

# 36th Annual Edition & NEIGHBORS

#### Clarion Forest VNA provides quality healthcare for the community

Submitted article LARION — Clarion Forest VNA, a nonprofit home health and hospice agency, is committed to providing quality care to our rural community. CFVNA staff all reside in the counties in which our agency provides care. We truly are neighbors taking care of neighbors.

CFVNA offers Home Health, Hospice, Extended Care (private duty care), and an Adult Daily Living Center. CFVNA is a nonfree-standing Medicare and Medicaid-certified agency. We also accept most major insurances. Our agency provides care in Clarion, Forest, Jefferson, and portions of Venango and Armstrong counties. The programs offered by the CFVNA include home health, palliative, maternalinfant, and hospice care. We provide skilled home health care including nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, home health aides, regdietitian, and isteredmedical social workers. We also have two certified wound and ostomy registered nurses.

Our agency's telehealth monitoring program is an additional service at no cost to the patient. These monitors are all wireless, with educational videos available to help instruct patients on numerous disease processes. Telehealth trends are sent weekly to the patient's primary care physician. Physicians are also notified of any abnormalities signs/weights. This program adds a collaborative aspect to the quality care our staff provides. CFVNA incorporates monitoring in an effort to help reduce rehospitalizations.

The Hospice program is separately certified by Medicare and Medicaid. This program also accepts most major insurances. In addition to providing inhome care, we are contracted with Clarion Hospital to provide general inpatient hospice care. We also have contracts with the skilled nursing facilities in our service area to provide hospice care in nursing homes. The program includes the same services as the home health program, as well as spiritual counseling, anticipatory grief counseling, bereavement services, and a volunteer program. Dr. Robert Luderer is the Medical Director, and Dr. Catherine Cunningham is a hospice physician employed by the VNA. Our hospice agency had no deficiencies with our Department of Health onsite survey this year and boasts a 5-star caregiver survey rating.

VNA Extended Care Services, Inc. is a separate agency, but it is affiliated with the VNA. Extended Care provides private duty care, which offers a variety of services including help with personal care, meal preparation, reminders and assistance taking medications, light housekeeping, laundry, and socialization and companionship. These services may be paid for by long-term care insurance or veterans' benefits, but typically they are paid for out of pocket.

Clarion Forest Adult Daily Living Center (ADLC) is a program within VNA Extended Care Services, Inc. The ADLC is unique to our community. It is licensed by the PA Department of Aging and the Office of Developmental Programs. The Center offers a safe and comfortable environment for individuals who need assistance with their daily living routines. The facility is fully handicap accessible. A health check is also provided quarterly by a registered nurse. The ADLC offers therapeutic activities to promote socialization, and maintain and /or increase the client's present level of function. The ADLC provides personal care, health monitoring, a noon meal, and routine blood work. Information and support are also provided to care-

Our agency is a member of Leading Age, Pennsylvania Homecare Association, and The National Alliance for Care at Home, as well as several rural healthcare collaboratives.

CFVNA Inc. promotes and provides a familyfriendly environment with flexible scheduling to our

We have several support groups and fundraising events throughout the year.

One of the most popular events hosted by the Clari-



CFVNA employee and her daughter volunteering at the annual CFVNA Cheryl Scott Amelia McNellie Memorial Ladies Golf Outing.

on Forest VNA is the Wings of Hope Butterfly Release that is held annually. This year's event was held July 13 at Clarion County Park in Paint Township. The wings of Hope Butterfly Release is the releasing of butterflies in memory of individuals who have passed and in honor of loved

Clarion Forest VNA, Inc. and our community events, please visit www.cfvna.org. History of the Clari-on-Forest VNA

In July 1968, the Clarion Community Action Agency and concerned citizens met to organize the Clarion County Visiting Nurse Association. The Association was incorporated as a Board of Directors and To learn more about non-profit corporation in

August 1969. Concerned citizens raised funds in various ways including a contribution from the Clarion Commissioners. The funds were depleted and the agency could no longer provide services by May 1972. The VNA was reactivated in July 1973 through the efforts of the

See VNA. Page 11



271 Perkins Road Clarion, PA 16214 (814) 297-8400

www.cfvna.org



#### Home Health \* Hospice Private Duty\* Adult Daily Living Center

As a rural, non-profit home healthcare agency, we know better than most that our roles as neighbors overlap with our duty to serve our community. And we would have it no other way.

Since 1968, CFVNA has dedicated itself to providing the highest quality of compassionate care to our patients.

#### The Wentlings Corners Community Club serves the area in many ways

By Kenn Staub For the **CLARION NEWS** 

WENTLINGS CORNERS

The Wentlings Corners Community Club meets on the first Monday of each month, the 6 p.m. gatherings usually starting with a covered-dish meal.

According to Kathy Barrett, club president and secretary, the group typically convenes at 11:30 a.m. during the winter months for lunch instead of dinner. There are no meetings in July or September

Membership currently stands at 10-15, Barrett noting a decline over the past year due to the passing of several individuals.

New members, espe-

cially younger people, are welcome, Barrett noting that increased numbers are essential for the club's future and its continued engagement in service activities. Membership is open to anyone, not restricted to just those living in the immediate Wentlings Corners area. If

interested in joining call Barrett at 814-782-6433.

The club annually stages a Christmas party for the community in December, as well as a corn and wiener roast on the third Monday in August. Both events are free and open to the public, with Barrett encouraging folks to come out as attendance tends to be

Community rummage sales are held during the spring and fall.

The club is a 15-year participant in Wreaths Across America" program, which annually places wreaths at veteran's graves in Arlington National Cemetery during December. Members of the community are invited to sponsor a wreath.

Additionally, the club supports local veterans living at area nursing homes, selecting names off an "angel tree" at Christmas time and then purchasing, wrapping, and delivering gifts to help brighten the holidays.

hall, a refurbished oneroom schoolhouse located at 266 Tippecanoe Road, is available for rent "at a reasonable price." Suited for hosting receptions, reunions, showers, and other such events, the handicap accessible venue features a kitchen that has two stoves and a refrigerator, two bathrooms, a large dining room, tables, cushioned chairs, and air condition-

Larger wooden tables are also available for rent, with the understanding that they must be picked up and returned.

There are benches under a covered porch, as well as a playground and several picnic tables. As per long-standing

at no charge for funeral The renter is responsible for any food which might be served, regard-

policy, the hall is available

prohibited.

less of occasion. Alcohol is



CLARION NEWS file photo. Pictured above is the Wentlings Corners Community Club hall is a refurbished one-room school house located at 266 Tippacanoe Road in Wentlings Corners.

contacting Michelle Campbell at 814-797-5281 or Dorothy Hen-Rentals can be coordi- ry at 814-797-5281.

club's treasurer.

If interested in attending one of the club's com-

Dottie Colvin is the munity functions or for further information contact Barrett at (814) 782-

# CenClear has been a fixture in Clarion for over 10 years

By Kenn Staub

For the **CLARION NEWS** 

headquar-CenClear, tered in Woodlands (near Clearfield), is a non-profit organization providing a variety of health and human service programs in an eight-county area. It has been offering outpatient treatment for substance use disorders and mental health concerns in Clarion since 2014.

The Clarion location on 627 Wood Street has three drug and alcohol programs substance use disorders, outpatient; substance use disorders, intensive outpatient; and physicianapproved medically assisted treatment (MAT) – and two forms of counseling mental health, outpatient, and psychiatric care.

CenClear's programing can be conceptualized as the simultaneous treatment of substance abuse and mental health concerns, the two being almost inherently Viewing the programming in this manner, it becomes apparent that CenClear's services are aimed at the whole person rather than being simply one dimen-

"We were originally part of an initiative by the feder-

al and state government, a Community Behavioral Health Clinic [CCBHC], with the idea to have a 'one-stop shop.' A person could see a psychiatrist or attend a mental health session while also receiving treatment for substance misuse," explained Jake Ross, CenClear's senior marketing engagement officer.

"It [the CCBCH] was designed to truly reduce the amount of office visits that the person was having. Instead of going to five different places, they could come to one place. That was truly the goal."

He continued, "We also monitor vitals, as well as blood pressure and items along those lines. If they visit with their primary care physician and they don't understand exactly what's going on, they can visit with us and our nurse can go over that. We can do blood work based on what services they're going to get, especially for MAT.

presently CenClear serves 150-180 clients in Clarion, down somewhat from last year.

and goes," remarked Ross on the caseload. "Sometimes it appears to be seasonal, other times there could be stuff that comes often requires a practicum.

through the area [such as fentanyl] and then we have an increase in people seeking care."
"Overall, it's pretty con-

sistent, pretty steady. Is there a need for mental health and substance use disorder treatment in this area, for sure."

Though the primary payor source for 90% of CenClear's caseload is Medicare and/or Medicaid, Ross noted new federal initiatives and regulations have not significantly impacted operations, "The payor sources are pretty stable. Everybody's been able to attend their sessions. There's a little bit of a delay [in payment] sometimes, some of the stuff that used to take two-to-three weeks may now take fourto-six weeks.'

CenClear's clients are served by a staff of 8-12, with Ross hoping to add a few more.

To this end, he discussed eligibility, employment "Anybody who has a bachelor's degree in behavioral health or social sciences. If they have experience, that's we can use to hire without misuse and/or



CLARION NEWS photo by Kenn Staub.

Pictured above is the CenClear staff at the Clarion office.

"Anybody who's graduated in the field of social services or behavioral health, we would be interested in hearing from."

Ross knows it takes a wonderful. If not, we curteam to treat the complex "It fluctuates, it comes rently have a waiver that issues those with substance mental experience for substance health concerns face. As use services, mental health such, though CenClear is not so much. Mental health there to help, they often do so in conjunction with other

agencies.

"Our doors are always open. If we can't help you, we will point you in the right direction," he said. "Providers are not in competition to see the most people or anything like that. We really try to work together to see as many people as we can so we can help as many people as we

"The Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission does a wonderful job. They are top notch; they are very well rounded and offer all kinds of programs for people in this area. We often work

with them. For more information see CenClear's Facebook page (CenClear) and website (https://cenclear.org/).■

# Churches serve Sligo, Reidsburg, Curllsville, and Monroe Township areas

Churches serving the Reidsburg, Sligo, Curllsville, and Monroe Township areas include:

Manor, Curllsville, and Monroe Chapel are part of a four-point charge that includes Shippenville UMC:

#### **Manor UMC:**

9 Airport Road, Paint Township Shippenville 814-745-2480

Sunday services:

8:45 a.m. Fully handicapped

accessible church Curllsville UMC:

Curllsville

814-745-2480 Sunday service:

10 a.m. Fully handicapped

accessible church

Monroe Chapel:

17995 Route 68, Sligo

814-745-2480 Sunday service:

11 a.m. handicapped Fully

#### accessible church Sligo Presbyter-

403 Colerain St., Sligo 814-745-2771

The church is located at

the corner of State Routes 68 and 58. Pastor: Rev. Ed Rudi-

Sunday school for all ages: 9 a.m. Sept. to

worship

Sunday

services: 10 a.m. with an average worship attendance of 85. A Kindness Kids service is also offered

and provides a food craft treat for the congregation. This service is broadcast on YouTube.

Casual  $_{
m dress}$ welcome year round. The church is air-conditioned.

The worship service is blended with new and old songs and a large screen is used to project the service.

Bible study: 10:30 Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Youth group meeting: held at 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays from Sept. to May and is open to children in third through sixth grades.

SPC is a lively group of people who enjoy their faith journey with Jesus. Follow "Sligo Presbyterian Church" on Facebook for information on our latest ministry, mission and outreach news.

Call the church office 814-745-2771 prayer requests or more information on the church activities. Church of the

Nazarene 313 Madison St., Sligo

The church has a membership between 50 to 100 people.

Pastor: Gene Hill Sunday services: 10

For more information about the church, call 724-

487-4389. Grace Communi-

3210 Curllsville Rd. Sligo, PA 16255

814-745-2897 youth Lead and

pastor: Tom Switzer Associate pastor:

Tim Shimmons

The church is nondenominational and 140 people attend.

Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday youth: 6 p.m. Bible study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

Ladies Prayer and Praise group: 10 a.m., Tuesday

Intercessory Prayer: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

The church hosts special concerts throughout the year. They also support multiple missions and ministries.

Visit the website: gcccurllsville.org Bethel Baptist

16817 Route 68, Sligo 814-745-2539 Pastor: Rev. Rob

Hranicky Bethel Baptist is located along State Route 68 West, 5.4 miles south of the intersection of Interstate 80 and State Route across from the Church of God (former Murphy Grange building). About 40 people attend

the church. Children's Sunday school: 10 a.m.

Junior church: 11 Sunday services: 11

a.m. and 6 p.m. Bible study and prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

Wednesday Soul winning: 2 p.m. Saturday and Monday at

King's Kids: 6 p.m., every Wednesday, program is for children of all

Missions Day is held in A men's conference

occurs in October, and ladies attend a retreat in August. A marriage seminar is

held in December. Teens and youth attend church camp in

June, in Mt. Salem, W. Va. To celebrate anniversary, the church

planned week-long tent meetings at the end of May followed by a commemoration. Zion Church

114 Zion Road, Clarion

Pastor: Trent Kirkland 814-745-2814

Zion Church is dedicated to helping people far from God discover life in Jesus. Zion has multiple church locations in Clarion, the

Petroleum Valley, and Brookville.

Zion believes it is the call of every disciple of Jesus to fulfill his mission to "Go, make disciples." We focus our energy and resources on training and encouraging followers of Jesus to live out the mission with passion and urgency.

Zion recognizes the different stages of growth in a disciple's life....from spiritual infancy to spirichildhood spiritual young adults to spiritual parenthood and has a plan to help disciples in each stage of growth.

We dream of helping more people move through the stages of growth so the Kingdom of God can grow throughout our region. We dream of sending out disciples to engage our communities, region, and world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We dream of being the church that God had in mind 2000 years ago. If this is your heart, you will feel welcome at Zion. Clarion campus

meets at 10:30 a.m.

Petroleum Valley Campus meets at 10:30

Zion gathers on Sun-

Brookville campus meets at 10:30 a.m.

throughout the week in homes throughout the region. Zion is committed to partnering with parents to raise godly children built up in a godly home. All our children and youth gatherings help prepare them to live out the same core values our adults learn. To learn more about

day mornings and scatters

Zion, gathering times and locations, the pastors, and ministries, please visit zionlife.com. If you wish to donate non-perishable foods, you welcome to call the main office at 814-745-2814.

The Church of

16836 Route 68 between Clarion and Sligo 423-617-9479

**Pastor:** Mike Piper Saturday Sabbath teaching: 9:30a.m.-10:15 a.m. Saturday Sabbath

worship service: 10:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday services:

6:30–7:30 p.m. The church members host dinners regularly

throughout the year. The Church of God was established January 2001.

To learn more about the church, visit our website— thechurchofgodclar-

ion.org

#### There is more than meets the eye at the Clarion County YMCA

By Kenn Staub For the **CLARION NEWS** 

MONROE TWP. There's no question County the Clarion YMCA is a place for meeting one's health and fitness needs. However, if you view the facility on 499 Mayfield Road in Clarion as simply a 40,000-plus square foot gym, you are definitely

selling it short. As Jesse Kelley, CEO of Scenic Rivers YMCA, which includes the Clarion location, once offered "We exist to meet the needs of the community, our cause is to strengthen our community. We put our mission, the Christian principles, into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body. That is the key component, that is what makes us unique.

"We're more than a gym. You can come here and certainly get uplifted in your wellness physically, which is a lot of what you see. But through youth sports, daycare, the Silver Sneakers program [for seniors] – when you are serving a mission you are open to all. It's a melting pot of the whole community, so all our interaccomponents [programming], they're

good for the mind, body, lunches for the week, and spirit."

