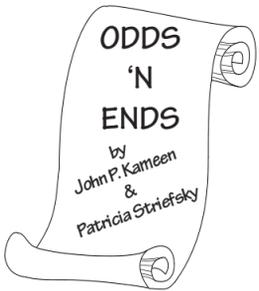


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



It's been a topsy-turvy two weeks for schools. The week of Jan. 21, FCRS had only two half days of school while last week they had 2 days of school. These weeks included two snowstorms and two periods of blistering cold, topped by a MINUS 14 reading, by Bill Woodward, Clinton Township, on Thursday morning.

Andy Shamro, retired farmer from Herrick Center, makes many shopping trips to our Main Street. He recently renewed the subscription of his daughter, Julie Sipko, Philadelphia. He is very proud of his daughter. Julie is a 1976 graduate of FCRHS and later from Penn State. She is a teacher in the Philadelphia schools and is one of the many local graduates whose generation has produced many successful professionals in this highly complex world. Glad to have her as a reader.

The Game Commission is considering opening deer season the Saturday after Thanksgiving instead of the following Monday. Part of local hunting tradition has been to get camps open on Saturday; have a party and visit neighboring deer camps Sunday; then hit the woods Monday. I guess an advantage is there would be three Saturdays to hunt. I fear some families might not be too happy to have the hunters rushing thru Thanksgiving dinner to get to their camps.

Game Commission is also considering allowing semi-automatic rifles for big game hunting. They allowed semi-automatic shotgun use the past season. With all the AR-15 rifles now in common use, it was just a matter of time.

Both of the above ideas are under consideration and won't be voted on by the Game Commission until April. If you agree or disagree the GC is seeking public comment.

Had a great Italian hoagie at Cable's Deli, Union Dale, on Saturday. Co-owner Judy Peltz is off on sick leave but her partner, Sharon Straway, along with fill-in helper Sherry Sparks, were handling things, especially with the many takeout orders for their specialties on Super Bowl Sunday.

We've all heard of WD-40, the rust prevention solution, but did you know there are more than 50 things it can be used for? Here are some: Protects silver ware from tarnishing, Removes tar from cars, keeps flies off farm animals, cleans barbecue grills, keeps glass shower doors free of water spots, lubricates sticking home windows, cleans vinyl dashboards and bumpers, lubricates fan belts, spray on lures to attract fish, removes crayon from walls, it even supposedly can relieve arthritis pain in the knees and hands, but I don't think I'd recommend it!

Did you ever stop and consider all the taxes you pay: Sales tax, Federal and State income taxes, social security tax, medicare tax, real estate taxes, gasoline tax, fishing license, hunting licenses, sewer tax, garbage tax, electric, gas and telephone bill taxes, vehicle registrations, liquor tax, building permits, and on and on!! Not a day goes by that you do not pay some kind of taxes. We heard a Congress person recently claim that we must pay more and higher taxes. Oh really??



Safe2Say Something program to Report school violence threats Is instituted at FC Reg. School

A statewide program was rolled out to students and parents of Forest City Regional High school on Jan. 28, with the purpose to prevent school violence. The program uses an app on cell-phones to enable a student or community member to report a suspicion or actual threat of violence toward students or school personnel. The app is free at the app Store under SAFE2SAY Something.

The Safe2Say Something program, as presented to FCR 6th thru 12th grade students that day, and to the community that night, is designed to avoid having students, parents or community members using it to make false or hoax reports anonymously which could harm those who might be accused of behaviors or actions they did not intend or commit.

Any report of possible life threatening violence is immediately relayed to a team of certified crisis counselors in the office of the State Attorney General. They are evaluated and can be judged as not credible, or can then be referred to a five member crisis team at Forest City Regional School at anytime of the day or night.

However, if the Crisis Counselors judge it to be

credible and life threatening, 911 and law enforcement will be immediately notified. School Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina is head of the Forest City Regional team and the report will be further evaluated by the five members who will then make further determination on whether local authorities should be involved.

Dr. Aquilina said the principle duty of the School District will be to provide law enforcement with name, address, contact information and any other school information which can assist authorities in assessing the threat posed by the individual who was reported.

Students of Forest City Regional were advised that the process to be followed in the event of a suspected threat of violence is 1) Tell a trusted adult, 2) Call 911, or 3) report it on the Safe2Say Something app on your cell phone or call 1-844-SAF2SAY.

A trusted adult can be someone in the schools system, a parent, an adult friend, clergy, or another trusted person.

Parents can go online At www.safe2saypa.org for complete information or contact School Superintendent Dr. Jessica Aquilina at 570-785-2403

Brian Sheare Snowmobile Poker Run Sat., Feb. 9

The 4th Annual Brian M. Sheare Memorial Snowmobile Poker Run will be held on Sat., Feb. 9.

The memorial fund was created as a 501c3 charitable organization to raise money to help with snowmobile safety, rescue efforts and sport enthusiasm in NEPA.

