



SPORTS
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 recap
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FOCUS
 An attitude
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JANUARY 4, 2023

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STATE

Cautious optimism

Medical prior authorization reform passes

BY THERESA O'BRIEN
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

On Nov. 3, Gov. Tom Wolf signed SB 225 into law. The new Act 146 of 2022 creates, via the Pa. Insurance Department, a defined process for both public and private insurers for medications and treatments that require insurer preauthorization. State Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York) sponsored the bill, which received broad bipartisan support, including co-sponsorship by State Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton/Lehigh). Notably, the bill did not receive a single "Nay" vote in the General Assembly; it will go into effect in January 2024.

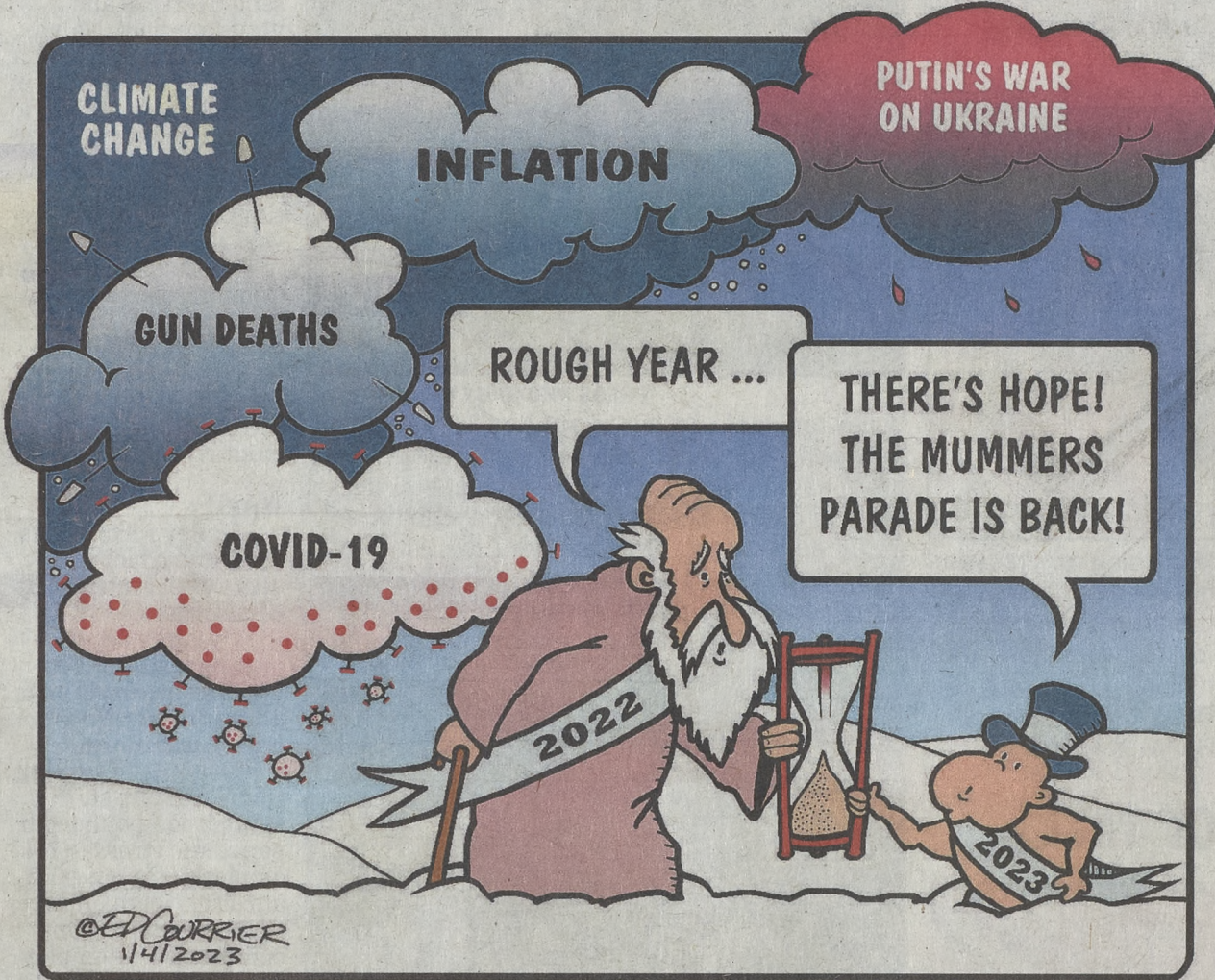
Prior authorization is the insurance requirement that a prescribing physician obtain a positive coverage determination from the insurer before putting a patient on a treatment plan. On her website, Sen. Phillips-Hill highlights a 2021 survey by the American Medical Assoc. (AMA) in which 82 percent of respondents said prior authorization sometimes, often, or always led to patients abandoning their recommended course of treatment.

Act 146 also states that medications for opioid addiction cannot be subject to prior authorization. Additionally, the law requires that the "peer review" process, in which an insurance company-employed doctor discusses a treatment denial with a prescribing doctor, be conducted by a physician in the same specialty as the prescriber.

Pennsylvania health care providers applaud the legislature for tackling an issue that has challenged both patients and providers, and are cautiously optimistic that the bill will improve the provision of health care in the state.

Dr. Jonathan Hosey, chairman of neuroscience at St. Luke's University Health Network and member of the board executive com-

See **STATE** on Page A4



GRAPHIC COMMENTARY BY ED COURRIER

2022 A return to normal

YEAR IN REVIEW

BY NATE JASTRZEMSKI
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

The threat of COVID-19 long dictated certain precautions for communal wellbeing, but life for many of us returned to normal in 2022.

Businesses reopened, kids went back to school and public gatherings resumed, but it was not easy and it was not immediate.

Here are highlights of the events the Bethlehem Press covered during this year of recovery.

January

- St. Luke's University Hospital and Lehigh Valley Hospital Network offer public information for avoiding long COVID testing waits and clearing up misinformation.

- Community Action Development of Bethlehem secures \$1.9 million for its Southside Tomorrow neighborhood partnership program. The funds are earmarked for youth development, community engagement, public housing and other local needs.

- Dana Z's "Love One Another" wins a Gingerbread Games art contest on Historic Main Street.

- For the first time,



PRESS PHOTO COURTESY JESSICA MCCORMIC

Tragedy in Polk Twp. – Kathryn, Kaleb, Kristian and Kasper Ribera died in a fire Feb. 10 in Polk Township, Monroe County. Their grandmother, Rosemarie LaBarre, an East Hills MS teacher, was also killed in the fire.

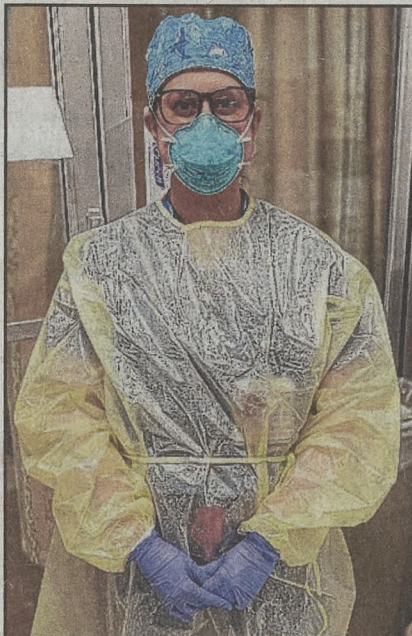


PHOTO COURTESY DR. A. REEMA

COVID 19 – "I watched father and daughter, and so many others, say goodbye over FaceTime, deprived of the human contact they so deserved in their dying hours," said Dr. A. Reema Kar, MD, FACS. "I hated that there was nothing else I could do."

women members hold the majority of seats on city council.

- Saucon Valley School Board is still debating student and staff masking during the pandemic.

February

- Lehigh County District Attorney James Martin says a grant will fund a domestic violence task force for three years.

- Jen Avitabile's long-time painting for beginners classes return to live sessions at the Bethlehem Township Community Center.

- The availability of online gambling has led to a rise in the activity by teenagers – to the extent of one-third of Pennsylvania students surveyed. Experts warn the trouble's not necessarily about money, but the allure of fantasy challenges, preoccupation and isolation.

- Contention over the Hellertown Area Library continues as the borough's partnership with Lower Saucon Township ends, with the latter no longer willing to pay for its residents' use.

- The 70-unit luxury Armory Apartments officially open on the 1930 Bethlehem Armory lot.

- Freedom HS pro-

See **2022** on Page A2

PEOPLE SAY

BY DANA GRUBB

What is your favorite memory of 2022?



"When we went to the shore for a fun family outing and had a good time on the beach."
Chanel McKinney
 Walnutport



"Graduating high school and actually getting a job."
Anthony Posivak
 Hanover Township

PEOPLE SAY
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Wreaths
Across America
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BETHLEHEM PRESS

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THE PRESS

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What is your favorite memory of 2022?



"When I started playing softball at Lackawanna College."
Aria Reyes
Allentown



"When my grandkids come from New York to visit for a week."
Suzanne Schuon
Northampton



"When I went to Niagara Falls and I saw its beauty. We should appreciate nature more."
Melody Rodriguez
Allentown



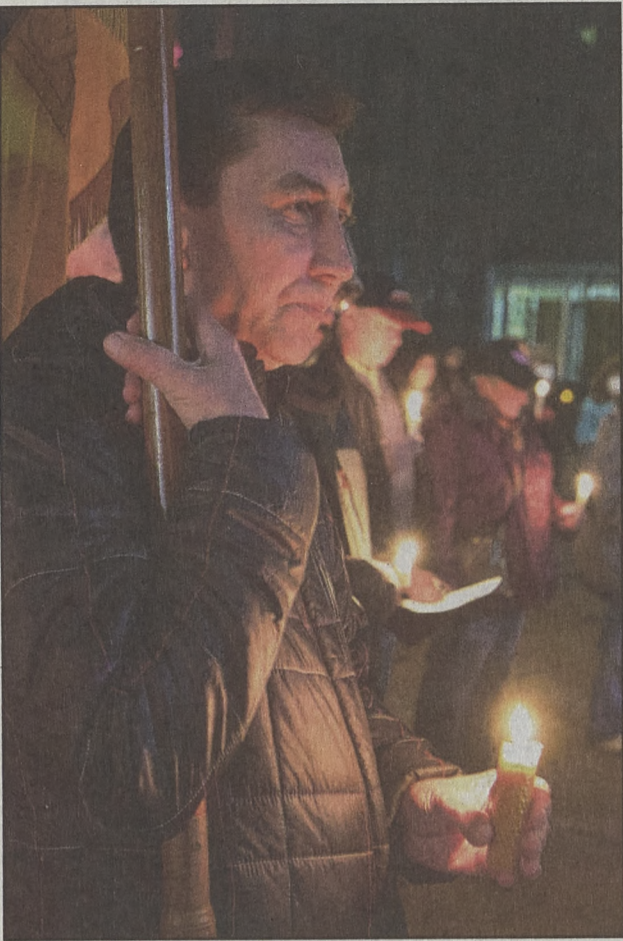
"Finishing my first year of college and setting the stepping stones for my two minors and major."
Drew Cirillo
Hanover Township

FESTIVAL OF TREES



PRESS PHOTOS BY CASSANDRA DAYOUB

A large poinsettias tree is on display during the holiday season at Lehigh Valley International Airport, Hanover Township, Lehigh County. LVIA celebrated its 26th annual holiday Festival of Trees.



PRESS PHOTO BY DENNIS GLEW

Valley residents gather to support Ukraine; Although the temperature was near freezing and there had been a mix of rain and sleet all day, a group of approximately 100 people gathered in the dark outside Bethlehem's City Hall Rotunda in early March to talk, sing and pray for peace for the people of Ukraine. Oleksandr Semenovych of Whitehall, a member of the St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox cathedral, stands at attention with the Ukrainian flag. He was joined by his wife and his mother-in-law.



PRESS PHOTO BY CHRIS HARING

Hellertown tragedy - An overnight fire April 1 fatally injured Hellertown sisters Brianna Baer and Abigail Kaufman. Both were Saucon Valley students. "Our hearts ache and we need to start the healing process," said Hellertown Mayor David Heintzelman.



PRESS PHOTO COURTESY BASD

Lighthouse School - Calypso ES students, joined by Community Partner Al Douglas, Superintendent Dr. Joseph Roy, Principal Kathy Bast and Community Partner Glen Bressnar. Calypso was named as a Leader in Me Lighthouse School by FranklinCovey Education because of the extraordinary impact the school is having on staff, students, parents and the greater community.

2022

Continued from page A1
poses to repurpose its old planetarium as a multi-purpose/wellness center; Saucon Valley hires acting Superintendent Jaime Vlsaty permanently to the role.

March

Locals with family and friends in Europe come together in support of Ukraine, under intense attack by Russia. Ukrainian churches gather supplies to send overseas and vigils are held. Nalya, a Ukrainian girl with a sort of second family in Bethlehem, manages to share some of her experiences while seeking safety. Her story continues throughout the year.

Hellertown Borough Council rejects a plan by developer Lou Pektor to convert the former Neighbors Home and Garden Center on Main Street into an apartment complex.

April

Valley restaurants are featured for residents with gluten-related disorders. Pysanky egg-decorating traditions of Ukraine are explained; a colorful addition to Easter traditions. Gracedale Nursing Home is badly short-staffed, compounded by pandemic stresses, and employees bring grievances to Northampton County Council. One complaint was employee terminations due to their unwillingness to get vaccinated.

Daniel Buglio takes over as Lehigh County coroner, and describes the office's nonstop operations investigating about 9,000 deaths annually, which had increased during the pandemic years.

May

Fountain Hill residents defend the Stanley Avenue Pool, which borough council had announced must remain closed for lack of trained employees and lifeguards.

Crossing guard Paula Perez is a semi-finalist for the national caregiver award for founding adult at-home care provider Visiting Angels. In July she wins the national award.

After more than a decade of slow growth and planning, the Bethlehem Food Co-op breaks ground on a new grocery store on East Broad Street.

A wildfire burns 290 acres in the watershed in Tunkhannock Township.

June

Former Northampton County Executive John Stoffa dies at 82, is remembered by county officials as a consummate professional with much to teach even his opponents.

Calypso ES is chosen as a Lighthouse school for its implemen-

tation of FranklinCovey training and assessment company's Leader In Me program; one result is a 100 percent rate of kindergarteners who read above grade level.

After a two-year hiatus, the Freddy Awards return to live production at Easton's State Theatre. Liberty HS's Rebekah "Bex" Vermuelen wins accolades here and from Principal Dr. Harrison Bailey at graduation.

Bowery Farming opens a new vertical farming site on the Southside.

Liberty HS celebrates its 100th anniversary.

July

Freedom senior Emma Lazo, daughter of Salvadoran immigrants, is lauded by the district for her many accomplishments, including earning a scholarship to Yale University.

Parents Aaron and Carlee Nelson spread word of a rare in utero disorder, congenital diaphragmatic hernia, after the death of their daughter, River Lynn, whom doctors delivered early via cesarean but could not save.

Historic Hotel Bethlehem celebrates 100 years.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, dialing 988, is available for those experiencing a mental health crisis. Its infrastructure is growing, but local hotlines also exist: 610-782-3127 in Lehigh County and 610-252-9060 in Northampton County.

August

Dr. David A. Ruth prepares to take the helm as Northampton Community College's fifth president.

The Historic Conservation Commission denies an ArtsQuest request to raze the old Banana Factory building and build a new structure. A form of the project is eventually accepted by city council.

As COVID recedes, dentists are on the lookout for the new Monkeypox, which can often be observed in the appearance of oral lesions. Meanwhile Pennsylvania leads the country in cases of Lyme disease.

The Hispanic Center of the Lehigh Valley's Basilio Huertas Senior Center remains strong in community support, delivering meals, organizing activities and providing COVID vaccinations.

Droughts are becoming more severe worldwide, but the Bethlehem Water Authority assures the community the watershed is abundant.

September

Holes in medical and government systems can lead to "medical child abuse" charges that lead to unjust family separations without consistent and thorough investigation.

See 2022 on Page A3

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Friends don't let friends drive drunk

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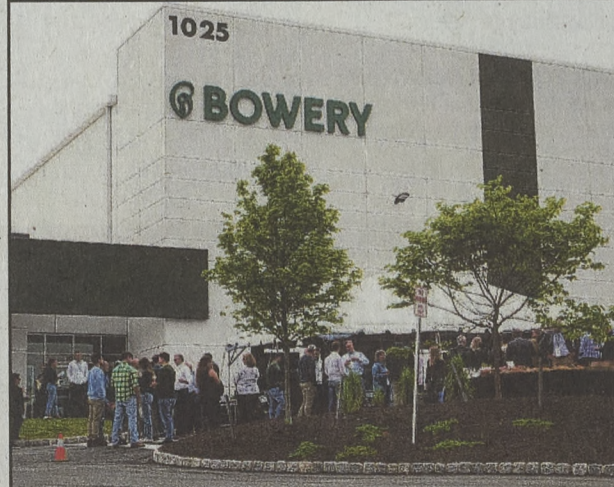
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PRESS GRAPHIC BY ED COURRIER

The Bethlehem Historic Conservation Commission voted unanimously April 18 to deny a certificate of appropriateness for razing most of the 100 block of E. Fourth St. and abutting E. Morton Street properties.



PRESS PHOTO BY LORI PATRICK

Bowery Farm-This modern vertical farmhouse was the setting for Bowery Farming Bethlehem's grand opening event held May 26.

News briefs

Willson exhibit opens Jan. 8

Hub Willson Paintings and Photography, opening Jan. 8 (artist reception: 2 to 4 p.m.) till Feb. 13. Rotunda Gallery, 10 E. Church St. Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. Masks optional. Covid regulations enforced. Visit www.bfac-lv.org for more information. Upcoming: Printmakers Society of the Lehigh Valley members exhibition, Feb. 23 till March 30. Artist reception: 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 26.

Bach youth choir accepting members

The Bel Canto Youth Chorus of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem is accepting new singers for the spring term.

The choir is open to children and youth ages 7-18, with the Preparatory Chorus for younger singers and the Concert Choir for older singers.

The Bel Canto Youth Chorus is internationally recognized for its high standard of musical excellence and style.

The choir has been invited to numerous music conferences, traveled internationally, recorded, and sung a diverse and thoughtful repertoire.

Currently celebrating its 30th Anniversary season, Dr. Joy Hirokawa, artistic director and national leader in youth choral music, leads this educational program.

The choir takes a holistic approach to choral instruction that is ideal for any young person who loves to sing and is looking for more ways to be musically expressive.

In addition to solid musical and vocal instruction, singers grow as global musical citizens by incorporating historical context, culture, relevance, and understanding of the text.

Choristers who audition will perform, travel, develop vocal technique, network with other musicians and be part of a community of people who are passionate about singing.

Auditions are about 15 minutes long and both in person or on zoom.

Tuition scholarships are available. To sign up for an audition, or for more information on the Bel Canto Youth Chorus and upcoming events, visit bach.org.

MLK Day March set for Jan. 16

The Dr. Martin Luther King Civil Rights Movement March is scheduled to take place rain or shine Monday, Jan. 16. The procession will begin at 11:30 a.m. in front of the St. Bernard's Beneficial Society, located at 333 Brodhead Ave., and proceed to Martin Luther King Park on Carlton Avenue, the location of memorials to both Dr. King and his wife, Coretta Scott King.

Guest speakers and honored guests scheduled to attend are Northampton County Judge of the Court of Common Pleas Jennifer Sletvold; Chief of Staff for Pennsylvania Senator Lisa Boscola Joe Kelly; Northampton County District Attorney Terry Houck; Northampton County Councilman Kerry Myers; and Bethlehem Mayor J. William Reynolds.

A monument to civil rights marchers is scheduled to be dedicated.

All residents, municipal employees, community groups and law enforcement agencies are invited to attend the event.

Face masks are optional for participants. For additional information, please contact Frankie West at 484-809-8064.

Valley Writer's Group conference March 23-25

New York Times-bestselling author Maria V. Snyder will serve as keynote speaker for the Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group (GLVWG)'s 2023 Write Stuff Conference, one of the premier events for writers in the greater Lehigh Valley. The event is scheduled for March 23-25, at the Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel, 300 Gateway Drive, Bethlehem. The Write Stuff will be a live, in-person event with virtual options available for individuals who are unable to attend. The Write Stuff is sponsored in part by the MFA Program in Creative Writing and Publishing at DeSales University.

The three-day event will include 14 breakout sessions, a book fair, critique opportunities, a flash fiction contest, and plenty of networking.

For a complete list of event pricing, registration and program information, and speaker bios, visit https://greaterlehighvalleywritersgroup.wildapricot.org.

Friday, January 13 till Sunday, January 15

Charley's Aunt by Brandon Thomas with The Charter Arts Theatre Department. Classic comic confusion ensues. 7 p.m. Jan. 13, 14; 2 p.m. Jan. 15. 321 E. Third St. Information and tickets: www.charterarts.org/event/theatre-charleys-aunt/Charley's Aunt by Brandon Thomas with The Charter Arts Theatre Department.

