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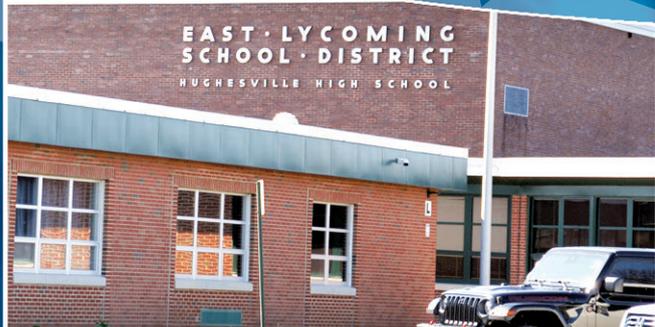
Chamber celebrates Education

HURRY! Leadership Lycoming Class of 2023 applications due April 15
Students get “real world” experience



Homewatch CareGivers:

A step toward independent living



From Jason's Desk

Jason Fink, President/CEO

Spring on the calendar is finally here, even though March surely didn't leave us like a lamb this year. However, it's April and with it the hopes of warmer weather, green landscapes and blooming flowers is upon us. There's also the sounds that I enjoy hearing this time of year; spikes on the track, the crack of a bat and school concert performances.

As we emerge from an overly extended hibernation period started in March 2020, I'm anxious to see what awaits our community. Things have changed since the onset of the pandemic. We have many opportunities ahead of us.

Employment opportunities are there for anyone that wants to work. Good, quality jobs that provide family sustaining wages are being advertised everywhere. One

question that I seem to be getting now is where are we going to find people to take on these jobs.

One of the boards that I'm on, the IMC, shared some very good data relative to the workforce here in Pennsylvania and it was telling to review it. The data through January 2022 looked at those that are of age to be in the workforce to retirement, basically 18 – 65. It showed that roughly 40% of those in this range were currently not employed. This number includes all individuals within that age range. Reasons cited for inclusion involve disabled, homemakers, early retirement. That makes up a small segment of the overall number. The vast majority are those that choose not to work and receive unemployment or other financial assis-

tance.

It was interesting to view a report like this one that looked at who is able to work, but chooses not to, instead of the unemployment rate that we use in this country for tracking this data. The unemployment rate only looks at those that are actively seeking employment over a period of weeks. Right now, our unemployment is in the 5% range. That number is fairly reasonable and not far off where we were pre-pandemic. However, it doesn't take into account those that have dropped out of the labor market at their own choosing.

Should we look to transition from relying on the unemployment rate for understanding what our available labor market looks like, or transition to the European model that looks at the available workforce? From the first blush, I would think there's merit to looking at it more holistically than just the general unemployment rate. No matter which way you look at it though, we are now in a position that we haven't been for many years, in having plenty of good jobs here in the county.

Before wrapping up, I wanted to thank the Pennsylvania Bus Association for hosting their

annual marketplace here in Williamsport at the Liberty Arena. This historically has been a show that's been held in the southcentral part of the state. We had been awarded the bid to host the show in early 2020 and while the numbers weren't exactly back to the levels PBA had previously, they were definitely a positive sign that the motorcoach travel industry is starting to rebound. I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize from our team here Gina Edwards. She was the point for the show in making and securing the bid for us along with coordinating all of the details leading

up to and including the day-of activities here in the market. We showed very well to those here to not only see the vendors at the show, but also those that took advantage of tour opportunities in learning more about packages available here in our community. It's great to get feedback from those that attended about how impressed they were with our area and that they intend to book groups for return visits. Gina was the point that was supported by several others in the market. Great to have that type of lead on the team helping to sell the community.



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Revolving Loan Fund

The Industrial Properties Corporation, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and the City of Williamsport are committed to assisting small businesses with their economic development projects. From building renovations, expansion/working capital to equipment purchases, the Revolving Loan Program can provide the finances you need to increase business and ensure economic prosperity.

Information and applications are available online:
www.williamsport.org

For more information please contact:

Nancy J. Eischeid, CPA, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

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The Chamber Celebrates Education

The Chamber held its 21st Annual Education Celebration at the Williamsport Country Club on March 3. The event included awards for the Business Partner in Education, Alumni of the Year, Outstanding Professional Educator and Outstanding Senior.

This celebration was certainly special given the past couple years of challenges for everyone, especially the students and educators. It was said that it was good to see everyone's faces!

The Alumni of the Year Award was presented to a graduate from Lycoming College and Pennsylvania College of Technology, who also sponsored this award. This award recognizes individuals who attended college and have stayed in the area. This year's recipients were Suzanne (Tomko) Stopper, Class of 1983 from Lycoming College and Jonah Howe, Class of 2007 from Pennsylvania College of Technology.

The Business Partner in Education Award, sponsored by UPMC, is given to a business that demonstrates how area businesses can partner with schools and students who will one day become our future business leaders. The recipient of this year's award was PPL Electric Utilities.

