

Observer-Reporter

2022 print media kit | observer-reporter.com

CIRCULATION PRINT & DIGITAL

19,359 Daily | Readership: 48,398
20,583 Sunday | Readership: 51,458

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A DIFFERENT VIEW: Steelers' Bush still optimistic despite bumpy patch **PAGE B1**

Observer-Reporter

OUR 214TH YEAR, WASHINGTON, PA **TUESDAY DEC. 14, 2021** www.observer-reporter.com

School districts grappling with mask policies

By KAREN MANSFIELD
Staff writer
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Local school districts have grappled with a key component of their COVID-19 mitigation efforts in the wake of last week's ruling by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to toss out a statewide mask mandate for schools. Canon-McMillan, Laurel Highlands, Central Greene

and several other school districts notified parents before the start of this school week that face masks would not be required moving forward beginning Monday. Washington, Peters Township and Bentworth students and staff will continue to wear face masks inside school district buildings. Canon-McMillan released a letter Sunday saying it will

revert to its original health and safety plan if adopted, which called for face masks for students and staff to be optional. Masks will still be mandatory on buses and other school transportation services because it is a federal mandate. The school district did encourage people to wear face masks, citing the climbing

COVID-19 cases and high transmission rates in Washington County. "Please be reminded, COVID cases and COVID transmission rates are high in our region and although masks are optional, we encourage everyone to continue to wear them," the letter stated. Laurel Highlands School District in Fayette County

also announced mask-wearing is optional for staff and students. The letter also said, although the mask requirement was eliminated, it "does not change how we respond to COVID cases in schools, address outbreaks, or report data to the PA Department of Health."

For reduced quarantining to keep individual students and staff in school. The letter also said, although the mask requirement was eliminated, it "does not change how we respond to COVID cases in schools, address outbreaks, or report data to the PA Department of Health."

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"WE HELP THEM BUILD AT THEIR OWN PACE."



Edyn Breiding, left, and Alyssa Maize, far right, look forward to their weekly riding sessions at In-Stride with Therapeutic Riding. Dana Flaherty, center, and her volunteer staff lead the classes every Sunday morning.

Deadlines looming

State House takes step toward new maps for districts

By MARK SCHIORO
Assistant Press

HARRISBURG — A Pennsylvania state House committee made a set of party-line votes Monday regarding congressional redistricting, which the Republican chairman framed as needed to prepare for final negotiations over the maps. The State Government Committee met for 20 minutes in the Capitol to approve amendments, bills and a resolution that were all unanimously favored by Republicans and opposed by Democrats.

It approved a resolution that lawmakers who are involved in drawing new congressional maps will not adjust census numbers to allocate state prison inmates to their home areas, as the state legislative map-drawing body has chosen to do. They also advanced a bill about new district lines, but the ranking Democrat on the committee, Rep. Scott Conklin of Centre County, said the legislation was missing an actual map.

Conklin made the same objection to a second bill, which Chairman Seth Grove, R-York, described as a backup that might eventually be needed under the General Assembly's rules. "I believe that if you're going to vote on a map, you should actually have a map present," Conklin said. "If not, it's nothing more than a shell game."

The new congressional map must account for the loss of one seat, dropping the state's D.C. delegation from 18 to 17 starting with the 2022 races. Congressional redistricting is handled as legislation, requiring approval by both chambers and the governor. The legislative maps, which cover the 203-person state House and 50-member state Senate, are being developed by the five-person Legislative Reapportionment Commission. A preliminary

See House, Page A2

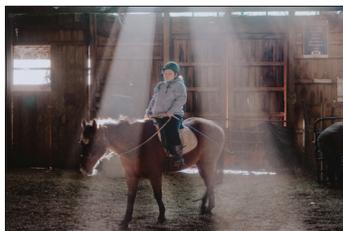
'Awesome' treatment

Eighty Four nonprofit In-Stride offers more than horse therapy

By KAREN MANSFIELD
Staff writer
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In-Stride with Therapeutic Riding is more than horse therapy. Since 2006, the nonprofit, located along Valley View Road in Eighty Four, has provided those with developmental and physical disabilities a place for personal development and socialization. "I was riding long before I had MS," said Erin Jackson, of Crafton, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis several years ago. "When I got diagnosed, I was like, I'm not going to stop riding. I found

this place. I found Dana. This place is awesome. I love being here." Dana Flaherty founded In-Stride 15 years ago, after attending Equine Affaire in Ohio. While waiting for a seminar to begin, Flaherty popped into a brief presentation on therapeutic riding. "I didn't even know that was a thing," she said. Flaherty, herself a lifelong rider, mentioned therapy riding to the stable owner at Coventry Equestrian Center in Hickory. The owner, Kristin Hartmann, encouraged Flaherty to teach therapeutic



Abby Zingibi takes Cowboy for a spin around the barn on a recent Sunday. Therapy riding has helped Zingibi, who has a hearing disability, gain confidence and focus. In current location in Eighty Four in 2012. Research shows therapeutic riding increases balance and reflexes, builds muscle and

See Therapy, Page A2

WE'LL MAKE YOUR PROPERTY FRONT PAGE NEWS!

