

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NEWS SPECIAL EDITION

Summer 2018

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Number 53

Newsletter of the Newport Township Community Organization Editors: Heidi and Paul Jarecki

They seemed to come suddenly upon happiness as if they had surprised a butterfly in the winter woods. ~ Edith Wharton



A Great Spangled Fritillary Butterfly visits Heidi's garden in Glen Lyon on a summer afternoon

Newport Township Public Business

By John Jarecki \sim The following are items of Township business discussed or acted upon at meetings of the Township Commissioners in April, May, and June.

April 2, 2018: Township Financial Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that for the first quarter of 2018 the Township had an income of \$312,000 and expenses of \$279,000, resulting in a surplus of \$82,000.00.

The Commissioners approved a resolution to authorize the Township Manager to sign a contract enrolling the Township in the Luzerne County SPCA's cost participation agreement. This matter has been under consideration for several months now. The SPCA has written a participation agreement for its program of sharing with local communities the cost of taking care of stray animals. According to the agreement, the Township would pay a fee starting at \$19 per animal that increases over the 5-year period of the agreement. In addition, the SPCA has agreed to share financial information about its operation as requested by local communities, which has made the program more

acceptable to these communities. Township police typically find about 10 stray animals a year, which they now keep in a place set aside for them at the Municipal Building. Their owners then usually pick them up.

The Commissioners approved Resolution 2-2018 that authorizes the Township Manager to 1) apply for a U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant toward the purchase of a new police cruiser, and 2) apply for a loan that would cover any costs for the cruiser not covered by the grant.

Township Manager Peter Wanchisen included the following in his report:

- 1) We are asking for phone bids for installation of a 36 kilowatt emergency generator for the Municipal Building. Early indicators are the cost will be less than \$20 thousand, which means that we will not have to use the formal bidding process that we are required to use for more expensive items.
- 2) The State notified us that they had awarded the Township a State gaming grant of \$150 thousand to be used toward repairing the

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Our regular Newsletter features will return in the Fall edition.

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Have a safe and happy Summer!

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storm sewer system on Railroad Street in Glen Lyon. Township engineers originally estimated the cost of these repairs at \$1.7 million, a staggering sum of money for our community. But with a great deal of effort, we have managed to redefine the project using the existing sewer structure. This has brought the estimated cost down to about \$200,000. We will apply for a grant from the County infrastructure improvement program to pay expenses exceeding the amount of the gaming grant.

Commissioner John Zyla added that Joe Hillan and Peter Wanchisen worked long hours to bring the cost down, including getting a robotic camera from the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority to inspect the sewer. In this way they were able to find that much of the storm sewer system could be used as is. They found the locations where the system was collapsing at several places and have to be repaired, mainly in the sidewalk covering of the system. The Township plans to put a chain link fence along the sidewalk in order to prevent cars from driving over it, which seems to be at least one of the causes of the problem.

3) I sincerely thank the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) for putting in their spring newsletter the Commissioners' announcement of action against illegal ATV use.

May 7, 2018: Steve Phillips, President of the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO), presented a check for \$1,000 towards installing playground equipment that was donated to the Township when Luzerne County's Moon Lake Park was closed. He said that the Newport Township Authority also planned to donate \$1,000 to the project.

Columbia Excavating LLC of Bloomsburg gave the Township an estimate of \$2500 for the cost of installing the playground equipment. The cost is small enough that the Township did not have to go through the formal bidding process, but could instead accept Columbia's bid.

Township Financial Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that for the first four months of 2018, the Township had an income of \$510,000. and expenses of \$315.000. She said that an audit of Township funds will begin in May and should be completed by July.

Township Solicitor Christopher Slusser reported on proposed changes he had made, at the request of the Commissioners, in Township Ordinance #3 of 1986 in order to prevent certain situations in which residents burn things without consideration for their neighbors. The amended Ordinance would read "burning of trash, refuse, or any material which emits excessive smoke or particles" would be forbidden. The purpose of the amendment is to prevent the burning of refuse and other material that would be a nuisance to neighbors while still permitting burning for recreation as in charcoal grilling and propane gas fire pits. The Commissioners then voted to amend the Ordinance.

Township Manager Peter Wanchisen included the following in his report:

- 1) Because of the \$150 thousand State gaming grant we recently received, PennEastern Engineering, the Township Engineer, is revising plans for repairs to the Railroad Street storm sewer system. When this is done, the Township will publish specifications and advertise for bids for work on the project.
- 2) Luzerne County now has \$15 million in Federal grant money that it is planning to distribute to low and moderate income level communities through its infrastructure improvement program. The Township has submitted 4 grant applications to the County, all of which are in Glen Lyon, because it is the section of the Township that meets the program's low income requirement. These are listed in order of priority: 1) a grant for payment of residual costs for the Railroad Street storm sewer project (that is, costs over the \$150 thousand received from State gaming money), 2) a grant of \$627 thousand for repaving streets and repair of a retaining wall on Spring Street, 3) a grant of \$50 thousand for demolition of abandoned buildings, and 4) a grant of \$1.4 million for repair of deteriorating sidewalks along Main Street. The County will award the grants according to priority ranking.
- 3) After we find out how much we will receive from the county infrastructure grant program, we will decide on the details of a State multimodal grant that we will also be applying for. The purpose of this grant will be to pay for projects listed in our grant applications to the County program but not funded by the County.
- 4) We requested by phone three bids for installing an emergency

generator in the Municipal Building, as is required under Pennsylvania's First Class Township code. One of the bids came in under \$20,000, the cost over which the Township is required to ask for bids by a full scale bidding process. We can therefore immediately award the contract to the low bidder, Diversified Electrical Inc., with a bid of \$19,875. I would like to express my appreciation to Commissioner John Vishnefski for all the work he did in getting the generator project underway.

5) We received the Pennsylvania Auditor General's report on Township pension funds, which says that these funds have been managed properly. There is, however, a serious problem of a lack of sufficient funds in the Police Pension Fund and, to a lesser extent, in the Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Fund. The Firemen's Pension Fund is in good financial condition.

We met with representatives of FNCB Bank and LPL Financial LLC to discuss ways of stabilizing these funds. We will also begin negotiations with Township Police Officers about their participation in these Pension Funds.

6) One of the sliding boards in the playground equipment we received from the closing of Moon Lake Park is damaged beyond repair. It will cost \$1800 to replace it. But the playground equipment is of high quality and, in my opinion, worth the extra cost of installing it properly.

June 4, 2018: The Township Commissioners presented to Irene Bezdziecki a plaque in recognition of her outstanding service and dedication to Newport Township in spending a great deal of time voluntarily cleaning litter from Township roadways.

Township Commissioner John Vishnefski announced that the playground equipment that we received from the closing of Moon Lake Park has been installed in the Wanamie Recreation Park. Prior to opening its use to the public, mulch must be placed around the equipment.

The Commissioners approved Resolution #4 of 2018, which authorizes full time Township police officers to contribute 2% of their gross salary to the Police Pension Fund beginning in May of 2018. This is one of several steps that the Township is taking in order to insure that there will be enough money in the Fund to meet Township pension obligations. The Township has gotten an agreement from FNCB Bank to reconsider their portfolio management fees in an effort to reduce administrative costs. It has also asked 3 actuarial firms for estimates of their charges for administering the Pension Fund, again in an effort to reduce costs.

Attorney John Solt, attending the meeting for Solicitor Christopher Slusser, discussed what the Township can do about the slow and inadequate enforcement of property code violations, such as neglecting to cut high grass and weeds. Newport Township now regulates these matters under the International Property Maintenance Code, which specifies that property owners must be given notice of violations and given time to correct them before the Township issues a citation. Mr. Solt said that an alternative, which some communities have adopted, is to regulate these matters under a quality of life ordinance. Under this ordinance, the Township could immediately issue a ticket to those in violation subjecting them to a \$50 fine. If the fine is not paid within a given amount of time, the ticket would become a citation, subjecting the person to a \$100 fine. Enforcement would then be quicker and more certain. The matter will need more discussion.

Township Manager Peter Wanchisen included the following in his report:

- 1) We have placed an order for a new police cruiser, which will cost approximately \$42,420. We submitted an application for federal assistance to pay for the cruiser, but there has been a delay in processing the application.
- 2) The emergency generator for the Municipal Building has been delivered. We have made an initial payment of \$9,935.50 to the contractor Diversified Electrical Inc, which will begin installing the equipment immediately.
- 3) We have installed a drug drop-off container in the Municipal Building entrance for safe disposal of outdated or unused prescription drugs.

NTCO PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Stephen E. Phillips

Since this writer's last report, the Newport Township Community Organization has continued its long established philanthropic efforts and broad based public service activities to a wide ranging constituency.

At the May meeting of the Township's Board of Commissioners, a contribution in the amount of \$1,000 was made to the local governing body by your Community Organization to assist in the repair and installation of playground equipment in the Community's Recreation Park. This equipment was donated to the Township by Luzerne County, and had previously been utilized at Moon Lake Park.

The Community Organization has worked in close cooperation with Township Commissioner John Zyla to aid in his effort to have all local volunteer entities work in concert to achieve a common purpose. One of the first goals to evolve from the combined groups' initial meetings was to generate adequate funds to purchase an electronic sign which could publicize the various activities which will be held throughout the Community and to note other items of public interest. The Community Organization was the initial respondent to this effort, and pledged \$1,000 to assist in this endeavor.

In April, this Organization partnered with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) in this latter Body's effort to plant 3,100 seedlings covering 2.6 acres of mine scarred land in the Pinchot State Forest located at the top of Avondale Hill Road in Plymouth Township. Volunteers from the NTCO made and delivered 96 hoagies and pasta salad to those engaged in the project, and these individuals also participated in the planting.

Continuing with its past practice, the Community Organization, responding to a request from the Earth Conservancy, submitted a letter to the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection supporting the Growing Greener grant application submitted by our sister non-profit group. The subject project proposes stream restoration of another section of Espy Run, which is located in Hanover Township and the City of Nanticoke. However, the Nanticoke Creek Watershed also includes Newport Township. Successful restoration of the subject stream will improve storm water management in the Area, allowing future mixed uses, including green space/recreation.

