

LAKE NEWS

VOL. 25, NO. 4

Lake Harmony PA

APRIL, 2020



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Lake News

April 2020

A CANWIN publication

Ruth Isenberg, Editor

Seth Isenberg, Ads / Distribution
Publishers

(Continuing the work of founders

Frank Pieri and Mary Farnschlager, 1995 – 2018)

Lake News is published monthly for the enjoyment of Lake Harmony area residents and visitors. Copies are free and are mailed to Lake Harmony box holders.

Find additional copies at The Country Peddler and at selected area businesses.

Subscriptions are also available, for \$21 by first class mail, or \$15 as a PDF via e-mail. Mail your check to CANWIN at 211 Main St., White Haven PA 18661.

E-mail us at lakenewslakeharmony@gmail.com

**Call us at CANWIN's office, 570-215-0204,
Seth x302 and Ruth x304**

To submit an article or photo, use the above e-mail, or give us a call. Articles may be accepted or rejected. If accepted, they will be edited.

Submitted items can be returned by arrangement.

Articles appearing in *Lake News* may not be reprinted without permission of *Lake News* or CANWIN newspapers. Mailing address is 211 Main St., White Haven PA 18661.

What we CAN control

by Ruth Isenberg

One of the most frustrating aspects of the current situation is confusion. We want to know what will happen next, and whether containment measures will work. Unfortunately, this is a new disease, and we're only beginning to learn the answers. Meanwhile, we hear and read conflicting reports, see empty store shelves, and worry about loved ones. We feel helpless and out of control.

Let's concentrate on what we **can** control. We can limit our consumption of news outlets that use a breathless tone to convey information, and instead turn to trusted sources like the Center for Disease Control. It's important to stay abreast of what's happening globally and locally, but it's also important to turn the TV off at a certain point.

We can make sure we wash our hands, and stay home. But that doesn't mean hide inside. Go for a walk. Be in touch with your neighbors, and see if they need your help. Read a book. Play a game with your kids. Zoom with your family and friends. Tackle some home improvements you've been putting off.

Most of all, let's learn from this experience. This isn't the first global illness, and it won't be the last. Let's figure out what we need to do to keep everyone healthier and safer.

LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Kidder Township Office 570 722-0107

Kidder Township Police

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Lake Harmony Vol. Fire Co.

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Lake Harmony Rescue Squad

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KIDDER TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Kidder Township Supervisor meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the township building, and unless otherwise noted, begin at **6:30 PM**. Notices of special meetings are posted at the township building and advertised in the Times-News. Planning meetings are held the 1st Wednesday at 6 PM; Zoning meetings, the last Monday at 6 PM; EAC, the second Wednesday at 7 PM. The public is welcome.

Kidder Supers declare disaster emergency, complete police business

by Seth Isenberg

Kidder Township supervisors conducted their March 19 regular monthly meeting in front of a small audience, all carefully separated by social distance, and with supervisors also carefully distanced, plus one by telephone. The meeting was short and packed with business, starting with a declaration of disaster emergency due to the Covid-19 public health emergency and actions of the Pennsylvania state government, effective immediately. The declaration authorizes the township to act to meet the emergency—in buying needed supplies and materials, adding temporary staff if needed, entering into contracts for public work to meet the emergency, and the like.

In relation to the emergency declaration, supervisors' chairman Thomas Bradley made note that the township will need to review and update its emergency preparedness plan.

Kidder Police Chief Matthew Kuzma issued a statement about changes in police procedure to protect the KTP officers. He also reached out to township senior citizens to offer what help his department can provide.

Supervisors approved hiring part/time police officer Vince Morrow as a full timer. Morrow steps up to cover for an officer recovering from an injury.

The department is waiting for the arrival of its new police vehicle, and was able to sell the vehicle that was retired for a higher price than the dealership offered for its trade-in. Walker Township near Tamaqua will buy the unit, stripped of its radio and computer, as is, for \$5,750.

Bills to be paid total \$107,232 the month. Taxes, insurances, pensions, electric and phone costs were \$50,907. Garbage pickup cost was \$26,919. Regular bills added up to \$24,413 (\$11,228 of that in engineering costs). The rest of the items include \$1,151 for traffic lights (PPL), and \$3,841 for the fire companies and ambulance.

With the improving weather, roadmaster Bruce Berger will meet with the township engineer ARRO Consulting to look at the roads, and to contract ARRO to prepare specs for paving projects for this year. Plans are to get stormwater issues on Kirk Street and Kresge Lane resolved before any paving.

The meeting between Lake Harmony Estates and Lake Harmony Fire Co. Chief Ralph Lennon to site a new dry hydrant was delayed by LHE. Chief Lennon remarked he expects to meet with them soon.

In other business, supervisors approved the lot jointure of two lots in Holiday Pocono for Ronald and Jeanette Smith, and they added a property back onto the tax rolls from the tax claim repository. Police, fire, EMS, codes, sewage, zoning and planning reports were accepted.

The next regular meeting is planned for April 16 at 6:30 p.m., potentially on-line depending on the Covid-19 dictates.



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~~Dedicated to Frank "Sharkey" Pieri~~

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Update



FROM CENTURY 21 SELECT GROUP

During the "stay at home" order as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, here is what we are doing to continue to service your real estate needs!

