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December 2020



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Thank you to our renewing members! We appreciate you.

Congratulations to the "Students of the First Quarter!

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A COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF THE WILLIAMSPORT/LYCOMING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

The Chamber View

Jason Fink, President/CEO

Williamsport Sun-Gazette, December 2020

It's December and a month that I traditionally have looked forward to over my years here at the Chamber. Almost 20 years ago, we started doing our Polar Express train excursions. While the name has changed to Santa Express since we started them (movie and the copyright associated with it from 2004), it has been the one work item that I can involve my entire family in doing, and we all have a great time. Sadly, it will be missed not only by us, but the many who have reached out to share their disappointment, but also understanding. The good thing is that the family will still be together and I trust for you all the same, whether live or virtually, as we tend to say these days.

November is over and I'm glad it has passed. It wasn't a great month for several reasons. The one that I'll point to is the American Airlines announcement with a mix of feelings, including madness, frustration and happiness. The frustration is that even when it was US Air, there was never the investment by the carrier into providing the service to our market to meet the demands of the local market. Philadelphia isn't the

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work airport if you have the proper flights to hit the connecting banks that our air travelers require.

The mad part is that after years of meetings and request to Charlotte, they give it to us to only pull it back without even a chance to show the potential utilization from this new service. Our new airport director has done a great job in handling all of this given that he's only been here for about a year, and gets to first endure a pandemic and then an airline discontinuing service.

Now, I also mentioned happiness as a feeling after this announcement. That's because it opens the airport to actively pursue a new carrier without any concerns of impacting the relationship with American Airlines. This has always been a challenge because previous conversations with service providers has almost always included those that fly for multiple airlines that had American Airlines as one of their clients. We could always show them the potential with a leakage rate of well over 80% of air travelers going elsewhere, but had the hurdle of overcoming the concern that they could damage their relationship with Ameri-

can Airlines for a small regional air market.

At least now that's out of the way. This could, in the end, be a blessing in disguise; short-term pain for long-term gain. There are many regional service providers that now have both available equipment and pilots. These were challenges in previous conversations as equipment was being used elsewhere, and because of changes to federal regulations requiring additional seat time for pilots, there weren't as many around.

The new airport director is already aggressively working to get this situation remedied for 2021. He has the experience and contacts that should see us with new airline service next year.

Changing focus, hopefully you have seen the Buy Local or Bye-Bye Local campaign we kicked off this month that runs through the end of March. We have assistance from UPMC, Highmark, Moff & Associates and the LEDF IMO Joe Rider Fund at the First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania. The message for this campaign is pretty simple. We either support our local businesses, small and large, or we have fewer businesses

operating here in Lycoming County. The key is, you decide based upon your shopping. If you like buying everything online, then keep doing it. Understand though that when a business closes, it may not directly impact you, but it sure will impact you indirectly with a decreased employment base and higher taxes. My choice is local, and hopefully we see more of that in the coming year.

As I close this out, there's a couple of positive developments that we're hoping to have drop in December. It's premature to share at this time. but I do want people to know that we could see some good news coming in the next month. With that, I want to wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a much better 2021 than what we experienced this year.

Happy Holidays

Happy New Year

WISHING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A SAFE, FUN-FILLED HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM THE STAFF AT YOUR **CHAMBER!**

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Member Renewals

Received between October 29 and November 24

Thank you to our renewing members!

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

First Year Renewals Beagle Media, LLC Junior League of Williamsport Laziza Phakwan Restaurant Marc Williams Goldsmith The Barn @ Pine Creek Wolfe's General Store/Slate Run Tackle Shop

Members 2 - 5 Years Accelerated Speed Dynamics, Inc. AllOne Health Andrée P. Phillips Cole's Hardware Covenant Builders, Inc. DPH Discount Pins, Inc. Echo Flooring Gallery H2 Health of Williamsport Houseknecht's Machine & Tool Company KVS Computers SWC Realty Way Cool Beans

Members 6 - 10 Years AC Cruz State Farm Agency Crystal Lake Camps & Ski Center **Cummins Sales & Service Energy Transfer** Fairway Laboratories Fishlips, LLC Hepburn Township Supervisors Hub's Home Oxygen & Medical Supplies Ken's Lawn Care **Keystone Communications** Marcellus Shale Coalition Micro-One Computer Center MoJo Active **Residence Inn** St. John Neumann Regional Academy Wheeland Lumber Co., Inc.

