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PART THREE OF A THREE-DAY SERIES



A tale of two train stations

Roger DuPuis | Times Leader

The former Central Railroad of New Jersey Station station in downtown Wilkes-Barre, built in 1868, is seen Monday afternoon.

While Wilkes-Barre's vintage train station awaits salvation, Tamaqua's depot welcomes diners and trains

By Roger DuPuis
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WILKES-BARRE — It has been nearly 60 years since passenger trains called at the former Central Railroad of New Jersey Station.

Its second life as an entertainment venue long since ended as well, the 1868 structure, with its distinctive cupola and gingerbread woodwork sits quiet beside Wilkes-Barre Boulevard where the tracks used to run, looking much the worse for wear as it awaits salvation.

Boards and “do not enter” signs are meant to keep out the homeless who had in recent years frequented the building, until a man committed suicide inside last year two days after Christmas.

Forty miles away in Schuylkill County, meanwhile, another vintage railroad depot sits at the center of Tamaqua Borough.

Restored to its 1874 glory, the 1874

PRESERVING WB'S PAST

A three-day series on how demolition of the Frank Clark jeweler building and efforts to formalize historic preservation in Wilkes-Barre.

SUNDAY
• Introduction
MONDAY

- A family remembers the Frank Clark building
- Historic wins in downtown WB
- TODAY**
- A tale of two train stations
- Understanding what National Register designation can and cannot do

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad station welcomes diners to a popular restaurant based in the building, as well as offering ice cream that some guests enjoy on benches in the carefully manicured community park across the tracks.

Unlike in Wilkes-Barre, the tracks next to the station not only exist but still

See TRAIN | 2A



Roger DuPuis | Times Leader

Tamaqua's restored 1874 Philadelphia & Reading Railroad station is seen late last month as a Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad excursion train awaits departure back to Reading Outer Station. More excursions are planned this summer and a new platform has since gotten under construction.

Justices rule states can bind presidential electors' votes



AP file photo

From left, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, Associate Justice Elena Kagan, Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch and Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh, talk before President Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address in February.

By Mark Sherman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a decision flavored with references to “Hamilton” and “Veep,” the Supreme Court ruled unanimously Monday that states can require presidential electors to back their states’ popular vote winner in the Electoral College.

The ruling, in cases in Washington state and Colorado just under four months before the 2020 election, leaves in place laws in 32 states and the District of Columbia that bind electors to vote for the popular-vote winner, as electors almost always do anyway.

So-called faithless electors have not been

critical to the outcome of a presidential election, but that could change in a race decided by just a few electoral votes. It takes 270 electoral votes to win the presidency.

A state may instruct “electors that they have no ground for reversing the vote of millions of its citizens,” Justice Elena Kagan wrote in her major-

ity opinion that walked through American political and constitutional history with an occasional nod to pop culture.

Such an order by a state “accords with the Constitution — as well as with the trust of a Nation that here, We the People rule,” Kagan wrote.

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