The event was created by the Sheare family and friends to honor their brother, Brian M. Sheare who passed away on Feb. 5, 2015 in a tragic snowmobile accident. Registration for the event is between 9 a.m. and noon at the Gravity Inn in Waymart or Arlo's Tavern in Ararat, PA which also serves as the Poker Run's final destination for the end event.

The run starts at noon and concludes at Arlo's Tavern with food and entertainment. Snowmobile participants must have a trail pass before the event or can purchase a One-Day pass for the day of the event for \$10. The best poker hand

wins \$500 cash. There will be basket raffles, a 50/50, light buffet, and live entertainment.

Establishments participating in the poker run are: The Beacon, The Candlelight Inn, Gravity Inn, Lakewood Lodge, Legends at Lake Lorain, The Speak Easy Saloon, and Frank's Place.

Poker Run Tickets are \$25 and guests and passengers are \$10. Pre-register on-line at <http://msreg.com/brianmshearepoker-run19>

More information can be found on the group's Facebook page by searching Annual Snowmobile Poker Run in Memory of Brian M. Sheare

Anyone looking to donate baskets, door prizes, monetary donations or in need of more information can contact the organization via email brianmshearepoker-run@gmail.com or cell phone 570-575-8083

Herrick hearing on conversion of Stone Bridge Inn to drug/alcohol treatment center

by Theresa Opeka

A continuation of a public hearing for a conditional use permit to change the Stone Bridge Inn and Restaurant, Herrick Township, to a drug and alcohol treatment center was held Monday, January 28 at the Speakeasy Saloon & Resort.

TRAFFIC ENGINEER Testimony picked up where it left off on December 17 with Jacob Horn, PE, Licensed Civil Engineer. Elliot and Kim Ross' attorney, Ed Neyhart, began the questioning. Horn said that PennDOT normally requires a new highway occupancy permit if there are changes. If there aren't any changes to the end of the driveway, one isn't necessary. That includes the figure of more than 750 but up to 1,500 vehicle trips a day. He made the calculation based on the type of buildings that will be near the driveway and includes the trips going to the building.

Horn used three formulas for the proposed treatment center and the nearby Endless Mountains Resort: 528 vehicle trips per day for one formula, 408 on an average day and 775 maximum. The current use for Stone Bridge is higher than the proposed use: 808, 741 average and 1,180 maximum. Attorney Michael O'Brien told Horn

that he didn't include the 18 timeshares, 16 condos, a single-family house and an office building in his calculations for the December hearing. Horn acknowledged he didn't include them the last time.

O'Brien said, "So they were submitted in January 2019. You said the application lacked information for the highway occupancy permit and that is why you put out the report tonight?" Horn said yes. O'Brien said, "You also said other areas were lacking significant information?" Horn said, "Yes, the prior hearing to the one in December lacked information for water and sewage use." O'Brien said, "At the December hearing, you didn't take it into consideration about the resort in December."

Horn said, "There are two questions here, design of the driveway and the highway occupancy permit. The highway occupancy permit is valid." O'Brien said, "When you sat in that chair a month ago, you didn't do calculations for the resort." Horn said, "Yes, but the occupancy permit is still valid." O'Brien said Horn used calculations based on recommendations from the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Ribbon-Cutting held for Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home Re-Opening



The Kevin M. Lesjack Funeral Home, Main Street, Forest City, held a Grand Re-Opening on Sunday, January 27. The previous building was destroyed by a fire in August of 2017. Pictured Front Row Left to Right: Peyton Jeannette, Owen Lesjack, and Reed Lesjack. Second Row Left to Right: Eric Jeannette, Sara Jeannette (holding Lucy Jeannette), Krista Lesjack, Kevin Lesjack, Mayor Christopher Ginton, Melissa Lesjack, Barbara Lesjack, Robert Lesjack, Jill McGraw, Rev. Brian Clarke, Paul Daugevelo. Back Row Left to Right: Tyler Lesjack, Joanie McGuire, Christopher C. Calvey, John Bednarczyk, Robert Jeannette, Rosemary Jeannette, Alice Scotchlas, Joseph Scotchlas, Mary Ann Wilks, Phil Wilks.

Forest City Police arrests up 89 in 2018

Editor's Note: Former Police Chief Jim Johnson contacted the News and requested that we indicate that the Police Department yearly report contained his numbers except for the 13 days after his resignation.

Arrests by Forest City Police were up slightly according to the annual Police Report given to Forest City Borough Council on Jan. 7th. A total of 370 arrests for various infractions were made in 2018, up 89 from 2017, but dramatically down from the record 736 arrests way back in 2012. In years prior to 2012, arrests were usually in the 375 to 425 range.

The total revenue generated by the police dept. was a more than \$4,000 increase from 2017. The 2018 total was \$14,620 compared to \$10,316 in 2016.

There was a major increase in police dept. meter and meter fine revenue due to the placing of the new meters in operation after completion of the new sidewalk project. The year's total meter take of \$7,618 was more than \$4,400 higher than the previous year's collection of \$3,239, since the meters were out of service the entire 2017.

Fines for restricted parking in other areas of the town totaled \$405.

