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The Chamber View



Vincent J. Matteo, President/CEO

I thought it would be at least a month or so before I wrote anything about the 2018 elections. But, the decision by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to interfere in the political process as it relates to our Congressional Districts has forced me into the topic long before I wanted to. So, here goes.

As I am sure everyone is aware, a group of Democratic strategists decided to sue in court over what they called the “gerrymandered” Congressional Districts in Pennsylvania. Their argument has really boiled down to the fact that since there are more registered Democrats than Republicans in the Commonwealth, it makes no sense that of the 18 Congressional Districts, 13 are held by Republicans. Nowhere have I heard that they questioned other factors that may impact the outcome of elections such as the quality of candidates put up by the respective parties or the issues those candidates are supporting. Neither do they bring up the fact that despite this large voter registration enjoyed by Democrats, the Republican candidate for President carried the state and one of our two U.S. Senators is a conservative Republican. Neither, to my knowledge, did they mention that when these districts were drawn after

the 2000 election, more than a few of the Democrats in the state legislature at the time actually voted for the map. Instead, they chose to simply claim that gerrymandering is the only reason they cannot win more seats. Now, before I go further, let me tell you that I believe gerrymandering is a problem, but it is a problem regardless of which party draws the maps.

Over the years, there have been many claims of gerrymandering levied against both Republican and Democratic controlled legislatures across the country. Pennsylvania and Republicans are not the only ones singled out. No, partisan favoritism is not out of the ordinary – doesn’t make it right, just pointing out the obvious. I also wonder why we leave the drawing of districts to partisan elected officials in the first place. But what bothers me the most, is the tendency of many these days to rely on the courts to decide what are really political issues.

So, after deliberating the issue, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Democrats – fair enough. But where they opened themselves up to criticism that the Court itself was being influenced by partisan politics was their ruling that the Republican Legislature had to redraw maps that would have to be approved by a Democratic Governor in just a matter of a couple of weeks before the election or they, the Su-

preme Court of Pennsylvania – populated by a majority of Democrats, would step into the Legislative role and draw the maps to their liking. I know, I know, we like to think our Courts are peopled with Justices who are above partisan politics. But, let’s be honest, as long as we elect Judges by Party affiliation, do you really think politics doesn’t come into some decisions? Hey, they are human too.

Now, I honestly do not know if the Court was within its rights to even rule on this case. There are many legal scholars who say they do not have jurisdiction and I also don’t know if they were being blatantly political in their decision. But what has left them open to the criticism was their rush to have it done for this election cycle and not give the elected representatives of the people until the next Congressional Election in 2020. Everyone knows history says the party in power loses seats in the Congressional Election following the Presidential Election. Everyone also knows the Democrats are desperate to take back control of one or both Houses of Congress. If the roles were reversed, the Republicans would be just as desperate. Any shift in Pennsylvania, even if it is only two seats, could make the difference between Nancy Pelosi or Mike Ryan being Speaker of the House. Thus, the claims of partisan politics at the highest level in the Pennsylvania Judi-

cial system. This whole situation is sad indeed. More and more those who don’t win elections take to the Courts to try to destroy the policy initiatives of those in power. Unfortunately, too many judges are all too eager to impact what are political decisions – activism at the judicial level, regardless of the party in power, is not what the Founding Fathers had in mind. You can decide if the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overstepped its bounds, but I think there are consequences to too many issues being run through the courts by the party out of power. It is my belief that had the Court ruled the way they did but said the maps had to be redrawn at least one year prior to the 2020 elections, then perhaps the claims of partisanship would not carry so much weight. Whether or not they made a mistake in saying the districts were wrongly gerrymandered you can decide for yourself; I think since they demanded a “rush job” colors that decision. Fi-

nally, with all the computer acumen we have, isn’t there someone who could actually write a program that could draw districts in a nonpartisan way based upon the rules set down in our laws?