Friday, January 6

First Friday, 6 to 8 p.m. SouthSide. Visit https://southsidedistrict.com/first-friday/

Elm Street Jazz Workshop rehearsals, 9 a.m. Director: Allan Meyerson. 1633 W. Elm St., Allentown. Information: call 610-437-3700 or visit https://lvactivelife.org/

Saturday, January 7

Saturday night dance with KATO. Nominal cost; light refreshments. 7 to 10 p.m. 1633 W. Elm St., Allentown. Information: call 610-437-3700 or visit https://lvactivelife.org/

Tuesday, January 10

Good Vibrations Chorus led by Nancy Shumaker. All singers welcome. 9:30 a.m. Lehigh Valley Active Life, 1633 W. Elm St., Allentown. Call 610-437-3700 for information or visit https://lvactivelife.org/

Wednesday, January 11

Free Karaoke with Bobby James, 1p.m. 1633 W. Elm St., Allentown. Information: call 610-437-3700 or visit https://lvactivelife.org/

The Bethlehem Press calendar listings are to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time of printing. We are not responsible for the accuracy or reliability of information submitted by external parties.

MEETING BOARD

Wednesday, January 4

Historical Architectural Review Board, 5 p.m. City hall, 10 E. Church St. Meeting livestreamed for viewing purposes only: www.youtube.com/channel/UC4HYHr4C6mVbfhRXhWYXaJw; submit public questions, comments, name, phone number 24 hours in advance via email to planninginfo@bethlehem-pa.gov

Fountain Hill Finance, Personnel and House committees, 7 p.m., 941 Long St.

Hanover Twp. (LeCo) Council, 7:30 p.m. 2202 Grove Road, Allentown.

See BOARD on Page A5

2022: A RETURN TO NORMAL



PRESS PHOTO BY DANA GRUBB

Marking Liberty HS milestone - Three former Liberty principals chat at Liberty's 100th anniversary dedication ceremony June 5: Thomas Dalousio, Dr. Dean Donaher, and William Burkhardt, along with Dalousio's wife Marilyn. A fourth former principal, JoAnn Durante, also attended. "Today you will be reminded of the incredible history of Liberty High School," said Principal Dr. Harrison Bailey III.



PRESS PHOTO BY DOUGLAS GRAVES

The courtyard of the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley at 520 East Fourth St. now has a large mural depicting Roberto Clemente and symbolically linking him in art to his passions during his life: professional baseball and philanthropic works for the world-wide Latino community. The painting by Lancaster artist Salina Almanzar was welcomed at a June 10 ceremony with remarks from Mayor William Reynold and from Rep. Steve Samuelson.



PRESS PHOTO BY DANA GRUBB

Surrounded by dignitaries and a guest, Bruce and JoAnn Haines cut the ribbon of rededication for the Hotel Bethlehem. Main Street's Historic Hotel Bethlehem celebrated its 100th anniversary in style, with hundreds of area residents, local dignitaries, elected officials and hotel staff past and present in attendance. Ranked as the #1 Best Historic Hotel in America by USA Today for the second year in a row the Hotel Bethlehem is often called the anchor of Main Street, so the celebration on May 28 was one worthy of that ranking.



PRESS PHOTO COURTESY PAULA PERE

Paula Perez (left) and her client, Mary Ann, react as Perez wins the national Caregiver of the Year award from Visiting Angels. Perez of Bethlehem, was selected from among thousands, and the award was announced July 5 during a company-wide Zoom celebration, and will be officially conferred on Perez - along with \$5,000 in prize money.

2022

Continued from page A2

• BusPatrol offers technology to school districts to help keep kids safe when passing cars don't cooperate with expectations and rules.

• Slow progress at Hellertown's new Public Works building at the former Reinhard School caused borough council to delay hundreds of thousands in expected payments to Pioneer Pole Building, Inc.

• After making "500 friends a year" for 43 years, barber Denny Roebuck hangs up his shingle on West Broad Street.

October

• Lehigh County officially thanks Andrea Naugle for 50 years of public service.

• Local educator and author Scott Morro signs copies of his new book, "The Albrecht Society," about Moravian University and some of the secret tunnels under old central Bethlehem.

• Cantelmi's Hardware Store on East Fourth Street celebrates a century in community retail.

• USA Today names Historic Hotel Bethlehem the nation's top historic hotel for the second consecutive year.

• Clinicians and specialists break down two years of study and offer some hope and comfort to COVID long-haulers; those who continue to suffer lingering effects and symptoms long after recovering from the virus.

See 2022 on Page A4



PRESS PHOTO BY DANA GRUBB

The 2022 Boutique at the Rink cancer support fundraiser is in the books. After a two-year lay-off due to the COVID pandemic, the huge yard-sale style event returned with a bang in late May. Tiana Thomas of Bethlehem shops on Premier Night. It was her first time shopping at the boutique and she was looking for clothing from the early 2000's.

Advertisement for Yocco's celebrating 100 years. Features the Yocco's logo, 'The Hot Dog King', and 'The Secret's in Yocco's Sauce'. Includes accolades like 'Readers' Choice 2022', 'Style Best of the Lehigh Valley 2022', 'Who's 2021 Who', 'Best of the Valley 2019', and 'Voted Best Hot Dog'. Lists locations: Allentown (2128 Hamilton St), Allentown (1930 Catasauqua Rd), South Mall (3300 Lehigh St), Emmaus (Rt 29 & Buckeye Rd), Fogelsville (Rt 100 S & 1-78), and Trexlertown (7150 Hamilton Blvd). Website: Visit Yoccos.com for full menu, hours & special offer.

Two promotional offers for Yocco's. Offer 1: Buy four Yocco's Hot Dogs, Get One FREE with this coupon. Offer 2: Buy two Yocco's CheeseSteaks, Get One FREE with this coupon. Both offers include the Yocco's logo and 'The Secret's in Yocco's Sauce'. Coupon expires 2/5/2023. Cannot be combined with other offers.

AREA DEATHS

Lynn Marie Arculeo

Notre Dame of Bethlehem Church member



Lynn Marie Arculeo, 61, of Bethlehem, died Dec. 19, 2022, at home. Born in Ottawa, Canada, she was a daughter of the late Raoul Bois and Claudette (Boyer) Bois. She was the wife of James Walter Arculeo for 39 years. She was a Northern Maine Community College graduate where she earned an associate degree in accounting. She was an accountant for Livengood Excavators Inc.

She was a member of Notre Dame of Bethlehem Church, Bethlehem. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Brittany Stein and husband Paul; a brother, Richard Bois and wife Loriann; a sister, Stella Carlstrom; a grandson, Archer Stein; and five nieces, Beth Fowle, Jessica Hutton, Nicole Taft, Lindsay Culbertson and Abby Culbertson. Contributions may be made to St. Luke's Hospice, c/o Brubaker Funeral Home Inc., 234 Walnut St., Catasauqua PA 18032. Arrangements were made by Brubaker Funeral Home Inc., Catasauqua.

Joseph Balogh

auto mechanic for Banko Beverage



Joseph Balogh, 90, of Bethlehem, died Dec. 18, 2022, at home. Born in Kápolnásnyék, Hungary, he was a son of the late Joseph and Maria (Bakonyi) Balogh. He was the husband of Maria (Sudi) Balogh for 66 years. He was trained as an auto mechanic when he honorably served in the Hungarian Army.

He was an auto mechanic for Banko Beverage for over 30 years until he retired. He was a founding and active member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Bethlehem. He was a hunter and a member of the East Bath Rod & Gun Club. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Maria Liddick and husband James; three grandchildren, Stephanie Liddick, Lauren Goodman and husband Matthew and Daniel Liddick and wife Sarah; and three great-grandchildren, Riley and Hunter Goodman, and Ewan Liddick. Arrangements are made by the Cantelmi Long Funeral Home, Bethlehem. Contributions may be made to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3219 Santee Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18020. Arrangements were made by Cantelmi Long Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

Joseph J. Bednar

crane operator



Joseph J. Bednar, 95, of Bethlehem, died Dec. 17, 2022, while in the care of Moravian Village. Born in Bethlehem, he was a son of the late John and Suzanna (Pushkar) Bednar. He was the husband of the late Anna (Petro) Bednar.

He was in the United States Navy in both World War II and the Korean War. He was a crane operator for Bethlehem Steel Corp. for most of his life until he retired. He was a member of Incarnation of Our Lord Parish, Bethlehem. He is survived by a daughter, Laraine Demshock and her husband Thomas of Bethlehem; a granddaughter, Alexandra Demshock; a sister, Rose Gallagher of Hellertown; nieces; and nephews. He was predeceased by eight siblings, John, Michael, Elizabeth, Helen, Veronica, Mary, Margaret and Anne. Contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105; or to a charity of one's choice. Arrangements were made by Cantelmi Long Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

Nancy Lee (Borkman) Goertz

St. John's Lutheran Church, Bath, member



Nancy Lee (Borkman) Goertz, 80, of Bethlehem, died Dec. 18, 2022, while in the care of Bethlehem Manor. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, she was a daughter of the late Charles and Catherine (Kuipers) Borkman. She was the wife of James Goertz for 60 years. She was a graduate of Patterson HS, Baltimore.

She was employed at Maryland Casualty Co., Pemko Products, SCM Corp., Transbridge and Lucent Technologies until she retired. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Bath. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Jamie Gemmel and her husband Derek; four siblings, Sharon Weiderhold and her husband George, Wayne Borkman and his wife Joan, Kenneth Borkman and his wife Kathy and Robert Borkman and his wife Lynn; a sister-in-law, Carol Borkman; two granddaughters Maddyn and Kenzie; nieces; and nephews. She was predeceased by two siblings, Charles "Herb" Borkman and Leonard Borkman and his wife Margaret. Contributions may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, 206 E. Main St., Bath, PA 18014. Arrangements were made by Cantelmi Long Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

2022: A RETURN TO NORMAL



Retired barber James 'Ishie' Abraham stopped by to wish Denny Roebuck a happy retirement and Saab Saloum much success. Long-time Bethlehem barber Roebuck hung up his clippers from his 43-year career barbering at the end of August. The 65-year-old said it was time to "do all of the things that I couldn't do for all those years."



Carl Spatocco of Professional Skill Institute briefs Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and U. S. Representative Susan Wild. Mike Glanz, Director of Operations for training, listens in the background. Buttigieg and Wild visited LV International Airport and the Lehigh-Carbon Community College Aug. 2.



Rick Cantelmi is the third generation owner of Cantelmi's Hardware on East 3rd Street in Bethlehem. On Oct. 22, Cantelmi Hardware Store celebrated 100 consecutive years of business in the community.

2022

Continued from page A3

November

- The South Bethlehem Historical Society dedicates a landmark alongside a bunch of neighborhood "kids" who grew up in the old East Fourth Street area called Northampton Heights.
- Longtime Bethlehem Township Commissioner Malissa Davis dies at 78, is remembered fondly by many colleagues and residents.
- The remains of PFC. Edward John Reiter are identified and returned to the Lehigh Valley. He was listed MIA during the Korean War in 1950.

An early-hour accident at Paul Avenue and Union Boulevard leaves a diesel fuel spill that requires the neighborhood's evacuation. BASD's Nitschmann MS provides emergency facilities for EMS and Red Cross workers, but there are no injuries or damage and residents are back home that night. After a year and more of arguments and negotiations with Lower Saucon Township,

the Hellertown library is financially solvent, but its future is still in doubt. After three years, the Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem resumes its annual Steak & Burger dinner fundraiser. In the face of ongoing public health issues and high inflation, Christkindmarkt vendors somehow see record sales figures.

Anti-Semitic speech and graffiti in the city are criticized by Mayor J. William Reynolds and council, and by community members gathering at Payrow Plaza to light the public menorah. The city's downtown holiday season is livestreamed on Hallmark Channel's few choice ChristmasCam locations.

STATE

Continued from page A1

mittee of the American Academy of Neurology, described challenges that have faced practices. In his own specialty of neurology, for example, migraine is a common reason for patients to seek care. In the early years of pharmacological therapy for migraines, some drugs were commonly used; however, those drugs have since been surpassed in efficacy and side effect profiles by newer agents that specifically target migraine receptors. Some insurers, however, require a "stepwise," or "fail first," approach to therapy; in other words, the newer drug is only covered by insurance after the patient has "failed" therapy with older drugs. Both demonstrating that a stepwise approach has been used and appealing administrative coverage denials consume large amounts of time and effort, including by clinically trained personnel such as doctors and nurses. And all too often, the physician at



PHOTOS COURTESY BOSCOLA OFFICE AND SLUHN

Left: Sen. Lisa Boscola co-sponsored SB 225, which aims to reform prior authorization in Pa., and will take effect in January 2024. Right: Dr. Jonathan Hosey is the chairman of neuroscience at St. Luke's University Health Network. He shared with the Press his hope that the new law "will lead to patient care being patient-centered and patient-focused, rather than being authorization and information-transfer-focused." the insurance company taking part in the "peer review" process is not licensed in the specialty of the physician treating the patient and lacks the background to have a productive discussion. Hosey notes that working on prior authorization "takes providers away from direct patient care or provision of care to work on the successful advocacy of gaining authorization from an insurer." Although he notes that "it's too early to tell what impact [the law] is going to have," he lauds the fact that "it does define a process now that's going to be universal for insurers to follow, and with that process, we on the provider side have a better road map of what our patients' rights are, and what is available for us representing our patients to advocate for."

Hosey also celebrates the passage of the law, remarking that "legislators in this case are really looking at the issues that frustrate providers, and could most benefit our patients. It's a very positive message that the combined legislature sent to Pennsylvanians." Boscola backed the bill from its origins in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee through the final vote. "I am proud to have supported the needed reform of prior authorization for medical services this past legislative session," Boscola said. "Medical services will now be better streamlined to eliminate wait times for patients and doctors alike. Also, reducing administrative costs for hospitals and health care providers is another vital component of the new law. Furthermore, these changes to the prior authorization will have minimal impact on taxpayers because the Pennsylvania Department of Health already has the budget capacity to accommodate the reforms made in Act 146."

Police: More holiday crashes this year

STATE

The Christmas season of 2022 resulted in an increase in the number of motor vehicle crashes and people injured and killed, compared to 2021, according to data released by the Pennsylvania State Police. That data shows state police investigated 661 motor vehicle crashes in which seven people died and 113 others were injured during the holiday weekend from Dec. 23-25. Comparatively, in

2021, there were 488 crashes, five fatalities and 90 persons injured. State police said alcohol continues to be a problem, as there were 36 alcohol-related incidents this year, although that number is down from 41 in 2021. There were two alcohol-related fatal crashes this year, compared to one over the last Christmas holiday.

Otherwise, enforcement data showed police made fewer arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding this year. Over the holiday period that just ended, there were 116 DUI arrests, down from the 181 in 2021; and 451 speeding arrests, significantly lower than the 1,131 that officers made last year. Police also issued almost 500 fewer "other citations," showing 2,248 this

See YEAR on Page A5

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Thursday, January 5

NorCo Council, 6:30 p.m., Northampton Co. Courthouse, 669 Washington St., Easton. Meetings live streamed.
Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council, 7 p.m. Illick's Mill - second floor, 100 Illick's Mill Road.

Monday, January 9

Bethlehem City Housing Authority, 4:30 p.m. Monocacy Towers, 645 Main St.
BASD Board combined committees - snow date: Jan. 11. 7 p.m. Education Center, 1516 Sycamore Rd.
Fountain Hill Planning Commission, 7 p.m., 941 Long St.

Tuesday, January 10

NorCo General Purpose Authority, 8:15 a.m. Northampton Co. Courthouse, 669 Washington St., Easton.
NorCo Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board, 4:30 p.m. Northampton Co. Courthouse, 669 Washington St., Easton.
Saucon Valley School Board, 7 p.m., Audion building, 2097 Polk Valley Road. Visit svpanthers.org/Domain/572
Hellertown Planning Commission, 7 p.m. 685 Main St., Hellertown.

Wednesday, January 11

Bethlehem Twp. (NorCo) Municipal Authority, 6:30 p.m. Municipal building, 4225 Easton Ave.
SNOW DATE: BASD Board combined committees. 7 p.m. Education Center, 1516 Sycamore Rd.
Fountain Hill Stormwater Authority, 7 p.m., 941 Long St.
Hellertown Borough Water Authority, 7 p.m. 685 Main St.

SCHOOL NEWS

Charter Arts presents plays, recitals

Charley's Aunt by Brandon Thomas. Classic comic confusion between two courting couples, a missing aunt /chaperone, a parent and a guardian.. 7 p.m. Jan. 13, 14; 2 p.m. Jan. 15. Charter Arts Theatre Department. 321 E. Third St.
Winter piano recital performed by students and faculty at the school, 7 p.m. Jan. 18. Charter Arts Music Department. 321 E. Third St., 18015.
Sondheim on Sondheim: Production arts; vocal music. January 20 -22. More information will be posted shortly at www.charterarts.org/event/productions-arts-fashion-show/
Junior vocal recital, Jan. 25.
Information and tickets: www.charterarts.org.

BASD concerts online; scholarship available

Apply now for the BASD Superintendent's Moravian Scholarship. Visit <https://express.adobe.com/page/2JYVheVspwzDr/> for information and <https://pa50000490.schoolwires.net/scholarship> for applications.

Freedom stuents named to District 10 Band

Freedom HS's Nathan and Alec Rubery made the PMEA District 10 Band. Alec was fourth out of 53 trumpet players who tried out and Nathan was fourth out of 34 alto saxes who tried out. Alec will also be representing Freedom in the PMEA District 10 Orchestra.

Freedom, Liberty, Becahi adopt female wrestling

For the first time in history both Freedom and Liberty have female wrestling teams. The district approval of the club will promote girls wrestling toward becoming a sport sanctioned by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.
Pennsylvania and National Wrestling Powerhouse Bethlehem Catholic became the 60th school district to sanction a female wrestling team.

Becahi presents mystery play Jan. 6, 7

Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 6 and 7 and at 3 p.m. Jan. 8. 2133 Madison Ave. Information and tickets: visit <https://becahi.org/arts/theater-program/>

Firefighters Gruber, Paris honored

BY MARIEKE ANDRONACHE

Special to the Bethlehem Press

It was a sobering moment when Commissioner Bob Elbich, who has served as an active firefighter with New Tripoli Volunteer Fire Company, reminded everyone of the importance of thanking our firefighters, police forces and EMS when they are alive.

Dressed in his official firefighter uniform, Elbich led everyone present at the Dec. 14 Lehigh County meeting in a moment of silence, honoring fallen firefighters Marvin Gruber and First Assistant Chief Zach Paris.

“To my mind, the English language still has not come up with the words to truly comfort those who have lost a dear one prematurely, and a hero, heroes, so I'm not going to try and do that. I can't succeed at that,” said a visibly shaken Elbich.

He continued, “When I started volunteering in the area, my station was Station 17. Unfortunately, this was in the early 90s, and I did not get a chance to get to know these heroes. But I know them, I know who they are.”

“When a volunteer firefighter shows up for a call and straps on that air pack and runs towards a hazardous event on a highway or a fully involved structure, that's a hero,” Elbich said.

Speaking on the events following the deaths of Gruber and Paris, Elbich described the incredible

outpouring of support throughout the Lehigh Valley and his participation in the 26-mile procession and what it meant to see members of the different communities take part, including families as far as Schuylkill County.

“I did not have dry eyes the entire 26 miles. It was a difficult trip but I want to thank all those who showed up as we drove through New Tripoli,” Elbich said. “It was an awesome experience of the community recognizing the premature loss of these people.”

LEHIGH COUNTY

Airport denies Hanover's antenna request

BY CASSANDRA DAYOUB
Special to The Press

During the Dec. 21 Hanover Township, Lehigh County, council meeting, township Manager Melissa Wehr approached the board for authorization regarding the lease agreement with Two-Way Tower for the public works department's radio system.

Council had concerns about the yearly charge of \$1,200 and wanted to know if there were any alternatives.

Wehr contacted Lehigh Valley International Airport to see if the radio antenna could be stationed at the airport, but the request was denied. She also asked if the airport would have concerns if the township put the antenna on top of the township building. The airport also denied that request due to possible signal interference.

Council member Robert Heimbecker still believes alternative methods could be found and was not willing to pay the yearly fee.

Since the radio antenna was already relocated to Two-Way Tower, council agreed to approve the lease for one year. Alternative methods will be looked into for the future.

In other business, Wehr discussed the River Central multimunicipal plan.

She noted the River Central plan is moving forward and will be before the township's planning commission in January and before council in February. Wehr said the entire plan is available online.

Wehr also mentioned the first round of bids for the Catasauqua Road at Valley Plaza project will go live Feb. 1. More information is to come.

Township Attorney Jackson Eaton discussed a formal complaint filed by the township against a driver responsible for a hazardous materials cleanup back in early 2021. The accident occurred on Postal Road and the township's fire department responded to clean up a fuel spill. The job required outside assistance. The state

HANOVER (LECO) TWP.

police found the driver responsible for the accident, making the driver also responsible for the fuel cleanup cost.

