

APPLAUSE

The Daily Item

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THURSDAY

www.dailyitem.com

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Tom Inch is the lead singer for "Jesse," which will perform during the Sunbury River Festival on Friday evening.



Robert Inglis/The Daily Item

Talent show kicks off event

Sunbury River Festival runs for next three days

By Joanne Arbogast
The Daily Item

SUNBURY — The countdown has started for the start of the 10th annual Sunbury River Festival. Held in downtown Sunbury, the festivities begin tonight with the second Valley's Got Talent contest. Bring your lawn chairs and stake a spot near the Front Street Stage. The competition begins at 7 p.m. Opening the

show will be the highly-entertaining Morgan Family, last year's contest winners.

More than a dozen acts will be going after the top prizes: first place receives a trophy and \$400, second place wins \$200 and third place takes home \$100. Visit www.dailyitem.com Friday to catch videos of some of the top performances taken during the competition.

If you miss the contest, catch the winner for an encore performance on Friday at 5 p.m.

The entertainment continues Friday at the Front Street Stage with:

Please see **TALENT, D6**



Now Hear This!
WAYNE LAEPPLE

Festivals continue to rock the area

OK. If the weather clears up, there are several great outdoor music events you might enjoy this weekend. If you missed A Bear's Picnic last weekend and you're into jam bands, check out the Peace of Mind Festival starting at 3 p.m. tomorrow between Halifax and Elizabethville. Local acts include Willie Jack and the Northern Light and Lumpy Gravy. You can find more details on Facebook.

Then there is the annual Celtic Festival at Spyglass Ridge Winery, outside Sunbury in Rockefeller Township, with nine acts starting Saturday morning at 11 a.m. and continuing through 8 p.m. This is a wonderful event, featuring music food and the wares of nine wineries.

And tonight at 7 p.m., the final rounds of The Valley's Got Talent, as part of the Sunbury River Festival. The festival, with food, fun and music, runs through Saturday. Look for more details elsewhere on this page and in today's newspaper.

What else is going on? Well, let's have a look. This evening, from 7-8 p.m., the Friends of Shikellamy State Park will hold their monthly drum circle on the point in the park. They have some spare drums, so feel free to stop by and watch the sun set.

Meanwhile, Triple Dose is at Lincoln Park in Milton as part of Milton's Music in the Park, from 6:30-8 p.m. Also this evening, Ann Kerstetter is at Old Forge Brewery on Mill Street in Danville, backed by her faithful cronies Michi Egger, Mark Tomeo and Bill Stetz, from 7-9:30.

Tomorrow evening, Tim Farley of Pan.a.c.e.a will be at Front Street Station, Northumberland, on the terrace from 7-10 p.m., and Jim McClincy, Sunbury's singing mailman, is at McGuigan's Public House, Third and Market in Sunbury, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Smooth Country is booked into the Herndon American Legion from 8-10 p.m., and the EVE Jazz Trio will be on the patio at Front Street Station from 7-10 p.m.

And finally this reminder about the Common Ground Coffee House in Middleburg, which will be open next Friday evening, the 26th, at 6 p.m. The show starts at 7 and will feature several young local talents. Opening is Kristopher Knorr, 15, of Northumberland, with performances following by Matthew Fry, 16, of Beaver Springs,

Please see **LAEPPLE, D4**

Center offers 20 new kid classes

SUNBURY — In celebration of its sixth anniversary, the YMCA Arts Center, 35 S. Fifth St., Sunbury, has all new and exciting arts programming for kids in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Starting in September and continuing through May, these classes are offered after school Monday through Thursday starting at 4 p.m. Some classes and workshops are in the evenings and on Saturday.

Categories include Pottery, Painting, Drawing, Design, Craft and Music. Classes are age appropriate and small enough in size to ensure a fun, safe and valuable art experience for everyone.

The arts center offers a full-sized pottery studio for classes in Clay Play for the youngest to Hand Built Projects in Clay for older kids and for the first time this fall, Pottery Wheel for Kids. Scott Onsager, creative director of the center, teaches all the clay classes as well as teaching the acclaimed Honors Art Class, which challenges students of middle school grades to create such notable past projects as the "Paper People" and "the Van Gogh Bedroom at Arles," currently on display at the center.