- Our office staff is working from home. They are an amazing group of loyal and hardworking individuals.
- Our sales staff is staying in touch and answering your questions and concerns. Don't hesitate to call, text or email them.
- We are doing meetings with staff and agents via Video Conferencing. It is important for us all to stay engaged in the work.

It is our mission to "Improve the Lives We Touch" and we will always continue to do just that! We hope that you & your family are happy, safe, and most of all - healthy - during these times.

"See" you soon!

Archives

by Seth Isenberg

April 2000

The Carbon County K-9 opened its new location adjacent to the prison in Nesquehoning in March of 1999. It is a spotless facility with some really nice dogs and cats waiting for adoption. Animal Control Officer and manager of the kennel Bruce May tries hard to find homes for his charges.

It is hoped that with donations, outside runs for the dogs will be built this spring.*

Pet Supplies Unlimited's ad was on the page with the K-9 story 20 years ago, advertising a discount on purchases. Also advertised was the related Blakeslee Body Shop with a tanning special - \$29 for unlimited tanning for a month.

Fairview Beverage of Jim Thorpe offers, "for the first time in the area," free home delivery for your party needs.

The Blakeslee Farmers Market and Outlet placed a full page ad promoting fresh produce, Amish food, flags, leather coats, jewelry, NASCAR items, antiques, CDs and much more.

The 2000 summer season for the Pocono Playhouse opens on June 21. On stage will be *South Pacific*, *Me and My Girl*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Grease*.

Bud Cook, Director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Nature Conservancy, celebrated 20 years with the program in October. He says, "I'm as enthusiastic about The Nature Conservancy's work today as I was on my first day on the job."

The Nature Conservancy has commissioned a bird inventory to obtain baseline information to develop habitat protection strategies.

A pamphlet, *Where to Find Birds in the Long Pond Area*, has been produced with maps, descriptions and directions to good birding spots - "an excellent guide to the avian riches of the Long Pond area..." Available for \$5 at The Nature Conservancy (in Long Pond),

Enjoy a meal at Casa di Pasta, Route 940, Blakeslee, serving dinner Tuesday through Sunday. "Where You're Treated Like One of the Fam-

ily."

The Ladies of St. Peter's served up a ham and cabbage dinner on Sunday, March 19, at the Parish.

Trivia from the past:

Lake Harmony was formerly known as Big Pond.

Grass Lake was formed by a dam across a small stream starting in the Little Stone Field. A modern dam was built across the stream and Big Boulder Lake was formed.

This issue was 32 pages, printed in a dark green ink. The only photo was the one on the front page.

(*In 2020, for information about adopting a cat, call Carbon County Friends of Animals at 570 325-9400, and to reach out to the Carbon County animal shelter, call 570 325-4828.)

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On the Road by Seth Isenberg

There's No Place Like Home ... In a Storm

April 2020 has us all sheltering at home and practicing social distancing when we do go out, all part of waiting out the Covid-19 virus' sweep across our piece of the Poconos. It's also a beautiful time to be in the Poconos, as spring begins to bless us with renewed life — leaves, flowers, grasses.

What to do...

There's reading including LAKE NEWS, and books, magazines, etc. There's the internet and offerings from movies and shows, to more. Ruth and I enjoy both, choosing recordings of live performances from comedy to concerts to more. We'll recommend Gilbert & Sullivan TV movie recordings of English performances from 1987 with Eric Idle, and 1992 by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. Skits from the Carol Burnett show can be found on You Tube, along with comedians, heroes, good deeds and happy occasions — things to balance the national and world news.

Even with a full smorgasbord of TV, cabin fever does take hold — so we go out to find places to walk without anyone around. We've done it in Hickory

See ON THE ROAD, page 9

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On the Road...

Continued from page 8

Run State Park, on the far end of the Stage Coach Trail. We've done it in Nescopeck State Park, above White Haven, on the nearly unused Farmstead Trail. Each time, each park's main and popular areas were

busy with people — especially now that trout season has started.

We see a pack of cars, and keep driving until there's a trail with none.

Our Easter Sunday walk was on a wide park roadway, through

hardwood forest and alongside long-unused farmer's fields. We crossed over beautiful small streams, beside bogs and many, many bushes on the brink of bursting out with leaves, some into flower. There was just the two of us, some birds and no people. The exercise was welcome, out in the sun, and it

was beautiful in the sense of remoteness, even as we were just off the paved road, minutes from the park office and a short drive from Lake Harmony.

On our list are other lightly used wide paths near Albrightsville, and in Gamelands near the Francis Walter Dam ... for distancing, fresh air and peace, and to see springtime up close. In the past, we shared these trips with a dog. Perhaps it's time to do so again — we're looking for a used Labrador (an older female).

So, looking ahead at some more weeks of this (with or without a dog), I see a return to normal, hopefully in May. Ruth and I want to get out to restaurants again, and events, museums, farm markets, shows... and to seeing friends and family. Phone calls are just not enough.

To all our readers, may you stay safe and healthy. I'll catch up with you again in the May LAKE NEWS.



