



SPORTS
Liberty
swimmers win
 See A7



FOCUS
About the
Belsnickel
 See B1

000074*1*9*****CAR-RT LOT**C-036
 19871 08/03/2022
 BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY
 11 W CHURCH ST
 BETHLEHEM PA 18018-5804

EAST PENN PRESS • SALISBURY PRESS • PARKLAND PRESS • NORTHWESTERN PRESS • WHITEHALL-COPLAY PRESS • NORTHAMPTON PRESS • CATASAUQUA PRESS

BETHLEHEM PRESS

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR THE BETHLEHEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

DECEMBER 22, 2021

Celebrating our 17th year serving our communities

50¢ A COPY

CITY

Proposed big budget items set

BY DOUGLAS GRAVES
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

Bethlehem City Council passed several bills that make up the proposed 2022 budget Dec. 7. Passing the bills is part of the process for the proposed budget, which will be approved later in the month.

The total budget will be \$94.75 million, according to Budget and Finance Director Mark Sivak.

Sivak said the budget has no tax or fee increases over last year. He said Northampton County's millage rate will be 19.14 mils and the rate for Lehigh County will be 6.05 mils. These tax or millage rates are for each dollar of assessed property value.

Bethlehem's city limits overlap the two counties.

Sivak also said the budget includes unspecified debt reductions for the city.

The almost \$95 million budget will be spread out through the various city departments, including \$237,150 allocated to council for "personal services, materials and supplies, purchase of services, and equipment."

The mayor's office will get \$303,000 for expenses in the same categories.

The Department of Administration gets \$2,081,368 while the Department of Community and Economic Development is allocated \$13,117,490.

The Department of Public Works get a \$10,687,649 share and the Department of Police gets \$17,091,810. The Fire Department is slated for \$12,305,338.

A bill, the Responsible Contractor Ordinance and associated amendment, were withdrawn from the agenda by the administration for further review. The amendment is titled, "Adding a strong incentive for apprenticeship programs while not disqualifying all others."

The conundrum is how to encourage construction companies competing for city business to have trade apprentice programs while at the same

See CITY on Page A3

FRIENDS OF THE BETHLEHEM MOUNTED POLICE



Larry Heinrich donated Mason, the newest addition to the mounted patrol, and received a proclamation for his contribution.

PRESS PHOTOS BY DANA GRUBB

Holiday with the horses

BY DANA GRUBB
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

The Friends of the Bethlehem Mounted Police hosted a "holiday with the horses" open house Dec. 12 at the Quadrant Financial Wealth Stable, and announced the addition of a new patrol horse.

Photo opportunities with special guest Einstein the Snow

Camel, pony rides, free hot cocoa and warmed apple cider, carolers from Freedom HS and Northeast MS, and mounted patrol merchandise available in the facility gift shop offered family entertainment and an opportunity to purchase special gifts.

The big announcement of the day came with the introduction of five-year-old Mason, a 50 percent Percheron and 50

percent Belgian horse who joins Asa, Casper, George, Grey and Pharaoh in the unit. Mason was donated by Larry Heinrich and a multi-year sponsorship by Karen and James McIntyre was announced.

Mason has been in training since August under the guidance of Danielle Lewis and Earl Finney, and will partner with officer Mark Kuntzman.



Brynlee Roth of Bethlehem pets Asa as officer Albert Strydesky watches. Asa was joined by Casper, George, Grey, Pharaoh and newest member of the unit Mason.



Holiday with the horses was the first time that Easton resident Rebecca Torkington visited the mounted patrol stables. She was dwarfed when posing with Einstein the 'Snow Camel.'

PEOPLE SAY

BY DANA GRUBB

What would you like most for Christmas this year?



"A Minnie Mouse store."
Maddie
 Coplay



"Less divisiveness in the country."
Doris Oravec
 Bethlehem

PEOPLE SAY
 Continues on A2

BETHLEHEM PRESS

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 12

INSIDE
THE PRESS

Arts.....B5
 Business.....B4
 Classified.....B6
 Community update.....A3
 Focus.....B2
 Lifestyle.....B3
 Milestones.....A4
 News&views.....A10
 School.....A11
 Sports.....A7
 Worship.....B2

Feeling sick?

Visit us virtually

LVHN.org/videovisit



USPS 024-746



0 94922 28853 0

Merry Christmas
 from your friends at
SERVICE ELECTRIC

PEOPLE SAY
BY DANA GRUBB

What would you like most for Christmas this year?



"I want the tornadoes to not have happened."
Scott Autenrieth
Charlotte, N.C.



"Just to spend time with my family. With COVID we didn't get to do that last year."
Elena McMenamin
Ridley Township



"Normality."
Deb Gibbs
Sinking Springs



"Peace and prosperity for everybody."
Michelle Albright
Haskell, NJ

LETTERS

Fountain Hill residents concerned

Editor's note: This letter references a Dec. 8 Bethlehem Press article about Brian Ferencin and the radio controlled car club he has started. Ferencin says in the article that he plans to hold drag races on a borough playground parking lot.

Dear Editor:
Mr. Ferencin will need to seek permission from Borough Council to utilize the park for these activities. There has been no formal request made nor has there been any official approval. As of now, Mr. Ferencin has not been granted permission to use the parking lot or the facilities. He will need to make a request like any other resident, at which time council will discuss and take action.
Unfortunately, the statements in the article have upset several residents who feel that some type of clandestine arrangement was made, which is absolutely not the case. I would appreciate a revision of the article as soon as possible.
Many thanks,

Eric Gratz
Fountain Hill borough manager

COMMUNITY UPDATE

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

CORONOR'S REPORT: Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 2, 2021, the Northampton County Coroner has recorded 231 COVID-19 related deaths in Northampton County (192 Residents/39 Non-Residents). The last COVID-19 related death was recorded on Dec. 2.
As of October 14, 2021, the Lehigh County Coroner had reported 107 deaths of Northampton County residents. Between the two counties, 299 deaths of Northampton County residents from COVID-19 have been reported this year.

"With the holidays, and a new COVID-19 variant in circulation, cases have risen in our area," says Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure. "I encourage everyone to do what they can to slow the spread of this virus through vaccinations, booster shots, social distancing and wearing facemasks."

In 2020, the Northampton County Coroner reported 403 COVID-19 related deaths (359 Residents and 44 Non-residents). The Lehigh County Coroner reported 118 COVID-19 related deaths.

LEHIGH VALLEY

OMICRON: The Omicron variant of COVID-19 has been confirmed in the Lehigh Valley by St. Luke's University Health Network. St. Luke's confirmed two cases Thursday. At least 30 other cases are suspicious and under review and likely account for a portion of recent breakthrough cases.
"This is another reason to strongly consider getting a booster shot, or to be immunized if you haven't already," said Jeffrey Jahre, MD, St. Luke's senior vice president of medical & academic affairs and section chief emeritus of infectious diseases.

HOLIDAY WITH THE HORSES



PRESS PHOTOS BY DANA GRUBB

Freedom HS carolers under the direction of Jennifer Volpato greet visitors to the event with a selection of holiday music. More photos on page A3.



Karen and James McIntyre was recognized for sponsoring Mason.