Although invoices have been sent on numerous occasions, no response or payment has been received. The township moved forward with filing a formal complaint with the courthouse. Eaton also discussed resolution 2022-49 and its aim to implement Act 57 of 2022, which concerns property tax waiver provisions.

Eaton said council is required by the state to pass this resolution. He mentioned some future litigations may arise against Act 57 due to its confusing verbiage. The intention is to make homebuyers aware of any outstanding tax bills that may be on a property from previous sellers, as the seller may be responsible for a portion of the payment.

Although this information may appear through title search, this process is not necessarily required

when purchasing a home. The intention of Act 57 is to remedy any miscommunication regarding outstanding debts to the buyer.

Eaton explained he is working with the township clerk to possibly develop the township's own form and is trying to address the confusing verbiage of the state form.

Township Engineer Al Kortze requested authorization to extend the Allendale sewer contract for ongoing work. The extension concerns the timeline only and will have no change in the cost of the project. Kortze said the project was moving more slowly than expected due to unmarked utility lines and working in a tight space.

The council approved the request and the contract will be extended into 2023 for the finishing touches, such as sealing the pipes and checking over the work.

Council was expected to meet Dec. 28 to approve a final round of bills for 2022.

YEAR

Continued from page A4
year, compared to 2,728 a year ago.

In the category of child seat citations, state police cited 11 drivers this year, compared to 24 in 2021.

A breakdown of the crash and enforcement data in The Press coverage area:

Troop L - Berks, Schuylkill and Lebanon

counties: crash data - 34 crashes, 10 persons injured and 4 alcohol-related crashes; enforcement data - 8 DUI arrests, 39 speeding citations, 3 child seat citations, 3 seat belt citations, 10 seat belt warnings, 119 other citations and 11 criminal arrests.

Troop M - Bucks, Lehigh and Northampton counties: crash data - 37 crashes, 1 fatal accident, 1 person killed, 4

persons injured, 2 alcohol-related crashes and 1 person killed due to an alcohol-related crash; enforcement data - 17 DUI arrests, 37 speeding arrests, 1 child seat citation, 4 seat belt citations, 2 seat belt warnings, 211 other citations and 7 criminal arrests.

Troop N - Carbon, Columbia and Monroe counties: crash data - 30 crashes, 5 persons injured and 2 alcohol-relat-

ed crashes; enforcement data - 10 DUI arrests, 12 speeding arrests, 3 seat belt citations, 111 other citations and 8 criminal arrests.

State police said these statistics cover only those incidents investigated by the state police and do not include incidents to which other law enforcement agencies responded.

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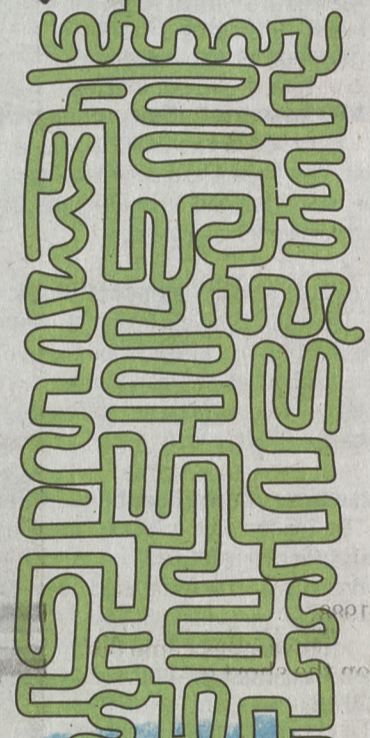
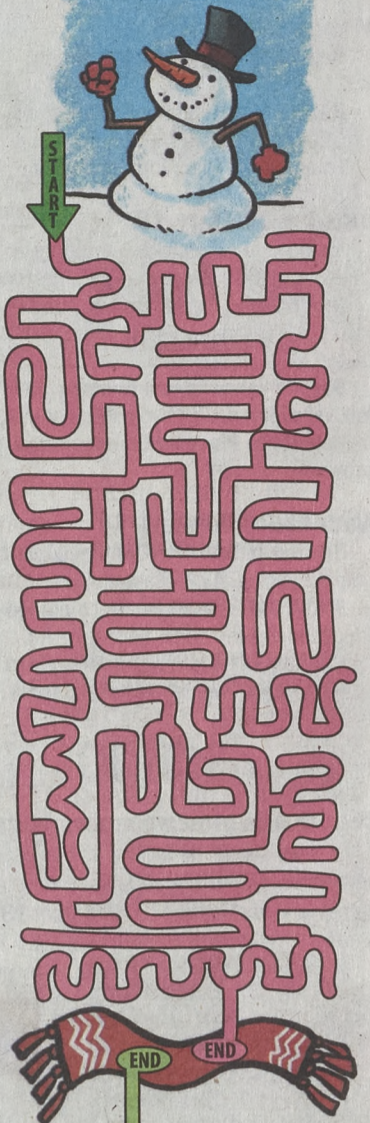
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Kid Scoop Together

Snowman Run

You choose one snowman. A family member chooses the other. Who can race through their maze to reach the scarf first?

SNOWMAN A



SNOWMAN B



Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: PREDICTION
The noun **prediction** is a statement that something might happen in the future.
The weatherman made a **prediction** that it would rain today.
Try to use the word **prediction** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

DR. I. CICLE'S WEATHER SCHOOL

I'm puzzled, Dr. Cicle. What are cold fronts and warm fronts?

Good question, Paula! Cold fronts and warm fronts are something meteorologists—scientists who study the weather—watch to make predictions about the weather.

Here's how meteorologists show a cold front on a map.

This is how they show a warm front.

The cold front looks like icicles on a string!

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students understand how to read a weather map.

Oh no! A cold wind blew my display about weather fronts all apart! Luckily, I numbered each sentence. Do the math problem on each piece. Then use the answers to put the sentences in order from the smallest number to the largest.

8+7=
Cold fronts move quickly and can bring storms and even hail. But the storms won't last long.

4+3=
The sun's heat warms the air. Some parts of the world get warmer than others. These differences in temperature make the air move, causing weather to change.

20-8=
This cools the warm air, and if there is moisture in that air, it condenses and forms drops that fall as rain or snow.

19-3=
A "warm front" moves slowly. If the air is moist, dark clouds will form and it may rain or snow for days.

6+3=
A "cold front" happens when a cold air mass pushes the warm air up.

17-9=
When cold and warm air masses meet, they don't mix. They form a front.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Students compute sums and differences, order numbers from least to greatest.

WARM **WESTOWN** **EASTOWN** **COLD AIR**

Extra! Extra!
Cool Division
Search through the newspaper for the following numbers:
• Numbers divisible by 2
• Numbers divisible by 3
• Numbers divisible by 5
Standards Link: Number Sense: Students know rules of divisibility.

Help Paula Predict the Weather
Look at the two weather puzzles. Which town is most likely to have stormy weather? Use the cold front and warm front symbols to help you predict.

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students understand that weather can be observed and predicted; different conditions affect different results.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Chill out while you find the two identical snowmen.

Standards Link: Visual discrimination.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

WEATHER
FRONTS
SYMBOLS
CONDENSES
STORMS
SNOWMEN
WARM
WATCH
MOISTURE
CHILL
COLD
MASS
LAST
LONG
PREDICT

E	R	U	T	S	I	O	M	S	P
S	N	O	S	D	C	F	R	E	R
T	L	A	L	M	O	R	F	S	E
O	M	O	R	L	E	O	G	N	D
R	C	A	B	H	D	N	W	E	I
M	W	T	T	M	O	T	A	D	C
S	P	A	M	L	Y	S	T	N	T
N	E	M	W	O	N	S	C	O	N
W	T	S	A	L	L	I	H	C	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Weather Watchers

Look through the newspaper for three people and/or companies who need to watch the weather to make decisions. For example, outdoor games can be canceled if the weather is bad. Tell how the weather can affect each of the weather watchers you selected.

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students know the effects of changes in the weather.

What song do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?

ANSWER: Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow.

Write On! Crazy Weather

What would you do if it started raining cats and dogs?

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**Yesterday:
Thanks,
and a
look back**

BY JEFF MOELLER
Special to the Press

With the New Year now passed, we try to continue the spirit of the holiday season, and the true time of thanking, giving and reflecting.

First, thanks to all you readers of this column and the remainder of the Times News and Lehigh Valley Press editions and those who support local journalism for one of the finest – if not the – newspapers for coverage of local events. In the world of Big Tech, the local angle is often overlooked.

In this week's version of my Yesterday column – reminiscing about the 1960s, 70s, 80 and sometimes beyond – I have special permission from Santa to go back in time and live in the moment to reflect and thank personalities for their contributions in our sports-related lives. As always, I have included some pop culture items.

Here is my list of sports personalities who made my life special and likely yours:

Channel 10 sports anchor Al Meltzer – Thanks, “Big Al” for your part in helping broadcast the recent “Fog Bowl” involving the Eagles and the Bears on this date in 1988.

The Eagles came out on the short end of a 20-12 score in the NFC Divisional playoff game, but it was fun to watch NFL history in the making.

NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle – Thanks, Pete, for seeking to make the Pro Bowl still a competitive and enjoyable game to watch unlike its present-day counterpart, which will switch its format to a skills competition.

In 1988, Rozelle's penultimate season in the chair, the AFC won a tight 15-6 battle. Marty Schottenheimer guided the AFC to a win over NFC head coach Jerry Burns – remember him? – who took over in Minnesota for the legendary Bud Grant.

NFL Films narrator John Facenda – He was “the voice” behind the legendary Super Bowl highlight films as well as other football-related productions such as “The frozen tundra of Lambeau Field.”

Facenda's voice could easily lock you into any video and was the perfect complement to a football game.

Tom Brookshier and Pat Summerall – They were the duo who narrated “This Week in Pro Football,” which was a must-watch on a Saturday.

They meshed well together and helped the show have a mesmerizing effect, as we got to see the result of games we wouldn't normally be able to watch.

They both also did their share of broadcasting games together over the years.

Howard Cossell and his Monday Night Football halftime highlights – Like Brookshier and See **DAY** on Page A8

Freedom wins holiday tourney

BY PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

Freedom kept rolling over the holiday break, as the Pates won the Pine Grove Cardinal Classic with two decisive wins last week. The Pates knocked off Pine Grove 71-38 in the tournament opener and then had little trouble dispatching Pocono Mountain East 62-41 in the championship.

Freedom had four players in double digits in the title game, led by Nick Ellis, Jaden Tillett and Krishna

Mangroo all coring 12 points apiece. Aaron Levy added 10 points for the Pates, who have won five of their last six games.

“We learned that when we play together and move the ball we can have a lot of success,” said head coach Joe Stellato. “We have been getting better and better every day and really got better on the defensive side. It's just a one game at a time approach. Let's not allow this early success to stop us from putting in the

hard work.”

The Pates (7-3) get back in EPC action this week with Pocono Mountain West and Easton. Tuesday's showdown with the Panthers (7-1) is one of the marquee matchups of the week across the conference.

Liberty (6-3) split their games at the Allen Holiday Classic, knocking off the hosts in the opener 54-41, but falling to Hazleton 55-53 in the championship.

Luke Gennaro scored 21 points for the Cougars

and took home MVP honors. Liberty was led by Dwayne Chess in the title game, as he scored 14 points.

“I thought the holiday tournament was a great experience for our young team,” said Liberty head coach Nigel Long. “A takeaway that we had was that we have to limit turnovers and continue to share the ball offensively. Defensively, we must continue to finish possessions with a defensive rebound and hold teams to one shot.”

Liberty gets back into things this week with Pocono Mountain East and Bethlehem Catholic on Friday.

“At the halfway point of the season, teams are either getting better or worse,” Long said. “We are looking to continually get better over the course of the season. These next few weeks will be crucial.”

Becahi (6-2) did not play any games last week and open this week with East Stroudsburg North before Friday's showdown with Liberty.



PRESS PHOTOS BY MARK LINEBERGER

Christian Horvath took home first place at the holiday classic.

Horvath steals show as BHWC champ

BY PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

CJ Horvath had a wonderful holiday break and he hopes it's the springboard to a fruitful winter on the mats after coming home from the Bethlehem Holiday Wrestling Classic with a 121-pound title and the Outstanding Wrestler award.

Horvath knocked off Quakertown's Mason Ziegler 6-5 in last week's championship match to round out an impressive championship run.

The sixth-seeded senior had to battle in each of his last three bouts, defeating Wilson West Lawn's Mike Garcia 8-7 in the quarters, before outlasting Northampton's Carson Wagner 4-3 in the semifinals before coming back to knock off Ziegler.

Freedom head coach Anthony Marino knew how important last week's title was for Horvath and what it can mean for him moving forward this season.

“It was huge for CJ to win the title this year,” said Marino. “He won it as a freshman beating really good guys that weren't really established as top competitors at that point in their high school careers. CJ went in excited for the challenge and wanting to see where he stood with these guys that were now very



Jared Karabinus of Freedom battles Jared Rohn of Saucon Valley in their 172 weight class semifinal bout. Karabinus would win by fall to advance to the championship final.



Ryan Santiago from Liberty defeated Juan Moya of Parkland HS by a 15-1 major decision in their 152 weight class semifinal bout.

well established. He's always been a guy that would hang with these top guys but always shy or making one little mistake that would cost him these high profile matches. He really competed well keeping

his head in high stakes matches even when everything was going wrong like slipping on the edge of the mat and giving up a takedown in his quarterfinals match. This is something that See **MAT** on Page A8

BC crowns 5 champions

BY PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

Bethlehem Catholic came away from their annual Tony Iasiello Christmas City Tournament with the team title last week.

The Hawks outlasted Berks Catholic in the team race by a 231.5-to-226 margin, crowning five champions compared to four for Berks.

The tournament featured plenty of the Hawks reserves on the season, but it was an opportunity for the Hawks to showcase their depth and give some regular starters, who are battling injury, some time off to heal heading toward the new year calendar.

The Hawks that came away with tournament titles included Marco Frinzi (133), Charlie Scanlan (145), Jake Dailey (152), Andrew Harmon (160) and Landon Muth (189).

Frinzi's fall in 3:55 over Marvin Armstead of Berks Catholic in the finals was one of the defining bouts to give Becahi an edge in the championship race.

The Hawks also had two title bouts that featured Becahi-only wrestlers, as Scanlan topped teammate Riley Hughes 6-1 and Muth scored a third period takedown

to edge Augustus Warke 3-2.

Jake Dailey registered a 20-4 tech fall (4:18) in his championship bout against Dieruff's Josh Montesino, while Andrew Harmon scored a 12-4 major decision over Thomas Stofka (First Colonial, VA).

Cole Campbell (121), Shane McFillin (127) and Jacob Lance (215) all reached the finals too, but were dropped by Malvern Prep or Berks Catholic wrestlers.

Campbell lost a 4-1 decision to Prep's Lukas Littleton Mascaro and McFillin was pinned by Jason Torres of Prep in 8:30.

Berks Catholic's Brody Kline pinned Lance in 1:06 during their title match.

Other Hawk wrestlers to place included: Ryder Campbell (121, third); Dario Cruz (172, third); Mario Pastrana (HWT, third); George Pavis (139, fifth) and Nico Spezza (215, fifth).

The Hawks (3-0) have three matches this week with East Stroudsburg North on Wednesday before closing out the week with two exciting bouts with a road trip to Easton (6-1) on Thursday followed by Saturday night's highly anticipated home showdown with Notre Dame Green Pond (3-0).

Bethlehem hockey team sits at 7-0

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcdonald@tnonline.com

Bethlehem Ice Hockey currently sits in second place in the Lehigh Valley Scholastic Hockey League standings with a record of 6-2-1 behind Northampton with a record of 7-0.

Bethlehem was 1-2 in the month of December, defeating Southern Lehigh, 7-3, and losing to Northampton, 9-0, and Nazareth, 3-1.

Bethlehem's win over the Spartans was the second win against Southern Lehigh this season.

Dominic Natosi put Bethlehem up 1-0 on an assist by Tyler Bertelsen in the first period.

Ryan Hathaway scored another goal for Bethlehem early in the second period, but

Southern Lehigh evened the score on two goals by Anthony Greco on assists by Eric Kloss.

Bertelsen then took the lead back for Bethlehem to end the second period.

Despite John Caccace's goal for Southern Lehigh in the final period, Bethlehem took control and the victory with goals by Donovan Richards, Caden Dudeck, Nick Moniz, and Richards. Bertelsen, Hathaway, and Thomas Piripavel were credited with assists.

Eden Bender had 20 saves for Bethlehem, and Blake Benner had 35 saves for Southern Lehigh.

Bethlehem was scheduled to face Parkland this Monday night, past Press deadlines.

Would you like something printed in the Press
Email spagel@tnonline.com

Outdoors: Tips for feeding birds in winter



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

When feeding birds in winter, avid birders stick to selected seed choices.

BY NICK HROMIAK
Special to the Press

As we're in the cold winter months, avid birders who maintain feeders know that this is the time birds need supplemental feeding and they know what to feed them.

For those new to feeding birds, here are some tips from The Birding Wire to assist you when buying bird feed.

For starters, don't think that the variety pack of seeds is the best choice. The mixes that are often sold in big box or grocery stores, aren't the best as most of it goes to waste as birds will pick out their preferred seeds and leave the remainder. Squirrels, the nemesis of birders, will eat mostly anything, but you don't want to cater to them as they are pests and scare birds away when they're at a feeder. During cold winter

months, it's suggested birders stick to seeds that provide the highest level of food value for most birds. Experienced birders stick primarily to black oil sunflower, nyjer thistle seeds and peanuts or peanut hearts.

The black sunflower seeds are reported to have the highest level of value followed by striped sunflower. And shelled sunflower are best because they eliminate the mess from discarded seeds. Of course, they cost a bit more. There are also sunflower seed chips for smaller birds.

Many years ago, I made the mistake of keeping the shelled sunflower seeds in my house in a loose container. Big problem as the seeds hatched flying bugs that fluttered about the house before I could evict them. The seeds

went outside after that.

As for nyjer seeds, they will attract goldfinches and juncos. And thistle seeds are said to have the most oil content of all the seeds, despite their size.

Chopped peanuts will attract cardinals, jays, nuthatches and woodpeckers among others.

As for mixes, you can make your own by combining shelled sunflower seeds with peanut hearts. And that mix should cater to the many species you want to see at your feeders.

If breaking seeds down into categories, the list of Primary Seeds consists of black oil sunflower, sunflower chips, striped sunflower, nyjer thistle seeds and peanut hearts.

Secondary Seeds consists of safflower seeds, but birders are cautioned to avoid millet, red milo and cracked

corn mixes that are common in grocery store type seed packs.

The Birding Wire said it's important to offer a balanced winter offering that includes suet and fresh water as well. The latter brings us to keeping the water from freezing as open water will always attract birds.

A birdbath heater or de-icer will certainly help. Don't have a birdbath? No problem. You can simply use the inside of a trash can lid, shallow pot or one of the disposable aluminum roasting pans that come in various sizes and depths. Heaters and de-icers can be purchased at a birthing store, certain hardware stores or from Duncraft and other online birthing equipment suppliers.

DARTS

**Bethlehem Inter-Church
Dart Baseball league
Week 9-9**

Trinity UCC	18-6	.750	-
Star of Beth	14-10	.583	4.0
East Hills	13-11	.542	5.0
Fritz Wes.	12-12	.500	6.0
Bethany	10-11	.476	6.5
Holy Cross	11-13	.458	7.0
St. Peters	9-12	.429	7.5
First UCC	9-15	.375	9.0
College Hill	9-15	.375	9.0

NOTES

- Congratulations To Trinity UCC 1st Half Champs
- Midseason meeting changed to Jan. 5 at St. Peters

RESULTS 11/28/2022

**Star of Bethlehem (HT) @
Bethany UCC 3-0, 5-1, 9-0**

Star of Bethlehem - Barry Coles 11-15, Gary Mosser 7-16, Nate Reddell 6-13
Bethany UCC - none

**Holy Cross @ First UCC
6-3, 4-1, 4-6**

Holy Cross - Earl Stein 6-8, Lyn Stryker 4-10, Jan Dolak 3-7, Rich Stein 6-15
First UCC - Lisa Fenon 4-8, Wayne Pavlinski 4-12, Chip Wagner 4-12

**East Hills @ Fritz Wesleyan
7-0, 0-2, 2-4**

College Hill @ Trinity UCC 1-2, 9-5 (10), 3-4

College Hill - Rick Rivera 6-14, Chuck Stoltz 5-14, Dan Duetsch 5-12
Trinity UCC - Matt Fullman 6-13, Chaz Matusczinski 6-13

SCHEDULE

Jan. 9, 2023

East Hills @ Holy Cross
St. Peters @ First UCC
Trinity UCC @ Star of Bethlehem (HT)
College Hill @ Bethany UCC
Fritz Wesleyan - BYE

Red Sox-Reds series is an all-time classic.

1972 Sunoco NFL Trading Stamps - I still have the book and am still collecting the stamps online.

In 1972, Sunoco had a promotion in which they produced postage-size stamps of notable players from each team. Depending how much gasoline your parents purchased, you would receive a certain number of stamps. They were usually Eagles' and Giants' players, but there were also a variety of others.