Bringing industry to Pennsylvania has never been easy. Always seen as a state not very friendly to business because of its high taxes and overregulation, economic developers in the Commonwealth have always fought an uphill battle. This political battle has taken on a national flavor with nightly stories in the national news about it. In my opinion, that is just one more black eye Pennsylvania does not need. We are already seen as too political. Having our State Supreme Court accused of it does not help our efforts to make Pennsylvania attractive to investment. While it is obvious the courts will end up deciding this argument, I honestly feel the losers – no matter which side finally prevails – will be the people of Pennsylvania – and That’s the Chamber View.

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Chamber Celebrates Education

The Chamber held its 17th Annual Education Celebration at the Williamsport Country Club on March 1. The awards included the Business Partner in Education, Alumni of the Year, Outstanding Professional Educator and Outstanding Senior.

The Business Partner in Education Award, sponsored by UPMC Susquehanna, is given to a busi-

ness 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 PMF Industries, Inc.

The Alumni of the Year Award is presented to one graduate from each of Williamsport's higher educational institutions. This award, sponsored by Lycoming College and

Pennsylvania College of Technology, is to recognize individuals who attended college and have stayed in the area and are successful and active residents in Lycoming County. This year's recipients were Dr. William Martin, 1968 Lycoming College graduate, and Chris Keiser, 1995 Pennsylvania College of Technology graduate.

The Outstanding Senior Award is awarded to students selected because of their performances in academics, leadership, activities, and community service. Each student is interviewed by a committee who awards 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 those interviews. As the students came forward to accept their award, each student also received a set of twig crayons sponsored by the First Community Foundation Partnership of PA which symbolizes the diversity in our world.

This year's grand prize winner,



Bernie Oravec, Williamsport Sun-Gazette, presents the Textbook Award to grand prize winner Maddie Solano-LaForme, Montgomery Area High School.

Maddie Solano-LaForme, Montgomery Area High School, received a \$250 cash award from M&T Bank and a college textbook scholarship for \$500 sponsored by Sun-Gazette. The Outstanding Senior Award is sponsored by M&T Bank.

A special thank you to all the school districts for supplying donations for the gift baskets.



Outstanding Senior Award winners: (front row); Connery McFadden, St. John Neumann Regional Academy; Danae Roles, Montoursville H.S.; Lauren Zangara, Williamsport Area H.S.; Allaryn Smith, South Williamsport H.S.; (back row); Matthew Nickolaus, Loyalsock Township H.S.; Dominic Williams, Jersey Shore Area H.S.; Maddie Solano-LaForme, Montgomery H.S.; Jacob Reynolds, Hughesville H.S. Not pictured, Nathan Paisley, Muncy H.S.



Outstanding Educator Award winners: (front row); Ann Neely, South Williamsport Area S.D.; Tara Condit, Montgomery Area S.D.; Paula Pulizzi, Montoursville Area S.D.; Jennifer Bomboy, Loyalsock Township S.D.; (back row), Charlene Harbach, St. John Neumann Regional Academy; Robert Fox, Jersey Shore Area S.D.; Mike Weber, Muncy Area S.D.; Justin Beatty, Williamsport Area S.D. Not pictured, Mary Smith, East Lycoming S.D.



Above, Alumni of the Year Award was presented to Chris Keiser (l), 1995 Pennsylvania College of Technology graduate from Dr. Davie Gilmour and Dr. William Martin (r), 1968 Lycoming College graduate from Chip Edmonds.

The Business Partner in Education Award was presented to PMF Industries, Inc. Accepting the award were Ken Healy and John Perrotto.



Welcome New Chamber Members!

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126 Electric Avenue
Lewistown, PA 17044
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www.onestop.biz

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Daphne Bowers
106 Welliver Road
Watsonstown, PA 17777
570-971-6334

www.thebarnatgreystonefarm.com

Wedding & Event Venue

Interested in joining the
Chamber?

Call the office at
570- 326-1971

or apply online at:
www.williamsport.org

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.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

The Revolving Loan Fund is available to:

- Individuals, corporations, limited liability companies and non-profit organizations
- Gross sales less than \$1,000,000 annually or employ less than 50 individuals
- Place of business or significant amount of business in Lycoming County
- Start up enterprises, expansion of existing business or relocation of business to Lycoming County

For more information please contact:

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

Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (570) 320-4206 Email: neischeid@williamsport.org

Chamber Members, Join Us...

