

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

Judicial District Summary Sheet

County Name: **Crawford**

Judicial District #: **30**

Caseload and Magisterial District Elimination Analysis

The difference between the average annual caseload of Judicial District # 30 and its class of county: **-8%**

Summary of Proposed Actions

30-2-01 Reestablish

30-3-01 Realign

30-3-02 **Eliminate**

30-3-03 Realign

30-3-06 Realign

Night/Central/Alternate Court Operations

This judicial district utilizes the following diversionary courts to assist in balancing workload:

Central Court: No Night Court: No

Public Comment

Proposal Posted for Public Comment: Yes Comments Received: Yes

Blooming Valley Borough Council President Nickerson: Opposes plan to move to another district because of travel distance and the impact on time, enforcement and budget.

Blooming Valley Borough Mayor Vivian: Opposes realignment of 30-3-03 to not include Blooming Valley Borough because of the travel time and inconvenience involved.

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

County Name: Crawford

Judicial District #: 30

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 30-2-01

Proposed Action: Reestablish

Average Annual Caseload:	3,191	Average Annual Workload:	30,477
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	7.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	26.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-3.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Average caseload number is different, causing reported averages to differ. Crawford County reports the average annual caseload for the judicial district as 2,987 filings.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

William D. Chisholm	Birthdate:	8-23-49
984 Water Street	Mandatory Retirement:	2019
Meadville, PA 16335	Term Expires:	1-3-16

Existing Geography:

MEADVILLE WD 01 PCT 01; MEADVILLE WD 01 PCT 02;
MEADVILLE WD 02 PCT 01; MEADVILLE WD 02 PCT 02;
MEADVILLE WD 02 PCT 03; MEADVILLE WD 03 PCT 01;
MEADVILLE WD 03 PCT 02; MEADVILLE WD 04;
MEADVILLE WD 05; WEST MEAD TWP DIST 01; WEST
MEAD TWP DIST 02

Proposed Geography:

MEADVILLE WD 01 PCT 01; MEADVILLE WD 01 PCT 02;
MEADVILLE WD 02 PCT 01; MEADVILLE WD 02 PCT 02;
MEADVILLE WD 02 PCT 03; MEADVILLE WD 03 PCT 01;
MEADVILLE WD 03 PCT 02; MEADVILLE WD 04;
MEADVILLE WD 05; WEST MEAD TWP DIST 01; WEST
MEAD TWP DIST 02

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Meadville City Police, West Mead Township Police

Major Highways:

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 30-3-01

Proposed Action: Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	2,128	Average Annual Workload:	21,083
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-29.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-13.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-35.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Average caseload number is different, causing reported averages to differ. Crawford County reports the average annual caseload for the judicial district as 2,987 filings.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Rita J. Marwood	Birthdate:	6-25-58
6121 U. S. Highway 6 P.O. Box 128	Mandatory Retirement:	2028
Linesville, PA 16424	Term Expires:	1-3-16

Existing Geography:

BEAVER TWP Voting District; CONNEAUT TWP Voting District; CONNEAUT LAKE Voting District; CONNEAUTVILLE Voting District; EAST FALLOWFIELD TWP Voting District; LINESVILLE Voting District; NORTH SHENANGO TWP Voting District; PINE TWP Voting District; SADSBUY TWP Voting District; SOUTH SHENANGO TWP Voting District; SPRING TWP Voting District; SPRINGBORO Voting District; SUMMERHILL TWP Voting District; SUMMIT TWP Voting District; WEST FALLOWFIELD TWP Voting District; WEST SHENANGO TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

BEAVER TWP Voting District; CONNEAUT TWP Voting District; CONNEAUT LAKE Voting District; CONNEAUTVILLE Voting District; EAST FALLOWFIELD TWP Voting District; GREENWOOD TWP Voting District; LINESVILLE Voting District; NORTH SHENANGO TWP Voting District; PINE TWP Voting District; SADSBUY TWP Voting District; SOUTH SHENANGO TWP Voting District; SPRING TWP Voting District; SPRINGBORO Voting District; SUMMERHILL TWP Voting District; SUMMIT TWP Voting District; UNION TWP Voting District; WEST FALLOWFIELD TWP Voting District; WEST SHENANGO TWP Voting District

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Linesville, Conneaut Lake Regional

Major Highways: I-79

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 30-3-02

Proposed Action: Eliminate

Average Annual Caseload:	5,284	Average Annual Workload:	28,529
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	76.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	18.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	61.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

This district will be eliminated effective 2016. Average caseload number is different, causing reported averages to differ. Crawford County reports the average annual caseload for the judicial district as 2,987 filings.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

A. Michael Rossi , Jr.	Birthdate:	10-24-48
10996 Perry Highway	Mandatory Retirement:	2018
Meadville, PA 16335	Term Expires:	1-3-16

Existing Geography:

COCHRANTON Voting District; EAST FAIRFIELD TWP Voting District; FAIRFIELD TWP Voting District; GREENWOOD TWP Voting District; UNION TWP Voting District; VERNON TWP DIST 01; VERNON TWP DIST 02; WAYNE TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: PA State Police, Vernon Township Police, Cochranon Police

Major Highways:

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 30-3-03

Proposed Action: Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	2,231	Average Annual Workload:	17,610
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-26.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-27.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-32.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Average caseload number is different, causing reported averages to differ. Crawford County reports the average annual caseload for the judicial district as 2,987 filings.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Lincoln S. Zilhaver	Birthdate:	12-20-65
2100 Independence Drive	Mandatory Retirement:	2035
Saegertown, PA 16433	Term Expires:	1-5-14

Existing Geography:

BLOOMING VALLEY Voting District; CAMBRIDGE TWP Voting District; CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS Voting District; CUSSEWAGO TWP Voting District; EAST MEAD TWP Voting District; HAYFIELD TWP Voting District; RANDOLPH TWP Voting District; RICHMOND TWP Voting District; ROCKDALE TWP Voting District; SAEGERTOWN Voting District; VENANGO TWP Voting District; VENANGO Voting District; WOODCOCK TWP Voting District; WOODCOCK Voting District

Proposed Geography:

CAMBRIDGE TWP Voting District; CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS Voting District; CUSSEWAGO TWP Voting District; HAYFIELD TWP Voting District; ROCKDALE TWP Voting District; SAEGERTOWN Voting District; VENANGO TWP Voting District; VENANGO Voting District; VERNON TWP DIST 01; VERNON TWP DIST 02; WOODCOCK TWP Voting District; WOODCOCK Voting District

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Cambridge Springs Police, East Mead Police

Major Highways:

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 30-3-06

Proposed Action: Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	2,102	Average Annual Workload:	23,043
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-30.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-5.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-36.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Average caseload number is different, causing reported averages to differ. Crawford County reports the average annual caseload for the judicial district as 2,987 filings.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Amy L. Nicols

150 West Central Avenue, Suite 2

Titusville, PA 16354

Birthdate: 10-29-62

Mandatory Retirement: 2032

Term Expires: 1-3-16

Existing Geography:

ATHENS TWP Voting District; BLOOMFIELD TWP Voting District; CENTERVILLE Voting District; HYDETOWN Voting District; OIL CREEK TWP Voting District; ROME TWP Voting District; SPARTA TWP Voting District; SPARTANSBURG Voting District; STEUBEN TWP Voting District; TITUSVILLE WD 01 PCT 01; TITUSVILLE WD 01 PCT 02; TITUSVILLE WD 02 PCT 01; TITUSVILLE WD 02 PCT 02; TITUSVILLE WD 03; TITUSVILLE WD 04; TITUSVILLE WD 05; TOWNVILLE Voting District; TROY TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

ATHENS TWP Voting District; BLOOMFIELD TWP Voting District; BLOOMING VALLEY Voting District; CENTERVILLE Voting District; COCHRANTON Voting District; EAST FAIRFIELD TWP Voting District; EAST MEAD TWP Voting District; FAIRFIELD TWP Voting District; HYDETOWN Voting District; OIL CREEK TWP Voting District; RANDOLPH TWP Voting District; RICHMOND TWP Voting District; ROME TWP Voting District; SPARTA TWP Voting District; SPARTANSBURG Voting District; STEUBEN TWP Voting District; TOWNVILLE Voting District; TROY TWP Voting District; WAYNE TWP Voting District

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Titusville City Police

Major Highways:

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

Judicial District and Class of County Comparison Statistics

Crawford / 30

Judicial District Average Caseload			
2011 Class	2011 Filings	2012 Class	2012 Filings
6	2,577	6	2,577

2011 Class of County Caseload Averages								
2011 Class	CR	PC	TR	NT	CV	LT	MD	Total
6	251	126	2,087	485	231	43	41	3,263

2012 Class of County Caseload Averages								
2012 Class	CR	PC	TR	NT	CV	LT	MD	Total
6	244	155	2,019	477	228	42	39	3,204

Notes on Analysis:

CASELOAD: The statistics provided are used to compare the average annual caseload of each magisterial district to the class of county average as one measure to assess whether any changes should be proposed. Reported values are provided by the judicial district; the comparison values are provided by the MDJS.

