

LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO
March 17, 2010

Jordan Skelley, a senior at Forest City Regional High School, was named Student of the Month for February. He was recommended by his teachers for his academic achievements and participation in student affairs despite undergoing radiation and chemotherapy.

Vandling and Forest City Borough will each pay \$7,300 for a brand new recycling truck which was applied for with a recycling grant. The total cost of the truck is \$147,194.

Elementary students at Forest City Regional School raised \$900 for the relief of earthquake victims in Haiti.

Deaths: Walter P. Ogozaly, Simpson; Patricia A. Sortino, Forest City; Angelo M. Pesoli, Carbondale; Damien Bonacci, Carbondale; Charles T. Kane, Forest City

20 YEARS AGO
March 22, 2000

Parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel church express their sadness as the building came down on March 15.

Vandling Borough Council agreed to provide \$6,000 to repair a leaking tank on Vandling Hose company's fire truck. The repairs were estimated to cost \$8,734.

Forest City Regional School Board created three new positions. They are school attendance officer, technology coordinator and an additional part-time instructional aide for the elementary learning support program.

Forest City Regional School Board will soon begin two repair projects which will cost over \$400,000. The projects include replacement of the roof on the school's original building and repair of several restrooms and the cafeteria and kitchen area.

Pleasant Mt. pierogie ladies could hit making 5,000 dozen pierogies this Lenten season.

The community pitches in to raise monies for Bruce and Colleen Weisberg. Bruce was injured in a car accident on Jan. 3, 2000.

Sarah S. Keating, Union Dale, named director of admissions at Keystone College.

Deaths: John E. Snyder, Sr., Forest City Nursing Home resident, formerly of RR Nicholson; Sr. M. Gemma Zedar, born in Forest City; Louise V. Moss, Poyntelle; Justine M. Randall, Vestal, N.Y.; Victoria R. Gilette, born in Carbondale; Margaret Whengreen, RR 1 Union Dale; Irene Purisky McLaughlin, Forest City.

30 YEARS AGO
March 22, 1990

Forest City Regional sophomore Jason Maile broke the 1,000 point plateau Friday, March 9, in a District 12 semi-final contest against Elk Lake.

Henry F. Poterjoy and Nicholas Chipchase, both of Forest City, tragically drowned Tuesday, March 13, while ice fishing in summer-like weather when the ice beneath cracked, plunging them into Lake Como in Wayne County.

Art Kreutz was elected President of the Pleasant Mount Community Center Board of Directors.

The Arts Council of Forest City, in conjunction with the PA Council on the Arts, has agreed to help fund the Forest City Regional High School Theatre Festival.

Wivey's Memorial Golf League reorganized last week. This will be the league's 25th anniversary year.

Deaths: Henry Poterjoy, Forest City; Nicholas Chipchase, Forest City; Donald Cooley, Montana; Jean Casper, born in Brown Dale; Edna Muzzy, RD 1, Union Dale; John Seman, formerly of Richmondale; Thomas Russick, formerly of Forest City; Mrs. Esther Kruse, RR 1, Thompson.

40 YEARS AGO
March 20, 1980

Joseph Skelly, Susq. County Democratic Chairman, died Sunday at his Susquehanna home.

Paul Lee was elected president of the Union Dale Fire Company. Tom Yale is fire chief.

The Channel 16 Insta-buckets will play a benefit basketball game Friday.

Arthur Flynn, formerly of Herick Center, was named corporate vice president of Pick American Hotels.

Scott Butler, Vandling, has returned to Charleston, SC, after deployment aboard the nuclear sub-

marine L. Mendel Rivers.

Certificates for typing 60-69 correct words per minute were awarded at FCRHS to Sherry Skotch, Ann Marie Nebzydowski and Martha Terry.

The Forester playoff hopes ended last week with a 57-50 loss to Cardinal Brennan at Pottsville.

Deaths: Florence Bartholomay, Vandling; Mrs. Julia Shinn, Vandling; Mrs. Olive Howe, Herick Center; Mrs. Mary Rebernik, Forest City; Harland I. Morgan, Syracuse; Mrs. Lottie Sulicki, mother of Rev. Casimir Sulicki.

50 YEARS AGO
March 19, 1970

Mrs. Stella Zielinski, 51, of Vandling was killed Saturday when struck by a car along the Scranton Carbondale Highway near the Eynon Drug Store.

The Rev. Richard J. Frank has been transferred to St. Joseph's Church, Forest City, replacing the Rev. Andrew Krushinski who is transferred to Freeland.

