of the owner's property. The dog ordinance also states that the all residents must clean up after their dogs at the time of occurrence. The fine for no leash and not cleaning up after your dog can be up to \$300 per occurrence.



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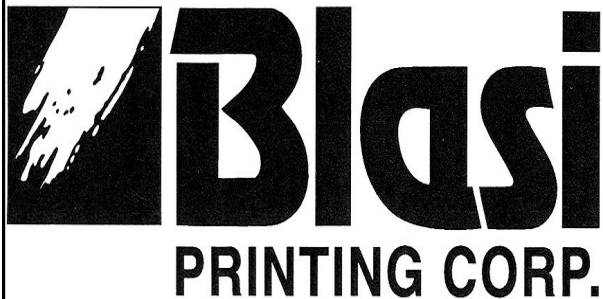
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## One Hundred Years Ago in Newport Township: The Flu Pandemic of 1918

*By Heidi and Paul Jarecki* ~ The flu has hit America particularly hard this year. Influenza, commonly known as "the flu", is an infectious disease caused by an influenza virus. The most common symptoms include: a high fever, runny nose, sore throat, muscle pains, headache, coughing, and feeling tired. These symptoms typically last about a week. The cough, however, may last for more than two weeks. People's protection from viruses depends on their having been exposed to the virus before, through infection or from a vaccine for that virus. In either case, the immune system "remembers" the virus and creates virus-specific antibodies that will neutralize the virus when it next enters the body.

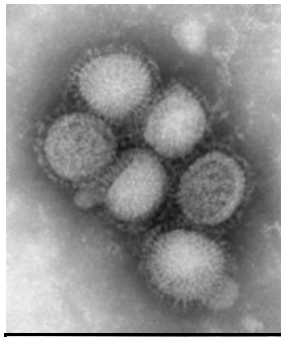
Influenza viruses can mutate, or change, rapidly. Occasionally, a major change in a virus produces a strain so different from the others before it that humans have little or no pre-existing immunity. Three types of influenza viruses affect people, called Type A, Type B, and Type C. Influenza spreads around the world in a yearly outbreak, resulting in about three to five million cases of severe illness and about 250,000 to 500,000 deaths. Death occurs mostly in the young, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health problems.

The symptoms of human influenza were clearly described by Hippocrates roughly 2,400 years ago. The disease may have spread from Europe to the Americas as early as the European colonization of the Americas. Almost the entire indigenous population of the Antilles was killed by an epidemic resembling influenza that broke out in 1493, after the arrival of Christopher Columbus.

Outbreaks known as pandemics are less frequent. The first convincing record of an influenza pandemic was an outbreak in 1580, which began in Russia and spread to Europe via Africa. In Rome, over 8,000 people were killed, and several Spanish cities were almost wiped out. Pandemics continued sporadically throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, with the pandemic of 1830–1833 being particularly widespread. It infected approximately a quarter of the people exposed. In the 20th century, three influenza pandemics occurred: the Spanish influenza in 1918 (50 million deaths), Asian influenza in 1957 (two million deaths), and Hong Kong influenza in 1968 (one million deaths). The World Health Organization declared an outbreak of a new type of influenza A/H1N1 to be a pandemic in June 2009.

The Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918, the deadliest in history, infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide—about one-third of the planet's population—and killed an estimated 20 to 50 million victims, including some 675,000 Americans. Stories abounded of people dying within hours of first feeling ill. The mortality rate was highest among adults under age 50, who were, for unknown reasons, particularly vulnerable to serious disease resulting from this strain of influenza. The first cases of influenza appeared in Kansas in early spring 1918. Later that spring, officials reported large numbers of cases from Europe, though this flu seemed no more dangerous than the usual variety. However, in late summer, the virus became more deadly. Soon, waves of infection moved through towns, nations, and continents, overwhelming hospitals and medical personnel. The name Spanish Influenza came from the devastating effects of the flu in Spain in autumn 1918.

The 1918 flu pandemic was truly global, spreading even to the Arctic and remote Pacific islands. The unusually severe disease killed between two and twenty percent of those infected. Another unusual feature of this pandemic was that it mostly killed young adults, with 99% of pandemic influenza deaths occurring in people under 65, and more than half in young adults 20 to 40 years old. In August of 1918, an article appeared in the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader which warned local authorities that the Spanish Flu was spreading quickly throughout Europe. By then, Pennsylvania was already in a state of emergency due to the flu. Less than two months later, on October 7, 1918, the following headline appeared in the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader on page 1: "Flu Cases total 81 in City; Four Deaths—Epidemic in Wilkes-Barre and Valley Becomes More Serious as List of Patients Continues to Grow—More than One Hundred Cases of Influenza in Glen Lyon—Public and Parochial Schools are Closed. "Of the four flu deaths reported that day, three