The Glen Lyon Food Distribution continues to be held on the fourth Wednesday of every month. An average of 100 families are served each month. All current participants in the program are required to re-register in July. As always, volunteers are welcomed. If anyone has questions about this activity, they are encouraged to contact Palmira Miller, Program Coordinator, at 570-592-7876 or palmiram@newporttownship.com

In conclusion, the Community Organization welcomes both current and prospective members to its meetings at 6:45 pm on the second Tuesday of every month in the Township's Municipal Building on Kirmar Avenue.

Have a safe and enjoyable Summer Season.

An Old Geezer

Submitted by Murph Fletcher ~ An old geezer became very bored in retirement and decided to open a medical clinic. He put a sign outside that said: "Dr. Geezer's Clinic. Get your treatment for \$500. If not cured, you get back \$1000."

Doctor Young, who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1000. So he went to Dr. Geezer's Clinic.

Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?"

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Augh!! This is gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

Dr. Young: "I have lost my memory. I cannot remember anything." Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3

Dr. Young: "Oh no you don't! That is gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young, having lost \$1,000, leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.

Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become weak. I can hardly see anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Well I don't have any medicine for that, so here's your \$1,000 back" and gave him a \$10 bill.

Dr. Young: "But this is only \$10!"

drops in the patient's mouth."

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be \$500."





Newport Township in a New Congressional District

By John Jarecki ~ As of February 2018, Newport Township is in the newly drawn 9th Congressional District, which includes western Luzerne County, Columbia County, parts of Montour and Northumberland Counties, and Schuylkill, Carbon, Berks, and Lebanon Counties. In other words, it extends from Newport Township in the east to Berwick and Bloomsburg in the west, and Reading in the south.

Previously we were in the 11th Congressional District, which had a long narrow contorted shape and extended from Wyoming County west of Scranton in the north to Cumberland County west of Harrisburg in the south. The odd shape of Pennsylvania's previous Congressional districts, according to a ruling in February by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, was the result of an attempt by the governor and legislature, after the 2010 Census, to skew the district map in order to give the party in power (Republican) an unfair advantage. This is called gerrymandering. The Court said it was a violation of the State Constitution's requirement that there be "free and equal elections." The Court ordered the Legislature and Governor to draw a more equitable district map, and when they failed to do so in time for the May Primary election, the Court itself drew a new district map.

The two maps at right show the previous Congressional districts and the new ones. The old map is visibly contorted, one of the districts, the 7th, just west of Philadelphia, having been described as resembling Donald Duck kicking Goofy. Even the British magazine "The Economist" had a story about Pennsylvania's Congressional districts. This redistricting was effective. As of the fall of 2016, 38% of registered voters were registered Republican while 48% were registered Democrat, and still Republican candidates won 13 of 18 Congressional seats in that year's election.

Unfortunately, gerrymandering has been a part of American politics throughout its history. The name of the practice comes from Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and Governor of Massachusetts from 1810 to 1812. The Boston Gazette first used the word gerrymander in reaction to the redrawing of the state senatorial districts to favor Gerry's Democratic-Republican Party. When mapped, one of the contorted senatorial districts in the Boston area, it was said, resembled a mythical kind of salamander.

In most states, the state legislature has primary control over the drawing of both state legislative districts and congressional districts. The legislature, by majority vote subject to the governor's veto, determines these districts. In five states, Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, and Montana, an independent commission limiting direct participation by elected officials draws districts.

When the legislature and governor do redistricting, they have an obvious stake in the outcome. This has always been a problem. But recently more sophisticated ways of gerrymandering using computers allow politicians to do a more thorough job of giving themselves an advantage.

Courts have historically been reluctant to declare redistricting plans unconstitutional because they do not want to be seen as favoring one political party. This may now be changing. In January a Federal court ruled that North Carolina's redistricting was an unconstitutional gerrymander. And the United States Supreme Court has agreed to rule on gerrymandering cases in Wisconsin and Maryland.

In the November election, the residents of Newport Township will have the choice of voting for Republican





Dan Meuser or Democrat Denny Wolfe to represent our interests in Congress. Take this opportunity to express your opinion and vote.

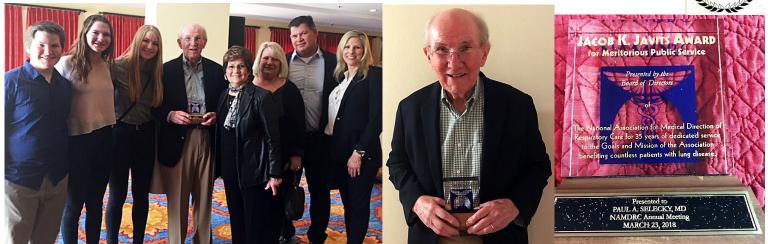
Newport Township Primary Election

By Tom Kashatus ~ On May 15, voters of Luzerne County and Newport Township went to the polls to select candidates for state offices and a United States Senator seat. Voting in the Township paralleled that of the County as the turnout was not in droves but sporadic in nature - 16% of registered voters decided who will run for office in the November General Election. Luzerne County has 205,518 registered voters. Ballots cast were 34,269: (D) 16,484 and (R) 17,785. The results are as follows: US Senator, Incumbent Bob Casey vs Lou Barletta; PA Governor, Incumbent Tom Wolf (D) vs Scott Wagner (R); PA Lt. Governor, John Fetterman (D) vs Jeff Bartos (R); PA Senator, 14th Senatorial District, Incumbent John Yudichak (D) unopposed; and PA Representative, 119th Legislative district, Incumbent Gerald Mullery (D) vs Justin V. Behrens (R). The following seven Democratic candidates were elected for State Committee offices: Wendy Cominski, Marilyn Calderon, Alisha Mae Hoffman-Mirilovich, Thomas M. Shubila, Nicarol Soto, Jenis Rachel Walsh, and Paul J. Maher; and they will not have to run for office in November. The following six Republican candidates were elected for State Committee offices: Margaret Phillips, Lorri Vandermark, Robert Bresnahan, David Baloga, Stephen Urban, and T. Lynette Vilano; and they will not have to run for office in November. On the Democratic side, committee men and women were elected from each of the three voting precincts of the Township. These individuals will be responsible for choosing a Township Chairman, a Luzerne County Chairman, and determining other official business of the Democratic Party. Those men and women elected were as follows: 1st Ward, Ken Angradi and Margaret Forgach; 2nd Ward, Winfield Peters and Kathleen M. Peters; and 3rd Ward, Anthony Siewell and Megan Tennesen.

NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS AND ALUMNI NEWS

"For the glory of Newport High!"





Dr. Paul A. Selecky, graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1956, received the Jacob K. Javits Award for Meritorious Public Service by the National Association for Medical Direction of Respiratory Care in March. Paul grew up in Glen Lyon, the son of Judge Paul and Helen Selecky. Following high school, he attended college and medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. He served three years in the United States Navy at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He then did postgraduate studies in Internal Medicine and Pulmonology at UCLA. Later, he pursued studies in sleep disorders and palliative care. After serving his patients in California for over 40 years, Paul retired last year. He is married to the former Andrea Novak, formerly of Alden, Newport Class of '58. They have five children, 17 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. Pictured left are: Mark Selecky, Maddie Selecky, Sydney Selecky, Paul and Andrea, Susan Armstrong, Dr. Mark Selecky and Laura Slayter. His proud siblings include Juliana Semple, John Selecky, Mary Selecky, Heidi Jarecki, and Peter Selecky.



Newport Class of '55

By Jean Kuchinskas ~ An informal luncheon was held by the Newport Township Class of '55 at Genetti's Best Western Hotel in Wilkes Barre on May 23. Classmates came from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Everyone was anxious to see one another and hear about what's happening in The Valley. Everyone said that they had a great time and are looking forward to the next get-together. Most of those attending planned to check out their old homesteads before returning home. Pictured are left to right, seated: Carol (Fink) Smetana, Kathleen (Kulina) Kovaleski, Mary Ellen (Skladzien) Nypower, Marie (Pucci) Modrow, and Jean (Schraeder) Kuchinskas. Standing are: John Antonaitis, Elaine Hutchinson, Louis Teletski, James Pierog, Tyrone Gayewski, Chester Zimolzak, and Richard Natalini.

All Newport Reunion

The 33rd All Newport Reunion will be held Sunday, October 7, 2018 at Holy Transfiguration Hall in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke (Rhone) from 1 pm to 5 pm. The price is \$30.00 per person. This reunion is open to anyone who attended Newport Township schools at any time.

Please contact Heidi and Paul Jarecki at 570-733-2540, hselecky@pa.metrocast,net, or 28 West Main Street, Glen Lyon, PA 18617 if you wish to be added to the mailing list. Invitations will be mailed in July.

Other members of the Committee are: Phoebe Thomas Hillan, Joe Molski, Chris Paczkowski, Virginia Gliddon Maddy, Carol Fink Smetana, and John Jarecki.

The deadline for reservations is September 21. The Hall can accommodate 150 people.

Be aware that highway construction between Alden and Askam will cause rerouting and extra time is recommended.

Help Bring the Bells Back!

"Come home when the bells ring."

Those of us who grew up in Newport Township remember those instructions our Mothers gave us when we went out to play. On school days, it meant "Time for supper." In the summer, it meant "Lunchtime!" The church bells rang for the Angelus, funerals, weddings and holidays. However, they have been silent for over five years.

St. Adalbert;s Church in Glen Lyon is seeking donations to purchase an electronic carillon system to replace the old one which is beyond repair. Please donate what you can. Send it to the parish office in a marked envelope at 31 South Market Street, Glen Lyon PA 18617. Please make checks out to The Altar and Rosary Society, which is handling the donations. The total cost of the replacement system is \$6,000.00. Deadline for donations is August 1. Thank You!



Joseph J. Reilly

President

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Veterans News

By Tim Derr, in association with the Commanders of American Legion Post 539, American Legion Post 971 (Wanamie) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8353 ~ 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.

Memorial Day

The Commander of Lt. Chester F. Strzalka Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8353 wishes to thank everyone who participated in our recent Memorial Day ceremonies. Outstanding contributions were made via work parties at the cemeteries (St. Adalbert, St. Michael and St. Nicholas). American Legion Post 539 provided their home for the after-ceremony banquet, which was prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary Post 539. Additionally, the Sons of the American Legion, Newport Township Police Department (escort duty) and many spouses and youths assisted in the overall success of the program.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering service personnel who died while serving in the armed forces. The holiday, which is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May, was held on May 28, 2018. We visit cemeteries and memorials to honor those who have died in military service. Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day. Memorial Day is for remembering the men and women who died while serving.



