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# THE JOURNAL-HERALD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016 • Volume 35 – No. 24

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(USPS 277440)

CONTINUING: *THE WHITE HAVEN JOURNAL*  
ESTABLISHED 1879–137<sup>th</sup> YEAR, NO. 7

CONTINUING: *THE WEATHERLY HERALD*  
ESTABLISHED 1880–136<sup>th</sup> YEAR, NO. 33

## WH Chamber plans first Hall of Fame awards dinner

A first-time ever gala dinner event is planned to introduce the new White Haven area hall of fame, and to celebrate greater White Haven's accomplishments of 2105. The Greater White Haven Chamber will host a gala event at The Powerhouse the first Friday of April. Plans are for music, comedy and awards. Cost is \$45 for a single or \$80 for a couple for a ticket that includes dinner, door prizes, raffles and more.

The GWHCoC is looking for nominations for outstanding business person(s), outstanding community leader, and outstanding citizen from 2015. Submit these by March 1. Call GWHCoC president Linda Miller at 570 582-9934 or Seth Isenberg of CANWIN at 570-443-9131 for more information.

Event sponsors are encouraged. Ken Foster, D.M.D. is the first to sign up as a Gold sponsor of the evening.



Carbon County Commissioners Wayne E. Nothstein, left, with wife Donna; Tom J. Gerhard, third from right, with wife Susie; and William J. O'Gurek, right with wife Siobhan, take their oaths of office during the annual swearing-in ceremony at the Carbon County Courthouse on January 4.

Photo courtesy The Times News

## Garbage letters get response in Lehigh Township

by Ruth Isenberg

Lehigh Township Supervisors got a reaction to the letter they sent reminding residents about past-due garbage accounts. Some payments had crossed in the mail. Exemptions were requested by a few customers. One customer paid in full, while three others made arrangements to pay. A few people said they were insulted by the reminder. Liens have been filed in several cases. Berkheimer has been asked to provide a monthly payment status report.

The fee is supposed to be sent to Berkheimer, but at least one party sent their payment to the township, which supervisor Jill Redash-Capossela termed a "paperwork nightmare." She asked that residents who change own-

ership of a property or leave the area contact secretary/treasurer Carol Lenahan, so township records can be kept up to date. Private property transfers are the most difficult to track down without cooperation, she noted.

Supervisor Wayne Wagner suggested that people may not understand the process. The bills are sent out by Berkheimer. People who pay on a quarterly basis then have 45 days to pay before being considered delinquent.

Supervisors discussed the garbage fee collection program during the January 4 meeting, after granting exemptions for the first quarter of 2016 to Walter Zlomsowitch, Grace Hensel, and Catherine Miller, who also was exonerated for the third and

fourth quarters of 2015. Requests for exoneration must be renewed each quarter. Anyone wishing exoneration for the second quarter must notify the township by the close of business on March 31. Redash-Capossela will monitor the requests for exoneration.

Repairs to the truck by Kislán Repair were approved after discussion. An original payment of \$1,054.06 for parts was made prior to the meeting and ratified; an additional \$2,000 was included on the list of bills. Kislán recommended future installation of a hand emergency brake.

From the audience, John Capossela asked how much the truck was worth. Wagner



**ENOUGH SNOW TO SHOW:** At least a quarter inch of snow had fallen by mid-afternoon on Tuesday, the first real snow of the season. More was expected Tuesday evening. Above, the dam at Lock 29 in the Lehigh Gorge State Park in White Haven shows off the powder.

JH: Ruth Isenberg



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# Editorial

## Two years is too short

by Seth Isenberg

It's January. It finally has snowed a little. The college football season has crowned its champion, and the pro football season is nearly done, too.

Here in Pennsylvania, it is time for re-election campaigns for the PA House of Representatives. With a two-year term, we just get the representatives into office and settled when it is time for them to run again. Our state system means we have a House that is, by design, of politicians (always running for office) versus true representatives, who have time to legislate.

Now, when our Representatives will be needing to focus on the PA budget, part of their attention will be devoted to getting themselves re-elected.

This should change, but then it would require the agreement of House, Senate and Governor. So, welcome to the return of PA political season. Voting is on the same election day as the Presidential primary in April.

## Election coverage notes

by Ruth Isenberg

Regarding the upcoming election cycle, the Journal-Herald has already begun printing announcements of candidates. We will continue to accept announcements of a reasonable length through mid-March. After the issue of March 17, only political advertisements will be accepted.

## Archives addition for last week

45 members of Crestwood High School's class of 1964 celebrated their 20th anniversary with a party at Lobitz's.

Philip Olivera, of White Haven, a member of the organizing committee, served as master of ceremonies.

# From the Archives

### 31 years ago in *The Journal-Herald*

If the weather cooperates, Hickory Run State Park will host dog sled races on January 12 and 13. The start and finish area will be in the picnic area in the Sand Springs day area. Park superintendent Robert Kerr notes that snowmobile trails used by the dog sleds will be closed during the races, but open between them.

A photo on the front page features the Ski – Raft – Mini Bus operated by John Marotta of East Side. Two buses serve the White Haven to Blakeslee area “as long as the roads are drivable.”

Thelma Pike was re-elected as president of the White Haven Senior Citizens for 1985, with V.P. Betty Krebs, 2nd V.P. Amanda Dotter, 3rd V.P. Frank Cronin, secretary Betty Wieder, treasurer Louise Boyer, and director Dorothy Ferris.

George Jarick, Jr. was elected chairman of the Dennison Township board of supervisors. Ed Helmer was elected vice chair, serving with supervisor Charles Keenapple. Secretary-treasurer is Kathleen Stortz.

The East Side Inn will have a Grizzly Beer Party on January 18. “Meet Grizzly in person.” Surprises every 15 minutes...

The Pocono Medi-Center offers walk-in urgent care with no appointment necessary. It is located across from the Sportsman on Route 940 in Blakeslee. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas. There will be on Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. on Jan. 12, with refreshments.

Wagner Brothers Hardware Co. in Weatherly and Hazleton offered a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary special – Atlas snow throwers, on sale (\$70 off) for \$557.

### From *The Journal-Herald* January 12, 2012

The Weatherly Area High School Alumni Association dedicated 10 banners to be installed on utility poles around the Weatherly schools.

Water line replacement in White Haven borough continues. A photo shows work being done at the corner of Berwick and Church Streets.

Eagle Scout Robert Weidow was recognized by Marine Corps League Detachment 1039.

Silver Ridge Hunting Club advertised its Turkey Dinner with samplings of various wild game dishes.

### From *The Weatherly Herald* January 14, 1965

The Weatherly Rotary Club is sponsoring the appearance of Richie Ashburn of the Philadelphia Phillies in Weatherly at the High School on Jan. 18. Ashburn, a former two-time National League batting champion, retired from baseball two years ago. He is now a broadcaster of the Phillies games on radio and TV.

Weatherly council passed a balanced budget of \$98,954.

There was a big turnout at the Citizens Fire Co. meeting on Sunday. Over 60 members attended. Jack Decker was re-elected president. Joseph O'Donnell will be fire chief, with William Leibensberger and Willard Kropp as assistants. John Drolles serves as lanternman. Paul Younker is

captain of the fire police.

Bill Gicking shot 44 points, and Bob Van Horn and Lew Kistler added nine each as the Wreckers won their 4th straight basketball game 77 to 59 over Foster Township.

The Girl Scouts of Weatherly Troop 292 are collecting children's Golden Story books as well as ladies' nylon hose. At their Jan. 6 meeting, exchange student Margot Van Santen showed slides of Holland.

Calvin G. Hartz advertised Bennett - Ready Cut – Homes, contracting and remodeling.

The Weatherly Garage ad featured an drawing of a '65 Corvair – the only rear engine American made car. The ad showed the car driving in snow, dropping off a skier. The ad also features a new Chevy Impala Sport Coupe.

### From *The Weatherly Herald* January 1935

William Holman of 2nd Street in Weatherly is now manager of the local American Co. Store. He was formerly employed at the A&P in Weatherly, and was succeeded there by Milton Setzer, Jr.

### *The Weatherly Herald* January 1915

The ice men are reaping their harvest now. Hendricks Brothers and N. R. Williams have a large force of men at work, storing a big lot. Some private parties including Ebinger and Yeide are also storing good quality pure ice.

Cartoonist and lecturer Marion B. Fisk will speak at the Weatherly Auditorium this evening. Reserved seats are only 25¢, and children 10¢.

# Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Dennison Township Board of Supervisors will hold their regular monthly meetings for the year 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Dennison Township Municipal Building, 76 Walnut Street, White Haven, PA on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 3, 2016  
Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
Wednesday, April 6, 2016  
Wednesday, May 4, 2016  
Wednesday, June 1, 2016  
Wednesday, July 6, 2016  
Wednesday, August 3, 2016  
Wednesday, September 7, 2016  
Wednesday, October 5, 2016  
Wednesday, November 2, 2016  
Wednesday, December 4, 2016

**Kathleen Stortz,**  
Secretary

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Dennison Township Planning Commission will meet the third Monday of each month on the following dates in 2016. All meetings will be held at 7:00 pm in the Dennison Township Municipal Building. Meetings will NOT be held in the event no applications are received at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date.

January 18, 2016  
February 15, 2016  
March 21, 2016  
April 18, 2016  
May 16, 2016  
June 20, 2016  
July 18, 2016  
August 15, 2016  
September 19, 2016  
October 17, 2016  
November 21, 2016  
December 19, 2016

**William R. Bauersfeld**  
Chairman

## PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Certification of Articles of Incorporation for:

T & L FOODS, INC.

was filed with the Department of State, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on December 7, 2015. The Articles of Incorporation have been filed under the provisions of the Business Corporation Law of 1988.

