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# BETHLEHEM PRESS

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR THE BETHLEHEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

OCTOBER 14, 2015

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## Martin Tower's zoning reviewed

BY MICHELLE MEEH  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

City officials took time to thoroughly explain a proposed zoning change at the Martin Tower site at a meeting Oct. 6, while members of the public waited for their turn to weigh in on the proposal at a public hearing at the Bethlehem City Council regular meeting. The proposal would change the zoning to office mixed use (OMU) from a CM-LTN Landmark conservation and traditional neighborhood overlay district.

Mayor Bob Donchez supported the change, saying "it's the best use in my opinion for the site to be productive once again." He said the proposal was drafted by city planning and zoning officials to encourage redevelopment at the 53-acre site. "They understand what has not worked. This proposal has been approved by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and the Bethlehem Planning Commission. It is time to confer on this site more flexibility," Donchez said.

Director of Planning and Zoning Darlene Heller started by reviewing the history of the site, which sits on the corner of Route 378, at Eighth Avenue and Eaton Avenue.

"It's a prime site. It has exceptional transportation access and is surrounded by a variety of uses," Heller said. The site is also near Burnside Plantation, she said. It contains the



PRESS PHOTOS BY BERNIE O'HARE

**Martin Tower is a 21-story vacant building that once served as Bethlehem Steel's HQ. Built in 1971, it was the workplace for 1,800 Steel employees. It is actually part of a 53-acre tract located near Route 378. In 2003, it was assessed at \$15.8 million. Last year, that assessment had dropped to \$4.6 million. City taxes on the property have dropped from \$178,000 in 2003 to \$25,000 this year.**

iconic 21-story tower along with an annex, printer and other out-buildings.

The tower is 900,000 square feet, while the other buildings are about 375,000 square feet combined. Completed in 1971, the tower once housed 1,800 employees. The heating and cooling mechanisms are located in the most remote out-building, making the site inefficient, outdated and very difficult to develop, Heller said. The building was vacated in 2007.

Since late 2013 the site has been part of the Community Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ), one of 14 total CRIZ sites in city.

Assessed value for the property was \$15.825 million in 2003. It was reassessed in 2013 at only \$4,650,900, for a total drop in assessed value of \$11.175 million.

The property generated \$178,347 in taxes in 2003, said Heller. In 2015, only \$24,691 in taxes were generated.

Heller showed slides of what has to be demolished if the tower were to be renovated. The current floor plan shows a core area unusable as office space since it houses elevators and other mechanicals. This layout increases cost of square footage, since 27 percent of usable space on each floor is lost. There are 11 elevators, which would need to be modernized at a cost of approximately \$12 million when an estimate was done in 2008, she said. Also, the building

See **TOWER** on Page 2

### PEOPLE SAY

BY DANA GRUBB

What do you remember most about your senior year at Liberty HS in 1947?



"We beat Phillipsburg in football and they were New Jersey state champs at that time. Four of our players would later play in the NFL. We had a pretty good team."  
**Louis Molnar**  
Upper Saucon Township



"The wonderful English teacher I had, Mary Crow."  
**Gigi Pastir**  
Lower Saucon Township

PEOPLE SAY  
Continues on A2

BETHLEHEM PRESS

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

INSIDE  
THE PRESS

Business .....	B3
Calendar .....	A3
Classified .....	B5
Dining .....	A11
Focus .....	B1
Lifestyle .....	B2
Milestones .....	A4
Police .....	A5
School .....	A19
Worship .....	B4

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## Can Bethlehem merchants survive the CRIZ?

BY BERNIE O'HARE  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

If Bethlehem is the jewel of the Lehigh Valley, its Historic and Southside shopping districts are its two brightest stars. Iconic shops like the Aardvark Sports Shop and Donegal Square blend nicely with the Moravian Book Shop, arguably the oldest operating bookstore in the world. Across the river, Homebase Skate Shop, the Southside 313 Bar and Cutters Bike Shop are just a few destinations dotting the Greenway between Third and Fourth streets. Anchoring both these districts is Hotel Bethlehem, site of Bethlehem's first house, where 14 Moravian missionaries huddled on Christmas Eve 1741 to sing in honor, not of Jerusalem, but "Lowly Bethlehem."

"O little town of Bethlehem" has survived pandemics, the Great Depression and even the collapse of steel industry. But can it survive the CRIZ? Can downtown and Southside merchants com-

pete against publicly subsidized merchants in a third downtown at Martin Tower? That's the question being pondered by Bethlehem City Council.

### Martin Tower development

It's hard to miss the 21-story Martin Tower, former headquarters of Bethlehem Steel, where 1,800 employees once worked. In 1990, it generated \$1.5 million in taxes. It's vacant today, and in 2015, only produced \$25,000 in city taxes. The cost to renovate the 900,000-square-foot structure would be at least \$12 million.

That property was acquired in 2006 for the tidy sum of \$12 million by a consortium of three developers including Lou Pektor, Lewis Ronca and billionaire Norton Herrick. But contrary to what most people think, it's much more than a large building. Martin Tower is just a part of a sprawling 53-acre tract of land that extends to Eaton

Avenue, Schoenersville Road and Burnside Plantation.

In 2006, developers proposed a new zoning overlay that would leave Martin Tower intact, but add a 945-unit residential development, the largest ever in Bethlehem, along with 50,000 square feet for a dry cleaner, coffee shop, and salon. Pektor predicted that construction would start that year or by January 2007 at the latest.

Lured by the temptation of a \$300-million development that would generate \$8.7 million a year in real estate taxes, city council bit. By a 4-3 vote, the zoning overlay was adopted, with then council member Jean Belinski calling it a "Trojan horse."

Although a final plan was approved for the first phase of this project, no spade ever broke ground. Herrick and Ronca instead squeezed Pektor out.

Getting favorable zoning was

just the start. Developer Ronca next spearheaded an unsuccessful effort to get a TIF at the site. That's a tax incentive under which a portion of future tax dollars is used to pay for development. This was rejected in 2010 by the Bethlehem Area School Board. Director Aurea Ortiz argued it was their job to educate children, not back private developers in a bad economy.

### Enter the CRIZ

Whether any real effort was made to market Martin Tower for tenants is unclear. The property was never even listed in the massive portfolio of properties available at the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation.

While Martin Tower continued to crumble, Allentown developer J.B. Reilly, with a little help from childhood chum Senator Pat Browne, was quietly working on the mother of all tax breaks. It's called the NIZ (Neighborhood Improvement Zone). Adopted by the

See **CRIZ** on Page 10

### NEWS ANALYSIS

Some people who have dyslexia say that the words on the page look shadowed or doubled when they try to read. Some people who have dyslexia say that the words on a page look blurry when they try to read. Some people who have dyslexia say that the words on a page look shadowed or doubled when they try to read. Some people who have dyslexia say that the words on a page look blurry when they try to read. Some people who have dyslexia say that the words on a page look shadowed or doubled when they try to read. Some people who have dyslexia say that the words on a page look blurry when they try to read.

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**PEOPLE SAY**

BY DANA GRUBB

What do you remember most about your senior year at Liberty HS in 1947?



"Playing in the band, singing in the Glee Club, and dating my future wife."

**Bill Kirkpatrick**  
Bethlehem



"Only attending for a half year to take extra credits."

**Jean Jackson**  
Bethlehem



"Graduation and getting out of high school."

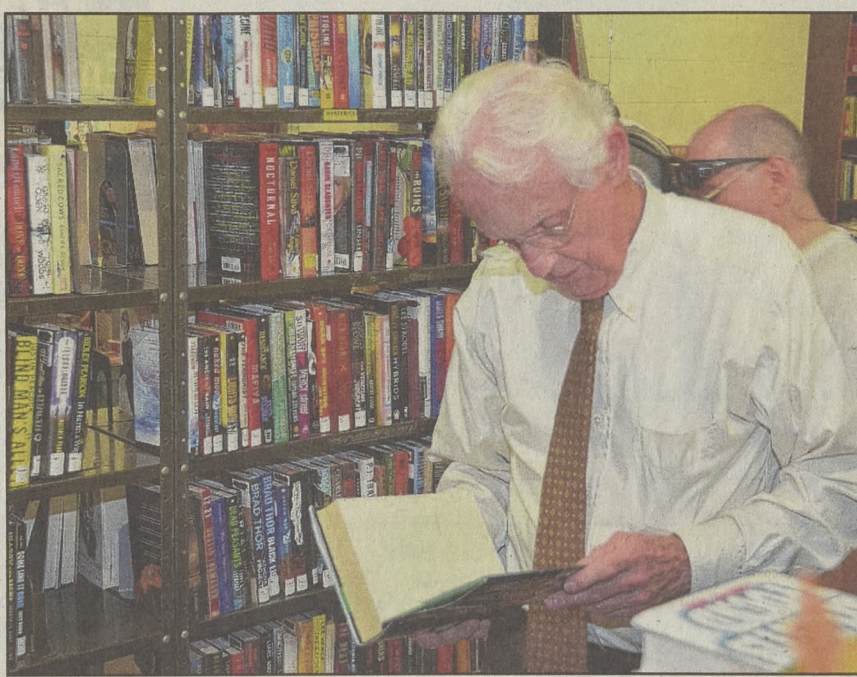
**George Pitsilos**  
Bethlehem



"Having fun. Those were the best years of my life."

**Juliette Guidon**  
Hanover Township

**Recent sale nets \$10,000-plus**



PRESS PHOTO BY DANA GRUBB

**Lower Saucon Township** resident Dick Hammond is one of many regulars who frequent the Bethlehem Area Public Library's book sales. Hammond said he prefers mysteries, intrigue and thrillers when shopping at the sales. "It's comfort reading," he said. The Bethlehem Area Public Library's September book sale netted the library an additional \$10,521, bringing total proceeds for 2015 to \$45,664 with only the pre-holiday sale remaining on Dec. 2 and 5. Additional information on all future book sales is available at [www.bestbooksale.org](http://www.bestbooksale.org) or by calling 610-867-3761 ext. 235.

**TOWER**

Continued from page A1

has asbestos and lacks a sprinkler system. The cost of these renovations would be prohibitive, she said.

The proposed change to the OMU zoning is part of a comprehensive plan to encourage a mixed-use residential and nonresidential uses in appropriate places, Heller said. The change would "revise city zoning ordinance to facilitate economic development," she said.

Heller said the change was proposed to promote smart growth. Characteristics of smart growth include creating a range of housing opportunity choices and walkable neighborhoods but offering a variety of transportation choices. "We want to be well connected," Heller said. Smart growth also fosters a distinctive, attractive community with strong sense of place, makes development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective, she

said. In addition, smart growth provides for a mix of land uses while preserving open space, farmland natural beauty and critical environmental areas.

Heller said the review process for the proposal included approval by the city Planning Commission at meetings July 9 and Aug. 13. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) sent a "very complimentary" letter of support for the proposal, Heller said. Members of the public spoke at the public hearing on Oct. 6, but due to time constraints many never got a turn. There will be more opportunity for public comment when the proposal is scheduled for first reading at the council meeting Oct. 20 and second reading at the Nov. 4 meeting.

Meetings were also held with interested parties throughout the summer, Heller said.

Following some of the recommendations of the LVPC, the proposal lowered the maximum

one-story building on the site from 375,000 square feet to 270,000 square feet.

"We want to get density on the site," so it is important to build up, Heller said. The proposed OMU district would call for a minimum of 5 percent office, light industrial and related uses, 5 percent retail, restaurant, entertainment and related uses, and 5 percent residential. "There was a lot of discussion of what the percentage should be," Heller said. She said a first floor restaurant with other uses above would be ideal.

Council member Eric Evans said the feedback from the LVPC was very positive, but questions if the retail use would be productive.

Since the OMU permits many uses, council member Adam Waldron asked what uses would not be permitted in the proposed zone. Heller said such businesses as car washes, car sales and more "significant impactable industrial

uses" would not be permitted.

Parking requirements would be consistent with current regulations and not changed, she said.

Council member Bryan Callahan said, "We have businesses as we speak that are leaving Bethlehem. Why are we telling developers you have 10 percent non-residential when there might not be a market for it. Why do we put percentages?"

Heller said, "The market is going to change over time. Five percent is a small amount. I don't see it as a restraint on development."

Heller said one of the goals of is to mix uses to bring residents and office personnel into the site.

"It's a large site. It's rare to have an opportunity to redevelop a site like that," Heller said. "We should be taking advantage of an opportunity here that's been languishing too long."

**CORRECTION**

In our Oct. 7 cover story, "Little bits add up," we incorrectly stated 4 PAWS does not train service dogs covered by the American Disability Act. We should have said that unlike other organizations that train companion dogs, 4 Paws for Abilities trains canine service dogs that are specifically covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act to assist people with autism, Down syndrome, hearing loss, and other disabilities.

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Buffet Lunch 1 PM Cost \$15 entry in 2 trivia contests and raffles included.  
2PM Induction of athletes including former pro baseball players "Reds" Kresge Palmerton, Steve Ramer Emmaus

<b>COOPERSBURG</b> Keith Schafer	<b>EMMAUS</b> Terry Bisping Dick Prue	<b>UPPER MILFORD</b> Steve Ramer	<b>LOWER MACUNGIE</b> Matt Mondschein	<b>PALMERTON</b> "Red's" Kresge	<b>PEN ARGYL</b> George Cobb Jim Dietz
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Wednesday, Oct. 14

**Salvation Army**, senior drop-in (age 50 and up) 9 to 11 a.m.; Bible study, 11 a.m. to noon; women's ministries (age 16 and up), program: Laura Ortiz: "The Bible's Answer to Anxiety," 1 p.m. 521 Pembroke Road, Call 610-867-4681.

**Kids' Storytime with Jane**, 10:30 a.m. Ages two to four; sign up in children's book department, Moravian Book Shop, 428 Main St. Call 610-866-5481 or visit [www.moravianbookshop.com](http://www.moravianbookshop.com).

**Forensic psychologist Katherine Ramsland**, author of "Bethlehem Ghosts, Historical Hauntings in and Around Pennsylvania's Christmas City, presentation, 7 p.m. Seidersville Hall, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Hellertown.

Thursday, Oct. 15

**Bethlehem Steel's Hoover Mason Trestle tours**, 10:25 a.m. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Nov. 21. 711 E. First St. Call 610-297-7200 or visit [www.steelstacks.org/event/1809/hoover-mason-trestle-guided-tour](http://www.steelstacks.org/event/1809/hoover-mason-trestle-guided-tour).

**"Lineup" by Liad Shoham**, mystery book discussion group, host Mary Pat Beebe, 10 a.m. 428 Main St. Call 610-866-5481 or visit [www.moravianbookshop.com](http://www.moravianbookshop.com).

**Salvation Army**, seniors 50 and up, program, 10:45 a.m.; lunch, noon to 1 p.m. (cost). 521 Pembroke Road. Call 610-867-4681.

**Bethlehem Garden Club** meeting with Deborah Pomroy Moyer, floral stylist and educator. 1 p.m., Advent Moravian Church, 3730 Jacksonville Road.

**Turning Point**: free, open to the public Vigil of Peace, Hope and Renewal. Gathering: 6 p.m., program: 6:30 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 Hamilton St., Allentown. Call 610-797-0530 or visit [www.turningpointlv.org](http://www.turningpointlv.org) for more information.

Friday, Oct. 16

**Fun night for everyone**, 7 p.m. St. John's Ev. Windish Lutheran Church, 617 E. Fourth St. Call 610-868-3282.

Saturday, Oct. 17

**Natural history book signing** with Scott Weidensaul, 2 to 3 p.m. Bethlehem Area Public Library, main library, 11W. Church St. Visit [www.bapl.org](http://www.bapl.org) or call 610-867-3761.

**"Medusa"** (young adults) book signing with Tom Tancin, 2 to 4 p.m. Moravian Book Shop, 428 Main St. Call 610-866-5481 or visit [www.moravianbookshop.com](http://www.moravianbookshop.com).

**Jeanette Barres Zug Lecture**, 3 to 5 p.m. Saal, Gemeinhaus, 66 W. Church St. Email [lseifert@historicbethlehem.org](mailto:lseifert@historicbethlehem.org) or call 610-882-0450, ext. 10, for reservations.

**"Garden Spells"** by Sarah Addison Allen, Bethlehem Book-

See TOWN on Page 4

# PPL WLVT naming rights sponsor

Contributed article

PPL Corporation and PBS39, the greater Lehigh Valley's trusted source for quality television and educational services, announced that PPL will be the naming rights sponsor of the television station's public media center.

Under the seven-year agreement, the building will be called the PPL Public Media Center. The announcement was made jointly by William H. Spence, chairman, president and CEO of PPL Corporation, and Timothy S. Fallon, CEO of PBS39, at a press conference Oct. 1.

The 29,288-square-foot center was constructed in 2011 on the redeveloped Bethlehem plant of the former Bethlehem Steel Corporation. It features a 125-seat television studio where local on-air programs like FOCUS and Behind the Guitar are recorded and live community discussions are held.

"We're proud to support PBS39 and the role the station plays in educating the communities we serve, developing programming for citi-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**WLVT CEO Tim Fallon** with PPL President and CEO Bill Spence during the press conference announcing PPL's naming rights sponsorship of the PBS station's building on SteelStacks Campus.

zens from childhood to adulthood," Spence said. Funds garnered from the naming rights sponsorship will help PBS39 expand core initiatives that include: increasing commitment and capacity to create local productions and documentaries; expanding education- and the lev-

el of involvement with partner school districts; beginning new partnerships with education-serving organizations; and providing digital communication skills for local students.

"With the support of PPL, we can enhance our role as a community convener and further

our mission to educate, entertain, and inspire the public," Fallon said. "Partnerships like this one have the power to affect positive change in our community's development and education. The future looks bright for PBS39 and PPL," said Bethlehem Mayor Robert Donchez.

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YMCA	Wednesday	10/21/15	5-7 pm	430 E. Broad St.
Lutheran Manor	Thursday	10/29/15	9-11am	2085 Westgate Dr.
Moravian House	Friday	11/6/15	9-11am	720 Old York Rd.

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Continued from page A3

worms book discussion group, 6 p.m. Moravian Book Shop, 428 Main St. Call 610-866-5481 or visit [www.moravianbookshop.com](http://www.moravianbookshop.com).

**Sunday, Oct. 18**

**Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites** Open Gate farm tours at Burnside Plantation, organized by Penn State Extension. Guided tours, cider press demonstrations, hot apple cider, pumpkin decorating and colonial games. Noon to 5 p.m. Visit [www.HistoricBethlehem.org](http://www.HistoricBethlehem.org) or [www.extension.psu.edu](http://www.extension.psu.edu).

**Saucon Valley Spirit Parade**, 2 p.m. Theme: 60s Woodstock. Visit <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/newsletter/2015fall.pdf>.