WORKLOAD: Where the average annual workload of a magisterial district is greater/less than 15% of the judicial district's workload average, the judicial district should realign - OR - explain why this difference does not impact workload equity within the judicial district. A value that is green indicates it is within range; red requires justification if realignment or elimination are not proposed.

Judicial District Caseload Averages		
Crawford	2011	2012
Class	6	6
CR	234	234
NT	392	392
PC	106	106
TR	1,547	1,547
CV	201	201
LT	44	44
MD	52	52
AVG	2,577	2,577

Judicial District Workload Averages		
Crawford	2011	2012
Class	6	6
CR	8,592	8,592
NT	4,213	4,213
PC	1,143	1,143
TR	3,528	3,528
CV	2,263	2,263
LT	638	638
MD	1,678	1,694
-15 % Workload	18,747	18,760
Average Workload	22,055	22,071
+ 15% Workload	25,364	25,381

Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

30-2-01

Reestablish

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
3,191		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

7	23.85%	23.85%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-3	-2.22%	-0.41%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
30,477		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

26	38.18%	38.09%
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30-3-01

Realign

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
2,128		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-29	-17.41%	-17.41%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-35	-34.79%	-33.59%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
21,083		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-13	-4.41%	-4.47%
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Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

30-3-02

Eliminate

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
5,284		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

76	105.08%	105.08%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

61	61.91%	64.91%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
28,529		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

18	29.35%	29.26%
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30-3-03

Realign

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
2,231		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-26	-13.41%	-13.41%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-32	-31.64%	-30.37%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
17,610		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-27	-20.16%	-20.21%
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30-3-06

Realign

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
2,102		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-30	-18.42%	-18.42%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-36	-35.59%	-34.40%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
23,043		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-5	4.48%	4.41%
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**JUDGES CHAMBERS
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF CRAWFORD COUNTY**

THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

**COURTHOUSE
903 DIAMOND PARK
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 16335-2696**

ANTHONY J. VARDARO

PRESIDENT JUDGE

JOHN F. SPATARO

JUDGE

MARK D. STEVENS

JUDGE

TELEPHONE

(814) 333-7497

FACSIMILE

(814) 337-8198

March 27, 2012

**Mr. Joseph Mittleman
Director, Judicial Programs
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts
1515 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19101**



Re: Magisterial District Judge Redistricting Report for Crawford County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Mittleman:

Please find enclosed herewith the original plan for redistricting of Magisterial District Judges in Crawford County. This plan will result in the elimination of District 30-3-02, effective January 4, 2016. It will also reestablish the boundary of all other districts with the exception of District 30-2-01, which will continue to include the City of Meadville and West Mead Township.

I have enclosed the required "Judicial District Summary Worksheet," as well as a "Magisterial District Reestablishment Worksheet" for each of the current Magisterial Districts. I have also enclosed a copy of my February 24, 2012 report, which was part of the information available to the public from February 24, 2012 until this date.

The plan was available for public review during that time period at the offices of all five Magisterial Districts, the Crawford County Law Library and online on the Crawford County website.

Additionally, on February 24, 2012 we sent out press releases to all area media outlets to make it known to the public the proposed plan was available for public review and comment.

The only public comment that I received was in the form of a February 27, 2012 letter from Mark E. Nickerson, President of Blooming Valley Borough Council and a March 15, 2012 letter from Jack L. Vivian, Mayor of Blooming Valley Borough.

I have attached both of those documents for your review.

Essentially, those representatives of Blooming Valley are objecting to the plan on the basis that Blooming Valley Borough would now become part of Magisterial District 30-3-06, therefore, requiring much more extensive travel than if they continued to be part of a district with an office in Saegertown Borough, which is part of the Crawford County Correctional Facility Complex.

I recognize that is a hardship for Blooming Valley residents, but because Crawford County's population is most dense in the center of the county, in order for the guidelines provided to be accomplished, it was necessary for Blooming Valley Borough to be part of District 30-3-06.

Because of the small caseload generated from Blooming Valley Borough, we could certainly move that Borough back to District 30-3-03, but that would not be fair to other municipalities that have been moved, also requiring more extensive travel. These include Cochranon Borough, East Fairfield, Fairfield Township, East Mead Township, Union Township and Greenwood Township.

Obviously, if we started to move all of those municipalities, the numbers would no longer be consistent with the guidelines provided.

Additionally, with respect to the concerns of the officials of Blooming Valley Borough, at the time the current lease for the office of Magisterial District Judge 30-3-06 expires at the end of December 2015, we will be exploring moving that office to Townville Borough in light of the expanded geographic area the office will be covering. Townville Borough is more centrally located for all of the municipalities within that newly expanded Magisterial District 30-3-06.

Perhaps not directly public input, I am also enclosing three newspaper articles from the local newspapers. First of all, an article appeared in *The Meadville Tribune* on February 27, 2012 entitled "Court realignment plan would cut Vernon office," which began on Page A1 and continued on Page A6. Another article appeared in that same paper on that same day on Page A6, which was entitled "Retiring judges okay with proposed realignment," indicating that both retiring Magisterial Judge William D. Chisholm and retiring Magisterial Judge Michael Rossi approved of the plan. Next, I am enclosing an article that appeared on the front page of *The Titusville Herald* on February 28, 2012 entitled "Nicols' office could see extra workload."

Finally, I am enclosing a copy of a short "Thumbs Up" from *The Meadville Tribune*, which appeared on March 3, 2012 on Page A4, indicating support for the proposal we are recommending.

Our Court Administrator, John Shuttleworth, has worked extensively on this project in conjunction with me and we believe, after extensive review, the plan we are submitting is most appropriate.

We further note that in addition to the two retiring Magisterial District Judges supporting the plan, the remaining three Magisterial District Judges have also expressed support for this plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Anthony J. Vardaro

e-copy: amy.kehner@pacourts.us w/ enclosures

enclosures: **Judicial District Summary Worksheet**
 Magisterial District Reestablishment Worksheets (5)
 February 24, 2012 Report of President Judge Anthony J. Vardaro
 February 27, 2012 Letter from Mark E. Nickerson (President of Blooming Valley Borough Council)
 March 15, 2012 Letter from John L. Vivian (Mayor of Blooming Valley Borough)
 Map showing current Magisterial Districts
 Map showing proposed Magisterial Districts
 Article that appeared in *The Meadville Tribune* on February 27, 2012 (Page A1, cont. to Page A6)
 Article that appeared in *The Meadville Tribune* on February 27, 2012 (Page A6)
 Article that appeared on the front page of *The Titusville Herald* on February 28, 2012 (Front Page)
 "Thumbs Up" from *The Meadville Tribune*, which appeared on March 3, 2012 (Page A4)

AJV/jlk



JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET


PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I. JUDICIAL DISTRICT NUMBER:	30
A. What is the class of county?	6
B. What is the percentage difference in the average annual caseload between this judicial district and the applicable class of county?	-8%
II. PROPOSED ACTIONS:	
A. List existing magisterial districts: 30-2-01; 30-3-01; 30-3-02; 30-3-03; 30-3-06	
B. Does this judicial district have an annual average caseload that is ten percent above the average caseload for the applicable class of county?	NO
1. If the answer to II. B. above is <i>NO</i> , are eliminations proposed?	YES
a) List magisterial districts proposed for elimination. 30-3-02	
b) If no eliminations are proposed based on II. B. above, what are the factors for this decision?	
2. If the answer to II. B. above is <i>YES</i> , are eliminations proposed?	YES
a) List magisterial districts proposed for elimination. 30-3-02	
C. Are any magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment?	YES
1. List magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment. 30-2-01	
D. Are any magisterial districts proposed for realignment?	YES
1. List magisterial districts proposed for realignment. 30-3-01; 30-3-03; 30-3-06	

AOPC

JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

III. NIGHT AND CENTRAL COURT OPERATIONS	
A. Is there a night court operating within the judicial district?	NO
B. Is there a central court operating within the judicial district?	NO
C. Note comments regarding how night, central or other similar court programs impact operations within the judicial district.	
IV. PUBLIC COMMENT	
A. A request for public comment was posted:	YES
B. Comments were received:	YES
C. Comments are attached:	YES
V. ADDITIONAL REMARKS CONCERNING PROPOSAL:	
VI. DATE SUBMITTED TO AOPC:	
VII. PRESIDENT JUDGE NAME:	Anthony J. Vardaro
 _____ Signature	