Michael Trunzo from Bethlehem tells Santa and Mrs. Claus that he had been good and requests a football, baseball for the pool, a baseball bat and baseball glove.

LEHIGH VALLEY PRESS LVP
A Division of TIMES NEWS Media Group
BETHLEHEM PRESS
241 Lehigh Gap St., Walnutport, PA 18088
(610) 740-0944
Publisher - Scott Masenheimer - smasenheimer@tnline.com
Editor - George Taylor - gtaylor@tnline.com
Sports Editor - Scott Pagel - spagel@tnline.com
Focus Section Editor - Paul Willstein - pwillstein@tnline.com
Office Manager - Joie Jackson Wanner
Circulation Manager - Janie Yacubek
Advertising Director - Terry Plinke
Accounting - Patti Solt
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**

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

©TIMES NEWS MEDIA GROUP
REPRODUCTION IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE TIMES NEWS MEDIA GROUP

Attention Advertisers: HAPPY HOLIDAYS
EARLY DEADLINE

Publication Date
Week of Dec. 29 & 30

Display Advertising Deadline
4pm Thurs., Dec. 23
(1 day earlier for proof ads)

Line Classified and LEGAL ADS Deadline
Noon Fri., Dec. 24

Publication Date
Week of Jan. 5 & 6

Display Advertising Deadline
4pm Thurs., Dec. 30
(1 day earlier for proof ads)

Line Classified and LEGAL ADS Deadline
Noon Fri., Dec. 31

Special Promotion Deadlines May Be Earlier

DIRECT DEPOSIT | SIMPLE SAFE SECURE

LEHIGH VALLEY PRESS LVP Allentown 610-740-0944
A Division of TIMES NEWS Media Group **CALL TODAY!**

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.

Current items

ARTSQUEST GUIDELINES: ArtsQuest has a number of best practices and procedures based on guidelines from the CDC, City of Bethlehem and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Visit artsquest.org/safety to view current health and safety guidelines.

4-H SEEDLING SALE: The Northampton County 4-H program is once again sponsoring the annual seedling tree and fruit tree sale. The sale benefits the 4-H youth in the county and supports various programs throughout the year, including camps, fairs, trips, the annual achievement banquet and other club activities. For order forms call or email the Penn State Extension - Northampton County Office. Deadline: Feb. 1, 2022.

Wednesday, December 22

Adult Bible study, 11 a.m. Women's Ministries, ages 14 and older 1 p.m. Salvation Army, 521 Pembroke Road. Call 610-867-4681 for details.

Thursday, December 23

Chair Exercises: 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Seniors 50 and up Salvation Army, 521 Pembroke Road. Call 610-867-4681 for details.

Tuesday, December 28

Bridge players, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Salvation Army, 521 Pembroke Road. Call 610-867-4681 for details.

Wednesday, December 29

Adult Bible study, 11 a.m. Women's Ministries, ages 14 and older 1 p.m. Salvation Army, 521 Pembroke Road. Call 610-867-4681 for details.

Tuesday, January 4

Civil War Roundtable, Eastern Pennsylvania, Lehigh Brigade. "Judah Benjamin and Grant's Order #11", presented by Rich Rosenthal. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Center 100 Hotel, (formerly the Holiday Inn), 7735 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville. Call 610-253-4549, email Duffysocwk@aol.com or visit www.cwrteastempa.org. For zoom meetings, information and registration, visit www.cwrteastempa.org/calendar-1

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

MEETING BOARD

YOU SHOULD KNOW

Bethlehem: The Bethlehem Yard Waste Facility closed as of Dec. 1. It will re-open on Jan. 3, 2022.

Effective immediately, Theis/Cornfeld Recycling Center, 635 Illick's Mill Road, will not be accepting any Styrofoam materials. They hope this change is temporary and will advise once they begin accepting Styrofoam materials again. They thank you for your understanding and continued patronage.

City Hall: Closed on Dec. 24 and 31. It will reopen on Jan. 3.

Tuesday, December 28

Saucon Valley School Board, 7 p.m., Audion building, 2097 Polk Valley Road. Visit svpanthers.org/Domain/572

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.

HEALTH NEWS

Lehigh Valley Health Network Newsweek recognizes hospital

For the second year in a row, Eastern Pennsylvania Endoscopy Center was recognized by Newsweek as one of America's Best Ambulatory Surgery Centers for 2022.

Hospitals included on this list are graded on quality of care, performance data and peer recommendations relative to in-state competition. The list was compiled by Newsweek and its partner research firm Statista. LVHN is in the top 400 ambulatory surgical centers in 25 states with the most ambulatory facilities, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

EPEC and LVHN formed a joint venture to deliver high-quality care from a state-of-the-art endoscopy center in Allentown. EPEC specializes in endoscopic examination and treatment of upper and lower gastrointestinal tract illnesses.

Physicians who perform the procedures work for Eastern Pennsylvania Gastroenterology and Liver Specialists and have a long-standing, exclusive clinical alignment with LVHN. The practice is comprised of 22 board-certified gastroenterologists. Procedures performed at EPEC include upper endoscopy, screening colonoscopy and diagnostic colonoscopy.

To learn more about services offered, visit LVHN.org/colonoscopy.

LEHIGH VALLEY PRESS YOUR SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS
A Division of TIMES NEWS Media Group

Historic Holidays



Start a new family tradition this Christmas!

Now - January 9, 2022

- Trees of Historic Bethlehem
- Bethlehem By Night
- Christmas City Stroll
- Horse-Drawn Trolley & Carriage Rides

1.800.360.TOUR
HistoricBethlehem.org

HOLIDAY WITH THE HORSES



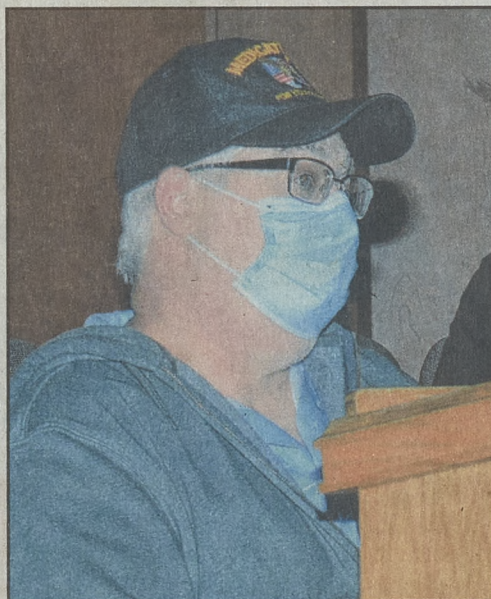
Under the direction of Denise Parker, carolers from Northeast MS sing many popular songs of the season.



Officers on their mounts mingle with the public.



Prior to being formally introduced as the newest addition to the mounted unit, Mason meets with fans inside the stable. Adele Averill, manager at the Quakertown Veterinary Clinic, relished the one on one opportunity.



PRESS PHOTO BY DOUGLAS GRAVES

Bryan McCrickerd, who described himself as a disabled Army veteran, speaks from his wheelchair and asks the city to make available handicapped accessible practice athletic fields.

