



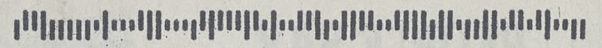
SPORTS

State wrestling
this week
See A7



FOCUS

Lehigh Valley
stream premiere
See B1



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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR THE BETHLEHEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

MARCH 10, 2021

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COVID-19

State orders begin easing

BY NATE JASTRZEMSKI
njastrzemi@tponline.com

Governor Tom Wolf announced last week revised and lifted restrictions as COVID-19 cases continue to decline and the state's vaccination plan is amplified.

"Pennsylvania is taking a measured approach to revising or lifting mitigation orders," Wolf said. "The reason we are seeing cases drop can be attributed, in part, to people following the mitigation efforts we have

VACCINE ROLLOUT UPDATE
See A3

in place. Mask-wearing, social distancing and hand hygiene are making a difference and need to continue even as we see more and more people fully vaccinated. We need to balance protecting public health with leading the state to a robust economic recovery. We are lifting mitigation efforts only when we believe it is safe to do so."

The revised mitigation restrictions include:

- Revised maximum occupancy limits for indoor events to allow for 15 percent of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size. Core public health measures such as face covering (mask-wearing), social distancing and hand hygiene still must be enforced. The 15 percent of maximum occupancy is permitted only if attendees and workers are able to comply with the 6-foot physical distancing requirement.

- Revised maximum occupancy limits for outdoor events to allow for 20 percent of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size. Core public health measures such as face covering (mask-wearing), social distancing, and hand hygiene still must be enforced. The 20 percent of maximum occupancy is permitted only if attendees and workers are able to comply with the 6-foot physical distancing requirement.

- Eliminate out-of-

See **BEGIN** on Page A2



PRESS PHOTOS BY CHRIS SEXTON

Phillipsburg HS's Lily Wanisko, 14, and Charter Arts HS freshman Gina Sexton, 15, from Bethlehem, work together to place prom dresses into garment bags for storage and protection until the YWCA's Pop-Up Prom Shop series of shopping days takes place at its headquarters this month. The dresses, in varying lengths, patterns and fabrics, are among more than 1,400 donated by Macy's.

Shop safely, shop smart

14th annual YWCA gown shop opens in April despite uncertain prom season

BY CHRIS SEXTON
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Despite lingering COVID restrictions, prom season is right around the corner. With it come visions of glamorous gowns.

Not knowing whether high school junior and senior proms will take place across the Lehigh Valley this spring, teens can still shop for a dress on select dates in April at the 14th annual YWCA Pop-Up Prom Shop.

The organization, whose aim is to eliminate racism and empower women, is choosing to continue its annual event, safety measures in place, and offer show-stopping dresses for an eye-popping bargain price of \$20.

"There is still a lot of uncertainty about what the prom season will look like this year due the pandemic," said YWCA Program Director Jen Wanisko. "Although the Pop-Up



Bethlehem YWCA Program Director Jen Wanisko, left, and volunteer Rhonda McGeary of Bethlehem admire the only tie-dye gown in the collection of nearly 2,000 prom dresses donated by Macy's for the organization's yearly Prom Pop-Up event this spring.

Shop will look different this year, we are proud to help teens shop safely and shop smart, whether they are attending a school prom, gathering with a small group of friends, or simply planning a photo shoot in their backyard."

One difference with this year's shop is its location.

Typically held in large venues with ample room and time to browse the collection of gently used gowns donated by the public, this year's shop will take place at the YWCA's Bethlehem headquarters at 3895 Adler Place, Suite 180, Hanover Township.

There will be cabana-type spaces for personal changing rooms.

Another lucky twist this year is that all the dresses in the shop's inventory are brand new, thanks to a generous donation of 1,400 stunning floral, taffeta, lace, long

See **PROM** on Page A2

PEOPLE SAY

BY DANA GRUBB

With COVID vaccinations ramping up, when do you think it will be safe for arenas, venues and stadiums to be open at full capacity?



"This spring."
Domenick DeAngelis
Philadelphia



"Now!"
Lauren Valletta
Trexlerstown

PEOPLE SAY
Continues on A2

TODAY INSIDE

Sports stringer
Rob Merchant
remembered
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BETHLEHEM PRESS

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Worship.....B3



Colorectal Cancer Virtual Event

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Lehigh Valley Cancer Institute

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BY DANA GRUBB

With COVID vaccinations ramping up, when do you think it will be safe for arenas, venues and stadiums to be open at full capacity?



“By August.” David Chevez Forks Township



“In May, I'll go with May.” Bill Walls Breinigsville



“I also think by August.” Heidi Chevez Forks Township



“I would say by next February or March.” Wilbert Chevez Forks Township

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

'Hot Topics' recordings available on YouTube

The League of Women Voters of Lehigh County invites the public to watch recordings of the following virtual "Hot Topics" Zoom events on YouTube:

- "You'll Miss Us When We're Gone," Bill White, The Morning Call columnist/blogger
• "Can We End Gerrymandering? What is Next for Pennsylvania?" Mary Erdman, vice president, LWVLC, programs and action
• "Allentown Health Department - from Environmental Health Services to COVID-19," Vicky Kistler, director of the City of Allentown Health Department
• "Election Trends," Chris Borick, Ph.D., Muhlenberg College
• "State of the County and Impact of COVID-19," Phillips Armstrong, Lehigh County executive
• "The Street Medicine Program of LVHN," Nani M. Cuadrado, program director
Future topics include:
• mid-March, "Climate Change: Opinion and Policy," Chris Borick, Ph.D. Muhlenberg College
• mid-April, "TerraCycle - Eliminating the Idea of Waste," Maame Mensah, U.S. account director, Brand Partnerships, TerraCycle U.S. LLC

The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

PEOPLE

Armstrong elected to national board

BY DOUGLAS GRAVES Special to the Bethlehem Press

Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong was elected Feb. 8 to the National Association of Regional Councils Board of Directors.

The National Association of Regional Councils serves as the national voice for regions by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues.

Armstrong now represents all the councils of governments, development agencies, regional and metropolitan planning organizations in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware. Armstrong will represent the Northeastern United States during the National Conference of Regions to be held virtually from Washington, D.C. Along with Armstrong, Connecticut Senator Steve Cassano, Mayor of Berkeley CA, Jesse Arreguin, and Tulsa County (OK) Commissioner Karen Keith were among the cross governmental leaders elected to the board of directors.

This is the first time that any Lehigh Valley elected official has represented the cross governmental needs of the over 27 million people living in comprising the northeastern United States.

"This is a tremendous time for the Lehigh Valley, especially because our success is focused, coordinated and planned across counties. The National Association of Regional Councils reinforces our region's and the Northeast's voice in shaping federal policy," Armstrong said.

Armstrong, who is in his first term as Lehigh County Executive, has announced that he is running for a second term.

LEHIGH VALLEY PRESS LVP

A Division of TIMES NEWS Media Group BETHLEHEM PRESS 241 Lehigh Gap St., Walnutport, PA 18088 (610) 740-0944

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Classified Advertising - Linda Moyer

SUBSCRIPTION RATE 1 Year - \$40.00

USPS 024-746 - Bethlehem Press is published weekly for \$40.00 per year by Lehigh Valley Press, 241 Lehigh Gap St., Walnutport, PA 18088 Periodical Postage Paid at Allentown, Pa. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Lehigh Valley Press, 241 Lehigh Gap St., Walnutport, PA 18088 Member of Newsmedia ASSOCIATION

National Advertising Representatives: Mid-Atlantic Newspaper Services, 3899 N. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17110

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Volunteers between multiple storage units filled with 1,400 new party and prom dresses donated by Macy's, that Bethlehem YWCA directors hope will adorn Lehigh Valley high school prom-goers in the coming months. Standing, from left, are: Lily Wanisko of Phillipsburg, Gina Sexton and Rhonda McGeary of Bethlehem, Marci Wehr of Allentown and Bill and Christina Carlin of Nazareth.



Christina Carlin, 13, an eighth grader at Nazareth MS, and her dad Bill, of Nazareth, help organize prom dresses into protective covers while volunteering in November at the YWCA Prom Pop-Up Shop work party. They were part of a team of volunteers who helped safely store 1,400 new party dresses of all lengths, styles and sizes, at Budget Store & Lock in Bath. The shopping event benefits YWCA programs.

PROM

Continued from page A1 and tea-length dresses, tags still attached, from Macy's Lehigh Valley.

There's a style for every taste, sizes 2-22. Teens can bring a parent or other helper to browse and choose up to two dresses.

One-hour time slots can be reserved online at www.ywcbethlehem.org. A \$10 reservation fee required to book the appointment is credited toward the dress cost at checkout.

Rhonda McGeary of Bethlehem volunteered last year at the event. "I just really enjoyed it," said McGeary, who has a women's fashion retail background and helped organize this year's donation from Macy's at a work party in November at Budget Store & Lock in Bath, where the dresses are being stored. "It's really great to see young ladies look and feel beautiful, and the confidence it brings when you like the way you look."

Christina Carlin, 13, of Nazareth, brought her dad Bill along to pitch in with the dress organizing as part of Family Volunteer Day, held annually

POP-UP PROM SHOP Stay Safe. Save Money. Shop Smart. 400+ Gorgeous *NEW* Gowns JUST \$20 each* Open to High School Juniors & Seniors Sizes 0 - 22 Accessible & LGBT Friendly Personal Shopping Without The Crowds! Visit YWCABethlehem.org to Make Your Reservation Today!!

on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and considered an opportunity for families to work together to serve their community. An eighth-grader at Nazareth MS, Carlin found out about the service opportunity through Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. "It appealed to me because I did sorting of clothes and toiletries for a lady veterans' group

in the past," she said. Carlin is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and was also meeting volunteer requirements as part of her membership. Wanisko gathered volunteers in November to assist in the super-sized task of pulling rolling racks filled with the gowns out of several storage units and organizing them by size and style. It

was a two-day commitment with the weather in full cooperation.

"I just love dresses, and it appeals to me that we are helping young girls get a dress of their dreams for the prom," said Marci Wehr, of Allentown. It was her first time volunteering for the event.

YWCA Pop-Up Shop committee members have met more than once to try to figure out whether to even host the event this year. It usually takes around 40 people to pull it together, Wanisko said. Many volunteers may not even want to come out, with COVID, she said.

The group eventually settled on a solution that would keep the spirit of prom season combined with thoughtful safety guidelines.

"We have an amazing inventory of new gowns available, and we hope that Lehigh Valley families will visit us in April," Wanisko said. "During these difficult times, teens who may have planned to shop retail for the prom season may be looking for more affordable options. A beautiful dress for just \$20 is perfect, especially if there is still a question whether their school will hold a traditional prom."

BEGIN

Continued from page A1

state travel restrictions. In November, the Department of Health provided an updated travel order requiring anyone over the age of 11 who visits from another state to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test or place themselves in a travel quarantine for 14 days upon entering Pennsylvania. Today, this order was rescinded. The current downward trend of cases nationwide and implementation of testing requirements and

universal face covering on public transportation and transportation hubs are reducing the risk that interstate travel is a vector of disease transmission.

Along with these changes, there is caution. Reduced cases, hospitalizations and deaths, and the more than 2.3 million vaccinations are good signs, but the CDC advises that now is not the time to introduce expansive loosening of mitigation efforts known to put people at more risk. New cases of variants continue to appear, and

some experts warn of a fourth surge in cases.

The state considered broad range of data for today's announcement and when considering lifting additional restrictions including (all data is as of Feb. 26):

- Percent of population receiving at least one dose of vaccine: 14 percent of the population under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health has received at least one dose of vaccine; if you remove those under age 16, the percentage increases to 16.9.
• Percent positivity;

this stands at 6.3 percent

- The incidence rate per 100,000 residents; this stands at 101.3 over a 7-day period; and
• Hospital bed capacity (availability) stands at 41 percent.

As of Monday, the state has 815,901 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 24,356 deaths. Lehigh County has 31,304 confirmed and 780 deaths; Northampton County has 27,483 confirmed and 653 deaths; the city of Bethlehem has 6,843 confirmed and 99 deaths.

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BETHLEHEM

VACCINE ROLLOUT PLANS UPDATE: Bethlehem City Health Director Kristen Wenrich will provide an update on COVID-19 vaccine rollout plans and take questions from area residents during a special telephone town hall program hosted by AARP Pennsylvania State President Joanne Grossi March 10 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

The public is invited to join the conversation by calling 855-286-0295 at that time.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

COUNTY PRISON: The Director of Corrections reports that, since the beginning of the pandemic, 174 inmates have tested positive for COVID-19. One is currently in quarantine; 173 have finished their quarantine periods or are no longer at Northampton County Prison (NCP). Since March 2020, NCP has conducted 2,357 tests for COVID-19 on inmates. All new inmates coming into the facility receive a test before they are transferred to general population; residents are tested on a random basis.