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	30-3-01
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
	A. Average Total Caseload:	2,128
	B. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-29% <i>-17.41%</i>
	C. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-35%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
	A. Average Total Workload:	21,083
	B. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-13% <i>-4.41%</i>
	C. Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	NO
	D. If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
	A. Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
	B. What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/4/2016
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
	A. Magisterial District Judge Name: Rita J. Marwood	
	B. Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2016



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C.	Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	6/25/2028
D.	Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	6121 Hwy. 6, Po Box 128 Linesville 16424
E.	Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
F.	Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
G.	List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Linesville, Conneaut Lake Regional
H.	List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Interstate 79
VI.	LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
	Beaver Twp, Conneaut Lake, Conneaut Twp, Conneautville, East Fallowfield Twp, Linesville, North Shenango Twp, Pine Twp, Sadsbury Twp, South Shenango Twp, Spring Twp, Springboro, Summerhill Twp, Summit Twp, West Fallowfield Twp, West Shenango Twp.	
VII.	LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
	Beaver Twp, Conneaut Lake Boro, Conneaut Twp, Conneautville Boro, East Fallowfield Twp, Greenwood Twp, Linesville Boro, North Shenango Twp, West Fallowfield Twp, Pine Twp, Sadsbury Twp, South Shenango Twp, Spring Twp, Springboro, Summerhill Twp, Summit Twp. Union Twp, West Shenango Twp.	
VIII.	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.		

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	30-3-02
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	5,284
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	76% <i>105.08%</i>
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	61%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	28,529
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	18% <i>29.35%</i> <i>29.26%</i>
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Will be addressed in realignment	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input type="checkbox"/> Realign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/4/2016
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: A. Michael Rossi	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2016

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	10/24/2018
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	10996 Perry Highway Meadville 16335
E. Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
F. Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
G. List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	PA State Police; Vernon Twp. Police, Cochranon Police
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Interstate 79
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Cochranon Boro, E. Fairfield Twp, Fairfield Twp, Greenwood Twp, Union Twp, Vernon Twp, Wayne Twp.
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	None
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	30-3-03
II. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD		
A.	Average Total Caseload:	2,231
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-26% <i>-13.41%</i>
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-32%
III. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD		
A.	Average Total Workload:	17,610
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-27% <i>-20.16%</i> <i>-20.21%</i>
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Will require realignment	
IV. PROPOSED CHANGE:		
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/4/2016
V. MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:		
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Lincoln S. Zilhaver	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/5/2014

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/20/2035
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	2100 Independence Drive Saegertown 16335
E. Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
F. Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
G. List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Cambridge Springs Police, East Mead Police
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Interstate 79
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Blooming Valley, Cambridge Twp, Cambridge Springs, Cussewago Twp, East Mead Twp, Hayfield Twp, Randolph Twp, Richmond Twp, Rockdale Twp, Saegertown, Venango, Venango Twp, Woodcock, Woodcock Twp.
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Cambridge Twp, Cambridge Springs Boro, Cussewago Twp, Hayfield Twp, Rockdale Twp, Saegertown, Venango, Venango Twp, Vernon Twp, Woodcock Boro, Woodcock Twp.
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	30-3-06
II. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD		
A.	Average Total Caseload:	2,102
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-30% <i>-18.42%</i>
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-36%
III. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD		
A.	Average Total Workload:	23,043
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-5% <i>4.48%</i>
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	NO
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?	
IV. PROPOSED CHANGE:		
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/4/2016
V. MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:		
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Amy L. Nicols	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2016



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C.	Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	10/29/2032
D.	Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	150 W. Central Ave., Ste. 2 Titusville 16354
E.	Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
F.	Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
G.	List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Titusville City Police
H.	List any major highways within this magisterial district:	
VI.	LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
		Athens Twp, Bloomfield Twp, Centerville, Titusville, Hydetown, Oil Creek Twp, Rome Twp, Sparta Twp, Spartansburg, Steuben Twp, Townville, Troy Twp.
VII.	LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
		Athens Twp, Bloomfield Twp, Blooming Valley Boro, Centerville, Cochranon Boro, East Fairfield Twp, East Mead Twp, Fairfield Twp, Hydetown, Oil Creek Twp, Randolph Twp, Richmond Twp, Rome Twp, Sparta Twp, Spartansburg, Steuben Twp, Townville Boro, Troy Twp, Wayne Twp.
VIII.	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.		

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	30-2-01
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	3,191
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	7% 23.85%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-3%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	30,477
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	26% 38.18% 38.09%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Will be address in realignment of other districts	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/4/2016
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: William D. Chisholm	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2016



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	8/23/2019
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	984 Water St., Ste. 1 Meadville 16335
E. Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
F. Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
G. List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Meadville City Police; West Mead Twp. Police
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
	City Of Meadville, West Mead Township
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
	City Of Meadville, West Mead Township
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	

**REPORT ON JUDICIAL REDISTRICTING FOR THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT
JUDGE BOUNDARIES IN CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

Issued by President Judge Anthony J. Vardaro

February 24, 2012

Every ten (10) years President Judges throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are required by law to analyze the workload of magisterial districts within their county and to compare those statistics to magisterial districts within the county and similar population sized counties. President Judges are required to report to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, through the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, so that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court can make a determination as how to best use judicial resources available for the citizens of this Commonwealth.

As was indicated in a Press Release from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts on October 31, 2011, "New to this year's process is a directive from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to develop a statewide plan to reduce the overall number of magisterial district court judgeships to address a series of financial shortfalls Pennsylvania's Judiciary has struggled with over the last several years."

Beginning in the latter part of October 2011, in conjunction with Crawford County Court Administrator, John L. Shuttleworth, III, I began an analysis of the Crawford County Magisterial District Judge court system based on criteria provided to us by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

I will summarize the process that has occurred since October 2011, which has led to the conclusion that I will recommend to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts that Magisterial District 30-3-02, which currently is served by Magisterial District Judge Michael Rossi with an office in Vernon Township, be eliminated at the end of Judge Rossi's current term ending

on January 3, 2016. That district currently includes Cochranon Borough, East Fairfield Township, Fairfield Township, Greenwood Township, Union Township, Vernon Township and Wayne Township.

As of January 4, 2016, under the plan I will propose, Cochranon Borough, East Fairfield Township, Fairfield Township, Wayne Township, East Mead Township, Blooming Valley Borough, Richmond Township and Randolph Township will become part of Magisterial District 30-3-06 with its office located in Titusville.

Vernon Township will become part of Magisterial District 30-3-03, which currently has an office in the Crawford County Correctional Facility complex in Saegertown Borough.

Union Township and Greenwood Township will become part of Magisterial District 30-3-01 with an office currently in Linesville.

The proposal I will make is clearly consistent with the guidelines presented to me by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in that the proposal creates districts with workloads more comparable than is the current situation and further creates workloads for the four proposed magisterial districts that appear to be appropriate when compared to other sixth class counties.

The elimination of District 30-3-02, however, will undoubtedly cause hardship to many citizens of Crawford County and to police agencies. Unfortunately, some of those same townships and the Borough of Cochranon were affected by the previous redistricting conducted by former President Judge Gordon R. Miller in 2001 and 2002 that resulted in a magisterial district being eliminated in Cochranon Borough. I regret that inconvenience to all citizens and police agencies affected and particularly those areas which required change as a result of the 2002 plan and now again in 2012, but this is unavoidable.

I would note that in arriving at the conclusion I am now proposing, I have strictly followed the guidelines provided by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts and have accepted the mandate from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that the economic times require, in the case of Crawford County, the elimination of one magisterial district. I have seen in news reports and heard by word of mouth that some counties throughout the Commonwealth may not be strictly adhering to the guidelines in hopes of keeping all of their magisterial districts or at least not reducing the number of districts to the extent the guidelines would suggest.

It is my hope that the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, and ultimately the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, will require the enforcement of the guidelines provided consistently throughout the Commonwealth, since I have applied those guidelines and the end result will create a hardship and inconvenience for many of Crawford County's citizens and some police agencies.

Prior to conducting the analysis that was currently required, in light of the fact Crawford County had eliminated a district effective 2006 and I was aware of the criteria that were applied during the analysis by Judge Miller in 2001 and 2002, I was of the opinion it would not be necessary to eliminate one of the existing five magisterial districts in Crawford County. I, in fact, expressed that opinion to the five sitting Magisterial District Judges, indicating that it may, however, be necessary to shift some townships to equalize the workload.

However, as a result of the mandate from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to reduce the overall number of magisterial district court judgeships, the criteria have changed, resulting in the current recommendation.

Magisterial District Judges in Pennsylvania sit in various types of cases, including civil cases (up to a jurisdiction limit of \$12,000), landlord tenant cases, traffic filings, non-traffic summary criminal filing, preliminary hearings in criminal cases and miscellaneous matters.

