

INSIDE



Owning a car in Luzerne County may get more expensive



Sprucing up the city

Super heroes invade Mogehan Sun Arena, and Wyoming Valley Mall



18702

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. YOUR NEWS.

Child stars



Kids get a chance to shine with KISS Theater

18702An edition of the
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OPINION

We're happy to be your new neighbors

Welcome to 18702. I guess I should be actually thanking you for welcoming our newspaper into the 18702.

However, it's really a homecoming of sorts for me.

I grew up in the zip code, right on South Franklin Street in South Wilkes-Barre – on the part of the street that only true residents of the zip code really know exists.

(We got a lot free pizzas delivered when we were kids because the delivery people failed to follow our directions.)



Joe Soprano

From
the Editor

I spent a lot of time playing in the different neighborhoods of the zip code with my friends.

I played Little League baseball in Miner Park, suiting up for the Spinning Wheel. As I got older my friends and I went to Barney Farms to play sandlot baseball.

I've attempted to play basketball on courts from South Wilkes-Barre to

Plains Township.

My cycling obsession has seen me ride my bike through just about every nook and cranny the 18702 has to offer.

In fact, I only stopped being a resident of the zip code when the post office decided that the section of Hanover Township I currently live in needed its own zip code.

I understand the neighborhoods have changed since I roamed them as a kid in the 1980s. The Spinning Wheel — a Carey Avenue dinner for those of you that didn't

know — was torn down years ago. Our old sandlot field at Barney Farms is now a housing development.

But I know what it's like to live in those neighborhoods, and I'm excited to help bring you the news you need and tell your stories in our aptly named 18702.

We will keep you up-to-date on what's going on in your schools, churches and organizations. We will tell your stories.

And we will try to give you the information you need to get the most out

of living in the 18702.

We start today with a wonderful cover story on KISS Theater, a column from Donna Nelson of Adopt a Single Mother, plenty of pictures of 18702 residents and more.

If you have a suggestion for a story or a comment on any of our coverage, drop me a line at jsoprano@civitasmedia.com.

I would love to hear from you.

Until then, enjoy our first edition of "18702."

Joe Soprano is editor of 18702. Reach him at 570-991-6393

Meet 'N Greet



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Curtain call

KISS Theatre offers performance opportunities for local kids

By Toni Pennello
18702

WILKES-BARRE TWP. — Tucked into the corner of the Joe Amato East End Centre is a mecca for the performing arts, specially for children, adolescents and teens in the Wyoming Valley.

KISS Theatre, located at 400 E. End Centre, gives kids from all backgrounds the opportunity to perform on the stage.

The theater was established in 2006 as a result of an annual program for young thespians run by the Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre. However, a once-a-year program just wasn't enough, explained

KISS's Artistic Director Jessica Suda.

"The arts were getting cut from all the schools and there was clearly a need for it, and a lot of the other theaters had programs maybe once or twice a year," she said. "But that wasn't enough, especially to meet the need that was growing."

Suda, whose job includes staffing the theater, selecting shows and creating new programming, has been with KISS since 2010. She started as a stage manager, and has been artistic director for four years.

Suda said that many children are primed for an interest in theater because of the popularity of things like Disney and accessibility to it through

social media.

"The interest in theater was growing, the fact that kids can say, 'hey, I can do that,'" she said. "It was imminent when KISS was established, we just kept growing."

It started out as a traveling theater before moving into the old Cineplex in the Wyoming Valley Mall, Suda said.

The theater lost its lease in 2014 and reverted back to the traveling model before its current space was offered by

Joe Amato.

"We raised money for two years," Suda said, "and we moved into this particular location in 2016."

Since then, Suda said enrollment has spiked.

Why a kid's theater?

Suda said

that the benefits of theater to youngsters are "endless."

"I think the Wyoming Valley is really unique that we have so many theaters per capita, but most of them are audition based," she explained. KISS is not audition based, but tuition based. "Essentially anybody can join," said Suda.

"We do charge tuition because we have brick and mortar, we have bills to pay," she explained. "But we do offer scholarships ... we try to be as accomodating as possible, whether it be payment plans or scholarships ... so anybody from any background, all abili-



Kyle Kocon, 11, of Mountain Top, rehearses with the cast of 'Singin' in the Rain Jr.' at KISS Theatre in Wilkes-Barre Township.



Bill Tarutis | 18702

Director Jimmy Daly, of Kingston, right, meets with several cast members of 'Singin' in the Rain Jr.' during a rehearsal at KISS Theatre in Wilkes-Barre Township.

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See KISS | 4

KISS

From page 3

ties, we try our best to accommodate.”

Inclusivity is an important part of the theater’s mission as well, because of “the therapeutic results of theater for kids.”

“We get grants to support kids with Down Syndrome to participate in the organization ... as well as kids on the [Autism] spectrum, whether it be low or high functioning,” she said.

“It’s funny how many adults and how many of my staff, and myself included ... don’t realize how much it helps. Like I look back and I’m like ‘wow, I didn’t realize theater gave me a voice, it gave me confidence, it gave me a reason to work toward a greater cause.’ Theater isn’t just ‘look at me, I’m on stage.’ It’s so much, so much bigger than that.”

KISS has three show seasons a year, with each of three age groups doing one show: the “littles,” from ages 4 to 10, the “middles,” aged 8 to 14, and the “seniors,” from the age of 14 through the 12th grade.

“‘Big’ sounded too childish for the teenagers,” Suda explained.

Every Monday and Thursday, the “middles” assemble at the theater to rehearse for “Singin’ in the Rain Jr.,” which is



Kate Barth, 10, of Wilkes-Barre, practices a scene for ‘Singin’ in the Rain Jr.’ during a rehearsal at KISS Theatre in Wilkes-Barre Township.

Bill Tarutis | For Times Leader

slated for four shows on May 18, 19, and and 20, according to the theater’s website.

Members of the cast have been with KISS for varying amounts of time, but each expressed excitement for their involvement.

While spunky 11-year-old Tate Elliott, of Bear

Creek, has lost track of how many shows he’s done with KISS, he estimated that he’s been in the program for seven years.

Elliott saw a poster for “Annie Kids” while walking through the mall, and asked his mom if he could do it. She said yes and he’s been hooked

ever since, he said.

“I tried it once, and loved it,” he said.

Emmie Kindler, 12, of Forty Fort, joined in 2015 after her mom asked if she would be interested in performing in “Aristocats.” She liked animals, she said, so she gave it a shot. Now, she’s on her 13th show with

KISS.

“I decided to keep doing theater because it was really fun,” she said.