Fifty-two NCP employees have tested positive for the virus since the start of the pandemic. One is in quarantine, fifty-one have returned to work.

NCP staff have been given the option to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine; some have already gotten the shot. PrimeCare Medical is working with the state to make the vaccination available to all NCP inmates when supplies become available.

To protect the health of inmates and staff, volunteers, visitors and tours were banned from the prison March 10, 2020. NCP has suspended all programs and is re-evaluating when to restart those services. Inmates can contact their loved ones via phone, tablets or mail.

There are currently 546 inmates in residence at NCP. Thirty non-violent offenders have been granted extended furloughs.

PENNSYLVANIA

TEACHER VACCINATIONS: A group of state organizations is urging the government to get COVID-19 vaccine shots in the arms of teachers and other school staff members as soon as possible.

"The significance of in-person education continues to be demonstrated daily to not only our educators working remotely, but also to our students and their parents/guardians," representatives from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, the Pennsylvania State Education Association, the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials, Pennsylvania Principals Association, Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators, and the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units wrote in a joint letter to Gov. Tom Wolf and acting Department of Health Secretary Alison Beam. "While our schools continue to perform incredibly well under the current circumstances, the difficulties of remote learning are of great concern to our members, Pennsylvania's students, and their families."

In their letter, the eight organizations said issues ranging from technology disruptions, distractions in home environments, limited hands-on learning opportunities, truancy and many other challenges make it "ever more important to return to in person instruction."

STATEWIDE VACCINATION DATABASE PROPOSED: State Rep. Jeanne McNeill, D-Lehigh, has signed on to legislation (House Bill 633) that would allow patients to register themselves and their families for the COVID-19 vaccine via a statewide database of available appointments.

"It's time that we do something that will end the frustration and better streamline the vaccine distribution effort," McNeill, a co-sponsor of the bill, said. "I've heard from so many people who either don't have a computer or who begin the registration process only to reach the end and have that initial appointment gone. In some cases, people are getting up in the middle of the night to try and make appointments for themselves, or friends and family without the technology."

Introduced by Reps. Ryan Bizzarro and Pam Snyder, the legislation would allow couples to register for a vaccination appointment at the same time, add any risk categories such as smoking or pre-existing medical conditions, a note for first responder or essential worker status, and how far the individual is willing to travel to secure a vaccine.

McNeill explained that vaccine providers would then have to register to access this database and give priority to these patients in making appointments available for vaccines.

"People are so desperate to get vaccinated now that there is a supply issue adding another wrinkle, they're driving hours away from their homes," said McNeill. "And sadly, many senior couples haven't been able to schedule appointments together, on the same day, or even in the same location. This is simply unacceptable."

This bill was referred to the House Health Committee Feb. 24.

AROUND TOWN

Following the directives established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to limit public gatherings, several of the following meetings / activities might be changed, canceled, streamed or online. Check websites and social media as available.

Bethlehem Area Public Library, 11 E. Church St. Visit www.bapl.org/events/categories/virtual-events/. Buildings are open. General information: visit www.bapl.org (main) or at www.facebook.com/paBAPL or www.bapl.org/ssmain.htm (south side).

National Museum of Industrial History is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday. For timed ticket purchases, information about mask requirements, social distancing protocols and more, visit www.nmih.org.

Digital and virtual events

Banana Factory online digital exhibitions and more: www.seeTOWN.com
See **TOWN** on Page A5



PRESS PHOTO BY LANI GOINS

Children of the IU Parent Support T.E.A.M. Some are students with disabilities served by Colonial IU 20. Others are their siblings. From left: Hunter Campbell, Isabella Biancamano, Pheonix Torres, Hayden Huggan, Ty Torres, James Goins, Gavin Huggan, Jaidyn Wildrick, Renner Campbell and Sammy Campbell. The Polar Bear is Jason Huggan, father of Hayden and Gavin.

'Freezin' for a Reason'

Polar Pop bring IU20 families together, raises funds for Special Olympics programs

BY LANI GOINS

Special to the Bethlehem Press

This year's Special Olympics Polar Pop, 'Freezin' for a Reason, lasted through the month of February. It took the place of the annual Polar Plunge, which could not be held due to coronavirus concerns. Instead, participants signed up and popped water balloons over their heads. This took many forms, with participants across the state finding different ways to "pop." You can donate to the Pop through March 12.

Featured here are two different local Pop experiences.

Brittany Thayer, her mother Karri Moren and her father Christopher Moren (who is also the mayor of Tatamy), gathered with her rhythmic gymnastics coach Casey Skoglund in High Street Park in Tatamy for the Pop. Brittany smartly wore a full body swimsuit and a cap from her time swimming with Bethlehem Special Olympics.

To her surprise, her father also joined her in the Pop, and Brittany got to pop a water balloon over his head. Afterward, they dried off with a big blue Special Olympics towel.

Brittany is 32 years old and has been competing with Bethlehem Special Olympics for a decade. She has a physical disability that affects her eyesight. She is blind in one eye, has no side vision, and a fall or blow to the head could cause permanent blindness. She hopes in the future to become a kin-



Water cascades over Brittany Thayer during her Polar Pop. Brittany maintained a pose and her composure as the water came down over her.

dergarten teacher.

Brittany was a co-emcee for the broadcast of the Polar Pop ceremonies and videos, which streamed on Mixcloud Feb. 27.

The Colonial IU Parent Support T.E.A.M. (Together, Educating, Advocating, Moms dads and families) met at a parking lot at Bangor HS for a group pop. Everyone wore masks and their black and green T.E.A.M T-shirts. They were joined by a "polar bear," the unofficial Pop mascot.

After taking some photos, parents donned their T.E.A.M. shirts. There was a brief discussion about wearing

clear ponchos, but it was decided parents would sit on the ponchos instead. In the downtime between picture taking and the pop, children served by Colonial IU 20 and their siblings, played in the snow.

Parents sat in a line with the polar bear behind them. Then the children were called from playing and were lined up behind their parents. The balloons and skewers to pop them were handed to the parents. Once everyone was ready, the parents passed the skewers to the youth behind them, held their balloons over their heads, and on a count, the children

popped the balloons.

Sammy Campbell dressed as the Polar Bear, and when Sammy tired of wearing the costume, parent Jason Huggan stepped in. Jason and his wife Nikki have two children in the IU. Hayden and her brother Gavin both have mitochondrial disease.

"It was amazing to see everyone and be with friends to raise money for Special Olympics," Nikki said of the event. "Watching all of the kids playing - especially when my kids are very isolated was so special." (At the Polar Plunge, younger children do not usually get to participate in the river entry).

Parent Rachael Higgins agreed with Nikki about having the children more involved.

"I'd say a good memory I have is seeing the athletes and siblings playing in the snow together having so much fun. It's been a while since COVID started," said Rachel whose son Gage is 16 and is autistic.

Parent Judith Saccento to Wildrick agreed.

"I love participating together as a team to support the Special Olympics," she said. "We may have missed the plunge due to the pandemic, but I loved that our children were able to participate. I know my guy loved being able to participate by popping the balloon over my head, and that made it special to both of us."

Judith's children, Benjamin and Jaidyn, both have autism and other diagnoses.

See **POLAR** on Page A4

Are YOU satisfied with the way things are in Bethlehem?

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Robert W. Merchant

Bethlehem Press photographer



Robert "Rob" W. Merchant, 71, of Nazareth, died Feb. 27, 2021, at St Luke's Hospital-Anderson Campus, Easton. Born in Annapolis, Maryland, he was a son of the late James William and Emely (Wilson) Merchant. He was the husband of Cecelia (DelBacco) Merchant for 17 years.

He graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

He was in the U.S. Air Force and was an Avionics Instrumentation technician at Pease Air Force Base, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

In 1974, he began his photography career working for Crimson Camera, Bell & Howell and others. He then worked for Air Products in Massachusetts and moved to Pennsylvania. He worked for 29-plus years with AT&T, where he was at the close of his tenure the lead Interactive Multimedia Manager. Following retirement, he was the owner/photographer of Digital Media Magic company. He assisted in freelance work with Christmas City and all eight of the Lehigh Valley Press papers, specifically the Bethlehem Press.

He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church, where he was on the Communion and Safety teams.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three sons, Steven Merchant and his fiancée Tayler Brandt of Catasaqua, Antonio DelBacco and his life partner Kyle Siegel of Allentown and Ronnie DelBacco and his wife Dawn of Klecknersville; two daughters; G. Lindsey Merchant of Rochester, New York, and Tara Fahr of Norristown; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two sisters, Betsy Phelps of Ohio and Cathy Franklin of Maryland; a brother, David W. Merchant of Maryland; nieces; and nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother, James W. Merchant.

Contributions may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 5300 Green Pond Road, Easton, PA 18045.

Arrangements were made by Fiore Funeral Home Inc., Bangor.

Eastburn Herbert Shelly Jr.

systems analyst, computer programmer



Eastburn "Ed" Herbert Shelly Jr., 88, of Nazareth, died Feb. 27, 2021, while in the care of St. Luke's, Bethlehem. Born in Bethlehem, he was the son of the late Eastburn H. Sr. and Helen Louise (Reppert) Shelly; and a stepmother, Elizabeth "Betty" (Sheetz) Shelly. He was the husband of Lois Dianne (Wilkinson) Shelly for 67 years.

He was a 1960 graduate of Moravian College.

He was a systems analyst and computer programmer for various corporations. He retired as a vice president from Sedgwick Printout Systems, Princeton, New Jersey.

He was a member of the former St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Bethlehem.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by five children, Richard and his wife Carol of Bath, Brian and his wife Gail Ann, Valerie Cacciatore and her husband Keith, Melanie Olenwine and her husband Scott and Kevin Shelly, all of Bethlehem; a daughter-in-law, Judi Shelly; 11 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by a son, Barry Shelly; and two sisters, Elaine Paulus and Louise Kemp.

Contributions may be made to the Department of Development & Alumni Engagement, Moravian College, 1200 Main St., Bethlehem, PA 18018.

Arrangements were made by the Cantelmi Funeral Home Inc., Fountain Hill.

John Thomas Edwards

architect

John Thomas Edwards, 79, died at his home in Bethlehem Feb. 14, 2021. He was the husband of Suzanne Edwards.

He was a graduate of Lower Merion High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Penn State University.

He was an architect for over 40 years.

He is survived by two sons, Tim of Manhattan Beach, California; and Chris and his wife Leisl of Ellicott City, Maryland; a daughter, Meg Mayes and her husband Peter of Bethlehem; five grandchildren; and a sister, Ann Sheehan of Napa, California.

Contributions may be made to The First Tee - Greater Philadelphia by visiting www.firstteephiladelphia.org; or New Bethany Ministries, Attn: Marc Rittle, 333 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015.

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

Margaret (Kriebel) Sames

St. Peter's E. L. Church member

Margaret "Peg" (Kriebel) Sames, 86, formerly of Fountain Hill, died Feb. 26, 2021, at Atria, Bethlehem. She was the wife of the late William S. Sames. Born in Hatfield, she was a daughter of the late Jacob and Florence (Lambert) Kriebel.

She was a member of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethlehem.

She is survived by two daughters, Debbie Fair and her husband Greg of Fountain Hill and Sandy Fuquay and her husband Jesse of Nazareth; four grandsons, Chris, Matt, Steven and Jason; and a sister, Jean Thomas of Cambra.

She was predeceased by a sister, Kay Detwiler.

Contributions may be made to St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 474 Vine St., Bethlehem, PA 18015.

Arrangements were made by the Cantelmi Funeral Home Inc., Fountain Hill.

POLAR

Continued from page A3

"It was a great experience for my daughter and I because kids were involved, in Polar Pop and enjoyed themselves so much," said parent Virginia Biancamano. "I love that the T.E.A.M. once again came together to fundraise for such a wonderful organization!"

Virginia's daughter, Isabella Biancamano, participated on behalf of her brother, Robert Biancamano, who has autism.

T.E.A.M. leader Caterina Renner Campbell reflected on the Pop.