Pictured L to R is the Honor Guard of members of various American Legion Post 539 organiza-

tions at St. Michaels Cemetery: Barb Meyers, Sylvia Siepietowski, Kyle Billings, Joe Molski, Mike Figmic, Mark Rinehamer, Ed Sotack, Kyle Pegarella, Bernie Mihneski, Sally Billings, Allie Meyers, and Tim Derr.



Shown L to R are members of American Legion Post 539 various organizations and Newport Township police force preparing for Memorial Day festivities at the post home:

Post 539 Commander Shawn Swicklik; Mark Rinehamer; Police Chief Jeremy Blank, escort; Mike Figmic; Kyle Billings; Kyle Pegarella; Ed Sotack; Bernie Mihneski; Tim Derr; VFW Post 8353 Commander Joe Molski; Post 539 Sergeant-at-Arms Joe Figlerski, and Officer Chad Callahan, escort.

Joe Figlerski Honored

Recently, American Legion Post 539 chose to honor one of our own who has been instrumental in maintaining the Post Home, has tirelessly worked at funerals and dedications, and can always be counted upon to muster when he is needed the most.





Commander Shawn Swicklik and Post Adjutant Mike Figmic presented Joe Figlerski with the plaque pictured above. It is a small token of thanks for everything he has accomplished over the years. Shown (L to R) Shawn Swicklik, Honoree Joe Figlerski, and Michael Figmic.

Bar-B-O

The Home Association Bar-B-Q fundraiser was a huge success. Over 120 meals were served. The menu included two chicken leg quarters or a thick cut smoked pork chop, baked potato, vegetable, dinner roll, and brownie dessert. We thank everyone who bought a meal. Billy Burgess performed his usual wonder in purchasing, working as the line chef and also chief server. Helping out with cooking, serving, and distribution of the meals were: Joyce Wilson, Sue H., Shawn Swicklik, and Joe Figlerski. Special thanks to Kyle Pegarella for his assistance during preparations prior to the actual cook-out. Another is planned for September with a more varied menu. That menu is still under consideration as of this writing.



Pictured L to R are Shawn Swicklik, Mike Figmic, Joyce Wilson, Tim Derr, and Joe Figlerski.

Vet's Nite

Our monthly Vet's Nite continues to be an eventful gathering. Everything begins at 1900 hours (7 pm) at the Post canteen. A buffet is available to all and a military themed movie is presented. We encourage members and their guests to attend.

June 16 Twelve Strong (Afghanistan War)

July 21 Movie to be decided August 18 Movie to be decided

Flag Day is June 14. The American Legion and VFW will perform a ceremony at the American Legion Post Home at 1800 hours. The American Flag that flies 24/7 in front of the building will be officially retired and a new flag will be raised. Following the flag raising a brief ceremony will be held for the honorable destruction of the unserviceable flag, along with other unserviceable American flags collected over the course of the year. The Sons of the American Legion will participate by having a grill set up for hot food. The Ladies Auxiliary has traditionally assisted in this endeavor. Kudos to both organizations for the efforts required to duly honor the American flag.



Tans

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of a former brother-in-arms. Michael Griego was summoned to his final muster on March 25, 2018. Mike grew up in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School, Class of 1965. He served in the United States Navy during the Vetnam War aboard the Aircraft Carrier Intrepid. Mike's earthly remains are interred at St. Adalbert's Cemetery in Glen Lyon. He was given a full military funeral performed by the Honor Guard from SCI Dallas where Mike worked for 24 years. Rest in peace, Old Friend!

American Legion Auxiliary Post 539 Glen Lyon

By Lorrie Materewicz

Farewell Note

On Thursday, 19 July, new officers will be installed in American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539. Sadly for me (Lorrie Materewicz), I will not be among them. Due to a series of unfortunate and complex circumstances, I respectfully declined the nomination for the Presidency. Rest assured, the gavel will be handed to the capable hands of President-elect Barb Meyers of Glen Lyon to whom I offer my heartfelt gratitude for her service, enabling the Auxiliary's mission to continue. It has been a pleasure and tremendous honor serving the Legion, Auxiliary, and community these many years, but as I'm sure all readers are well aware, sometimes life presents challenges to which we must adapt. This has been a heart-wrenching decision, but one I believe is the correct one for now. My deepest thanks is extended to my officers and members for their years of support, particularly recently, and to all members of the community who have been so generous to the Auxiliary in all our endeavors. Please continue to support Barb in her new role. You know where to find me. Thanks again, and God Bless!

Belated Thanks

In reference to the monthly food pantry held at the American Legion in Glen Lyon, this newsletter & NTCO routinely thanked the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539 for the role it played in cosponsoring said food bank. However, one thing must be remembered: were it not for the generosity of Post 539's Board of Directors (specifically Commander Shawn Swicklik, Home Association President Joe Figlerski, Home Association Treasurer Tim Derr, and Post Adjutant Mike Figmic) in granting permission to utilize the venue in the first place, there would have been no food bank, and we have been remiss in publicly recognizing that fact. So, from CEO, NTCO, Auxiliary Unit 539, all volunteers, and the many clients who continue to avail themselves of the benefits of the mobile food pantry, we extend a belated, heartfelt thank you to those of American Legion Post 539 responsible for granting permission to use the venue, and especially for allowing its continued use now that the Auxiliary will no longer be a co-sponsor. We appreciate your generosity regarding this valuable community asset. Thanks again and God Bless!

Flag Replacement

Thank you to all members of VFW Post 8353, American Legion Posts 539 and 971, and SAL Squadron 539, and anyone else who participated in the annual flag replacement detail throughout township cemeteries and memorials on Thursday, 24 May. This is a time-consuming and often mosquito-fraught labor of love, and your time and efforts are much appreciated by families and friends of our hero veterans. Job well done!

Memorial Day Activities

Memorial Day was a cool, crisp, dry, Monday on May 28th this year, unlike the rainy one it was last year. Full military honor ceremonies were performed by VFW Post 8353, American Legion Post, Auxiliary, & SAL Squadron 539 escorted by the Newport Township Police. The flag-bedecked caravan departed the Legion for the west end cemeteries promptly at 9:15 am, held their solemn services on both sides of the highway, then proceeded to St. Nicholas Cemetery on the east side, culminating with the flag-raising to full-staff at the Post home. A meal prepared by the Auxiliary for those who participated in the ceremonies followed by a social hour was held in the Post hall. Members of Jeffries-Slapikas Post 971 joined in following their rendered honors at those nine cemeteries and memorials they normally perform on an annual basis. Members of the public are encouraged to view these yearly services that honor our deceased veterans. Their sacrifice, as well as that of our current fighting forces, allows you to live the life of freedom you enjoy on a daily basis. Sadly, public turnout was sparse once again this year.

Penguins' Game

By Sally Billings ~ On the evening of 6 April, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins played an exciting hockey game against the Bridgeport Sound Tigers. Unfortunately, the Penguins lost, 4-3. But that didn't dampen the spirits of veteran and American Legion Auxiliary President Lorrie Materewicz and a group of friends. They spent an enjoyable evening watching the game from a "Salute to Service" luxury box as guests of Mohegan Sun Arena. This was the game chosen by Lorrie as the recipient of a "Valor Award" for which she was nominated by Murph Fletcher of NTCO last fall. The award is given to a veteran who continues to serve their community after discharge from the military. The evening included the luxury box, tickets, VIP parking passes, snacks, and recognition during the game. A very enjoyable evening was had by all. Thanks, Murph, and Congrats, Lorrie!



Angela Pace, Joe Pace, Joe Brown, Shannen Brown, Lorrie Materewicz, Dennis Materewicz, Al Chesney, Janet Wenner, Sally Billings.



Check Presentation

Pictured above are members of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners and two officers of the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) who partnered to share the expense of installing playground equipment at the Wanamie Recreation Park. The equipment was received from Moon Lake Park and with help from the NTCO, the way was cleared to hire a contractor to install the equipment according to standards. In the center accepting the check are Board President Paul Czapracki, left, and Recreation Commissioner, John Vishnefski, right, with NTCO President Stephen Phillips in the middle. Others in photo are left to right: Joseph Hillan, Operations Director; Commissioner Mike Roke; Commissioner John Zyla; Czapracki, Phillips, and Vishnefski; NTCO Vice President Tom Kashatus; Commissioner Deborah Zaleski; Township Manager Peter Wanchisen; and Solicitor Atty. Christopher Slusser.



Taste of the Township



Ice Cream
By Heidi and Paul
Jarecki ~ Summer
and ice cream go
together in Newport
Township and just
about everywhere.

Ice cream is made from milk, cream, and sugar and often combined with fruits or other flavorings. Ice cream is formed when these ingredients are subjected to

freezing temperatures. Before the freezing process, ice cream is an emulsion. An emulsion is a mixture of two or more liquids that are normally unmixable. In an emulsion, one liquid (the dispersed phase) is dispersed in the other (the continuous phase). In ice cream, the fat in the cream and milk is dispersed in water. Milk proteins such as casein and whey protein present in ice cream also absorb water and form micelles which will contribute to consistency. When sugar is added to this mixture, it causes freezing point depression. Thus, on freezing, some water will be unfrozen and will not have a hard texture.

Ice cream's origins are known to reach back as far as the second century B.C., although no specific date of origin nor inventor has been indisputably credited with its discovery. We know that Alexander the Great enjoyed snow and ice flavored with honey and nectar. Biblical references also show that King Solomon was fond of iced drinks during harvesting. The emperors of the Tang Dynasty (618 – 907 AD) are believed to have been the first to eat "a frozen milk-like confection." This version was made with cow, goat or buffalo milk that was heated with flour. Camphor, an aromatic substance harvested from evergreen trees, was added to enhance the texture and flavor. The mixture was then placed into metal tubes and lowered into an ice pool until frozen. Marco Polo returned to Italy from the Far East with a recipe that closely resembled what is now called sherbet. Historians estimate that this recipe evolved into ice cream sometime in the 16th century. England seems to have discovered ice cream at the same time,. "Cream Ice," as it was called, appeared regularly at the table of Charles I during the 17th century. France was introduced to similar frozen desserts in 1553 by the Italian Catherine de Medici when she became the wife of Henry II of France.

