

The View from South Central

By Michael A. Clark
Globe Leader Writer



Keeping It Light

I went to the store a day after the New Year to get cheese and lunch meat. My final order, after the low-sodium American cheese and high-sodium olive loaf, was for a high-end, very thinly sliced rotisserie chicken; looking at it in the glass case made my mouth water. I could almost see a masterpiece sandwich piled high with savory chicken, creamy cheese, lettuce, and mayonnaise on a light, crusty roll. I don't eat raw tomatoes so you'll never find them on one of my sandwiches. A cold, kosher dill pickle always accompanies my creations. The sandwich fantasy heightened the good mood that I was already in. Yes, food, and the very thought of it, can pep me up.



I allowed her to wallow in her gloominess. I understood, but I still think, given a little more time, I could have made her smile. I thought that was possible because she was an adult and I assumed she was rational, unlike the teenagers I ribbed and cajoled at our early morning family breakfasts many years ago. My jocular performances did nothing but enrage the little monsters. They seldom smiled anyway so I didn't blame myself for the failure to lighten their mood.

A couple of days later, a cashier at another store tallied my order and said, "Nineteen fifteen." I told her that 1915 was a very good year; it was the year I was born. Okay, I know that was weak. I was looking for a smile that implied she knew better, especially since she was looking right at me. Her blank gaze implied, instead, that she thought it was actually possible that I could be ninety-seven years old. Come on, I've got my hard-earned wrinkles, but this lady couldn't distinguish slight wrinkles from deep, ninety-seven year old ridges and folds. Either that or she just didn't think I was funny. I didn't, either. Being funny wasn't my intent; I wanted to make the transaction more personal, a little lighter. I mean, where did all the holiday cheer go?

Sometimes when I'm being serious, I find my wife laughing at me. When I'm trying to be funny, she often stares and raises an eyebrow. This leads me to wonder if I should be more serious with my approach to lightening people's moods. My attempts to be stern can be very funny.

It would take a lot of radical change and practice to curb my instinct to draw people out with my silliness. I don't think I'll even consider it.

It has been said (by whom, I do not know) that the smile that lights the face will also warm the heart. Trying to warm hearts seems like a worthy pursuit.

Winter Fest And Fun At Moraine State Park

Saturday, January 19, 2013 is a day you need to set aside! It is Winterfest at Moraine! The event will be held from 11 am to 4 pm at McDanel's Launch on the North Shore.

Many free winter activities may be enjoyed, including snowshoeing, dog sleds, music, a chili cook-off, ice skating, kid's activities, refreshments, ice fishing, and more.

Dress for the weather. Activities depend on weather, but it will be a fun day either way! For more information, or to register for the chili cook-off visit www.morainepreservationfund.org.

Moraine State Park also offers a wide variety of winter recreation from sunrise to sunset everyday. Moraine has a host of ways to enjoy the winter!

Have a great winter and Happy New Year!

All-Star Musicians!



Contributed photo

The PMEA District 5 Band concert will be held on Saturday, January 26th at Butler Intermediate High School in Butler, PA. Jarod Forsythe, French horn, and Elizabeth Deemer, flute will be participating in this event, along with Justin Krupa, tuba, Josh Bonnici, trumpet, and Lydia Booher, French horn. The mission of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association is to advance music education by encouraging excellence in the study, teaching and making of music. Congratulations to these outstanding musicians on their selection and participation in these events! Pictured are: (L-R) Back row - Justin Krupa, Jarod Forsythe, and Lydia Booher. Front row - Josh Bonnici, and Elizabeth Deemer.

Westminster College Deans's List - Autumn 2012

Edinburg

Mark Patton, a sophomore computer science and mathematics major

Farrell

Chelsea Bernat, a junior public relations major

Greenville

Danielle Aurandt, a junior music education major

Laura Seiple, a junior English major

Jessica Stearns, a senior early childhood/special education major

Grove City

Celeste McBride, a junior business administration major

Harrisville

Briana McMahan, a junior psychology major

Hermitage

Jason Garay, a junior communication studies major

Gregory Polcha, a junior biology major

Laura Harris, a junior music education major

Tawni Darby, a senior public relations major

Stephanie Roshala, a senior early childhood/special education major

Timothy Skero, a senior music education major

Kevin Winner, a senior philosophy major

Jackson Center

Daniel Goffus, a senior music education major

Rebecca Tomson, a sophomore business

administration and English major

Jamestown

Alicia Bates, a sophomore history major

Taylor Brooks, a freshman history major

Mercer

Darcie Gilson, a freshman neuroscience major

Kyle Grabigel, a junior music education major

Andrew Craig, a senior chemistry major

Joseph Ligo, a senior broadcast communications major

New Castle

Rebecca Beers, a senior English major

Chelsea Brown, a senior financial economics major

Danielle Brown, a recent graduate with an early childhood/special education degree

Kelly Crawley, a junior English major

Gabrielle Elisco, a junior sociology major

Katelyn Epperson, a sophomore accounting major

Louis Friello, a sophomore psychology major

Jenna Hasson, a junior public relations major

Richard-Tyler Jones, a sophomore biology major

Dana Luteran, a senior English major

Rachel McMaster, a sophomore early childhood/special education major

Joshua Phillian, a junior early

childhood/special education major

Joseph Ritchie, a senior biology and sociology/criminal justice major

Jennifer Shinton, a senior public relations major

Rachel Simko, a freshman physics major

Andrea Tice is a recent graduate in broadcast communications in the Westminster Lifelong Learning Program.

Steven Totin, a junior fine art major

New Wilmington

Alyssa Huff, a sophomore English and political science major

Kelcie Montgomery, a recent graduate with an early childhood/special education degree

Laura Habarka, a senior early childhood/special education major

Leah Hunter, a senior psychology major

Stephanie Lehman, a senior English major

Daniel Solomon, a senior computer science major

Alexandra Taylor, a senior early childhood/special education major

Pulaski

Sarah Arena, a sophomore business administration major

Ariana Carr, a sophomore early childhood/special education major

Lauren DiLullo, a junior psychology major

Haley Hidock, a senior business administration and music major

Jessica Kimbell, a senior music education major

Emily Masotto, a sophomore mathematics major

Joshua Tekac, a freshman accounting major

Rebecca Treimer, a sophomore media art major

Sharpville

Renee Cantrell, a freshman English major

Jenna Grandy, a sophomore early childhood/special education major

Samantha Gibson, a senior biology major

Jeffrey Miller, a junior accounting and financial economics major

Gia Prezioso, a junior English major

Slippery Rock

Morgan Brazell, a sophomore business administration major

Benjamin Gaul, a freshman liberal arts major

Volant

Catherine Foltz, a freshman mathematics major

Raechel Pusateri, a freshman liberal arts major

Lauren Foltz, a senior molecular biology major

West Middlesex

Angela Colella, a sophomore Spanish major

Caitlin Dobran, a senior early childhood/special education major

Mark Saylor, a senior English major

MISTRETTA, continued from page 5

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