

**LETTERS TO EDITOR**

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Dear Editor:

It's truly amazing, but not surprising, that Pin Heads Pelosi and Schumer and the majority of the elected Democrat Representatives in both Houses in Washington don't want to negotiate a deal with our elected President and the Republicans to finally end the Federal Government Shutdown.

President Trump has practically bent over backwards to offer various things the Democrats want and have supported in the past to bring the Shutdown to a Close, but the Democrats continue to obstruct everything he is trying to do for the legal Citizens of this Country because of their Anger and Hate for him.

In my opinion, if the Democrats continue their Hate and Obstructionism for President Trump, and the mainstream newspapers and TV Networks in this Country continue to support the Democrats Agenda of Hate and Obstructionism, 2020 may not be a good year for them in the end of it all.

John Hollenback  
Greenfield Twp.

**Northern Tier Workforce Awarded \$131,595 Grant**

Representatives Jonathan Fritz and Tina Pickett announce that the Northern Tier Workforce Development Board has been awarded a \$131,595 Business-Education Partnership grant.

The grant will be used to enable students to make informed career choices and educational pathways to succeed through interaction with employers.

Both Fritz and Pickett congratulated the Northern Tier on the successful grant application.

"It's certainly a testament to their hard work and foresight," Fritz said.

Pickett added, "I am confident that this grant will assist them in continuing to help provide our region with excellent workforce development, job training and placement programs."

Business-Education Partnership programs provide opportunities to connect local businesses with school districts to promote job opportunities and career pathways.

**Valentine's Day Dinner in C'dale Thurs., Feb. 14**

Trinity Episcopal Church, 58 River Street, Carbondale is having a Valentine's Day Pasta & Meatball Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 14th which includes: Pasta w/sauce and meatballs, salad, Italian bread and dessert. Dine in or Take out. Donation is \$10.

**Tri County Senior Meeting Mon., Feb. 11**

There will be a Tri-County Senior Citizen meeting on Mon., February 11 at 1 p.m. at the William Penn Apartments Community Room. Bring a friend. Lunch will be served.

**GFCBA Mixer to be held at Cornerstone Bible Church Thursday, March 7**



The Cornerstone Bible Church will be the setting for the GFCBA Spring Mixer set for Thursday, March 7 from 6 PM to 8 PM. Pastor Tim Madden hopes that everyone will come out to this event and you don't have to be a member of the GFCBA in order to come. It is open to the public! There will be food, music, prizes, games and speakers. Speakers will include Dr. Mary Surridge, Alpha Chiropractic; Pastor Tim Maddon, Cornerstone Bible Church; and GFCBA President Erin Debish. RSVP is by February 28 and can be emailed to Kelley Statkun at skstat@nep.net. Pictured left to right are Pastor Tim Madden, Kelley Statkun and Patricia Striefsky.

**Rep. Jon Fritz working to get Wayne drilling ban overturned**

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Jonathan Fritz, Pennsylvania representative of the state's 111th district, covering Susquehanna and Wayne Counties, struggles daily with the fact that half of his constituents are enjoying a robust economy and reaping the benefits, while the other half have limited employment options and earning potential as the state and federal government prevents natural gas development here.

It's also the tale of two watersheds. Most of Susquehanna County, the eastern half of which is part of the 111th District, is in the Susquehanna River Basin. Wayne County, the upper two-thirds of which Fritz represents, is in the Delaware River Basin. The river commissioners of both are made up of federal and state officials. The Susquehanna River Basin Commission allows drilling and hydraulic fracturing in Bradford, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties, but the Delaware River Basin Commission has yet to allow natural gas production in Wayne County.

"We feel that it is very much an injustice to the people who live there," Fritz said of his eastern constituents. "They can look over to Susquehanna County and see the opportunity and the jobs - the economic liberty that exists - and at the same time be deprived of it."

In Susquehanna County, Fritz sees improved roads, an expanded health network, and people finding

**FREE Lunch at Christ Church Sat., Feb. 23**

The Stone Soup Kitchen at Christ Church invites everyone to join them for a FREE Community Luncheon at CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Corner Delaware & Dundaff Streets, Forest City on Saturday, February 23rd with servings from Noon - 1:00pm

Join them & bring your family & friends. Share a hearty lunch & wonderful camaraderie.

family-sustainable employment. Act 13 funds (aka - impact fees) have helped municipalities purchase new equipment and build new structures. "That increases the quality of service to the resident," he stated. "It also levels the tax liability for the people who live there."