Members 11 - 15 Years Appellation Construction Services, LLC Chief Oil & Gas Choice Carpet Cleaners, Inc. Corter's Flooring America ECM Realty Management, Inc. Holistic Health Center, LLC JPW Industrial Ovens & Furnaces Keystone Leather Kliney's Home Furnishings Malee Law Firm, P.C. **Premier Realtors** Raup & Sholder, P.C. SEDA-Council of Governments Spherion The WorkCenter Valley Forge Pension Management, Inc. Webb Weekly

Members 16 - 20 Years Advanced Real Estate Settlement Services, Inc. Berger's Greenhouse **BLaST Intermediate Unit 17** Boy Scouts of America-Susquehanna Council **DeWald Chiropractic** Discovery Machine, Inc. Eagle Construction Company Geisinger Health Plan Happy Acres Resort Henry Dunn, Inc. Herbert, Rowland and Grubic, Inc. Hudock Capital Group LLC Jiffy Lube Lepley, Engelman, Yaw & Wilk, LLC Loyalsock Animal Hospital Loyalsock Township School District Mr. Sticky's, Inc. Muncy Self Storage, Inc. Murray Motors **Piper Aviation Museum Foundation** Quality Air Mechanical, Inc. Schrader Architectural Products/Overhead Door Co. of Lycoming County Steinbacher, Goodall & Yurchak Teamwork Graphics, Inc. The Muncy Bank & Trust Company TURA Inc. Wm L. Robinson Concrete Contractors

Members 21 - 25 Years Cruise Planners Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. Hans CedarDale Satellite, Inc. High Steel Structures, Inc. Horizon Federal Credit Union IBG Business Lycoming Valley Railroad Company Montgomery Borough Pennram Diversified Mfg. Corp. RDJ Enterprises RE/MAX West Branch South Williamsport Area School District Warrior Run Development Corporation Wayne Township Landfill

Members 26 - 30 Years Backyard Broadcasting PA, LLC Community Services Group Dental Care Associates East Lycoming School District First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania Fulton Bank

Gearhart, Wienecke & Verrastro, PC Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, Inc. Home Service Beverage/First Ice Kent A. Bennett & Associates, Inc. Larson, Kellett & Associates, P.C. Lvco Lube Xxpress Inc. Lycoming County SPCA Manpower Staffing Muncy School District Old Corner Hotel Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) Red Lobster Refrigeration Service Co./The Wholesale Chef Transitional Living Centers, Inc. Vinnie's Italian Eatery WBRE-TV West Branch Valley Federal Credit Union Williamsport Mirror and Glass Company Williamsport Regional Airport World Travel International, Inc.

Members 31 - 35 Years All Round Tire Company American Rescue Workers Anthony H. Visco, Jr. Architects **Bearing & Drive Solutions** Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hodrick Realty Carpenter, Harris & Flayhart Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Clvde Peeling's Reptiland Crockett Financial Services **CSR Enterprise Networks** Davis Insurance Agency, LLC Durdach Bros., Inc. Forsburg Furnace & Air Conditioning Company, Inc. **Golden Business Machines Hilsher Graphics** Jersey Shore Borough K.C. Larson. Inc. Kellogg Company Lundy Warehousing, Inc. North Central Sight Services, Inc. Oregon Hill Wine Company, Inc. Real Estate Excel - A Girio Realty Co. Roan's Transfer & Storage, Inc. Robert H. Fredrickson, D.D.S., M.A.G.D. STEP, Inc. The Hite Company Thomas T. Taber Museum of the Lycoming County Historical Society Wilkinson Dunn Company Woolrich Company Store YWCA of Northcentral PA