**CONRAD A. FALVELLO,**  
ESQUIRE  
Supreme Court ID No.: 19339  
**FALVELLO LAW FIRM, P.C.**  
314 Main Street, Suite A  
Sugarloaf, PA 18249  
570-788-4191

## PUBLIC NOTICE

White Haven Borough Council 2016 Meeting schedule, Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 312 Main Street:

January 25  
February 22  
March 28  
April 25  
May 23  
June 27  
July 25  
August 22  
September 26  
October 24  
November 28  
December 19\* (moved a week early due to holiday)

**Linda Szoke**  
Borough Manager

## Festival meeting tonight

The Weatherly Festival committee will meet today, Thursday, January 14 at 7 p.m. in the borough building conference room. Anyone interested in participating in this year's festival is invited.

## Ski Club starting up

The Weatherly-Crestwood Community Ski Club will run Fridays starting this week, Friday, January 15, at 4 p.m. at Big Boulder Ski Area.

Cost is \$18 for a lift ticket or \$25 for lift ticket with rentals.

To participate, community members may sign up with Liz Berger in Weatherly by calling 570-956-0862 or Kelly Dixon at Crestwood at 570-926-7203.

# Penn Lake Council reverses censure of out-going mayor

by Seth Isenberg

At Penn Lake Park Borough council's December meeting, in addition to the votes on the 2016 budget and to renew the garbage contract, there was other business.

Council member Shawn Kuter led a vote to "uncensure" outgoing mayor Tim Lenahan. He had been censured by the previous council.

Lenahan thanked the members for this. He will be turning over the mayor's website and Facebook to the new mayor as she begins her term.

There was discussion on the future of repairs to the Penn Lake dam. There are more repairs for the drain. There was also talk about filming the pipe, using a diver, versus drawing the water

down in the lake.

Council voted unanimously to appoint Bev Yench as tax collector for 2016. Council member Jill Rosenstock praised Yench's work. Yench needed to be appointed because her paperwork arrived late into Luzerne County.

Rosenstock told council that there are two grants available towards dam repairs. The more likely of them requires a 30% match. Regarding the budget, she is opposed to raising taxes. She voted against approving and advertising the budget. On the subject of police and the money allotted to coverage, she defended the spending as important... "not a political football." Reading from a statement, she praised the

council from 2014 and earlier, noting they "got a lot done without raising taxes..." She ended with a comment that she is "embarrassed" about the work of the 2015 council.

Regarding police, council president Paul Rogan pointed out to Rosenstock that "there are people who believe that we can get (state) police without paying." She disagreed.

The police budget remained the same as it was in 2015.

Meetings for 2016 were set as the second Thursday except for December – that meeting will be on Dec. 15 – all beginning at 7 p.m. This was okayed unanimously. The next meeting is tonight, Thursday, Jan. 14. Meetings are held at the Penn Lake Community House.

## Lehigh...

Continued from page 1

said it was purchased new in 1999. Down the road, he said, the township should look at another vehicle, perhaps smaller. Parts availability may become an issue. He noted that the township had just signed a five year agreement with PennDOT to plow two miles of state road, as well as the township roads.

The bills were approved for payment, with the exception of a bill from zoning officer Lenny Westor for 15 hours

of service since March. Supervisors agreed to hold that payment until a list of permits issued and an activity report are received.

Supervisors also got a response to a letter sent by solicitor George Hludzik to the manufacturers of the new door for the township building, threatening legal action if corrective action is not taken. A meeting is being set up.

L&L Fire Chief Tim Rossman gave both a monthly and an annual report. He said 2015 was a really good year, and thanked the supervisors and the community.

A grant has been received from the PA State Fire Commission office to replace old fluorescent lighting.

The dry hydrant issue is still unresolved, but Rossman thinks they will be able to install dry hydrants in the spring.

There are still some smoke detectors available for township residents at no charge; contact the fire company.

Supervisor chair Larry Skinner asked about the future of boot drives. Rossman answered that legislation has been passed that legalizes boot drives, but only at controlled intersections. It is unclear how that is defined. He hopes that the intersection of Lehigh Gorge Drive and Buck Mountain Road can qualify, since the fire company raises an average of \$1,200 each drive.

A meeting will be set up between Emergency Management Coordinator Charlie Puzetti Jr. and the supervisors to discuss specifics of the \$5,000 grant for the emergency operations center. Originally, a generator was earmarked, but that would cost more than the available funding.

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# Death Roll

## FREDERICK KANE

Frederick L. Kane, 72, of Weatherly died Thursday, January 7, 2016 in Geisinger Medical Center, Danville.

A son of the late Frederick and Elizabeth Moody Kane, he was born in Somerville, N.J. and was a graduate of Somerville High School.

He had been employed by Supreme Auto Body of Allentown for many years.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, the former Sharon Cyburt; sons and daughters-in-law Richard and Bonnie Kane, and Jason and Valerie

Kane, of Weatherly; daughter and son-in-law Christine and John Cheslock of Allentown; six grandchildren; brothers and sisters-in-law John and Jackie Kane of Bedford, Timothy and Marian Kane of Florida.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church, Weatherly. Burial will be private.

Arrangements are by Philip J. Jeffries Funeral Home of Weatherly.

## Our Lady of Lourdes looking for altar servers

A meeting for boys and girls who would like to explore becoming altar servers will be held on Monday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church.

Children between 6 and 16 years old are eligible.

Since positions are limited,

those interested must register for the meeting by calling the rectory at 570-427-4123 and give their name, age and phone number.

For more information, call Deacon Jim at 570-427-8883.

## Bring back the dying art of letter writing

by Stephanie Grega

In 500 B.C., Persian Queen Atossa was the first recorded person to write a handwritten letter. The letter became such an important part of our society that over 500 years ago, King Henry VIII of England created the world's first national postal service. Letters were a main form of communication, with people checking their mail box daily in hopes that a loved one dropped a note.

The second week of January is National Letter Writing Week. What better way to celebrate the occasion than to write a thoughtful letter to a loved one or to review old letters that were sent to you throughout the years?

"Written words, on paper, preferably in a person's own handwriting, are powerful. They can heal or wound more thoroughly than any text or electronic message. A letter can be placed under a pillow to be slept on, or, conversely, can be torn to shreds in a gesture far more satisfying than

pressing a button and deleting a text," shared Weatherly Area High School English teacher Maria Whitley.

When was the last time you sat down to hand write a letter? In this fast-paced, technologically advancing world, most people would probably say the closest thing they have written to a letter in a while would be a text message or, at most, an e-mail. Most would agree that letters bring more feelings of nostalgia than any text message ever could.

"We moved to a new house a couple of years ago and in cleaning out the boxes in one of the closets as I packed, I found a bundle of letters from my college boyfriend—Love letters. I had them tied up into a packet like an old lady would have, with a ribbon.

"And I went back and forth for a few minutes. Should I keep them? Throw them away? I hadn't seen or heard from him in 20 years. I kept them, just as they were. Then, last March, I got the news that

he had passed away suddenly. And I was so very glad I had saved them. Even if I don't ever read them again, they are tangible evidence that he was a part of my life for a time," Whitley said.

Although ease and speed of communication has increased, depth and emotion within those communications has surely decreased. "People lose texts when they get a new phone, or when they delete them to make room for more. A letter is meant to be kept, to be unfolded and refolded and enjoyed as an artifact of what life was like for you at a certain point. It's a physical reminder that someone touched pen to paper with you in mind. Letters are priceless," concluded Whitley.

Write a letter, a "thank you" note, or send a card this week. There is nothing quite like receiving a tangible piece of paper with lovely words scrawled across it. Transform the depths of your communication by reverting back to the age old art of letter writing.

## Health & Wellness Center at Hazleton Outpatient Imaging earns re-accreditations

Lehigh Valley Hospital Hazleton's outpatient diagnostic imaging department at the Health & Wellness Center has received re-accreditations for a three-year term in both mammography and breast ultrasound as the result of a re-

cent review by the American College of Radiology.

The ACR gold seal of accreditation represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety. It is awarded only to facilities meeting ACR Practice Guidelines

and Technical Standards after a peer-review evaluation by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field.

Image quality, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs are assessed. The findings are reported to the ACR Committee on Accreditation, which subsequently provides the practice with a comprehensive report they can use for continuous practice improvement.

The ACR is a national professional organization serving more than 36,000 diagnostic/interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and medical oncology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services.

The department also passed the Mammography Quality Standards Act annual inspection through the Pennsylvania Department of Radiation Protection. The MQSA requires mammography facilities across the nation to meet uniform quality standards.



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Philip J. Jeffries F.D.

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# Veterans Corner by John Kearns

**Real Scoop on Military Service and Social Security:** If you served on active duty between 1957 and 2001, you're entitled to special extra earnings that could increase your Social Security payout. If your service

was between 1957 and 1967, you'll need to make sure the credits are added to your record at the time you apply for benefits. Credits for service between 1968 and 2001 were automatically added to your record. For more infor-

mation call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Reader's Question:** What was the largest military tank ever built? The biggest and heaviest tank ever to be constructed that "worked" was Nazi Germany's Panzer VIII. They named the 180-ton go-liath Maus (or mouse). It featured two heavy guns in its turret: a 75-mm cannon along with an unbeatable 128-mm anti-armor weapon capable of destroying at twice the range any other tank in use on the WWII's battlefield. Too heavy for any bridge, the Maus would have had to cross rivers submerged so designers made the tank watertight and equipped it with a snorkel. Had the Maus' manufacturing plant not been overrun by the Soviets in 1945, the Germans would have built more than just the single prototype. To put it in perspective, our biggest tank is the M1A1 Abrams at 60 tons.

On the drawing board were two even bigger. Even the mighty Maus would have been no match to this beast. More like navy destroyers on treads, these enormous 1,000-ton tanks would have made the Maus look like a child's model. The L1000, designed in 1942 by engineers at Krupp, was planned to be more than 100 feet long and nearly as tall as a four-story building. Designated as Ratte (or rat), the L1000 would have needed a 40-man crew to operate its two 280-mm guns, as well as a 128-mm cannon. It also would have carried its own battery of eight anti-aircraft guns. Powered by up to eight marine diesel engines, the kind used to run e-boats and U-boats, the Ratte was intended to travel at speeds ap-

proaching 40 km/h and might have had a range of 200 kms.

