

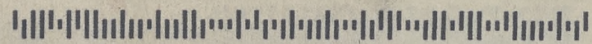


SPORTS

Wrestling recaps

See page A7

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JANUARY 4, 2012

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CITY

Zoners do not come bearing any gifts

By BERNIE O'HARE
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Abe Atiyeh came to Christmas City's Town Hall dressed, appropriately, in red. He even carried a sack of goodies, from which he handed out pieces of candy throughout the evening. Though his eyes sometimes twinkled and his dimples were quite merry, Bethlehem zoners were still in no mood to give him a cherry.

After listening to 3 1/2 hours of testimony during a special hearing Dec. 20, they decided, 2-1, to deny the request for a use variance that would have enabled Atiyeh to build luxury apartments on a vacant five-acre tract at Center Street and Dewberry Avenue. With Bill Fitzpatrick dissenting, Chairman Gus Loupos and Ron Lutes turned Abe down.

This is Atiyeh's fourth attempt to develop this site, which is located in an institutional zone that bars apartments.

After purchasing the property in 2007 for \$1.4 million, Atiyeh originally planned an assisted living facility, which he considered an "excellent project." But then Alexandria Manor, at Johnston Drive and Linden Street, and a Moravian Village expansion, along Stefko Boulevard, were both approved. As a result, he was unable to get financing.

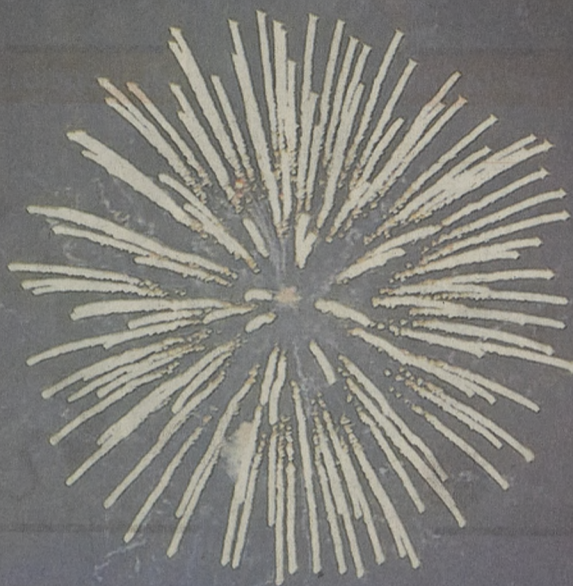
"We're stuck on this property," he said. "I'd sell it for \$1 million right now."

That's when Atiyeh decided on luxury apartments, but zoners shot down his request for a hardship variance last year, and their decision was affirmed in November by Judge Stephen Baratta. Atiyeh has appealed that ruling, claiming, "we have a significant hardship in developing the property."

Then Atiyeh proposed a four-story, 125-bed, inpatient detox center and psychiatric center, which needs no zoning approval. But planners nixed that idea in August in a room packed with at least 80 vocal opponents, who objected to such a facility

See **GIFTS** on Page A5

Happy New Year!



PRESS PHOTOS BY CHRIS RICHIE

Fireworks light up the sky after the Peep Drop on New Year's Eve in Bethlehem. More photos on page A2



The Peep descends to the crowd during the annual New Year's Eve Peep Drop at the SteelStacks Campus in Bethlehem.

'Drop THE Peep!'

By 5 p.m. New Year's Eve, large crowds had gathered inside the ArtsQuest Center and outside around the Levitt Pavilion to watch the annual Peep Drop, in which a large lit replica of the Just Born marshmallow candy rings in the New Year early for kids and their families. An eager crowd started chanting, "Drop the Peep, drop the Peep!" moments before the suspended chick dropped, confetti burst into the air and a fireworks display from Sand Island lit up the sky to the delight of those in attendance.

CITY

Witness says some rehabs near schools

By BERNIE O'HARE
Special to the Bethlehem Press

At the rate things are going in Bethlehem, developer Abe Atiyeh will soon be able to market his own reality show. In fact, he's videotaped each of four hearings on his request for a zoning stamp of approval for an alcohol and drug rehab center located next to Bethlehem Catholic HS. The most recent taping occurred Dec. 19 at Town Hall, at which time Atiyeh Attorney Blake Marles called planner Erik Hetzel as an expert witness.

Hetzel told zoners that, under Bethlehem's zoning ordinance, a 70-bed voluntary inpatient substance abuse center like the one proposed by Atiyeh would be permitted as a special exception in any residential district. He added that the vacant Calvary Baptist Church site, located at 111 Dewberry Ave., bordered by institutional and residential uses, would serve as an "effective transitional use" as a hybrid of both uses.

Asked whether he was aware of similar facilities located near schools, Hetzel said a cursory examination revealed a dozen such uses, although See **REHABS** on Page A5

BETHLEHEM PRESS

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 13

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BY DANA GRUBB

What was most memorable for you in 2011?



"I had my first granddaughter. Her name is Ava Clair, and that was the most memorable thing in 2011: Becoming a grandmother."
Kathy Walsh
Southampton



"The death of Osama Bin Laden."
Victoria Rivera
Bethlehem



"Osama Bin Laden was killed. I was happy to hear that."
Theresa Szakielo
Old Bridge, N.J.



"The earthquake in August. I've never experienced something like that."
Nick Duvall
Kingston



"The most memorable was one week at Disney World with our kids and grandchildren."
John Adamski
Easton



"Running to my parents bedroom to wake them up for the President's speech that announced that Osama Bin Laden had been shot to death."
Meridith Guro
Bethlehem



"The Penn State scandal with Gerry Sandusky. It became a media frenzy that escalated into the firing of Joe Paterno and it didn't need to be."
Barry Walters
Bethlehem



Crowds wait for the Peep Drop at the SteelStacks Campus in Bethlehem on New Year's Eve.



A lighted Peep hangs suspended at the SteelStacks Campus before the annual Peep Drop.



Confetti bursts into the air during Bethlehem's New Year's Eve Peep Drop.

PRESS PHOTOS BY CHRIS RICHIE



A throng gathers around the Christmas tree at SteelStacks to wait for the Peep to drop.



The Peep descends to the crowd during the annual New Year's Eve "Peep Drop" at the SteelStacks Campus in Bethlehem.



People watch the fireworks display from Sand Island after the New Year's Eve Peep Drop at the SteelStacks Campus in Bethlehem.

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"Joy Unspeakable!"

In his epistle to the early Christians, Peter speaks of their "born-again" experience and praises God Who "according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again into a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." He states they are "kept by the power of God through faith" and notes that they "greatly rejoice...with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:3-8). Another word for "unspeakable" is "unutterable." In other words, the joy they experienced was a joy beyond human capability to describe! Peter goes on to say that they had been blessed to experience what the Old Testament prophets had longed for and in which the angels of heaven have an interest. "Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you...the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into" (1 Peter 1:10-12).

What a glorious experience this is! We sing a song titled "Joy Unspeakable" that was obviously written from this passage of Scripture. One verse says, "I have found the pleasure I once craved, It is joy and peace within; What a wondrous blessing, I am saved from the awful gulf of sin." In reference to that unspeakable joy, another verse says, "I have found the joy no tongue can tell, how its waves of glory roll; It is like a great o'erflowing well, springing up within my soul."

Have you experienced such joy—a joy beyond words—a joy that you cannot explain? It is readily available through the mercy and grace of God. I urge you to fully believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior by humbly praying now and confessing your sins to Him. If you have any questions or need additional help, please email me or come to any of our church services, and I will count it my great joy to talk and pray with you around the altar so that you too will experience this "joy unspeakable!"



Spectators wait for dark at the SteelStacks Campus in Bethlehem to see the New Year's Eve Peep Drop and fireworks display.

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Wednesday, January 4

HARB, 4 p.m., Town Hall, 10 E. Church St.

Thursday, January 5

Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, 7:30 p.m., Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School, 3300 Chester Ave. Visit www.dlarc.org or KE3AW@ARRL.NET, or 610-432-8286.

Lehigh Valley Chapter Executive Women, 5:30 p.m., Prime Steakhouse, 325 Stoke Park Road.

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

Monday, January 9

BASD facilities and curriculum committees, 6 p.m., education center dining room, 1516 Sycamore St.

Fountain Hill Planning Commission, 7 p.m., 941 Long St.

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

Saucun Valley School Board, 7:30 p.m., Audion Building, 2097 Polk Valley Road.

Harry F.W. Johnson Post #379 American Legion and the United Veterans meetings, 7:30 p.m. DAR Log Cabin, Eighth Avenue and West Union Boulevard. Call 610-866-3835.

Tuesday, January 10

Bethlehem Township Parks and Recreation, 6 p.m., the municipal building, 4225 Easton Ave.

Hanover Township Supervisors, 7 p.m., 3630 Jacksonville Rd., Municipal Building.

Hellertown Planning Commission, 7 p.m., 685 Main St.

South Bethlehem Historical Society, 7 p.m. Victory Fire House, 205 Webster St.

Wednesday, January 11

BASD budget workshop, 6 p.m., East Hills School auditorium, 2005 Chester Road.

Hellertown Water Authority, 7 p.m., 685 Main St.

To have an event listed, contact George Taylor at 610-625-2121, ext. 3112, gtaylor@tronline.com or fax 610-625-2126. For additional local news items not in our print edition, check out www.bethlehempress-aroundtown.blogspot.com

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Peeps Fest performer Robbi K with volunteer dancers Jillian and Hannah Halm and companion Emma Kate Wessman from Bethlehem Township. Known as Robbi K and Friends, the band, with Patrick Paladian from Easton on keyboard, plays behind the female soloist and Bethlehem resident.



