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"Warrior Pride" In Response To Tragedy

The Canton Area School District Board of education held its February meeting with President Judy Sourbeer and Directors Dennis Sourbeer, Jared Wilcox, Ryan Allen, Krista Jennings, William Holland, Mike Herman and J. Scott May, Superintendent of Schools Eric Briggs, High School Principal Craig Coleman, Elementary Principal Michael Wells, Business Manager Mark Jannone, Special Education Supervisor Dan Coran, Solicitor Richard Sheetz and an audience of four.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Mr. Briggs began his report by reading a statement about the tragic loss of Kirsten Bagley:

As you are all well aware, we lost a parent of the Canton Area School District this week.

I had the pleasure of working with the family professionally and personally as I spent many years at the IU working as a colleague of Kirsten Bagley.

Kirsten was a mother that not only affected the local Canton Community in many ways, but she also impacted the surrounding communities.

From the local soccer program to the Troy Fair, Kirsten always found a way to be involved with her children and support them through any endeavor.

As I have spoken to many people in the community throughout the week, the same three phrases keep surfacing as we reminisce about our memories with her: a person who you could always rely on, someone who would do anything for her kids and family, and the desire to exemplify excellence in whatever activities she was involved. Although we will miss her, Kirsten has left us with many great memories.

As you are aware, each Friday, I typically send out a list of "thank you's" to various staff throughout the district. The theme this week is about community. When I talk about community, I am talking about the Canton Area School District Community.

Although the town of Canton may not be the largest town in the Commonwealth, our people have some of the biggest hearts, are the most dedicated to the community, and most importantly, want what is best for the Canton Area School District.

I have spent many minutes (possibly hours) speaking to Mr. Jannone about this idea that had surfaced throughout my Entry Plan process: Warrior Pride.

I can honestly say that I was able to get a small taste of that pride this week.

[Mr. Briggs referred to a list of actions to show how Warrior Pride was on display this week in the Canton Area School District, including: reaching out to and offering condolences to the family and a willingness to support them in any way possible; the entire sixth grade sent cards home to the family; the elementary teachers made monetary donations through the jeans day fund and are donating money to the sixth grade class, which will be donated to the family; the high school also has made donations to the family; many staff members are donating to the local bank account set up for the family; faculty members are delivering meals to the family.]

In closing I want to thank everybody who has helped coordinate or participate in any of the events outlined above. I commend you all for your hard work and dedication not only to this district, but also to all the families we serve.

Mr. Briggs then gave his report: Governor Wolf's budget contains \$100 million more in basic education and there are other increases in education as well. These would mean an additional

\$60,000 to Canton for basic education and \$14,000 for special education. However, the Governor's proposal also reduces pupil transportation funding by \$50 million. Mr. Briggs said that details of that cut have not been provided, "so no one knows what it means."

Mr. Briggs thanked Deanna Watkins and Peggy Guzik of the Administrative office for their work in helping to review 300 district policies.

A reporter from Elmira TV station WETM visited the district and filed a story on the Backpack program. This will be seen on Friday morning, February 17.

Mr. Briggs said there is a focus on Act 138, which concerns truant students, and targets suspensions and expulsions and alternative education. The state is concerned, "How are we meeting their needs?"

Mr. Briggs also thanked the students and staff of Sayre High School, who "exemplified great sportsmanship" at the boys basketball game at which there was a memorial for Kirsten Bagley.

The Superintendent gave a pizza luncheon for students "who give 110% and exemplify good citizenship, are polite and gentle and do good things in school." The students were asked what they would change in the school.

Later, Mr. Briggs reported on a possible donation to the school, on the scheduled visit of Penn State linebacker Brandon Smith to Canton, another successful career café, internet safety and revamping the gifted program. Mr. Coran has been working with the early intervention transition program. There are 17 students coming into the school next year who may need these services, eight for speech services and nine for other types of help. This likely will be the most incoming students needing services since there were 14 in 2010.

The 8th grade has been taking tests, and the staff is working on completing the high school schedules.