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Lake News is collecting e-mail addresses to help communicate essential information during the COVID-19 situation and beyond. We plan to send out a between-issue e-blast at least once a week, and more often if needed. It will also include some fun stuff and ways to entertain yourself at home, as well as messages from our advertisers. If you'd like to receive it each week, please send an e-mail to journalruth@gmail.com with the subject line: **E-BLAST**

Kidder Township Police Dept. issues Covid-19 statement

Kidder Township Police Chief Matthew Kuzma issued the following statement during the township supervisors meeting on March 19:

“The Kidder Township Police is here to protect and serve the community, but in order to do that we need to protect the officers of the KTPD. In order to do this, we are modifying our patrol procedures to include taking reports over the phone that do not require an on-scene investigation. We

will respond to crimes of violence or against other people, and reportable accidents.

“Please continue to call 911 for KTPD and we will assess the situation, and respond as appropriate.

“During this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, if any senior citizens in Kidder Township need assistance, please call 570-722-0192. We will attempt to help you in any way we can.”

PPL Foundation contributes \$500,000 to assist customers impacted by Covid-19

The PPL Foundation has announced that it will donate \$500,000 to Operation HELP to support customers dealing with temporary hardships as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

“These are extraordinary times for individuals and families throughout eastern and central Pennsylvania, and this contribution will help ease the burden for some of the most vulnerable among them” said Ryan Hill, president of PPL Foundation.

“This contribution will supplement the more than \$1 million that PPL Electric Utilities, its employees and its customers donate each year to support Operation HELP,” said Hill.

Operation HELP was established in 1983 to help PPL Electric Utilities customers pay their energy bills. It is administered by a network of local agencies and has helped more than 100,000 customers since 1983. Every dollar contributed to Operation HELP goes to assisting those in need with their energy bills, and the program is not

just for electricity bills.

Customers who wish to contribute to Operation HELP to assist neighbors in need may do so by visiting the PPL Electric Utilities website at www.pplelectric.com/operationhelp.

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We stand united in doing our part to protect the health and well-being of our family, our friends and our community. You can depend on your newspaper to bring you the most trusted up-to-date information and advice to help keep everyone safe.

We are committed to helping one another. During these challenging

times, you can rely on your newspaper to provide details about any resources that may be available to assist those who are vulnerable and in-need.

We celebrate our every day heroes.

From the healthcare workers who are working tirelessly to care for the infirmed to the grocery store clerks who are filling

the shelves so we have the supplies that we need, your newspaper is highlighting the good works that are being done for our community.

We count our blessings.

No one knows what the next days, weeks or months will bring, but during this time of uncertainty, your newspaper is even more grateful for

the opportunity to disseminate quality and credible journalism to our local community and loyal readers.

We look forward to brighter days ahead.

Your newspaper remains committed to serving the needs of a stronger, tighter and more connected community.



Please see our Website for more detailed information

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This Month's Cover



Nathan Wieand sent us this great picture of Penny (the dog) jumping off the dock after a ball at 425 North Lake Drive. The dog belongs to Nathan Wieand and Camille Wada. Penny absolutely loves jumping off the dock. She doesn't last long when the water is this cold but in the summer she will do it all day. She is 9 years old. Nathan adds, "We always put her shark fin life vest on her because of the boats but we don't have to worry about it much at the moment." At right is an alternate shot that shows the fin more clearly. Thanks for making us smile! Send your photos of life at the lake to lakenewslakeharmony@gmail.com. Please include your name, and information about when and where the photo was taken.



From our friends at Tundra Comics:



Lake Harmony Post Office Notes

from Christine Gilliar

Because of COVID-19 and the fear of getting it, please remember the informed delivery. This is where you get emails about the mail coming to your PO box so you don't have to risk coming out.

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Notifications · View Online Promotions

If you have problems April or your local Postmaster will be happy to help you get started.

On a brighter note here are some Fun Facts:

The lost genius of the Post Office

Courtesy of Smithsonian's National Postal Museum

For almost two centuries, the humble-seeming mail was a hotbed of new ideas. What happened?

by Kevin Kosar

In 1897, a year when mail was still largely delivered by horse and wagon, construction began on

an innovative scheme beneath the streets of Philadelphia. Using an intricate network of compressors and metal pipes, the new system could shoot a capsule holding a few hundred letters across a city in several minutes, far faster than a postman could get it there—a speed that matched the increasing velocity of American commerce. The investor in this new technology wasn't some kind of delivery startup, the FedEx or UPS of its day. It was the U.S. Post Office.

Behind the experiment was Postmaster General John Wanamaker, who was inspired by Paris, London and some other European cities that were already trying out pneumatic posts. It seemed a natural fit for America's growing metropolises, where mail was hauled by horse cart and carried on foot. Wanamaker had the sense not to try to concoct such a system in-house, since the agency had no such expertise. So he did something clever: He called for private proposals to build pneumatic tube systems.

The Pneumatic Transit Company of New Jer-

See POST OFFICE NOTES, page 15

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Post Office Notes...

Continued from page 14

sey was the winning bidder, and a public-private partnership was born. It agreed to pay to build the system, then to charge the Post Office for its use. The first tube could shoot a capsule of mail nearly three-fifths of a mile through a 6.5-inch tube from the city's main post office to the East Chester Street post office. Soon, similar systems were installed in Boston, St. Louis and Chicago. New York City's system, the largest, could move 6 million pieces per day at 30 miles per hour from the Bronx to Manhattan and Brooklyn. Collectively, the Post Office's pneumatic tube system ran more than 120 miles, with 130 postal "rocketeers" feeding mail into it every 15 seconds.