**Johnston Memorial Concert**, free-will offering to be given to Moravian ministry in Nepal, with the Central Moravian Church festival choir and orchestra, vocal soloists. 4 p.m. Church sanctuary, 73 W. Church St. Call 610-866-5661 or visit [www.centralmoravianchurch.org](http://www.centralmoravianchurch.org).

**Word Slings** writing group, hosted by Angela Cousins, 3 p.m. Moravian Book Shop, 428 Main St. Call 610-866-5481 or visit [www.moravianbookshop.com](http://www.moravianbookshop.com).

**Tuesday, Oct. 20**

**Salvation Army**, Calling All Bridge Players program, 9:30 a.m. to noon. 521 Pembroke Road. Call 610-867-4681.

**Wednesday, Oct. 21**

**Salvation Army**, senior drop-in (age 50 and up) 9 to 11 a.m.; Bible study, 11 a.m. to noon; women's ministries (age 16 and up), program, 1 p.m. 521 Pembroke Road. Call 610-867-4681.

**Kids' Storytime with Jane**, 10:30 a.m. Ages two to four; Sign up in children's book department; Moravian Book Shop, 428 Main St. Call 610-866-5481 or visit [www.moravianbookshop.com](http://www.moravianbookshop.com).

**Free preview lecture**, Great Decisions Foreign Policy lecture series. Program-State Of The Lehigh Valley: Community Trends At A Glance, with moderator Dr. Hannah Stewart-Gambino. 11:30 a.m. Kirkland Village, 1 Kirkland Village Circle. Call 610-867-4669, ext.101 or email [Adminassist@Ywcbethlehem.org](mailto:Adminassist@Ywcbethlehem.org).

**Lost Village of Christian's Spring** (Christiansbrunn), free talk by Lehigh University students, 5 to 6 p.m. Moravian Archives, 41 W. Locust St. Call 610-866-3255.

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.

**MEETINGS BOARD****Wednesday, Oct. 14**

**City Special Activity**, special event Q&A to answer questions or address any issues about upcoming special events for the public, 2 to 4 p.m. Town Hall, 10 E. Church St. RSVP to 610-865-7079.

**Lehigh County Commissioners**, 7:30 p.m. Public hearing room, Gov't. Center, 17 S. Seventh St., Allentown.

**Thursday, Oct. 15**

**City of Bethlehem Redevelopment**, 4:30 p.m., 10 E. Church St.

**Northampton Co. Council**, 6:30 p.m., Northampton Co. Courthouse, 669 Washington St., Easton.

**Monday, Oct. 19**

**Historic Conservation Commission**, 7 p.m. Banana Factory, 25 E. Third St.

**BASD regular board**, 7 p.m. East Hills MS auditorium, 2005 Chester Road.

**Bethlehem Twp. Board of Commissioners**, 7 p.m. municipal building, 4225 Easton Ave

**Fountain Hill Borough Zoning Hearing Board** (if needed), 7 p.m., 941 Long St.

**Hellertown Borough Council**, 7 p.m., 685 Main St.

**Tuesday, Oct. 20**

**Bethlehem City Council**, 7 p.m. 10 E. Church St.

**Wednesday, Oct. 21**

**Bethlehem Twp. Municipal Authority**, 6:30 p.m., Municipal building, 4225 Easton Ave.

**Fountain Hill Council**, 7 p.m., 941 Long St.

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.

**FALL FESTIVALS****Saturday, Oct. 17**

**Fall Fair and flea market**, homemade strudels, rolls, jams and jellies, candy, noodles, and more. Refreshments. University Parish of the Holy Ghost R. C. Church, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 417 Carlton Ave. Call 610-867-9382.

**Sunday, Oct. 18**

**Fall Fair and flea market**, homemade strudels, rolls, jams and jellies, candy, noodles, and more. University Parish of the Holy Ghost R. C. Church, 9 a.m. to noon. 417 Carlton Ave. Call 610-867-9382.

**Saturday, Oct. 24**

**Lehigh Valley Quaker Craft Show**, crafts, homemade items, food, beverages, live music, book sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A soup and bread lunch will be sold between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. 4116 Bath Pike (Route 512). Call 610-691-3411 or visit [www.lehighvalleyquakers.org](http://www.lehighvalleyquakers.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.

**HALLOWEEN PARADES****Sunday, Oct. 18**

**Saucon Valley Spirit Parade**, 2 p.m. No rain date.

**Sunday, Oct. 25**

**City of Bethlehem Halloween parade**, 2 p.m. Rain date: 2 p.m. Nov. 1.

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.

**TRAFFIC ALERT****RUNNERS FEST OCT. 17, 18**

Runner's World half marathon and running festival will be held Oct. 17 and 18.

The race courses will include most of the Northside downtown area and the Southside.

Traffic in those areas will be restricted as of half an hour prior to the start of the race. Several houses of worship have changed or canceled services. Check with the individual locations for more information.

For maps and festival information, visit <http://rw.runnersworld.com/rwhalf/about.htm>.

**Helen A. Shivok**

Mills employee

Helen A. Shivok, 98, died Sept. 23, 2015, at her home in Bethlehem. She was a daughter of the late Andrew and Mary Vojtko of Bethlehem. She was the wife of the late John Shivok.

She worked in Bethlehem at the Chic Bag Company from 1951 to 1957; and at Schobel Brothers tie factory, from 1957 to 1973. She then worked at Fountain Hill Mills until she retired in 1983.

She was a member of the ILGWA union. She was a member of the senior citizen group of Bethlehem and of the

**John K. Laughlin**

steel mail office

John K. Laughlin, 92, of Bethlehem, died at home Sept. 29, 2015. He was a son of the late William and Jessica (Bruner) Laughlin.

He worked for 39 years in the mail office of Bethlehem Steel until he retired.

He was a member of Holy Ghost R. C. Church, Bethlehem.

Holy Ghost seniors.

She is survived by two children, John and his wife Theresa; and a daughter, Elaine; seven grandchildren, John, Tracey, Jason, Keith, Marc, Aaron and Zachary; and two great-grandchildren, Kylee Marie and Lila Jane.

She was predeceased by three sisters, Anna, Mary and Veronica; and three brothers, Stephen, Charles and Andrew.

Contributions may be made to Incarnation of Our Lord Parish, 617 Pierce St., Bethlehem, PA 18015 or Holy Ghost Parish, 417 Carlton Ave., Bethlehem, PA. 18015.

Arrangements were made by Connell Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

**George "Fritz" Halfacre**

coach, athlete

George "Fritz" Halfacre, 88, died Sept. 27, 2015. Born in Palmerton, he was a son of George and Ethel (Wood) Halfacre. He was the husband of "Rene" Vlossak for 67 years.

He graduated from Tabor Academy of Marion, Mass., where he earned varsity letters four sports; captained the basketball and baseball teams; was the senior class president; and received the Fred Thompson Award for general excellence in sports, skill and team spirit. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Lehigh University.

He was an aviation radio man in the U.S. Navy and was in World War II. He was in the U.S. Navy reserve for eight years.

He was a semi-pro athlete for two years in a league in New Jersey.

He was a teacher, coach and mentor for 58 years, and began his coaching career at Hellertown HS (now Saucon Valley). He coached football, basketball, baseball, swimming and track at Lehigh University, Moravian College and numerous high schools including Wil-

liam Allen and Emmaus, and several New Jersey schools. He was an assistant coach at many schools and coach of the year for four years. A charter member of the Saucon Valley Hall of Fame, he was inducted into the National Football Hall of Fame-L.V. chapter, Pennsylvania Hall of Fame- Carbon County chapter and the McDonald's All Star Football Game Hall of Fame of Washington, N.J.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four children, Linda and her husband Craig Medei of Lower Saucon Township, Sandra and her husband Frank Haas of St. Thomas, Roxanne Michels and fiancé Gene Legath of Emmaus, and Thomas and his wife Donna Halfacre of Coatesville; 14 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by two siblings, Robert Halfacre and Patricia Bischoff.

Contributions may be made to Moravian College, designated for the Halfacre scholarship fund, and mailed to Lisa Brand, Moravian College, 1200 Main St., Bethlehem, PA 18018; or online at <https://secure.moravian.edu/dev/contribution.asp>.

Arrangements were made by Heintzelman Funeral Home Inc., Hellertown.

**Joyce A. Benner**

worked at Moravian college

Joyce A. Benner, 88, of Lower Saucon Township, died Sept. 21, 2015, at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest, Salisbury Township. Born in Lower Saucon Township, she was a daughter of the late William H. and Miriam S. (Leidich) Bechdolt. She was the wife of Richard O. Benner Sr. for 67 years.

She was a stenographer course graduate of Bethlehem Business College.

She worked in the financial aid office of Moravian College for several years.

She was a member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church, Bethlehem.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three children, Dennis E. of Center

Valley, David T. and his wife Joan E., and Kathleen "Kathy" M. Barth, all of Bethlehem; a daughter-in-law: Deanna Benner of Lower Saucon Township; eight grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

She was predeceased by three children, Richard O. Jr., Eileen M. Landis and Bruce M. Benner; and four siblings, John R., Donald E., William R. and Charles F. Bechdolt.

Contributions may be made to the Center for Animal Health and Welfare, 1165 Island Park Road, Easton, PA 18042 and/or Animals In Distress, 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA 18036.

Arrangements were made by Heintzelman Funeral Home Inc., Hellertown.

**Betty A. Dyer**

of Bethlehem Township

Betty A. Dyer, 91, of Bethlehem Township, and formerly of Florida, died Sept. 29, 2015, in St. Luke's Hospital-Anderson Campus. She was a daughter of the late Philip and Marie Clements. She was the wife of the late Clyde Dyer Jr.

She attended Cathe-

dral Church of The Nativity, Bethlehem.

She is survived by a daughter, Deborah Dyer.

She was predeceased by a sister, Jean Leach.

Contributions may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300, Jacksonville, Fla. 32256.

Arrangements were made by James Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

**Victoria Nieves**

Holy Infancy Church member

Victoria Nieves, 84, of Bethlehem, died Oct. 1, 2015, in Manor Care.

Born in Humacao, Puerto Rico, she was a daughter of Jose and Asuncion (Delgado) Diaz.

She was a machine operator for 20 years at Quaker Shoe Corporation, and later for Panzell, until she retired in 1993. She was an active

member of Holy Infancy Catholic Church in Bethlehem.

She is survived by two daughters, Norma Nieves and her husband Francisco and Maggie Perez; and her husband Jorge Perez; and two grandsons, Luis and Josean Perez, all of Bethlehem.

Contributions may be made to the church, 312 E. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015.

Arrangements were made by Long Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

**Dolores E. Rosario**

of Bethlehem

Dolores E. Rosario, 85, of Bethlehem, died Oct. 3, 2015, in her home. She was the wife of Eduardo E. Rosario.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by five daughters, Orchid and her husband Timothy Shaw, Patricia and her husband Donald Watson, Debra Sanders, Melissa and her husband Randy Santiago

and Cynthia Matos; a son, Robert Sanders; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to Bethlehem Special Olympics, P. O. Box 536, Bethlehem, PA 18016-1122.

Arrangements were made by Pearson Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

**Nicholas "Pop" Pastelyak**

awarded Purple Heart

Nicholas "Pop" Pastelyak, 95, of Bethlehem, died Oct. 2, 2015, at Gracedale Nursing Home. Born in Bethlehem, he was a son of the late Stephen Sr. and Mary (Vuksta) Pastelyak. He was the husband of the late Julia (Turanchik) Pastelyak.

He was in the U.S. Army during World War II, and the Korean War, and received a Purple Heart.

He was a brakeman for the PBNE Railroad from 1953 to 1982. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service from 1959 to 1972.

He was a member of Sts. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church.

He was a member of

the Bethlehem MORA Club.

He volunteered at the St. Francis Retreat House for more than 25 years.

He is survived by a son, Bill and his wife Debbi; a grandson, Eric and his wife Sarah; and two great-grandchildren, Isaac and Aria.

He was predeceased by a granddaughter, Jenna Rose; and five brothers: Charles, Andrew, Stephen, Michael and George.

Contributions may be made to the church, 1140 Johnston Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Arrangements were made by Connell Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

**Anastasia "Stacy" M. Polenchar**

Freedom HS grad

Anastasia "Stacy" M. Polenchar, 54, of Bethlehem, died Sept. 30, 2015. Born in Allentown, she was a daughter of the late Cyril and Anastasia "Nancy" (Romanik) Polenchar.

She was a 1979 graduate of Freedom HS.

She is survived by

an uncle; cousins; and friends.

Contributions may be made to Catholic Charities, 530 Union Blvd., Allentown, PA 18109.

Arrangements were made by Connell Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

**Eugene R. Bajak**

St. Anne's Church member

Eugene R. Bajak, 82, of Bethlehem, died Sept. 28, 2015. Born in Buffalo, N.Y., he was the son of the late Antoni and Helen (Bochniak) Bajak. He was the husband of Ulla (Andersson) Bajak for 47 years.

He was an U.S. Army Korean War veteran.

He was a parishioner of St. Anne's Church, Bethlehem, where he was a founding member of the men's Rosary Society.

He was a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the Catholic War Veterans.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by

three sons, Anthony and his wife Dawn of Florida, Christopher and his wife Joann, and Thomas and his wife Christina, all of New Jersey; five grandchildren, Blaise, Blaire, Anna, Alison and Andrew; and a sister, Francesca of Florida.

He was predeceased by a brother, Walter.

Contributions may be made to Catholic Charities, 530 Union Blvd., Allentown, PA 18109, or to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312.

Arrangements were made by Connell Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

**DUI injury**

Police arrested a 30-year-old Allentown man following an alleged drunken hit-and-run involving pedestrians Sept. 26.

According to court records and media sources, a man and woman walking on West Fourth Street around 2 a.m. spotted an approaching pickup truck and the man shoved his girlfriend clear at the last moment.

The 29-year-old victim was struck hard and transported to a hospital, where he remains in a coma.

The suspect, Kendall Ritz, was allegedly intoxicated. He has numerous previous arrests, which include drugs, firearms, robbery and other charges in Northampton and Lehigh counties.

In this instance, he is charged with DUI, accidents involving injury, careless driving, failure to stop and other driving infractions, and was remanded to Northampton County Prison in lieu of \$75,000 bail.

**DUIs**

Police made a number of intoxication-related arrests Oct. 3.

Some of those arrested were observed driving erratically while others caused accidents.

Kevin Edmonson, 23, of Pleasant Drive, was arrested at Graham Place around 11:30 p.m.

Tuquarh Meadows, 35, of Sixth Avenue, was arrested on West Market Street around 3:20 a.m.

Janet Serrano-Rodriguez, 48, of North 19th Street in Allentown, was arrested on Pierce Street around 2:35 a.m.

An unspecified man was arrested on Vernon Street around 1 a.m.

Gary Stahler, 52, of Grenadier Boulevard, was arrested on Easton Avenue around 10 a.m.

# Stadiums, wireless upgrades coming

BY KRISTINE PORTER  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Members of the Bethlehem Area School Board heard about upcoming capital improvement projects at the Facilities Committee meeting Oct. 5.

Mark Stein, the chief facilities and operations officer, told the board that the SPARK roof replacement needs to be the summer project for 2016.

"Five years ago, the SPARK project was deferred," Stein said, but it shouldn't be put off any longer.

The estimated cost to replace the roof is \$334,000. Currently, the school district is finishing this past summer's project — the wireless project. The estimat-

ed cost for going wireless in all of the school district's buildings is \$392,823, he said. The wireless project had totaled more than \$2 million, but had been subsidized through an E-rate grant, Superintendent Joseph Roy said.

Stein also would like to begin the first phase of stadium upgrades next summer. The first phase would include turf and track replacement at a cost of \$778,680. He said the life span of the turf and track is about eight to 10 years. The track is going on its 14th season, and the turf is in its 12th season.

The following summer in 2017, the second phase of the stadium project would be painting the stands. Stein es-

## BETHLEHEM AREA SD



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new Nitschmann MS's foundations are dug and being set.

timates the cost of painting to be about \$865,200.

"There is some rust showing through," Stein said. "We want to get a handle on that before it becomes a structural problem."

"When the stands are full, you don't see the rust," Roy joked.

The total cost of the three summer projects is about \$2.4 million. The cost would be offset through one-time revenue sources, Stein said. These include the sale of the Monocacy building for \$367,350; the sale of the Rosemont building for \$596,250; the lease extension of the SPARK building for \$300,000 and the Nitschmann MS solar panel credit for

\$240,000. The total revenue would be about \$2.3 million.

School board member Sudantha Vidanage asked if doing away with the solar panel project was the right decision.

Michael Faccinetto, the president of the school board, explained to him that there isn't roof space up there to place the number of solar panels needed to make a sufficient amount of electricity. The electricity generated by the solar panels would be only 3 percent of the total electricity used by the school, he said. The savings on electricity just doesn't outweigh the cost of the panels.

Roy congratulated Stein and his co-workers

for being "conscious of taxpayers' dollars in our budget, so we don't have to dip into our capital reserve for these projects." Roy was pleased that they were able to closely match the cost of needed projects with one-time revenue sources.

One project that Stein would also like to pursue is the ventilator replacement at East Hills MS. This project would be slated for the summer of 2017, and would cost a little more than \$1 million. Stein said the project "needs to get on the radar," but a funding source, outside of the capital reserve fund, has not been determined.

Vidanage asked why the needed project was going to be postponed until 2017.

Stein said there isn't enough time to get the project designed and ready for next summer. Arif Fazil, a principal at D'Huy Engineering Inc. in Bethlehem, added that it's also putting the project out to bid, choosing a company to handle the project and then the acquisition of materials. It takes at least 16 weeks just to get all of the materials delivered and in place before the project start date.

One project that is well underway is the construction of the new Nitschmann. In a job progress update, D'Huy Engineering reported that excavation of the building pad is complete and 85 percent of the foundations for the kitchen and boiler room have been installed. The installation of concrete footings and retaining walls is ongoing, as is the installation of underground plumbing and electrical lines.

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# Senate Bill 909 – Tax Relief Act

Faccinnetto says bill takes away districts' authority to tax above the Act 1 level

BY KRISTINE PORTER  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Near the end of the Bethlehem Area School District's regular meeting, the topic of property taxation was raised by board President Michael Faccinnetto.

Faccinnetto commented that the Pa. School Boards Association had reported on the status of the Senate bill that would put further restrictions on the amount that a school district could raise property taxes.

Introduced as Senate Bill 909, the Taxpayer Relief Act, also known as the Taxation Empowerment and Accountability Act, would require future real estate tax increases proposed by school districts to be ratified through a voter referendum. Sen. Donald White, (R, Armstrong, Butler, Indiana and Westmoreland counties), said in a statement to lawmakers that he introduced the bill as part of a wider debate over property tax relief.

## BETHLEHEM AREA SD

"Without a strong voter referendum in place, school districts will be able to continue raising taxes despite any efforts we make to increase education funding, restrain pension contributions and provide property tax relief to homeowners," White said. "For us to enact such reforms without ensuring the taxpayer relief that is promised remains in effect is tantamount to rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic."