The images above of the newly identified H1N1 influenza virus were taken in the CDC Influenza Laboratory.

occurred in Newport Township: Charles Stout, aged 38 of Sheatown, Stanley Jrogkofski, aged 8 of Glen Lyon and Joseph Nagorski, aged 29 also of Glen Lyon. On October 8, the Pennsylvania Commissioner of Health ordered his Department to utilize all available organizations that will cooperate to the utmost in an effort to combat the flu emergency. The Department took absolute control and full responsibility in this effort. 19 Epidemic Emergency Districts were formed, with a representative of the Department in full charge of each district, taking his orders directly from the Commissioner of Health. The Department of Health issued orders directing the closing of all moving-picture houses, theaters and places

of amusement and public assemblages. The matter of closing schools and churches was left to the discretion of local authorities. Newport Township was in District No. 6, along with the borough of Nanticoke, the village of Mocanaqua, the borough and township of Nescopeck, and the townships of Conyngham, Dorrance, Hollenback, and Slocum.

Dr. Jesse Hughes of Susquehanna Collieries was appointed District 6's Coordinator. Dr. Hughes reported that there were 400 cases at Glen Lyon and Wanamie, sanitary conditions were bad and there was a lack of nurses. On October 10, the first emergency hospital opened in the Central High School in Wanamie. Dr. William H. Corrigan of Wilkes-Barre was physician in charge and Miss Emily G. Jones was chief nurse. In addition, two Army surgeons First Lieutenant C. F. Bahler and Captain E. I. Hendricks were assigned to assist Dr. Corrigan.

On October 13, Dr. Hughes stated that there were about 585 cases in Newport Township. By November 6, 249 people had died from the influenza. In Wanamie's Emergency Hospital, 187 cases of influenza and pneumonia were treated, and 49 deaths were recorded.

In 1918, several physicians lived and practiced in Newport Township. One was Dr. Patrick J. McNulty. He was from Avoca and had a large practice in Glen Lyon. According to newspaper accounts on October 14, "during the epidemic raging in the Glen Lyon section he did splendid work." He died at Mercy Hospital at age 42 after becoming "ill for two weeks of complications and from the time he entered the hospital his condition has been considered as critical." Two weeks later, an editorial appeared and reads in part: "Day and night [Dr. McNulty] answered calls of neighbors and friends taken as influenza victims." On November 1, four nurses in the Nanticoke State Hospital who helped care for patients died within hours of each other.

The Wanamie Emergency Hospital was closed on November 14, at which time the physicians in charge were William H. Corrigan and Lieut. L. W. Frederick, US Army, assisted by W. R. Stewart, a medical student. Nine graduate nurses and five practical nurses, eleven volunteer nurses, thirty nurses' aides, thirty-one Sisters of Mercy, and seven orderlies were members of the staff at one time and another. During the short time span between October 10 and November 14, thirty influenza patients and 157 pneumonia patients were admitted to the hospital. Forty nine of the latter died, twenty-one dying within twenty-four hours after their admission. Even though the United States was involved in World War I, local draft boards suspended physical examinations of potential draftees because the flu was widespread.

The former St. Stanislaus Orphanage in Sheatown cared for the many children whose parents succumbed to the disease.

Those of us in our 60's and older may have a direct connection to the Flu Pandemic of 1918. Some of us lost relatives, usually a grand-parent or a great-grandparent to the disease. Several stories still live on that tell of a coal miner feeling fine, going to work, then becoming ill and dying before their shift was finished.

Late spring of 1919 saw the last of the Spanish Influenza.

Sources: Spanish Flu - Facts & Summary; How The Horrific 1918 Flu Spread Across America / History/Smithsonian; Wikipedia; History and Origin of Influenza Virus - Influenza Virus.Net; The Wilkes Barre Times Leader; Luzerne County, PA by Oscar Jewell Harvey.





## Hunting and Fishing, 2017

By Tom Kashatus

**1.** Kevin Swicklik of Mountain Top, and formerly of Glen Lyon, shot this 155 pound, eight pointer in Sugarloaf Township. The deer was harvested on opening day of buck season.

**2.** Katie Kowalski of Glen Lyon used her custom Bowtec compound bow locally to make a perfect 23 yard shot on this beautiful 8 pointer during the second week of November.

**3.** On November 2nd, Katie Kowalski, hunting locally, put this 225 pound bear down with one shot from her Bowtec compound bow. Katie is one of two female compound bow hunters to harvest a bear in Pennsylvania in 2017. This was a life-long dream of Katie's and she couldn't be prouder.

**4.** Matt Kowalski dropped this heavy eight point buck locally on December 9th with one shot from his Taurus Raging Bull 44 magnum revolver. Matt put his rifle away and stalked this buck after kicking him from his bed.

