

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area
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Jackie and John Viestenz, The “Baker”y, Charles J. Noth – Attorney at Law**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

After over ten years of study and preparation, **The Mineville Hydro Project** has finally reached the presentation-to-the-public stage. There will be a public meeting at **Moriah Central School at 7 PM, April 8th**. This is a not-to-be-missed meeting, as, if it comes to fruition, will be a real area changer.

The Town Board meeting on **Thursday April 9th**, just a day after the Town’s Hydro Project public presentation could be a very interesting and worthwhile Board meeting. Meetings are held at 6 PM at the Court House in Port Henry.

The Distinguished Young Women of Moriah will hold a second program during this school year, as the date of the State program has changed. Our program will now offer Junior High School girls the opportunity to compete for more than \$2000. in scholarships. The young women will be competing in seven categories: Scholastic, Personal Interests, Fitness, Talent, Self-expression, Be-Your-Best-Self and Spirit. The contestants are Janelle Brassard, Courtney Clark, Raelene Glass and Ashley Maye.

The program will also feature nine fifth-grade students who have served as Little Sisters to the contestants and participated in the Be-Your-Best-Self program. The Scholarship Program will be held on **Saturday April 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM** in the Moriah Central School Auditorium. Doors will open at 6:15 and tickets are \$6.00. The contestant chosen as the 2016 Distinguished Young Woman of Moriah will move on to compete in the State Finals.

Monday, April 13th brings the Village Board together for the first time after the March 18th election returned Erie Guerin to the office of Mayor and continued the service of Staley Rich and Matt Brassard as trustees. It would serve both the Board and Port Henry’s future progress, if all residents would mark every second Monday of the month and plan to attend Board Meetings. A village cannot progress as quickly as it might unless all residents know and understand its needs and goals. These you discover by going to meetings and volunteering a helping hand. Everyone can be a volunteer, even if it is only for a few hours one day a month. Time spent becoming an active part of your community benefits everyone, maybe yourself most of all. Board meetings begin at 7 PM at the Village Hall.

The Friends of the Sherman Free Library in Port Henry are sponsoring several events during National Library Week, April 12-18. **On Monday, April 13 from 5-7 PM** at the Moriah Chamber of Commerce Office on Main Street, Zelda will facilitate an art project to decorate eggs with festive colors and positive words. Material will be provided.

On **Tuesday, April 14 from 6-7 PM**, Archie Rosenquist, a member of the Town of Moriah Historical Society, will give a talk at the library on Arctic City. Moriah was the location for several silent movies in the early 1900s.

Thursday, April 16, 6-7 PM the monthly book discussion group will discuss “Once Upon a River” by Bonnie Jo Campbell.

There will be an open house at the library on **Saturday, April 18, from noon-2 PM**. Penelope, the clown will be there to paint faces and Literacy Volunteers will have information about their programs. Cookies will be provided by the Friends group. Throughout the week, pick up a quote about libraries by famous people. Jackie Viestenz, 546-9855

FROM OUR SCHOOL

The ***Crisis by ISIS*** by Hailey

A 15 year old girl terrified and crying, gripping her sister's hand tightly and refusing to let it go. Just a few days earlier, these innocent Yazdi girls had been torn away from their family by Islamic state fighters who were now trying to split them up and disperse them as spoils of war. The 15 year old girl was one of the few who managed to escape and tell her story of the cold-hearted industry of slavery. ISIS is very dangerous because of their highly active mobility. They are ruthless, extremely violent and carry out mass beheadings as a regular practice of their territorial control. We as Americans cannot leave ISIS alone, forgotten about and unchecked, especially now.

The beginning of ISIS and how it was known to be. Over the years we have figured out that the Islamic state in Iraq (ISI) started as an Al Qaeda splinter group. ISI members were mostly radical extremists. Their leader, who Al Qaeda announced, was Abu Omar al-Baghdadi. Although not much is known about Al-Baghdadi, in an apparent video of him, he urges people to follow his call and create a "Caliphate", an Islamic state, in Iraq and Syria. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi becomes leader after Abu Omar al-Baghdadi was killed in a joint U.S.-Iraqi operation. ISI declares its disassociation from Al Qaeda and becomes ISIS. Their plan is to physically carve out a geographical area and make it an Islamic state.

Years later ISI has grown stronger and starts to put their plan into action. They absorb Sudams army. These people actually know how to operate and use the weapons that the U.S. provided. In May 2014, ISIS kidnapped more than 140 Kurdish schoolboys in Syria and began to teach them radical Islamic theology. Following, on June 9th of 2014, ISIS takes control of Mosuls airport, TV stations and Governor's office. Along with that they end up freeing over 1,000 of their men. With their power growing stronger, they managed to take over Mosul, Tikrit and other towns in the area. Most importantly, however, they take control of the town Al-Qaim which is on the border with Syria and three other Iraqi towns.

June 29, 2014 ISIS had announced the creation of the Caliphate. The Caliphate erased all borders and made al-Baghdadi leader of 1.5 billion Muslims. A string of villages and towns along the Euphrates River fell dramatically into the hands of ISIS. The member of ISIS decided to swear allegiance to the caliph. Then the group decided to change the name to Islamic State (IS).

