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

As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colors enough to paint the beautiful things I see.
Vincent Van Gogh



Milkweed pods, vital for monarch butterflies, along Kirmar Parkway

Newport Township Public Business

By John Jarecki ~ The following is an account of Newport Township public business arranged in two parts. The first is a discussion of continuing projects, and the second a discussion of items commented on or acted on by the Township Commissioners at their monthly meetings in July, August, and September 2025.

Nanticoke-West Nanticoke Bridge

As of February of 2023 Luzerne County has had access to \$55 million from casino gambling revenue that the County Council intends to spend on improvements to County roads and bridges. The Council has for some time been considering using at least part of this money for the replacement or repair of the Nanticoke-West Nanticoke bridge. In November 2023, Benesch engineering consulting firm gave the County three options for work on the Nanticoke bridge: full replacement taking 3.3 years at a cost of \$64 million and two rehabilitation options, one taking 3.1 years, at a cost of \$47.8 million, and the second taking 2.6 years at a cost of \$39.6 million. Benesch recommended full replacement of the bridge.

On January 23, 2024, Newport Township Commissioner John Zyla, Nanticoke Fire Chief Mark Boncal, Adviser to the Plymouth Township Supervisors Gail Conrad, and Newport Township Manager Joe Hillan

attended a meeting of the Luzerne County Council to express their opinion that complete replacement of the bridge, in order to accommodate more traffic, is the only way that this project will give access to the Lower South Valley for future economic and residential development.

At a County Council session on February 12, 2024, Terence Ostrowski, President/CEO of the nonprofit Earth Conservancy headquartered in Ashley, said that nearly 1,800 acres of economic development space is available in a corridor starting at the Dan Flood Industrial Park just outside Nanticoke and continuing into Newport Township, and that county officials should ensure the bridge plan they select can accommodate the increased traffic that he expects to come with development of this land.

In April 2024, Luzerne County received an additional \$10 million in federal funding for the bridge through the State's Transportation Improvement Program. In order to use the additional funding the County must conduct the project through the Engineering and Construction Management System of the State's Department of Transportation (PennDot).

In order to comply with PennDot's process, the county cannot use the Benesch recommendation as the basis for the project. Instead,

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the county must now solicit and review letters of interest from three engineering firms.

In March of 2025, engineers doing a scheduled inspection of the bridge discovered significant deterioration of load-carrying components, and the County Manager immediately closed it. In May, PennDot approved the selection of three engineering firms that submitted statements of interest in the bridge project. In August, the Luzerne County Council selected Modjeski and Masters Inc. as the engineer for the project. Modjeski and Masters is one of the world's leading bridge engineering firms. In December 2024 two of its bridge projects, one in Kingston, New York and another in Philadelphia, made the top ten national ranking by Roads & Bridges Magazine.

Glen Lyon Curb and Sidewalk Improvement Project: Funded by a \$1.4 million Luzerne County Infrastructure Improvement Grant that the Township received in 2018, this project has repaired sidewalks and curbs along Main Street in Glen Lyon. In February of 2022, the Township asked for bids for the project and in March awarded a contract to Multiscape Inc. of Pittston to do the work at a cost of \$1,117,190.03. Work began in April of 2022 and the project was completed in December 2023. Looking ahead toward further improvements, the Commissioners authorized Township Manager Joe Hillan to apply for a State gaming grant to extend the original sidewalk project by adding small lengths of sidewalk that need to be replaced, but were skipped because of cost, such as those in front of KVal convenience store and in front of St. Nicholas Church. In November of 2024, State Representative Alec Ryncavage notified the Township that the State had awarded a State gaming grant for \$261,000 for the extended work.

Blighted Property Remediation Project: During 2021, Newport Township received a State Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Blight Remediation grant of \$289,970 and an LSA (gaming) grant of \$250,000 for acquisition and demolition of blighted properties. Township officials first get permission from the owner to demolish the building, with the owner then keeping possession of the land on which the building stood.

There were 22 buildings in the first seven groups of properties chosen for demolition. The total cost of their demolition amounted to \$391,000. In addition, the building at 69-71 West Main Street in Glen Lyon (formerly Tarnowski's store) was also demolished in May 2022 at a cost of \$22,000 after a Luzerne County court ordered an emergency demolition.

In November 2023, Township officials announced that an Eighth Group of buildings, consisting of 28 Line Street and 48 Newport Street, was chosen for demolition. In February 2024 they awarded a contract to Smart Recycling to demolish 28 Line Street at a cost of \$11,800. Smart Recycling completed the demolition in March 2024. In September 2024, Bdaric Construction was awarded the contract for the demolition of the building at 48 Newport Street and the garage at 69-71 West Main Street. The company completed the work in mid-October of 2024. The Lower South Valley Land Bank, which acquired the properties in 2023, paid the cost of the work. In addition, the contractor constructed a fence along the sidewalk at 128 West Main Street, another Land Bank owned property. The total cost of the work was \$52,000.

In July 2025 the Township awarded a contract to low bidder Bdaric Construction to demolish the building at Rear 1048 East Main Avenue in Wanamie at a cost of \$16,500. Demolition was done in August 2025. With completion of this demolition, the Township has used all the money allocated for demolitions in the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Blight Remediation grant and the LSA (gaming) grant, both of which it received in 2021.

Establishing Newport Township Zoning: In July 2025, the Commissioners approved Ordinance #5 of 2025 establishing a Newport Township Planning Committee to establish the means by which the Township can do its own zoning. At this time, Luzerne County provides zoning services. The Commissioners also did the following. 1) They appointed Paul Czapracki, Mike Roke, and John Zyla to the Planning Committee. 2) They approved a motion to advertise and hold a public hearing 45 days from the date of the July Commissioners meeting in order to have a discussion of the adoption and enactment of a Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Use Ordinance and to submit

these ordinances to the Luzerne County Planning Commission for review and comment.

In September, the Commissioners voted to approve holding a public hearing on September 22, 2025 concerning the proposed Newport Township Zoning and related Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances (SALDO). This meeting was subsequently rescheduled.

Lower South Valley Land Bank: In August 2022, the Commissioners approved Ordinance #2 of 2022 authorizing the Township Manager to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with other parties of Luzerne County for the purpose of establishing the Lower South Valley Land Bank. Under Pennsylvania law, a land bank has the advantage of being able to acquire a property at a judicial tax sale (free and clear sale) without having to bid.

In November 2024, the Commissioners appointed Township Manager Joseph Hillan as a member of the Lower South Valley Land Bank Board of Directors.

July 7, 2025: Residents' Comments: A Township resident said that a neighbor was living in a house designated as uninhabitable. Township Manager Joe Hillan said that said he would ask the code enforcement officer to look into the matter.

Meeting Business: Township Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that in the first six months of 2025, the Township had income of \$1,270,190.11 and expenses of \$1,223,546.44.

The Commissioners approved a legal service proposal with the Slusser Law Firm to provide legal services: negotiation of local host fees and of community benefit agreements with Township businesses and businesses intending to locate in the Township.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following item in his report: On June 15 the Township sent certified letters notifying 49 residents who did not pay the Refuse and Recycling Fee that, if they did not pay the fee by June 28, the Township would file citations with the magistrate.

August 4, 2025: Residents' Comments: A resident said that the Township is failing, in many cases, to cite people who violate local ordinances, for example, illegal storage of refuse and illegal parking. The Commissioners replied that Township authorities do not always know about illegal activity and invited residents to report such behavior so that they can respond appropriately.

Palmira Miller thanked the volunteers who worked at the July Food Distribution to needy families and the Township police officers who managed the heavy traffic at the July Distribution when many people came to the annual registration.

Meeting Business: Township Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that for the first seven months of 2025 the Township had income of \$1,391,051.43 and expenses of \$1,357,412.19.

The Commissioners voted to accept the resignation of Stephen Pohlig as part time Department of Public Works (DPW) employee and to hire Cody Cragle as part time DPW employee.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following items in his report:

- 1) Magistrate Whitaker has scheduled 27 hearings on August 27 for those who failed to pay the Refuse and Recycling Fee. However, 99% of residents paid for the year.
- 2) The Township submitted a request for a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Act 101 Section 902 Recycling Grant as reimbursement for our purchase of a recycling truck. The State has approved the request and we will receive \$158,197.00 in 4 to 6 weeks.

September 2, 2025: Residents' Comments: Palmira Miller thanked the volunteers and Fire Police who worked at the August Food Distribution at the Recreation Park in Wanamie.

Meeting Business: Financial Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that for the first eight months of 2025 Township income was \$1,680,813.81 and expenditures were \$1,530,971.92.

The Commissioners voted to accept the unexpected resignation of Debbie Zaleski from the Township Board of Commissioners effective August 31, 2025.

The Commissioners voted to appoint Ray Wendolowski, of the law firm Fellerman and Ciarimboli, as conflict counselor for all matters related to Newport Township.

The Commissioners voted to award to Penn Eastern Engineers a \$25,000 contract for engineering work on a 2024 Luzerne County street

paving project. They also voted to award to Pennsy Supply a \$208,791 contract for construction work on the same paving project. This project involves paving Line Street, Fairfield Street, and part of Spring Street. It also involves putting wheelchair ramps on Orchard, Spring, and Coal Streets. All work will be done in Glen Lyon.

The Commissioners voted to authorize Township Manager Joe Hillan to apply for State gaming grants as follows: a grant in the amount of \$564,266 to fund the repaving of seven roadways in the Township, a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to fund the placing of two monuments that have been sponsored by the Newport Township Community Organization at the Township Municipal Building, and a grant of up to \$750,000 to fund improvements at the Wanamie Recreation Park and the Alden Playground.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following items in his report:

1) The Township has calculated the 2026 minimum municipal obligations (MMO's) for its pension plans as follows: Police Pension Plan, \$104,670; Non-Uniform Plan, \$20,050; and Fireman's Plan, \$0. An MMO is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania mandated smallest amount a municipality must contribute to any pension plan established for its employees.

2) The building at 1048 Rear East Main Avenue in Wanamie was demolished on August 20. With completion of this demolition, the Township has used all the money allocated for demolitions in the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Blight Remediation grant and an LSA (gaming) grant, both of which it received in 2021. The total of the two grants was \$548,870.

NTCO President's Report

By Stephen Phillips ~ As noted in this publication's summer Community Newsletter, the NTCO indicated that it planned to install several monuments on the vacant parcel adjacent to the entrance to the Township's municipal building. Plans call for the placement of three different items directly related to the municipality. One will note the establishment of the Township in 1773, another will pay homage to the military service rendered by Township residents throughout its history, and the third will be installed on a stone donated by Don E. Bower Inc. taken from its Cedar Rock Quarry in Salem Township, symbolizing our beloved Township's strength, resiliency, and fortitude. As previously mentioned in a prior edition, this project was conceived to memorialize Newport Township and acknowledge this Organization's key role in supporting the Community over the past two-plus decades. We all recognize that volunteerism is on the wane, and the age of committed volunteers is increasing, thus a decision was made to proceed with this project. Our fundraising for this endeavor has already commenced. You are respectfully requested to participate. The first contribution has been received from the Earth Conservancy, which has previously been a major contributor to numerous public undertakings within Newport Township. Acting upon the suggestion of State Representative Alec Ryncavage, and with the support of the Township's Board of Commissioners, funding will also be sought from the Commonwealth's Gaming Share Funding Program to assist in implementing this project. The results of this proposed application will not be determined until April of 2026. To maintain eligibility for these public funds, no definitive project-related activities can be implemented until the State acts on the subject application. This Organization has begun working with Frank Grontkowski Monuments Inc. during the proposed project's planning phase. This firm has been very helpful during its interactions with the NTCO.

