

LETTERS TO EDITOR

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Dear Editor:
Thanks for the nice write up on the information I sent in per the latest Forest City News article. The raison d'être of why guys like me do genealogy is to recognize the continuum between those who preceded us and ourselves and our families. There is no real break from one person passing on and those who follow. That is, if we can recognize the mosaic of family fabric that connects us all together the better we can understand our own lives and why we are here. So hopefully these steps I took and the Historical Society takes can help create that connection that can unite those whose corporal bodies have ceased to exist but their personalities and selves continue and can lend meaning to their descendants. This is not really deep at all and just shows that there is a lot to be learned from those whose existence we owe to our own that can be very interesting and helpful to our own selves and our struggle to make something meaningful out of all we do. Genealogy and writing are just a few steps to uniting us all together, both the good and the bad. There is no magic here but I think those folks who preceded us do appreciate the efforts made on their behalf.

Hopefully the small steps I took in this effort will bring more people into the search and lead to more comfort, interest and meaning to more folks. Thanks to you and your organizations and efforts the above moves all of us forward.
Frank Orasin
Saratoga, CA

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor:
Included with this letter, is my renewal for the Forest City News. Although, we moved and are living in another state, we enjoy reading about our hometown in Pennsylvania, although the news is not always the happiest news, reading about how Forest City and the surrounding areas support for each other in times of need is comforting and is a reminder on why we will always remember and visit our hometown. It has been a long year with all of the events, good and sad, in Forest City, the fires, the school delay, the Steamtown Marathon, and the new garbage plan to name a few. Here is looking for a brighter and better new year. Happy Holidays!
Sincerely,
David Daugherty
Williamsburg, VA

LETTER TO EDITOR:

Dear Editor: Received our notice for our subscription. On Nov. 13 we received the Oct. 11 and the Nov. 8th issues. Last week we also received past issues. It's too bad the Postal Service is not on time with their deliveries as they are with our bills. I am enclosing my check for next year's late deliveries of old News.
Ms. Dolores Trenta
Norton, Ohio

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor: Enclosed is my renewal subscription. Keep up the good work. I enjoy it very much. Can't wait to get it.
Hello to all my friends and family.
Mildred Patsy
Clayton, NC

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor:
I was appalled when a man at the recent Forest City Council meeting was questioning the budget and in particular questioning why they needed two secretaries and the amount of salary they received. Doesn't he realize it is the secretaries that keep the borough running smoothly when they take all the telephone calls, process the paper work for the projects, salaries, answer correspondence making sure applications for grants and other work related items are taken care of in a timely manner, interact with the public and everything else requiring monthly mailing like sewer bills, etc.
In reality we could do without the elected officials and let the secretaries run the town. They would do it better than anyone else. This man needs a reality check. I as a tax payer thank the secretaries for their hard work.
Imogene Singer
Forest City

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor:
Thanks for the gift of the news we get from you each week. May you all have a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year.
Dorothy Moase
Biglerville, PA

Hearing on Wayne gas ban Set for Jan. 23 In Waymart

The public gets a chance to express their opinions on the proposed drilling ban by the Delaware River Basin Commission. The plan would prohibit high volume hydraulic fracturing in hydrocarbon bearing rock formations within the Delaware River Basin.
A hearing will be held on Monday, Jan. 23 at Ladore Camp, Retreat and Conference Center's Performing Arts and Recreation Center, 287 Owego Turnpike, Waymart.
One session will be from 1-4:30PM with a second session from 6-9:30PM.
Registration is required to attend the public hearing and advance registration will remain open until 5PM on Dec. 31. To register visit <http://bit.ly/2ApXjB1> for the afternoon session, and <http://bit.ly/2AgHtSV> for the evening session.
The commission also will accept written comments through the Commission's online comments webpage at <http://dockets.drbc.com-mnetinput.com/>
The basin includes 13,500 square miles in four states, including Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware.