In analyzing what would be appropriate for Crawford County, I was required, with the Court Administrator to look at not only the average case filings in each magisterial district, but also weighted analysis based on a formula developed by a statewide committee, which included Crawford County Magisterial District Judge William D. Chisholm.

The purpose of the weighted figures was to recognize that certain types of cases do not typically take as much Magisterial District Judge time as other types of cases. For example, handling a traffic citation requires much less time than handling a preliminary hearing in a criminal matter.

An analysis based on that information requires that the average caseload of a magisterial judicial district must be equal to or greater than ten percent (10%) of the average annual caseload for, in our case, other sixth class counties or there must be support provided why a magisterial district judge should not be proposed for elimination.

Further, the magisterial districts within a judicial district must fall within a plus or minus fifteen percent (15%) range of the annual average workload for the judicial district.

Currently, the average annual caseload for the 24 sixth class counties in Pennsylvania is 3,263. The average annual caseload for the five (5) magisterial district courts in Crawford County is 2,987 filings, which is 8.5% below the average for districts in sixth class counties. Therefore, in order to meet the criteria of an average caseload throughout this magisterial district equal to or greater than ten percent (10%) of the average annual caseload for sixth class counties as required, the average annual caseload would have to be 3,589 filings if we are to keep five (5) magisterial district courts.

Of the 24 sixth class counties, only Somerset County, which has an average annual caseload of 4,238 filings per district and Crawford County have five (5) magisterial districts. Obviously, the numbers in Somerset County are actually about thirty percent (30%) above the average for sixth class counties. Additionally, nine (9) of those twenty-four (24) sixth class counties have three (3) or fewer Magisterial District Judges.

By eliminating one magisterial district, the average caseload in Crawford would become 3,734 filings, which would be 14% above the sixth class county average, but certainly nowhere near the number of cases that are being handled in Somerset County.

Additionally, the average annual workload for each Magisterial District Judge in Crawford County based on the weighted work load criteria is 24,148 units.

Three of Crawford County's five magisterial districts fall outside of that number, ranging from an average workload of 17,610 units to 30,477 units.

Thus, as the attached documents will indicate, the numbers for Crawford County, based on the criteria provided by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, suggest that four (4) magisterial court districts is appropriate for Crawford County.

There are certainly arguments that I could make as to why we should be allowed to keep five (5) magisterial court districts even though our numbers do not suggest that; but those, in the end, are somewhat speculative and probably not significantly compelling.

For instance, in counties in Pennsylvania where there has been significant drilling activity as a result of Marcellus shale, such as Washington County and Lycoming County, there has been significant increased activity of all kinds in the court system. There was some indication that during the next ten years, since the Utica shale extends into Crawford County, we could see more activity here, but that is somewhat speculative and even the caseload figures for the four magisterial court districts we propose would suggest that those districts could handle an increased work load.

During the 2001 and 2002 judicial redistricting analysis, one of the criteria was a consideration of the time to get from any location in a magisterial court district to the magisterial judge office. That criteria has been eliminated, but certainly because of the large geographical area of Crawford County (1,013 square miles of land and 25 square miles of water), our citizens will be required to travel further due to the proposed reduction to four magisterial district judges. Again, however, based on that criteria being eliminated, we cannot conclude that that is compelling.

A further factor is that, as I indicated, we reduced the magisterial court districts from six (6) to five (5), effective 2006 and residents of several of the townships and the Borough of Cochranton will be required again to move to a different district. Again, however, I cannot conclude that is compelling, nor can I conclude that all of this together, while important, would justify keeping five (5) districts in light of the caseload and workload numbers.

The guidelines provided by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts suggested that I should meet with all of the Magisterial District Judges early in the process for their input and the Court Administrator and I did that in late November 2011. We explored, with the Magisterial District Judges a plan that would relocate some of the townships to different districts, but still keep five (5) magisterial court districts. We also looked at five (5) separate maps, each eliminating one (1) of the magisterial court districts.

The guidelines provided by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts direct that if a district is to be eliminated, we should first try to do that in a district where a Magisterial District Judge will not be seeking reelection or will be reaching the mandatory age of 70.

At the November 2011 meeting with the Magisterial District Judges, Magisterial District Judge William D. Chisholm indicated he would be retiring at the end of his current term. I, thus, gave strong consideration to the elimination of that district, encompassing the City of Meadville and West Mead Township at the end of Judge Chisholm's term, but because of the case volume in that

district, it is not realistic to eliminate that district and, thus, include the City of Meadville and West Mead Township in another district.

I was later advised by Magisterial District Judge Michael Rossi that he would also be retiring at the end of his term, effective January 3, 2016. That fact, together with the caseload and workload analysis, has led to the conclusion that District 30-3-02 should be eliminated upon the retirement of Judge Rossi.

None of the other Magisterial District Judges will reach mandatory retirement age during their current term nor did any of the other three indicate that they intended to retire at the end of their current terms.

I take this opportunity to thank Judge Chisholm and Judge Rossi for advising me of their intended retirements, which has aided me in reaching the conclusion I have reached during this difficult process. Both of those judges have many years of distinguished service and I am sure will continue to provide that service during the almost four (4) years that remain in each of their current terms.

Taking into consideration all of those factors, but most importantly, that the districts we suggest in the reduction to four districts would be the closest to allowing all four districts to be as close as possible to statewide average caseloads and to workloads within the county as is reflected in the attached reports, I am proposing the following:

- 1) Magisterial District Court 30-3-01, with its current office in Linesville, Pennsylvania shall continue to exist and Greenwood and Union Township will be added to that district, effective January 4, 2016.
- 2) Magisterial District 30-2-01, with its office currently in Meadville, Pennsylvania shall continue to encompass the City of Meadville, Pennsylvania and West Mead Township.

- 3) Magisterial District 30-3-03, effective January 4, 2016, will add Vernon Township, but will lose Richmond Township, Randolph Township, Blooming Valley Borough and East Mead Township.
- 4) Magisterial District 30-3-06, currently located in Titusville, Pennsylvania will, effective January 4, 2016, add East Fairfield Township, Fairfield Township, Cochranon Borough, Wayne Township, East Mead Township, Randolph Township, Blooming Valley Borough and Richmond Township.

When District 30-3-02 is eliminated effective January 4, 2016, Crawford County will have, within the new boundaries for District 30-3-03, the office within the Crawford County Correctional Facility that currently houses Magisterial District Judge Lincoln S. Zilhaver and the county-owned building in Vernon Township, which currently houses Magisterial District Judge Rossi in District 30-3-02 within the same magisterial district.

The Crawford County Commissioners will have to make a decision, with the approval of the President Judge, as to which of those offices, if either, will be used going forward for the Magisterial District Judge office for 30-3-03. In light of the addition of Vernon Township to that district and the increased volume of work, it may be appropriate to consider using both of those offices in some manner within that district.

That is not a decision that needs to be made at this time, but will need to be considered as January 4, 2016 more closely approaches.

I recognize that in the recommendations that are being made that there may be some concerns by police agencies, as well as citizens, with the travel requirements and I am certainly sensitive to that, but based on the criteria and the mandate from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to reduce the overall number of Magisterial District Court Judgeships, I believe the proposal I am making is the most appropriate.

This proposal will be available for public viewing effective today, with all attachments at the office of each current Magisterial District Judge in Crawford County during normal business hours and will

also be available in the Crawford County Law Library on the Second Floor of the Crawford County Courthouse during normal business hours.

The proposal, with all attachments, may be viewed also online on the county's website at www.crawfordcounty.pa.net.

The plan will be available for viewing for thirty (30) days from this date and after that, sometime prior to March 30, 2012 I will submit to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts with any written comments that the public wishes to provide.

Those comments should be sent to me at:

Anthony J. Vardaro, President Judge
Crawford County Courthouse
Judge's Chambers
903 Diamond Park
Meadville, PA 16335

Blooming Valley Borough

24609 State Street Meadville, PA 16335 814 724 4727

February 27, 2012

Anthony J. Vardaro, President Judge
Crawford County Courthouse, Judge's Chambers
903 Diamond Park
Meadville, PA 16335

Dear Judge Vardaro:

Upon learning, through a Meadville Tribune article, of the Proposed Magisterial District Judge Realignment Plan for Crawford County, Blooming Valley Borough Council is writing to ask that Blooming Valley Borough remain included in the Magisterial District 30-3-03 (Saegertown). We strongly object to being removed from the Saegertown District and switched to the Titusville District. Here are some of the reasons:

The travel distance from Blooming Valley Borough to the Magisterial District 30-3-03 office in Saegertown is less than 5 miles. The travel distance from Blooming Valley Borough to the Titusville Magisterial District office is over 25 miles.