Mr. Briggs expressed congratulations for the boys basketball team, which made the playoffs for the first time in several years and for only the third time in the present format. Multiple officials have remarked that CHS students have exemplified sportsmanship. Business Manager Mark Jannone reminded the directors that financial interest statements are due May 1.

He said he has not heard much feedback on the budget, but said that if the district receives \$60,000 more in aid, it should be used to backfill the deficit rather than for additional spending.

He said that he was unaware how the funding formula for transportation would work. If the state's subsidy drops by \$50 million, Mr. Jannone said, "the money has to come from somewhere."

He added that he personally favors the concept of eliminating the real estate tax, but thinks the "legislation [under consideration] is horrific for the district and the taxpayers. This legislation harms both." He continued, "Our legislators are realizing the pitfalls. If it can be rewritten it can be a good thing." He stressed, "This is not real estate tax relief."

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Canton High School Alumni Assoc. To Meet March 2

The Canton High School Alumni Association will meet at 6 pm on March 2 in the Green Free Library to plan for the 2017 Alumni Banquet.

Representatives from the anniversary classes, as well as officers and directors, are encouraged to attend.

Breakfast At Tiffany's At Rialto, February 16

As part of the "Thursdays at the Rialto" series, the 1961 romantic comedy, *Breakfast At Tiffany's* starring Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard, and directed by Blake Edwards, will be presented on Thursday, February 16.

The showing is sponsored by Rockgirt Bed & Breakfast.

Breakfast At Tiffany's won Academy Awards for Best Original Score and Best Original Song - Henry Mancini's *Moon River*, which has been designated as one of the most memorable songs in Hollywood history.

The film received three other Oscar nominations: Audrey Hepburn for Best Actress; Best Adapted Screenplay; and Best Art Direction.

The film will be shown at 12:30 and 6:30 pm

Sen. Yaw To Have Satellite Office Hours At Green Free Library

As a means to better serve the residents of the Northern Tier through increased outreach efforts, a member of Senator Yaw's staff will hold satellite hours at the Green Free Library (38 North Center Street) in Canton on Thursday, February 23 from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Bradford County To Observe Intellectual Disability Awareness Month

The Bradford County Commissioners will be holding a special event on March 3, 2017 at 11:00 am on the Courthouse lawn to kick-off Intellectual Disability Awareness Month in Bradford County. There will be a reading of the proclamation proclaiming March as Intellectual Disability Awareness Month and a display of ribbons on the courthouse lawn to help bring awareness to this most meaningful cause.

Want to Be a Member Of Clever Clover 4-H?

Children in the area, ages 5 (by Jan 1, 2017) through 18 are welcome to come to the Ogdensburg Church of Christ on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 2 to sign up to become a member of the Clever Clover 4-H Club.

There is always plenty to do. If you have any questions please contact Lavonne at (570) 673-8257.

Auditions for Missoula Children's Theatre at Nelle Black Westgate Auditorium



Pictured above are representatives of some of the donors who are helping the Missoula Children's Theatre's visit to Canton. Shown are: Eric Schoonover, representing Canton Chamber of Commerce and Canton Lions Club; Tammy Gleckner, Segur's Tax Service; John Shaffer, Canton Independent-Sentinel/Troy Gazette-Register; Mary Beth Schoonover, Rockgirt; Tom Schoonover, Schoonover Plumbing and Heating; Karen Robertson, Brann, Williams, Caldwell and Sheetz; Penny Dunbar, Cuz Excavating; William McNett, patron of the arts; and Mary Morris, Canton Dental Office. There are many other donors who were not available for the photograph, and donations are still being collected. A final list will be announced at the time of the performance.

The Nelle Black Westgate Auditorium at the Canton High School is the place where auditions will take place on Monday, February 27 at 4:00 PM for the Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) production of GULLIVER'S TRAVELS.

