TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM OF LYCOMING COUNTY

Historical tavern offers family fare in Avis

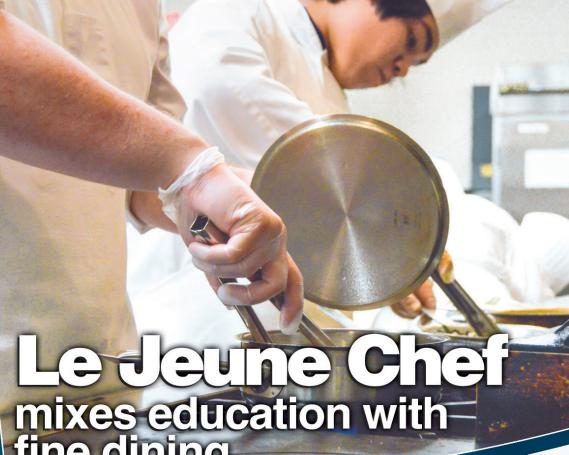
The Hillside Catering: Full service, uniformed and trained

Bastian Tire & Auto Centers a one-stop tire and automotive service









fine dining







From Jason Fink's Desk - President/CEO of the Chamber

What a great 77th Little League World Series. Congratulations to Steve Keener and his entire team at Little League Baseball for hosting another wonderful tournament season this year. The games went pretty much uninterrupted by the weather, which always helps. And what a finish. Extra innings and I believe the first time that I've seen the championship game make it to where they put the runner on second in the 8th inning. Two excellent teams, both deserving and capable of winning. What a way to have a final series under Steve's leadership.

I want to wish a belated happy 90th birthday to Dora Pioli who lives in Montoursville. Dora turned 90 on August 27th. I first met Dora when she was on the Montoursville Area School District board of directors several years ago. We were working on KOZ designations for properties in the County and one was in Montoursville. Dora was very thorough in her questioning in trying to understand the nature of the program and how it would benefit the

We've kept in contact over the years and she calls me fairly regularly to give me her thoughts on my columns. Most of the time, she's agreeable and supportive of items that I've brought up. However, she will also call to let me know where she thinks I'm off base or wrong in what I've written. I appreciate her taking the time to call especially if she doesn't agree with me. When she calls on a matter that she thinks I'm wrong about, it's not chastising or denigrating. She truly cares about our community and wants to provide her take on the subject which may not align with my point on the matter. The calls are always done to provide another perspective to consider. They have been helpful to me as at times when I'm writing, I'll wonder to myself if I'll be getting a call from Dora on what I've written.

To start off this month, we have a legislative breakfast with Congressman Dan Meuser who is one of our two congressmen representing us here in Lycoming County. One of the items that Dan has been focused on is getting renewed the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. This was one of the few bipartisan pieces of legislation that's been approved by the House with a vote of 357-70 in favor of passage. Dan's a member of the House Financial Services and Small Business Committees and his district is one that thrives on the vitality of small businesses. This legislation has had a significant positive impact tax relief measures have had on families and workers across his district and the country.

The provisions restored with the passage of H.R.7024, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act would be instrumental in fostering an environment conducive to economic growth. This legislation would restore numerous pro-growth tax provisions such as 100% bonus depreciation, immediate expensing of research and development (R&D) expenses and interest deductibility. Small business owners have spoken across the country about how these tax policies have spurred economic growth, innovation, and job creation in our nation since their enactment. Small businesses have cited that the 100% Bonus Depreciation has allowed them to hire new employees while immediate expensing of R&D has allowed them take on more risk while continuing to invest in their business. Families and workers, often described as the backbone of our economy, have benefited immensely from these provisions which reduce tax burdens and increase disposable incomes. These are real world benefits that are being mitigated every day as these provisions sunset. The lapse of these policies have led to significant financial challenges for these same small businesses, whose increased tax burden has led to a pullback in the capital they have available to invest in their employees and businesses.

