

6 West Strawberry Avenue, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (717) 796-0811 www.mechanicsburgchamber.org

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#### FREE HOT DOG ON MARCH 28



To celebrate the official start of baseball season, Mechanicsburg Chamber's Executive Director and baseball fanatic, Jeff Palm, will once again grill hot dogs for the community on **Thursday, March 28th.** 

He will be set up from **12:00-1:00 p.m**., or while supplies last, on the corner of Main and Market Streets in downtown Mechanicsburg in front of PNC Bank, 2 E Main St.

#### Stop by and enjoy a free hot dog, courtesy of Jeff!

#### CHAMBER EVENTS Watch for Weekly Updates!!

March

**21-22** - Chamber Office will have limited hours.

**28 - Business Leaders Discussion Group** -Sponsored by **PaySmart Payroll Services**, **650 Wilson Ln, Ste. 100, Mechanicsburg**. 7:45 - 9:00am. Members only event.

**29** - Chamber Office closed for Good Friday.

RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org

For a full calendar of chamber and member events, visit www.mechanicsburgchamber.org/events

#### **Thank You For Renewing Your Membership!**

Aumiller's Auto Parts Business Men's League Daflure Heating & Cooling JoJo's Pizza & Pasta Melaleuca - The Wellness Company - Helen Hoover Messiah Lifeways PA Media Group





RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org or call 717-796-0811. This members-only event is **free** to attend!

Bring your questions and business topics and hear what others have to say!



#### AMERICAN PICKERS to Film in Pennsylvania

The American Pickers are excited to return to Pennsylvania! They plan to film episodes of The History Channel hit television series throughout your area in April 2024.

AMERICAN PICKERS is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on The History Channel. The hit show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find historically significant or rare items, in addition to unforgettable Characters and their collections.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, they want to meet characters with amazing stories and fun items. They hope to

give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way. The Pickers have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

The American Pickers TV Show is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a unique item, story to tell, and is ready to sell...we would love to hear from you! Please note, the Pickers DO NOT pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums, or anything open to the public. If interested, please send us your name, phone number, location, and description of the collection with photos to: <a href="mailto:americanpickers@cineflix.com">americanpickers@cineflix.com</a> or call (646) 493-2184 facebook: @GotAPick

#### **Report Potholes to PennDOT**

While it's always great to welcome the spring thaw, it also brings with it more potholes on our roads and bridges. Extreme fluctuations in temperatures can contribute to more potholes on our roads.

To help combat potholes and prevent them from becoming a danger to vehicles and drivers on the road, you can report potholes to PennDOT. Simply call 1-800-FIX-ROAD or click here to file a report online.



On June 20, Jubilee Day returns to the streets of downtown Mechanicsburg. This year marks the 94th Annual edition! Don't miss your chance to be exposed to nearly 70,000 attendees from across the midstate.

Booth space is available at a discounted rate for Chamber members. Contact the chamber for an application. 717-796-0811 or info@ mechanicsburgchamber.org





Constituents of the 88th District are invited to Representative Sheryl Delozier's document shredding event on Thursday, March 21. A previous email incorrectly stated the event was being held on a Saturday.

Safely dispose of up to four boxes/bags at this free event. This service is for individuals only; no businesses, please. Paper clips and binder clips must be removed prior to the event.

RSVPing for this event helps give the shredding company and her staff a headcount, please let her know you're coming by calling 717-761-4665 or visit RepDelozier.com/ Events. Shredding will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis at the event.

#### **UPMC Kicks-Off "Talk to Us Tuesdays" Recruitment Events**



JOB SEEKERS Talk to Us Tuesdays!

Walk-in every Tuesday Jan. 30 to Mar. 26 | 8 a.m. to Noon All UPMC in Central Pa. Hospitals See signage in lobby.

careers.upmc.com/events

UPMC in Central Pa. hiring teams are inviting community members to any UPMC hospital campus in the region every Tuesday between Jan. 30 and March 26 to learn more about UPMC careers. The "Talk to Us Tuesdays" sessions are offered from 8 a.m. to noon.

Talk to Us Tuesdays is a casual opportunity for clinical and licensed health care professionals to explore rewarding careers at UPMC and learn about UPMC's Total Rewards package, which is designed to support employees' total well-being — physically, financially, emotionally and professionally.