**5.** Matt Kowalski tagged his third bear on November 20th. The 235 pound female was taken locally with one shot from his model 70-308. Matt feasted on bear the same day of the harvest.

**6.** John Brassington shot this seven point buck in Newport Township during archery season with a cross bow.

**7.** Pictured is Ashley Brassington with her father, Russ, who shot this eight point buck in Newport Township.

**8.** Brian Pauska harvested this eight point buck during archery season with his crossbow.

**9.** Former Newport Township residents Ed Sotack (left) and Lee Makowski (right) both shot a buck on opening day of buck season in Dorrance Township. Ed's is 6 points and Lee's is 7 points. Ed harvested his buck using his Ruger 270. Lee harvested his with his 300 WSM. In the center of the picture is Garrett Makowski.

**10.** Newport Township native Bill Paveletz harvested this seven pointer on Retreat Mountain in Newport Township where he has enjoyed the outdoors and hunting for the past fifty years. Bill used his Remington Pump 30-06.

**11, 12, & 13.** Glen Lyon native Robert Paveletz completed his "triple play" last year with a buck in Bradford County with his compound bow during archery season; (12) a bear on Alden Mountain just before Thanksgiving, and (13) a turkey in Bradford County using his shotgun.

**14.** Eleven year old Mason Czapl of Mountain Top harvested his first deer, a spike buck, while hunting with his father, Chris, in Alden. Mason was using Dziadzi Frank's .243 Savage rifle. Mason is the son of Chris and Samantha (Perry) Czapl. Upholding a long family tradition, Dziadzi Frank received a special trophy from the buck.





**15.** Twelve year old Matthew Stashak of Wanamie harvested this 7 pointer on the first day of buck season while hunting with his father, Brian, in Fairmount Township. Matthew, grandson of the late Ronald and Judith Stashak, used his Remington model 700, 22-250 caliber rifle.

**16.** Shown here with his 13 point buck is Brian Stashak of Wanamie, who harvested this deer during bow season in early November. His trophy deer was taken in Fairmount Township with a Bear crossbow.

**17.** Using his Remington 300 mag., Jason Bush harvested this eight point beauty while hunting with friends in Newport Township on the second day of buck season.

**18.** Local nimrod Brad Namowicz harvested this eight pointer, 165 pound field-dressed buck, on the first Saturday of buck season. Brad used his trusty 308 Thompson Center while hunting with friends at their cabin in Bradford County.

**19.** While hunting with his son Tom, Leon Bonczewski of Glen Lyon, longtime local hunter, harvested this seven pointer with his crossbow.

**20.** Shown with this monster flathead catfish is Tom Bonczewski which he caught in the Susquehanna River's South Branch this past fall.

**21.** Cody Forgach shot this seven pointer on the top of Alden Mountain.

**22.** While her father Dave was driving deer for her, Sheayann Wildoner shot this eight pointer at 50 yards with her 30-30 in Newport Township.

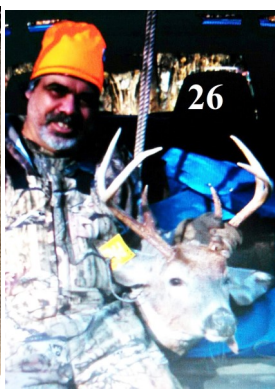
**23.** Sabrina Wildoner shot this buck in archery season in Newport Township with her Barnett crossbow. Her husband Dave helped her track the eight pointer after it ran for 40 yards before it fell.

**24.** While hunting in Newport, David Wildoner shot this six point buck in rifle season with his 338 Winchester magnum at 100 yards.

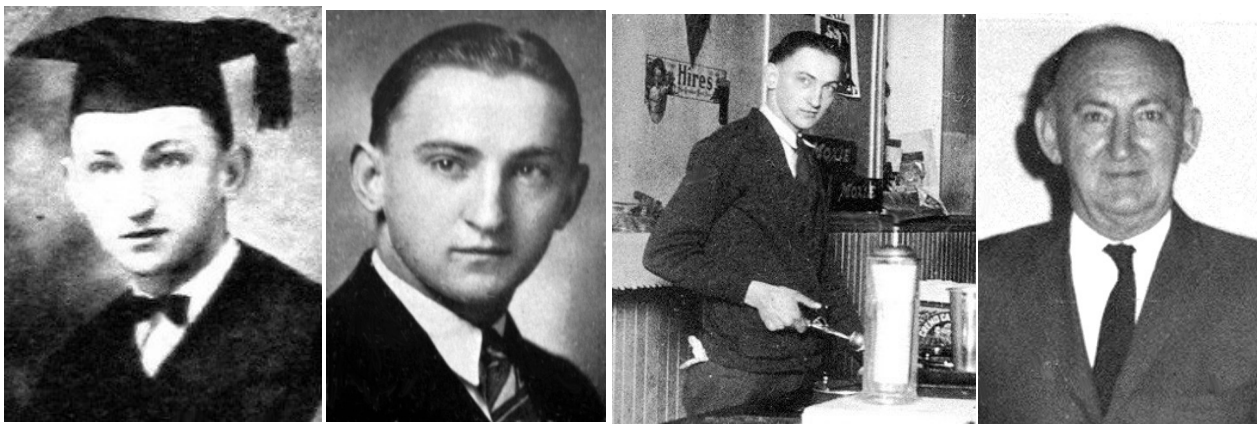
**25.** Henry Sedorchuk Jr., of Brown Row, Wanamie harvested this eight pointer in Glen Lyon at 3:00 p.m. on the first day of buck season.