A new Saturday morning class, Basic Drawing for students ages 12+, has been added to satisfy a demand for drawing instruction for this age group. Three instructors will rotate the teaching of this class allowing young students an opportunity to experience three individual styles. One of these artist/instructors is Jennifer Voegtle. She will add Wire Jewelry Making and Beading, Card Making and Holiday Crafts to her teaching schedule which already includes Printmaking, and private drawing instruction.

Arts Center Director Mary Jo Tavares expands her popular Chef In Training Classes, cooking for kids, to include The Art of Bread Baking, The Art of the Cupcake, The Art of Pies and The Art of Cookies and Candy. She is also teaching new classes in Paper Mache, Coiling Baskets and Vessels, Decorative Stitching, and Paper Projects. Just Painting, Just Drawing, Drawing Plus, and Abstract Designs are also classes taught by Tavares.

Please see **CENTER, D5**



A FAMILY THAT 'PLAYS' TOGETHER ...

Three generations are involved in new 'Annie' production

By Evamarie Socha
The Daily Item

MOUNT CARMEL — It's not the "Hard Knock Life" Little Orphan Annie sings about, but it is a busy one for the talented Erdman family of Northumberland — three generations are part of the musical production of "Annie," which the Anthracite Citizens' Theatre will present this weekend in Mount Carmel.

Elyse Erdman, 10, stars as Annie, and her mother, Stacy, plays Miss Hannigan, who runs the fictional Municipal Girls Orphanage. She also choreographed the play.

Sage Erdman, 14, has two roles: the Apple Seller and Jimmy Johnson. And Marily Stasney, Stacy's mom, plays Mrs. Pugh, a maid for Daddy Warbucks.

Trey Erdman rounds out the talent as an assistant to Musical Director

It's a family affair for the Erdman family in the production of "Annie." In the photo above, from left, are Sage Erdman, 14, plays the apple seller; grandmother Marily Stasney is Mrs. Pugh; Elyse Erdman, 10, is Annie; Stacy Erdman, has the role of Miss Hannigan, and Trey Erdman, 11, is assistant to the musical director.

Vic Boris, who also is the kids' piano teacher.

This family affair of sorts began with Elyse, who played an orphan in Shikellamy High School's production of the musical last spring. Having gotten some stage courage, she decided to give the lead role a try when the family heard ACT was doing the musical, she said.

"I already knew the lines from the (Shikellamy) play," Elyse said. "I wanted to try it."

Singing with the orphan girls is Elyse's favorite part of the role, especially the song "Maybe," to her new-found friend Claudia Morris

who plays the orphan Molly.

She also enjoys working with canine co-star "Sandy," portrayed by Abbey, a friendly Golden Retriever/Collie mix that spends her days as a therapy dog.

Annie is a role Elyse has taken to well — obvious from her enthusiastic rehearsal Monday night at the auditorium at Mount Carmel Junior-Senior High School. Despite the "itchy" wigs and the occasional butterflies she still feels in her stomach, Elyse was a confident performer.

Mom and the Erdman boys got

Please see **ANNIE, D5**



Liz Rohde/The Daily Item

Russ Wynn and Traci Woolsey Sarah Dries perform during Milton Area Community Theatre's rehearsal of "Jekyll and Hyde."

Milton Area Community Theatre will present the musical "Jekyll & Hyde" in the Milton Area High School Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the door or in advance at the Lewisburg Hotel and the CATV Service offices in Milton and Danville. For additional information, visit www.miltonact.com.

The next Rowling might just live here

By Cindy O. Herman
For The Daily Item

"I was once on a boat, and suddenly I knew this huge story I was going to write, just because I liked the way the mountains looked next to the water," said Emily Spiegel, a Selinsgrove Area High School sophomore. "When I got home, I wrote it down."

Such is the elusive inspiration of a young writer's muse. Real life, real people and real places ignite Spiegel's imagination, and she never knows when the next idea will appear.

What she does know, though, is that it takes more than dreamy ideas to write

INSIDE

■ Sophomore shares a story/**Page D6**

well. It takes, well, writing. And she credits the Susquehanna University Kids' College Junior Writers' Workshop with helping her improve and take pleasure in her writing.