The Outstanding Educator Award, sponsored by PMF Industries, recognizes educators from each school district who makes extraordinary contributions to the education profession.

The Outstanding Senior Award, sponsored by M&T Bank, is awarded to students selected because of their performances in aca-

demics, leadership, activities, and community service. Each student is interviewed by a committee which selects one senior as the grand prize winner. Andree Phillips, Chair of the Education Committee and on the interviewing committee, shared some of the information given during the interviews. The students received a gift bag from the Lycoming County United Way to promote their LIVE UNITED in Education sponsorship.

This year's Outstanding Senior award was presented to Willow Perakovich, Muncy High School. She received a \$250 cash award from M&T Bank and a college textbook scholarship for \$500 sponsored by the Williamsport Sun-Gazette.

Thank you to all of the sponsors, school districts, and friends and family, for supporting our outstanding seniors and educators!



Alumna of the Year Award was presented to Suzanne Stopper, Lycoming College Class of 1983 by President, Dr. Kent Trachte.



Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to Jonah Howe, Pennsylvania College of Technology Class of 2007 by incoming President, Michael Reed.



The Business Partner in Education Award was presented to PPL Electric Utilities. UPMC sponsored the award. Jason Fink, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, presents the award to Tracie Witter, Regional Affairs Director on behalf of UPMC.



Outstanding Students, left to right: Kathleen Wentzler, Montoursville Area High School; Willow Perakovich, Muncy High School; Dustin Stoetzel, Jersey Shore Area High School; Emma Logue, St. John Neumann Regional Academy; Zachary McGuire, South Williamsport Area High School; Kendall Kelley, Williamsport Area High School; Allyiah Kennedy, Loyalsock Township High School; Addison Heasley, Montgomery Area High School; Brennah Kennedy, Hughesville High School.



Outstanding Educators, left to right: Nicole Kephart, Jersey Shore Area School District; Sara Watson, Williamsport Area School District; Brett Hofstrom, Montgomery Area School District; Judy Christie, St. John Neumann Regional Academy; Richard Cassels, East Lycoming School District; Melanie Rojas, South Williamsport Area School District; Brad Watkins, Muncy School District; Susan Holmes, Montoursville Area School District; Kirk Bower, Loyalsock Township School District.

Welcome New Chamber Members!

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Upcoming PM Exchange...

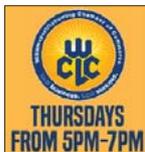
Lycoming College
 Thursday, April 28, 2022
 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Krapf Gateway Center, One College Place, Williamsport

Lycoming College invites you to tour the \$12.5 million Krapf Gateway Center, the College's welcome center for prospective students and home to the Office of Admissions, as well as the Center for Enhanced Academic Experiences, Outdoor Leadership and Education Program, and the offices of Alumni Relations and College Advancement. Stop by to learn how this latest addition to the Lycoming College campus is helping to stimulate further development in Williamsport's East End and the Old City neighborhood.



Upcoming PM Exchanges....



Service 1st Federal Credit Union - Thursday, May 12
UPMC at Herman & Luther's - Thursday, May 26
Eat & Run Catering & Restaurant - Thursday, June 9

Watch for more information!

Call the Chamber of Commerce today at (570) 326-1971 or visit www.williamsport.org to make your reservations.

For a complete list of upcoming Chamber events, visit www.williamsport.org



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Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce - 102 West Fourth Street - Williamsport, PA 17701
 (570) 326-1971 - www.williamsport.org

Ribbon Cutting Brink's Welding & Fabrication, LLC

1050 Broad St., Suite 1, Montoursville
 Wednesday, April 20, 2022 | 3:00 PM

Check out our new location!
 Enjoy light refreshments while you meet the friendly staff.



WELDING - POWDER COATING
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March Ribbon Cuttings/PM Exchange

Holiday Inn Express Downtown Williamsport Hosts PM Exchange



Thank you to the Holiday Inn Express Downtown Williamsport for hosting a PM Exchange. Attendees were treated to great food from The James Restaurant and were able to browse the beautiful renovated lobby, meeting rooms and guest rooms. Stacy Thompson, Director of Sales, Nate Losell, Front Office Manager and Kayle Spotts, Event Coordinator, accept a Certificate of Appreciation from Amy Alexander, a member of the Membership Development and Retention Committee.

Keller Williams Advantage Realty Ribbon Cutting

Congratulations, Keller Williams Advantage Realty, located at 1948 East 3rd St, Williamsport, on the ribbon cutting of your new location! (From L to R) Taryn Mueller, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; Brian Rutter, Vinny Colombo, Craig Kissell, Chris Wallace, Melissa Astin, Deb Williams, Kim Hayes, Pat Mylnek, Dave Williams, Nancy Ulrich, Sondra Marcusky, Ashley Arriaga, Kim Follmer, Scott Metzger, Lycoming County Commissioner; Jason Fink, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.