White thinks that people will support tax increases that they consider to be warranted.

"My legislation not only empowers voters, but makes them more accountable for the educational environment in their own communities, while requiring school districts to convince the public the product being provided is worth additional taxpayer investment," White said.

The bill also calls for the adoption of preliminary budget proposals, and property tax limits on reassessed properties. It went before the Senate Finance Committee on Sept. 29, but no votes were taken.

Faccinnetto said the bill takes away school districts' authority to tax above the Act 1 level.

According to the bill, "the board of school directors will not increase any tax (at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the department)." The index takes into consideration the school district's employment costs and the amount of aid it receives from the state. Any resolution by the board to not raise taxes must be done at least 110 days prior to the upcoming fiscal year.

"We don't want the legislators to tell us how to spend our money, when they don't care to fund us," Faccinnetto said.

School districts

throughout the state continue to wait for state funds that are tied up due to the lack of a passed budget. The budget was supposed to be passed in July, but is currently at a standstill. A stopgap budget was approved by the Senate in mid-September, then passed by the House along party lines. Called the School Code bill, House Bill 224, provides \$11 billion in spending to cover the state's obligations from July to October 2015. This would provide "roughly one-third of the total funding in each of the education line items to school districts and releasing all the federal funds," the PSBA reported.

Gov. Tom Wolf has said he would most likely veto the bill, because "it does not provide a comprehensive solution to the budget impasse. As a result, you should not expect to receive any dollars as a result of this effort," PSBA said.

# Administrators to get pay increases

BY MARK RECCEK  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Saucon Valley School District administrators will now see a bump in their pay.

At the Sept. 22 meeting, the school board approved the administrator compensation plan by a vote of 6-2. The plan will see the pay of administrators, supervisors and employees, other than

## SAUCON VALLEY SD

teachers, increase from 3 to 5 percent.

Voting in opposition were board members Bryan Eichfeld and Susan Baxter.

The agreement provides that 14 administrators, including principals, assistant principals, the assistant to the super-

intendent and other supervisors, will receive a 5 percent increase in their salary.

The plan is effective July 1 and runs until June 30, 2016. The administrator increase contracts run for one year, the contracts for the superintendent and assistant to the super-

intendent run for three years and the contract for the business manager is effective for five years.

Under the agreement, Eichfeld, district Superintendent Monica McHale-Small and business Manager David Bonenberger will see 3 percent raises each.

Eichfeld argued for merit-based pay raises. See SAUCON on Page 8

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Pandita Ramabai, the noted Christian leader of India, joined the Church of England believing Christianity was what she needed since the religions of her country had not satisfied. She was baptized and attended church regularly for eight years. Then one day she learned that she needed to be "born of the Spirit" (John 3:6) or "born again" in order to go to heaven as Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and He changed her life completely. She discovered that it is not the church that saves, but Jesus Himself. She later said: "I had found the Christian religion, but not the Christ of the religion!"

One of the most graphic verses in the Bible pictures the Lord Jesus standing at the door waiting for admittance and saying: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Jesus will not force open the door of your heart against your will; but, if you will respond to Him and receive Him, He will satisfy your heart and change your life forever! The Bible says, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

Invite Jesus into your heart now and like Pandita, you will find that true Christianity is more than just a creed—it is "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). I encourage you to see [www.NAOG.ws/message.htm](http://www.NAOG.ws/message.htm) to get some guidance on how to pray and invite Jesus into your heart.

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**Success Story - A New Driver at the Wheel**

After eight years of managing Austin's Auto Service, three of which being solely responsible for day-to-day operations, Nelson Tavarez, Jr. was faced with a decision. Austin Godshall, the owner of the business, fell ill and was considering closing. Not only would closing mean an impact on the many existing customers but there would also be a loss of five jobs in the City of Bethlehem, along with a vacant lot which could not be easily reused for anything other than auto repair. This potential impact was of great importance to the West End of the City.

Knowing he had the knowledge to run the business but not the finances to purchase it, Nelson approached First Star Bank for financing to purchase the business and real estate. The bank and Nelson then turned to Kim Edwards, Financing Assistance Program Director for Lehigh University's Small Business Development Center (LUSBDC) to discuss possible funding alternatives for the project. Edwards then identified potential lending programs available to facilitate the purchase and move the project forward. Working in conjunction with First Star Bank and the City of Bethlehem, the LUSBDC assisted Tavarez with his financial presentation package to the lending partners. The project of purchasing the business and real estate creatively pulled together a partnership of varied funding sources to leverage Tavarez's equity participation, including an SBA loan through First Star Bank, seller financing, the City of Bethlehem, the Lehigh & Northampton Counties Revolving Loan Fund (LNCRLF) and the State of Pennsylvania's minority loan program (PMBDA) through the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) and the Allentown Economic Development Corporation (AEDC). Without the combination of all these groups, the purchase would not have been possible. The culmination of these independent groups created a "perfect storm" of financial sorts that allowed the Tavarezs' to finally see their dream of entrepreneurship.

The Tavarezs', along with his parents, all came together in support of the purchase. Finally, after nearly ten months of planning, Nelson Tavarez became the proud owner of Austin's Auto Service on October 13, 2011.

Austin's Auto Service handles all types of mechanical repairs, air conditioning, tune ups, specialty diagnostics, state inspections, emissions and even towing service. They are open Monday through Saturday. Stop in and see Nelson and his ASE certified team located at 1843 West Broad Street in Bethlehem.



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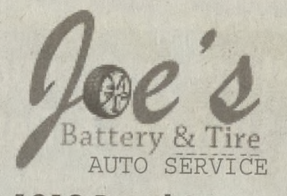
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# Bethlehem NAACP talks education

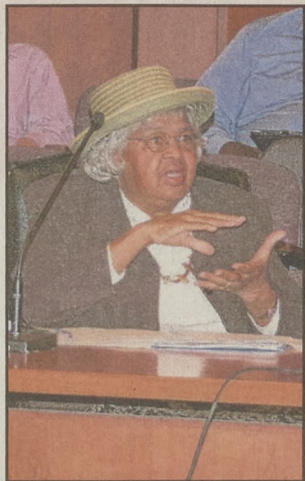
BY BERNIE O'HARE  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Against the backdrop of a student walkout in Allentown, Bethlehem's NAACP hosted a forum devoted to educational inequality Sept. 29 at city hall. About 35 people, most of them black or Hispanic, attended. This racial disparity was noted by outspoken moderator and NAACP President Esther Lee. "That's not my fault," she said to laughter. "People hear the word NAACP and ..."

Wearing her ever-present church hat, Lee peppered panelists and even audience members with questions about the walkout, the absence of diversity among teachers and the educational gap between white and minority students.

## Student walkout

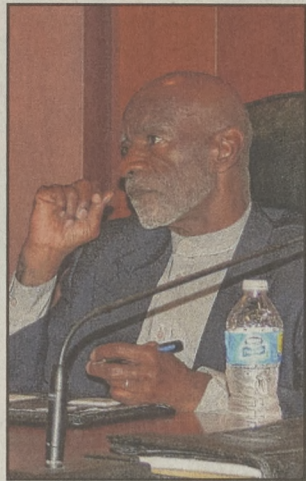
Though opposed to the walkout, Lee said "[w]e would not have that situation in Allentown if those young people thought they were being treated fairly." Mayor Bob Donchez, who spent 35 years as a



Esther Lee, president of the Bethlehem branch of the NAACP



Police Chief Mark DiLuzio calls himself "the last teacher."



"It starts in the home," said Rev. Melvin Tatem.

teacher in Allentown, called education "one of the great equalizers," but what sets Bethlehem apart from Allentown is that it is an area school district that includes suburbs like Hanover Township. Many years ago, Allentown passed on an opportunity to create an area school district that could have included Salisbury, Donchez observed.

Panelists like Lehigh University's Dr. James Peterson insisted there would have been no

walkout at all if school board members just listened to student grievances at a crowded and contentious meeting just a few days before the student strike. He said students have many legitimate grievances, like old textbooks and far fewer teachers than just a few years ago.

But Rev. Melvin Tatem, pastor at Grace Deliverance Baptist Church had a completely different view.

"It starts in the home," the cleric observed,

speaking in a soft voice that grew louder as he continued. "If we don't do our job, everything else falls down. ... If you don't respect your parents, you won't respect the police." He wants on to speak of three generations in just one family being in jail.

Police Chief Mark DiLuzio, sitting right next to Tatem, called himself the "last teacher" that a young person sees before being sent to the prison system. Both DiLuzio and Donchez criticized the poverty in Al-

lertown and elsewhere within the Lehigh Valley. DiLuzio asked how, in a country as blessed as the United States, the poverty rate could go up 3 percent in just eight years. Donchez decried a permanent underclass with very limited skills.

## Educational Disparity

Dr. Joseph Roy, superintendent of the Bethlehem Area School District, not only agreed that there is disparity, but told the audience it starts early. A gap in reading and math proficiency among white, Latino and black students starts in the fourth grade, and widens as students get older. That's why he believes all-day kindergarten is so important. "We have to start young and get kids on a successful track early," he stressed.

But all-day kindergartens and teachers cost money in a "don't tax me" society that is increasingly unwilling to pay the price.

"We've lost respect for the public good," observed Roy. "We don't have money for roads

## SAUCON

Continued from page A6

He said he was particularly concerned with the higher pay increases included in the recent teachers' contract approved by the board.

According to Bonenberger, administrators and supervisors did not see a pay increase in 2012-13. In 2013-14 they received a 3 percent bump and in 2014-15 they saw a 2.1 percent increase.

"Due to ongoing teachers negotiations, which took up much of the board's time this summer, the board was finally able to finalize the agreements," he told the board.

In other business, the board recognized middle school teachers Amanda Giangioffe and Daniel Mack for receiving the 2015 PA Council on Math Teacher Award. Giangioffe received the middle school math new teacher of the year award and Mack received the middle school math teacher of the year award.



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**NAACP**

Continued from page A8 and bridges," he said, referring to our crumbling infrastructure. Donchez blamed extremists on both sides of the ideological divide to whom "compromise" is a dirty word. "We can certainly do better," he said.

Minority Teacher Shortage

Both Dr. Roy and Dr. Peterson agreed with Lee's observation that the majority of teachers are white while the majority of students are not. But Peterson said there's no pipeline to create minority teachers. He stated more needs to be done to make "teaching a profession to which students aspire." Peterson, who directs the African Studies pro-

gram at Lehigh University, noted that one reason so few high schools offer African American studies is because so few teachers are qualified in that area.

Other panelists participating in this forum were Bethlehem YWCA Executive Director Stephanie Hnatiw and Randi Blauth from the American Association of University Women.



Mayor Bob Donchez listens to Dr. James Peterson (R).

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## CRIZ

Continued from page 1

state legislature in 2009, this law was written so it could only ever apply to Allentown. It's like a TIF on steroids.

Reilly is using state tax revenue, even cigarette taxes, to fund the cost of improvements within a 130-acre noncontiguous parcel in downtown Allentown and along the Lehigh River waterfront. As originally written, he could use local EIT taxes, too, but that provision was changed after a group of municipalities, led by Hanover and Bethlehem townships, sued.

An embarrassed state legislature decided to enact a watered down version of the NIZ as a consolation prize for municipalities like Bethlehem and Lancaster, who are too small to participate in the NIZ. It's called the CRIZ (City Revitalization and Improvement Zone). It allows developers to recoup state and local non-property taxes from new or out-of-state businesses to help finance development within a non-contiguous 130-acre zone.

When Bethlehem was selected, State Senator Lisa Boscola credited a "phenomenal application" that included 11 "shovel ready" projects. This included the Martin Tower development. Bethlehem's application indicated that the "intended uses comply with current zoning."

They don't. The Martin Tower development was just rezoned in 2006 to host the largest-ever residential neighborhood in city history. But that would make little sense as part of a CRIZ property. A developer can recoup construction costs for retail, but not for residential.

To make matters worse for the city, it's impossible to move a CRIZ area to a more logical location like Broad Street without obtaining the agreement of the impacted developer, who would want compensation.

So by the time the CRIZ was approved, plans were already underway to drastically alter zoning at Martin Tower again. This time, instead of residential, there would be destination retail uses to take complete advantage of the tax incentive

### 'We were blindsided'

The first indication that the winds had changed came in a July 7 news account indicating that the Martin Tower project was going to the planning commission. The city was seeking a new "Office Mixed Use Ordinance" that would allow both residential and unlimited retail development, including many of the same kinds of destination shops that already exist in the Historic downtown and Southside.

Now the Downtown and Southside merchants have monthly meetings with the mayor. But he never hinted that a third downtown was coming.

"We were blindsided," complained Hotel Bethlehem's managing partner, Bruce Haines. He and a number of local businesses like Donegal Square's Neville Gardner and Moravian Book Store's Dana DeVito went to the planning commission and heard Director Darlene Heller state, "The administration is being proactive to give the developer every tool he needs." This would enable Ronca, backed by a billionaire, to build a third downtown, all of which would be subsidized by taxpayers.

The new zoning ordinance would allow Ronca to tear down Martin Tower as well.

While allowing all the uses permitted for destination retail in the downtown and Southside, the proposed ordinance interestingly prohibited uses that are permitted at The Sands, like a conference center and auditorium.

This was disturbing to



"Look outside, do you see anyone on the sidewalk?" asks Moravian Book Shop's Dana DeVito. "Bethlehem is at a tipping point. We need to pay attention to what we have down here and take care of it."

shopkeepers like Moravian Book Shop's DeVito, who has market studies projecting flat sales.

"Look outside, do you see anyone on the sidewalk?" she asked on a Friday morning. "Bethlehem is at a tipping point. We need to pay attention to what we have down here and take care of it."

After several informal meetings with a small group of merchants that included Haines and DeVito, Planning Director Darlene Heller declined to schedule a separate meeting with the mayor.

"Your forum is the public hearings," Heller told them. The mayor has monthly open door meetings, but it appears that merchants were unaware of this opportunity.

### Planning commission

During two contentious meetings at the planning commission, the number of merchants worried about a new, publicly subsidized Promenade at Martin Tower began to grow. In August, planners recommended a cap under which no more than 50 percent of the property could be developed for retail use. But that recommendation was ignored when the administration presented its ordinance to city council for a public hearing.

While merchants already besieged by the Allentown NIZ expressed frustration, Bethlehem City Council President J. Willie Reynolds complained that the administration needed to be doing more.

"This city needs to start finding ways to say yes, rather than saying no," he said at a planning commission in July. He blasted Mayor Bob Donchez and DCED Director Alicia Karner, whom he said should have been at the meeting, advocating for the new ordinance. Planning Director Heller responded that no mayor or DCED director has interfered with a planning commission meeting for 15 years.

### The hearing

City Officials told merchants to express their concerns at the public hearings. So on Oct. 6, when city council was supposed to conduct its public hearing on this Mixed Use ordinance, over 100 people crowded into city hall and adjoining hallways, hoping for a chance to be heard. Apollo Grill owner Rod Holt had circulated a petition signed by 50 merchants. But a majority of council had already told daily newspapers that they support the ordinance, without having heard a word from the public.

When the hearing began, nearly three hours would pass before a single merchant could speak.

This was because Darlene Heller, the very person who had told merchants that the public hearings would be their forum, was down in the weeds with a lengthy description of the ordinance. For two hours and 15 minutes, she discussed side yard setbacks, rear yard setbacks, misspelled words and the difference between fast and fresh food restaurants. She even discussed deleted provisions.

After Heller was finally finished, Council President Reynolds called a 10-minute recess that lasted 15 minutes. Then, before allowing the public to speak, he opened the floor to questions from council members.

It was now 9:30 p.m. Adam Waldron asked about the tree canopy. That prompted a 15-minute response from Heller. Then Bryan Callahan, Mike Recchiuti and Reynolds all took turns to say they support the ordinance, something they had already announced.

Finally, three hours later, the public was given an opportunity to speak at what was, after all, supposed to be a public hearing. Four of the people who had signed on to speak had already left. But there were still 28 merchants who spoke against the ordinance. They believe they will be adversely affected by a third downtown at Martin Tower.

Only one person spoke in support of the ordinance - the treasurer of the Bethlehem Democratic Committee.

### Haines confrontation

Hotel Bethlehem's managing partner, Bruce Haines, condemned the ordinance as one that will lead to 1.3 million square feet of retail development, about four times the size of the Westgate Mall. He criticized the use of public tax dollars that will permit a single developer "to dramatically increase the use of his property at the expense of existing businesses."

He asked why none of the \$8 million in RCAP funding for Martin Tower was ever used to renovate the \$12 million asbestos and sprinkler problem. He scoffed at the notion that this was ever a "shovel ready" project, and added that none of the 112 projects identified in the Bethlehem CRIZ were ever shovel ready, but were misrepresented as such in the application to the state.

Haines also criticized both Reynolds and Rec-

chiuti for accepting \$4,000 from Martin Tower developers Lew Ronca and Norton Herrick. That money was contributed this year, and accounts for 10 percent of Reynolds' funding and 20 percent for Recchiuti.

"Your five minutes are up," announced Reynolds, but then allowed Haines to go on a bit before cutting him off and responding.

In a rambling speech, Reynolds blasted Haines for daring to "attack the integrity of the people up here." He noted Haines had received over \$14,000 in 2013 for campaign events conducted by Mayor Bob Donchez at the Hotel Bethlehem. He asked Mayor Donchez to vouch for him, and Donchez obliged. Reynolds called the very idea of there being a quid pro quo both ridiculous and insulting. He threatened that he would stop any additional speaker who dares to question his integrity "because we all love Bethlehem." He also tried to minimize his own role, specifying that the city, and not he, proposed a new zoning ordinance.

An independent review of Reynolds' campaign finance makes very clear that 24 percent of the money he raised in the primary came from the Martin Tower developers or the unions who will be doing the work at the site because a CRIZ project requires prevailing wage. In Michael Recchiuti's case, it's even more, at 29 percent of his total campaign contributions.

Reynolds responded to Haines far beyond the five minutes that Haines was allowed to speak.

"Methinks he doth protest too much," mumbled one thespian in the audience. Finally, audience members began yelling out to Reynolds, "Your five minutes are up!"

Haines asked to rebut Reynolds, but was denied the privilege. He was told he could speak again at the end of the meeting, when no one would be there.

### Officials 'are listening'

According to DCED Director Alicia Karner, the creation of a new zoning district should be a "very public process. In addition to all the public hearings, it begins with review by the city's Planning Commission, then introduction at council, review by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and then consideration by council at a public hearing and then public comment on two voting sessions of council at the meetings subsequent to the public hearing."