Twelve-year-old Juliet Biscotti, of Mountain Top, has been with the program since 2015, and her first production was “Bye Bye Birdie.” The impassioned preteen said that her love for theater

keeps her coming back.

“To sing and dance and act, it always brings me happiness because it’s my passion,” Biscotti said.

For more information about upcoming enrollment opportunities and performances, visit KISS Theatre’s website at kisstheatre.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Night at the Races, a fundraising event at the theater with food, beverages and desserts with purchase of a horse, 6 p.m. April 28.

Singin’ in the Rain Jr., performed by actors aged 8 through 13, May 18, 19 and 20. **Enrollment is opening soon for:**

Sweeney Todd School Edition, for ages 14 through 12th grade. Rehearsal begins May 23.

Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka Jr., for ages 8 through 13. Rehearsal begins June 21. Visit kisstheatre.org for more information.

Cherry Blossom Festival returns to Kirby Park

By Marcella Kester
For 18702

WILKES-BARRE – The 41st annual Cherry Blossom Festival kicks off in Kirby Park at 11a.m. Saturday, bringing a mixture of tried-and-true favorites as well as some new entertainment for all.

Event organizer and city Special Events Coordinator Patricia Hughes said she feels the festival is likened to the official start of spring and community togetherness.

“I think that the Cherry Blossom is the kickoff to spring. I feel that we can leave winter behind. I think festivals promote communal harmony, and they a great place to gather and they relieve stress from a hectic work week,” she said. “It’s great to see everyone come out and support our local vendors.”

Roughly 20 vendors will be on-site this year, selling everything from the traditional potato pancake to empanadas. While grabbing a bite to eat, attendees can also look over a selection of artisans selling hand-



Alyson Marie Lenker, 10, was crowned Little Miss Cherry Blossom last year. The pageant returns to Kirby Park again this Sunday.

made goods, jewelry and more.

Also keeping with tradition will be the amusement rides, games and a petting zoo that will be sure to widen children’s smiles. A character artist and face painter will also be available.

For those interested in the performing arts, the 12th annual Pirouettes in the Park will take place throughout Saturday. Hughes said the event will feature performers for more than

10 area dance schools who are eager to show off their skills.

“Pirouettes in the Park began several years ago and was a big hit so we want to continue with it,” she said. “It is one way that (the dancers) can show the public a preview of their hard work and dedication to dance.”

A new addition to the Cherry Blossom Festival will be available for viewing throughout the day Sunday, and will be sure to delight car

enthusiasts.

The HoleShots Car Club will host their show at the festival for the first time, allowing patrons to view a wide selection of classic and new vehicles.

For those more interested in the idea of being crowned queen, Hughes said the Cherry Blossom Festival pageant will make a comeback on for the second year. The pageant will start at 11a.m. Sunday.

Concluding Sunday’s

schedule is a list of live entertainment, such as Stephen L. Perillo and The Followers Praise Band as well as national recording artist Benjamin Horrevoets.

As for the weekend weather forecast, the area is currently scheduled sunny skies with highs around 60 for both days – and Hughes hopes it will remain that way for festival-goers.

“I am hoping for good weather, so keep your fingers crossed,” she said.

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

11 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.: Live Love Dance Studio
11:30 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.: Dance Theater of Wilkes-Barre
11:55 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.: Gina Malsky’s Community Dance Class. Free for kids under 12.
12:20 p.m. - 12:40 p.m.: Fusia Dance Company
12:45 p.m. - 1:05 p.m.: Rebekah’s School of Dance
1:10 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Symmetry Dance Company
1:35 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.: Discount Dance Promotions & Giveaways
2 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.: David Blight School of Dance
2:25 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.: Emerald Isle Step Dancers
2:50 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.: Take the Stage Center for the Performing Arts
3:15 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Star Dance Academy

SUNDAY

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.: Holeshots Car Club Car Show
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: 2nd Annual Cherry Blossom Festival Pageant
1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.: Stephen L. Perillo & The Followers Praise Band
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Benjamin Horrevoets

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Super hero Saturday set for Wyoming Valley Mall



FRIDAY

Free live music night at Letts Eat Flavors of India, South Main Street, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY

Cherry Blossom Festival, Kirby Park, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.: Food, Crafts, Rides, Games, Music and Dancing. 12th Annual "Pirouettes in the Park" Saturday, April 28th 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Superhero Saturday, Wyoming Valley Mall, 11 a.m. Celebrating heroes of all kind and an adventure of a lifetime. First 100 children receive a free superhero tote full of goodies. Appearances by Batman, Captain America, and Wonder Woman. Glitter tattoo artists Just Plain Crazy will be on hand.

Scientists, Scien-

tist, Who Do You See? Storytime, Barnes & Noble, Arena Hub Plaza, 11 a.m.: Full of rhyming fun, Scientist, Scientist, Who Do You See? features appearances by some of the world's greatest scientists. Young readers will enjoy learning about scientists and how they changed the world.

LEGO Architecture Build, Barnes & Noble, Arena Hub Plaza, 6 p.m.: Check out the newest in the LEGO Architecture series, SHANGHAI, and help build a new in-store display. The store's standard bricks, architecture bricks and duplo bricks will be out and ready for free building at this all ages event. Please take note that this is not a make-and-take event. All bricks must remain in the store.

SUNDAY

Cherry Blossom Festival, Kirby Park, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.: Food, Crafts, Rides, Games, Music and Dancing. Cherry Blossom Festival Pageant 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Sophomore/Junior Discovery Day, King's College, 8:30 a.m.:



Tailored specifically for sophomores and juniors, this event is a great way to learn about the King's College community and to visit the school's campus. For more information, go to admissions.kings.edu/portal/admission_events.

Hub Plaza, 6 p.m.: This is a novel that showcases one of the country's great authors, as well as engages readers in a timely discussion around women, work, and the meaning of power.

Editor's Note: Email jsoprano@civitasmedia.com to submit your free event.

WEDNESDAY

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THINGS TO DO

Superheroes, villains to battle at arena

By Mary Therese Biebel
18702

WILKES-BARRE TWP. — Years from now, it might not matter that the “Wand of Watoomb” was the magical tool that the villainous Nebula stole and the even-more-villainous Loki wanted to use to destroy the universe.

What kids are likely to remember, if you take them to see “Marvel Universe Live: Age of Heroes” next week, is Spider-Man flying through the Mohegan Sun Arena, Thor wielding his hammer, Black Widow zipping around on her motorcycle, and the Hulk adding considerable heft to the good-versus-evil fight.

“With the exoskeleton and helmet, I am about 8 1/2 feet tall, and it adds about 100 pounds to my 190,” said Josh Davidson, who portrays the gigantic green guy with the traveling tour.