When Americans think about the most innovative agency in the government, they think about the Pentagon or NASA. But throughout much of its history, that title could just as easily have fallen to the Post Office, which was a hotbed of new, interesting, sometimes crazy ideas as it sought to accomplish a seemingly simple task: deliver mail quickly and cheaply. The Post Office experimented with everything from stagecoaches to airplanes—even pondered sending mail cross-country on a

missile. For decades, the agency integrated new technologies and adapted to changing environments, underpinning its ability to deliver billions of pieces of mail every year, from the beaches of Miami to the banks of Alaska, for just cents per letter.

We think a lot about how innovation arises, but not enough about how it gets quashed. And the USPS is a great example of both. Today, what was once a locus of innovation has become a tired example of bureaucratic inertia and government mismanagement. The agency always faced an uphill battle, with frequent political interference from Congress, and the ubiquity of the internet has changed how Americans communicate in unforeseeable ways. But its descent into its current state was not foretold. A series of misguided rules and laws have clipped the Post Office's wings, turning one of the great inventors of the government into yet another clunky bureaucracy. As a new administration once again takes up the cause of "reinventing government," it's worth considering what made the Post Office one of the most inventive parts of the nation's infrastructure—and what factors have dragged it down.

IN A SENSE, innovation was baked into the Post Office from the beginning. America's nation-

See POST OFFICE NOTES, page 15

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Remembering Frank “Sharkey” Pieri

FRANK W. PIERI

Frank W. Pieri (Sharkey), 76, of Lake Harmony, passed away on March 26, 2020 in East Stroudsburg, after bravely battling cancer.



He was born on June 20, 1943 to the late Francis W. and Adele M. (nee Lynch) Pieri of Mahanoy City. His father was a Captain in the Armored Engineer Battalion in World War II and after he lost his life in the war, Frank was raised by his devoted mother. He was also predeceased by his former wife, Susan M. McGrorty.

Frank grew up in Mahanoy City where he attended St. Canicus School and graduated from Mahanoy Area High School in 1961. He furthered his education and graduated from Thaddeus Stevens Trade School in Lancaster.

Frank was a long-time resident of Lake Harmony, a place he truly loved. For years he worked as a salesman and printer for Printing Craftsmen. His passion for the community extended to his work as a Kidder Township Supervisor,

The pictures on these pages were submitted by just some of the many friends Sharkey left behind. At right, despite the COVID-19 crisis, friends gathered in the parking lot of Nick’s Lakehouse on Friday, March 27, and keeping an acceptable social distance from each other, raised a glass or more accurately, a can in his memory.

a member of the Planning Commission, and other local boards and committees. He was also founder of, and a former co-owner of the *Lake News*.

“Sharkey,” as he was affectionately known, treated everyone like family and loved spending time with his close-knit group of friends in the area. He enjoyed being outdoors and was an avid hunter, fisherman, and ski instructor, and fond of sailing and traveling.

Frank will always be remembered for his kindness and his outgoing manner which he extended to all who crossed paths with him. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends. A service to celebrate Frank’s life will be scheduled at a later date.



Sharkey will be missed on many levels

by Seth Isenberg

LAKE NEWS co-founder Frank Pieri passed away in late March after a full and productive life. He had retired, sold this publication, traveled to Ireland, and more last year. But for the cancer, Frank would have likely enjoyed an even finer year in 2020. The cancer took Sharkey, so we honor him here, and with our memories.

I met him in the early 1990s, and got to know him as he worked this area for this publication, and for the Guides that he sold advertising in. We would cross paths a lot. When we did, he always had a good word for the work Ruth and I were doing, and we for his.

And when we did come together to buy LAKE NEWS, he became our helper and cheerleader as we moved LAKE NEWS into its new era.

It's different now, without Sharkey.

I spoke with his partner in LAKE NEWS, Mary Farnschlader, about those early days for this publication. In 1994, Mary was approached by Frank for help in making some kind of newsletter for Lake Harmony. She told me that she was helping put together a property association newsletter in Albrightsville, and she agreed to do writing and then paste-up the pages of the new publication for Printing Craftsmen to then print. Frank went out and rounded up enough ads to support the first issue, 16 pages of it, and Mary filled it with

news items and stories that she typed. Then she cut, waxed, and pasted-up the pages on boards at Printing Craftsmen — that they then took photos of to make plates to print issue 1 in black and white, on a light blue paper.



Two months later, their work was back, now 20 pages with a heavy cover in green on beige cover stock, with 16 more pages of black and white pages filled with local ads and news. LAKE NEWS grew with Sharkey building his ad base to support issues over triple the size of first issue in the mid-2000s. It was an unusual week during those years when I didn't see him somewhere around Blakeslee and Lake Harmony, out with copies, making sales.

In the years since, LAKE NEWS survived times thin and enjoyed fat times too. It even added full color. For 25 years, Sharkey made the rounds, and Mary filled the pages. With the sale, Sharkey continued making his rounds, to see customers who had in many cases become fast friends.

So now, as spring brings us new flowers, green-ing trees and a special beauty to our area, as I now make his rounds, I am finding he is still keeping me company. He will be missed, but he is also with us in this LAKE NEWS, and all those to follow.