This is perhaps no more in evidence than through the programs the YMCA has initiated to address food insecurity.

In January the YMCA launched an on-site Mission Market.

Relayed Max Krepps, assistant director of the Clarion YMCA, "We got a really nice grant for food program expansion and we have taken off with that. We started here [at the YMCA] with the Mission Market, which is a food pantry that we open from noon to 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. It's open to the public, though there are some income guidelines."

At the beginning of June, the YMCA kicked off its USDA-sponsored rural non-congregate food program for area youth

"Every Tuesday of the summer we hand out bags containing five days' worth of breakfasts and lunches at Clarion Area Elementary School," said Krepps. "The idea is that kids get meals during the school year, breakfast and lunch every day, but what happens in the summer when there are no meals available. We give them breakfasts,

every week of the sum-

"All of Clarion County is a food desert and they call summer the 'hungry months.' Being able to feed kids really, really hits our mission. Feeding kids, what's better than

The YMCA also started another program this summer geared to area children – All Kids Bike.

"We take kindergarten-aged kids, four-tosix-years-old, and teach them how to ride a bike. It was a program I saw online and I was, 'This looks different, looks new, let's try it," explained Krepps. "We got a grant to purchase the bikes and there's a curriculum already set. They ride in our childcare parking lot."

"If you dive a little deeper into it, what you're really doing is giving them confidence to not only ride a bike but, 'Hey, if I conquered a bike, who's to say I can't do this and then this.' It builds future confidence."

Additionally, YMCA is adding to its array of youth sports programs this fall by starting girls' flag football. The sport is one of the fastest growing in America and was recently sanctioned



CLARION NEWS photo by Kenn Staub.

Clarion County YMCA Assistant Director Max Krepps is shown here at the recently opened Mission Market at the Clarion County YMCA.

by the PIAA.

The YMCA launched a LIVESTRONG: Cancer Survivor Program during January 2025. Developed in partnership with the LIVESTRONG Foundation, the 12-week program is aimed at empowering individuals to navigate life with, through, and beyond can-

Noted Krepps, "Our wellness coordinator, Katie Rother, took some trainings and became certified to teach the LIVE-STRONG program. The instructors take you through workouts tailored to the specific person, taking into account everything they've gone through or are going through. They also offer nutrition advice and personalized support. We've trial.

had one successful group and we have another coming up."

The Clarion YMCA is typically staffed and open to all members from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Weekend hours are modified during the summer – Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hours are shortened on Saturdays (7 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and the facility is closed Sunday.

The aforementioned schedule doesn't necessarily apply to those members who have 24/7 keycard access, a service the YMCA began offering on a limited basis in November 2024 and then expanded a few months later after a successful

Ш

Moderate

Those with 24/7 access can use the YMCA any time, day or night, including throughout the entire weekend, holidays, and potentially during inclement weather closures. There are some restrictions, the most notable being no locker room or pool access.

"It's gone incredibly well so far, we currently have over 200 24-hour contributed members," Krepps. "It's been a big hit for us and it's certainly going to be a benefit to people over the summer that want to get a workout in on Sunday."

For more information about the Clarion County YMCA visit its Facebook page (Clarion County YMCA) or website (https://clarioncountyymca.org/).

IV

Severe

# **Kerle Tire Company,** 50 years of excellence

**CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer

Kerle Tire Company has been one of the most trusted and dependable businesses in Clarion County now for 50 years.

Located at 1283 Mays Road in Clarion, Kerle Tire Company was founded in

1974 by Jim Kerle, and is currently operated by Jim's sons Dan and Lee Kerle.

The company currently has 35 employees.

Aside from tire replacement and repair, services include wheel alignment, brakes, inspections and oil changes.

And finding the right tire can be easily achieved

right from the company's website, with a complete line of top brand tires in their searchable database.

Kerle Tire is open Monday thru Friday 8a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. Closed Sunday. For more information, stop by or call 814-226-6657, or visit their website at kerletire.com.■

# Do You Want To Avoid Knee Surgery?

II

Mild

The most common method recommended to treat your knee pain is with prescription drugs that may temporarily reduce your symptoms. These drugs have names such as Celebrex, Naproxen, Oxycodone, or Percocent and are primarily anti inflammatories and pain pills. These drugs may cause you to feel uncomfortable and have a variety of harmful side effects.

Chronic knee pain and arthritis is a condition that too many seniors have been told they have to simply live with. Doctors give medications to cover up the pain temporarily. but basically tell you your joints are worn out.

The next step is often invasive knee replacement surgeries that are painful and require months of difficult rehab and therapy.

Even worse, a 2013 study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that arthroscopic knee surgery wasn't necessary in most cases.

To truly repair your knee pain we must understand what is really causing your problem. Everyone with arthritis knows the cartilage that cushions their joints is wearing out...but why?

In most cases the real cause of knee pain is damage to your nervous system that causes decreased nerve signals to the muscles in your legs. When the muscles get weak the knee joints begin to grind and wear out, leading to the arthritis pain you're experiencing right now.

The main problem is that your doctor has told you to just live with the problem or try the drugs which

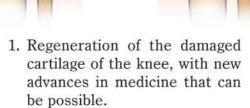
you don't like taking because they make you feel uncomfortable. There is now a facility right here in Western PA that offers you hope without taking those endless drugs

Doubtful

with serious side effects. In order to effectively treat your knee pain three factors must be determined.

- 1. How much joint damage has been sustained and what phase of arthritis do you have?
- 2. What muscles are neurological weak?
- 3. Is there any ligament damage instability causing weakness?

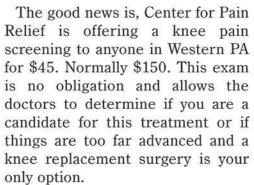
At Center for Pain Relief, we identify the cause of the problem with a detailed exam and x-rays of the knees. We will show you your x-rays, so you can see what phase of degeneration your knees are presenting. The goal is to help patients with knee pain treat the cause of the pain. That can be done by 3 specific things.



2. Take the pressure off the nerves that are making the muscles not work optimally.

3. Decreasing the inflammation around the knee joints.

The treatments are safe and effective with no side effects. The team at Center for Pain Relief includes Dr. Ram Parikh DC, Jeanine Wigton NP and Dr. Tara Hyder MD have over 40+ years experience to help patients get their life back and be able to walk again. Our medical team uses advanced diagnostic imaging called ultrasound to help pinpoint your problem. The treatments may include exosomes therapy, PEMF therapy, trigenics, PRP, soundwave therapy and viscosupplementation. After a detailed exam and x-rays we will determine the best course of treatment for your knee pain.



This consultation is one-on-one with our doctors, and the worst thing that can happen is you find out this treatment is not for you. On the other hand, you might find the answer to your pain that allow you to recapture your youth and walk without pain.

#### Center for Pain Relief

is at

227 South Chestnut Street in Butler (across from Steiner Garage, formerly Koeppen Alignment Service)

Call 724-602-2740 today.

- PAID ADVERTISEMENT -

# Tom's Riverside has been serving the area for 55 years

Submitted article

NEW BETHLEHEM -This year marks the 55th Anniversary of Clarion County's last full-service stores, Tom's Riverside Quality Foods. As one of the first independently owned franchisees of the Penn Traffic Company, the first Tom's opened in 1970 in New Bethlehem followed by Knox in 1977 and Rimersburg in 1983. With over 100 employees, it is one of the oldest and largest employers in Clarion County.

The goal of Tom's Riverside is to provide our customers with clean, friendly stores with a good selection of top-quality products at fair prices. Our dedicated long-time Associates as well as an enthusiastic younger staff take pride in providing service and quality that our customers deserve and expect at

Food inflation has been a challenge for both the grocery business and its customers, but the worst appears to be over. Staffing has also been an ongoing issue, and we appreciate our customers' patience as we continue to work to get back to full employment.

A new exciting service coming to Tom's Riverside in 2025 is Instacart, an online grocery delivery service that allows you to buy groceries for delivery via website or phone app. We know that it's difficult for some to make it to the store so we're trying to make it easier for them to get groceries. In the stores, we continue to make upgrades to make them more pleasant and convenient for our customers.

Tom Ray, Jr, President of Tom's Riverside: "We are thankful for our great team and loyal customers, both past and present. Without our customers, we wouldn't be here for our 55th Anniversary and without our caring and dedicated team members, we wouldn't have cus-

Tom's Riverside is dedicated to its communities, supporting them with discounts and/or donations to local groups such as area clubs, sports teams, churches, school activities, local festivals, emergency services, as well as countywide organizations such as the Clarion County United Way and YMCA.

Products and Ser-

meats at all of our locations; each with experitions.

enced in-house cutters who can custom cut your meat.

✓ Fresh produce is shipped in several times a week and we can make fresh veggie or fruit trays for any occasion.

✓ Our bakeries bake tasty bread, rolls and donuts daily. Decorated cakes for special occasions are also available.

✓ Fresh meats, cheese, salads, rotisserie chicken and party trays are available in our delis.

✓ A larger-than-you'dexpect selection in our grocery department that will appeal to all shoppers.

✓ We continue to offer a 5-percent senior citizen discount on Tuesdays and double eligible manufacturer coupons up to .99.

✓ Our New Bethlehem and Knox locations have popular beer and wine sections and our Knox location features an in-store pharmacy and bank.

✓ PA Lottery, propane, greeting cards and flowers. rug shampooer rental, money orders and more.

✓ \*New\* - PA Skills Games are now at our New Bethlehem and Knox loca-

√ \*New\* - Key copy ✓ We offer the freshest machines New Bethlehem and Rimersburg



New Assistant Manager Lucas Ray (left) and new Store Manager Joe Matus (right) at the New Bethlehem Tom's Riverside.

# Colony Homes is now **Cavco Shippenville**



CLARION NEWS photo by David A. Hollis

The new sign at the former Colony Homes facility, now Cavco Shippenville, after Cavco Industries acquired the facility.

#### By David A. Hollis

**CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer SHIPPENVILLE

A familiar name in manufactured and modular housing is entering a new era.

After nearly four decades serving the Northeastern United States with affordable, high-quality homes, Colony Factory Crafted Homes in Shippenville has officially changed its name to Cavco Shippenville, marking a new chapter under the nationally recognized Cavco Industries brand. Sales Manager Bryan McElravy explained,

"As of April 1, we're Cavco Shippenville. Commodore Homes next door is now Cavco Clarion, and Pennwest  $\mathbf{Homes}$ Emlenton is now Cavco  ${f Emlenton.}"$ 

While the name has changed, McElravy assured that their trusted services and high production standards remain intact, adding,

"The name change doesn't affect any of our production or what we

produce." Founded in 1965, Cavco Industries has grown

into a major player in the

factory-built housing market. The company designs and manufactures a wide range of products, including manufactured homes, modular homes, park model RVs, vacation cabins, and commercial structures.

And since 2009, Cavco has expanded by acquiring respected homebuilders across the country, such as Fleetwood Homes, Palm Harbor, Destiny Homes, Commodore Homes, and most recently, Colony Factory Crafted Homes.

Cavco's emphasis on quality, affordability, and customization has made them a leader in the industry. From diverse floor plans to financing and insurance options, the company offers a comprehensive homeownership experience tailored meet individual lifestyles and budgets.

McElravy said, "Cavco has all your manufactured and modular home building and retail needs covered. We just increased production in the last couple weeks so we're up to seven (homes) a day, which is beyond what we had bud-

geted for this time of year.

We're experiencing some big successes in

industry right now." With 31 production centers and 79 companyowned retail stores across North America, Cavco's reach is truly national. The company became publicly traded in 1967 and has since seen its market cap grow by more than 6,400-percent. As of June, Cavco Industries holds a market cap of \$3.47 billion.

Cavco currently employs over 6,000 people across the country—and that number is growing. The Shippenville facility is actively looking to expand its team.

"In the fall of last year we noticed business was coming really back strong," McElravy said, "And as soon as we got through the winter months, we're working towards ramping up our hiring process.

We're going through our rebranding, so it's a bit of a challenge, but an

exciting one." For more information call their offices at (814) 226-9590, stop in at 20510 Paint Blvd, Shippenville or visit their website at

cavcoshippenville.com.

# Montana's Country Café-30 Years of food and family



Submitted photo. Owners Stan and Maggie Montana of Montana's Country Café.

By David A. Hollis **CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer

MARBLE Recently celebrating 30 years in business, Montana's Country Café has stayed true to its values of being a family, friendly atmosphere while providing quality meals and baked goods, often from scratch.

Located at 18086 off State Route 208 in Marble, Montana's Country Café offers a wide menu of home-cooked style plates from pancakes, eggs and sausage to sandwiches and wraps, salads, burgers, chicken and fish plates, and so much more.

Once a simple ice cream and sandwich shop, owners Stan and Maggie Montana said acquiring the property and turning it into their dream was a delicate balance of being career-minded putting family first, but with a little determination (and a Scotty camper), they made it work. Stan said,

"Our children were 18 months, six and seven at the time when we bought it. And at the time, where the walk-in is now, was a

door that led outside with

a fenced-in area and that's

where we had the Scotty camper, and so that was an area where our kids could go and hang out while we were working,"

And through the years the restaurant has truly become a family affair, with son Gabe and his wife Kensey now managing much of the operation, commented on how many of the regulars were customers when he was just

"Our customers are truly like family," said

"You know the customers. Some of them have been coming in here for 30 years, so you know about their week and they know our kids and our plans, it's very regular here, so it's truly like one big family."

"I think my fondest memory, is that we were able to put our children on our schedule," Stan said, adding, "We homeschooled our children so when I could take the time off, we went on those field trips and things. It was never about anything other than our children."

Montana's Country Café is open 7a.m. to 8p.m. Monday thru Saturday, and closed Sunday. They can be reached at 814**-**354**-**7376.■

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# **Summer fun starts at Clarion County libraries**

By David A. Hollis **CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer

**CLARION COUNTY** With school out and summer in season, the time when kids are scouring to find something to do and parents are hoping that they find it is in full swing, but ask anyone who frequents their local library about being bored and they'll likely reply that the answer is just right around the corner.

Here's a brief look at the libraries in Clarion County and the happenings for

Clarion Free Library

Founded in 1914 as the Ross Memorial Library, Clarion Free Library is located at 644 Main Street in Clarion.

Rebecca Aharrah is current Library Director, Rose Slike is the Youth Services Librarian and Vickie Judy is the Interlibrary Loan Librarian.

Clarion Library has been bustling with activity this summer, introducing a variety of new programs and updates, with even more planned for the fall. The Children's Library, in particular, has been a vibrant hub, as young readers completed their summer reading challenges and explored their creativity through art in all

A notable highlight has been the addition of a brand new play cabin in the Children's Library. This beautiful new feature was thoughtfully designed, built, and donated by the Construction Technology students at the Clarion County Career Center.

"We, unfortunately, had to make the decision to remove the original, wellloved cabin for our patron's safety. Knowing how meaningful the cabin was to many people, we have constructed flower boxes from the wood of the cabin," Aharrah said.

The boxes are now available for purchase at the library, a wonderful way to take home a piece of your childhood while supporting the Clarion Free Library.

The Adult Library has also seen exciting developments with the launch of a new monthly program series in partnership with Road Scholar, featuring live lectures on a variety of topics. Each session wraps up with a Q&A with the instructor, offering an engaging and interactive learning experience. Additionally, Technology Tune-Up sessions continue to provide one-on-one tech support. Simply call the library to schedule an appointment.

And in an continued effort of support, monthly live raffles have been introduced with all proceeds benefiting the library. For details on upcoming raffles follow the library's Facebook page. Hours are Monday

through Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays from 8:30 a.m., to 3:30 p.m., and closed Sundays.