CITY

Continued from page A1
time not disqualifying companies that do not currently have such programs.

Resident Bryan McCrickerd, who described himself as a disabled Army veteran, spoke from his wheelchair and asked the city to make available handicap practice athletic fields accessible where he and fellow handicapped people can practice for such sports as the "Golden Age Games."

According to its website, "The National Veterans Golden Age Games is the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States,

and the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities."

"We need to start thinking about it," said McCrickerd. This theme was echoed when Shawna Knipper complained that handicapped parking, according to her, requires both a state-issued permit and a city-issued permit.

"I can't jump through hoops that have been created unnecessarily," said Knipper.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS & a Happy, Healthy New Year!



Thanks to all of our neighbors, customers, and vendors for your kindness and support this year. We appreciate each and every one of you, and we wish you all the best.

"The Hot Dog King"
Yocco's
THE SECRET'S in Yocco's SAUCE

Food and Service You Can Trust Since 1922!

VISIT YOCCOS.COM FOR FULL MENU, HOURS & SPECIALS

ALLENTOWN 2128 Hamilton St 610-821-8488	ALLENTOWN 1930 Catasauqua Rd 610-264-1884	SOUTH MALL 3300 Lehigh St Allentown 610-351-4222	EMMAUS Rt 29 & Buckeye Rd 610-967-5555	FOGELSVILLE Rt 100 S & 1-78 610-398-3939	TREKLERTOWN 7150 Hamilton Blvd 610-530-4480
--	--	---	---	---	--

Thomas Mattina

MIS assistant vice president



Thomas Mattina, 69, of Bethlehem, died suddenly Dec. 6, 2021, in St. Luke's Hospital, Fountain Hill. Born in New York City, he was a son of the late Alphonse and Concetta Mattina. He was the husband of Marlene A. (Bzura) Mattina for 36 years.

He was an assistant vice president of Management Information Systems for New York Life Company for many years before he retired.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Kate Mattina (Matthew Saraca) of Vermont and Mallory Mattina and Sara Mattina (Ali Nabavian), all of Bethlehem; a son, Christopher Mattina (Melissa) of North Carolina; two brothers, Joseph Mattina and Andrew Mattina, both of Brooklyn, New York; and six grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to L.V. Grace Brethren Church, 580 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem.

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

Kenneth J. Lumer

worked at BBraun Medical



Kenneth J. Lumer, 65, of Whitehall, died Nov. 29, 2021, at Lehigh Valley Hospital - Cedar Crest. Born in New Hyde Park, New York, he was a son of the late Joseph Lumer and Margaret (Konig) Lumer. He was the husband of Keith R. Suppan with whom he shared 40 years of companionship.

He was a 1951 graduate of Allentown HS.

He was a quality controller inspector and a former employee of BBraun Medical. He was recently retired.

Contributions may be made to an environmental charity of one's choice.

Arrangements were made by Brubaker Funeral Home Inc., Catasauqua.

Florence L. Mesko

of Bethlehem



Florence L. Mesko, 94, of Bethlehem, died Dec. 5, 2021, at her residence. Born in Hazleton, she was a daughter of the late Bernard and Lottie (Laganosky) Lash.

She recently passed her driver's test and renewed her license at the age of 93.

She taught herself to crochet, sew and knit. She made clothing for dolls that she collected as well as other items.

She is survived by four daughters, Sharyn (Dr. William) Brunk, Janice (Richard) Rice, Debra (Michael) Haag and Nanette (Reed) Marks; a brother, John O'Malia; nine grandchildren, Christa, Kimberly, Shannon, Kelly, Rebecca, Aaron, Erica, Lori and Christopher; and nine great-grandchildren, John, Ashley, Matthew, Mason, Elias, Noah, Quinn, Bennett and Emmalyn.

She was predeceased by a sister, Bernice Schultz; and a brother, Fred Lash.

Contributions may be made to Family Pillars Hospice, 3910 Adler Place, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

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

John A. Pinter

machinist

John A. Pinter, 78, of Hickory Hills, Moore Township, died in his home Dec. 8, 2021. Born in Bethlehem, he was a son of the late Alexander and Marie (Frang) Pinter. He was the husband of Jean D. (Muffley) Pinter for 45 years.

He was a machinist for many years at B. Braun, Fuller Company, and later Lehigh University before he retired.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Colleen Pinzon (Hector) of Virginia and Holly Pinter (Michael McShane) of Hellertown; a stepson, Donald A. Scheib Jr. of Beersville; and three grandchildren.

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

PLEASE NOTE

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

Preserve your Lasting Tribute
with a Memorial Card

Beautifully preserved obituary cards are printed locally at the Times News office.

Contact us to assist you with this tribute to your loved one.



TN Printing
A Division of TIMES NEWS Media Group

Michelle Griffith
tnmemorialcard@tnonline.com
800-443-0377 ext 3104



PRESS PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS GRAVES

An artist's rendering of the finished building.

Cedarbrook expansion breaks groundBY DOUGLAS GRAVES
Special to the Bethlehem Press

County officials gathered recently to break ground on a long-sought additional wing to Lehigh County's Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehab complex near Dorney Park in Allentown.

The blue-sky morning ceremony was threatened by a stiff breeze that knocked over tripod-mounted architectural renderings of the proposed facility; however, the resourceful staff soon had the several tripods weighted solidly to the asphalt of the parking lot.

Lehigh County Commission President Geoff Brace expressed the general elation at seeing the long talked about project at the ground-breaking stage.

"This endeavor spans over a decade," said Brace. "Thanks Rich Molchany, Executive Phil Armstrong, Jason Camello (the current administrator for Cedarbrook), and (former) county commissioners Amanda Holt and Brad Osborne." Brace also thanked former County Executive Tom Muller his leadership. Muller has been credited with stopping the hard-right conservatives which in a previous administration had pursued the idea of selling Cedarbrook.

Brace also thanked the taxpayers of Lehigh County.

"Cedarbrook has enjoyed bi-partisan support," said Brace. "It is a moral obligation."

According to the project's architect, Micheal Allen-Hall the Vice President of Noelker and Hull Associates, Inc., the 142,500 square foot, four story building will cost about \$54 million.

He said construction See **BREAKS** on Page A6



According to the project's architect, vice president of Noelker and Hull Associates Inc. Micheal Allen-Hall, the additional wing will mate to old structure at the main entrance shown just above the drawing. It will then extend out from there and occupy what is now a parking lot where he is standing.



Jean Larison, a resident and former employee at Cedarbrook, reads a poem to commemorate the event. She had worked at the facility from 1972 until 1989. When she retired, she settled back in at Cedarbrook, which she considers her home. Jean Larison, a resident and former employee at Cedarbrook read a poem to commemorate the event. She had worked at the facility from 1972 until 1989. When she retired, she settled back in Cedarbrook which she considers her home.



Commissioner Dan Hartzell sums up the general sentiment of the guests at the groundbreaking ceremony when he read an emotion-filled letter from the son of a woman how had lived out her last days at Cedarbrook.

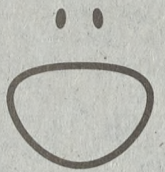


Lehigh County Director of General Services Richard Molchany and other invited guests shovel a spade of dirt, symbolizing the beginning of the construction phase of the new wing for Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehab.