Members 36 - 40 Years Baker Tilly Beiter's Home Center Fairfield Manufacturing Company, Inc. Geisinger Jersey Shore Hospital Holiday Inn Downtown/James Restaurant Keystone Friction Hinge Company Larson Design Group Lycoming County Commissioners Montoursville Area School District Murphy, Butterfield & Holland, P.C. Overhead Door Corporation Pudgie's Pizza River Valley Regional YMCA Sanders Mortuary, LTD. Susquehanna Trailways The Blessing Insurance Agency, Inc. West Branch Drug & Alcohol Abuse Commission

Members 41 - 50 Years

A M Metal Specialties Burger King/Carrols, LLC D & M Tool and Machine Company, Inc. Frito-Lay, Inc. Grampian Hills Apartments Hope Enterprises, Inc. Jersey Shore Steel Company Lycoming County United Way, Inc. M & M Sheet Metal and Steel Fabricators McDonald's Restaurants Mid-State Beverage Co. Montgomery Plumbing Supply Company t/a Bi-Lo Supply Nesco Resource Norcen Industries. Inc. Pennsylvania College of Technology Weather Control Company

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> Members 99 - 121 Years Lundy Construction Company Marco Technologies Plankenhorn Stationery Co.

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<u>Welcome New Chamber</u> <u>Members!</u>

Fox Valley Hunt Club (at J&S Farms) Sally Jellison and John Dugan 506 Dugan Road Muncy, PA 17756 (571) 447-2708 Animal Services

Hull's Landing Restaurant Randy Hull 27 State Route 442 Highway Muncy, PA 17756 (570) 546-6524 http://www.hullslanding.com Restaurants/Cafes/Taverns

Jack William's Tire & Auto

Tracey Williams 111 Kristi Road Muncy, PA 17756 http://www.jackwilliams.com (570) 457-5000 Automobile Tire Sales & Service Agency Jolinda Chamberlain 1965 Lycoming Creek Road Suite 113 Williamsport, PA 17701 http://www.jolindasfinsurance.com (570) 327-8383 Insurance Agencies

Jolinda Chamberlain State Farm

Susquehanna Mills Josh Leidhecker 349 Village Road Muncy, PA 17756 http://www.susquehannamills.com (570) 220-4932 Manufacturing

Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce Donates to Love Center



The Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce enjoyed a delicious lunch at the New Love Center Cafe. Alice Fox, President of The New Love Center, shared with the group about the impact COVID 19 has made on their organization. This year, they are feeding more residents than ever and the donations made by the community are what help make that possible. To donate, please visit www.thenewlovecenter.com/donating/ (from l to r) Receiving a donation check from the Chamber is Alice Fox, President, The New Love Center from Krista Gephart, Chair, Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce and Bill Burget, Vice Chair, Jersey Shore Area Chamber of Commerce.



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Newspaper Advertising

New Chamber members will receive one (1) free 2" x 5" ad, valued at \$200 or more. With purchase of any one-year Sun-Gazette Brand Builder package, new Chamber members receive one additional ad free each week for the first 13 weeks of the agreement. The ad must be the same size as the signed Brand Builder package; an average value of \$275.

Chamber members who purchase any online advertising package from www.sungazette.com will receive an additional amount of impressions equal to 25% of the original package purchased.

For more information please contact:

Sun-Gazette 252 West Fourth Street Williamsport, PA 17701 (570) 326-1551 www.sungazette.com



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

Williamsport Sun-Gazette, December 2020



Leadership Lycoming Learns about Business & Economic Development

The Leadership Lycoming Class of 2021 began their day at the Michael Ross Event Center of the Trade & Transit Centre II with an economic development update from Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce President/CEO, Jason Fink. The class then had a chance to hear from several small business owners about how their businesses started, how they have adapted to the pandemic and advice on how to run a successful business. Panelists included Joe Feerrar, Bald Birds Brewing Company; Steve Koch, Bullfrog Brewery; Bethany McDonald, Mr. Sticky's, and Heather Newhart, Natural Waterscapes, LLC. Jason Fink moderated the panel. Several class members delivered their elevator speeches, a skill taught at Opening Retreat, before travelling to Bald Birds Brewing Company. After enjoying lunch from Gunzey's Hot Sausage, the class received a tour of Bald Birds and heard about their plans for future development of their facility. To end the day, the class had the opportunity to tour PMF Industries, where they learned about their flowforming process and the products they manufacture, including food service and medical supplies.