Middle school Peeps Fest Lehigh Valley Scholastic Diorama Competition winners Leanna Deegan and Katharine Ellmaker from Easton with their movie theater box display made with the marshmallow candies. The diorama duo were the only creators in attendance at the awards ceremony Thursday.

Peeps Fest
a big family draw



PRESS PHOTOS BY TIM GILMAN

The giant Peeps Tree is a focal point on the first floor Creativity Commons of the ArtsQuest Center building, where a variety of free daily events took place during the four-day family festival in South Bethlehem at SteelStacks. The 20-foot portable tree, assembled with green Peeps Christmas trees and yellow chick marshmallow candies, made its first Peeps Fest appearance in Bethlehem for 2011. A prize of a large plush Peeps Chick is being offered to the person who guesses the number of individual candies on the tree, which was built for the opening of Just Born's first retail store at National Harbor in Washington D.C. for Christmas 2010. After opening a second Peeps Store for the 2011 holiday season at the Mall of America in Minnesota, the Bethlehem candy company is planning to open its third national store in the Sands Premium Outlet Center this spring.



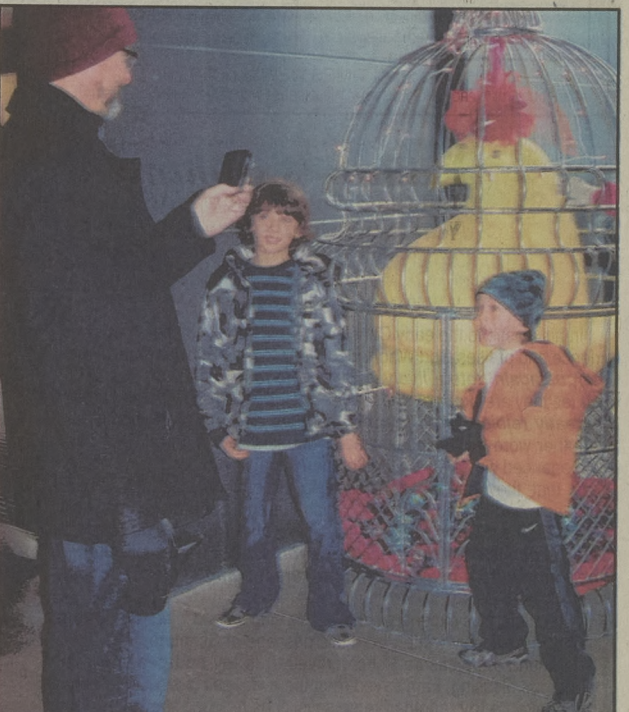
Tootsee the Clown from Northampton entertains guests at the first Peeps and Friends breakfast held in the ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks in South Bethlehem, sponsored by Just Born and ArtsQuest. Tootsee visits one of the decorated breakfast tables and jokes with Peyton Dally and Teagan Cobb of Hanover Township.



Peeps Fest free daily crafts were an attraction for families attending the third year of the four-day holiday event. Ayden Robinson colors the iconic Peeps logo in the ArtsQuest Center, with his mother Nicole DeJesus of Bethlehem.



Sporting a seasonal red scarf, the Just Born Peeps Chick greets guests Kate and Josh Lehr at the Peeps and Friends Breakfast Dec. 30. The Lehr children were with their mother Jessica Lehr, a Bethlehem native from Downingtown who was visiting her mother Jennifer Hero of Bethlehem.



Jean Maco Ribault of Bethlehem takes a cellphone picture of his sons Jean Loic, left, and Sebastian next to the seven-foot high cage. The specially made 8.5 pound, 4.5-foot plastic and illuminated chick in its cage was later hoisted high above the Levitt Pavillion.



Stephen Mervan
fabrication department

Stephen Mervan, 86, of Bethlehem and Westfield, N.J., died Dec. 16, 2011, at Overlook Hospital, Summit, N.J. Born in Bethlehem, he was a son of the late John and Mary (Mihala) Mervan. He was the husband of Dolores (Kerso) Mervan for 57 years.



He attended St. Cyril and Methodius Parochial School. He was a 1943 graduate of Bethlehem Catholic High School.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 17 and served in World War II. He was aboard the destroyer USS Hank (DD702), which participated in the Luzon, Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns. He was awarded the Pacific Theater Ribbon (four stars), American Theater Ribbon, Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon (one star) and a Kamikaze Survivor medal.

He worked in the fabri-

cation department and safety engineering for Bethlehem Steel for 40 years before retiring in 1981.

He was a parishioner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Bethlehem.

He was a gymnast and a member of the Catholic Sokols in his early years.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Carolyn and her husband Quaid Kapadia of Westfield, N.J. and three grandchildren, Alexandra, Alistair, and Andrew; a son, Stephen and his wife Lorraine of Mt. Lebanon and son Matthew; and a brother, Robert and his wife Karen Labdik of Macungie.

He was predeceased by a brother, John Mervan Jr.; and two sisters, Helen Mervan and Mary Gress.

Contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans at www.dav.org and/or the American Heart Association at www.heart.org.

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

Mary Morganelli

Our Lady of Pompeii parishioner

Mary Morganelli, 93, of Bethlehem, died Dec. 15, 2011. She was a daughter of the late Michael and Mary (Pontician) Dobish. She was the wife of the late Anthony M. Morganelli for 67 years.

She was a parishioner of Our Lady of Pompeii of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Bethlehem.

She is survived by a daughter, Barbara A. Kinney of

Bangor; a son, Anthony M. and his wife Patricia of Northampton; five grandchildren, Lisa, John, Scott, Samantha and Joseph; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by three sisters, Anna Kuchera, Lucy Felix and Catherine Miletics; and two brothers, Martin and Michael Dobish.

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

Anne M. Verret

St. Anne's parishioner

Anne M. Verret, 82, of Bethlehem, died Dec. 17, 2011, at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg. She was the wife of the late Samson P. Verret for 60 years.

Born in Corning, N.Y., she was a daughter of the late John and Margaret (Barry) Kelly. She was the wife of the late Samson P. Verret who died in 2010. They were married 60 years.

She was a graduate of St. Cecilia Academy, Washington, D.C. and was a parishioner of St. Anne's Catholic Church, Bethlehem.

She is survived by a

daughter, Margaret A. Youse of Chicago, Ill.; three sons, John of Allentown, Paul of Northampton and Thomas of Schenectady, N.Y.; eight grandchildren, Erica, Ryan, Amanda, Lauren, Patrick, Vincent, Peter and Thomas; and two great-grandchildren, Oliver and Madeline.

Contributions may be made to the Salvation Army Bethlehem Citadel, 521 Pembroke Road, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

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

Margarita Rivera

Holy Infancy R.C. Church member

Margarita Rivera, 59, of Bethlehem, died Dec. 17, 2011, while in the care of her family and Lehigh Valley Hospice, Allentown. Born in Toa Alta, Puerto Rico, she was a daughter of Ida (Nojica) of Bethlehem and the late Raphael Ojeda. She was the wife of Edwin Rivera Vargas for 18 years.

She was a member of Holy Infancy Roman Catholic Church, Bethlehem. In addition to her husband, she is survived by three children,

Edwin Nieves of Bethlehem, Abigail Ojeda of Bethlehem, and Elizabeth Nieves of Puerto Rico; four sisters, Isabel Nareio, Aida Rivera, Maria Adino and Awilda Adino; a brother, Jesus Adino; grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A memory tribute or condolence for the family may be placed at www.longfuneralhome.com.

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



PRESS PHOTOS BY DANA GRUBB

Mimi's Place provides a safe, bright and entertaining area for families with young children who arrive at the St. Luke's Allentown Campus ER.

Two families - one dream

By DANA GRUBB
Special to the Bethlehem Press

When family, friends and co-workers began raising funds to remember former St. Luke's Hospital Allentown Emergency Department employee Mary "Mimi" Yandle, they had little idea that another family's own loss would turn their dreams into reality.

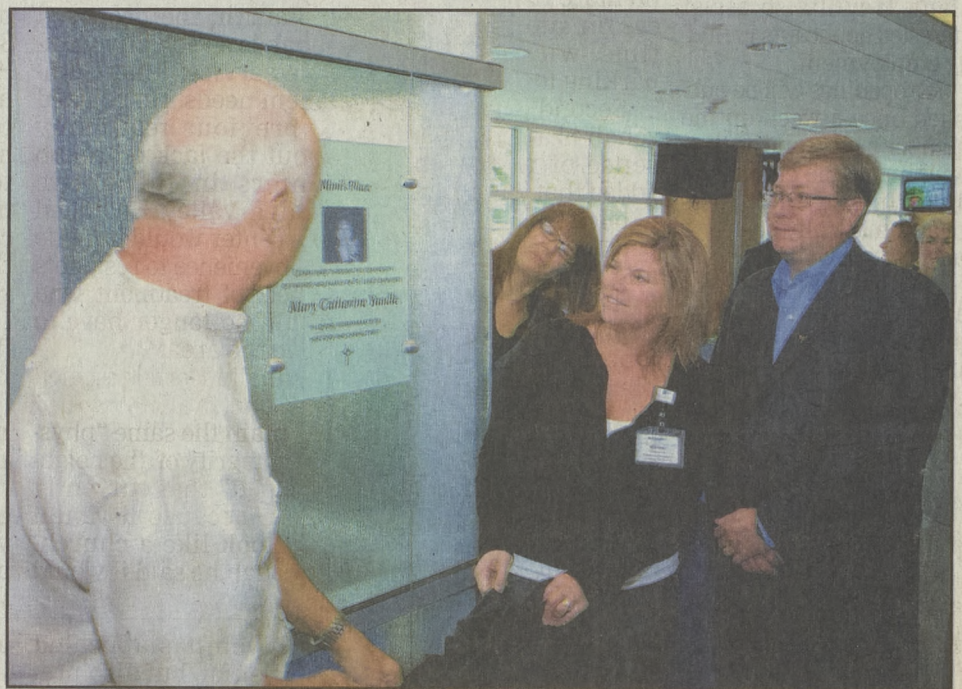
Bracy Contracting owner Dan Puchyr and his wife Judy had spent countless hours in hospital emergency rooms as their son Brian, who passed away in 1995 at the age of 13, battled a number of health issues during his lifetime.