Fire, which began in a water heater, did over \$15,000 damage to the Union Dale home of Joseph Matircho.

Mrs. Bernadette Slick was appointed crew leader for the 1970 census in this area.

Fred Kigerl and Gerard Walsh were appointed to the newly organized Susquehanna County Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Over 220 people heard Msgr. Leo Granahan at the annual St. Patrick's Banquet at St. Agnes Church.

60 YEARS AGO
March 24, 1960

George Maile and Joseph Walsh, long identified in supervisory positions with the Big Chief Markets, have taken over proprietorship and personal management of the Forest City Big Chief Market effective Monday, March 21.

Edmund L. Flynn, whose many civic and charitable activities have made him an outstanding leader in community betterment, has been selected as Bedford's "Man of the Year" for 1959. A native of Herick Center, the son of Mrs. Arthur Flynn and the late Mr. Flynn, he is a graduate of the Forest City High School.

Twin sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. David Auel, of Kingston, NY. Mrs. Auel is the former Mary Kost, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kost, Center Street.

Deaths during the week: Samuel Stark, Union Dale; John L. Manhennett, 70, of Susquehanna; Mrs. Margaret Haggerty of Honesdale; Mrs. Mildred Marcinkus Gabin, Dunmore.

70 YEARS AGO
March 13, 1950

Chief Justice of the PA Supreme Court George W. Maxey, Forest City's distinguished son, died Monday in Pittsburgh when the State Supreme Court opened its Spring Session.

Frank Gersic, Brown Dale, a trainman, was fatally injured yesterday when he was thrown from the top of a box car in the Carbondale yard of the D&H Railroad.

Anthony Opeka, Vandling, was fatally injured in a rock fall in the Coalbrook mine of the Hudson Coal Co. in Carbondale.

Francis Petrus, Forest City High School senior and center man on the Forester's basketball team, was voted the coveted center position of the Northern Scholastic League's All Star team.

Deaths during the week: Paul Timko, Richmondale; Frank Snarcavage, Delaware St.; Mrs. Alice Hine, Ararat; George A. Smith, former Vandling resident, in Buffalo; Mrs. Angelina Benasutti, 706 Main Street.

80 YEARS AGO
March 21, 1940

William McLaughlin, former local resident and former Susquehanna County Sheriff, has been named Chief Stewart at the Farview State Hospital.

Fire seriously damaged the home of Prof. Michael O'Brien, N. Main St., early this morning. Bruce Bloxham has been named Captain of the Keystone College wrestling squad.

Over 400 were in attendance at the annual St. Patrick's dinner of St. Agnes Parish.

Joseph Garrick was named chairman of the "Guffy For Senator" campaign in Susquehanna County.

American Legion Post observes

20th anniversary of the founding of local unit.

90 YEARS AGO
March 27, 1930

State Police are investigating what is believed to have been a dynamite explosion which destroyed and burned the oil house of the Northwest Colliery located about a mile south of Vandling.

Roger Bailey was named president of the Hi-Y Club organized at the Vandling High School.

Anton Bradac, 47, Hudson St., was fatally stricken while at work in the Hillside mine Friday morning.

Attorney Lyle Hornbeck, of Syracuse, NY, is spending a short vacation here visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Hornbeck.

100 YEARS AGO
March 18, 1920

Forest City's official census is listed at 6,004. Local census enumerators were William Lumbert, J. A. Duffy, George Garrick and J. J. Connolly.

Mr. and Mrs. Grandison Loomis, of Maple Grove, Clinton Township, observed their 50th wedding anniversary on Tuesday.

The street cars are running again after being snowed in for the past several weeks.

William S. Davies, senior member of the Auto Sales and Service Co., passed away Friday after a long illness.

Samuel Pay, Richmondale, and Frank Carlson were injured Friday while riding a car in the Erie mines.

110 YEARS AGO
March 24, 1910

Martin Kelly represented Vandling Borough at a county wide meeting in Scranton, in the interest of the new county road to be built soon.

E. A. Bloxham has received the contract to build a new dwelling to replace the building destroyed by a recent fire on the Forest City Poor Farm.

George Robinson died from injuries received yesterday when he was kicked by a horse on the farm of J. J. Geuther.

Q. F. Horton has purchased of M. M. Mulholland, of Carbondale, the well known pacer "Sir Echo" raised on the stock farm of J. Jermy.

120 YEARS AGO
March 22, 1900

A new school building is nearing completion.

The Hillside Coal and Iron Co. paid out over a half million dollars in Forest City during 1899.