Just moving around, let alone fighting bad guys, in that get-up takes a great deal of strength, but Davidson handles it with “a lot of endurance training and a lot of heavy weight lifting to keep in shape for the kicking and punching.”

“He (the Hulk) is definitely going to be in attack mode,” Davidson said. “You’re definitely going to be amazed with it.”

Fans of Marvel Comics know the Hulk is only the Hulk when he’s angry; when he’s calm he’s a mild-mannered scientist named Bruce Banner.

“Bruce Banner is definitely present with the show,” Davidson said. “Bruce Banner is intelligent and strate-

gic. The Hulk is a mass of anger and power that exists within Bruce Banner.”

The show includes more than 25 characters, from The Wasp and Iron Man to Black Panther and the Guardians of the Galaxy, so young fans are sure to spot their favorites, Davidson said, while older audience members are likely to be impressed by the acrobatic abilities of the cast.

“They’re at the top of their class in the skills department,” he said. “It’s an honor to get to perform next to them.”

Davidson, who once intended to become a nurse and began training at Kettering Healthcare College in Ohio, later changed his career goal to stunt performer.

“Focusing on stunts, I would have to say, it’s a thrill I’ve never experienced before,” said Davidson, who has a gymnastics background and enjoys rock-climbing and sky-diving in his spare time.

“You push your body to limits you never thought possible. Sometimes you have ‘fire burns’ which are so safe but so exhilarating,” he said, adding he’s also exhilarated when he falls from a great height.

“We have about 20-foot-high falls (in the show) but I have gone all the way to 45-foot falls,” he said.

Another aspect of his life may not sound exciting, but as he travels around the country with “Marvel Universe Live,” Davidson pays a great deal of attention to nutrition.

“Generally when I get into a city, the first place I go is grocery shopping, and then I find a place to work out,” he said, explaining he looks for “lots of healthy fruit and vegetables and healthy forms of protein such as fish and chicken and good, healthy grains like rice and quinoa.”

He enjoys being part of a fun, physical show, and added that another advantage of his current role was that it gave him the chance to meet Lou Ferrigno, the actor/bodybuilder who portrayed The Incredible Hulk in a 1970s television series of the same name.



Secret to community greatness is compassionate action

The strength and greatness of a community is demonstrated in the compassionate action of its members. Through cooperation and collaboration of resources to support our citizens we can mindfully expand our capacity to improve the quality of life for everyone in our community.

Recognizing the needs of our families, workers, businesses and students, and collectively sharing resources to fill the gaps to create a more productive and sustainable way of living that is safe and thriving should be our priority for a strong community.

The first step is recog-



Donna Nelson
18702
Columnist

nizing the challenges and needs faced within our community.

Then identifying available resources. Followed by understanding how to access those resources and connecting the resource solutions with the need.

A big challenge in this community is awareness. Awareness of resources and who they are for, how to access them, when and where.

I first experienced the

reality of this with the financial struggles from my divorce and raising children as a single parent.

I needed help, and at times didn't even know what that help was. Sometimes it was just emotional support. Other times it was parenting support. I was fortunate over time to meet people that knew of community-based resources that helped get me through some difficult challenges. I've learned that I am not alone. There are many other single moms, individuals and families who feel isolated and hopeless as they struggle to live as functional and produc-

tive as possible.

Too often there are families here who need help and resources, like I did, and yet don't know the agencies and support organizations to fill an immediate or even long-term need simply because of lack of awareness.

Many live in isolation, feeling hopeless and trapped in their circumstances simply because they don't know there is a way out or they don't want a hand out.

The second big challenge is lack of financial and physical resources within agencies and support organizations. The truth is this community

has everything we need to fulfill the needs of our citizens. It's just a matter of connecting all the hearts and the parts to create the whole in a collaborative and sustainable manner.

As an advocate and eternal optimist I am hopeful we will unify, transform and prosper as a collective community.

This column will be a collection of inspiration, awareness, resources, stories and solutions. I'll highlight the challenges, needs and resources to fill the gaps so we can be part of the solution to build a stronger, more sustainable community through compassionate

action.

It does take a community. It always has. Working together, we can positively impact change and thrive as the Diamond City.

If you are part of an organization that provides support services and resources to improve the lives of others and make our community a stronger, better place to live, work and play - we'd love to connect.

Email jsoprano@civitasmedia.com to share how you're serving and how you'd like to be part of solution.

Donna Nelson is founder of Adopt-A-Single-Mom Project. Her column appears weekly in 18702.

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Geisinger opens Careworks Clinic in WB

Geisinger opened its newest Careworks clinic in Wilkes-Barre this month, offering patient-friendly, extended hours and online check-in for quick, convenient health-care from certified medical professionals.

The new facility is located inside Geisinger's Kistler Clinic at 175 S. Wilkes-Barre Blvd.

"Our new location is convenient care, designed to be there when you need it the most," said Jennifer Ronczka, operations manager at Geisinger Careworks. "Open evenings and weekends, patients can use online check-in to hold their place in line

or just walk in for issues like cold and flu symptoms, allergies, earaches, sprains and minor cuts."

Geisinger Careworks' extended hours mean patients no longer have to wait until Monday to see a physician and can be seen for common illnesses instead of heading to the emergency department. The new Careworks at Kistler also gives patients access to family medicine, pediatrics and radiology as well as lab and pharmacy services.

"This clinic is located inside an already established family medicine facility," said Alexis Duda, administrative

director, Geisinger Careworks. "By teaming up under one roof, we can better meet the patients' healthcare needs in one easy location."

The new 1,540-square-foot-space clinic is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Careworks is staffed with advanced practitioners who treat patients 1 year old and older. Patients can visit mycareworks.com or Geisinger.org (click on urgent care wait times & check-in online) for online check-in or more information.



From left are Dan Landesberg, administrative director, Geisinger Wyoming Valley; Kathryn Hall, operations manager, Community Medicine; Jennifer Ronczka, operations manager, Careworks; Jessica Manzolillo, PA-C, Careworks; Alexis Duda, Administrative Director, Careworks; Michael Kovalick, D.O., medical director, Community medicine.

Free skin cancer screening at WB clinic

The American Academy of Dermatology reports that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime – the deadliest of skin cancers is melanoma. As early detection can save lives, Geisinger is offering a free melanoma screening for patients on Wednesday, May 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Geisinger East Mountain Specialty Clinic, 1155 East Mountain Blvd., Wilkes-Barre.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States, with more than 91,000 new melanoma cases expected to be diagnosed in 2018, according to the American Cancer Society. Research estimates that non-melanoma skin cancer, including basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, affects more than 3 million Americans each year.