A major project of your Community Organization continues to be the food distribution which takes place on the second Saturday of each month at the Township's garage adjacent to the Municipal Building. Depending upon registrations, the NTCO, in concert with the Commission on Economic Opportunity's Weinberg Food Bank, distributes diverse food parcels to 150 to 200 eligible recipients. Volunteers are cordially invited to participate in this very worthwhile community endeavor. Please contact Palmira Miller, program manager for additional information if you wish to participate. She can be reached at 570-592-7876.

Kudos should be given to Amy Saraka and members of the Newport Township Crime Watch for their successful National Night Out held on August 5. All those who participated in this event should be congratulated for exhibiting their community spirit.

Again we request that readers of this publication strongly consider assisting the volunteer groups which diligently strive to continue their efforts to make Newport Township a better place in which to live and prosper.

You are reminded if you have a concern or if you wish to report anything you feel violates a Township ordinance, please notify the Township officials

in order that your question can be addressed. Remember the old adage, "If you see something, say something." Please continue to help us make the community better. It takes a joint effort on the part of all of us.

The NTCO gratefully acknowledges the monetary donations from the following: Charlotte Santry, the Earth Conservancy, Kaylen Thomas, Elaine Lazar, Marilyn Greytock, Ted Evan, Marion Hidlay, Barbara Terkoski, and Richard Barski. We also thank our donors who wish to remain anonymous. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

The Newport Township Lions Club held its annual golf tournament on August 22 at the Wilkes-Barre Municipal Golf Course. The winners are as follows:



Champion Flight: Ashley Rokosz and Holly Udzella.

First Flight: Bobby Jones and Nick Allardyce.

Second Flight: John Zyla and Mike Rutkowski.

Third Flight: Paul Degillo and Lee Ann McDermott.

Fourth Flight: John Pekarovsky Jr.

The Lions wish to thank all participants and donors for making this a successful event. Money realized goes towards community projects and academic and sports scholarships.



At the September meeting, the Township Commissioners voted to accept the unexpected resignation of Debbie Zaleski from the Newport Township Board of Commissioners effective August 31, 2025. At a special meeting on September 22, David Saraka of Wanamie was sworn in by Magistrate Don Whitaker, shown at left, to fill the vacancy.



Dr. Janusz Wolanin, long-time family physician to many Newport Township residents with offices in Nanticoke, Mountain Top, and formerly in Glen Lyon, has retired. The NTCO wishes him good health and happiness in this next phase of his life. Powodzenia!



Have Newsletter Will Travel
 Above right: **Carol and John Jarecki** spent a enjoyable week at the shore at Ocean City, Maryland. While there, they visited the Assateague Island National Seashore, an island of sandy beaches, salt marshes, over 300 species of birds, including seagulls and egrets, and also wild ponies. The ponies are thought to be descendants of domesticated horses brought to the island by local owners in the late 17th century to avoid fencing laws and taxes.

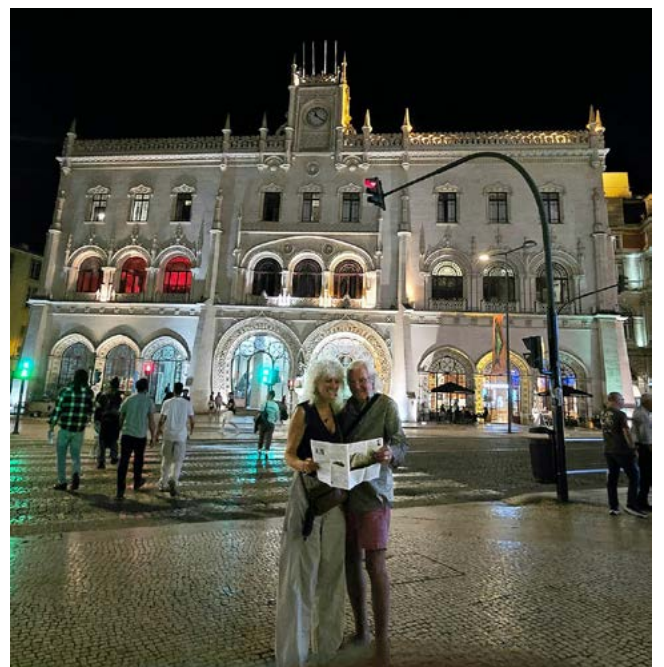
At right are **Cynthia and Jerry Formulak** celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary at the Imperial Resort on Waikiki Beach, Hawaii. One of the most famous beaches in the world, Waikiki boasts breathtaking views of Lē'ahi (Diamond Head). It is considered the birthplace of modern surfing, with golden sands and turquoise water.



Above are **Heidi and Paul Jarecki** on Mary's Mountain near Colville, WA. The main mountain ranges are the Selkirk Mountains and the Kettle River Range, which are part of the northern Rocky Mountains. The city of Colville is located in the Colville River Valley, within the Colville National Forest, an area that features these ranges and the Columbia River.



At left **John and Chris Selecky** take the Newsletter to Lisbon Cathedral. This Catholic church, better known as Sé de Lisboa, is the oldest and most important church in the city. Its construction dates back to the 12th century and is predominantly Romanesque in style. Its centerpiece is a central rose window. At right, John and Chris stand in front of Rossio Railway Station in Lisbon, Portugal, located in Rossio Square. The station was formerly known as Estação Central (Central Station). Trains gain access to the station, which is in the central urban area of Lisbon, through a tunnel which is almost 2 miles long. It opened in 1891.





In the early morning hours of July 7, the Newport Township Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 198-200 East Main Street in Glen Lyon. No injuries were reported. The home sustained heavy smoke and water damage.



This structure located at R1028 East Main Avenue in Wanamie was demolished in August by Bdaric Construction. It was formerly the residence of Joe Eckrote, and had been vacant for some time. All of the funding for removal of blighted properties the Township received from grants has now been used up. A job well done! While the Township has diligently worked to remove eyesores, there remain some structures that could be considered for demolition.

The Floryshak Family Glen Lyon Community Grant to be offered for the 2025-2026 school year

This award will provide financial assistance in the form of a \$2,000 grant for help with the recipient's educational expenses to an accredited institution. The institution can be a 4 year, 2 year, or vocational program. The recipient must be a graduating senior student at Greater Nanticoke Area High School and will be selected based on positive community involvement as well as school and extracurricular activities.

The donors of the award are Vincent Floryshak and Diane Grudkowski Floryshak, 1971 graduates of Nanticoke Area High School, and is given to honor the Floryshak Family.

Recipient selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Current residency of three years or more in Glen Lyon.
2. Documented participation in community service to either the high school or local area, e.g.- food banks, service organizations, religious group involvement, first responder assistance, Boy scouts/Girl Scouts, student council, etc. There are many other examples.
3. Sports involvement with the high school. Two years varsity activity with any sport, band participation, or cheerleading/pep squad membership. Medical waivers are possible.
4. An up to one page essay on how you would further help the Glen Lyon community "if you became mayor today".
5. Letters of recommendation from one teacher and from one community leader.
6. Copy of high school transcript. This grant is heavily based on community involvement, not on GPA.

A formal application will be available in the high school guidance office for all interested applicants. The grant recipient will be announced at the school awards day program. The grant money will be sent to the recipient's school financial office.

The Newport Township Board of Commissioners would like to thank the residents of Newport Township for their co-operation with the glass-recycling program. Residents are encouraged to continue to drop off their clean glass bottles and jars in the dumpster located at the Municipal Building parking lot. This is a reminder that the dumpster is for clean glass bottles and clean glass jars only.

Joe Hillan
Township Manager



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Taste of the Township Butter

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~

"With enough butter, anything is good." ~ Julia Child

Butter is a dairy product made from the fat and protein components of churned cream or milk. By the process of churning, the fat globules are separated from the buttermilk. Churning produces small butter grains floating in the water-based portion of the cream. This watery liquid is called buttermilk. The buttermilk is drained off and the leftover solids are the butter. Butter is a water-in-oil emulsion where the milk proteins are the emulsifiers. Salt has been added to butter since antiquity to help to preserve it, particularly when being transported. Further removing the water and milk solids produces clarified butter. Clarified butter is almost pure butterfat. It is made by heating unsalted butter to its melting point and then allowing it to cool; after settling, the remaining components separate by density. At the top, whey proteins form a skin, which is removed. The resulting butterfat is then poured off from the mixture of water and casein proteins that have settled to the bottom.

Butter remains a firm solid when refrigerated, but softens to a spreadable consistency at room temperature, and melts to a thin liquid consistency at 90 to 95°F. It consists of approximately 80% butterfat and it generally has a pale yellow color, but varies from deep yellow to nearly white. It is used at room temperature as a spread, melted as a condiment, and used as a fat in baking, sauce-making, pan frying, and other cooking procedures. Most frequently made from cow's milk, butter can also be manufactured from the milk of other mammals, including sheep, goats, buffalo, and yaks. Commercial butter is about 80% butterfat and 15% water; traditionally-made butter may have as little as 65% fat and 30% water. Butterfat, or milkfat, is the natural fat found in milk and is responsible for the rich taste, texture, and body of dairy products like butter, cream, and cheese. It consists of various triglycerides, with its specific composition varying based on the animal's diet, and plays a role in nourishing young animals and providing essential vitamins.

It is likely butter began as an accident; but it quickly became a staple for people who lived near herds of cows, goats, sheep, reindeer, camels, and water buffalo. The earliest milk production would have been from sheep or goat's milk in the area of Iran and Iraq around 9,000 to 8,000 BCE and butter would have soon been found naturally in milk containers. Until the 19th century, the vast majority of butter was made by hand on farms. The first butter factories appeared in the United States in the early 1860's. Butter consumption declined in most western nations during the 20th century, mainly because of the rising popularity of margarine, which is less expensive and, until recent years, was perceived as being healthier. In the United States, margarine consumption overtook butter during the 1950's. It is still the case today that more margarine than butter is eaten in the U.S. and the European Union. The word butter derives from the Latin *butyrum*, which comes from the Greek *βούτυρον* (*bouturon*), meaning ox or cow.

Butter Facts

1. In antiquity, butter was used for fuel in lamps as a substitute for oil. The Butter Tower of Rouen Cathedral was erected in the early 16th century when Archbishop Georges d'Amboise authorized the

burning of butter during Lent, instead of oil, which was scarce at the time.