At the Susquehanna County level, there have been no new taxes since Act 13 was established, and funds allowed for a much-needed renovation at the courthouse that effectively tied together three old buildings that now operate seamlessly.

The infrastructure improvements, he noted, result from a combination of the use of Act 13 Natural Gas Impact Fees by municipalities and the energy companies themselves. "With the industry comes the realization that we need to enhance our roads. That has been a very serious endeavor by the industry," said Fritz. "When they come in and repair a road, they often leave it in much better condition than it was prior to their starting to work in the area. That's a benefit to everybody that travels over that road. Our roads are better now than they have ever been."

Fritz is often asked by Wayne County residents about the negative impacts of the industry. He tires easily, he explained, of exploitation and misrepresentation of facts put forth by anti-gas activists. They talk about heavy traffic, contamination, and disruption of tourism. While acknowledging the changes brought by natural gas development, he assures them, "the bene-

**FCR Joins In-School Winter Walking Program**

For more than a decade, Wayne Memorial Hospital has partnered with local school districts to offer an indoor exercise option during the winter months, and Forest City Regional is a part of that partnership.

From now until May 23rd, the school will be open for walkers from 6 - 8 p.m. every Monday through Thursday that school is in session.

For security reasons, walkers must be registered and log in/log out at the school for each visit.

To register, call Wayne Memorial Hospital's Community Health office at (570) 253-8990. There is a one-time \$5 fee for badge processing and mailings.

fits of responsible industrial development far outweigh any negatives."

He has come to see the increase in traffic as indicative of a healthy economy. "That's a sound job for that person driving that truck that embodies the opportunity that comes along with it. That's how I temper the reality that I'm going a little bit slower on this road because of that truck."

To those with environmental concerns, he maintains "Pennsylvania has some of the tightest and strictest regulations in the country. Negative impacts become easier to identify and mitigate over time."

Fritz wants his Wayne County neighbors to also enjoy lower unemployment, higher wages, greater job diversity, and the recognizable renaissance of their Susquehanna County counterparts and vows to continue the work with the DRBC to ease the restrictions on natural gas development.

"How they can vote and act in one way for one basin and then act and vote in an entirely different way in the other basin...speaks to hypocrisy. It's very much unfair," he stated. "We're going to continue to fight. We feel that there is no reason and logic. The fact that the industry has been very positive overall is the justification to move forward with responsible natural gas development in Wayne County."

**Winter Fest At Kennedy Park Sat., Feb. 23**

The Forest City Parks and Recreation Board, in conjunction with a Forest City Regional School Senior Project, and the Forest City Police Dept. will hold a Winter Fest on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 10AM to 2PM. Ice conditions will dictate the extent of the event.

Asst. Police Chief Lee Rowan said it will be a Senior Project of two FCR high school students, and will include ice fishing, hockey, ice skating, basketball tournament, Corn Hole Tourney, Soup Cook-Off, and other events. There will be prizes, raffles and baskets and food and beverages throughout the day.

The Senior Project students will be in charge of the fundraising for the event which will benefit the Forest City Parks and Recreations.

**The Forest City News**  
FOUNDED DECEMBER 8, 1887  
Publication Number 204880

Is published weekly on Wednesdays at a subscription rate of \$35.00 per year in Susquehanna, Lackawanna, and Wayne Counties; \$45.00 per year in all other mailing zones, and is published by The Forest City News Inc., John P. Kamenek, President, Patricia M. Striefsky, Secretary, and the publication office is 636 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421.

Periodical rate postage, paid at Forest City, PA. Phone 570-785-3800; FAX 570-785-9840. Member of Pennsylvania NewsMEDIA and National Newspaper Association (NNA).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Forest City News, 636 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421. All artwork, layout, design and news features remain the sole property of The Forest City News, Inc. Reproduction in whole or any part of any advertisement or news feature is strictly forbidden.

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

Happy Birthday to: Ron Perri, Todd Keast, Shauna Fico, Patricia O'Hara, Beulah Korba, Fran Beers, Cassandra Bendyk, Vanessa Ingrasio, Denise Vauter, Sonny Allen, Bill Woodward, Timmy Conklin, Herb Peak, Maureen Travis, Diane White, Kelly Norosky, Edeltraud Kneier and Taj Fairchild.

Happy Anniversary to: Jim and Roseann Swegel.

Pleasant Mount Library Movie Night, Friday, February 15 (weather permitting). Show starts at 6pm. Refreshments available for purchase.