"We have 10 registered Polar Plunge/Pop team members, which is the same number as last year. So far this year we raised \$2,607. Last year for the plunge, we raised somewhere around \$4,300. We had most of our team register right before the Pop this year, so we are anticipating additional donations as they see our photos and video. I enjoyed participating in both, and I think they should keep both options available for future Special Olympic events."

"The anticipation leading up to the Polar Plunge was scary but exciting and the feeling of accomplishment our T.E.A.M. felt after the plunge is something I will never forget. On the other hand, we really had fun with the Polar Pop this year. Our T.E.A.M. laughed and screamed so much. We truly made some great memories together. For the future, I'm going to keep trying to connect more IU20 families in hopes that our Polar T.E.A.M. will grow each year and be able to raise more money for the Special Olympics."

The Polar Pop ceremony broadcast should be viewable on the Northampton and Bethlehem Special Olympics



Hayden Huggan looks up at the Polar Bear (her father Jason Huggan). Behind them, Sammy Renner, who also donned the costume earlier, smiles while holding a sign.

Facebook pages.

So far, Special Olympics Pennsylvania has raised over \$820,000 through the Polar Pop. Donations to Special

Olympics through the Polar Pop continue through March 12. Britany's link is <http://www.classy.org/fundraiser/3092601>

Above: Polar Pop teammates from the CIU 20 Parent Support T.E.A.M. From left: Tiana McNab Torres, Judith Saccento-Wildrick, Nikki Huggan, Jason Huggan (in Polar Bear costume), Caterina Campbell, Virginia Biancamano and Rachel Higgins. Other Pop team members include Isabella Biancamano, Ronnelle Thomas-Brunswick and Jennifer and Sam Virgil Kasebier. The Colonial IU20 Parent Support T.E.A.M. was created in 2018 to help connect and support IU20 families. If interested in being part of T.E.A.M. you can find them on Facebook at Colonial IU20 Parent Support T.E.A.M. Reporter Lani Goins is a member.

The Parent Support T.E.A.M. is open to any parent with a child served by Colonial Intermediate Unit 20. The link for the Colonial IU20 Parent Support T.E.A.M. is <http://www.classy.org/team/336997>.

THE STATE OF LEHIGH COUNTY

Armstrong seeks return to normal

BY DOUGLAS GRAVES
Special to the Bethlehem Press

"Returning to normalcy is our number one priority," summarized Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong at the State of Lehigh County address Feb. 25. He said that "is why we must move forward with the health and safety of our community in mind."

Speaking via an internet forum, Armstrong addressed the pandemic early in his speech as being a major challenge to the community and the county.

"This pandemic has touched our communities in unspeakable ways, and has affected our daily way of life. We have lost over 1,000 individuals in Lehigh County to this terrible virus, and over 450,000 United States citizens."

"It is with a heavy heart that we remember these strong individuals, and I ask you all to join me in a moment of silence as we remember all the lives that were lost to COVID-19."

He said the county had received \$33.3 million as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CARES).

"We have helped over 700 small businesses get back on their feet. Our small businesses are the backbone of this country. They are the foundation on which so many residents built their livelihoods, and as County Executive, I wanted to ensure that our small businesses had the means to make



PRESS PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS GRAVES

Left: "Returning to normalcy is our number one priority," summarized Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong at the State of Lehigh County address. **Middle:** Community and Economic Development Director Frank Kane was commended by Armstrong for securing COVID relief financial opportunities for Lehigh County residents. **Right:** Executive Armstrong lauded Chief of Elections Timothy Benyo and the elections staff for their handling of the November election. "One of the greatest turnouts in our county's history."

it through this pandemic.

"We have secured an additional \$11 million in CARES funding for rental and housing assistance," said Armstrong. "Although the program is still in its early stages, and there are details still to be worked out, I am incredibly proud of my Community and Economic Development team [headed by Frank Kane] for securing this financial opportunity for our residents."

Armstrong acknowledged Lehigh County's first responders, front-line workers, health care workers and emergency management personnel for their service and sacrifice during the pandemic.

The County Executive acknowledged the 2,010 workers and volunteers who serve Lehigh

County at Cedarbrook, the courthouse, Government Center Human Services Department, jail, Parks and Recreation Department, and at the Buildings and Maintenance department.

Armstrong described some of the duties that he has performed, such as achieving annual and long-term goals, proposing an annual budget, and attending meetings at all 25 local municipal governments in Lehigh County.

Besides attending ribbon-cuttings and making proclamations, he said he serves on the boards of volunteer services and attends charity events.

Armstrong described his action when the pandemic began as being "proactive" as of the last week of February 2020. "As a result, Lehigh

County is currently under the longest state of emergency declaration in its history."

He recounted some of the measures taken, including closure of the Government Center on 7th Street in Allentown, and the courthouse, suspension of visitors at both Cedarbrook campuses and the county jail and the requirement of face masks, temperature screening and frequent cleaning at all county government facilities.

Armstrong touted a COVID-19 reporting system that kept the Human Resource Department informed of cases. He said employees at Cedarbrook, the jail, the 911 center and emergency management personnel were classified as "critical essential

See LEHIGH on Page A5

PLEASE NOTE

Obituaries in the Bethlehem Press run free of charge but are subject to Bethlehem Press guidelines.

Residents are eager for a return of township facilities, programs

BY CHRIS SEXTON
Special to the Bethlehem Press

A rise in outdoor temperatures and a steady decline in COVID rates dominated discussions Feb. 23 as Hanover Township, Northampton County, supervisors inched a little closer to answering residents' concerns as to when their community center and preschool will open, and what will be done about fixing the now-defunct pool.

The issues continue to hang in limbo as COVID-19 mandates dictate how and when amenities that Hanover residents have come to rely on will get back to even a hint of normal.

"I know like most other residents in the township, the community center being closed and the pool being closed/abandoned is really annoying," said resident Dominic Haberstumpf. "My biggest beef with the current board is that, except for Supervisor [Susan] Lawless, everyone seems to be dragging their feet, and there's no sense of urgency in looking to repair or update any investment with the community as a whole."

Haberstumpf was one of more than 30 residents who attended the Zoom meeting.

The pool, once home to frolicking and swim lessons, and to Hanover's competitive summer swim team, the Stingrays, closed at the end of the 2018 season and did not reopen after a significant leak was discovered.

HANOVER (NORCO) TWP.

"We started to open for 2019, and we realized we had lost 22,000 gallons of water in two hours," said Township Manager Jay Finnegan.

The situation prompted immediate hiring of Kansas-based geotechnical engineering firm Terracon to do an analysis to identify what the abnormalities are underground. Finnegan said in a phone call Friday. Abnormalities so far strongly indicate probable sinkholes, common in Pennsylvania, which could mean the pool will either need to be reconstructed, relocated, or removed altogether.

According to the township website, more than \$200,000 was set aside for pool-related work last year. Efforts to determine site feasibility, construction costs and fund availability were halted when the pandemic shut everything down.

Until all results are in and weighed heavily, the pool, which opened in 1981, remains closed. Until further notice, the Stingrays will call the newly revitalized Memorial Pool on Illicks Mill Road home.

Supervisors also mulled the reopening of the township's main recreation and preschool hub, the community center. Partially opened to allow appointment-only fitness center use, the only part of the center made available to patrons closed once again

when attendance proved to be stagnant, according to the website.

"The community center needs to get up and running by the summer," said Supervisor Jeffrey Warren. "We are at the point now where [COVID-19] infection rates are starting to decrease significantly in Northampton County. I would like to have some sort of concrete plans regarding reopening the preschool program back up as soon as possible."

"I think it's feasible to consider phasing it in by June," said Warren.

Supervisor Chair John Diacogiannis agreed. "Even if it's an adjustable plan, as things are changing. We're all looking forward to try to move on here."

The center closed temporarily in mid-March when COVID-19's rapid spread hit. It reopened in late-June, when the county was permitted to advance to the Green Phase, which allowed indoor seating in restaurants, as well as movie theaters, salons and gyms like Hanover's to open. Members utilized the fitness center by appointment. When COVID numbers began to climb again in August and restrictions were reinstated, the community center closed once again.

As residents grow tired of the onslaught of winter weather and fluctuations in hybrid and other school schedules,

COVID numbers continuing to decline could mean good news is right around the corner.

According to Finnegan, the outdoor spaces at the center could soon be viable recreational options.

"Field rentals have been contacted and are now submitting the dates they need," he said. Some indoor programs like Zumba, yoga and spin classes can be moved outdoors easily as long as weather permits.

Requests to reserve tennis courts and pavilions are also starting to come in. In the past, the parks program only met in the morning.

"We might want to segment it to help parents in summer, to help with the virtual learning," Finnegan said. Lawless suggested brainstorming with the Bethlehem Area School District's board for suggestions on summer programs.

"In the context of bringing the community center back to life, find out what the school districts are doing. Elementary schools could reopen in April. We should be thinking about summer programs and camps for this summer," she said.

Indoor is another matter. Currently, Finnegan said, the center's operating licenses with the state are in abeyance, or on hold. The state will need to do inspections, he said, in order for the building to be deemed safe to reopen.

Also shut down temporarily in March was the Hanover Township Community Center's preschool, which operates within the community center but did not reopen during the Green Phase. Consideration for reopening the preschool program will occur when the community center is able to fully reopen, according to the township website. See **EAGER** on Page A10

CENTER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE

Animals are available for adoption at the Center for Animal Health & Welfare no-kill shelter, 1165 Island Park Road, Easton. The shelter is working to end pet overpopulation by running a clinic so animals can be spayed or neutered before they go home. For more information, call 610-252-7722 or visit www.healthyanimalcenter.org.



Camila is a 6-year-old little love-bug who was originally found as a stray. Her true calling, however, is meant to be a great family companion, so long as you don't mind her tongue occasionally hanging out.



Daphne is a 10-month-old Lab mix who has spent most of her life in a shelter after being transferred from another organization. She is playful and sweet! At first Daphne can be shy when meeting new people.

SOUTH NETHLEHEM

Survey seeks residents input

The City of Bethlehem is preparing a plan to address historic preservation and development issues within the South Bethlehem Historic Conservation District. This area is generally along the Third and Fourth Streets corridors, west of Hayes Street and east of Wyandote Street.

The plan will recommend revisions to the city's Historic Conservation District regulations that currently regulate demolition of older buildings, changes to the fronts of buildings, and the exterior design of new buildings and additions. There also are expected to be recommended adjustments to the City's Zoning Ordinance. There will be public meetings held in the upcoming months.

The city hopes to gain some input from residents, business owners and visitors regarding their views and preferences related to future development in South Bethlehem.

Below are two links for the quick survey related to the south side planning study.

English version <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SouthBethlehem>

Spanish version <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SurBethlehem>

Please take a look and complete the survey when you have time. We'd also appreciate it if you can share this link with others that may be interested in the future development of South Bethlehem.

Contributed article

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ELECTION BOARD MEETING

The Lehigh County Board of Elections will convene a meeting on Wednesday, March 17th, 2021, 10:00 A.M. in the Conference Room 43A & B, Lower Level, Government Center, 17 South 7th Street, Allentown, for the purpose of conducting a Casting of Lots determining ballot positions for candidates seeking nomination for the Democratic & Republican Parties at the May 18, 2021 Municipal Primary.

Election Board of Lehigh County
By: Timothy A. Benyo
Chief Clerk

AVISO DE LA JUNTA ELECTORAL

La junta electoral del condado Lehigh va a tener una reunión el miércoles, 17 de marzo de 2021 a las 10:00 A.M. en la sala de conferencias, dentro el centro de gobierno- nivel bajo habitación 43A y B, 17 South 7th Street, Allentown con el propósito de llevar a cabo un Reparto de Lotes para determinar los puestos de votación para los candidatos que buscan nominación para los Partidos Demócrata y Republicano en la Primaria Municipal del 18 de mayo de 2021.

Junta Electoral del Condado de Lehigh
De: Timothy A. Benyo
Oficial Mayor

Good-bye to a member of the Press family

Two Sundays ago was like any other Sunday over the past year of COVID: at home, doing laundry, cleaning, taking care of kids and getting ready for another week.

When I checked my work phone that afternoon there was a voice-mail from a strange number, which turned out to be from Cecelia Merchant,



PRESS PASS
By Scott Pagel

wife of longtime Press photographer Rob Merchant.

Rob was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma last fall. He informed me in a text message back in November of last year, and said he needed to take a few months off from photography.

Last I heard from Rob, which was earlier this year, he was doing well, positive as always, and even hinted at a return to photography this summer. Since I have been working at home, he wanted my home address to send me a Christmas card, even though it was after the holidays at this point.