2. Butter was so popular that in the 19th century, a French chemist by Napoleon's demand created the butter-like spread now called margarine. It was made of rendered beef fat and milk for some flavor.
3. There are no trans-fats in butter and it also contains vitamins A, E, D and K. Butter contains a four-carbon fatty acid called butyrate, an anti-inflammatory, known to have powerful protective effects on the digestive system and may also prevent weight gain. Butter also contains the hard-to-find K2 vitamin. K2 improves calcium metabolism. K2 deficiency has been associated with diseases including cardiovascular disease, cancer and osteoporosis.
4. Butter was so precious to Norsemen that they were buried with large tubs full of the stuff to take with them into the afterlife. Europeans referred to the invading Vikings as "butter eaters."
5. Butter has a melting temperature of 98.6°F, exactly the same temperature inside the mouth (at least for 99.7% of us). This is what gives butter its rich, creamy feel in the mouth.
6. Is moldy cheese a common occurrence in your refrigerator? Give semi-hard cheese a light coat of butter to keep it fresh and mold-free. Each time you use the cheese, coat the cut edge with butter before you wrap it and you'll stave off that mold for weeks.
7. It takes about 21 pounds of whole milk to make 1 pound of butter.
8. Whipped butter is made by whipping nitrogen gas into the butter. The oxygen in normal air would promote oxidation and rancidity, but nitrogen gas is non-reactive.
9. Butter is a key ingredient in many cuisines worldwide. From French pastries to American comfort food, butter enhances the flavor and texture of countless dishes.
10. Unsalted butter's main benefit is providing precise salt control for baking and cooking, allowing for pure, unadulterated flavor.
11. Butter was once churned by dogs on treadmills.
12. Butter sculpting is a unique art form, particularly popular in the United States. State fairs often feature intricate butter sculptures that can weigh hundreds of pounds.



This newly published book by George Pawlush features short biographies of athletes with Carpatho-Rusyn roots, some of them from Northeastern Pennsylvania. One is boxer Freddy Haverlak who grew up in Alden and another is groundskeeper George Toma from Edwardsville. The book is available through Amazon and the price is \$20.00.



Holy Spirit Parish sponsored a pilgrimage walk from St. Mary's Church in Mocanaqua to St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon on July 26. Led by Raphael Micca, about forty people participated in the 6 mile hike through the woods of the Pinchot Forest, with prayers and songs along the way. Following Mass said by Rev. Philbert Takyi-Nketiah, the pilgrims were served lunch by the Altar and Rosary Society and friends. At left are members of the Society Carol Sobotka, Janice Howell, Carol Wilkes, Sylvia Vassia, Jennifer Morgis, and Heidi Jarecki. Not pictured are Jane Straub, Susan Braden, Theresa Langan, Barbara Yacuboski, and Marion Hidlay. A bus returned the pilgrims to their cars in Mocanaqua.

The parish also held St. Anne's Novena from July 17 to the 25 at St. Adalbert's. July 26 is the feast day of St. Anne, who is the holy mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus.

The Diocese of Scranton has announced that the Church of St. Adalbert will close on January 11, 2026 and Holy Spirit Parish will dissolve. St. Mary's in Mocanaqua will then become a worship site of St. Faustina's in Nanticoke.



TARNOWSKI'S KIELBASA

579 EAST MAIN STREET ♦ NANTICOKE, PA 18634

"The Original Recipe Since 1946"

You Can't Beat Our Meat!

Plymouth Alive
1st Place 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024
Best Smoked Keilbasa

Plymouth Alive 2025
1st Place 2016, 2021, 2023
Best Fresh Keilbasa

570-736-6585 John & Anastasia Vishnefski

Once again, **John and Anastasia Vishnefski**, proprietors of Tarnowski's Kielbasa on East Main Street in Nanticoke, were declared first place winners in the fresh kielbasa category at the Plymouth Alive Kielbasa Festival on August 8 and 9. This marked the 21st year for the popular festival which also features polka music.



On June 28, the parishioners of **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church** in Alden held a shrimp dinner in the church hall. The dinner featured large cooked shrimp, French fries, cole slaw and dessert. Shown at left are Heidi Jarecki, Carol and John Jarecki. Paul Jarecki was also present.

The annual **Fall Festival** at St. Andrew's will be held on October 3 and 4, with mums and fall decorations for sale, as well as a bake sale, lottery board and basket raffle. Hot dogs and hamburgers can also be purchased. Come and join the fun!



At left is **State Senator Lisa Baker** who attended the Fall Craft Fair at the Wanamie Recreation Park on September 6. She was available to discuss any issues with Township residents. At right are Ed Padagomas, Cory Linker, and Tim Derr who formed the honor guard at the **Watchfire** ceremonies at the Glen Lyon American Legion on Friday September 19. Each year, the **Walk of Warriors** (pictured below) raises funds to benefit the families of POW/MIA members of all branches of the military. The walk begins at St. Nicholas Church on East Main Street and ends at the Legion on Newport Street. The Watchfire ceremony concludes the event. The Watchfire is a military tradition that took place at the end of a battle. A fire was lit to provide a beacon for those lost so that they could find their way home.





Valley With a Heart

The annual Valley With a Heart benefit took place on August 31 at St. Faustina's Parish Grove in Sheatown. Valley with a Heart has helped seriously ill children and their families with expenses for about 25 years. This year's poster child is 10-year-old Kevin Green III who was diagnosed with a rare form of childhood bone cancer. The 2025 edition featured a motorcycle run, food, and 15 bands.



Above, **Glen Lyon American Legion Officers** Amber Borysewicz, Patrick McMullen, John Wildes, and Tim Derr sworn in by District Commander Charles Stockage. At left, **Auxiliary Officers** sworn in by District President Marcia Finn. L to r : Charles Stockage, Faye Maloney, Sabrina Wildoner, Heidi Jarecki, Marcia Finn, Tiffany Graham, Faith Kropiewnicki, Eileen Case, and Danielle Hazlak. The Legion will host a family **Halloween Party** on Halloween Night beginning at 5 pm. Costumes highly encouraged!



At left are the officers and members of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary. L to r: Faye Maloney, John Wildes, Donna Burd, Tim Derr, District Commander Charles Stockage, Patrick McMullen, Amber Borysewicz, Danielle Hazlak, Tiffany Graham, Sabrina Wildoner, Faith Kropiewnicki, and Heidi Jarecki.

A **Spaghetti Dinner** is planned for Veteran's Day, November 11 at the Legion Hall from 5 to 7. Veterans eat for free, everyone else \$10. Public is invited.

Obituaries

By Tom Kashatus ~ These obituaries are in reference to individuals who have ties to Newport Township and/or Newport Township High School. They are published in abbreviated form due to limited space; thusly, a more complete obituary can be found on our website, www.newporttownship.com. There is also a link leading to the original newspaper obituary or that of the funeral home. Your comments are always welcome and if someone is missed, please notify this writer at tomkashatus@gmail.com or call 570-736-6981.

ADAMS, Daniel Eugene, 86, of Kissimmee, FL; formerly of Sweet Valley, Newport Township, and Nanticoke; passed away at Kissimmee, FL, on September 15, 2024. He was born on August 25, 1938, in Sweet Valley; he was the son of the late Daniel and Eunice (nee Cragle) Adams. He attended Nanticoke schools, and enlisted in the US Army serving a 3-year tour in Germany after basic training. After military service, he worked at and retired from Tobyhanna Army Depot and later became self-employed in an electronics business in Wanamie. Daniel was predeceased by his wife of 25 years, Alice (nee Bonning /Janusz) Adams; brothers, Donald, Edward, William, Kenneth, and John; and sisters, Janice, Marilyn, and Nancy. He is survived by his brother, Frank; and sisters, Patricia Adams Graboske and Linda Adams Hanlon of Glen Lyon.

NOSS, Russell "Russ" David Sr., 62, of Nanticoke, formerly of Newport Township, died on January 23, 2025, at his home. Russ was born in Nanticoke on January 14, 1963, the son of the late Russell and Marion (nee Keller) Noss. He was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1981. He served honorably in the US Army and later found employment in construction. Russ was a member of the Lt. Chester Strzalka VFW Post 8353 of Glen Lyon. He was predeceased by his brother, Matthew Noss and sister, Leslie Fogarty. He is survived by his son, Russ D. Noss Jr.; brothers, Todd Noss of Nanticoke, Keith Noss of Shickshinny, and Philip Noss; and sisters, Patti Bobrowski and Beth McCartney.

GRYZIEC, Anne M. (nee Sabanos), 86, of Rahway, NJ, formerly of Newport Township, passed away June 11, 2025, at St. Joseph's Senior Home, Woodbridge, NJ. Anne was born in Mocanaqua on June 8, 1939; she was the daughter of the late George and Veronica (nee Jarrick) Sabanos. She was raised in Lee and attended Newport Township schools before moving to Rahway many years ago. She had been employed by and retired from Beechum Labs and was a communicant of St. Mary's Church of Rahway. Anne was predeceased by her husband of 66 years, Anthony "Coach" Gryziec Sr.; brothers, Michael, George, and Joseph Sabanos; and sisters, Mary Ezzyk and Giselle Mierzwa. She is survived by her brother, Steven "Clem" Sabanos and sister, Margaret Kashatus of Glen Lyon.

JONES, Carol A. (nee Harmon), 78, of Sheatown, passed away June 14, 2025, at Birchwood Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center of Nanticoke. Carol was born in Hunlock Creek on September 25, 1946; she was the daughter of the late Lamon and Lillian (nee Hartman) Harman. She was a graduate of Northwest Area High School with the Class of 1966. She had been employed by OMalia Laundry in Luzerne, Alta Products in Hanover Township, and retired from Birchwood Nursing Center. She was a member of the former United Methodist Church of Alden. Besides her parents, Carol was predeceased by her husband of 27 years Donald W. Jones. She is survived by her sister, Marilyn Washcalus.

KUSHIBAB, Adelaide Joanna (nee Sergott), 100, of Phoenix, AZ, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away June 12, 2025. Adelaide was born in Glen Lyon on February 27, 1925, the daughter of the late Joseph and Joanna (nee Klaban) Sergott. She was raised in Glen Lyon, graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1942 and Kings County School of Nursing in Brooklyn, NY. She served as a registered nurse and as an instructor at Phoenix Vocational High School. Adelaide was predeceased by her husband of 41 years, Joseph Kushibab. She was a long-time subscriber to this Newsletter.

PRICE, Sarah E. "Sallie," 85, of Highland Park Senior Living in Wilkes-Barre Township, formerly long-time resident of Alden, passed away June 12, 2025, at the Hospice of the Sacred Heart, Dunmore. Sallie was born on January 27, 1940; she was the daughter of the late James and Margaret (nee Fine) Price. She was raised in Alden and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1957 and Wilkes College with the Class of 1961. Sallie taught English at

Coughlin High School in Wilkes Barre retiring after 30 years. She was predeceased by her sister, M. Carole Pffifferling, and long-time companion, John Rowlands. She is survived by her cousin, Dr. William Raub.