Here's to a good man, to Frank "Sharkey" Pieri, of Blessed Memory.

More pictures on page 24



Post Office Notes...

Continued from page 15

al postal service precedes the founding: It was born in July 1775, a year before the Declaration of Independence was ratified. During the American Revolution, the U.S. postal system's duty was to deliver communications between Congress and the military commanders fighting the British. And for the first postmaster general, Congress appointed an inveterate tinkerer, Benjamin Franklin. He rigged up a system of contractors to haul mail by horse and on foot. It worked.

The Post Office, as it was called until 1970, would be a national communications network, delivering personal correspondence and newspapers to all the nation's settlers. It was both a public service and a commercial enterprise and was given a monopoly over the delivery of letters, financing itself through user fees.

From the start, the Post Office Department had to be innovative. There was little money to fund the startup agency, and its task—delivering mail to anywhere in the country—was immense. In turn, Congress, often at the request of postmaster generals, gave the agency a good amount of oper-

ational freedom, and the Post Office Department took advantage of that freedom. In 1785, Congress authorized the Post Office Department to hire private stagecoaches to deliver mail. It was a smart idea that leveraged private-sector investments in transportation but did not commit the agency itself to bearing the great cost of purchasing horses and coaches and hiring riders. Later, the Post Office would contract to have mail carried by steamboats, railroads and private delivery companies ("star carriers").

The agency also had the authority under the Constitution to erect post offices, but at first it often declined to do so, licensing tavern owners to provide postal services to thirsty customers instead. That changed during the 19th century, when the postal service expanded massively. In 1790, the nation had 75 post offices; by 1900, there were more than 76,000. Then came home delivery: Mail reached many city-dwellers at home by the mid-1860s and expanded to farmhouses and remote houses in the 1880s. Henry Ford built his first car in 1901. Four years later, the Post Office was experimenting with mail delivery by automobile.

Like many pieces of large-scale government infrastructure, the Post Office spawned piggyback

See POST OFFICE NOTES, page 19



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Post Office Notes...

Continued from page 18

innovations such as the catalog mail-order industry, which bloomed at the fin de siècle, bringing goods from Sears, Roebuck & Company and myriad other retailers to families no matter where they lived. The agency also accelerated the growth of commercial aviation in the early 20th century by contracting with private plane owners to carry mail. Fledgling airline companies struggled to sell enough tickets to passengers, but Post Office delivery contracts supplied dollars that kept them afloat.

The first half of the 20th century was a dynamic time for the Post Office. It immensely improved mail receipt and delivery by adopting innovations from the private sector and abroad. Train cars were designed to mesh two separate aspects of mail delivery: mail sorting and delivery. Rather than have mail delivered to a post office in a jumble and then sorted by postal clerks, clerks on rail cars sorted the mail while it was en route. Bags of sorted mail were hung on posts outside train stations and post offices without the train even needing to stop. The Post Office also experimented with a "highway postal bus" from the late 1940s through

the early 1960s. The nation's highway system was growing, and the agency saw an opportunity to reduce costs. Like the mail-train cars, a driver would drive the bus while mail sorters separated letters and such by address.

Much like the pneumatic tubes, some of the schemes incorporated new technology we no longer even associate with mail. During World War II, the Post Office adopted V-Mail, an idea pioneered in England. Families wishing to correspond with soldiers overseas would write the letter on a V-Mail form, which was placed in a capsule and shipped to a facility, where it was scanned to microfilm. The hundred-foot rolls of film, which could hold 1,700 letters, were carried overseas, unsealed, and the letters individually printed and delivered to GI recipients.

The agency even toyed with moving mail by missile. Why schlep over ground when letters could be launched through the air at 600 miles per hour? "Before man reaches the moon," Postmaster General Arthur A. Summerfield proclaimed in 1959, "mail will be delivered within hours from New York to California, to England, to India or to

See POST OFFICE NOTES, page 20



March 20, 2020
Jim Thorpe, PA.

Mauch Chunk Trust's Commitment to our Customers

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- [FDIC Frequently Asked Questions for Those Impacted by COVID-19 \(.pdf\)](#)

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Post Office Notes...

Continued from page 19

Australia by guided missiles.” This experiment was a dud, however. Few places could handle the landing of a 30-foot Regulus I missile, and the perils of a misdirected rocket ensured the experiment remained just that.

OVERSHADOWING ALL THE invention, however, was the creeping sclerosis of the Post Office as an institution. As a monopoly, it was insulated from competitive pressures, allowing inefficiency to creep into its operations and management. Worse, political interests had sunk deep, with Congress setting postage rates too low and too frequently trying to dictate the location of post offices and mail-sorting facilities.

Political pressures had been a challenge for the department from the start. President George Washington criticized Postmaster General Ebenezer Hazard when he tried to save the department money by switching mail carriers from stagecoaches to lone horse-riders. Private companies, eager to sell products or services to the department, lobbied Congress for postal contracts. Lawmakers inserted hacks into postal jobs. Everybody wanted something from the Post Office Department, and Congress proved all too happy to satisfy these political pressures.