The WorkCenter PM Exchange

Thursday, March 15, 2018

5:00-7:00pm

1100 Grampian Boulevard, Williamsport

UPMC Susquehanna

UPMC Susquehanna's WorkCenter provides occupational health and safety services to businesses throughout central PA with four convenient locations in Muncy, Wellsboro, Williamsport, and now Sunbury.

Mel's Deli & Cafe PM Exchange

Thursday, April 12, 2018

5:00-7:00pm

365 Broad Street, Montoursville



Mel's Deli & Cafe will be featuring a variety of hors d'oeuvres, sampling of specialty drinks, homemade finger desserts & our New Fresh Roasted Coffee by the pound from the grinding station or whole bean. We will also be featuring our Catering services.

Chef Hosch & Ann Catering PM Exchange

Thursday, April 26, 2018

5:00-7:00pm

414 Walnut Street, Williamsport



Join Chef Hosch & Ann Catering at the Historic Hobbs Carriage House for an evening of exceptional food by Chef Hosch & Chef Daniele, live entertainment by local musicians, and a tour through our new catering venue. We specialize in catering for all tastes and dietary needs with customized menus for each event.

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

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- ♦ Chamber Marketplace design package – we can design, print and deliver your next Chamber Marketplace flyer for \$499.95. Includes 2,000 full-color copies at 8.5" x 11" (Excludes Chamber distribution costs. Requires 2-week turnaround after approved design.)

For more information please contact:

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Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce - 102 West Fourth Street - Williamsport, PA 17761
(570) 326-1971 - www.williamsport.org

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

February PM Exchanges

UPMC Susquehanna Hosts PM Exchange



Congratulations to UPMC Susquehanna for hosting a PM Exchange where attendees were introduced to the Heart & Vascular Institute, Neurology and Neurosurgery departments, cutting edge technology, treatments, surgical procedures and medical doctors. Presenting a Certificate of Appreciation is Kim Makowski, Membership Development & Retention Committee to Dr. David Lopatofsky, Patti Jackson-Gehris and Keith Boyer. Thank you for an awe-inspiring evening!

Thomas T. Taber Museum Hosts PM Exchange



Lycoming County Visitors Guide available soon

The 2018 Lycoming County Visitors Guide will be available very soon. The Visitors Guide is full of useful information on what to do, where to stay, eat and shop throughout Lycoming County. Please pick up a copy of the visitors guide at the Visitors Center, located at 102 West Fourth Street, Williamsport or many other locations throughout the area.

The Lycoming County Visitors Bureau will be distributing the 2018 Lycoming County Visitors guides

along with other regional and local brochures on an every other month basis. The guides are delivered to hundreds of locations all over Lycoming County and neighboring counties. The schedule for delivery for the guide will be the months of March, May, July, August, October, and December. If you would like to have your business receive the Lycoming County Visitors Guides please contact Gina Kennedy at 570.320.4208 or gkenedy@williamsport.org.



Thank you to the Thomas T. Taber Museum of the Lycoming County Historical Society for hosting a PM Exchange to bring attendees to see the many updates for the historical displays, plus access to the Genealogy Department and tours of the Museum. Presenting a Certificate of Appreciation is Will Daniels (r), Membership Development & Retention Committee to Sue Beidler, Board Secretary, Gary Parks, Museum Director, and Randy DiPalo, Board Treasurer. Thank you for a very historical evening!

Muncy School District reaches for future

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

With an evolving curriculum and development of its high school campus, the Muncy Area School District is looking ahead.

Superintendent Craig Skaluba recently talked about some of the exciting happenings in the district.

There are the high school teachers such as Jason Gresh, who is introducing cutting edge education.

His introduction to computer science class challenges his students in their work with robots.

"The part of this class that's neat is that they solve problems," he said.

At different tables, students can be seen working in groups to figure out how to negotiate the miniature robots through mazes.

Gresh called it a different way of learning that engages the students.

Mark Kreisher, a technology education teacher, has classes for junior high and senior high students.

Seventh and eighth graders go through computer and drafting design courses. Senior high students receive instruction in different levels of technology.