Thank you to our Tier 2 sponsors: Merrill Lynch, Pine Ridge Construction Management, RDF Tax Services and The Muncy Bank & Trust Company. Thank you to our Tier 1 sponsor: Chris Wallace at TEU Real Estate Corporation.

Thank you to Jessica Laubach, UPMC Williamsport and Kyle Smith, Pennsylvania College of Technology for being class reporters.



The Class of 2021 enjoyed an excellent tour of PMF Industries, Inc., a local company since 1961 specializing in flowforming (a process that creates complex parts without seams) for every industry from aerospace to ice cream. PMF created medallions for the class as souvenirs pictured at right.

Thank you to our sponsors!



The Schramm Kiessling Group CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT





Leadership Lycoming Class of 2021 had the awesome opportunity to interview and receive a tour by Bald Birds Brewing Co. owner, Joe Feerrar. Here is half of the class learning the story behind the name and the drive it took to develop this successful company in Jersey Shore's backyard!



This photo shows the other half of the class learning about Bald Bird's beers on tap, which change regularly. Per Joe, they only keep about two beers consistent, while the others rotate in order to have something on tap for every palate.

FEATURE MEMBER

Susquehanna Computer Innovations maintains core values

By MALLORIE McILWAIN mmcilwain@sungazette.com

Williamsport Sun-Gazette, December 2020

Susquehanna Computer Innovations, located at 280 Kane St., South Williamsport, has been providing strong core values of integrity, ethics, honesty and reliability to their patients for the full 20 years of operation.

"We take those (core values) very seriously," Tim Heitzman, president of the company, said.

Since July 1 of 2000, the core of the business has expanded providing quality technology support and services for computers, servers, phone systems, video surveillance and much more.

SCI also provides help with business management and remote IT emergency services to ensure that employees can clock in and organize their documents and also have help when your computer or software might not be working properly.

"Cloud management services has grown over the years," Heitzman said. "We have added telephone services. We work with 3CX, a digital phone system, using today's technology. There is no phone line, it is all done digitally."

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According to Heitzman and Ryan Workman, sales and marketing, "We sell (See SUSQUEHANNA, Page 7)



PHOTO PROVIDED This video conferencing room and library is set up at Susquehanna Computer Innovations, located at 280 Kane St. South Williamsport.

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



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FEATURE MEMBER

Susquehanna Computer Innovations maintains core values

(From Page 6)

what solves our customer's problems."

"They (the employees) are dedicated. They embody the ethics and values of the company," Heitzman added. "We are set up in a way that we value the trust that our clients put in us. Those relationships (with clients) are important to us."

He continued by saying that the company works with local volunteer fire and EMS departments as well in terms of public safety and has donated services to the local independent media group in the city.

The company is also involved in a youth reading program with the Crosscutters and gives out a laptop at the end of the program.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

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At right is an example product display at Susquehanna Computer Innovations. The "Project Wall", below, displays what projects they are currently working on.



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LEGACY MEMBER Downtown hotel features excellent dining

By MIKE REUTHER mreuther@sungazette.com

The James Restaurant is a unique venue for Williamsport, a welcome place for dining and spirits located in the Holiday Inn.

Travelers staying in the city and locals alike come to the restaurant on the first floor of the hotel to select from the variety of menu items.

"The restaurant is due to be renovated next year," Heidi Engel, hotel general manager, said.

Hotel guests can easily reach The James by taking the elevator to the first floor.

And the outdoor dining on the patio has been quite popular for diners, especially on Friday nights during warm weather months.

"That's the hot spot in town," Engel said. "We extended the patio season into November this year."