There was a huge book to paste the stamps. If you still have the book and the stamps, you can continue to find them on eBay.

That Dolphins-Chiefs game - On Christmas night in 1971, I remember watching this legendary game on my small black and white portable TV with its rabbit ears.

I previously mentioned this, but this was a joy as a kid to watch football for 82 minutes and 40 seconds or roughly seven hours that ended in a 27-24 Miami win to send them to the AFC Championship game. Miami kicker Garo Yepremian booted a 37-yard field goal to win it.

Gene London and the cast of local childhood celebrities - If you watched Channel 10 back in the 1960 and 70s, you will remember London's "Cartoon Corners" and the backdrop of Mr. Dibney's general store. Dibney was seen as a Scrooge-type character to him, and London always wanted to date his daughter, Debbie, but he was too shy to ask.

London had adventures of his own on the show that usually involved the mysterious "Quigley Mansion" and also had cartoons and children-friendly segments.

On Channel 6, Chief Halftown, Captain Noah, and Sally Starr all had similar formats,

and they all helped make an afternoon fun.

Concerts via the phone - If you want to go to a concert today, it is just a matter of going to Ticketmaster or another online venue.

But remember when you had to dial a number to get your tickets? A time would be announced when the tickets would be released, and it was just a matter of being a quick and persistent dialer. Some luck was involved, but I never got shut out.

I still like that method better because it was more personable and more reassured.

Feliz Navidad, Charlie Brown, Bruce Springsteen, and Karen Carpenter - When I was young, I knew it was a special time when I heard Jose Feliciano's melodic song "Feliz Navidad." It seemed to be playing endlessly, but it never lost its meaning.

For me, Christmas would be incomplete without watching a "Charlie Brown Christmas." It isn't broadcast on network TV any more, but I still need to watch it once or twice before the big day. I always made it a point to find what day it was broadcast.

In my late teens and early 20s, Springsteen's "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" became a staple and I would always blast it on the radio - yes a radio- and sing along.

Finally, Christmas also would be incomplete with the Carpenters, "Merry Christmas, Darling," that would bring out the sentimentality in you. I believe Karen Carpenter had the clearest voice in modern times.

These were some memories about the Christmas and holiday season, but there are more.

On that note, I hope everyone had a great holiday season.

Phillies caravan scheduled for Jan. 19

The Phillies Winter Caravan will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19, at the ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks in Bethlehem at 6:30 p.m. The program will include special guests from the Philadelphia Phillies. The names of whom will be unveiled at a later date. Previous guests have included former managers Joe Girardi, Gabe Kapler, players Rhys Hoskins, Hector Neris, Roman Quinn, Dylan Cozens, and Adam Haseley.

The annual event, hosted by IronPigs Charities, will have great food, a mystery ball drawing, a photo booth, and a silent auction. FERROUS and FeFe are scheduled to attend.

Tickets are now available online at PhilliesWinterCaravan.com.



All proceeds from the event will benefit IronPigs Charities, which supports educational and recreational opportunities for Lehigh Valley youth, focusing on diversity and inclusion.

Individual tickets are available for \$100, and a pair of tickets are \$180. Sponsorship opportunities, featuring tickets, a program ad, digital signage, and an

autographed bat, are available starting at \$500. Higher level sponsorships grant guests access to a special VIP reception at 5:30 p.m. - one hour before the event begins. Learn more at PhilliesWinterCaravan.com. For other questions, please contact Matt Sommers, Manager, IronPigs Charities at msommers@ironpigsbaseball.com.

BYRNE TO BE HONORED

Former Moravian University head softball coach John Byrne '82, who retired in May after 29 years leading the Greyhound softball program and 44 years at the school was selected as a 2023 inductee into National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Byrne's induction will take place Dec. 8, 2023, during the NFCA's 40th Anniversary Convention in the NFCA's home base of Louisville, Kentucky.

Joining Byrne in the 2023 NFCA Hall of Fame Class are NFCA Executive Director Car-

ol Bruggeman, Florida State University Head Coach Lonni Alameda and Rowan University Head Coach Kim Wilson.

Byrne retired this past spring after becoming the fifth active and ninth overall NCAA Division III coach to reach 900 career victories, surpassing the milestone on March 2 with a 2-1 win over No. 11 Milwaukee School of Engineering.

He completed his career with a 923-257 overall record, a .782 winning percentage that ranks as the eighth best in NCAA Division III history. Byrne led the Hounds to the

postseason in 27 seasons including three NCAA Division III Championships appearances with the Blue & Grey playing for the national championship in 2004, 18 NCAA Division III playoff berths, 25 conference playoff appearances and 17 conference championships.

Byrne recorded a 46-39 slate in NCAA Tournament action, and the only two seasons that Moravian failed to reach the postseason in his tenure was his first year in 1994 and in 2020 when the postseason was canceled by the pandemic.

MAT

Continued from page A7

CJ has really been able to get past with staying focused and not letting his emotions get the better of him. I think he now knows he is one of the top guys in the state and has a very good shot at a state gold if he continues to work hard and stay focused."

Horvath was one of two Freedom finalists, as Jared Karabinus (171) also reached the championship mat, but came up short in a 7-0 defeat to Nazareth's Dominic Wheatley.

The loss was hopefully a learning lesson that Karabinus can grow from over the next two months.

"I think Jared learned a lot from his loss in the

finals," said Marino. "Jared has always been the type of kid to go out and just throw the kitchen sink at his opponents and not wrestle reserved, which is something that I love about his style. Jared learned that he has to continue to wrestle through every position and be able to transition to three and sometimes four moves with top guys that don't stop moving. I think this loss has lit a fire in Jared making him want to push even harder than he has been. I don't think the score of his finals match really reflected how well he wrestled. He was just a step behind his opponent and had some trouble finishing his attacks. He is the type of kid that wants to wrestle the best

and doesn't run away from competition, so I think the next time they meet it will be a different match with hopefully a different outcome."

Horvath and Karabinus were the only Freedom wrestlers to medal at the event, while Liberty had three wrestlers come away with hardware.

Ryan Santiago (152) was the lone finalist for the Hurricanes, but unfortunately dropped his finals bout to Council Rock South's Gavin Cole 5-3. Kam Abboud took sixth for Liberty, losing to Delaware Valley's Dom Moyer 3-2 in the medal round.

Jasiah Pagan rounded out Liberty's trio with a seventh place finish after pinning Parkland's Eli Russ in 3:27.



PRESS PHOTOS BY DANA GRUBB

Friends and former Abercrombie & Fitch co-workers Tom and Cassie Huggins, Nate Kumar, Brad Cummerford and Jessica Cannizzaro recreate a 10-year-old photo in front of one of the Hotel Bethlehem's lobby Christmas trees. They are all Lehigh Valley natives who now reside in Denver, Los Angeles, Brooklyn and Whitehall, and gathered for the Huggins' baby gender reveal at the #1 Historic Hotel in America. Baby Huggins will be a boy.



Traditional wreaths decorate windows overlooking Main Street.

The Christmas City's hotel

America's #1 historic hotel, the Hotel Bethlehem, offered self-guided tours of its traditional Christmas decorations throughout the holiday season. Reservations were required and allowed visitors to view beautifully decorated trees, candles and wreaths hanging in the windows, a nearly life-size Nativity scene, toy soldiers and other tastefully decorated areas of the hotel. Two tall lobby Christmas trees regularly provided the perfect holiday photograph backdrop for friends and families.



Patrons enjoy dinner in the decorated 1741 on the Terrace dining room.



The main lobby is decorated with two tall Christmas trees near the check-in desk and a Nativity scene over the entrance.



Larger than life toy soldiers guard the entrance to the 1741 On the Terrace dining area, and a lighted gingerbread model of the Hotel makes for a taste tempting exhibit.



The Nativity scene is a focal point when viewed from the Mezzanine near the entrance to the Main Ballroom.

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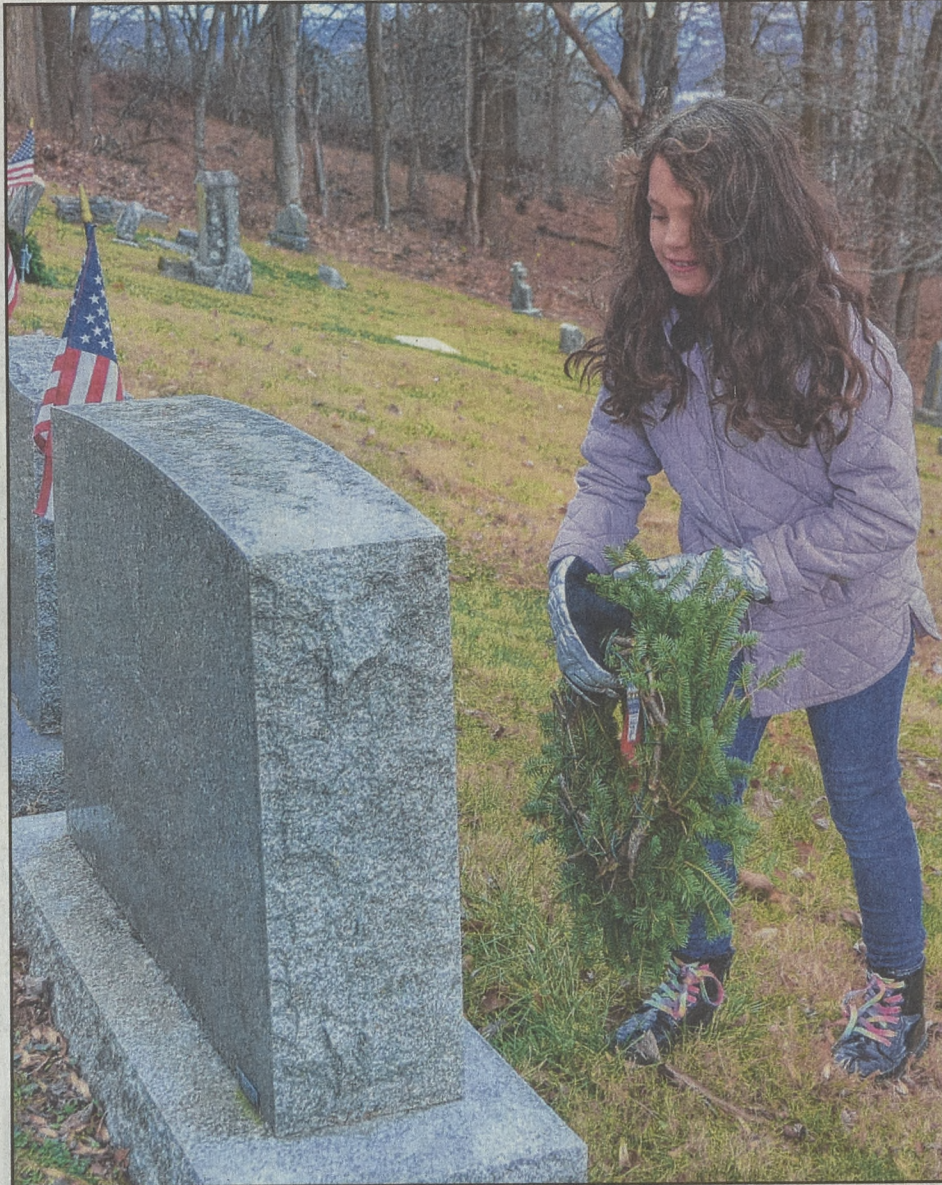
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PRESS PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS GRAVES
A detail of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets provided one color guard.



PRESS PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS GRAVES
Kenneth Butz ES student Alyssa Sweeney came to the cemetery to participate in help lay wreaths.

Wreaths Across America

BY DOUGLAS GRAVES
Special to the Bethlehem Press

"This is for my sister, who is buried here," said Joan Glacy as she placed an evergreen wreath next to a tombstone. She said she is also an Army veteran (1958 to 1960).

"Her name was Margerie Weaver. She was in the Army from 1958 until 1961. She died of Lupus." Glacy's voice was tight with emotion.

Glacy was one of the many people who attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony Dec. 17 at the Fountain Hill Cemetery on Graham Road. The hillside cemetery sits in relative seclusion on a wooded lot overlooking the town of Fountain Hill.

The ground was still wet from the snow melt from a recent storm. Still, it was a very cool morning for those who attended, with temperatures in the low forties. The ceremony started at noon.

Organizer Ron Frankenfield led the ceremony, which included a call to remember the fallen soldiers, airmen, sailors, Marines and merchant marines. He asked for a special remembrance for the service men and women who have committed suicide.

A detail of the Naval Sea Cadets provided one color guard, while the Bethlehem Detachment 284, Marine Corps League, provided another. There was no firing detail at the ceremony.

Interim Pastor Mike Button of St. Peter's Lutheran church in Bethlehem offered prayers.

George Van Duren provided music and played "Taps" as the color guards saluted by dipping their organizational flags, being careful to keep the American flags aloft where stiff breezes tugged at the fabric.

Frankenfield invited members of the audience to volunteer, one-by-one, to affix a wreath to one of the



PRESS PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS GRAVES
Sea Cadets retire their flags following the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Fountain Hill.



PRESS PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS GRAVES
The color guard from the Bethlehem Marine Corps League included Doug Graves from Upper Macungie and George Borman III, right, from Schnecksville.

several white wooden crosses that represented the separate branches of the military forces.

Marine Gunnery Sergeant Cameron McNeill stepped forward to place one of the pine-scented wreaths on the cross representing the U. S. Marine Corps. Other volunteers did the same for the other crosses.

A contingent of Nam Knights, Lehigh Valley Chapter, led by Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sergeant Tim Parsons, provided logistical support by distributing boxes of wreaths for the public to then use to decorate veterans' graves throughout the cemetery.

Army veteran Joe Kempfer (1968 to 1970) was there to lay a wreath at the memorial stone of his grandfather, Ellis Kemfer. His grandfather served in the Mexican Punitive Expedition with Brigadier General John "Black Jack" Pershing in the 1916-17 border war.

Kenneth Butz ES student Alyssa Sweeney came to the cemetery to participate in helping lay wreaths. She was there with her mother, Brianna Sweeney, the administrative officer for the USNSCC (Sea Cadets) Lehigh Valley Division.

In 2014, according to Wikipedia, volunteers placed over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and overseas, including the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Valley Forge and the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center in New York City. During that year, volunteers were able to place wreaths in all sections of Arlington Cemetery for the first time. In 2016, this number increased to 1.2 million wreaths being placed at more than 1,230 cemeteries across the nation.

Frankenfield has been holding the Wreaths Across America program for seven years. He said 335 wreaths were placed during the ceremony.



PRESS PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS GRAVES
"This is for my sister who is buried here," said Army veteran Joan Glacy.



PRESS PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS GRAVES
Army veteran Joe Kempfer (1968 to 1970) was there to lay a wreath at the memorial stone of his grandfather, Ellis Kemfer.



PRESS PHOTOS BY DENNIS GLEW

Shortly before sunset the menorah is readied for the celebration. Rabbi Halperin (center) is joined by his son Zevi (left) and Bethlehem resident Joseph Bernstein.



John Palmer of the Bethlehem Fire Department, assisted by a colleague at the fire truck, approaches the menorah in the truck's basket.

Candles against antisemitism

BY DENNIS GLEW
Special to the Bethlehem Press

A crowd gathered at Payrow Plaza in the cold early evening Dec. 19 to light Bethlehem's public menorah. Marking the second night of this year's celebration of Hanukkah, commonly called the Festival of Lights, the event was given special significance by recent outbursts of antisemitism in Bethlehem, notably at the Dec. 6 city council meeting and Dec. 18 at Christkindlmarkt. The menorah crowd included residents of various faiths – and no faith at all – who came to the event to show support for the Jewish community and repudiate the hate talk.

Organizing the event was Rabbi Iaacov Halperin of Chabad Lubavitch. The fire department



Major J. William Reynolds addresses the crowd about Bethlehem's response to recent episodes of antisemitism.

supplied its hook and ladder truck so that the menorah could be prepared and then lit by Halperin, who invited Mayor J. William Reynolds to join him.

It was by far the largest crowd the rabbi had ever seen at this event, he said, and he was very grateful for the expression of support. In response,

Reynolds emphasized Bethlehem welcomes and supports members of all beliefs and backgrounds.



Lighted for the second night of Hanukkah, the menorah casts its light over the crowd at City Center.



Rabbi Halperin thanks the Mayor and all those present for their support of the Jewish community.



Accompanied Mayor J. William Reynolds, Rabbi Halperin lights the menorah candles.

ABE among worst areas to find a starter home

The real estate market since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic has been tough on all buyers, but aspiring first-time buyers may have struggled most of all.

For much of 2020 and 2021, the housing market faced a challenging combination of high demand and low supply. Young people were already growing into the largest segment of buyers as the Millennial generation came of age.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, preferences for more living space, increased remote work opportunities, and other factors related to the pandemic encouraged even more people to enter the market. But existing owners proved reluctant to part with their homes, with supply on the market reaching a record low late in 2020.

As a result, competition in the market drove the median home price up by 36 percent over the last two years. The run-up in home values was good news for people who already had equity in their homes, but it pushed prices out of reach for first-time buyers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The run-up in home values was good news for people who already had equity in their homes, but it pushed prices out of reach for first-time buyers.

More recently, persistent inflation – and policymakers' responses to it – have also made it harder to save up for a home. The prices of household essentials like groceries, energy, and especially rent have grown quickly over the last 18 months, leaving first-time buyers with less money to set aside. And now, as the U.S. Federal Reserve raises interest rates in efforts to combat inflation, the costs to take out a mortgage loan have risen dramatically.

The average 30-year mortgage interest rate in the U.S. is more than double what it was at the start of 2022, translating into hundreds more dollars per month in payments for would-be buyers.

While recent trends in the market have been especially challenging, buyers have struggled with affordability for longer than that. One issue is that the rate of growth in home values has outpaced that of household incomes over the last 20 years after adjusting for inflation. From 2020 to

See ABE on Page A12

YOUR LOCAL WEATHER

7 Day Forecast	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	Showers Likely	Scattered Rain	Isolated Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny
	64 / 44 6-9 mph SSW	55 / 35 6-8 mph E	44 / 28 6-8 mph SW	42 / 27 7-10 mph WNW	41 / 28 5-8 mph NW	40 / 24 5-9 mph NW	38 / 25 3-3 mph WNW

FORECAST FOR LEHIGH VALLEY PENNSYLVANIA

Today we will see cloudy skies with an 80% chance of showers, near record high of 64°, humidity of 85%. South southwest wind 6 to 9 mph. The record high for today is 66° set in 1950. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an 80% chance of showers, overnight low of 44°. West southwest wind 6 mph. The record low for tonight is -4° set in 1981. Thursday, skies will be mostly cloudy with a 40% chance of scattered rain, high of 55°, humidity of 73%. East wind 8 mph. Thursday night, skies will be mostly cloudy with a 35% chance of isolated rain, overnight low of 35°. Northeast wind 8 mph. Friday, skies will be mostly cloudy with a 35% chance of isolated rain, high of 44°, humidity of 78%. Southwest wind 8 mph. Friday night, skies will be partly cloudy, overnight low of 28°.

Weather Trivia

How many hurricanes develop in the Atlantic per year?

Answer: On average, six.

Rising interest rates slow Valley home sales

BY KRISTINE PORTER
kporter@tnonline.com

Higher interest rates appear to be putting a little dent in the housing market.

According to data from the Greater Lehigh Valley Realtors, the number of days a property is on the market in Carbon County has nearly doubled since this summer. In June, a property was available for just 19 days before a buyer made an offer. In November, that time period increased to 37 days.

“Buyers are delaying home purchases in hopes rates will drop, while many sellers are holding off on listing their homes due to weakening buyer demand and to not trade in their current lower rates for significantly higher borrowing costs on their next property,” said Lehigh Valley Realtor CEO Justin Poremba. “As a result, existing-home and pending home sales have continued to slow as we move into winter.”

The current interest rate for a 30-year fixed rate home loan is 6.25 percent, according to Wells Fargo. The APR, which includes the interest rate plus other charges and fees, is 6.455 percent.

GLVR’s data shows the median sales price in June was \$250,000 in Carbon County. That dropped to \$196,000 in September, but has since made a rebound to \$235,000 in November.

Meanwhile the number of new listings has dropped from 114 in July to just 49 in November. The total inventory in November is 127 properties,

down from a high of 156 in July.

Closed sales and pending sales are also down. In August, there were 85 sales pending, and 84 closed in September. October had 74 pending sales, but just 59 closed in November.

“There’s no denying that the real estate market is in flux,” GLVR President Howard Schaeffer said in the association’s October report. “Potential buyers are contending with higher-than-expected housing prices and interest rates, and sellers are struggling to find new properties to move into before closing on their current residences. This has left many wondering whether they should just wait or risk a loss by engaging with a volatile market.”

In an interview, Schaeffer said that this isn’t a buyer’s market or a seller’s market, because “you’re trading A for B.” The winners are sellers who are downgrading to a smaller property.