For more information on news and events visit the Clarion Free Library web-

clarionfreelibrary.org, subscribe to their quarterly newsletter and follow them on Facebook and Insta-

#### **Knox Public Library**

Located at 305 North Main Street in Knox, the Knox Public Library has been a fixture in the borough since 1935.

Brenda Beikert is Library Director, Miranda Mumford is Cataloging and

Marketing, Jolene Dodge is Programming and Outreach Coordinator, Emily Ace is Collections Manager and Library Clerk is Candy Ravbuck.

The library is still promoting its very popular "Library of Things," where adult members in good standing can check out a wide range of items for two weeks, using their library card. The catalog can be accessed via the library's

In addition, the popular 'jigsaw puzzle exchange" is still growing where patrons browse, take a puzzle, leave a puzzle, then bring it back or pass it along when they're finished with it.

The library is also in its third year of its seed library, where members can come in and take home whatever packet of seeds they'd like to grow their own produce. The seeds are donated by Tractor Supply and Walmart and the program runs from March through August.

A few features the public may not be aware of is Freegle Music, which is a free music streaming service that members can download and get access to over 18 million songs. The only thing members need to get the app is their library card. As well as Dial a Story, where patrons can all in to listen to picture books, with three new books added weekly and an ongoing chapter book. To access this call 814-914-

Customers can also take advantage of the Libby app, with E-books, digital audiobooks, and magazines available including two new extras: LawDepot, which provides extensive library of documents and legal resources for a wide range of legal needs empowering patrons to cre-



CLARION NEWS photo by David A. Hollis.

In April, Clarion County Commissioner Wayne Brosius handed down a proclamation to Clarion County librarians to honor National Library Week. Pictured, from left, are: De Clover (Foxburg Free Library), Brenda Beikert (Knox Public Library), Commissioner Wayne Brosius, Rebecca Aharrah (Clarion Free Library), Rachel Campbell (Eccles-Lesher Memorial Library), Erin Joyce (Oil Creek Library Óistrict).

ate legal documents specific to their personal situation, and Craftsy, an online resource for all creative makers, where you can find everything you need, from instruction advanced techniques.

The public also has access to the flag retirement box, located in the front of the building.

Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Wednesdays and Sundays. For more information visit knoxpubliclibrary.org.

#### Foxburg Free Library

For 115 years, Foxburg Free Library has stood at 31 Main Street in the heart of historic Foxburg.

The library's new Director is Nichole Sherry, who was hired in May, three weeks after earning her undergraduate degree from Asbury University. Sherry said she grew up in the area, graduating from A-C Valley School District in 2021. She said "I am excited to be back and serve the community through my position."

Additional staff include Clover, Assistant Librarian, and Jodie Sheakley, Bookkeeper.

The library's Summer Reading Program runs from June 17 to July 25, Tuesdays and Thursday from 1p.m. to 2:30p.m. for any child ages four to ten years. This year's theme is "Color Our World," encouraging libraries to focus on art and creativity.

Tucked away within the library is a hidden gem, the history room. Assembled about a decade ago by a Clarion University student, the room offers a rich trove of local history and genealogical resources. Visitors can browse a diverse collection that includes yearbooks, books about local places, and a variety of local archives. With the exception of antique editions, most materials are available for checkout.

The history room also

features extensive genealogical records, such as birth and marriage documents, cemetery inscriptions, and newspaper archives—including issues from many long-defunct local publications. Photographs in the room document the various stages of the library's construction and capture life in the A-C Valley region dating back to the early 1900s.

Among the most notable items is a copy of the original land grant issued in 1796 by then-Governor of Pennsylvania Thomas Mifflin. Historical records suggest the Fox family, early benefactors of the library, were acquaintances of the Penn family. At the time, the area represented the western frontier of the colonies, long before Pennsylvania expanded northward to Erie.

The roots of the library itself stretch back to 1885, when a small collection was housed in the Memorial Church of Our Father, just over the hill from the library's current location. By 1909, the collection was moved to a new, larger building to serve as a dedicated public library, separate from the church, a reflection of the community's growing commitment to literacy and learning.

fle is currently underway and wraps up August 7, and funds are currently being raised to install a handicap accessible ramp.

Hours are Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday thru Saturday from 10a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sundays. More information visit foxburglibrary.org.

#### Eccles-Lesher Memorial Library

The Eccles-Lesher Memorial Library is located at 673 Main Street in Rimersburg. Rachel Campbell serves as the Library Director, Sherri Campbell is the Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Jillian Porter is the Library Program Coordinator, and Mary Blair is the Circulation Desk Clerk.

The library is currently in the midst of its Summer Reading Program, which runs through the beginning of August.

**Eccles-Lesher Memorial** Library offers free Wi-Fi, a public computer lab with scanning and printing capabilities, black-andwhite photocopying, and faxing services. Meeting space is available at no cost for non-profit purposes and may be reserved by individuals, businesses, or organi-

The Story Book Trail is available year-round and features a new story updated twice annually. The Secret Garden Book Store, located on the second floor, remains open throughout the year and offers a wide selection of gently used books, audiobooks, and more. The bookstore is maintained by the Eccles-Lesher Friends of the Library, a volunteer group that meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

Hours of operation are Mondays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays 10a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Fri-days 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays 9a.m to 3 p.m. Closed Sundays, Wednesdays, and holidays. The library phone number is 814-473-3800 and the web-

#### lesher.org. Redbank Valley Public Library

Located at 720 Broad St, New Bethlehem, staff include Amy Toth, Debbie Troupe, and Cali Polka.

Services include free computer and Wi-Fi access to all patrons. The computers offer software that includes Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher), Google Chrome, and Adobe Reader. Printing, copying and scanning services are also available.

Hours are Mondays and Tuesday 10a.m. to 6:30p.m., Wednesdays to Fridays from 9a.m. to 4p.m. and Saturdays from 8a.m. to 3p.m. For more information visit rylibrary.org and, for the latest updates, follow them on Facebook.

■

# Versatile Fades by Abby is growing—and hiring



CLARION NEWS photo by David A. Hollis.

Abby Hartwig, of Versatile Fades by Abby, is all smiles as she cuts the hair of particularly picky customer Blake Hollis inside her brand new, spacious location at 512 Main Street in Knox Borough.

By David A. Hollis

CLARION NEWS Staff Writer

**KNOX** When Abby Hartwig opened up her shop two short years ago, she never dreamed the business would outgrow its original location so soon.

"I think the day it finally hit me was when I put my sign up." Hartwig said. "Someone just asked me how I like the new space and to be honest with you I haven't had a chance to take it all in quite yet, but I feel very honored and blessed to move in so quickly and see growth happen

so quickly.' Now located at 512 Main Street in Knox, Versatile Fades by Abby is a fullservice men's hair salon offering men's and boys' cuts, fades, hair designs, feather nape, razor shave, beard trims, hot towels, shampoo, and waxing services. Hartwig delivers an

intimate one-on-one ses-

sion, giving her clients the utmost attention to their

Hartwig said the move was necessary after realizing she was quickly outgrowing her old 357square-foot space. The new location is 1,000 square

"My full intention since starting my business is to always thrive and not stay stagnant," she explained, "So that's what I've been slowly doing. Growing and purchasing things—slowly but surely—and once I finally had the (old) space set up I realized I didn't have the capacity to do what I wanted to do."

The new location offers clients an even more spacious setting, complete with comfortable refreshments, and a welcoming atmosphere. But with all the sudden expansion, both in business and personal alike, (as she's currently expecting) Hartwig said she's on the lookout to hire additional staff who share her vision.

"I am hiring. I'm looking for an experienced, licensed barber or cosmetologist,' she said. "I have to be a little particular as to who I hire now, but I'm also a firm believer that in this industry, you don't grow unless you get your foot in the door and by practicing and doing it, and so I'd love to help build that character in doing what we're doing. It's not just to earn a paycheck, but to build relationships with the people who get to sit in your chair."

Versatile Fades also offers men's hair care products, from beard oil to shampoo and conditioner, gift cards, and even t-shirts.

Versatile Fades by Abby is by appointment only. To inquire about the job opportunity or to make an appointment, find the shop's page on Facebook or call (814) 992-2356.■



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# Faller's Furniture can meet your furniture needs and more

Bv Kenn Staub For the **CLARION NEWS** 

CLARION TWP. Faller's Furniture & Mattress sells almost anything you would need for your home, flooring and appliances being the exception. Not only that, Faller's offers furnishings, mattresses, and other home accessories at prices virtually any customer will find palatable.

"We have all things for every budget, every person. We can make it happen," reported Adam Faller, who runs the business's back office.

"We've been here a very long time. I've personally been in the furniture business for 30 years and I've seen all the different products. Right now, I think we have a really good mix of quality. We have heirloom pieces that you are going to pass down to your children and we have product that's going to get you through five or 10 years. Even our starting models, even though they might be inexpensive, we still try and provide a quality product

Continued Samantha Martell, Faller's store manager, "It's really important for us to give our customers that 'Faller's experience.' I want everybody to be treated the same, whether they're buying the \$399 sofa or the \$3,000 sofa. Everybody should experience furniture purchasing as simplified as we can provide."

The "Faller's experience," in many respects, comes down to the sales staff, a group Martell described as "phenome-

"They work hard every day and they can relate to their customers," she offered. "I think that's what separates us from the rest, the experience our sales staff provides."

The current economic climate has necessitated flexibility with customer

"A lot of the companies that we deal with, they're trying to figure things out, what's going to happen on their end, and they're relaying that to us. It's a fluid situation, we're get-

ting emails every day, every day it changes. We've had to do price adjustments with some of the companies almost weekly because things are changing so much. We're doing the best we can," relayed Adam Faller.

Martell added that bringing in new suppliers, especially those whose products are made in American, has helped, "We don't see price increases with those particular companies. As often as we can, we stay American made.

"We just brought in new manufacturers in April to help with that. It's an everyday process for us, we're always looking for the best deal, the best option that we can get as a company, that way we can pass the savings on to the consumer."

As Adam Faller noted, the business, currently owned by his parents Greg and Roberta, has been around for a long time over 175 years.

Founded in Fryburg during 1847, Faller's moved to Clarion in 1999, where it occupied a two-



The Faller Furniture Clarion store staff pictured, seated from left, are: Suzanne, Heidi, Betsy, Samantha, Dana, Carla, Courtney, Carol. Standing, from left, are: Gage, Aidan, Jayson, Aiden, Adam, Greg, Roberta, Evan

story building on Main Street until approximately three years ago, when the business took up residence in a plaza along Fifth

Avenue. "We decided to move for ease of operation and to give our customers a better shopping experience. Main Street worked well for 20 years, we enjoyed the time we spent there, but all the advantages of going to the plaza outweighed staying," commented co-owner Greg Faller at the time of the

He elaborated, "The store [on Main Street] is two stories. Some of our customers had trouble going to the second floor, not to mention after 20 years we were tired of carrying all the furniture to the second floor. Another big reason is we had our warehouse in Fryburg, moving the product from there to retail [in Clarion], with the traffic, fuel costs, and supply chain issues with furniture, we knew we needed to get everything in one location.

Avenue gave us a great retail space and we can combine the warehouse right there with it. We'll be about 1,000 square feet bigger, so we'll be able to show more product and it'll be a little easier for the customers around."

Martell spoke on another advantage realized since the move, "We receive all of shipments here, which has made it super convenient, we can get product to the customers quicker. We can have customer pickups right at our back dock, which in today's world, people want things tonight, that's a huge advantage."

Contributed Adam Faller, "I didn't realize what an issue parking on Main Street was. We have plenty of parking here."

Faller's is not only committed to its customers. but to the community as

Each June Faller's partners with a local non-profit wherein if a customer

"Moving down to Fifth makes a donation, they save on the purchase of furniture. This past June Tri-County Animal Rescue in Shippenville was the beneficiary. Faller's also posted pictures and profiles of animals available for adoption on its Facebook page.

Additionally, Faller's is partnering with the Keystone Family Alliance, giving a twin-sized mattress to a child in foster care when a customer purchases a mattress marked by a

green sheep. "We feel really good about being able to donate and hope the customers feel good about it too," said

Martell. Faller's is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday and Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday. For more information visit Faller's Facebook page (Faller's Furniture), İnstagram (@fallersfurniwebsite or

(https://fallersfurniture.co

#### Strattanville area includes several churches

STRATTANVILLE — Churches serving the Strattanville, Day, and Kingsville areas: **Strattanville** 

GlobalMethodist Charge 401 Washington Street

Strattanville 814-764-3332

**Pastor:** Jeff Foor The Strattanville Global Methodist Charge serves three churches— Strattanville, Asbury, and Corsi-

Strattanville GMC is located at 401 Washington

There are 155 church  ${
m members}.$ Sunday worship: 11

Sunday school: 9:45

Charge Bible study:

7 p.m., Wednesdays at Strattanville

Service will be live on Facebook at 11 a.m., Sundays

> Asbury Global MC 814-764-3332 19793 28th Division Hwy

90 members Sunday worship: 9:45 a.m.

Sunday school: 9 a.m. Corsica GlobalMethodist Church:

814 - 764 - 3332337 Olean Road; approximately 33 members Worship service:

8:30 a.m. Kingsville UMC

Kingsville The Kingsville United Methodist Church is part of a two-church charge,

with Summerville UMC. Kingsville UMC is in Clarion County, located at 71 C-L School Road in Strattanville. There are about 64

members. Pastor: Dianne Hetrick

Sunday worship: 9

Sunday school: 10:25

Choir practice: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday Administrative board: 7:45 p.m., first

Tuesday, monthly **Christian Education:** 7:30 p.m., quarterly

Summerville Church is located at 154 StreetPenn Summerville.

Worship: 11 a.m. Adult Sunday school: 9:45 a.m.

Bible study: 1 p.m., Wednesday

Board meeting: p.m., third Wednesday



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# Clarion County Airport has a lot to offer

By Aoife Salusky CLARION NEWS Staff Writer

PAINT TWP. The Clarion County Airport is more than just a spot for takeoffs and landings. It's a hidden gem that keeps both the community and local businesses moving forward.

Part-time manager Bill Guth might be new to the role, but he's no stranger to the skies. With more than 30 years of flight instruction experience, Bill says the best part of his job is helping people learn to fly and supporting businesses that depend on aviation to operate smoothly.

So, what makes Clarion's airport so special?

For one, it offers more than you might expect from a small regional airport. Pilots who fly in, or just pass through, have access to a pilot lounge, a conference room for meetings, free Wi-Fi, and vending machines (because snacks are always a must). Whether it's a quick pit stop or a scheduled visit, the airport is prepared for many types of travelers.

Behind the scenes, airport operations are nonstop. Daily tasks include inspecting the runway, fueling helicopters, checking fuel quality, securing hangars, nd completing

traffic reports and safety paperwork. Seasonal jobs often depend on the weather (which isn't something you can depend on in Pennsylvania), such as mowing in the summer or plowing snow from runways in the winter. To reduce its environmental impact, the airport staff mows less during the warmer months, allowing the wildflowers to grow and the bees to pollinate, all while saving fuel.

The airport also plays an important role in supporting local businesses. Helicopters often arrive for utility work on power lines, and there is regular traffic from the timber industry, especially with the nearby fiberboard plant. Companies such as Smucker's, Green Line Polymer, and Universal Truss also use the airport. Families with students at PennWest Clarion sometimes land here when visiting campus.