Until 1800, ice cream remained a rare and exotic dessert enjoyed mostly by the elite. Around 1800, insulated ice houses were invented. Manufacturing ice cream soon became an industry in America, pioneered in 1851 by a Baltimore milk dealer named Jacob Fussell. Ice cream production increased because of technological innovations, including steam power, mechanical refrigeration, the homogenizer, electric power and motors, packing machines, and new freezing processes and equipment. In addition, motorized delivery vehicles dramatically changed the industry. Today's total annual ice cream production in the United States is more than 1.6 billion gallons.

Ice Cream Facts

- 1. It takes 12 pounds of milk to produce just 1 gallon of ice cream.
- 2. The average number of licks to finish a scoop of ice cream is 50.
- 3. The country that consumes the most ice cream is the USA, followed by Australia, then Norway.
- 4. The most popular flavor is vanilla, then chocolate.
- 5. Chocolate ice cream was invented before vanilla.
- 6. The first written ice cream recipe was found in a 1665 recipe book.
- 7. Industrial ice cream production in the US began in 1851.
- 8. The majority of Americans around 90% have ice cream in their freezers.
- 9. Some of the strangest flavors are: avocado, garlic, chili, licorice, Stilton cheese, and bacon

- 10. Ice cream headaches or "brain freeze" is the result of the nerve endings in the roof of your mouth sending a message to your brain of the loss of heat.
- 11. The average American eats 45.8 pints of ice cream a year.
- 12. Chocolate syrup is the most popular ice cream topping.
- 13. Ice cream sodas were a popular drink you could buy at the local soda shop. However, religious laws in some areas forbade shop owners from selling them on Sundays because people were not allowed to indulge in sugary treats on the Sabbath. The owner of Ed Berners' Ice Cream Parlor, Edward Berners, decided to get around this law. One day, he served a customer ice cream soda without the actual soda part, so it was just ice cream and syrup. Soon, the concoction was sold on Sundays as an alternative to ice cream sodas. However, it became so popular it was sold every day. Berners changed the spelling to "sundae" to avoid associating it with the holy Sabbath.
- 14. California is the country's top ice cream producer. That's no surprise, since it's also the top dairy producer in the country.

Recipe for Vanilla Ice Cream

Ingredients

3/4 cup sugar

2 1/4 cup milk

1 cup heavy whipping cream

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Directions

- Stir sugar, cream, and milk into a saucepan over low heat until sugar has dissolved.
- 2. Transfer cream mixture to a pourable container such as a large measuring cup, mix in vanilla extract, and let cool.
- Pour cold ice cream mix into an ice cream maker, turn on the machine, and churn according to manufacturer's directions, 20 to 25 minutes.



Newsletter Goes International Again!

Our Newsletter travels to roughly half of the fifty states, and has found its way to Paris, France. It has now been sighted in the Caribbean! Pictured left are Annamarie and Peter Selecky, who make their home in West Wyoming, PA, reading the Spring 2018 edition in front of the Bermuda National Gallery and Society of Arts. Who knows where the Newsletter might turn up next? We invite our readers to share proof every time the Newsletter Goes International! CHINGAS!



SPRING AND EASTER EVENTS



At left is the Shrimp and Chips Dinner held at St. Andrew's Church in Alden on March 24. Top right shows the Girl Scouts Cookie Giveaway during the Food Distribution at the American Legion in Glen Lyon on March 28. Below left are the CCD students of St. Adalbert's in Glen Lyon who presented a short play about the Stations of the Cross on March 25. Coffee and donuts were provided by the Altar and Rosary Society.







Easter Events: Pictured above right is the traditional Blessing of Baskets at St Adalbert's Church by Rev. Louis Kaminski on March 31. Below left is a lucky little girl in the arms of the Easter Bunny during the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny event held at the American Legion in Glen Lyon. It was sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group on March 31. Bottom left is a little girl who is pretty in pink. Below center shows the soups available for purchase, and bottom center are the potato pancake fryers at the Good Friday Food Sale on March 30. This event was a fundraiser for the Newport Township Fire Departments and St. Faustina Parish in Nanticoke. Below right shows parishioners at St. Nicholas Church in Glen Lyon attending Easter Sunrise Services.











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; however, a more complete obituary can be found on our web site, www.newporttownship.com. 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; if someone is missed, please notify this writer at tomkashatus@gmail.com or call (570) 736-6981.

FENSTERMACHER, May L. (nee Rinehimer), 88, of Dorrance Township passed away on December 4, 2017. May was born in Dorrance Township on May 28, 1929. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

RINEHIMER, Edsel T., 84, of Dorrance, passed away December 7, 2017. Edsel was born in Dorrance Township on September 9, 1933. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School and served in the US Army National Guard.

MIKULSKI, Maverick Exavior, 5 months, of Arch Street, Glen Lyon, passed away February 23, 2018. Maverick was the son of David Bienkowski and Stephanie Mikulski.

REPOTSKI, Richard (Ricky), 63, of Mocanaqua, passed away March 16, 2017. Richard was born on June 2, 1953. He attended Newport Township schools and graduated from John S. Fine High School.

McGAHAGAN, David "Nick," 64, of Clearwater, FL, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away July 14, 2017. David was born on May 19, 1953 and raised in Glen Lyon. He attended Newport Township schools and was a graduate of John S. Fine High School.

DOMZALSKI, Alice M., (nee (Kosloski), of Mountain Top, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away February 13, 2018. Alice was born in Wilkes Barre. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '51. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles "Chick" Domzalski.

McGAHAGAN, Paul "Atlas," 74, of Ormand Beach, FL, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away February 20, 2018 Paul was born in Nanticoke on July 19, 1944 and raised in Glen Lyon. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '62. Paul was a US Army veteran from the Vietnam era.

WINTERS, Thomas R., 87, of Linden, NJ; formerly of Hillside, NJ, and Glen Lyon, died on March 2, 2018. Thomas was born in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '48. He was a US Army Korean War veteran.

KUPRIONAS, Irene Barbara (nee Blockus), 93, of the Hanover Section of Nanticoke (Rhone) passed away March 2, 2018.

STACKHOUSE, Duane, 93, of Glen Lyon, passed away March 5, 2018. He was born March 3, 1924, in Nanticoke. Duane was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '42 and was a veteran of the US Army Air Corps during World War II serving in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe.

DOMZALSKI, Mark, 62, of Mountain Top, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away March 5, 2018.

REPOTSKI, Stephen, 97, of Mocanaqua, and formerly of Glen Lyon, died March 4, 2018. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '38. Stephen was a veteran of WW II and served in France, Germany, and Belgium. He was a past commander of Mocanaqua VFW Post 6434.

PEKOL, Frank, 90, of Sheatown, and formerly of Wilkes Barre, passed away March 9, 2018.

RULE, Richard, 72, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Newport Township, passed away Saturday, March 10, 2018. Richard was born in Newport Township on November 26, 1945. Richard was a US Army veteran from the Vietnam era.

WINARSKI, Paul James, 48, of Glen Lyon, and raised in Alden, passed away on March 7, 2018. He was a graduate of Greater Nanticoke Area High School, Class of '88.

WACLAWSKI, Thomas S. "Tim," 84, of Loyalsock Township, and raised in Wanamie, passed away February 27, 2018. Tom was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '52.

MOWERY, Carolyn M. (nee Vandermark), 55, of Berwick, formerly of Newport Township, passed away February 27, 2018. Carolyn was born in Wanamie on July 18, 1962. She was a veteran of the US Army.

RICKETTS, Donna, 67, of Glen Lyon, passed away Monday, March 12, 2018, in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

THOMAS, Ella R. (nee Pleiscott), 91, of Slocum Township, passed away March 17, 2018. She was born in Nanticoke on March 13, 1927. Ella attended Newport Township High School.

STASHAK-ZALEWSKI, Ann T. "Nancy" (nee Terkoski), 84, of Exeter and formerly of Glen Lyon passed away March 17, 2018. Ann was born and raised in Glen Lyon. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '52.

BALBERCHAK, Loretta A. (nee Kucewicz), 92, of Ashley, and formerly of Newport Township, passed away on March 17, 2018. Loretta was born in Glen Lyon on April 21, 1925. She attended Newport Township schools.

GROHS, Marie Y., 90, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Railroad Street, Wanamie, died March 21, 2018. Marie was born in Beach Haven on May 6, 1927. She attended Newport Township schools.

SCORTICHINI, Keith P., 57, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Wanamie and Lily Lake, passed away March 23, 2018. Keith was born in Nanticoke on April 7, 1960. He attended Newport Township schools and graduated from John S. Fine High School, Class of '74.

GRIEGO, Michael Ray, 70, of Larksville, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away on March 25, 2018. Michael was born in Tucumcari, NM, on September 28, 1947. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '65 and was a veteran of the US Navy serving aboard the USS Intrepid during the Vietnam War. He retired from the PA Department of Corrections serving as a Captain at SCI-Dallas.

SHEKLETSKI, Gerald J., of Nanticoke, formerly of Newport Township, passed away March 26, 2018. Gerry was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '51.

BARTUSKI, Genevieve Theresa, (nee Golanoski), 90, of Nanticoke and formerly of Glen Lyon and raised on Railroad Street, Alden, passed away March 28, 2018. Genevieve was born July 8, 1927. She attended Newport Township schools.

GIST, Nancy L., (nee Chere), 78, of Sheatown, and formerly of Wilkes Barre, passed away April 3, 2018.

ZAWATSKI, Rosemary, 75, of Windsor, CN, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away March 24, 2018. Rosemary was born on August 26, 1942, in Nanticoke and was raised in Glen Lyon. She graduated from Newport Township High School, Class of '60. Rosemary was a veteran of the US Navy and served at the Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division, Lakehurst, NJ.

KUTZ, Francis, 81, of Muncy, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away on December 3, 2017. Francis was born on September 21, 1936. He graduated from Newport Township High School, Class of '54 and was a veteran of the US Navy.

RINEHIMER, Shirley M., (nee Hontz), 89, of Salem Township passed away March 20, 2018. Shirley was born in Slocum Township on April 7, 1928. She graduated from Newport Township High School as Class Valedictorian.