On Oct. 14, the Yandle and Puchyr families joined St. Luke's Allentown Campus president Frank Ford at dedication ceremonies for 'Mimi's Place,' a pediatric waiting area designed to occupy young ER patients, their siblings and families as they deal with the stress associated with coming to the hospital for an emergency.

In brief remarks, Ford called the new waiting area a special place and Yandle's daughter Michele Rowlands, who followed in her mother's footsteps and now works as a patient care manager in the same emergency room, said her late mother "touched everyone's hearts."

Through the generosity of the Puchyr family, the dream became reality. Dan Puchyr said he was approached about one year ago. "Bracy Contracting had at least a 25-year relationship with St. Luke's Hospital," said Puchyr, "and we really wanted to get involved because hospitals helped us out" when their own son Brian faced his ordeal. Dan's wife Judy said the family was very honored to participate.

Bracy Contracting constructed the improvements which were designed by W2A Design Group.



The new waiting area was dedicated in part to former St. Luke's Allentown emergency room employee Mary "Mimi" Yandle, who was known for her warmth toward and caring for young patients. **ABOVE:** Husband Jerome Yandle, daughter Michele Rowlands and son Scott participate in the unveiling of a plaque in Mimi's memory. A second son, Michael, was also in attendance.



Annette Puchyr, Dan Puchyr and his wife Judy, and their children Lindsey and Matt at the Mimi's Place dedication. The Puchyrs underwrote the construction costs in honor of their son, Brian. The Puchyrs' Bracy Contracting constructed the new children's waiting area.

Exchange Club students of the month

The Fountain Hill Exchange Club has announced the students of the month. The three Bethlehem Catholic HS seniors are Libby Ortiz, Mason Westwood and Kristen Glagola.

Ortiz, a daughter of Michelle and Jose Ortiz, has participated in both the band and pit band at Becahi for two years. She has attended Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School (BATVS) for two years. She has received first and second honors for four years. She is a four-year Arts-Quest volunteer. She was a 2009 Futuro's Empresarios intern. She has volunteered with Cops 'n' Kids and served on the Bethlehem Area Public Library (BAPL) board for five years each.

She plans to attend Northampton Area Community College (NCC) and then the Culinary Institute for Pastry Arts.

Westwood, a son of Kristen and Wilbur Westwood, has had honors Anatomy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The three Bethlehem Catholic High School seniors are Libby Ortiz, Mason Westwood and Kristen Glagola.

for one year. He has worked at St. Luke's Hospital for one year and played baseball for one year.

He intends to major in physical therapy in college, first going to NCC, then to East Stroudsburg or DeSales universities.

Glagola has been a member of Becahi's Key, Eco and Pep clubs for a year each. She was on the school honor roll for four years. She is a three-year volunteer at Cedarbrook nursing home. She is a senior group leader for

Notre Dame R.C. Church youth group. A cheerleader for two years, she has been dancing for 10 years and is the current team captain.

Her college future includes a major in nursing at West Chester University.

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FIRE DEPT.

Memorial bricks now available

The City of Bethlehem Fire Department will honor firefighters who have paid the ultimate price for their dedication to their duty with a memorial area in downtown Bethlehem.

Local firefighter honorees who died in the line of duty are Franklin T. Lazarus, Jacob Joseph Greenfield and George A. Stein. The Fallen Heroes Memorial will include an illuminated eternal flame sculpture as a reminder of the sacrifices made by these local men and firefighters everywhere.

Donate a tax-deductible personalized brick to the memorial by visiting www.brickmarkers.com.

L.V. CHAMBER

Job openings posted online

The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce is posting job openings for its member companies on its various social media outlets, including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and its blog.

This will help chamber members find top quality talent. It will also assist interested applicants in finding employment.

Job openings will be published once a week on the chamber's blog, and as they come in, on the chamber's LinkedIn site. Blog posts are automatically posted to Facebook as well.

Members interested in this opportunity should email Mike Schlossberg at mikes@lehighvalleychamber.org.

REHABS

Continued from page A1

he only described two in detail. One such facility is the Livengrin Foundation, located only 1/4 mile from Bensalem HS, and surrounded by residential properties. The other rehab center, Penn Foundation, is bordered by West Rockhill ES recreational fields. Unlike Atiyeh's proposed rehab at Calvary Baptist church, there is no fence or landscaping buffer at Penn Foundation.

Hetzel said he spoke to the principals at both schools about security concerns, but hearsay objections prevented him from sharing what he was told.

After discussing these two similar facilities, Hetzel went on to cite the reasons why the proposed center would be beneficial.

First, it would generate less traffic than it did as a church, which often had overflow parking along Dewberry and in Becahi's parking lot. Hetzel noted there would be no more than 29 employees on site at any given time, with a 147-space parking lot.

Second, the proposed rehab is a good adaptive reuse of a church. He added that empty churches often sit vacant for long periods in Eastern cities and become blighted.

Third, he noted that, in accordance with Bethlehem's comprehensive plan, this is an adaptive reuse that will result in good paying jobs and put the property back on the tax rolls. It would be beneficial to the school district in particular because



PRESS PHOTOS BY BERNIE O'HARE

Planning expert Erik Hetzel points to other rehab center located next to schools. Under stiff cross-examination by City Council Solicitor Chris Spadoni, Hetzel conceded that he never contacted any of the neighbors who surround the proposed Dewberry Avenue rehab center.

there would be additional revenue that is not offset by the cost of educating children, he said.

Fourth, the proposed rehab is a "socially valuable service" that Bethlehem needs. He pointed to previous testimony about the lack of rehab centers in the entire Lehigh Valley. He added this center would provide a convenience to residents in need of treatment, who would no longer have to leave the area.

Finally, Hetzel testified that the facility would maintain the same "physical integrity of the neighborhood" that currently exists because it would still look like a church, although he said it would

be a church surrounded by a fence, gate, guard and security cameras.

Under stiff cross-examination by City Council Solicitor Chris Spadoni, Hetzel conceded that he never contacted the Diocese of Allentown, Bethlehem Catholic administrators, Kirkland Village managers, a nearby day care operator or any of the neighbors who surround the proposed center. In fact, Hetzel was unaware there even was a nearby daycare center.

Spadoni asked Hetzel how he could be so sure the proposed center would be "in harmony" with the existing neighborhood when he never spoke to any of the residents.

When Hetzel finished testifying, Marles rested his case, and his 26 exhibits were admitted into evidence without objection.

Bethlehem zoners will convene again Jan. 4 at Town Hall to listen to the testimony of objectors. Attorney Steven N. Goudsouzian represents the North Bethlehem Action Committee, which counts Judge William Moran among its members. Bethlehem Catholic is opposed to the request too, and is represented by Attorney Jay Leeson. Finally, City Council has intervened.

GIFTS

Continued from page A1

located so close to a high school, playground and Little League field.

Atiyeh has appealed that denial, but also presented zoners with a scaled-down version of the apartment complex design, his fourth attempt to develop the site. Instead

of four three-story buildings, he's proposing three four-story buildings. Instead of 102 apartments, there would be 96. The buildings would be closer to the streets than in the original plan, and the principal access point would be along Dewberry instead of Center Street.

But before the hearing even started, Attorney Steve Goudsouzian, representing a collection of neighbors called the North Bethlehem Action Committee, filed a motion to dismiss the appeal on the basis that zoners had already decided the matter.

Attorney Jim Preston, representing Atiyeh, denied that the uses are the same. He argued that Target and Dollar Store might both be retail uses but are really different uses and asked zoners to permit him to make his

case.

Zoners allowed Preston to make a record for three hours when Goudsouzian renewed his objection, pointing out that all Atiyeh was doing was just repeating his financial hardship argument. Preston countered that he was establishing that the property has no value at all for any use other than the apartment complex under consideration, and called the assisted living center "economic suicide."

But zoners had heard enough. Instead of a variance, Atiyeh got a lump of coal.

This proposed apartment site is directly across the street from Calvary Baptist Church, where Atiyeh is seeking zoning approval for a controversial 70-bed voluntary inpatient substance abuse center.

Burglary arrests

Fountain Hill police arrested three people Dec. 19 following investigations into a 2009 burglary.

According to police, a residence in the 400 block of Ostrum Street had been burgled and officers arrived at the scene around 4 p.m. on that Aug. 30. A Playstation 3, BB gun and 42-inch flatscreen TV, as well as other unspecified items were reportedly stolen.

Currently police have linked Justin Gion Mitchell, 36, of Easton, Michael J. Martin III, 25, and Ashley M. Lewis, 22, both of Fountain Hill, to the crime.

Mitchell is charged with burglary, conspiracy to commit burglary, theft, receiving stolen property and trespassing.

Martin is similarly charged with additional charges of conspiracy to commit robbery and theft, criminal mischief and false reports to law enforcement.

Lewis is charged with counts of conspiracy to commit burglary and theft.

All three were taken into custody without incident.

CITY POLICE

Car break-in

A resident of the 1400 block of Madison Avenue reported around 10:45 a.m. Dec. 22 unknown persons entered and damaged her car.