I was always happy to get an update from him. So upon returning the call to Cecelia, it didn't even dawn on me the news I was about to hear.

Rob passed away with family at his side the day before, Feb. 27.

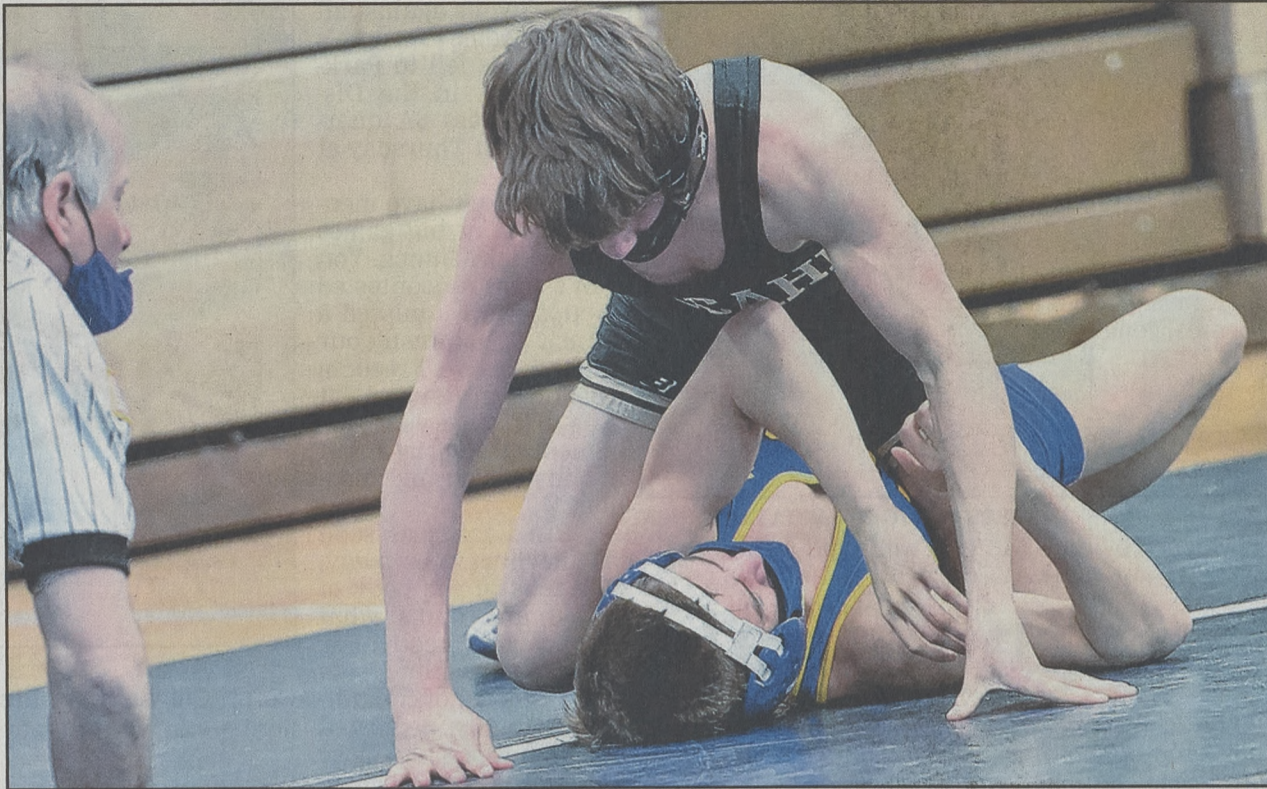
I felt a wide range of emotion, but first I felt terrible for being so unassuming. Rob's attitude toward his situation even left me feeling upbeat. Then of course, I just felt sad.

During these days of modern technology, it's not often I see the people who work for me. Most of our business is done over email and text - and this was the case even before COVID. But, it's something that really hits home during times like this, and when you get this kind of news.

See **ROB** on Page A8



Rob Merchant



PRESS PHOTO BY DON HERB

Tyler Kasak is eyeing a state title this weekend in Hershey.

BC duo eyes state titles

BY PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

Dante Frinzi and Tyler Kasak are practice partners in Bethlehem Catholic's wrestling room and it's no coincidence that their continued work throughout the course of the season has paid dividends for both wrestlers.

After winning districts, regionals and super regionals last week, both are on the cusp of the ultimate prize of bringing home a gold medal from the PIAA 3A championships Saturday night when they head to the Giant Center in Hershey.

Frinzi and Kasak dominated their brackets again last week in Quakertown at the 3A

East Super Regional, as the Hawks came away with three champs from the tournament and advanced seven wrestlers to Hershey.

Frinzi (120) pinned West Scranton's Austin Fashouer in 4:16 to take home the super regional crown, winning his three bouts on the weekend with two falls and a major decision.

"This all feels good but the ultimate goal is to win a state final," said Frinzi. "I've used the motivation from losing in the state semifinals last year and it helps when you have such a tough practice partner like Tyler."

Frinzi enters Hershey at the top of the bracket and opens with Chad

Ozias of Connellsville. With the way Frinzi has been wrestling this postseason, he's a strong favorite to reach the finals on Saturday night, if not, win the whole thing. Working with Kasak everyday has paid dividends.

"I think we just feed off each other," he said. "We never take it easy at practice and that has really helped me. I know each week of this postseason, my confidence has continued to grow."

Kasak registered a technical fall, major decision and a fall in his three matches last weekend, pinning Dominic Findora of Downingtown West in 2:42 during their finals matchup.

He also sits at the top

of his bracket with an opening match against Matt Repos of Central Dauphin and hopes to work through the Hershey bracket, as he has the past three weeks as the final man standing atop the podium.

"Winning states is something we think about everyday," Kasak said. "I just want to get better each day. Dante and I just feed off each other at practice. If someone is tired, that's when we really pour it on and we just keep building. It's something we're really looking forward to this weekend."

Evan Gleason (152) was the Hawks other champ last weekend, scoring a 6-2 win over

See **BC** on Page A9

Gilhool shines at districts

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcDonald@tnonline.com

One might have thought with all the clanking of medals around Patrick Gilhool's neck at the District XI Class 3A Swimming Championships, the noise alone would have knocked the shock out of the Liberty junior, but it didn't.

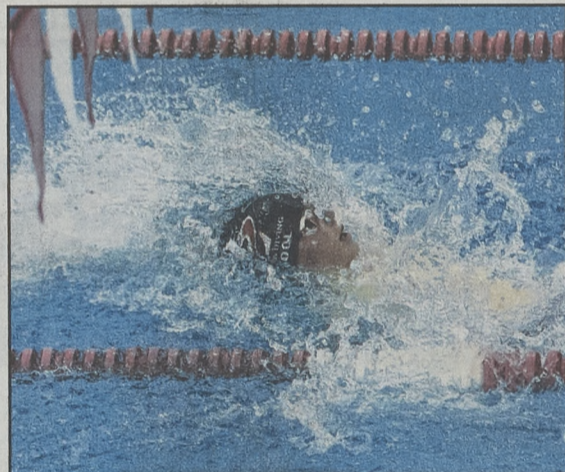
"I was really excited after [winning] the 100 fly, but [winning] the 100 back was a complete shock to me," Gilhool said. "I'm proud of both of them but I was definitely more shocked about the 100 backstroke. I knew I could do it, but I didn't

think I would win. Nick Soares (Emmaus) is a great swimmer. He was the defending district champion. I had a good day."

But first came the shock of setting the district record in the fly with a time of 50.58.

"I didn't even realize that was the district record," Gilhool said. "I actually figured out, after the 2 free relay, when I was warming down, Reik (Foust) and all the coaches walked up to me and were like, 'Congratulations, that was a district record.'"

Then came the shock of See **BOYS** on Page A9



PRESS PHOTO BY COLIN SHERIDAN

Liberty's Patrick Gilhool was excited after taking first in the 100 backstroke.

Burnette, Sergeant take fourths

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcDonald@tnonline.com

Freedom senior Abby Burnette and Liberty sophomore Brooke Sergeant were fourth place medal winners at the District XI Class 3A Swimming Championships on Saturday at Parkland High School.

Burnette took fourth in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:10.74.

"My start was really good, and I had a really strong pullout that set the tone for my first 50. I felt like I was able to get off the wall faster, and actually racing against people made it better," Burnette said. "I'm very happy because I finished my high

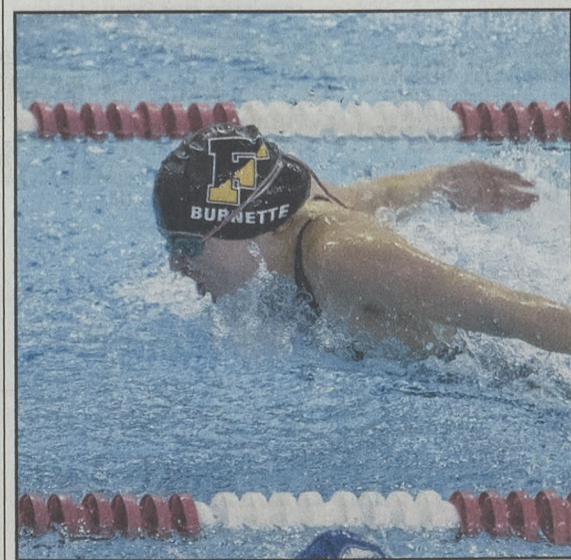
school career with a medal."

Sergeant took fourth in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:00.16.

"I was happy, but I took it out like a 50 and went too fast in the beginning. I didn't breathe as much so it slowed me down," Sergeant said. "I think my underwaters were good and my breakouts."

Sergeant was also part of Liberty's 200 free relay, along with Sydney Taylor, Sarah Park, and Talia Lehr, finishing fourth in 1:43.34, just ahead of Nazareth who placed fifth in 1:43.97.

"I knew [Nazareth's] an- See **GIRLS** on Page A9



PRESS PHOTO BY COLIN SHERIDAN

Abby Burnette took fourth place last week.



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PRESS PHOTO BY LINDA ROTHROCK

CiCi Hernandez and the Hawks got by Blue Mt. and will head to the District 11 5A finals.

BC girls to the finals

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcdonald@tnonline.com

Bethlehem Catholic's CiCi Hernandez knew there would be a gap to fill when teammate Kourtney Wilson was sidelined with an injury for the District XI Class 5A semifinal on Saturday, so the freshman guard stepped up and got hot offensively and defensively, launching the Golden Hawks to a 52-38 victory over Blue Mountain at Becahi.

"I was trying to fill in the leader role for Kourtney, and I knew we needed somebody to step up and contribute, especially on the defensive side. We had to keep them out of the paint," Hernandez said. "To be honest, I've struggled with rebounding and I've been working on it, so it's become a part of my game and I'm going for the ball no matter who it is. I mean, 5'5 gets you somewhere."

That 5'5 also got Hernandez four threes in the first half, including one at the halftime buzzer.

"We have so many dynamic players, all it

takes is for one to get hot, and when one of our girls gets hot, we talk about let's find her and continue to ride that wave, but let's continue to work hard on playing defense, and we were committed to that today," said Becahi coach Jose Medina.

Hernandez marched on, hitting another three to start the second half, then forcing a Blue Mountain turnover when guard Lindsay Kutz dribbled right into Hernandez's arms. After three missed shots by Becahi, the Hawks called a timeout.

Akasha Santos inbounded the ball to Cydney Stanton who scored and converted on a free throw.

After Kutz scored three consecutive times, Becahi's full court pressure was on, and Becahi guard Kiki Walters had a steal and a layup on the play, taking a 41-32 lead by the end of the third quarter.

"I just remember our coaches yelling for me to get a steal right now, so I got the steal and decided to score," Walters

said. "We're a very deep team, so we're able to go with it."

With 4:52 remaining in the game, the Hawks took some time off the clock, and again with 3:52 left.

"We knew we were up and wanted to slow the game down. They definitely were scrappy so we needed to want the ball even more after every shot," said Stanton. "Everyone wants to go to the district championship so that plays a big part in how you get down on the court. It was a big game."

Time was on Becahi's side, especially when guard Gabby Maldonado hit a three with 3:12 left in the game.

"I'm so proud of all our girls and the resolve they showed," said Coach Medina. "We talked about let's tighten up defensively, and let's let the basketball move on the offensive end. The girls did a great job of running their stuff and getting their shot. I'm just very proud of them when the stuff you practice you see out there."

FHS girls fall to PHS

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcdonald@tnonline.com

Working and hoping to get a second shot at state playoffs against all kinds of odds, Freedom's Lady Pates fell to Parkland, 43-26, in the District XI Class 6A quarterfinal last Thursday at Parkland.

