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Leadership Lycoming
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for Class of 2022



Habitat for Humanity

persists in helping
during pandemic



The Chamber View

Jason Fink, President/CEO

2020 is done. Not much to say about it that hasn't already been written or spoken by others so I'm not going to walk down that path. What I will do though, is address some of the news that dropped here in December and look to the year ahead.

It was interesting to get the news that American Airlines will be resuming service here starting January 5 and running through the end of March. Part of me was happy to see that this was resumed because I know the importance of the airport and air travel to our business community. If I were scheduled to fly during this period, I would definitely book a flight from Williamsport. More to the point, if anyone is planning to fly in this time frame, I'd strongly encourage you to take advantage of this service. Ticket pricing looks to be competitive in comparison to other airports in the region, and you don't have to worry about driving and paying for parking. There's definitely something to be said about that in terms of price and convenience. It's nice to know that when you land from your return flight that you'll be just a short drive home instead of a longer drive from anywhere else in the region.

Now, the part of me that was disappointed, is that we're still connected to American Airlines and they've only committed to the service through the end of March. As I've noted before, and strictly my opinion, American Airlines is not a partner to our community and has no real interest in developing this market. We've shown them, and previously US Air, that if they provide us with regular and consistent service people will fly from Williamsport. Leak-

age study after leakage study have shown that over 80% of air travelers from this market are driving elsewhere to fly. The key detail that they appear to not see is that when they get to those other airports, they're also flying on another carrier.

We have American Airlines here because they have to in order to get this latest round of federal Covid relief funding. Philly is also back, which during this time of year in particular, is one of the most challenged airports to fly through because of weather and general service. It would have been helpful to us, and the two other airports, that were similarly impacted by the withdrawal of service by American to ensure service beyond just this three-month window. They are receiving billions of dollars that they say they desperately need. The legislation could have easily been written to see that we had continued service for our airport beyond this brief window.

One additional positive thought is that this does provide the team at the airport a little more time to continue their efforts in securing another airline to the market. They are working hard to get that in place while also still seeing if there is some way to work with American to commit to truly servicing this market.

Switching gears to the industry front, it was good to receive the official news that Shop Vac was sold as a going concern. We had the opportunity to participate in some of the tours that took place with companies that wanted to buy and continue the operations here in Williamsport. Great Star was one of those that we got to meet back at the end of September. They expressed, from the

initial tour and throughout the entire process of their acquiring the Shop Vac assets, that they wanted to bring everyone back to work as feasibly possible.

One of the many challenges they face is getting contracts with retailers to get product back on the shelves. Places like Lowes replaced Shop Vac when they were told of the closing. The good thing that I see is that Great Star has relationships already in place with these retailers and will hopefully be able to quickly reestablish the brand with them. As they do, we'll see more people get their jobs back.

Additional positive news received in December for the county involved the announcement of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grants. Lycoming County saw three projects funded through this round of funding. Each will have far-reaching impact to the economic and social wellbeing here in the community.

As an organization, the Chamber's newly established Williamsport Ballpark Inc. will be a direct beneficiary with funding for our ballpark project. Thank you to Senator Yaw and Representative Wheeland in advocating for the RACP grant to aid this effort. Both Gene and Jeff, along with the recently retired Garth Everett, have been strong advocates for the greater Williamsport and Lycoming County community during their time serving us in Harrisburg. I appreciate their diligence for not only the ballpark complex but for the many others they've assisted over the years, including this round of funding for Bald Birds Brewing and Lycoming College. A testament to these efforts is that they were able to secure funding in this round of funding totaling \$3.5m. They

should be commended for this work. I would be remiss in not also recognizing Governor Wolf for his part in supporting the funding for these projects. It's nice to see a bipartisan approach when it comes to economic and community development projects.

A thank you also to the County Commissioners and many others that helped in their advocacy for these projects here in Lycoming County. This goes a long way in helping our state representatives in their work to secure this level of funding.