**26.** Shown is Mark Rinehammer of Wanamie with his six pointer.

**27.** Kyle Kishbaugh of Brown Row, Wanamie harvested this eight pointer on Retreat Mountain.







Left to right: Louis Yablonski as a Newport Township High School graduate in 1925; as a graduate of Bloomsburg in 1927; scooping ice cream in the soda fountain; and when he retired from teaching in 1970.

## Newport Township Teachers: Louis Yablonski

*By Heidi Jarecki* ~ Louis Edward Yablonski was the art teacher in the Pulaski School for 38 years, and he was perhaps the only art teacher. Located at the top of South Market Street in Glen Lyon, Pulaski opened its doors in 1925-1926. For most of its existence, the School included grades 6 to 8. In its later years, Pulaski housed grades 7-9. After completing 8th grade, many students (and some dropped out of school before 8th grade) were expected to get jobs to help support their families. Only the lucky few completed high school. Child labor laws prohibiting the hiring of children under the age of 14 were eventually enacted in Pennsylvania in the 1920's.

Louis was born December 8, 1906 in Glen Lyon. His parents were Frank and Josephine, both of whom emigrated from Poland in about 1894. They found their way to Glen Lyon, where Frank obtained work as a coal miner. The family included sons Adam, Roman, John, Stanley, Louis, Joseph, and one daughter Helen. Helen outlived all of her brothers and passed away at age 101 in 1999. The family first lived at 12 West Enterprise Street, and later at 61 West Enterprise Street. Sometime in the early 1930's, Stanley ("Snap") built what became known as "The Yablonski Building" at 53 West Main Street in Glen Lyon. It included a soda fountain downstairs, and a two-story apartment upstairs where the family lived. The soda fountain was a successful business venture for many years, and hosted various events. The eventual Newport Township High School Basketball State Championship Team of 1936 (and other teams as well) was treated to ice cream creations following home games. The family was active in St. Adalbert's Church. Frank Yablonski passed away in 1939, and Josephine in 1952.

Louis, sometimes called Louie, Lou or Lew, was educated in Newport Township Schools and graduated from high school with the Class of 1925, of which there were 42 members. He was a talented artist and endeavored to become an art teacher. He attended Bloomsburg State Teachers College and graduated in 1927 with his two-year teaching certificate. Among his fellow graduates were Edward Yarashefski and Mary Kutz. He is described thus in the Bloomsburg "Orbiter" Yearbook: "A quietness, which left one with the impression that here was a man who could be trusted to perform any task that might be assigned him, was the outstanding characteristic of 'Louie.' In this impression one was not disappointed; for it has often been proven by 'Louie's' unfailing way of getting his work done on time that he never loafed on the job. His unflinching attitude in tackling any job regardless of its difficulties convinces us of the confidence he had in himself. When a man has confidence in himself half the task can be considered completed." Upon returning home, he took summer classes at Penn State and earned his four-year bachelor's degree.

Art as a subject was a relatively new concept. Perhaps it was fortunate for Louis that an art exhibit opened at the Pulaski School in May, 1927 for a period of three days. This exhibit of over 200 items was sponsored by the Elson Art Publication

various school rooms." Louis applied for a teaching job in the Nanticoke School District in 1929, and was hired in the Newport School District in August, 1932. Throughout his teaching career, Louis coordinated annual exhibits which featured art works by his students at the Pulaski School, and also at the Yablonski Building.