How to Draw a REINDEER in Five Easy Steps



1



2



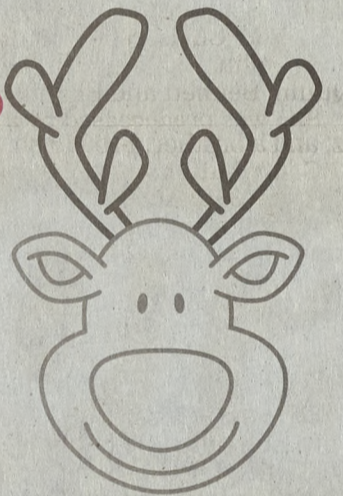
3



4



5



Re-Think Holiday Gift-Giving: Make a Gift from a T-shirt!

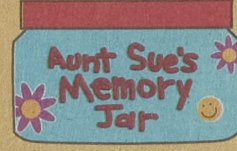
Have you outgrown a favorite T-shirt and you don't want to get rid of it? You can turn it into a gift for a friend or family member and give it a new life!

Make a Reusable Shopping Bag



1. Cut the sleeves off the T-shirt by cutting along the seams.
2. Cut out the collar in a square shape.
3. Cut little strips along the bottom of the shirt. Use a ruler for spacing.
4. Tie double knots along bottom of the shirt matching with back.

Memory Jar Gift

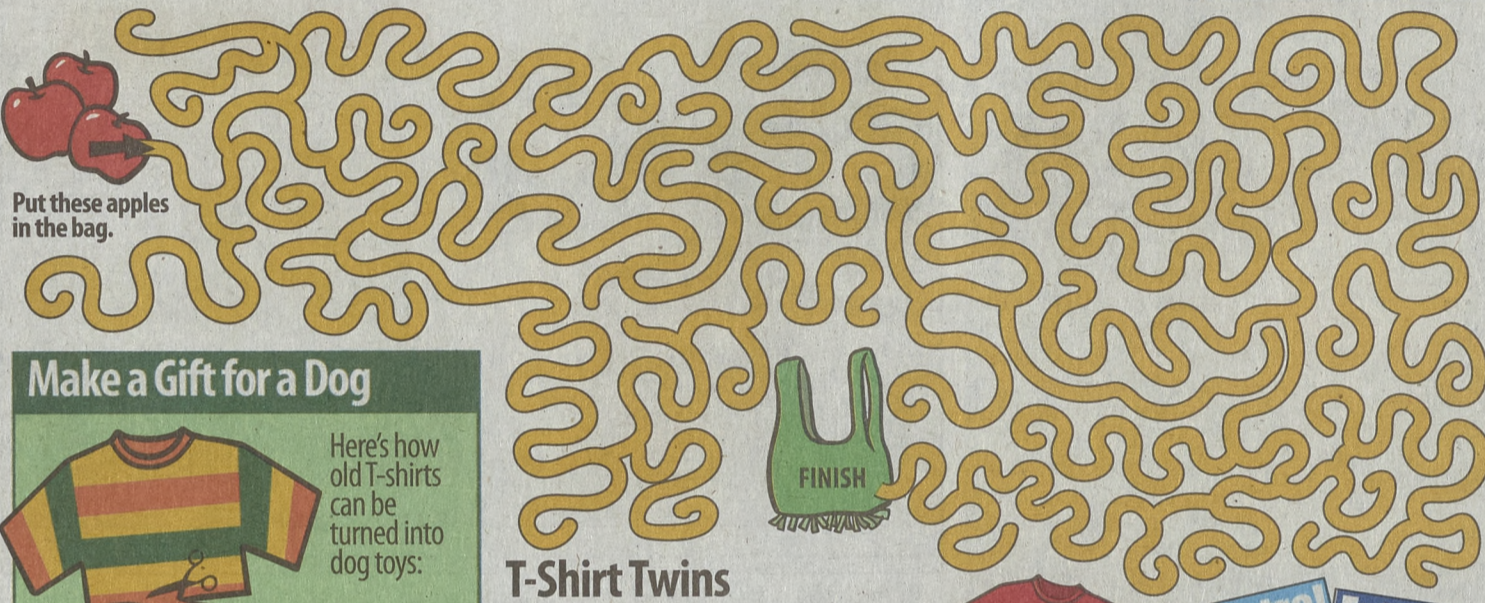


1. Clean out a jar.
2. Use paints and stickers to decorate the jar and the lid.
3. Tape these instructions on the inside of the lid:

TO:

This is your 2022 Memory Jar! Each day, write down at least one good thing that happened on that day and place the slip of paper in this jar. If you're having a bad day, open the jar and relive a happier memory. At the end of the year, you'll have at least 365 reasons to smile as you look back at 2022!

FROM:



Make a Gift for a Dog



Here's how old T-shirts can be turned into dog toys:

1. Cut T-shirt into strips about 1 inch wide and 1 foot long.
2. Divide strips into 3 groups to make 3 braids. Save 2 strips for step 3.
3. Braid the 3 braids together and use the last 2 strips to tie the ends.
4. Play with dog!



T-Shirt Twins

Can you find the two T-shirts that are exactly the same?



Extra! Extra! Holiday Scavenger Hunt

How many of the following can you find in today's newspaper?

- Christmas Tree
- Reindeer
- Elves
- Wrapped packages
- Happy faces
- Cookies

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many T-shirts do you see?



Double Double Word Search

- FAVORITE REUSABLE SHOPPING OUTGROWN HOLIDAY FRIEND SQUARE SHIRT BRAID KNOTS GIFT TOYS NEW DOG OLD

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

F	G	N	I	P	P	O	H	S	O
A	E	I	B	R	A	I	D	U	H
V	O	L	D	O	G	E	T	T	H
O	T	L	B	I	R	G	O	S	O
R	R	I	F	A	R	Y	T	D	L
I	I	T	U	D	S	O	A	Y	I
T	H	Q	W	G	N	U	G	O	D
E	S	N	I	K	F	W	E	N	A
T	D	N	E	I	R	F	S	R	Y

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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **REUSABLE**

The adjective **reusable** means something that can be used again or repeatedly.

Food containers are often **reusable** and perfect for storing art supplies.

Try to use the word **reusable** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

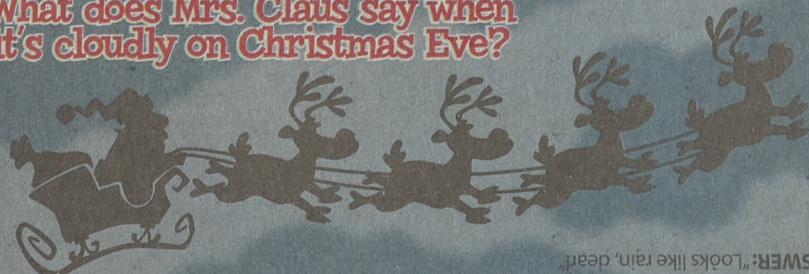
FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Newspaper Search Game Gift

Create your own newspaper scavenger hunt game. For example: Smile search, Sports search, Animal search, etc. Then give the game instructions and a newspaper as a gift.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

What does Mrs. Claus say when it's cloudly on Christmas Eve?