Police said some time between 6 p.m. Dec. 21 and 9 a.m. the next morning the actor(s) forcibly entered the Hyundai and broke the center console, causing about \$500 in damage, and stealing a Garmin Global Positioning System worth about \$300.

Robbery

A man unsuccessfully tried to rob the Union Boulevard Long John Silver's restaurant around 9 p.m. Dec. 10.

According to police, a man entered the business and mistook a customer for an employee. He held a handgun on the woman and demanded she open the safe; meanwhile the actual employees ran away. When the suspect became distracted searching for the employees, the victim then also made it away safely.

Empty-handed, the robber then fled as well.

Domestic

Police arrested a 32-year-old man after a report of domestic violence in the 1000 block of Livingston Street Dec. 19.

Police said Randy Frey, of Whitehall, was told to leave the Livingston Street address by the mother of his children because of his alleged drug abuse.

Frey refused to go, police said, and struck the 26-year-old woman in the face. He then choked her and dragged her outside by her hair.

Frey was arrested and charged with criminal mischief, harassment, simple assault, aggravated assault and possession of heroin. He was remanded to Northampton County Prison.

Theft

A 30-year-old Allentown resident reported the theft of belongings from her parked car in the 1400 block of Elm Street around 8:15 p.m. Dec. 24.

According to police, the woman had left the vehicle unsecured, and unknown parties stole her wallet, containing credit cards, a cosmetic bag and an iPod.

The wallet, credit cards and bag were found discarded down a nearby alley, police said, but the iPod was not recovered.

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PRESS PHOTO BY BERNIE O'HARE

Attorney Steve Goudsouzian grills Atiyeh during the zoning meeting.

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CENTER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE

A6. THE PRESS

school

JANUARY 4, 2012

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.



Elmo loves attention and sits nicely on laps. He is up to date on shots, altered, litter trained and ready for a new home.



Jingles is sweet and enjoys being out and about and doesn't mind being handled. She walks nice on a leash and takes treats gently.

VOLUNTEERS

ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT welcomes volunteers for a "Start Your Day Right" before school program at elementary schools. For more information: www.allentownsd.org/volunteer or contact Sandy Gurian, gurian@allentownsd.org or call 484-765-4093.

CELEBRATE ALLENTOWN'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY: If you would like to be a part of history, support the city and have a fun time, there are some ways you can help. For more info, contact Tara Craig, 610-437-7530, craig@allentowncity.org.

CENTER FOR VISION LOSS. Allentown seeks volunteers to assist clients with weekly walks at the Lehigh Valley Mall every Wednesday from 9-10:30 a.m. Contact Rita Lang, 610-433-6018, rita.lang@centerforvision-loss.org.

FAMILY CONNECTION OF EASTON needs tutors for after school program. Contact Jessica R. Dreistadt, 610-250-2551, ext. 24075, dreistadtj@eastonsd.org.

MEALS ON WHEELS LEHIGH COUNTY, ALLENTOWN, needs volunteers to deliver meals to homebound seniors and adults with disabilities in Lehigh County. Contact Dawn Stillwagen, 610-398-2563, dstillwagen@meals-on-wheels.org.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, Allentown, needs volunteers in the gift shop. Contact Sandy Wambold, 610-625-8495, wambolds@slhn.org

SIXTH STREET SHELTER, Allentown, is looking for volunteers to assist staff with child care while parents are taking classes on the first Thursday of each month. Contact Lauren Schwartz, 610-435-1490, lschwartz@caclv.org.

GRESS MOUNTAIN RANCH, Orefield, is looking for volunteers to help the animals by cleaning up the paddocks, pastures and stalls. Contact Kathryn Gress, 610-398-2122, gressranch@gmail.com.

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

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- OPEN HOUSE -

Thursday, January 19
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Please accept our invitation to see for yourself how a preschool through 8th grade education at The Swain School can benefit your child. Take a tour ... meet our teachers ... and observe our classes. See for yourself how small classes and big opportunities lead to amazing results!

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Gifts for the troops



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Middle school students at St. Michael the Archangel School recently collected items for U.S. troops stationed overseas. Members of the school's mission team coordinated with students in grades 5 through 8 to gather snacks that filled 150 gift bags for service members in the U.S. Air Force. Items such as granola bars, candy, gum and fruit snacks will be sent to Capt. Patrick Gardner's squadron's wing unit; Gardner is the son of middle school teacher Patricia Gardner.

A most unusual Christmas tree



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School's Masonry class created a brick and block Christmas tree to develop their competencies. The students brainstormed as a team to develop the design and layout of the tree. Approximately 10 different brick styles, sizes and positions were incorporated into the tree's construction. A large part of the raw material was cut to size to create its tree like form. The star is cut from two tiles to give it a three dimensional appearance. Class members are (top row) Hunter Clouse, Jason Sanchez and Brian Rosado, all from Freedom HS; (middle) Thomas Beiser, Freedom HS; Travis Brown, Saucon Valley HS; and Jean Carlos, William Allen HS; (front) Josh Sinwell, Liberty HS; BAVTS instructor Tucker Shive; Bryton Danner, Northampton HS; and Alan Molder, Saucon Valley HS.

Spirit of the Valley volunteers



PRESS PHOTOS BY DENNIS HERBERT

Some 100 volunteers, including 45 from area Nestlé Waters bottling plants, were on hand Dec. 22 to wrap toys and bake cookies for the children and families attending the 19th annual Spirit of the Lehigh Valley at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Upper Macungie. The Christmas Eve banquet included live entertainment, new books and Santa Claus giving toys to the kids. Families were referred by Lehigh Valley social agencies to attend the dinner. **ABOVE:** Joseph Peppitone of Bethlehem loads up on board games that need wrapping.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fall book fair at St. Mike's

Two times each year, St. Michael the Archangel's Home and School Association sponsors a Scholastic Book Fair to raise funds for the school and its library. Students enjoyed a new twist on the event this fall. Organizers created a "book café" in a multipurpose room at the school, complete with dining tables, comfortable seating, hot chocolate and snacks. The extra money earned from the sale of drinks and baked goods will help fund middle school dances. Students were given class time during one school day to shop and the café was opened for two more days during recess, at which time students were able to relax with friends, shop and enjoy refreshments. The event was a success, earning more in book fair sales than previous years and offering bonus income for St. Michael the Archangel Middle School dances. **ABOVE:** St. Michael the Archangel School parent, Lisa Foley, of Lower Saucon Township, assists fifth grade students with purchasing snacks and hot chocolate during the Home and School Association sponsored Scholastic™ Book Fair and Café. The annual book fair event was changed this year to incorporate a café environment where middle school students could relax and enjoy refreshments while shopping for new books.

Hawks take title

By PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

Zane Heller might be a new addition to this year's crop of Bethlehem Catholic wrestlers, but he felt right at home last Friday night in the newly renamed Tony Iasiello Christmas City Tournament held at Becahi.

Heller, a senior transfer from Northern Lehigh, won his first regular season high school wrestling tournament following a 3-2 win over Wyoming Valley West's Kyle Krasavage in the 126-pound finals.

Heller was one of seven Hawks to take home gold medals, as Becahi had 10 wrestlers in the finals as they ran away with the team title with 308 points.

With Becahi wrestling in the Ironman and the Beast of the East tournaments earlier this month, Heller didn't have a chance to place in either, as he came up a round short of medaling at the Beast. But taking home the gold medal on Becahi's home turf is a boost the senior was looking forward to.

"I really wanted to come out here and show everyone at Bethlehem Catholic that I can do something," said Heller. "It was real important for me to win this tournament because it's the first one I've ever won and it's our tournament, so it means a lot."

Darian Cruz (113),
See **Hawks** on Page A8



PRESS PHOTO BY BOB FORD

Devon Lotito, above, and Grimaldi Gonzalez both reached the finals but came up short.

Two Hurricanes reach finals

By PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

It wasn't the night that Devon Lotito had hoped for. The Liberty senior was one of two Hurricanes to find themselves in the finals of last week's Hurricane Holiday Classic, but both were dealt similar fates.

Lotito lost his first bout of the season following a 10-6 defeat to Delaware Valley's CJ Palmer in the 132-pound finals, while junior Grimaldi Gonzalez (120) lost a 4-0 deci-

sion to Billy Rappo of Council Rock South.

Lotito and Gonzalez were the only two Hurricanes to place in the tournament, as Liberty finished 13th overall with 97 points, while rivals Freedom finished 18th overall with 67 points despite having four place-winners throughout the two day event.

But the loss by Lotito was hard on the Liberty senior, who couldn't score any takedowns on Palmer.

It was the third career meeting between the two

wrestlers, with Palmer parlaying five takedowns in the bout to help him register a 2-1 record in their series, with last week's victory in controlling fashion.

"I feel like I didn't wrestle my best out there," said Lotito. "I know I can wrestle better and I just have to make adjustments and get better on offense."

"I was trying to be the aggressor early on in the match and that kind of backfired on me a couple times."

The losses by both Hur-

ricanes kept them from a gold medal again, as Lotito took third a year ago and Gonzalez lost in the finals last year as well.

Now, motivation is one thing that both can take away from their finals losses.

"Obviously, I'm no where near the top of where I need to be," said Lotito. "This is all the motivation I need moving forward."

Freedom head coach Brandon Hall witnessed a tough consolation medal

See **Canes** on Page A8

INSIDE SPORTS

THEY SAID IT

"I really wanted to come out here and show everyone at Bethlehem Catholic that I can do something. It was real important for me to win this tournament because it's the first one I've ever won and it's our tournament, so it means a lot."

ZANE HELLER
BECAHI WRESTLER

BRIEFLY

LLL SIGNUPS

Lehigh Sports Association will be holding Little League registration at Lehigh Sports Association Senior Field Clubhouse, Illick's Mill Road, Bethlehem.