Failing to restore the tax provisions included in the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act will have profound long-term consequences for our economy. The provisions in this bill provide the necessary incentives for businesses to invest in new technologies, expand operations, and hire additional employees, while also supporting families through tax relief. It is indisputable that higher taxes on job creators results in increased unemployment. Allowing these provisions to expire will stifle innovation, limit growth, and undermine the progress we have made in building a robust and resilient economy.

Seeing that H.R.7024 passed with such bipartisan support, it's frustrating to see that the Senate has yet to act on it. Passing is not merely a matter of maintaining economic stability; it is about securing much needed economic growth for our future. It is imperative that we provide our small businesses and American families with the certainty and support they need to drive our economy forward. Failure to act now will inflict serious long-term harm on our nation's economic health. Pennsylvania has two Senators and I would encourage you to reach out to them and share that you would like to see them act on this important bipartisan piece of legislation.





Welcome New Chamber Members!

Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Joshua Bradley - Regional Manager **Bloomsburg Innovation Center** 240 Market Street Bloomsburg, PA 17815 (610) 758-5200 http://nep.benfranklin.org Non-Profit Organization

Members 1st Federal Credit Union

Joseph Luke - Branch Manager Loyal Plaza 1935 East 3rd Street Williamsport, PA 17701 (800) 237-7288 **Credit Union**

SocialWeb

Brady Rupert - Owner Williamsport, PA 17701 (570) 246-3717 https://thesocialweb.site/ Marketing

West Branch Valley Association of Realtors

Angela Fisher - CEO (570) 326-5465 201 Basin Street Suite 20 Williamsport, PA 17701 https://www.wbvrealestate.com/

Associations/Organizations/Clubs Non-Profit Organization

Real Estate Agents

Melcome!



Chamber Member Discount Working to meet the needs of our members



Chamber Members: Enjoy a 10% discount off all published fares through December 31, 2025

Log in to the Chamber Member Info Center to access the Promo Code https://business.williamsport.org/login/

*Promotional Code Rules: Valid: For travel to/from Williamsport (IPT) and Washington/ Dulles (IAD). Discount: Receive a 10%, plus applicable taxes when using promo code. Travel Valid: Through 12/31/25. Book by 11:59pm EST on 12/31/25

Terms and Conditions: Promo code valid for new reservations only. Promo codes can only be redeemed for airfare purchases at www.iflysouthern.com. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights or all days. Discount not permitted on itineraries that include interline travel. Passenger is responsible for all U.S. government taxes and fees. Bag fees apply for checked baggage.

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

August Ribbon Cutting



H2 Health of Williamsport debuted their new physical & occupational therapy clinic at Leighton Place, 1251 Rural Avenue, Williamsport. H2 Health provides excellent service to Leighton Place residents and the Williamsport community.

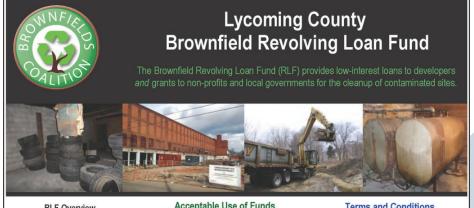


Upcoming Ribbon Cutting

Service 1st Federal Credit Union Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 11am 200 Muncy Creek Blvd., Muncy Enjoy a light lunch following the ceremony.



Federal Credit Union | Friends you can bank on.



gram, funded by an \$800,000 U.S. EPA

August Breakfast Meeting



The Chamber held an annual breakfast meeting with Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson on August 22nd at the Holiday Inn. GT provided our members with insight into what they are advocating for the residents of Lycoming County during his time in Washington. He was also gracious enough to answer questions from the audience and spend time speaking with members afterwards.

Want to be featured in an upcoming Chamber Connection?

Reach out to Mark Stankiewicz at mstankiewicz@williamsport.org to learn more!