This Brick Cape Cod offers a first floor den/office, large living room with decorative fireplace, a big dining room, and kitchen with breakfast bar. It has 1 1/2 baths, a full basement, rear sun room, and a 2 Car detached garage with parking. Enjoy the backyard and creek, gazebo, and mature trees. Basement has lots of storage built-in wet benches, laundry area, and glass block windows.

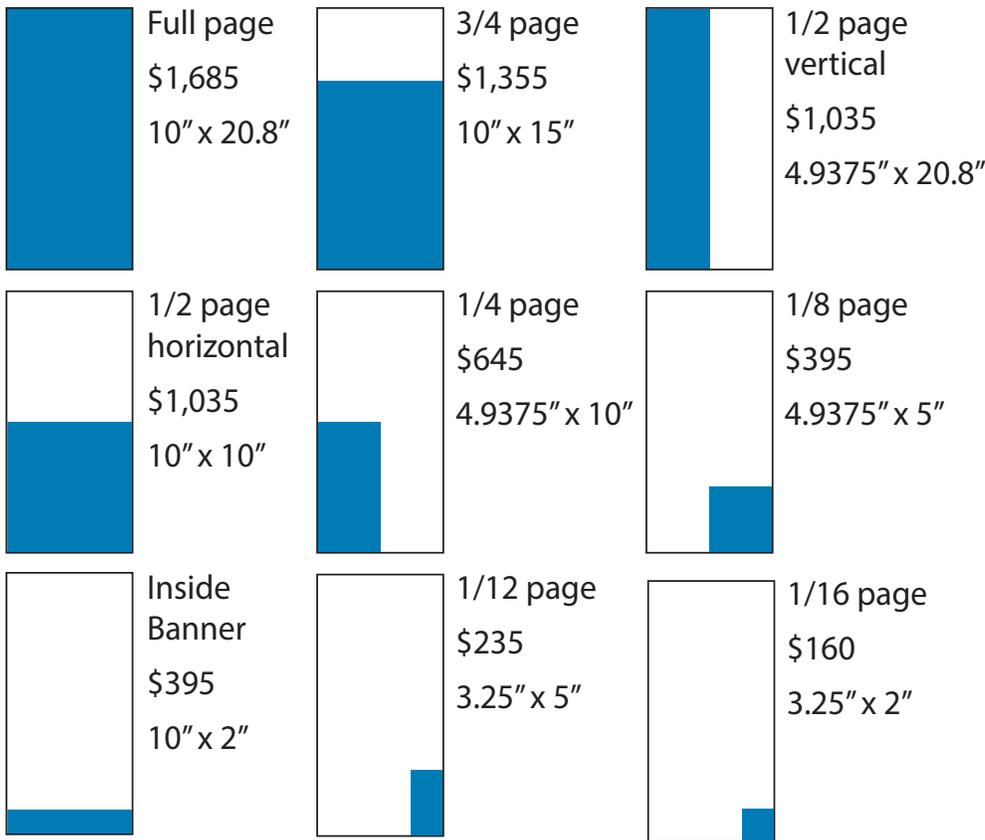
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Obituaries A6,7
Opinion A9

PRICING & SPECS 2022



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52 times	30%

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Full page, 3/4, 1/2: **\$200 per ad**
 1/4, 1/8, banner: **\$125 per ad**
 1/12, 1/16: **\$75 per ad**

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Frequency discounts: 2X 10% / 3X 20% / 4X 30% / 5X+ 40%

Frequency discounts apply to ads that run without change within 7 days of initial publication. Rates are per column inch net and do not include our digital fee of \$20 for ads 10 inches and larger and \$10 for ads smaller than 10 inches.

2022 DEADLINES

Publishing Day	Space Reservation	Ad Finalized
Monday	Friday at 10 AM	Friday at NOON
Tuesday	Friday at NOON	Friday at 4 PM
Wednesday	Monday at NOON	Monday at 4 PM
Thursday	Tuesday at NOON	Tuesday at 4 PM
Friday	Wednesday at NOON	Wednesday at 4 PM
Sunday	Thursday at NOON	Thursday at 4 PM

2022 NICHE PUBLICATIONS



Living In Washington County
Bi-monthly
 February
 April
 June
 August
 October
 December



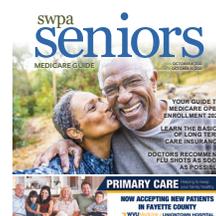
Mon Valley Magazine
Bi-monthly
 January
 March
 May
 July
 September
 November



Greene County Living
Quarterly
 March
 June
 September
 December



Southwestern PA Business Journal
Quarterly
 March
 June
 September
 December



SWPA Seniors
Quarterly
 January
 April
 July
 October

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