Developed in 2006 by Kathy Irwin Lentz and Susquehanna University's Office of Event Management, the Junior Writers' Workshop pairs third through eighth-graders with writing mentors.

Please see **WRITE, D6**

Applause

The next Rowling might live in Selinsgrove?

'Our orchard held promises'

By Emily Spiegel

A person could get lost in the large farm I grew up on, but in my opinion, there was no reason for them to want to be found. We had an open view of the sky, unblocked by smoke or lights. At night, I would just lie on my back in the cool grass, looking up at the heavens, listening to my heart beat.

One night, in the soft glowing moon light, a baby deer stepped out of the dense forest that bordered our property. The fawn was barely visible in the moonlight, but his white spots shone as brightly as the stars. I watched, lying still, as if I was a rock instead of a girl, as the deer delicately walked over to our garden, his small hooves leaving soft imprints in the grass.

He lightly poked his nose over the garden fence, sniffing at the vegetables inside. The vegetables were visible only as dark shapes with almost no color, except for the tomatoes. Those tomatoes glistened in the moonlight, calling to the deer tantalizingly from their vines. He bit into one and I could imagine the sudden rush of flavor that the deer must've tasted. The fawn crept silently over to the other side of the garden and a loud crunching noise occupied the air as he chomped into another plant. I saw large leaves disappearing into his tiny mouth and guessed that he had found the lettuce.

When the fawn had his fill of veggies, he ambled over to our orchard which held promises of more delicious treats. I gazed at the deer's neck stretched to reach a ripe, red apple. He munched on the apple, sending out the sound of crunching again that only comes from eating a crisp food. The tree next to the apples held golden peaches that gleamed with the light glow of the moon and the fawn moved to this tree next. He took a slow, deliberate bite into a low-hanging peach and I could see the juices spill over out of his mouth. I was half-tempted to go pick my own peach as I imagined the sweet taste that the deer was now devouring.

There was a field on our land, in between our house and our barn. There are some people who think grass should look like tiny green rods sticking up out of dirt, even and boring. But our field was too good for that. It was emerald green in some places, and dirt brown in others; some

patches were healthy and tall, some were brittle and scarce.

We had a pond too. A wonderful pond filled with fish and under-water life. Cattails as golden as the sun lined the edges and drifted lazily in the wind. In the summer, the bullfrogs that inhabited it were as deafening as a clap of thunder. Each night they would sing and croak until I was asleep.

Suddenly, that rustic, peaceful farm that I had called home went away. My father was relocated to a job in Harrisburg, so we sold the farm and moved to the suburbs. The change was mind-numbingly quick and was as painful as the time the tree limb I had been climbing on snapped.

Now we live in a brick house, just like everyone else. There were no orchards or gardens here, only plain window boxes with neat little rows of flowers. The grass here wasn't colorful and different, it was as green and even as our neighbors'. I saw no golden, rolling hills or dense forests, only houses and roads.

The sky was blocked and polluted and I no longer laid outside, listening to my own heart beat. The cars that passed by were too loud with their honking and screeching tires to hear anything. We had no pond with fish and cat-tails, only a tiny backyard with the straight grass that made my stomach turn over.

Eventually, I found refuge in a small clearing about a mile from our new house. It was as barren as a tree in winter, but it was quiet. I could go out into that field and close my eyes. I'd pretend that I was back home on the farm where it didn't matter if the grass was different.

One morning, I was walking toward that heavenly escape hoping for some relief from the brick house. I had reached the corner before the clearing came into view when my ears were attacked by the earsplitting, shrill beep of a construction truck. I looked around the corner and I felt like I had missed a step running down the stairs. Orange vests glared at me in the morning sun. Construction workers had arrived at the field to build more brick houses.

More brick houses with more even, green grass. More windows with neat little flower boxes. They were breaking the ground as easily as an egg. They didn't care that they were fracturing my sanctuary. I could only watch.

WRITE, from Page D1

"We try to meet a kid where they're at, and take them forward," Irwin Lentz said. "It's really about the process (more than the final product), and following your heart."

Spiegel has attended the program since its beginning. This year, as an Academic Career extern, she mentored younger students while also being mentored by Susquehanna University junior Bobby Mitchell.