Newsroom Grill & Spirits Ribbon Cutting

The Newsroom Grill & Spirits celebrated their ribbon cutting and grand opening on a beautiful March afternoon. The walls in the dining room tell the stories of Williamsport's past. (From L to R) Jason Fink, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; Mayor Derek Slaughter, Keith Ransom, Amaris Smith, Tim Butters, Sandra Butters, Joshua Messier, Jennifer Renwick, Carolyn Tupper, Scott Caverly, Amy Alexander, Jessica Walz, Commissioner Scott Metzger, and Taryn Mueller, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.



Toast'd Bagel's Ribbon Cutting



Congratulations, Toast'd Bagel Shop, located at 11 West 4th Street, Williamsport, on your grand opening celebration! Their New York-style bagels are the best around! (From L to R) Jason Fink, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; Derek Slaughter, Mayor of Williamsport; Savannah Summerson & Christian Diggs, Owners; Scott Metzger, Lycoming County Commissioner; James Haywood & Kirk Fisher, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce Membership Development and Retention Committee.

Don Waltman's Market House Ribbon Cutting

Congratulations Don Waltman's Market House on your ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration, located at 701 Northway Road. Don Waltman's is a modern-day market house with local brands and favorites from both past and present. (From L to R) Larry Allison, Jr., Jack Allison, Dave McGarvey, Josh Rockwell, Chef Owen Rutan, Nick Rosato, Sadie Allison, Andrew Moat, Stefanie Allison, Emma Allison, Keith Stryker, Delaney Heller, Jeanine Crossley, Cindy Confer, Angela Coran, Kelly McGarvey.



Follow the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce on Facebook!



FEATURE MEMBER

Homewatch CareGivers: A step toward independent living

By **MIKE REUTHER**
mreuther@sungazette.com

Homewatch CareGivers offers a range of services for people in need of day-to-day living services and other help.

It is a growing company serving the Williamsport region and elsewhere, according to Kirk Fisher, president and CEO of the Williamsport office,

“There does seem to be a growing demand for home health care,” he said.

The type of care varies, from helping someone with simple activities of living such as eating and bathing to providing companionship, he said.

Home care is an alternative for people who want to remain in their homes and remain more independent.

“At the end of the day, it’s a feel-good business,” he said. “It’s a necessary business, taking care of human beings.”

Fisher said Homewatch is one of the larger home care agencies in the area.

He feels Williamsport is a good fit for the agency.

“It’s a little challenging to be in a rural area,” he said. “Transportation is sometimes a concern.”

Among the services Homewatch offers to clients is transporting them to doctor’s appointments if needed.

Homewatch, he noted, works with STEP to coordinate transportation services.

Among the more challenging aspects of his business is ensuring a client is receiving the care he or she needs.

“You need to communicate with the client and the family,” he said. “Communication is very important in this business.”

A rewarding aspect of the business he said, is the relationships developed



Kirk Fisher, CEO and president of Homewatch CareGivers, sits at his desk at the downtown Williamsport office.

MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

(See HOMEWATCH, Page 7)

FEATURE MEMBER

Homewatch CareGivers: A step toward independent living

(From Page 6)

with clients.

"I'd like to think we do the simple things well," he said.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented its share of challenges as well.

"We lost a few clients for fear of exposure to COVID," he said. "And a few caregivers as well."

Caregivers use their skills to understand and track changes in clients' lives to develop individualized care plans.

Home care is not limited to the elderly but to people of varying ages and needs.

Homewatch even provides respite care to give family caregivers a break.

Care can be extended to clients not only in their homes, but in an independent living community or in medical settings.

"We have clients we take care of a day or two," Fisher said. "It might just be driving them or checking in on them."

Fisher stressed that safety of clients is the number one concern.

"We want people to be safe and happy in their own home," he said. "It's just helping them navigate day to day living."

Fisher said he plans to add two more Homecare offices.

"We are expanding south to Dauphin County and west to State College," he said.



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

Cletus Waldman, left, administrator, and Joann Emick are part of the Homewatch CareGivers staff.

The Williamsport Sun-Gazette is printed on newsprint which contains recycled material



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LEGACY MEMBER

East Lycoming School District has amazing past, promising future

By MARK MARONEY
mmaroney@sungazette.com

From historical and educational firsts in Lycoming County to its promising future, the East Lycoming School District lays claim to many firsts.

Retiring District Superintendent Michael Pawlik couldn't say enough about the district.

"The East Lycoming School District is an exceptional place," Mr. Pawlik said, adding how "The District is blessed with a long history of incredible academic, artistic and athletic achievement. Without the limitless effort of our faculty, staff, school board, and the support of our community, none of our successes would be possible. Students genuinely find a home in the East Lycoming School District where they can excel and move forward, preparing for a future of possibilities."