No appointment is needed to attend. UPMC is specifically aiming to connect with experienced professionals and current college students studying in the following areas:

- CT, MRI or diagnostic technologist
  - Medical laboratory scientist or technician
  - Nursing (RNs and LPNs)
- Pharmacy tech
- Respiratory therapist
- Sonographer or echocardiography sonographer
- Surgical technologist

Those interested in speaking with the UPMC hiring team should visit the hospital's main entrance and follow recruitment signage or ask to be directed to the cafeteria.\*

#### Talk to Us Tuesdays Locations

- UPMC Carlisle, 361 Alexander Spring Road, Carlisle
- UPMC Community Osteopathic, 4300 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg
- UPMC Hanover, 300 Highland Ave., Hanover
- UPMC Harrisburg, Brady Medical Building, 205 S. Front St., Harrisburg

\* Those attending at the UPMC Harrisburg campus should go to the Brady Building and ask to be directed to the Human Resources Department.

- UPMC Lititz, 1500 Highlands Drive, Lititz
- UPMC Memorial, 1701 Innovation Drive, York
- UPMC West Shore, 1995 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg

For more information, contact Emma Hohl at hohlee@upmc.edu, or visit careers.upmc.com to explore all of UPMC's opportunities.

## The Secret to Engaging in Dementia

Rebekah Wilson, MSW Owner, Aging Care Coach LLC

#### LIVE WEBINAR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET/12:00 pm - 1:30 pm CT

This online educational program is about **engaging individuals living with dementia** in social engagement programming and care delivery. This program is intended for **clinicians and family caregivers** and is designed to:

- Help participants identify and understand the impact of brain changes in various parts of the brain on engagement
- 2 Identify categories of time use and the importance of balanced time use
- 3 Explore effective environmental modifications that will enhance participation in care delivery and social engagement

Rebekah Wilson, MSW, Dementia Trainer and Consultant will present this 90-minute online presentation that empowers participants to implement strategies to increase engagement and quality of life for individuals with dementia. Additionally, participants will identify approaches to share with direct care workers and family caregivers to reduce caregiver burden and stress.

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#### 1.5 CE Credits Offered For

- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Counselors
- MFTs
- Long-Term Care Administrators
- Other behavioral health professionals

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#### **CLICK TO REGISTER**

ARTIS SENIOR LIVING OF WESTSHORE

150 N. 12th Street, Lemoyne, PA 17043 | 717-409-8921

Westshore.ArtisSeniorLiving.com

#### CARLISLE CHAMBER CAREER & JOB EXPO



*Chamber Chatter* is published on-line every Thursday.

We encourage member businesses to send us information on sales, promotions, news and events. It is a great way to promote your business or organization.

Chamber Chatter advertisements will remain for up to 4 weeks, or as space permits.

If you have something to share, please submit it by Wednesday at noon to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.

\*\*Chamber Chatter advertising is a FREE member benefit.\*\*



This event could be right up your alley! The BIGGEST BOWLING PARTY in the region is back to ignite the power and promise of youth. Bowl for Kids' Sake raises funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region. Gather your friends, family and coworkers to bowl for a cause! Raise funds to connect youth across 5 counties with caring mentors who inspire kids to dream BIG! The more you raise, the bigger your impact! Multiple event dates are available. Register today at CAPBIGS.ORG. Bowl for Kids' Sake is sponsored by Hershey's Chocolate World.

Event has multiple dates/times/locations (additional event dates may be added):

- Saturday, March 23rd at 1:00pm & 3:30pm. ABC West, Mechanicsburg.
- Sunday, March 24th at 2:00pm. ABC West, Mechanicsburg.
- Sunday, April 7th at 2:00pm. 222 Dutch Lanes, Ephrata.
- Thursday, April 18th at 6:00pm. Palmyra Bowling, Palmyra.
- Thursday, April 25th at 6:00pm. Midway Bowl, Carlisle.



## GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs) Mechanicsburg

We are inviting local restaurants and businesses to participate in our second annual **"Flavors of Mechanicsburg"**. This event is a benefit for the "Veterans' Grove" that will house homeless veterans in Central PA with 100% of the proceeds going to them. We will be cohosts with the American Legion Post 109 at 224 West Main St, Mechanicsburg, where our event is being held.

This event is also a celebration of the incredible restaurants now open in Mechanicsburg! It's an opportunity for people to explore our local treasures and for you to exhibit your culinary talents. To participate you are asked to bring 250-300 samples of whatever food you would like to feature. And, of course, please bring along marketing materials such as menus, coupons for patrons to return to your location and any other table top brochures/items you would like to display. There will also be a raffle for door prizes and a silent auction, participation is optional.