Students are exposed to such real-life crafts as woodworking, metalworking, electronics, and 3D printing.

But Kreisher said one of the more exciting aspects of the student experience are the TSA (Technology Student Association) competitions.

Evidence of the creative talents of students are on display with various artwork in the rooms and hallways of the school.

Sabrina Barner, a junior, created a large watercolor mural depicting the different aspects of student life.

The mural stretches across a large portion of a hallway wall.

"I worked on it every day after school," she said.



Sabrina Barner, a junior at Muncy High School, stands before a wall mural she created. The watercolor mural is among a number of pieces of art done by students found throughout the school building.

MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

Skaluba noted that the district this year launched Measures of Academic Progress.

The program includes assessments of students to measure learning throughout the school year.

Meanwhile, the high school building, erected in 1932, will slowly undergo change, but not without maintaining the historical integrity of the structure.

Perhaps the biggest change on the high school campus will be the construction of a new gymnasium at the site of the outside basketball courts.

Presently in the design process, the gym is expected to undergo construction in the next school year.

The existing gym, Skaluba noted, was unable to accommodate all the winter sports teams that need to use it for practices.

"This will give us flexibility," he said.

A new media library center is being located over the gym lobby area.

"We will renovate the current library into classrooms," Skaluba said.

Other changes include building an addition in the

basement of the high school for a new wrestling room, updating the heating and air conditioning, and renovating the auditorium and the technology and art areas.

Skaluba credited the school board with doing a nice job of considering the school's needs.

Among the educational developments at the elementary school is the incorporation of the Leader in Me program which introduces kindergarten through second grade students to Steven Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

Now in its second year, it includes discussions, problem solving, and a parental review process.



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

Rory Oden (left) and Sabrina Barner work with a robot project in Jason Gresh's computer science class.

February Ribbon Cutting/Open House

SWC Realty Cuts Ribbon for New Location



Congratulations to SWC Realty on cutting the ribbon on their new location at 1988 West Third Street, in the Newberry section of Williamsport. Cutting the ribbon (l to r), are Agents Jodi Embick, Lynn Andrews, Shauna Bloom, Susan Rowles, Missy Magargle, Sherri Lyons, receptionist and Representative Jeff Wheeland. (back row), Mayor Gabriel Campana, Scott Cavinee, Broker and Vince Matteo, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.

Goodwill Industries New Donation Center



Congratulations to Goodwill Industries on a new donation center at 928 Allegheny Street in Jersey Shore. Cutting the ribbon is (l to r) Joyce Preston, Williamsport location Manager; Nickolas Suplizio, VP of Donation Procurement; Amanda Hurneman, Supervisor; Harold Guinter, Donation Attendent; Raymond Donati, President/CEO; Joseph Hamm, Jersey Shore Borough and Vince Matteo, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.



Welliver Opens New Office

Welliver McGuire Inc., a leading provider of comprehensive construction services for 120 years, has opened a new office location in the Williamsport community. The expansion is a result of significant growth the company has realized in the last few years. The office, located at 460 Market Street, Suite 102, is home to a team already working in the Northern Tier and Central Pennsylvania area.

In addition to corporate headquarters in Montour Falls, New York, the new space increases the office footprint and supports the company's growth strategy. "We are answering our client's request to maintain a physical presence in Pennsylvania, thus offering them more efficient options for the delivery of construction

services," said Anne Welliver-Hartsing, President at Welliver.

"We are excited to become a contributing member of the business community," said Christopher Morral, Director of Business Development. "Establishing long-term relationships with architects, subcontractors, and suppliers in the region is the foundation to building a strong local presence."

For more information about Welliver and our work at the Williamsport office, contact info@buildwelliver.com or call (272) 202-2133. For information about job opportunities at Welliver, visit the careers page at www.buildwelliver.com.



FEATURE MEMBER

Murray Motors a mainstay since 1939

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

Murray Motor Co. has been a familiar name in the car dealership business for many years.

Starting out in 1939 as a small family business in downtown Muncy, it has grown to include a dealership selling cars and trucks from a spacious location along Route 405 between Muncy and Hughesville.