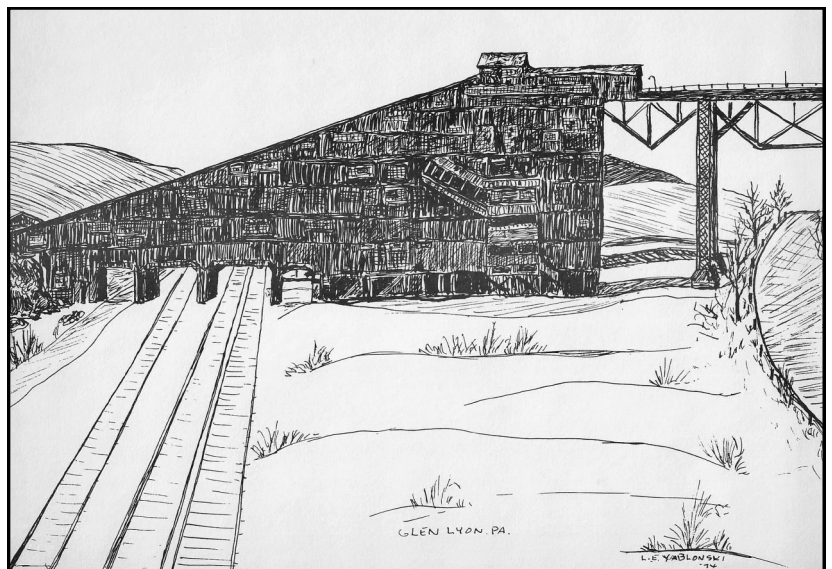
Throughout his life, Louis experimented with various art forms, including photography. The Times Leader Evening News sponsored snapshot contests in several categories. In 1941, Louis won first prize with a photograph of a sailboat. He also tried pen and ink sketches of local scenes, such as the Glen Lyon breaker, shown below.

Louis participated as a judge in various Field Day events at Newport High School. The Yablonski Brothers sponsored many sporting teams and events, such as a semi-pro basketball team called the Glen Lyon Pioneers in 1940, the Glen Lyon Jewels in 1941, and a basketball game to raise funds for the Red Cross in 1943.

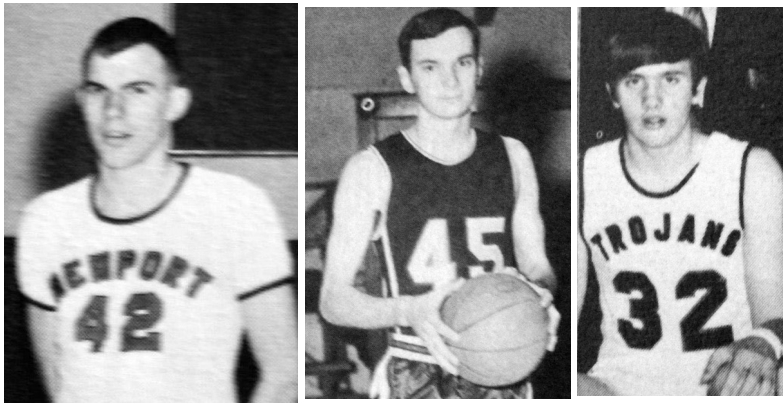
When the United States entered World War II, there were collections of scrap metal and the like throughout the Township. The Glen Lyon Legion sponsored a collection of old and broken phonograph records. Funds raised were used for the purchase of new records for the soldiers. Yablonski's confectionary store was designated as a collecting place. Soon after this drive, Louis enlisted and was drafted into the Army on December 12, 1942. The teachers held a farewell party in his honor. The Newport Township School Board did not hire a replacement for Louis because no one was qualified. He returned from duty to Fort Dix in New Jersey on November 28, 1944. He was reinstated as a teacher soon after.

Louis was also an avid coin collector. When he retired from teaching in 1970, he opened a small coin shop in what was the ice cream shop. He dealt in rare coins, coin sets and currency.

Louis Yablonski, bachelor, passed away on May 17, 1977 at age 70. He is interred in St. Adalbert's Cemetery, Glen Lyon.







Left to right: Mike Floryshak, Charlie Wetzel, Mickey Kmietowicz.

### **Glen Lyon's East Side & The Coal Street Playground: The "Breeding Ground" of Basketball Players**

*By John Kashatus* ~ Anyone can google to find that Washington D.C. produces more professional athletes than any other state in the nation. In Pennsylvania we know that Western Pennsylvania is known for developing quarterbacks (i.e. Johnny Unitas, Joe Namath, Joe Montana). The borough of Donora in Washington County is known for sending players to the Major Leagues (i.e. Stan Musial, Ken Griffey). Even Honey Pot has been acknowledged for having three guys in the big leagues in the 1940's (John Grodzicki, Al Cihocki, and Steve Bilko).

Newport Township has produced a few outstanding athletes from a wide range of sports which include high school, college, and even on a professional level. Although football and baseball were "avenues" to professional sports for some Nutcrackers, the high school basketball teams were enamored by the school community since 1936. "Old timers" may recall the stories told by their families and friends about Newport's "storybook" 2-point victory over New Castle (Western Pa.) in the PIAA State Final in '36. With a chance for a repeat, the 1937 "roundballers" lost in the State Finals to South Pittsburgh.

