

THE FOREST CITY NEWS

ODDS 'N ENDS

by
John P. Kamecen
&
Patricia Striefsky

Our new dining guide restaurant The Steakhouse at Fern Hall have some of the best steaks in the area. Stop by and give it a try! We did last Saturday night.

Was at an area event recently and found other folks have similar views of the PA Game Commission as I do. Most feel their principal function has become raising funds to keep themselves in operation rather than for game improvement. Many feel the deer hunting experience here began to decline with the institution of antler restrictions. There are plenty of other reasons but that's when it started.

The Scranton Times-Tribune recently reported that 50 years ago, in 1967, college tuition in the U.S. averaged \$1,600 for a public college and \$2,500 for a private college. At that time the one year cost of tuition plus room and board at the University of Scranton was \$1,720. King's College, Wilkes-Barre reported \$2,000, while East Stroudsburg State College was \$862. Today the private college cost for one year plus room and board is about \$60,000. Could be the reason colleges are having difficulty attracting candidates.

For you folks who wonder what your grandparents did for entertainment way back, a recent Looking Back column for 110 years ago says in 1907 there were 307 births in Forest City.

Skating was still good at Elk Mtn. on Feb. 26th according to FCRS students on a ski trip there.

Have to admit I didn't watch any of this year's Olympics. I did read the extremely high cost for countries to host Olympic events is resulting in them shying away from seeking them.

Had some chainsaw trouble last week which was quickly repaired by Barhites Sales & Rentals in Clifford. They have lots of things ready for Spring when gardening is on the calendar. They also rent many different pieces of equipment.

The Hancock Herald reported on a scam involving a call about supposed changes in Medicare. The caller asked to have a representative come to the person's home. Apparently it was a scheme to get into the homes of older people, since Medicare does not send people to your home. Don't answer or just hang up on calls from anyone you do not know!

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead before going to bed on Saturday, March 10. Daylight Savings Time begins. We lose an hour of sleep but it will be worth it when the sun goes down after 7 PM at night.

The Forest City Area Emergency Services Meat Raffle is this Saturday night from 5 to 9 PM. Different meat prizes will be awarded. There is no admission. Come out and enjoy the fun.

People who use the basketball court at Kennedy Park are asked to use the parking lot rather than the grass when playing ball. We had a Forest City resident come in and tell us the grass is getting ripped up. Please use the parking lot rather than the grass please.

250th Anthracite Anniversary To mark coal region's part In U.S. Industrial Revolution

The Forest City Area Historical Society is taking part this year in the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite in America. Forest City will have a number of events in July all of which will culminate with a full day's program at the Forest City Trail Town Festival Saturday, August 4th.

Scott Herring, chairman of the 250th Anniversary of Anthracite in America, told the Historical Society at a recent meeting that it all began in 1768 when Connecticut settlers returned to Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley. At that time this area was claimed by both Pennsylvania and Connecticut. In fact this dispute resulted in what was then known as the Penamite Wars.

One of those returning was Obadiah Gore Jr., a blacksmith who was aware of the coal outcroppings in the Wyoming Valley where he had been six years previously.

With experimentation in his shop near present day Pittston and Wilkes-Barre, he proved that by using a forced draft, the local coal

could attain a high, even heat which was necessary for industrial use.

This was literally the ignition spark that launched the Anthracite mining and iron industries, and began the Industrial Revolution of America. It is not bragging to say that 484 sq. mile Anthracite valley, from Forest City to Tower City, was responsible for the Industrial Revolution which made the United States the most advanced and idolized country in the world.

Thus in 2018, the people of the "Black Diamond" celebrate the quarter-millennial as a unique American Region and Heritage, centered on Anthracite coal mining and railroading.

The Forest City Historical Society is inviting the entire area to participate in this event. Anyone having memorabilia including clothing and heritage costumes of the period is asked to contact program chair-persons David and Joann Homisak at joannhomisak@gmail.com or the News Office at 570-785-3800.

Applications accepted for Hometown Heroes event

Hometown Heroes will be accepted by the Forest City Area Historical Society this year.

It is open to honor any person or family member who served during wartime.

In the 2016, a total of 47 heroes were honored, while an additional 27 were honored in 2017.

An application form can be found in this issue of the News. It requires the name, rank and branch of service, along with a photo and a short biography of the military service.

Banners are vinyl, 24x48,

and bear service man or woman's name, rank, conflict and photo. Donation to the Forest City Historical Society is \$100.