Sign ups will be held: Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012 from 9 a.m.-noon; Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012 from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012 from 9 a.m.-noon.

To save time at registration, and for more information, go to www.lehighsportsassociation.org and click on the "Forms" button. Download, fill in and print.

Male players must be 5 years of age by 4/30/2012 and female players must be 5 by 12/31/2011 to start playing Little League this season. No exceptions. Players must reside within the boundaries of their home league.

BASEBALL

Notre Dame High School is hosting a six week baseball camp starting January 8.

Notre Dame head coach Michael Bedics will direct the program in conjunction with U.S. Baseball Academy. Classes are available for players in grades 1-12 and are limited to six players per coach. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and baserunning at a cost as low as \$99 for six weeks. William Allen High School is hosting a six week baseball camp starting January 15. William Allen athletic director Scott Cooperman will direct the program in conjunction with U.S. Baseball Academy. Classes are available for players in grades 1-12 and are limited to six players per coach. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and baserunning at a cost as low as \$99 for six weeks.

Registration is now under way. For more information, visit www.USBBaseballAcademy.com, or call toll-free 866-622-4487.

BASKETBALL

Patriots are riding high

By PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

If the way 2011 ended for Freedom's basketball team is any indication of what's to come in the new year, the black and yellow faithful should be in store for a generous 2012 campaign.

Freedom is off to the best start in head coach Joe Stellato's 12-year run after winning the Williamsport tournament last week to up their record to 7-0 on the year.

The Pates knocked off Prep Charter 43-34 in the opener and then silenced the home crowd with a 58-43 triumph over the hosts.

Jarrold Dilts was named to the all-tournament team and the Pates continued to develop their defensive presence, which Stellato hopes can be the catalyst for their success moving forward.

"We played two very good, athletic teams in the tour-

nament," said Stellato. "Our defense is starting to define our team. The Kids have bought into playing defense, but we still have to do it consistently for four quarters."

Freedom used a 17-0 run in the second half to spark their win over Prep Charter and used the invigorating help of junior Maceo Connor off the bench to spark the team.

Nyreef Jackson was held out of the game because of injury and Connor provided a spark that Stellato was pleasantly surprised with.

"He was great off the bench for us," said Stellato about Connor. "He showed us some stuff and we're going to have to get him on the floor more often."

Freedom and Liberty didn't need any type of spark heading into last night's rivalry tilt, after Press deadline.

Liberty (4-2) split both of

See **Boys** on Page A8



FILE PHOTO

Joe Lococo, right, and the Pates were coming off a tournament win heading into the showdown with the Hurricanes.

Hurricanes, Hawks win holiday tournaments

By KATIE MCDONALD
kmcDonald@tnonline.com

Liberty's girls' basketball team shook off Muhlenburg Township in the second half of the final game of the Muhlenburg Township Tournament to clinch a victory and championship with a 38-29 win last week.

The Hurricanes were ahead 16-15 at halftime but held Muhlenburg Township to four points in the third quarter while

scoring 14 points.

"We had a lot of guard pressure up front. We played tough defense in that quarter," said Liberty junior, Maggie Zerbe. "The Muhlenburg team was pretty good." Liberty's JJ Hilliard scored 14 points, and Jody Chickey scored 13. Kali Shumock added four points, Zerbe added three points, and CJ Hilliard and Amanda Pinter had two apiece.

The Hurricanes barely

got to the final, pulling off a 35-34 victory over Cumberland Valley the day before.

A basket by Zerbe with 1:10 left in the fourth quarter proved to be the game winner.

"I was near the baseline, close to the basket," Zerbe said.

Liberty subsequently stole the ball from Cumberland Valley and ran time off the clock for the win.

JJ Hilliard scored 11

points, Chickey had ten, Zerbe added seven, CJ Hilliard had five points, and Shumock had two.

Bethlehem Catholic's girls were also successful over the Christmas break, winning the Holly and Hoops Holiday Tournament in Owings Mill, Md.

Their first victory came last Tuesday with a 60-50 victory over Roland Park.

With a halftime score of 22-21, Becahi broke away in the third quarter with

21 points.

In the game, Rana Plesko scored 19 points, and Bri Morales and Kalista Walters scored 11 apiece. Bridget Smith added eight, Jaime Deisher had seven, and Janelle Robinson had four points.

On Wednesday, the Hawks defeated Mount DeSales, 69-35.

Walters scored a game-high 25 points, Plesko scored 12, and Robinson had 11. Jaime Deisher

See **Girls** on Page A8

ICE HOCKEY

Freedom wins showdown vs. Hurricanes

By JEFF MOELLER
Special to the Press

Freedom head coach Mike Mould cherished his team's recent rash of winning and hoped it could springboard his team toward a valued playoff berth in the future.

On the other side of town, however, Liberty's hockey team — a combined unit with Southern Lehigh — continued to search for answers as they remained winless through their first 13 games of the season.

Before they lost to

first-place Pleasant Valley/Palisades of the Lehigh Valley Scholastic Hockey league (LVSHL) Non-Pure Division, Freedom put together a modest 2-0-1 undefeated streak, one that returned immediate huge dividends. During their streak, they managed to beat Liberty/Southern Lehigh, a victory that always gains some bragging rights.

"Beating Liberty was huge for us," said veteran head coach Mike Mould. "We had to fight back and we pulled it out. But we played some good

hockey during that stretch and the kids seemed to gain confidence through it.

"We didn't have a good game (against Pleasant Valley/Palisades) and we only had nine skaters. We had a good third period, but we need to play more solid games. We haven't played that badly throughout the year. We just have to play as complete as we possibly can down the stretch."

Mould recognized the play of senior Kyle Yost for his determination and leadership and freshman Brendan Driscoll, who

continues to impress with each passing game. Through the first 10 games of the season, Driscoll led his team in scoring with a team-high seven goals and five assists for 12 points. He also had a team-high 17 penalty minutes.

"Kyle (Yost) is the type of player who never stops working regardless of what the score is," Mould said. "That's how he has been the whole season for us. He has really stepped up his season for us this year and has really taken on a leadership role for us.

"Brendan (Driscoll) is a young player, but he has been a leader on the ice as well for us. We have also been bolstered by his scoring and his overall maturity as a player." Freedom (3-8-1) remains within striking distance of the second-place tussle between Quakertown and Emmaus for the second- and third-place playoff spots in the LVSHL Pure Division. Freedom hosted Easton Wednesday and had six games remaining in their schedule, however, they won't face either team in that span. "We have to take care

of our own business and hope everything else works out," added Mould. "The players would like to get back to the playoffs, but they know they have a job to do."

On the other hand, Liberty/Southern Lehigh will play out the season in the hunt for a few wins and seek to end the season on a high note. Ryan McMahon has been one of the lone bright spots as he is the second overall goal scorer in the league with 27 tallies and his 35 points rank him third in overall scoring.

OUTDOORS

How to keep busy before ice fishing season starts

By NICK HROMIAK
Special to the Press

While area sportsmen and sportswomen await the ice fishing season, there are still other outdoor pursuits to pursue.

For starters and for those who haven't bagged a deer, the archery/muzzleloader season for antlered and antlerless deer continues until Jan. 28 here in Wildlife Management Unit 5C and in WMUs 2B and 5D. Elsewhere in the state, the same seasons run until Jan. 16.

As for small game, dove and pheasant (cocks only and in specific WMUs) seasons run until Jan. 4, rabbits and squirrels until Feb. 25 and grouse to Jan. 28.

Then there's the furbearer hunting seasons that include red and gray foxes and raccoons until Feb. 18, and bobcats in selected WMUs until Jan. 8.

If you'd like to try your hand at trapping, there's beaver (to Mar. 31), mink and muskrats (Jan. 8), raccoons, skunks, opossums, foxes, coyotes and weasels (Feb. 19) and bobcats until Jan. 8.

Waterfowl hunters also have long seasons, particularly for snow geese whose populations are getting out of hand. In fact U.S. Fish & Wildlife along with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and other wildlife agencies, encourage hunters to help stem the growth of continental snow goose populations.

According to Kevin Jacobs, PGC waterfowl biologist, "Snow goose populations have reached levels that are causing extensive and possibly irreversible damage to their, as well as other nesting birds, arctic and subarctic breeding grounds."

He goes on to say, "For some populations of snow geese, their nesting habitats can no longer support these large numbers. What's more, these geese



PRESS PHOTO BY NICK HROMIAK

Last year, this flock of snow geese put down in a small cornfield in Guthsville off Route 309.

are beginning to impact fragile coastal marsh habitats and crops in mid-Atlantic States and Quebec."

Jacobs contends that it's likely North America has never had as many snow geese as it does now. Just in the Atlantic Flyway alone, Jacobs said it's estimated that the snow goose population numbers over one million birds, more than double the management goal of 500,000.

"They have become an unexpected problem for themselves and other wildlife that share the wintering and breeding grounds these waterfowl occupy," said Jacobs. In other words, they're eating themselves and others out of house and home.

As such, the feds as well as the PGC, have allowed additional hunting days and new methods to reduce and stabilize snow goose populations. One new allowable method is that electronic calls and decoys are now legal to use for snow geese during the Snow Goose Conservation Hunt days Jan. 26 through Apr. 27 in the Atlantic Population zone. The daily limit is 25 with no possession limit. Hunters must obtain a permit by calling the PGC at 717-787-4250, or online through their Web site (www.pgc.state.pa.us) and clicking on the Snow Goose Conservation Hunt link. Then following the instructions. By doing it

online, hunters will be able to print out their permit and report cards immediately and not have to wait for them to be mailed.