"Emily has college-level talent," Mitchell said. "She has the same talent as the creative writing majors at Susquehanna." Mitchell used what he's learned in his writing classes to help Spiegel revise and analyze so she could "take a good story and make it great."

But he's also learned from her. He admires her visual and sensory detail, "one of her greatest strengths."

"That's because of Mrs. Lentz," Spiegel chimed in. "I can't tell you how many times she's said, 'Show, don't tell.'"

"It's a trickle-down effect," Mitchell said with a laugh.

Irwin Lentz has enjoyed watching Spiegel's writing progress over the past five years.

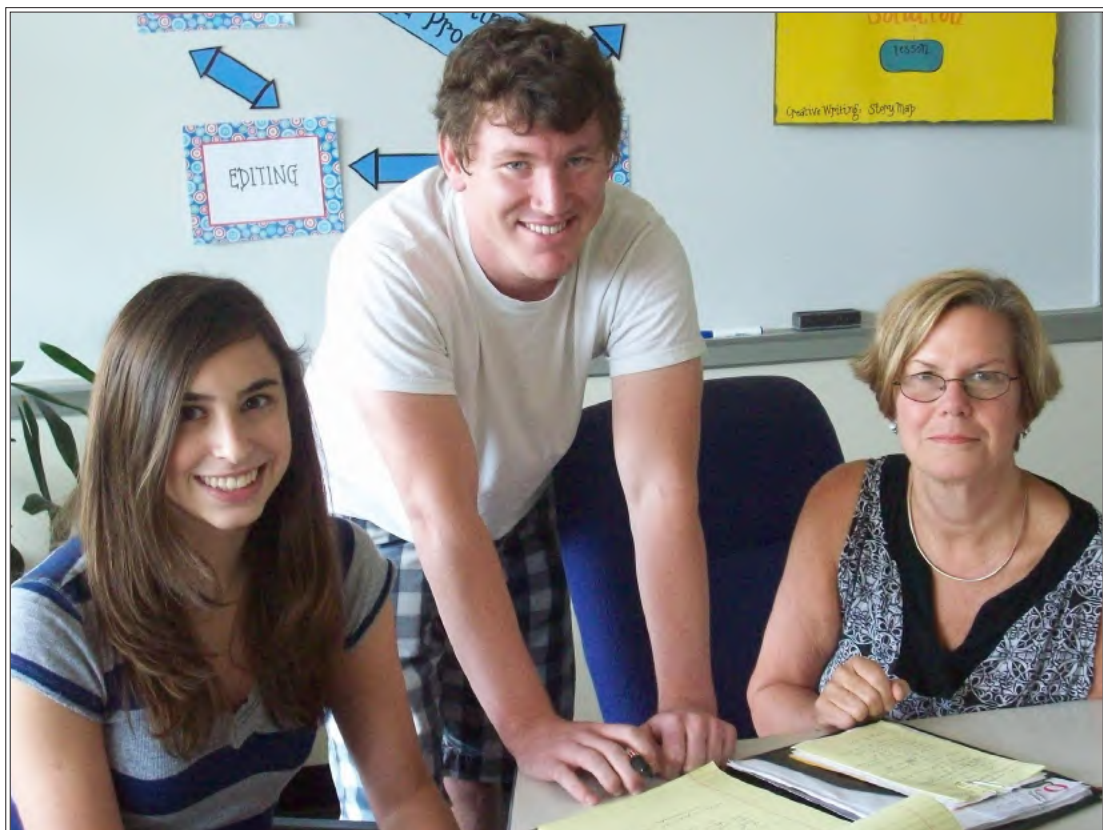
"One of the things I have always loved about Emily is her ability to paint a clear and exciting picture for her reader through her word choice," she said. "Her characters are cleverly developed and she has a wonderful talent at making her stories come alive through her readings."

The Junior Writers' Workshop gives kids the freedom to write what they want, rather than feeling constrained by mechanics or assigned topics. And that's something Mitchell would have enjoyed as a kid.

"I wrote my first short story at age 22," he said. "I wish I had a time machine and could go back to something like this."

Spiegel credited her family with supporting her love of writing. Last year she traveled to New York City to accept the prestigious Scholastic Art and Writing Award. "Both my parents took me to New York when I won the award," she said. "And that says a lot because they're both very busy."