On the patio or inside the restaurant, hotel guests and or other visitors can enjoy a cocktail, a glass of wine or any of the variety of domestic, craft or imported beers.

The menu includes such offerings as Pan Roasted Salmon, Smoked Pork Chops, Pot Roast, Crispy Calamari, Beer Battered Haddock, and Peruvian Seafood Stew.

Other food selections include pizza, BBQ Chicken, burgers, salads, and soups, and chicken wings.

Chef Peter Dougherty said New York Strip Steak and Chicken Marsala are among the most popular menu items.

Dinner is the prime dining time at the restaurant, he said.

The James employs a staff of about 20 people.

^aA lot of our staff has been with us for a while," Engel said.

Located at 100 Pine Street in downtown Williamsport, the hotel and restaurant are within walking distance of many city businesses. And with its strategic spot next to a busy highway, the Holiday Inn lures travelers coming east or west through Williamsport.

As with other restaurants across the state, COVID-19 cut into business, Engel noted. Right now, it's at 50 percent of dining capacity but the bar remains closed.

MIKE REUTHER/Sun-Gazette Above, the banquet room at the Holiday Inn is where many local organizations hold events. At right, a kitchen employee of The James Restaurant prepares food. The James is located in the Holiday Inn.

"Not having our bar open has been challenging," Engel said. "It's been a tough year."

Business has also been hurt in the past nine months by fewer travelers and the cancellation of events by local organizations.

The hotel has 102 guest rooms, several meeting rooms, a banquet room, pool, and fitness center.

"We have plenty of parking," Engel said.





Williamsport Sun-Gazette, December 2020

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SMALL BUSINESS

Port Elevator a go-to for repair and installation

By MARK MARONEY

mmaroney @sungazette.com

Elevators are getting in the news.

Not that they haven't been but since the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, when their need in public buildings became law, but they have taken on a renewed sense of importance with accessibility needs at the forefront of government discussion.

"We're definitely busy," said Matt Plagens, estimate and project manager at Port Elevator, 941 Nichols Place.

The company, which is proud to be included in this month's Chamber Connection as a Business Spotlight, was founded in 1975.

"I think Port has been a member of the Williamsport Lycoming Chamber of Commerce for more than 20 years," Plagens said.

Its vision then and now is to provide the highest quality elevator equipment and the best possible service to customers, he said.

The company specializes in the installation of new elevators; modernization of existing elevators and the service, maintenance and repair of all types of elevators.

Owner Gerald Rexer acquired the business in 1985 and has grown the company from a two-man operation into the largest independently owned elevator company in central Pennsylvania, with about 20 employees.

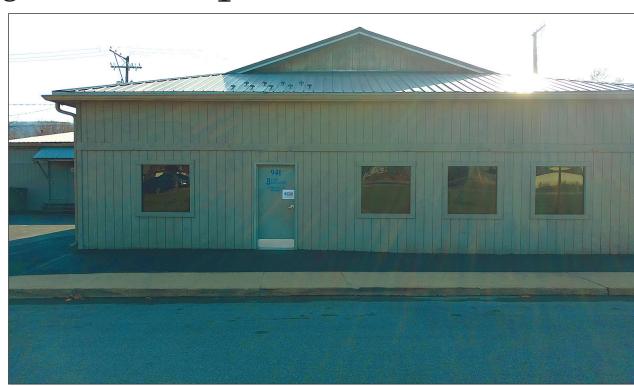
Elevators are touchy but sturdy at the same time.

Often, the most problems with their mechanical issues occur with doors not opening and operating fixes, Plagens said.

If the elevator is off just a few inches the doors won't open, he said.

Today, too, part of the building code has to do with the height of buttons — for those with mobility issues and braille must be included for sight-impaired and blind individuals located on jams and inside the car or panel,





Port Elevator is located at 941 Nichols Place and was founded in 1975.

he said.