All permit holders must maintain harvest records with hunting activity and daily harvest, even if no geese were taken. Reports must be submitted by May 28. Failure to report may result in loss of eligibility for next years hunt.

In my casual observations, there are no snow geese as yet, but resident Canada geese have been making their daily morning feeding flights after 9 a.m. and leaving again around 4:15 p.m. And the flocks I've seen, seem to be heading north toward the harvested cornfields in South Whitehall, Weisenberg and North Whitehall townships. The trick is to find where they're putting down, as they'll likely go back there at least one other time, unless shot at during the return trip.

HOUSE BILL 735 APPROVED

HB 735 was approved and it removes the requirement for hunters and trappers to display their licenses on an outer garment. Gov. Tom Corbett signed the bill that takes effect Feb. 13.

The change will limit the inconvenience and troubles associated with lost of misplaced licenses, says the PGC.



PRESS PHOTO BY BOB FORD

Liberty's Grimaldi Gonzalez also made it to the finals but didn't come away with gold.

Canes

Continued from page A7

round for his four wrestlers, as Tyler Galasso (132, sixth), Josh Young (160, fourth), Kyle Spina (170, sixth) and Tyler Pearson (HWT, fourth) each lost their final bouts to end Freedom's run with a sour taste.

Hawks

Continued from page A7

Randy Cruz (132), Richie Cruz (138), Ryan Todora (152), Elliot Riddick (170) and Jose Ortiz (182) joined Heller as fellow champs. Randy Cruz knocked off Arty Walsh of Schuylkill Valley 1-0 in his final bout. Walsh was a 2A state champion a year ago at Wyomissing and nearly scored a late takedown against Cruz, but didn't get the call to preserve the victory for the senior Hawk.

Elliot Riddick registered his fourth Christmas City title and took home the tourney's top pinner award, sending three wrestlers packing in 4:26.

Sophomore 182-pounder Jose Ortiz scored a 5-3 deci-

sion over Palisades Louie Hill to win his first title.

For Ortiz, winning this title had special significance since he had trouble cracking Becahi's line-up a year ago. After going 0-2 at the Ironman and then losing his first bout at the Beast, Ortiz showed everyone his fighters will, as he won 11 straight bouts at the Beast to take eighth. All that hard work leading up to last week's showcase proved that Ortiz is doing what's necessary to hopefully become a district champion later this year.

"I know I'm probably going to see him [Hill] later this year in the post-season," said Ortiz. "So, this really motivates me to be a better wrestler, especially against him again.

us a good look at what we have to get better at for the rest of the season.

"But when we look back at this, we made a vast improvement from last year. We only won four or five total bouts last year and nobody made it to the second day a year ago either, so I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish."

"It's a privilege to win this because all the hard work I put in since last year shows I'm on the right path."

Aaron Morekin (145), Josh Alpha (195) and Ben Bunce (HWT) each took second for the Hawks.

Anthony Lombardo (106, fifth), Zeke Moisey (120, sixth), Nick Cortopassi (160, sixth) and Ryan Johnson (220, sixth) also placed to give Becahi a medalist at every weight category.

Moisey, who won the tournament a year ago, didn't participate in Friday's action because of illness, while Cortopassi injured his shoulder to keep him out of final rounds action.

Girls

Continued from page A7

added six points, and Nicole Lacherza added five. Bridget Smith and Cecelia Perez scored four points each, and Ashley Brader had two.

On Thursday, the Hawks defeated Holy Trinity, 47-34.

Becahi got off to a slow start, scoring just four points in the first quarter, but the Hawks pulled away, again in the third

quarter, scoring 19 points to Holy Trinity's two.

In the game, Smith scored 13 points, and Plesko scored 11. Deisher had seven points, and Morales and Walters added six points apiece. Nicole Lacherza scored four points.

Also last week, Freedom won the consolation game championship of the Berwick Holiday Tournament after defeating Central Columbia, 47-38.

Brenna Doseldo scored 11 points for the Patriots,

followed by Ashley Hussler who scored eight. Ashley Gordon had seven points, Leana Gonzalez had six points, and Monique Latourette scored five points. Sydney Brown added four points, Victoria McCaslin scored three points, Rebecca Herman had two points, and Tiffany Pujols had one.

The Patriots lost their first game to Berwick, 46-32.

Boys

Continued from page A7

their holiday games last week in New Jersey, knocking off Octorara 50-37, but falling to Rancocas Valley (NJ) 57-42.

It was a good experience for Chad Landis' bunch to play high level competition games and that trend certainly continued last night against the Patriots.

Unfortunately, the result of that contest is past our Press deadlines,

but with Liberty getting the upperhand in the local series over recent years, Landis knows his team is heading into this one as an underdog.

"They're undefeated and playing well," he said about Freedom. "We're still trying to find ourselves and with a young group that's a process."

"It's hard not to make this game bigger than it already is, but we just want to get better from it. Any step for us is good for where we want to be at the end of the year."

Bethlehem Catholic (1-6) ended a six-game skid last week when they registered their first victory of the season in a 56-46 win over York Catholic in the second game of their holiday tourney in York.

York Suburban eclipsed the Hawks 76-64 in their first contest. Matt Husek led the Hawks in the victory with 21 points, while Connor Casey scored 17 and 14 points respectively in each game. The Hawks take on Allen on this Friday in their only game this week.

For a story and photos from each week, be sure to Like Bethlehem Press Sports on Facebook!

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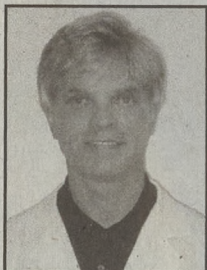
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BRIEFLY

YMCA
Youth wellness program begins

The Bethlehem YMCA has kicked off the Teen and Youth Wellness Initiative for members age eight to 14. The programs are mostly funded by IronPigs Charities and Just Born, Inc.

Offered are Tween Wellness exercise classes and nutrition education, which includes parent participation; seventh grade scholarships for Bethlehem Area and Saucon Valley school districts, and organized activities in the Teen and Youth Center. The center houses a pool, two gymnasiums and a Y Teen Zone.

For information, call 610-867-7588, ext. 114 or visit the YMCA at 430 E. Broad St.

TRINITY CHURCH
Soup kitchen benefit Jan. 15

There will be a Martin Luther King charity brunch at 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 15 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 44 E. Market St. The event will benefit the church's soup kitchen and education program.

Oceola and Gladys Bragg, authors of "Country Cooking, City Style", will talk about their mother, cook Edna "Ma" Bragg. Bragg, a Tennessee farm girl, became a New York City caterer. There will be a buffet of dishes from the book.

For information, call 484-274-6841.

COPS 'N' KIDS
Puppets, books set for Jan. 7

Mock Turtle Marionette Theater's first Book Day will be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 7 for children ages preschool through elementary. There will be a puppet show, "Book, Beast and Puppet" and a puppet-making workshop. The event will be held at the Reading Room, Fowler Family Southside Center at NCC, 511 E. 3rd St.

The Cops 'n' Kids Children's Literacy Program will distribute free books to participants. Beverly Bradley will talk about the program, which began in 2003 with a goal of distributing 1,000 books to Lehigh Valley children. To date, the program has handed out 365,000 children's books. For more information about Cops 'n' Kids, visit www.copsnkids.org or call 610-861-7561. For Book Day directions and reservations, call 610-867-8208 or email doug@mockturtle.org.



PRESS PHOTO BY DANA GRUBB

Club members Emely Gilot, William Pabon and Destiny Velazquez sit with Bethlehem Housing Authority officials. The Housing Authority funds club memberships for all young people who reside in authority homes and contributes support for two half-time positions on the Boys and Girls Club staff.

Steaks, burgers and IronPigs



Junior staff Emanuel Rivera leads the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the program. The club's chief professional officer, Gary Martell recites the pledge with Rivera.



State Theatre executive director Shelley Brown chats with Boys and Girls Club member Jerrell Mitchell prior to dinner. Mitchell attends Broughal MS.

At its annual Steak and Burger Dinner held at Moravian College's Johnston Hall Oct. 18, friends, supporters and members of the Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem enjoyed dinner, received a team update from IronPigs general manager and keynote speaker Kurt Landes and recognized Youth of the Year Matthew Santiago. Santiago is currently enlisted in the U.S. Navy. At the annual event, Boys and Girls Club members are served steak dinners, and the supporters and board members eat a hamburger platter. The fundraiser supports programming at the club's northeast and Southside facilities. Club members who attend must maintain good grades in school and a positive attitude at the club. The Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem currently serves 4,000 members.



Boys and Girls Club board president Dan Nigito joins club members Jerrell Mitchell, Justin O'Toole, Elijah DeJesus and Carlos Pena for a group photo at the dinner.



Lehigh Valley IronPigs general manager Kurt Landes gives an update on the team's charitable activities in the community, as well as the team. Concerning the team's successful run in the 2011 season under manager Ryne Sandberg, and rumors that other major league teams are pursuing Sandberg in a managerial capacity, Landes commented, "We hope he's our manager next year."



West Bethlehem district magistrate Wayne Maura has supported the Boys and Girls Club for many years. Here he serves Hillary Rivera, a club member who is a student at Liberty High School.

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Jan. 4, 2011

1916 impressions of Bethlehem

Hector MacQuarrie of the British Royal Field Artillery had first-hand experience with a new horrific weapon, chlorine gas, used by the Germans during World War I. Chlorine, a powerful irritant, inflicts damage to the eyes, nose, throat and lungs. High concentrations of the gas can cause death by asphyxiation.



Karen M. Samuels
Columnist

MacQuarrie joined the service in 1914 and was sent with the first British division of troops to France at the outbreak of war. He fought on the front line in several battles, including at Marne. In 1916 he was exposed to enough chlorine to disable him from fighting.