"Every year my writing matures, especially after spending a week here," she said of the workshops. "If



Cindy O. Herman/For The Daily Item

At the SU Junior Writers' Workshops, imagination and hard work mingle to develop the kind of writing that earned Emily Spiegel a prestigious writing award. From left: Emily Spiegel, Bobby Mitchell and Kathy Irwin Lentz.

"One of the things I have always loved about Emily is her ability to paint a clear and exciting picture for her reader through her word choice. Her characters are cleverly developed and she has a wonderful talent at making her stories come alive through her readings."

— Kathy Irwin Lentz

I hadn't gone through this, I wouldn't be writing. I wouldn't have the fun that I have when I write."

For more information on

the Junior Writers' Workshops, visit <http://www.susqu.edu/about/KidsCollege.asp>.

■ Cindy O. Herman lives in Snyder County. Contact her at Cindyherman1@yahoo.com or on Twitter @CindyOHerma.

River Festival kicks off

TALENT, from Page D1

- Noon — Just Blush (classic rock to alternative)
- 1:30 p.m. — Shelby Snyder (Broadway tunes)
- 5 p.m. — Eric Rachau (songs from the '60s to present)
- 6 p.m. — The Valley's Got Talent contest winner
- 8 p.m. — Jesse (classic rock and roll)

On Saturday, more than 150 vendors will be set up and the entertainment starts early on two stages — Front Street and Cameron Park.

The lineup for Saturday includes:

- Front Street Stage
 - 10 a.m. — Michaela Wagner (pop and country)
 - 11:15 a.m. — Kayla Sassaman (country)
 - 12:30 p.m. — Brad Z and the Funk (older rock and originals)
 - 2:45 p.m. — Kristina Kline (country and Christian)

- 3:45 p.m. — Zero Point Theory ('90s alternative rock)
- 5 p.m. — Joy Evans "Patsy Cline and Friends — A Tribute to the Legends" Cameron Park Gazebo
- 10 a.m. — Jim "The Singing Mailman" McClincy (gospel, country, folk, soft rock, bluegrass)
- 11:15 a.m. — Black Diamond Rak'ers (bellydancing)
- 12:30 p.m. — Dawson (classic rock)

Other features of the three-day festival include a Decorated Chair contest, a Civil War re-enacting group's encampment, free bike giveaway, hot dog eating contest, Zumba and the popular Cardboard Boat Regatta, setting sail from Shikellamy State Park. While in town on Saturday, be sure and check out the vehicles registered for the Cruise in. Trophy presentations and cash prizes will be awarded at 2 p.m. For more festival details, visit www.sunburyriverfestival.com

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Look in your newspaper every Thursday for our featured business. In a special arrangement for Daily Item readers only, one business per week will offer **TWENTY \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATES**

NO CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL THURSDAY AT 8:30AM

THE English GARDEN
Featuring products from Vera Bradley, Brighton and more!
Located in the old train station in Riverside, just over the bridge from Danville
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One phone line will be open on Thursday at 8:30am until all gift certificates have been sold.
570-988-5459

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Call in starting at 8:30am. The first 20 callers to speak with our representative will be eligible for the half-price gift certificates. Calls made before 8:30am on Thursday will not qualify. This phone WILL NOT accept messages, so keep calling until they are all sold. NO WALK-INS PLEASE! Please have your credit card number ready. If you do not have a credit card, you must stop by The Daily Item with a check or cash on Thursday after you have been one of the first 20 callers. If you pay by credit card, your certificate will be mailed to you. Employees of The Daily Item and their families are ineligible.

Special thanks to **RUNNER'S ROOST BIKE & SPORTS**

HEY ALL KIDS!

WHO WANTS A BICYCLE?

Come to the **Sunbury River Festival on Saturday, August 20th**
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE BIKE GIVEAWAYS!

Everyone 12 and under will be entered into drawings for a chance to win a previously owned bike provided by the Sunbury Police Dept.
One lucky child will win a brand new MIRRACO BLEND 20" BMX BIKE (valued at \$400).

FIRST 200 KIDS will receive a **SQUIRT GUN** or **BUBBLES**

Sunbury's Revitalization, Inc.