Blooming Valley Borough utilizes the Magisterial District Judge with enforcement of Borough ordinances including, junk and hazard accumulation ordinances, noise and nuisance ordinances, road weight limit ordinances, and zoning violations. The Borough Mayor and other Borough officials volunteer a considerable amount of uncompensated time, and uncompensated travel, working with the District Judge's office in enforcing these ordinances. The drastically greater distance to the Magisterial District Judge's office in Titusville would hinder this enforcement.


Blooming Valley Borough relies on the Pennsylvania State Police for all traffic and crime enforcement within the Borough. The State Police station serving Blooming Valley Borough is located near Meadville, and cases are processed through the Magisterial District 30-3-03 office in Saegertown. If Blooming Valley were switched to the Titusville Magisterial District, the State Police from the Meadville station processing crimes and violations committed in Blooming Valley would have to travel to Titusville. This would make more difficult enforcement of

crimes and violations occurring in Blooming Valley. With State Police services already being spread thin in rural areas, this additional travel burden would further hamper this valuable police service to Blooming Valley Borough.

In 1867, Blooming Valley Borough was incorporated out of the south-east corner of Woodcock Township. Blooming Valley is both geographically and logistically aligned with Woodcock Township for many municipal functions. For instance, the Borough hires the Township's Zoning Officer, road crew, and other services. It is obvious from studying the proposed magisterial district judge realignment map of Crawford County, that Blooming Valley Borough belongs in the Magisterial District 30-3-03 (Saegertown), and there is no other example on the map where a small municipality has been carved out and made to travel such a long distance for Magisterial District Judge services.

Blooming Valley Borough Council asks that the Magisterial District Judge Realignment Plan for Crawford County be modified so that Blooming Valley Borough will remain in the Magisterial District 30-3-03 (Saegertown), prior to submission to the Office of Pennsylvania Courts. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark E. Nickerson".

Mark E. Nickerson, President
Blooming Valley Borough Council

Jack L Vivian, Mayor

25079 State St

Meadville, PA 16335

March 15, 2012

Anthony J. Vardaro, Pres Judge

Crawford County Courthouse, Judge's Chambers

903 Diamond Park Square

Meadville, PA 16335

Dear Judge Vardaro,

I am writing concerning the proposed magisterial district realignment for Crawford County.

As you are aware Blooming Valley is now part of district 30-3-03 in Saegertown, PA, this office is located 5 miles from Blooming Valley while Titusville will be 25 miles from our borough.

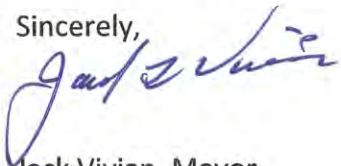
This raises many concerns for Blooming Valley will the state police be willing to enforce laws knowing they will need to travel to Titusville for hearings.

I also will need to travel to Titusville for enforcement of our ordinances, at the present time we have 3 of these in process. This will add a great expense to myself & our borough. As many small boroughs we volunteer time, travel, etc to our committees I am glad to do this, but I feel this is an unnecessary hardship.

Please reconsider your decision to put Blooming Valley with Titusville Magisterial District.

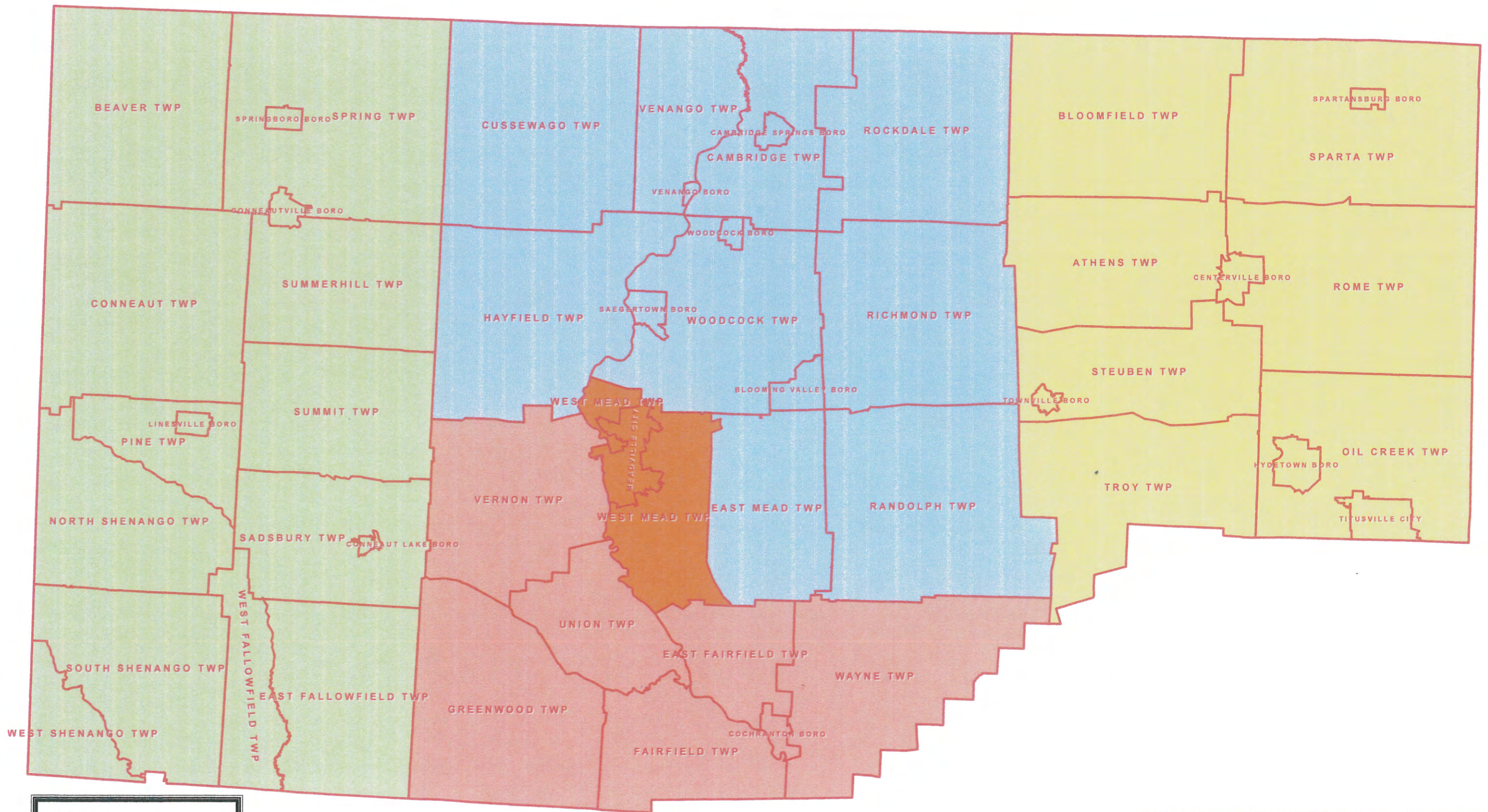
Thank you for your time & consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,






A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Vivian", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Jack Vivian, Mayor

Blooming Valley Borough



Legend
Crawford_Magisterial_Districts
DISTRICT

	30-2-01 / Chisholm
	30-3-01 / Marwood
	30-3-02 / Rossi
	30-3-03 / Zilhaver
	30-3-06 / Nicols




Current Magisterial Districts
Crawford County, PA
Maintained by: Crawford County OES