Date: **Sunday, April 7, 2024 12:30pm - 2:30pm** Setup: 11:30pm -12:30pm Take down: 2:30pm - 3:00pm

If your business would like to participate, please contact Pam Fleck as soon as possible (717-254-6136 or pamfleck13@yahoo.com).

Please consider joining us for this delicious way to support those who served to protect us!



### Lions Club Open House April 16, 2024

#### **Free Dinner!**

In 1925, Helen Keller challenged the Lions to be the "Knights of the Blind". Lions International accepted that challenge and have been helping the blind ever since. The Lions have grown to be the largest service organization in the world with 1.4 Million members in 48,000 clubs in 200 Countries!

Would you like to give back to your community through service?

Would you like to learn more about the Lions?

Join the 79 men & women of our club to better our community!

#### **<u>Reply if Interested!</u>**

Where: Buhrig's Gathering Place - 25 E. Main Street - Mechanicsburg, PA

When: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 5:45-6:15 Arrival Time 6:30 Dinner

#### **RSVP:** by April 11<sup>th</sup>

Email: mechanicsburglionsclub@gmail.com

Phone: 717-516-8401

 You must RSVP to reserve your place for dinner!

 This event is sponsored by the Lions Club of Mechanicsburg PA-Membership materials will be distributed during the evening.



The Englewood, 1219 W End Ave Suite B, Hershey, PA 17036

If the idea of talking about death, dying, and grief makes you cringe, you're not alone! Join Attorney Jessica Greene at Death, Dying & Grief: An Honest Conversation – an event designed to explore these topics in a safe and uplifting atmosphere. Learn how to navigate and nurture this essential part of our collective journey.

We promise, it's not going to be as scary as it sounds. This isn't your typical event. We're breaking the silence around these challenging subjects, offering a space for open dialogue and understanding. Come armed with your questions and leave with valuable resources provided by locally-owned businesses. This event is designed to be informative, comforting, and even uplifting. Let's break the silence and learn together!

#### **REGISTER HERE**

#### **IRS Hikes 2024 Tax-Deductible Mileage Rate**

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service on Thursday announced the 2024 rate used to calculate the deductible costs of operating a car, van, pickup or panel truck for business purposes would be 67 cents per mile, 1.5 cents higher than in 2023. The deductible mileage rate is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile, and applies to electric and hybrid vehicles as well as those that are gasoline-powered. Many companies use the standard rate to calculate reimbursements for employees who use personal vehicles for business.



KIRK WISE UPCOMING SOLO, DUO & BAND PUBLIC DATES

Fri. 3/22 – Hook & Flask, Carlisle... Kirk & Patrick Duo 7-10

Tue. 3/26- Greystone Brew House@ Range End , Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6-9

Fri. 3/29 – The Gettysburger Company, Gettysburg...Kirk & Patrick Duo 7-10

Sat. 3/30 – Rotunda Brewing & Restaurant, Annville...Kirk Duo 6-9

Tue. 4/2 – Greystone Brew House@ Range End , Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6-9

Fri. 4/5 – Totem Pole Wine Farm/Ranch, Carlisle...Kirk solo 6:30-8:30

Tue. 4/9 – Greystone Brew House@ Range End, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6-9

Thur. 4/11 – Food Truck Rally, New Cumberland ...Kirk solo 5-8

Sat. 4/13 – Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs, Railroad/ Shrewsbury...Kirk solo 6-8

> For complete up-to-date schedule, information, and photos go to www.jazzmeband.com

Bookings: call Kirk at 717-979-0341 or E-mail <u>wisemotors@aol.com</u>

Tour sponsors: FARNHAM INSURANCE, MEMBERS 1st F. C. U., CLASSIC DRY CLEANERS, STUDIO D & LANDON WISE PHOTOGRAPHY



Lions Club of Mechanicsburg, PA

4th Annual Mechanicsburg Lions "We Serve" Golf Tournament

Friday, July 12, 2024



Tee Off: 8:00am Shotgun Start

Proceeds Benefiting

Lions Club of Mechancisburg, PA Charities



The Mechanicsburg Lions Club will host the 4th annual "We Serve" charity Golf Tournament on Friday, July 12, 2024 at Mayapple Golf Club in Carlisle. 8am shot gun start with lunch to follow at Fiddler's Bar & Grill at the golf course.

We hope you will join us again this year and help us support our many charitable organizations. Click **here** for registration forms. Limited to the first 108 golfers that sign up and pay. We look forward to seeing you on the course. Thank you for your continued support.