Frank Westgate of Union Dale has received an order for 5,000 tons of ice from Metropolitan New York sources.

Will Taylor has been promoted to chief electrician post made vacant by the resignation of James T. Jennings, of the Hillside Coal and Iron Co.

The building which was used as a lunch room at the terminus of the street car line, before the latter was extended to Forest City, was on Monday night removed to the lot above the Clifford breaker. The building was put on "skids" and hauled up Main Street at midnight by a twelve-horse team.

Henry Bennett, harness maker, has disposed of his stock to Isaac Curtis of Union Dale. He expects to leave for Nebraska.

130 YEARS AGO
March 25, 1890

Two men were instantly killed, two more fatally injured, and four others seriously injured when three boilers blew up in the Northwest Colliery Saturday morning.

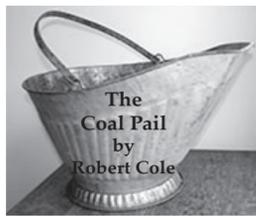
The local school board has accepted the plans for the erection of a new two story eight room 22 x 30 building.

The Forest City Borough Council has passed an Ordinance levying a license tax on all horse carriages and omnibuses and other vehicles in the borough.

Special policemen in the borough are John A. Brown, Chief Frank Scully, Daniel Melvin Jr., George Knapp, Fred Staley, O. A. Leonard and Charles Leonard.

Charles Fitzsimmons, of Pleasant Mount, shot a magnificent eagle in that town. The bird weighed 21 pounds and measured 8 feet, 6 inches for wing tips.

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The following short stories are of life as a young boy in the Forest City Area and are written by Robert Cole, Bordentown, NJ. His parents were Alfred and Jessie Atkinson Cole. He was born in 1940 in his grandparent's house on Railroad Street. His grandparents were Richard and Jessie Atkinson.

Continued from last week

The next Christmas I asked for a shotgun. Did not think that I would ever get one but had to ask in case someone may get one for me. Christmas morning I was awake early and went down stairs to see what was under the tree. I saw a 4.10 double barrel side by side shotgun laying in front of the tree. WOW! My own shotgun, because I knew that my sisters would not have asked for that. What a great gift. I hunted rabbits and grouse with it for 3 years.

By then, I really had outgrown the 4.10 and wanted a different shotgun. My uncle Tucker, Thomas Atkinson, had a 16 gauge Remington 870 pump that he wanted to sell. His twin boys were getting older and he was afraid that they would start playing with it. He said that I could buy it for \$35.00. What a buy back in 1954. I sold the 4.10 for \$35.00 and bought the pump shotgun. I could kick myself in the butt for selling the 4.10. Awesome gun for rabbits.

Uncle Dick, Richard Atkinson, and Uncle Clyde Atkinson took me hunting with them. Uncle Dick had a farm in Curtis Valley where we hunted a lot. It was owned by one of the Curtis family. They had cows and there was a stand of hemlock on the farm. Cows wandered through it. There were blackberry patches growing up in it and it was loaded with rabbits, and the hemlock held squirrels. Loads of fun hunting there and always brought home food for the table.

Uncle Clyde also took myself, Boopie, (Bruce Atkinson) and Bolis, (Alan Atkinson), to a farm in Creamton, owned by John Reedle. Cow pastures were also full of small patches of blackberry bushes and they held many rabbits. So much fun to hunt.

I miss the hound dogs baying at the rabbits and the chase that lasted a long time. You just had to stand still and the dogs would circle the rabbit back to the place where they started it. I have hunted a lot of Christmas tree farms here in New Jersey after the Christmas season was over and no one was on the farm. Rule was that you could not shoot if the rabbit was in the trees. LOL—I saw many branches fly off if the rabbit was running through the trees. Shoot and don't tell anyone.

I am getting too old to walk and rabbit hunt now but I sure miss it. Just listening to the hounds running the rabbits. I did get another 4.10 over and under and have carried it for years. I also still have the Remington 16 gauge shotgun, and my son Robert Anthony Cole hunted with it all of his life.

SAD TO THINK THAT PART OF MY LIFE IS OVER AND NOW I JUST CAN DREAM ABOUT THE RABBITS RUNNING AND THE SOUND OF THE GUN GOING OFF AND THE DOGS BAYING AT THE RABBITS.

Cancer Benefit for Aileen Shay Sat., April 25

A cancer benefit for Aileen Shay will be held on Sat., April 25 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Gibson Grange Hall, Rte. 92 in Gellatt.