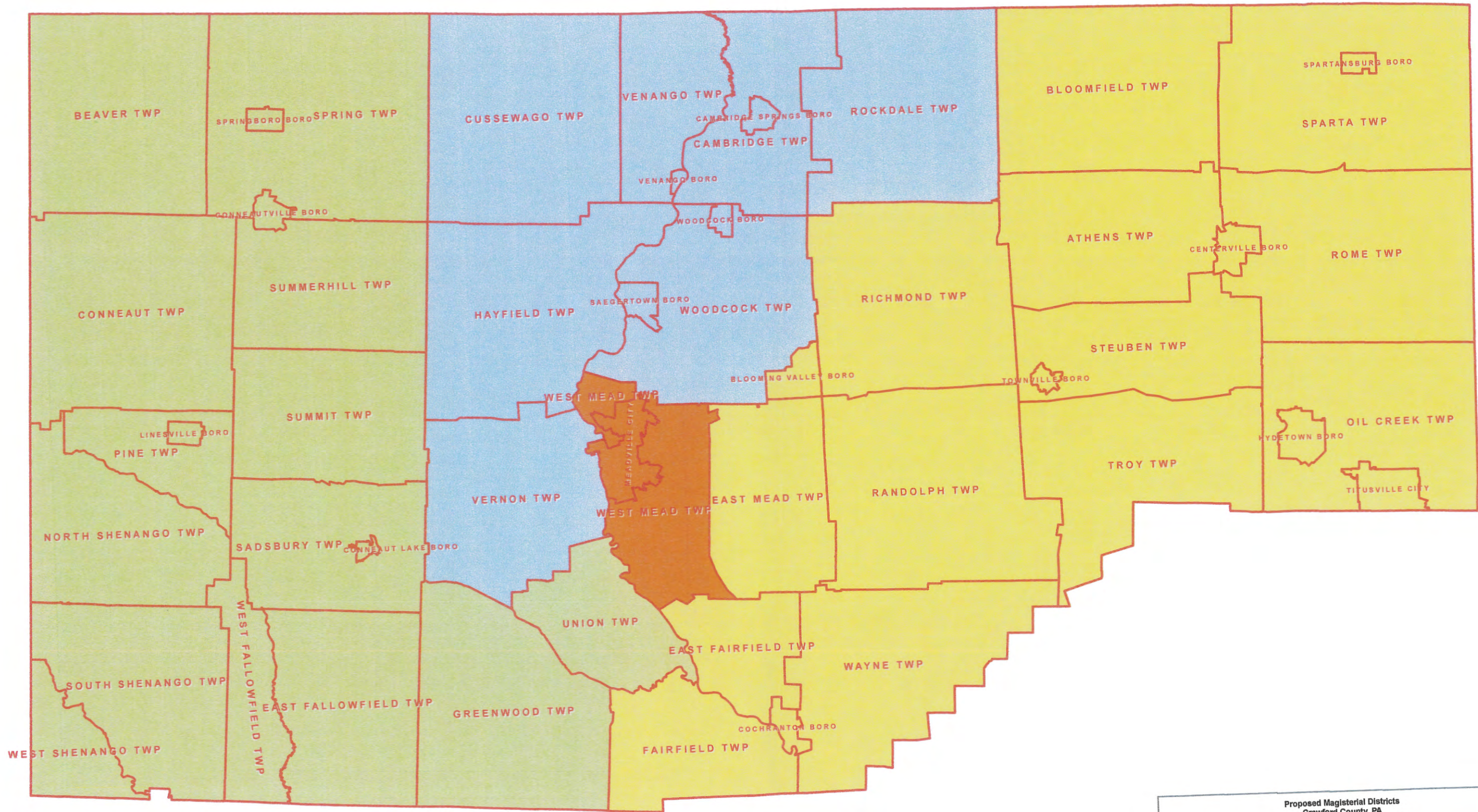
Crawford County Office of Emergency Services
Crawford County Courthouse
903 Diamond Park
Meadville, PA 16335
911 Director: Kevin Nicholson / EMA Director: Allen Clark
GIS Manager: Phil Baranyal

Commissioners: Francis F Weiderspahn Jr, C. Sherman Allen, Jack P Lynch

Updated: 2/14/2012

This map is subject to change at any time after date of issuance.
Additional copies of this map can be obtained at the
Crawford County Courthouse: 903 Diamond Park, Meadville PA 16335 or by calling (814) 333-7300.





Legend
Crawford_Magisterial_Districts_Proposed
DISTRICT

	30-2-01
	30-3-01
	30-3-03
	30-3-06



Proposed Magisterial Districts
Crawford County, PA
Maintained by: Crawford County OES

Crawford County Office of Emergency Services
 Crawford County Courthouse
 903 Diamond Park
 Meadville, PA 16335
 911 Director: Kevin Nicholson / EMA Director: Allen Clark
 GIS Manager: Phil Baranyai

Commissioners: Francis F Weiderspahn Jr, C. Sherman Allen, Jack P Lynch

Updated: 2/14/2012

This map is subject to change at any time after date of issuance.
 Additional copies of this map can be obtained at the
 Crawford County Courthouse: 903 Diamond Park, Meadville PA 16335 or by calling (814) 333-7300.

The Tribune's website is now phone friendly!

The Meadville Tribune's mobile-friendly website now offers readers FREE local news and sports stories that can be easily accessed on your cellphones. Read what your neighbors are doing and saying, add your own comments, and take part in Tribune polls and other reader-interactive features. Oh, and did we mention it's free?

meadvilletribune.com

Outstanding service work to be honored

Allegheny College is soliciting nominations for the eighth annual Lew Davies Award for Outstanding Community Service.

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Weather

Today: Partly sunny, 44
This evening: Clear, 35
Tomorrow: Cloudy, 44

Deaths

- Napoleon Emanuel, 81, Linesville
- Charles N. Finton, 74, Mount Carmel
- Bruce E. Nichols Sr., 1, Meadville

Details, Page A6

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- ComicsB4
- LegalsC1
- ClassifiedC1



in beginners, while veteran bit player Octavia Spencer earned the supporting-actress prize for her role in "The Help."

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Dow crosses 13,000, but it's just a number

When the Dow Jones industrial average briefly crossed 13,000 last week, a milestone it hadn't reached since before the financial crisis, people took notice. But a word of caution: 13,000 is just a number.

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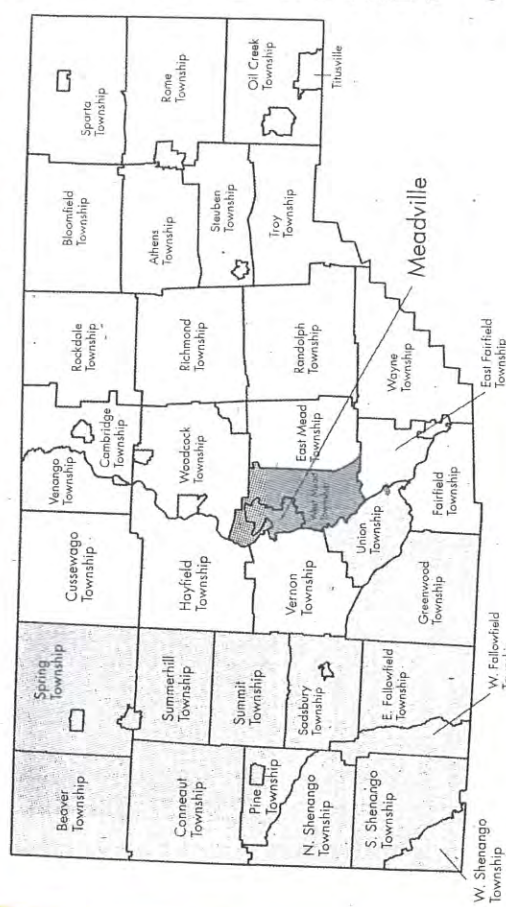
Court realignment plan would cut Vernon office

By Keith Gushard
MEADVILLE TRIBUNE

Crawford County will lose one of its five magisterial district justice courts as of January 2016 if a proposed realignment of the minor court boundaries is approved by the state.

Under the proposed plan, Magisterial District 30-3-02, currently held by Magisterial District Judge Michael Rossi with an office in Vernon Township, would be eliminated at the end of his term that on Jan. 3, 2016.

Elimination of one of the five districts would be part of a general realignment of the county's



magisterial district boundaries when both Rossi and William Chisholm, the Meadville area magisterial district judge, retire in January 2016.

Magisterial district judges in Pennsylvania hear various types of cases, including civil cases (up to a jurisdiction limit of \$12,000), landlord tenant cases, traffic filings, non-traffic summary level criminal filings, preliminary hearings in criminal cases and miscellaneous matters.

Magisterial District 30-3-02 (Vernon area) currently covers East Fairfield, Fairfield, Green-

SEE COURT, PAGE A6

'American Experience' film on Amish faced many hurdles

DEATHS

Charles N. Finton

MOUNT CARMEL — Charles N. Finton, 74, of One West Avenue, Mount Carmel, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012, at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. Born May 25, 1937, in Geisinger Hospital, he was the son of the late Harry H. Finton of Lykens, Dauphin County, and Millicent (Morgan) Finton of Mount Carmel. He was a graduate of Mount Carmel Joint Senior High School, class of 1955.

He served with the U.S. Army Security Agency for three years and was stationed on the DMZ in Korea for 18 months. Upon receiving the Good Conduct Medal and Armed Forces Expedition Medal he returned to Mount Carmel. After spending two years back home, working at Matlow's Clothing Store and Wardrop's Hardware Store, he applied and was accepted on the Baltimore City Police Department. He was a foot patrolman for three years, a radio car officer for four years and a burglary squad detective for 25 years. Upon retirement from the Baltimore Police Department and returning to Mount Carmel, he became very active with the Anthracite Steam Fire Co. and also drove taxi for the Mt. Carmel Taxi Co.

He was a life member of the Anthracite Fire Co., a member of Mt. Carmel Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2110, the Mt. Carmel Elks Club Lodge 356, Atlas Fire Co. and Clover Hose Fire Co., the Baltimore City Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and the Retired Police Association of Baltimore, the Kulpmont Sportsmen Association and the Sons of the American Legion Post 130 of Perry Hall, Md. He also was a social member of Club 903 of the 40 & 8 of Lock Haven in Clinton County.