December's news wasn't all positive and I would be remiss in just highlighting those that were. We saw the closing of JW Aluminum which will impact 65 local jobs here in our community. This closure was directly attributed to the pandemic as this plant's primary product was used in the manufacturing of airplanes. We also saw the closure of fitness centers, museums,

movie theatres, restaurants and bars for several weeks. Contact tracing didn't support these closures, but that doesn't appear to drive these decisions any longer. Neighboring New York state did provide results from their contact tracing and found that 74% of the surge was linked to private social gatherings and 1.4% was associated with restaurants and bars. I would contend that we would find similar numbers across the border here in Pennsylvania. Hopefully, we won't see this continued closing of these businesses that are already struggling to keep open.

The sobering reality is that while the calendar year has changed, we're still living under the conditions of a pandemic. There is much ahead for our community, but now is the time to work harder in order to enjoy what lies before us later this year. If we all can do that, we'll see the wanted change in a return to normal in 2021.



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Member Renewals

Received between November 25 and December 22

Thank you to our renewing members!

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

First Year Renewals

All Excavating & Paving
Bald Birds Brewing Company
Edward Jones - Phil Sunderland
First Commonwealth Bank
Opening the Book

Members 2 - 5 Years

A1 Stop/Beer Here
AgChoice Farm Credit
Camp Susque
Casales Sub Shop
CleanSlate Centers
Crown Fried Chicken
Doing Better Business
Goodwill Industries of North Central PA
Harold Eck, CPA
KGD Wealth Management
Kiwanis Club of Williamsport
Kutney Insurance Agency, Inc.
RoLin Janitorial Inc.

The Hemlock Uncut - Angela Barletta
West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc.
White Horse Graphics
Whitesel Stained Glass

Members 6 - 10 Years

A&A Auto Stores
Broad Street Financial
BTJ Investments LLC
Cheri's House of Flowers
FayJan Tool Sales Company, Inc.
Interstate Truck Center
LB Water
Scissor's Edge
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority
Steve Shannon Tire and Auto Centers, Inc.

Members 11 - 15 Years

H. Dean Properties
Intrada Technologies
Lang's Chocolates

Padgett Business Services
Susquehanna Wire Rope & Rigging, Inc.
T-Ross Brothers Construction, Inc.
Ultimate Express Car Wash
Williamsport Country Club

Members 16 - 20 Years

Buttorff's Hardware, Inc.
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank - Williamsport Branch
David DiGiallorenzo, DMD
Economy Locker Storage Co., Inc.
HRI, Inc.
MAS Printing
Mel's Deli & Cafe
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith

Members 21 - 30 Years

Advanced Pain Management and Rehab of Williamsport P.C.
Community Arts Center
D.A.D.'S Landscaping
Hurwitz Batteries, LLC
Industrial Piping Systems
Interior Construction Specialists, Inc.
Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC
Johnson's Cafe
Keystone Advertising Specialties
Penn Recycling, Inc.
Port Elevator Company, Inc.

Members 31 - 40 Years

Allison Crane & Rigging
Dixon A. C. & R. Corporation
EconoLodge Williamsport
Jersey Shore Area School District
Miele Amusements, Inc.
Price Optical Lucas Contact Lens
River Valley Transit
Williamsport Symphony Orchestra
Woodlands Bank

Members 41 - 50 Years

AAA North Penn
Brass Alignment, Inc.
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Jersey Shore State Bank
Klein & Rizzo, Inc.
Koppers Inc.
Williamsport Parking Authority

Members 51 - 65 Years

Eck's Garage, Inc.
KBF Print Technology
Staiman Recycling Corporation
UPMC

Members 113 Years

Lycoming Engines

Basil Wood Fired Kitchen & Lounge Ribbon Cutting



Congratulations to Basil Wood Fired Kitchen & Lounge who celebrated their grand opening and ribbon cutting in December. Jersey Shore State Bank generously donated funds to the restaurant's evening fundraiser for the Lycoming County SPCA. (l to r) Taryn Mueller, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce; Trey Phillips, Membership Committee; Gail Bishop, James Bishop, Greg Stine & Brooke Bishop, Basil Wood Fired Kitchen & Lounge; Victoria Harrington & Sue Harvey, Jersey Shore State Bank; Jason Fink, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.