FEATURE MEMBER

Le Jeune Chef mixes education with fine dining

By MATTHEW COURTER

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Celebrating its 40th year of operation, Le Jeune Chef, a staple of Pennsylvania College of Technology offers broad educational opportunities for its students while giving the public a memorable fine dining experience.

"We're in a unique position as a restaurant," explained Brian Walton, Assistant Dean for Business and Hospitality.

"We're a student run restaurant, and our mission is being an educational restaurant that doesn't compete with, or do the same things that other local restaurants are doing." he said

"We'd like to show people what hospitality should look like without taking directly out of the pockets of the many awesome restaurants in this community and we want to continue to build the partnerships that we have with local restaurateurs," Walton said.

Walton said the goal of Le Jeune Chef was to provide a live learning lab to teach its students to be future leaders in this industry, whether that be getting ready to run their own or someone else's hospitality operation, while giving them a reliable part time employment opportunity that works around their class schedule.

"Learning at Le Jeune Chef crosses the gamut of the hospitality industry. We've got students who are running and operating their own cafes, their own food trucks, and working in somebody else's hospitality operation," Walton

organizations also give the students a leg up on post-graduate endeavors, Most notably the Kentucky Derby.

"That sets up the students really well for a number of different options that they might find along the way, because just because they graduated from culinary school doesn't necessarily mean they're going to be a chef," he stressed.

adaptability and sustainability.

"Everything on your plate, everything on your buffet, to a casual, fine dining restaurant that meets the needs of not only what our customers and guests are used to, but for the purpose of teaching our students," Walton stressed. also where the industry is going," Walton explained.

offerings, the restaurant offers a number of options and a for a reasonable price," Walton said. rotating schedule, with Monday through Friday open for lunch, and Wednesday through Saturday reserved for ac- impromptu classes where patrons may be invited into



PHOTO PROVIDED

A number of connections between the college and other Student chefs prepare dishes at Pennsylvania College of Technology's Le Jeune Chef.

May, are on Wednesday nights, and they're a five course friends, according to Walton. regional American cuisine. And then in the fall, typically, August through October, we run Thursday night dinners exercises," Walton explained. for global cuisines, which is the international style men-Two of the major teaching points of the restaurant are us, where we include dishes from Asia, Africa, Europe and others," Walton said.

"I would really love the community to know that we're should be edible, and we should be minimizing waste, so open year round to the public, and every time they come in, we've been able to adapt from a true international cuisine they are helping our students. We're not running these dinners because we just want to be open. We're running them

When you come here, you will get excellent, top of line For the public interested in getting a taste of Le Jeune's service and amazing food in an atmosphere that's top notch

While not being a public cooking school, there are

the kitchen to learn how to make the meal of the night. A "The academic dinners, typically in March through great opportunity for a date night or just a get-together with

"We do a number of team development or team building

(See LE JEUNE, Page 9)



NEW BUSINESS

Historical tavern offers family fare in Avis

By PAT CROSSLEY

pcrossley@sungazette.com

The Oak Grove Tavern, or as most people know it, Dave and Ruby's Oak Grove Tavern, in the Borough of Avis. is where everybody knows your name, to borrow a line from a popular television sit-com.

"People love the atmosphere. They come and sit. A lot of people refer to that show "Cheers", where everybody knows what everybody's about and if you don't, you'll be friends by the time you leave," said Dave Harkey, who with his wife Ruby, owns and operates the tavern.

At the turn of the century in the 1800's, the building housed the Oak Grove Pharmacy. Some of the cabinetry from the pharmacy is still in the tavern today, located in the

During Prohibition, it became Josephine's Restaurant until the ban on serving alcohol was lifted and it began a new life as Pond's Tavern, acquiring the first and only liquor license in the borough to this day. The next owner, who had it for 19 years changed the name to the Oak Grove Tavern which the Harkey's kept when they purchased it in 2017. But everyone knows it as Ruby and Dave Harkey, owners of the Oak Grove Tavern on East Central Avenue in Avis. Dave and Ruby's.

purchased the tavern, handles the vice and maintenance, so he's been a result of the accident. and front end of the business.

ans my whole life. I used to work buy the tavern. for Blasie's as a service managguys. It's just something I've al- Dave was hit head-on by a tractor outside seafood buffet. ton County Correctional facility still struggles with the aftermath run from 6 to 9 (p.m.)," Dave said, which can be moved inside in the They are closed Mondays.