#### THE FUND FOR WOMEN & GIRLS ANNUAL GRANTEE RECOGNITION BREAKFAST TO HONOR 15 ORGANIZATIONS AND \$60,000 OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Fund for Women & Girls (FWG) is delighted to be at the West Shore Country Club on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, for the Annual Grantee Recognition Breakfast. This year's event will honor and recognize 15 local organizations making a positive impact supporting the women and girls in Central PA. Attendees will hear these organizations' powerful stories of making real change and how they are creating opportunities for female health, safety, education, and inclusion right here in our region.

The organizations being recognized were awarded a combined total of \$60,000 in grant funding. They include:

- Boys and Girls Club of Central PA, SMART Girls
- Boys and Girls Club of Chambersburg and Shippensburg, SMART Girls
- Brethren Housing Association, Ongoing Homelessness for Single Mothers and their Children
- Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area, Rental Assistance for Single Mothers and their Children Facing Homelessness
- Community CARES, Family Emergency Shelter
- Community Check-Up Center of South Harrisburg, Providing Long-Acting Reversible Contraception for Uninsured Women
- Cumberland Valley Breast Cancer Alliance, Inc., Lymphedma Sleeves, Breast Prostheses, and Related Items for Survivor of Breast Cancer
- Girls on the Run Mid State PA, The Confidence Suite: Programming to Meet the Current Physical and Mental Needs of Adolescent Girls
- Girls on the Run Lancaster-Lebanon, Empowering Girls in Lebanon County
- Greenlight Operation, Restoration Home Project
- Healthy Steps Diaper Bank, Ending Diaper Need and Period Poverty in South Central Pennsylvania
- Lebanon Valley Volunteers in Medicine, Basic Primary Health Care Management for Uninsured Women that have low household income residing in Lebanon County
- Perry County Literacy Council, Women's Education Initiative
- Shape of Justice Inc., Menstrual hygiene products for Join Hands Ministry
- YWCA Carlisle & Cumberland County, Sexual Assault & Anti Human Trafficking Services for Women & Girls

To learn more about each of The Fund for Women & Girls grantees visit https://www.tfec.org/our-community/initiatives/womens-fund/womens-fund-grants/.

The Fund for Women & Girls Annual Grantee Recognition Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, from 7:30–9:00 a.m. at the West Shore Country Club. Proceeds from this event directly support future grant making from The Fund for Women & Girls.

To purchase your tickets, visit www.tfec.org/breakfast.

#### ABOUT THE FUND FOR WOMEN & GIRLS

The Fund for Women and Girls, a special initiative of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), was created in 2000 to broaden the awareness of, and respond to, issues affecting women and girls through the power of collective philanthropy. Women and girls around the world are inordinately represented among the poor, uneducated, and abused. Without a focused effort to combat the issues that face them, they will remain among the underserved. Our vision is of a region where women and girls are afforded the right to live in safety, meet their basic needs for living, have the opportunities to pursue their dreams, and are inspired to experience the value of philanthropy.

#### ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), the 18th oldest community foundation in the United States, inspires giving by partnering with donors to achieve their charitable goals, and strengthens our local communities by investing in them now, and for future generations. TFEC has been serving the South-Central Pennsylvania counties of Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, and Perry, and the Dillsburg Area for more than 100 years. Regional foundations of TFEC include the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation, the Franklin County Community Foundation, the Mechanicsburg Area Community Foundation, the Perry County Community Foundation, and the Dillsburg Area Community Foundation.

For more information on TFEC, please visit www.tfec.org.

# LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

## UPMC Launches New Medical Assistant Trainee Program in Central Pa.

UPMC in Central Pa. has launched an in-house medical assistant trainee program. Through the paid training program, students enrolled in the UPMC Medical Assistant course undergo clinical rotations, didactic skills modules, cost-free MA certification exam and an externship placement at a UPMC in Central Pa. outpatient clinic, along with support in applying for and beginning a permanent position.

A pilot class started in late fall of 2023. The inaugural class of the Medical Assistant Trainee program graduated after completing the 16-week session and passing their Certified Clinical Medical Assistant

(CCMA) exams. The three graduates committed full-time to gain key skills in an educational and clinical setting while also being paid.

"This program has allowed me to achieve the goals that I was looking for and spend time with my children, while still providing for them," said Shanda Neal, MA graduate. "Being paid to learn has alleviated the uncertainty about making this career change."

Students work directly with physicians and staff in multiple medical offices across the region to assist with various aspects of patient care. Graduates from the program immediately start as senior medical assistants in fields of their interest.