One of the things he is seeing is that buyers are negotiating prices and asking for housing inspections to be done. For a while, they were foregoing things like negotiating because the market was so competitive, but not now.

“There’s a little going back and forth,” he said.

Schaeffer recommends that buyers have a real estate agent with them to help with negotiating getting the price and terms they want.

“The market may not be ideal, but your property is out there waiting for you – we’ll help you find it,” he said.

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SHERRY: Botanical Room
Sherry’s second room allows her to appreciate her collection of plants and enjoy the extra sunlight too.
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ABE

Continued from page A11

2021, median home values increased by 37.8 percent, while the median household income grew by just 8.78 percent over the same span.

Supply has been another constraint for first-time homebuyers. The U.S. faces a shortage of housing overall, but builders are also building fewer of the smaller, more affordable homes they used to. Single-family one- or two-bedroom homes represented 24.1 percent of newly built homes in the mid-1980s, but just 6.2 percent today. Over the same span, the share of 4+ bedroom homes among new builds grew from 19.3 percent to 49.6 percent.

While conditions are challenging overall for new buyers, some parts of the U.S. are more favorable. Ideal markets for new buyers have a combination of adequate supply, a high share of smaller homes in the housing supply, relatively low sales prices for starter homes, and strong homeownership rates among young people. By these measures, West Virginia is the best state in the country to find a starter home, followed by Oklahoma and Mississippi. At the local level, Southern and Rust Belt cities lead the way.

The data used in this analysis is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Zillow and Redfin. To determine the locations where you’re most likely to find a starter home, researchers at Construction Coverage calculated

a composite score based on the percentage of homes with three or fewer bedrooms, the median sale price of homes with three or fewer bedrooms, the months of supply of houses for sale, and the homeownership rate for householders under 35 years old. In the event of a tie, the location with the greater percentage of homes with three or fewer bedrooms was ranked higher.

Here is a summary of the data for the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ metro area:

- Composite score: 29.4
 - Percentage of homes with ≤ 3 bedrooms: 66.4 percent
 - Median sale price of homes with ≤ 3 bedrooms: \$272,518
 - Months supply: 1.0
 - Homeownership rate for under-35 householders: 9.2 percent
- For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:
- Composite score: N/A
 - Percentage of homes with ≤ 3 bedrooms: 67.8 percent
 - Median sale price of homes with ≤ 3 bedrooms: \$309,496
 - Months supply: 2.0
 - Homeownership rate for under-35 householders: 10.7 percent

For more information, a detailed methodology, and complete results, you can find the original report on Construction Coverage’s website: <https://constructioncoverage.com/research/the-best-cities-to-find-a-starter-home-2022>.

Contributed article

Valley safety groups warn about impaired driving

Lehigh Valley DUI/Highway Safety Task Force, along with The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and other safety partners, wants to remind motorists the importance of not driving while impaired in the new year.

From Thanksgiving Day in 2021 to New Year’s Day in 2022, there were 64 crashes involving an impaired driver in the Lehigh Valley (Lehigh and Northampton counties) and 162 crashes in PennDOT’s District 5, which encompasses Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Schuylkill counties. Of these crashes, eight resulted in fatalities.

Motorists are reminded that a variety of substances can impair someone’s ability to operate a motor vehicle, and buzzed driving is drunk driving.

Alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs can slow a driver’s coordination, judgment and reaction times, while cocaine and methamphetamine can make drivers more aggressive and reckless.

Some prescription and over-the-counter medicines can cause extreme drowsiness, dizziness, and other side effects.

Motorists should read and follow

all warning labels and note any that warn against “operating heavy machinery,” which includes driving a vehicle.

During the holiday period, high-visibility enforcement efforts such as roving DUI patrols and sobriety checkpoints are conducted to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities involving impaired drivers.

The enforcement activities are funded through PennDOT’s statewide annual distribution from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

More information on impaired driving can be found at www.PennDOT.pa.gov/safety.

This is the 22nd year the Lehigh Valley Highway Safety Task Force has been in existence, and to date, hundreds of enforcement activities have been conducted.

There have been thousands of individuals tested for DUI and subsequently arrested for driving under the influence.

The task force is comprised of dozens of police departments throughout the Lehigh Valley, along with PennDOT, the business community and health care representatives.

17TH ANNUAL **ABES** SALUTE LEHIGH VALLEY STAGE

An attitude of gratitude as shows, theater-goers return

The year 2022 was a reset for individuals, families, businesses, government, religion groups, health-care institutions, nonprofits and the arts and entertainment community.



Paul Willistein
 pwillistein@tronline.com

Though coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic shutdowns were largely history, albeit, recent history, as in 2021 and 2020, and the wearing of face masks was mostly optional as the year unfolded, the presentation of stage shows at theaters in the Lehigh Valley returned to near normal in 2022.

In the spirit of "Let's put on a show," Focus had relaunched the "Curtain Rises" column in 2020. How about that for timing? Kathy Lauer-Williams hardly had anything to write about.

That changed in 2022, when there was a lot to preview and review. A few area shows halted a performance or several when cast members, production crew or audience members tested positive for COVID-19.

Attendance at shows that I attended, often opening night, seemed to be less than sold-out during summer 2022.

Attendance at opening nights when I attended during the year-end holiday season shows appeared to be near-capacity. Some holiday shows sold out for the duration of their runs.

Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, following the retirement of co-founders Charles Richter and Curtis Dretsch, did not return in summer 2022 af-

ter being dark in 2021 and 2020, having completed its 39th season in 2019.

At The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival at DeSales University, Center Valley, PSF Producing Artistic Director Patrick Mulcahy stepped down after 19 years to continue teaching at DeSales. Jason King Jones is the new PSF Artistic Director. Casey William Gallagher continues with added duties as PSF Managing Director. Also continuing is Dennis Raze as PSF Associate Artistic Director.

At Touchstone Theatre, Bethlehem, Touchstone Co-Founder Bill George became Touchstone's first Ensemble Member Emeritus.

At The Pennsylvania Playhouse, Bethlehem, Rody Gilkeson stepped down as President of the Board of Directors.

The Freddys were live and in-person for the 20th anniversary on the State Theatre Center for the Arts, Easton, stage in May 2022 with State Theatre President and CEO Shelley Brown as emcee.

That "onward and upward" stalwart, Jeff Weiss, the Allentown resident who achieved his most noteworthy success in New York City with Obie Awards for his off-off Broadway plays produced with his five-decades collaborator and life partner Richard C. Martinez, died Sept. 18, 2022. Weiss was 82.

A discouraging trend for this reviewer was the dearth of orchestras and ensembles for musicals in the Lehigh Valley. Concerns about COVID proximity, budget constraints and the ability to have more rehearsals with recorded music are factors. Even so, it's disap-



Mark Stutz, standing, center, "Indecent," Civic Theatre of Allentown.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY BILL BASTA



From left: Samantha Beedle, Emma Ackerman, "Christmas City Follies XXIII," Touchstone Theatre.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: TOUCHSTONE THEATRE



Juanita-Renay Gray (Celie), "The Color Purple," Civic Theatre of Allentown.

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pointing to hear recorded music tracks at a musical. Kudos to Northampton Community College Summer Theatre Producing Artistic Director Bill Mutimer and NCC Summer Music Theater Music Director Lucille De Masi Kincaid for

keeping the live music in live musicals.

In talking informally with leaders in the Lehigh Valley theater community after productions that I attended, a theme that emerged for 2022 was of the producers, directors

and actors grateful to perform live theater again on stage in front of audiences.

An attitude of gratitude seems to be alive and well in the Lehigh Valley theater community not only for performers See **ABES** on Page B2

THEATER REVIEWS LIST APPEARS ON PAGE B6

2022 year of renewal for theater

CURTAIN RISES



By Kathy Lauer-Williams

It's been a year of renewal for theater in 2022.

After two years of quarantine, theater troupes were in-person on stage with COVID-19 shutdowns, hopefully, a thing of the past.

At first, social-distancing, face masks and proof of vaccination were part of the theater experience. But by the second half of the year, things were starting to feel, dare I say, normal.

Theaters responded enthusiastically, offering a wide variety of plays and musicals, many of which were outstanding.

Here are my choices for the best theater of 2022 in the Lehigh Valley:

Best Set, Staging: "The SpongeBob Musical," Civic Theatre of Allentown. Everything came together to



"A Chorus Line," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY LEE A. BUTZ

make Civic's "The SpongeBob Musical" feel like you were dropped in the middle of a real-life cartoon. Director William Sanders' attention to every detail made the show a near immersive experience, while Will Morris' lighting design gave the stage that underwater feel, and Morris and Jan Joyce's set was aquatically atmospheric. Add to that a large colorful cast and spot-on performances by the leads and you have a real audience-pleaser.

Best Ensemble: "Clue: On Stage," Cedar Crest College Theatre. "Clue: On Stage" took the fun of playing a board game and turned it into an evening of laughs. The talented ensemble cast made the familiar characters from the game "Clue" distinct

and memorable. At times, the show had a Keystone Kops quality when the characters frantically ran, sometimes in circles, as they raced from room to room. Giving great performances in the roles of the six suspects were Robert Trexler (Colonel Mustard), Noel Cruz (Miss Scarlet), Alex Vidal Perez (Mrs. White), Carter Reichard (Mrs. Peacock), Mark Eichorn (Professor Plum) and Andrew Galindez (Mr. Green). However, it was Nik Georgievski (Wadsworth the Butler) who several times stole the show.

Best Actor: Bill George, "Odysseus," Touchstone Theatre. Touchstone Theatre's Bill George delivered a bold and emotional tour de force in "Odysseus," his compelling one-man play based on Ho-

mer's epic Greek tale. Accompanied only by musician Rob Aptaker, George commanded the stage during the intense two- and one-half hours, during which he portrayed a pantheon of characters from gods and goddesses, including Zeus, Poseidon and Athena, to human mortals such as Odysseus, his son Telemachus and his wife Penelope. Most memorable were George's highly-emotional moments such as when a prostrate Odysseus weeps in despair on the beach.

Best Actress: Trish Cipoletti, "All You Need to Know," Crowded Kitchen Players. Trish Cipoletti was remarkable as Althea Ruff, the woman at the center of Ara Barlieb's new play, "All You Need to Know," which

pitted a business-minded arts commission against a woman dying of a degenerative disease. Cipoletti gave Althea an honest grittiness that made the audience (and at least some of the commission) care about her. She transformed before the audience's eyes in riveting fashion.

Best Original Play: "Kitchen Chronicles," Touchstone Theatre. "Kitchen Chronicles" is the culmination of a multi-year project led by Mary Wright, a Touchstone Ensemble Member. The result is joyous, touching, heartbreaking and piercingly honest. Joined on stage by her real-life daughter Katie Willmorth, the two women played a mother and daughter

See **THEATER** on Page B3

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ABES

Continued from page B1

and those involved with the productions, but for audiences, as well. I know that I am grateful.

It's what the ABEs, as in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton, awards for Lehigh Valley theater, is all about: A thank you to those who put on the shows.

The ABEs is not intended to be encyclopedic, nor competitive, but rather celebrates the Lehigh Valley theater community.

There were 33 plays reviewed by Lehigh Valley Press Focus in 2022.

The 17th annual ABEs are based on shows that I attended, some of which I did not review.

In 2022, Douglas Graves reviewed seven plays, Dave Howell reviewed six plays and Paul Willistein reviewed 20 plays.

That compares to a total of 19 plays reviewed in 2021 and 43 reviewed in 2019, in the "before times," pre-COVID.

The number of plays reviewed in 2020 wasn't tallied because there were too few shows to count, although many thespians developed new skill sets for live-stream and digitally-cast performances.

For comparison, there were 41 theater reviews in Focus in 2018; 35 theater reviews in Focus in 2017; 39 theater reviews in 2016, 38 theater reviews in 2015, and 31 theater reviews in 2014.

In addition to theater reviews, the theater column previewing shows, "Curtain Rises," is published weekly (with a few exceptions) in Lehigh Valley Press Focus.

Theater reviews on the Lehigh Valley Press Focus website page can be searched by title, theater and review publication date on the Focus page of Lehigh Valley Press:

tehighvalleypress.com/focus

The overall ABEs categories are:

Professional Theater, whereby the actors, often members of Actors Equity, a professional union, are cast in most of the lead roles, and the technical positions are typically fulfilled by members of professional stagecraft unions.

Community Theater, whereby a theater group's staff may be paid, but the actors usually are not.

For shows presented in 2022, we've gone back to the more detailed categories, last seen in the 14th annual ABEs for shows presented in 2019.

Here are the 17th annual ABEs for shows presented in 2022:

COMMUNITY THEATER

Producer: William Sanders, Civic Theater of Allentown Artistic Director. Sanders presented a creative balance of crowd-pleasers on the Main Stage ("Spamalot," "The SpongeBob Musical," "A Christmas Carol") and edgy material on the Main Stage (including two Lehigh Valley premieres: "The Color Purple," "Indecent") and in Theatre514 (the Lehigh Valley premiere of "Significant Other"). The avant-garde shows are welcome, and are in the vein of work produced by and/or presented at the former Theatre Outlet, Allentown Public Theatre and Allentown Arts Center.

Musical: "The Color Purple," Civic Theatre of Allentown. From the review of the Lehigh Valley premiere: "'The Color Purple' at Civic Theater of Allentown is one of the most astounding locally-produced musical theater performances I've seen in the Lehigh Valley.

... The Civic Theatre of Allentown production of 'The Color Purple' will be regarded as a landmark production in Lehigh Valley theater."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Patrick Mulcahy, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival Producing Artistic Director, stepped down in 2022.

Original Musical: "The Rising: The Irish Rebellion of 1916 in Song and Verse," Crowded Kitchen Players." The hybrid theatrical presentation recounts the story of the World War I Era rebellion. Although it wasn't a musical per se in that the cast doesn't break into song and dance, it had a lot of music. The songs, written, sung and performed on acoustic guitar by Joey Mutis III of The Electric Farm brought insight and solace to the world premiere of the original play written and directed by Ara Barlieb, CKP co-founder with Pamela McLean Wallace.

Actress, Musical: Juanita-Renay Gray (Celie), "The Color Purple," Civic Theatre of Allentown. From the review: "Juanita-Renay Gray is absolutely the most astounding of the show's astounding performers as Celie, the much put-upon protagonist. Her frame seems to transform from as fragile as that of a child to as strong as that of a superhero. Her body language and facial expressions are winsome, tragic and triumphant. Gray has several spotlight numbers, with 'I'm Here' the clincher that she pours her heart, soul and phenomenal voice into."

Actor, Musical: Micah Henning (Jim Hardy), "Holiday Inn," The Pennsylvania Playhouse. This was the first time I've seen Henning on stage. His voice is incredible, especially, in "The Little Things in Life," "Blue Skies"; with Elizabeth Marsh-Gilkeson (Linda Mason), "Marching Along with Time" and "Let's Take an Old-Fashioned Walk," and with Marsh-Gilkeson and Trevor Colahan (Ted Hanover), "Let's Start the New Year Right" and "Be Careful, It's My Heart."

Ensemble, Musical: "The Color Purple," Civic Theatre of Allentown. In addition to Juanita-Renay Gray (Celie), there's Krystal Danielle (Shug Avery), with several showstoppers ("Push Da Button," "Too Beautiful for Words," "What About Love?" and the title song, "The Color Purple"); Ne'Lashee (Sofia) in "Dear God"; Veronica Cummings (Nettie) in "It's Easter Sunday"; Abigail Ariza (Squeak) in "Brown Betty," with Harpo (Justin Parker-Fields), Celie and the Male Ensemble, and Jaciel Cordoba (Mister) in "Mister's Song." From the review: "The production has powerful ensemble singing with wonderful choral work..."

Director, Musical: Fredi Walker-Browne, with Assistant Director Nina Elias Ace, "The Color Purple," Civic Theatre of Allentown. From the review: "Walker-Browne keeps the production upbeat and fun, but doesn't diminish the somber moments and serious subject matter. She has gotten consistently excellent performances from the 19-member cast."

Choreography, Musical: Jennifer Dorn, "Holiday Inn," The Pennsylvania Playhouse. Several production numbers feature ensemble



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY LEE A. BUTZ

From left: Akeem Davis (Benedick), Brett Ashley Robinson (Beatrice), "Much Ado About Nothing," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY LEE A. BUTZ

From left: Tony Todd (Troy Maxson), Ella Joyce (Rose Maxson), "Fences," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival.

tap-dancing in the Lehigh Valley premiere directed by Roddy Gilkeson. When the tappers form a circle and, tap-shoes outward, make the wheel turn, I was won over. Just terrific.

Play: "Indecent," Civic Theatre of Allentown. The Lehigh Valley premiere of "Indecent" was a courageous choice. From the review: "It's that other play, the play that 'Indecent' refers to, from which the title is derived. ... 'God of Vengeance' by Sholem Asch, a Polish-Jewish playwright who emigrated to the United States, is the play within the play. ... 'Civic Theater's production of 'Indecent' tells the story in a contemplative manner as directed by William Sanders, Civic Theatre of Allentown Artistic Director. ... 'Sanders' production is elegant in design, direction and acting. Choreography by Sanders and Ava Pirie gives a fluidity to the actors' movements, which include slow-motion, stop-action, and the exuberance of jazz-era dancing. ... 'Indecent' is an important work and one of the boldest theater productions in decades on the Lehigh Valley stage."

Original Play: "All You Need to Know," Crowded Kitchen Players. The world premiere of the original play, written and directed by Ara Barlieb, is a humorous and thought-provoking look at government funding of the arts. The play takes a measure of those who might exploit the arts to obtain funding and those who might be exploited by the arts-funders.

Actress, Play: Veronica Bocian (Kiki), "Significant Other," Civic Theatre of Allentown. From the review: "Bocian makes a bawdy role cute and innocent. Her looney-goosey mannerisms, great comedic timing and droll line delivery provide many of the play's biggest laughs."

Actor, Play: Matt Gurniak (Jordan Berman), "Significant Other," Civic Theatre of Allentown. From the review: "Gurniak was remarkable in every way, including his dance moves. Moreover, Gurniak portrays a range of emotions, hitting all the right notes that renders this a performance to remember. ... Gurniak especially conveys this joy of theater with moon-face smile, exuberant body language and an ability to fold up like a rag doll and let the emotions cry like tears. ... Those who see Gurniak in 'Significant Other' may say, 'I saw him when.' This young man is Broadway, Netflix- and Hollywood-bound."

Ensemble, Play: "Indecent," Civic Theatre of Allentown. From the review: "Each of the actors in 'Indecent,' true to the play's concept, portray multiple roles and each is listed in the playbill as Actor, with the exception of Lemml, the Stage Manager. ... Jason Roth, as Lemml, creates a sense of vulnerability and enthusiasm that is emotionally-resonant. Anthony Rizzuto as Sholem Asch effectively conveys brooding, foreboding and inner turmoil. Mark Stutz is riveting in multiple roles. Will Windsor Erwin is memorable in multiple roles. Patricia Birnbaum provides comedic relief in multiple roles. Abigail Creighton and Kate Pistone are outstanding as the women in love whose love knows no bounds."

Director, Play: Will Morris, "Significant Other," Civic Theatre of Allentown. From the review: "The cast is superb, as is the production, directed by Civic Theatre of Allentown Associate Artistic Director Will Morris with his trademark eye for detail (down to a double-shadow lighting effect cast by characters in key moments). Morris and Civic are establishing Theatre514 as an off-Broadway equivalent. The level of acting, stagecraft and production values are equal to what you'd see in New York or Philadelphia. Morris directs with a cinematic certainty. Sets spin. Scenes change with head-spinning speed. A character steps out of a scene for audience direct-address commentary. Another character relates an anecdote which then becomes a scene. Cell phones, emails and the like of contemporary communication inform the plot. The entire effect is like stepping into a movie. As a director, Morris has the ability to give actors flight."

Costume Design: Florence Taylor, "The Color Purple," Civic Theatre of Allentown. From the review: "The costumes are noteworthy for their variety and authenticity by Costume Designer Florence Taylor."

Scene Design: Will Morris, Jan Joyce, "The SpongeBob Musical," Civic Theatre of Allentown. Scenic Designers Will Morris and Jan Joyce (also, Scenic Artist), along with Prop Master Jason Sizemore, turn the Nineteenth Theatre Main Stage into an under-the-sea fantasia.

Lighting Design: Will Morris, "The SpongeBob Musical," Civic Theatre of Allentown. Lighting Designer Will Morris gave the fishes something to swim about.

Sound Design: Randall Utsch, "A Christmas Carol," Civic Theatre of Allentown. Sound Designer Randall Utsch not only rattled the chains of The Ghost of Christmas Present (a memorable Troy Brokenshire), he creates chills for other ghostly scenes as well as the cozy comfort of the Cratchit family and their children, and the chorale finale.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeff Weiss, left, with hands raised, performing with La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, New York City. Weiss, of Allentown, died in 2022.