Dave, who retired the year they where he was in charge of food ser- and faces another back surgery as making it more family friendly.

"I've always cooked for veter- ment at 55, it was a logical step to very family oriented.

So, when he took an early retire- Dave stressed that the tavern is per cent food. Just that kind of at-

Every Tuesday they have bands The Harkey's have expanded the food is great." Unfortunately a little over two playing in the patio area, weather the outdoor space to include three The tavern, located at 206 East er and I always cooked for those weeks after the tavern opened, permitting, where they feature an patios and a parking area which Central Ave., Avis, is open from 11

ways done," Dave said. He was trailer truck while riding his mo"We have seating for 160 to 200 There is a portable stage to accomp.m. on Sundays and 11 a.m. to 9 also the deputy warden at the Clin-torcycle and nearly lost his life. He people outside. Our bands usually modate the musical entertainment, p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

food service and Ruby runs the bar involved with food for many years. Although it does serve alcohol, have a liquor license, but we're 80 ern? mosphere," he said.

fall. Inside the tavern seating capacity is 50 people.

The kitchen area has been expanded to include two full operating kitchens and one prep kitchen.

They have also branched out into off-site catering as the business has grown. Currently there are 18 people employed at the Oak Grove Tavern, including family, Dave said.

"We've had big birthday parties, retirement parties. We have catered anywhere from ten to 1,000 people," Dave said.

Diners who are hungry prime rib and steak want to visit Dave and Ruby's on Wednesdays. If seafood is more to your liking, Tuesdays throughout the summer you can dine on a seafood boil and listen to the music on the patio. Thursdays and Saturdays are made for wing fans and Fridays feature haddock sandwiches and dinners and other seafood combinations. Sundays are always reserved for a home cooked meal, like beef tips and mashed potatoes or meatloaf and stuffing.

"Every Sunday is something

In addition there are always specials featured each day. For some idea of what is offered, check out the tavern's Facebook page for information.

So why should someone try out "We're not a bar, per se. We Dave and Ruby's Oak Grove Tav-

> "For the atmosphere," Dave said, adding "our prices are fair and

can be utilized for larger crowds. a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, noon to 8

different," Dave said.

SMALL BUSINESS



The staff of Hillside Catering, 324 Broad St., Montoursville.

The Hillside Catering: Full service, uniformed and trained

By MARK MARONEY

mmaroney@sungazette.com

The Hillside Catering, 324 Broad St., Montoursville, has it covered.

Whether it's a party, anniversary or wedding, Adria Miele, owner, won't disappoint.

"We specialize in full service catering, from set up to tear down," Miele said.

"Our staff are trained and in uniform (they're truly the best people ever)," she Oct. 1, 1979, or 45 years.

"We specialize in cooking onsite in our ates Hillside Catering? fully functional kitchen van- equipped with

"We are full service in every aspect, but also the fact that our food is cooked on site-What does The Hillside Catering do and providing the hottest and freshest food really 16 part-time employees," Miele said

How long has the business been in exist-such as volunteering, in the community?

Who is the customer that most appreci-

"Anyone who appreciates good quality of Commerce, what makes that relationship 17754

refrigeration, and have two full-size convec- food, professional service and presenta- special? tion ovens and a hand sink," she said.

"We are able to cook/service to most re-scratch with recipes dating back to The Hill-Never worry about catering in Greater mote locations with a generator and our own side Restaurant dates, our staff really strive What is unique about The Hillside Cater- we always love to put out food that not only able to network with many clients who are tastes great but is presented beautifully."