"It's important to have your skin

checked," said Geisinger physician assistant, Elaine Bridgens. "A small mole on the skin might not be harmless. Most moles will never cause any problems, but someone who has many moles is more likely to develop melanoma. Men have a higher rate of melanoma than women, although this varies by age. Before age 50, the risk is higher for women; after age 50 the risk is higher in men."

Last year, more than 900 individuals had their skin checked at one of Geisinger's melanoma screening days, which are held throughout northeast, central and south central Pennsylvania. Advanced registration is required to participate in this free screening. To register or for more information, visit Geisinger.org/events or call 800-275-6401 (at the prompt, say "dermatology").

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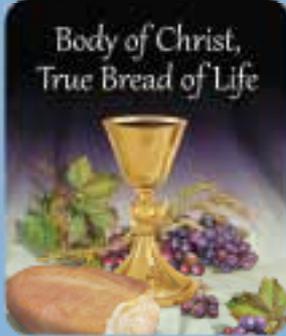
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Residents hit streets for cleanup

By Geri Gibbons
For Times Leader

WILKES-BARRE — Seventeen groups of concerned residents made their way to the streets of their own neighborhoods Saturday with garbage bags, brooms and rakes in hand. It was all part of the Great American Cleanup, scheduled each year as part of Earth Day activities.

Maria Dobish was part of a group in the Rolling Mill Hill area near Solomon Creek, and those volunteers have found some items of trash they described as “unsettling.”

“Last year, a family moved out of an apartment and simply dumped all their belongings in the creek,” she said. “We were able to report them to the police because among other things, they dumped a copy of their driver’s licenses and Social Security cards.”

As Dobish spoke, she looked across the street at her own well-kept house, sporting yellow hanging plants and a colorful flag.

“People have to care about their own properties,” she said. “That’s the key to having good neighborhoods.”

Not far away, at Eyerman Park, also in the Rolling Mill Hill area, Justin Garvey, 10, said he had simply come out to the park to play, then joined in the cleanup effort.



Charlotte Bartizek | For 18702
Damian Gilbert, of Wilkes-Barre, cheerfully slips on an orange safety vest as he prepares to help clean up Mayflower Park on Saturday as part of the city's Great American Cleanup.



Linda Joseph, president of the Rolling Mill Hill Resident Association and Joshua Dennis, Ashley, helped cleanup Eyerman Park on Saturday.



Terry Pahler and neighbor Maria Dobish reclaimed many bags of trash from the banks along Solomon Creek.



Jake and Dylan Housenick, center, along with Allen Kotansky, right, sweep and clean Elizabeth Street in Wilkes-Barre on Saturday for a cleanup that's part of Earth Day activities.



Justin Garvey, Wilkes-Barre, was eager to help cleanup his playground Saturday in Eyerman Park.

Play ball!

T-ball players took the field Saturday for games in the South Wilkes-Barre Little League



Adam Sharif, 9, is under a toss from his coach during practice before the game at South Wilkes-Barre Little League.



The Hourigan, Kluger & Quinn team takes the bench before a game against Januzzi's Pizza on Saturday.



Micah Anderson, 7, focuses on a ground ball coming his way during a T-ball game at Miner Park in Wilkes-Barre on Saturday. Anderson was playing in a South Wilkes-Barre Little League game.



Januzzi's Andrew Langan, 7, left, plays the feild while Beryx Hairston, 6, at stands on first base.

Photos by Charlotte Bartizek

Mohawks stumble against Bulldogs

BERWICK — Two-time defending Wyoming Valley Conference Division 2 track and field champ Meyers lost for the first time, dropping an 80.5-69.5 decision to Berwick at Senator John R. Gordner Stadium on Tuesday.

It handed Meyers coach Hayden White his first defeat since returning to coach the program to two 7-0 league championship seasons during the past two years, and marked the first time Meyers lost since coming up short against Lake-Lehman on April 22, 2015.

Meanwhile, Berwick bolted into sole possession of first place at 5-0 in the WVC Division 2, a game ahead of Lake-Lehman (4-1) and 1.5 ahead of Meyers (3-1) with two meets remaining in the regular season for the Bulldogs.

Najese Hood won the long and triple jumps for Meyers and defending PIAA bronze medalist Nazir Dunell led a Mohawks hurdles sweep by winning in the 110.

TUESDAY BOYS

Hanover Area 93, Holy Redeemer 52

James McCabe and Jamie Beggs were doubles winners as the Hawk-eyes coasted to victory.

McCabe captured both hurdles



See ROUNDUP | 17 Meyers' Nazir Dunell wins the boys 110-meter hurdles against Berwick on Tuesday in Berwick.

Bill Tarutis | For Times Leader

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, April 27
H.S. BOYS LACROSSE
Coughlin at Lake-Lehman, 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 28
H.S. SOFTBALL
Meyers at Lake-Lehman, 11 a.m.
H.S. BOYS LACROSSE
Coughlin at Dallas, 12 Noon

Monday, April 30
H.S. BASEBALL
(4:15 p.m.)

Coughlin at Nanticoke Area
GAR at Holy Redeemer
Meyers at Hanover Area
H.S. SOFTBALL
(4:15 p.m.)
Holy Redeemer at Hanover Area
Meyers at GAR
Pittston Area at Coughlin
H.S. BOYS LACROSSE
Coughlin at Scranton Prep, 5:30 p.m.
H.S. GIRLS LACROSSE
Hazleton Area at Coughlin, 4:15 p.m.

H.S. BOYS VOLLEYBALL
(4:30 p.m. JV; varsity follows)
Coughlin at Holy Redeemer

H.S. SOFTBALL
(4:15 p.m.)
Coughlin at Dallas
Meyers at Holy Redeemer
H.S. BOYS & GIRLS TRACK
(4:15 p.m.)
GAR at Nanticoke
Northwest Area at Holy Redeemer
Hanover Area at Meyers.