He and his wife, Jeanne, were frequent visitors to Clinton County, his favorite area being Hyner State Park and Hyner View and his retired Baltimore Police friend Jack Worsham's cabin in Hyner.

Surviving are his wife, the former Jeanne Doll, formerly of Summit, N.J., and his brother, Dr. Abe M. Finton of Meadville; he was the stepfather to Jeanne's two sons and two daughters, and is survived by nieces, nephews, many grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. in C.J. Lucas Funeral Home Inc., 27 N. Vine St., Mount Carmel, with Pastor Daniel Middle officiating. Burial will be in Mount Carmel Cemetery, Mount Carmel township.

Visitation with the family will be held Tuesday morning from until the time of service in C.J. Lucas Funeral Home Inc. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Anthracite Fire Co. for truck equipment. Third and Mead-



VETERAN

Plummer, Spencer win 'supporting' Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Christopher Plummer became the oldest acting winner ever at Sunday's Academy Awards for his supporting performance in "Beginners," while veteran bit player Octavia Spencer earned the supporting-actress prize for her breakthrough role in "The Help."

The 82-year-old Plummer won for his role as an elderly widower who comes out as gay in "Beginners."

"You're only two years older than me, darling,"

Plummer said, addressing his Oscar statue in this 84th year of the awards. "Where have you been all my life? I have a confession to make. When I first emerged from my mother's womb, I was already rehearsing my Oscar speech."

The previous oldest winner was best-actress recipient Jessica Tandy for "Driving Miss Daisy," at age 80.

Completing an awards-season blitz that took her from Hollywood bit player to star, Spencer won for her role as a

headstrong black maid whose willful ways continually land her in trouble with white employers in 1960s Mississippi. Spencer wept throughout her breathless speech, in which she apologized between laughing and crying for running a bit long on her time limit.

"Thank you, academy, for putting me with the hottest guy in the room," Spencer said, referring to last year's supporting-actor winner Christian Bale, who presented her Oscar.

Retiring judges OK with proposed realignment

MEADVILLE TRIBUNE

Two Crawford County magisterial district judges who plan to retire in about four years say they're pleased with a proposed realignment plan of district boundaries.

Crawford County's five current magisterial districts would go down to four in January 2016 under a plan drafted by President Judge Anthony Vardaro of Crawford County Common Pleas Court. The state mandates magisterial district

boundaries be analyzed every 10 years and realigned if necessary to balance caseloads among the districts within a county.

The proposed plan, if approved by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, would go into effect in January 2016 when judges William Chisholm of Meadville and Mike Rossi of Vernon Township retire.

Rossi's Vernon-area district will be dissolved and divided among three other magisterial districts when he retires.

"Judge Vardaro did an outstanding job," Rossi said. "He struggled over this quite a bit. It was not an easy decision given the criteria. He made the best decision possible for Crawford County."

"The (caseload) numbers really don't reinforce keeping five magisterial district judges," Chisholm said. "Judge Vardaro really worked the numbers and it is the best configuration. He met with the magisterial judges and took our input."

Court

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

wood, Union, Vernon and Wayne townships and the Borough of Cochranton. Those municipalities would be divided up among the four remaining districts under the plan proposed by President Judge Anthony Vardaro of Crawford County Court of Common Pleas.

"The elimination of District 30-3-02, however, will undoubtedly cause hardship to many citizens of

YOU CAN COMMENT

Copies of the proposed magisterial district judge realignment plan for Crawford County are available for public viewing at the office of each judge during normal business hours for the next 30 days.

Copies also are available in the Crawford County Law Library on the second floor of the Crawford County Courthouse, 903 Diamond Park, Meadville, during normal business hours.

The proposal, with all attachments, may be viewed also online on the county's website at crawfordcounty.pa.net.

The plan will be submitted by March 30 to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts with any written comments that the public wishes to provide.

Those comments should be sent to: Anthony J. Vardaro, President Judge, Crawford County Courthouse, Judge's Chambers, 903 Diamond Park, Meadville, Pa. 16335.

judges to look at not only the herome 3 734 filime tribu-

and to workloads within the county, Vardaro said.

The proposed districts, effective Jan. 4, 2016, are:

- Magisterial District Court 30-3-01 (Linesville) continues to exist with its current boundaries and Greenwood and Union townships added.

- Magisterial District 30-2-01 (Meadville) continues with just the City of Meadville and West Mead Township.

- Magisterial District 30-3-03 (Saegertown) will add Vernon Township, but will lose East Mead, Richmond and Randolph townships and the

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and the Sons of the
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anne Doll, formerly of
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stration form for
ill be found in the
book issued lat-
and online at the
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mitted to exhib-
g year.



They blended in fairly well with a sim-
ple, rural life working the land at 16335

Amish

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

farms or walking into church — at least did it with a remarkable measure of re-
to a point.
"There will be a time when someone spect and integrity, with an enormous
walks over and invites you to leave, and amount of sensitivity to the Amish moral
you need to respect that," Samels said. guidelines," he said.
Similarly, they don't give on-camera The Amish have no central church struc-
ture, and have many different...

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The state mandates magisterial district

Court

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

wood, Union, Vernon and
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Borough of Cochranton.
Those municipalities would
be divided up among the four
remaining districts under the
plan proposed by President
Judge Anthony Vardaro of
Crawford County Court of
Common Pleas.

"The elimination of
District 30-3-02, however,
will undoubtedly cause hard-
ship to many citizens of
Crawford County and to po-
lice agencies," Judge Vardaro
wrote in his proposal.

"I am certainly sensitive to
that, but based on the criteria
and the mandate from the
Pennsylvania Supreme Court
to reduce the overall number
of Magisterial District Court
judgeships, I believe the pro-
posal I am making is the most
appropriate," Vardaro wrote.
Vardaro acknowledges
some of the same townships
and Cochranton were affect-
ed by the previous redistrict-
ing conducted by former
President Judge Gordon R.
Miller in 2001 and 2002 that
resulted in a magisterial dis-
trict being eliminated in
Cochranton in 2006.

"I regret that inconve-
nience to all citizens and po-
lice agencies affected and
particularly those areas which
required change as a result of
the 2002 plan and now again
in 2012, but this is unavoid-
able," Vardaro wrote.

Every 10 years, Pennsylv-
ania law requires county
president judges to analyze
the workload of magisterial
districts within their county
and compare the statistics to
magisterial districts within
the county and other counties
with similar population.

President judges are re-
quired to report to the Penn-
sylvania Supreme Court,
through the Administrative
Office of Pennsylvania
Courts, so the court may de-
termine how to best use judi-
cial resources available for
the public.

The Pennsylvania Supreme
Court has mandated a reduction
in the overall number of magis-
terial district court judgeships.
"The mandate required

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judges to look at not only the
average case filings in each
magisterial district, but also
weighted analysis based on a
formula developed by a
statewide committee, which
included Crawford County
Magisterial District Judge
William D. Chisholm.

"The purpose of the
weighted figures was to rec-
ognize that certain types of
cases do not typically take as
much magisterial district
judge time as other types of
cases," Vardaro wrote. "For
example, handling a traffic ci-
tation requires much less time
than handling a preliminary
hearing in a criminal matter."
The state mandate requires
the average caseload of a mag-
isterial judicial district be
equal to or greater than 10 per-
cent of the caseloads in similar
counties, Vardaro wrote.
Crawford is a sixth-class coun-
ty based on its population.

Also, the mandate requires
magisterial districts fall with-
in a plus or minus 15 percent
range of the annual average
workload for the judicial dis-
trict, according to Vardaro.

Currently, the average an-
nual caseload for the 24 sixth-
class counties in Pennsylvania
is 3,263 filings, according
to Vardaro.
The average annual case-
load for the five magisterial
district courts in Crawford
County is 2,987 filings, 8.5
percent below the average for
districts in sixth-class coun-
ties. To stay at five magisteri-
al district courts, Crawford
County's average annual
caseload per office would
have to be 3,589 filings,
Vardaro said.

By eliminating one magis-
terial district, the average
caseload in Crawford would
be as close as possible to
statewide average caseloads
at the end of their current
terms, Vardaro said.
The case volume of
Meadville and West Mead
Township doesn't make it re-
alistic to eliminate or move
those two municipalities, ac-
cording to Vardaro.
Taking into consideration
all factors, the reduction to
four districts is the closest to
allowing all four districts to
be as close as possible to
statewide average caseloads

Following a November
2011 meeting between
Vardaro and the county's
magisterial district judges,
both Chisholm and Rossi in-
dicated they planned to retire
in January 2016. None of the
other three judges reach
mandatory retirement age of
70 during their current terms
and none of the other three in-
dicated they intended to retire
at the end of their current
terms, Vardaro said.