STEEVER, David William, 75, of Sheatown, formerly of Plymouth, passed away on June 30, 2025 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. David was born in Philadelphia on April 30, 1950, the son of the late Charles V. and Miriam (nee Pollard) Steever. The family returned to Plymouth after his father's passing where David was raised. David graduated from Wyoming Valley West High School with the Class of 1968. He furthered his education at the University of Scranton and Penn State University. He was a teacher at Greater Nanticoke Area and retired after 32 years. He is survived by his wife and best friend, Pamela Steever.

SHIMKO, Barbara A. (nee Jezewski), 83, of Sheatown, passed away on July 3, 2025 at Allied Service Hospice Center, Wilkes Barre. Barbara was sole owner and proprietor of Barbara's Custom Floral which she started in the family garage in West Nanticoke. The business moved to Sheatown in 1976. Barbara was born on May 6, 1942, and raised in West Nanticoke; she was the oldest child of the late Stanley Sr. and Helen (nee Burdinski) Jezewski. She attended St. Stanislaus Catholic School in Nanticoke and graduated from St. John Nepomucene, Stratford, CN as a member of the Commercial Class of 1958. She also worked for Commonwealth Telephone of Shickshinny. Her creativity with floral arrangements was remarkable and her talent, dedication, and care touched countless lives throughout Wyoming Valley. She was a long-time advertiser in this Newsletter. Surviving are daughter Angie Rittenhouse; son, Mark Shimko and wife, Jody Shimko; grandchildren; and sister Carolyn Brozowski,

SMETANA, Carol A. (nee Fink), 87, of Pond Hill, Conyngham Township, passed away on July 20, 2025, at Mountain Top Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. Carol was born at home in Nuangola on December 29, 1937, the daughter of the late Lloyd and Lenore (Bigger) Fink. She was raised in Stearns, graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1955, and continued her education at Wilkes-Barre Business School. She worked as a secretary for the US Air Force at various locations – the Pentagon; Andrews Air Force Base, MD; Tachikawa Air Force Base, Japan; and Clark Air Force Base, the Philippines. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Pond Hill. Carol was predeceased by her husband, Michael A. Smetana and brother, Lloyd Fink. She is survived by her daughters, Suzanne Paul Carman, Roxanne Pretty, and Cheryl Eybs; brother, Chris Fink; and sisters, Alice Canham, Miriam Romblad, and Jane Roseman.

FLORYSHAK, Margaret "Pegge" N. (nee Cease), 95, of Glen Lyon, formerly of Plymouth, passed away on July 22, 2025, at the Lakewood Nursing and Healthcare Center in Sheatown. Margaret was born in Plymouth on October 24, 1929, the daughter of the late Olin and Anna (nee Hughes) Cease. She graduated from Plymouth High School with the Class of 1947; continued her education at Nesbitt Hospital School of Nursing and became a Registered Nurse; and further received a BS Degree in Nursing Education from College Misericordia. Margaret served her country as a nurse for the US Navy from 1953-55 and upon returning home, was a school nurse for Plymouth High School. Margaret was predeceased by her husband of 48 years, Henry J. Floryshak. She is survived by her daughter, Mary M. Gillette (husband, William Noonan); son, John Floryshak (wife, Janinne) of Glen Lyon with whom she resided; son, James; and brother, Glenn Cease (wife, Thelma) of AZ.

PAZGAN, Jean (nee Krzyniewski), 93, of Wanamie, passed away on July 30, 2025, at Hospice of the Sacred Heart of Dunmore. Jean was born in Nanticoke; she was the daughter of the late Clem and Sophie (nee Stachowiak) Krzyniewski, both of Nanticoke. She was employed as a seamstress for Leslie Fay and, after retirement, spent 20 years in Nanticoke schools as a Teacher Assistant with the Foster Grandparent Program. "Jean Jean" mainly spent her life being a mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Jean was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Anthony A. Pazgan and brothers, Walter and Carl Krzyniewski. She is survived by daughters, Cynthia Roback and Judy Pazgan with whom she resided.

JARUSEWSKI, Marie A. (nee Dolinski), 93, of Carlisle, PA, passed away on June 7, 2024 at Green Ridge Village in Newville, PA. Marie was born in Glen Lyon on April 3, 1931; she was the daughter of the late John and Mary E. (nee Harcharik) Dolinski. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1948 and the former Drake College of Elizabeth, NJ. Marie was employed as a Claims Representative for the Social Security Administration; Merchandiser,

Recruiter, and Trainer for American Greeting Cards; and member of AARP 4377. Marie was predeceased by her husband, Stanley J. Jarusewski Jr. She is survived by two daughters, Maureen E. Clay and Pamela M. Rajtik and two sons, Commander (Retired USNA) Alan J. Jarusewski and Scott D. Jarusewski; and sister, Eleanor Mejasich of Venice, FL.

WILDONER, Jeremy George aka "Scrap-Man," 50, of Glen Lyon, passed away on Tuesday, August 6, 2025 at home. Jeremy was born in Wilkes-Barre on March 18, 1975; he was the son of Jerry and the late Donna (nee Ricketts) Wildoner. He was raised in Glen Lyon and attended schools in Newport Township and Nanticoke. He is survived by his wife, Roberta Carol Wildoner.

VANDERMARK, Harold J., 85, a life resident of Wanamie, passed away Monday, August 11, 2025, at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Hospital. Harold was born at home in Wanamie, the son of the late Howard and Gertrude (nee Finley) Vandermark. He attended Newport Township schools. He enlisted in the US Army and served with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY for three years prior to being honorably discharged. He was a member of St. Faustina Kowalska Parish of Nanticoke. He was employed in the Wanamie coal mines and with Biscontini Coal Company in Sheatown. Later he was employed at Independent Explosives of Avoca prior to retirement. Harold was predeceased by his wife, Lee (nee Belles); brother, Billy Vandermark; and sister, Eileen Ferlick. He is survived by brother Edward Vandermark.

SHERRICK, Sophie C. (nee Gabrish), 106, of Glen Lyon, passed away on August 11, 2025 at Birchwood Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center of Nanticoke. Sophie was born in May, 1919 in Thorpe, West Virginia; she was the daughter of the late Paul and Jennie (nee Maday) Gabrish. She was a member of Holy Spirit Parish/St. Adalbert's Church and American Legion Post 539 Auxiliary, both of Glen Lyon. She had been employed locally in the garment industry until her retirement. Sophie was predeceased by her husband, Stanley Sherrick Sr. and her daughter Susan. She is survived by her son, Stanley Sherrick.

TANEY, Sarah Ellen (nee Rinehimer), 92, a lifetime resident of Dorrance, passed away August 14, 2025. Sarah was born in Dorrance Township on July 1, 1933; she was the daughter of the late Earl R. and Mable R. (nee Smith) Rinehimer. She was raised in Dorrance and attended Dorrance and Newport Township schools. She was a member of Saint James Lutheran Church of Hobbie. She worked as a seamstress for many local garment factories, including Ronnie Dress Factory for over 28 years. She retired from Wendy's of Drums after 14 years at age 81. Sarah was predeceased by her husband of 64 years, Eugene E. Taney; and sister, Doris Bower. She is survived by two children, Jeanie Mylet and Zane Taney, both of Dorrance Township.

SIRAK, Helene (nee Lenar), 97, of Hanover Township, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on Sunday, August 24, 2025, at Allied Hospice of Wilkes-Barre. Helene was born on August 11, 1928 in Wilkes-Barre; she was the daughter of the late John Lenar and Helen (nee Mikula) Lenar. From age 3, she was raised at St. Stanislaus Orphanage in Sheatown and attended Newport Township schools. Prior to retirement, she was employed as a seamstress by R&K Dress, Cornet Dress, and Empire Dress. She was a member of the ILGWU and S. S. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church of Plymouth. She was predeceased by her husband, Michael Sirak. She is survived by her daughters, Helene Skopek-Krygier and Michalene Ostrum, both of Wilkes-Barre.

DUDECK, Mary Alice (nee Morgan) of Alden passed away on August 25, 2025, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law. Mary Alice was the daughter of the late Edward and Martha (nee Turner) Morgan. She was raised in Sheatown and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1959. She was employed by and retired from PG Energy. She was later a part-time security guard. Mary Alice was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, Gustave Raymond Dudeck. She is survived by her daughter with whom she resided, Leslie Lori Harrison of Alden.

WOJCIK, Theresa (nee Tomassini), 99, of Wanamie, born and raised in Mocanaqua, passed away Saturday August 30, 2025, at Allied Services Hospice in Wilkes-Barre. Theresa was born on August 29, 1926; she

was the daughter of the late Luigi and Delia (nee Angeli) Tomassini. She attended Mocanaqua schools and graduated from Garrison/Shickshinny High School. Theresa was a member of the ILGWU and was employed by Luzerne Outerwear jacket factory and Gent-J Manufacturing prior to retirement. She was a member of Saint Mary's Church of Mocanaqua. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her husband of 50 years, Walter P. "Vady" Wojcik. She is survived by her daughter, Shirley Zubritski (husband, James), with whom she resided in Wanamie.

ANTHONY, Eleanor A. "Ellie," (nee Grabski), 64, of Conway, SC, formerly of Sheatown, passed away Tuesday, June 10, 2025. Eleanor was born on November 27, 1960; she was the daughter of Eleanor (nee Pegarella) Grabski and the late Henry Grabski Jr. She was a graduate of John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1978 and College Misericordia with a BS degree in business. She was an elementary school teacher at Pope John Paul Parochial School, and later taught at the former K.M. Smith School in Newport Township and the Elementary Center in Nanticoke prior to retiring. She was a member of Saint Faustina Parish of Nanticoke. "Ellie" is survived by her mother with whom she resided; her fiancé, Dennis Russo; son, Marc Anthony of Surfside Beach, SC; and brother, Henry Grabski (wife, Jackie) of Sheatown.

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group



Halloween Trunk or Treat
Saturday October 25 at Noon
Municipal Garage in Wanamie



Fall Bingo
Sunday November 16
St. Adalbert's Church Hall, Glen Lyon
Doors open at 12:00
Play begins at 1:00



Santa Claus Arrives on the Fire Truck
Saturday December 6 at 1:00
Municipal Building in Wanamie

Glen Lyon American Legion
Auxiliary Post 539

Fundraiser

TASTE OF THE TOWN



Saturday, October 11, 2025

5 PM to 7 PM

Cost: \$15.00

Location: Legion Hall, 64 Newport Street, Glen Lyon

See any Auxiliary member or the bartender for tickets.

Lucky Miner



STANLEY KOFTANOWICZ

If Stanley Koftanowicz, above, veteran Glen Lyon miner, were superstitious, he would rap on wood today. Trapped in the No. 6 Colliery not far from his home, he waited patiently for eight hours while fellow workers dug him out, not knowing whether he was dead or alive.