The play will be performed on Monday, February 27 from 4:00 to 6:00. Those auditioning should



The entire W.R. Croman staff and students took part in Blue and White Day, last Friday. They were expecting to have Brandon Smith from the Penn State Football Team come and talk to them and students at Canton, but it was rescheduled to a tentative date in May. But the "Honduran Soles" project, which Mr. Smith's wife Andrea co-founded, got underway at Croman. Students will be bringing in their slightly used shoes and she will see that they get sent to Honduras. Teachers in the photo are Mr. Oldroyd, Miss Young, Mrs. White, Ms. Vosburg, Mrs. Chamberlain (in front), Mrs. Hawthorne (in back).

John Mosser Appointed To Canton Borough Council

Prior to its regular February meeting, Canton Borough Council held a special meeting to fill the vacancy on Council created by the resignation of Chris Thoren. Vacancy Board Chairman Will Holmes conducted the meeting. Present were Councilors Kurt Bastion, George Jennings, Ken Robertson, Darryl Jannone, and Paige VanRyn, Administrator Amy Seeley, Solicitor David Brann and the three candidates for the vacancy, John Mosser, Rich Porter and David Groover.

Council had earlier reviewed letters of interest from each of the candidates. Mr. Jannone said, "No matter how this shakes out, I thank you from the bottom of my heart" for showing interest. He said they were three good candidates, and remarked that Mr. Porter deserved a lot of credit for the Hometown Heroes Banner program.

Mr. Holmes then asked five questions and the candidates gave their responses.

Each candidate said that job and the drug problem were the most important issues facing Council, and Mr. Mosser added "keeping taxes at a steady level."

All three candidates said that the B things were running pretty

smoothly in the Borough and nothing needed immediate attention.

Mr. Holmes noted that the Borough hadn't raised taxes lately but had balanced the budget by lowering the reserve. Mr. Mosser said, "We can't just keep putting it off. Sometimes we have to bite the bullet." Mr. Groover said "Taxes have to be evaluated. A one mill increase doesn't amount to much for each taxpayer, but the money [collected] can [be used] to do good. Mr. Porter said, "People don't like to raise them or pay them, but you have to do what you have to do."

All three candidates said they would be available to attend Council meetings.

When asked what the job of a

Council member should be, Mr. Porter said, "To help the community; to be there for them; and to make the rules."

Mr. Mosser said, "To be progressive. [To ask] if we can do it better. To look to the future and say [where we will be in three or five years;] to stay on top of things."

Mr. Groover said "[to be] the voice of the community, to make decisions in light of the facts and make the best decisions possible."

Several members commented that the choice was a difficult one. Mr. Jannone said, "This is a hard decision. All three are worthy of [filling the position]."

Mr. Holmes called for motions. Mr. Jennings nominated Mr. Porter but that motion died for lack



of a second. Mr. Jannone nominated Mr. Groover and Mr. Bastion seconded the motion, they and Mr. Robertson voted aye and Mrs. Van Ryn, Mr. Jennings and Mr. Holmes voted nay, resulting in a tie.

Mrs. Van Ryn nominated Mr. Mosser and Mr. Jannone seconded the motion. All voted in favor except Mr. Bastion, so Mr. Mosser was elected and immediately took the oath of office given by Notary Public Karen Robertson.

The meeting was closed and Council took a break until the regular meeting at 7 pm.

JESUS LOVES YOU

The Weather

Once again we were on the far edge of a major snowstorm and received a relatively small amount, although it was enough to close schools in Canton and Troy.

Canton Weather Substation (Data is for 24 hour period ending at 8:00 am on day of report)

Date	High	Low	Precip
Feb. 8	52	39	0.36
Feb. 9	45	17	0.31
Feb. 10	24	5	---
Feb. 11	44	17	---
Feb. 12	47	24	0.42
Feb. 13	46	26	0.28
Feb. 14	31	14	---

Snowfall: Feb. 9, 4.4"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS Will be found on page twelve.

KC101.5FM
HOMETOWN COUNTRY

Canton's Hometown Country Station
Thank you Canton Fire Department for giving KC101 a BOOST
570-662-9000