"You can't have mental lapses in big games and we had a bunch. You can't miss uncontested layups and we missed a bunch. It just wasn't our night," said Freedom coach Dean Reiman. "It was a strange year. It's almost appropriate that it ends in a strange fashion."

"But I think as soon as the hurt goes away, you look at the body of work, and that's what I'm proud of, really. For those six seniors, it's been a model of commitment, totally dedicated to each other, a close bond. They'll be dearly missed, all of them."

Seniors Corrin Gill, Gabby Glick, Kayla Jefferson, Jewel Levy, Elsa Martin, and Brenna Ortwein were on their way to the PIAA State Class 6A quarterfinal as juniors last year when COVID-19 forced a Pennsylvania state lockdown. Upon their return to this year's basketball season, Bethlehem Area School District imposed its own two-month shutdown of high school winter sports.

No sooner had BASD lifted its suspensions than Freedom High School was stricken with more COVID-19 cases than was safe to continue winter sports practices and games, followed by a winter snowstorm that impacted the Lehigh Valley for a week. So by the time the Pates returned to competition, it was with very little practice and with competitors having played several games.

How did Reiman and his coaching staff get the



PRESS PHOTO BY DON HERB

Corrin Gill is one of the seniors who played her final game for the Pates in their loss to PHS.

Lady Pates through it?

"Trying not to allow them to make it as an excuse, although everyone that's rational understands that they were valid reasons," he said, "but I didn't want them to be a victim to their circumstance, and to frame it that they should be grateful for every practice and every game, no matter if it was 10 games or six."

Riding the momentum of a big win over Bethlehem Catholic and another in the first round of district playoffs against Liberty, the Pates were hopeful in anticipation of taking on Parkland in the quarterfinal. But on this night, size beat out speed, among other things.

Freedom forward Kailey Turpening's three pointer near the end of the first quarter narrowed a nine-point gap to that point. Most of the game's second quarter points were scored with two minutes left as Turpening hit another

er three, and Ortwein made a nice drive to the basket for two more points.

The Lady Trojans, led by senior forward Lindsay Berger who had 14 points on the night, slowed things down in the third quarter, ahead 27-15, and lost the ball twice. The Patriots were unable to score on Parkland's turnovers and on a subsequent steal, but Ortwein's three pointer right before the buzzer set the stage for a fourth quarter push by the Pates.

Parkland had another idea, however, as its defense held Freedom to six points in the fourth quarter.

Despite the outcome, Freedom coach Dean Reiman said of this year's Lady Pates, "Unselfishness, moving without the ball, always making the right play, not making it about individual things, always celebrating good basketball - I think that was always their strength."

ROB

Continued from page A7

Despite that, I feel like I still know my writers and photographers through the digital communications we share, which a lot of times aren't just work-related. This was true for Rob as well. I liked that his emails always had a signature that read "All the Best!" at the end.

One thing I quickly learned about Rob over the years was he was a family man. His wife, kids, grandchildren and great grandchildren were probably the most important things to him. It was also evident on his Facebook page, where he just celebrated an anniversary and a birthday, sharing birthday photos of past years that included those who loved him most. Judging by the photos, Rob was loved a lot, and by a lot of people.

Rob also loved photography, and was very good at it - as was evident to anyone who

opened the sports sections of the Press for the last many years.

But, family came first.

Still, Rob could usually be counted on to take an assignment. A lot of times I'd just pencil him in before he even responded to my email list of games. It seemed like the only time he declined assignments was family events and parties. I'd usually get an email with a line through the assignment, adding "Sorry, we have a birthday party that night" or, "Sorry, we are going camping this weekend."

This is something I felt like we bonded over, family. He never met my kids but from time-to-time would ask about them.

One of the handful of times I saw Rob face-to-face was back in 2012. While shooting a football game, Rob was involved in an incident on the sideline that ended with him leaving the stadium with a broken leg. Needless to say, I

felt totally responsible for this and I went to visit him in the hospital.

Even after that incident, Rob immediately talked about when he anticipated returning to the sidelines to photograph sports for the Press again.

Freelance writing and photography isn't a get-rich career. But, one thing everyone I come across seems to possess is their love for sharing their talents with you, the readers.

Rob was no different. No matter what brought Rob down, he was always ready to come back.

If I could email or text him one more thing, I only wish I could tell him thanks - thanks for his help in making my job easier, thanks for making the sports section better, thanks for his dedication and commitment, thanks for his friendship ... and of course, "All the Best!"

(You can read more about Rob on page A4)

LVP/LVHN ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



#LVHNathleteoftheWeek

Congratulations DALTON CLYMER, NORTHWESTERN, FRESHMAN

Dalton Clymer won a District 11 wrestling title and the Outstanding Wrestler Award for Class. The Tiger freshman follows in the footsteps of his four older brothers, all of whom were district champs in their high school days. Clymer was the No. 4 seed at 145 pounds. He knocked off top-seeded Aaron Coccio (Tamaqua) 3-2 in the semifinal and then beat Catasauqua's Jaryn Hartranft 4-1 in the title bout.

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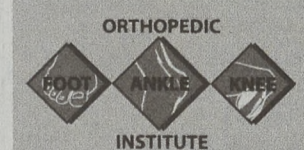
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EAGER

Continued from page A6

"We need to get the preschool program back up as soon as possible," said Warren. "Phasing in by June I think is feasible. Infection rates are decreasing significantly. Can they go back up? Absolutely.

"We don't have a crystal ball. But I'd like to have a plan of action."

On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control released further guidelines for ventilation in schools and childcare programs.

In addition to wearing multi-layer, well-fitting masks, good ventilation is another step in reducing the number of virus particles in the air and reduce the likelihood of spreading disease.

Bring in as much outdoor air as possible, use child-safe fans to in-

crease the effectiveness of open windows, move lunch, classes and activities outdoors when possible, and make sure Heating, Air Conditioning and Ventilation (HVAC) systems are serviced, meeting code requirements, and maximizing ventilation.

Finnegan said that, while the HVAC is not a requirement to reopen the preschool, the township is hiring a company to help determine how the system is operating compared to the CDC recommendations. Snowfalls twice caused appointments to give the system a complete look-over to be canceled. A third attempt is scheduled for next week. Finnegan is trying to think positively.

"Hopefully, it won't stop us from reopening," he said.



PRESS PHOTO BY LANI GOINS

The Westgate Mall, on Schoenersville Road in Bethlehem. The mall is undergoing a five phase improvement plan to modernize the site. Phase 3 will include a credit union and a new fast food restaurant, to be named later when plans are finalized.

Westgate Mall nearing next phase

BETHLEHEM PLANNERS

BY LANI GOINS
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Bethlehem City Planners reviewed the sketch plan for Westgate Mall, Phase Three Feb. 11. Joe Fitzpatrick, local counsel for Onyx Equities, described the next phase of development for the center. He was joined by Traffic Engineer Rob Hoffman, Ryan Whitmore of Landcore Engineering Consultants, PC, and Vice President of Asset Management for Onyx Equities Matthew Flath. Fitzpatrick opened with thanking the Planning Commission for their patience as the 55-year old shopping center is

revived in stages.

Phase Three concerns two freestanding properties in the shopping center. A credit union will occupy the space that was once a diner. A new, freestanding fast-food restaurant will be on the northwest corner of the center. Ryan Whitmore, of Landcore Engineering Consultants, PC, explained the project was in the design detail planning phase, with PennDOT permitting and filing, and a sketch plan and scoping application to LANTA; all of same being copied to Hanover Township. He added this was very similar to the previous year's plan, with a few changes:

In addition to the credit union and fast food outparcels, there would be a pedestrian access improvement, with the construction of full frontal sidewalks. Two internal bus stops

are under consideration for the site, one by the fast food restaurant, and one in front of the new Weiss Market location. One stop would serve northbound bus traffic, the other southbound bus traffic. Some landscaping would be added to the southern part of the center. A parking area at the rear of the former Bon-Ton building will be striped. There is also a plan to move the existing crosswalk access to the upper right corner of the site. The credit union will have two drive-through lanes, and one ATM lane.

Chairman Melosky asked Rob Hoffman to speak on whether a study had been done to ascertain if traffic would back up in the center, particularly near the Credit Union's drive through lanes.

Hoffman explained that the scoping documents were sent to

PennDOT in December, and were received back in January with comments. A resubmission will take place within a few weeks. A traffic study will be next. He added that a "bank sometimes is not as fast as a fast food chain (drive-through), I would make sure it's squared with traffic."

Vice Chairman Malozi said he is "excited to see an internal bus stop." However, he questioned the buses turning left to go northbound, and asked about input from LANTA, and if there way for Lanta to have another entrance.

Ryan Whitmore replied that he was in talks with Molly Wood from LANTA. The routes for LANTA are under LANTA's jurisdiction. Logistical factors, including route, other stops, etc., come into play.

Chairman Melosky noted the proximity of the northern LANTA route to the stop light.

See NEXT on Page A11

Send us your event photos

We invite you to send us photos from your event. Here's what we need:

1. Well-lit and in focus photos only
2. Send high resolution jpeg files
3. A general caption answering the who, what, when, where, why and/or results of your event.
4. A specific caption for each photo identifying those in the photo and what they are doing if it isn't obvious (3 and 4 may be combined if you send one image).
5. You may not want to use last names of children.

Send copy and images as email attachments to: gtaylor@tnonline.com.

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YOUR LOCAL WEATHER

7 Day Forecast	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Few Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Scattered Snow	Sunny
	64 / 41 1-7 mph SE	67 / 49 5-10 mph SSW	65 / 39 7-11 mph WSW	51 / 32 6-9 mph W	49 / 29 8-10 mph NW	47 / 30 5-15 mph ENE	46 / 26 1-3 mph S

FORECAST FOR LEHIGH VALLEY PENNSYLVANIA

Today we will see partly cloudy skies, high of 64°, humidity of 44%. Southeast wind 1 to 7 mph. The record high for today is 80° set in 2016. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight, overnight low of 41°. South wind 6 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 40°. The record low for tonight is 4° set in 1984. Thursday, skies will be mostly cloudy, high of 67°, humidity of 52%. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Thursday night, skies will be mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers, overnight low of 49°. Southwest wind 8 mph. Friday, skies will be mostly cloudy with a 30% chance of showers, high of 65°, humidity of 57%. West southwest wind 7 to 11 mph. Friday night, skies will be partly cloudy with a 30% chance of showers, overnight low of 39°.

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- In Lehigh County, Parkland and Northwestern Lehigh: Deb Palmieri at dpalmieri@tnonline.com
- In East Penn and Salisbury Township: Debbie Galbraith at dgalbraith@tnonline.com
- In Whitehall Township, Catasauqua, Hanover Township and Coplay: Kelly Lutterschmidt at klutterschmidt@tnonline.com
- Also in Northampton County, Northampton and other municipalities in the Northampton School District and North Catasauqua: Kelly Lutterschmidt at klutterschmidt@tnonline.com
- In Northampton County, Bethlehem, Bethlehem Township, Fountain Hill, Hanover (NORCO) Township; Freemansburg and Hellertown: George Taylor at gtaylor@tnonline.com

NOTES

Continued from page A11

Monday, March 15

PBS Smart Sacks self-paced monthly family virtual learning series. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Take-away sack of crafts, videos, games, applications, and offline activities for the target age group. March series: Molly of Denali, ages four to eight. Sign up March 15; visit <https://www.bapl.org/events/march-pbs-smart-sacks-arrive-at-south-side/>. Registration for the April series, Fetch! with Ruff Ruffman, for ages 5-8, runs through April 5. Registration for the May series, The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That, for ages 3-5, runs through May 10.

Coolidge Building - 2740 Fifth St.
Visit www.bapl.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.

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BACH

Continued from page B1
that will be!"

Bach Choir of Bethlehem Executive Director Bridget George had earlier revised her retirement date from December 2020 to June 2021 and will leave her position at that time.

"While it is a deep sorrow for me that the final two Bach Festivals of my 24-year tenure could not happen as originally planned, I am grateful for the many beautiful ways we have continued to connect musically with our artists, audience and supporters through this prolonged challenging time," said George.

"We promise to make the modified Festival in May 2021 a joyful experience for you, whether virtually or in person, so please join us. I am also profoundly

grateful that Greg will lead his final celebratory Festival in 2022. I will certainly be present to cheer on not only Greg and our successors, but the whole Bach Choir Family I love and admire so greatly," George said.