FALL TRAPS WORKER AT GLEN LYON

**Stanley Koftanowicz Un-
harmed As Squad Dig
Away 100 Tons**

HE CACHED HIS FOOD

Rescued after eight hours entombment behind 100 tons of fallen rock and debris, Stanley Koftanowicz, 46, of 156 East Main street, Glen Lyon, returned to work today in mines of No. 6 colliery of Susquehanna Collieries Company to associate an almost unparalleled epic of cool nerves and fortitude with the coal industry.

A miner, Koftanowicz was walled in his chamber before noon yesterday by a slide that narrowly missed burying his substitute laborer, John Koftanowicz, of East Enterprise street, Glen Lyon, a man possessing a similar surname, but not related to him. His regular laborer, Stanley Yarasewicz, of Coal street, Glen Lyon, slipped forty feet down a pitch a week ago and is now under treatment for back injuries in the State Hospital at Nanticoke.

Twenty men labored for eight hours, not knowing whether they would find Koftanowicz crushed under the heavy deluge or alive and safe. The laborer who detected the squeeze coming and shouted a warning as he leaped to safety himself was unable to tell whether Koftanowicz heard him in time to escape the fall or had perished under its weight.

In the narrow confines of the gangway the rescue crew loaded twenty 5-ton cars before a passage was pierced to the chamber and Koftanowicz was taken out. No attempt at communication with the entombed man had been attempted and when he was found alive and uninjured the toilers were overjoyed at their success.

Throngs At Mine

Though news of the entombment was spread underground immediately by the laborer and officials on the surface were notified as soon as possible, the tragedy of the situation did not become known generally until the mine began pouring out its workers at the end of the day.

Then throngs of anxious friends and miners gathered around the shaft eager for the first word from the rescuers to learn whether the drama had a happy or a sad ending.

The wife and five children of the entombed man stayed at home, praying and hoping for the best, yet fearful that the worst had befallen their bread winner. Neighbors stayed with them offering what comfort they could to relieve the suspense.

The great uncertainty everyone endured during the absence of work from the rescuers was emphasized by preparations to meet any emergency made at the colliery.

Superintendent William Weinek and other company officials were on hand before noon and remained on the grounds until the rescue had been effected. Peter Murphy, mine foreman, supervised the rescuers. Dr. Edward Kielar, of Glen Lyon, the company physician, was kept on the scene constantly to be ready with first aid treatment, if found necessary, and an ambulance was kept warmed in event it was found necessary to rush the trapped man to the hospital.

Saves His Food

Koftanowicz had not eaten a thing all day. His dinner pail with its contents untouched was found alongside of him, when fellow workers broke through the barrier. He explained that memories of similar experiences endured by other mine workers in the past came to his memory when he realized he was shut in and he had meant to refrain from eating as long as possible in order that the food would last longer. He had no way of finding out how much fall-

en roof separated him from the exit, he added.

His first thought upon emerging from his prison was about his wife and children. He thanked the men who removed the barrier profusely and then hurried home. Friends and neighbors kindly saved their congratulations for a more opportune time and he retired early, spent a restful night and went to work today, apparently none the worse for his experience.



Source: *The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, The Evening News*, February 6, 1936, pages 1-2. Picture above of Stanley Koftanowicz courtesy of the Zerfoss Family: Wendie Zerfoss Grabel, Linda Zerfoss Sherrick, and Allan Zerfoss.



Craft Fair

A Fall Craft Fair was held on September 6 at the Wanamie Recreation Park. Sponsored by **Newport United**, plans are being made to make this an annual event. Crafts of all kinds were available for purchase and food trucks were also available to serve hungry visitors.



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The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township

Bobcat

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~
We were driving on Kirmar Parkway going toward Glen Lyon one summer afternoon when a bobcat ran across the road in front of us. We were stunned. It happened so quickly and it is so rare to see one of these animals locally. A night sighting in

Lee was reported in last Fall's Newsletter, and we haven't heard of any since.

The bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), also known as the red lynx, is a medium-sized cat native to North America. It ranges from southern Canada through most of the contiguous United States to Oaxaca in Mexico. It has distinctive black bars on its forelegs and a black-tipped, stubby tail, from which it derives its name. Adult males can range in weight from 14-40 pounds, with an average of 21 pounds; females at 8.8-33.7 pounds, with an average 15 pounds. The largest bobcat accurately measured on record weighed 49 pounds. It is an adaptable predator inhabiting wooded areas, semi-desert, urban edge, forest edge, and swampland environments. It remains in some of its original range, but populations are vulnerable to extirpation by coyotes and domestic animals. Though the bobcat prefers rabbits and hares, it hunts insects, chickens, geese and other birds, small rodents, and deer. Like most cats, the bobcat is territorial and largely solitary.

The genus *Lynx* is comprised of four species of short-tailed cats (family *Felidae*) found in the forests of Europe, Asia, and North America. The Canada lynx and the bobcat live in North America. The Eurasian lynx and the Iberian lynx are their European counterparts. The Iberian lynx is the most endangered feline; as of 2013, possibly fewer than 300 individuals remained in the mountainous scrubland of southern Spain.

The earliest known member of the *Lynx* genus evolved in Africa around 4 million years ago. Known to paleontologists as the *Isioire lynx*, this creature had a more housecat-like appearance than its modern relatives do, courtesy of the now-extinct cat's shorter limbs and proportionally bigger skull. Over time, the *Isioire lynx* spread northward into Eurasia. From there, it crossed the Bering Strait and entered North America. Today's bobcats are descended from these Old World colonizers.

Two subspecies are recognized: one east of the Great Plains, and the other west of the Great Plains. It is featured in some stories of the indigenous peoples of North and Central America, and in the folklore of European-descended inhabitants of the Americas.

Bobcat Facts

1. The bobcat resembles other species of the midsize genus *Lynx*, but is on average the smallest of the four. The Canada lynx has longer "mutton chop" style fur on its lower face. It can be identified by its longer legs, wider feet, longer ear tufts, and more prominent black-tipped tail.
2. The genus *Lynx* shares a connection with the genera *Puma*, *Prionailurus* and *Felis* dated to 7.15 million years ago; *Lynx* diverged approximately 3.24 million years ago.
3. Like all cats, the bobcat 'directly registers', meaning its hind prints usually fall exactly on top of its fore prints. Bobcat tracks can be generally distinguished from feral or house cat tracks by their larger size.
4. The bobcat population in Canada is limited due to both snow depth and the presence of the Canada lynx. The bobcat does not tolerate deep snow, and waits out heavy storms in sheltered areas; it lacks the large, padded feet of the Canada lynx and cannot support its weight on snow as efficiently.
5. The bobcat is active mostly during twilight. It keeps on the move from three hours before sunset until about midnight and then again from before dawn until three hours after sunrise.
6. Its main prey varies by region: in the eastern United States, it is the eastern cottontail and New England cottontail, and in the

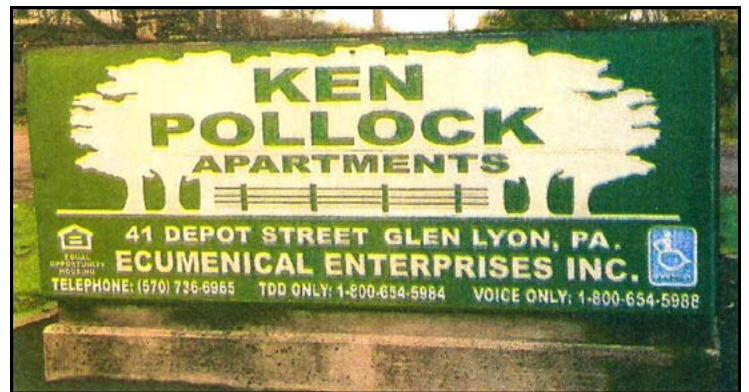
north, it is the snowshoe hare. In the far south, rabbits and hares are sometimes replaced by cotton rats as the primary food source. Birds up to the size of an adult trumpeter swan are also taken in ambushes while nesting, along with their fledglings and eggs.

7. The average lifespan of the bobcat is seven years but rarely exceeds 10 years. The oldest wild bobcat on record was 16 years old, and the oldest captive bobcat lived to be 32.
8. The adult bobcat has relatively few predators. However, rarely, it may be killed by several larger predators. Cougars and gray wolves can kill adult bobcats. Between 2003 and 2011, a reduction in bobcat sightings in the Everglades by 87.5% has been attributed to predation by the invasive Burmese python.
9. There are currently around 725,000 to 1,020,000 bobcats in the wild.
10. Adult bobcats can bring down animals that weigh much more than they do. They're also incredible jumpers, able to clear 12 feet in a single bound. They can run up to 30 mph.
11. Over 200 American high schools call their athletic teams "The Bobcats."
12. In some Native American mythology, the bobcat, with its solitary nature and keen sense of independence, has long been associated with inner strength and resilience in the face of adversity. In others, he is often depicted as possessing a volatile and unpredictable temperament, exhibiting little concern for manners.

Sources : <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/83631/13-furry-facts-about-bobcats>: Wikipedia, <https://www.coolkidfacts.com/bobcat-facts>.



A rare visit from Bob Haughney, Newport Township High School Class of 1964, prompted a get-together at the R-Bar in Alden on September 3. Bob and his wife Leslie live in Lahaina, HI. L to r are: Leslie, Bob, Heidi Jarecki, Sunny Cesarini, Paul Jarecki, Mary Kashatus, and Tom Cesarini.



Low and moderate income rentals and elderly rentals include electric range, refrigerator, off street parking, community room, coin operated laundry, video surveillance, handicap accessible.

Applications accepted by appointment. Equal Housing. Call: (570) 736-6965 or Stacy Levandowski



The History of Kirmar Park

XV: September 1917-December 1917

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Kirmar Park was once situated between Alden and Wanamie in Newport Township. Folks from all over Northeastern Pennsylvania attended dances, picnics, and sporting events at the Park. It was affiliated with the People's Street Railroad, a trolley system that ran between Glen Lyon and Nanticoke and served all towns in between. This article continues the story of the Park which began in the Spring 2022 issue of the *Newport Township Community News*.

In late August 1917, access to the Park was limited due to the paving of the road between Wanamie and the Park. Once completed, activities resumed with a Labor Day Dance on September 3. Music was provided by Beenick's Orchestra. A picnic and dance was sponsored by the Victor Social Club of Nanticoke on Saturday September 8. It began at 4 o'clock and was a benefit for the purchase of a new monument at St. Stanislaus Cemetery. Dancing was held from 8 o'clock until 11:30. Music was provided by Beenick's Orchestra. \$34.00 (\$858.10 in today's money) was realized.