For students interested in aviation, this airport is a great place to start. There's currently a strong demand for aviation careers, especially air traffic controllers and aircraft mechanics. Local youth ages 12 to 18 can join the Civil Air Patrol through the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary and flight training is available right here in Clarion. To learn more, you can call or text to 814-

Even if you are not planning to become a pilot, the airport still offers something for everyone. Several community events are scheduled this summer that make it a great place to visit with family and friends. You should mark your calendars now for these summer events.

Live Music and Spatula Monkey BBQ

On June 22, July 20, August 17, and September 21, enjoy food, music and fun from 11 AM to 3 p.m. Pilots who fly in for the event receive a 25-cent per gallon fuel discount. The Civil Air Patrol will also host a bake sale to support local cadets.

National **STOL** Takeoff and (Short **Landing**) Competition

From August 29 to 30, the airport will welcome skilled pilots from across the region for a thrilling aviation event. Pilots show off their takeoff and landing skills and see who can get the shortest time.

Volunteers are needed for the events, so if you are interested in helping or want a behind-the-scenes look, this is a great way to get involved.

You do not need a pilot's showing up at events, music and barbecue with a



Shown above are some planes in the Clarion County Airport hangar.

inviting others, or volunteering your time can

make a big difference. Whether you are a future port is more than just a license to support the Clar- aviator, a curious visitor, or ion County Airport. Just someone who enjoys live

view, the airport is ready to welcome you.

The Clarion County Airtransportation hub. It is a valuable community resource that brings people

together and supports the region in meaningful ways.

Clarion County Airport is located at 395 Airport Rd, Shippenville, PA 16254 and the phone number is 814-226-9993.

# Girl Scouts hold a significant presence in Clarion County



Girl Scouts Evalyn McClellan, Ellie Stockdill, and Victoria LaCross get creative

while crafting their pinewood cars at a workshop.

volunteers.

By Kenn Staub For the **CLARION NEWS** 

**CLARION** Girl Scouting is alive

and well in Clarion County, where there are 211 girls in 18 troops led by 80 volun-According to Lisa

Shade, vice president of brand marketing and product programing for Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania, the number of girls

participating has grown over the past year, something she attributed to the high quality of the area's

"Girl scouting is a volunteer-led experience and I really have to put any success, getting more girls involved, squarely on the volunteers," said Shade. "The volunteers are ensuring the girls get the 'Girl Scout experience,' help

spread the word among girls in the area, and welcome new girls to the troop."

"It's [the growth] really a testament to how dedicated and truly wonderful Girl Scouts' volunteers are."

That Girl Scouts has remained relevant since its founding in 1912 by Juliete Gordon Low is primarily the result of the organization's ability to change with



Submitted photo always-popular cookies are just one of the many activities members of Girl Scouts

the times.

"Girl Scouts has to keep pace with girls and what their interests are and what they want to do," Shade explained. "That allows us to provide experiences that are going to give them the skills they need to be part of

modern society." She continued, "Girl Scouting now includes a lot of STEM programming [science, technology, engineering, mathematics] to help girls see and experience the fun and challenges of STEM and STEM careers. Even the cookie program is very modernized - Girl Scouts create their own personalized websites from which they can reach out to their cookie customers they are participating in the program at an E-commerce level."

Despite updating its programs, Girl Scouts continues offering facets of a more traditional experience.

"The outdoor experiences and the hiking are still very much part of Girl Scouts," Shade observed. "The outdoors has a long list of benefits - helping girls become stewards of the environment, managing stress, contributing to their mental and physical health."

"There's still those foundational things that people think of maybe when they hear 'Girl Scouts."

Girl Scouts and cookies are invariably linked in the minds of many. The cookie program, which typically runs from January through March, serves as both a fundraiser and a skillbuilding activity for its par-

ticipants. "The [cookie program] experience is very unique to Girl Scouts. It is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world," reported Shade.

"The cookie program is so beneficial skill-wise in that they're getting to explore different roles in business – build skills like money management, ethics. Those opportunities aren't always offered in schools, so it's great skillbuilding and the girls have a lot of fun in the process."

There is also a lesserknown fall product program beginning October 1 and going till the end of November. During that time, Girl Scouts sell magazine subscriptions, nuts, and candies.

Shade elaborated on continually what the monies raised go toward, "The cookie funds and those from the fall product program help fuel all of the adventures throughout the Girl Scout year. Troops go and visit local parks and museums; it funds their community service. It really does help make their year full of adventures through the proceeds that the troops

"It's also what helps keep Girl Scouting affordable for families, because the proceeds help girls off-

set the membership costs." Though there might be the perception that Girl corresponds Scouting almost exclusively with the school calendar, Shade emphasized that new girls and volunteers are wel-

come year-round. She elaborated on the benefits of joining a troop, "At its core, Girl Scouting is building confidence in girls by helping them try new things - roller skating, spending time outdoors, white water rafting. It gives them an opportunity to identify what their interests and passions are.

"Girl Scouts are always working in their communities to make their corner of the world a better place. Through experiences in the projects that they do in community service it really helps them identify the causes and passions that they care about."

For more information about joining Girl Scouts or volunteer, visit https://www.gswpa.org/ and go to the "Join" page for a listing of free sign-up events in the area.

# Bekah's Boutique where style meets soul

By David A. Hollis **CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer

**KNOX** inviting With itsatmosphere and a staff that treats every guest like family, Bekah's Boutique is a full-service salon nestled right in the heart of Knox at 416 Main

Owner Bekah Anderson opened the boutique in 2017 with a simple mission: to make everyone feel at home.

"I always want to make everyone feel welcomed here—kids and pets included," Anderson says. "I really want everyone to enjoy coming here and getting their hair done."

The salon offers a full array of hair services, from classic cuts and root

touch-ups to balayage and hair extensions. Manicures, pedicures, and waxing services are also available, making it a one-stop shop for self-

Bekah's Boutique stocks a range of quality hair and beauty products, including Joico and Unite, the latter known for its plant-based formulas free of harsh chemicals.

What sets this boutique apart, though, is its in-house massage therapy services. Selah Massage, owned and operated by licensed massage therapist Abigail Gundlach, offers 30, 60, and 90minute sessions designed to ease pain, reduce tension, or simply provide a much-needed moment of

And no matter the reason for your visit, the vibe remains the same: cozy, friendly, and welcoming.

"I try to create a good family-friendly environment," Anderson adds. "I want everyone to feel comfortable."

Bekah's Boutique is open by appointment only, with hours from 10a.m. to 5p.m. on Tuesdays, 9a.m. 5p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2p.m. on Saturdays.

schedule appointment, call (814) 797-2776 or visit Bekah's Boutique on Facebook.

For massage services through Selah Massage, appointments can be made by calling (724) 487-8008 or by contacting the boutique direct.■

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# You can find sweet treats at Dan Smith's Candies

By Aoife Salusky **CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer

**CLARION** 

If you've ever walked through downtown Clarion and followed your nose to the scent of sweet chocolate or the sound of laughter over shared ice cream cones, then chances are you've found yourself at Dan Smith's Candies. It's more than just a chocolate shop. It is a piece of local history, a place where memories are made, and a must-stop destination for anyone with a sweet tooth.

Dan Smith's Candies originally began all the way back in 1953, when Dan Smith himself started serving up ice cream from his back porch in Brookville. Just a small operation on a porch, with big dreams and even bigger flavors. What started as a simple ice cream stop soon grew into the chocolate-making legend we all know and love today. But don't worry. Even as their chocolate fame exploded, they never gave up on the ice cream that started it

For about 60 years, Dan Smith's stayed in the family, passing down the sweet traditions through generations. 10 years ago, the business was purchased by Joe and Amy Scarnati, who have kept the heart of the company alive. They've stayed true to the family-oriented roots of the business, making sure that Dan Smith's remains a place where old memories are cherished and new ones are made.

Today, Dan Smith's Candies has expanded to five locations: Brookville, Clarion, Ridgway, DuBois, and Indiana. Each one is full of its own charm, but if you ask me, there's something special about our own shop right here in

Lisa Heller, the manager of the Clarion store, has been part of the Dan Smith's family for many years now. She says one of her favorite things about the job is hearing all of the stories from customers. People will come in and tell stories about how their parents brought them to Dan Smith's when they were kids. Now these same customers are bringing in their own children or even grandchildren. Dan Smith's has chocolate that brings people together and reminds them of simpler times.

When I asked Heller what her favorite treat is, didn't hesitate. "Chocolate covered pretzels." And honestly, who could argue with that? They're salty, sweet, crunchy, and completely addictive. If you've never had them, trust me, you're missing out. If you're a chocolate lover, you're going to want to get a loyalty card. For every \$25 spent on chocolate you get a slot stamped on your stamps, you receive a free 1 pound box of candy.

But there's more to Dan Smith's than just chocolates and ice cream. If you head upstairs, you find the Main Street Emporium, a charming little area filled with unique gifts, antiques, and items from over 50 local vendors. It's like a treasure hunt up there, with everything from handmade soaps, to jewelry, home décor, candles, books, and more. It's the perfect spot to pick up a birthday present or just treat yourself to something special.

Downstairs in the lower level, there's even more to explore. There are antiques, quirky gifts, and products from local businesses. You can find local honey, maple syrup, and even some one-of-a-kind vintage items.

And then there's the best part: the ice cream. Dan Smith's ice cream is made in St. Mary's, PA, and what makes it so special is that they actually mix pieces of their own chocolate into the batter. Every bite is like a creamy, dreamy combo of chocolatey goodness and old-fashioned ice cream bliss. There are 12 different flavors to choose from at all times and when one runs out, it's replaced by a fun new flavor. Ice cream season runs from St. Patrick's Day to November 1st, so get there before it's

Dan Smith's Candies is

Dan Smith's Candies Manager Lisa Heller scoops out some ice cream for cus-

more than a store. It's a community tradition, a local favorite, and a place where the past and present come together in the sweetest way possible. Even people who move away always stop in for a box of Dan Smith's chocolate. Whether you're grabbing a box of chocolate covered strawberries,

browsing the emporium,

or enjoying a scoop of Dan Smith's new products homemade ice cream on a sunny afternoon, you're not just shopping. You're experiencing a little bit of hometown magic.

So if you haven't stopped by yet, what are you waiting for? Dan Smith's Candies isn't just a shop. It's a story, and you'll want to be part of it.

To stay updated on

you can check their Face-Book page.

Dan Smith's is 622 Main St, Clarion, PA 16214. The store's hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday noon to 5 p.m. The store's phone number is 814-227-2255 and they can be found online at dansm ithscandies.com/

## The Medicine Shoppe gives a more personal experience to customers

By Aoife Salusky CLARION NEWS Staff Writer

If you are the kind of person who likes to know their pharmacist by name – and maybe even talk about the weather while grabbing your prescription – The Medicine Shoppe in Clarion might just become your new favorite shop. It's not just a place to pick up medicine; it's a cozy corner of the community where people actually care. Tucked right in Clarion, this little pharmacy has a big heart and an even

bigger impact. is John Slagle, who owns four pharmacies. Besides Clarion, he's got locations in Tionesta, Sheffield, and near Erie. It's like a small-town pharmacy empire, but instead of being all corporate and cold, Slagle's shop keeps

it real and personal.

Slagle has a motto that's simple but powerful: Customers know care. And that's not just some poster on the wall, Slagle and his employees really live by it. The employees take time to talk with every person that comes in, making sure they actually understand their medications, not just toss a bottle in a

bag and say "next!" When you pick up a and prescription at The Medicine Shoppe, they conduct a mini-consultation. They'll explain how to take your medication, what to watch out for, and answer any weird questions you may have. You leave the pharmacy feeling confident, not confused.

But it's not just a pharmacy. The Medicine Shoppe is also the kind of place where you can find everything from cold meds to cute gifts for anyone on your list. Seriously, their little gift section has everything from candles, cards, and even those funny mugs you

didn't know you needed.

The vibe inside feels more like a friendly local shop than a medical stop. Everyone smiles, the shelves are always neat, and staff remembers your name after just a few visits. That kind of service is rare today, especially when the big chain pharmacies are all about

rushing people through.

card. After you get 10

One thing a lot of people don't realize is how advanced The Medicine Shoppe really is. They work closely with different drug companies to their  $_{
m shelves}$ stocked with the newest, most effective medications out there. That means if a doctor prescribes something brand new, there's a good chance they already have it or they'll help you get it fast.

Of course, newer meds can be quite expensive. The man behind it all Shoppe has your back wheelchair, or some comtoo pricey, the staff will actually help you find a solid alternative that's more affordable but still gets the job done.

On top of all that, they offer services like medication packaging, which is super helpful for people who have to take lots of different vaccine pills, and appointments. During flu season or allergy peaks, they'll even go the extra mile to check in and see how you're doing. It's the kind of place where you're not just a customer – you're part of the family.

Here in Clarion, convenience is important -The Medicine Shoppe delivers. They

offer free prescription delivery and even a drive-up window so you can stay cozy in your car. Plus, their mobile app makes refills a breeze, meaning less time in line and more time spent doing what you enjoy.

Have special medical needs? They've got you. Their compounding services mean they can whip up custom medications. Think allergy-free formulas or hormone blends made just for you. No generic approach here. Everything is tai-The Medicine lor-made. Need a walker, there too. If something's pression stockings? The Medicine Shoppe has a full stock of durable medical equipment. It's like having a mini health supply store in your backyard.

Medication synchronization is another thing The Medicine Shoppe takes care of. Instead of picking up meds on different days, they sync your prescriptions so that you can grab everything in one go. Less hassle and fewer trips makes for great time management. The Medicine Shoppe is also big on health education. You (flu, shingles, etc.), diabetes support, and even medication therapy man-



CLARION NEWS photo by Aoife Salusky. John Slagle, owner of The Medicine Shoppe, stands alongside his staff in the pharmacy.

your meds annually. It's like they've packed a healthcare hub into one friendly storefront.

Whether you're sick, can get immunizations shopping for a lastminute birthday gift, or just want to be greeted with a smile, The Mediagement to review all cine Shoppe is the best

place to go. It's proof that good vibes and great service can still exist, even when you're picking up antibiotics. Clarion is lucky to have it, and honestly, every town should have a Medicine Shoppe of its own.

The Medicine Shoppe

is located at 100 Liberty Street in Clarion and their hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Their phone number is 814-226-9310 and they can be found on the web at clarion. medicineshoppe.com/■



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## PennWest invests in local talent, access and opportunity



Dr. Jon Anderson was officially sworn in as the PennWest University President in December of 2024



PennWest Clarion University students marched from the Gemmell Student Complex and made their way through the Campus and wrapped around Wood Street,

Submitted article CLARION — When

local employers talk about what they need most, one answer stands out: talent that's both skilled and rooted in the community. Pennsylvania Western University is stepping up with two new grants that directly respond to that need one boosting paid internships close to home, the other expanding affordable college access for

high school students. Paid Internships,

Local Impact A \$332,000 grant from the Knox-based McElhattan Foundation funds student internship stipends in Clarion and Venango counties and supports a new internship coordinator at PennWest Clarion.

Working alongside local chambers, small businesses, and economic development groups, PennWest will match students with hands-on projects.

"Internships play a critical role in students' career readiness by providing skill development and networking opportunities." said Rhonda Gifford, executive director of experiential learning and employer engagement.