But, the love affair with high school basketball remained, even when the team's record was poor. Attendance at the school's gym in Wanamie and later at Pulaski School (post-fire, December 16, 1963) was very good, and in many cases, a "packed house." When Newport and Nanticoke established the Jointure referred to as Greater Nanticoke Area, the Nanticoke Rams who were a perennial District Champion combined with the Newport Nutcrackers and became a state powerhouse.

With this local basketball folklore, we have discovered some interesting information about the end of Newport basketball and the beginning of Trojan (G.N.A.) basketball. We will focus on three guys who were part of this legacy. Although both school districts were combined in a jointure during the 1966-67 year, the two schools competed independently in the Wyoming Valley Conference. The Rams won the league title and the Nutcrackers competed in the upper tier of the league. In the following year with all Newport and Nanticoke cagers wearing the same uniform, the Nanticoke Area Trojans won the Wyoming Valley Conference, defeated Pittston Area in the District 2 Finals, and lost to Williamsport in the PIAA State Tournament. Charlie Wetzel of Glen Lyon, Trojan center, was selected MVP of the Wyoming Valley League. Going back to the '67 season and the All-Stars, Newport's Mike Floryshak also of Glen Lyon was chosen as the MVP. Imagine, back-to-back Basketball MVP's in the Wyoming Valley League, and both players were from the East Side of Glen Lyon.

As the Trojans continued to produce great teams in '69 and the next decade, they began to dominate the league in 1972 with Wyoming Valley League and District 2 Championships and continued in the PIAA State Playoffs. The 1973 basketball season began with one holdover, but claimed another League Championship, later losing in the District 2 Finals. In 1973, the District 2 Committee opened the local tournament to runner-ups; previously, only league champions advanced to the post-season. The 1973 Trojans played and lost in the state tournament at Hershey. That 1974 team was the runner-up in the league, won the District 2 Title and continued to advance

all the way to the Eastern Finals, eventually losing to Plymouth-Whitmarsh. The centerpiece of the team during this two-year span was Mickey Kmietowicz, of Glen Lyon, East Side. Although Mickey wasn't the MVP of the League in '73, he was selected to the "Super Team" - the top basketball players from all the leagues in the Wyoming Valley. With his selection as an All-Star in 1974, the East Side (once known as Williamstown) of Glen Lyon produced three special basketball players. A common denominator to their prowess on the hardwood was their developmental years spent on the macadamized court at the Coal Street Playground.

Floryshak was bit by the basketball "bug" in his pre-teen years. He had two elder basketball guys for neighbors, Dave Kule and Joe Ciampi, the latter he considered his mentor. When the older guys went to the playground, Mike would go to watch, and many times would be chosen to play to balance the teams. He believes that experience paid dividends in his later years.

Wetzel remarked that is where he learned that basketball was a physical sport. "And it was some of the best times I had playing ball." He also said that he learned to play the card game "Pitch" at the playground; if you played cards badly, it could be more physical than playing basketball.

Kmietowicz grew up on Coal Street and called the playground his second home. Most sports were seasonal, but basketball was played year round. He recalled playing Horse, Out, Grades or playing full court by himself if no one else was around. While in college, he became a playground instructor with the goal of getting youth involved in a summer basketball league.

Whether one is selected as an MVP or Super Team All-Star, the "talented one" needs a good supporting cast. In 1967, Floryshak's supporting cast including Charlie, were: Joe Pawlush, Mike Miller, Teddy Sokolowski, Jim Thomas, Dave Washinski, Tommy Gliddon, Len Kaminski, and Mike Pantaloni. In 1968, Wetzel's teammates included most of those former Nutcrackers plus three former Rams, namely: Phil Levandowski and Steve and Tom Bilko (all from Honey Pot). In 1973, Mickey had great support with seniors Joe Dougherty (All-Star), Dan Floryshak, Bobby Broski, Henry Bobbin, Dave Shiffka, Bob Kellar, Mike Benedict, and juniors Rick Pincofski and Neil Bavitz. In 1974, Kmietowicz, Pincofski, Bavitz, Joe Wilkes, Dave Butchko, and underclassmen, Mark Vosheski and Gary Verazin spearheaded the Trojan cagers to the Eastern Finals, only to lose by a one point heartbreaking loss at the Palaestra.

There is an old adage that tells us "basketball teams are made in the gym, but players are made (develop their skills) on the street corners and playgrounds." There are many others who were all-stars and "cut their eye teeth" at Coal Street. In fact, the outstanding 64-65 Newport High School Basketball Team had three starters of the first six who lived on the East Side, coached by Gene Domzalski, also an East Sider. As anyone can see, these three outstanding basketball players, Floryshak, Wetzel, and Kmietowicz, set the bar very high during an eight year period. This writer (West Sider), along with some pals, ventured many times to the court at Coal Street, and cannot recall returning home with a victory. It was like going into an enemy war zone! Obviously, basketball on the East Side was serious business.