Booming business, however, enabled the postal system to avert a crisis for decades. In 1900, 7 billion pieces of mail were delivered; by 1960, the agency was moving 63 billion letters and parcels. The department often ran a profit, and it sowed those profits into new mail-delivery technologies. Buggies and snow sleds were replaced by mail-delivery trucks designed to allow carriers to deliver mail nearly everywhere.

Things began to change in the 1960s. Postal workers unionized, and President John F. Kennedy authorized them to bargain collectively in 1962.

Despite growing mail volume, the Post Office ran perennial deficits, and its investment in the guts of the system—mail receipt and sortation—lagged. The system broke down in Chicago in 1966, and 10 million pieces of mail were backlogged for days.

After a wildcat strike broke out in New York City in 1970, Congress abolished the Post Office Department and replaced it with the U.S. Postal Service, an independent agency. The Postal Reform Act removed some of the congressional involvement in its operations. In exchange, policymakers reduced the agency’s dependency on the U.S. Treasury and demanded it become self-sufficient.

This new-look Post Office had been conceived by a Nixon-appointed corps of braintrusts and businessmen with the aim of turning the agency into a public corporation with minimal political interference. Instead, the plan infused the new agency’s DNA with some of the same clashing political interests that were hobbling the agency. Big mailers benefit from subsidies written into the law. Postal workers must be unionized and are entitled to bargain collectively over wages, compensation and working conditions. Folks in far-flung Alaska and Hawaii are entitled to the same postage rates and services as everyone else—no matter the cost—and Congress continues to insist that mail be delivered

See POST OFFICE NOTES, page 21

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Post Office Notes...

Continued from page 20

six days per week to appease certain big mailers, postal unions and some rural residents. The baroque rate-setting structure meant the USPS had to plod through quasi-judicial proceedings lasting many months each time it needed to raise postage prices.

In turn, innovation at the agency flagged. Upgrades in mail-processing machinery were delayed over union objections that jobs would be lost. So, too, were attempts to contract out more postal work to private carriers or delivery companies. USPS operations became increasingly governmental as collaboration with private-sector companies flagged.

At the same time, technology rapidly was catching up to the Post Office. The first threat was actually a miss: Although the electronic fax arrived in the early 1970s, it did not eat into the USPS' business. So when cellular-phone technology arrived in the late 1980s and the internet erupted in the mid-1990s, USPS officials mostly shrugged.

Annual revenues climbed, and the USPS' employee cohort rose to nearly 800,000 before the end of the 20th century.

The USPS did upgrade some of its internal technology. Its letter-sorting machines have sensors with optical character recognition. As envelopes whizz through sorting machines, their addresses are read and a bar code is sprayed on them. Sensors further down the line read the bar codes and shunt the mail into sacks for different ZIP codes.

Yet relative to the world around them, these technical improvements are nothing compared to the Post Office Department's innovations in the 18th and 19th centuries. Some of the new sorting machines have not been reliable, and the agency's parcel logistics lags behind private-sector companies like FedEx and UPS. Take tracking packages: For some time, customers have been able to track the movement of the parcels they sent via private companies. But the Postal Service had no such option for many years, and even today, its tracking service is much slower. The USPS has seemed, at times, oblivious to the reality of changing communications technology. It was as if the agency had given up on innovation and was utterly confident that mail volumes and revenues would grow forever.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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Steps to take before an auto accident

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- Place a copy of your insurance card and registration in your vehicle.
- Know how to use your mobile phone's camera or keep a disposable camera handy to document any post-accident damage.

Steps to take if you have an auto accident

First, ask yourself: Is anyone hurt? If so, immediately contact emergency services for help.

Second, always call the police, no matter the severity of the accident. If the accident is minor, you may be asked to file a police report on your own, which you should do. Even if an accident happens on private property, contact the police to report the incident. Depending on the severity of the accident the police may or may not come out to make a report. It's always in your best interest to contact the police.

Get out of the way, if you can

- If the vehicles are drivable, move them to a safe spot on the shoulder or otherwise out of the way of traffic.
- Turn on your hazard lights and set up emergency cones, if you have them.
- Get out of the vehicle, unless it is unsafe to do so.
- Use the mobile app to contact Roadside Assistance for towing help. *Roadside service from State Farm® is available 24 hours a day.*

Record all the details

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- Ask other drivers to share their details, too. That information will be needed once fault and financial responsibility are established. Make sure to record if they are the car owners.
- Using the mobile app, take notes about what you remember of the accident, and upload photos, too. (You'll find photo reminders of what to take and how many images are needed in the app.)
- Ask for and keep a copy of the police report.

What happens after you report an accident

The mobile app will allow you to alert your insurance company and/or agent that you've been in an accident and help you to begin the claims process. Coverage levels and determination of fault will help outline who is financially responsible for repairs and other costs, including medical bills. The *mobile app by State Farm* allows you to track the status of your claim with the claims center.