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From left: Trevor Colahan (Ted Hanover), Elizabeth Marsh-Gilkeson (Linda Mason), Micah Henning (Jim Hardy), "Holiday Inn," Pennsylvania Playhouse.

mas Carol," Civic Theatre of Allentown. Sound Designer Randall Utsch not only rattled the chains of The Ghost of Christmas Present (a memorable Troy Brokenshire), he creates chills for other ghostly scenes as well as the cozy comfort of the Cratchit family and their children, and the chorale finale.

Tim Roche Memorial "Meanwhile ..." Civic Theatre of Allentown. From the review: "Each of the actors in 'Indecent,' true to the play's concept, portray multiple roles and each is listed in the playbill as Actor, with the exception of Lemml, the Stage Manager. ... Jason Roth, as Lemml, creates a sense of vulnerability and enthusiasm that is emotionally-resonant. Anthony Rizzuto as Sholem Asch effectively conveys brooding, foreboding and inner turmoil. Mark Stutz is riveting in multiple roles. Will Windsor Erwin is memorable in multiple roles. Patricia Birnbaum provides comedic relief in multiple roles. Abigail Creighton and Kate Pistone are outstanding as the women in love whose love knows no bounds."

PROFESSIONAL THEATER

Producer: Patrick Mulcahy, Producing Artistic Director, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. PSF offered a roundelay of plays and musicals that was a poetic and delightful refrain of fully-staged productions on the Main Stage and in Shubert Theatre. The range, talent and depth again set the gold standard for theater in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Mulcahy concluded his tenure in grand style, sensitivity and entertainment.

Director, Musical: Luis Villabon, "A Chorus Line," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. From the review: "'A Chorus Line' is the ultimate musical. It strips the musical down to its bare essentials (Literally: The stage is bare); the chorus line, the dancers, the dancing, the steps (and the steps are incredible, as are the dancers), and the steps required to get in the chorus line of a Broadway musical, in talent, pluck and dumb luck." Director, Choreographer Luis Villabon gets it all from the dancers. And they put it all on stage.

Musical: "A Chorus Line," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. "A Chorus Line" is as it does, and PSF does it incredibly well. When the cast puts on the gold-lame outfits and top hats and breaks into The Rockettes-like kick line, you want to stand up and cheer. I know I did. From the review: "If you're going to see one professional musical (12 Actors Equity Association members among the 27-member cast) for summer 2022, PSF's 'A Chorus Line' is the one. You don't need to schlep to New York City. This is Broadway on Station Avenue."

Original Musical: "Christmas City Fol-

lies XXIII," Touchstone Theatre: The Touchstone Ensemble was back in fine form, with a kinder, gentler, more introspective "Follies" that includes heartfelt concern about the War in Ukraine. It is bittersweet because Touchstone Ensemble Member Emma Ackerman announces that this, her 15th season, with Touchstone Theatre, is her final season.

Choreography: Luis Villabon, "A Chorus Line," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Trot out the superlatives. This is the "One," the "singular sensation." From the review: "And, boy, do they have the dancers for the brilliantly-conceived 'A Chorus Line' in the brilliant production by Director-Choreographer Luis Villabon."

Actress, Musical: Sissy Bell (Cassie), "A Chorus Line," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. From the review: "Cassie (Sissy Bell, a ravishing mixture of vulnerability and nerves of steel), with 'The Music And The Mirror' scores with the show's most iconic scene, whereby huge vertical mirrors rotate..."

Actor, Musical: Jadon Lopez (Angel), "Rent," Northampton Community College Summer Theatre. From my review: "Lopez, who is a great vocalist, has outstanding dance abilities and as an actor disappears into the role. Lopez brought the audience to his bright eyes, his engaging smile, his energetic body in every scene he was in. His rendition of 'Today For You' is riveting. Lopez's duet on 'I'll Cover You' with Daniel J. Hurt (Collins) is phenomenally moving."

Ensemble, Musical: "A Chorus Line," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. From the review: "After all, the essence of 'A Chorus Line' is the dancing. Talk about extensions. Shaun-Avery Williams (Richie) does a triple spread-eagle jump (also known as a star jump) that will make you want to put your chiropractor on speed-dial. Also a standout: Musa Hitomi (Connie), who brings the spotlight to her with 'Hello Twelve,' along with Patrick Higgins (Mark), just outstanding. And let's not forget Kathryn Brunner (Val), sensationally sassy, whose 'Dance Ten; Looks Three' leaves little to the imagination, in a fun way. Putting it all together is James Harkness (Zach), whose disembodied voice looms over all like the Wizard of Oz."

Original Play: "Odysseus," Bill George. Touchstone Theatre. "Odysseus" is more than a tour de force. It is a monumental and im-

ABES

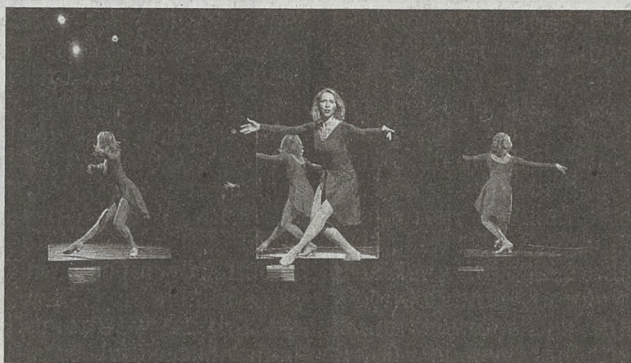
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portant work that puts the follies of men (and women) through the lens of Ancient Greece. The journey is profound and fun in ways unexpected in the work created and performed by Bill George.

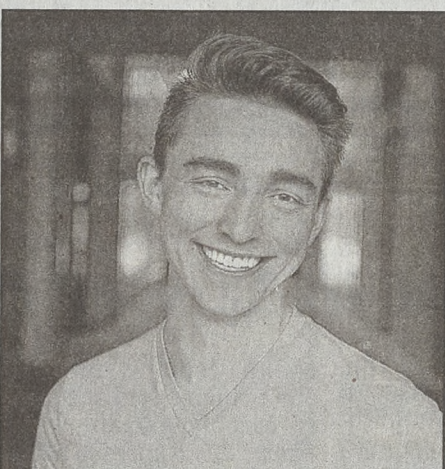
Actress, Play, Ella Joyce (Rose Maxson), "Fences," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. From the review: "a confrontation between Troy and his wife Rose (a superb Ella Joyce in a nuanced performance). Rose wilts like a flower at hearing Troy's devastating confession. The scene is played with sensitivity and grace by Joyce."

Actor, Play: Tony Todd (Troy Maxson), "Fences," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. From the review: "At the center of the tense drama is Tony Todd in a magnificent portrayal as Troy Maxson, whose dream deferred become the stuff of nightmares for family and friends who face his often-uncontrollable anger."

Ensemble, Play: "Fences," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Led by a towering and explosive performance by Tony Todd (Troy Maxson), and accompanied by a performance of resigned sensitivity by Ella Joyce (his wife, Rose Maxson). From my review: "Providing comedic relief amidst the family drama and trauma is



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY LEE A. BUTZ
Sissy Bell (Cassie), "A Chorus Line," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival.



Matt Gurniak (Jordan Berman), "Significant Other," Civic Theatre of Allentown.

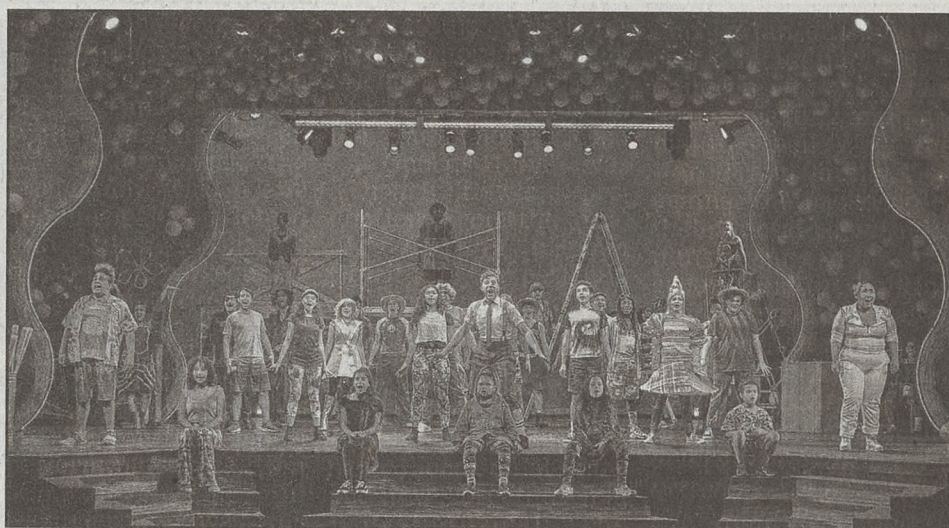
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brandon Edward Burton (Lyons) in an amusing performance), Troy's son, who pops in and out at the sound of Troy's wallet opening. ... Brian D. Coats (Gabriel), in a remarkable performance as Troy's brother is a person with differences because of a World War II wound ... Ilan Annum (Raynell) in a lovely performance arrives late in the storyline, bringing optimism to the family and life to its future."

Director, Play: Matt

Pfeiffer, "Much Ado About Nothing," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. From the review: "As directed by Matt Pfeiffer and with a versatile and vibrant cast, 'Much Ado's' merriment and mirth explodes from the stage and, in at least one instance opening night (July 15, the performance seen for this review), spills over and nearly lands in the lap of the audience."

Costume Design: Michael McDonald, "A Chorus Line," Pennsylv-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY BILL BASTA

"The SpongeBob Musical," Civic Theatre of Allentown.



Fredi Walker-Browne, Director, "The Color Purple," Civic Theatre of Allentown.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Richard Latta, "A Chorus Line," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. From the review: "The finale is rendered brilliantly by Lighting Designer Richard Latta. Each dancer looks more like a ringmaster than the next, trotting in a high-step circle like thoroughbreds in a circus fantasia so powerful it's frightening."

Sound Design: Larry D. Fowler, Jr., "Fences," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. From the review: "Evocative transitions with snippets of memorable recordings ... Fats Domino's 'Blue Monday' (released as a single in 1956 and on an album in 1957; the play is set in 1957), and Sam Cooke's 'A Change Is Gonna Come' (written by Cooke; released in 1964, and a Civil Rights Movement anthem)."

nia Shakespeare Festival. From the review: "The actors convene in unbelievably gaudy, gold-trimmed costumes (Las Vegas on Station Avenue?). Costume Designer Michael McDonald also notates perfectly the personalities and 1970s' ethos of the cast in their street clothes and dance outfits."

Scenic Design: Bar-

on E. Pugh, "Fences," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. From the review: "Scenic Designer Baron E. Pugh creates a realistic brick front two-story facade (cleverly translucent) with a front porch, flanked by two huge trees, with a clothes line and, of course, those fences."

Lighting Design:

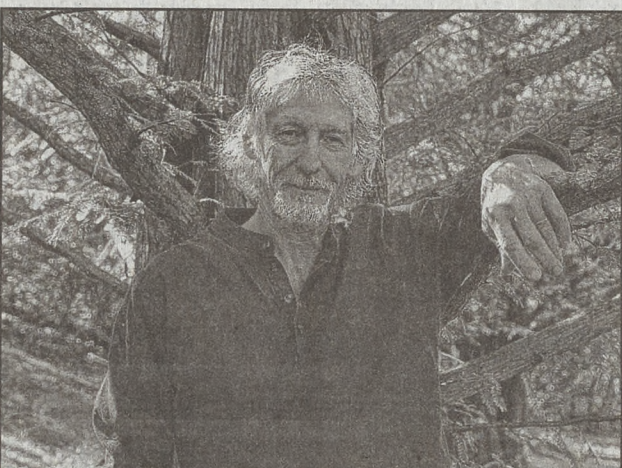
THEATER

Continued from page B1

and made the audience feel they were sitting in their own kitchen. With humor and heart, Wright and Willmorth explored the push and pull between generations in a loving and heartfelt tribute to the under-sung heart of the home.

Best Director: Jessica Bedford, "Silent Sky," Act 1 DeSales University Theatre. Lauren Gunderson's story of one of the first female astronomers who was instrumental in the understanding of the structure and size of the universe, was an outstandingly lovely and compelling production from Act 1. From the magical star-studded set to the wonderfully passionate performances of the cast, the play tells a story set in a time when women had few choices. Director Jessica Bedford used a deft hand to show the heart-breaking sacrifices the main character had to make to pursue her career.

Best Comedy: "Monty Python's Spamalot," Civic Theatre of Allentown. Entertaining skits, over-the-top production numbers and outrageous performances elevated Civic Theatre's inspired production of "Monty Python's Spamalot." The talented cast turned in hilarious takes on the memorable characters



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: TOUCHSTONE THEATRE

Bill George, "Odysseus," Touchstone Theatre.

loosely based on King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The craziness was non-stop, while director Will Morris skillfully held all the chaos together in one spectacularly funny package.

Best Play (Professional): "Jeffrey," Northampton Community College Summer Theater. Northampton Community College Summer Theater presented a hilarious and heartwarming "Jeffrey," the poignant look at love during the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s. The production had a great performance by Danny Rowe as the conflicted Jeffrey. On stage for most of the play, Rowe is the heart of the show, conveying an almost frantic energy that moves everything forward. The rest of the cast also gave standout performances, portraying everyone from a flamboyant dancer in "Cats"

to a postmodern televangelist self-help guru. Director Bill Mutimer kept the tone buoyant, while still allowing the more serious moments to come through.

Best Play (Small Theater): "Stupid (expletive deleted) Bird," Between The Lines Studio Theatre. Between The Lines Studio Theatre's production of "Stupid (expletive deleted) Bird" was sublimely smart and unexpectedly hilarious. The play, a modern-day adaptation of Chekhov's 1896 play "The Seagull," was crackled with insight as it pondered the complexity of relationships, the cruelty of love, and the drive to create art. The ensemble cast was excellent in the dark, funny and occasionally-profound piece.

Best Play: "Indecent," Civic Theatre of Allentown. Civic Theatre's "Indecent" was a moving and dev-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: TOUCHSTONE THEATRE

From left: Katie Willmorth, Mary Wright, "Kitchen Chronicles," Touchstone Theatre.

astating testament to the power of the arts. Director William Sanders crafted a thoughtful and intelligent interpretation of Paula Vogel's award-winning play inspired by the true story of the controversial Broadway debut of Sholem Asch's "God of Vengeance" in 1923. With uniformly excellent performances, the production was poetic and musical as it delved into issues such as anti-Semitism, persecution by the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Holocaust. The scenes of the troupe wearing the yellow Star of David on their lapels performing scenes from "God of Vengeance" in Nazi Germany was particularly poignant.

Best Musical (Professional): "A Chorus Line," Pennsylvania

Shakespeare Festival. "A Chorus Line" marked a triumphant return of Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival's splashy summer musicals and the production was Broadway-caliber. From Luis Villabon's spot-on choreography to Michael McDonald's picture-perfect costumes to the outstanding cast, "A Chorus Line" was a nearly flawless production. From the organized chaos of "I Hope I Get it" to the perfectly synchronized kicks and formations of "One," the performers were a joy to watch. Villabon recreated the iconic Michael Bennett choreography from the original show and it was breathtaking.

Best Musical: "The Sound of Music," Act 1 DeSales University Theatre. Act 1 DeSales University Theatre's

lovely production of "The Sound of Music" was totally delightful as well as moving. The musical was as beautiful to look at as it was to listen to. A wonderful Maria in Abigail Vernon led an outstanding cast, including seven children who were natural, appealing and harmonized well. When the Von Trapp family fled against the backdrop of the mountains, with the nuns singing in the foreground and the lighting mimicking early dawn, the effect was stunning.

"Curtain Rises" is a column about the theater, stage shows, the actors in them and the directors and artists who make them happen. To request coverage, email: Paul Willistein, Focus editor, pwilistein@tnonline.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY JACOB METZGER

ABOVE: Abigail Vernon (Maria), left, "The Sound of Music," Act 1 DeSales University Theatre.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: CKP

RIGHT: From left: Pamela McLean Wallace, Trish Cipoletti, "All You Need To Know," Crowded Kitchen Players.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: LVHN

Lehigh Valley Hospital Network and community leaders at groundbreaking for LVH - Macungie Hospital and Health Center at Macungie on site of former Weis Market along Route 100, Lower Macungie Township.

LVHN acute-care facility to be built in Lower Macungie

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) is to open a new hospital in Lower Macungie Township at the border with Macungie Borough to help meet increasing demand for accessible, convenient ER and inpatient care.

Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) - Macungie is expected to open by the end of 2023.

The new hospital is at a new healthcare campus at the former Weis Market site, 3369 Route 100. A medical office building, the Health Center at Macungie, is part of the project.

The new hospital is a type of facility known in healthcare industry as a neighborhood hospital, with a full-service ER and a limited number of inpatient beds. At about 20,000-square-feet, it will be smaller than other LVHN hospitals in the region such as LVH - Cedar Crest, LVH - Muhlenberg and LVH - Hecktown Oaks.

The hospital will be a

licensed and accredited acute care hospital, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Patients requiring surgery or higher levels of care will be stabilized and transferred to other, larger LVHN hospitals.

Other in-house hospital services will include lab, imaging and pharmacy.

Imaging services, including X-ray, ultrasound, CT scan and MRI will be offered on an outpatient basis.

The Health Center at Macungie, at about 30,000-square-feet, will house medical services, including HNL Lab Medicine, Lehigh Valley Physician Group (LVPG) family medicine, orthopedics, cardiology and pediatrics practices.

The health center will offer outpatient adult rehabilitation and cardiac and vascular diagnostic testing.

"As the region's leading healthcare partner, we're committed to making exceptional health-

care, including emergency care, more convenient and accessible across-the-board," said Brian A. Nester, DO, MBA, President and Chief Executive Officer, LVHN, at the Dec. 5 groundbreaking.

"This hospital will provide closer access to emergency and inpatient care for residents where they live and work, when and where they need it. It strengthens the entire health network for the benefit of our communities and their residents," Nester said.

David Burmeister, DO, Chair, Department of Emergency and Hospital Medicine, LVHN, said the neighborhood hospital model will deliver shorter ER wait times and favorable door-to-discharge times.

"Patients will receive the same high-quality, compassionate care and exceptional patient experience that have made LVHN the gold standard in the region," Burmeister said.

"LVH - Macungie

fills a need by creating a health care option not currently available in this region," said John Pierro, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, LVHN.

"This facility offers more capability than an ExpressCARE, with experience and expertise to treat the same cases that would traditionally be treated and released at a larger hospital, such as Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest," Pierro said.

LVHN is planning several other similar hospitals in the region.

Announcements about groundbreaking for those facilities will occur over the coming months as necessary approvals are secured.

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) includes 13 hospital campuses, four in Allentown, two in Bethlehem, one in Easton, one in East Stroudsburg, one in Hazleton, two in Pottsville, one in Dickson City, and one in Lehigh; 28

health centers; numerous primary and specialty care physician practices; 20 ExpressCARE locations, including the area's only Children's ExpressCARE; pharmacy, imaging, home health, rehabilitation and lab services, and preferred provider services through Valley Preferred.

Specialty care includes: trauma care for adults and children, burn care at the Regional Burn Center; kidney and pancreas transplants; perinatal-neonatal, cardiac, cancer, orthopedics, neurology, complex neurosurgery capabilities including national certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, and robotic surgery in 10 specialties.

Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute, Lehigh Valley Heart and Vascular Institute, Lehigh Valley Institute for Surgical Excellence, Lehigh Valley Orthopedic Institute and Lehigh Valley Fleming Neuroscience

Institute physicians provide the most advanced treatments.

Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute is a member of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer (MSK) Alliance, an initiative that helps community providers improve the quality of cancer care and offers access to MSK clinical trials.

Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital, the third largest children's hospital in Pennsylvania, provides care in more than 30 specialties and general pediatrics.

Lehigh Valley Hospital - Cedar Crest is ranked as the region's No. 1 hospital for nine straight years and has been recognized among Pennsylvania's top 10 hospitals for nine consecutive years by U.S. News & World Report.

Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) - Cedar Crest, LVH - 17th Street and LVH - Muhlenberg are the region's only Magnet hospitals for nursing excellence.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE: LVHN

Artist's rendering of Health Center at Macungie.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE: LVHN

Artist's rendering of LVH - Macungie Hospital

LVHN annual meeting emphasizes growth, excellent care

Lehigh Valley Health Network's (LVHN) President and Chief Executive Officer cited the expansion of one new hospital, the opening of two others, the construction of yet another and the establishment of two new Institutes as the tip of the iceberg to improve access to high-quality, compassionate care as he addressed the organization's Community Annual Meeting.

Speaking at Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) - Cedar Crest, Brian A. Nester, DO, MBA, also presented the care experiences of several patients through photos and video to demonstrate how LVHN's physicians and other caregivers helped them overcome health challenges like kidney failure, COVID-19, endometrial cancer, stroke, orthopedic injuries and premature birth. The theme of his remarks was "Excellent care always matters at LVHN."