In 2018 a total of 166 arrests reported were for offenses involving motor vehicle violations. In 2017 this was 175. There were 27 Driving Under

Celebrating Progress Dinner Feb. 21 in C'dale

The Fourteenth Annual Greater Carbondale Chamber of Commerce Celebrating Progress Dinner will be held on Thursday, February 21 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM at the Anthracite Hotel, Main Street, Carbondale.

The 14th Annual Celebrating Progress Dinner is a great opportunity to be part of night celebrating members of the Greater Carbondale Chamber of Commerce and networking with many people in our business community.

This years Honoree's are: Johnson College, Clifford Township, Pizza Guys of Carbondale, Rails to Trail-Union Dale, and Hotel Anthracite.

Cost is \$50.00 Per person. They are also looking for sponsors for this event. This is fantastic way to showcase your business at this event and future Chamber events. Please contact John Gorel at 570-282-1690 or jgorel@carbondalechamber.org for all of the details.

the Influence (DUI) arrests up from 22 DUI's in 2017. There were 36 speeding arrests and 9 seat belt violations.

Warnings for equipment violations totaled 63, dramatically down from 205 the previous year, while warnings about speed were 58, significantly down from 103 in 2017.

The number of police calls was down slightly from 2017. Last year's total was 3,590 compared to 3,683 in 2017 and 3,634 in 2016. Of those calls, 69 were calls to assist other departments, down from the 98 in 2017. A total of 38 were to answer alarms going off while 38 were accidents investigated. There were only 9 warrants served compared to 12 warrants in 2017 and 50 warrants served in 2016. There were 53 calls for domestic disturbances compared to 56 calls in 2017. There were 16 dog and cat complaints, down from 27 in 2017.

There were 30 retail thefts reported compared to 9 in 2017 and 33 in 2016, up from 18 in 2015.

The local department made 266 trips with the police cars to other jurisdictions including 103 trips to Clifford where the Magistrate's office is located. There were 40 trips to Carbondale, 36 to Scranton, 19 to Montrose, 19 to Honesdale and 10 to Pleasant Mt.

The police vehicles traveled a total of 34,484 miles down from the 37,064 miles in 2017.

Of the \$14,620 in revenue generated by the Police Department, a total of \$3,380 was in magistrate fines. Clerk of Court fines were \$1,007 and State police fines were \$1,582.

ARRESTS

Acc. Dam. Unat. Prop.	1
Aggravated assault	6
Assault w/ firearm	1
Altered Insp.	2
Animal aband.	1
Anim. Cruelty	11
Burglary	4
Careless driving	2
Child Porn	1
Consp. Burglary	4
Corrup. Minor	3
Cyber harass.	1
Criminal contempt	3
Criminal Mischief	4
Criminal trespass	1
Cruelty to anim.	3
Defiant trespass	1
Dest. Survey Mark	1
Disorderly conduct	13
Dog not leashed	2
Drivers req. to be lic.	2
Driv. On left	2
Driv. On sidewalk	1
Driv. und. Susp.- DUI	3
DUI	26
DUI at hi. Rate	1
Endanger welf. Child.	6

Exp. Inspection	18
Fail. carry lic.	8
Fin. Resp. Req.	4
Flee/elude	1
Follow too close	1
Forgery	1
Fraudulent use of reg.	1
Alco. Bev. Minors	4
Harassment	19
Head/tail lights	2
ID theft	1
Indecent assault	4
Ind. Crim. Cont.	2
Leave scene acc.	2
Light Req.	1
School Bus Viol.	1
Permit. DUI	1
Unauth. Driver	1
Pos. Cont. Sub.	5
Pos. sm. amt. marij.	4
Poss. drug para.	13
Prom. Prostitution	1
Prostitution	1
Public drunkenness	4
Reckless Endanger	11
Rec. stolen prop.	1
Reg. /title req.	5
Resist. Arrest	1
Retail theft	16
Seat belts	9
Sex. Assault	2017
Simple Assault	15
Speeding	36
Stalking	1
Strangulation	2
Stop /yield signs	12
Suspend. Regist.	7
Suspend License	14
Terroristic threats	7
Theft by decep.	2
Theft by unlaw. tak.	5
Tint	2
Sex. Exp. Imag. Minor	1
Underage Drink.	5
Unlawful restraint	1
Window Tint	1
Witn. Intim.	4
Bad Check	1
Total Arrests	370
TRIPS (Not all listed)	
Carbondale	40
Clifford	103
Dickson City	6
Dunmore	9
Gibson	6
Honesdale	19
Pleasant Mt.	10
Montrose	19
Scranton	36
Simpson	2
Union Dale	1
Waymart	3
Total	234
REVENUE GENERATED	
Meter collections \$6,888	
Meter fines \$730	
Accident Reports \$195	
Restricted parking \$405	
Magistrate fines \$3,380	
Magistrate fines (LC) \$663	
Clerk of Court fines \$1007	
Clerk of Courts (LC) \$768	
State police fines \$582	
Total Revenues \$14,620	

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