The business was chosen by the city to put the elevators in the Trade and Transit Centre II, where City Council and the administration hold their meetings in order to meet accessibility requirements. The team has ability to nation for elevator design. Some recent projects in from a nine-stop overhead

The business is a genuine family operation with many relatives involved, including a sibling, a brother-in-law, a cousin, and a son-in-law as well as some neighbors all working together, Plagens said.

"With this organization, we have developed long lasting personal relationships with our customers and have the resources to meet their vertical transportation needs," he said.

The office staff regularly assist architects, contractors and building owners with planning, design, and consulting on elevator projects.

Service includes the ability to provide general, opensource, non-proprietary elevator specifications, general and detailed drawings, building systems coordination and building analysis to ensure the right system is used for each application.

Staff can help with the design of new elevator installator is a mentions as well as the evaluation of existing equipment for Contractors.

modernization improvements.

The team has ability to assist in building code coordination for elevator design.

Some recent projects include all types of applications from a nine-stop overhead traction triplex modernization at a hospital to the installation of a new two-stop limited use/limited application elevator for a church. Other work includes new construction of a six stop basement traction duplex for a state university dormitory and a simple twostop wheelchair lift with only thirty inches of travel.

"We work on all sizes of projects for our customers from big to small and most everything in between," Plagens said.

The main office and warehouse is in Williamsport.

Port has a multiple-building facility with manufacturing and production space, parts and equipment storage, and staging areas.

It also has a branch office and warehouse in Lykens.

For additional information or for any inquiries, Port Elevator can be reached at 1-800-326-8422. Port Elevator is a member of the National Association of Elevator Contractors

PHOTOS PROVIDED

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EW MEMBER Bayada focuses on 'compassion, excellence and reliability'

By PAT CROSSLEY pcrosslev@sungazette.com

Williamsport Sun-Gazette, December 2020

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Following in the tradition of Bayada Home Health Care which began in the 1970's, Bayada Pediatrics, 209 East Third St., offers pediatric nursing care to clients from infancy to 20 years of age, according to Jonah Milliken, associate director of the business' local office.

Milliken, a native of Williamsport who had been working out of the state, was looking to move back to the area, when the position opened at the company.

"I had a good friend who worked for Bayada in Snyder County and he mentioned that they had an available position here," Milliken shared.

"I started doing research on the company and I realized that here was this pretty large non-profit organization that's all over the country and internationally in five different countries," he added.

Milliken admitted that he didn't really know too much about it, but was impressed by the company's values.

"They really have a focus on three things-compassion, excellence and reliability. I just saw a genuine company that helps a lot of different people," he said.

Although Milliken joined the local pediatric office earlier this year, Bayada Pediatrics has been in the area since 2011. It currently has 80 kids in Lycoming County that use their services. Those services can range from going into schools to provide nursing care to students who have special needs, to providing a home health aide.

"A lot of our staff are very involved in schools. They go to school with our clients," he said.

He explained that many of their clients are kids who have specialized nursing needs so that they have a nurse that goes with them.

"Even though I have only been here a short time, I have so much respect and am office employees. so impressed by the caregivers who work for Bayada. I try to tell them as much as is also noted for giving back to the com- sues is the lack of nurses. can that truly nurses and caregivers are munities where they are located, by doing



Pictured from left to right are Kelley McAleer, a Bayada nurse and mother of a Bayada client, Arianna, who is Kelley's daughter, and Arianna's nurse, Danielle Laurenson.

pecially) to work during a pandemic in coat drives. They have also been a familiar this environment. It was hard to be a nurse face at the Little League Parade. before all of this...the nurses that we have working with us are amazing," he said, met with representatives at Pennsylvania adding "they are compassionate, excellent, College of Technology and toured the fareliable people."

Bayada Pediatrics' nurses work with at the college. a diverse group of kids in the communi-

Milliken mentioned that the company

Last week, Milliken and an associate cilities associated with nursing programs

"It was great. We spent a couple of ty with different needs, such as a client hours in the morning meeting with the diwho might have a disorder which makes rectors of the programs and career services manager available to field calls. them prone to having seizures so that they office. We met with the corporate relations The business currently employs 115 that already exists, so that nurses, whethfield employees-Registered Nurse, Li- er they're looking for a career change or censed Practical Nurses and Certified someone out of high school who wants to Nursing Assistants-in addition to eight become a nurse, I want them to know who we are and what we do," Milliken said.