"However, two common barriers are the lack of competitively paid internships and support for small businesses and organizations interested in hosting interns. This generous grant from the McElhattan Foundation helps PennWest address those barri-

"The McElhattan Foundation is proud to collaborate with PennWest University to create this initiative, which aligns with our mission to foster economic growth and provide meaningful opportunities for young professionals in Clarion and Venango counties," said Sarah Pistella, foundation program

"By investing in students and equipping local organizations with the resources to host internships, we aim to strengthen the workforce and ensure these communities

continue to thrive Nearly \$1M to Expand Dual **Enrollment** 

In May, PennWest

secured nearly \$1 million from Governor Josh Shapiro's Dual Credit Innovation Grant Program to grow its dual enrollment program already serving more than 30 school districts across western Pennsyl-

during the Walk-a-Mile in Their Shoes event.

vania. PennWest offers nearly 100 college-level courses taught by its own faculty, available to high school students at just \$75 per credit for Pennsylvania residents. With new funding, the univer-

sity will: ✓ Increase enrollment capacity, especially for underrepresented students

Add courses aligned with regional workforce needs

✓ Enhance advising, outreach, and transfer

✓ Partner select schools and career centers to fully cover student credit costs

Participation in the program has surged 66% tuition and expanded outreach last year.

"This gives families a powerful return investment and students a head start on college," said Dr. Bob Mehalik, associate provost and grant lead.

PennWest has also joined the Niche Direct Admissions program, offering high  $\operatorname{school}$ seniors instant admission and scholarships if they meet PennWest criteria.

Backed by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the initiative aims to remove enrollment barriers for first-generation, low-income, and under-

represented students.

Rooted in Mission These efforts reflect since PennWest reduced PennWest's mission: to deliver accessible, careerfocused education that fuels personal and regional growth.

"When we open doors for students," said President Jon Anderson, "we open doors for western Pennsylvania."

By investing in internships, dual enrollment, and direct admissions, PennWest is not just preparing students for success — it's helping communities thrive.



here for you.



Pennsylvania Western University – Clarion is purpose-built for real-life thinkers and doers like you. We're here for the hard workers, the life-changers, the ones who know they need to know even more. Here for the learners and the teachers. The doers and the thinkers. For the ones who want something more from life. PennWest is here for you.

### Myers Water Wells has over 65 years of experience in well drilling



Submitted photo

Pictured above is one of Myers Water Wells drilling rigs.

Submitted article responsive, and prepared to offer you the experience, SLIGO — Established equipment, and expert serin 1955, Myers Water Wells is a fourth-generation, res-

and

idential water well and

pump service company.

With over 65 years of see-

ing, fixing, and drilling

water wells, comes invalu-

decades of satisfied cus-

tomers/homeowners. The

majority of our work comes

in the form of well rehabil-

itation, which includes

well cleaning, sterilization,

and the inspection of the

complete water supply sys-

tem. This is also known to

our customers as well

cleaning, swabbing, or bail-

been servicing Clarion,

Armstrong, Butler, Venan-

go, Forest, and Jefferson

counties for over 65 years.

We have overcome some of

the most difficult situa-

tions, including stuck

pumps, low flow, extreme

sediment, mine shafts, col-

lapsed wells, to name only

a few. We are dedicated,

Myers Water Wells has

able knowledge

vice needed to provide you with safe, clean and affordable water. For any of your water needs let us be your primary water professional. Call us today at 814-745-2246.

Water well drilling

If your well needs maintenance or you want to drill a new well, our contractors at Myers Water Wells can help. We work diligently on every job, using only the best products and drilling techniques to complete all water wells. Before work is started, your site will be inspected, and we will test the quality of the water production level as we drill. We can also help you select the appropriate well pump for the application. Ensure your project is done quickly and efficiently when you rely on Myers Water Wells for your water needs. Call us today at 814-745-2246.

It all started with the well more than over 65 years ago. C. Eugene Myers (founder of Myers Water Wells) built the first drilling rig to drill his first water well on our own property. Coal strip mining had polluted ground water. The stripper drilled just one hole and after that you were on your own. After futile attempts to find water on the property, Eugene bought the rig and the rest is history.

The drilling rig was made from an old Model T.

and a few spare parts. When Eugene's eyesight began to fail, his son Darrin Myers moved back home from California to help. Darrin eventually took over the business and it became Myers Water Wells, Inc. The business grown and now employs two young men.

Myers Water Wells has spent decades of service fulfilling all of our family, neighbors, friends and loval customer's water well needs, with countless wells, pump systems and prompt service.

Darrin also purchased a rotary drilling machine.

We are full licensed and insured and are eager to fulfill any and all of your drilling needs.

Water well cleanouts

Water wells, just like everything else in your home, will require maintenance from time to time. It is suggested to have a well cleaned out every 7-15 years, depending on your particular well. We pride ourselves in saving your existing well where most companies will simply suggest that "you need a new well drilled." In this case, a second opinion is HIGHLY recommended. The two main complaints receive, that would require a clean out, are running out of water and getting debris.

In Western Pennsylvania, we've seen a lot of iron water. These minerals, over time, start to plug off the cracks and crevices that feed the water to the well. Other times debris/minerals will build up on the sides of the well, and all of the equipment inside the well. Over time, it falls to the bottom of the well, and will cause buildup around the pump. If this happens, you will either begin running out of water, or your well will start to pump debris.

Pictured above is that grand sight for any water well driller when they strike water.

Pump installation

Your pump should be thought of as the heart of your well. They provide the water supply to your home. Myers Water Wells can provide complete pump systems upon completion of a new well, using only quality parts and equipment. From our Franklin Pumps to Flex-Lite pressure tanks, heavy wall pipe, double jacketed submersible wire and brass fittings, you can rest assured your pump system has been properly sized

and professionally installed.

Pump service

Myers Water Wells offers professional pump servicing as well. Whether it's our pump system, or one of our competitors', we are happy to service your

Pump systems can be complex, as our over years of experience has taught us. Be confident that we can diagnose and fix the problem. We can complete tasks from replacing pressure switches and broken wires to complete pump systems with fast and fair service. Our team will have your water flowing again

#### in no time! Small backhoe ser-

Myers Water Wells offer small backhoe service for things such as, city water main line installation, septic line replacement, underground utility installation, and a variety of other small excavation jobs.■

# DE Sports is keeping with the times

By Kenn Staub

CLARION For a business to remain viable going on 50 years, it's obviously adapted to meet the changing wants and needs of its customers.

Such is the case with DE Sports, originally Dan Estadt's Sports Shop, located at 527 Main Street in Clarion.

Owner Dave Estadt discussed the history of his downtown business and its evolution since opening in 1976, "My dad [Dan Estadt] had this idea that he wanted to be in the sporting goods business, so he opened a full-blown retail store with sporting goods hunting, fishing, athletic [gear]. Over a number of years we transitioned into mostly athletic, with footwear being our big

emphasis. "I ended up coming into the business with my dad in 1990 after I graduated from college. Within a few years we were transitioning out of footwear and transitioning into custom apparel, doing our own custom embroidery. A couple years ago we added custom screen printing inhouse, we had always done heat pressing. Most recently we have transitioned to DTF printing, direct-to-film, one of the newer technologies out

Elaborating on DTF printing and how it's helped his business, Estadt said, "Think of the old- school transfers when you used to go to the beach and all those little shops did transfers.

there."

Essentially, that's kind of in its shop. For the **CLARION NEWS** what we've gotten into, One of the shop's but the transfers aren't like the old, hard, crispy ones, they're soft, have a nice 'hand feel' to them.

> "With DTF we can do custom logos, 'one offs.' That has become a large part of our business, especially when you consider one of the things that we've gotten into a lot more recently is doing websites for teams, companies."

> The portability of DTF printing has also allowed Estadt to take his business on the road, working on-site at events.

"We create graphics ahead of time, we'll show up in the morning, and we'll print all day long for a club or a team. They'll get back a percentage of the sales we make that day" Estadt explained.

The online stores DE Sports sets up for various teams, companies, and fundraisers makes getting custom apparel out to interested buyers an almost hassle-free expe-

rience for the organizer. "It's kind of a nobrainer for a booster club or a coach," reported Estadt. "They [the organizer] don't have to collect names, they don't have to collect money, they don't have to deliver product because we can either ship it to them or they can pick it up in the store or whatever. We cut a check right back to the organization when the sale is done."

In addition to providing all the above services, DE Sports's also sells PennWest Clarion-, Cook Forest-, and Clarion, Penn.- branded apparel

biggest days of the year is its sidewalk sale on Farmers and Crafters Day during the Autumn Leaf Festival.

"We have to do a lot of planning for it. We have to get all the designs that we do, we have to submit them for collegiate licensing ahead of time and get them approved. Then we have to get them printed. We have to know what colors, what quantities, how many to buy of size," relayed each Estadt.

"There's a lot that goes into it. We have a history that we've kept over the years and it's typically been a very good week for us. I'm glad when it's done, but I'm also happy at the end of the week."

Like many businesses, DE Sports has contended with a changing and, at times, uncertain, economic climate.

"We just try to research and find the best product we can for our customers," Estadt remarked. "With inflation, the tariffs, and different stuff, some of my companies increased pricing. I try to hold the line as much as I can. But when prices increase, I mean naturally it's going to happen [consumer prices go up]."

"I just try to be upfront with my customers, say 'Look, there's a price increase on this thing, if you don't want to person, an amazing go to that level, maybe employee, and a terrific we can look at a different friend. I can't say enough product or do something about Robin." a little different."

Estadt relies heavily holds, Estadt emphasized on his co-worker, Robin remaining relevant while



CLARION NEWS photo by Kenn Staub. Pictured is DE Sports owner Dave Estadt with some of the Clarion University and Clarion Area branded apparel that is for sale in the DE Sports store located on Main

Street in Clarion Borough. McGinley in the shop, maintaining the princi-"She has actually been ples that have been part here longer than I've of his business's history. been here. She started "I just want to continwith my mom and dad ue to grow the business while I was still in high as much as I possibly school. She's the best can. I'm looking to do asset I could ever have. more outside events, on-She's just an amazing site printing. I want to increase our web pres-

ence, coordinate our point-of-sale with our online sales channels so As to what the future they communicate with one another," he said.

"We just want to keep

growing the business, giving a good value for what we sell to our customers, and helping the community as much as we can."

DE Sports is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

More information can be found on DE Sports's Instagram (@desportsinc) website (https://desportsinc.com/)

# area churches

TWP. Churches serving the Callensburg and West Free-

dom areas include:

Park Hill

#### Church of God

3314 Lime Plant Road, West Freedom 814-358-2470

**Pastor:** 

Amv Callander Park Hill First Church

of God is affiliated with Anderson, Ind.

We consider ourselves a family at Park Hill First Church of God. We love the Lord and want to see others' lives changed through him. We believe in the power of prayer, and we want provide outreach of God's love

to others. Coffee fellowship: 9

Sunday School: 9:45

Sunday Worship services: 10:45 a.m.

Junior-Senior Youth: 6 p.m. Sundays; Wednesdays during school year

Family night: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays dinner light and activities and Bible studies for all ages.

We will continue to offer numerous activities for our community children to attend such as a one-day pool party/Vacation Bible School that includes free lunch and supper, a Harvest party, an Easter egg hunt and other events.

A youth camp is held for elementary and junior/senior high youth

every year in June and families can attend an annual camp meeting on July 19 to 27. Both of these are held at Whitehall Camp and Conference Cen-

Perry Township food bank distribution is scheduled every third Tuesday of month

The church participates in a community Vacation

For more information contact the church at 814-

Concord Presbyter-

ry Twp.

A congregation of the Presof

Sunday worship: 9 a.m.

Church school available during service.

active members, with an average attendance of 33 at worh services.

sending youth to Christian summer volunteering

Members contribute and volunteer at the West Freedom Food Pantry. In addition, we involved with Presbytery mis-

We are yoked with the Edenburg Presbyterian Church of Knox.

#### From page 1

community leaders. The Association became accredited with the State of Pennsylvania. This accreditation was made possible because the VNA operated like a branch office of the Butler Regional Home Health Care Agency with Sister Willemene Krise as Executive Director. The Agency was receiving Medicare, Medicaid, and other insurance reimbursements as well as monies from the United Fund and the Clari-

on County Commissioners. The Board of Directors of the Clarion County Visiting Nurse Association terminated the agreement with Butler Regional Home Health Agency on October 15, 1975. Sister Willemene Krise became Executive Director of the Clarion County Visiting Nurse Association. Approval by Medicare and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1975 enabled the agency to separate from Butler. Additional funding came from the Commissioners and the United Way of Clarion County. Supportive services were added. First home health aides, then physical

therapy, speech therapy, and medical social services. A branch office was opened in Tionesta, Forest County in 1979. The branch office was closed in 1987. However, services continue to the residents of Forest County from the office of

Clarion County.

In 1986, Clarion County Visiting Nurse Association was restructured to allow more flexibility in program development, the ability to provide low-cost care, and fundraising. The system consisted of parent cooperation, Clarion forest Visiting Nurse Association, Inc., and three subsidiaries: Clarion Forest VNA, VNA Extended Care Services, and VNA Foundation. The system was again changed in 1990

to its present structure.

Jill Over became the Executive Director of the agency in 1988. The agency great undergoing financial hardship at that time. Thanks to the hard work of a dedicated board and staff, the agency was able to recover and begin to

A maternal/infant program was started in 1990. Specialty Care was added in 1991 to provide services to patients in an acute phase of a progressive illness. Occupational therapy

6 p.m. in the church.

Bible School.

358-2470.

2662 Concord Church Rd, Per-

Founded in 1807

byterian Church, U.S.A., and is Presbytery of Kiskiminetas and Synod of the Trinity.

The Concord church has 42

The church is involved with

work projects on site.

sion trips.

was also added in 1991. VNA's Specialty Care and Extended Care Services became the proud occupants of a new office in Clarion on February 14, 1994. Formerly housed in the main headquarters in

Knox, these programs were now operating out of the West Penn Orthopedics building on Perkins Road. In March 1994, the VNA received certification from Medicare to provide hospice

care. This certification enabled the VNA to provide care for the terminally ill under the Medicare Hospice Benefit and was the first program of its kind in Clarion and Forest coun-

In the fall of 1994, the VNA purchased the property directly behind the Knox Office. It now houses the

VNA Business Office. In 1997 the VNA added an Adult Daily Living Center (ADLC) which was housed on the West End of Main Street in Clarion. In September of 1998, Specialty Care and Hospice moved to the Knox Main Office. In March of 1999, Extended Care moved from the West Penn Orthopedic building to our Adult Day Care building in Clarion. In 2002, Extended Care purchased a building located along Main Street in Shippenville, PA, and both Extended Care and the ADLC are currently located

Hospice House became a reality when it opened its doors in September 2006. The front portion of the Extended Care building was remodeled into a threebedroom home with a living space, sun porch, kitchen, full and a half bath, counseling room, and a new conference room.1

In April of 2010, construction began on the VNA's new office building in Clarion. After 14 months of hard work, the building finally was finished in July of 2011. You can view a slideshow of the construction progress here!

Today, the Clarion Forest VNA and VNA Extended Care Services maintain the tradition of excellence in home health care handed down to them by the Clarion County VNA.

Unfortunately, the Hospice House was closed in 2016, but the VNA continues to offer home hospice.

Please also be sure to "like" our agency on Face-

# Perry Township | County Seat still the place to be in Clarion

By Kenn Staub

For the **CLARION NEWS** 

**CLARION** When Mary and Gene Lenhart sold the County Seat restaurant in 2022, it was pretty big news, met with a bit of public apprehension.

Fortunately, Arch and Steph Weise, the current owners, have not made many changes to the Clarion institution, at least on the surface, allaying many folks' post-sale concerns. "I think they [the

Lenharts | had a pretty good system going on, so we kept a lot of the staples hot meatloaf, turkey," relayed Arch. "We added a little flair with our infusion of daily specials and things like that. Our menu is Americana,

classic dinner food with a

twist."

He continued, "The restaurant was known for generous portions and that wasn't something we wanted to change, we should provide great value for your dollar. If you get a whole salad, you might make it two meals very easily, I know that I certainly can.