"We're excited to celebrate our first cohort and the success of the new MA training program," said Gina Pupo, senior director of Clinical Operations. "The achievement of our students highlights the positive patient experience that our program brings to our medical offices across the central Pa. region."

#### **UPMC MA Trainee Enrollment**

The next cohort for the UPMC MA Trainee program will begin on Monday, May 13. Classes will be held for 16 weeks, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the UPMC education facility at 3 Walnut St., Lemoyne. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and have a high school diploma (or the equivalent).

For more information, go to careers.UPMC.com and search "Medical Assistant Trainee" in Lemoyne, PA.

## Why Do Airlines Charge So Much for Checked Bags?

Carriers have incentive to separate luggage fees from the fare but are the increases doing anything to benefit the traveler?

by Jay L. Zagorsky, Boston University, The Conversation, Associated Press

Five out of the six biggest U.S. airlines have raised their checked bag fees since January.

Take American Airlines. In 2023, it cost \$30 to check a standard bag with the airline; now it costs \$40 at a U.S. airport (\$35 if you pay online) — a whopping 33 percent increase.

As a business schoolprofessor who studies travel, I'm often asked why airlines alienate their customers with baggage fees instead of bundling all charges together. There are many reasons, but an important, often overlooked cause is buried in the U.S. tax code.

#### A tax loophole

Airlines pay the government 7.5 percent of the ticket price when flying people domestically, along-

side other fees. The airlines dislike these charges, with their trade association arguing that they boost the cost to the consumer of a typical air ticket by around one-fifth.

However, the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations specifically excludes baggage fees from the 7.5 percent transportation tax as long as "the charge is separable from the payment for the transportation of a person and is shown in the exact amount."

This means if an airline charges a combined \$300 to fly you and a bag round-trip within the United States, it owes \$22.50 in tax. If the airline charges \$220 to fly you plus separately charges \$40 each way for the bag, then your total cost is the same — but the airline only owes the government \$16.50 in taxes. Splitting out baggage charges saves the airline \$6.

Now \$6 might not seem like much, but it can add up. Last year, passengers took more than 800 million trips on major airlines. Even if only a fraction of them check their bags, that means large savings for the industry.

How large? The government has tracked revenue from bag fees for decades. In 2002, airlines charged passengers a total of \$180 million to check bags, which worked out to around 33 cents per passenger.

Today, as any flier can attest, bag fees are a lot higher. Airlines collected over 40 times more money in bag fees last year than they did in 2002.

When the full data is in for 2023, total bag fees likely will top \$7 billion, which is about \$9 for the average domestic passenger. By splitting out the cost of bags, airlines avoided paying about half a billion dollars in taxes just last year.

In the two decades since 2002, fliers paid a total of about \$70 billion in bag fees. This means separately charging for bags saved airlines about \$5 billion in taxes.

It seems clear that tax savings are one driver of the unbundling of baggage fees because of a quirk in the law.

#### Flying out of the country

The U.S. government doesn't apply the 7.5 percent tax to international flights that go more than 225 miles beyond the nation's borders. Instead, there are fixed international departure and arrival taxes. This is why major airlines charge \$35 to \$40 for bags if you're flying domestically, but don't charge a bag fee when you're flying to Europe or Asia.

#### Do travelers get anything for that money?

This system raises an interesting question: Do baggage fees force airlines to be more careful with bags, since customers who pay more expect better service?

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, which has been tracking lost luggage for decades and reports the number of mishandled bags per thousand airline passengers. The government's data showed mishandled bags peaked in 2007 with about seven reports of lost or damaged luggage for every thousand passengers. That means you could expect your luggage to go on a different trip than the one you are taking about once every 140 or so flights. By 2018, that estimate had fallen to once every 350 flights. In 2019, the government changed how it tracks mishandled bags, calculating figures based on the total number of bags checked, rather than the total number of passengers. The new data show about six bags per thousand checked get lost or damaged, which is less than 1 percent of checked bags. Unfortunately, the data hasn't shown improvement since 2019.

Is there anything that you can do about higher bag fees? Complaining to politicians probably won't help. In 2010, two senators tried to ban bag fees, and their bill went nowhere.

Given that congressional action failed, there's a simple way to avoid higher bag fees: travel light and don't check any luggage. It might sound tough not to have all your belongings when traveling, but it might be the best option as bag fees take off.

#### About the authors

Jay Zagorsky is clinical associate professor of markets, public policy and law at Boston University. The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license via the Northtstar Meetings Group.