How many employees are there?

tion...about 95% of our food is made from

"We have five full-time employees and Does The Hillside Catering have any spe-

Does the business do anything special,

"We do love to give back to our commuand Dwell Orphan Care," she said.

As it is a given that The Hillside Catertering? ing enjoys being a member of the Chamber

"Yes, of course!" Miele said of the relationship and being a chamber member.

"We've had many opportunities to be a to go above and beyond for all guests and part of special events," she noted. "Being also chamber members is special to us as

cial offerings in 2024 or 2025?

"Just to keep on offering the best food

For those who need to get in contact with The Hillside Catering has been here since nity, we donate to Sojourner Truth Ministries the business, what is the mailing address for and contact information for The Hillside Ca-

It is 322 Broad St., Montoursville, PA,

Le Jeune Chef mixes education with fine dining experiences

(From Page 6)

"We recently did one for a local company where we took them into our labs, and we did pizza making with them. It was a great way for them to let their hair down, so to speak, and kind of laugh as people were throwing pizzas around the lab, and then they made their own dinner that night," he explained.

And unlike many restaurants, Le Jeune Chef is also more than happy to share their recipe with anyone interested in having a go with it visiting chef. for themselves.

will occur on Oct. 25, when

The dining room at Le Jeune Chef, on Pennsylvania College of Technology's campus.

and Luthers will feature as a couraged to check out Le eos.

Jeune Chef on their website. "He's one of our gradu- www.pct.edu/le-jeune-chef, An upcoming event Wal- ates, as well as a local staple and across all social media. ton is particularly excited for in the community," he said. including their YouTube Anyone interested in channel, which features in-George Logue, of Herman more information are en- structional and how-to vid-



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As a trusted partner to established and emerging drug developers West helps ensure the safe, effective containment and delivery of life-saving and life-enhancing medicines for patients







LEGACY BUSINESS



Bastian Tire & Auto Centers a one-stop tire and automotive service

By MARK MARONEY

mmaroney@sungazette.com

Bastian Tire & Auto Centers celebrates 66 years in business this year.

What does it specialize in?

athan Bastian, owner of the family run busi- said ness at 430 Washington Blvd.

opened his first location on William Street in Chamber of Commerce in the Leadership talize on their offerings!?"

employs 46.

pride themselves on their volunteer spirit.

"The family, especially my mother Don-"Providing honest and fair priced auto- na, has offered countless hours at numerous our Chamber of Commerce, that supports ty organizations - both large and small. motive repair and maintenance," said Jon- organizations in the community," Bastian and collectively fosters growth in the com-

Donna is especially proud of her work Bastian said. Jack Bastian, Jonathan's grandfather, with the Williamsport-Lycoming County

As it is a given that Bastian Tire and Auto local community As a local business, Bastian employees Centers enjoys being a member of the Chamber, what makes that relationship special?

munity adds strength to an organization,"

"Why wouldn't a business want to capi-quality people," he said. "We are very proud

Lycoming program as well as serving on the The Bastian family and team of employ-Today, the bustling tire and auto center Board of Directors with Hope Enterprises. ees has always believed in supporting the

From Little League teams, to nonprofits, to large hospitals - the Bastian family and "Being a member of any group, just like team of employees stand by their communi-

What is unique about this business?

