

Samaritan's Purse held at local country churches



Sunday, November 12th was world-wide collection day for the Samaritan's Purse sponsored Christmas Child shoeboxes. Between two local country churches, Community Bible Church of Greenfield Township and Uniondale United Methodist Church, over 30 boxes were collected. Many small and large churches participate in the world-wide collection. Since its inception in 1993 over 135 million Christmas Child shoeboxes, containing small toys, educational and health related supplies have been collected. Samaritan's Purse, a Christian international relief agency describes the effort as "The world's largest Christmas project of its kind... us(ing) gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world." Pictured are Community Bible Church members with collected Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

Rep. from windfarm presents plans for project in Clifford Township

by Theresa Opeka
The Clifford Township Supervisors heard from a clean energy company regarding a proposed windfarm at their Tuesday, December 12 meeting. Representatives from NextEra Energy Resources, Juno Beach, Florida, said they are looking into expanding their operations in the area. They currently operate the Waymart Windfarm in Clinton Township, Wayne County. Right now, the plan is in the preliminary stages as they talk with landowners. They hope to have it up and running by 2019.

BUDGET
The 2018 Budget was approved.

NEW TRUCK
Supervisor Chris Marcho said the new truck should arrive next month. The old one is listed on Munciebid.

FIREFIGHTERS TAX CREDIT
Solicitor Joseph McGraw had a prepared ordinance for Act 172 which gives active volunteer firefighters a 20% tax credit for either real estate tax or earned income tax

credit. The supervisors said they want to talk to the fire company first before making any decisions because there is so much work involved. McGraw said there would be a lot of criteria that would have to be met for a small tax credit.

PARK PROPERTY
The supervisors voted in favor of a resolution McGraw drew up for exoneration for a portion of the township property that was bought for part of the park.

TRAILER REMOVAL
McGraw also said they will pursue an agreement with the landowners that have the trailers along Route 106. They will get a \$750 grant for each of the trailers for removal and put a lien on the property for the remaining cost for removal.

GOODWILL
Supervisor Barry Searle said Goodwill is now accepting any and all computers.

BARHITES ROAD WORK
Barhites told the supervisors they finished up what work they could get done

for now on Stoney Lonesome Road and will complete the work in the spring. The township is waiting on a grant from DCED to pay for the work but in the meantime will pay Barhites in full now.

PARK MEETING
The next Park and Recreation meeting will take place on January 24.

GARDEN CLUB
The Garden Club is talking about holding their spring plant exchange in the township's garage. Other things have also taken place there. Marcho said they could fix the inside of the garage.

SLEDDING PRECAUTION
Searle suggested putting hay around the trees in front of the township building for protection in case a child might be sledding or doing some other type of activity nearby.

REORGANIZATION MEETING
The reorganization meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 2 at 7pm, followed by the regular meeting.

Clinton Twp. collected \$202,961 In Wage taxes during 2017

by Theresa Opeka
The appropriation of the wage tax was a popular topic of discussion at the Wednesday, December 13 meeting of the Clinton Township Supervisors. The township has collected \$202,961.43 in wage taxes this year. A resident asked if anything was done with money collected from the tax. Supervisor Brian Non said they paved a road. John Lillie said, "You have \$200,000 more now and nothing to show for it. You could have done more with the roads with the property tax."

Mark Lopatofsky said, "Out of state weekend people get a free ride and the working man has to pay for it." Another man in the audience said they are taking a lot of the wage tax and putting it toward the general fund and not the roads.

Supervisor Ken Coles replied, "Even though the real estate tax stays the same, our expenses have gone up. Once we get settled, we will be able to put it all toward roads. 75% of our budget goes toward our roads. To pave a mile of road would cost \$100,000 to do it the right way. We are doing what we can for now."

Someone asked about a road plan for next year. Non said, "The solicitor (Attorney Jeff Treat) said the three supervisors should go around and check the roads. Ron Poska said it used to be a mandatory requirement by the state. Supervisor Russ Curtis said he, Non and Scott Maciak did go around and checked the roads. Curtis and Poska said berming was also done this

past year on all of the roads.

BURNS ROAD
Next was a discussion on issuing a road bond to a man who lives on Burns Road. Coles said he is storing heavy equipment on his property and they issued a cease and desist order to him because of the weight limit on the road. He said he will pay the township for repairs that are needed in the Spring. Lillie asked why the weight limit sign was put up. Coles said they just paved it. The man used the equipment for work on his house but is now storing the equipment for commercial purposes. He has a business in New Jersey and it is cheaper to store the equipment here. The supervisors voted in favor of issuing the bond.