In addition to these public meetings, Karner said the city met with the merchants individually and collectively on several occasions, and encouraged discussion and made changes to the ordinance after listening to the merchants. But she added, "We must weigh the concerns of the city has a whole when presenting a proposal to council." Reynolds pledged to "find ways to support our downtown areas no matter what happens with this proposal. I look forward to continuing to hear from all of the stakeholders involved in the project to see if common ground can't be found to move Bethlehem forward."

Recchiuti defended his fundraising. "I have always put the interests of the entire City of Bethlehem first, and will continue to do so for the remainder of my term," he said, adding that the percentage of Martin Tower contributors is really only 13 percent. "I am confident that this zoning change will benefit the entire city for years to come."

Recchiuti, who was defeated in this year's primary, went on to say, "I firmly believe that the fears of the merchants are unfounded and based solely on speculation. Changes such as this inevitably lead to fear, but as we have seen with projects such as the casino and Lowe's, most of these fears never come to fruition."

## VOLUNTEERS

**HISTORIC BETHLEHEM MUSEUMS & SITES** proudly announces its 13th annual Turkey Trot 5kRun, a competitive and fun walk. Volunteers are needed Nov. 27 and 28. Contact Melanie Depcinski, 610-882-0450, ext. 13, [mdepinski@historicbethlehem.org](mailto:mdepinski@historicbethlehem.org).

**NORTHEAST MINISTRY**, Bethlehem, is in great need of tutors for their After School Homework Club held Monday through Thursday from 3-5:30 p.m. during the school year. Contact Paula Johnson, 610-691-3355, [johnsonp@northeastministry.com](mailto:johnsonp@northeastministry.com).

**CENTER FOR CAREER PATHWAYS & LITERACY**, Allentown, is hosting a volunteer tutor orientation for people interested in tutoring adult education students in math, science, language arts and social studies in order for students to obtain their GED. Contact Allison Ludlow, 610-799-1216, [volunteertutor@lccc.edu](mailto:volunteertutor@lccc.edu).

**LEHIGH COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS**, Allentown, has several volunteer opportunities. Contact Harry Schwartz, 814-574-4924, [lehighcountyso@hotmail.com](mailto:lehighcountyso@hotmail.com).

**SIXTH STREET SHELTER**, Allentown, is looking for volunteers with FBI & Child Abuse Clearances to come in for 4-5 hours every Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. while parents learn job search skills. Contact Jonathan Copeland, 610-435-1490, [jcopeland@caclv.org](mailto:jcopeland@caclv.org).

**AMERICA ON WHEELS**, Allentown, needs volunteers (age 16+) for gift shop/admissions assistant (handling cash register required) and museum tour guides to meet/greet visitors and share the museum's story. Contact Liz Hahn, 610-432-4200, ext. 10, [fund\\_development@americaonwheels.org](mailto:fund_development@americaonwheels.org).

**THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDREN'S SERVICES**, Allentown, is looking for volunteers to join the Children's Service Committee. Contact Jan Musser Geier, 610-821-7706, [Jan.mussergeier@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Jan.mussergeier@use.salvationarmy.org).

Contact the Volunteer Center to receive a brochure listing agencies in need of volunteers at 610-807-0336 or e-mail: [vc@volunteerlv.org](mailto:vc@volunteerlv.org). Visit our website [www.volunteerlv.org](http://www.volunteerlv.org) for a larger listing of volunteer opportunities.

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INSIDE  
**SPORTS**

**INSIDE**



**FIELD HOCKEY**

Freedom clinched a D-11 playoff berth. **A12**

**SOCCER**

Freedom defeated Becahi in girls soccer action. **A12**

**THEY SAID IT**

**"It almost felt like we haven't beaten them in forever. We knew we were a good enough football team to beat the likes of Parkland and we were confident coming in. It's just a great feeling to be standing out here as winners against a program like Parkland."**

**Doug Erney**  
LHS quarterback

**BRIEFLY**

**LIBERTY TO HONOR STATE TITLE TEAM**

Liberty will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the 1975 soccer team's PIAA state championship season on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015 at halftime of the Liberty-Freedom soccer game.

Game time should be around 7:15 p.m. at Frank Banko.

Varsity and JV members of the 1975 soccer team, the first athletic team in the history of Liberty sports to win a state championship, will be introduced and a banner that was presented to the team in 1975 by Acme Markets will be displayed on the field at halftime. The 1975 soccer team was inducted into the Liberty Athletic Hall of Fame in January 2015.

**SOFTBALL**

The First Annual Chad Spadt Memorial Softball Tournament will take place on Sunday, Oct. 18, at Schadt Avenue Park.

Chad was a volunteer firefighter/EMT with the Whitehall Fire Dept. for 14 years and lost his battle with lung cancer in October 2014.

Several teams will be competing including the Whitehall Fire Dept, Lehigh Twp Fire Dept, Bethlehem Twp Fire Dept. and Mack Trucks.

There will be a Chinese auction, bake sale, face painting, music and food.

The event starts at 8 a.m.

Proceeds benefit the Whitehall Fire Department and the Sacred Heart Hospital Cancer Center.

**FOOTBALL**

**PIAA votes to adopt six classes**

BY PETER CAR  
pcar@tnonline.com

After years of debate and months of speculation, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association voted to finally adopt a six class football structure starting for the 2016-17 school year.

The PIAA also took part in a one-time special vote to expand classifications in other sports.

The board met in Mechanicsburg last Wednesday and voted in favor of moving to six classes for football by a 26-4 margin. It was the third time the PIAA voted in favor of this proposal, which under PIAA rules, needs three votes to pass.

District 7 and Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) representatives have long opposed the idea to move

to six classes and it was no surprise that all the "no" votes during last week's meeting came from out West, along with representatives from District 8.

The board also voted, 23-7, in favor of expanding classifications in boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball from four to six classifications.

Boys soccer, girls soccer and girls volleyball will now have four clas-

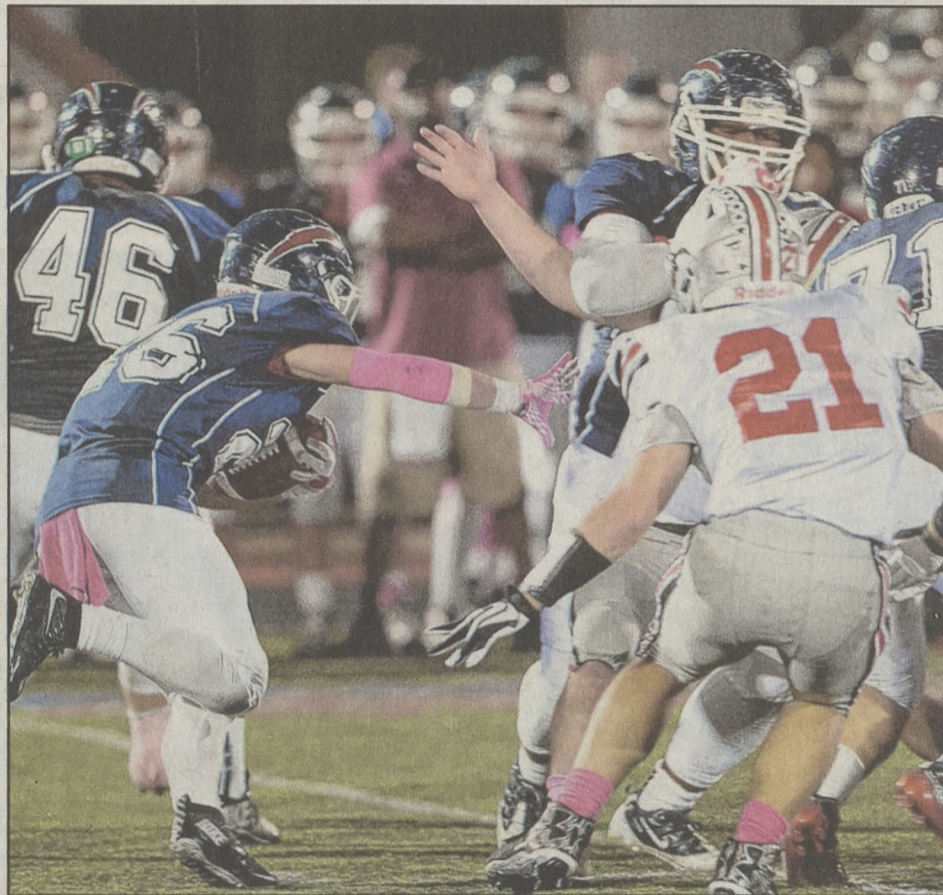
sifications, while field hockey moves to three classes and boys and girls lacrosse will now have two classes.

The change for football means more than just classifications, as teams will now have the option to play nine regular season games with two scrimmages or 10 regular season games with one scrimmage.

Most schools in District 11 are favored to keep a 10-game regular

season. Schools will have until Oct. 15, to submit enrollment numbers for the next two-year cycle (2016-2018) and will find out in mid-November what class they fall in.

Once schools find out what classification they fall under, they will have a three-week window to decide if they want to stay in that class or play up from their designated classification.



PRESS PHOTO BY DON HERB

Gunner Anglovich and the Hurricanes held on to beat Parkland last week at home.

**Liberty Shocker!**

BY PETER CAR  
pcar@tnonline.com

It wasn't a great start, but it certainly was a tremendous finish last Friday night when Liberty hosted Parkland in the biggest season matchup of East Penn Conference powers.

After falling behind early, Liberty scored 27 unanswered points en route to a 41-34 victory over the previously unbeaten Trojans (5-1) to mark a significant victory for the Hurricanes (5-1).

Doug Erney led the charge and showed why he may be the most valuable player in the EPC with another record-setting performance, as he

**More football on page A13**

was 12-of-20 for 204 yards and four touchdowns, as well as 77 yards on the ground.

To go along with a monumental win, Erney also passed Liberty's career touchdown mark of 58, previously held by state champion quarterback Dan Persa, with his four scores last week to give him 61 career TD's.

It was a night full of gifts, none of which mattered more than a victory over the vaunted Trojans.

"It almost felt like See **WIN** on Page 13

**DISTRICT 11 TENNIS**

**Sinai takes third**

BY KATIE MCDONALD  
kmcaldonald@tnonline.com

Natalie Sinai, Freedom's number one singles tennis player, won a bronze medal after competing in the District 11 Class AAA Girls Singles Tennis Tournament last week at Parkland High School.

"It feels really good. In the beginning of the season, I had a slow start. It was hard to get used to, playing high school tennis and being a freshman. I was so tense, I would come off the court shaking," said Sinai.

Freedom girls' tennis coach Mark Sigmon believes that patience had a lot to do with Sinai being able to bounce back from a 1-4 start.

"She was overhitting early, but now she's a lot more patient. She's willing to hit 10 or 12 times if she has to," Sigmon said. "She's just playing better, and she mostly did it on her own."

Sinai won district bronze by defeating Jolanta Dzimira of Pocono Mountain West 6-0, 6-0, Katie Cole of Southern Lehigh 6-3, 6-3, and Sydney DeNardo of Nazareth 6-2, 6-2.

Defeating Cole was a bonus for Sinai because Cole was the fourth seed.

"I felt really good about that. I was just really pumped up to win. I had insane slices, and I was just attacking and attacking," said Sinai.

Sinai's victory over See **FHS** on Page 14



PRESS PHOTO BY BOB FORD

Brenna Magliochetti took home a bronze medal at last week's District 11 tournament.

**Magliochetti third**

BY KATIE MCDONALD  
kmcaldonald@tnonline.com

Although Brenna Magliochetti had been looking forward to the opportunity to represent Bethlehem Catholic in the District XI Class AA Girls Singles Tennis final, the Becahi freshman earned a bronze medal after the semifinal last Thursday at Parkland High School.

"I'm disappointed, but it's cool," Magliochetti said.

Magliochetti won three matches before losing to Coco Chen from Notre Dame Green Pond 1-6, 4-6 in the semifinal.

"My serve wasn't on. My toss was really off," said Magliochetti. "I knew she was really good."

In the quarterfinal, which led to her match against Chen, Magliochetti defeated Moravian Academy's Skyler Hammond 6-4, 6-0.

"She played really well in both sets, but I

**Liberty District 11 tennis on page A14**

just got on a roll in the second set. I used to train with her, so I know her game. She's pretty aggressive, and she can get a lot of balls back," Magliochetti said.

The first two rounds of the district singles tournament were played last Wednesday at Saucun Valley High School where Magliochetti defeated Rachel LeGendre from Notre Dame East Stroudsburg 6-1, 6-0 and Katya Yeager from Saucun Valley 6-1, 6-1.

Also competing in the tournament for Becahi were Molly Ehrig and Brooke Adams.

Adams defeated Jolene Buenaventura from Notre Dame East Stroudsburg 6-2, 6-2 before losing to Chen 0-6, 0-6.

Ehrig defeated Britney Marzen from Jim

**DISTRICT GOLF Maff second**

BY JUSTIN CARLUCCI  
jcarlucci@tnonline.com

**ORWIGSBURG** — The weather was beautiful during the District 11 Golf Championship at the Schuylkill Country club, and so was the scoring.

The plethora of talent around the district was on full display. William Mirams of Notre Dame represented boys class AA, and shot a 71, which was the best card of the day. Finishing just behind Mirams was local senior-stud Nick Maff of Bethlehem Catholic, who recorded a 72.

"The greens were aerated, so it was tough to put on," explained Maff. "I didn't start making many putts until the last couple of holes. For the most part, I hit the ball really See **GOLF** on Page 13



BY NANCY SCHOLZ  
Nick Maff took second at districts.



PRESS PHOTO BY SCOTT PAGEL

Maddi Donatelli scored three goals, including one in this photo, in Friday's victory over Bethlehem Catholic.

FIELD HOCKEY

# Freedom clinches D-11 playoff berth

BY PETER CAR  
pcar@tnonline.com

It's been six years since Freedom has participated in the District 11 postseason, but that streak is over.

Senior captain Maddi Donatelli scored a hat trick in Friday's rain-shortened 3-1 victory over Bethlehem Catholic to secure a postseason berth for the Patriots.

For head coach Charis Innarella, the berth was long overdue.

"We are excited to be moving on," said Innarella. "Making the district tournament has been a goal of ours this season. The success this season starts with our three captains Maddi Donatelli, Sierra Jeffer-

son and Lauren Patton.

"They have been stepping up every practice and game. Leading by positive example and giving 110-percent. I can't say enough about their integrity and strong work ethic. We are fortunate to have a great senior class who understands it is their time, their legacy."

Freedom (9-7, 6-7) closes out the season this Thursday against Liberty (11-5, 9-3) and would need a win to help secure a spot in the East Penn Conference playoffs.

The Pates were in seventh place in the league heading into this week, as Parkland (9-6-1, 5-6-1) and Northampton (7-8-1, 5-7) were battling for those bottom spots as

well.

Nonetheless, a berth in the EPC tournament would be a great step for the team heading into postseason play.

"It has been a total team effort," Innarella said. "It's about making your teammates look good, playing with heart and having pride."

"We are so proud of our players and together we look forward to the challenges ahead."

Liberty has clinched a spot in both districts and the EPC playoffs, but they were a game behind Easton (11-4, 10-4) for the Steel Division lead.

The 'Canes took on Becahi (2-11-2) on Monday and close out with Freedom tomorrow night.

# Pates beat Hawks

BY KATIE MCDONALD  
kmcdonal@tnonline.com

Freedom's girls' soccer team defeated Bethlehem Catholic 2-0 last Thursday at Becahi.

It was the second time the Patriots beat the Hawks this season, the first time being a 1-0 victory when Freedom forward, Brianna Vera, scored the game-winning goal with 18 left to play.

Vera scored the first goal last week on an assist by Jaiden Coyne.

"I went to shoot it, and it came out to the side, and then I shot it to the left," Vera said. "It felt good [scoring] because I used to go to this school."

Before the game's start, the Patriots recalled how close their previous match had been with the Hawks, so scoring a first-half goal gave Freedom a bit more breathing room.

Later in the second



PHOTOS BY SCOTT PAGEL

Andie Graney, right, scored a goal in the team's victory over Becahi last week.

in the game.

Five minutes before, Graney just missed scoring a goal for the Patriots.

"It was coming across, and I hit it, hoping it would go in, but I didn't follow it," Graney said. "I was so mad, and it was so close, I knew I just had to get one in."

Freedom's league record is 7-6 as of Press deadlines.

"The field was a little hard to work with today, but I thought our passes were good, and our traps were nice," said Vera. "I think people can tell we're working extremely hard, and we have a lot of new players, so I think we're doing amazing."

The Patriots will be looking for revenge against city rival, Liberty, on Thursday, when a rematch is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. at BASD Stadium.



Freedom's Jaiden Coyne, left, battles with Becahi's Kristina Palmisano for the ball during the Pates victory last Thursday at Bethlehem Catholic.

VOLLEYBALL

# Patriots clinch

BY PETER CAR  
pcar@tnonline.com

While Liberty and Bethlehem Catholic have taken most of the headlines this season in girls volleyball, Freedom has quietly gone about their business.

The Patriots (10-6, 8-6) have clinched a berth in the district postseason and are hoping for a spot in the East Penn Conference playoffs as well heading into this week.

Unfortunately, Monday's loss to Becahi 17-25, 14-25, 23-25 may have put a dent in their chances for the EPC playoffs, but head coach Donna Roman is still optimistic about her team's chances.

"The last time Freedom qualified for districts was three years ago," said Roman. "Freedom has not qualified for leagues during our seniors' time in high school as well. This season is a testament to our

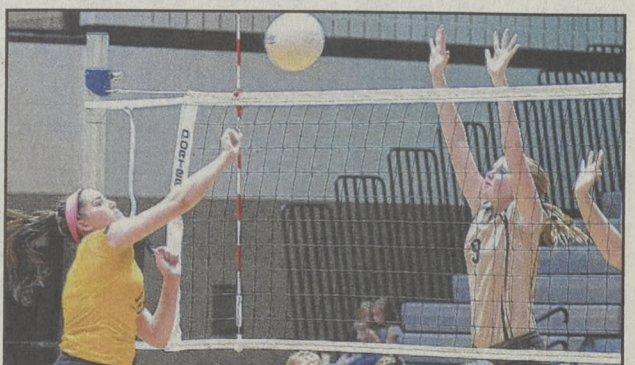
players' hard work and determination for raising the level of Freedom volleyball."

In Monday's loss, Roman had a better plan against the Hawks (12-3, 11-3) but the defending 2A state champs were just too much.

"In our last match against Beca, we came out strong in the first set," said Roman, "but fell apart in sets two and three, allowing their strong players, especially Jordan Young, to dominate the net. I wanted to see a consistent performance tonight, including aggressive hitting, getting a double block on their strong hitters, and better defensive movement to the ball."

The Pates still have two matches left this week with Allen (4-12, 3-10) on Wednesday and their regular season finale on Thursday against division leader

See **VBALL** on Page 14



PRESS PHOTO BY ROB MERCHANT

Freedom's Emily Petrat looks to get the ball past Becahi's Megan Hudak on Monday night. The Pates lost to the Hawks but have clinched a District 11 playoff berth.