Welcome New Chamber Members!

Basil Wood Fired Kitchen & Lounge

Brooke Bishop
213 North Main Street
Muncy, PA 17756
www.basilwoodfired.com
(570) 757-7216

Restaurants/Cafes/Taverns

Haywood's Bar & Grill

Kim Walker
113 W. Water Street
Muncy, PA 17756
www.haywoodsbarandgrill.com
(570) 546-1011

Restaurants/Cafes/Taverns

Kitchen Repose

Carnie Datres
145 W. 4th Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
www.kitchenrepose.com
(570) 478-1221

Restaurants/Cafes/Taverns

M and S Contracting LLC

Melodie Russell
431 Glenwood Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 772-1591
Contractors-Construction

Maseto's Deli

Lisa Lusk
2075 Kenwood Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701
Facebook Page
(570) 323-1445

Restaurants/Cafes/Taverns

Montoursville Rotary Club 5314

Wendy Weaver
Facebook Page
(570) 220-0154
Non-Profit Organization

Musselman's Golf

Rick Musselman
2055 Kenwood Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701
www.musselmansgolf.com
(570) 567-7821
Retail Shopping
Recreation/Sports

State Representative Joe Hamm

274 Broad Street
Montoursville, PA 17754
(570) 546-2084
~and~
Room 105, Tiadaghton Valley Mall
701 Allegheny Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
www.repjoehamm.com
(570) 398-4476
Government Agencies

February's PM Exchange...

Bald Birds Brewing Company

Thursday, February 11, 2021
5:00 - 7:00 pm

220 Shaffer Lane, Jersey Shore

Welcome to Lycoming County's newest brewing company! Join us as our brewer will guide participants through a visual and sensory tour of the beer brewing process from selection of grains, hops and malts to the tasting of the finished product.



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



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

Leadership Lycoming Virtual Program Day - Health & Human Services

Due to restrictions on group gatherings and social distancing, the Leadership Lycoming Class of 2021 transitioned to virtual learning. The class met for their first virtual program day, focused on Health & Human Services on December 10. The day started with a discussion on the relationship between mental health and the opioid epidemic, facilitated by Alex Johnson (Class of 2019) and Robin Sammons, UPMC Williamsport; Brian Krahn, Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board Programs; and Barbara Vanaski, Katie Hugo and Seth Bucher, West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission. The class then had the opportunity to speak with Jaewon Ryu, MD, JD, President and CEO, Geisinger. Dr. Ryu shared his predictions on the future of healthcare in our region and information about Geisinger's Muncy facility, targeted to open in Fall 2021.

The class then had the opportunity to virtually meet the American Rescue Workers staff to learn about each of their duties and the mission and services offered by the organization. Current class member, Kendra Parke, Marketing and Community Engagement Coordinator, led the discussion. Participating staff were Valerie Fessler (Class of 2019), Director of Development and Community Engagement; Mark Williams, Kitchen Operations Manager; Chad Ling, Warehouse Manager; Ryan McCoy, Director of Industrial Operations; Nicole

Bower, Director of Thrift Stores; Cleveland Way, Director of Shelters; and Dawn Astin, Co-Executive Director.

Next, the class received a presentation from Rob Labatch, Mackenzie Howe (Class of 2019) and Jason Smith (Class of 2019) about the operations of Hope Enterprises and MaxWorx. After Hope's presentation, the class utilized Zoom breakout rooms to participate in a series of round robin discussions on Family Community Resources, which included speakers Julie Mansfield, Nurse Family Partnership; Allison Brion, UPMC Home Healthcare of Central PA and Family Hospice and current class member Mary Jo Westbrook, Children and Youth Services. To finish the day, Don Owrey, President, UPMC Williamsport/Chief Operating Officer, UPMC in the Susquehanna Region, spoke with the class about health care trends in our area. Don also shared information about UPMC's local operations and the health system's response to the pandemic.