"Our employees," Bastian said. "A company can not progress without a good staff of

THE 35TH ANNUAL **CHAMBERLINKS GOLF OUTING**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

WHITE DEER GOLF COURSE REGISTRATION 7:30AM - TEE OFF 8:30AM





and name on all printed material	and name on all printed material Provide a gift from your company for the golfer winning your contest hole
Dine Around-\$1600 Includes One foursome, premium sign placement and name on all printed material. Contribute towards restaurant gift certificates provided to each golfer in lieu of a large meal at the conclusion of the tournament	Flag-\$750 Includes One foursome and a flag on a hole with your company name and sponsor year — Yours to keep!
On Course Business Showcase-\$1000 While the golfers wait their turn on selected holes, showcase your business with hand-outs, games and networking! Includes one foursome.	$\frac{Tee\text{-}\$250}{\text{Includes a professional sign with your company name}}$ on the course
$rac{ ext{Beverage-S1000}}{ ext{Includes One foursome, a professional sign and name}}$ on all printed material	Foursome Only-\$500
<u>Breakfast-\$1000</u> Includes One foursome, a professional sign and name on all printed material	<u>Individuals Only-\$125</u>

	2024 Cha	mberLinks Golf Outing Registr	ration		
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		Phone:			
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dholder Name/Signat	ture:				
dholder Address:					
		Commerce, 102 W. Fourth St., Willi ancellations will be permitted after)-321-1209	

August PM Exchanges



Members were treated to a PM Exchange held at the Williamsport Regional Airport on August 29th. Among the events for the evening were great giveaways from Southern Airways Express, including a grand prize trip to Washington DC for an NFL game!

Upcoming PM Exchange

PM Exchange - Axe of Faith

Thursday, September 26, 2024 | 5-7pm 10 South Market Street, Muncy Enjoy a night of networking and axe throwing. Coaches will help you learn and even compete for prizes! Guests will also learn about a discount on holiday parties!





LKW Dance Center showcased their hard work on August 8th at their PM Exchange. Guests were treated to delicious food and drink as well as performances by the students at the Center.

Member Renewals **August 1 through August 31** Thank you....you are appreciated!

First Year Renewal

Big Rock Paving, LLC Dad's BBQ LLC Home Instead ModWash Laundromat Montour Beverage River Valley Internet Shali Rose Co. Boutique Six West Settlements Inc.

Members 2-5 Years

4G Delivery, Inc. Bassett Engineering, Inc. Centered Earth Ciocca Automotive **Epic Fitness** Erb's West End Family Market and Catering **Evergreen Exteriors** Graybar Junior League of Williamsport

Newberry Sub Shop Nippenose Tavern Perfect-2-Perfect Road Radio USA Rust & Shine Shop-Vac USA

Simply Savor on the Fly Skills of Central PA Smith Burch Insurance Agency The Bar on Market Therapy Brewing

Williamsport Bowman Barber Supply Wolf Run Veterinary Clinic

Members 6-10 Years

Dohl General Construction, LLC Jersey Mike's Subs McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC Medico Construction Equipment, Inc. National Range & Armory NCPA Media LLC DBA NorthcentralPA.com Pier 87 Bar & Grill SJ Holdings Susquehanna Greenway Partnership The Bicycle Center The Crazy Tomato The Salvation Army

Member 15 Years

Eric Stashak Commercial Photography and Video Production

Members 21-25 Years

Celebration Villa of Loyalsock Hotel Manor The Hillside Catering

Member 44 Years

Giant Food Store

Member 68 Years

PNC Bank, N.A.







Grand Slam Parade Award Winners





Small Business Float Paradise In The Woods at Dunkled Acres

> Medium/Large Business Float Prysmian Group

> Non-Profit Float St. Joseph the Worker Parish

> > **Grand Prize Award** Waste Management

Grand Slam Award American Rescue Workers-Williamsport







2024 Montoursville Chamber of Commerce Picnic

Registration is Open! Sponsorship Opportunities Available















Tuesday, September 17, 2024 5pm to 7pm

Pier 87 Bar & Grill 5647 State Route 87 Williamsport, PA 17701











Enjoy an evening at The PIER with fellow Chamber Members

Dine on a buffet of picnic-style foods & receive a complimentary drink! (Cash Bar available)

Signup online at https://business.williamsport.org/events or call 570-326-1971



Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce Staff Main Office - 570-326-1971

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