In September 1916, MacQuarrie was ordered to go to Bethlehem as an adviser to Bethlehem Steel for its ordnance production program. He made his way to Bethlehem by traveling from New York City on the Central New Jersey railroad. MacQuarrie arrived at the Central New Jersey Depot (built in 1873) on West Lehigh Street.

Although he soon became enamored of the town, his initial impressions were not favorable. MacQuarrie wrote, "One's first impressions of the town are extremely depressing. Upon alighting from the train one sees old bits of paper lying about, banana skins, peanut shells, dirt, dust, everything unpleasant and incidentally a very untidy looking station building."

Although still serving as a second lieutenant in the British army, he rarely wore his uniform so that he could better blend in with the civilians. Although the United States was not at war yet, Bethlehem Steel was producing huge orders of armor plates and shells for Britain.

MacQuarrie resided in the Eagle Hotel for several months until he found a room to rent from a local family. While at the Eagle Hotel, he was awoken early one morning by a loud, unusual noise. He looked out his window and saw several men with trombones playing in the belfry of the church across from the hotel. MacQuarrie recognized the Bach chorales they played.

MacQuarrie found South Bethlehem to resemble southern Europe, with its wide avenues which were riddled with potholes. Many businesses advertised with modern electric signs, with their names spelled out with light bulbs in Greek, Russian, Italian, Hungarian and German.

It was common for businessmen to throw their trash in a ditch that ran beside the pavement. Citizens contributed to the filth by frequently spitting in the streets.

Housing for the Steel workers was at such a shortage that two men often used one bed, one man on the day shift and the other on the night shift.

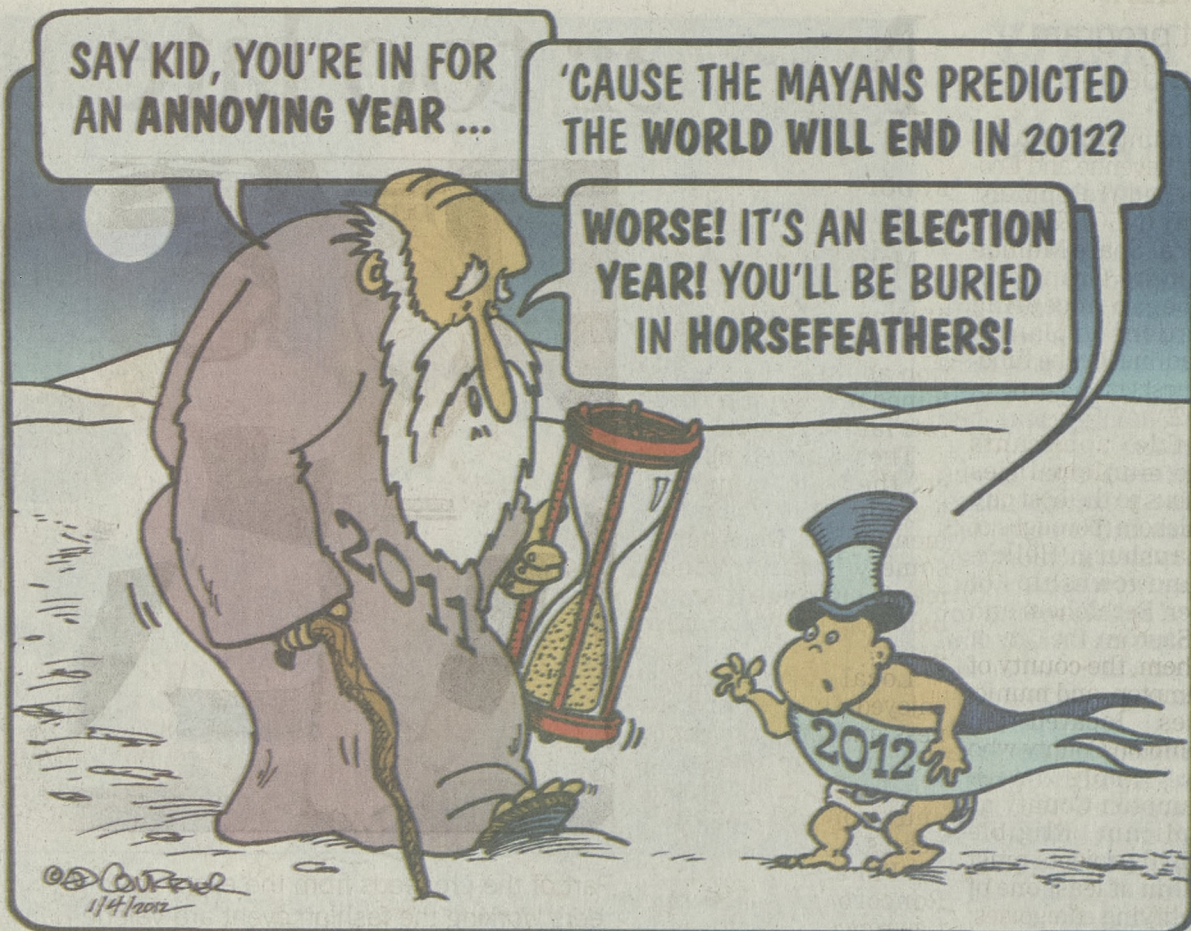
MacQuarrie was astonished at the beauty of the houses of the Bethlehem Steel executives. He attended many dinners in their homes in the Mount Airy area of West Bethlehem. He wrote, "The woman dress beautifully and the dinner goes merrily on, everyone talking at once. No one grows up here in America. It is impossible to be bored in Bethlehem at a good dinner. American men have good manners, as a rule. They have better manners than we have, especially towards women." The socializing included full orchestras playing music to dance the fox trot or one-step. Popular cocktails at the time were Jack Rose, Clover Club, Manhattan, Martini or a Bronx.

MacQuarrie enjoyed spending the holidays in Bethlehem. He said, "I wanted to be home for Christmas very badly, but I must admit Bethlehem presents the most possibilities for a really good time. We had plenty of snow and plenty of opportunities for tobogganing. People gave charming parties. I went to a bal masque." Movies were available in Bethlehem. MacQuarrie patronized the Lorenz Theater (later known as the Nile) on Broad Street to see films starring Douglas Fairbanks or Charlie Chaplin.

Once the United States entered the war in April 1917, MacQuarrie was called upon to do an even more important job; public relations. His first speaking engagement was on behalf of the Red Cross in the Eagle Hotel. He was later asked to give a speech on July 4, 1917, in front of the Moravian Central Church. Several bands played a selection of patriotic songs that day, while children set off firecrackers.

The year 1917 was an interesting year for MacQuarrie to observe. He wrote of the efforts to consolidate the Bethlehems. He assisted in the drive to collect funds for the Hill-to-Hill Bridge. He observed the average citizen's outlook toward war change from an isolationist point of view to enthusiastically supporting America's involvement.

J.B. Lippincott Publishers asked MacQuarrie to write the book, "How To Live at the Front: Tips for American Soldiers" (1917). The book advised American soldiers about preparing for war. It was an immediate success. MacQuarrie followed with his next book, "Over Here," (1918), in which he describes his impressions of America. His travel books became very popular, the first being "Tahiti Days" (1920) and then "We and the Baby" (1929). MacQuarrie was the first to drive an automobile, a Baby Austin, to the northernmost point in Australia.



ANOTHER VIEW

Life's journey: The next phase

I am a so-called baby boomer, born in 1950 during the post World War II population surge that generally ran from 1946 until 1964. Statistically, that period saw annual births increase by more than 4 million beyond the birth rates prior to that era, a direct result of the rush of young people returning from service during World War II.



Dana Grubb
Press Columnist

As I celebrated birthday number 61 during December, I began to reflect on my status, my progress, and my future more than I've ever done before. After all, I'm about 75 percent completed with my life. In one year, I will actually be eligible for Social Security, yet it seems that it wasn't so long ago I was roaming my childhood neighborhood in northeast Bethlehem playing army, chase and sports during the 1950s and 1960s.

This last year left me with a heavy heart, as a 64-year-old friend in England passed away suddenly in late December; my mother passed away unexpectedly in March; and, in November, a 62-year-old buddy passed after a lengthy and courageous bout with cancer. When my paternal grandmother was in her 90s, she once lamented to me how

she had outlived many in our family and most of her friends, and I'm beginning to understand her words a little better of late.

On top of my parents, grandparents and good friends now gone, childhood heroes like Vince Lombardi are a distant memory and Willie Mays and Bill Russell are now elderly. Where the hell did my life go? How did this all come to pass?

Degenerative cartilage and osteoarthritis in my knees have robbed me of the power and spring that came so naturally when I played sports. Weight gain and weight loss now happen the complete opposite of the way they used to when I was younger. Once red hair is now transitioning to snow white. Who is that guy I see in the mirror each morning?

Lest you think that this column is a lament for lost youth, I kind of like the idea of transitioning to Elder. Since I've lived life to its fullest, my experiences have created some of the most wonderful memories.

My desire to see honesty, truth and integrity in government and people in general burns just as brightly, maybe even more so because of my growing resume of negative experiences.

I find that true friends have increased in value with age, a testimony to so many good and a few not so good occasions in our shared lives. Their well-being has become an

even greater concern, as several have fought cancer in the past year.

Now it's my two sisters and I who carry on for our family, the generation that is replacing our parents' "Greatest Generation." Long ago family vacations and backyard picnics, while distant events, helped to create the feeling of family and community that is still part of our essence.

In both the human and the animal world, I notice more these days how fragile the thread of life can be, yet in living I've found that we must go all out if it will be an experience that is worthwhile. I'm more inclined now to express emotion at loss, sadness, tragedy and injustice. And, if I forget something, now I can just plain chalk it up to aging. I still have a bucket list, too.