The L1500 would have stood 60 feet tall and been 150 feet long. More than 100 crew would be needed to operate the tank's turret-less 800-mm Schwerer Gustav railroad gun - capable of hurling a seven-ton artillery shell nearly 30 miles. The largest battleship shell was the Japanese 18 inch main gun shell weighing 3,218 lbs., which could be launched 15

miles. It would also have two 150-mm cannons and many AA guns and heavy machine guns. Powered by nearly 50 U-boat engines, the Monster would have rumbled along at 15 km/h crushing literally everything in its path. Albert Speer, Hitler's armaments minister, recognized the impracticality of such ludicrously enormous war machines and ordered the Landkreuzer projects scuttled, only to be overruled by Hitler himself.

## Letter to the Editor

### Dear Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to share an update about Pennsylvania's 2015-16 budget. Back in June, the House and Senate met our constitutional duty by passing a balanced budget. I have been critical of the governor's decision, after only a few hours of consideration, to veto the entire budget even though a majority of the line items in the budget were the same as Gov. Wolf's proposal or higher. Now after almost seven months of delays in state funding to schools and county services, they finally have the money they need to begin providing services.

The much-mentioned budget "framework," which included property tax relief, pension reform, liquor privatization and the governor's \$2 billion tax increase budget, as announced in November, is all off the table.

On Dec. 23, we passed a \$30.3 billion budget and placed it on the governor's desk. It is my opinion that this

action was the only chance we had at forcing the governor to release emergency funding to schools and county human service providers.

Our efforts were successful, and on Dec. 29, the governor, under protest, signed and released 87 percent of the budget, which provided desperately needed state and federal funding for school districts and county human service providers. I'm still puzzled as to why Gov. Wolf waited six months to use the line-item veto.

I am anxious to head back to Harrisburg and work toward an agreement on the remaining 13 percent of this budget. However, I have repeatedly told the governor's administration that I will continue to stand up for the taxpayers of Carbon County - who cannot afford additional taxes without property tax relief. I remain focused on the true problems facing Pennsylvania, and that starts with resolving this stalemate so we can move forward.

**Rep. Doyle Heffley**  
122 Legislative District

## Just a Pinch

Sharing Hometown Recipes, Cooking Tips and Coupons

By Janet Tharpe

### Fun Kitchen Experiment Creates Spectacular Meal

"Just as good the second day!"



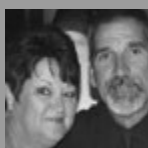
Can't decide if you want Mexican or Italian for dinner tonight? Why not both! Laura Yoder experimented in her kitchen and came up with this fun Mexican Manicotti My Way. It has all the taco flavors and ingredients you love (ground beef, cheese, beans, olives), stuffed inside manicotti shells. It's delicious, easy and fun!

See step-by-step photos of Laura's recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at:

[www.justapinch.com/mexicanmanicotti](http://www.justapinch.com/mexicanmanicotti)

You'll also find a meal planner, coupons and chances to win! Enjoy and remember, use "just a pinch"...

- Janet



Laura Yoder  
Brunswick, GA  
(pop. 15,383)

### Mexican Manicotti My Way

#### What You Need

- 1 lb lean ground beef
- 2 c Mexican blend shredded cheese
- 1 can refried black beans
- 1 pkg taco seasoning mix
- 1 jar picante sauce, 16 oz.
- 2 c sour cream
- 2 green onions, sliced
- 1 small can sliced black olives
- 2 c water, warm
- 1 box manicotti shells

#### Directions

- Mix raw ground beef with taco seasoning, 1 cup of cheese and 1 can refried black beans.

- Using the uncooked manicotti shells, stuff the meat mixture into the shells and place in a large baking dish that has been sprayed with cooking spray.
- Pour the jar of picante over the stuffed shells. Then pour in the 2 cups of warm water.
- Cover with foil and bake in a 350 degree oven for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
- When shells are done and dish is bubbly top with sour cream, reserved cheese and olives.
- Put back in oven for 5-10 minutes.
- Remove from oven and top with green onions.

Submitted by: Laura Yoder, Brunswick, GA (pop. 15,383)  
[www.justapinch.com/mexicanmanicotti](http://www.justapinch.com/mexicanmanicotti)

Brought to you by American Hometown Media



## WHITE HAVEN THIS WEEK

### Thursday, January 14

Penn Lake Park Borough Council Work Session — 7:00 p.m., Meeting — 7:00 p.m. — Community House

Foster Township Planning Commission Meeting — 7:00 p.m. — Township Municipal Building

### Sunday, January 17

Breakfast — 8:00 a.m. to Noon — V.F.W. Post 6615

Marine Corps League Detachment 1039 Meeting — 1:30 p.m. — V.F.W. Post 6615

W.H. Area Historical Society Meeting — 6:30 p.m. — For Location Call 570-443-7507

### Monday, January 18

Martin Luther King Day

Dennison Township Planning Commission Meeting — 7:00 p.m. — Township Municipal Building

### Tuesday, January 19

W.H. Borough Planning Commission Meeting — 6:00 p.m. — Municipal Building

### Wednesday, January 20

American Legion Post 592 Meeting — 7:00 p.m. — Post Home

W.H. Volunteer Ambulance Association Meeting — 7:00 p.m. — Ambulance Building

AOH Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - V.F.W. Post 6615

### Thursday, January 21

W.H. Area Senior Citizens Meeting — 1:00 p.m. — V.F.W. Post 6615

Crestwood School Board Work Session & Meeting — 6:30 p.m. — Crestwood High School

Kidder Township Board of Supervisors Meeting — 7:00 p.m. — Township Municipal Building

### Every Thursday & Monday Except Holidays

Joy Through Movement — 10:00 a.m. — W.H. United Methodist Church

### Every First & Third Thursday Except Holidays

Scrabble Club — 6:30 p.m. — White Haven Area Community Library

### Every Friday Except Fifth Friday & Holidays

W.H. Food Pantry — 10:00 a.m. to Noon — Rear, Hickory Hall, White Haven Center

### Every Friday, Monday & Wednesday Except Holidays

Free Community Lunch — Serving 11:30 a.m. to Noon — St. Paul's Lutheran Parish Hall

### Every Saturday

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting - 7:00 p.m. — St. Patrick's Parish Center

### Every Sunday

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting - 7:00 p.m. — Mountainview Community Church

### Every Tuesday

Al-Anon Meeting — 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. — Presbyterian Church of W.H.

### Every Third Tuesday Except Holidays

Book Club — 7:00 p.m. — White Haven Area Community Library

### Every Wednesday Except Holidays

Stretch & More — 10:00 a.m. — St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## VFW breakfast this Sunday

An all you can eat breakfast, sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6615, will be held from 8 a.m. to

noon on Sunday at VFW Post on Lehigh Gorge Drive, south of White Haven.

## Legion to meet Jan. 20

American Legion Post 592 of White Haven will hold its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, January 20 at 7 p.m. at the post home. All members are urged to attend.

# Win a pair of tickets to a Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins home hockey game this season

by starting a new yearly subscription to

## *The Journal-Herald*

(Early renewals also eligible.)

Send in the form below with your check for \$35  
for Carbon or Luzerne County,  
or \$40 for an out-of-area gift subscription.

And look for new contest prizes in upcoming  
*Journal-Herald* issues.

Send *The Journal-Herald* to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

and enter me in the contest for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins hockey tickets.

(If this is a gift, please check here ☐, and write your information on the back, so the right person is entered into the contest.)

Mail with your check for \$35 in Carbon or Luzerne County, \$40 elsewhere, to The Journal-Herald, 211 Main St., White Haven PA 18661.

# Annual Congregational meeting

The annual Congregational meeting of the First Presbyterian Church will be held this Sunday following the worship service at 11 a.m. Music will be by Jeanne Korshalla. There will be a Soup

and Sandwich luncheon to which everyone is invited.

Members will attend the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 2 p.m. at Weatherwood Rehabilitation

Center.

For information, please call Rev. Glen R. Hueholt at 570-722-8803 or 239-672-2706



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## WEATHERLY THIS WEEK

### Thursday, January 14

Senior Citizens Friendship Club Meeting – 1:30 p.m. – Salem U.C.C.

Bingo Night – 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.) – Tweedle Park

Greater Weatherly Area Ambulance Association Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – Ambulance Building

### Saturday, January 16

Weatherly Area High School Hall of Fame – Girls Basketball Game 1:00 p.m. – Program & Dinner 4:30 p.m. – Boys Basketball Games 6:00 p.m.

### Sunday, January 17

Knights of Columbus Kids Free Throw Contest – 11:00 a.m. –

Eurana Park Pavilion

### Monday, January 18

Martin Luther King Day Weatherly Borough Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Municipal Building

### Thursday, January 21

Weatherly Rotary Club Dinner Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – Weatherly Country Inn

W.A.H.S. Alumni Association Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – W.A. Middle School

Tweedle Park & Playground Association Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Park

Weatherly Lions Club Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Borough Building

### Every Thursday

State Representative Doyle Heffley Outreach Office – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Weatherly Borough Building

# Senior Menu

### Week of January 18:

Monday: Chicken salad, roll, potato salad, broccoli slaw, Rice Krispie treat.

Tuesday: Roast turkey, sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts, roll, apricots & peaches.

Wednesday: Mild chili, mixed vegetables, corn bread, baked apple slices.

Thursday: Crispy baked fish, macaroni & cheese, stewed tomatoes, salad, cookie.

Friday: Barbecued ribs, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, cottage cheese with fruit.

## Tweedle Park Bingo today

Bingo will be held today, January 14, at Tweedle Park in Weatherly. Doors open at 6 p.m.

with bingo starting at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

## Winter Wonderland event

Heritage Hill Senior Community, Sixth Street, Weatherly invites seniors to join them in their Winter Wonderland on January 21 from 2-3:30 p.m. for an afternoon of fun and entertainment.