ANSWER: "Looks like rain, dear!"

Write On!

Holiday Jokes and Riddles

Write down some of your favorite holiday jokes and riddles to share with your family and friends.

YOUR BUSINESS CAN SPONSOR THIS PAGE!



Reach More Than 50,000 Readers

Runs In All 8 Lehigh Valley Press Newspapers

CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION! 610-740-0944

LEHIGH VALLEY PRESS LVP
A Division of TIMES NEWS Media Group

BREAKS

Continued from page A4
plans are "on schedule" and are pending "final permits."

The addition will have room for 240 single occupant "nursing rooms," each with its own "European" shower, according to Allen-Hall. He said a European shower is one that

a wheelchair-bound resident could maneuver into.

The Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehab facility is spread over two campuses. One is in Allentown, which is getting the new wing, and the other is in Fountain Hill.

Between the two campuses are 670 beds. The new addition, while accommodating 240 beds,

will not add to the total because the new facility will allow those beds to be moved into the new wing. The old rooms, which are housed in very old buildings, some dating back to 1845, will be converted to administrative use.

The old standard of four residents to a room is being phased out and replaced by a one resident to each room.

"Four to a room makes no sense," said Lehigh County Facilities Director Richard Molchany in remarks at the dedication.

The Allentown campus will have 473 beds according to Molchany.

"It's about our most vulnerable residents," said Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong, addressing the crowd of mostly employees and political leaders.

He said the nursing home has a "four-star rating."

Commissioner Dan Hartzell, the commissioner who acts as liaison between Cedarbrook and the Board of Commissioners also recognized former commissioners Nate Brown,

David Jones and Marty Nothstein for their support of the project.

Hartzell read a letter from the son of a woman who had recently died while a resident of the nursing home in which the son expressed gratitude for the loving, respectful care that his mother had received while with Cedarbrook.

"That's why we are doing this," said Hartzell.

Commissioner Percy Dougherty said, "I thought I would never see the day [that the new wing would be built.]"

Cedarbrook Director Jason Camello said COVID may be with us for a long time and that supply chain and labor force problems notwith-

standing, "[Waiting until] tomorrow is not an option."

Resident of Cedarbrook Jean Larison maneuvered her wheelchair from its place in the row of dignitaries to deliver perhaps the most memorable speech for the occasion. She put her sentiments into verse.

"So, when I could no longer remain on my own/ Cedarbrook was the only place I felt I could call home./ I'm happy here and have seen many changes/ But this new wing is the biggest one yet./ As President of the Resident Council, I've had the privilege to cut ribbons before/ But now the groundbreaking will make memories galore."

Thank you to all our customers!

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

ALL OFFICES WILL CLOSE AT 2:00PM
DECEMBER 24TH AND DECEMBER 31ST



New Tripoli Bank
www.newtripolibank.net

6748 MADISON STREET
NEW TRIPOLI, PA 18066
610-259-8511

7747 CLAUSVILLE ROAD
OREFIELD, PA 18069
610-395-8834

4892 BUCKEYE ROAD
EMMAUS, PA 18049
610-421-4001

Happy Holidays
MAY YOUR HEARTS AND BELLIES BE FULL!



Jaindl
Family Turkey Farms

Check Out Jaindl.com for Full Retail Store Hours

BUCKLE UP PENNSYLVANIA!
IT'S YOUR LIFE • IT'S OUR LAW

STOP APPLY NOW!
WWW.TRAFFICPLAN.COM

Traffic Plan
TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES

FULL TIME FLAGGER

Traffic Plan seeks Flaggers to protect our clients and the motoring public by setting up work zones and controlling traffic. A valid drivers license is a must. Good pay and benefits.

If interested, apply online at www.trafficplan.com or in person Wednesdays 9am-1pm at 6324 Winside Dr, Bethlehem



Thanks for Coming!

We'd like to express our deep appreciation for all of your visits throughout the year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the Staff

Joe Jeff Angel Tony C. Don Ed Tony R. Wendell Heather Jim W. Denise Eric Jim K. Mike Lara

Joe's LLC
Battery & Tire AUTO SERVICE

610-437-4961
2225 Union Blvd. - Allentown
Email: joesbatteryandtire@rcn.com
www.joesbatteryandtire.com

Follow Us On Facebook



INSIDE
SPORTS



DIVING

A look at recent diving results.

A8

OUTDOORS

Snow geese are back in the area.

A8

▼ **THEY SAID IT**

"I practice with those guys, so I really wanted to have my name on that board. I texted them after, and they were like, ahh, because they're in college now, so I was like, yeah, but it's all in good fun."

Patrick Gilhool

▼ **BRIEFLY**

YOUTH RESULTS

The Press family of newspapers would love to print youth results from any teams and leagues in our coverage area.

This is especially true as youth sports look to return during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, when it comes to youth results we depend on parents and coaches to keep us informed.

If you're interested in getting your teams results printed in the Press, please contact Scott Pagel at spagel@tnonline.com.

When submitting results, you don't even have to be a writer, just the basics like score and game highlights need to be included. We'll be happy to turn the information into write-ups.

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

Locals officially sign commitments

BY PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

The Lehigh Valley had some marquee names make their college futures official on National Signing Day, as four stars from the area signed with Division-I football programs. Freedom's Braelin Moore, Bethlehem Catholic's Justin Kanyuk, Northwestern's Justin Holmes and Northampton's Andrew Sharga all made things official during the early signing period.

Moore was an imposing two-way star on Freedom's lines this past season and is head-

ed to Virginia Tech to play with his brother Kaden, who was a freshman for the Hokies this past season. Moore is slated to play on the defensive line, where he starred this past season registering 64 tackles, 16 for tackles for loss, 10 sacks and three forced fumbles.

The Pates finished 11-3 this past season, winning the District 11 6A title for the second time in school history. They eventually lost to state power St. Joe's Prep in the PIAA quarterfinals 24-21.

Kanyuk, listed at 6-foot-6, 315-pounds, will join Moore in the ACC,

as he's committed to North Carolina where he'll be moved to center after playing tackle at Becahi.

Northwestern quarterback Justin Holmes has signed with Kent State, where he'll be switching positions as well to tight end.

Holmes was a prolific weapon in the Colonial League, throwing for 1,305 yards and 18 touchdowns, while rushing for 1,329 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Sharga was the latest addition to the group, as he signed on to Penn State as a preferred walk-on.

The 6-foot-4,



Freedom's Braelin Moore

230-pound defensive end led the East Penn Conference with 11 sacks this past season, helping Northampton to a historic 12-1 season.



PRESS PHOTO BY KATIE MCDONALD

The Liberty boys and girls captains are: (girls left to right) - Sarah Park, Monica Bruno and Sydney Taylor; (boys left to right) Danny Lehr, Patrick Gilhool, Tim Wetmore and Addison Collins.

LHS boys win two

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcaldon@tnonline.com

Liberty's boys swim team kicked off the 2021-2022 season with two victories, the first on Dec. 14 at Nazareth, defeating the Blue Eagles, 156-149, and the second on Dec. 15 at home defeating Pottsville, 131-32.