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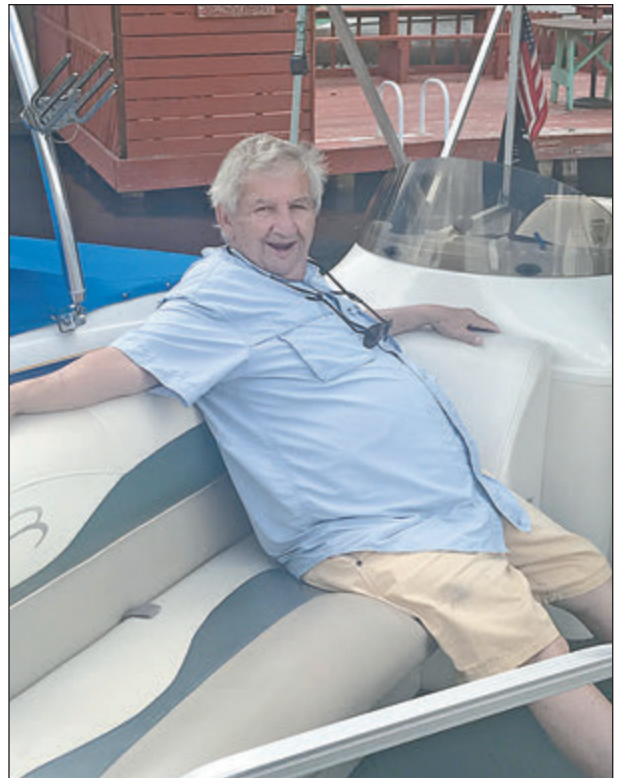
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Now's a good time to pop in a favorite sports movie

by Steve Stallone

There's been a ton of sports movies I've grown attached to over the years. It seems lately, with more time on my hands, several of my favorites have popped up on obscure channels and at odd hours.

For me, they provide the perfect distraction to the everyday issues we have all been dealing with. Over the weekend I watched the first four "Rocky" movies in succession before I finally got busy cleaning up the basement.

From comedies to tear-jerkers, there's certain sports movies I'll stop and watch, no matter how many times I've seen them. In addition to the original "Rocky" movie, some of my all-time "sports-themed" films would have to include: "Rudy," "The Longest Yard" (original and re-make), "A League of Their Own," "Major League" (I and II), "Heav-

en Can Wait," "Brian's Song," "Ice Castles," "Blue Chips," "Hoosiers," "White Men Can't Jump," "North Dallas Forty," "Caddyshack," "The Natural," "The Sandlot," "Happy Gilmore," "Dodge-Ball," "The Bad News Bears," "The Mighty Ducks," "The Rookie" and "Field of Dreams."

Whether it's one of those movies, or one of your own go-to favorites, throwing in a sports movie classic can brighten your day and provide a little distraction during these difficult times.

SPORTS QUIZ -- Another thing that can take your mind off things is a good old-fashioned sports quiz to keep that old mind sharp. I've thrown together 20 interesting sports trivia questions to test your knowledge.

Before you grab your phone and "Google" the answers or look them up in the old sports almanac, see how many you can get.

When you've completed your quiz, check your answers with the correct answers on page 31.

If you answer 18-20 correctly, you're a sports genius! Get 15-17 right, you are a professional; 12-14, collegiate; 9-11, high school; 6-8, elementary school; and 0-5, you're a kindergartener!

Good luck!!!

See **SPORTS QUIZ**, page 27

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Sports Quiz...

Continued from page 26

1. What is the only country to play in every soccer World Cup tournament?
2. The classic 1980 movie "Raging Bull" is about which real life boxer?
3. Which race car driver holds the record for most Formula One series championships with seven?
4. Who gave heavyweight boxing legend Muhammad Ali his first professional defeat, in 1971?
5. Which Australian tennis player is the only one to complete the Grand Slam (win all four majors) in the same season on two different occasions?
6. Who is the NFL's all-time leading rusher, with 18,355 yards?
7. Which country won the first-ever soccer World Cup in 1930?
8. Who was the first non-American to win the Masters golf tournament, in 1961?
9. What is the maximum weight for a golf ball?
A) 1.2 ounces; B) 1.3 ounces; C) 1.6 ounces.
10. What basketball move was banned from 1967 until 1976?
11. If I'm talking about a "stale fish" and a "mulekick" what sport am I talking about?
12. What baseball player's nickname was "Mr. October"?
13. What is the oldest stadium in the NFL, dating back to 1924?
14. Soccer player Edson Arantes do Nascimento is better known by what name?
15. Who is Kansas University's all-time leading scorer in basketball?
A) Wilt Chamberlain;
B) Lynette Woodard;
C) Danny Manning.
16. Who won more championships (11) than any player in NBA history?
17. In what country did the sport of "Curling" originate?
18. Who has won the most NFL Most Valuable Player Awards, totaling five?
19. "The Ashes" is the most important trophy in what sport?
20. Who is the only athlete ever to play in a Super Bowl and a World Series?

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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.