"Tonight, I am humbled to represent my colleagues, the 20,000 healthcare professionals of the LVHN family, to share examples of our collective commitment to excellent care," Nester



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: LVHN

Lehigh Valley Health Network President and Chief Executive Officer Brian A. Nester, DO, MBA, addresses LVHN Community Annual Meeting at Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) - Cedar Crest.

said Dec. 7. "It includes our pledge to make care easily accessible, our relentless drive to take healthcare to new heights, and our vow to deliver care with a compassionate, personalized touch."

Nester said several expansions at Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) - Hecktown Oaks, Northampton County, since it opened in June 2021 are the result of

the number of people seeking care there. The additional construction included the opening of a four-story tower with 30 beds, a therapy gym and a state-of-the-art intensive care unit (ICU). The hospital was designated a Level IV Trauma Center by the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) in November, making it the fifth LVHN hospital to receive trauma center

accreditation.

Nester noted the opening last spring of two new LVHN hospitals three weeks apart in Dickson City, Lackawanna County, and Lehigh, Carbon County, offering more access to residents in those communities. And on Dec. 5, there was a groundbreaking for a new neighborhood hospital in Lower Macungie Township, to meet increasing demand for

accessible ER and inpatient care. It will be called LVH - Macungie.

Nester said beyond new facilities to provide LVHN patients care close to home, it's also important that existing services and programs evolve to offer patients the latest treatments and best physicians. That's why LVHN's Institutes continue to expand and grow and why two new Institutes, Lehigh Valley Orthopedic Institute and Lehigh Valley Fleming Neuroscience Institute, were created this year to fill vital needs in two specialties.

Nester said the Fleming Neuroscience Institute is just one specialty where experts have joined LVHN who offer unique treatments, including deep brain stimulation surgery for movement disorders such as tremors and Parkinson's disease.

Nester cited the 10th anniversary of Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital in 2022, the community's only Children's Hospital. He said the hospital's Children's ER demonstrates another example of meeting community need as it has grown from caring for

1,600 children per month in 2016 to a record 3,200 children in October 2022.

"If you're a parent, you appreciate the peace of mind in knowing that specialized care, from newborns to teens, is available close to home," Nester said. "That's what our Children's Hospital provides."

In its annual report, the health network reported operating income of \$78.4 million for fiscal year 2022 (FY22), or an operating margin of 2.0 percent, despite an increase in expenses attributed mainly to higher costs associated with wages, supplies and purchased services.

Outpatient registration was up 37 percent. ExpressCARE visits increased almost 50 percent compared to fiscal year 2021.

ER visits were up 21 percent in FY22.

In FY22, the number of visits to Lehigh Valley Physician Group (LVPG) practices increased by close to 400,000, bringing the total to 3.6 million visits.

LVHN's "2022 Report to the Community":

<https://www.lvhn.org/annualreport>

Set boundaries for emails, texts

Dear Jacquelyn,
I find myself yearning for the old days of just having a landline. My family and friends' text and email at all hours of the day. I don't keep my cell phone with me all the time and I'm not always on-line. Everyone seems to want an immediate response. Are there rules for response time so not to offend anyone?

Dear Reader,
It seems the good, old-fashioned telephone call has gone by the way-side.
Although fast, emails and texts bring about their own set of challenges.
It's understandable that being bombarded with texts and emails leaves you wondering how to handle all the

and friends.
Make them aware that you do not keep your cell phone on you 24-7 and that you are not constantly logged onto the Internet. This lets them know you are not intentionally ignoring them.
If you prefer phone calls or talking in person, let them know.
In a world where the expected response time is getting shorter, managing your communication is just as important as managing your personal space.
It's alright to ignore the pressure to respond immediately. Typically, response time rules vary depending on who is trying to reach you.
Assuming you set some ground rules, it's reasonable to respond to personal emails within 48 hours.
Text messages come

with an added layer of pressure. The sender expects an immediate response.
For non-emergencies, you have the liberty of replying when your schedule permits. If it's urgent, or if there is a real emergency, a phone call is the appropriate form of communication. Otherwise, it can wait.
There's no reason for others to confuse your honesty with rudeness. Be honest, have boundaries, and be very clear about them.
Respectfully Yours,
Jacquelyn
Have a question? Email: jacquelyn@ptd.net. Jacquelyn Youst is owner of the Pennsylvania Academy of Protocol, specializing in etiquette training.
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It's hard to embrace change

I've always been someone who likes to make New Year's resolutions.
I never did it as a game or as something I would quickly forget about.

Instead, I gave considerable thought to what I thought I needed to change.
Sometimes my resolution was like hundreds of other people in that I resolved to lose weight and make more time to workout at the gym.
But sometimes, after taking a long look at myself, I made a substantial resolution. One year, after recognizing how much of my time was work related, I resolved to put more balance in my life.
That was the year I discovered I worked long hours for one reason — I loved what I did. I was lucky in that when I went out on an interesting feature assignment my husband came along to do the photographs. Sure, I could take photos but it was much nicer when my husband and I could share the experience.
Some of my favorite memories originated during those experiences.
People often told me they thought it was foolish to make a New Year's resolution because it didn't take long to break them.
I, on the other hand, knew I gained perspective by doing a mental inventory of my life. Oftentimes it led to positive change.
Ahh, the word "change" brings up what I am working on changing this year. My challenge is accepting change.

WARMEST REGARDS
By Pattie Mihalik
newsgrl@comcast.net



wards that I often said "Thank you, God," for my new Florida lifestyle.
With all that as a background one would think I am now a pro at accepting change.
But it's not true. The opposite has happened. With the passage of years I have come to hate change.

I know I shouldn't use the word "hate" but I can't think of a better word to describe my new reaction to change.
I hate small changes such as having friends move away.
I hate bigger changes even more. What comes to mind are the physical changes that come with aging.
I vowed many times never to complain about changes associated with getting older.
When my husband David would complain about not being able to bike as long as he once did I told him instead of complaining about what he can no longer do he should be thankful for what he can still do.

I kept telling my husband aging is a gift not given to everyone. For the gift of extra years it's a small thing to accept changes.
I said it and I meant it.
I used to love playing pickleball until a bit of surgery put pickleball out of my reach.
No problem, I thought. There are still so many wonderful activities we can do.
I've always loved anything that involves fast movement so, of course I loved the fast-paced zumba classes.
Over the years I noticed the classes seemed to have much younger participants. I, on the other hand, was slowing down. I could still do the classes but I had to cheat a bit on some of the fast movements.
Now, my friend Jeanne and I go to a class called "chair zumba." The energizing music is the same but we do much of the exercises sitting down.
I don't like it as much as fast-paced classes but I'm happy to be exercising in a fun way.
I kept my positive can-do attitude until three months ago when Hurricane Ira turned my wonderful house into a pile of rubble.
While my mind vowed to stay positive and accept what came my way, my heart rebelled.
I want to scream "No." I don't want any more change.
I want to, but I can't because I know it will get me nowhere.
I have to go back to accepting change.
I can do that.
I can accept change but I'm not sure I can embrace change.
That's why embracing change is my goal for the New Year.
I'm not sure how well I will do but I'll give it everything I have.
Contact Pattie Mihalik at newsgrl@comcast.net.

How to avoid riding a 'charley horse'

Q. What exactly is a "charley horse" and why do I get them in my legs at night?

According to the American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms, the term "charley horse" was first used in the 1880s by baseball players to describe a muscle cramp.
No one knows the true origin, but the dictionary states:
"Among the more likely theories proposed is that it alludes to the name of either a horse or an afflicted ball player who limped like one of the elderly draft horses formerly employed to drag the infield."
Geezers are more likely to get charley horses because of muscle loss that starts in our 40s. And your remaining muscles don't work as efficiently as they used to. Studies show that about 70 percent of adults older than 50 experience nocturnal leg cramps.
A cramp is an involuntary contracted muscle that does not relax. The common locations for muscle cramps are the calves, thighs, feet, hands, arms, and the rib cage.
Cramps can be very

HEALTHY GEEZER
By Fred Cicetti
fred@healthygeezer.com



painful. Muscles can cramp for just seconds, but they can continue for many minutes.

Most all of us have had muscle cramps, but no one knows for sure why they happen. However, many healthcare professionals attribute cramping to tired muscles and poor stretching.

Other suspected causes are dehydration, exerting yourself when it's hot, flat feet, standing on concrete, prolonged sitting, and certain leg positions while sedentary.

Muscle cramps are usually harmless. However, they can also be symptoms of problems with circulation, nerves, metabolism, hormones.

Less common causes of muscle cramps include diabetes, Parkinson's disease, hypoglycemia, anemia, thyroid and endocrine disorders.

If you experience frequent and severe muscle cramps, see your doctor. The use of some medications can cause muscle cramps.

For example, some diuretic medications prescribed for high blood pressure can deplete potassium. Too little potassium, calcium or magnesium in your diet can contribute to cramps.
Here are some pointers for treating a cramp yourself: stop whatever you were doing when you got the cramp, massage the muscle and stretch it slowly, apply a cold pack to relax tense muscles.

To prevent cramps, do stretching exercises especially for those muscles that tend to cramp, and drink water regularly.
If you are exerting yourself in heat or sweating for more than an hour, you should drink fruit juice or a sports beverage.
For recurrent cramps that disturb your sleep, your doctor may prescribe a medication to relax your muscles.
If you have nocturnal leg cramping, ride a stationary bicycle for a few minutes before bedtime.

The following stretching exercise is good, too. You should do it in the morning, before dinner and before going to bed every night:

Stand about 30 inches from a wall. Keep your heels on the floor, lean forward and put your hands on the wall. Then, move your hands slowly up the wall as far as you can reach comfortably.
Hold the stretched position for 30 seconds. Release. Repeat twice.
Have a question? Email: fred@healthygeezer.com. Order "How To Be A Healthy Geezer," 218-page compilation of columns: healthygeezer.com
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Gardening resolutions for the New Year

Gardening is supposed to be a fun and leisure activity, yet sometimes there are frustrated gardeners out there.

While it's great to be challenged, there are a number of things you can do to make your gardening life easier.

Here are some New Year's resolutions for you to make:

Keep a journal with records of what you planted and when, what did well, and what didn't.

Record when you found an infestation of some kind of insect or disease. It was probably too late to treat for it by the time you discovered it, but it will remind you of what to be on the lookout for and when to look next year.

GROWING GREEN
L.C. Cooperative Extension
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Only plant as many vegetables as you can handle. If you do plant too many vegetables, give your excess to an area food bank.

Rotate your vegetable crops. If space allows, don't plant your tomatoes in the same spot year after year. That allows for insects or disease problems to build up. Put your tomatoes where you usually plant your green beans or plant lettuce where you usually put your cucumbers, and so forth.

Don't move firewood. The most important vec-

tor for many tree pests is movement of infested wood. You should only buy and burn locally cut firewood. If you have already brought firewood from another area, burn it. Insects and diseases moved with firewood include the spotted lanternfly, the Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer and thousand canker disease.
Research and select plants that are disease-resistant and appropriate for your landscape's growing conditions. It saves time, energy and aggravation, and cuts down on pesticide use.
Take a Penn State soil test before creating a new lawn or garden area. For \$9 you get a good idea of the soil's pH and nutrient levels. It saves money on

unnecessary fertilize use and allows you to work with your soil's natural chemistry.

Start composting. It's amazing how much we throw in our landfills that could be turned into great soil enhancements. Kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and grass clippings are just a few of the things that could go into a small compost pile.
Use our natural resources wisely. If we have a dry year, water early in the day or in the evening to save water.

When using salt to melt ice on walks and driveways, spread it carefully to avoid damage to nearby shrubs. Damage to needle-type evergreens will be evidenced next spring by copper and yellow tones. Damaged deciduous plants will have bronze or reddish leaves. Consider using sand or sawdust instead.
Avoid walking on grass or groundcovers when it is frozen. The frozen leaves are brittle and easily damaged.
Don't top trees. Topping trees results in large areas of decay and fast-growing, weak, and unattractive water sprouts. In the most severe cases, topping can lead to the death of a tree.
Plant the right tree

in the right place. Plant tree species that fit and will thrive in places where they are planted. Don't plant large trees under power lines, in small tree lawns, in sidewalk cutouts or close to building and signs.

Again, change brought so many re-

contributed by Diane Dorn, Lehigh County Extension Office Staff, and Master Gardeners. Information: Lehigh County Extension Office, 610-391-9840; Northampton County Extension Office, 610-813-6613.

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Plant the right tree

'Glass Onion' half-full

AT THE MOVIES
By Paul Willistein
pwillistein@tronline.com



The most energetic part of "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" occurs during the closing credits when The Beatles' song, "Glass Onion" (1968, "The Beatles" White Album) is heard. The song, written and sung by John Lennon with a jokey grab-bag of references to lyrics of Beatles' songs, inspired the movie's title.

The movie, a sequel of sorts that is not really a sequel to "Knives Out" (2019), is also a grab-bag of references, in this "case," pun intended, to the whodunnit genre, made famous by Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976), the English author who wrote 66 detective novels, many of which were adapted for popular movies ("Murder on the Orient Express," 2017; "Death on the Nile," 2022; "Ten Little Indians," 1965; "And Then There Were," 1945).

Rian Johnson, writer-director of "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" is no Agatha Christie. He seems like a nice guy, and would probably be the first to admit he's no Agatha Christie.

Johnson (director, "Knives Out"; "Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi," 2017; "Looper," 2012; "Brick" 2005) is a great fan of the whodunnit genre, including the TV series, "Murder, She Wrote" (1984-1996). Sometimes, fandom is too close for creativity.

In "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery," Daniel Craig is back as detective Benoit Blanc.

This time, Blanc is on the case of a tech billionaire, Miles (Edward

Norton), who invites a group, played by Janelle Monáe, Kathryn Hahn, Leslie Odom Jr., Jessica Henwick, Madelyn Cline, Kate Hudson and Dave Bautista, for a murder-mystery game at his lavish island estate dubbed the Glass Onion.

With a murder-mystery movie, to go into a plot recitation would ruin the fun for you, dear reader and dear movie-goer (I presume you are one and the same, but you never know).

Suffice it to say that the problem with "Glass Onion" is that there is too much plot. Hence, the plot is plodding. There are more red herrings here than in a seafood store.

Moreover, the screenplay is terribly disjointed. A flashback to an important plot point just doesn't work.

Add to this a bevy of lackluster and clichéd characters, written as if they are stick figures, and you have not a whodunnit, but rather a who-cares-about-it.

The actors seem to be going through the emotions. I attribute this to the inverse ratio of on-location film-making. The more lavish the setting, the poorer the resulting movie.

When snippets of the songs "Starman" (1972) by David Bowie, and "Mona Lisa" (1950) by Nat King Cole are heard on the soundtrack, I was taken right out of the movie and wanted to hear more of the songs and see less of the movie.

To top it off, Daniel Craig, so wonderful as 007 James Bond, attempts a southern United States accent that make him sound like Foghorn Leghorn, the cartoon rooster from "Looney Tunes" and "Merrie Melodies" (1946 - 1964). If that isn't



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE: NETFLIX

The unusual suspects: "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery."

enough, Craig is outfitted in shirts and shorts that make him look a member of a Beach Boys tribute band.

Do not accuse this reviewer of having, ahem, knives out, for "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery." I very much enjoyed the original "Knives Out" movie (Look up my review).

"Knives Out 3" is scheduled for release in 2024. Here's hoping it will be a lot sharper.

"Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery," MPAA rated PG-13 (Parents Strongly Cautioned) Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. Parents are urged to be cautious. Some material may be inappropriate for pre-teenagers.) for strong language, some violence, sexual material and drug content; Genre: Comedy, Crime, Drama. Run time: 2 hours, 19 minutes. Distributed by Netflix.

At The Movies: "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" was in movie theaters for a one-

week theatrical release, starting Nov. 23, 2022, and began streaming Dec. 23, 2022. I watched the movie at the house.

Credit Readers Anonymous: "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" was filmed at a resort on the island of Spetses, Greece, and also in Belgrade, Serbia.

Theatrical Movie Domestic Box Office: Dec. 30 - Jan. 1 weekend box office results were unavailable because of the early deadlines for the Focus section for the New Year's Day holiday.

Theatrical Movie Domestic Box Office, Dec. 23 - 25: For the Christmas holiday weekend, "Avatar: The Way of Water" continued at No. 1 two weeks in a row, with \$63.3 million in 4,202 theaters, \$261 million, two weeks, keeping three opening movies out of the top spot.

"Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" opened at No. 2 with \$12.4 million in 4,099 theaters, \$18.5 million since opening Dec. 21.

"Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody" opened at No. 3 with \$4.7 million in 3,625 theaters.

"Babylon" opened at No. 4 with \$3.6 million in 3,343 theaters.

5. "Violent Night" dropped two places, \$3.5 million in 2,562 theaters, \$41.9 million, four weeks. 6. "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" dropped four places, \$3.4 million in 2,250 theaters, \$426.1 million, seven weeks. 7. "The Whale" moved up seven places, \$1 million in 603 theaters, \$2.5 million, three weeks. 8. "The Fabelmans" dropped one place, \$745,250 in 1,122 theaters, \$9.9 million, seven weeks. 9. "The Menu" dropped four places, \$678,252 in 840 theaters, \$33.8 million, six weeks. 10. "Strange World" dropped six places, \$413,277 in 1,390 theaters, \$35.6 million, five weeks.

Movie box office information from Box Office Mojo as of Dec. 18 is subject to change.

Unreel, Jan. 4:

"A Man Called Otto," Rated PG-13: Marc Forster directs Tom Hanks in the Drama Comedy. A widower has given up on life and becomes a down-right grump. Then he befriends a family that moves in nearby and everything changes. Call it "Forrest Grump."

Unreel, Jan. 6:

"M3gan," Rated PG-13: Gerard Johnson directs Violet McGraw, Jenna Davis and Annie Donald n the Science-Fiction Horror Thriller. An animatronics doll becomes a little too life-like.

"Women Talking," PG-13: Sarah Polley directs Rooney Mara, Claire Foy, Jessie Buckley, Frances McDormand, Judith Ivey and Ben Whishaw in the Drama. The faith of a religious community is tested.

Movie opening dates from Internet Movie Database as of Dec. 22 are subject to change.

Lehigh Valley Press Focus theater review list for 2022

BY PAUL WILLISTEIN
pwillistein@tronline.com

Following is a list of 33 theater reviews published on the Lehigh Valley Press Focus website.

The reviews are of area stage shows presented and seen in-person before audiences in theaters.

The list includes the title of the play, theater

company, date of review published on the Lehigh Valley Press website, and reviewer.

To read a review, go to the Lehigh Valley Press website, click on the Focus page and, in the article search box in the upper right area of the screen, type in the play title.

In the spirit of "Let's put on a show," Focus

relaunched the "Curtain Rises" column in 2020, published almost every week with previews of Lehigh Valley stage productions.

Here's the list of theater reviews published in Focus in 2022:

"Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)," Civic Theatre of Allentown, Dec. 13, Dave Howell

"Christmas City Follies XXIII," Touchstone Theatre, Dec. 8, Paul Willistein

"A Christmas Carol," Civic Theatre of Allentown, Dec. 8, Paul Willistein

"The SpongeBob Musical," Civic Theatre of Allentown, Oct. 14, Dave Howell

"Deathtrap," The Pennsylvania Playhouse, Oct. 14, Douglas Graves

"All You Need to Know," Crowded Kitchen Players, Oct. 14, Dave Howell

"I Left My Heart: A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY BILL BASTA

Jason Roth (Lemml, the Stage Manager), left, "Indecent," Civic Theatre of Allentown.