Wednesday, May 2
H.S. BASEBALL
Wyoming Seminary at GAR
Holy Redeemer at Lake-Lehman
MMI Prep at Meyers
H.S. BOYS & GIRLS TRACK
(4:15 p.m.)
Wyoming Valley West at Coughlin
H.S. BOYS LACROSSE
North Pocono at Coughlin, 4:15 p.m.
H.S. GIRLS LACROSSE
Wyoming Seminary at

Coughlin, 4:15 p.m.
H.S. BOYS VOLLEYBALL
(4:30 p.m. JV; varsity follows)
Crestwood at Coughlin
Holy Redeemer at Lake-Lehman

Thursday, May 3
H.S. BASEBALL
(4:15 p.m.)
Coughlin at Hazleton Area
Holy Redeemer at MMI Prep
H.S. SOFTBALL
(4:15 p.m.)
Coughlin at Hazleton Area

MMI Prep at GAR
Northwest at Meyers
Wyoming Seminary at Holy Redeemer
H.S. GIRLS LACROSSE
Coughlin at Delaware Valley, 5 p.m.
H.S. BOYS VOLLEYBALL
(4:30 p.m. JV; varsity follows)
Coughlin at Hanover Area
Tunkhannock at Holy Redeemer

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

South Wilkes-Barre Resident's Association holds inaugural Easter egg hunt

Members of the Luzerne County Community College Alumni Association recently volunteered to assist with the South Wilkes-Barre Resident's Association inaugural Easter egg hunt at Kistler Elementary School in Wilkes-Barre. Shown at the Easter Egg hunt are, kneeling — Holly Evanski '05, as the Easter Bunny, Wilkes-Barre, vice president, LCCC Alumni Association. Standing, from left — Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87, Shavertown, director, alumni relations, LCCC; George Brown, Wilkes-Barre, event organizer and member, LCCC Board of Trustees; Russell Keeler '91, as Blaze the LCCC mascot, Kingston, past president, LCCC Alumni Association; Sydney Bruno-Beck, Swoyersville, volunteer; Charlie Bruno, Swoyersville, volunteer and LCCC student; and Joan Martins, Nanticoke, adjunct faculty, LCCC.



Easter Bunny visits Child Care Center



The Easter Bunny recently visited the children enrolled in the Child Care Center at the Wilkes Barre Area Career and Technical Center. The center is operated in conjunction with the High School Child Care Program. Shown are, first row: Alexandra Montogna, Madelyn Reyes, Della Rostock, Declan Flaherty, Lilly Brinzo. Second row: Miss LisBeth, Miss Ashley, Miss Sam, Miss Krystle, Miss Maribel, Maxwell Murray. Third row: Liam Flaherty, Katie Searfoss, Karly Welgosh, Cataleya Lemon, Easter Bunny, Jakoby Colon, Parker Rice, Miss Laura, Leah Bell, Kaylee Keiper. Fourth row: Amanda Federici, Madisyn Collins, Ava Harris, Miss Caitlin, Cooper Kosik, Miss Ashley.

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Bear Creek Charter School announces third quarter honor

The Bear Creek Community Charter School is proud to announce the third quarter honor roll. The following students received academic honors for the third quarter of the 2017–2018 school year. The Bear Creek Community Charter School Board of Trustees and staff would like to congratulate each student on their academic achievement.

William Block, Dalyla Calderon,

Ashley Decker, Sarah Gryskewicz, Faith Harenza, Raina Kioske, Sawyer Koretz, MaryBeth Lewis, Lauren Martin, Garrett Vitali, Anna Bankus, Evan Corcoran, Joli Dutko, Jessica Lewis, Janiyah Lineszy, Evelyn Migatulski, Nora Seeherman, William Clark, Gabrielle Kenzakoski, Edwin Kimsal, Alyson Lenker, Hailey Miller, Kaithlyn Minet, and Katrina Tomolonis.

Roundup

From page 15

events and Beggs was first to the finish in the 100 and 200 dashes.

Lukas Volpetti was a triple winner for the Royals, taking the 1,600 run and as part of the winning 1,600 and 3,200 relay teams.

GIRLS

Holy Redeemer 96, Hanover Area 53

Caton Fahey was a triple winner to pace the Royals' victory.

Fahey won both hurdles events and was part of the winning 1,600 relay team.

Lindsey Williams and Leah Mullery won two individual races apiece for Redeemer. Williams placed first in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs and Mullery took the 800 run and the shot put.

BASEBALL

Seminary 8, Redeemer 7

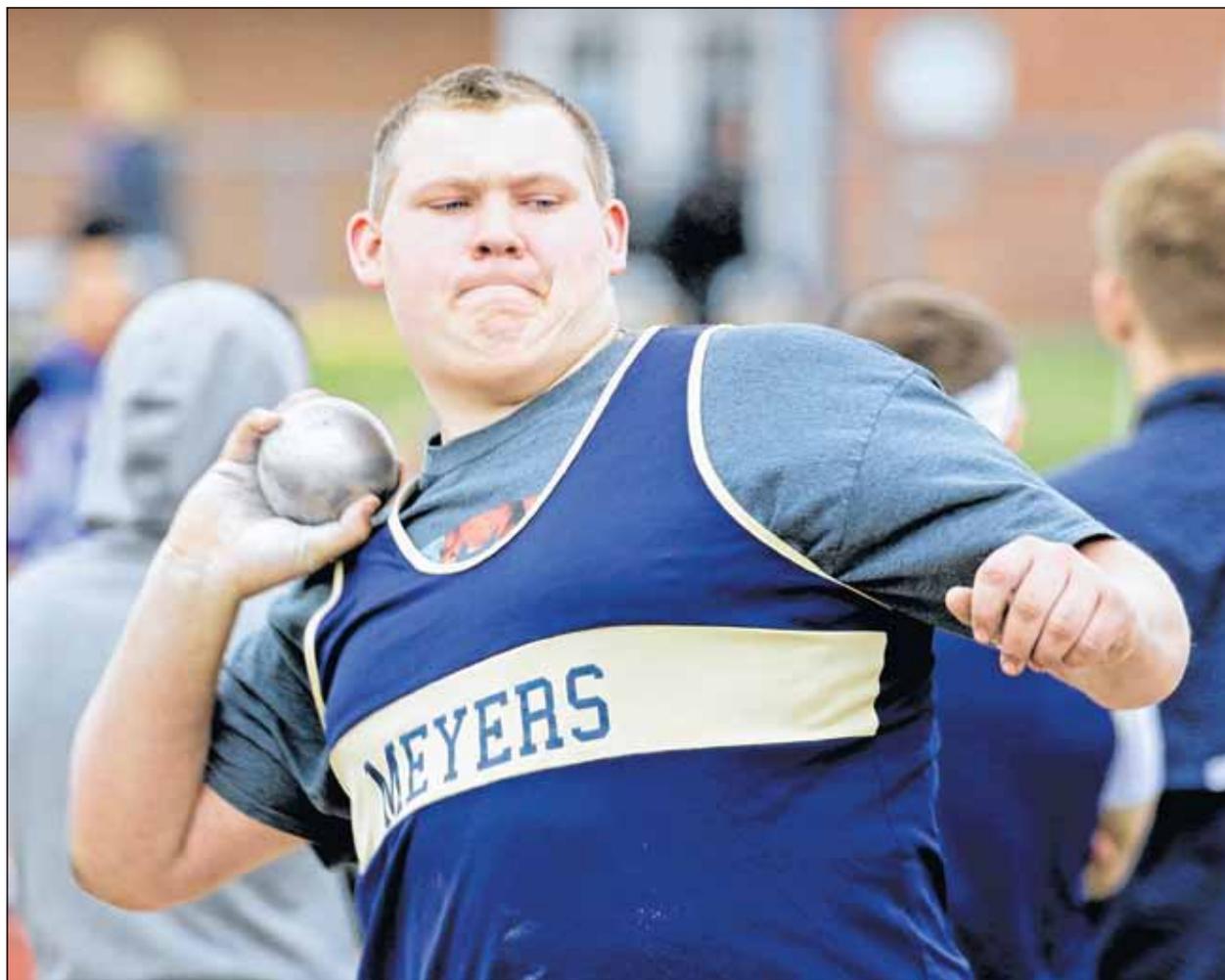
A.J. Murphy singled home the winning run in the top of the eighth as Wyoming Seminary edged Holy Redeemer 8-7 in eight innings Tuesday in Wyoming Valley Conference baseball.