# Football Fans

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## LACROSSE Pates hire new coach

BY PETER CAR  
pcar@tnonline.com

Freedom will have a new leader in the boys' lacrosse department this spring when Tony Fabrizio takes over the reigns of the program.

The Patriots are coming off a 4-11 season a year ago and hope that Fabrizio can instill a new sense of enthusiasm into the program.

"I am very excited on being chosen to coach here at Freedom," Fabrizio said. "There were many accomplished candidates that applied for the position, and I feel grateful for Freedom to give me a chance to bring my experiences to the lacrosse team. Being from the Lehigh Valley, it is amazing to see how the sport has grown in the near 15 years I have been involved with it."

Fabrizio is a Bethlehem resident who played lacrosse at DeSales University from 2009-2012, and club lacrosse for the past eight years. He previously coached at Easton for two years, as their varsity assistant coach and their JV co-head coach in addition to coaching for several years at different lacrosse clubs in the area.

As an Easton graduate, Fabrizio hopes he can turn the Patriot program into the consistent threat that the Rovers have become in the East Penn Conference.

"The biggest obstacle I will have to combat at Freedom is the number of players in the high school program," he said. "At Easton, there were three feeder programs coming into the one program, whereas at Freedom we have one that Freedom and Liberty split based on where the child lives. I do, however, look forward to working with the feeder program to help out where ever I can to help grow the number of players coming up."

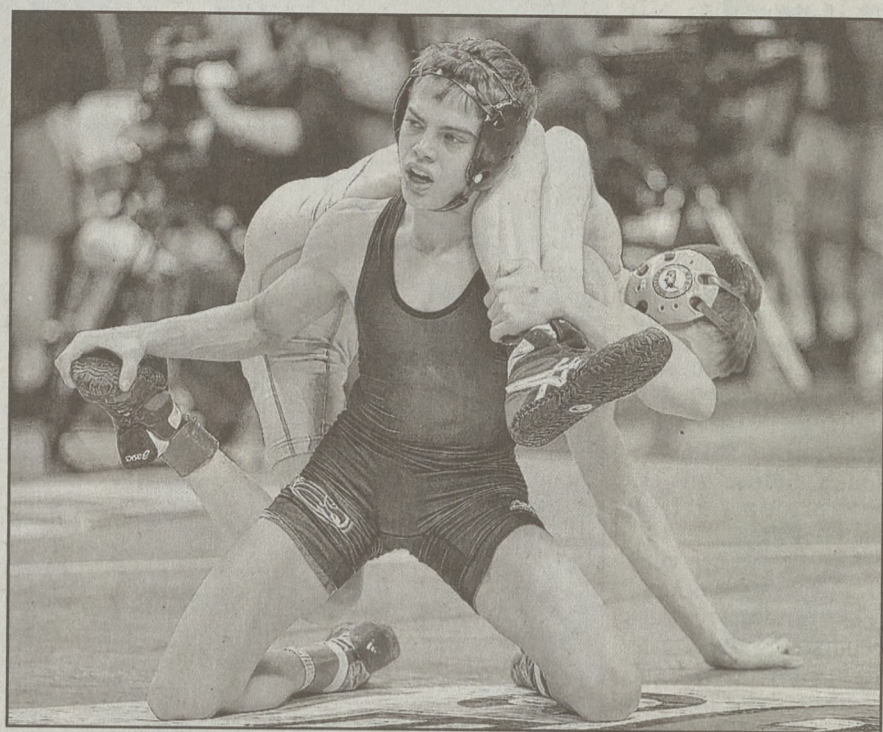
As far as goals for the program, Fabrizio keeps it in proper perspective.

"My goal for the program is pretty basic and simple," he said. "I want my players to come out of the program being better men and better members of our community. If I'm able to teach half of the life lessons that they have taught me, my players will be outstanding men. I feel that this is the most important role as a coach. As far as on the field goals, I am looking to make my boys better lacrosse players and a closer team, which I am hoping will result in a playoff birth of some sort this season. Looking down the road, I'm looking to take Freedom to the next level of lacrosse in the Lehigh Valley where I am hoping to consistently be looked at as one of the top tier teams in the Valley."

## The Press

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Luke Karam will wrestle for Lehigh next year.

## For Karam it's Lehigh over Nebraska

BY PETER CAR  
pcar@tnonline.com

After changing his mind over the summer about where he wanted to spend his college years, Bethlehem Catholic's Luke Karam made his decision final recently.

The star-studded Becahi wrestler de-committed from Bucknell in July and chose to stay in the Lehigh Valley by choosing to wrestle for Pat Santoro's program at Lehigh.

"I really just want to see what's out there," Karam said over the summer to the Press. "I never visited another school or campus, other than Bucknell, so I'm just curious as to what else is available. It doesn't mean that I won't stick with Bucknell though."

Obviously, he had a change of heart and will join a pipeline of recent Becahi wrestlers to make their way from Madison Ave. to

Goodman Campus, as Darian Cruz, Randy Cruz and Elliot Riddick are former Hawk wrestlers that have become current Mountain Hawks.

After taking Bucknell out of the equation, it became a two-way race between Nebraska and the glamour of Big 10 wrestling and the comfortable confines of the Christmas City and Lehigh's budding program.

Staying close to home ultimately won out, as the transition from high school to college should be much easier for Karam with all the familiar faces in Lehigh's wrestling room.

With this decision in the rear-view, Karam can now focus on winning a third straight PIAA title.

He has a career record of 125-8 and finished his junior year 43-3, capping it off with a 126-pound PIAA 3A championship in Hershey last March.

He also won a Class 2A crown at 113 pounds as a sophomore.

## FHS, BC get football wins

BY PETER CAR  
pcar@tnonline.com

Freedom and Bethlehem Catholic both rolled to easy wins in East Penn Conference action last weekend.

The Patriots kept their season undefeated with a 39-0 victory over Dieruff, while Becahi came back to beat East Stroudsburg North 28-6.

The win for the Pates (6-0) puts them solely at the top of the East Penn Conference South Division thanks to Liberty knocking off Parkland (5-1).

The Pates defense has been their hallmark this season, as they've been giving up an average of seven points a game over the last four.

They look to continue that trend heading into this week's matchup with Whitehall (2-4), who were trounced by Easton last week 45-0.

"A couple games have gotten away from them with some big plays that have turned the game," said Pates head coach Jason Roeder about the Zephyrs. "They have an outstanding quarterback and good skill guys that can break loose at any time."

"Right now our defensive unit is performing very well in terms of points given up and takeaways. We need to continue to focus on the fundamentals that are giving us the opportu-

nities for big plays on defense and we need to continue to pursue and tackle well."

Becahi (5-1) actually trailed early against ESN, 6-0, following a one-yard TD by Joey Brown in the second before Becahi responded with 28 unanswered points.

Nate Stewart hauled in a 35-yard TD pass from Julian Spigner to give the Hawks a 7-6 lead into halftime and Becahi tacked on three more scores in the third.

Spigner scored on a 14-yard TD run to open the second half and was followed by a two-yard score from Antwon Keenan on the ground.

Joe Smith then returned an interception 35-yards for the score late in the third.

Spigner finished the night 10-of-19 for 146 yards and two TD's (one rushing) and an interception.

He threw his fifth interception of the season in the first quarter, which led to the Timberwolves opening score.

Keenan hit the 100-yard mark, running for 115 yards, which was his lowest total since a week one defeat to Liberty, where he was limited to 71 yards.

Becahi hosts Pocono East (2-4) at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday at Frank Banko Field.

## WIN

Continued from page 11

we haven't beaten them in forever," said Erney after Friday's win. "We knew we were a good enough football team to beat the likes of Parkland and we were confident coming in. It's just a great feeling to be standing out here as winners against a program like Parkland."

The game didn't start with a great feeling, as Liberty went three-and-out on the opening drive and followed that up with an eight-yard punt to give Parkland a start at the Liberty 33.

Erik Digrolamo punched in the opening score a few plays later to give Parkland a 7-0 lead. But to the credit of the 'Canes, they fought back.

On a night where Liberty ran for 316 yards, Gunner Anglovich accounted for nearly half of that, as he rushed for 148 yards and two scores, including a 37-yard scamper with just under five left in the opening quarter to make it 7-6.

After that, the first half became the Erney to Darian Street show, as he found his talented wideout for two second quarter TDs, the first from 46 yards and the second from 10 yards out on 4th and 5 to give LHS a 20-7 lead at the break.

A 75-yard TD run by Anglovich, as well as a 38-yard TD pass from Erney to Nasir Legree catapulted Liberty's cushion to 34-7 early in the third quarter, where

41 points were scored between both teams.

Parkland's Division-I QB, Devante Cross, started to wake up after his team fell behind by four scores, throwing TD passes of 13 and 81 yards, as well as running it in from four yards out to pull his team back in the game 41-27.

Cross would then cut the deficit to one touchdown with a one-yard plunge with 1:58 left in the game, but Parkland would never threaten again.

Cross finished the game 18-of-32 for 317 yards and two touchdowns and two interceptions. He also ran for 48 yards and two scores, but the night never belonged to him.

It belonged to Liberty. "This win is definitely up there as one of the best ones I've ever had," said Liberty head coach John Truby. "We told the guys all week that they [Parkland] have yet to play Liberty. If we came out here and gave our best effort, we would give them a challenge."

More importantly, the victory puts Liberty in favorable position to close out the season for a chance at districts. With Northampton (1-5) on the horizon this week, the 'Canes are well on their way to closing in on a coveted spot in the post-season.

"This puts us in the drivers seat moving forward, but we still have a lot of work to do," Truby said. "It's a great win and I hope this shows our kids what we're capable of."

## GOLF

Continued from page 11

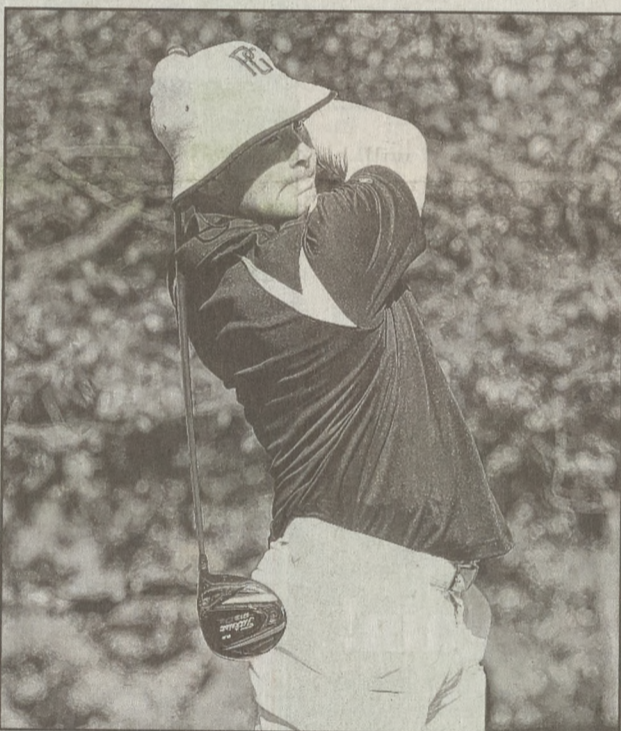
well. I had a much better back nine, even though the card said 36-36."

Boys class AA took four regional qualifiers. Cory Haldeman (73) and Colin McQueen (77), both of Moravian academy, finished third and fourth respectively. As for boys Class AAA, Max Harrington of Emmaus took first place with a round of 73. Although Maff's round of 72 would have coincidentally earned a AAA win, he surely wasn't upset with his play.

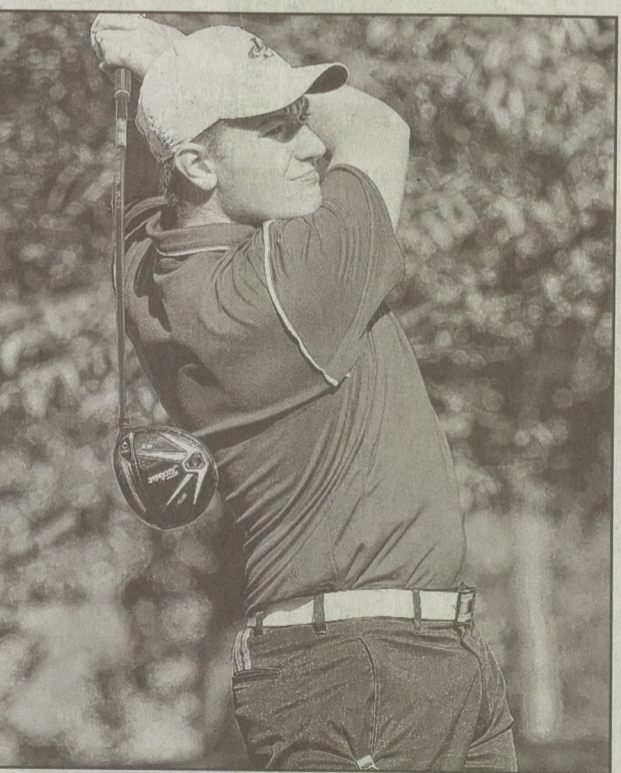
"Over the previous years, I would be impatient and rush things. I learned to be patient this season. I took a step back, stayed focused, and tried to control my breathing. I won districts twice already; I put a lot of pressure on myself to win it for my senior year. Even though I lost, I still had a great year. I'm looking forward to next week. There's one more round to get to states, and that's what I'm looking forward to the most."

Samantha Fritzingler won the Class AAA girls' title, with a round of 76. The biggest storyline of the championship day might have been Franca Hurtado's winning class AA round of 77. The victory marks the senior's fourth District 11 title. Sophie Orsulak of Blue Mountain will also be advancing, as she shot a round of 85.

Moravian Academy was the most successful squad in the team championship. The Lions had three of its five golfers shoot in the 70s, en route to a class AA title score of 310. Emmaus (305) was fifteen strokes better than Nazareth (320) to capture the Class AAA title. Although Maff's Becahi squad tied for third, he had a blast this season and learned a lot from head coach Tim McGorry through-



John Yocum was Freedom's top scorer with an 81 at the District 11 tournament Monday.




PRESS PHOTOS BY NANCY SCHOLZ

Jacob Siegfried led all Liberty golfers with a 79 at the district tournament.

out his four years with the program.

"Not only is he (McGorry) a good golf coach, he's a good life coach," explained Maff. "I learned a lot of life lessons from him. I had a really good year (69

average) and I was really proud and impressed with our team this year — getting to districts. We have a bunch of 'jokesters' on the team, we're like a bunch of brothers — but, everyone works really hard."



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# Gaming board - Income on target

BY BERNIE O'HARE  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Northampton County's Gaming Board, which doles out slots revenue from the Sands Casino, received a quarterly payment of \$460,805.78 in August. This puts the board on track to receive \$1.8 million this year. That's a good thing because the board has already awarded \$1.66 million this year in what are referred to as impact grants to Northampton County, Bethlehem and the five communities surrounding Bethlehem. This leaves the cupboard bare for remaining Northampton County municipalities.

At their Sept. 28 meeting, the board unanimously voted to accept

the recommendation of Joe Kelly to allow municipalities who have \$500 or less money left over from a grant to just keep the sum, instead of remitting a check for a few cents as has already happened in one instance.

Executive Director Karen Collis also reported that she visited five municipalities who have received grants and that "all went well." Even a ride she reportedly took on Bethlehem's new HazMat truck.

The board also entered into a new agreement for legal services with Norris, McLaughlin and Marcus, the

firm that currently represents the gaming board and charges \$14,000 a year. Scott Allinson had proposed a \$10,000 retainer, but agreed immediately when board member Dave Heintzelman suggested it be reduced to \$8,000. The board will also pay \$195 per hour for any litigation that arises.

Allinson considers that possibility remote. "If there was going to be litigation involving this authority, it would have happened in the first three years," he said.

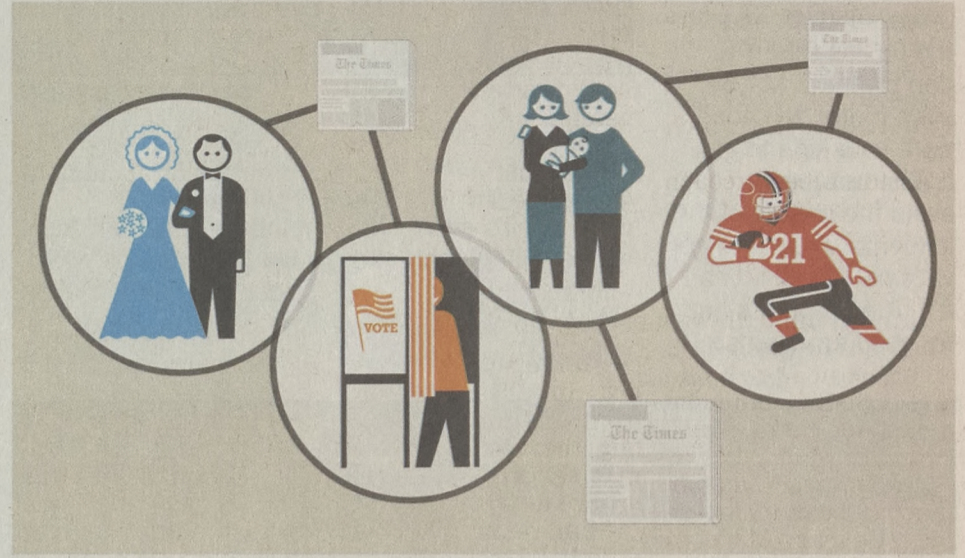
In the fall of 2017, the board will issue a Request for Proposals for legal services.

The Gaming Board is made up of nine members: Joe Kelly (Bethlehem), Tom Nolan

(Bethlehem Township), Gerald Yob (Freemansburg), Jay Finnigan (Hanover, chair), Dave Heintzelman (Hellertown), Dave Willard (Lower Saucon), Tony Pristash (Northampton), John Dally (Pen Argyl) and James Pennington (Lower Nazareth).

The gaming board only has authority over slots revenue. Northampton County Council decided in July to give itself the final authority over

any disbursements from the \$1.2 million in table games revenue expected this year, along with nearly \$3 million already sitting in county coffers. Executive John Brown has proposed a grants and loan program from that fund to stimulate economic and community development, especially in older boroughs. Those grants will require council approval.



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## Flu shots save lives

**Dr. Jennifer Janco**, chief of mediatrix medicine at St. Luke's University Hospital, gives State Rep. Mike Schlossberg (D-132) his 2015 flu vaccine. If there's one universal truth about the flu, it's this: You don't want it. Maybe even more: You don't want your kids to get it. The best way to avoid the misery of the influenza virus is to get vaccinated every year. It's true for adults and for children aged six



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

months and older. It's bad enough when an adult gets the influenza virus but it's even worse – life-threatening – for a child or an infant, Janco says. Rep. Schlossberg agrees

with Janco. Last week the two collaborated to emphasize the message that children aged six months and older should receive an annual flu vaccine.