Everyone is welcome as the community is transformed into a winter wonderland for all to enjoy. Listen to the sounds of

festive "rat pack" style entertainment by Ray Phillips, and snack on light refreshments.

In case of inclement weather, the snow date for this event is January 28.

This event is free and open to the public, however, seating is limited. RSVP by calling Rachael or Toni at 570-427-4500.

## Festival meeting today

The Weatherly Festival committee will hold a meeting this Thursday, January 14, at 7 p.m.

in the borough building. Anyone interested in participating is urged to attend.

## Reminder for confirmation students

A reminder to parents of Our Lady of Lourdes confirmation students- parents must return all student forms, including the student information sheet, the 15 hours of service record, and the letter to the bishop before January 31.

Confirmation gowns have been distributed, and payment for them is now due.

## NEED CUSTOMERS?

Call 570-443-9131 xt304.



## WAHS December Senior of the Month

Muskan Khatiwala, daughter of Bela and Divyang Khatiwala, White Haven, has been named Senior of the Month for December at Weatherly Area High School.

Muskan is the president of the Interact Club. She is a member of the Weatherly Area High School chapter of the National Honor Society, as well as SPARC and the Health Careers Club. She has also participated in the Junior Leadership program



and the district variety show, and was previously a member of the high school Track and Field team.

In the community, Muskan does volunteer work through her Interact Club activities. Additionally, she has volunteered at Geisinger Hospital and has been employed by Subway restaurants.

Sponsor for the month of December is Cloverdale Farms, Inc. of Weatherly.

## Weatherly Rotary Club welcomes new member

The Rotary Club of Weatherly has recently added a new member to its ranks. John Sernak, a local resident who is well known for his association with the Sernak Farms of Weatherly, was sworn in by Club president Katie Ray and Rotary District Governor Barbara Beldon.

John is now a member of the Weatherly Club, which is one of 42 clubs in a 10 county area of District 7410. He is now a member of a world-wide organization that is comprised of 1.2 million plus members. Friends, neighbors, and community leaders, that are dedicated to "Service above Self" and community projects both local and around the world.



Pictured in photo from left are District 7410 Governor Barbara Beldon, Secretary Denise Stadnik, president Katie Ray, and new member John Sernak.

## Heritage Hill Night with the Nurses

Heritage Hill Senior Community, Sixth Street, Weatherly will hold a Night with the Nurses on January 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Presenting at this month's Night with Nurses is Dr. Philip Benyo, a board certified geriatrician.

This gathering gives attendees a chance to interact with each other, discuss problems, get tips, learn from

each other and from nursing professionals on how they can better care for senior parents or family members.

Light refreshments will be served for those attending.

This event is free and open to the public, however, seating is limited. RSVP by calling Michelle or Jody at 570-427-4500.

**Readers—want your organization's activities featured in these pages? Send news tips, press releases and photos to the editor at [journalruth@pa.metrocast.net](mailto:journalruth@pa.metrocast.net), or call 570-443-9131 x1304.**

## Philomena Kuchar celebrates 97<sup>th</sup> birthday

Philomena Kuchar, a Weatherly resident who now resides at Heritage Hill, celebrated her 97th birthday. She is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Born in New Columbus, on January 13, 1919, she was the first baby born in the town founded by her father, Frank Romano.

A 1940 graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Philomena was an instructor at Middletown Air Technical Service Command during World War II, and later worked as a USO director in Texas, New Mexico, and Louisiana.

She was a teacher of Spanish and English at Weatherly Area High School from 1968 until her retirement in 1983, where she also served as yearbook advisor. In 1978, Mrs. Kuchar was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the student body.

Philomena's interests include golf and mahjong. She was a member of the Golden Girls Gold League. She is a very good cook, and her fam-



ily and friends have enjoyed many meals around her table.

Philomena and her husband, James, were married for forty-one years until his death in 1992. She has two daughters, Mary Bickart of Delaware Water Gap and Louise Miller of Weatherly; her sons are James Kuchar of Freeland and Frank Kuchar of Weatherly. She has nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Philomena's sisters, Amelia Kuchar and Mary Romano, also live in Weatherly.



**Fresh American & Mediterranean Cuisine**

**Specials Week of January 15**

**Appetizer—Fried Ravioli** Braised beef ravioli with Diablo dipping sauce \$6.95

**Entrées**

**Rack of Lamb** Herb-roasted rack of lamb with mint gnocchi and cucumber salad \$23.95

**16 oz. T-Bone** with sautéed baby spinach, garlic & mushrooms, topped w/Asiago cheese \$23.95

**Cheese Tortellini** with grilled chicken and pepperjack cheese sauce \$14.95

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## Celebrate Valentine's Day at The Inn!

**Sunday, February 14 at 4 p.m.**

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**Valentines weekend**

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## Bar Association donates to WACL



The Weatherly Area Community Library recently accepted a \$500 donation from the Carbon County Bar Association to help with the library's programs and operating expenses. From left are Ms. Sherri Ryan, Sue Ann Gerhard, president of the WACL, and Rev. Robert VonFrisch, Treasurer, WACL.

**Readers—want your organization's activities featured in these pages? Send news tips, press releases and photos to the editor at [journalruth@pa.metrocast.net](mailto:journalruth@pa.metrocast.net), or call 570-443-9131 xt304.**



**1/15 Steve Forbert**  
\$23, Show 8 p.m.

**1/16 New West Guitar Group**  
w/Vocalist Sara Gazarek  
\$18, Show 8 p.m.

**1/17 Taarka**  
\$15, Show 6:30 p.m.

**1/22 Dirty Bourbon River Show**  
\$18, Show 8 p.m.

**1/23 KICK - the INXs Experience**  
\$20, Show 8 p.m.

**1/24 40 Story Radio Tower -**  
w/Craig Thatcher &  
Nyke Van Wyke  
\$10, Show 4 p.m.

**1/29 Donna The Buffalo**  
w/City of The Sun  
\$26, Show 8 p.m.

**1/30 Dead On Live - Grateful**  
Dead Singalong Show  
\$25, Show 8 p.m.

Check our website

## Make your reservation for WAHS Athletic Hall of Fame dinner

Today is the last day to make a reservation for the Weatherly Area High School Athletic Hall of Fame dinner, which will be held Saturday in the middle school cafeteria.

The day will begin with the varsity girls' basketball team playing host to CMVT at 1 p.m. Dinner will be served at 4:45 p.m., and the boys' junior varsity game will begin

at 6 p.m. The varsity boys basketball team will also play host to CMVT.

This year's inductees will be introduced at the banquet at 4:30 p.m., and during the intermission between the junior varsity and varsity boys' games in the evening.

Cost of tickets is \$14 a person (adults) and \$7 (children 6 to 12), which will include

admission to the game.

Committee members, present and past Hall of Fame inductees, and Wrecker basketball fans are cordially invited to attend.

Reservations may be made by contacting the high school at 570-427-8521, or by contacting Athletic Director Scott Zoscin at 570-582-3750.

## Southern gospel concert at Faith Assembly of God

Southern gospel singer Randy Armentrout will perform a concert at Faith Assembly of God Church on January 15 at 7 p.m.

Randy has been singing gospel music for 37 years. He has performed with many

gospel groups, travelled across the U.S., and does 2 or 3 tours across Canada per year.

The church is located just off Route 93, Fox Manor Road in Hazle Township (behind Perkins Restaurant).

For more information, please contact the church office at 570-459-2410 or at [www.faith-ag.com](http://www.faith-ag.com).

A freewill offering will be taken for the special guest.

## Weatherly Lions Super Bowl fundraiser

The Weatherly Lions Club will hold a Super Bowl fund-

raiser on February 6.

The following food items, coming from Capriotti's, will be available: 5-pound bags of frozen chicken fingers for \$26; a bag of four dozen Pierogies for \$16; a bag of two dozen Pierogies for \$8; a bag of 25 frozen homemade meatballs for \$12.50; a 9-inch heat n' eat stromboli for \$7; an 8-inch Italian hoagie for \$3.50, or an 11-inch by 17-inch unbaked pizza for \$11.50. No onions or peppers are available for the hoagie or stromboli.

Orders are due by January 30, and payment is due at time of pickup, which will be from 1-3 p.m. on February 6 at the Weatherly Borough Building.

To order, call Teresa at 570-427-4321, Chris at 570-427-4028, Joan at 570-427-8222. You can also message the Lions on their Facebook page, email [weatherlylionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:weatherlylionsclub@gmail.com), or look for forms at the borough office, Weatherly Pharmacy, T.J.'s One Stop, or Citizens Fire Company.

## Unbaked pizza sale

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 360, Weatherly, will hold an unbaked pizza sale on January 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the post home.

Cost for a regular cheese pizza is \$9. Toppings of extra cheese, three-cheese, sau-

sage, pepperoni, or mushroom can be ordered at \$1 per topping.

Pre-orders are appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome.

To order, call Joan Drasher at 570-427-2587 or Georgia Farrow at 570-427-4527.

**Order early pizza, calzones, hoagies, and stromboli for the Football games!**



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**570-443-9776**

Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

## Wings & Pizza for Super Bowl

L & L Fire Company will hold a Super Bowl Wings & Pizza Sale on Sunday, February 7. Wings are \$8 per

dozen for hot, mild, barbecued, honey barbecued or butter & garlic. Pizzas are \$9 for cheese only, or \$10 with mushrooms, pepperoni, pepperoni & mushrooms, or extra cheese.

Orders can be placed by calling Keith at 570-956-9154; deadline is Saturday, January 30. Orders can be picked up at the firehouse in Laurytown between 1 and 5 p.m. on February 7.

Other special events planned at the L & L include a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, February 21, and bingo on Sunday, February 28. The annual ham raffle is scheduled for Friday, March 18.