Opening on Herrick Planning Commission

There is an opening on the Herrick Township Planning Commission. You must be a resident of Herrick Township to serve. Interested parties should contact Nancy Harvatine, Herrick Township Secretary, at 570-679-2273.

A Child is Given... "See the face of every child the Face of the Bethlehem Child"

The annual Christmas story was written in 1983 by M. Dorothy Walsh.

Sleet pelts the window as I look out on the ice-covered landscape. Mid-December — time to get out the holiday decorations and make ready for the coming of the Christ Child.
It is the weather conditions and the thoughts of holiday decorations that remind me of a gray December day two years ago. Going to the bottom drawer of the cabinet, I take from beneath all else, a tiny Christmas ornament hidden away. It is a replica of a child's stocking, piled over the top with candy canes and toys; embellished with a shiny Christmas angel. Fingering it lovingly, I recall that other December day.
That morning two years ago, I had awakened to hear sleet against the bedroom window. The night had been long, sleep elusive — 5:00 a.m. the clock silently stated. The sound I had dreaded hearing had not pierced the quiet of the sleeping household. Perhaps it was a good sign, an indication that things had gone well in Maryland. I smiled thinking about the young couple, my son and his wife, home for a weekend visit and bursting with the excitement of a coming baby.
We had shopped on Saturday and found ourselves in the infant section of the store. Irene spotted a lovely white sweater set and I, the grandmother-to-be, delighted in gifting her with it. Everything was fine as they made their return trip home on Sunday.
But a phone call from the expectant father Monday evening brought the news that something had gone wrong. There was danger of a miscarriage. — The phone was ringing! 5:30 a.m. My heart was pounding as I grabbed the receiver and accepted a collect call. "Mom, I'm calling from the hospital; Irene lost the baby; she's in surgery now." The masculine voice was shaky, the emotional strain of the preceding traumatic hours evident in it. I said what I could to comfort my son. The doctor had assured him his wife would be all right. That was the important issue now. Our conversation ended with his promise to call back later.
I went to the kitchen window and looked up at the gray December sky — the mountains beyond were ice-covered. Then tears came. I wept for the young couple so soon in their new life together, sorely tried. And for the little one who would not know the love waiting for him or her. Never wear the tiny white sweater nor to be called by the name already chosen. God, the Giver of Life, had given a new life.

While it was still being knit in the womb, He had called the tiny being to Himself.
Our Christmas had been saddened that year as we experienced grief at our loss. Hopes and dreams had to be put aside. The special ornament bought to celebrate the coming infant would not hang on the tree after all. I put it away.
Now two years and two Christmas seasons later, we will celebrate the Nativity with extra joy. For we have our beautiful Mary born this spring, 14 months after the loss of her brother or sister, and our brand new adorable Ricky, Mary's cousin. This past year, the gift of life has been bestowed twice on our family and accepted. It is God's most precious present to mankind — the chance to be born in His image and likeness, coming to know, love and serve Him here so as to share in His kingdom eternally. For me, there is a little grandchild, the very first, a little life, called so early from time. Boy or girl, we know not, Unnamed. We remember in our hearts especially at Christmas that child whose fragile heart beat for so short a time here yet who exists eternally. The little wooden piece of Christmas I hold in my hand will always belong to our unknown angel.
May the Holy Infant, Son of God and Mary, whose birth we celebrate now, bless His little ones, born and unborn. The innocents — so dear to His heart. May He give to all men and women the realization that only He, the author of life, can ever recall it. No man can judge its worth or timing. Each time there is conception, a precious, holy gift is offered — we can but humbly accept. The Giver will provide in all circumstances if we put our trust in Him. Life will never be rejected through willful termination, because with each conception, we know that a child is given. Mother Theresa of Calcutta says, "see in the face of every child the Face of the Bethlehem Child", and so we must.
By M. Dorothy Walsh

Musical Light Show in Clifford till New Year's
The Clifford Township Community Alliance proudly announces the Musical Christmas Light show now playing at the Clifford Community Center.
Clifford Township volunteer, Brandon Freely, has done a magnificent job with this year's display. The 22 minute show has nine songs that repeat from 6 PM to 9 PM every evening until New Years.
Bring your family and friends to enjoy this special Christmas gift from the warmth of your car. The Light Show is located just off State Route 106 at 119 Cemetery Street in Clifford - just behind the Community Center building.