Murphy finished 4-for-5 with three runs scored. Mike Oravic added a two-run homer, finishing with three RBI.

Sean Wills doubled and knocked in three runs to pace Redeemer. Dave Wickiser was 4-for-4.

Meyers 7, Northwest 4

Luke Bottger was 2-for-2 with three RBI and Kenny Macko knocked in two runs as Meyers won on the road.



Meyers' Justin Eberhardt throws the shot put against Berwick Tuesday afternoon in Berwick. Bill Tarutis | For Times Leader



Meyers' Chris Flores stretches before his track event against Berwick.

Adam Bukavich had two RBI for Northwest. Joey Ridgley was 2-for-3 with a double.

Hanover Area 17, GAR 7

Mike Piscotty (3-5, two doubles, five RBI), Matt Clarke (double, HR, four RBI) and Kevin Polanco (two doubles, three RBI) all turned in big days at the plate in the Hawkeyes' five-inning win.

Ronald Peguero drove in a pair of runs for the Grenadiers.

MONDAY

Volleyball

Holy Redeemer 3, Berwick 0

Ben Rachilla made 27 kills and served 14 points as the Royals rolled to a 25-9, 25-13, 25-14 victory while handing the 6-1 Bulldogs their first league defeat of the season.

Matt Piontkowski added seven kills, five blocks and six digs in the win and George Beck dished out 31 assists.

BOYS TENNIS

Holy Redeemer 4, Hazleton Area 1

Chris Kocon won 6-1, 6-0 in the top singles match and the Royals swept doubles play to earn the victory.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Crestwood 16, Coughlin 0

Natasha Koslop scored five goals and added two assists to propel the Comets.

Kate Coslett finished with a hat trick and added an assist in the victory.

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\$50 weekly winners

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IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Class Reunion Notices

Coughlin High School

Class of 1968, will gather for their 50th reunion on July 27 at Appletree Terrace, Newberry Estates, Dallas. Register with Facebook: Coughlin High School Class of 1968, or contact Beth Roche Ward at Betterrocky@aol.com or 803-708-2979.

Class of 1972, is planning a class reunion at the Polish American Veterans, 2 S. Oak St., Plains, Saturday, June 9, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person. Pre-reunion activity is a Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders baseball game, Friday, June 8, game time 6:35 p.m. Cost \$11 per person—limited number of tickets available from Mike Teller. Post-reunion activity is a farewell breakfast at Dukey's Cafe, Sunday, June 10th, 11:00 a.m. For more details, please visit Coughlin High School Class of 1972 Facebook group or contact Eileen (Brislin) Wellner at eileenw72@gmail.com or Mike Teller at michaelsteller12@yahoo.com.

Class of 1974, will hold a 62nd Social Security Celebration from 4 to 8 p.m. Sept. 15 at THree Guys in Edwardsville. The cost is \$20 per person and includes pizza, wings, stromboli, soda and coffee. A DJ will entertain. Cash bar will be available. Send checks payable to CHS class of 1974 to Mollie Riley, 7 Elm St., Edwardsville, PA, 18704.

Class of 1988, will hold a 30th reunion celebration on July 14 at the Apple Tree Terrace, Newberry Estates, Dallas. Dress is casual. Full details and ticket information will be publicized when available.

For information visit the class Facebook page @ Coughlin1988 or email contact information to coughlin1988@comcast.net. The planning committee is holding its next meeting at 7 p.m. March 26 at Coal City Tavern in Luzerne. Any local class members are welcome.

GAR Memorial High School

Class of 1958, will meet at 6 p.m. May 2 at Patte's Sports Bar, 65 W. Hollenback Ave., Wilkes-

Barre, to make plans for its 60th reunion to be held on Sept. 9. All classmates are encouraged to attend. Call Bob Evans at 570-823-3030 with information on the following classmates: Ella Anderson, Eliozabeth Armbruster Fenusian, Jean Crawford Ruggere, Loraine Daniels Lukas, Flo Gallagher Bischaf, Henry Harris, Richard Hutnick, Marlene Masi Eckert, David Meier, Patsy Nagle Riscoff, Beverly Pavilonis, JoAnn Petchuk, Thomas Pilcavage, Helen Ptashinski Lucas, Marion Simpson Calakos, Edith Sutton, Joe Schmidt and Romaine Umphred.

Meyers High School

Class of 1969, will meet to plan its 50th class reunion at 6:30 p.m. May 3 at the Riverside Cafe on Old River Road in Wilkes-Barre. All class members are urged to attend.

Class of 1973, classmates are encouraged to save the date of Sept. 8 from 4 to 8 p.m. at III Guys restaurant in Edwardsville.

Wilkes-Barre Academy third quarter honor roll

High honors

Eighth Grade – Caleb Cackowski, Isabella Nardone, Lauren Repella, Laurel Roth, Jenna Santuk, and Jennifer Zemetro

Seventh Grade- Hannah Fox, Gopal Patel, and Kendra Santuk

Sixth Grade –Zachary Winder and Amanda

Zemetro,

Fifth Grade – Morgan Cookus-Gnoinski, Jane Gillespie, Daniel Hughes, Rehaan Mansuri, Ian Smith, and Lily Talukder

Honors

Eighth Grade – Alexys Corbett

Seventh Grade – Waqas Arain, Aayan Chaudhry, Angelina

Goyne, Natalie Legge, and Armaan Mansuri

Sixth Grade – Emily Krevey, Angelina Opachko, and Tyler Vodzak

Fifth Grade –Rex Hrabal, Gabrielle Medura, Marin Purcell, Eli Scaramastro, Miah Sims, Isabella Wigle, and Liam Wittkopp

Church Briefs

WILKES-BARRE — First Assembly of God, 424 Stanton St., Wilkes-Barre: WOW Ministry will hold its Spring Craft show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 5 in the church parking lot. The event is rain or shine. The craft show will consist of canvas prints, purses, soy candles, Lularoe, Scentsy, It Works, Pinkn Zebra, Norwex, Usborne Books, Avon, vitamins, supplements, handmade jewelry, cake pops, handmade cards, and more. WOW Women's Ministry will sell refreshments. Free and open to the public. Proceeds benefit the First Assembly Women's Ministry.