"We are not small," managing partner Brian



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

The staff of Murray Motors includes managing partner Brian Peace (left) and his brother, general manager Brent Peace.

Peace said.

Peace and his business partner, Bill Brown, are excited about the future too.

The highway corridor continues to grow with franchise businesses such as Taco Bell and Sheetz appearing.

That means more potential customers for the Ford and Mazda dealership at 85 Griffith Road and the Murray Motors Auto Exchange located next door.

"We are growing," he said.

Peace described himself as a "hands-on owner." He's been in the car business for a number of years, and over that time he's seen what it takes to remain competitive.

Part of the challenge, he noted, is simply keeping

up with the changes.

Selling cars and truck is only part of the operation.

"Our service department is fully trained for the ever-changing technology," he said.

Customer service is always important.

"We actually retain our customers very well," general manager Brent Peace said. "Our service is a very integral part of our business. We make customers our priority."

That customer service is simply part of what it takes to remain competitive with the other dealerships in the area.

Brian noted that the lifetime warranty on all new cars.

"We still hand-wash and hand-dry every customer care serviced," he said.

The dealership employs 47 people.

There is also Murray Motors Chevrolet, Selinsgrove; Murray Motors Lock Haven, and the company's collision center in Hughesville.

Brian noted the importance of reaching out to the
(See MURRAY, Page 9),



MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

Murray Motor Co. includes a number of sites, including a dealership at 85 Griffin Road. The Mazda and Ford dealership is home to a large inventory of vehicles.

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FEATURE MEMBER

Murray Motors a mainstay since 1939

(From Page 8)

community.

"I firmly believe in that," he said.

He noted that the dealership simply would not exist without customers.

"It's rewarding to make a sale and see the smiles on their faces," Brent added.

Like any business, Murray Motors experiences its ebbs and flows.

The natural gas boom of several years ago, which has since waned, meant good times with plenty of customers looking to buy vehicles.

The 2011 flood was another matter altogether.

A deluge of water from nearby Muncy Creek brought destruction, damaging the dealership's inventory of vehicles.

But the dealership was up to the challenge of weathering the storm.

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MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette

Steve Stiger pauses from a busy day at work at Murry Motors. Stiger can be found most days working the service department at the Mazda and Ford dealership.

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Leadership Lycoming learns about Health & Human Services

The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2018 began their day at UPMC Susquehanna and had the opportunity to learn about Health and Human Services in Lycoming County. Round robin discussions included issues from childcare to elder care.

The class visited the American Rescue Workers for a tour of the building and then visited the Saving Grace Shelter to learn more about their services for families.

At Hope Enterprises, the class members were given a brief tour and split up into groups to be a part of the activities for the residents. Class members did crafts, played musical instruments and others played games as part of the buddy experience.

Back at UPMC Susquehanna, the class had the opportunity to listen and talk to Steve Johnson, President of UPMC Susquehanna as he talked about the future of healthcare in our area.

While Beth McMahon began with the health status of Lycoming County, the Youth Development Taskforce stole the show with their presentations on everything affecting their lives from drug abuse to peer pressure to everyday school activities.

Rounding up the day was discussion of the societal effects of social media on our youth today presented by Heather Rakestraw, PhD and Stephanie Rushton, DSW.

Thank you to UPMC Susquehanna, Hope Enterprises and Community Services Group for sponsoring this day.

Thank you to Kate Reese, Baker Tilly and Coleman Gregory, Larson Design Group for being class reporters.

**Thank you to our sponsors,
UPMC Susquehanna,
Hope Enterprises and
Community Services Group**

UPMC Susquehanna



A group picture of the 2018 Leadership Lycoming Class which concluded the Health and Human Services Day with Dr. Beth McMahon, her group of local high school students in the Youth Development Taskforce, and co-host Mr. Ron Reynolds.



Michael Kane talks to the class about Saving Grace, a homeless shelter for families.

Valerie Fessler of the American Rescue Workers, shows the Leadership Lycoming Class the mens boarding area.