Candidates to succeed Funfgeld and George have been identified and the transition plans will continue, according to the press release.

Despite being unable to present concerts to an in-person audience, Funfgeld has produced performances for the 2020-2021 season through virtual programming, including monthly "Bach at Noon" concerts, weekly "Moment of Comfort" videos and an online "Christmas Concert" viewed around the world.

Funfgeld is working on an educational film, "Bach, Bikes and Bas-



Greg Funfgeld

ketball," for a new online "Bach to School" program for students and teachers this spring, which will be distributed to a wider audience.

Funfgeld will continue the virtual approach with the 2021 Festival, and lead Choir members, along with Orchestra members and soloists, through live-streamed performances presented, if possible,



Bridget George

in front of a small audience.

This fall, Funfgeld plans a new season of concerts that will include the full Choir and Orchestra presented live to an audience.

Bach Festival
Here's the provisional schedule, to be confirmed. Events will be live-streamed with limited in-person audience as allowed.

May 14
2 p.m. - Distinguished Scholar Lecture: Lecturer to be announced

4 p.m. - Bach Outdoors Chamber Music: J.S. Bach and other composers, including Vivaldi's "Four Seasons," featuring Elizabeth Field, concertmaster, as violin soloist with one instrument to a part.

May 15
10:30 a.m. - Ifor Jones Chamber Music Concert: Paul Taylor Dance Company, Bach's Brandenburgs Opus No. 88 and Esplanade Opus No. 61, performed with recorded music. Bach Flute Sonata: Robin Kani, flute, and Greg Funfgeld, keyboard

7:30 p.m. - "Blessings and Benediction" Concert: Bach Choir, Orchestra, and featured soloists. Repertoire to be announced.

Bach Festival ticket information: The

Bach Choir of Bethlehem staff will contact patrons who have tickets to the 2021 Bethlehem Bach Festival and offer options for their tickets.

Ticket-holders may also contact the Choir by calling 610-866-4382, ext. 115 or ext. 110.

Tickets to live-streamed events, and possibly a limited number of in-person tickets, are expected to be available online in April.

If an audience is allowed, priority in-person tickets will be made available to Choir Guardians before being offered to the public.

Audience members will be seated according to the COVID-19 distancing protocol being followed in May.

There will be no reserved seats.

Information: www.bach.org

NCC

Continued from page B1

happen again and again," he says.

The theater department is partnering with NCC's Hampton Winds Restaurant for "Dinner to Go" with meals available for curbside pickup March 12.

Hampton Winds is run by students in NCC's highly-regarded culinary arts program under the guidance of skilled executive chefs.

The menu includes to-

mato corn egg drop soup, teriyaki chicken, honey orange salmon and ginger garlic tofu.

The video on demand can be viewed between 12:01 a.m. March and 11:59 p.m. March 14.

Tickets: www.nccitix.org

Lisa Lampanelli at Bucks: Two in-person shows March 13 at Bucks County Playhouse by comedian Lisa Lampanelli are nearly sold out.

Tickets remain for the 2 p.m. show. The 8 p.m. show is sold-out.

"Lisa Lampanelli is Losin' It" is a collection of Lampanelli's most outrageous observations and real-life stories. A departure from the insult comedy she's long been known for, the show is a humorous and heartfelt theatrical evening about her struggles with dieting and body image.

Lampanelli made headlines in 2012 when she lost more than 100 pounds with the help of bariatric surgery. She now talks with unflinching honesty about her

lifelong food and body-image issues.

Face masks must be worn by those in the audience, who will be seated socially-distanced.

Tickets: www.bcptheater.org/

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

LCCC

Morgan scholarships

Directors of the John E. Morgan Foundation have notified Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) of the foundation's commitment to LCCC's Morgan Foundation Success Scholarship Program through the spring semester of 2022.

It's a 10-year extension from a commit-

ment set to expire in the spring semester of 2022. The original scholarship was established in 2003.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Morgan Foundation for their commitment to LCCC and students from the Tamaqua community," said LCCC president Dr. Ann D. Bieber.

Information: LCCC scholarship website; Ben Turrano, BTurrano@lccc.edu



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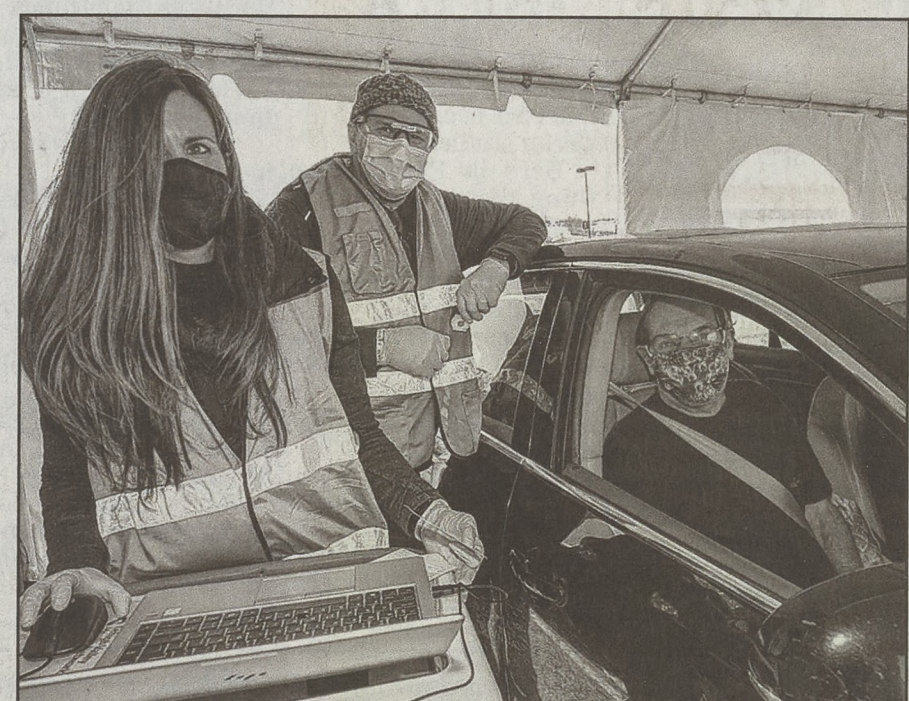
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New Tripoli, PA 18066 610-298-2437 Worship, 9 a.m. With Pastor Jerel Gade On Facebook Live www.weisenbergchurch.org Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>LUTHERAN</p> <p>ZIEGELS LUTHERAN 9990 Ziegels Church Road Breinigsville, PA 18031 Phone: 610-285-6157 www.ziegelschurch.org 9 a.m. Indoor Union Worship Online Worship on Facebook and YouTube 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday School Handicapped Accessible Rev. Andrew Meckstroth, Pastor</p> <p>MORAVIAN</p> <p>CALVARY MORAVIAN CHURCH "Living God's Love" 948 N. 21st St. Allentown Calvary Moravian Church invites you to virtual worship Sundays at 10:45 a.m. on YouTube or contact us for the Zoom address at 610-435-6881 or churchcalvarymoravian@gmail.com</p> <p>EMMAUS MORAVIAN CHURCH 146 Main St., Emmaus, PA 18049 610-965-6067 Rev. Brian Dixon, Pastor Online worship available at www.emmausmoravian.org</p> <p>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</p> <p>EGYPT COMMUNITY CHURCH 4129 S. Church St. Whitehall 610-262-4961 Pastor Brad Roth 9 a.m. Sunday School all ages 10:30 a.m. Sunday Praise Service Handicapped Accessible Child Care, Air Conditioned Blended Worship of hymns, songs and Contemporary praise! Visit us at www.egyptcc.org</p> <p>JACOB'S CHURCH Route 143, Jacksonville, PA Rev. Scott L. Shay, Pastor 610-756-6352 Adult Church School 9 a.m. Family Worship 10:15 a.m. Nursery Available Bible Study Wed. 7:30 p.m. Handicapped Accessible</p> <p>PRESBYTERIAN (ECO)</p> <p>GRACE CHURCH BETHLEHEM Worshipping at Bethlehem Catholic High School, 2133 Madison Ave., Bethlehem Rev. Dr. Marnie Crumpler, Sr.Pastor 8:30 a.m. Modern Worship 9:45 a.m. Classic Worship 11 a.m. Modern Worship Services all livestreamed at gracecb.org 610-333-5508</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN PC (USA)</p> <p>FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EMMAUS N. 2nd & Cherokee Sts. Emmaus 610-967-5600 Rev. Rebecca Mallozzi 10:00 a.m. Worship Live Streaming Available on our Website www.faithchurchemmaus.org office@faithchurchemmaus.org</p> <p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM Services are on Facebook Live: 9 a.m. Contemporary 11 a.m. Traditional Details at fpc-bethlehem.org Rev. J.C. Austin</p> <p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOKENDAUQUA 3005 S. Front Street Whitehall, PA 18052 610-264-9693 Rev. Christine Kass Worship 10 a.m. Live Streaming on Facebook.com/hokeypress Email: hokeypres@gmail.com Web: www.hokeypres.org</p> <p>QUAKERS</p> <p>LEHIGH VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING 4116 Bath Pike, Bethlehem, PA 1/2 mi. North of US 22 on PA 512 610-691-3411 L.V. Monthly Meeting (Quakers) Closed due to COVID-19 Learn more about Quakers, visit website www.lehighvalleyquakers.org or look for L.V. Quakers on Facebook</p> <p>SHARED MINISTRY</p> <p>HEIDELBERG UNION CHURCH Irvin & Church Roads Slatington near Saegersville 610-767-4740 REV. RASHION SANTIAGO, INTERIM PASTOR Virtual Services at 10 a.m. via webex DRIVE-IN SERVICE AT CHURCH Children's Faith Formation 9 a.m. - Connect with us at https://heidelbergchurch.my. webex.com/meet/union</p> <p>JERUSALEM WESTERN SALISBURY CHURCH 3441 Devonshire Rd. Allentown, PA 18103 610-797-4242 Rev. Donald Brown Designated Transitional Minister Online via FACEBOOK and YouTube</p>	<p>UNITED CH. OF CHRIST</p> <p>BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 601 W. Market St., Bethlehem 610-868-4441 www.uccbethany.org Pastor Linda Wisser 10:45 a.m. Worship "Come Worship With Us"</p> <p>CHRIST'S CHURCH AT LOWHILL UCC 4695 Lowhill Church Rd., New Tripoli, PA 18066 10 a.m. Weekly Worship Via Facebook Live or Lowhill Church YouTube christchurchatlowhill.org 25th Anniversary Year!</p> <p>CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD U.C.C. 135 Quarry Rd., Alburts 610-966-2991 Pastor, Rev. Matthew Gorkos 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Also Live On Facebook</p> <p>EBENEZER U.C.C. Route 143, New Tripoli 610-298-8000 Pastor Wally Frisch We are open (following CDC guidelines) Worship, 10:15 a.m. or on Facebook live All Are Welcome!</p> <p>GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 902 Lincoln Ave. Northampton, PA 18067 The Rev. Heather N. Kurtz 610-262-7186 graceuccchurch.com 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Handicapped Accessible</p> <p>JORDAN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 1837 Church Road, Allentown (Corner of 309 & Walbert Ave.) jordanucc.org 610-395-2218 Rev. Dr. David Charles Smith, Pastor 10:30 a.m. Online Worship via Facebook Live, Vimeo and YouTube 9:15 a.m. Church School Zoom</p> <p>OLD ZIONSVILLE UCC 5981 Fountain Rd., Old Zionville (at the Y of Fountain Rd & King's Hwy) The Rev. Lori Esslinger 610-966-3601 10:15 a.m. Worship resumes in sanctuary www.oldzionsucc.org</p> <p>ST. JOHN'S U.C.C. FULLERTON 575 Grape Street, Whitehall 18052 Bonnie Moore, Interim Sr. Pastor Rev. David Quinn, Int. Visitation Pastor 9:30 a.m. Worship 610-264-8421 Accessible & Elevator Everyone is Welcome! stjohnsucc.pastor@rcn.com</p>	<p>ST. JOHN'S UCC MICKLEY'S 2918 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall Int. MacArthur & Eberhardt Rd. 610-821-8725 stjohnsuccmickleys.org Rev. Virginia Schlegel 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship All Are Welcome Here!</p> <p>ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 139 North Fourth St. Emmaus 610-965-9158 Pastor Rev. Dr. Paul Knappenberger 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 Sunday School Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. Informal Worship</p> <p>ST. MARK'S U.C.C. 52 E. Susquehanna St. Allentown 610-797-0181 Rev. George Eckstein, Pastor Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Handicap Accessible</p> <p>ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 19th St. & Lincoln Ave. Northampton 610-261-2910 Interim Pastor, Dave Schnaars 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship Nursery & Child Care provided Sanctuary, Handicapped Accessible</p> <p>ST. PETER'S LYNNVILLE UCC 5129 Schochary Road New Tripoli, PA 610-298-8064 Worship 9:30 a.m. Handicapped Accessible All Welcome!</p> <p>ZIEGEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 9990 Ziegels Church Road Breinigsville, PA 18031 Phone: 610-285-6157 Rev. Kent Rhodameal, Interim Pastor www.ziegelschurch.org 9 a.m. Indoor Union Worship Online worship on Facebook and YouTube 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday School Handicapped Accessible</p> <p>WESLEYAN</p> <p>FAITH WESLEYAN CHURCH 3356 Route 309 Orefield PA 18069 610-398-0172 Rev. Brenda Smith Worship, 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Adult, Youth & Children's Ministries Handicap Accessible www.faithweschurch.org facebook.com/Faith- Wesleyan-Church-Orefield-PA</p>
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To have your religious services listed in The Press contact Joie Jackson Wenner at 610-740-0944 - Ext. 3703

LVHN administers COVID-19 vaccines at Dorney Park



PRESS PHOTOS BY LOU WHELAND
Colleen Fitzpatrick M.D. and Sean Stuber MSN prepare to inoculate Dieter Leiper, of Lower Macungie Township, Feb. 24 at Lehigh Valley Health Network's COVID-19 vaccination drive-thru at Dorney Park, South Whitehall Township.