"We went in, knowing it was gonna be a fight," said Liberty senior Patrick Gilhool. "Nazareth is probably the best team besides us, so it

went to the end of the meet and came down to the 400 free relay to see who would win. It was really energetic, a lot of fast swims, especially for the first meet, a good way to start it off."

Gilhool, the defending district champion in the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke, broke Nazareth's pool record in the 200 IM with a time of 1:55.56 and in the 100 butterfly with a time of 50.98.

"I train there so I kind of went in, knowing I wanted to break those records," Gilhool said. "I practice with those guys, so I really wanted to have my name on that board. I texted them after, and they were like, ahh, because they're in college now, so I was like, yeah, but it's all in good fun."

The Hurricane boys opened their meet against Pottsville with See **SWIM** on Page A8

Hurricanes look to build off hot start

BY PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

It's fair to say that year two for Nigel Long as Liberty's basketball coach is going much smoother than last December.

After going 3-9 in a COVID shortened season a year ago, Liberty has already reached the three-win mark coming into this week.

For Long, it's a welcomed change following last year's challenging season.

"Last year was a disappointment but a learning lesson," said Long. "Year two, the kids are much more comfortable and they know the expectations. Just having the offseason was huge for us. I'm pleased how we've attacked each day and keep growing."

Liberty came into the week 3-1, picking up wins over Northampton and Southern Lehigh last week to give them a boost of momentum.

After losing to Nazareth by 18 in their league opener, Long



PHOTO BY MARK KIRLIN

Alex Cercado and the Hawks are 3-1 so far this season.

feels like the team has taken strides, but still has plenty of room for improvement.

"We're figuring ways to close out close games," he said. "We have a ton of room to grow. A lot of stuff to correct, but I'm excited and pleased about the direction we're heading, but not satisfied with where we're at."

Liberty has home games against Strouds-

burg and Dieruff this Tuesday and Thursday before the holiday break where Long hopes they can continue to improve.

"Defensively we need play more consistent over four quarters," said Long. "Last couple games we've done a good job in the second half on defense, but we need to start games better."

Bethlehem Catholic (3-1) suffered their first loss of the season last week in a 39-31 defeat to an undefeated Central Catholic team, as the Hawks were without star player Edixon Gomez and starter Alex Cercado to injuries.

The Hawks host Pocono Mountain East on Tuesday and then travel to Easton on Thursday.

Freedom (0-3) has had a rough start to the season, dropping each of their games to Becahi, Spring-Ford and Allen. They hope to get some traction before the holiday break when they get two home games this week against Pleasant Valley and Nazareth.

Liberty girls top Pottsville in swimming

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcaldon@tnonline.com

Liberty's girls swim team edged Pottsville, 94-89, in the Hurricanes' home opener on Dec. 15.

The Hurricanes' closest swims were in the 100 butterfly where Liberty's Brooke Sergent took first place in 1:00.80 ahead of Pottsville's Taleah Ruben in 1:00.99, and in the 200 free relay where Liberty anchor Sarah Park touched the wall ahead of Pottsville's Elena Martinko.

"It was pretty close when I was diving in," Park said. "I knew the other team was right there with me and my coaches talked to me about sprinting, getting up and going right away, so that's what I was focusing on, just going all out."

Park, Sydney Taylor, Katie Bruno, and Monica Bruno combined for a time of 1:53.26, and Martinko, Carly Mohl, Elizabeth Martinko, and Adalia Laselva finished in 1:54.68.

In two other close races, Mohl, Ruben, Laselva, and Julia Balusis

won the 200 medley relay with a time of 2:03.79 over Sergent, Bruno, Bruno, and Park with a time of 2:03.94, and in the 50 free, Park was out touched by Balusis, 26.85 to 27.16.

Sergent was a winner in the 200 IM with a time of 2:20.88, Julia Pinter swam to a first-place finish in the 500 free in 6:04.64, and Katie Bruno won the 100 breaststroke in 1:18.62.

"The girls team, we're all really close, and it's so much fun," said Park. "We have a lot of swimmers back after the COVID year, and it's a nice team environment."

Liberty's girls lost their season opener to Nazareth, 182-126, on Dec. 14.

Liberty's individual event winners in the meet against the Blue Eagles were Pinter in the 500 free with a time of 6:05.49, and Sergent in the 200 free with a time of 2:08.65 and in the 100 fly with a time of 1:01.52.

The Hurricanes are scheduled to host Southern Lehigh on Dec. 27.



PRESS PHOTO BY LINDA ROTHROCK

Ziego Goodman and the Hurricanes are off to a hot start so far this season.

Desmond, Kasak win Beast crowns

BY PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

Jeff Karam admitted that he may have had a part in jinxing Nathan Desmond at the Ironman Tournament 10 days ago when he lost in the 106-pound finals.

Karam told Desmond Bethlehem Catholic's wrestling program never had a freshman champion in that event and while Desmond took second, he did make history for the Hawks this past weekend by taking home the gold medal at the Beast of the East tournament in Delaware.

Desmond proved to everyone why he's one of the best freshmen in the country, as he didn't give up a point in the prestigious event en route to a 4-0 decision over Malvern Prep's Anthony Mutarelli in the finals.

Karam made sure to not mention anything to Desmond about being the first Golden Hawk to win the Beast in the lead up to the tournament

this week, but the feat of him actually doing it now shows how much potential he has.

"Nate is a phenomenal young man," said Karam. "He came a little short last week at Ironman and then didn't give up a point the entire tournament at the Beast. We expect some big things of him moving forward. I've coached a lot of great wrestlers over the years and the way he's starting off, he's up there with the best of them."

The Hawks had four wrestlers place at the tournament and finished sixth as a team with 154 points, two spots behind fourth-place Nazareth (162 points).

Of those four wrestlers, junior Tyler Kasak (138) also came home with a gold medal after knocking off Hunter Mason of Greeneville (TN) 3-0 in the finals.

It's the second straight tournament title for Kasak to start the year, who has only improved off his state

championship campaign from last March.

"He's actually gotten lot better from last year," Karam said. "Tyler is so methodical and is such a complete wrestler. I'm happy for the guys that won it. Its such a tough journey and we've only had a handful of guys win this. Two champs is definitely something special. I'm also proud of Dante [Frinzi] to come back and place. Cael [McIntyre] placing is also very big."

Frinzi (126) came back from an early round loss to battle through the consolation rounds to take third place at the tournament. He knocked off Keyveon Roller of Lakeway Christian (TN) 3-0 in the medal round, while McIntyre (120) forfeited his fifth-place medal match due to injury precautions.

The Hawks wrestle at Pocono Mountain West on Wednesday in their only action this before the holiday break.



PRESS PHOTO BY NICK HROMIAK

These early arriving snow geese were feeding in a harvested cornfield off S. Church St. and Ruchsville Road, last Thursday.

Outdoors: Snow geese are now back in town

BY NICK HROMIAK
Special to the Press

Snow geese have arrived.

I spotted the first flock of the season last Thursday as they joined a sizable flock of Canada geese in a cornfield at the junction of S. Church St. and Ruchsville Road in Egypt.