## Task Force talks park, parking

BY ANDREW RITTER  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

### SOUTHSIDE

Mayor Robert Donchez's South Side Task Force convened at Northampton Community College recently, highlighting community events and potential issues. The Task Force includes city officials, law enforcement officers, as well as members of Bethlehem's south side businesses and schools.

An influx of out-of-town patrons to Saucon Park continues to be a concern. Adjacent homeowners have encountered difficulty accessing roadways due to increased traffic congestion and lack of on-street parking. There have also been increased accounts of vandalism,

including the smashing of toilet seats and charcoal dumping in Saucon Creek and the surrounding woodlands, creating potential fire hazards. Officials continue to work to dispel the misconception of Saucon Park as a state park.

"It all started with one of the buses that come in from Manhattan," explained Roger Hudak of the Task Force. "One of the bus drivers used to park there, enjoy the park and wait for (casino patrons)...and told his boss about 'Saucon State Park.' And from then on they thought it was a state park."

Saucon Park is closed on weekends to patrons without a permit.

The South Side Pilot Program for the Collection of Solid Waste was also discussed. Beginning Oct. 5, haulers will be required to pick up residential solid waste in South Bethlehem on a Monday or a Tuesday between the hours of 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. The zoned garbage collection program is an effort by the city to assess which residents utilize residential trash haulers as opposed to stockpiling garbage. City officials have vetted 8,000 complaints regarding trash removal in the past six years, with 57 percent of those complaints originating in Southside. Residents are allowed to retain their current haulers.

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# Open Gate Farm Tour welcomes visitors



PRESS PHOTOS BY TIM GILMAN

A swinging good time is had by best friends Reilly Wuertele and Bailey Orth, both of Bethlehem, in a hay pit at Amore Farms along Route 512, south of Bath and just north of Hanover Township. Bailey was the birthday girl at an Amore Farms Fall Party. "She loves it," said Amy Wuertele, who has booked the venue several times for her children. Amore was one of 16 farms in Northampton County participating in the free Open Gate Farm Tour. The Penn State Extension self-guided countryside activity is popular with local families and individuals who can continue the rustic adventure by visiting farms throughout Lehigh County Oct. 17 and 18, 1-5 p.m. Burnside Plantation in Bethlehem is also participating in the family-friendly event and offers a historical twist to visitors. For additional information, call 610-391-9840.



Painted pumpkins for sale at Amore Farms capture the attention of Fez Sorathia, Jadalya Lugo and Sam Sorathia, of nearby Hanover Township.

## BRIEFLY

### VALLEY 4H

Autistics teen program planned

Sunshine 4-H Community Club is looking for teens, ages 11-18 as of Jan. 1, 2015, with mild autism, who want to engage in their local community through 4-H projects, community based service projects, and socialization with peers.

Registration is limited. Club leaders are screened volunteers. Meetings are held twice a month on Tuesday evenings at the Lehigh Carbon Community College campus, Schnecksville.

For more information, contact club leader Cindy at 610-760-9337 or email mdweber42@icloud.com.

### BETHLEHEM

Great Decisions lecture Oct. 21

There will be a free preview lecture as part of the Great Decisions Foreign Policy lecture series at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 21 at Kirkland Village, 1 Kirkland Village Circle. Lafayette College's Dr. Hannah Stewart - Gambino will moderate State Of The Lehigh Valley: Community Trends At A Glance.

The speakers will be Dr. Christopher Borick, director, Muhlenberg Polling Institute; Dr. Scott Hoke, professor of criminology, Cedar Crest College; and Dr. Rob Root, professor of mathematics, Lafayette College.

Parking is available on the east side of First Presbyterian Church, 2344 Center St. Call 610-867-4669, ext.101, or email Adminassist@yw-cabethlehem.org.

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PRESS PHOTO BY ROSS SONNENBLICK

"The only time my mind is off THON is when I'm asleep, and even that's a stretch," says Freedom HS senior Raegan Pechar.

## Simplicity Itself WITH Raegan Pechar

If it's a small world, then it's a smaller Bethlehem. Here, we all have our waffles — problems to chew, decisions to ponder — and we just might find that if we take time to learn about others, we will learn about ourselves in the process. After all, we are each other's teachers, young or old, each other's students, confident or questioning, each other's neighbors, regardless.

Now, let's dig in to some scrumptious food for thought.

Raegan Pechar had rejected dozens of dresses by the time she decided to try one on. She had already plowed through the selection at the Lehigh Valley Mall, and now she was scrutinizing the inventory at the King of Prussia Shopping Center. Raegan, a senior at Freedom HS, was on a mission: she had to purchase a suitably stylish dress for Freedom's Homecoming Dance.

All she wanted was a simple, flattering dress, but because of her budgetary needs as well as her sartorial sense, finding appropriate attire was not simple. As she put it, "a dress might look cute, but if it's \$500..." Finally, though, Raegan struck gold. The gold was white. It was not lavish. It was unassuming. It was the perfect dress (and it was reasonably priced!).

Raegan is a varsity cheerleader for Freedom. She is on the Homecoming Court, as voted by her peers. Making assumptions about her might seem simple.

Seventh-grade Raegan would happily have discussed her wardrobe forever, but this Raegan feels differently: "They're just clothes!" This Raegan has more pressing concerns. On the morning of Homecoming, she is taking the SAT, and she has been studying diligently for it. Her effort has taken substantial time, and she does not have substantial time.

Why? Because Raegan is also Freedom's overall student leader for this year's BASD Mini-THON. She is constantly busy.

"It's kind of hard for me to juggle it all," she says.

For her, staying organized has been "one of the most important things." In her backpack, she has several notebooks exclusively devoted to THON, and THON papers permeate her academic binders as well.

"I'm always writing down notes of other things for me to focus on," she adds.

She is incessantly on the phone with her committee captains and counterparts at Liberty, as well as with sundry charitable organizations and businesses. She delayed answering lots of texts and calls while I was interviewing her, and with a yawn, she said, "The only time my mind is off THON is when I'm asleep, and even that's a stretch."

Her involvement doesn't stop there. She also coaches a squad of fourth- and fifth-grade cheerleaders, as she has for a few years. Due to her obvious time constraints, she considered not volunteering this year, but she loves the girls, and the girls love her.

Raegan sat through my questioning while surrounded by a heaping helping of schoolwork. She was hopeful that later she might "actually have a few hours to relax," but she was dubious about her chances. She hasn't even watched TV since school started.

Raegan's energizer is her future — "All of the goals I set for myself when I was 12, I want them to come true." She has her eyes on the prize, which might mean that she won't eat a strawberry-topped waffle until after Homecoming, since she wants to "physically look her best" at that jiving juncture. Ultimately, though, her objective is not the title of Homecoming Queen. She wants to raise \$105,000 for THON. She wants to attend a good college in a city.

Raegan sincerely just wants to help others, and she likes being happy herself. She describes herself simply: "I'm Raegan. I'm a person. I don't like to be labeled by anyone." And it's hard to disagree with her.



PRESS PHOTOS BY RUTH GRADY

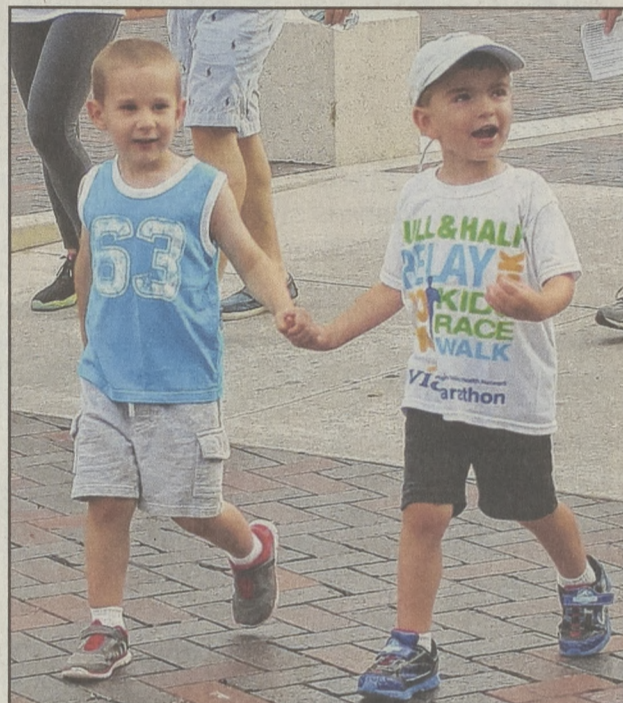
The walk begins under partly cloudy skies but the temperature was perfect.

## Via walk goes the distance



The crowd was upbeat as this walker strides along.

The VIA Walk was held Sept. 12 and is the first event on the newly-constructed Hoover-Mason Trestle at SteelStacks. The Via Walk is part of the Lehigh Valley Health Network Via Marathon. The Via Walk raises money for children and adults with disabilities and has been serving the community since 1954.



You're never too young to participate in the walk as these two youngsters do.



Chase, the 7 1/2 year-old husky leads his owner August Kantner on the walk.



Chris Hnatow of Bethlehem walks her 5-year-old golden retriever, Ben.



This little boy gives a wave as he walks by.

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# Lara Thrapp

Saucon Valley HS

**Grade:** 12  
**Family members:** I have 2 brothers: Scott (4) and Gavin (2)  
**Favorite subject(s) and why:** I truly enjoy history because I always like reading someone else's story  
**Activities:** Lacrosse, NHS, and the School Mascot  
**Next steps (after high school):** Go to College for Journalism, Psychology, or Marketing  
**Career goals:** Not sure yet, but I definitely want to travel



**Heroes and why:** My mom because she is the strongest and most beautiful person that I know. She always sees the best in people.  
**Hobbies:** Painting, Running, Baking, and Writing  
**Current job(s):** Assistant manager at Crepe Soleil  
**Likes:** Making mixed-tapes, reading a good book, and traveling  
**Advice for peers:** Be somebody who makes everyone feel like a somebody, even yourself.

*Julia Swan coordinates student profiles for the Bethlehem Press. Student profile subjects are selected by faculty and administration at the individual schools.*

## SAUCON VALLEY HS NOTES

BY LARA THRAPP  
 Student repoter

### Eve of a long goodbye

Local seniors, now just entering their second month of the school year, might be facing a coming of age crisis. Some may be overwhelmed with relief as they approach the light at the end of the tunnel and others may be in a state of bewilderment, wishing they could turn back time. This pivotal and frequently painful goodbye marks a grand beginning for most students who will start studying at a college or university next fall, but before enrollment each college hopeful must undergo an extensive and stressful application process.

College applications often require letters of recommendation, several essays and short answers, as well as occasional interviews. Teachers see trends of students bending over backwards to get into one college and in the process these students might not lend as much weight to their other college choices or, even more gravely, the rest of their academic senior year. Robert McHugh, a Saucon Valley American history teacher, advises students that, "you can get a great education at numerous universities, so don't get locked on one if you don't get in." In addition, for high achieving students, this period of anxiety corresponds with a heavy load of AP course work, but McHugh again sensibly suggests that students try, "not to get too heavily bogged down in all the pressures and then forget to experience the fact that you are 17 or 18 years old."



**Saucon Valley Homecoming queen and king, Carli Ziegler and Evan Culver, during a recent pep rally.**

For the majority of high school seniors, this is their last year with a reliable safety net in a comforting environment. This crucial year is fringed with an abundance of memorable opportunities for them and Cheri Chisesi, a Saucon Valley mathematics teacher, urges these young adults to, "just enjoy every moment and do everything that you possibly can."

Moreover, as big events like Homecomings and club functions start drifting by seniors should not neglect their roots and loyalty to wherever they are from. My loyalty is to Saucon Valley, and like Annika Sundlof, our valedictorian, rightfully said, "There is growth of school spirit this year." Our football team is on a winning streak and Saucon Valley pride has never been more contagious. As seniors begin to say goodbye they might be specifically thinking about what they are leaving behind or on an even deeper level what elements make Saucon so difficult to leave. For Srini Lalilwala, it will be the senior traditions. For Brandon Brogle, it will be the infamously colorful tile walls in the lobby. As for me, it will be all of my close connections to my teachers and friends. Mario Marozzi, a Saucon alum and current teacher of government and economics, speaks from experience when he says, "Saucon Valley is just a recipe for great feelings because of being so small and connected through strong curricular and extracurricular programs."

This inner conversation of how our roots define us will be different for all students, but it is paramount that as we accept change and rely on newfound constants, we remember where we came from.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### BASD: Mini-THON event Oct. 17

The BASD Mini-THON third annual Color for the Kids is set for 9 a.m. (registration: 8:15 a.m.) on Oct. 17 at Freedom HS cross country course, 3149 Chester Ave. To register online, visit <http://bit.do/thoncolorrun>.

### Gov. Wolf ES; Cash bingo Oct. 17

Gov. Wolf will host a cash bingo at 1 p.m. (doors open at noon) Oct. 17 at the school, 1920 Butztown Road. Door prizes, raffles, 50/50 drawing, refreshments. Contact [slsarkozy@ptd.net](mailto:slsarkozy@ptd.net) or call 610-691-1286.

To get your news item in SCHOOL NOTES, send the information to George Taylor at [gtaylor@tnonline.com](mailto:gtaylor@tnonline.com) or mail the information to SCHOOL NOTES, Bethlehem Press, 1633 N. 26th St., Allentown, PA



**The Lehigh Valley Harmonizers** provide entertainment at the Festival. The group applied barbershop harmony to many musical favorites.

## More than just fundraising

# Russian Days celebrated in Bethlehem

BY CAROLE GORNEY  
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

What began as a fundraiser to help pay off a mortgage has grown into the Russian Days Festival that celebrated its 34th year this September. Sponsored by the 99-year-old St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, the first festival was held after the church moved from Southside Bethlehem to its current north Bethlehem location on Bridle Path Road.

Festival co-chair Sarah Jubinski, who has been involved in the project since the beginning, said there was a need to raise money and the idea of selling ethnic foods just grew over the



**Russian treasures**, such as these hand-painted nesting dolls, were on sale during the 34th annual Russian Days Festival. Inside each carved doll was a smaller version, with an even smaller doll inside that one.

years. The event grew as did the church, which eventually added a fellowship hall and kitchen.

More than 3,000 persons attended this year's three-day event to eat ethnic foods, buy homemade desserts, listen to music and take tours of the ornately decorated church. On the menu were blini, borscht, chicken soup, haklupki, halushki, kugel, pelmeni, pierogie, pirozhki, potato pancakes and sausage turkey and kielbasa sandwiches. Food was available to eat in or take out.

Back in the fellowship hall, the Russian tea room featured hobaked

See **DAYS** on Page 20



**Jeanne Chandler** of Allentown has ample choices from among the desserts available for sale at the Russian Days Festival, from homemade cakes, pies, kiffles and apricot and nut rolls. Church member Katherine Miller of Hellertown was one of dozens of volunteers working at the weekend-long fundraiser.



**Church President Sandi Keysock** takes her turn on the serving line, dishing up halupkies, a cabbage roll stuffed with meat and other fillings. It is a favorite of ethnic cuisines in the Balkans, central, northern and eastern Europe.



**Potato pancakes** are fried until golden brown by Terri Pinko and Alyssa Crush, both of Bethlehem. They both grew up in the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church and trained last year to help out at the festival.



**All food and desserts** for the festival are homemade fresh in the church kitchen by St. Nicholas volunteers. Food, including soups, sandwiches and entrees, could be taken out or eaten in the church hall.



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**The Very Reverend James Weremedic**, in only his fourth week as pastor at St. Nicholas, conducts tours of the church and answered questions from visitors. Besides giving a brief history of the orthodox church, he explained the reason for the Russian variation on the crucifix.



**More than 3,000 people** are served a variety of ethnic foods during the Russian Days festival. The menu includes pelmeni, Siberian-style meat dumplings; pirozhki, a pastry bun stuffed with minced beef and onions; and pierogis, deep-fried dough pockets filled with potato and cheese.

### YOUR LOCAL WEATHER

7 Day Forecast	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Few Showers	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
	63 / 43	62 / 41	59 / 40	55 / 35	53 / 31	54 / 32	57 / 35
	7-14 mph W	8 mph W	6-11 mph SW	6 mph S	5-7 mph S	5-10 mph SW	3-7 mph W

**FORECAST FOR LEHIGH VALLEY PENNSYLVANIA**

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 63°, humidity of 63%. The record high temperature for today is 86° set in 1946. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 43°. The record low for tonight is 32° set in 1958. Thursday, skies will be mostly sunny with a high temperature of 62°, humidity of 54%. Skies will be partly cloudy Thursday night with an overnight low of 41°. Expect partly cloudy skies Friday with a 30% chance of showers, high temperature of 59°. Skies will become mostly sunny Saturday with a high temperature of 55°. Sunday, skies will be sunny with a high temperature of 53°.

---

### Weather Trivia

What was the costliest hailstorm in the United States?

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## DAYS

Continued from page 19

apricot, nut, poppy seed, raspberry and lekvar rolls; kiffles, babkas, tassies, assorted cakes,

and more. For entertainment there was polka music and dancing.

The Very Reverend James Weremedic, in his fourth week as the new rector of St. Nich-

olas, provided tours of the church, whose walls were decorated with icons of saints and other figures. In response to a question about the difference between the var-

ious orthodox religions, he answered, "Countries of origin."

Answering another question about the variations on the Russian Orthodox crucifix

or Suppedaneum cross with its two extra bars, Father Weremedic explained that the top bar represents the plate that was attached to the top of the cross and in-

scribed with INRI. The bottom bar represents a footrest that is slanted toward the penitent thief crucified on Jesus' right.

In his welcome in the festival program, the rector made it clear that Russian Days are about more than the initial fundraising effort.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to meet and share with you the culture, food, tradition and Orthodox Christian Faith of the Russian people," he said.

## HAUNTED HAPPENINGS

**Thursdays through Sundays, through Nov. 1**  
 Historic Bethlehem Partnership, Death and Dying tours, 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; depart from Moravian Museum, 66 W. Church St. Call 610-691-6055 or 1-800-360-TOURS or visit [www.historic-bethlehem.org](http://www.historic-bethlehem.org).

**Fridays and Saturdays in October; some Wednesdays and Thursdays**  
 Historic Haunts of Downtown Bethlehem Ghost Tours; tours leave and end at Moravian Book Shop, 428 Main St. For tickets and information, call 610-866-5481 or visit <http://shop.moravianbookshop.com/page.htm?pg=EVENTS> or [www.facebook.com/Historic-Haunts-Bethlehem-101077376617155/time-line/?ref=hl](http://www.facebook.com/Historic-Haunts-Bethlehem-101077376617155/time-line/?ref=hl).