WILKES-BARRE — St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, 905 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre will host spaghetti dinners from 4 to 6 p.m. each Thursday in the

church hall. \$8 includes salad, pasta dinner, bread, dessert and beverage. Choice of six pastas and five sauces. Ample parking. 570-823-6692. Spaghetti dinner run through May and possibly into first week of June. The Ladies of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church will hold their semi-annual Book and Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 20 and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 21. A bag sale will be conducted at noon on April 21. Plenty of parking available. Public is welcome.

WILKES-BARRE — April 29: A Tour, Information Meeting and Brunch for the Friedman Center for Jewish Life will take place beginning at 10 a.m. at 613 Third Ave., Kingston and moving to the JCA at 10:30 a.m. RSVP to 570-824-

4646 or d.garofalo@nepa.jca.org. April 29: The 2018 Benjamin August Memorial 3-Mile Run will take place at 10:30 a.m. and take runners through South Wilkes-Barre, beginning on Northampton Street and ending on the River Common. Registration fee is \$15 before April 29 and \$17 on race day. Preregistration packets may be picked up starting at 9:15 a.m. Registration closes 10 minutes prior to race start. Make checks payable to Jewish Community Alliance, and mail pre-entry form to Rick Evans, JCA, 60 S. River St., Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18702. May 2: Yom Ha'atzmaut, speaker Alon Ben Gurion, grandson of Israel's founding father and prime minister David Ben Gurion.

Wilkes-Barre Academy second grade holds science fair



Wilkes-Barre Academy Second Graders recently held their annual Science Fair. The winners include, first row: honorable mention Annabella Betts; first place winner Calendria Stevenon; third place, Kaelen Van Vilete. Second row: second place winner Brayden Hernandez and honorable mention Dylan Hughes.

St. Nicholas-St. Mary students excel at Junior Academy of Science



Students from St. Nicholas-St. Mary School in Wilkes-Barre recently won awards for the Regional Competition of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science. Students will advance to the State Competition at The Pennsylvania State University in May. Shown are, first row: Gabriella Randazzo, Sophia Magistro, Laney Schulz, Chisom Eneh, Matthew Maciejczyk, Christopher Maciejczyk, and Madeline Nguyen. Second row: Science teacher Janice Szczechowicz, Rosalyn Partington, Katharine Fitzgerald, Tessa Martin, and Grace Nealon.

March students of the month

E. L. Meyers Junior/ Senior High School announces the students of the month for March 2018. In order to be nominated for student of the month, a student must go above and beyond showing true "Mohawk Pride." They must maintain exceptional grades, attitude, and commitment to others. Once they are nominated, a panel of faculty and staff review the nominations and vote on who is most deserving. Winners receive their picture on the "Wall of Fame," and lunch ordered from a local restaurant and served by Vice-Principal Mr. Patrick Peters. Winners are Rumman Mohbuba, seventh grade, and Te-Keyia Hamilton, eighth grade. Shown from left are Megan Sweeney, eighth-grade teacher and student of the month advisor; Rumman Mohbuba, Te-Keyia Hamilton, Sarah Edwards, eighth-grade teacher and student of the month advisor.



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The City of Wilkes-Barre's 41st Annual Cherry Blossom Festival Kirby Park

Saturday, April 28 & Sunday, April 29
11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Food, Crafts, Rides & Games • Music & Dancing

Saturday, April 28

Sunday, April 29

12th Annual "Paw Patrol in the Park"

Cherry Blossom Festival Parade

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Pets are NOT permitted in Kirby
Park during special events.

Hot Rods Club Car Show
11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Plains Lions Club to host pasta dinner



The Plains Lions Club will host a pasta dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. May 8 at Bernadine Hall in Saints Peter and Paul Church, Hudson Street, Plains Pa. All proceeds will benefit the food pantries of Saints Peter and Paul Church and the United Methodist Church, both in Plains. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children under 12 while children under 5 eat free. Eat in or take outs are available. Tickets can be obtained from any Plains Lions Club member or by contacting event chairman Joe Spagnuolo Sr. at 570-824-6323. Shown are Lions Club members planning the event, seated John Corcoran Jr., chairman Joe Spagnuolo Sr., Dan Scott, Rob Sax, Tom Mulhern III, John Woloski. Standing: Ryan Molitoris, Garrett Krueger, Mike Lambert, Aaron Littzi, Bob Milligan, P. J. Biscontini, Joe Williams, Caz Bocewicz, Tom Kobusky, Joe Kulesza, Fran Griffith.

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Births

Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center announces newborns from March 1 through April 1.

Labour, Ashlee and Wolbers, Cody, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 3

Brocius, Tamikea and Anthony, Wilkes-Barre, a daughter, March 8

Walton, Rachele and Mephi, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 8

McDonough, Margie and Brown, Cory, Wilkes-Barre, a daughter, March 9

Smith, Ashley and Gonzalez, Mack Cannon, Wilkes-Barre, a daughter, March 9

Rezaeva, Anna and Kadysewski, Vigen, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 10

Reed, Diamond and Lebron, Carlos, Wilkes-

Barre, a son, March 13
Protheroe, Amanda, Wilkes-Barre, a daughter, March 14

Stephany, Jeanette and Byrd, Rashawn, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 16

Wielgosz, Jade and Jimenez, Jessi, Wilkes-Barre, a daughter, March 16

Smith, Katerie and Bagley, Bradley, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 21
Ciciani, Sara and

Conahan, David, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 25
Acker, Michelle and Dylan, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 25

Gregas, Courtney and Imperator, Joseph, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 25

Kroll, Denise and Brian, Laflin, a son, March 26

Houser, Jillian and Hronowski, Merek, Wilkes-Barre, March 27
Kochan, Matilda, Wilkes-Barre, a daughter, March 29

Tatis, Claudia and Jaramillo, Jason, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 29

Nesbitt Women's & Children's Center at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital announces newborns from March 26 through April 7.