The number of people fleeing is increasing and is getting out of hand. An estimated 1.2 million Iraqis were forced to leave their homes and everything they had. Within 3 weeks 1,300 innocent people were killed and about the same number were injured as the Iraqi army battled for control of the country against the Islamic militants. The Pentagon later announced, on June 30, 2014, the sending of an additional 399 troops to Iraw, bringing the total to 800 troops on the ground. They were sent to add more security to the U.S. Embassy and the airport in Baghdad, also to help Iraqi security forces.

In July 2014, in Syria, all the cities between Deir Ezzzo city and the Iraq border fell to IS. They also captured al-Omar oil field, Syria's largest. Along with the oil field they took control of the military airport and local army base. In Syria's homeland ISIS claims to have taken the lives of 270 people after seizing the Shaer gas field. On July 20th, 2014, with the help of Syrians, ISIS blows up Jonah's tomb on a holy site.

August 8th, 2014 the United States sends two F/A-18 jet fighters to bomb artillery's of Aunni Islamic extremists in Iraq. Barack Obama authorizes "targeted airstrikes" if needed to protect the U.S. from fighting with ISIS. A little over a week later a U.S. journalist James Foley, who was reported

missing since 2012, was decapitated in an apparent video shown on YouTube. The ISIS militants also threatened the life of another captured U.S. journalist Steven Sotloff. On September 2nd, ISIS released another video showing the beheading of journalist Steven Sotloff. Could there be any more captives?

Could it be the same man in the video? The executioner behind Sotloff had the same British accent as the man who had killed Foley. He had dressed identically in both videos, in black head to toe. He had worn a black face mask and combat boots that also matched in both videos. The man in both videos appeared to have the same build and height and both waved a knife in their left hand. Is this a coincidence?, most likely not.

ISIS is growing even stronger. The CIA figures there are three times the number of people fighting for ISIS than when previously estimated. From the beginning the figure was about 10,000 fighters, but now, unfortunately, there is anywhere between 20,000-31,000 ISIS militants.

To make matters even worse, ISIS posted another video of the apparent execution of who is believed to be British aid worker David Haines. The executioner looks the same again as in the Foley and Sotloff videos. ISIS calls Haines' beheading a "message to the allies of America" and directs this beheading to Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron to end its alliance with America and they threaten the life of another British citizen Alan Henning. This makes three western captives dead.

On September 23rd, 2014, the U.S. sent out airstrikes against ISIS, mainly in the city of Raqqa in northern Syria. Once again ISIS releases a video of the probable beheading of prisoner Alan Henning. However, this beheading was rather different, unlike the other released videos, they didn't show the man actually cutting his head off; they hold it up in the end. This makes us think that maybe Alan Henning showed some resistance and fought against them. They continue to blame the British for joining America in trying to stop ISIS. In the same video, yet the life of another aid worker was threatened, American Peter Kassig. Bringing the count to four westerners killed. At this point could there be any more hostages we don't know of?

November 3rd, 2014, according to the Iraqi government ISIS militants have killed more than 300 of the Sunni tribe. The dead belonged to the Albu Nimr tribe, mostly women and children. It has been usual for them to kill women and children. Lastly on November 13th 2014, ISIS posted an audio message stating that the U.S.-led coalition to destroy ISIS is weak, terrified and powerless. They also stated that the coalition's effort has been a "failure" and the coalition will be "forced" to "send ground forces to their deaths and destruction." The speaker also urges Islamic State fighters to take their battle everywhere and "light up the Earth with fire upon all tyrants," and mentions U.S. President Barack Obama's plan to deploy 1,500 additional troops to Iraq "under the claim they are advisers." However, according to cnn.com, the authenticity of the audio message cannot be proved. Following on November 16th, 2014, in a video posted online, ISIS militants have claimed to have killed aid worker Peter Kassig, also known as Abdul-Rahman Kassig. Taking the total to five westerners dead.

"I believe there will always be young men and women who hate their life so much they get drawn into terrorist groups looking for somewhere to belong." This was said by a U.S. citizen who cares deeply about the situation and wants a change. In the end, can you really fully stop extremists? Will ISIS ever be really fully stopped or will they just keep joining together under a new name? To them we are the infidels and they will not stop hating and killing the westerners, mainly Americans. She also states that "Their crowning moment would be, to actually carryout a terrorist attack in the United States of America."

THE BLUE BOX

Remember the blue box, the huge blue box, which recently and magically appeared on the front green sward of the Mt. Moriah Presbyterian Church; then not too long after, just as magically disappeared? Though I was glad it was gone from the lawn, I wondered why it had been there in the first place and to where it had disappeared. The question of "where it had gone" was finally answered

when I noticed the big blue box down at John Eisenberg's had Mt. Moriah's name on it instead of the usual unfamiliar named charity. It now is ours; benefiting those we know, a very good thing!

A MIA CULPA

Fact Finder owes its readers a correction to an error in its last issue. Somehow Linney Field was re-named Lynley Field, no, not a spelling error, a slip of the ole memory.

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, April 18, 2015** at Mac's, Moriah Pharmacy, Sherman Free Library, George's Restaurant, John Eisenberg's Service Center, Ken and Paula LaDeau's Champlain's Best Wash, Don Foote's "Miss Port Henry" Diner, and TFCU. NOTE: The Fact Finder may also be found on-line at porthenrymoriah.com. "Fact Finder" is the first item on the third drop-down menu