You can pre-order the raffle basket and chicken BBQ tickets until April 11 by calling 570-727-2995 or 570-756-2958. Walk-ins are also welcome.

The cost is \$12 for dinner or \$7 for half. All money collected will be used to help the family with medical bills and expenses.

Meat Raffle Postponed to Sat., May 16

Due to the recent corona virus pandemic, The FCAES has decided to postpone the Meat Raffle from March 21st to May 16th. The health and wellbeing of our community is foremost in our minds in this time of great concern. Please hold on to your chances and come out to support them on May 16th.

Resources Available for Those Affected by COVID 19 Mitigation

Senator Lisa Baker is reminding community residents that resources are available to help employees and families who have been affected by the state's coronavirus mitigation efforts.

According to the Department of Labor and Industry, Pennsylvanians who are unable to work because of the COVID-19 coronavirus may be eligible for Unemployment or Workers' Compensation benefits.

Unemployment Compensation is available for employees whose employer temporarily closes, goes out of business due to COVID-19 or reduces hours due to COVID-19. Eligibility is also extended to employees who are told not to work, have been told to self-isolate or quarantine to prevent the spread of the virus.

UC call centers are experiencing extremely high call volumes, so claimants are encouraged to get help by email at livehelp@pa.gov, or via UC LiveChat.

Employees who have been exposed to COVID-19 in their workplace could also be eligible for Workers' Compensation. More details about benefits for affected employees are available at www.uc.pa.gov/Pages/covid19.aspx.

Also, individuals who are out of work due to the coronavirus can seek emergency food assistance at local food banks. Many food banks, pantries, shelters and soup kitchens are offering special drive-through services to limit close personal contact.

A list of food banks and additional guidance from the Department of Agriculture is available at www.media.pa.gov

Rep. Fritz Temporarily Closes Offices

Rep. Jonathan Fritz (R-Susquehanna/Wayne) issued the following statement regarding his office closure.

"In order to help contain the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus and protect the health and safety of local residents and office staff, my offices will be temporarily closed for meetings until further notice.

"My staff will still be available to respond to emails and phone messages during this time. Community residents who need help with any problem related to state government are encouraged to visit my website at www.rep.fritz.com for information.

"My offices' contact information is as follows: Montrose Office; phone 570-278-3374 ir email: aallen@pahousegop.com; Honesdale Office phone 570-253-5533 or email: achristopher@pahousegop.com; Capitol Office phone 717-783-2910 or email: jfritz@pahousegop.com

Suicide Loss Support Group Cancelled

Due to the novel coronavirus or COVID-19 the Survivors of Suicide Loss Support group scheduled for March 26, at Wayne Memorial Hospital has been cancelled.

PA. Funeral Directors Brace for Grief

In an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus, funeral directors across Pennsylvania are being urged to postpone funerals, cancel public viewings, and limit attendance services to 10.

The Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association encouraged funeral homes to consider limiting services to immediate family and moving public memorials to a later date.

That guidance was reaffirmed in a memo sent to members in response to Gov. Tom Wolf's announcement of a statewide shutdown, restricting nonessential businesses.

The memo from the association answered the question that many funeral directors had been asking: yes, the removal of bodies "from anywhere other than hospitals" is considered essential, the association's president, David Peake Jr., wrote, but Peake also advised members to make changes to their procedures.

"Hold bodies for [approximately] two weeks," he wrote. "Do not have public viewings. Limit it to small family gatherings if you must have any. Have memorial services later, after this passes."

"There is no one that is going to tell you to shut your business. However, common sense dictates you should severely limit any interaction with other human beings," Peake added.

No Federal Inmates to be Transferred Here

Congressman Fred Keller (R-PA) Sunday sent a letter to federal Bureau of Prisons Director Michael Carvajal telling him to not transfer federal inmates to USP Lewisburg, USP Canaan, or FCC Allenwood.

On March 21, 2020, the Associated Press reported that the first federal inmate, located in New York City, has tested positive for COVID-19.

"[I]t is clear that BOP can no longer guarantee transferred inmates are free of COVID-19 and can no longer guarantee the safety of BOP personnel should inmates from affected areas like New York be transferred to locations that have no or few cases of COVID-19," the letter states in part.

"Given the above report, and the serious risk of contributing to community spread of COVID-19, I request that no inmates from affected areas be transferred to USP Lewisburg, FCC Allenwood, or USP Canaan," the letter continues. "To transfer inmates to these facilities following the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the federal BOP system would be irresponsible and put at risk the health and safety of correctional officers, their families, inmates, and the broader central and northeast Pennsylvania community."

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