The annual presentation ceremony date will be announced.

Deadline is March 31, 2018. Application and checks made out to Forest City Area Historical Society can be mailed to Tammy O'Reilly, 13149 St. Rte. 374, Union Dale, PA 18470. For more information contact Tammy O'Reilly at 570-679-3070 or email ttis@nep.net.



Elk Mtn. skiers making trek from parking lot did not seem to mind facing high winds and heavy snow from last week's snowstorm.

Winter storm wallops our area

Winter isn't over for N.E. Penna. until March ends. For the 2nd year, a Nor'easter hit with more fury than the 33-inch blizzard of March 2017. More snow is predicted Mar. 7-8, and a cold spell March 11-17.

A combo of 12-inches of wet snow and 30-60 mph winds caused more disruption than last year due to restricted travel and days-long power outages.

Steve Suraci, on his Elk Mtn. Wanderlist website, said the partially frozen weather station on top of Elk Mtn. was registering 15-20 mph while the actual speed was easily double that.

Toppled trees brought down power lines Friday around 2:30PM causing long power outages from Union Dale to Orson and scattered areas of Clifford, Herrick, Mt. Pleasant and Ararat Townships. Some were still out Monday.

Fire and emergency services responded to many calls of vehicle accidents, tractor trailers and trees blocking roads, power lines pulled down by trees, and water in homes.

Vehicles from up north crowded gas pumps at Forest City Turkey Hill Saturday, while residents

of those areas came to local restaurants to purchase takeout food for their power-less families.

Area municipal plowing kept local roads open but PennDOT struggled to keep Rtes. 171 and 247 passable.

Saturday morning, four utility trucks were making repairs on Lyons Street, Herrick Twp., and six trucks were seen headed into No. Wayne County where residents were hunkered down.

Spaghetti & Meatball dinner rescheduled Sat., March 10

An all you-can-eat spaghetti & meatball dinner, scheduled to be held March 3, will be held by Christ Episcopal Church, Forest City, on Sat. March 10, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Takeouts 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 and includes a fabulous salad bar. For more information call 570-785-3425 and leave call back message.

Pysanki Egg Decorating class held at FCA Historical Society



The Forest City Area Historical Society recently held a Pysanki egg decorating class at the Historical Society, taught by Lourdes Brown. Pictured first row left to right, Barb Klobucar, Lourdes O'Neill, Sylvia Bailey, J.J. Bibalo; Second row left to right, Sharon Campbell, Linda Bernarsky Matilda Gevalis, Christine Salak, Jane O'Hara, Denise Vauter, Linda Demianovich, Mary Ann Pribula, and Jackie Skubic.

FC Police revenue continues to drop

Arrests by Forest City Police were up slightly according to the annual Police Report given to Forest City Borough Council on Feb. 5th. A total of 281 arrests for various infractions were made in 2017, up 7 from 2016. In years prior to 2012, arrests were usually in the 375 to 425 range.

The total revenue generated by the police dept. was drastically down from 2016. The 2017 total was \$10,316 compared to \$15,451 in 2016.

There was a major decrease in police dept. meter revenue due to the installation of new sidewalks and the suspension of parking meters and fines for all of the year. The year's total meter take of \$3,239 was more than \$5,000 less than the previous year's collection of \$8,425, since the meters were out of service the entire 2017.

There were no meter fines, however fines for restricted parking in other areas of the town totaled \$795.

In 2017 a total of 175 arrests reported were for offenses involving motor vehicle violations. In 2016 this was 138. There were 22 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests up from 13 DUI's in 2016. There were 56 speeding arrests and 21 seat belt violations.

Warnings for equipment violations totaled 205 up from 158 the previous year, while warnings about speed were 103, significantly up from 37 in 2016.

The number of police calls was up slightly from 2016. Last year's total was 3,683 compared to 3,624 in 2016 and 3,704 in 2015. Of those calls, 98 were calls to assist other departments, down from the 128 in 2016. A total of 48 were to answer alarms going off while 41 were accidents investigated. There were only 12 warrants served compared to 50 warrants served in 2016. There

were 56 calls for domestic disturbances compared to 50 calls in 2016. There were 27 dog and cat complaints.

There were 9 retail thefts reported compared to 33 in 2016, up from 18 in 2015.