# Coming Events

**JANUARY 16, Saturday**  
— Weatherly Areas High School Hall of Fame Games & Dinner

**JANUARY 16, Saturday** — NFL Football Playoff Party, sponsored by Crestwood Baseball Booster Club at Dorrance Inn, Mountain Top

**JANUARY 17, Sunday**  
— Breakfast, sponsored V.F.W. Post 6615, White Haven

**JANUARY 17, Sunday** — Kids Free Throw Contest, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 12105, Weatherly

**JANUARY 20, Wednesday** — Quarterly Meeting of American Legion Post 592, White Haven

**JANUARY 22, Friday** — Unbaked Pizza Sale, sponsored by Centenary United Methodist Church, Weatherly

**JANUARY 29, Friday** — Unbaked Pizza Sale, sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 360, Weatherly

**JANUARY 31, Sunday**  
— Bingo, sponsored by Weatherly Area High School Senior Parents

**FEBRUARY 5, Friday** — Clothing Giveaway, sponsored by Freeland Presbyterian Church

**FEBRUARY 7, Sunday** — Breakfast, sponsored by Marine Corps League

Det.1039 at St. Patrick's Parish Center, White Haven

**FEBRUARY 7, Sunday** — Breakfast, sponsored by Albrightsville Fire Company

**FEBRUARY 7, Sunday** — Pizza & Wing Sale, sponsored by L & L Fire Company, Laurytown

**FEBRUARY 10, Wednesday** — Bingo, sponsored by St. Patrick's R.C. Church, White Haven

**FEBRUARY 14, Sunday** — Breakfast, sponsored by Silver Ridge Hunting Club, Weatherly

**FEBRUARY 20, Saturday** — Cherry Festival, sponsored by Salem United Church of Christ, Weatherly

**FEBRUARY 21, Sunday** — Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by L & L Fire Company, Laurytown

**FEBRUARY 28, Sunday** — Bingo, sponsored by L & L Fire Company, Laurytown

**MARCH 18, Friday** — Ham Raffle, sponsored by L & L Fire Company, Laurytown

*This column is open to all organizations in the Weatherly, White Haven, Freeland, Albrightsville, Blakeslee, Conyngham/Drums, Lake Harmony & Mountain Top areas. If your organization is planning a fund-raising activity, or other special event open to the public, you may have it listed by calling 570-443-9131. There is no charge for this service.*

## Salem UCC annual Cherry Festival

Salem United Church of Christ will hold its annual Cherry Festival chicken and waffles dinner on February 20 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the social rooms of the church.

The menu includes chicken, waffles, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dessert, and a beverage. Take outs will be available. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 4 to 12 years old, and free for children

3 and under.

Tickets are available from consistory members Tracy Blackwell, Linda Garber, Ron Gerhart, Sarah Hamm, Melodie Heydt, Janet Holman, Mary Rose Minnick, Donna Miscavige, Lori O'Donnell, Esther Strouse, Sam Ray, Olivia Winheld, or by calling Cindy Gerhart at 570-427-4197 or the church at 570-427-4265.

The church's annual Chinese auction will also be held at the event.

For those who cannot attend, proxy sheets will be available in February at Weatherly Pharmacy, Citizens Fire Company, or by calling Miscavige at 570-427-4515 or Minnick at 570-427-8865.

The deadline for returning proxy sheets is February 17.

## 4-H open house in Carbon County

Carbon County 4-H will hold an open house on January 31 from 2-4 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Office, 529 Lentz Tail in Jim Thorpe.

4-H is the youth component

of Penn State University, and eligible ages are 8-19 as of January 1 of the current year.

Learn about 4-H at the open house. Leaders will be available to talk about some of the

4-H projects that their clubs offer and answer any questions you may have.

Light refreshments will be available and door prizes will be awarded.

## Ron White returns to FM Kirby Center

**With Special Guest- Last Comic Standing Winner Josh Blue**

Comedian Ron "Tater Salad" White, best known as the cigar smoking, scotch drinking funnyman from the "Blue Collar Comedy" phenomenon, returns to Wilkes-Barre with his new stand-up show. White returns to the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts on January 28 at 8 p.m.

White has achieved three Grammy nominations, a Gold Record, two of the top rated one-hour specials in Comedy Central history, a book that ap-

peared on the New York Times Best Seller List, and CD and DVD sales of over 10 million units.

This show is for mature audiences only. Tickets are \$42.75

and \$52.75, plus fees, and go on sale November 20 at 10 a.m. They will be available at the Kirby Center box office, online at [www.kirbycenter.org](http://www.kirbycenter.org) and by phone at 570-826-1100.

## Celebrate Handwriting Day

In honor of National Handwriting Day, there will be a workshop on January 23 from 2-5 p.m. called "Write On! Handwriting Reboot." It will

take place at Flourish Creative Workspace in Conyngham.

You can get details and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../write-on-handwriting...>

## Card of Thanks,

I would like to thank everyone who sent prayers, cards and phone calls for my recent time in the hospital for heart surgery. Everything was greatly appreciated.

Thanks again.  
Tom Carter

## Night with the Nurses

**Thursday, January 21 • 6:30pm**

at Heritage Hill Senior Community  
800 Sixth Street, Weatherly

As a family caregiver  
you are invited to join us for a

### Geriatric Potpourri

*presented by Dr. Philip Benyo,  
Board Certified Geriatrician*

Get answers and information on how  
you can better care for your senior  
loved one.

*Seating is limited*

*Please RSVP by Jan 19 to Michelle  
or Jody at 570-616-4407*





# Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

I'm not sure if the weather that we've had to endure is anything more than El Nino-caused oddness. The nice stable winter days of early last week were drenched by a warm wet weekend. Hopes for skiers' normal were washed away. On Sunday about mid-day a powerful thunderstorm blew through our area before the trailing edge of the front. By Sunday night, temperatures were diving back to seasonal with a biting wind.

We at the Journal wish local snowmaking crews the best of luck in competing with Mother

Nature.

This coming weekend is supposed to be a big skiers weekend because of the federal holiday on Monday. Pocono vacationers can celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday by coming here to ski. Forget ice fishing.

Late this month there's supposed to be an ice golf event on Lake Wallenpaupack. Perhaps this year they could do it by canoe and beach ball. (Actually, the event has been postponed until late February in hopes that normal weather returns.)

Driving through Mount Pocono a few times this week, we saw piles of snow at the edges of parking lots. And yet in the White Haven and Weatherly area, we've barely seen a dusting.

Ruth and I attended the opening day of the PA Farm Show on Saturday. We drove through heavy fog along Interstate 81, arriving just after mid-day to see the roads backed up around the Farm Show complex due to big attendance. After finding a parking spot we went into the building and decided to skip the first rodeo. Instead we headed for the big food court for some lunch.

People will like that the food court area has been expanded, with a large area of tables just behind the center food vendors. Further back are still the big displays of farm equipment and antiques, and info booths as always.

We took the tunnel from there into the critter displays, then walked through cattle corrals and an enlarged rabbit display, but didn't find any poultry this year. Sadly, the threat of avian flu stopped this

year's competitions. We did see some big, big bunnies.

The main display building in the oldest wing of the complex has a new layout that was really enjoyable—there's a lot to learn there. We stopped to talk to a wheat weaver, learned about mushroom growing from farmers, talked to a logger and admired some beautiful handcrafted furniture at that display. We learned about the Pennsylvania State Library, and then as a reward, got to eat slices of chocolate cake at the end of annual Hershey-sponsored cake baking competition. The chief judge remarked that this was the largest field ever, with over 70 cakes to be tasted and judged by a panel of eight. They had to sample nearly 100 slices. The remainder of the cakes are cut and offered as samples to the competition's fans.

Earlier, we had also gotten a sample of a mushroom and beef burger that was prepared by one of the guest chefs with the assistance of culinary students from Penn College of Technology, of Penn State, of Williamsport. We're going to try this recipe at home.

We explored more of the critter barns, seeing pregnant piggies. A few were due in the coming weeks. There were newly groomed goats and sheep, and get-

ting-groomed cows and bulls. This year, we enjoyed watching two sessions of judging of youth-raised goats. 4-Hers had made their goats pretty, and then lined up to have an experienced judge tell them how they did. The judge had been doing this for 30 years, here and at other fairs and competitions. He was kind to the kids whose goats didn't measure up, and clear in explaining why the ones that did were first place goats vs. sixth place goats. You could see the emotions play out on the kids' faces.

It was a long hoof back to the main arena, and then a bit of luck to find two seats together for the evening rodeo. After all the walking, it was a relief to be off our feet. At the rodeo, there were many, many kids to cheer for. The rodeo went long, but it was fun. There was time enough after it for a visit back to the food court and into the displays before the event closed at 9. The PA Farm Show runs through this Saturday. Admission is free. Parking is \$15.

We skipped hockey for our day at the PA Farm Show. Our sports fix this weekend was listening to the NFL games. The Steelers have made us proud. We will cheer them into Denver this weekend.



## Reward

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## Spaghetti dinner to benefit American Cancer Society

A spaghetti dinner, benefiting the American Cancer Society, will take place at the Crestwood High School Cafeteria on January 24 from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 for adults,

\$5 for children ages 7-12, and children 6 and under eat free.