Early history

Travel back in time to an era just after the Civil War, when the city of Williamsport was a burgeoning industrial powerhouse, and considered the "Lumber Capital of the World."

In the rural eastern part of the county, the first public school in this area was known as the Woodley School in Picture Rocks.

In 1877, the Woodley School was a building consisting of two rooms and later enlarged to four rooms. In 1896, the first high school class graduated from there.

In 1921, the Picture Rocks School (as it became known) became the first borough school in the state to adopt a program of vocational education.

In 1925, the vocational school at Picture Rocks had 15 graduating students.

"Each diploma had a picture of the new school building on it," according to district archives.

In 1926, the cornerstone was laid for the present building. The building contained four grade classrooms, four vocational rooms, an auditorium which held 600 people and a well-equipped gymnasium.

Student enrollment was 150 that year with seven teachers on staff.

In 1946, the Picture Rocks School and the high school students transferred to Hughesville, where a high school had been built in 1927 on Main Street.

The Picture Rocks building was used as a grade school. The school is named in memory of George A. Ferrell who was the Assistant County Superintendent of Schools from 1918 to 1935. Ferrell became a part of the East Lycoming School District in 1946.

Meanwhile, Hughesville High's Class of 1928 was the first class to graduate from its new building.

By 1952, the district comprised the boroughs of Hughesville and Picture Rocks, and the townships of Shrewsbury, Mill Creek, Moreland, Wolf, Franklin and Jordan.

In 1954, groundbreaking took place for a new Hughesville Junior-Senior High School building on West Cemetery Street.

In January 1955, students occupied the new building and it was not completely finished by homerooms and students walked from the old building to the new one a few blocks away. The Class of 1956 was the first to graduate from the new building.

In 1970-71 the Ashkar Elementary School was built. It honored the memory of Joseph C. Ashkar, a long-time teacher in the district.

Ashkar was built to meet the needs of the growing population of elementary students in the district.

Ashkar graduated from the Hughesville High School in 1929, after which he studied and worked in New York City.

He then returned to study at the Mansfield Teacher's College and graduated from there in 1934.

Ashkar began teaching in the district in 1935 and enjoyed a long and dedicated teaching career for 31 years.

In addition to teaching regular classes, Ashkar formed and coached the first wrestling team at Hughesville.

Originally, Ashkar Elementary housed students in grades kindergarten through four, but has grown to include students in fifth and six grades.

The school is a reminder of his love for the school children and community.

Innovative and energy saving design



PHOTO PROVIDED

This photo shows the outside of the Hughesville High School.

The district had installed a solar field in 2011. The panels are visible from most places in the borough, especially along Route 405 the corridor between Hughesville and Muncy.

The solar field provides over 50% of the total power used in the Junior Senior High School.

That same year the district had a biomass furnace. Long before energy conservation was in the headlines, the district brought this furnace, which uses inexpensive wood chips, from a local supplier, Lewis Lumber, to burn and is considered to be "carbon neutral" to the environment.

Academic achievement and secondary educational and career preparation

Renn Elementary School was recognized as a federal Blue Ribbon School in 2004. The Blue Ribbon is a mark of excellence given by the U.S. Department of Education. Ferrell Elementary was recognized as a federal Blue Ribbon School in 2008 and 2018.

Hughesville High School was recognized as an Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll school in 2014 and 2017.

In 2019 the Ashkar Elementary School was listed as a Title I School of Distinction.

The Hughesville High School offers 80 college "dual enrollment" credits for our students to choose from.

"We have had students graduate, with a sufficient number of college credits completed to start college as a sophomore," Mr. Pawlik said.

High school students may choose to attend Lycoming Career and Technolo-

gy Center for training in the construction and mechanical trades, child care, culinary art, criminal justice and other careers. The BLaST Intermediate Unit IU17 provides the District with a wide variety of services like specialized education for disabled students and hearing, speech and visual disability services and professional development for staff and faculty.

Benefiting the community

The East Lycoming Education Foundation was created in 2012.

In 2001 the Hughesville High School Soccer Stadium was completed. It was named the "Ray Perritt Stadium," after Raymond H. Perritt, who organized the community to build the stadium and raised the funds to do so.

Considered to be located in a growth corridor of the county, the East Lycoming School District has had the lowest tax milage rate in the County for over 25 years.

East Lycoming School District has a promising future for its 1,600-plus students, and opportunity for its faculty, administration and high value for its many community members.

As he retires from education in June, replaced by new Superintendent Dr. Mark Stamm, formerly superintendent of the South Williamsport Area School District, Mr. Pawlik says he is enormously grateful for his time and experiences at the East Lycoming School District, one which he will always consider to be a legacy and will forever call his home.