BUDGET PASSED
The supervisors passed the 2018 budget with no changes from the tentative budget.

TRUCK ISSUES
Supervisor Brian Non said the 2012 Ford truck is starting to have issues. They did put a new engine in it but other components are falling apart. They are looking into how much it would cost to either fix it or trade it in. John Lillie asked if they ever went to a state sale for a reduced price truck. Non said no but he would look into it.

STORMWATER PLAN
The DEP's NPDES Renewal Application for the Stormwater Management Plan for Browndale is due. It cost the township \$5,000 every 5 years. Supervisor Ken Coles said they are having their engineer talk to DEP to try to get a

waiver for the application.

NEW ROAD WORKER
Non said road worker Dan Yannis can no longer work for the township due to time constraints with his full-time job. Non made a motion to hire Matt Szwajka to take his place for a trial period. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

WHITE OAK POND
Dr. James Zefran asked when White Oak Pond will be filled. Coles said it should be refilled by 2021.

DRBC HEARINGS
The Delaware River Basin Commission will hold 2 hearings in January on the future of gas drilling in Wayne County. They will be held on January 23 at Ladore Camp, Retreat and Conference Center's Performing Arts and Recreation Center in Waymart.

FIRE CO. REPORT
Browndale Fire Company had 11 calls for November including 3 fires and 3 motor vehicle accidents.

DUMPING ON FLAT ROCK
Matt Curtis asked if the supervisors could post a no dumping sign on Flat Rock Road. He cited the amount of garbage that has been dumped. Supervisor Russ Curtis made a motion to put up signs. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

MEETINGS
The year end meeting will be held on Friday, December 29 at 7pm. The reorganization meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 2 at 7pm, followed by the regular monthly meeting.

Susq. Co. Courthouse closed Mon., Jan. 1

The Susquehanna County Commissioners wish to announce the Courthouse will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018 in observance of the New Year Holiday. All court related offices will be available.

4-H members say thanks to mentors



Members of the Green Grove 4-H Club of East Ararat would like to thank Ed Camron and Terry Buffer for all their help through the year with their 4-H projects. They received first and second places on projects submitted to the Harford Fair and also learned to use a .22 rifle and bow and arrows. Pictured from left to right, top row, are Dylan Deriancho, Justin Roney, Jesse Burrows, Joshua Price; Bottom row, Jacob Anderson, Justin Roney, Jesse Burrows, Joshua Price. Absent when photo was taken Joseph Roney Jr.

Area Obituaries



May M. Barhite Formerly of Clifford Twp.

May M. Barhite, 95, formerly of Clifford Township, died Thursday, December 14, 2017 at the Forest City Nursing Home. She was the wife of the late Martin F. Barhite, who died in 1960.

Born May 22, 1922 in Honesdale, she was the daughter of the late James and Ethel Oliver Rosemier.

May was a loving and caring person devoted to her family. Although she lost her eye and was legally blind as a child in an accident, she never let that slow her down in life and accomplished all of her hopes and dreams. She enjoyed farming, loved animals and attending church before her recent years in the nursing home. At the nursing home, she enjoyed bingo and the many musical events held for residents. She had a great love for Christian music.

She is survived by a daughter: Shirley Barrows; son: Mickey T. Barhite; several grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren; sister: Marie Kemp; brother: Arthur Rosemier and several nieces and nephews.

She preceded in death by a daughter: Eleanor White; son: Martin P. Barhite; grandson: Thomas Barhite; granddaughter: Robin Piasecki; brothers: Earl and John Rosemier; sisters: Charlotte Decker and Emma Hiller.

A funeral service was held Sunday, December 17 from the Shifler-Parise Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 18 Airport Road, Clifford, with Rev. Jay Best, officiating. Inurnment, Indian Orchard Cemetery, Honesdale at a later date.

To share condolences and photos with May's family visit her book of everlasting memories at www.parisefuneralhome.com.