Rinaldi, Dana and Grissom, Jon, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 28

Binmadhi, Hailah and Almadhi, Faisal, Wilkes-Barre, a son, March 30

Foster, Jill and Corey, Wilkes-Barre, a daughter, April 2

Pursel, Kristle, Wilkes-Barre, twin daughters, April 3

\$5 vehicle fee to get hearing

By Jennifer Learn-Andes
18702

Seven of 11 Luzerne County Council members voted to introduce a new \$5 vehicle fee ordinance Tuesday, which means the proposal will advance to a public hearing and possible final adoption in May.

Councilman Robert Schnee, one of the seven, said he will propose an amendment that would end the fee if the state stops providing a match.

The fee on 281,000 vehicles would yield an estimated \$1.4 million annually to repair the county's 304 bridges and approximately 128 miles of county roads. The state will match up to \$2 million to fix bridges in each county with a \$5 fee, but only once, a PennDOT official has said.

Also voting for the ordinance introduction were Eugene Kelleher, Tim McGinley, Christopher Perry, Sheila Saidman, Matthew Vough and Jane Walsh Waitkus.

Council members Edward Brominski, Harry Haas, Linda McClosky Houck and Stephen A. Urban voted against the introduction.

Walsh Waitkus said she was shocked that numerous people have approached her urging her to support the fee.

"People are hungry for some improvement," she said, insisting she informed these fee supporters the money would be spent on county infrastructure only.

She also encouraged the administration to post before-and-after photographs of projects funded by the fee if it passes to show the public how the money is spent.

McGinley said he will support Schnee's amendment and the fee

because he does not want to lose the chance for the county to double its investment.

Kelleher said citizens also asked him to vote for the fee so the county does not "throw away a \$1.4 million match."

But Brominski argued the fee unfairly forces vehicle owners countywide to pay more for infrastructure that is only in some municipalities. He believes citizens who support the fee mistakenly assume it will help fix potholes and other problems on roads owned by municipalities or the state.

Instead of offering a match tied to a burdensome fee, Urban said the state should be providing more money to counties from an increased state gasoline tax as the state has done for municipalities.

Schnee said the gas tax increase is "totally ridiculous," but the county can't keep "kicking the can down the road" to address its infrastructure problems.

Several citizens attended the meeting to voice opposition to the fee, with some calling for specifics on how the revenue would be spent. Two men said they will be hit hard because they own several vehicles.

Jackson Township Police Chief James Balavage was the exception, telling council he supports the fee for public safety.

In other business Tuesday, a council majority voted to reject McClosky Houck's proposed ordinance requiring segregated budget tracking of all contracts or obligations that would cost the county more than \$25,000 in one year or \$75,000 in two or more years. McClosky Houck said the ordinance would provide more clarity on how budgeted funds would be spent.

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PAK KID'S PAGE

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Fun Days in May!

Check out some of these unusual holidays that you can celebrate in May.

MAY 7 National Lost Sock Day

You throw your dirty socks in the hamper. (You do, don't you?) But after washing, not every sock is found! Where do they go? It's one of life's great mysteries. While thinking about the fate of those lost socks, look below to find each sock's match. Can you find the one sock that has no match?



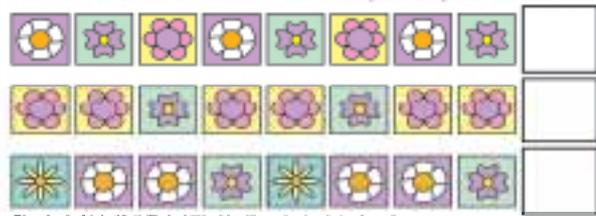
MAY 14 Dance Like a Chicken Day

Fold your arms like wings, play your favorite music and dance like a funky chicken! Sure, it's silly. But it's really good eggs-ercise! With some friends, try to stand in those crazy chicken dance poses for 30 seconds without getting the giggles.



MAY 30 National Water a Flower Day

Go on a hike with your family. Bring along some extra water and give it to a wildflower you find along the way. Draw the flower that should come next to complete the pattern in each row.



Standards Link: Math/Probability: Identify and extend simple patterns.

MAY 10 Clean Your Room Day

If your room has gotten out of control, spend this May 10 cleaning up your messy room. But first, help Chloe find the following things in this big pile of stuff from her room:



MAY 18 National Pizza Party Day

Gather friends and family and order some pizzas. Or, make your own! Find your way through this maze to grab your slice of yummy pizza.



Extra! Extra!
May is National Hamburger Month!
Survey 15 friends to find out what topping they prefer on a hamburger. Create a graph to show the results.

Standards Link: Math/Graphing: Analyze, display results using a graph.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

MAY 5 Free Comic Book Day

Most comic book shops offer customers a free comic book the first Saturday in May. Visit your local comic book store and be sure to say a mighty, "Thank you!"

How many differences can you find between these two comics?



Kid Scoop Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

CHICKEN
UNUSUAL
PIZZA
FATE
FLOWER
SILLY
COMIC
SOCK
HIKE
MESSY
WATER
MAY
DANCE
ROW
FUN

Q Z T H F Y Z A K C
Y L J I D L F C R I
A A S K T M O U S M
Z U M E S S Y W N O
Z S P D K I E A E C
I U W A Z L W T F R
P N O N Z L T E A T
L U R C A Y B R L F
A G N E K C T H C Z

Standards Link: Letter recognition, Recognized character words, Skimming and reading, Visual-spatial patterns.

FROM THE KID SCOOP LESSON LIBRARY

May is Teacher Appreciation Month

Design a newspaper ad telling your teacher how much you appreciate him or her. Look at some ads in your newspaper for ideas.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Write On!

Animal Riddle

Write a "Who am I?" riddle with three or more clues about an animal. Write the answer on the back of the riddle. Can your friends guess the animal?

Kid Scoop Together:

Missing Words

Some of the words are missing in this article. Work with a family member to decide where each word belongs.



MAY 5 Cinco de Mayo



On the fifth of May, people from Mexico and Mexican-Americans celebrate a _____ called **Cinco de Mayo**. Cinco de Mayo is how you say *fifth* of May in _____.

On May 5, 1862, in the _____ of Puebla, Mexico, a tired, poor and small Mexican army defeated the large, well-armed forces from France.

Mexicans did not want to be _____ by the French; they wanted to rule themselves. The French eventually left Mexico and each year, people of Mexican heritage _____ the historic battle at Puebla with food, games, music and dancing.

Cinco de Mayo became very _____ in the 1980s, and has been so ever since. It's a fun-filled _____ or, as they say in Spanish, a *fiesta!*

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.