He admitted that one of the biggest is-

"There are not enough nurses out there, street/pediatrics.

real-life super heroes all the time, but (es- such things as sponsoring blood drives or One of our biggest challenges is we're always hiring, always recruiting, because there's always kids that need help," he said.

> "Our mission is to provide the best care to as many kids as we possibly can," he added.

> Bayada Pediatrics provides services 24 hours a day. There is always an on-call

"When you call the local Bayada numwould need a nurse with them at all times. team to really build upon a partnership ber, you speak to a local Bayada employee, you don't go through an automated message system," Milliken said.

> The telephone number for the office is 570-326-2663. More information is available on their website: www.bayada.com/ offices/pa/williamsport/209-east-third-

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 1st Quarter for their high school and for their hard work and achievements. Congratulations!



Gavin Paulhamus Hughesville High School



Grace Boos Loyalsock High School



Kelly Showers Montgomery High School



Alexa Rice Muncy High School



Sydney Rosenthal St. John Neumann Regional Academy



Elizabeth Manning South Williamsport Area High School

A Need to Know.... Hang up on scammers. Here's how.

Tracie Witter, PPL Electric Utilities Regional Affairs Director

Utility scammers never take a day off.

That's why we want to help you stop them at every turn. One of the best ways to help do that is to arm you with information on their tactics. Forewarned is forearmed.

A common thread among scammers is pressure. It's a red flag.

Scammers often threaten to shut off your service unless you pay them



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immediately. PPL would never do business like that. If someone calls you or comes to your door with this kind of an ultimatum about your electric service:

•Slow Down. Take your time. Scammers often want you to act fast.

•Verify. Scammers can spoof phone numbers, trick you with emails, pose as real employees or even use COVID-19 information to bait you.

•Stop before you act. Utilities never demand payment by prepaid cards, Bitcoin, or other methods.

Call PPL at 1-800-342-5775 if anything seems even slightly odd about the situation you're facing. Check out our scam awareness information at pplelectric.com/ scams.

Americans lose millions of dollars to utility scams each year. We don't want you to lose one penny.

The Federal Trade Commission offers this additional advice:

•Thank the caller for the information. Then firmly tell them you will contact your utility directly.

• Even if the caller insists you have a past due bill or your services will be shut off, never give banking information over the phone unless you place the call to a number you know is legitimate.

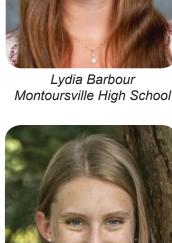
• Tell your family and friends about the scam so they can protect themselves. If you got a scam call, chances are others in your community probably did too. Spread the word.

As your electric utility, our job goes beyond safely and reliably delivering your power. It's also about having your back. Let's work together to kick scams to the curb.

Missed a Chamber Connection newsletter? You can find past issues on our website at www.williamsport.org

or search for the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce on Facebook and look in our albums. There you will find all 2020 and previous Chamber Connections.

Oh, and don't forget to like us!





Zola Harris Williamsport Area High School



Lexey Cohick Jersey Shore Area High School

This Holiday Season WINBIG With Leadership Lycoming! Tickets Are Available NOW!

For <u>\$5.00</u> you can have a chance to win every day in January.

Leadership Lycoming is selling raffle tickets for the month of January.

Each numbered raffle ticket will give you 31 chances to win. When the PA Lottery **Pick 3 evening number** is drawn and it matches your number, then you win that day's prize. Prizes range from \$25 to \$250.

(Winners are paid two weeks following the drawing)

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| \$50 | \$25 | 26 \$40 | 27 \$45 | 28 \$25 | 29 \$40 | 30 \$30 | 570-326-1971 | | | |
| 31 \$35 | 31 5 Thank You! | | | | | or visit the Chamber at | | | | |
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