MORE OBITUARIES APPEAR ON PAGE 5 & 6

FC Rotary Tourney kicks off Sat., Dec. 23

The 2017 Forest City Rotary Tournament in its 45th year will kick off on Saturday, December 23rd with Match ups as follows:

JV 3:30 Mt. View vs. Western Wayne (Mt. View Home Team)
1st Varsity Game 5:00 Western Wayne Vs. Mt. View (Home)
2nd Varsity Game 6:30 Forest City (Home) vs. Wyalusing Area

ROUND 2
Tuesday, December 26th
4:00 Forest City's (Home) J.V.'s vs. Wyalusing Area
5:30 Consolation from losers of 1st Night
7:00 Championship Game

****Please Note:** The times listed above are tentative. There will be 15 Minutes put on the clock immediately following each game**

"Faith Matters"

Gifts at Christmas are what it's all about. Right?? I mean, come on, we all like getting gifts. I don't care how spiritual or selfless you are, you like getting gifts. Even if we say we don't, we like getting gifts!

The best gifts are the ones that really answer a need. Sure, we all like getting those special gifts that are unexpected and over the top; a new sled, a new phone/mobile device, a new car, a new... you name the luxury item. When I have a need and the solution comes from the generosity of another is when I really appreciate a gift.

God knew that our greatest need was forgiveness. All the wrongs I've done condemn me. All the wrongs you've done condemn you. Those sins condemn us all to punishment and separation from God in a real place called Hell that Jesus talked about at least as much as he did Heaven. We have no hope apart from being forgiven by the offended party. Crazy to expect, huh???

On that first Christmas God gave His Son. He offered him as a sacrifice for the punishment my sins deserved. "God made him (Jesus) who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV

God and Jesus agreed on a plan that would include Jesus coming to the earth (Christmas) so that he could take all of my lifetime of sins on himself and die on a torturous cross (Good Friday) and then rise from the dead (Easter) in an incredible display of God's power.

In so doing, he offered you God's MERCY - you would not get what you do deserve - Hell. He offered you God's GRACE - you would get what you don't deserve - Heaven. He offered you the satisfaction of God's JUSTICE - Jesus would pay the death penalty that your lifetime of sins deserved. And, he offered you God's LOVE - Jesus sacrificing himself for YOU!

The greatest gift? That's an easy answer. JESUS was God's MERCY, GRACE, JUSTICE, and LOVE all wrapped up in one person. No other person, religious teacher, moral code, religious ritual - real or imagined - can make you that offer.

To accept Christ's GIFT of forgiveness requires only faith; faith that Jesus is who he said he was (God's Son), that he did what he said he did (paid for my sins on the cross), and that he will do what he said he will do (welcome me into a friendship with him and his Father which will one day mean that I get to spend forever with them in Heaven).

And yes, gifts really are what Christmas is about. After all, God gave his Son. The Son gave his life. The wise men gave gifts and we give gifts at Christmas too. That first gift though, the Son, really was what started it all. Merry Christmas!

Rev. Jerry "Major" III, Executive Director
NEPA Youth For Christ
Campus Life & Parent Life clubs
www.nepayfc.com
570-343-4323

2018 membership in historical society is now available

The Forest City Area Historical Society (FCAHS) is now accepting applications for membership and membership renewals for 2018.

The FCAHS was organized on February 21, 2010, has become Incorporated and has a 501(c)(3) non-profit status. The FCAHS encompasses the following communities: Browndale, Forest City, Richmondale, and Vandling. Anyone with pictures or items to donate are asked to contact Mr. Bob Wirts, Curator at 570-785-5659.

Memberships are for one year and may be any one of the following types: an individual membership for \$15 or a family membership for \$25. A Lifetime Membership for \$125 is also available.

Anyone interested in joining the Forest City Area Historical Society should contact Juliann Doyle, Membership Chair by calling 570-499-4908, by e-mail at: jdoyle@nep.net Membership applications are available on the web site and should be sent

to Juliann at: 305 Martin Street, Browndale, PA 18421.

You may also attend a meeting, which are held on the second Sunday of each month at our headquarters on Main Street (formerly the Methodist Church), Forest City. The next meeting is Sunday, Jan. 14, beginning at 6 PM. New members are always welcome!!

Visit the web site for the FCAHS at: www.forestcityareahistoricalociety.com to learn more about the organization or to download a membership application. LIKE us on Facebook, also!!

FREE Comm. Dinner in C'dale Sat., Dec. 30

There will be a Free Community Dinner on Saturday, December 30 from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 58 River Street, Carbondale. Everyone's Welcome!

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