The *Times Leader* reported on Friday, September 7: "What is attracting considerable attention among the social set of the town is the starlight dance which will be held at Kirmar Park on Tuesday evening by the local Clerks Union, No. 321. Tickets have been selling rapidly and the affair is being extensively advertised. A large crowd is expected to attend." The advertising let it be known that "Exceptionally good dance music will be played at the Starlight Dance on Thursday [sic] Evening, September 11. (September 11 fell on a Tuesday.) The hall will be beautifully decorated for the occasion. Both new and old dance music will be played. Come and partake of the good time. Something doing every minute. Admission: Gents 30 cents; Ladies 25 cents." This dance was expected to eclipse the annual ball of the Clerks' Union. As reported, "One of the most enjoyable dances of the season was the one that was held last evening at Kirmar Park under the auspices of the Clerks' local 321 of this place [Nanticoke]. The hall was neatly decorated and this added to the merriment of the evening. In addition to the large numbers from Nanticoke and Newport Township, a large number of out-of-town guests were in attendance. The music was excellent and concerning this, much comment was heard. All were of the opinion that the dance easily surpassed the annual ball conducted by this organization."

The next event was a euchre card party and dance on Monday September 17, sponsored by St. Denis Church in Glen Lyon. "The committee has arranged for an evening of merriment and prizes will be awarded the winners in games. Card playing will start at 8 o'clock. Good music has been secured for dancing. Tickets have been selling fast and a large crowd will be on hand." Euchre is a trick taking game with a trump, played by four players in teams of two. The basic play is similar to whist, i.e. each player plays one card, the highest card of the suit led wins the trick, unless someone has played a card of the trump suit. One of the teams names the trump and must then win the majority of the tricks in that hand. The game is played over several rounds until one team has gotten 10 points. Euchre uses a non-standard deck of 24 cards, made up of the 9, 10, jack, queen, king and ace of each suit. As reported the following day, "An evening of enjoyment was spent last night at Kirmar Park at which a euchre card party and dance was held under the auspices of St. Denis Church of Glen Lyon. The hall was crowded with people. Dancing was held from 9 o'clock until the late hours of the night and both the old and young people took part in this social activity."

The following Tuesday September 25, a dance was sponsored by the Yaakahula Club of Nanticoke. This new club was composed of several of "Nanticoke's most prominent young men very active in the social activity of this town." As reported the following day, "Kirmar Park was crowded last evening at which time the members of the Yaakahula Club held its first dance of the season. The floor was taxed with dancers and the evening's merriment started at 8 o'clock and lasted until the late hours of the night. Special cars conveyed the guests to and from the park. The music was by Beenick's orchestra [sic]." The club took its name from "Yaaka hula hickey dula," a 1916 song by E. Ray Goetz, Joe Young, and Pete Wendling. Known as a Hawaiian love song, it was later popularized by artists like Al Jolson and Bing Crosby.

Basketball was never far from the minds of local fans, and on September 24, the *Times Leader* reported: "William Warne, manager [and owner] of the basket ball [sic] franchise of this town (the Nanticoke Nans of the semi-professional Pennsylvania State Basketball League) has reported that several of his candidates are already busy at Kirmar Park, tossing the ball around. He predicts an excellent season this year and is confident that Nanticoke will produce a winning combination. Several of last year's players will be back, among which will be Evers, Simberg, Schimmel, [and] Leary. The latter will act in the capacity of manager and under his supervision the fans can rest assured that they will be given the article (type) of ball that they have long desired to witness. In a few weeks the various players will report daily, and practice will start on a larger scale than last season."

Local fans were surprised to learn in a separate article published the same day that William Warne, Superintendent of the People's Street Railroad and Kirmar Park manager, turned over ownership of the franchise to George Powell and James Grick of Nanticoke. Both men had played for the Nanticoke Americus team of several years back. Dick Leary would act as manager, as previously reported. It was rumored that Lou Coopey and William McCarter, formerly of the Wilkes-Barre team, would also play for the Nans. In a letter to William Warne, former player Charles "Chief" Mueller stated he would not be available. This year would prove to be a season of ups and downs, with a lot of moving parts. Wheeling and dealing became a more common practice and players were often traded among the various teams and leagues.

On Tuesday, October 2, the Victor Social Club held a benefit dance at Kirmar Park in honor of the departure of the second quota of drafted men from the Nanticoke-Newport Township District to serve in World War I. Included in the quota were: Joseph Mikavith, Charles Bowicz, Joseph Kryswicki, Peter Magagna, Anthony Sobila, Francis Sacharewicz, and Julius Yankowski of Nanticoke, and Peter Paul Gonsner and Albert Klish of Alden. The proceeds from the dance were given to the men. Music was provided by Beenick's Orchestra. The Victor Social Club would later hold weekly dances at the Broadway State Armory in Nanticoke.

Practice for the Nans began on Wednesday October 3. "Home boys" who possessed athletic ability were invited to try out for the team. "The new [owners], Grick and Powell, will endeavor to give the town the best article of ball that it has had in many a season and all they ask is the support of the fans." It was reported that Lou Coopey, formerly of the Wilkes-Barre Barons of the Pennsylvania State League, promised the new owners that he would play for Nanticoke.

As reported the next day, many candidates turned out for the first tryout. "Of the candidates that reported last evening all seem to have a good deal of basket ball [sic] talent and no doubt will make good. Nanticoke is expected to have a winning combination this season."

On Thursday October 4, the Valley Social Club sponsored a dance at Kirmar Park with music by Beenick's Orchestra. "The dance floor was crowded with dancers and in view of the fact that this was the first dance conducted by this club this season, it was pleasing to note the manner in which the club members received their guests." Another dance was held on Thursday, October 11. "Another large crowd was present at the dance." The Valley Social Club sponsored a waltzing contest on Thursday October 18 with a prize of a \$10 gold piece.

On Tuesday October 16, a dance was conducted at Kirmar Park by the D.R. Club, and was largely attended, "thus giving evidence of the popularity of the social function this season."

It was announced on Wednesday October 10 in the *Times Leader* that a "Harvest Dance" would be held at Kirmar on Tuesday evening, October 23. "Members of the [Solo] Club are arranging for a varied program of dances and one of the most enjoyable social functions of the season is

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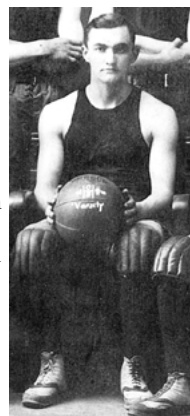
BANJO ORCHESTRA

promised." In a later article, "The dances will consist of fox trots and one-steps with an occasional waltz. In order to give the public the best obtainable, [Guy] Hall's Banjo Orchestra, to the number of seven pieces, has been secured to furnish the music for the evening. This is the first time that this orchestra has appeared in this town at a public dance, and in view of this fact, a large crowd is

expected. Special car service will convey the guests to and from the park on the evening of the dance."

The war in Europe, or the "World War" as it was called in the United States at the time, was never far from the daily lives of Newport Township and Nanticoke residents. On Wednesday October 17, it was reported in the *Times Leader*, "Glen Lyon is largely represented in the national army and several of those who enlisted are already on French soil. In letters to their friends and parents they all state that they are in the best of health and are eagerly awaiting the word which will send them into battle. Among those in France are Dr. Albert Thomas, Stanley Papciak, Carl Kline, Mike Gliko, and Frank Stachak."

On Friday October 19, it was reported: "It had been the intention of the [new] owners of the Nanticoke basket ball [sic] franchise of the State League to surrender their franchise, but at a meeting held at Kirmar Park on Wednesday night attended by League President [Byron] Lewis and George Keller, the Wilkes-Barre manager, concessions were made which caused the Nanticoke owners to reconsider and as a result Nanticoke will remain in the League. The ruling states that all players of last year's teams must play with the same teams this year unless given their release. Up to this time, Nanticoke has but one signed contract, that of Simberg. According to the new ruling, Evers and Schimmel must play with Nanticoke if they wish to play in the league. William McCarter [of Philadelphia], last year member of the [Wilkes-Barre] Baron quintet will probably sign a local contract. The Nanticoke owners are dicker with several pivot men, among whom are Grimstead, last year member of the Plymouth combination, and Beckman of the Paterson Inter-State team. Among the Nanticoke/Newport boys who give promise of breaking into the lineup are Rogowicz of Glen Lyon, Schecterly, David Thomas and J. Hornsby." Chet Rogowicz was still in high school when he was signed to play for the Nans. He later coached the Newport Township High School Basketball Team to a State Championship in 1936. The team fell one game short of a repeat the following year. (Please see *Newport Township Community News*, Summer 2023, pp. 14-15 for an article about Chet Rogowicz.)



Chet Rogowicz

On Tuesday October 23, the Solo Club held its dance with music provided by Hall's Banjo Orchestra. "The members of the Club....wish to thank the male quartet that sang several selections during intermission. They were loudly applauded by the guests present, thus giving evidence of satisfaction."

Before play began in the Pennsylvania State League, it was announced on October 23 that Dick Leary, popular player and recently designated manager of the Nans, was dealt to Plymouth. League president, Byron Lewis, "made his award on the fact that Leary signed with

the Nans under a non-reserve contract. This contract was sent to Lewis and resulted in Leary gaining his contentions. Dick will manage the West Side club and will jump center." William Warne returned to take over as manager of the Nans.

Two nights later, Nanticoke held its first basketball game of the Pennsylvania State League at Kirmar Park playing against Pittston. Pittston was coming off a win against Providence. With Leary gone, Nanticoke was without a center, and McCarter, a guard, was expected to fill the position. A war tax on amusements increased admission from 25 cents to 30 cents. The game started at 8:45 and was followed by dancing. Pittston won "in easy fashion. The Nans showed a lack of practice and had a hard time presenting a solid defense." Schecterly played center and failed to get a single point, the final score being 25 to 13. McCarter played guard and was high scorer for Nanticoke with 8. As reported, "The crowd was a hummer for an opening game and predicts much for the season. Toward the end of the last half McCarter gave the best example of self-control ever witnessed on the local floor when Ruckert, centre [sic] for Pittston, struck the plucky guard several times and seemed determined to provoke a quarrel. McCarter laughed in his face and paid no attention to his insult. The crowd admired him for his action." 800 people attended the game.

Basketball was still in its early stages. Scores were low primarily because there was no shot clock, allowing teams to stall and hold the ball for extended periods. Typically, the box scores listed only five players for each team. The starters played the entire game. In 1917, basketball substitutions were extremely restrictive and largely only permitted for players who were disqualified due to fouls. A player was disqualified after committing four personal fouls. The modern concept of using substitutions for strategy or player rest did not yet exist. The rules concerning substitutions in 1917 were:

No re-entry: A player who was substituted out of the game was not allowed to re-enter at all.

Foul disqualifications: A player who committed a second foul was disqualified until the next goal was made. In cases of flagrant fouls with intent to injure, the player was disqualified for the entire game. In either case, the disqualified player could not be replaced, so the team would have to play with one fewer player.

Limited availability: During the 1916-1918 seasons, no substitutions were allowed, not even for disqualified players. It was not until the 1918-1919 season that substitutes could be used, but still with no re-entry.