Employees on hand to provide support for EPIC, the Electronic Medical Records program used by Lehigh Valley Health Network included Sheryl Repischak MSN, Susan Teti MSN, Marjorie Lavin MSN and Jaclyn Stine RN, MBA.

St. Luke's Network appoints Community Health President

Rajika Reed, PhD., MPH, MEd, has been promoted to the role of Vice President of Community Health at St. Luke's University Health Network. The appointment was effective Feb. 21.

In her new role, Reed will build upon the work of St. Luke's Community Health Department, which aims to achieve health equity by reducing health disparities in the communities that the network serves.

"I am excited about my new role because it allows me to continue and expand on my passion for serving our communities, while advocating and ensuring access to quality care, especially among our most vulnerable popula-



Dr. Rajika Reed

tions," Reed said.

Reed joined St. Luke's in 2012, serving as Network Director of Epidemiology. In 2018, she was promoted to Senior Director of Epidemiology and Strategy.

Prior to joining St. Luke's, Reed held several positions in research,

data evaluation and in local community health programs.

Reed received a Bachelor's from The Pennsylvania State University, a Master's in public health from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master's in Education from Lehigh University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Instructional Design from Lehigh University.

Reed, originally from Sri Lanka, lives in Allentown with her husband, Chris, and their two teenage children.

When Reed isn't teaching, collecting, analyzing data or working on a project for community health, she enjoys cooking, traveling, hiking and spending time with friends and family.

Lehigh Valley Heart Institute partners with Penn Medicine

Lehigh Valley Heart Institute has formalized a relationship with Penn Medicine, one of the United States' leading academic medical centers.

Lehigh Valley Heart Institute treats about 90 percent of heart failure patients in the Lehigh Valley who choose the Institute for their care, including those with advanced heart conditions.

Those requiring heart transplants are referred to Penn Medicine, whose teams are equipped to treat the most complex cases. Penn Medicine has

one of the largest heart transplant programs in the U.S., performing nearly 1,500 heart transplants since 1987.

"When someone requires the most complex level of care, Lehigh Valley Heart Institute makes sure that our patients are in the right hands, for the best treatment," said Ronald Freudenberger, MD, MBA, Physician in Chief, Lehigh Valley Heart Institute.

The relationship with Penn Medicine not only provides access to advanced transplant care through the Penn Trans-

plant Institute, but diagnostic testing, breakthrough therapies and clinical trials.

"Penn Medicine is proud to support Lehigh Valley Health Network in delivering advanced cardiac care, whether that's providing heart failure care close to home, or a heart transplant in Philadelphia," said Michael A. Acker, MD, Director of the Penn Medicine Heart and Vascular Center and Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Good Shepherd to hold recruitment for RN, CNA

Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network will host a virtual registered nurse (RN) and certified nursing assistant (CNA) recruitment event, 10 - 11 a.m. March 31, for people interested in learning about positions and locations at Good Shepherd.

The event is intended for those considering a career change or studying.

Participants may meet and talk online with nursing managers from Good Shepherd lo-

cations. Also, those attending may hear first-hand experiences from Good Shepherd RNs and CNAs.

They may also ask questions about job openings.

Participants will learn about:

- Good Shepherd's leading-edge care;
- RN and CNA career opportunities available in inpatient rehabilitation, long-term care, long-term acute care, home health and pediat-

rics, and - What it's like to be an associate at a nationally-recognized rehabilitation provider.

Those attending will need a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Registration is required.

Questions, information: 484-894-1659

Event information: <https://www.goodshepherdrehab.org/events/virtual-rn-cna-recruitment-event/>

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Select stories will be published in the Times News on Monday, March 29th.


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Sweepstakes is open NOW through March 21st at 11:59pm.

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Cat and mouse game

After the serious socio-economic themes of recent movie releases, "Nomadland," "Judas and the Black Messiah" and "Promising Young Woman," and the crime-driven themes of "The Little Things" and "The Marksman," I was looking forward to some light entertainment.

AT THE MOVIES

By Paul Willistein
pwillistein@tjournal.com



proceedings.

"Tom and Jerry," while interesting for its combination of live-action and animation (think "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," 1988), is rife with cartoon violence, has few witty lines for adults or children to laugh at, and lacks entertaining interaction between its human characters.

The cartoon characters don't fare much better. Tom the cat and Jerry the mouse are mostly silent (with the exception of a few exclamations). They basically run amok, chase each other, hit each other, wreak havoc and leave mayhem in their wake.

The cat and mouse game in the feature film is not much different from that in the cartoon shorts that Hannah-Barbera cranked out as pre-feature film shorts and which became staples of Saturday morning TV shows.

In the movie, "Tom and Jerry," Kayla (Chloë Grace Moretz) talks her way into being hired by officials of a swanky New York City hotel (think The Plaza) by the hotel's events manager, Terrence (Michael Peña) and hotel manager, Mr. Dubros (Rob Delaney).

The hotel is to host a celebrity wedding of Ben (Colin Jost) and Preeti (Pallavi Sharda). Celebrity Chef (Ken Jeong) and the staff are gearing up for the big event.

The shenanigans of Tom and Jerry, and other animated characters, including the groom's pet, a dog named Spike, and the bride's pet, a cat named Toots, disrupt pre-nuptial

"Tom and Jerry" is directed by Tim Story ("Ride Along," 2014; "Think Like A Man," 2012; "Fantastic Four," 2005; "Barbershop," 2002) from a screenplay by Kevin Costello ("Brigsby Bear," 2017) based on characters created by William Hanna and Joseph Barbera.

I wish the screenplay was as animated as the animated characters.

Early on, a dig at Disney, the animation giant ("It's the Mouse House. Can we use that? Isn't it copyrighted?") holds promise for some snarky fun, but it never materializes.

The Warner Animation Group's Computer-Generated Imagery (CGI) remains true to the classic animation of the Tom and Jerry cartoons by recreating the hand-drawn style of full-cell animation. This is one of the movie's chief joys.

Animals in the film are animation characters in the old-school 2D style, including pigeons, goldfish and New York Central Park carriage horses.

The cartoon violence, and there's plenty, includes Tom getting electrocuted (several times), Tom getting hit with a clothing iron that renders his face in the shape of the iron and Tom being flattened like a pancake. He always rebounds to his regular shape.

The animation was done remotely during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Live-action scenes were filmed in annoyingly bright light.

The animated characters and the human characters appear seamlessly in their scenes together.

The human characters do not appear seamlessly in their scenes together (think awkward).

Chloë Grace Moretz ("The 5th Wave," 2016; "If I Stay," 2014) tries gamely and energetically to breathe life into her character, but is given little to do and less to say.

The same goes for other actors, including Michael Peña ("Ant-Man," 2015), Rob Delaney ("Deadpool 2," 2018), Colin Jost (TV's "Saturday Night Live," 2005-present), Ken Jeong (TV's "Fresh Off The Boat," 2016-2019) and Pallavi Sharda ("Lion," 2016).

The movie's soundtrack includes hip-hop songs, which somewhat energize the scenes.

"Tom and Jerry" is the second theatrical feature movie adaptation of the cartoon characters. The first was "Tom and Jerry: The Movie" (1992).

Hanna-Barbera (1940-1958) produced 114 "Tom and Jerry" shorts for MGM, receiving seven Academy Awards for Best Animated Short Film, tying with Walt Disney's "Silly Symphonies" for the most in the category.

Other "Tom and Jerry" cartoons produced include 13 by Gene Deitch (1961, 1962), 34 by Chuck Jones (1963-1967) and more by Filmation (1980-1982).

Hanna-Barbera Productions went on to produce animation shows for television, including "The Flintstones," "Yogi Bear," "The Jetsons" and "Scooby-Doo."

There was also TV's "The Tom and Jerry Show" (1975-1977) with 48 cartoon shorts produced by Hanna and Barbera.

Warner Bros. released the direct-to-video movie, "Tom and Jerry: The Magic Ring" (2001) and several more DTV releases through 2017.

The Cartoon Network televised "Tom and Jerry Tales" in 2012.

The latest "Tom and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO COURTESY WARNER BROS.

Chloë Grace Moretz (Kayla) with Tom the cat and Jerry the mouse, "Tom and Jerry."

Jerry" feature move is of interest for fans of the animated cartoon characters and children.

"Tom and Jerry," MPAA rated PG (Parental Guidance Suggested) Some material may not be suitable for children. Parents urged to give "parental guidance." May contain some material parents might not like for their young children.) for cartoon violence, rude humor and brief language; Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy; Run Time: 1 hr., 41 min.; Distributed by Warner Bros.

Credit Readers

Anonymous: Stay to the very end of the concluding of "Tom and Jerry" for a scene with Ben (Colin Jost). The Warner Bros. logo is replicated as WAG, as in Warner Animation Group. "Can I Kick It," to the tune of "Walk On The Wild Side" (1972) by Lou Reed, is performed by A Tribe Called Quest.

At the Movies: "Tom and Jerry" was seen in the Dolby Theatre, AMC Center Valley 16, The Promenade Shops at Saucun Valley, Upper Saucon Township. Online ticketing, face masks, social distancing in reserved seats, and hand sanitizer locations are part of the AMC movie theater COVID-19 protocol.

Movie Box Office, March 5 - 7: "Raya and the Last Dragon," the Disney

animation feature film, roared to No. 1, opening with \$8.6 million, on 2,045 screens, chasing "Tom and Jerry" from its one-week perch at No. 1 to No. 2, with \$6.6 million, on 2,563 screens, \$23 million, two weeks. "Chaos Walking" opened at No. 3, with \$3.8 million on 1,980 screens. "Boogie" opened at No. 4, with \$1.2 million, on 1,252 screens.

5. "The Croods: A New Age" dropped three places, \$780,000, on 1,604 screens, \$53.6 million, 15 weeks. 6. "The Little Things" stayed in place, \$550,000, on 1,448 screens, \$13.7 million, six weeks. 7. "Wonder Woman 1984" stayed in place, \$511,000, on 1,217 screens, \$44.4 million, 11 weeks. 8. "The Marksman" dropped three places, \$500,000, on 1,050 screens, \$13 million, eight weeks. 9. "Judas And The Black Messiah" stayed in place, \$282,000 on 984 screens, \$4.5 million, four weeks. 10. "Monster Hunter" dropped two places, \$260,000, on 1,074 screens, \$14.3 million, 12 weeks.

17. "The War With Grandpa," starring Allentown's Oakes Fegley, dropped five places, \$98,384, on 511 screens; \$20.6 million, 22 weeks. "Come Play," starring Allentown's Winslow Fegley, dropped out of the Top 20.

Box office figures are estimates from Box Office Mojo as of March 7 and

are subject to change.

Unreel, March 12
"Cosmic Sin," R: Edward Drake and Corey Large direct Bruce Willis, Frank Grillo and C.J. Perry in the Science-Fiction Adventure. Seven soldiers are on a preemptive strike mission of an alien civilization.