These all white geese make a harvested cornfield look like a coating of snow covered a portion of a field. It's possible these early arrivals put down on a quarry on the outskirts of Northampton, a place they seem to favor every year they arrive here from the arctic tundra.

There are a few things you may not know about these overwintering birds as they arrive in Pennsylvania annually around this time of year where early snowfalls in Canada and the tundra push them down to our state and beyond.

For starters, snow geese are good swimmers but they normally don't dive to find food. But they can submerge to evade predators. They walk readily on land and can run swiftly.

They sleep floating on the water, or on land, sitting down or standing on one leg. As strong fliers, snow geese can reach air speeds of 50 miles per hour. And they're extremely vocal giving off a whouk or kowk sound repeatedly while in flight and on

the ground. Their sound when flying differs from Canada geese somewhat and may take on the sound of a barking dog.

When feeding, snow geese make quieter gah notes while parent birds utter uh-uh-uh sounds to their goslings. They feed on aquatic grasses, sedges, berries, corn, wheat, barley and other grains gleaned from harvested fields, pastures and leafy stems of crops such as winter wheat where they can decimate a complete newly planted field in a day or two.

In winter, snows feed from two to seven hours a day. In spring, when building up fat reserves for their migration trip back to the arctic tundra, they may feed more than 12 hours a day.

Males and females mate for life but will find a new mate if theirs is lost or dies. Most snows choose mates having the same color as the family in which they themselves were reared. Individuals pair up during their second winter or their second northward migration, when they're almost two years old. Generally, they first breed successfully at age three.

During migration, snow geese fly both day and night and usually migrate along fairly narrow corridors. They take advantage of winds, good visibility and periods of no precipitation

and can be seen in long diagonal lines and V-formations reaching altitudes of up to 7,500 feet.

Snow geese can live for more than 26 years and can perish from avian cholera, hitting power lines in flight, hunting, predation by coyotes, foxes and eagles.

As winter progresses, expect to see more snow geese feeding in harvested corn and newly planted winter wheat fields. Hunting them takes patience, work and large amounts of decoys.

POST CHRISTMAS HUNTING SEASONS

By traditions, deer hunting season reopens for antlered and antlerless deer on Dec. 27-Jan. 17 for flintlock hunters. In WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D, the season runs from Dec. 27-Jan. 29. The extended firearms season for antlerless only runs from Dec. 27-Jan. 29 in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D.

There's also the late elk season running from Jan. 1-8, 2022 and small game that includes squirrels, pheasant, rabbits, quail from Dec. 27-Feb. 28. Because of their limited numbers, a short snowshoe hare season runs Dec. 27-Jan. 1.

During these times, hunters will have the woodlands almost to themselves so it's an opportune time to be afield instead of watching reruns on TV.



PRESS PHOTO BY KATIE MCDONALD

Press Keller Pooley, left, took second and Jasmyn Valdez took second.

Pooley first in diving

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcaldonald@tnonline.com

Liberty junior Keller Pooley took first place in the diving event of the Hurricanes' opening day swim meet against Nazareth on Dec. 14 at Nazareth and during the 'Canes' home opener against Pottsville on Dec. 15.

Pooley scored 182.70 at Nazareth, ahead of the Blue Eagles' Molly Laslo who had a score of 135.87.

"My reverse semi, which is just a reverse flip, I got a seven on that one. I love sevens. I always get super excited," Pooley said. "Today it wasn't as good because I was falling to the side on my approach, but I still had to go for it."

Pooley's score was 161.55 in the meet against Pottsville.

"Today I did a new dive. It was my first time ever competing it, a back one-and-a-half

flip," she said. "I might be thinking about a reverse one-and-a-half soon, but I don't think that will be too soon."

Pooley's teammate and first-time diver Jasmyn Valdez took second place in the Pottsville meet with a score of 122.10 and placed third at Nazareth with a score of 120.50.

"Oh my gosh, yesterday and today I was very nervous," said Valdez. "I got one seven yesterday, and I was very proud of that. I'm looking forward to getting the better because even the coaches have pointed out I'm just starting out, but they think I could be good, so I'm hoping to get better and work on more dives so I can make it to districts."

Valdez is also a cheerleader and is finding that, although the two sports are similar, they do have significant differences.

"For cheerleading,

there's a certain form you have to have, so for diving I had to tweak it and make changes and adjustments, but I figured it out," she said. "[Coach Emily Kocis] definitely helped me out on my approach, and then she pointed out the little things that I needed to know, and that's what helped me to get to where I am right now."

Liberty's next home meet is scheduled for Dec. 27 when the Hurricanes will host Southern Lehigh. Unlike last year, fans are back in the stands and swimmers are free to interact on the pool deck between events.

"It's so much more real with the other team being here, and plus I like to make friends with the people on the other team, so it's fun talking to the other divers," said Pooley. "I'm definitely happy that's back."

Divers set for season

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcaldonald@tnonline.com

Three veterans and three newcomers will be representing Liberty, Moravian Academy, and Bethlehem Catholic diving under returning coach Emily Kocis for the 2021-2022 swimming and diving season.

Moravian Academy senior Alexa Fegley and Bethlehem Catholic junior Anna Petke are back to make another run in districts and states.

Liberty junior Keller Pooley is also returning and qualified for districts last year.

"It felt great to be

back," said Coach Kocis. "There was excitement among the girls that day that they haven't had since before COVID."

Since Moravian and Becahi don't have their own diving programs, Fegley and Petke will dive on Liberty's schedule at both home and away meets. All practices are also held at Liberty.

"During the summer, Alexa and Keller trained with me at the new Memorial Pool. What a great asset to Bethlehem and our diving program that is," Kocis said. "I'm looking forward to what these girls have been able to accomplish

with such an uncertain schedule the past year-and-a-half. With us being able to train again during the off season we were able to try new dives and get back to doing drills for their technique. There are new dives in all of their line-ups which is exciting for them this year. These girls see themselves as one team, representing their individual schools, and it's great to see them back together."

Liberty juniors Kayla Elias and Jasmyn Valdez will also be diving for the girls, and Liberty junior Avante Kendall will be diving for the boys.