Salute to the Music of Tony Bennett," Pines Dinner Theatre, Oct. 14, Douglas Graves

"Indecent," Civic Theatre of Allentown, Aug. 20, Paul Willistein

"Rent," Northampton Community College Summer Theatre, Aug. 5, Paul Willistein

"Fences," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Aug. 3, Paul Willistein

"Pippin," Pennsylva-

nia Playhouse, July 30, Paul Willistein

"Game Show," Pines Dinner Theatre, July 30, Douglas Graves

"Little Red," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, June 17, Aug. 6 (re-posted), Paul Willistein

"Much Ado About Nothing," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, July 23, Paul Willistein

"Something Rotten," Northampton Community College Summer Theatre, July 15, Paul Willistein

"Kinky Boots," Bucks County Playhouse, July 15, Paul Willistein

"A Chorus Line," Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, July 4, Paul Willistein

"Jeffrey," Northampton Community College, June 23, Dave Howell

"The Spiritualist," Crowded Kitchen Players, June 11, Douglas Graves

"Bright Star," Pennsylvania Playhouse, June 10, Dave Howell

"Footloose," Northampton Community College, June 10, Dave Howell

"Why Do Fools Fall in Love," Pines Dinner Theatre, June 10, Douglas Graves

"Spamalot," Civic Theatre of Allentown, May 12, Paul Willistein

"The Sound of Music," Act 1, DeSales University, May 4, Paul Willistein

"Xanadu," Northampton Community College Summer Theatre, April 22, Paul Willistein

"Nollywood Dreams," Pennsylvania Playhouse, April 8, Paul Willistein

"Significant Other," Civic Theatre of Allentown, March 25, Paul Willistein

"The Rising," Crowded Kitchen Players, March 25, Paul Willistein

"The Color Purple," Civic Theatre of Allentown, Feb. 26, Paul Willistein

"Our Town," Act 1, DeSales University, Feb. 23, Paul Willistein

"Kitchen Chronicles," Touchstone Theatre, Feb. 16, Paul Willistein

"The Exes," Pennsylvania Playhouse, Feb. 11, Douglas Graves

"Lucky Malone's Not So Lucky Night," Pines Dinner Theatre, Jan. 27, Douglas Graves

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ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 25th & Livingston Streets Allentown, 610-435-0712 9 a.m. Holy Communion Fr. Norman Flowers, Rector	HEIDELBERG UNION CHURCH Irvin & Church Roads Slatington near Saegersville 610-767-4740 Rev. Michelle Funk 10 a.m. In person Worship Service Or via Facebook Live, Zoom, or Dial In. Call office for details to link in. 9 a.m. Faith Formation Meets "Come Worship With Us"	HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH 4131 Lehigh Drive, P.O. Box 1030 Cherryville (610) 767-7203 www.hopecherryville.org The Rev. Jami Possinger, Pastor 8 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Handicap Access. & Air Cond. People of Hope, working together, with God, to love & serve others.	SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH 4331 Main St., Whitehall 610-262-1600 Rev. James W. Schlegel Wheelchair accessible 8 a.m. Worship (Communion) 10:15 a.m. Worship (Communion) 8:50 a.m. Sunday School	GRACE CHURCH BETHLEHEM Worshipping at Bethlehem Catholic High School, 2133 Madison Ave., Bethlehem Rev. Dr. Marnie Crumpler, Sr. Pastor 8:30 a.m. Modern Worship 9:45 a.m. Classic Worship 11 a.m. Modern Worship Services all livestreamed at gracecb.org 610-333-5508	JERUSALEM WESTERN SALISBURY CHURCH 3441 Devonshire Rd. Allentown, PA 18103 610-797-4242 Rev. Donald Brown 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service Online: Facebook & YouTube	EBENEZER U.C.C. Route 143, New Tripoli 610-298-8000 Pastor Wally Frisch Sunday School, 9 a.m. all ages 10:15 a.m. Worship (in person) or on Facebook live All Are Welcome!
ASSEMBLY OF GOD NORTHAMPTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD 3449 Cherryville Road Northampton 610-262-5645 www.NAOG.ws Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer & Bible 7 p.m.	LUTHERAN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 3461 Cedar Crest Blvd. Emmaus, PA 18049 610-967-2220 Rev. Mark Wimmer, Interim Sr. Pastor Rev. Tami K. Reichley, Assoc. Pastor Rev. Cindy Camp, Interim Assoc. Pastor 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Worship (In person or livestreaming) 9:30 a.m. Family Service 9:55 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery Care available Masks Optional LCHSEmmaus.org	ZIEGELS LUTHERAN 9990 Ziegels Church Road Breinigsville, PA 18031 Phone: 610-285-6157 www.ziegelschurch.org 8:30 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School Online Worship on Facebook and YouTube Handicapped Accessible Rev. Andrew Meckstroth, Pastor	UNION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 5500 Rt. 873 Schnecksville 610-767-6884 Rev. Gordon A. Camp 9 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Visit ulclv.org for worship video	PRESBYTERIAN PC (USA) FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship 11 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live, followed by Fellowship Hour Details at fpc-bethlehem.org Rev. J.C. Austin Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton, Assoc. Pastor, Formation & Justice	UNITED CH. OF CHRIST ZIEGEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 9990 Ziegels Church Road Breinigsville, PA 18031 Phone: 610-285-6157 Rev. Dr. Larry Pickens www.ziegelschurch.org 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:05 a.m. Worship Online worship on Facebook and YouTube Handicapped Accessible	CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD U.C.C. 135 Quarry Rd., Alburts 610-966-2991 Pastor, Rev. Matthew Gorkos 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Also Live On Facebook
VALLEY CHURCH Meets in Roxy Theater, 2004 Main St., Northampton 610-984-4904 Pastor Phil Miller 10 a.m. Every Sunday Refreshments	JORDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH 5103 Snowdrift Road Orefield 610-395-5912 The Rev. Dody Siegfried 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 streaming on Facebook & website Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sun. at 8 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sun. at 10:30 a.m. Handicap Acc./Hearing Devices Avail. www.jordanlutheran.org	WEISENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH 7645 Weisenberg Church Rd. New Tripoli, PA 18066 610-298-2437 Worship, 9 a.m. With Pastor Jerel Gade On Facebook Live www.weisenbergchurch.org Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.	NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 4004 Tilghman St. 610-395-5062 Rev. Matthew Hacker 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Saturday Worship, 6 p.m. www.nativityallentown.org Live Streaming on Facebook	FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EMMAUS N. 2nd & Cherokee Sts. Emmaus 610-967-5600 Rev. Rebecca Mallozzi 10:00 a.m. Worship Live Streaming Available on our Website www.faithchurchemmaus.org office@faithchurchemmaus.org	UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CHRIST'S CHURCH AT LOWHILL UCC 4695 Lowhill Church Rd., New Tripoli, PA 18066 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. In Person Weekly Worship Via Facebook Live or Lowhill Church YouTube christchurchatlowhill.org 253rd Anniversary Year!	OLD ZIONVILLE UCC 5981 Fountain Rd., Old Zionsville (at the Y of Fountain Rd & King's Hwy) The Rev. Lori Esslinger 610-968-3801 610-966-2991 10:15 a.m. Worship resumes in sanctuary www.oldzionsucc.org
BAPTIST LEHIGH VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH 4702 Colebrook Ave. Emmaus 610-965-4700 Pastor Roland Hammett Bible Discovery Groups, S.S. 9 a.m. Sunday 10:15 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. Prayer Mtg. 7 p.m. www.lvbaptist.org	FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 3355 MacArthur Road Whitehall, PA 18052 (610) 435-0451 Interim Pastor, Rev. Peggy Wuertele Worship, 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9 to 9:30 a.m. email prayer requests to FaithLutheranWhitehall.org Handicapped Accessible Hearing Devices Available	JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF EASTERN SALISBURY 1707 Church Road Allentown, PA 18103 610-797-6933 Rev. Kathleen Coleman 8:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship	ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 5th & Chestnut Sts. Emmaus 610-965-9885 Rev. Jeffrey S. Carstens www.stjohnsemmaus.org Worship, 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages, 9:15 a.m.	FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOKENDAUQUA 3005 S. Front Street Whitehall, PA 18052 610-264-9693 Worship 10 a.m. Live Streaming on Facebook.com/hokeypress Email: hokeypress@gmail.com Web: www.hokeypress.org	SOLOMON'S UCC 82 S. Church St. Macungie, PA 18062-1016 610-966-3086 Solomonsucc.com Frank Schaffer, Pastor 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship Nursery during Worship Handicap Accessible	ST. MARK'S U.C.C. 52 E. Susquehanna St. Allentown 610-797-0181 Rev. George Eckstein, Pastor Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Handicap Accessible
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH OF SCHNECKSVILLE 3749 Route 309 North Orefield, 610-395-4970 Luke Rex, Pastor Sunday Services 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wed. Service 7:30 p.m.	CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH 2623 Brookside Rd., Macungie (Intersection of Sauerkraut Lane) Join Us Every Sunday! 8 & 10:45 a.m. (Worship) 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. (Family Education) Rev. Wally Vinovskis 610-965-3265 Friendly People, Awesome God concordia-macungie.com	CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH 1245 W. Hamilton St Allentown PA 18102 610-433-4271 Pastors: Samuel Zeiser & Maritza Torres Dolich In person worship - 10:30 a.m. Zoom worship - 10:30 a.m. See our website for more information www.christ-atown.org	MORAVIAN EMMAUS MORAVIAN CHURCH 146 Main St., Emmaus, PA 18049 610-965-6067 Rev. Brian Dixon, Pastor 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Updates/zoom info available at www.emmausmoravian.org	QUAKERS LEHIGH VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING 4116 Bath Pike, Bethlehem, PA 12 mi. North of US 22 on PA 512 9:30 a.m. In Person & Zoom Worship Religious Ed for all ages Child care provided Masks, Vaccinations Required Handicap Acc./Hearing aids avail. For more info. & Zoom link Visit www.lehighvalleyquakers.org All Are Welcome	JORDAN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 1837 Church Road, Allentown (Corner of 309 & Walbert Ave.) Livestream:jordanucc.org/stream 610-395-2218 Rev. Dr. David Charles Smith, Pastor 9:15 a.m. Church School 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship	ST. PETER'S LYNNVILLE UCC 5129 Schochary Road New Tripoli, PA 610-298-8064 Worship 9:30 a.m. Handicapped Accessible All Welcome!
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP WHITEHALL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH 3300 Seventh Street Whitehall, 610-434-8661 www.WhitehallBFC.org Timothy Schmoyer, Sr. Pastor 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15a.m. Morning Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	ZIEGELS LUTHERAN 9990 Ziegels Church Road Breinigsville, PA 18031 Phone: 610-285-6157 www.ziegelschurch.org 8:30 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School Online Worship on Facebook and YouTube Handicapped Accessible Rev. Andrew Meckstroth, Pastor	NEW LIFE EVANGELICAL Lutheran Church 6804 Weiss Road New Tripoli, PA 18066 (610) 298-2710 Rev. Lauren Applegate Preschool M-F 9 to 11:30 Sunday School 9am Sunday Worship 10:15am info@nlclc.com	JACOB'S CHURCH 8373 Kings Highway New Tripoli, PA Rev. Tad M. Schlegel, Interim Pastor 610-756-6352 Adult Church School 9 a.m. Family Worship 10:15 a.m. Bible Study Wed. 7:00 p.m. Lived Stream Sunday Service at JacobsChurch.org	SHARED MINISTRY CEDAR CHURCH Better Together ELCA & UCC 3419 Broadway, Allentown 610-395-6332 www.cedarunionchurch.com Rev. Candi Cain- Borgman 9:30 am Worship Service In Person or Facebook Live Friendly People - Serving Christ Come Join US!	ST. JOHN'S U.C.C. FULLERTON 575 Grape Street, Whitehall 18052 Rev. David Quinn, Visitation Pastor Rev. Steven C. Davis, Sr. Pastor 9:30 a.m. Faith Formation 8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship (Masks Optional) 610-264-8421 stjohnsucc.pastor@rcn.com	EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2336 S. 9th Street Allentown, PA. 18103 610-797-1571 Pastor Lela Hartranft 9:15am Sunday Service Children's Sunday School TBA Preschool Tues-Thurs 9:15am-12:45pm https://www.facebook.com/ EUMALLENTOWN Eumsec@gmail.com
ST STEPHENS EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3900 Mechanicsville Rd Whitehall PA 18052 610-435-3901 Email: saintste@ptd.net Rev. Jonathan Mayo www.saintste.com Service: Sundays, 11am Holy Eucharist Livestreamed on FB @ facebook.com/whitehallepiscopal Handicap Accessible, All Welcome!	GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 28 W. Main St. Macungie In Person & Livestream Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum, 9:15 a.m. Handicap Accessible Air Conditioned Call church office for more info. Rev. Samantha Drennan 610-966-3325 www.gracemacungie.org	PRESBYTERIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CATAUGUA 210 Pine St. - 610-264-2595 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship	ST. PETER'S UNION CHURCH 7863 St. Peters Road P.O. Box 147 Macungie, PA 18062-0147 (610) 966-3030 Rev. Dr. Paul Sorcek 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship "Come to the Mountaintop ... and Refresh Your Faith	UNITED METHODIST WESLEYAN FAITH WESLEYAN CHURCH 3356 Route 309 Orefield PA 18069 610-398-0172 Rev. Brenda Smith Worship, 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Adult, Youth & Children's Ministries Handicap Accessible www.faithweschurch.org facebook.com/Faith- Wesleyan-Church-Orefield-PA		



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

St. John's UCC, Fullerton, presents Service of the Nativity

St. John's United Church of Christ, 575 Grape St., Fullerton, presented its first-ever Service of the Nativity Dec. 18.

The program, an evening of music, prayer and reflection, was

led by Patrick Sandt, director of music, and Steven C. Davis, senior pastor.

Narrators were Debbie Dolan, Sharon Kehm Czekner, Sean Hartman, Mike Agrippine, Dewey Ye-

ants and Marty Hartman. Instrumentalists included Jeffrey Raub, guest organist and accompanist; Stephani Bell, violinist; and Audrey Simmons, cello. Choir members of Sacred Heart,

Bethlehem, and Good Shepherd, Northampton, as well as members of St. John's Chancel, Jubilation and Bell choirs performed with soloists Colleen Kulhamer and Emily Szuter.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 in some cells for a Conceptis Sudoku puzzle.

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers...

Answer to previous puzzle

9x9 grid showing the solution to the previous puzzle.

Difficulty Level ★★★

LEHIGH COUNTY SENIOR MENUS

Lehigh County: visit www.lehighcounty.org/ Departments/Human-Services/Neighborhood-Senior-Centers/ or call 610-782-3254

Tuesday, January 3: Hot: Breakfast sandwich, breakfast potatoes, whole-wheat English muffin, fresh fruit salad...

Wednesday, January 4: Hot: Breaded fish sandwich, potato salad, cream of mushroom soup, whole-wheat sandwich roll...

Thursday, January 5: Hot: Beef pot pie, mixed vegetables, whole-grain biscuit, diced pineapple...

Friday, January 6: Hot: BBQ meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, whole wheat dinner roll, chocolate pudding...

Monday, January 9: Hot: Kielbasa and sauerkraut, peas, whole-wheat hot dog roll, peach applesauce...

Tuesday, January 10: Hot: Orange chicken, Asian vegetable blend, buttered brown rice, Mandarin oranges...

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY SENIOR MENUS

Many Northampton County Senior Centers are now open. Visit www.northamptoncounty.org/HS/AGING/Pages/Senior-Centers.aspx...

Tuesday, January 3: Cream of tomato basil rice soup, Swedish meatballs, egg noodles, seasoned broccoli florets...

Wednesday, January 4: Calves' liver, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, beets, spiced diced pears...

Thursday, January 5: Minestrone soup, herbed baked chicken breast w/ gravy, cheesy mashed potatoes, Italian blend vegetables...

Friday, January 6: Mixed green salad w/ creamy Italian dressing, Italian sausage w/ peppers and cheese, home fries, garlic bread, banana mousse...

Monday, January 9: Navy bean soup, ham w/ pineapple, raisin sauce, candied sweet potatoes, asparagus tips, dinner roll...

Tuesday, January 10: Chicken stuffed w/ broccoli and cheese, confetti rice, kale root vegetable blend, chocolate brownie...

Wednesday, January 11: Mixed greens salad w/ dressing, breaded veal, spaghetti w/ marinara, garlic bread, chocolate cream pie...

Thursday, January 12: Garden salad w/ Catalina French dressing, stuffed cabbage, cheddar mashed potatoes, white cake w/ fudge icing...

CRYPTOGRAM

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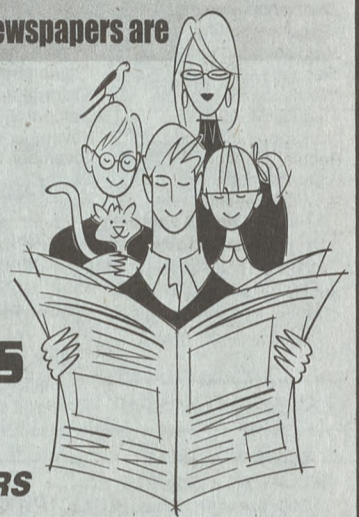
DMVD TOSQAWHTQTH FWJDZQT AL ON LVJT DMVD NAZ'QT RAQGWBC AB WU OVGWBC OT VFFTVQ ETQN SVH. HAB'D RTVET OT DMWU RVN!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals D

See solutions on Page B10

People who read newspapers are

Better Writers & Speakers



It all STARTS with NEWSPAPERS

PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

JANUARY 1 FUN

ACROSS

- 1 Drag race vehicle
8 Schuss, e.g.
11 Stinging flier
15 Contributed
19 Halloween mask feature
20 Hoodwink
21 Falco of TV
22 Leave off
23 Tendency toward chaos
24 Fido's noise
25 * Star of the 1950s TV series "China Smith"
27 BLT seller
28 Naval forces
30 — Field (Mr. Met's home)
31 * Getting tired
34 Baby bird
38 Evergreen with red arils
39 Actress Polo
40 Stephen of "V for Vendetta"
42 Young moray, e.g.
43 Cowl wearer
45 * Hope when the situation is desperate
51 Mosque official
54 Scrooge portrayer Alastair
55 Minerals in thin sheets
56 * "Vanity Fair" novelist
61 "One World" musician John
65 Holders of frozen cubes
66 Girl in the fam
67 "Insecure" actress
69 — Hawkins dance
70 Astonishment
73 E'en if
75 Actor Bridges
76 Fathers
79 Auditing gp.
81 Was disgusting to
84 Deep desires
85 * Period superseded by automobiles
89 Ragtime pianist Blake
90 Aficionado
91 Large cut
92 * Three-part novel by Gertrude Stein
98 Green-light
102 Removal of restrictions, for short
103 RV refuge org.
104 Six-legged marchers
107 Suffix with Carol
108 How Alaska is populated
111 * Town crier's cry
116 Cab cost
117 "It takes two" dances
118 Agents, in brief
119 * "The Price Is Right" host
123 Happy dance

18x18 crossword grid with numbers 1-134.

- 124 Net, as earnings
127 Ames' state
128 Saturate
129 Bullfight yell
130 Dissimilar
131 Legal equal
132 Brontë's Jane
133 Despite this
134 What the last four letters of eight key answers in this puzzle might be considered, cryptically

DOWN

- 1 Honorarium
2 Writer Rand
3 Lay in place
4 Tossed
5 "Relax!"
6 Of Swiss mountains
7 Playa del —
8 Climb up
9 Divided Asian land
10 Get by logic
11 Joins closely
12 Org. for cavity fixers
13 Thereafter
14 Counterparts of manis
15 Cousin of a chimpanzee
16 Poehler of "Baby Mama"
17 Fight (for)
18 Zeta follower
26 Pronounces

- 28 "Just my opinion," in a text
29 Supermodel Banks
31 Fitness locale
32 Early auto
33 Award for U2
34 All-time low
35 Creeping vine
36 Once called
37 Fido's threat
41 Intertwine
44 Tartan skirt wearers
46 Suffix with owl or wolf
47 Vardalos of Hollywood
48 Sierra, Yukon and Acadia
49 Trendy berry
50 Shells out
52 Boggy areas
53 Motorists' gp.
56 Very thin, as clouds
57 "It matters to me"
58 Escorted from outside
59 Org. with bag screeners
60 The whole — and caboodle
61 Fox-sighting cry
62 Jagged, as a leaf's edge
63 "When I Need You" singer Leo
64 Hopper of old gossip
68 Fake coins
71 Not fooled by
72 Pretious to
74 Globe
77 Ergo

- 78 Japanese noodle type
80 In no danger
82 Playwright O'Neill
83 Links letters
86 Dangerous
87 Vetoing vote
88 Genetic stuff
89 Spider's hatching pouch
92 NFL goals
93 With it, in old slang
94 Lyricist Gershwin
95 Battle with spongy balls
96 "So funny!"
97 Light beams
99 Actress Alley
100 Even a single
101 "— haw!"
105 Regal seat
106 Playground fixture
109 Wipe clean
110 "Bad, Bad — Brown"
112 Delight in
113 Nimble
114 Big name in thesauruses
115 In a fitting manner
117 Small kid
119 Chip topper
120 Fish spawn
121 She-sheep
122 Mug handle
124 Bit of word wit
125 Rap sheet abbr.
126 Boomer's kid

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PUBLIC NOTICE Storhouse Self Storage Lehigh Street, 1449 Lehigh Street, Allentown Pa 18103 intends to satisfy its Self Storage lien against contents of the following spaces for non-payment of Rent or other charges: Pat Castaneda, leased space #131; Josue M Ruiz Santiago, leased space #2021; Tiara Star Gott, leased space #1011; Eilsson Martinez Montalban, leased space #1246; Cynthia Bonds, leased space #1328. The items will be sold online January 19, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at www.StorageTreasures.com. The winner of the sale is subject to the terms and conditions of the website, preregistration to bid is required. The sale may be withdrawn at any time. Jan. 4, 11

PUBLIC NOTICE Trexlertown Self Storage located at 1455 Trexlertown Road, Macungie PA, 18062 intends to satisfy its Self Storage lien against contents of the following spaces for non-payment of Rent or other charges: John Gresham Leased Space #B290, Jordan Magee Leased Space #B316, Rebecca Ward Leased Space #H1421, Jaime Howells Leased Space #H1410. The items will be sold online January 19th, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at www.StorageTreasures.com. The winner of the sale is subject to the terms and conditions of the website, preregistration to bid is required. The sale may be withdrawn at any time Jan. 4, 11

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