"Salads are one of our most popular items, but the previous menu didn't have a fresh green salad. We do a strawberry and feta with toasted almonds on a spring mix as opposed to just your iceberg and romaine. We're taking the same principles and moving them in a little bit healthier direction."

Also on the menu are fresh fruit and yogurt parfait, as well as vegetarianvegan-friendly options. Gluten-free buns are available.

"We are trying to offer things that people are looking for in today's restaurants that weren't available before," remarked Arch.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes is a shift to more locally-sourced products.

"One of the most important things that we have done is local sourcing," reported Arch. "We We get a lot of our special- day after lunch. ty pork and chicken prod-

farmer's market." Added Steph, "Typical-



Pictured above are Arch and Steph Weise who bought the County Seat Restaurant in 2022.

ly, now that the farmer's market is open, I get rhubarb whenever they have it and asparagus. When Zacherl's [Farm Market] opens we'll get some things from there.

"It's [locally-sourced food] something we wanted to focus on. Of course we still use some of the larger food service vendors, but when you buy fresh instead of frozen it doesn't just help your restaurant provide better food, it helps the entire community."

The commitment to staying local doesn't just apply to the food but has permeated other facets of the restaurant.

"We use Clarion Printing for our menus and cards. business Sports, right next door, does our printing for out t-shirts," said Arch. "Local businesses advertise on our tabletops."

A significant change was the recent establishment of evening hours on Thursday, Friday, and buy all our ground meat Saturday. Previously, the from Clarion Beef Farms. restaurant closed for the

Discussing the impeucts from Gruber Farms. tus for adding evening We get maple syrup from service, Arch said, "I think Yeany's. We go to the local that there's a lot of people in the community that would love to dine with us

more often, but because of their work constraints, they're unable to. We opened at six [a.m.] and closed at two [p.m.]. If you work a day job you might not be able to get in here before you have to get the kids off for school or get to work. By the time you get done with work, we were closed.

"I'm excited just to offer some fun, maybe a little bit fancier, more specialty upscale offerings - offer some really nice dinner options. We'll still do breakfast all day, every day. We'll still have regular menu options.

The County Seat had a history of serving the community prior to its purchase by the Weises. That hasn't changed. In addition to making monetary donations, providing certificates fundraisers, or catering meals at cost, the Weise's have a community garden on the alley side of the

garden down the side of 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday, the building. That's some- Friday, and Saturday 6 thing that came about a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunbecause we like to garden, we like to grow a lot of our own seasonal herbs and vegetables," contributed Arch. "The United Way

donated some pots and we filled them with dirt and planted the seeds with herbs, fruits, vegetables, whatever."

"They're for anybody who needs something. People walking by that might be in need, they can just pick it, put it in their car, and head home. We thought it was a cool

According to Arch, the community has rallied around his and Steph's ownership of the County Seat, "We're really happy that the community has embraced us since we purchased it. I know it can be a little bit of a struggle, people are so familiar with the old way.

"I think it took six months or a year to get everybody through the minor changes and the little things, 'Oh, you took this off the menu.' I've been really impressed

with the community." The County Seat is open seven days a week -Monday and Tuesday 7 "We have a community a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesday day 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For further information see the County Seat's Facebook page (County Seat Restaurant).



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# Deer Creek Winery has grown exponentially over the years



Deer Creek Winery guests have the option to enjoy time on the outdoor patio.

By Kenn Staub For the **CLARION NEWS** 

ELK TWP.

Deer Creek Winery, located at 3333 Soap Fat Road in Shippenville, has continually grown since opening in 2009.

During 2016 an onsite bed and breakfast, the Inn at Deer Creek Winery, was established, it's success leading to two others – The Brooks Estate at Deer Creek Winery, also in the Shippenville-area, and the Watson Estate at Dear Creek Winery in Union-

"People love our bed and breakfasts, whether they're up in Shippenville, which is all new construction, or down in Uniontown, that is all

historic," said owner variety of high-quality Rhonda Brooks. "They're very relaxing, a place to connect, reconnect, rejuvenate. We really take time to think about all the little things that we can do to make legendary moments for our guests."

With regard to the bed and breakfast's amenities, Brooks added, "All of our rooms have an in-room bathroom and either a queen bed or king bed. Some rooms have therapeutic hot tubs and then we have outdoor hot tubs for those rooms that don't."

Despite its growth into the hospitality sector, Deer Creek Winery has continued to focus on and upgrade its core business, producing a into a wine."

wines to satisfy almost any palate.

Noted Brooks, "We're the home of 'Fun Time Wines.' We bring out a new wine flavor every two-to-three weeks. We also have a selection of wines that are around all year and we release wines that we haven't had for a while."

Deer Creek's products are all natural.

"We don't use any artificial colors or flavorings in our wine. You're getting 100-percent natrelayed wine," ural Brooks. "Like our 'Perfectly Pineapple' is not a pineapple-flavored cheap



Deer Creek Winery mascot Bucky holds a bottle of Deer Creek Winery Red.

In addition to Shippenville, Deer Creek has four other retail locations available. Millcreek Mall in Erie; McCandles Crossing and Creek experience" is the Mall at Robinson, both in Pittsburgh; and the South Hills Village Mall in Bethel Park.

Wine can also be purchased at various other locations across western white wine, it's 100-per- Pennsylvania including cent pineapple juice that Country Fair, Giant we fermented and made Eagle, Shop 'n Save, TOPS Friendly Markets,

and Tom's Riverside. Online ordering is

Part of the "Deer relaxing at the winery, which has indoor and outdoor seating. Thursday, Friday, and Sunday are "event days"

"On Thursday nights we do bingo or trivia or another activity, every Thursday, Thursday nights when we do those things. Friday, we have 'Fireside Fridays' whenever it doesn't rain. We have live music, marshmalcustom trailers with lows for around the fire, elaborated Brooks.

> Other events that have been included on the docket are food trucks, karoke, comedy shows, and arts-andcrafts. A Pumpkin Fest is on the books for October.

> Deer Creek Winery is both kid- and pet-friend-

The winery is not only a place to hang out and wind down, but can also accommodate work meetings as well.

As to what one could expect when coming to Deer Creek, regardless of reason, Brooks reported, "We really concentrate on the culture. We do not have a loud, party culture. Our culture is on the relaxing

Deer Creek Winery opens at 11 a.m. every day for lunch, closing at 7 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday; 8 p.m. Thursday; and 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

For more information

on Deer Creek Winery, including its wine selection and a schedule of upcoming events, see its Facebook page (Deer Creek Winery, B&B, and Event Center), Instagram (@deercreekwinwebsite ery), (https://deercreekwine.co

#### **Exceptional quality and American made—Car Mate Trailers**



Submitted photo.

Car Mate trailer with the new Step Out Awning Door option.

#### Submitted by Car Mate Trailers, Inc.

Car Mate Trailers, Inc., located in Leeper, PA and established in 1982, continues to build high quality American made enclosed cargo and open utility trailers.

Car Mate Employees spent the spring months building and shipping stock units to its vast network of over 60 dealers located in the northeastern United States and in eastern Canada to build up the dealers' inventories. The dealers also ordered numerous "sold" trailers for a very loyal Car Mate customer base that includes repeat buyers such as those in the landscaping, contracting/construction,

recreational and also for municipalities.

Car Mate builds each trailer from top to bottom from scratch using a weld shop with eight bays, a fabrication shop, two state-of-the art paint booths and two cargo shop production lines.

Car Mate continues to purchasing majority of USA manufactured components a top priority. Sourcing quality United States made materials not only ensures top quality trailers, it helps our neighboring businesses continue to flourish.

Car Mate introduced several innovative updates to its extensive trailer lines. A new optional Step-Out

Awning Door for 7-foot

wide trailers makes hauling large UTV's easy to get in and out of once the UTV is inside the trailer. A new Knife-Edge Ramp Door option exclusively available on the 8-foot 8.5-foot and wide enclosed trailers offers an all steel "mini ramp" at the start of the ramp door for easy loading of items with smaller wheels. Several lighting innovations were added included optional reverse-integrated tail brake lights, 3ID light with load lamps and new  $_{
m lights.}$ 

and improved fender Other plant improvements included the addition of several large access garage doors to the rear of the Cargo

Shop to allow for large,

numerous options to be it's a really nice family built outside of the two | time. Sunday, we have regular assembly lines, 'Sip and Savor Sunday" without delaying overall with drink specials," production progress and

Late last summer in 2024, Car Mate held its first Dealer Open House weekend after cancelling both the 2020 and 2022 events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The weekend was a huge success with dealers coming in from as far away as Mass-New achusetts and Hampshire. In addition to factory demonstrations and tours, the dealers were able to enjoy some relaxation, fellowship and plenty of delicious food. The next open house is planned for the summer of 2026.

Please keep in mind that Car Mate owns and operates the truck garage on Route 66 in Lucinda. The garage offers car, truck, trailer, camper, bus and RV state inspections. Their skilled mechanic also does maintenance and repair work on vehicles and engines of all The Car Mate Garage

phone number is 814-226-

Car Mate would like to remind potential buyers that an open or enclosed trailer is considered a motorized vehicle which requires registering and titling in Pennsylvania. Please use caution when purchasing a used trailer from a private party unless they have all of able prior to the sale.

this documentation avail-Anyone interested in purchasing a Car Mate trailer is encouraged to visit their local dealer. Visit the Car Mate website at www.carmatetrailers.com and use the

"dealer locator" to find

your closest dealer.

#### **Canyon Coffee Company** is set for summer

By David A. Hollis **CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer

Since opening in 2018, Canyon Coffee Co. has been that local go-to stop whether it's on the way to work, rushing to a morning class or for a quiet place to reflect or reunite with an old friend.

With two locations in New Bethlehem (at 227 Broad St) and Clarion (42 South Eighth Ave), Canyon Coffee Co. offers a wide range of coffee, espressos, teas, pastries and food options that can satisfy any craving, and now with the hot summer months in full swing, their summertime menu has something for every-

Take advantage of drinks like a Strawberry Matcha. Blueberry Streusel or a Twix Cold Foam Iced Coffee made with short bread, salted caramel, mocha and drizzled with caramel, or try a Salty Waves (made with espresso, coconut, sea salt and caramel sauce), a Patriotic Punch (blue lotus, super cream, straw berry puree and

whipped cream), or a caf-

feine free Pineapple

Refresher.

And ordering through Canyon Coffee Co. has never been easier using the Odeko app, allowing customers to skip the line altogether and earn rewards while doing it.

Canyon Coffee Co. is open Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 8a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed on Sundays. Be sure to follow them on Facebook.

■



- ★ Hot Stone Massage
- ★ Reiki



21174 Rt. 322 Corsica, PA • I-80 Exit 70 814-379-3085 www.sapphiremoon.biz

#### Rupert Funeral Homes has been serving the area for over 50 years

By Aoife Salusky CLARION NEWS Staff Writer

KNOX Since 1962, Rupert Funeral Homes has been a trusted part of the Knox community, offering support and guidance to families during some of life's most difficult moments ever since William N. and Cecelia Rupert first opened its doors. In 1984, their son, Joseph W. Rupert, joined the business and opened a second location in New Bethlehem the following year. He has been running the New Bethlehem location for 40 years now.

After William's passing in 1994, Joseph took over both funeral homes. In 2018, Joseph's son, Will Rupert, joined as a licensed funeral director, marking the third generation. In 2024, the family expanded again by purchasing the historic Faller Funeral Home in Fryburg, which dates back to 1847. It is now known as Faller / Rupert Funeral Home. That same year, Alec H. Freeland also joined the business. Another person who plays a huge role in the success of Rupert Funeral Homes Susan Joseph's Rupert.

What sets Rupert Funeral Homes apart is how they guide families through everything, not just planning the service. Joseph Rupert helps fami-

lies navigate complex situations like Medicaid spend-downs with family entering homes or deciding what kind of service works best for their needs. From beginning to end, and even after, the Rupert team is there.

The Rupert family offers complete funeral services as they also own their own monument business. Will Rupert does the hand-engraving himself and helps families create custom designs. Once the monument is ready, Rupert Funeral Homes also takes care of the installation, making sure everything is handled in one place.

Rupert Funeral Homes also offers numerous resources to help families cope with the tragedies they are experiencing. They also provide emotional support resources and Joseph walks people through entitled programs that most people do not know are available for their family members. If a family belongs to a parish, Rupert Funeral Homes will coordinate with their clergy. If not, they will help find someone to lead the service. Rupert Funeral Homes ensures that families feel supported and understood during a really difficult time.

The Rupert Funeral Homes also utilize technology in the services provided. Families can have ing,

custom prayer card and memorial videos made of their loved one. All of these services are taken care of in-house. They even laser scan and save fingerprints so that family members can purchase memorial items like necklaces, dog tags, or charms with their loved ones fingerprints. These personal keepsakes mean a lot to surviving family mem-

There is no pressure to make decisions quickly at Rupert Funeral Homes. All individuals bodies are stored in refrigeration so families have time to talk, plan, and figure out what is best, whether it is burial or cremation. This gives everyone space to get their affairs in order without being rushed.

One of the most meaningful parts of what Rupert Funeral Homes offers is personalization. There are many different ways to add a personal touch to a sad moment. Families can customize memorial cards, tribute videos, and prayer cards to ensure that their loved one's personality and life are fully reflected. There is also an option to personalize a corner of the casket with something that holds special meaning. All of these services are offered at no extra cost to the families.

When it comes to pric-Rupert Funeral



CLARION NEWS photo by Aoife Salusky.

Pictured above is the Rupert Funeral Homes Knox location.

Homes tries to stay as affordable and flexible as possible. They work with families to meet unique needs, and they are committed to ensuring that cost does not get in the way of honoring someone's life.

Even as the funeral industry changes, Rupert Funeral Homes remains deeply connected to the values it was built on: service, respect, and community. Their team builds

lasting relationships as they help families through loss.

Whether you are planning ahead or facing an unexpected loss, Rupert Funeral Homes is more than just a funeral provider. They are a stead, caring presence when people need it most. Their professional care and commitment to honoring lives and supporting families are backed by generations and decades

experience. Rupert Funeral Homes, families can take comfort in knowing they are not alone; they will have guidance, compassion, and support every step of the

Rupert Funeral Homes has locations in Knox, New Bethlehem, and Fryburg. To reach Rupert Funeral Home by phone call 814- 797-1233 or visit their website at www.r upertfuneralhomes.com/■

### Making a lasting impact to an enduring legacy-SMI Homes



The Gainesville model outside of the SMI Homes facility in Strattanville. Additional decking has since been added to the home.

By David A. Hollis

**CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer

**STRATTANVILLE** A company built on craftsmanship, quality, and tradition is maintaining this legacy while remaining steadfast with taking an active approach to an underlying American problem—housing attainability.

Located at 101 Southern Ave in Strattanville, the vision of Structural Modular Innovations (SMI), LLC is centered around a powerful purpose: helping more Americans afford to own a newly constructed home. President Brett Malky explained,

"Our vision is to honor the legacy of the Lewis family while focused on being a part of the challenge that's facing America right now, which is the issue of attainability.

About 35-percent of Americans can only afford a newly constructed home, which is a national tragedy, so we really want to be a part of solving this problem."

Malky also said while the focus is on affordability, that also means being up for the challenge of

producing a quality product. He added, "We want to be among the best in the country at building quality homes. We do this through new

ideas and innovation," SMI Homes has been a trusted name in modular home construction for over 30 years, known for producing high-quality, customizable homes with long-lasting craftsmanship. Many employees have stayed with the company for decades, reflecting SMI's commitment to people, both its customers and its workforce.