Thank you to our Tier 3 sponsors: Geisinger, Hope Enterprises, River Valley Health & Dental Center and UPMC in the Susquehanna Region. Thank you to our Tier 2 sponsor: Valley View Rehab & Nursing Center. Special thanks to Mike Boughton, GEO Lycoming County Reentry Service Center; Morgan Madden, McCormick Law Firm and Eva Waldman, Genetti Hotel & Suites for being class reporters.

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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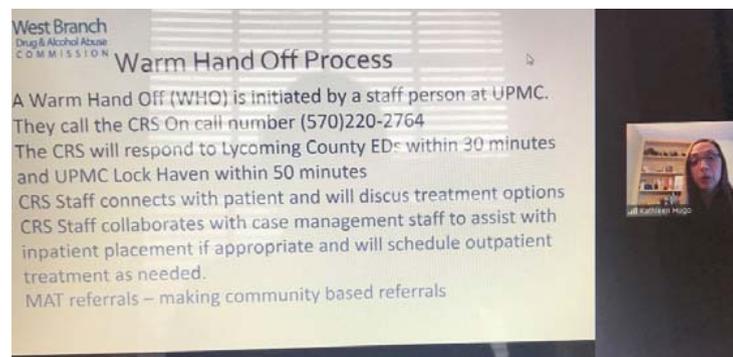
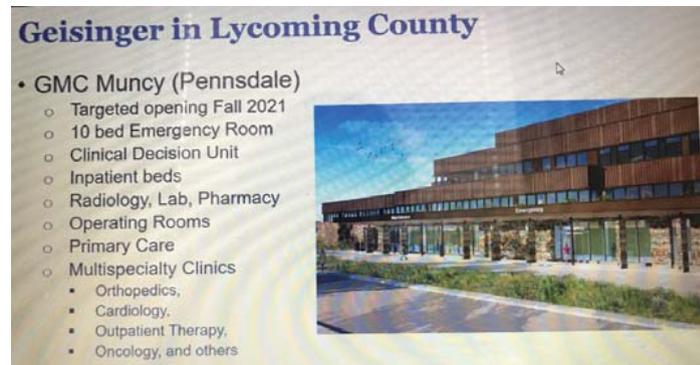
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River Valley Health & Dental
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Dr. Jaewon Ryu, President and CEO of Geisinger, shared the future of healthcare in our area along with plans for the new Muncy location and expansion of Geisinger Jersey Shore.



The virtual program day was packed with great leaders discussing important topics. The class heard from a panel discussing the national and statewide trends with opioids and addiction. West Branch Drug and Alcohol shared their CRS and Warm Hand Off Programs with a powerful testimony from a graduate of the CRS program.



LL Class of 2021 showing they are the best class ever with class member Kendra Parke presenting on American Rescue Workers!



In a breakout session, the class hears from Allison Brion of UPMC about the hospice services offered by UPMC Home Healthcare of Central PA and Family Hospice. It appears as though our local patients and their families are in wonderful and caring hands.

FEATURE MEMBER

Habitat for Humanity persists in helping during pandemic

By **JONATHAN BERGMUELLER**

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The local branch of a global nonprofit housing organization is looking toward growth in the next few months.

Habitat for Humanity partners with low-income families to help build new homes for the families to live in, according to Corrine Stammel-Demmien.

“Our vision is we believe everyone should have a decent place to live,” Corrine Stammel-Demmien, the new program director, said.

Low-income families sometimes spend half their income on housing, which is a burden to them, according to Stammel-Demmien. So, the Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity picks a partner family in need to help build a new home with.

The Habitat for Humanity group narrows down applicants with a selection process that assesses needs, income, credit-worthiness and fiscal responsibility, according to a press release sent by Thomas Szulanczyk, the executive director of the Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity.