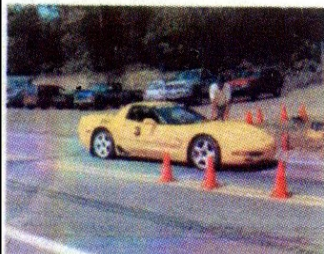
These days, Mike Floryshak is the proprietor of the Lookout House, a fine-dining restaurant in Drums, PA. He attended Columbia University and graduated from Wilkes. He has three sons, Nathan, a Nanticoke Area grad, Aaron and Noah, both MMI alumni basketball players. He has two brothers, Dr. Vincent Floryshak, Ret. Colonel and Ret. Lt. Colonel Dan Floryshak (USAF). Both played basketball for the Trojans. Dan played on the 1970 Freshman and the 1973 Varsity Championship teams.

Charlie Wetzel is a Certified Financial Planner with a tax practice in Bel Air, Maryland. He is married to Jane Slota, GNA Alumna. They have three daughters, Stefanie, Jennifer and Carla. He played basketball at Wilkes College for three years; Bo Ryan, who went on to coach at the University of Wisconsin, was the team captain in his first year.

Mickey Kmietowicz graduated from Wilkes College and is presently teaching at Columbia-Montour High School. After college he did some coaching at Nanticoke Area. He is married to Jane Stappert, former GNA cheerleader. They have two sons, Mickey and Jarad. Following in his father's footsteps, Jarad played for the Trojans and won the 3-point "Shootout" in the Moses Senior All-Star Classic.



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## Signs of Spring in the Township



Above left are cherry blossoms at the K-Val Convenience Store in Glen Lyon. A cheery sight is forsythia (above right) with its bright yellow flowers, common throughout the Township. At left is Three Legged Pond outside of Glen Lyon, and below left is an approaching rain storm at the Wanamie Recreation Park. Spring has sprung!



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Tony DiMaria, Service Manager

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## Hours:

Monday - Saturday 5:00 am - 10:00 pm  
Sunday 6:00 am - 9:00 pm

**15 E. Main St  
Glen Lyon, PA 18617**

### Breakfast Sandwich

**2/\$4.00**

Sausage, Egg & Cheese	2.49
Bacon, Egg & Cheese	2.49
Ham, Egg & Cheese	2.49
Pork Roll, Egg & Cheese (NY City Best Seller)	2.49
Turkey, Egg & Cheese	2.99
Turkey Bacon, Egg & Cheese	2.99
2 Hash Brown	1.49

### Omlets

3 Eggs Omlet	3.99
Southwest Omlet (Ham, Onion, Bellpeppers)	4.99

### Burgers

Hamburger	3.29
Cheese Burger	3.49
Chili burger	3.79
Bacon Cheese Burger	3.99
California Burger	3.99
Crispy Chicken Sandwich	3.99
Grilled Chicken Sandwich	3.99

### Pizza

Cheese Pizza	6.99
Pepperoni Pizza	7.99
Chicken Wing Pizza	9.99
Bacon Pineapple Pizza	9.99
Meat Lover Pizza (Ham, Pepperoni, Meat Ball, Sausage, Chicken)	12.99
Veggie Pizza (Black Olives, Onion, Green Pepper, Mushrooms)	9.99
White Pizza (Black Olives, Tomato, Rosemary)	9.99
Hawaiian Pizza (Ham, Pineapple, Red Crush Chili)	9.99

### Specialty

Garlic Bread with Cheese	2.99
Chicken Curry Dinner (NY City Style Served with Rice)	6.99

### Hoagie

**2/\$5.49**

Italian	2.99
Ham	2.99
Turkey	2.99
Turkey & Ham	2.99
Tuna Salad	3.29
Chicken Salad	3.29

Extra Meat or Egg add 50¢

**Add \$1.00 for French Fries with any meal order**

	5pcs	10cs
Mozzarella Sticks	2.99	5.49
Potato Pancake	-	3.49
Perogie	2.99	5.49
French Fries	Small	Large
Fries	1.39	1.99
Cheese Fries	1.99	2.49
Loaded Fries	2.49	3.79
Wing Fries	2.49	3.79

### Chicken Wings

5 pcs	\$4.49	30 pcs	\$19.99
10 pcs	\$7.99	50 pcs	\$29.99

### Chicken Tender

3 pcs	\$4.99
5 pcs	\$7.99

### Chicken Nuggets

5 pcs	\$2.29
10 pcs	\$3.99

### Hot Sub

Cheese Steak	4.99
Chicken Cheese Steak	4.99
Meat Ball Parm.	3.99
Chicken Wings Sub	3.99
Chicken Parm.	3.99
Tuna Melt	3.99