RING, Louis Wayne "Pocono Wayne", 63, of Nanticoke, passed away Wednesday, March 21, 2018.

BLOSS, Orceil E. (nee Wenner), 86, of Nescopeck, passed away Friday, March 30, 2018. She was born in Conyngham on September 27, 1931. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

DAILY, Janice L (nee Arnold), 82, of Wapwallopen passed away April 18, 2018. Janice was born in Slocum Township on September 21, 1935. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

KUBOSKI, Linda M. (Ottensman) (nee Lazer), 70, of Pittston, and formerly of Glen Lyon and Nanticoke, passed away April 25, 2018. Linda was born February 2, 1948, in Nanticoke and raised in Glen Lyon. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of **'**65.

VIDUMSKI, Eugene, 67, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away April 26, 2018. Eugene was born in Nanticoke and raised in Glen Lyon. He was a member of St. Adalbert's and St. Denis Church of Glen Lyon. Eugene was a humble man who loved simple things and never stopped missing his town of Glen Lyon. Many would remember Eugene as the deliverer of the former Sunday Independent that he carried on his familiar wagon. Burial was in Saint Adalbert's Cemetery of Glen Lyon.

GRUENLOH, Marilyn (nee Maslowski). 69, of Pittston, formerly of Glen Lyon and raised in Glen Lyon, passed away. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School and Wilkes University with a degree in Nursing.

FERRAIRA, Elias E, 49, of Alden, passed away May 4, 2018. Elias was born in Bethlehem on August 30, 1968.

FARNELL, Evelyn P. (nee Pishak), 75, of Beaver Falls, PA, and formerly of Alden, passed away May 8, 2018. Evelyn was born in Luzerne County on November 18, 1942. She graduated as valedictorian of her Newport Township High School Class of '60.

STOUT, Dorothy (nee Smereski-Wright), 89, of Alden passed away May 27, 2018. Dorothy was born on May 22, 1929. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

The following obituaries were found on the web site of Heller Funeral Home of Nescopeck. They go back to November 19, 2015. Their obituaries have never appeared in our newsletter; and there is a relationship to Newport Township and/or Newport Township High School. A more complete obituary appears on the NTCO web site,

www.newporttownship.com and Heller Funeral Home web site http:// hellerfuneral.com/Obituaries.html.

WISMAN, Margaret E. "Marge," (nee Stout), 91, of Berwick, passed away on November 7, 2016. Marge was born in Slocum Township on September 4, 1925. She attended Newport Township High School.

BEACH, Isabel A. (nee Wert), 81, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away November 2, 2016. "Izzy" was born in Lehigh County on January 8, 1935.

KMIETOWICZ, Daniel "Kimo," 51, passed away circa October 29, 2016. "Kimo" was born in Berwick on June 21, 1965.

HESS, Charles F., 81, of Pond Hill, passed away October 22, 2016. Charles was born Feb. 15, 1935. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

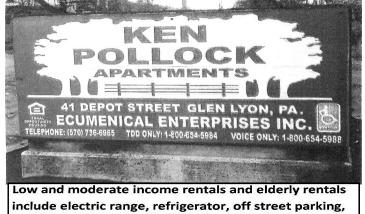
STANIORSKI, Linda A. (nee Fenstermacher), 64, of Dorrance Township, passed away October 6, 2016. Linda was born in Berwick on October 1, 1952. She attended Newport Township schools and High School.

GOOD, Etta Elizabeth "Betty" (nee Pliscott), 92, of Nescopeck, passed away September 11, 2016. "Betty" was born in Slocum Township on September 5, 1924. She graduated from Newport High School and was co-owner with her husband of Bon Homme Shirt Factory.

HESS, Shirley Louise (nee Caley), 87, of Mountain Top, passed away August 4, 2016. Shirley was born in Newport Township on August 18, 1928. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

BROWN, Janet M., 79, of Slocum Township, passed away December 4, 2015. Janet was born in Slocum Township on October 7, 1936. She attended Newport Township High School.

WINTERSTEEN, Mary Amanda (nee Smith), 92, formerly of Hobbie, passed away November 19, 2015. Mary was born in Hazleton on December 18, 1922. She graduated from Newport Township High School, Class of '41.



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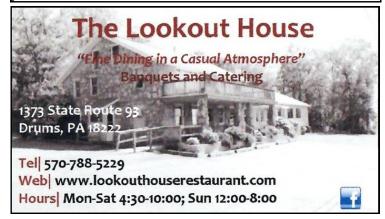


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A HERO RETURNS: WANAMIE NATIVE KILLED AT PEARL HARBOR LAID TO REST

By Tim Derr ~ Edward F. Slapikas attended Newport Township schools and enlisted in the United States Army. After receiving his honorable discharge and a brief stint in the mines, he enlisted in the United States Navy and was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, a Nevada Class Battleship (BB-37) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Edward was killed during the battle of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 when the Oklahoma was struck by a total of nine Japanese torpedos. He along with 428 of his shipmates made the ultimate sacrifice at the very beginning of World War II. Initially his remains along with those of his fallen mates were removed from the wreckage when salvage operations commenced. Of the 429 Sailors and Marines, only 35 were initially identified. Edward was not among these. His remains along with the other unidentified servicemen were originally buried as unknowns. In 1947, they were disinterred in an unsuccessful attempt to identify them and reburied in 61 caskets at 45 grave sites on Ford Island in 1950 as unknowns. In April, 2015, the Defense Department announced it would attempt to identify remains of unknowns through DNA testing. Edward was identified and his remains were returned to us. This occurred under United States Naval protocols on June 9, 2018. The services were held at St. Adalbert's Church with burial at St. Mary's Church Cemetery in Wanamie. Honor services were conducted by the United States Navy with Rear Admiral Mark Fung presiding as the Officer of the Deck. American Legion Post 971 (Wanamie) is named after Slapikas and another Newport Township native, Keith Jefferies, who was killed on the Battleship USS Arizona in the same

attack. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor crippled or destroyed nearly 20 American ships and more than 300 airplanes. Most important, 2,403 sailors, soldiers and civilians were killed and about 1,000 people were wounded. But the Japanese had failed to cripple the Pacific Fleet. By the 1940's, battleships were no longer the most important naval vessel: aircraft carriers were, and as it happened, all of the Pacific Fleet's carriers were away from the base on December 7.





Pictured left: the casket inside Strish Funeral Home in Ashley and (right) the Glen Lyon and Wanamie Posts stand at attention. Second row: A flag erected by the Fire Companies flies over the highway into Glen Lyon; the funeral Mass at St. Adalbert's Church with Rev. Louis Kaminski officiating. On the bottom left, Rear Admiral Mark Fung addressed the attendees.































Edward Slapikas was laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery in Wanamie near his childhood home at 2 College Hill. Bottom row left are a niece Leona Hotko of Kingston, Barbara Slapikas, and Frank Slapikas, nephew. Frank and Barbara made the trip from Tuscaloosa, AL. Leona was presented with a baseball cap with the USS Oklahoma insignia by Vern Treat of Glen Lyon. Hundreds of people lined the funeral procession route waving American flags and saluting as the procession drove past. The service included a 21-gun salute and taps.

The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township



Blackberries

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki
~ Along the old mining
roads and other disturbed
areas in Newport Township, it is common to see
blackberry bushes. These
on the left are thriving
past Old Newport
Cemetery Road on the
way to Lake Newport and
Honey Pot.

Blackberry Facts

- 1. The blackberry is an edible fruit produced by many species in the genus Rubus in the family Rosaceae, with many hybrids.
- 2. Blackberries are related to raspberries. How can you tell the difference? Blackberries are black, not red, when they're ripe. Also, if you look at the top of a raspberry, you'll notice a hole where the torus the small, white core that attaches to the stem was. Blackberries don't have this hollow core. The torus stays in the fruit.
- 3. As there is evidence from the Iron Age Haraldskær Woman that she consumed blackberries some 2500 years ago, it is reasonable to conclude that blackberries have been eaten by humans for thousands of years.
- 4. Blackberries contain numerous phytochemicals including polyphenols, flavonoids, anthocyanins, and salicylic acid. Anthocyanins in blackberries are responsible for their rich dark color. Blackberries are rich in Vitamin C and have one of the highest antioxidant levels of all fruits. Antioxidants are well-known for lowering the risk of a number of cancers. Blackberries contain copper which is essential for bone metabolism. It is also essential to the production of white and red blood cells in the body.
- According to some traditions, a blackberry's deep purple color represents Christ's blood and His crown of thorns was made of blackberry brambles.
- 6. Blackberries have been used by women in labor to help relieve labor pain as they have high levels of vitamin K which can act as a muscle relaxant.
- 7. Bees that feed on blackberry blossoms produce a dark-colored, fruit-flavored honey.
- 8. Harvest time for blackberries runs between the months of June to August, although there are varieties that produce fruit until September.
- 9. The juice extracted from blackberries can be used to make an indigo-colored dye. Because the juice is also anti-inflammatory, it is a recommended drink for those suffering from inflamed joints. The juice is likewise highly nutritious, as one cup provides more than 100% of the recommended daily intake of Vitamin C.

Vacation Bible School will be held at St. Adalbert's Church, Holy Spirit Parish in Glen Lyon from July 16 to 20. Children must be pre-registered. Please call the Parish Office at 570-736-6372 for more information.



Shown at left is Jeff Montgomery III, with this 7-pointer buck taken locally at 250 yards. He used his Remington 30-06 bolt action during the 2017 buck season.