**Wednesday, Oct. 14**  
 Forensic psychologist Katherine Ramsland, author of "Bethlehem Ghosts, Historical Hauntings in and Around Pennsylvania's Christmas City, presentation, 7 p.m. Seidersville Hall, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Hellertown. Visit <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/newsletter/2015fall.pdf>.

**Friday, Oct. 16**  
 The Sun Inn ghost hunt, conducted by GK2 Paranormal, from 9 p.m. to midnight. Reservations required; call 610-866-1758 or email [suninn@rcn.org](mailto:suninn@rcn.org) with the subject line Ghost Hunt. Bring cameras and recorders: <http://www.syfy.com/ghosthunters/episodes/season/7/episode/25/christmas-spirit>.

**Sunday, Oct. 18**  
 Saucon Valley Spirit Parade, 2 p.m. Theme: 60s Woodstock. Visit <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/newsletter/2015fall.pdf>.

**Thursday, Oct. 22**  
 Haunted Crime Scenes, Blood and Ghosts book signing with Katherine Ramsland and Mark Nesbitt: Tales of ghosts and murder, police psychics and scientific experiments, asking the question: what if forensic and paranormal investigation deliberately crossed paths? 6 to 8 p.m. Moravian Book Shop, 428 Main St. For information, call 610-866-5481 or visit [www.moravianbookshop.com](http://www.moravianbookshop.com).

**Saturday, Oct. 24**  
 Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites, Kid's Club program: haunted dollhouse scrapbook album. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts, 427 N. New St. Information: email [mdecpscisk@historicbethlehem.org](mailto:mdecpscisk@historicbethlehem.org) or call 610-882-0450, ext. 13 or visit [www.historicbethlehem.org](http://www.historicbethlehem.org).  
 The Sun Inn ghost hunt, conducted by GK2 Paranormal, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Reservations required; call 610-866-1758 or email [suninn@rcn.org](mailto:suninn@rcn.org) with the subject line Ghost Hunt. Bring cameras and recorders: <http://www.syfy.com/ghosthunters/episodes/season/7/episode/25/christmas-spirit>.

# HELLERTOWN *happenings*

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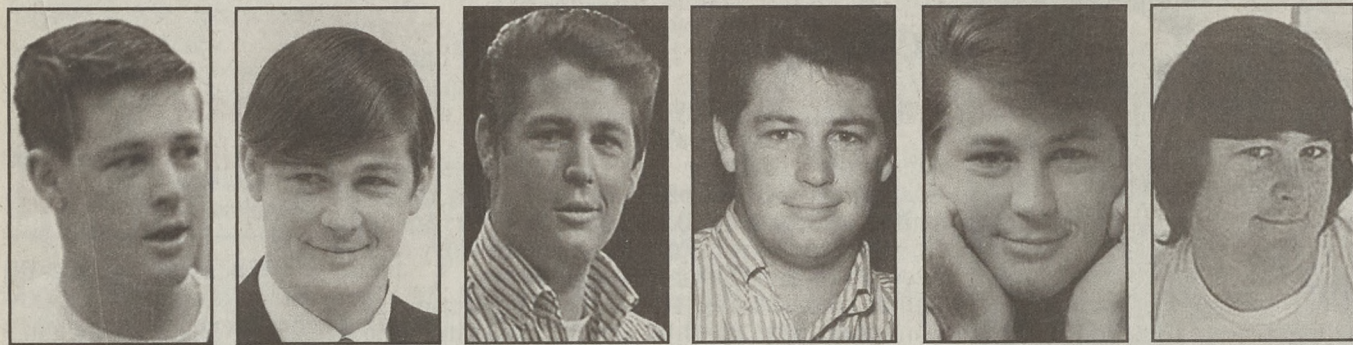
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## 'No Pier Pressure' for Beach Boys' singer-songwriter

# BRIAN WILSON

BY PAUL WILLISTEIN  
pwillistein@tnonline.com

The title of "No Pier Pressure," Brian Wilson's latest album, is a pun. And a good one.

"My daughter Daria came up with that title," says Wilson in a recent phone interview from his home in California.

Longtime fans of Wilson, co-founder and main songwriter, arranger and producer for The Beach Boys, may wonder if there isn't a bit of irony in the title. If there is, Wilson isn't letting on.

Brian Wilson, regarded as one of the most influential composers of the 20th century, performs at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 23, State Theatre Center for the Arts, Easton, with Al Jardine, an original member of The Beach Boys.

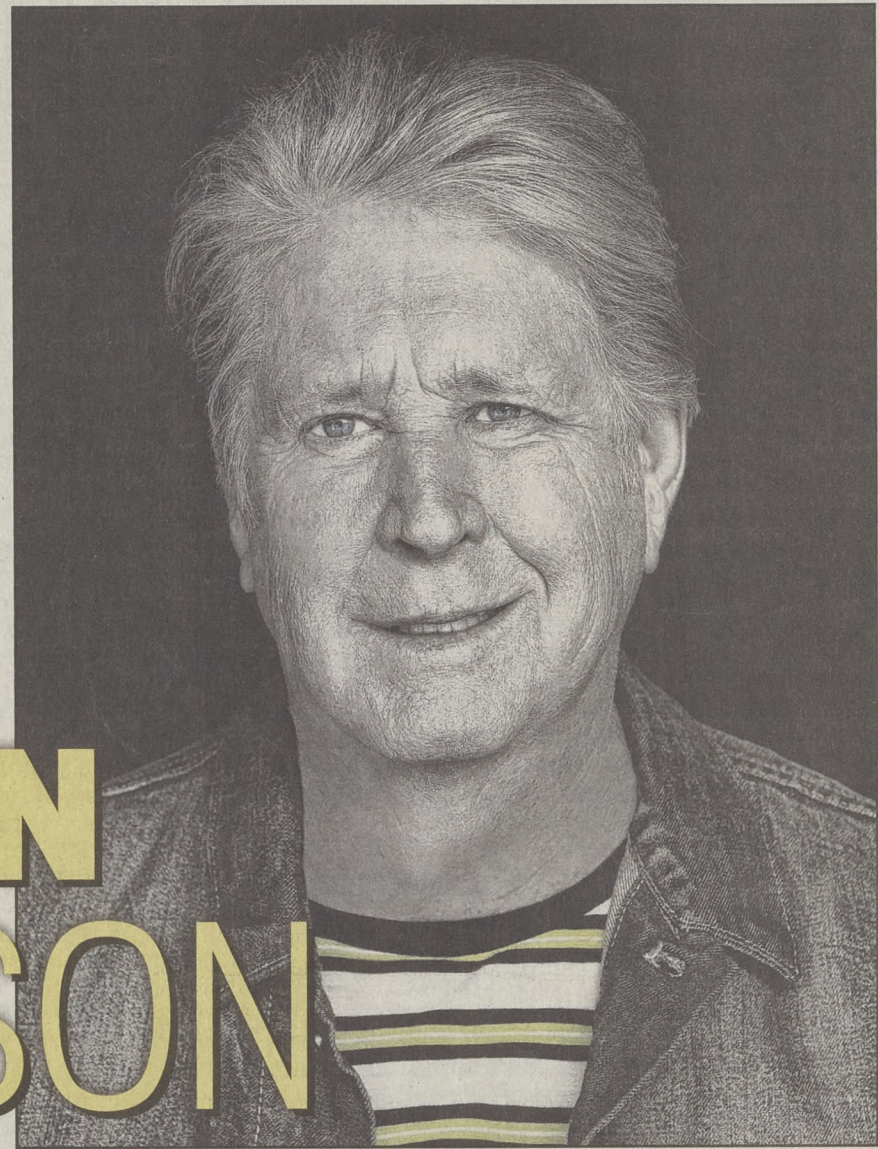
Wilson was barely out of his teens when he began to create some of the most beloved records ever, including nine consecutive "gold" albums for The Beach Boys that featured such classics as "Surfer Girl," "In My Room," "I Get Around," "Don't Worry Baby," "Fun, Fun, Fun," "Help Me Rhonda," "California Girls" and "Good Vibrations," which are among the more than two dozen Top 40 hits Wilson co-wrote, arranged, produced and performed on with The Beach Boys, which included brothers Dennis Wilson, drums; Carl Wilson, guitar; and cousin Mike Love, who co-wrote songs with Wilson and sang lead vocals on many.

The songs shimmered with those Brian Wilson arranged harmonies, who rehearsed and directed the group's vocals like a choir master. Wilson composed, arranged and produced "Pet Sounds" (1966), one of the greatest albums of all time.

The Beach Boys' songs are ethereal, it's noted to Wilson during the phone interview.

"The harmonies are the ethereal part of our music. And then there's the Chuck Berry music," Wilson says of the Four Freshman-inspired four-part harmonies and the rock 'n' roll based beat that is the basis of The Beach Boys' sound.

Wilson, 73, seems particularly pleased that Jardine is joining him on the recent leg of his tour to promote "No Pier Pressure," which



Brian Wilson, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 23, State Theatre Center for the Arts, Easton

was released in April.

"He still sings. He and I used to sing the Beach Boys records together," Wilson says in typical understatement of Jardine, who's featured on lead vocals with another original member of The Beach Boys, David Marks, on "The Right Time" and "What Ever Happened," one of the most beautiful and wistful songs, and two other tracks on "No Pier Pressure."

The album's 13 tracks (plus an additional three on deluxe edition, and another two more on the Target deluxe edition) co-written by Wilson and Joe Thomas, who co-produced the album with Wilson, has several guest vocalists, including Sebu Simonian, "Runaway Dancer"; She & Him, "On The Island"; Mark Isham, "Half Moon Bay"; Peter Hollens, "Our Special Love"; Kacey Musgraves, "Guess You Had To Be There"; Blondie Chaplin, "Sail Away," and Nate Ruess, "Saturday Night."

When asked how he selected the singers for "No Pier Pressure," Wilson says, "We heard them on the radio. And we remembered their names. So, I wrote a song for each of them. And they came down to the studio. They blew it all away."

Wilson says he spent about two months recording the backing tracks for the album, noting of the studio musicians, "The guys were fantastic," and about eight to 10 months completing "No Pier Pressure."

Brian Wilson's journey from The Beach Boys' chart-toppers to "Pet Sounds" (1966), one of the greatest albums of all time, through his psychological battles, to his "Smile" album redemption is well-chronicled in "Love & Mercy," the critically-acclaimed biopic in which Paul Dano plays the young Brian Wilson and John Cusack plays the older Brian Wilson.

"I thought Paul Dano really captured my singing and my producing," Wilson says of "Love & Mercy," released in June and now available on DVD and Blu-ray. The soundtrack, "Music From Love & Mercy," was released in August.

The film's title was taken from Wilson's latest single, "Love and Mercy," opening track to his debut solo album "Brian Wilson" (1988).

One of the central points of the film is that the unfinished "Smile" recording, with some of the blame for its not being completed attributed to controversy among The Beach Boys, specifically, Mike Love concerning lyricist Van Dyke Parks, who had collaborated successfully on The Beach Boys' "Heroes and Villains," drove Brian Wilson to the brink. Says Wilson of Van Dyke Parks, "I admire his musical ability very much."

When the interviewer notes that the recording, "The Elements: Fire (Mrs. O'Leary's Cow)," on the "Smile" recording scared him, Wilson says, "Yeah, me, too."

"Smile" was resurrected, reconstructed and completed, receiving Grammy Awards for "Brian Wilson Presents Smile" (2004) and "The Smile Sessions" (2011).

"It took time for it to catch on. It's been about 50 years regarding 'Smile.' They finally have a chance to catch up," Wilson says of listeners.

Wilson has always been a keen observer of the pop rock scene, going back to listening to the recordings his dad had around the house in his youth, to The Four Freshmen harmonies, Phil Spector production and The Beatles songwriting. What his assessment of the contemporary pop scene? Are there songwriters or songs that excite him?

"Not really," Wilson answers perfunctorily.

"No Pier Pressure" is Wilson's first solo album of new material since 2008. Does Wilson have plans for another?

"I have a few startings of songs that we might use," Wilson says.

Wilson is scheduled to play a Nov. 4 benefit concert for the Campaign to Change Direction with proceeds to provide free mental health services to veterans.

Tickets: State Theatre Box Office, 453 Northampton St., Easton; statetheatre.org; 1-800-999-STATE; 610-252-3132

## 8 DAYS A WEEK

### Your look ahead at Valley Arts



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**He funny now:** David Sedaris, one of America's pre-eminent humor writers and a best-selling author, presents a lecture and reading, question and answer period and book signing, 8 p.m. Oct. 15, State Theatre for the Arts, Easton. Sedaris is author of "Barrel Fever" and "Holidays On Ice," as well as collections of essays, including "Me Talk Pretty One Day" and "Dress Your Family In Corduroy And Denim." His pieces appear regularly in The New Yorker. He and his sister, Amy Sedaris, have written half-a-dozen plays, which have been produced at La Mama and Lincoln Center in New York City. Sedaris's radio pieces can be heard on public radio's "This American Life." He has been nominated for three Grammy Awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album. Tickets: State Theatre box office, 453 Northampton St., Easton; statetheatre.org, 610-252-3132



PHOTO BY WAYNE CONFER

**It's a "Snap! Snap!":** "The Addams Family: The Broadway Musical" continues its Lehigh Valley regional theater debut through Oct. 25, Civic Theatre of Allentown. The musical comedy, with music and lyrics by Andrew Lipka and book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, is based on the characters of Charles Addams' cartoons published in The New Yorker 1938-'88. Civic Theatre Artistic Director Williams Sanders is director-choreographer of Civic's "The Addams Family." The cast of 23 Lehigh Valley actors includes Jarrod Yuskas (Gomez), Mariah Dalton (Morticia), Emilie Leynes (Wednesday), Christian Clausnitzer (Pugsley), Andrea Cartagena (Fester), Logan McCabe (Lurch) and Marie Ann Sutura (Grandmama). Tickets: Civic Theatre Box Office, 527 N. 19th St., Allentown; CivicTheatre.com; 610-432-8943

See **Theater Review:**  
thelehighvalleypress.com/focus



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Chez jazz:** Chaise Lounge returns at 7 p.m. Oct. 17 to the Acopian Ballroom, State Theatre for the Arts, Easton. Chaise Lounge's performance will include Rat Pack classics, Chaise Lounge originals and new numbers from "Gin Fizz Fandango," the band's upcoming seventh recording. Band leader is Charlie Barnett, an alumnus of Easton Area High School. Lead vocalist is Marilyn Older. Chaise Lounge offers a blend of virtuoso jazz, singer-songwriter folk and circa-1962 lounge. The group, founded in 1999, has performed in clubs, concert halls and at festivals throughout the United States. Its concerts with the Capital City Symphony produced the 2010 live album, "Symphony Lounge." Tickets: State Theatre box office, 453 Northampton St., Easton; statetheatre.org, 610-252-3132



## ANNIVERSARY

## Witzcak

Whitehall couple marks 65th anniversary

Catherine and Leo Witzcak of Whitehall celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Oct. 14.

Catherine is the daughter of the late John and Anna (Solovay) Turbedsky, who lived in Cementon.

She attended Whitehall High School and the Allentown Hospital School of Nursing. She worked for many years as a nurse in the hospital and doctors' offices in Allentown.

Leo is the son of the late Joseph and Victoria (Czyzewska) Witzcak, who lived in Allentown.

He attended Allentown High School and Lehigh University. He served in the Army in Europe during World War II and was an electrical engineer until retiring in 1980.

Catherine and Leo met when she was a nursing student and he was a student at Lehigh University. Their first date and Leo's later proposal took place at the Allentown Fairgrounds.

They were married in St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Northampton, in 1950, and are long-time parishioners of Ss. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, Allentown.



Leo and Catherine Witzcak

town.

They are the parents of three children: Dr. Loretta, wife of Bruce Keil, of Allentown; Jesse, husband of Pam, of Brookeville, Md.; and Joseph, husband of Charlene, of Tumwater, Wash.

They have been blessed with eight grandchildren: Deanna, wife of Daniel Carik, Alyssa, Lynea, Christopher, Devon, Bonnie, Garrett and Michael. Their anniversary was celebrated at a family reunion this past spring.

## 'Mockingbird' star at LCCC

Mary Badham, the actress best-known as Jean Louise "Scout" Finch in the film, "To Kill A Mockingbird," will speak at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 15, Berrier Hall (gymnasium), Lehigh Carbon Community College, main campus, Schnecksville, North Whitehall.

Badham will read from "To Kill A Mockingbird" and Harper Lee's recently-published "Go Set A Watchman." The event is free and open to the public.

The talk is part of LCCC's 50th anniversary celebration and takes

place during the American Library Association's "Banned Books Week," an annual celebration of the freedom to read.

Badham had no prior acting experience when she was chosen from a pool of 4,000 to play Scout. She was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, at the time the youngest actress (age 10) ever nominated in the category.

"After To Kill A Mockingbird" in 1962, Badham appeared in two other films, "This Property Is Condemned"

(1966) with Robert Redford and Natalie Wood, and "Let's Kill Uncle" (1966). Badham also played Sport Sharewood in "The Bewitchin' Pool," the final episode of the original "The Twilight Zone" TV series.

In 2005, Badham came out of retirement to play an offbeat cameo opposite Keith Carradine in "Our Very Own."

Badham is an art restorer and a married mother of two. She has traveled extensively promoting "To Kill A Mockingbird" and giving talks about its impact in literature.

## 'Greenwood' staged reading

A staged reading of "Greenwood, An American Dream ... Destroyed" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19, Fowler Blast Furnace Room, ArtsQuest Center, SteelStacks, 101 Founders Way, Bethlehem.

The play, written by Celeste Bedford Walker, is directed by Lynn Godfrey.

According to a press release, "On a hot Memorial Day 1921 in Greenwood, Okla., [in] a section of Tulsa often referred to as Negro Wall Street, the pent-up rage and jealousy of the neighboring white citizenship exploded into a race riot that physically destroyed the township of Greenwood and also the dreams of the fictionalized Boley family. The riot left the thriving community of 600 businesses burned completely to the ground."

A reading of "Greenwood" will also be held 5 p.m. Oct. 20, La Mama Rehearsal Studios, 47 Great Jones St., New York City.

Tickets: 610-297-7100

## CORRECTION

The last name of the Rev. Bob Stevens, pastor, Zion's United Church of Christ, Allentown, was spelled incorrectly in an article on Page B2 of the Oct. 7. Lehigh Valley Press Focus about the opening of the Moravian Book Shop in center city Allentown.

## Cirrhosis causes irreversible damage

**Q. I'm a social drinker who has several glasses of wine every evening, but I'm told I can avoid any liver damage if I drink plenty of coffee. Sounds ridiculous. What do you think?**

There was a study of more than 125,000 people who drank coffee. The study showed that one cup of coffee a day cut the risk of alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver by 20 percent. Four cups a day reduced the risk by 80 percent. It's not known yet why coffee protected livers in this study.