Yes, as the clock ticks down to Social Security eligibility, I find myself even more spiritual, much less inclined to accept wrong and evil, more open to differences among people, still full of hope, more cynical at times, but very content with life, despite the heartache it can bring.

I am, after all, a product of my times, molded by the people and events in my life, and I'm really looking forward to staying as relevant as I can in this final chapter. The next year will be one more page and I plan to write that one as best I can, no matter what comes along.



Hector MacQuarrie, from his popular book, "Over Here."



PRESS PHOTOS BY DANA GRUBB

Wildlife sanctuary award winner Dixie White relaxes near the small pond in her south Bethlehem backyard.

Seeking a slice of serenity

By DANA GRUBB
Special to the Bethlehem Press

As efforts continue to certify the City of Bethlehem as an Urban Wildlife Habitat, Bethlehem's Environmental Advisory Committee conducted its annual 'gardening for wildlife' contest.

Awards were presented this fall in a variety of categories that recognized the best in butterfly environment, color, creativity, artistry, shade, sustainabili-

ty and wildlife. The overall winner was South Bethlehem resident Dixie White, whose "Best Overall Backyard Habitat" is a slice of practicality, beauty and is a peaceful haven in the city.

White, who is equally adept at promoting individual backyard habitats such as hers and the bigger picture goal of achievement for the city as an overall urban wildlife habitat, started creating her personal backyard habitat almost

immediately after purchasing her Bethlehem home in 1990.

Today it provides food, a home for wildlife and personal space that she finds a "peaceful little heaven."

For anyone seeking a slice of serenity, White recommends visiting both the Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Committee's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Bethlehem-backyards-for-wildlife/, or for information on the

National Wildlife Federation's certification process to visit

<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify-Your-Wildlife-Garden.aspx?campaignid=WH11H1ESWWX>.

If you pursue certification and want to become part of the city-wide effort, notify bethlehembayards-forwildlife@gmail.com when your backyard habitat receives certification.

NCGR&ERA

Grant program began Jan. 3

Northampton County Gaming Revenue and Economic Redevelopment Authority (NCGR&ERA)'s 2012 Local Share Municipal Gaming Grant program began accepting applications on Jan. 3. The deadline for the funding requests is at 4 p.m. on March 2.

Eligible applicants include municipalities contiguous to the host city of Bethlehem (boroughs of Freemansburg, Hellertown and townships of Hanover, Bethlehem and Lower Saucon), the City of Bethlehem, the county of Northampton, and municipalities located in Northampton County who jointly apply with Northampton County as an applicant. Eligible municipal projects must fall within at least one of the qualifying categories: Municipal Public Infrastructure Improvements, Municipal Public Facilities, Municipal Human Services, or Municipal Emergency Services, Municipal Public Health and/or Municipal Public Safety. Applicants must provide information or documentation on how the proposed project, or its costs, use or need, is associated with or related to the Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem.

To apply, applicants must electronically submit the official form by visiting www.northamptoncounty.org.

There will be an informational program at 1 p.m. Jan. 9, at the Northampton County Courthouse, County Council Chambers, 669 Washington St., Easton.

For questions, call 610-559-3200, option 3.

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Penn State Lehigh Valley, 2809 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley, will offer SAT review courses to prepare test takers for the SAT exam.

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SAT Verbal will be presented 6-8 p.m., Jan. 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 and Feb. 1.

SAT Math will be from 6-8 p.m. Feb. 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 and 22.

A combined SAT Verbal and Math class will be offered 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, from Jan. 14 through March 3.

All courses are at the Center Valley campus.

For information, or to register, contact Diane McAloon at 610-285-5066 or dmcaloon@psu.edu.

BUCKLE UP PENNSYLVANIA!

It's Your Life...It's Our Law

Never too late for fashions

By DOUGLAS GRAVES
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Main Street was looking glamorous one fall afternoon, when Downtown Bethlehem Association and local boutiques joined forces for a first-rate fashion show.

The weather cooperated, the women models were beautiful and the men models were handsome. Gusting winds teased out some wisps of hair from the well-coiffed heads.

Local merchants enjoyed a little extra business and local residents had chance to have some fun, have a drink or two and support local businesses.

"I'm a client of Jane Roncoroni," said Anne Lawrence of Bethlehem as she sat in the VIP section - comfortable sofas and easy chairs on Main Street - with Barbara Pearson and Chris Ortwein.

Lawrence was referring to Jane Roncoroni Fine Clothing and Accessories at 74 West Broad St., which had the first show of the afternoon.

Several of the models, including Tamartha Yanders of Salisbury Township, Jessica Augustine from Whitehall and Carmen Dancsecs from Hanover Township, also attended the pre-show party held Friday night and hosted by Ranjeet and Neha Pawar at their gallery and jewelry store Artfully Elegant, located at 451 Main St.

Cori McConnell, formerly from Bethlehem, worked hard as the backstage coordinator, getting models dressed in clothes from Loose Threads, The Attic, Girlfriends and other Bethlehem fashion hot spots. McConnell, a Catasauqua HS graduate, sells her own line of clothes through Lady Bow Tie.

Breinsville resident Tara Galloway and Bethlehem's Sara Viteri both wore fashions from Jane Roncoroni at the 2 p.m. show that started the event. The two raven-haired women met the night before at the pre-show party both looking stunning in their little black dresses.

The alfresco fashion show, sponsored by FIAT of Lehigh Valley and others, continued all afternoon and into the evening where models and sponsors wrapped up with a post-show party at Tapa's.

FIAT sent several new cars to the show accompanied by Fiat Specialist Amber Williams, herself looking very fashion model-like in a red dress.

The Northeast Pa. chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation was the beneficiary of the charity event. The foundation's development director, Mary Ann Sofronie, had set up a tent beside the catwalk. She said the idea for the show came from Kate Falasca, owner of Sophistkate at 574



PRESS PHOTOS BY ESTIZER SMITH

Part of the proceeds from the event go to the local chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Volunteers working the fashion event are Valerie Barnes, Tommy Letwinch, Lindsay Serfercz, Elwood Fisher, MaryAnn Sofronie, Dan Forrer and Carol Nyce.



The models, who competed to be in the show, may be new to the business, but they had an impressive team behind the scenes and it showed. Assistant Manager of the Downtown Bethlehem Association (DBA) Kara Johnson said before the event, "It's a tough time with the economy. People are spending less money. We want to show them that they can come to downtown Bethlehem for quality, affordable fashion."



PRESS PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS GRAVES

Pamela Ptak, known to many for her role in the hit TV show Project Runway, emceeds the opening of the fashion show. The pink blouse is one of her creations.



Alyssa Jung, birthday girl on left, begins to celebrate her day with friends Shelby Wolbach, Ruth Garcia and Michele Parchomenko. The Bethlehem fashion show helped to set the tone.

Main St.

Falasca herself was busy during the show, overseeing the activity and keeping things on track.

Fashion teacher and artist Pamela Ptak introduced the fashion show and publicist Christine Barnowsky kept a commentary going, describing the clothes and the accessories the models were wearing as they walked down the runway.

Valerie Bittner, owner of Hayman Talent Artists Agency of Allentown, said she would give the best overall model a one-year contract. She said a good work ethic and attitude are important parts of being a successful model.

The City of Bethlehem closed the 500 block of Main Street to through traffic for the event and organizers set up a temporary catwalk next to Muselman Jewelers and erected a couple of white dressing tents for the models.

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FORECAST FOR LEHIGH VALLEY PENNSYLVANIA

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 28°, humidity of 50%. The record high temperature for today is 63° set in 1982. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 21°. The record low for tonight is -8° set in 1950. Thursday, skies will be partly cloudy with a high temperature of 38°, humidity of 60%. Skies will be mostly cloudy Thursday night with an overnight low of 24°. Expect mostly sunny skies Friday with a high temperature of 40°. Skies will become partly cloudy Saturday with a high temperature of 48°. Sunday, skies will be mostly cloudy with a high temperature of 46°.

Weather Trivia

Are hurricanes always named after females?

Answer: No, they alternate the use of male and female names.



Men's night out ... shopping that is



PRESS PHOTOS BY KATHY BYRNES

The scent of cigars and scotch wafted through local shops in Bethlehem for the Men's Shopping Night held on an unseasonably mild December evening. The sounds of sleigh bells from the horse-drawn carriages serenaded shoppers as they made their way searching for the perfect gift and sampling libations at several participating shops. **ABOVE:** Marge Wells serves Jim Murphy some Irish whiskey while he shops at Donegal Square.



Menz on Main was serving snacks, as well as beer, wine and whisky. Santa and his helpers are on hand to help shoppers select the perfect gift. Shoppers included Jordan Allen, Scott Allen, Alicia Hissan, Santa (aka: Brian Durban), Bill Hubbard and Danielle Allen.



Jimmy Corpel, Chris Gossett and Larry Green sample the wine offered at Mixed Bag on Main.



Man's best friend, Maggie, enjoys the evening with her owners Rick and Sue Capobianco.



Eric Johnson of Bethlehem takes a break from shopping to enjoy a cigar on Main Street.

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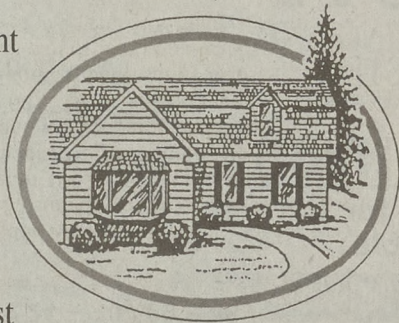
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