ATTENTION TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

CATS

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HAS A MIXTURE OF RESIDENTS WHO HAVE VARYING VIEWS ON CATS. SOME LOVE THEM, OTHERS DO NOT. OUR COMMISSIONERS ATTEMPT TO WALK THE FINE LINE THAT RESPECTS BOTH POINTS OF VIEW. RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT CATS CAUSING DAMAGE AND CREATING UNSANITARY CONDITIONS. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS CAT ISSUES AND MINIMIZE BAD EXPERIENCES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

- ORDINANCE 1976-4 CLEARLY PUTS FORTH THE RESPONSIBILITES OF CAT OWNERS; SPECIFICALLY
 THE FACT THAT RESIDENTS WHO OWN AND SHELTER CATS ARE LIMITED TO THREE CATS, AND
 MUST ENSURE THAT THEY ARE EITHER IN THE RESIDENCE OR SECURED BY A LEASH SO THAT
 THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO STRAY FROM THE PREMISES.
- 2. IN ADDITION TO PRIVATELY OWNED CATS, THERE IS AN ISSUE OF WILD FERRAL CATS. RESIDENTS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROBLEM BY FEEDING AND IN SOME CASES PROVIDING SHELTER TO THESE ANIMALS. WHAT NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED IS THE FACT THAT WHAT MIGHT BE TWO OR THREE ROAMING CATS TODAY CAN EASILY BE TEN OR FIFTEEN IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. THE S.P.C.A. HAS A PROGRAM THAT ELIMINATES PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH FERRAL CAT BREEDING. THIS PROGRAM IS THE MOST HUMANE APPROACH AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY ANYONE FEEDING OR SHELTERING THESE ANIMALS.

REGARDLESS OF YOUR VIEW OF CATS, WILD OR DOMESTIC, CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS IS THE KEY TO HARMONY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. CONTACT THE MUNICIPAL AT 570-735-4735 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING WILD OR DOMESTIC CATS IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP.

YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IS REQUESTED.

APPRECIATIVELY,

PETER F. WANCHISEN

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Newport Lions Club Holds Bingo Event

By Tom Kashatus ~ It was not a fundraiser, but a treat for the residents of Pollock Apartments on Depot Street, Glen Lyon. The Newport Township Lions Club recently held a bingo party. Over twenty five residents had the opportunity to enjoy pastries and drinks during four ten-dollar games of bingo. The initiative was the first of its kind sponsored by the Lions Club who have a history of also supporting initiatives of first responder emergency services.



Pictured left to right are: Joy Bird, Manager of Pollock Apartments; Joann Czapracki, resident; and Lions members, John Zyla, Edward Zaborney, and Lions President, Dr. Donald Reese.



KVal Convenience Store on East Main Street in Glen Lyon made extensive repairs to the former Roosevelt School wall this spring.

Scouting in Newport and Nanticoke

By Tom Kashatus and Michael Shay ~ Sadly, it's been quite a while. Newport Township has no Boy Scout troop for youngsters to develop those skills that make them self-reliant and provide the opportunity to experience outdoor adventure and compete in challenges that build character and responsibility. However, thanks to Saint Faustina Parish and American Legion Post 350 in Nanticoke, sponsors of Cub Scout Pack 415 and Boy Scout Troop 418 respectively, all is not lost. Newport Township children are welcome. A fall recruiting will begin on September 13.

For children in grades kindergarten thru fifth, Cub Scout Pack 415 is available for membership and meets from September to May at Saint Mary's of Czestochowa Church on 1010 Hanover Street in Nanticoke. For those who might have an interest in joining, Michael Shay of Wanamie is the Pack Leader and may be contacted at 570-592-3378 or email cubpack415nanticoke@yahoo.com. Recently, Pack 415 held their annual Pinewood Derby whereby Scouts and parents worked together by whittling, cutting, and carving to turn a block of wood into whatever they can create and decorate. That creation will ride on four BSA-approved wheels and be powered by gravity in a race to determine which is "the best of all." Awards are given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers; best race car and truck design; most colorful; etc. The top three entrees will have an opportunity to compete with other Cub Scout Packs from Luzerne and Wyoming counties.

Boy Scout Troop 418 is sponsored by Nanticoke American Legion Post 350 and they meet on Wednesday nights throughout the year from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Membership ages for joining the Boy Scouts are 11 to 17. Scoutmaster is Matt Matyas who may be contacted at 570-574-3432 or email: troop418nanticoke@verizon.net. Children learn a variety of skills as Scouts and can choose from 137 different merit badges that cover a wide range of interests, i.e., boating, shooting, automotive maintenance, welding, etc.

On a cold February weekend Troop 418 competed with more than 15 Scout troops from Luzerne and Wyoming counties in the Two Mountains Polar Bear competition at Camp Acahela in Blakeslee. Events along the Klondike race course tested the Scouts in a variety of Scout skills including First Aid, Ice Water rescues, lashings, orienteering, and even a blind folded tent set-up competition. Troop 418 brought home a variety of awards including 3rd place in Trivia and Snow Sculptures, 1st place in the Klondike Race, and 1st place overall. Using their imagination and snow building skills, the Troop also sculpted a shark, complete with teeth and upended tail.



Pictured left are members of Troop 418 and leaders with their 1st Place overall trophy and ribbons for their other Polar Bear awards: Brian Hirther (Nanticoke), Charlie Hoover (Nanticoke), Peter Shay (Newport Twp.), Owen Thomas (Nanticoke), Eric Grohowski, Assistant Scout-

master (Nanticoke), Trevor Grohowski (Nanticoke), Brandon Shay (Newport Twp.) and Mike Shay, Assistant Scoutmaster (Newport Twp.)



Just recently, Troop 418 was recognized by the WYOU/ WBRE News Team

for volunteering with American Legion Post 350 to place 3,500 new flags on the graves of veterans at various cemeteries in Nanticoke to honor all deceased veterans for the upcoming festivities on Memorial Day. This effort shows the true meaning of community involvement at a time when we honor those who have given so much to our country.

Pictured left to right are: Row 1, Steven Glasser (NT), Ethan Yendrzewski (NT), Jacob Holocheck (NT), Noah McCarthy (Na), Owen Yendrzewski (NT), Quentin Brown (Na), Travis Fenner (Na), and Samuel John IV (Na), Row 2. Elora Herron (Venturing Crew), Chris Rilk (Na), Joseph Holocheck (NT), John Choma (Na), Alex Fox (NT), Alex Avery (Na), Lucas Yendrzewski (NT), Zachary Winder (Na), and Greg Bolesta (Na). Row 3, Joe Holocheck, Eric Grohowski (Na), Conal Herron (Na), Michael Marcella (Na), Jared Marshallick (Na), Charlie Hoover (Na), George Brown (Na), Tyler Skonoecki, Lucas Dwyer (Na), Matt Matyas (Scoutmaster), Paul Cooper (Na), Mike Shay Cubmaster), Henry Sedorchuk (Na), Frank Marshallick, and Trevor Grohowski. Not pictured, Peter Shay (NT) and Brandon Shay (NT).



Pictured left are members of Troop 418 and Pack 415 who participated in the annual food drive, "Scouting for Food," for the Saint Faustina Parish food pantry. This is a huge project for these young avid volunteers who look forward every year to contributing to the success of one of Nanticoke's most important

initiatives. From left to right, kneeling: Zachary Winder, Brandon Shay, Noah McCarthy, Greg Bolesta, Travis Fenner, Samuel John IV, and Alex Avery.

Standing: Matt Matyas, Scoutmaster Troop 418; Mike Shay, Cubmaster Pack 415; Henry Sedorchuk; Peter Shay; Trevor Grohowski; Jared Marshallick; Charlie Hoover; Frank Marshallick; Lucas Dwyer; and Lucas Yendrzewski.

Gernhart Shows Promise on Wrestling Mat

By Tom Kashatus ~ Thirteen-year-old TJ Gernhart of Glen Lyon, and a junior high 7th grader in Greater Nanticoke Area School District, had shown high promise on the wrestling mat during the past 2017-18 season. With conference duals and a season-ending tournament under his belt, and other tournament competitions, he went through a long and tough season to accomplish a record of 32-0. TJ, as he is familiarly known, is the son of Tom and Hope Gernhart. He has a long and successful history of elementary school wrestling behind him. He has been competing since age four.

TJ's journey thus far has taken him to PA State tournaments; an Ohio All-Star Team that recently traveled cross-country through numerous states for sixty days; Team Pennsylvania which competed in Virginia, Indiana, and Iowa: and many local tournaments during his elementary days. TJ stated that his accomplishments would not have been possible without the coaching and attention given to him by his school coaches. He has also trained with Rocky and Ricky Bonomo and Michael Sees, Bloomsburg University Division I All-Americans. He has had the privilege of being tutored by NCAA Division II National Champion Joe Kemmerer and Johnny Johnson who is the

operator of RAW 214 at Kennett Square, PA. Locally, he works with X-Caliber and Dark Knights during wrestling season and also the off-season to improve his skills, and Elite Sport and Spine for strength training.

Most importantly, Tom and Hope have been contacted by school peers stating that TJ is one of the most polite students who also takes the time to help children who have special needs. Prior to each match, TJ takes a moment to pay homage to his late great-grandfather, Joseph Rambus, whom he always looked up to for guidance and emotional strength.



MEMORIAL DAY 2018













Township American Legion and VFW Posts made a combined nine stops, to include seven cemeteries and two memorials. Wanamie Post 971 paid homage to deceased veterans at the east end of Newport Township and Glen Lyon Posts 539, the Auxiliary, and 8353 paid homage at the west end.

Finally at the memorial located at the Wanamie Hose House, tribute was paid to Post 971 Legion member Leonard Bonczewski of Wanamie for his 50 years of "dedicated and distinguished service" to his Post. The honor was bestowed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives at the behest of 119th District Rep. Gerald Mullery of Alden. The Citation from the House of Representatives states: "Demonstrating outstanding loyalty to the noble goals and principles of the Wanamie American Legion Post, Mr. Bonczewski has generously contributed to the welfare of the organization and its members throughout fifty years of valuable service." Mr. Bonczewski is a veteran of the US Marine Corps and served in the Korean War. He is a recipient of the Purple Heart, which is awarded to military personnel who were wounded in combat. Pictured left with Mr. Bonczewski is Cody Forgach, Rep. Mullery's Chief of Staff.

Newport Township Crime Watch News

By Sue Heinz ~ Newport Township Crime Watch meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7 pm at the Municipal Building on Kirmar Avenue in Wanamie. Upcoming meetings will be on July 12, August 9, and September 13. On Tuesday August 7, Crime Watch and the Police Department will be hosting the 3rd Annual National Night Out Community Picnic at St. Faustina's Grove in Sheatown from 4 pm to 9 pm.

The big day, August 7, is rapidly approaching and we are working full steam to make our National Night Out Community Picnic even bigger and better than last year.