Sunshine 6-Packs and Subs values customer relationships

From Staff Reports

This year, Sunshine 6-Packs and Subs, located at 1244 Broad St., celebrates its 33rd year in business in Montoursville.

Brenda Stubler and her late husband, Jim Stubler, had been in business together since they were kids. Brenda was 17 years old, working as a convenience store clerk at the Rainbow Market, on Broad Street in Montoursville. A few years later, Jim at age 20, took a job as store manager for the Rainbow Market convenience store after he completed his degree at Williamsport Community College. Jim and Brenda were married in 1979 and purchased the Rainbow Market business in 1980. The Stublers operated the Rainbow Market until 1990.

With a dream of purchasing commercial property in Montoursville, the Stublers jumped at the opportunity to buy the current Sunshine 6-Packs location when it came up for sale in 1989. Although they weren't shopping for it, the sale of the previous business came with a restaurant "R" liquor license, which would have allowed them to open a full bar and restaurant.

"With two young children at home, the prospect of managing a bar and bar hours was not in the cards for us, which is what led us to our six-packs-to-go business model that we still maintain today," Brenda said.

Sunshine 6-Packs and Subs now offers more than 200 different options for beer, wine coolers, hard teas and seltzers. A newer addition to the summer product line has been adult slushies, which turned out to be quite popular.

"Our deli menu includes fresh, made-to-order subs, deli sandwiches, wraps and salads," Brenda said.

"Our customer favorites are for sure our Italian Regular, Bacon Turkey Club, Cheesesteaks and our Sunshine-Chef Salad.

"We use local suppliers as much as possible; our sub rolls are made fresh at Lycoming Bakery. In addition to our sandwiches and salads, we offer all of the necessary snacks and beverages to accompany a great sandwich: chips, cookies, sodas, teas and more."

Brenda takes great pride in her business' customer service.

"We strive to offer our customers a clean, fast and friendly experience every time, and we listen to their requests," she said. "We've even added some convenience items to our offering that might not be traditional for other sub shops, such as gallons of milk. It's a benefit of being a Mom and Pop shop: We can listen to our customers' needs and quickly react to make life easier for them."

Something that sets Sunshine 6-Pack and Subs apart from other sandwich shops is its parking and seating capacity. The business offers 24 off-street parking spots in its lot, and up to 46 people can be seated inside, Brenda said.

The restrictions and shutdowns that came with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic weren't easy for Sunshine 6-Pack and Subs to navigate, but having come through the worst of it, Brenda found one bright spot on the horizon.

"One change the pandemic forced upon us was to really look at our hours of operation and the strain that our seven-day a week schedule was having on our small staff," she said. "After 33 years of being open seven days a week, we are now closed on Sundays to give our small team a break and some much-needed family time. I'd say this has been a silver lining and a



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Sunshine 6-Packs and Subs has plenty of space, above, for customers to enjoy their meals. The store, at right, is located at 1244 Broad St., Montoursville.

change we'll keep in place moving forward."

As for Sunshine's lasting success?

"I would say it's the relationships we've built with customers in our community," Brenda said. "There's something very special about getting to know a family that has patronized our stores for generations. We've known some customers since they themselves were in strollers, and now they stop to eat with their own children.

"It's a little emotional and hard to put into words just how special that is to us and how much those folks have meant to us over the years."

Sunshine 6-Packs and Subs is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and can be reached at 570-368-1258.



NEW MEMBER

The Potting Bench satisfies green thumbs and a sweet tooth

BETHANY BARRETT

bbarrett@sungazette.com

The Potting Bench in South Williamsport has the best that every season has to offer — flowers, plants, ice cream, crafts, seasonal décor, and a farmers market, all in a relaxing outdoor atmosphere.

The business opened at the beginning of COVID in 2020 as a greenhouse and workshop. In the past two years, the business has expanded to include ice cream and a farmers market, which they hope to further expand this upcoming season.

Business partners Mark and Lori Solomon, Dustin Solomon, and Dan Langford have been managing the combination greenhouse and ice cream shop since 2019.

The space, which includes outdoor seating under a garden pergola, has become a social spot for the greater Williamsport community.

“The atmosphere is a relaxing place. Many families come in and get ice cream and then explore the plants and crafts which add to the ambiance. It gives them something to do, especially with the crafts in the fall,” Lori said.

Customers are welcomed to come have ice cream, browse the garden section, or just to visit and enjoy the atmosphere.

“Some come just to read the paper while they have their coffee out here under the pergola, we’ll have people sitting out at night time or even for lunch, just kind of mingling amongst one another. The goal is to make sure that people leave here happy,” Dustin Solomon.

The partners of The Potting Bench most enjoy the relationships they have made while own-

ing and managing the business — both with their employees and with new and returning customers.

“We all love it. We have a great team, been very fortunate with the help we’ve had,” Lori said.