The chosen partner family is not given a free home; each adult in the household must volunteer 250 hours of “sweat equity,” and invest 100 hours of work into the new building, which is paired with a 30-year no-interest mortgage, according to Szulanczyk. The homes themselves are built primarily



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Above, Habitat for Humanity volunteers help build a house on Diamond Street in Williamsport. The home construction projects are completed primarily by volunteers using donated money and supplies. Left, the Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, alongside its ReStore shop, is located at 335 Rose Street. ReStore is a store that sells donated furniture, homegoods and gently-used items to fund Habitat for Humanity’s projects.

(See HABILITAT FOR, Page 7)

FEATURE MEMBER

Habitat for Humanity persists in helping during pandemic

(From Page 6)

by volunteers using money contributed by supporters.

“These are hard-working families with a real need who work with volunteers not only to build homes, but to build strong relationships and give back to the community they live in,” Szulanczyk said.

The organization also provides financial literacy classes to help the family, among other services, during the 12-month process, according to Stammel-Demmien.

“This year, it’s a little longer with COVID,” Stammel-Demmien said. “We’ve had to stop our volunteers at the build site until the end of

January because of a spike in cases.”

However, that does not stop the organization in its goals.

“Most of the time, their mortgage is less than the rent they are paying right now,” Stammel-Demmien said. “It’s only one family at a time, but it gives them affordable new homes.”

That process gives the singular family more disposable income to enjoy life and pay bills, Stammel-Demmien said.

Stammel-Demmien is the newest program director for Habitat for Humanity as of October, and wants to push for growth in the services the group can offer the community, including replicat-

ing other programs across the country that help repair homes in need as well.

“It’s going well. I’m really excited to be on board with habitat. I have a lot of fun events planned if we ever see the end of COVID,” Stammel-Demmien said.

Previously, Stammel-Demmien worked as the resource development manager for the United Way, and before that was a long-time employee of STEP Inc. in their weatherization department. She is also involved with several volunteer organizations in the Lycoming area. She serves as the secretary for the Junior League of Williamsport, the treasurer for the Lycoming Valley Intermediate School PTO, and is a member of the Tau Upsilon Alpha National Organization for Human Services Honor Society.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Corrine Stammel-Demmien, the program director for the Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, and Thomas Szulanczyk, the executive director for the organization.

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LEGACY MEMBER

WVIA broadcasts to region for over 50 years

By PAT CROSSLEY
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Broadcasting for over 50 years, WVIA has been a presence in public television serving 21 counties in northeastern and central Pennsylvania, according to Neil Prisco, creative director-marketing and branding for the station.

“Over the years we’ve enjoyed a great ratingship with the people in that area, due to their member support, their support of our programming and us being able to create programs that tell stories of that area,” Prisco said of the Lycoming County area and residents.

The station also operates the WVYA radio studio located in the Community Arts Center.

“We’ll have live broadcasts from that studio as well as different interviews in the studio,” he said. “It kind of adds the local connection to the area.”

In the past, WVIA has been involved in the Little League World Series as well as participating in the Little League Museum’s Kids’ Day event. The station has also broadcasts the Little League World Series parade.

Sharing that it is a “passion project of the station,” Prisco said that every year the station broadcasts nationally the Little League Challenger games.

“That actually gets distributed nationwide throughout PBS affiliates as well as the ESPN online affiliate,” he added.

According to Prisco, WVIA is a mission-driven organization with a goal of educating and informing the public about local, regional, state, national and world events and happenings.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Curious George visits students at Stevens Primary School as part of their affiliation with PBS Kids.

“We started as an education-based station and we remain true to that. We are proud to give our public well-informed, in depth coverage that other affiliates are not able to do. It’s because of the support of the people that we are able to continue to do this,” he stated.

“For us it’s a combination of we’re proud to be able to showcase the stories of the world to the people of Lycoming County and we’re proud to showcase the stories of Lycoming County out to the world,” he added.

During the past year with schools seeking to meet the task of educating students remotely, WVIA has aided in this effort.

“WVIA has always been root-

ed in education and the pandemic highlighted how WVIA and other PBS affiliates can be of use to school districts, to educational intermediate units, to educators and students as an educational resource,” he said.