With a focus on innovation and forward-thinking design, the company works closely with architects, contractors, developers, and dealers to create modern housing solutions that blend functionality, affordability, and style. Traditional ranches, capes, and twostory homes remain part of the lineup, including the recently unveiled "Gainesville" model, introduced in October

The home features an open layout with a large kitchen island, beverage counter, and breakfast nook, offering 18 different variations to meet individual needs and budgets. It also includes a unique

"zero entry shower," that

provides a seamless

"We do some unique things that no other home builder in the country does, and we call them our "icons of quality," which are features in our homes that more often than not you would have to go to a custom builder and pay, maybe upwards of a million dollars. So it's things like this that distinguishes us and separates us from other manufacturers because think it's important."

And with expansion comes opportunity. Malky said that the company is currently hiring for a variety of roles at the Strattanville facility, as part of its mission to meet growing demand and increase access to affordable housing.

"It is a business and we have to be profitable but we're truly like a family here. We think that people should be able to buy a new home and accomplish the American Dream, we believe that's really important."

For more information about employment opportunities or to visit SMI Homes, hours are Mon-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday. And visit their website at smihomes.com.■

# **NBC Chorus keeps** audiences entertained



Pictured above are the members of the 2025 NBC Barbershop Chorus.

Bv Kenn Staub For the **CLARION NEWS** 

**NEW BETHLEHEM** The NBC Barbershop Chorus was originally composed almost exclusively of members from New Bethlehem. Now, however, singers come from a five-county area that includes locations such Clarion, Brookville, DuBois, Hamilton, and Rural Valley to perform with the

acapella group. "It's a great family atmosphere, it's like a big family of people that get together," observed Bill Young, a member of the chorus for 39 years

and its frontline director since 2018. "We just love to sing and enjoy each other's company and fellowship, that's what it's all about, you should be having a good time and enjoying what you're

Young reported the chorus has 30-35 members who regularly attend the group's year-round Tuesday evening practices at the New Bethlehem fire hall. Open to both men and women, Young encourages new membership, noting that anyone who likes singing, regardless of if they are "perfect," is welcome.

A music education major in college, Young is responsible for leading and directing the chorus, planning its annual show, and promoting music education in the community.

He is only the third director in the chorus's almost 70year history, having assumed the mantle from former Brookville music teacher Dickson Tattersall, who served for 59 years. Tattersall was preceded by Bill Andrews, the group's found-

ing director. The major event on the

chorus's calendar is the Parade of Harmony, held

annually on the last Saturday in April.

This year's 67th Parade of Harmony on April 26 at Redbank Valley High School was based around the theme "Extra, Extra, Read All About It" – the show's musical arrangements focusing on various sections of a typical newspaper, such as a social column, sports page, and the obituaries. The program featured the entire chorus, as well as two NBC quartets, Shades of Harmony and Special K, and a male quartet from western Ohio, Raise the Roof. Young described it as a

'very fun show." Though the Parade of Harmony is "the big show for the year," it's not the only time the chorus performs.

"We usually perform at the Peanut Butter Festival in New Bethlehem and the Hilltop Worship Service in Title for the Presbyterian outdoor community service," noted

He continued, "We will

sing for any group or organization that would like to have us, that's what we're here for, to sing and entertain. We go to a lot of different nursing homes, care facilities to entertain the residents. We've done functions for church groups. We do holiday packages and

our show packages.' The chorus doesn't charge for these "sing outs." Any donations it receives for performing go to the New Beth-

lehem Food Pantry.

In addition to Young, chorus officers include Jeff Kapp president; Tom Weiss, first vice-president; Shellie Eisenman, second vice-president; and Jan Kerr, treasurer. Denise Copenhaver is past

president. Board members are Jeff Dietz, Cindy Kapp, John Kerr, Rick Maffei, Galen Shirey, Lee Shoup, and Kerry

Stover. Those interested in joining the NBC Barbershop Chorus or who would like to book a performance should contact Young at 814-541-

EQUIPMENT RENTALS RENTALS-SALES SERVICE 7-GM1-LI

3162**.**■

#### Churches serve Knox-St. Petersburg-Salem areas KNOX — Churches serving residents of the Knox, St.

Petersburg, and Salem areas Edenburg Presbyter-

Edenburg Presbyterian Church 405 Main Street, P.O. Box 458. Knox, Pa. 16232

Phone: 814-797-1167 A congregation of the Presbyterian Church founded in 1877 in the U.S.

Pastor: Sarah Sedgwick Social time: 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship:

Grow a personal relationship with God in a small, warm, inspirational environment. The Sunday morning celebration and worship is a

traditional service. Music is provided by a Moller pipe Commonly known as "the little church on the corner," the Edenburg family is always eager to welcome new visitors and is very

active in the community hosting many dinners and events. A few examples are: The Very Berry Festival in June with food and musical entertainment on the church lawn, free senior citizens breakfast activities during Horse Thief

Week, family game nights, dinner theatre, and the Christmas carol sing along. Edenburg is the home for the Knox church Caring Cupboard, a food pantry sponsored by Knox

Ministerial Alliance, and hosts community groups such as the Knox Čivic Club. Edenburg is yoked with the Concord Presbyterian

Church in West Freedom. Check them out on Facebook at Edenburg Presbyterian Church to view sermons, events, and inspira-

tional messages. *Grace ECC* 

2561 Grace Church Road, Knox village of Ninevah 814-797-5068

Pastor: the Friedlund Michael Will

Church secretary: Jennifer Runyan. Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

There are 188 members Grace Evangelical Congregational Church. Attendance averages 180. Average attendance for Sunday school is 120.

Sunday **services**: 9 a.m. Services online available podcast, updated weekly. We live stream this service on Facebook.

Sunday school: 10:30

Prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

**Engage**: A communitywide youth group that meets at 5 p.m. second and fourth

Sunday at the church. The church holds a Harvest Festival at 6 p.m., at the end of Oct.

We offer Vacation Bible School in June 23 through 26 from 6 to 8 p.m.

basketball: 7 p.m. Thursdays for men aged 18 years and older dur-

ing Nov. through April. For more information about activities, call 814-797-5068 or visit our web site at knox-graceec.org or look them up on Facebook.

United Knox Methodist

9729 State Route 338, Knox 814-797-5386

**Pastor**: Rev. Wade Barto There are 300 members and an average attendance Services: 8:15 a.m.—

traditional and 10:45 a.m.contemporary Sunday

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Youth group: 6:30 to

8 p.m. scheduled every other Kids' Klub after school **program**: 3:15 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays for children in

kindergarten through fifth during the academic year. OWLLS (Older, Wiser, Loving, Loud Seniors) program: noon on the second Thursday of every month. The seniors have fel-

lowship and lunch. Bible study: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Mondays

Blankets of Love Minwhen needed—both male and female members knot blankets given to those who are sick or injured.

**Mat making**: 1 p.m. on Thursdays. The church members cut grocery bags creating a yarn and crochet mats for the home-The church participated

in a Vacation Bible School held during the last week of June 23-27. The church will provide supper for each Small groups: Men's

and women's groups meet at various times throughout **Soup ministry**: fourth

Tuesday of every month. The church gives soup to the ill or those in need. The church also has an

active missions program as well as preschool classes held Monday through Wednesday.

Memorial Church

of Our Father Episco-

110 Church Road, Foxburg 724-659-4541

Vicar: Geoffrey Wild Memorial Church of Our Father has 30 members.

Sunday services: 10:30 a.m. Communion held the second and third Sunday.

Bible study: 9:30 a.m.

Church organist: Susan Steffee

Holy Days services as

announced are held throughout the year. craft

workshops from noon to 5 p.m. on Fridays at the parish house beside the church. All are welcome. New Trinity Charge Mount Joy UMC

159 Mount Joy Road, Knox

Beaver Township 814-797-2337

Church is located onesouthmile Interstate 80 at exit 53. Part of a two-church charge called New Trinity Charge, along with Saint Petersburg United Methodist church.

Pastor: Gene Lenk

There are 60 members with an average worship attendance of 35.

**Sunday** service: 11 a.m. and drive-in service Blanket Ladies ministry at

St. Petersburg: 814-797-2337

There are 35 members, and attendance is approximately 12.

**service:** 9:45 a.m.

From April to October, a spaghetti dinner is held the Monday

Nickleville Presbyter-

Nickleville 814-498-2059

Pastor: lay pastors and emerita pastors

The Nickleville Presby-Presbytery.

Sunday worship ser**vice:** 9:30 a.m.

Sunday school: 10:45 a.m. in Weaver Memorial

80, with an average attendance of 30 to 40.

The church is a small.

Church volunteers sponsor many projects during the year, including public dinners, a very active prayer shawl and blanket ministry, which meet on the second Wednesday of each month, as well as Bible studies throughout the year. They also provide catering and hall rental for other groups and proceeds from those functions benefit those in need or in distress.

Come and enjoy old-time music, special music, and fellowship. A friendly welcome awaits you at Nickleville Presbyterian Church. St. Paul Lutheran

1051 Twin Church Road, Knox Wentlings Corners

Pastor: Rev. Doug Dyson and lay ministers

The average attendance

Sunday service: 10:30

Sunday school: 9:30

a.m. adults and youth Church council: 7 p.m.,

with Salem combined Lutheran youth.

Weekly online service can be found at stpaulslutheran-

knox. weebly.com
St. Paul UCC Wentlings Corners

814-797-1927 St. Paul United Church of Christ along Twin Church

Road, Knox near Wentlings Corners, has about members. Sunday worship: 9:30

Bible study: 10:45 a.m. **Organist**: Leann Haun The church is active in

the community, supporting the local food cupboard the first Sunday of the month. They make and greeting cards to church and community members and also to local soldiers.

The church collects change in a jar and donates the change to the nursing department of the Keystone School District for extra clothing for the children. They also have a socks underwear

The church participates in Wreaths America collecting donations.

A representative of the church participates in the Knox area ministerium to help with community needs.

During Lent, the church prepares a local Lenten luncheon every Wednesday.

The church sharing box containing food, clothing, and books for anyone in need located in their parking lot.

supports a missionary in also hold

Christmas Eve candlelight service and an annual "Festival of Family" in mid-

814-797-2282 Average attendance is 50 Called Pastor: Doug

Worship service: 9 a.m. Sunday school: 10:15

the month Women's Bible study

found facebook.com/lamartine lutherans/

Turkey City Road

Pastor: Rev. Chris Lewis dance of each

The church has a senior choir. We also hold Bible

#### **Bring your dear** family to visit our deer family at Double **Diamond Deer Ranch**



Pictured above is 10-year-old Duke who is boss of

the herd at Double Diamond.

Submitted article COOKSBURG — For 36

years, Double Diamond Deer Ranch has served as a must-stop destination in Cook Forest, and thousands of ecstatic youngsters have made unforgettable memories bottle-feeding the fawns at this one-of-a-kind attraction. Owners Rusty and Shorty Snyder have raised three generations of whitetail deer at their ranch, and their herd currently numbers 20 animals with new fawns expected in June. In addition to the traditional dark-eyed, tan-colored variety you see roaming the hills and fields of the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors region, Double Diamond also feature piebald (three-color) deer, blue-eyed deer, and other interesting variants within their 13-acre enclo-This year the number

one favorite deer is Duke. He is 10 years old and the current boss of the herd. He behind the ears. He also eats more apples at Treat work here all year round.■

Time than any of our deer. So please come and meet From Memorial Day

weekend through Labor

Day weekend, visitors can hand-feed treats to the adult deer 7 days a week at 6 p.m. Our wildlife enclosure includes covered walkways, allowing visitors to see the deer in any weather. The ranch also features a wildlife-oriented gift shop with fine art and crafts

as an impressive wildlife museum with more than 100 taxidermy displays, plus a kids' play area with a real fire truck, tractor-trailer, limousine, and police car. We have totally enjoyed the friendships we have made through the years

made by local artists as well

with our customers. Many of them have been coming back year after year. And we truly appreciate this. Double Diamond Deer

Ranch is open from Mother's Day weekend through Halloween seven days a week. For more information, go to our face book page or call 814-752-6334. We live and

#### When experience matters the most -Munsee Investigations

By David A. Hollis **CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer

> **CLARION** For four years now, Mun-

see Investigations continues to build its reputation by a simple philosophy—hard work, quiet grit and results that speak for themselves. Located at 502 Liberty St,

Suite A in Clarion Borough, Munsee Investigations opened on January 1, 2022 and owned by Chief Detective Rex Munsee.

svlvania State Police Corporal and retired Clarion County Sheriff, prioritizes each case with the utmost care and professionalism through his decades of law enforce-**Sunday worship:** 11 | ment experience, making him the obvious choice when in need of professional investigative services.

The business is fully licensed and bonded and services include proper service of all legal papers, locating missing persons, conducting surveillance, photography of accidents or crime scenes, and performing background

investigations. All matters are handled confidentially, quickly and efficiently. Clients will find in Munsee an experienced, world-class, professional with a thorough work ethic to produce results that matter.

For more information or to obtain Munsee's ser-vices, call 814-229-7808 or email him at munseeinves-tiga-

tions@gmail.com.■

AND Wildlife Museum **Big Truck Playground Gift Shops** 

Open 7 days a week Mother's Day thru Halloween

facebook

**Just minutes from Cook Forest!** 

814-752-6334

Munsee, a retired Penn-

# **Double Diamond Deer Ranch**

Clarington, PA Stop by to see Comet & Dancer!

12211 Rt. 36

#### is a brown whitetail and The church has 60 mem- | comes over to our customers bers, with average atten- | for a pet and a scratch

school in July.

# **Northern Clarion County churches**

LUCINDA — Churches serving  $_{
m the}$ Fisher, Corners, Fryburg, Frills Lucinda, and Venus areas of

Clarion County include: **Good Shepherd Glob**al UMC 9870 Route 36

Frills Corners Pastor: Rev. Rick Helsel Formed in 1986 when Leeper Covenant, Lickingville, and Washington United Methodist churches

merged. We are located east of Frills Corners along State Route 36 or 2.5 miles west of the intersection of State Routes 36 and 66 near North

Clarion School. The church regularly worships 70 to 80 people.

Sunday worship: 10 Sunday school: 9 a.m. Men's breakfast: 8 a.m. on the third Saturday of the

A family focused church with active children's ministry, a community youth group, and regular Bible study opportunities with times that vary, contact the church more

An annual fall bazaar and Trunk and Treat and mission opportunities are some of the church's activities.

information.

meets weekly. Contact: 814-744-8142; a

The local Girl Scout troop

gsumc.office@gmail.com Millcreek Presbyter-

6225 Hudson Dr., Fisher subject to change; check the

The church has approximately 63 members. The church has no

pastor at this time; supply pastors are being used. Sunday worship:

**ages:** 10:30 a.m. Annual Pentecost and Christmas Eve Candlelight services are held. The church offers Vacation Bible School each summer. The church also holds various fellowship

Sunday school for all

dinners throughout the year. Fisher Homecoming is held the first Saturday in August on the church grounds. Events include a chicken dinner at 11 a.m., crafts and concession stand.

Pilgrim Holiness Venus The Pastor: Rev. Joshua Peck

Member of the Pilgrim Holiness Churches of New Average Sunday

Sunday services: 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Junior church: is held for children ages 2 to 12 during the 10:45 a.m. Sunday

attendance is 30-40 people.

Sunday school: 9:45 **Midweek:** 7:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Church

Wednesday.

84 Rectory Lane Lucinda, Pa. 16235 Pastor: Rev. Michael Polinek

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Corv Pius Note: all mass times are every month

terian Church is located at 169 Valley Church Road, off of State Route 38 in the village of Nickleville near Emlenton. The church is affiliated with Lake Erie

Church membership is

friendly country church and enjoys a mission in the community and with others at

814-249-1025

third Tuesday of the month Youth group: Meets every month and is

more information. **Masses:** Weekend 4 p.m. Saturdays in Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., and Dec.; and 9:30 a.m. Sunday

church bulletin or website for

Weekday Masses: Check the church bulletin or website for time and place where Mass will be for a particular day. **St. Mary Church** 

117 Lencer Drive Leeper, Pa. 16233 Pastor: Rev. Michael Polinek

Parochial Vicar: Rev.