Two offices within a dis-
trict isn't unprecedented.
In neighboring Erie
County, Magisterial District
Judge Denise Stuck Lewis
has two offices — one in
McKean and the other in
Edinboro.

Keith Gushard can be
reached at 724-6370 or by
email at kgushard@meadvilletribune.com.

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■ Magisterial District 30-2-
01 (Meadville) continues with
just the City of Meadville and
West Mead Township.

■ Magisterial District 30-3-
03 (Saegertown) will add
Vernon Township, but will
lose East Mead, Richmond and
Randolph townships and the
Borough of Blooming Valley.

■ Magisterial District 30-3-
06 (Titusville) continues with
its current municipalities and
adds East Fairfield, East Mead,
Fairfield, Randolph, Richmond
and Wayne townships and the
boroughs of Blooming Valley
and Cochranton.

If District 30-3-02 is elimi-
nated effective Jan. 4, 2016,
Crawford County will have,
within the new boundaries for
District 30-3-03, the office
within the Crawford County
Correctional Facility that cur-
rently houses Magisterial
District Judge Lincoln S.
Zilhaber and the county-owned
building in Vernon Township,
which currently houses
Magisterial District Judge
Rossi, within the same magis-
terial district, Vardaro wrote.

County commissioners will
have to make a decision, with
the approval of the president
judge, as to which of those of-
fices, if either, would be used.

"In light of the addition of
Vernon Township to that dis-
trict and the increased volume
of work, it may be appropriate
to consider using both of
those offices in some manner
within that district," Vardaro
wrote. "That is not a decision
that needs to be made at this
time, but will need to be con-
sidered as Jan. 4, 2016 more
closely approaches."

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The Amish have no central church struc-
ture, and have many different...

his face.”
The slain student, Daniel Parmertor, was an aspiring computer repairman who was waiting in the cafeteria for the bus for his daily 15-minute ride to a vocational school. His teacher at the Auburn Career School had no idea why Parmertor, “a very good young

man, very quiet,” had been targeted, said Auburn superintendent Maggie Lynch.

Officers investigating the shooting blocked off a road in a

while other officers walked a snowy hillside. A police dog was brought in. It wasn't clear

heavily wooded area several miles from the school. Federal agents patrolled the muddy driveway leading to several spacious homes and ponds,

See SHOOTING, page 3

' to hit the stage



Herald photo by Mary Nicholson
Titusville Middle School play 'Music Man Jr.' Monday evening prepares to cheat a new town out of money. The play runs at Titusville High School's Colestock Auditorium. Tickets are

ures in complaint area

but some residents disagree.
The company also notes that many other homeowners in the area haven't raised complaints or concerns about their well water, and DEP says the agency has conducted enough tests to make an informed, rational decision that the compounds did not come from drilling activity.
One resident with drinking water problems said she specifically asked DEP and company representatives if there had been any problems during near-

port, or dispose of waste.
Rex acknowledged the well casing problems in a report on finances in late 2010, and suggested that up to five wells had such problems.

A few months later, residents began complaining that their water was tainted. Rex said last week that one nearby well didn't use any of the chemicals that showed up in McIntyre's water tests in late August, 2011.

But the AP found that another nearby well used as much as 66,446 gallons of petroleum distillates during the hydraulic fracturing process, which blasts water, sand and some chemicals deep underground to stimulate gas production.

McIntyre said DEP officials have refused to do follow-up tests on her water. Rex has said it plans to stop delivering water to people in the community on Feb. 29.

Jarrett said DEP should consider doing more.

Nicols' office could see extra workload County to review judicial redistricting

By Tom Boyle
news@titusvilleherald.com

Crawford County Judge Anthony J. Vardaro on Monday announced that, after the mandated 10-year magisterial judicial redistricting review, he will be submitting a recommendation to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts proposing the elimination of Magisterial District 30-3-02, with its current office located in Vernon Township, upon the expiration of the current term of Magisterial District Judge Michael Rossi, on Jan. 3, 2016.

And as a part of that redistricting plan, the district magistrate office in Titusville will have a much heavier workload.

A detailed report as to how that decision was reached will be available to the public for the next 30 days at each of the county's five current magisterial district judges' offices, and in the Crawford County Law Library, during normal business hours. In addition, it will be available online at the county's website, at crawfordcounty-pa.net for that same 30-day period.

The report will be submitted sometime following the 30-day period, and before March 30, to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts for review.

Vardaro, in a written statement, said, "As of Jan. 4, under the plan I propose, Cochranton Borough, East Fairfield Township, Fairfield Township, Wayne Township, East Mead Township, Blooming Valley Borough and Richmond Township, Blooming Valley Borough, Richard Township, and Randolph Township will become part of Magisterial District 30-3-06, with its office located in Titusville."

Magisterial District Judge Amy Nicols, of Titusville, said that because of the additional work load, she may have to hire one more person.

"It's a ways off," Nicols said. "Also, the state is doing a lot with computers."

Vernon Township will become part of Magisterial District 30-3-03, which currently has an office in the Crawford County Correctional Facility complex in Saegertown Borough.

In addition, Union Township and Greenwood Township will become part of the Magisterial District 30-3-01, with an office currently in Linesville.

"The proposal I will make is clearly consistent with the guidelines presented to me by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in that the proposal creates districts with workloads more comparable than is the current situation and further creates workloads for the four proposed magisterial districts that appear to be appropriate when compared to other sixth-class counties," Vardaro said.

"The elimination of District 30-3-02, however, will undoubtedly cause hardship to many citizens of Crawford County and to police agencies," he said. "Unfortunately, some of those same townships and the Borough of Cochranton were affected by the previous redistricting conducted by former President Judge Gordon R. Miller in 2001 and 2002 that resulted in a magisterial district being eliminated in Cochranton Borough. I regret that inconvenience to all citizens and police agencies affected and particularly those areas which required change as a result of the 2002 plan and now again in 2012, but this is unavoidable."

Vardaro said that he is proposing the following:

Magisterial District 30-3-06, currently located in Titusville, which will be effective Jan. 4, 2016, will add East Fairfield Township, Fairfield Township, Cochranton Borough, Wayne Township, East Mead Township, Randolph Township, Blooming Valley Borough and Richmond Township.

Magisterial District Court 30-3-01, with its current office in Linesville, shall continue to exist, and Greenwood and Union townships will be added to that district, effective Jan. 4, 2016.

Magisterial District 30-2-01, with its office currently in Meadville, shall continue to encompass Meadville, and West Mead Township.

Magisterial 30-3-03, effective Jan. 4, 2016, will add Vernon Township, but will lose Richmond Township, Randolph Township, Blooming Valley Borough and East Mead Township.

Public comments on the redistricting plan can be sent to Anthony J. Vardaro, president judge, Crawford County Courthouse, Judge's Chambers, 903 Diamond Park, Meadville, Pa., 16335.

bundled against the richness is not only a symbol of true homelessness, but it's impossible for passersby to miss.



Thumbs up to the organizers hoping to get lacrosse added as a club sport at Meadville Area Senior High School. If the turnout of about 125 students and parents to a recent informational meeting is any indication, the sport appears to have a future in Meadville.



Thumbs up to the proposed realignment plan of magisterial judicial districts by President Judge Anthony J. Vardaro of Crawford County Court of Common Pleas. The proposed shifting of boundaries still needs state approval and, if granted, won't take place until 2016. The judge's realignment plan, with input from the current judges, does eliminate one magisterial district judge. But the judge presents sound reasoning why the county's caseload numbers don't justify five positions, and his proposed plan does its best in trying to even out caseload work among the four remaining offices.

SOUND OFF

The Tribune offers readers the chance to have their opinions heard on various topics through its Sound-Off column.

To be considered, a Sound-Off must be very brief — two or three sentences at most. While it doesn't have to be signed, an item cannot be a personal attack on an individual or business, and it must be in good taste. All submissions are subject to editing or rewriting. Readers may sound off by mail, to: Sound-Off, The Meadville Tribune, 947 Federal Court, Meadville, Pa. 16335; by fax at 724-8755; by the Sound-Off link at the Tribune Web site at www.meadvilletribune.com; or by dropping it at the information desk in the Tribune lobby.

As Washington Post columnist Ruth Marcus recounts Rick Santorum's history of flip-flopping on contraception funding, she points out that George H. W. Bush, when he was a Republican congressman in 1969, recommended evenhandedness on



JOHN CRISP

This is a good thing, healthy for parents, for children, as Bush said for society as a whole. In fact, in such a good thing that even people who believe, technically, that it's a thing — American Catholics, for example — find enough good in c

Should we be co