“We’ve always had a presence serving the underserved and made sure that we could provide educational assets and opportunities to those who might not otherwise have them. When something like a pandemic comes up I think that ability to do that is showcased on a larger scale because we have the platform built to provide that,” he added.

During the pandemic, WVIA changed the station’s afternoon schedule to make it entirely ed-

ucationally based. Shows were specific to grade levels and curriculum.

“This way teachers, students and families could go online and find a curriculum that corresponds with the program they’re watching and get an education from that to go along with their grade level,” Prisco explained.

The educational programming that began at WVIA during the pandemic has turned into a statewide initiative called, “Learning At Home” which has been highlighted around the country. This in turn has created datacasting, which aids the ability of curriculum and information to get into homes that don’t have internet access, a problem many area stu-

dents have to deal with.

“It is a bigger problem than a lot of people realize in the state,” Prisco stressed.

“Our ability through our broadcast towers to get information out through that platform is a vital asset,” he added.

According to Carla McCabe, WVIA President and CEO, “Pennsylvania PBS stations are now an important part of the Pennsylvania Department of Education official Continuity of Education plan, and GEERS (Governors’ Emergency Education Relief) grant funding now allows WVIA and the other six stations to launch a new service of datacasting, using a portion of the broadcast spectrum to send education materials to devices in homes without internet access.”

McCabe also stated that aside from education, “our goal next year is to increase our local output across all platforms.”

“In October this year, we launched a new multi-platform weekly public affairs series, Keystone Edition and we plan to build upon that as well as additional long form local content,” she added.

McCabe noted that the pandemic, although tragic, “created innovative opportunities to serve.”

“In the realm of education, the pandemic identified ways in which WVIA could fill educational gaps as well as help teacher better reach their students,” she said.

Looking ahead, Career Spotlight, a new program which will begin mid-January, is aimed at middle and high school students who want to obtain career information as they prepare for the job field or higher education.

Each week, WVIA Education will interview a local representative from regional industries, corporations, trades and small businesses, showcasing important and interesting jobs in the region and how students can follow similar career paths.

Local company looks to expand operations

By **MIKE REUTHER**
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Pine Ridge Construction Management is looking to expand its operations since starting up in Williamsport just two years ago.

The company, which does construction projects in the Northeast, is also hoping to further make its imprint locally.

“It’s a good industry to be in,” Pine Ridge President Jerry Lariviere said. “We have a blend of senior guys and young people.”

Lariviere and Craig Miller agreed that starting a business might be something to try.

Lariviere knew Miller, who had worked in local real estate business, through a family connection.

“He married my daughter,” Miller said.

Lariviere, who had worked in New York City, liked the idea of moving his family to Williamsport.

The company does design construction and general contracting work for hotels, restaurants and retail spaces.

“Right now, we have a 360-unit affordable housing complex we are doing in New Jersey,” Miller, managing partner of Pine Ridge, said.

Another project included work at the American Dream Mall in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

“Our specialty is retail,” Lariviere said.

Miller said the company does not focus on any particular market or building project and that’s been the key to its growth.

“Diversity is the big thing,” he said.

In 2020, the company took on COVID-19-related projects including infection protection measures in sports arenas such as Yankee Stadium.

Plans are in the works locally for a 40,000-square-foot retail site in Montoursville.

While Lariviere was unable to reveal complete plans, he said it will entail a multi-purpose commercial space project.

Lariviere and Miller feel Williamsport is a good location for their growing company.

“We employ people who are from around here,” Lariviere said. “We have two colleges that are feeders to us.”

He said Miller, as a longtime resident of the area, has the advantage of knowing people in the local market which they both hope to tap more for business.

However, they are looking at markets elsewhere too.

“We want to open an office on the West Coast,” Miller said. “We are looking to expand.”

From the company’s humble beginnings in January 2019, Pine Ridge has grown from two to 29 employees.

And, there are more jobs to fill.

The two acknowledged there exist growing pains in a new company but feel they are up to the challenge of meeting goals.