The 2018 Leadership Lycoming Class had the opportunity to spend some time with the wonderful people of Hope Enterprises, where they had the opportunity to complete craft projects, participate in games and activities, and even have a dance party with those served by this amazing program.



Member Renewals

Received between January 30th and February 27th

Thank you to our renewing members. We do appreciate your membership and involvement in the Chamber!

Members 50 Years and Over

Superior Plus Energy Services
Susquehanna Supply Company

Members 25 Years and Over

A M Metal Specialties
Bayard Printing Group
City of Williamsport
Comcast
Keystone Data Systems, Inc.
Larson Design Group
Lonza Inc.
Lycoming County Commissioners
M & M Sheet Metal and Steel Fabricators
Red Lobster
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
White Deer Golf Course
Young Industries

Members 20 Years and Over

Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.
Hampton Inn - Williamsport

Members 10 - 19 Years

Appreciative Strategies, LLC
First National Bank
Fisher Mining Company
Hillside Senior Living Center
Hutchinson Realty Development, LLC
Kost Tire & Auto Service
Lang's Chocolates
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Millbrook Playhouse, Inc.
Pajama Factory
State Farm Insurance, Tony Dgien Agent

Members under 10 Years

Arbor Housing and Development

Blooming Grove Historical Society
Carrs Trailers and Supplies
Diamond Pointe, LP
Fairfield Home Heating Service
Holiday Inn Express
Hoopla's Family Fun & Longshots Grill
Houseknecht's Machine & Tool Company
Indoor Sky LLC
Kilburn Electric, Inc.
Lowe's
Penn Valley Railroad, LLC
Preservation Williamsport
RDF Tax Services, LLC
Stallion Oilfield Services-Appalachia Division
The South Side Restaurant and Pizzeria
West Branch Human Resource Society
Williamsport Area School District Education Foundation

Leadership Lycoming is accepting applications for Class of 2019

Are you interested in Leadership Lycoming? Now is the time to submit your application. Graduates are seen throughout the community as participants on boards, committees, and task forces. Many find that the information they received as a Leadership participant provides them with the insight to better understand the issues facing our community today and tomorrow.

Class participants are selected on the basis of their demonstrated leadership potential and sincere desire to contribute time and effort

in their community. A formal Selection Committee chooses class members based on a written application, references and personal interviews.

Applications are available online and can be downloaded at www.leadershiplycoming.org. Applications will be accepted until **April 20, 2018**. If you would like further information or an electronic application, contact Sharon Jones, Program Coordinator at 570-320-4202 or sjones@williamsport.org.

We look forward to seeing you in the Leadership Lycoming Class of 2019!

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Williamsport, PA 17701

Presented by



Christopher Kreicker
Senior Managing Director
Wilmington Trust Company



Drew Horwitz
Chief Wealth Strategist
Wilmington Trust, N.A.

A question-and-answer period will follow prepared remarks.
\$15 Per Person - Reserve your space by Monday, March 12, 2018
Call the Chamber at 570-326-1971 or online at www.williamsport.org

WILMINGTON TRUST



SMALL BUSINESS

Merle Norman meets variety of beauty needs

By CARA MORNINGSTAR
cmorningstar@sungazette.com

For more than 36 years, Merle Norman Cosmetics and Day Spa has offered the Williamsport area a wide variety of beauty needs including haircuts, manicures, pedicures, facials, body wraps, spa treatments and more.

They have been at 528 Washington Blvd. for just over a year after having a few other location troubles in the area.

"We love it. The new building is great. It's energy efficient, and it's easy to get to," said Pat Tilley, co-owner. "It's been a great move for us."

She owns the business with her husband, Cal Tilley.

"The company is great. They're very advanced with their products and give us great service," she



CARA MORNINGSTAR/Sun-Gazette

Maranda Herrera, stylist, works on a client's hair recently at the Merle Norman Cosmetics and Day Spa, 528 Washington Blvd. For more information, call 570-323-8777.

said. "They're behind us 100 percent, and I've never had a problem with Merle Norman. After 36 years, that's saying something ... I have a really great staff. Overall, I'm very happy with the business."

She said truly has a passion for the work.