“There are so many people who we have met that have been customers — the relationships that we’ve been able to make with all of them is something I didn’t really expect going into the business. We have regulars that come weekly, or even daily. It’s been nice and the community has really embraced us,” Dustin said.

The outdoor area and greenhouse also helped provide both a social and creative outlet for many during the height of COVID. “It’s been one of those social outlets, maybe because people haven’t had the opportunity to do that much during COVID — A lot of people during that time got really into gardening,” Dustin said.

Gardening questions from customers are welcomed by the knowledgeable staff.

“Our folks are here to answer questions. If you have questions about plants we’re here and we’re knowledgeable and if you just want to browse, that’s fine too,” Dustin said. “This has been a learning and growing experience for all of us, and that has been the most exciting part for me.” Dan Langford said, “It seems each week one of us has a new idea for the business, and we work together to plan and execute it for our customers.”

The green house offers seasonal decor, workshops and crafts. They hope to lengthen their fall season this year into the winter months. Upcoming events are often posted to The Potting Bench Facebook page and website.



BETHANY BARRETT/Sun-Gazette
Owners and managers of The Potting Bench in South Williamsport. From left Dustin Solomon, Dan Langford, Lori Solomon and Mark Solomon. The Potting Bench greenhouse full of plants, flowers, hanging baskets and more.

The Potting Bench will begin serving ice cream on April 1st. The shop offers locally made ice cream, sundaes, banana splits, milk shakes, slushies, hot foods, and will soon be serving soft serve ice cream. For upcoming events and business hours follow The Potting Bench on Facebook, Instagram, or visit their website at <https://www.pottingbenchmarket.com>.



Leadership Lycoming's Business & Economic Development Day

After a welcome from Heather Allison and Lauri Moon, Leadership Lycoming Class of 2022 started Business and Economic Development Day at the Krapf Gateway Center at Lycoming College.



The class met with Chip Edmonds, Executive Vice President of Lycoming College, Dr. Philip Sprunger, Provost and Dean, and Dr. Susan Ross, Vice Provost. Chip Edmonds gave the class an overview of the Krapf Gateway project and Lycoming College's plan for future expansion.

Dr. Sprunger and Dr. Ross explained how the new music facility, with its rehearsal halls and state-of-the-art practice rooms, will transform the local community and benefit both students and the population at large.

Jason Fink, President/CEO of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, updated the class on the state of economic development in Lycoming County. Fink illustrated how the Chamber is focused

on industrial development and retail expansion, with the goal of livable-wage job creation and community investment.

The class toured Shop-Vac as Scott Confer, Plant Manager, led the class on a tour of the operations at their Reach Road location. Despite acquisition and new ownership, little has changed as Shop-Vac continues to pursue the manufacturing of their namesake product, as demand ramps up and businesses return to place large orders.



The class traveled to Jersey Shore to enjoy lunch at Gunzey's, residing within the Bald Birds Brewing Company. After lunch, owner Joe Feerrar, introduced the class to the progress and future expansion plans of his multi-functional venue.



The class toured the banquet hall, a multi-level taproom with 50 keg capacity, outdoor decks and patios, and golfing simulators. The former 150,000 sq. ft. Woolrich warehouse is recycled into a space capable of hosting multiple events while simultaneously manufacturing upwards of 200 cans of beer per minute.

Jason Fink led a small business panel discussion, featuring Raffaele Colone,

Owner, Woodrich - "Trees for Life", Karl Fisher, Owner, Alabaster Coffee Roaster and Tea Co., Sarah Kudlack, Owner, Nomad Distilling Co., and Dave Palski, Owner, Shore Diner. Participants spoke about their experi-

ences leading their small businesses through the Covid pandemic, the self-discipline of the daily grind, having perseverance in the face of difficulty, and the hardship of pursuing personal freedom and economic liberty.

The day ended at PMF Industries, where Human Resources Manager, Sam Shea, led the class through a tour of the manufacturing plant on Reach Road.



Class members were introduced to the flow-forming method of metal spinning, a process exclusive only to PMF and a handful of companies nationwide and sought after by companies in the aerospace, nuclear, food, and military/defense industries.

Thank you to our sponsors, One Focus Property Management and RDJ Enterprises. Thank you to class reporters, Audriana Empet, Penn College, Matt Martin, UPMC and Kevin Renehan, James V. Brown Library.

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www.leadershiplycoming.org

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For more information or for an application, call 570-326-1971 Or visit www.leadershiplycoming.org for a downloadable form.

Application deadline is April 15, 2022



Leadership Lycoming Holds Summit and Final 3

Leadership Lycoming's Summit event was hosted at the Williamsport Country Club in February where the Class of 2022 and fellow Leadership Lycoming alumni had the opportunity to learn from Marshall Welch III's presentation of John C. Maxwell's book, "The Leader's Greatest Return." Marshall's interactive presentation talked about attracting and developing leaders and attendees had plenty of questions. The Class of 2022 had the privilege of taking a copy of the book home.