Cory Pius Mass: 6 p.m. on Saturday, 8 a.m. on Sunday and Thursday p.m.

subject to change; check the church bulletin or website for more information. Confessions: 5 p.m. Sat-

St. Michael Church

Mass: 4 p.m. Saturdays

urday at St. Mary

Note: all mass times are

18765 State Route 208, Fryburg P a s t o r Rev. Michael Polinek Parochial Vicar: Rev. Cory Pius

in Jan., March, May, July, Sept. and Nov.; 11 a.m. Sunday Note: all mass times are subject to change; check the church bulletin or website for

information. Confessions: 3 p.m. Saturdays in Jan., March, May, July, Sept., and Nov. Religious education takes

place from Sept. to May before a.m. Sunday Mass. We host a

Lucinda, Pa. 16235 Telephone: 814-226-

Presbyterian The church has no

We are located three miles north of Clarion along the Miola Road (State Route

There are about nine

1005) toward Cook Corners.

**night supper:** 6 p.m., Saturday before Thanksgiving United Evangelical 113 Route 157, Venus

Richard A. Kightlinger

Pastor:

a.m.

Average Sunday attendance at the interdenominational church is approximately 60. Sunday service: 9 a.m. Sunday school: 10:15

Children's church: age 4 through second grade; during morning service

Sept. through April A nursery for babies and toddlers is available during

Additionally, the church

May.
Salem Lutheran 2057 State Route 208, Lamartine

Council meeting: 7 p.m., third Wednesday of

and service group: time varies, first Wednesday of the month Weekly online service can

Salem Reformed Church of Lamartine

Sunday. Sunday services: 10:30

Sunday school: 9:15

Labor Day festival. **Contact** information for all three parishes: **Mail**: P.Ō.

Website: watch4deer catholic.churchShiloh

pastor at this time, church members are being used.

active members. Sunday school: 9:45

Thanksgiving family

the

AWANĂ Club (open to children ages 3 to 18): 7 p.m. Wednesday, offered

Sunday worship. Vacation Bible School will be held in July.

## You'll be floored by what the Carpet Barn has to offer



Owner Bud Wilshire and long-term employee Steve Fabry pose in front of a floor-

By Aoife Saluskv **CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer

ing display.

**CLARION TWP.** The Carpet Barn has built its reputation on more than just flooring. It's built on trust, tradition, and longlasting relationships. For decades, this family-owned business has been helping local families turn their houses into homes, one room at a time.

With each generation, The Carpet Barn continues to serve not just customers, but neighbors, friends, and even the children and grandchildren if its very first clients. It's the kind of bond that can't be manufactured or bought- it's earned through hard work, honesty, and a deep commitment to doing things right.

For owner Bud Wilshire, that kind of loyalty is a reflection of the values The Carpet Barn has always stood for – quality, consistency, and personalized serowned business means showing up every day with pride in the name on the door. It also means taking extra time with each customer and doing the job right, no shortcuts. Bud sees the repeat customers, referrals, and long-standing community ties as proof that their approach works, and that it's worth holding onto, even as the industry

changes. What truly sets The Carpet Barn apart is how simple and personalized the entire flooring process is. Picking out new floors might sound overwhelming at first, especially with thousands of styles, colors, and

textures to choose from, but they make it refreshingly easy. The process starts with a visit, either by phone or in person, to talk through what you're looking for. From there, the friendly staff will walk you through the different options, explain the pros and cons, and help you find a style that fits your space and budget. Once you've made your choice, whether its plush carpet for a cozy living room or sleek vinyl plank for a modern kitchen, they'll schedule a home visit to take measurements. After that, they'll schedule a home visit to take measurements. After that, they'll give you a clear quote, order the materials, and set up a professional installation date.

The entire experience is designed to be smooth and stress-free, and Bud says that's by design. Everything at The Carpet Barn, from the way the staff greets you to how carefully they install each floorboard, is done with customer comfort and satisfaction in mind. It's this level of attention and care that keeps people coming back, project after project, year after year. Longtime employee Steve Fabry, who has been with the business since 2005, plays a big part in that consistency, bringing years of hands-on experience and a dependable presence that customers know and trust.

What's especially impressive is that The Carpet Barn doesn't just offer the same flooring options year after year. With thousands of choices available, they stay current with trends by meeting with manufacturer representatives, attending industry events, and reading trade publications. That means local customers get access to all the latest styles and most durable products without ever needing to travel out of town. From classic hardwood to waterproof vinyl to plush, pet-friendly carpet, there's truly something for every space and every lifestyle.

For Bud, the best part of the job will always be the people. He genuinely enjoys meeting new folks, hearing their stories, and helping them create homes they're proud of. He believes the kind of flooring someone chooses actually says a lot about their personality and how they see their space. Each choice reflects something personal and important about the customer.

When it comes to advice for the next generation of business owners, Bud keeps it simple. He believes the key is to show up, work hard, and be consistent. That steady, committed effort is what builds trust over time - and that's what built The Carpet Barn into

what it is today.
At the end of the day, The Carpet Barn might be all about flooring, but it's also about something much bigger – community, tradition, and family. In a small town like ours, that's what makes

it truly one of a kind. The Carpet Barn is located at 470 S 5th Ave, Clarion, PA 16214 and their hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Their phone number is 814-226-7332 and they can be found on the

web clarioncarpetbarn.com/

#### In the heart of Clarion—Michelle's Cafe



Kaitlyn Whitling, owner of Michelle's Café, says art shows, open mic nights are always welcome and says she plans on sticking with consistency while focusing on other avenues like catering and events like Clarion Summer Fest.

By David A. Hollis **CLARION NEWS** Staff Writer

For more than two decades, Michelle's Café has served as a cornerstone of downtown Clarion, a go-to destination for coffee lovers, creatives, and community members alike. Whether you're a regular grabbing your daily latte, a traveler seeking a cozy nook to unwind, or a student looking for the perfect place to write or reflect, Michelle's offers more than just a menu, it offers a sense of place.

Located right in the heart of Clarion borough at 611 Main Street, Michelle's Café offers a full espresso bar, coffees, teas, smoothies, milkshakes, as well as daily lunch specials Monday thru Saturday including gelato, pie, bagels, scones, muffins, sandwiches, soups and salads. Customers can also purchase their own roasted coffee beans, teas, and mer-And at the heart of the

café is owner Kaitlyn Whitling, who credits the shop's longevity to a balance between consistency and innovation. Whitling said, "We've been focusing more on private events like

baby showers, bridal showers, anniversary parties, office events. And we can host them here or off-site at venues like the Haskell House, which some people prefer.

The café also continues to source from Kiva Han Coffee, a respected commercial roaster based in Pittsburgh, and Elmo Fired Beans, a small-batch local roaster in Knox that supplies specialty espresso and single origin coffees.

While private events have become a growing part of the café's focus, the community spirit remains very much alive. Open mic nights, poetry readings, and in-house art shows still find a home there. Whitling said,

"My manager Hannah shows here because the Clarion Arts Council isn't as active right now, so she's really stepped up to make sure artists still have a space to share their work."

Michelle's is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Follow the café on Facebook to keep up with daily specials and upcoming events.

For information on private parties or catering, stop in or call 814-227-2688.■

#### Computer Support can fulfill you technology needs Submitted article ing VoIP phone systems. and medium sized business

CLARION TWP. Computer Support is your one-stop local computer specialty shop. As an MSP, they take the time to understand your business operations, future growth plans and existing IT infrastruc-

Their belief is that by giving support and advice, selling quality products, providing high level support and "doing the right thing" will keep their cus-

tomers coming back. Fred commented recentabout his company's longevity in the computer industry "This year marks my 42nd year in business, and I'm fortunate to work alongside a talented and dedicated team of young professionals who are raising their families right here in our local community. We all share a deep appreciation for our hometown and take pride in serving our customers with care and expertise.

Many of our long-time customers have supported us since the early days, and we're always excited to welcome new faces. As your local specialty technology store, we invite you to stop by-we're here to assist with all your technology needs.

In recent months, our team has been busy deployinstalling security cameras, running extensive network wiring, and support local businesses as they relocate to new facilities. We've also had the opportunity to work with new business ownersmany part of the "silver tsunami" of business transitions-by streamlining their operations and implementing upgrades to a wide range of server software

solutions." As a local value-added computer reseller servicing the tri-county area, their business is backed with a talented team with many employees with various specialties. Having many strategic computer and networking manufacturer partners, they are able to provide their clients a full range of services from installation to maintenance, support and training with cost effective trusted solutions for their customer's IT problems. Computer Support does this by providing unique products to their customers, different businesses, different needs. Their business division specializes in servers, backup and disaster recovery solutions, data ransomware protection, higher performance professional workstations, business desktops and services for the small

community. Using the higher quality parts, they deploy systems for each customer's specific needs. They design, deliver and deploy innovative IT solutions for companies big and small. Their professional workstations are used by engineers, architects, graphic designers, day-traders, web designers, manufacturing product designers, real estate, insurance agents, government, healthcare, education, energy, and many

more creative professionals. They are a true specialty store offering a wide range of technology products. As Managed Service Provider, they feature and showcase many different manufacturers equipment from HP Inc., Hewlett-Packard Enterprise, Acer America, Ubiquiti, Barracu-

VMware,

Microsoft, Yealink, and

Veeam,

many more. Visit them 24/7 at www.ComputersUp.com, like them on Facebook. They are open Monday through Friday from 8 to 5 or by appointment. Keep IT local, stop & shop at their store located at 860 South 5th Ave, Clarion PA 16214 and call them at 814-226-7456. It's where the locals shop IT!■

#### **Farmers National Bank solidifying its** presence as New Farmers National Bank

CANFIELD, Ohio -This year, Farmers became Farmers, but with more.

Farmers National Bank of Canfield completed its acquisition of Farmers National Bank of Emlenton in January. With the merger, the company now has 65 branches and five trust offices spanning across Ohio and Pennsylvania.

This acquisition gave Farmers branches in Pennsylvania more banking services, products and technologies. One of the biggest is access to wealth man-

"When you talk about

community banking, this is really a differentiator for us," said Mark Wenick, Chief Wealth Management Officer at Farmers National Bank. "We're able to provide products like what you would see at a national bank, but with the personal touch that only

comes from a local one.<sup>2</sup>

With its Wealth Management 360 division, Pennsylvania customers now have access to Private Banking, Farmers Trust Company, Farmers National Retail Investments and Farmers National Insurance. These divisions offer services such as 401(k) plans, estate settlements

and insurance for both individuals and business-

President and CEO Kevin Helmick says the merging of the two Farmers organizations is further solidifying the bank's growth strategy and commitment to community

"We've been rock solid for 136 years and together - we are even stronger," Helmick stated. "Combined, we have more than 500 years of community banking under our belt. We're really proud of that."

Farmers National Bank has been headquartered in Canfield, Ohio since its founding in 1887. With this acquisition, it now has 19 branches in Pennsylvania and 46 in Ohio.

Some familiar faces of Farmers National Bank of Emlenton are still around as well. Former CEO, William C. Marsh, is now Senior Vice President, Market President of Pennsylvania. Robert Vernick, formerly Chief Lending Officer with the Emlenton organization, currently serves as Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking Team Leader and Market President of Western

Pennsylvania. "Bill [Marsh] and Bob

[Vernick] are outstanding leaders in PA. They know the region and have relationships in the area that are invaluable. That's what Farmers is all about – relationships and community," Helmick stated. "Everything we do is about creating wins that not only grow our bank but help raise the standard of living and quality of life in our communities.'

And the bank's not just growing in size. It's also growing in strength.

Helmick points to the bank's 160 consecutive quarters of profitability. In today's economy, he says that can really give customers peace of mind. "Farmers has withstood

multiple financial cycles over the past century and a half. We have a history of safety, soundness and conservative management," Helmick said. "When you bank with Farmers, you're banking at a place that is rock solid." Farmers National Bank

has more than \$5.1 billion in banking assets. Total management wealth assets under care as of March 31, 2023 were \$3.1 billion.

Of its 65 branches, 19 are in Pennsylvania with three in Clarion County.



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# The customer comes first at Terry W. Kahle

By Aoife Salusky CLARION NEWS Staff Writer

KNOX In the heart of Knox, there's a family-run business that's been part of the community since 1971. What began as a shop selling snowmo-biles, Terra-Jets, and trailers, has grown into a trusted local dealership, proudly serving the area as an official Kubota dealer. More than 50 years later, it's still a family run business that's all about helping the community and building real connections, one customer at a

Terry Kahle was just 25 years old when he decided to start his own business. Starting a business at such a young age came with its challenges. Securing loans for inventory was difficult, and without an established reputation, attracting customers wasn't easy. Fortunately, Terry had the support of his father which played a huge role in getting the business off the ground. That family support would later becoming a defining part of the company's story.

Before launching his own business, Terry worked selling canoes, traveling from place to place. It was during this time that he realized how much he missed

being home with his locals to seasonal visidaughters. Seeing them waiting for him when he returned hit home. He knew he wanted to build a life and business that allowed him to stay close to his family.

That decision proved to be the right one. Today, Terry runs the business alongside his daughter, Tiki Kahle who has worked full-time with him for the past 38 years. The two make a strong team, maintaining the values of trust, reliability, and community that have helped the business thrive for more than five decades.

As a Kubota dealer, Terry W. Kahle offers a wide range of dependable equipment for farming, landscaping, construction, and property maintenance. From compact tractors and zeroturn mowers to utility vehicles and attachments, the business is fully stocked with solutions for homeowners, farmers, and professionals. They also provide inhouse repairs, maintenance, and expert advice to help customers get the most out of their equip-

For Terry and Tiki, the best part of the job isn't just the equipment, it's the people. They've gotten to know generations of families and met customers from all walks

tors with camps in the area, the business has become a friendly, familiar stop for many.

Terry has watched Knox change over the years. He remembers a time when everyone in town knew each other by name, and entire families stayed in the area after graduation. While that sense of tight-knit community has shifted, he works hard to keep it alive at his shop. There is a welcoming atmosphere for every customer who walks through the door.

He's also incredibly proud of his employees, calling them more like family than staff. Their kindness and openness are a big part of what keeps customers coming back. Whether someone is stopping in for parts, equipment, or just a friendly chat, they're treated with respect and

business's long-standing focus. that continues to grow.

Being part of the KUBOTA

Terry Kahle stands outside of his business showing off a Kubota ÚTV (léft) and a

One of the keys to the Kubota compact tractor.

success is its strong cus- products while still Terry delivering the kind of believes that while sell- small-town service that ing products is impor- makes customers feel tant, building relation- right at home. The busiships is what truly ness also stocks parts matters. That mindset and provides fast serhas helped the business vice, which is something earn a loyal following big-box competitors just can't match.

For young entreprenetwork neurs considering startmeans they can offer ing their own advenof life. From year-round high-quality, reliable tures, Tiki offers simple plished with dedication, ment.com/

plan, work hard, and be realistic. Opportunities have to be willing to find them and put in the effort.

Terry W. Kahle's business is more than a dealership. It's a family tradition, a community staple, and a reminder of be found on the web at what can be accom-

but solid advice. Have a support, and a genuine

passion for people. Terry W. Kahle is are out there, you just located at 423 E Railroad St. Knox. PA 16232 and their hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to noon. Their

phone number is 814-

797-1188 and they can

www.twka hleequip-

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