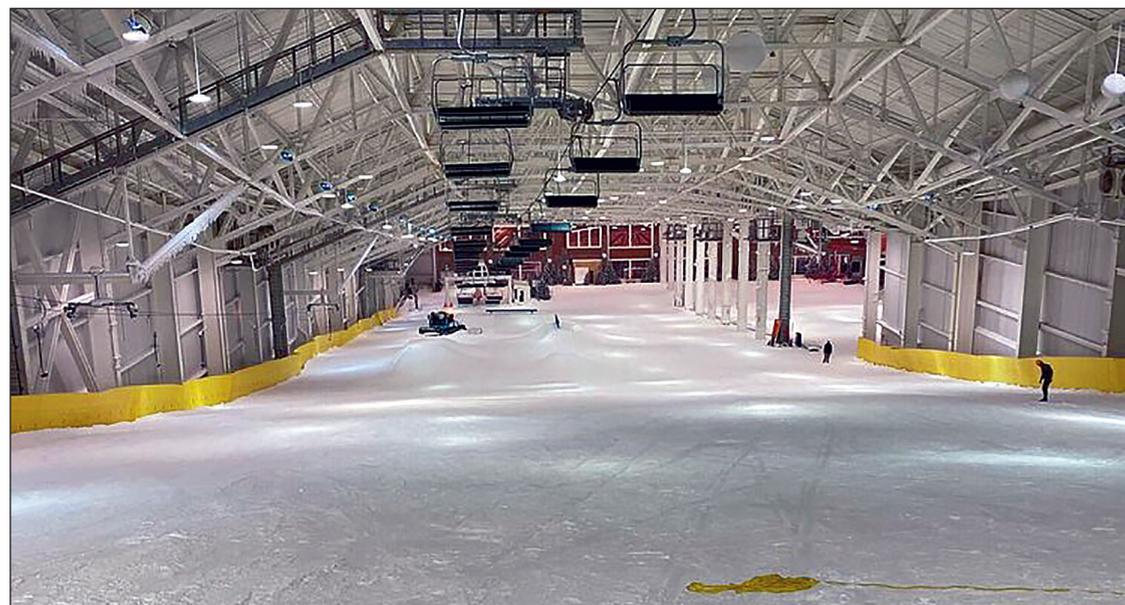
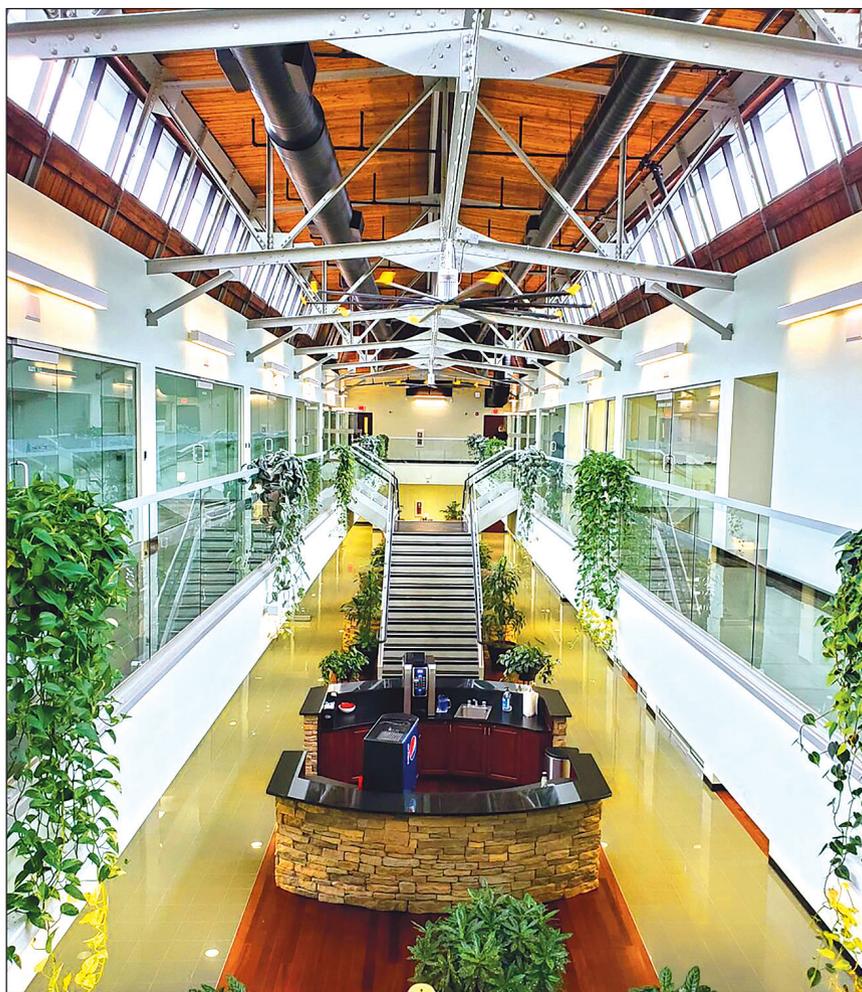
“We have been blessed to have some really good people,” Miller said.