### Pizza By Slice

Cheese Slice • 1.39	Pepperoni Slice • 1.59	Chicken Wing Slice • 1.89
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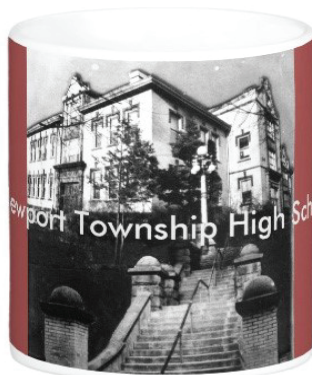
Hot Dog	1.49
Chili Dog	1.79
Corn Dog	1.49



## Monthly Food Distribution

The Newport Township Community Organization, the Weinberg Regional Food Bank and the Newport Township American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539 are working together to host a Food Distribution for those in need. This event takes place on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Glen Lyon American Legion, 62 Newport Street, Glen Lyon from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Families must pre-register by calling 570-736-7177 to ensure enough food is available. Only families living in Newport Township are eligible to apply. On the day of the distribution please bring a form of identification which includes an address and some kind of identification for EVERYONE in the household that is registered. Forms of identification can include a birth certificate, Social Security card or medical card. We are looking for volunteers to assist in the set up, registration and distribution. Food recipients can also volunteer. The food truck arrives be-

tween 4:30 and 5:00. Help is needed to unload the truck and carry the food into the building. From 5:00 to 6:00 table set-up takes place. From 6:00 to 7:00 food is distributed and from 7:00 to 7:30 is clean up.



## Classic Mug with a Classic High School!

For a donation of \$10.00 each, you can enjoy your morning coffee or tea while reflecting on your care-free youth! The mug, pictured left, features a composite black and white photograph of Newport Township High School and its famous steps, with wide red stripes bordering each side. "Newport Township High School" is printed across the center in light gray lettering. If mailed, include postage: \$7.15 for one, and \$9.00 for two. Contact Heidi and Paul Jarecki, 28 West Main Street, Glen Lyon, PA 18617. Phone: 570-733-2540. Email: hselecky@pa.metrocast.net.

Miniatures, historic DVD's, and baseball hats are still available. Check our website for information. All proceeds benefit Newport Township.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We would be honored and proud to have you as a member of the Newport Township Community Organization. Your membership will show approval of and help support our many projects to benefit your hometown! Membership is \$5.00 per year per person based on the calendar year January through December or a lifetime membership is available for \$50.00. Send application with fee to NTCO, 113 Railroad Ave., Wanamie, Nanticoke, PA 18634.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### NTCO NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

NTCO will make available printed copies of its quarterly newsletter to those living outside the area. An annual fee of \$10.00 covers the cost of mailing via the US Postal Service. Send your check payable to "NTCO" to Heidi Jarecki, 28 W. Main St., Glen Lyon, PA 18617; email: hselecky@pa.metrocast.net

If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Thomas Kashatus at [tomkash@verizon.net](mailto:tomkash@verizon.net) to be entered into our data base. You will then be notified of new publications on NTCO's website at <http://www.newporttownship.com>. Photographs on internet publications are viewable in color. Hard copies are printed in black and white.

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### NTCO NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT

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- \$150.00 Full-page Size Ad

### NTCO MEETINGS

NTCO's meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Municipal Building in Wanamie at 6:45 p.m. We invite you to attend, share your ideas and help develop new programs to benefit Newport Township. There are many ways to showcase your talents and the community will reap the rewards!

### NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS/CONTACTS

President: Stephen Phillips 570-735-3991  
First Vice President: Tom Kashatus 570-736-6981  
Second Vice President: Murph Fletcher 570-735-7166  
Treasurer: Peter Zaleski 570-899-8664  
Secretary: Linda Conner 570-736-6580  
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Newsletter Editors: Heidi & Paul Jarecki 570-733-2540  
Advertising Agent: Joe Maloney 570-736-6828  
Webmaster: Palmira Miller [palmiram@newporttownship.com](mailto:palmiram@newporttownship.com)  
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### NTCO RECYCLES

We recycle metals—motor blocks, brake drums, wheel rims, lawn-mowers, pipe, charcoal grills, appliances, bed frames and springs, swimming pools, bicycles, exercise equipment, etc. We also recycle car batteries, electrical cords and wires, old Christmas lights, and aluminum products to raise funds for our Community projects. The public's participation is always appreciated. For assistance please call Tom Kashatus at (570) 736-6981 or email [tomkash@verizon.net](mailto:tomkash@verizon.net)

**Be Proud of Newport and Make Newport Proud of You!**

~ The Late Honorable Paul R. Selecky