Also, Block of the Month Sampler Quilt Class, with Lorraine Fenstermacher, Tuesday, February 26, 6:30-8:30pm. A \$5 donation will be donated to the library. Book Club will resume on Thursday, March 14 at 6:30pm. The book they will be discussing is any Craig Johnson book of your choice.

St. James and St. Juliana Churches are collecting personal care products like bar soaps, shampoo, disposable razors, etc. Receptacles are available in the churches for donations.

**Johnson College announces Classes for FC area people**

Johnson College will immediately be offering classes for the Forest City Community in order to begin its program to serve this area.

Kellyn Nolan, Chief Academic Officer, said that after working with Forest City Borough officials and Forest City Regional School, she is announcing some of the programs the college can offer immediately to people of the area.

They are Automotive Repair, Car Care 101, Certified Nurses Assistant (CNA), Computer Numerical Control, CNC for General Dynamics, Emissions Inspector,

Forklift, Homeowner 1010, Online Training, Mechatronics, MRI and CT, OSHA 10/30, OSHA Hazwoper, and Plumbing.

Nolan says they will provide customized training programs for workers needing to meet current industry and workforce needs. The Continuing Education Dept. will provide individuals and businesses with quality training and education.

To request further information on programs go to [www.johnson.edu/continuing-education](http://www.johnson.edu/continuing-education) or call 570-702-8979.

**Susq. County Dairy Day On March 1**

One of the long-running annual events in Susquehanna County is the Susquehanna County Ag Day, also known as Dairy Day, which is set for its 30th year in 2019. It will be Friday, March 1st, at Elk Lake Junior Senior High School from 10AM to 3:30PM.

The day provides both indoor and outdoor exhibits of about 30 different vendors, showing many facets of the dairy business, as well as educational workshops and health screenings. There will also be many door prizes. The public is invited. There is no charge for admission.

There will be a free vendor luncheon at 11:15AM and reservations are required for the lunch. The lunch is free thanks to Cabot Oil & Gas.

Vendors must register at <https://extension.psu.edu/susquehanna-county-ag-day> or call 1-877-345-0691

For further information email [1xr6@psu.edu](mailto:1xr6@psu.edu)

**Susq. Co. GOP Lincoln Day Event Feb. 23**

The Susquehanna County Republican Committee "Lincoln Day Breakfast" will be held on Saturday, February 23rd, from 9:30 AM until Noon at the Harford Fire Hall, 142 Fair Hill Road, Harford, Pa.

Besides a delicious Breakfast Buffet and a great chance to renew old friendships and make new ones, those individuals who will be seeking election, and in some cases, re-election, will be present and will have their petitions for attendees to sign so their names will be on the Primary Election ballot in May.

The cost is \$17.00 per person and a reservation must be made by February 16th by contacting Donna Cosmello, either by Email: [donnacosmello@yahoo.com](mailto:donnacosmello@yahoo.com) or by phone: 570-849-0134.

Please make checks payable to: S.C.R.C. and send to: Wendy Zapolski, 171 Foolish Pleasure Road, Friendsville, Pa. 18818

**Blood Drive at Browndale Fire Co. Fri., Feb. 8**

The Browndale Fire Station will be turned into a Community Red Cross Blood donation center from 1:00 to 6:00 PM on Friday, February 8, 2019. The Browndale Fire Station is located on Route 247, 620 Marion Street, Browndale. Please stop by to donate the gift of life!

If you would like to make an appointment to donate blood, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go on-line to: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). You may also walk in. Please help support the Red Cross and donate blood. "Give the gift of life, Give Blood".

**F.C. Lion's Club Raffle Ticket Winners**

The following people were the winners of the F.C. Lion's Club Super Bowl Cash Raffle: \$300 - Joan Skarbez, Browndale \$200 - Brad Sparks, Forest City \$100 - Al Bazink, Simpson \$100 - Kat Bronson, Richmondale \$100 - Chris DeGonzoguer, Forest City

The F.C. Lions Club would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets for the raffle and helped make this a record profit year!

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LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND  
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\*Fri., Feb. 8\*(7 - 11 p.m.)  
Flatland Ruckus  
\*Sat., Feb. 9\*(4 - 6 p.m.)  
Beer Sampling w/  
Wallenpaupack Brewery  
Brian Sheare Poker Run  
Music by Chris Shrive

**Maria's Restaurant & Deli**  
508 Main St., Forest City 570-785-7879  
Breakfast Special: 2 eggs any style, sausage or bacon, homefries & toast \$4.99  
Homemade: Chicken Parm., Meatballs, Cheeseballs, Italian Sausage  
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