Library says THANK YOU
Thank you to the Honesdale National Bank for asking the Forest City Branch Library to read for the Saturday program in Forest City, the Forest City Extravaganza. The bank was beautifully decorated by the staff and the windows were all painted with the theme being The Polar express. Thank you also to Amy Bean for the books that she provided for the children. Thank you also to Andrew Junior for also providing some books and candy canes and a few spinners to be chanced off. Thanks to the bank all children also received airplane kits. Thank you. This truly was great for the library to take part in this wonderful day.

Heroin task force hot line
The Wayne County Heroin Prevention Task Force anonymous tip line can be text messaged to 570-391-0657 also like them on FACEBOOK to keep you up to date with activities. The task force's goal is to provide education to the community.

A little story to start Christmas season in the right spirit
When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the Pre-Christmas pressure.
Then, Mrs. Claus told Santa her Mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more.
He went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where.
When he began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered.
Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a glass of cider and a shot of rum.
He went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drunk all the cider and hidden the rum.
In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor.
He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom.
Just then the doorbell rang, and an irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.
The angel said very cheerfully, 'Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?'
And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.
Not a lot of people know this.
Merry Christmas!!!!

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Pleasant Mount News
By Theresa Opeka
570-679-2065 bu7294@gmail.com

Happy Birthday to; Grace O'Neill, Laura Houghtaling, Sue Hoanzl, Adam Kulikowski, John Lewis Jr., Kurt Czapnik, Nicole Davis, Ed Travis Jr., Craig McGraw,, Joseph Piotrowski, Chelsey Hicks, Austin Lewis, Montana Cook, Lucy Lombardi, Mackenzie Hartman, Nathaniel Canfield, Krishman Patel, Eileen Burleigh, Jim Correll, Carrie Eltz, Brenda Baudendistel, Dorothy Moase, Jason Vinton and Kenneth Prachtler,
Happy Anniversary to: Tom and Alice Sampson, Jim and Julie Wildenstein, George and Lisa LaBar and Edward and Anna Howell,
Property Transfers for September: : Preston Twp: 9-11 - Joan Wontroski, a property to Lee Wontroski; 9-13 - Edward J. Juba, Barbara A. Juba, a property to Christopher Phillips, Christina Phillips; and 9-20 Oakivy Inc. a property to Kuni Holbert.
Slovenian Christmas traditions: Decorating a Christmas tree goes way back but the first one of the Christmas traditions in Slovenia was actually hanging a Christmas tree upside down from the ceiling and decorating it with crops like seeds and beans. People also decorated their house with nuts, apples and pears. Typical Slovenian Christmas dinner is made from 3 courses Usually, it starts with a soup (chicken or mushroom soup with a cream), followed by the main course that usually combines poultry with a sauce and side dish (potato, roasted sauerkraut, salad or "mlinci" - Slovenian pasta) and of course, dessert at the end. For a dessert, the lady of the house usually bakes a typical Slo-

venian dessert called potica. Potica is a pastry consisting of yeast dough and a filling which is usually made from walnuts. An integral part of Slovenian Christmas traditions to those who believe are Masses in the churches all over the country. There are three Masses during Christmastime. The first one is on Christmas Eve at midnight. Midnight Mass is also one of the most known and common Masses in Slovenia. The whole family visit it together (usually on foot) and light their way with torches or battery lights. Even those who are not religious sometimes visit a midnight Mass because of the socializing with neighbors and other people they know. Early in the morning there is a shepherd Mass and another big Mass during the day. An old tradition in Slovenian villages was that the elders of the villages walked around the houses, lighting up incense to clean up each house. They also left an olive branch in the house as a talisman for the good luck in the upcoming year.
I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!

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