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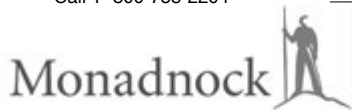
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

# Journal Puzzles

## THEME: OUTER SPACE

## ACROSS

1. Visual representation
6. Part of tennis match
9. Hindu dress
13. Japanese-American
14. Anger management issue
15. Strong and sharp
16. Relating to Eastern Catholic churches
17. Group of whales
18. Innocent
19. \* \_\_\_\_ line between atmosphere and outer space
21. \*Houston's infamous \_\_\_\_
23. "Mele Kalikimaka" wreath
24. \*Galilean moons, the \_\_\_\_ largest moons of Jupiter
25. Fertility clinic stock
28. Something inadmissible, to a baby
30. Less taxing
35. Fabled fliers
37. Praise
39. Buddy
40. Angler's hope
41. Muhammad's teaching
43. Capital on the Dnieper
44. Hipbone-related
46. Aries or Taurus, e.g.
47. \*E.T. "phoned" it
48. One in ten, pl.
50. Iran Nuclear Deal, e.g.
52. Spanish "sea"
53. "Moonlight Sonata," e.g.
55. Embrace
57. \*Matt Damon in 2015 film
61. \*Outer space, mostly
64. \* \_\_\_\_ Asimov
65. Bird word
67. Flew a kite
69. Île de la Cité river
70. Hole punching tool
71. Fill with optimism
72. What choir did
73. Brian Griffin on "Family Guy," e.g.
74. User's treatment

## DOWN

1. African grazer
2. Triple toe loop location
3. "Heat of the Moment" band
4. Black \_\_\_\_ in "Pirates of the Caribbean"
5. Paid killers

6. Sagittarius, e.g.
7. Time period
8. Dancer's beat
9. Union foe
10. Seed cover
11. Gauche or Droite, in Paris
12. Something previously mentioned
15. Arctic-wear
20. Garlic mayo
22. French street
24. Snafus
25. \*Space path
26. Bridal veil fabric
27. \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ a play
29. \*Famous space acronym
31. Punjabi believer
32. "Kick the bucket," e.g.
33. Organ swelling
34. \*Mars exploration vehicle
36. \*Only one was in John Glenn's Friendship 7
38. \*Brent Spiner in "Star Trek"
42. Coffee shop order
45. USDA designation
49. Hot springs resort

51. Country singer Tanya
54. Open a beer bottle
56. Cunning
57. Piggy's title
58. On a cruise
59. Cats and dogs?
60. \*Beverage associated with early astronauts
61. Measure of electric potential
62. Beehive State
63. Online \_\_\_\_ tag
66. Be in the red
68. Cotillion ball's main attraction

## CROSSWORD

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72						73				74				

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# Crestwood girls stun Dallas, stay alive in WVC title chase

The Crestwood girls couldn't have asked for a more difficult three-game stretch than the one they had to endure in the past week. Going up against a gauntlet that began with defending District 2 Class 4A champion Pittston Area and continued at perennial power and rival Hazleton Area, the Lady Comets entered Monday's home game with red-hot Dallas on a two-game slide. But that didn't stop them from pulling off one of the bigger upsets of the Wyoming Valley Conference season to date.

Sparked by the play of its two-time all-state player Maddie Ritsick, the Lady Comets halted Dallas' eight-game win streak with a 51-38 victory that vaulted Crestwood back into the crowded Division I race and threw a wrench into the Mountaineers' early-season run. Ritsick scored a game-high 25 points, grabbed nine rebounds, and powered a second-half run in which the Lady Comets outscored the visiting Mounts 26-12 to pull away.

The win moved Crestwood to 5-7 overall, but more importantly squared its conference record at 2-2 heading into Thursday's home game with Berwick. Dallas (9-2) slipped to 3-1 with its first conference loss. Ritsick scored 15 of her 25 points in the second half despite facing constant double-teaming by the Dallas front line of Sara Lojewski and Nikki Wren.

Dallas led by one (26-25) at intermission, but that went away quickly when Crestwood's Abbie Macko nailed a jumper early in the third quarter. By the time Sara Hopkins hit a pair of free throws midway through the fourth quarter, the Lady Comets were up 42-33 and pulling away. The Lady Mountaineers missed 10 of their final 12 shots from the field, and could not hold off Ritsick and the Lady Comets

down the stretch. Macko backed Ritsick with nine points and Hopkins added six.

Dallas carried a one-point lead into the second half, but Crestwood's Macko hit a jumper to give her team the 27-26 advantage, which would slowly extend the rest of the way. With 4:30 remaining in regulation, Sara Hopkins knocked down a pair of free throws to give Crestwood a 42-33 lead, tied for its biggest lead in the game up to that point. After Hopkins' free throws, Dallas shot 2-of-12 down the stretch and failed to make up the difference.

In the loss, Maddie Kelley and Wren scored 12 points each, with Wren's 11 rebounds giving her a double-double. In addition to Ritsick's 25 points, Macko scored nine; Hopkins six; and Marlee Dillon five.

"The kids played with heart today," noted Crestwood assistant Jim Miner, who was filling in for head coach Ed Stepanski "It was amazing to watch."

**DALLAS (38)** Wren 5 2-3 12, Kelley 5 1-2 12, Lojewski 2 0-0 5, Hoats 1 2-2 4, Johnson 1 1-2 3, Saba 1 0-0 2. Totals 15 6-9 38.

**CRESTWOOD (51)** Ritsick 8 8-12 25, Macko 4 0-0 9, Hopkins 2 2-2 6, Dillon 1 3-4 5, Shiplett 1 0-0 2, Makowski 1 0-0 2, Shipton 1 0-0 2, Murphy 0 0-0 0, Snipas 0 0-0 0. Totals 18 13-18 51.

**Dallas.....14 12 5 7 – 38**  
**Crestwood.....12 13 13 13 – 51**

Three-pointers: Kelley, Lojewski. Ritsick, Macko.

**Hazleton Area 57, Crestwood 45** - On Friday night in Hazleton, host Hazleton Area used three decisive spurts in each of the first three quarters, and solid play from their forward tandem of Ashley Martincek and Alyssa Shamany to get past Crestwood in a clash of the last two Division I champions. Martincek and Shamany com-

## Crestwood Girls Basketball Roundup

bined for 18 points and 10 rebounds to help neutralize Crestwood's Ritsick inside, and also make up for Mackenzie Yori's cool shooting night as the Lady Cougars remained in the thick of the Division I race.

"Going 2-1 was a good week, especially after losing the first game," noted Lady Cougars head coach Joe Gavio, whose team lost to Dallas 59-56 to open Division I play four days earlier.

The high-scoring Yori was limited to two field goals and 12 points total on Friday, but the Lady Cougars received 14 points from sophomore Maddie Mrochko and eight more from Kendra Pfeil while improving to 8-2 on the season and 2-1 in conference play. "Crestwood did a nice job, make no mistake about it," Gavio said, "but I thought our bigs did a good job on Ritsick, even though she had a lot of points, because she can still score and she's pretty tough. I thought that might have been the key, because she's still a stud."

Ritsick, still rounding back into shape following offseason knee surgery, enjoyed a big night nonetheless with 23 points and 10 rebounds. But no other Crestwood player had more than seven points. The Lady Comets were at a disadvantage from the get-go, playing without their head coach Ed Stepanski on the bench. Stepanski was ejected from the freshman game earlier in the evening at Hughie McGeehan Gymnasium and had to serve a suspension that included Monday's Dallas game.

But they didn't appear fazed by it early on, taking a 6-3 lead midway through the opening quarter on Sara Hopkins' pull-up

jumper, as well as two inside scores from the 5-11" Ritsick.

Hazleton Area's first big run came soon after, when Martincek took a feed from Yori inside to start a 9-2 dash. Mrochko's three-pointer, Shamany's strong drive down the lane, and Ally Yale's corner swish off a Shamany assist made it 12-8 at quarter's end. The Lady Cougars continued to pull away early in the second quarter, when two free throws each from Pfeil and Yori, combined with a Mrochko spin move inside and her breakaway pass to Shamany, upped the Hazleton Area lead to 20-10 at the 5:54 mark.

Crestwood got all the way back to within one (20-19) with its own 9-0 tear, spearheaded by Ritsick's press break and post move down low, and two scores off the bench from Julia Makowski. But as quick as they got things close, the game got away from the Lady Comets again when Hazleton Area turned two turnovers and a missed shot into three easy baskets the other way. Shamany dishd to Martincek for two points, scored on a putback herself, then received a long pass from Yori to get a layup and push the lead back to seven. Mrochko's driving basket in the final minute finished off a 28-19 first half for Hazleton Area.

Crestwood turned it over 16 times in the opening half, and struggled with the Lady Cougars' pressure throughout. "I think Hazleton was just a little quicker than we were, maybe a lot quicker," stated Crestwood assistant Jim Miner. "Too many turnovers (27), we missed a lot of shots (14-of-43), a lot of close shots. In that first half we got back in the game, and then we gave up a couple easy buckets, buckets over the top of the defense."

Kate Snipas' three-pointer and two Ritsick free throws got the Lady Comets within six (30-24) early in the third quarter, only to see Hazleton Area run off the next eight points to push the lead back to double-digits (38-24) again. The Lady Comets never got closer than 11 the rest of the way.

Yori, who had just two free throws in the opening half, scored 10 of her 12 after intermission, and went a perfect 8-for-8 at the free throw line. Her six consecutive free throws midway through the fourth

quarter sealed the deal.

"We're hoping for better things. There's a lot of season left," Miner said as the Lady Comets left the gym. Their win over Dallas on Monday proved how right he was.

The junior varsity game went down to the wire, as Lauren Pataki's jumper from the wing with 17 seconds left capped a late comeback and gave Hazleton Area a 47-46 win. Alyssa Cuono and Bella Termini topped Crestwood's jayvees with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

**CRESTWOOD (45)** Dillon 0 1-2 1, Hopkins 3 0-0 7, Cuono 1 0-0 3, Uhl 0 0-0 0, Snipas 2 0-0 5, Macko 0 0-0 0, Shiplett 0 0-0 0, Makowski 2 2-2 6, Murphy 0 0-0 0, Ritsick 6 11-12 23. Totals 14 14-16 45.

**HAZLETON AREA (57)** Pfeil 3 2-4 8, Yale 1 0-0 2, Yori 2 8-8 12, Mrochko 6 1-3 14, Pataki 0 1-2 1, Shamany 4 0-0 8, Martincek 5 0-0 10, Sheeto 0 0-0 0, Zapotocky 1 0-0 2, Trivelpiece 0 0-0 0. Totals 22 12-17 57.

**Crestwood..... 8 11 12 14 – 45**  
**Hazleton Area.....12 16 16 13 – 57**

Three-pointers: Hopkins, Cuono, Snipas. Mrochko.