Pine Ridge Chief Financial Officer Joe Caschera said the challenge is in delivering quality work while maintaining a degree of stability.

“It’s an experienced group of personnel here,” he said. “I see a growth year in 2021.”

Miller said, “I’m glad I came out of retirement. It’s been very rewarding.”

Added Lariviere: “We’ve stayed the course and stayed true to the foundation we built.”



PHOTOS PROVIDED
Pine Ridge Construction Management, left, is located at 1000 Commerce Park Drive. Below is Big Snow, one of the largest indoor skill slopes located in East Rutherford New Jersey at the American Dream Mall. It is one of the projects the company has worked on.

NEW MEMBER

Equestrian center offers camps, lessons

By **MARK MARONEY**

mmaroney@sungazette.com

Elysian Fields Equestrian Center is a place to learn about horses and so much more.

The new member of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce is located at 1345 Tallman Hollow Road near Montoursville.

Robert Schnars, owner, said the facility provides lessons on horseback riding all year long and holds a summer day camp.

"It is great to get out and be around families and their children," Schnars said.

The COVID-19 pandemic did not stop the daily activities, he said.

"We're always doing classes and private lessons," he said. "We have had no shut downs."

The facility has an indoor arena where the family-run staff educate guests about horses.

Schnars said he and his partner enjoy the summer camps the most because the students learn all about how to take care of the horses.

The camp day begins in the morning at 8 as the horses are turned out, he said.

Then, the students muck stalls doing the work together.

"They form a team and bondship," Schnars said. In just a few short days, the students "earn their saddle," he said.

To prepare for a presentation before their proud parents, grandparents and other family members, the kids choose which horse they want to ride and practice in time for a ceremony.

"It is amazing," Schnars said. "They come in on a Monday and in five days they are able to navigate a western obstacle course," he said.

That is what gives Schnars and those running the facility the most pleasure.

Currently, the facility has 23 horses, a mule and three ponies.

The horses are different colors and breeds, most of whom are rescues from around the region.

Horses have come from the SPCA in Danville and Appalachian Horse Help and Rescue near Linden, he said.

"We've had several donated to us," he said.

Among the prized horses are the Fjords, which are horses pure bred from the Netherlands, he said.

The horses are as much or more pure bred than the Arabian, he said.



SUN-GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Robert Schnars, owner of Elysian Fields Equestrian Center in Montoursville, leads Redwood out to pasture. Redwood is a horse rescued from the Danville SPCA.

Although classified as a pony they are a draft horse, a miniature stout horse resembling a Clydesdale.

The Fjords are sweet, he said. "They are trained to pull a cart and remain close to one another."

The equestrian center has been run by Schnars since October 2017.

Before that, the center was in operation for several decades.

The 40-acre center has 42 stalls total, and 10 acres of pasture.

"This is our home, our business and we love to teach horse care and riding," he said.

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