Most of last year's exhibitors have confirmed their participation this year. You'll be able to ride the big trike wearing the drunk goggles under the watchful eye of Chief Jeremy Blank and our Police Officers and find out just why you should never drive after drinking or doing drugs. Then you can use your pitching arm to try to dunk an Officer, a teacher or maybe even a township official. A lot of you would enjoy doing that, right? Karen Metta will be providing free face painting. Girl Scout Troop 32114 is doing a free children's game. Magic World Child Care Center will offer a free recycled materials art project. Dr Andrew and Sarah Makos LMT will be there with their chiropractic and massage equipment. A drug abuse exhibit will be hosted by Rachael Wydra RN from the PA Department of Health. Newport Aggregate and MP Excavating will have some of their heavy equipment on display for the kids to explore. DJ Jim of Glen Lyon will be providing the music. The Newport Township Fire Department and the Fire Police will also participate.

New this year will be an appearance by the amazing Kerry Irish Dancers. Also, a representative from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will be on hand to remind us of the danger of forest fires.

The Chinese Auction, one of the most popular stands at any event like ours, is in need of baskets and gift certificates. If you have a business you want folks to know about, a gift certificate is a wonderful way to attract attention. We're hoping all you great folks who donated baskets last year will consider donating again this year. We had some really nice prizes last year and a lot of happy ticket holders who left with the prize they wanted. We've just started asking for donations and have already received a "Scentsy" basket from Samantha Zaborney, a Goodies basket from a friend, and a basket from Grateful Roast Cafe and Coffee Roaster. Thanks to everyone who is out now visiting our local merchants looking for more donations. Thanks also to Edwardsville Kmart for their donation. Please help us show our appreciation to all the fine businesses that support our Township by supporting them with your business. As we receive more donations, we'll list them on our Facebook page.

Mike Yalch and the awesome St Faustina staff will again be in charge of the kitchen. D's Old Fashioned Pierogies of Wanamie is joining us this year.

Every family that registers at the Crime Watch table will be eligible for our door prize. You don't need to be present to win.

It takes a lot of time, effort and people to host a National Night Out Community Picnic. We can use all the help we can get. The active members of Crime Watch do a great job at the various stands but we really could use a break now and then. We'd enjoy seeing what's going on, getting something to eat or taking a restroom break. If any of you reading this are planning on attending NNO, would you please consider volunteering a little of your evening to help us out? We will need help with the Chinese Auction, Duck Pond and Lollipop Tree, Dunk Tank, and the kitchen, especially with the French Fries. Any amount of time will be greatly appreciated, whether it's for an hour or fifteen minutes. If you are interested in being an active participant in our event, you can contact us on the Official Crime Watch Facebook page or come to one of our meetings. You don't have to be a Township resident to help.

We hope everyone in the Township will turn out for our Picnic. Tell your family and friends about our event even if they don't live here. This is a Community Picnic, not just a Newport Township picnic and all our friends in the surrounding area are welcome to join us and see what we have to offer. You won't be disappointed. Be sure to bring the kids as there is no charge for any of their

activities and there will be lots of them. Even the Lollipop Tree and Duck Pond are free.

So to all the residents of Newport Township, don't make any other plans for August 7 from 4 pm to 9 pm. St. Faustina's Grove is the only place to be that night. Bring your family! Bring your neighbors! Bring your co-workers! Bring your friends! See you there!



Well Deserved Recognition

At the June meeting of the Newport Board of Commissioners, Irene Bezdziecki of Glen Lyon received special commendation for her volunteerism. She regularly picks up litter along Township highways. Pictured are: Atty. John Solt, Commissioner John Zyla, Irene Bezdziecki, Commissioners Paul Czapracki, Jack Vishnefski, Debbie Zaleski, and Township Manager Peter Wanchisen. Congratulations!

One Hundred Years Ago in Newport Township

From the Archives of the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, 1918:

July 1: Mr. and Mrs. Guy Croop of Sheatown received word Saturday from their son, Clarence, that he had arrived safely on French soil. Young Croop was sent to Camp Lee, Virginia, by the local exemption board on April 30th.

July 9: Mr. Reithofer's Carnival will be continued one week longer until July 14th, every night at 6:30 in Glen Lyon near Mr. Engel's shirt factory.

August 16: Vaccination of pupils attending the public schools of Newport Township, as required by the state health authorities, will be paid for by the school district. This was decided at a meeting of the board held in the high school building at Wanamie last night. The cost of vaccinating a pupil will be \$1 and the board members agreed that the expense should come out of the general treasury of the school board.

August 30: Hundreds of tickets have been sold for the dance to be held at Kirmar Park in Alden on next Wednesday night for the benefit of the Glen Lyon branch of the Red Cross. The sale of tickets is in charge of Miss Ethel Lask of Glen Lyon. Miss Blanche Frankel, of the local food administration office, has sold a large number of tickets.



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King Coal and Technology

By Thomas Izbicki ~ Anthracite was formed in the prehistoric valley of the Susquehanna River from fossilized plant life. By the early nineteenth century, it was a known resource in the Wyoming Valley; and there was mining in that Northern Coal Field. The development in 1808 of a grate for burning coal added an economic opportunity, sale for home heating. However, there were factors retarding economic growth. One was transportation. The big city markets were distant, and there were few economical means of reaching them. The Southern Coal Field was nearer Philadelphia, and overland transport to the five boroughs of New York was difficult by road. In addition, any deep mining, as it developed, was difficult and often dangerous. Only with improved technology would these challenges be resolved, although never perfectly. Mining anthracite remained dangerous for the miners, although thousands flocked to the Wyoming Valley from places as distant as Poland, Italy, and the Ukraine to find employment.

A few technologies were crucial to this development, the reign of King Coal. These fall into the areas of transportation and power for use in the coal fields, in both mining and processing. Satellite industries also supported the collieries and railroads. One should keep in mind, however, that technological change both raised up King Coal and brought him down. During the twentieth century, petroleum eventually displaced coal for railroad transportation, while oil, gas, and electric heating cut into the domestic heating market. Demand fell, and the Northern Coal Field suffered accordingly. The loss of opportunities led to migration out of the Wyoming Valley, just as mining jobs once increased the population.

Transportation:

Water, sea or river was the preferred way of transport in the early nineteenth century America. However, not all waters were navigable, and they did not provide access to all regions. The answer, at that time, was the canal. Canals were dug around problem areas of rivers, alongside long stretches of river and connecting waterways. Major efforts were made to better connect the eastern states by creating a network of these channels. One was the Pennsylvania canal, which reached Nanticoke by 1831 and Wilkes-Barre by 1834. This waterway provided a means of sending coal to market. Ironically, the railroad, which would eclipse the canal, was being developed in the same period.

The development of effective steam locomotives opened the way to railroads spanning the continent. The development, however, was disorganized with small local companies employing different widths of track and maintaining their own stations. Nonetheless, even before the Civil War, these companies were building routes which could carry products to market. In northeast Pennsylvania, this included links to the major cities. Tunnels and trestles allowed trains to overcome physical obstacles like rivers and mountains. For the Northern Coal Field that included an opening to New York, a major market for anthracite fuel for domestic heating. Coal cars were created to carry the product to market, and smaller "shifting cars" were manufactured for loading of anthracite within the mines. The increased demand for coal led to deeper and deeper digging, creating levels of tunnels, many linked between collieries, an underground labyrinth. Moreover, locomotives came to use coal in place of wood to fuel their fires and raise steam.

Within the Wyoming Valley, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, the Central Railroad of New Jersey, and the Pennsylvania Railroad built webs of rails to link collieries to the markets for coal. These major lines bought out lesser ones. They also bought out collieries or established new ones. For example, the Susquehanna Coal Company, a subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Railroad, established its own mines in Glen Lyon. Glen Lyon also had a narrow-gauge railroad linking #7 shaft with #6 shaft and the breaker in the middle of the town. By the early twentieth century, a state mine inspector noted that the Alden Coal Company was the largest not owned by a railroad. When miners began organizing unions they found themselves facing not just "coal barons" but large corporations.

Transport within the Valley was developed in other ways. Trollies connected communities and ran within Wilkes-Barre, the seat of Luzerne County. Paved roads were developed linking towns.

Coal trucks delivered anthracite to local consumers. Other trucks delivered goods to towns, while buses and automobiles eventually replaced the trollies as people movers. The mines had brought in new populations in large numbers. Many were immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe. Those who did not mine built up businesses supporting their communities. Satellite industries also flourished to supporting mining and transportation. The Vulcan Iron Works in Wilkes-Barre was founded in 1849. In its heyday it produced coalburning locomotives. It eventually branched out to constructing diesel locomotives too. Vulcan lasted until 1954, when the declining market for anthracite, displaced by gas, oil, and electric heating, sent the Northern Coal Field into economic decline. American Car and Foundry opened in Berwick in 1861, providing rolling stock for the railroads.

Mines and Breakers:

The growth of deep mines in northeast Pennsylvania and the opportunities for employment came at a price. The environment suffered from piles of coal waste or culm, some of which caught fire. (Fire in the Sulphur Bank overlooking Glen Lyon produced the rotten egg smell of sulphur dioxide, especially on rainy days.) Sulphur water polluted some streams. Moreover, there were threats to the safety of the miners. The deeper the shafts and tunnels went, the more likely they were to suffer from cave-ins and lack of breathable air. Hoisting coal out of deep tunnels presented another challenge. Underground water could flood the tunnels. In addition, carbon dioxide (black damp), "fire damp", and methane gases released when blasting out coal with dynamite or blasting powder could stifle miners or explode. This threat caused companies to appoint fire bosses to head off those threats. Needless to say, even safety measures and new technologies never made mining entirely safe.

The technologies available in the later nineteenth century were not adequate to deal with all of those problems. This is illustrated by the Avondale Mine Disaster in 1869. The timber props in Plymouth's Avondale mine caught fire, possibly from a nearby furnace used to create ventilation by heating the air and causing updraft through a flue. This was to make warm air in the Steuben Shaft rise, pulling down colder, fresher air. The fire ignited the wooden breaker set above the mine to make hauling up coal easier. This cut off the only means of entering or leaving the works. 108 workers suffocated underground. Rescue efforts were made by first lowering a dog into the shaft to determine if conditions were safe. However, blackdamp rose later and suffocated two rescuers. Carbon monoxide from burning coal added to the danger. A steam-driven fan was brought in, but its effects were minimized by remaining fires. Eventually water was pumped in to extinguish the flames. Only then were the bodies of the miners, men and boys, recovered. The state of Pennsylvania responded to this disaster with laws which, among other things, required that there be at least two entrances to every mine.