**Pittston Area 48, Crestwood 44** - In Wright Township last Wednesday, league frontrunner Pittston Area went 8-for-9 from the foul line in the final period to hold off Crestwood for a four-point win. Pittston Area's Taryn Ashby made all seven of her free throws, including five in the fourth quarter on her way to a game-high 17 points. Teammate Marley O'Brien added 14 points.

Snipas topped Crestwood with 12 points on four three-pointers and Ritsick finished with 10 points, but only four in the second half. Hopkins chipped in eight points.

Andrea Shipton scored nine points as Crestwood cruised to a 34-12 victory in the junior varsity game.

**PITTSSTON AREA (48)** Durling 4 0-0 8, Chisdock 2 1-3 5, Cummings 1 0-0 2, Noone 1 0-0 2, M. O'Brien 5 4-8 14, Ashby 5 7-7 17. Totals 18 12-18 48.

**CRESTWOOD (44)** Dillon 0 0-0 0, Shipton 1 0-0 2, Hopkins 3 0-0 8, Snipas 4 0-0 12, Macko 2 0-0 4, Shiplett 1 0-0 2, Makowski 1 4-10 6, Ritsick 4 1-2 10. Totals 16 5-12 44.

**Pittston Area..... 14 14 10 10 – 48**  
**Crestwood..... 12 9 10 13 – 44**

Three-pointers: Snipas 4, Hopkins, Ritsick.

# Comets fall in showdown with Hazleton Area

## Crestwood Boys Basketball Roundup

Sophomore Jeff Planutis scored a team-high 13 points, including all eight of Hazleton Area's second-quarter points to help the Cougars pull away to a 48-34 win at Crestwood Saturday night, handing the Comets their first conference loss of the season. The Cougars (8-3) climbed out of an early five-point hole on their way to their third straight win on the Comets' floor, improving to 3-0 in WVC Division I play. Crestwood dipped to 7-4 overall and 2-1 in the WVC.

Crestwood's Robbie Hopkins scored on a buzzer-beater to give his team a 9-4 lead through one quarter of play, but the Comets went cold, making just 1-of-11 field goal tries in the second period while Planutis was lighting the Cougars' fire. His end to end layup gave the Cougars their first lead (10-9) with 5:16 left before half-time. Another Jeff Planutis bucket made it a three-point game, before Josh Malkemes' breakaway hoop accounted for the Comets' only two points of the quarter to put Crestwood up 12-11 at intermission.

Planutis started the second-half scoring with a three-pointer from the corner, and the Cougars never relinquished the lead. When Cougars scoring leader Bobby Planutis finally scored his first basket on a dunk with 2:15 left, it all but sealed the latest chapter in what is one of the biggest rivalries in the conference.

Malkemes and Hopkins led Crestwood with 13 and 12 points, respectively. No other player had more than five.

Hazleton Area's junior varsity rallied for a 42-39 win in the night's opener. Mike Kozelsky led Crestwood with 18.

**HAZLETON AREA (48)** Samec 4 0-0 8, Cusatis 4 0-0 8, S. Planutis 0 0-0 0, Gula 1 0-1 3, Biasi 1 1-2 4, Genasevich 1 1-2 3, B. Planutis 1 6-6 8, J. Planutis 6 0-0 13, Faison 0 1-2 1. Totals 18 9-13 48.

**CRESTWOOD (34)** Hopkins 5 0-2 12, Gegaris 0 0-0 0, Blass 0 0-2 0, J. Klusewitz 0 0-0 0, Richards 0 0-0 0, McCue 1 1-2 4, Foreman 2 1-2 5, Malkemes 3 6-7 13. Totals 11 8-15 34.

**Haz. Area.....4 8 17 19 – 48**  
**Crestwood..... 9 2 10 13 – 34**

Three-pointers: Gula, Biasi, J. Planutis, Hopkins 2, McCue, Malkemes.

**Crestwood 46, Coughlin 33** - Jason Klusewitz scored 13 points and Malkemes added nine as Crestwood opened defense of its Division I championship with a win at Coughlin last Tuesday. Malkemes and Hopkins each had six for the Comets, who built a 42-18 lead through three quarters then withstood Coughlin's 15-4 fourth-quarter run.

Jose Rivera led Coughlin with 10 points, while Eli McAllister added nine.

**CRESTWOOD (46)** J. Klusewitz 5 1-2 13, J. Malkemes 3 1-4 9, M. Foreman 3 0-1 6, R. Hopkins 2 0-0 6, L. Blass 2 0-0 4, K. Richards 2 0-0 4, T. McCue 1 0-0 2, M. Andrews 0 2-2 2, L. Lysiak 0 0-0 0, J. Hawley 0 0-0 0, K. Klusewitz 0 0-0 0, K. Gegaris 0 0-0 0. Totals 18 4-9 46.

**COUGHLIN (33)** J. Rivera 4 2-2 10, E. McAllister 3 3-9 9, D. Rajza 1 2-2 4, Cerep 1 0-0 2, Cobbs 2 0-0 4, Robinson 2 0-0 4, Mims 0 0-0 0. Totals 13 7-13 33.

**Crestwood.....17 11 14 4 – 46**  
**Coughlin.....7 5 6 15 – 33**

Three-pointers: R. Hopkins 2, J. Malkemes 2, J. Klusewitz 2.

**Crestwood 52, Pittston Area 46** - The Comets posted a hard-fought win over the host Patriots last Thursday as Malkemes scored 10 of his game-high 15 points in the second half to help them pull away from a 17-17 halftime tie.

Crestwood inched out to a 34-25 lead through three quarters, then withstood a 21-point fourth quarter by the Patriots to hold on. Kyle Gegaris finished with nine points, Mendell Foreman had eight and Hopkins chipped in seven - all in the second half - for the Comets.


**CRESTWOOD (52)** Hopkins 1 5-8 7, Gegaris 3 3-3 9, Blass 1 1-4 4, J. Klusewitz 2 0-0 5, Richards 1 2-2 4, McCue 0 0-0 0, Foreman 3 2-4 8, Malkemes 4 6-10 15, Andrews 0 0-0 0. Totals: 15 19-31 52.

**PITTSSTON AREA (46)** Black 4 0-0 9, Osticco 1 2-4 5, McAndrew 2 4-4 9, Mitchell 2 1-1 5, Smith 0 0-0 0, Klein 2 0-0 5, Guillaume 1 2-2 4, Williams 3 2-3 9. Totals: 15 11-14 46.

**Crestwood.....14 3 17 18 – 52**  
**Pittston Area.....8 9 8 21 – 46**

Three-pointers: Malkemes, Blass, J. Klusewitz.


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# Lady Wreckers endure tough week in SIAL play

## Weatherly Girls Basketball Roundup

Rayanne Hawk pumped in 22 points, one of three Williams Valley players in double digits as the Lady Vikings edged host Weatherly Area 55-49 in a Schuylkill League Division II-III crossover game last week. Williams Valley led by just five (32-27) at intermission before outscoring Weatherly 15-6 in the third to control. The Lady Wreckers rallied in the fourth, using a 16-8 burst to make things interesting.

Kate Whelski (18) and Jenna Daniel (10) joined Hawk in double figures for Williams Valley, which improved to 9-2 overall and 4-1 in league play. Shelby Berger and Emily Zoscin scored 13 apiece for Weatherly, and Megan Peifer checked in with nine.

Weatherly won the junior varsity game 53-26 behind the double-figure scoring of Tina Caravella (14), Gillian Hinkle (13) and Lindsey Hoffman (12).

**WILLIAMS VALLEY (55)**  
Hawk 8 5-5 22, Schorr 0 1-7 1, Daniel 5 0-0 10, Schadle 1 2-4 4, Whelski 7 3-6 18, Achenbach 0 0-0 0, Hoffman 0 0-0 0, Undergrove 0 0-0 0. Totals: 21 11-22 55.

**WEATHERLY AREA (49)**  
Zoscin 5 2-3 13, Hoffman 2 0-0 5, Caravella 1 0-2 2, Gower 1 0-0 2, Berger 5 0-0 13, Hartz 2 0-1 5, Peifer 4 1-5 9, DeSpirito 0 0-0 0, Gillott 0 0-0 0. Totals: 20 3-11 49.

**Williams Valley.....20 12 15 8 - 55**  
**Weatherly Area.....14 13 6 16 - 49**  
Three-pointers: Hawk, Whelski. Berger 3, Zoscin, Hoffman, Hartz.

**Jim Thorpe 60, Weatherly Area 32** - On Saturday, Kayley Kovac poured in a game-high 25 points as Jim Thorpe earned the non-league win. The Lady Olympians ran out to a 19-2 first-quarter lead. Payton Kovac scored eight of her 11 points in the first quarter for Jim Thorpe. Zoscin was the only Lady Wrecker to

finish in double figures, scoring 10 points. Berger and Peifer each had six points.

**WEATHERLY AREA (32)**  
Zoscin 3 4-11 10, Hoffman 1 0-0 2, Caravella 0 0-0 0, DeSpirito 0 0-0 0, Gower 1 0-0 2, Berger 2 2-2 6, Hartz 1 0-0 2, Gillott 1 2-2 4, Peifer 3 0-2 6, Totals 12 8-17 32

**JIM THORPE (60)** Richards 2 0-0 5, P. Kovac 2 5-6 11, Condly 0 0-0 0, Ohi 1 0-1 2, K. Kovac 7 11-16 25, Cressman 3 1-2 7, Waselus 2 2-4 6, Lignore 2 0-0 4, Totals 19 19-30 60

**Weatherly Area.....2 5 13 12 - 32**  
**Jim Thorpe.....19 15 17 9 - 60**  
Three-pointers: Richards, P. Kovac 2.

**Minersville 80, Weatherly Area 36** - On Monday evening, Division II leader and unbeaten Minersville (12-0) used a 28-0 run in the second quarter to pull away from Weatherly in a Division II-III crossover game at Minersville.