"The Father," PG-13: Florian Zeller directs Anthony Hopkins, Olivia Colman, Imogen Poots and Rufus Sewell in the Drama. A man descends into dementia.

"Dutch," R: Preston A. Whitmore II and David Wolfgang direct Lance Gross, Iyana Halley, Jeremy Meeks and Macy Gray in the Action film. Dutch is said to be the most dangerous criminal in New Jersey.

"Come True," Anthony Scott Burns directs Skylar Radzion, Landon Liboiron, Julia Sarah Stone, Tiffany Helm and Tedra Rogers in the Science-Fiction Horror film. A teenage runaway takes part in a sleep study that becomes a nightmare.

"Trust," Brian DeCubellis directs Katherine McNamara, Victoria Justice, Matthew Daddario in the drama. A New York art gallery owner and her husband face marital challenges.

Movie opening dates are from Internet Movie Database.

GREEN

Continued from page B1

splotches of mud on trees.

They plant their offspring on flat surfaces, and not just tree bark. To find the eggs, search tree trunks, branches, rocks and equipment or furniture that you keep outdoors.

If you see egg masses, scrape them off, double bag them and throw them away. You can also place the eggs in alcohol or hand sanitizer to kill them. If you are not double-bagging them or putting them in alcohol or hand sanitizer, it is critical that you "pop" the eggs to kill them.

Bagworms - Bagworm cases can be found hanging from conifers, like junipers, blue spruce and arbutoviteae, as well as deciduous trees and shrubs.

They overwinter as eggs inside the bag, which hangs from twigs and branches of the host plant. Each bag can con-

tain 500 to 1,000 eggs.

Removing the bags eliminates the potential for 500 to 1,000 hungry caterpillars that could hatch in spring. Use pruning shears to clip branches or break the branch. The bags are very securely fastened with silk.

Eastern Tent Caterpillars - Egg clusters are

the overwintering stage of the eastern tent caterpillar. The egg clusters are found on branches of favorite food plants, which include cherry, crabapple, apple and other deciduous ornamental trees and shrubs.

The egg mass is up to 3/4-inch in length, encircles small twigs, is dark in color and so shiny that it appears to be varnished. Simply break or cut them off to remove 150 to 350 potential caterpillars each.

Gypsy Moths - In winter, you'll find egg masses attached to tree trunks, stones and siding, among other places. The caterpillars' menu includes hundreds of species, including oak, birch, linden, hawthorn, Colorado blue spruce, hemlock and pine.

Egg masses are yellow-tan in color and covered in fine hairs. Each contains 400 to 600 black, pellet-like eggs. The egg masses are irregularly-shaped oval mounds about 1 to 1-1/2 inches in length. Scrape them off and discard them.

Black Knot - This is a fungal disease common on many fruit and ornamental trees in the genus Prunus (flowering almond, apricot, cherry,

chokecherry, peach and plum).

It is most often found on wild and cultivated cherries and plums. It causes rough, coal-black galls along the branches and trunks of infected trees.

If you can remove the galls from branches, you can slow the spread of the disease. The galls are easy to spot during winter months, and infected twigs and branches can be pruned off. Destroy the cuttings and disinfect pruners between trees.

Rose Black Spot - This is another fungus that overwinters on fallen leaves under infected roses and as purplish-red or black spots on infected canes. Rake up and destroy the fallen leaves. Prune out the diseased canes in late winter before growth starts. Dispose of the diseased material since it can re-infect your plants if left in the yard.

"Growing Green" is contributed by Lehigh County Extension Office Staff and Master Gardeners. Information: Lehigh County Extension Office, 610-391-9840; Northampton County Extension Office, 610-813-6613.

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Estate of HELEN M. FRENSKY, deceased, late of Breinigsville, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Linda J. Kerchner, Co-Executrix Patricia L. Eroh, Co-Executrix c/o YOUNG & YOUNG

Rebecca M. Young, Esq. Lia K. Snyder, Esq. 119 E. Main Street Macungie, PA 18062

Or to their Attorney YOUNG & YOUNG

PUBLIC NOTICE ESTATE NOTICE

Estate of BASIL D. SMITH, JR., deceased, late of Zionsville, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Irene J. Frederick, Co-Executrix Fay I. Wunderly, Co-Executrix c/o YOUNG & YOUNG

Rebecca M. Young, Esq. Lia K. Snyder, Esq. 119 E. Main Street Macungie, PA 18062

Or to their Attorney YOUNG & YOUNG

PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate of Mary F. Arndt, deceased, late of Emmaus, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Dennis Arndt, Executor c/o Emily A. Zettlemoyer 53 North Third Street, Emmaus, PA 18049

or to his attorney: Emily A. Zettlemoyer, Esq. 53 North Third Street, Emmaus, PA 18049

PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate of Mary A. Miller, deceased, late of Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Randolph D. Miller, Executor c/o Emily A. Zettlemoyer, Esquire 53 North Third Street, Emmaus, PA 18049

or to his attorney: Emily A. Zettlemoyer, Esq. 53 North Third Street, Emmaus, PA 18049

PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate of Eleanor J. Haas, deceased, late of Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

James R. Powell, Executor c/o Emily A. Zettlemoyer, Esquire 53 North Third Street, Emmaus, PA 18049

or to his attorney: Emily A. Zettlemoyer, Esq. 53 North Third Street, Emmaus, PA 18049

PUBLIC NOTICE EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Estate of Doris L. Scherer a/k/a Doris Scherer, late of Northampton, Northampton County, formerly of Slatington, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, Deceased.

Beverly Zeiser 21 Willow Ave Slatington, PA 18080 Or Brent Scherer 7227 Northgate DR Slatington, PA 18080

Mar. 3 10, 17

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Lehigh County Housing Authority, "LCHA", will receive sealed bids for: The Testing of Existing Interior Natural Gas Piping to Accommodate Elevated Gas Pressure.

Bid documents/specifications can be obtained at the office of The LCHA, 333 Ridge Street, Emmaus, Pa. between Tuesday March 16 and Thursday March 18 2021, between the hours of 8:30 & 4:00pm.

There will be a mandatory On-Site Pre-Bid Conference at 10am Thursday March 25, 2021. Bids will be received until 2:00 PM, prevailing time, Thursday, April 15, 2021, in the office of LCHA, 333 Ridge Street Emmaus, Pa.

Christina Feiertag, Executive Director Contact Person: David A. DeCarlo / Contract Administrator (610) 433-2312, Ext. 222

Mar. 10

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

The Lehigh County Housing Authority (LCHA) will hold its March, 2021 board meeting virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Topic: LCHA Board Meeting OfficeSuite HD Meeting Time: Wednesday, Mar 17, 2021 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID: 111 212 7950 One tap mobile +16467415292,1112127950# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 111 212 7950 Please contact Ms. Feiertag if there are any questions at: (610) 965-4514 Ext. 5-212.

Christina M. Feiertag, Executive Director Mar. 10

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Lehigh County Housing Authority "LCHA", will receive sealed bids for: the removal, disposal and installation flooring in the common areas of Coopersburg School I in the Borough of Coopersburg, PA 18036.

There will be a mandatory On-Site Pre-Bid Conference at 9:00am on Friday, March 26. Bids will be received until 2:00pm, prevailing time, Friday, April 9, 2021, in the office of LCHA, 333 Ridge Street, Emmaus, PA.

Christina Feiertag, Executive Director Contact Person: Russell T. Funkhouser (610) 433-2312, Ext. 201

PUBLIC NOTICE HANOVER TOWNSHIP LEHIGH COUNTY ZONING HEARING BOARD

The regular monthly meeting of the Hanover Township Lehigh County Zoning Hearing Board will be held on March 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., in the Public Meeting Room of the Municipal Building.

APPEAL # 2021-03- 984 MARCON LLC -22 Old Nursery Drive, Wilton, CT 06897. Location: 984 Marcon Blvd, Allentown, PA 18109, PIN 641805120740.

Copies of plans, applications and supporting documents are available for public inspection at the Township Municipal Building.

The Hanover Township Lehigh County Township Municipal Building is accessible to the physically handicapped.

Melissa A. Wehr, Zoning Officer Mar. 3, 10

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR BIDS

Broughal Middle School Parking Deck Repairs and Coating Transportation Building Bus Lift Demolition and Repairs SPARK Center Exterior Restorations

The Bethlehem Area School District will receive separate sealed bids for the following projects: Broughal Parking Deck Repairs/Coating.

Bids will be received at the Bethlehem Area School District, Education Center, 1516 Sycamore St, Bethlehem 18017, no later than 1:00pm prevailing time, Wed, April 7, 2021.

Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE AND ENACTMENT

Notice is hereby given that Bethlehem City Council will consider enactment of the proposed ordinance ("Bill") summarized below at a series of City Council meetings in the City of Bethlehem Town Hall Rotunda Building (address below).

Title: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING POLICIES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF STORMWATER USER FEE CREDITS AND FOR APPEALING STORMWATER USER FEE DETERMINATIONS.

Summary of proposed ordinance (Bill): At the December 15, 2020 meeting, Bethlehem City Council adopted Article 929, "Stormwater Collection and Management User Fee."

Meetings: The proposed Bill will be considered at the following Bethlehem City Council meetings: Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 7:00 PM (first reading); and Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7:00 PM (second reading and final consideration/enactment).

PUBLIC COMMENT PHONE INSTRUCTIONS. Due to COVID-19, public access to Town Hall is closed. Public comment will be taken only by telephone.

You can also view the meeting by doing a YouTube search for "City of Bethlehem Council" during the hearing.

Mar. 10

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE AND ENACTMENT

Notice is hereby given that Bethlehem City Council will consider enactment of the proposed ordinance ("Bill") summarized below at a series of City Council meetings in the City of Bethlehem Town Hall Rotunda Building (address below).

Title: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING POLICIES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF STORMWATER USER FEE CREDITS AND FOR APPEALING STORMWATER USER FEE DETERMINATIONS.

Summary of proposed ordinance (Bill): At the December 15, 2020 meeting, Bethlehem City Council adopted Article 929, "Stormwater Collection and Management User Fee."

Meetings: The proposed Bill will be considered at the following Bethlehem City Council meetings: Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 7:00 PM (first reading); and Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7:00 PM (second reading and final consideration/enactment).

PUBLIC COMMENT PHONE INSTRUCTIONS. Due to COVID-19, public access to Town Hall is closed. Public comment will be taken only by telephone.

You can also view the meeting by doing a YouTube search for "City of Bethlehem Council" during the hearing.

Mar. 10

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE AND ENACTMENT

Notice is hereby given that Bethlehem City Council will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Rotunda Building ("Town Hall") located at 10 East Church Street, Bethlehem PA, 18018 ("Public Hearing"), to consider the zoning amendment ordinance ("Ordinance") summarized below.

Title of the proposed Ordinance: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE SECTION 1322.03(I) TO AMEND PROVISIONS FOR MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS IN THE CB AND CL ZONING DISTRICTS.

The proposed ordinance would modify the Zoning Ordinance to apply the provisions of section 1322.03(I), Multi-Family Dwellings, in the CB (Central Business) and CL (Limited commercial) zoning districts as they are applied in the I-R (Industrial Redevelopment-Residential) District.

Meeting and Enactment Schedule: The Public Hearing will be on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7:00 PM. First reading (first vote) and consideration of the proposed Ordinance is anticipated at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 7:00 PM.

Members of the public may watch the above hearing and meetings live-streamed on YouTube at "City of Bethlehem Council" YouTube channel at the following website address: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRFLG5Y9Uj0ADKARe1W3xw.

Public Comment Phone Instructions: The foregoing hearing and meetings will be held in Town Hall. However, due to COVID-19, public access to Town Hall is closed. Public comments will be allowed only by telephone.

Mar. 10, 17

RAISES UP EMILIA NAVAL ESCALATE MESONS ELENA WHENALARGENORTH EARNS ROSINS IRA EEEEE VITE ARUT AMERICANREINDEER PEPYS ADDLES NESTS POME SRS TEND DISPREPARINGTO BLU RAY DIRECTS REO DRAINPIPE TLES TAINT ARPIT GOFORALONGDISTANCERUN TIRISES HOBOS RENO JUXTAPOSE LEW UPBRAID EKE SSSN WHATNUTRIENTS TEST EEO TEED RAINN HEALER ESTAS SHOULDITLOADUPON COLI LOX FIERO RCA AEROBE ARBOR CARIBOUHYDRATES SNORE ENDSUP REIMPORT HEWED STEADY SARASOTA

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