Injury could lead to permanent removal: If a player was injured and had to leave the game, they could not re-enter. This meant an injured player's replacement would be permanent for the remainder of the game.

No timeouts for injuries: Coaching from the sideline was prohibited during the game, meaning a coach couldn't call a timeout to assess an injury. This made it even more difficult for an injured player to stay in the game.

There was only one referee, and he was sometimes the object of fans' anger. Across the League, there were several occasions when the referee required police protection and an escort to and from the venue.

Nanticoke's next game was with Plymouth at the Plymouth Armory on Friday October 26. The Nans were walloped by the score of 39 to 11 before a capacity crowd. "Leary's men had little trouble winning over the Nans and after the first few minutes of play acquired a lead and gradually increased their score the first period ending with 'Old Shawnee' leading by the score of 22 to 7. In the second period the Nans proved easy, and their defense was battered down easily the Plymouth players adding 15 more points to their score while the best the Nans could do was to score four times from the fifteen foot mark." This was also Chet Rogowicz's first appearance in a game with the Nans. He scored no points, but Nanticoke followers "are predicting big things for Rogowicz, the Wanamie High school athlete who is playing at forward. Rogowicz's preliminary training came under the tutelage of Peter Turek who is now in the U.S. Army."

On Halloween night, a masquerade dance was held. "One of the largest crowds that ever attended a dance at Kirmar Park was that of last evening at which time members of the Victor Social Club held their masquerade dance. A greater majority of those in attendance were masked and a pleasant evening was spent. The grand march was conducted shortly before intermission and the prizes [were] awarded for the neatest and most comical costumes. Beenick's Orchestra furnished the music."

The next evening, Scranton traveled to Kirmar Park for a State League game. "The game will start at 8:45 and it is hoped that a larger number attend than has heretofore. Dancing will follow the game, and music will be furnished by Beenick's Orchestra." Scranton defeated Nanticoke in a hard-fought contest, 26 to 24. "The Nans showed a big improvement in their work and the visitors were compelled to fight every inch of the way to come out on the long end. In the second half, the teams battled desperately for several minutes, the score alternating, and in the final two minutes of play, a foul by Kane, followed by another one timer by Malone gave Kane's team the victory. Nanticoke's patched team fought them nip and tuck in the Kirmar cage. Billy McCarter jumped center and in the last period switched to guard, Schecterly going to the pivot berth." All five players for Nanticoke scored points.

The Nans played their next game with the Barons at the Wilkes-Barre Armory on Saturday, November 3. Lou Coopey was released from Wilkes-Barre to Nanticoke but had to abide by the 7-day waiting period and was ineligible to play. J. Hornsby was released from the Nans and W. Davis was signed. As reported, "In a thrilling basket ball [sic] game in the Armory Saturday evening before a crowd of 1100 fans, George Kellar's Coal Barons defeated their old rivals Nanticoke by the score of 19 to 18. Nanticoke trailed closely behind the local five until the final five minutes of play when Schecterly scored the visitors' lone 2-pointer on a well-directed shot from the center of the floor. The contest was a thriller, a game that had the fans worked up to a high pitch of excitement." In a separate article, it was noted: "Rogowicz is a comer. He played a great game for the Kirmar Park team. He is a fast floor worker and a great shot from the free line."

The Barons came to Kirmar Park on Thursday November 8. J. "Buck" Miles, the center for Wilkes-Barre, was suddenly summoned to serve in the ambulance corps in France. Wright or Dunn was expected to fill in. Coopey played his first game with Nanticoke that night, a loss by the score of 18 to 15. As reported, "Nanticoke failed to show as good team work as exhibited against the Barons at the Armory on Saturday night. Their work from the foul line was very bad and at times the players resorted to individual play and taking long shots. Simberg played a strong game for Nanticoke and had many opportunities to score from the field. Simmy is one of the fastest forwards in the league. Lou Coopey tossed in the only field goal made by the team. The Nans were handicapped in not having a centerman. Wright outjumped Schecterly and McCarter." Dancing followed the game, music provided by Beenick's Orchestra.

On Tuesday November 13, the Nans finally got their center. It was announced that "George 'Horse' Haggerty, centerman for the Reading team in the Eastern League, is the latest of that circuit to shake the dust of Schaffer's holdings from his feet and beat it northward. Haggerty has accepted terms with the Nanticoke team in the Penn State League and will appear in the line-up at Kirmar Park on Thursday night against the Providence team. J.E. Duerr of Newark, N.J. has also been registered by the down-river management." Joe Evers who played the previous year for the Nans accepted terms. The line-up against Providence would be: Simberg and Coopey, forwards; Haggerty, center; and Schimmel and McCarter, guards.

On Wednesday November 14, the Nans traveled to Hazleton and won the game by a score of 26 to 21. The next night, Providence came to Kirmar Park. "One of the biggest crowds of the season was in attendance and the Nanticoke fans after watching last night's game are convinced that the town has one of the fastest teams in the league." Nanticoke was victorious, 13 to 10. However, Nanticoke had to forfeit the game as Haggerty had not been registered for seven days as required by State League rules. "Not one field goal was scored in the first half of the game which was featured by close guarding."



George "Horse" Haggerty

On Saturday November 17, Newport High School defeated Parsons High School in a game at Kirmar Park by the score of 25 to 3.

An amateur game was played between the Nanticoke Colgates and the Plymouth Garnets on Wednesday, November 21 at Kirmar. A red-hot battle was anticipated and the Colgates won, 25 to 13.

The owners of the Nans registered a player by the name of Kaufman from New York City. He was a close friend of Simberg. The Nans traveled to Providence for a game on Wednesday November 21. As reported in the *Times Leader*, "Nanticoke displayed real ability last night in outwitting the Providence team at the North Scranton hall, winning by a 16 to 14 score. After the first two minutes of play, the Nans went into the lead never to be headed. It was a fast game throughout. Sixty-two fouls were called by [the referee] Baetzel."

The Hazleton Mountaineers came to Kirmar Park on Thursday November 22. Prior to the game, the Nanticoke Jaspers played an amateur game against the Plymouth Independents. "Hazleton was easy for Nanticoke last night, the Kirmar Park team winning over the Mountaineers by the score of 25 to 12 before a fair-sized crowd. The first half was fast with good guarding by both teams, but the visitors seemed to tire from the pace and were easily outdistanced in the second period. Simberg was the star for Nanticoke." At this stage of the season, Providence and Plymouth were tied for first place in the League, and Nanticoke was ahead of Carbondale and Hazleton at the bottom.

On Monday November 26, the Nans traveled to Scranton's Town Hall and were defeated, 21 to 20. "The Nans had a one-point lead with three more minutes of play. Malone [of Scranton] tossed a foul and tied the score. Haggerty again fouled the Scranton pivot man and once again [Malone] tossed from the fifteen-foot mark, giving the Kanemen the game."

Thanksgiving Day in 1917 fell on November 29. Due to the World War, the celebration was a more subdued and solemn occasion compared to previous years. Food was often a challenge due to wartime rationing and high prices, leading many to consume less expensive chicken instead of the traditional turkey, which was often reserved for the military.

Ahead of the Plymouth game at Kirmar on Thanksgiving night, it was announced on Tuesday November 27 that "Starting today reserved seats for the basket ball [sic] games at Kirmar Park will be placed on sale at the office of the People's Street Railway, Charles Market Annex, and Jack Thomas' cigar store. Thursday night the Nans will play the league leader Plymouth and a banner crowd is expected to attend. Dick Leary, former Nan player, will be found in a Plymouth uniform and will make his debut on the local floor with a visiting team." The game was sold out. In the Nans' lineup were Haggerty, McCarter, Coopey, Simberg, and Schimmel. More than 2,300 fans crowded into Kirmar Park pavilion, with many turned away. It set a new record for State League attendance. Plymouth came away with a victory, 19 to 17, which put them in first place with a 10 and 2 record. As reported, "Nanticoke was in the lead until the curtain began to fall on the game. It was the biggest crowd that ever attended a game at Kirmar. Every available inch of space was taken up by the fans and many of them were hanging from rafters and beams on the sides of the bleachers and on top of the roof. Dick Leary who deserted the [Nans] this season to promote the game in Plymouth was given an awful panning by the crowd. The tall New Englander, however, didn't mind it and neither did the players on his team. Leary gave them the laugh and then came back with this remark, 'Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me.' The game was a hard-fought contest from start to finish." A collection was taken up to benefit the Y.W.C.A. and \$65.33 (\$1,653.54) was realized.

Nanticoke filed a protest the following day with League President Byron Lewis alleging that with the score at 19 to 16 and less than a minute to go, Referee Herman Baetzel called a foul on Plymouth player Georgkamp after Simberg tossed the ball for a field goal. Baetzel permitted Simberg to shoot from the free throw line. Simberg made the free throw, but the field goal was negated. The game would have been tied and gone into overtime. The complaint also claimed that Baetzel gave a poor exhibition of refereeing. No action was taken on the protest, Lewis saying it wasn't received within the mandated 24 hours following the game.

Things were beginning to turn around for the Nanticoke team with the acquisition of Coopey and McCarter from the Wilkes-Barre team and center Haggerty from the Reading team. Previously, it had been one of the weakest teams in the League and attendance was very discouraging to the new owners. "When Leary left Nanticoke to play with Plymouth and

manage the combination from that town, Nanticoke fans went wild, but this was all forgotten when the local owners signed Haggerty. In the game played at Kirmar Park Thursday night against Plymouth, Haggerty was opposed to the former Nan Leary, and the new Nanticoke centre [sic] much to the pleasure of the fans, outpumped and outplayed Leary."

On Saturday December 1, the Green Street Bumpers defeated the Silk Mill Five in an amateur game at Kirmar Park by the score of 32 to 8.

On Tuesday December 4, it was announced in the *Times Leader* that "John Pincofsky, a youth who hails from the land of the Detroit Bengals is the latest addition to the Nanticoke team in the Penn State League. Pincofsky was today registered as a Nan and on Friday will crawl into the cage against Plymouth. For several years he played a guard position for the University of Detroit five. The lower end management yesterday received a telegram from Joe Evers of Troy, N.Y. that he will be here in time for Thursday's game against Pittston at Kirmar. Evers will play forward."

On Thursday December 6, Pittston came to Kirmar Park coming off a win against Providence. The Nans' lineup included Haggerty, McCarter, Coopey, Simberg, and Schimmel. The game started at 8:45 and was followed by dancing, but not before a fight erupted over the decisions of the referee. As reported, "Nanticoke fans finished up the night by staging a mild riot and police escorted [Referee] Conova from the hall. The referee was not injured, but the fracas was fast and furious for a while. The game was won by Pittston by the score of 22 to 20. Coopey was the strongest man on the Nanticoke team and shot eight out of nine fouls." Rogowicz had one free throw.