A special thank you to our event sponsors Hudock Wealth Management, Ralph S. Alberts, Heather Allison, Donna Bastian, Karen Retorick, and Kim Wetherhold.

Thank you to the Williamsport Country Club for hosting the 2022 Summit.

Thank you to the Summit Committee for all their assistance and planning; Heather Allison, Brenda Nichols, Brian McClintock, Donna Bastian, Emilie Ertel, Eric Beter, Karen Retorick, Kim Wetherhold, Sherry Paulhamus, and Meghan Quinn.



The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2022 in attendance had the opportunity to meet with Marshall Welch, III.

Leadership Lycoming was glad to hold the Final 3 event this year which was a great evening for 3 winners! Attendees were treated to an assortment of hors d'oeuvres from Gunzey's and beverages from Bald Birds Brewing Co., where the event was also hosted. Many walked away with several prizes, either a basket from the Chinese Auction or cash from the one of two 50/50's. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket and attended the event to make it such a success! Congratulations to everyone who won!

Leadership Lycoming would like to thank Brian McClintock, Leadership Lycoming Chair, Max Houseknecht, Leadership Lycoming Events Committee

Chair, and Donna Bastian for their tag-team hosting duties!

A special thank you to the following businesses and friends for their donations; Bald Birds Brewing Co., Bastian Tire and Auto Centers, The Liberty Group, Keystone Advertising Specialties, Gaetano and Musheno Families, Roche Financial, Keystone Advertising Specialties, Little League International, Lycoming College, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Roche Financial, Susquehanna Trailways, Williamsport Crosscutters, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, Community Arts Center, Candlewood Suites, Karen Retorick, Sharon Jones, Heather Allison, Ken and Kristie Healy, Gladys Engel, Leadership Lycoming Committees, and the Leadership Class of 2022.

Thank you to our event sponsors, PMF Industries, The Hartman Group, and International Development



Final 3 winners; Brittany Fischer, Rachel Clark and not pictured, Jeff Wheeland.

Corporation.

A special thank you to all the volunteers, Amy Alexander, Sherry Paulhamus, Heather Allison, Jim Hicklin, Nicole Bower, Marisa Rau, Trip Kemp, Sharon and Scott Jones, and Jamie Houseknecht.

Thank you to the Final 3 Committee for all their assistance; Heather Allison, Donna Bastian, Max Houseknecht, Sharon Jones, Meghan Quinn, Brian McClintock, David Boyle, and Jessica Servano.

PA Bus Marketplace

The Lycoming County Visitors Bureau recently hosted the annual 2022 Pennsylvania Bus Association Group Leader Marketplace on March 22. The Marketplace is the association's event for destinations to promote their locations to bus companies and their group leaders. This is the first time the Marketplace was held since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020 and the first time the Marketplace was held outside of the southern part of Pennsylvania. The Marketplace took place at the Liberty Arena. The host hotel for the event was the Holiday Inn Downtown (where several meetings, receptions and semi-

nars took place on March 21).

There were 81 vendors registered to exhibit at the arena with vendors coming from PA, MI, MD, MA, VA, NJ, KY and several other locations. There were 18 tour operators from throughout Pennsylvania that brought approximately 630 group leaders to the Marketplace. After the Marketplace, the Visitors Bureau hosted several fam (familiarization) tours for the tour operators and their group leaders. Out of the 18 tour operators, 12 chose to spend the afternoon touring Lycoming County. The fam tours included visits to Muncy Bank Ballpark @ Historic Bowman Field, Thomas T. Taber Museum,

Rowley House Museum, Millionaires' Row, World of Little League Museum, Le Jeune Chef, Clyde Peelings Reptiland and Purity Candy. The LCVB is highly appreciative of all of the volunteers needed to help with the event. Volunteers were from the Jersey Shore Area School District, Genetti Hotel, Holiday Inn Downtown, Hampton Inn Downtown, Hampton Inn at Faxon, Susquehanna Trailways, Residence Inn, Victorian Christmas and the Candlewood Suites.





Member Renewals

Received between February 25 and March 31, 2022



Thank you to our renewing members!

We do appreciate your membership and involvement in the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce!

First Year Renewals

Bayada Pediatrics
 Country Store Antiques & Decor
 ESS
 K-Tech Automotive Repair LLC
 Priority Bicycles
 Rivers Edge Capital, LLC
 Steinbacher Enterprises, Inc./Historic House Salvage

Members 2 - 5 Years

A1 Stop/Beer Here
 Annmarie Phillips
 Beech Resources
 CleanSlate Centers
 Cole's Hardware
 Dewberry
 Four Friends Vineyard & Winery
 Fraternal Order of Eagles 970
 GEO Lycoming County Reentry Service Center
 Heart Song Connection, LLC
 Hughesville Raceway Self and Mobile Storage
 My Self Storage Place
 Northeast Oil & Gas
 Patinaz, LLC
 Susquehanna Air Innovation, LLC (DBA) Comfort Specialists
 The Ritz Complex
 Trinity Episcopal Pro-Cathedral
 YCG Inc.