Major disasters were uncommon, but dangers loomed daily. The technologies available were inadequate until electricity was introduced into the mines. Mules were used to pull shifting cars in the tunnels. Canaries were used to detect gas, and small oil or carbide lamps were used by working miners to see the coal seams. Steam engines could be used on hoists, pumps, and fans. If a mine worker tried smoking on shift, the danger of fire was increased. (At least one mine helper in Nanticoke tried lighting his pipe only to kill himself, a miner, and the fire boss.) The introduction of electricity allowed for more effective hoists, sending miners down to work and raising them up together with their loaded cars. Electric lamps on miners' helmets gave light for working with diminished danger of fire or explosion. Improved pumps reduced the danger of flood, while electric fans provided safer and more reliable ventilation. Mules were replaced with electric engines for moving shifting cars. Despite all these measures, the reports of the mine inspectors show a slow but continuing stream of injuries and deaths until deep mining ceased.

Mining also took its toll in other ways. Miners frequently developed miner's asthma (black lung) or emphysema. Heavy drinking after work was not uncommon. Some walked around with the results of on the job accidents. (The grandfather of a college friend had fragments of coal embedded in his face.) These things being true, some mining families sought education for their children so that they could live safer, more healthy lives.

Once the coal was hauled to the surface, it has to be processed. The usual site was a breaker, a large structure using gravity to move the raw product downward as it was broken, cleaned and sorted before being loaded for transport at the bottom. The first was created in Philadelphia in 1844. The last in the Northern Coal Field was the Huber in Ashley, demolished in 2014. The earliest ones were labor intensive, with "breaker boys" as young as 8 picking out impurities by hand while seated over chutes or conveyer belts carrying the coal. These boys, often working 10-hour days 6 days a week, could easily lose fingers. Some even fell into the equipment and died, crushed, mangled or smothered. Consequently, Pennsylvania tried outlawing employment of children younger than 12, but the law often was ignored. Only with the development of breaker machinery did the use of "breaker boys" decline after 1900.

Once breaker technology was in place, the breaker still used gravity to move the coal, but the work was less labor-intensive. The coal was broken up by two metal rollers with teeth. At first it was dropped down a chute into a cylindrical screen. The coal was supposed to fall out, while slate and other impurities, being heavier, fell out the bottom. Later steam-powered shaking screens were used, the first being installed in 1890. Mechanical washers were added by 1892. The sizes of coal ranged from "steam" used to fuel ships through "stove" for home cooking to "pea" coal. A certain amount, called culm, exited with the impurities, providing the fuel for fires in culm or waste banks. Later sorters, installed in the 1920s and later, used air sorting, to find "pea" coal and even smaller sizes, and water sorters, floating coal to the top. Breakers, however they were worked, were full of coal dust and prone to fires. The Truesdale Breaker fire in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke (1953) and the Glen Lyon Breaker fire (1974) reveal how these structures could go up like torches.

Conclusion:

From a historical viewpoint, nature made the Northern Coal Field; but technology both made and unmade King Coal. The railroads opened markets far afield, but the companies took ownership of the mines. Deep mines were developed to meet the demand for fuel. Early technology was prone to accidents in the tunnels, but newer means reduced the danger. The earliest breakers were dangerous to workers, especially "breaker boys." Newer processing technology was safer but not without its problems. Overall, the mines produced thousands of tons of anthracite to feed stoves and furnaces. Satellite industries

provided locomotives and other equipment for mining and transportation. Increased populations lived off the mines, but they suffered when anthracite lost its market advantage. In the end, rival heating technologies, mostly petroleum based, dethroned King Coal. Populations declined, mines closed and breakers were demolished. Strip mines picked over the carcass. The environmental impacts still are felt, but the history remains.



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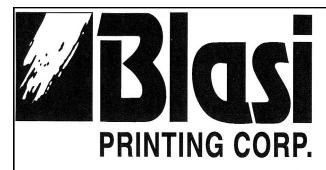
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Nanticoke Area Little League Opening Day

By Tom Kashatus ~ There is nothing more appropriate than having a Little League Opening Day commence with a parade through town, then finish the festivities at the field as the sun shines brightly while the dignitaries, players, and coaches are announced. However, there comes a time when Mother Nature and inclement weather comes into play; and it becomes impossible to do what is normal and hoped for. Well, that's what happened on Sunday, May 6th as rain would not keep Nanticoke Area Little League from having their opening day. However, the parade which was to start at Greater Nanticoke Area High School and end at Hillan Fields in Wanamie had to be cancelled.

Upon making a spur of the moment decision, a wise person decided to have the long traditional event at the High School gymnasium in Nanticoke. With full parking lots and the gymnasium packed to capacity, you could feel the excitement in the air that another great season was about to begin. Opening Day was carried out without a hitch. Master of Ceremonies, Dave Buchinski, announced all the awards, and recognized all teams, players, coaches, sponsors, etc. without a hitch. Finally, all of the players were treated to a pizza party. Now everyone is ready to PLAY BALL!!!



Pictured are Payton Kepp (L) and Katelyn Smith (R) with Little League President Wade Rowles. They were the first four-year-old T Ball players to join Nanticoke Area Little League. They will graduate from Little League this year.



Above: Brownie Troop, 32114 from Newport Township recognized and awarded Mrs. Phoebe Ann Hillan for her dedication to the girls of Newport Township as a Brownie leader for 35 years. Mrs. Hillan was present for the troop's investiture and "Bridging to Brownies" ceremony. She was then presented with an engraved trinket box thanking her for her efforts in Girl Scouting.



Pictured left is Aaron Miller of Glen Lyon who received three awards at the Greater Nanticoke Area Class of 2018 Awards Day: The Joyce L. Kiewlak Memorial Scholarship Award for his work in journalism, The 2018 Wegmans Scholarship Award for his strong work ethic and high GPA and the Newport Township Women's Activity Group Award for his dedication to community service.

NTCO Sponsors Minor League Red Devils Nanticoke Area Little League



Pictured (L to R) are: sitting Amelia Schneider, Sophia Pazgan, Willow Raggi, Alyvia Schneider, and Olivia Ventura. Kneeling are Saphire Maldonado, Keira Landmesser, Kacey Spencer, and Sophia Cromer. Standing are Julianna Park, Sierra Ripka, and Kate Reed. Coaches are: Katie Wolf, Judi Pazgan,

Rachel Roccograndi, and Bronwyn Perrins.

NTCO Sponsors Major League Red Devils



(L to R) are sitting: Ashley Mena, Jaden Pershalski, McKenna Golembeski, and Peyton Graboske. Kneeling are Kelsey Clark, Trinity Graboske, Olivia Seery, Abby Williams, and Kaelia Sekelski. Players standing are Gabby Cheslaw, Ashley Perez,

McKenzie Stratton, and Makenzie Cheslaw. Coaches standing are Paul Seery, Manager George Graboske, and Rick Sekelski



The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Adalbert's Church presented scholarship awards to two deserving high school graduates. Pictured are Heidi Jarecki, Jennifer Morgis, Stephie Stogoski, Benton Smith, Pastor Rev. Louis Kaminski, and Jamie Miller. Benton received the \$500.00 scholarship and Jamie's son, Aaron, received honorable mention. Both young men are from Glen Lyon.

Spring Events







Spring Bingo sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group on April 14.









Cleanup at the Recreation Park on April 19 sponsored by the Newport Township Recreation Board. At right is Irene Bezdziecki who regularly volunteers picking up litter on Newport Township roads.



Cleanup of Pipe Road in Glen Lyon was conducted by Newport Township Crime Watch and the Nanticoke Conservation Club on April 28.







On May 6, the Walking Trail at the Wanamie Recreation Park officially opened. At far left is the Newport Recreation Board: Heidi Jarecki, Jack Vishnefski, Kristen Kaminski, and Judy Pazgan. Absent, Valerie Bartle. Center: Rep. Gerry Mullery and sons stopped by. Thanks to the Newport Police Department and Fire Police for their support, as well as The R Bar and Parkway Inn.

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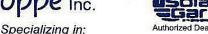


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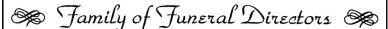
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Monthly Food Distribution

The Newport Township Community Organization, the Weinberg Regional Food Bank and the Newport Township American Legion are working together to host a Food Distribution for those in need. This event is open only to Newport Township residents and takes place on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the American Legion, 62 Newport Street, Glen Lyon from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Families that have never registered to receive food need to pre-register by contacting Palmira at 570-592-7876 or palmiram@newporttownship.com. Please give your address along with names and ages of everyone in your household including yourself. All recipients who have been receiving food will need to reregister in July. This means on the day of distribution you need to bring a form of identification for yourself and all those living with you as you did the first time registering. In order to save time at the July 25th food distribution, you can preregister on July 11th or 18th from 6 pm to 7 pm at the American Legion. On the day of the distribution, please bring a form of identification which includes an address and for EVERYONE in your household. Volunteers are needed to help unload the truck and for table set up between 4:30 pm and 6 pm. Cleanup takes place from 7 to 7:30. Thanks to all who help!



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.

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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 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.

Zip Code_

Phone number______Email address

Be Proud of Newport and Make Newport Proud of You!

~ The Late Honorable Paul R. Selecky

NTCO NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT

Contact Joe Maloney for more information at 570-736-6828

\$25.00 One-tenth-page or Business Card Size Ad

\$50.00 Quarter-page Size Ad\$75.00 One-half-page Size Ad

• \$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

Alternate Secretary/Treasurer: John Jarecki 570-736-6620 Newsletter Editors: Heidi & Paul Jarecki 570-733-2540

Advertising Agent: Joe Maloney 570-736-6828

Webmaster: Palmira Miller <u>palmiram@newporttownship.com</u> Assistant Webmaster: John Jarecki <u>jjarecki@pa.metrocast.net</u>

Website http://www.newporttownship.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Mary Jo Evans
 570-736-7277

 Heidi Jarecki
 570-733-2540

 Joe Maloney
 570-736-6828

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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