On Friday December 7, the Nans traveled to Plymouth with revenge on their minds. "Before a crowd of 1600 fans who jammed into every available inch of space in the Plymouth Armory last night, Dick Leary's fighting Shawnees aggregation, the best basket ball [sic] team that ever represented that town, defeated the strong Nanticoke five by a score of 35 to 25. It was a great game especially in the second period when the Kirmar Park team made a sensational spurt and came within striking distance of the league leaders. The 'breaks' of the game favored Plymouth, but their element of luck was not responsible for victory. Plymouth won because the team outplayed, outclassed, and outgamed the Nanticoke quintet." Of the eight teams in the League, Plymouth was in first place, and Nanticoke in seventh place.

Monday December 10 saw Carbondale come to Kirmar Park. "It is expected that several changes will be made in the Nans' lineup tonight that will benefit the playing of the team who will have one of the hardest fights of the season on their hands." In a separate article, "Although the Nanticoke team has been losing its games of late, it has been the result of poor judgement on the part of the referees." Nanticoke came away with its fifth win of the season by the score of 26 to 25.

"Coopey in the last two minutes of play shot in a field goal giving the Nans the lead." No changes in the lineup were made. "We might also say a word or two about that Newport Township boy, Lou Coopey. Last night he tossed in four double-deckers and four from the foul line." Coopey was living in Alden at the time. "The Nans showed considerable improvement in their style of play and as a result the game was much faster and more interesting. The aggregation has finally come to the conclusion that 'passing the pill' is what wins the games." A small crowd was on hand.

The next night, the amateur Nanticoke Colgates defeated the Shawnee Keystones at Kirmar Park by the score of 45 to 11.

Scranton came to town on Thursday December 13. "A large crowd is expected to attend the game at Kirmar Park this evening when the Scranton team will oppose the Nanticoke five. The game will start at 8:45 and dancing will follow." At the end of the first half, Nanticoke was ahead 11 to 6. Scranton tied the game with five minutes left, but Nanticoke was ahead by one with one minute to go. Kane then made a field goal and Scranton escaped with a win, 19 to 18. Referee Herman Baetzel was again attacked by Nanticoke fans. "As he stepped out of the cage after the Nanticoke-Scranton game, [he] was surrounded by a number of young fellows and struck several times in the face. The activity of the Newport Township police saved the referee and he was escorted to the dressing room and later to his car. The Nanticoke fans contend that Baetzel refused to call several fouls on the Scranton

team and for this failure were so enraged that some of the younger followers of the team attacked him." It was suggested that "the league officials should take some stand to protect the referees. This is poor sportsmanship, yet the Nanticoke management cannot be held responsible. Arrests and the imposing of heavy fines would be the proper solution." Inclement weather of snow and cold temperatures kept the attendance down.

It was announced on December 14 that Lou Coopey and his wife Henrietta became parents of their fifth child, a son. The family consisted of four sons and one daughter. He proudly boasted that when the youngsters grow up, he would have a basketball team of his own.

It had been previously announced that the Nanticoke constables had "organized a basket ball [sic] team and issued a challenge to the team of Nanticoke regular policemen for a game to be played at Kirmar Park. The losing team [would] furnish a turkey supper in honor of the winners." On Friday December 14, the Levi Brothers team beat the Nanticoke policemen, 32 to 21.

On Saturday December 15, the Nans traveled to the Wilkes-Barre Armory. "The game will be the first appearance of Haggerty, the giant centerman on the local floor in a State League game." Charles "Chief" Mueller, formerly with the Nans, had recently signed with the Barons, as well as Dahnert, a six-foot center from Jersey City and Campbell, a forward from Philadelphia. The Nans lost another close one, 18 to 17. "Until the last five minutes of play, it was anybody's game. The lead see-sawed back and forth until near the close of the game when Mueller and Dunleavy tallied twice and gave Wilkes-Barre a lead of five points. Coopey scored a field goal and a foul in a desperate rally and the bell rang with the Nans trying hard to draw another foul."

The Nans next played at the Pittston Armory on Monday December 17. Pittston got an easy win, 38 to 12. The first half ended with a 20 to 5 score. Simberg and McCarter scored the most points for Nanticoke with five each. Coopey and Schimmel each had a free throw. Pittston had a two-game lead for first place in the League.

On Tuesday December 18, the Nanticoke Colgates defeated the Edwardsville Orioles by the score of 40 to 17 at Kirmar Park.

Fans were shocked to learn that William McCarter had been released from the team following the Pittston game. McCarter had been captain and had headed the line-up since the beginning of the season. "The Nanticoke owners realized that the team must be strengthened in order to give them a pennant-fighting aggregation by signing a professional player. A ruling in the State League allows but two professional men on each team, and as the Nans are perfectly satisfied with Haggerty, McCarter was the man dropped. In his place [Johnny] Beckman, former Eastern League player, has been signed and will be at Kirmar Park on Thursday night in the game against Wilkes-Barre. Beckman will play the guard position and is a crack shot."

On Thursday December 20, another game with the Barons was played. As reported in the *Times Leader*, "Showing a big improvement in teamwork, the Nanticoke team before a big crowd at Kirmar Park defeated the Barons by the score of 24 to 16. 'Johnny' Beckman, star of the Interstate League for two seasons and lately of the Eastern League, was a conspicuous figure in the Nans' lineup and his playing was the best seen on the Kirmar Park floor this season. Nanticoke's victory was decisive, the team scoring eight field goals against the Barons' three, while the local five outscored the Kirmar Park team from the foul line."

A few days before Christmas, it was announced that "the State League managers would slash salaries of the players in the State League. The amount of money paid out to some of the reputed stars this season is higher than last year when the teams had almost twice as many fans at home. This season thousands of basket ball [sic] followers are serving Uncle Sam, and while the attendance figures at present do not indicate that the game has retarded on this account, it is a precautionary measure in case the war hurts the game. It is hardly to be expected that the league will break any records for attendance for the remainder of the season, and the salary cut is made almost necessary. The slashing of the salary limit will possibly affect Billy Warne, the popular Nanticoke manager, more than any other manager in the league. It means no doubt that Warne will have to get rid of Beckman, who was recently added to the team."



Lou Coopey



Johnny Beckman

The Nanticoke Laborers defeated the Morning Glories at Kirmar Park on Sunday December 23 by the score of 28 to 13 in an amateur game. "The Laborers outplayed their opponents in every way."



In 1917, Christmas celebrations were overshadowed by the war and patriotic efforts like voluntary food conservation. The government encouraged "meatless Tuesdays" and "wheatless Mondays," which affected holiday meals and families substituted poultry or fish for traditional roasts. Many Americans focused on contributing to the war effort, such as purchasing War Bonds. The holiday was a stark reminder of absent

loved ones in the trenches.

Providence was the next opponent for the Nans at Kirmar on Thursday December 27. "Providence must win to stand in line for first honors at the wheel." The headline in the next day's paper read: "Kirmar Park Team Puts up Great Game But Falls Down to Foul Shooting." The Nans lost another close one by the score of 28 to 24 "before a monster crowd. The first half of the battle raged fiercely, first Nanticoke, then Providence going into the lead. [The score was tied at 11 after the first period of play.] Starting the second half, the game was a man for man battle, Providence however doing the better floor work. Both teams resorted to long distance shooting. Providence scoring two baskets in this manner, while Nanticoke made three long heaves. Beckman was the individual star of the game. He was also high scorer. Nanticoke fell down on opportunities from the foul line, getting only 12 points in 26 chances." Dancing followed the game with music by Beenick's Orchestra.

This was the last event of 1917 at the Park. The next game was on New Year's Day against Hazleton and its newest addition, William McCarter.

To be continued...

Sources: *The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*, *the Evening News*; *The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*; www.newspapers.com; www.ancestry.com; www.probasketballencyclopedia.com; various websites.

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The annual National Night Out event sponsored by the **Newport Township Crime Watch** was held on Tuesday August 5 at St. Faustina's Grove in Sheatown. Many local groups participated and the event was well attended. Pictured at far left is State Senator Lisa Baker with member Janella Albertson and at near left, State Representative Alec Ryncavage with Township Manager Joe Hillan. This event is held to forge partnerships between the Newport Township Police Department and the residents it serves. Members of the Police Department and the Fire Department were on hand.





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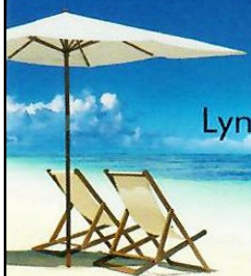
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With the rising cost of postage, it is necessary to increase the subscription fee to \$15.00 per year, effective January 1, 2026. The NTCO will honor those subscriptions already submitted before January. Any donations will be gladly accepted. Please make your checks out to the NTCO.

Thank you!

Editors Heidi and Paul Jarecki



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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 \$15.00 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 tomkashatus@gmail.com to be entered into our data base. You will then be notified of new publications on NTCO's website at <http://www.newporttownship.com>. Photographs on internet publications are viewable in color. Hard copies are printed in black and white.

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WE NEED YOU

NTCO Seeks Summer Fun Coordinator

The NTCO seeks a creative, energetic and outgoing person to revive its Summer Fun Program which has been dormant the last several years. The Summer Fun Program was typically four to six educational/recreational presentations for children ages 3 to 15 over the course of the summer, usually held in the Wanamie Recreational Park. This is a strictly volunteer non-salaried position. The NTCO will provide modest monetary support. Please send of a letter of interest to Stephen Phillips, 113 Railroad Ave., Wanamie, PA 18634

Pulaski School Miniature Now Available



The NTCO is proud to make available its newest commemorative miniature, the Pulaski School. It measures 3 1/4 inches high and 7 1/4 inches wide and was designed by the Cat's Meow Village. For a donation of \$20.00, it will be yours; \$30.00 if mailed by priority mail. Please make your check out to NTCO and mail to Heidi Jarecki, 28 West Main Street, Glen Lyon, PA 18617.

The Pulaski School located on South Market Street in Glen Lyon, served as the junior high school and later as the high school of the former Newport Township School District. It was being renovated into apartments when it burned to the ground on the evening of December 23, 2024.

All previous miniatures, including those of Newport High School, are sold out. Please let us know if there is interest in re-stocking the items. Thank you!

MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The Newport Township Community Organization and the Weinberg Regional Food Bank are working together to host a Food Distribution for those in need.

With the cooperation of the Township Board of Commissioners and Township Manager Joe Hillan, outdoor distributions take place in a drive-through format on the second Saturday of the month between 11 am and 12 noon. Seasonal fruits and vegetables, along with milk, canned goods, rice and pasta are among the foods available. The distributions take place in the Municipal Garage adjacent to the Municipal Building on Kirmar Parkway in Wanamie when available. Alternate site is the parking lot in the Wanamie Recreation Park. All recipients must pre-register at least five days before the event.

Palmira Miller chairs this event for the NTCO. She can be reached at 570-592-7876.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS/CONTACTS

President: Stephen Phillips 570-735-3991
Vice President: Tom Kashatus 570-736-6981
Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Conner 570-829-0801
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: John Jarecki 570-736-6620
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