"I'm 72-years-old and loving it. I'm still working full-time," she said. "I don't want to retire unless I have to."

When referencing she how she's still so active for her age, she said it was her love for her job that gets her going everyday and her family.

"It's all Merle Norman cosmetics and staying out of the sun," she joked.

Her daughter, Mindy Price, is the manager and has worked with the business for 28 years. They aim to treat their clients like they're part of the family.

"I like to make people feel good, and I like to make people look good," she said. "It's a social hour here, but we're still professional."

It's important for the customers to enjoy them-

selves while receiving their services, she said.

"We have a good name. We're very clean ... Everything is clean, and I insist on cleanliness here," she said.

They offer a wide variety of services to clients.

"We teach people how to do make up and make up lessons. We offer a full line of make up," she said. "Of course, we have manicures and pedicures."

She said they also offer clients to have manicures and pedicures at the same time to save them time if they're on a schedule.

"We do not do artificial nails. We only do natural nails," she said. "We do a full hair service ... A lot of weddings, prom girls, everyday shampoos and styling, haircuts, color and just about anything you can do to hair."

She said they offer full body waxing for both men and women.

"We also do facials, and we have different types of facials that we offer depending on the skin, what the person is trying to accomplish or improve on," she said. "We also do bodywraps, which are a fat compression treatment."

They also offer body scrubs to remove dead, dry skin.

"Our sauna is a Far Infrared Sauna, and we've had that for 19 years," she said. "We've been way ahead of the curve on using the Infrared Sauna. It detoxifies, it relaxes you ... It's just an all around a great thing to do for yourself."

Having a spa day is a great way to relax for many people, so they aim to please.

"We try to be very, very accommodating ... We try to make people feel comfortable and treat them like they're a guest in our home," she said.

For more information, visit www.padayspa.com or call 570-323-8777.



CARA MORNINGSTAR/Sun-Gazette

Maranda Herrera, stylist, works on a client's hair recently at the Merle Norman Cosmetics and Day Spa, 528 Washington Blvd. For more information, call 570-323-8777.

NEW MEMBER

Ditty's Service Center: Everything automotive

By CARA MORNINGSTAR
cmorningstar@sungazette.com

Ditty's Service Center, 121 Broad St., Montoursville, offers automotive repair and maintenance services since opening in September.

"Any need you have ... From just your regular oil changes, tire rotations up to motor swaps, collision repair ... Anything you want to do to your car, give us a call," said Kyle Ditty, owner. "We can generally try to figure something out for you."

He said the biggest thing the business has to offer is treating customers right.

"I strive for the focus on customer service and value for what you get," he said. "No one enjoys their car breaking



CARA MORNINGSTAR/Sun-Gazette

In photo above, Kyle Ditty, owner, works on a vehicle at Ditty's Service Center, 121 Broad St., Montoursville. In photo at left, Sam Polys, map tools distributor, works on diagnosing a vehicle. For more information, call 570-601-4546.

down and having a repair bill, but my goal is to make sure that when you leave here with that bill, you're still satisfied with the way you were treated, the work that was done and the quality of the parts that were installed."

He said it can be difficult for customers to find the right fit for

quality and service.

Some big name stores might treat people like just a number to collect money.

"We want a family atmosphere where you can come in, know everybody by name, and we'll give you a big, big focus on service," he said.

In opening the business, he wanted to make sure he showcased those practices.

He said he knows sometimes it's difficult for bigger businesses to have a personal quality to their service, and it

often feels like handing them a bill, collecting money and pushing them out the door.

He prefers a personal approach so that customers know exactly what they're getting.

Having that friendly attitude has helped him fit in with the Montoursville area.

"We've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everybody in town and getting to know the other businesses," he said. "It's been a nice change of pace."

Having a business of his own accomplished a lifelong goal for Ditty.

"I've always been an entrepreneur and self-employed minded," he said. "From a little kid, I was always working on stuff up through to being a service manager, fleet mechanic. I've been around that kind of stuff (my whole life)."

He has always been interested in mechanics.

"I am self taught in most everything," he said. "I've got a lifetime of experience."

When the building became available, he felt like it was a perfect fit for him.