Members 6 - 10 Years

B.A. Meixel Electrical, Inc.
 Bald Eagle Art League
 Central Contracting
 Embassy of Loyalsock
 Fairfield Inn & Suites
 J. L. Winters Jewelers
 Lakeview Apartments
 Liberty Lodge
 Morrone's Cafe, Lounge & Banquet Room
 PHOENIX Rehabilitation and Health Services, Inc. - Montoursville
 River Valley Health & Dental Center
 Susquehanna Valley CASA - Voices for Children
 The Daily Item
 Thompson's Outdoor Power Equipment
 Williamsport Hospitality LLC
 X W Construction, LLC

Members 11 - 20 Years

Albright LIFE
 Carrs Trailers and Supplies
 Clinton Country Club
 Gentry Development, LLC
 Herbert, Rowland and Grubic, Inc.

Holistic Health Center, LLC
 JPW Industrial Ovens & Furnaces
 Markle's Plumbing & Heating
 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
 Millbrook Playhouse, Inc.
 Murray Motors
 Paris Uniform Services
 Smith's Jewelers/PA Gem Lab
 Stallion Oilfield Services-Appalachia Division
 Susquehanna Marble and Granite, LLC

Members 21 - 30 Years

Fulton Bank
 Interior Construction Specialists, Inc.
 Johnson's Cafe
 Lycoming Housing Authority
 Muncy School District
 Orelli Supply, Inc.
 PA CareerLink - Lycoming County
 Station House
 The Williamsport Home
 Vision Max

Members 31 - 40 Years

Carpenter, Harris & Flayhart
 E. R. Kinley & Sons Jewelers
 Holiday Inn Downtown/James Restaurant
 Innovative Manufacturers' Center (IMC), Inc.
 Janet's Floral
 Moff & Associates
 Nevills Flowers and Shulze Mansion Venue
 Purity Candy Company
 Sanders Mortuary, LTD.
 Tony's Delicatessen

Members 41 - 60 Years

Chemcoat, Inc.
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 Fink's Paint Store, Inc.
 Overhead Door Corporation
 PNC Bank, N.A.
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Chamber Members...

New Business? Have you moved to a new location? Coming up on a business anniversary or have something to celebrate?
 Participate in a FREE ribbon cutting ceremony!
 Contact Taryn Mueller for more information at 570-320-4209 or tmueller@williamsport.org

Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce Holds Winter Mixer



Chamber members enjoyed an evening of food and fellowship at the annual Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce Winter Mixer hosted by the Tiadaghton Inn. Thank you to owners Sam & Gloria DeParasis for hosting the Mixer at the Tiadaghton Inn.

Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce Winter Mixer

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Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce Visits Landfill



The Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce enjoyed a catered lunch and a tour of the Wayne Township Landfill in March. Thank you to Jay Alexander and Kristen McKivison for providing an educational tour and for your hospitality!

SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Pennsylvania College of Technology

FIELD HOUSE

5-8 p.m.

Open to the public (up to 500 attendees expected)

Science festival is geared toward elementary and middle school students and their families. Hands-on activities and demonstrations should be STEM-related and encourage exploration in the STEM fields of study.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to spark excitement about STEM (science, math, engineering, and technology) in our youth.



EVENT COORDINATED BY

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To assist businesses with their financial needs for construction, renovations, equipment purchases and working capital.

For more information or application, contact Nancy Eischeid at the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce at 570-326-1971.

About our Members...

Montoursville students get “real world” experience

How it started:

Montoursville Area High School decided to get seniors some more “real world” experience before graduating. Paige McDonald, high school English and Honors Communications Teacher, updated the traditional senior “English” class to

be more “Communications” focused. They still read, write, and present. However, to get them an authentic audience and local business experience, in the spring of 2021, she reached out to the Chamber and asked if there were any local businesses that could use help from the seniors. A handful of local businesses who needed help with different tasks, for example, postcards, social media posts, rack cards, and flyers, reached out.

How students prepared for it:

McDonald’s students would get time in class to work on these tasks from local businesses. They had the option to work individually or with a partner. From there, the class would critique each other and submit their best work. Paige would get feedback from the local business and relay the information/changes needed to the students. Robin, from Rainbow Carpet, was able to talk to the students face-to-face. There was good discussions and brainstorm sessions. The students reflected on this “real world” experience and said it was beneficial and exciting. They appreciated the opportunity to help a local business while also learning how to create and collaborate for an authentic audience. Paige said she would like to continue this for her seniors going forward.

The businesses the students worked with were Rainbow Carpet, Penn State Master Gardeners and Therapy Brewing.

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