Zoscin and Berger scored 11 points apiece for the Lady Wreckers (6-6 overall, 1-5

league), who dropped their fourth straight game. Madelynn Wigoda had 19 points, Abby Schoffstall scored 18 points and Adrienne Kroznuskie added 14 for the Battlin' Miners, who had five players in doubles.

Minersville won the junior varsity game 48-37.

**WEATHERLY AREA (26)**  
Zoscin 4 3-4 11, Berger 4 0-2 11, Hartz 2 0-0 4, Peifer 3 0-0 6, Hoffman 1 0-0 2, Gower 1 0-0 2,

Gillott 0 0-0 0, Caravella 0 0-0 0, DeSpirito 0 0-0 0, Ache 0 0-0 0. Totals: 15 3-6 36.

**MINERSVILLE (80)** Nawrocki 3 2-2 11, Kriston 2 0-0 4, Schoffstall 8 0-0 18, Tellez 1 0-0 2, Mealey 5 2-4 12, Kroznuskie 4 5-6 14, Wigoda 9 1-3 10, Graeff 0 0-0 0, Bentz 0 0-0 0, Lowe 0 0-0 0. Totals: 32 10-15 80.

**Weatherly Area.....10 7 11 8 - 36**  
**Minersville.....23 30 17 10 - 80**

Three-pointers: Berger 3, Nawrocki 3, Schoffstall 2, Kroznuskie.

## Weatherly Boys Basketball

# Wreckers steamroll CMVT behind Moon

Zach Moon filled up the basket with a career-high 27 points last Thursday as the Weatherly Area boys basketball team eased past Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech 53-23 in a non-league road game. The Wreckers entered the fourth quarter with a 15-point lead, then outscored CMVT 20-5 in the final

quarter to win going away.

Moon knocked down seven three-pointers en route to his career-best night, scoring more than half of the Wreckers' points. Teammate Jake Stover added 14 points and Gary Buck scored six for the Wreckers.

Weatherly Area won the junior varsity game 32-18.

**WEATHERLY AREA (53)** Arthur 1 0-0 2, Stover 7 0-3 14, Bizarre 0 0-0 0, Moon 9 2-4 27, Buck 3 0-2 6, Yurchak 0 0-0 0, Zaremba 1 2-2 4, Osifat 0 0-0 0, Hinkle 0 0-0 0. Totals 21 4-9 53.

**CMVT (23)** Hiedler 1 1-2 3, Halye 2 0-0 5, Petry 2 0-2 4, Wlesh 1 2-2 4, Simpler 1 0-0 2, Pascal 1 1-4 3, Cameron 0 2-2 2, Wisniewski 0 0-0 0. Totals 8 6-14 23.

**Weatherly Area.....12 9 12 20 - 53**  
**CMVT.....5 7 6 5 - 23**

## The Journal-Herald

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8	5	4	3	7	1	9	6	2

# Journal-Herald Sports

## Comets' Ritsick returning to form following surgery

by Steve Stallone,  
Sports Editor

Feb. 17, 2015 is a day Maddie Ritsick will never forget, although she'd sure like to. Battling Lake-Lehman in a tightly-contested first-round playoff game at the Crestwood High School gym, Ritsick was driving toward the basket when there was contact along the baseline. Her knee gave way as she crumpled to the floor. With 4:44 left in regulation, Ritsick's record-breaking season had come to a screeching halt, and her future became full of uncertainty.

By the next day, her worst fears were confirmed. She had suffered a torn ACL and MCL, and would need surgery to repair the damage. The prognosis: At least eight months of recovery time and rehabilitation, and perhaps a year or more. But by mid-November, less than nine months after her surgery, Ritsick was back on the court for the Crestwood Lady Comets, ready for her senior season. "It's going pretty well," Ritsick said Friday of her return to the hardwood. "It's hard to come back from an injury like that. It's definitely been a physical struggle more than mental."

If you had never watched Ritsick play, you may not even notice she had had major knee surgery just 10 months ago. The 5-11 forward is averaging nearly 20 points per game and is a consistent double-digit rebounder again this season. But those who have watched her perform during the past three seasons know that she is still less than 100 percent as her knee — and her body — round back into playing shape.

"I don't want to say it's still hurting her, but if you watch she still has a little gimp in the movement," assistant coach Jim Miner said. "We told her 'Maddie, we don't know how you feel. That's up to you.'"

"It's maybe like 75 percent," she admitted when asked how far along her knee is. "Definitely the cutting has been impacted, and just my overall physical shape has been affected so much for not being able to do anything for nine months." Ritsick wasn't about to wait for it to be 100 percent, not with her senior season upon her. By the first official day of practice, she was back on the court with her teammates, ready to go after the Wyoming Valley Conference Division I championship they had won during her sophomore year.

She made a triumphant return on Dec. 4, scoring 22 points and grabbing 10 rebounds to lead Crestwood to a 42-33 season-opening win over Meyers. "Oh my God, I was so excited (to play again), but obviously nervous at the same time," she said after her return to the court against Meyers. "But once I got out there, it was like second nature again." Since



then, she poured in 36 points in a loss to Williamsport, scored 28 and 27 in back-to-back wins over Pleasant Valley and Wyoming Area, and either led or tied for team scoring honors in 10 of 11 games this season.

Last Friday night, she finished with a game-high 23 points — including an 11-for-12 showing at the free throw line — and pulled down 10 rebounds in a 57-45 setback at Hazleton Area. That came despite added pressure from the Lady Cougar defense, with players surrounding her on every possession.

"She can still score and she's pretty tough. She's still a stud," Hazleton Area head coach Joe Gavio said. "She's not the same player, but she's still pretty good. If she gets her hands on the ball, she'll score. She's still showing a little affects (from the injury), but she'll be better the next time we play her."

It's a goal for Ritsick, who wants to be close to all the way back for the second half of the conference season, and for the playoffs in February. For that, she continues to rehab both on her own and under the supervision of a trainer. "I'm doing strength and conditioning at Wilkes with a trainer, and I do stuff on my own, mostly like agilitys and stuff like that," she explained. "I feel like I've been improving. I'm getting back into the swing of things and I hope that the next time we play these teams, I'll be 100 percent."

As she rounds back into playing shape, she's also closing in on a very important milestone at Crestwood. Last season, she scored a whopping 559 points to break Becky Cooper's long-standing Crestwood single-season scoring mark of 545 set in 1987-88. She also topped 1,000 career points en route to WVC Division I co-Player of the Year honors, and was

voted to the Pennsylvania All-State Team for a second straight season. With 219 points thus far in 2015-16, Ritsick is just 92 points away from eclipsing Diane Madl's all-time CHS girls scoring record of 1,486 points.

But she's not resting on her laurels. Far from it. "My shot has been off these past two games," she said on Friday. "Today I didn't really shoot much from the outside. I'm going to practice over the weekend with my shot, and hopefully it will be back."

Already committed to playing basketball at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia next season, Ritsick wants to first get herself all the way back during the next month, and help lead her team to one final District 2 Class 3A playoff push before she moves on. "It was my goal to be back by the beginning of the season, so I made that," she said. "By the one-year point, I'm hoping to be 100 percent, and hopefully a little better than that."

That would make all her hard work over the past year all the more rewarding.

## Crestwood Wrestling

### Comets compete in WVC Wrestling Championships

Crestwood's Justin Lukashewski placed fourth at 145 pounds at the two-day Wyoming Valley Conference Wrestling Championships held at Lake-Lehman High School. He advanced to the third-place match before dropping an 8-0 verdict to Coughlin's Mike Brown in the consolation finals.

Competing in a tough 132-pound bracket, Crestwood's Ron Grevera picked up a sixth-place finish for the Comets. He recorded a 48-second pin in the preliminaries and a tough 1-0 decision in the quarterfinals to get to Saturday's semifinal round. A loss in the semifinals pushed him into the consolations, where he settled for sixth after a 5-3 setback to Wyoming Valley West's Cory Yashinski in the fifth-place match.

Crestwood wrestlers Tyler Shaud and Ryan Black notched sixth-place finishes as well. Shaud lost 4-2 in the fifth-place match to Nanticoke's David Jones, and Black was decided by Meyers' Isaac Mensah 5-1.

Team champion Tunkhannock and runner-up Hazleton Area each had four wrestlers win individual championships.

## Sports Brief

### Knights of Columbus FT contest Sunday

The Knights of Columbus, Council 12105 in Weatherly will hold its annual free throw contest for boys and girls ages 10-14 on Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Eurana Park Pavilion. Applications can be obtained at Weatherly Area High School or Elementary/Middle School, TJ's One Stop, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, the Eurana Park Pavilion and at J&N Exxon in Beaver Meadows.

The event is a preliminary contest for the district, region and state Knights of Columbus free throw events. Contestants must provide a birth certificate on Sunday. For additional information contact Al Donadi at 570 427-4664.

## Jr. High Basketball Roundup

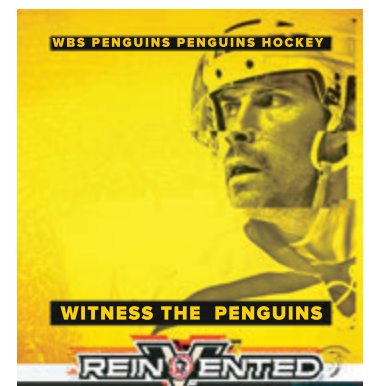
### Little Wreckers sweep Panther Valley

The Weatherly Area eighth grade boys basketball team earned a split during the past week, beating Panther Valley 52-30 and falling to Mahanoy Area 52-38. Mason Gerhart's 11 points and Elijah Derr's 10 points led the way for the Wreckers against PV. Edward Thomas topped the Panthers with seven points.

Against Mahanoy Area, Shane Miller scored a game-high 19 points

as the Golden Bears got the victory. Derr scored a team-high 15 points for Weatherly, and teammate Scott Zoscini added 12 points.

Meanwhile, the Wrecker seventh grade team posted a 52-26 win over Panther Valley behind Zoscini's 19-point performance. Dakota Kane chipped in 10 points to the winning cause.



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