"So I pushed forward with it," he said. "It's been great being here."

Currently from Turbotville, he said working in Montoursville is great.

"I'm definitely enjoying Montoursville and getting into the area, the neighborhood," he said. "I got lucky. The building availability was the biggest thing, and once we started looking into the dynamic of Montoursville, it was a perfect fit."

He said he likes the neighborhood feel.

"It's the hometown, family oriented where everybody knows everybody type thing. I'll say it's like a modern day Mayberry," he said. "It's a great, family oriented town."

For more information, visit www.dittyservicecenter.com or call 570-601-4546.



Support us during



March 14 & 15, 2018

Mark Your Calendar!

On Wednesday, March 14th at 6:00 PM through 11:59 PM
on Thursday, March 15th, visit www.raisetheregion.org to
support the **Economic & Community Growth
Corporation** and/or **Leadership Lycoming** and raise as
much money as possible in 30 hours. Raise the Region is a
unique online fundraising event organized by the First
Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania.



**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
GROWTH CORPORATION**



LEADERSHIP LYCOMING

Break the Connection.



Stop Prescription Drug Abuse
Before It Starts.

Learn More. PASTop.org



Support local efforts. Join the Coalition at
www.ProjectBaldEagle.com



August 15, 2018

Pitchers and catchers have reported to Spring Training. Locally, kids are getting ready for the start of the Little League® season. In less than 6 months, it will be time for the world's eyes to focus on Williamsport for the annual Little League World Series®. The Lycoming County Visitors Bureau wants to encourage any business, organization or individual that wants to be involved in the 14th Annual Grand Slam Parade to go to our parade website, www.grandslamparade.com.

There you will find entry application details, sponsorship information, vendor registration and volunteer forms. On the site you will also find a map of the route along with current information as we get closer to the parade.

Join us as we welcome the players, families and friends of Little League Baseball® to our community.

Application Deadline: June 1, 2018

Chamber recognizes high school students

The Education Committee of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce would like to recognize the following students for being chosen as the Student of the 2nd Quarter for their high school and for their hard work and achievements. Congratulations!



*Lauren Sines
Hughesville High School*



*Isabella Hale
Jersey Shore Area High School*



*Samuel Newton
Loyalsock Township High School*



*Novalee Leonard
Montgomery High School*



*Abraham Deacon
Montoursville High School*



*Jeremy Lloyd
Muncy High School*



*Alyssa Day
South Williamsport Area High School*



*Lydia Nemeth
St. John Neumann Regional Academy*



*Anna Vaughn Stewart
Williamsport Area High School*

MONTOURSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Winter Social

We held the 2018 Winter Social at the beautiful Nevill's Flowers at the Governor Schulze Mansion on Tuesday, February 20th. About 80 Chamber members enjoyed the evening and the delicious buffet provided by Mel's Deli and Café.

Five of our member businesses sponsored the event, making the evening possible for our members. Thank you so much for your support!



Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce Winter Mixer

The 2018 Winter Mixer was held at the Tiadaghton Inn on February 28th. We had a great turn out with over 60 members in attendance. The food was just delicious and a good time was had by all.

~ Thank you for your sponsorship ~



Your generous sponsorship helped make the evening a great success!

Follow us on Facebook!



Williamsport/Lycoming
Chamber of Commerce





April 6, 2018

Leadership Lycoming presents:

Final 3

Farrington Place

416 West Third Street

Williamsport, PA

5:30pm to 7:30pm

**Tickets
on sale
now!**

- The ticket price of \$100 admits TWO to the Final 3 Event
- Hors d'oeuvres and beverages included
- Chance to win \$3,000
- Chinese Auction and 50/50

Do you feel lucky? One lucky person could have a chance to walk away with \$3,000!

During the event, tickets are drawn at random and eliminated. When only 3 tickets remain, the ticket holders may choose to share the \$3,000 cash prize & each walk away with \$1,000 or continue the elimination process to increase the prize amount.

To purchase your ticket,
call the Chamber of Commerce at 570-326-1971.

www.leadershiplycoming.org

A program of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

All proceeds from this event benefit Leadership Lycoming.