THEME: NAME THE ANIMAL

ACROSS

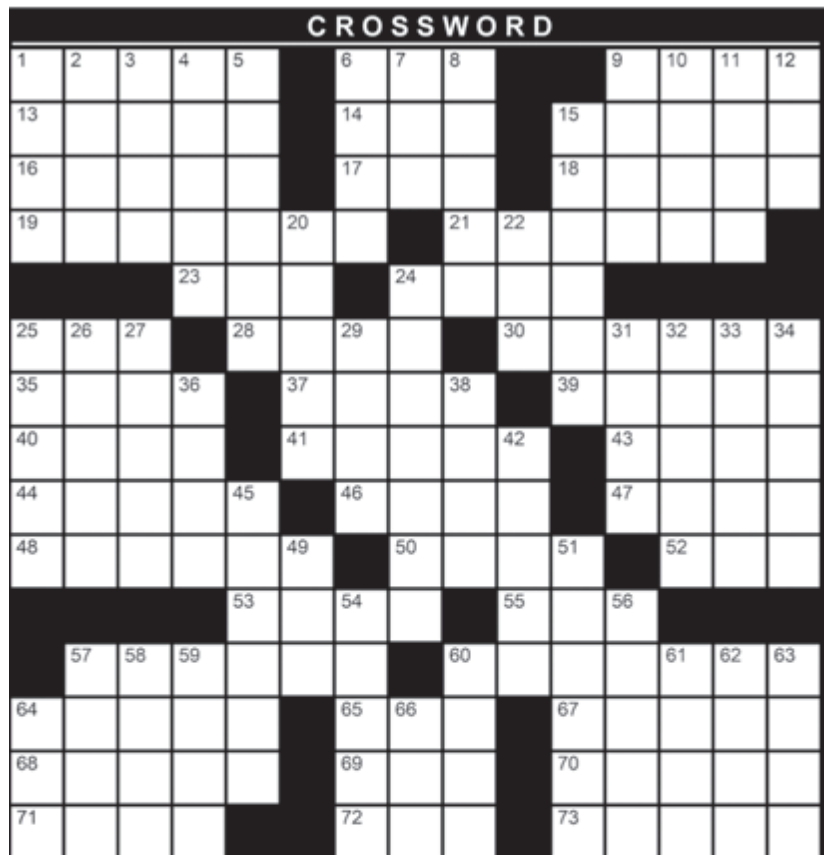
1. Spoil
6. Delivery service
9. Gallup's inquiry
13. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
14. One of the Tudors
15. Pinkerton's gallery member
16. Beneath, to a poet
17. Bird-to-be
18. Not slouching
19. *Koko or Digit
21. *George or Marcel
23. Langley agency
24. Can of worms
25. Pine juice
28. Up to the task
30. Most recent
35. Furnace output
37. Gives a helping hand
39. Veranda in Honolulu
40. *European sea eagle
41. Waterwheel
43. Ladder crosspiece
44. *Valued for its down
46. Steelers's Chuck
47. Genealogical plant?
48. Treat for Dumbo
50. Hoofbeat sound
52. "To _____ is human"
53. Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise
55. Garden cultivator
57. *Roger or Peter
60. *Rocket or Rascal
64. "Random" audience member
65. Mozart's "L'_____ del Cairo"
67. Resin-producing tree
68. Like haunted house
69. Time delay
70. City in Germany
71. Not a bee
72. Pilot's deadline
73. Not those

DOWN

1. Pirates on a plank?
2. Black and white treat
3. *Papa or Mama
4. Clown act
5. Perennial garden flower
6. Iris holder
7. *Babe or Wilbur
8. Fraternity letter
9. Politician's barrelful
10. Curved molding
11. Famous Australopithecus

12. "_____ the wild rumpus begin!"
15. Hertz offering
20. Labanotation founder
22. Doesn't mix well with water
24. Wilma and Fred's hometown
25. *Dolly
26. Eagle's nest
27. *Giant or Red
29. *Simba or Elsa
31. Queen of Hearts' pastry
32. Accustom
33. Not so crazy
34. *Detroit mascot
36. Not quite an adult
38. Perfect houseplant spot

42. Luau greeting
45. S. E. Hinton's "_____ Fish"
49. Chi precursor
51. Place for a square
54. Furry scarf
56. What's in your e-wallet?
57. Actress Perlman
58. Runs, as on TV
59. Radar flash
60. Indian music
61. Yorkshire river
62. Lode deposits
63. Supreme Court number
64. Make a seam
66. *Tom or Sylvester



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 E I I A G R E E E H I P H C R Q N R
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CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER:

"The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day.
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.

But if you so much as dare to speak,
a cloud come over the sunlit arch,
And wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of
March."

- Robert Frost

SPORTS QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Brazil;
2. Jake LaMotta;
3. Michael Schumacher;
4. Joe Frazier;
5. Rod Laver;
6. Emmitt Smith;
7. Uruguay;
8. Gary Player;
9. C, 1.6 ounces;
10. The Slam Dunk;
11. Snowboarding;
12. Reggie Jackson;
13. Soldier Field, home of the
Chicago Bears;
14. Pele;
15. B, Lynette Woodard;
16. Bill Russell, all with the
Boston Celtics;
17. Scotland;
18. Peyton Manning;
19. Cricket;
20. Deion Sanders



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5	3	6	8	4	1	7	2	9
1	4	9	7	2	3	5	6	8
2	8	7	6	9	5	3	1	4
9	5	3	2	1	4	8	7	6
7	6	2	3	5	8	4	9	1
8	1	4	9	7	6	2	5	3
3	7	8	1	6	2	9	4	5
4	9	1	5	8	7	6	3	2
6	2	5	4	3	9	1	8	7

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The Pantages Family and Staff would like to express our deepest sympathy on the passing of our good friend Frank "Sharkey" Pieri. His hard work and devotion to the betterment of the Kidder Township community will forever be missed. This publication that he co-founded provides us with the news and information that keeps us together. That unity is more important than ever before in these uncertain times.

Rest in Peace Sharkey.