Even "social drinkers" can develop cirrhosis, a condition that causes irreversible damage to the liver. Whether you get cirrhosis depends upon the amount of alcohol you drink and a predisposition for the condition.

If you drink a lot of alcohol, you will hurt your liver. However, you will not necessarily get cirrhosis. You have a one-in-three chance of getting cirrhosis if you

**HEALTHY GEEZER**  
By Fred Cicetti  
fred@healthygeezer.com



drink 8 to 16 ounces of liquor a day (or the equivalent in other alcoholic drinks) for 15 years or more.

More men than women get cirrhosis. There is a theory that more men get cirrhosis because they're heavier drinkers.

Women can't tolerate as much alcohol as men can. Studies show that a much higher percentage of women, consuming less alcohol than men, suffer from cirrhosis.

In the United States, excessive alcohol consumption is the single greatest risk factor for cirrhosis. Chronic infection with the hepatitis C virus is the second leading cause of cirrhosis.

The liver, which is located in the upper right side of the abdomen, is the largest organ within the human body. (Skin is the largest human or-

gan.) The liver weighs about three pounds and is, believe it or not, about the size of a football. You cannot live without a liver.

The liver is a multi-purpose organ that performs hundreds of tasks. Among its functions are the digestion of fats, removal of harmful substances from blood, production of cholesterol, control of infections and the coagulation of blood.

In cirrhosis of the liver, scar tissue replaces healthy tissue; this blocks blood flow through the liver and prevents it from working efficiently.

At the onset of cirrhosis, there may be no symptoms. As the liver deteriorates, the following may occur: internal bleeding, fluid retention in the legs and feet, bruising, yellow skin and eyes, fluid in the abdomen, itchy hands and feet, dark urine, loss of appetite and weight, nausea, fatigue, and red spider veins.

Although liver damage from cirrhosis is irreversible, treatment

can help prevent more damage and reduce complications. Giving up alcohol is the primary treatment. Improving nutrition is often part of treatment, too.

A doctor can diagnose cirrhosis through symptoms, a medical history, a physical exam, and tests.

Tests that are often used in diagnosis include a computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or a scan using a radioactive substance that highlights the liver. A doctor might look at the liver using an instrument that is inserted into the abdomen. A liver biopsy (tissue sample) can confirm a diagnosis.

Have a question? Email: [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com)

Order "How To Be A Healthy Geezer," 218-page compilation of columns: [healthygeezer.com](http://healthygeezer.com)

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## The hardest addiction to beat

Years ago I had a conversation with a heroin addict that I will never forget.

It happened when I was at a drug rehab facility in Wind Gap doing an in-depth story on heroin addiction.

The facilitator of a group meeting asked participants if I could listen, provided I promised not to put any real names in the newspaper. They were willing and candid throughout the session.

But after I sat listening to their stories for a while, one young man turned to me and asked if I was addicted.

"Not to a drug," I told him. "Just to food."

That was many moons ago but I'll never forget the guy's response.

"You're worse off with your addiction than I am with mine," said the heroin addict. "I can beat my addiction by staying away from certain people and places with heroin. You can't stay away from people and places with food."

Oh, man, was he ever right.

Did you ever notice how many of our social events revolve around food? It's hard to go to a social gathering without food.

A friend of mine told me he and his wife had to give up socializing with friends because it's always in a restaurant setting or a dinner at a home. He said they get tired of defending their food choices.

For at least two decades, both of them have eaten only plant-based food. Long before it became popular, they embraced a diet of just fruits and vegetables.

"It gives us a healthy lifestyle but it kills our social life," he says.

I have always cherished socializing with friends. Since I retired, I have more opportunities to do that.

But every time someone wants to get together, it involves food.

We just had a party to celebrate my friend Becky's 50th birthday at one of our most popular restaurants — an Italian restaurant, no less.

Try cutting down on calories at an Italian restaurant where they put homemade garlic bread with herbed olive oil on the table while you wait an hour for your food.

Even our church meetings seem to involve food. The last one was a potluck luncheon with dozens of delectable dishes along with about 15 desserts.

I copied what our pastor was doing when I heard him remark that he allows himself either bread or dessert, not both. Even with taking small portions, I ended up with a plate loaded with too much food for lunch.

Oh, I know, no one put a gun to my head to force me to eat it.

I have some friends who like to eat out four or five times a week — all based on social activities. David and I try to limit the times we eat out, so we miss many of those activities.

**WARMEST REGARDS**  
By Pattie Mihalik  
newsgirl@comcast.net



When we get together at our house or other friends' places, once again food plays a starring role. While I tell myself homemade food is better for you than restaurant food, I still end up consuming way too many calories.

Every time I start to make progress in my constant battle with the scale, we run into back-to-back parties — all revolving around food.

That heroin addict was right. It's harder to stay away from food because it's everywhere.

It's so bad that I find myself praying for more self-discipline around food. I make a little progress, the scale goes down a few pounds, then it goes right back up again, regardless of how I try to make smart food choices.

My husband keeps saying the secret is small, small portions. "You can eat anything," he says, "You just can't eat much of it."

His idea of a small portion is about how much I consume while tasting what I am cooking.

I have yet to learn that art. But I keep praying for the grace to make do with far less food.

The irony of trying to avoid food is not lost on me. It was just one generation ago that my mother had to pray she could find ways to put food on the table. When my father worked sporadically in the mines, having enough food was the problem, not eating too much.

I listen to my friends say when they keep eating something "bad" like chips or ice cream, they throw away the offending food so they won't be tempted to eat any more.

My mother never would have dreamed of the day when people actually felt compelled to throw away food.

I can't bring myself to throw away food because it was ingrained in me not to waste anything. But I have been known to bring tempting leftover goodies to the teenage boys across the street. They will eat anything and everything but they still look like tall sticks.

Experts tell us as we get older we need to adjust our calorie intake. The older we get, the fewer calories we need, they claim.

While the scale says that's probably true, all it means is continued frustration in the battle of the scale.

Food is an addiction, all right.

At least it is for me. I hope the guy I met the drug addiction rehab has beaten his heroin addiction.

For now, I have my food addiction under control. But I know all too well how easy it is to fall off the wagon.

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Two photos, 1 color and 1 black & white are \$35.00. Two color photos are \$40.00.

THE PRESS will not accept photos that are computer printouts. The printed or emailed, high-quality digital color photo, article information, contact name, telephone number and a check, made payable to THE PRESS, need to be sent to: THE PRESS office, 1633 N. 26th St., Allentown, PA 18104.

For INFORMATION on how to send digital photos please call 610-740-0944.  
For Forms, see our website: [www.lehighvalleypress.com](http://www.lehighvalleypress.com).  
Just click on News/Presskit on the right. Choose the appropriate form and download or print.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN**  
Noon-Ten series underway

"The Arts at St. John's" 25th season continues the Tuesday Noon-Ten series, St. John's Lutheran Evangelical Church, 37 S. Fifth St., Allentown: Oct. 20: "Blind Artists": Dan Simpson, poet; Roy McCutcheon, pianist-singer, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Americans With Disabilities Act, and Oct. 27: "Organ Recital": Jeffrey Fowler, organist, Christ Church, Villanova.

Also: 4 p.m. Nov. 15: Ahreum Han, organist; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18: Back By Popular Demand: Vox Philia Chamber Choir Christmas Concert.  
Information: 610) 435-1587

# 'Martian' landing

"The Martian" is fascinating, beautiful and wonderful. It's more than a movie. It's a cinematic experience. It's an astounding piece of film-making. It's also an uplifting story. Your spirits will soar.

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
By Paul Willistein  
pwillistein@tronline.com



Matt Damon is fully-committed as Watney. Look for an Oscar actor nomination for Damon. He captures a range of emotions, from distraught (as one might imagine), to anger, to humor, to jubilation.

Jessica Chastain is again excellent. She portrays the mission commander with the right mix of power and compassion. Excellent in supporting roles are Jeff Daniels as the head of NASA; Chiwetel Ejiofor and Sean Bean as NASA officials, and Michael Pena and Kate Mara as NASA astronauts.

Noteworthy in smaller roles are Donald Glover and Benedict Wong and Kristen Wiig as NASA officials.

"The Martian" has astounding computer-generated effects. Not for a moment do you doubt the reality of what you're witnessing. The scenes on Mars are breathtaking. The NASA Mars rover vehicle is impressive, as are the scenes at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Mission Control. The film seems to be tech-savvy and scientifically-authentic.

For this review, "The Martian" was seen in 3D, which is recommended.

The cinematography by Dariusz Wolski is fantastic. The score by Harry Gregson-Williams supports the thrills. A bevy of 1970s disco songs ("Hot Stuff," Donna Summer, 1979; "Turn The Beat Around," Vicki Sue Robinson, 1976) and one well-placed David Bowie song ("Starman," 1972) pumps up the volume and augments the energy.

It's good to see a movie where there are no bizarre creatures, where none are shooting at each other or beating each other up, and where there are no sex scenes.

We need a movie with a hero. "The Martian" is that. It's a must-see on the big screen.

"The Martian," MPAA rated PG-13 (Parents Strongly Cautioned. Some Material May Be Inappropriate For Children Under 13.) for some strong language, injury images and brief nudity; Genre: Adventure, Dra-

ma, Science-fiction; Run time: 2 hrs., 41 mins.; Distributed by 20th Century Fox.

Credit Readers Anonymous: "The Martian" was filmed on location in Jordan and Hungary. For more information on "The Martian": areslive.com

Box Office, Oct. 9: "The Martian" continued orbiting at No. 1, \$37 million, \$108.7 million, two weeks, with "Hotel Transylvania 2" continuing at No. 2 with \$20.3 million, \$116.8 million, three weeks, keeping "Pan" opening at No. 3, with \$15.5 million;

4. "The Intern," \$8.6 million, \$49.5 million, three weeks; 5. "Sicario," \$7.3 million, \$26.7 million, four weeks; 6. "Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials," \$5.2 million, \$70.6 million, four weeks; 7. "The Walk," \$3.6 million, \$6.3 million, two weeks; 8. "Black Mass," \$3.1 million, \$57.5 million, four weeks; 9. "Everest," \$3 million, \$38.2 million, four weeks; 10. "The Visit," \$2.4 million, \$61 million, five weeks

Unreel, Oct. 16: "Bridge of Spies," PG-13: Steven Spielberg directs Tom Hanks, Alan Alda, Amy Ryan and Eve Hewson in a drama based on the story of an American lawyer recruited by the CIA during the Cold War to help rescue a pilot detained in the Soviet Union.

"Goosebumps," PG: Jack Black stars in the horror comedy film based on author R.L. Stine's books.

"Truth," R: James Vanderbilt directs Cate Blanchett, Elisabeth Moss, Robert Redford and Topher Grace in a drama based on the 2004 CBS "60 Minutes" report about then-President George W. Bush's military service that resulted in Dan Rather being fired.

"Crimson Peak," R: The house is a real horror. Guillermo del Toro directs Jessica Chastain, Charlie Hunnam, Tom Hiddleston and Mia Wasikowska.

# Renew Financial acquires Allentown-based AFC First

Renew Financial has announced that it has acquired Pennsylvania-based AFC First Financial Corp., one of the United States' premier lenders specializing in the energy-efficiency home improvement market. The terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

AFC First, founded in 1947, originates energy-efficiency loans, solar leases and through utility on-bill financing. AFC First has originated more than \$500 million in energy efficiency home improvement loans over the last 10 years and services a portfolio of more than \$100 million in loans. Pennsylvania AFC First, based in Allentown, has 38 employees and a network of more than 5,000 approved contractors across the country.

The acquisition builds on the Warehouse for Energy Efficiency Loans (WHEEL) program, a public-private partnership launched last year that provides a national financing platform to bring low-cost, large-scale capital to government and utility-sponsored residential energy efficiency loan programs. AFC First created the loan programs, such as Pennsylvania's Keystone HELP, which were the foundation for WHEEL.

WHEEL represents an innovative collaboration among national leaders in finance and energy, including Citi, Renew Financial, the Pennsylvania Treasury, the National Association of State Energy Officials, Energy Programs Consortium and a growing number of states and utilities. The State of Pennsylvania, the State of New York, the Commonwealth of

Kentucky, the State of Indiana, the State of Florida, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance have joined the WHEEL program, and additional states are expected to join. The WHEEL program completed the first securitization of loans in June.

AFC First is a national leader in energy-efficiency and renewable energy lending and program management. Nationally, it operates its EnergyLoan® program as well as administering programs in partnership with states, utilities, manufacturers and municipalities, including Pennsylvania's Keystone HELP, Energize Connecticut Heating Loan, Illinois Energy Loan, Kentucky Home Performance and Efficiency Maine financing.

AFC First is the nation's first private, non-utility Home Performance with ENERGY STAR sponsor, and the original approved originator and servicer for WHEEL.

Renew Financial was founded in 2008 by Cisco DeVries, who originated the idea of the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing model.

Endorsed by President Obama and named by Scientific American as one of the Top 20 ideas that can change the world, PACE enables property owners to finance the entire cost of energy and water efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to their homes and businesses, and then repay those costs on their property tax bill.

Renew Financial has a partnership with SolarCity targeted at small and medium-sized busi-

nesses (SMBs) utilizing PACE, which is also a central component of a major White House clean energy and energy efficiency initiative unveiled in August 2015.

Renew Financial's other financing products including the Warehouse for Energy Efficiency Loans (WHEEL), which opens the residential energy efficiency finance market to large institutional investors.

"We could not be more pleased to join the Renew Financial family," said AFC First Chairman and CEO Peter Krajsa. "The combination of Renew Financial's groundbreaking leadership history in energy-efficiency lending will create a powerful financing platform to better serve contractors and homeowners, alike. Moreover, having been the creator and an active partner in many state energy loan programs that participate in WHEEL, we look forward to working closely with our new colleagues at Renew Financial to continue that momentum."

"This acquisition brings together two of the most innovative and successful clean energy finance companies in the country," said Renew Financial CEO Cisco DeVries. "We have been working closely with Peter [Krajsa] and the team at AFC First for years now. Together, we will hit the ground running as a team. Building on our recent acquisition of EcoCity Partners with this deal, we are truly expanding clean energy and energy efficiency financing options across the United States."

Information: renewfinancial.com

## TOUCHSTONE Laros grant to replace seats

Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. Fourth St., Bethlehem, matched a \$15,000 challenge grant from the R.K. Laros Foundation to replace the theater's 25-year-old seating.

Renovation plans for the seats, carpet, and painting are to be completed in time for the theater's most attended show of the season, the annual "Christmas City Follies."

The completed matching pledge is supported by gifts from Air Products, Northampton County General Purpose Authority and theater patrons.

"I love that our group of supporters is so diverse. Foundation, corporation, county, patrons and company members ... what a wonderful combination of supporters reflective of our community," said Touchstone Managing Director Lisa Jordan.

"The R.K. Laros Foundation has been a long supporter of Touchstone Theatre. We believe in their mission and look forward to the impact this much needed update will have on Touchstone in the years to come," said R. Keller Laros III, Chair of the Foundation.

During the last three-plus decades, the R.K. Laros Foundation has supported Touchstone, with the earliest gift dating back to 1983 for a new sound system. Since then, grants have included replacing the stage floor and supporting structural work on the building, including brick and façade repair.

**not-just Art Auction**  
Friday, Oct. 23  
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PUBLIC NOTICE INCORPORATION NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania...

PUBLIC NOTICE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

The Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Council will be meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Municipal Bldg., 2900 South Pike Avenue, Allentown, PA 18103.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Upper Macungie Township Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearings on October 28th, 2015 at 6:30 P.M., at the Township Building, 8330 Schantz Road, Breinigsville (one mile west of Route 100), to hear the following appeal:

#10 15 018 The Zoning Appeal of Dale Flick, 6342 Memorial Road, Allentown, PA 18106; for variance of Section §27-307.2.b. - Table of Lot and Setback Requirements...

Applicants must appear at the hearing. All interested parties may appear and be heard.

Oct. 14, 21 Kyle Kuester, Zoning Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

OCTOBER 2015 PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA

The Upper Macungie Township Planning Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, at 7:00 P.M. at the Township Building, 8330 Schantz Road, one mile west of Route 100, Breinigsville, PA., to review and make recommendations on the following:

- Subdivision and Land Development Review: #2192 1217 Trexletown Road, Site Plan required for a Change of Use... #2157 Lehigh Valley West 2, Lot 9B, Condo Unit #1 Hotel - 110 Route 100... #2068 Above and Beyond Personal Care Facility...

And any and all matters that may come before the Commission. Makala Ashmar, Secretary

Work Session on Monday October 19, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

Oct. 14

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Hearing Board of South Whitehall Township will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday October 28, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., in the South Whitehall Township Municipal Building located at 4444 Walbert Avenue, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania...

ZHB-2015-15: The appeal of Peter A. Cooper and TC Motor Car Co. Inc. d/b/a Lexus of the Lehigh Valley (property owner - Chetna Kadhiwala) seeking relief to be able to install and maintain a driveway mouth entrance sign...

Any above-referenced property is located in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, PA. Copies of any plans, applications, and/or supporting documents that were submitted can be available for public inspection at the Township Building during normal business hours...

Keith M. Zehner, Zoning Officer

Oct. 7, 14

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF MEETING

The Whitehall Township Planning Commission has scheduled their meeting for October 21, 2015 at 7:30 PM in the Public Meeting Room of the Whitehall Township Municipal Building, 3219 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA to discuss the following:

- A) SUBMISSION REVIEW 3951 MECHANICSVILLE ROAD Minor Subdivision... B) DISCUSSION ITEMS: #1873-15 - ZONING AMENDMENT-FAIR HOUSING DEFINITIONS - BILL #35-2015... C) OTHER: Approval of 7/15/15 Meeting Minutes.

Copies of plans, applications and supporting documents are available for public inspection at the Township Municipal Building. The Whitehall Township Municipal Building is accessible to the physically handicapped...

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Hearing Board of Lower Macungie Township will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Municipal Campus, 3400 Brookside Road, Macungie, Pennsylvania 18062-1428.

Appeal No. 08-2014 of Carl R. Bieber, Inc. 4444 Hamilton Blvd. Allentown Pa. 18103. Property located in a C-Commercial Zoning District. Lehigh County Tax Parcel No. 5485181020101...

Appeal No. 19-2015 of Itty Bitty Kitty, Inc. P.O. Box 90628, Allentown, Pa. 18109. Property located at 878 Minestie, Road Allentown Pa. 18103 in a U-Urban Residential Zoning District...

Appeal No. 20-2015 of Ciocca Properties, Inc. 321 S. West End Blvd. Quakertown, Pa. 18951. Property located at 4725 Hamilton Blvd. Allentown, Pa 18103 in a C-Commercial Zoning District...

Carl L. Best, Zoning Officer

Oct. 7, 14

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