The local department made 268 trips with the police cars to other jurisdictions including 99 trips to Clifford where the Magistrate's office is located. There were 47 trips to Carbondale, 45 to Scranton, 11 to Montrose, and 19 to Honesdale.

The police vehicles traveled a total of 37,064 down slightly from the 37,996 miles in 2016.

Of the \$10,316 in revenue generated by the Police Department, a total of \$3,510 was in magistrate fines. Clerk of Court fines were \$933 and State police fines were \$1,111.

ARREST

Acc. Dam. At. Prop.	1
Accum. Trash	1
Aggravated assault	3
Agg. Assault police	1
Anim. Cruelty	1
Burglary	2
Careless driving	3
No driver lic.	3
Firearm w/o lic.	1
Con. Rec. Stolen prop.	1
Conspiracy Theft	1
Criminal contempt	2
Criminal trespass	5
Cruelty to animals	4
Dam. Unai. Prop	1
Discharge firearm	1
Defiant trespass	1
Disorderly conduct	2
Dog not leashed	2
Drivers req. to be lic.	1
Driv. und. Susp.	1
DUI	22
Endanger welf. Child.	2
Escape	1
Exp. Inspection	7
Megans Law	1
Fail. carry lic.	1
False ID to law	1
False reports	1
Fin. Resp. Req.	8
Fraudulent use of reg.	1
Harassment	4
Indecent assault	2

FC Lions Golf Tournament Fri., August 3

The Forest City Lions Club will hold their annual Golf Tournament on Friday, August 3 at Panorama Golf Course. It will be part of the weekend events of Forest City Trail Town Festival.

An entry form will be in this newspaper in the coming months. Plan to attend this annual tournament with proceeds to benefit local civic projects.

Pizza sale at Christ Episcopal

A pizza sale will be held on the Fridays in March at Christ Episcopal Church, Dundaff & Delaware Sts., Forest City. Pick-up a prepared 12-cut three cheese pizza for \$10 or a 12-cut potato/cheese/onion pizza for \$12 at the church between 3 and 6 PM and bake it at home. Advance orders recommended.

Call 785-3425 and leave a call back message. Benefits the good works of the church.

Loitering/prowling	1
School bus viol.	2
No Inspection	3
Permit Anim. Roam.	1
Permit. DUI	2
Pos. sm. amt marij.	5
Poss. drug para.	3
Public drunkenness	5
Rec. stolen prop.	3
Reg. /title req.	9
Reg. Signed Carry	6
Retail theft	9
Rubbish Strewn	1
Seat belts	21
Sexting	1
Simple Assault	10
Simple trespass	4
Speeding	56
Stalking	1
Stop /yield signs	17
Suspend. Regist.	5
Suspend License	10
Terroristic threats	4
Theft by decep.	1
Theft by unlaw.tak.	5
Unlawful restraint	1
Danger. burning	1
Trespass	4
Total Arrests	281
TRIPS (Not all listed)	
Carbondale	47
Clifford	99
Dunmore	9
Honesdale	1
Pleasant Mt.	11
Montrose	11
Scranton	45
Simpson	4
Union Dale	5
Waymart	1
Jim Thorpe	3
Shavertown	3
Total	234
REVENUE GENERATED	
Meter collections	\$3,239
Meter fines	\$0
Accident Reports	\$315
Restricted parking	\$795
Magistrate fines	\$3,510
Magistrate fines (LC)	\$259
Clerk of Court fines	\$933
Clerk of Courts (LC)	\$151
State police fines	\$1,111
Total Revenues	\$10,316

Carbondale City Birthday Celebration March 15

To commemorate the 167th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Carbondale on March 15, 1851, the Carbondale Historical Society will host a dinner on Thursday, March 15, at the Anthracite Center at 41 North Main Street, Carbondale. The celebration will begin at 6 P.M. with a dinner catered by Plate d'azure. Mayor Justin Taylor will then issue a proclamation to mark the day, following which a Carbondale photo/video presentation will take place. Dr. S. Robert Powell, the president of the Historical Society and master of ceremonies for the evening, will speak briefly on the incorporation events that took place in 1851. A photograph of Philo Callendar Gritman, who spearheaded the incorporation process in 1851, will be on display.

To make a reservation for this event, contact Michele Bannon <mbannon@icntech.com> or Mary Parise Tomaine <mpt304@yahoo.com>. Reservations will close on March 9.

For additional information, contact the Historical Society at 570-282-0385.