TRAPSHOOTING

TRAPSHOOTING Suburban Trapshooting League	Team Standings
Ranger Rod and Gun Club 12/12/2021	996 East Bath 993 Ranger Lake 989 Blue Ridge 961 Copeechan
BLUE RIDGE 123	Lehigh Valley Trapshooting League
25 - Jeff Blöse, Gavin Oplinger, Rich Trumbauer	COPLAY
24 - Caitline Bonser, Jacob Bonser, Jeff Hahn, Mike Kresge, Tom Szoke	25 - Robert Roman
COPEECHAN 119	23 - Alan Onkotz
25 - Tony Hujisa	22 - Chad Kulp
24 - Jerry Bottazzi, Joe Mule'	21 - Randy Roth, Walt Shimer,
23 - Tom Lonczynski, Joe Sipos, John Soloe	Curt Saeger, Edwin Polansky, David Schaffer
EAST BATH 125	LAPPAWINZO
25 - Dustin Bauer, Josh Christ Sr., Jim Delong, Jim Gontar, Drew Hensel, Jack Thomas, Jon Zadzora	25 - Seth Tavolaro
RANGER LAKE 124	23 - Eric Flexer, Craig Peischler
25 - Steve Buentzi, Allan Hunter, Chad Kulp, Brian Snyder	21 - John Yarsevich, Donald Steager, Anthony Raysely
24 - Dennis Cacciola Jr., Dennis Cacciola Sr., Ashley Hunter, Chet	NORTH END
	25 - Tony Hujisa, Chet Karpyn
	24 - Allan Hunter, Dennis Cacciola Sr., Brian Snyder, Scott Rinker, Dawson Zadzora, Erik Zetter-

Karpyn, Seth Tavolaro, Ralph Weakland

strand, Larry Huber Jr. James Corley

ONTELAUNEE

24 - Kurt Rodenbach, Len Wydra, Owen Daniels, Lorne Palansky, Joe Totenbier

PIONEER

24 - Jeffrey Blöse

23 - Jill Skoutelas, Glenn Wescoe, Tom Conley, Ashley Allworthy

RURAL

24 - Dick Shuman, Donald Boehm Jr, Brian James, Jacob Madkiff, Bob Malmstedt

POCONO SLATE

25 - Tommy Hensel

24 - John Soloe, Ray Di Risio, Andrew Hensel, Mark Hoffman

Team Standings

North End 1116

Ontelaunee 1112

Rural 1110

Pioneer 1088

Coplay 1077

Pocono Slate 1072

Lappawinzo 1057

SWIM

Continued from page A7

a 1:43.93 victory in the 200 medley relay with the foursome of Gilhool, Sean McGuire, Corbin Eisenhardt, and Danny Lehr.

Liberty senior Addison Collins took first place in the 200 free with a time of 1:46.87 and the 500 free in 5:07.92, Gilhool won the 200 IM with a time of 2:09.05 and the 100 back in 1:01.30, and Lehr was first in the 50 free in 23.20 and the 100 free with a time of 51.37.

Malcolm Collins won the 100 fly in 1:00.08 with Eisenhardt right behind in 1:00.27, and Sean McGuire swam to a first-place finish in the 100 breaststroke in 1:08.15.

Mid-meet, Gilhool, Stein, Addison Collins, and Lehr were first in the 200 free relay in 1:28.86, and the combination of Eisenhardt, Malcolm Collins, Tim Wetmore, and Wade Wu closed out the meet with a first-place finish in the 400 free relay in 3:41.27.

"The team goal is, I'd love for us to win the

district championship. We're looking good so far. Everyone still has things to work on, but come around to districts, I think we'll have a good shot," said Gilhool, who is also a team captain. "Individually, I'd like to become a state champion. I just have to keep putting in the work and hopefully it will turn out in my favor. Last year I was the underdog, and this year, everyone wants to beat me, so it's a different type of motivation to stay on top."

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.

NEW NIHM EXHIBIT: A new exhibit focusing on Bethlehem's General Superintendent and Chief Engineer John Fritz is now on display at the National Museum of Industrial History. The Works of a Mechanical Genius: The Legacy of John Fritz explores the life and legacy of an innovative ironmaster who has been touted as founder of the American steel industry, alongside names like Andrew Carnegie. Fritz built and oversaw the operations at the Bethlehem Iron Company from 1860-1893. The Bethlehem Iron Works is described in engineering journals of the day as, "one of the most famous enterprises in the world - the Mecca of engineer-pilgrims from abroad and the pride and pattern of American practice."

The exhibit marks the 200 anniversary of the birth of industrial pioneer and mechanical genius, John Fritz. The display closes in October 2022.

Through December

Christmas at Hotel Bethlehem. Free self guided tour seven days a week through December; reservations required. 437 Main St. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/hotel-bethlehem-self-guided-christmas-tour-reservations-required-tickets-121540427691 for availability. 35,000 Christmas lights, Christmas trees, 36 wreaths, six seven foot toy soldiers, two life size Nutcrackers and a gingerbread house modeled after the hotel.

Wednesday, December 22

East Hills Moravian Church 40th annual Christmas putz and displays through Dec. 22 in the church's Fellowship Hall, 1830 Butztown Road. 6 to 8 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. Group reservations: call 610-442-6056 or email nancyecosta@gmail.com. ADA accessible. Face masks must be worn.

The Festivus Concert with Charter Arts Jazz Program's ensembles. Familiar and obscure holiday and other works by Wes Montgomery, Sun Ra, Claude Thornhill, Milt Jackson and others. 7 p.m. School theater, 321 E. Third St. Masks are required. Information, tickets (also at the door): visit www.charterarts.org/event/festivus-concert-5/ or www.charterarts.org/event/festivus-concert-5/

Virtual live advent calendar, 5:30 p.m. daily to Dec. 23. Outside of Goundie House door, 501 Main St. In partnership with the Downtown Bethlehem Association. Visit <https://getdowntownbethlehem.com/> or www.facebook.com/GetDowntownBethlehem/ or www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2812686609054374

Horse drawn carriage rides, every 20 minutes, 3 to 9 p.m. Hours of operation and availability subject to change. Depart from Central Moravian Church Church, 73 W. Church St. No carriage rides on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Information and tickets: visit <https://historicbethlehem.org/carriage-rides-christmas-hours/>

Christmas City Stroll Outdoor Walking Tour, certified guide in period dress; includes two National Historic Landmarks. 1, 3 and 6 p.m. Historic Bethlehem Visitor Center, 505 Main St. Seniors, special combination offers, discounts available. Visit <https://historicbethlehem.org/>

Thursday, December 23

Virtual live advent calendar, 5:30 p.m. Last day. Outside of Goundie House door, 501 Main St. In partnership with the Downtown Bethlehem Association. Visit <https://getdowntownbethlehem.com/> or www.facebook.com/GetDowntownBethlehem/ or www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2812686609054374

Christmas City Stroll Outdoor Walking Tour, certified guide in See **HOLIDAY** on Page A10

ANOTHER VIEW-ED'S WORLD

Graphic commentary by artist Ed Courier



Oak Alley closure veto overridden

BY CHRIS HARING
Special to the Bethlehem Press

The Dec. 6 Hellertown Council meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of longtime member Richard Staffieri, who passed away Nov. 20. Staffieri is Hellertown's all-time longest-tenured council member, serving from 1970 until his retirement in 2015. He was 94 years old.

In council business, a supermajority voted to bypass Mayor David Heintzelman's veto of the council's prior passage of Ordinance 837. The proposal from

HELLERTOWN



PRESS PHOTO BY CHRIS HARING
Police Chief Robert Shupp, with Mayor David Heintzelman, shares an idea to help pedestrians navigate Main Street crosswalks.

Star Pre-Owned of Hellertown owner Clete Landis, asking the borough to vacate the block of Oak Alley that sits behind his business, was initially approved at the Oct. 4 meeting with only council President Thomas Rieger voting 'no.'

Heintzelman expressed concerns similar to Rieger's, who suggested that without the alley open for traffic, misdirected truck drivers coming from the Interstate 78 ramp could cause major tie-ups and safety hazards. After about a half-hour of de-

See **VETO** on Page A12

Does your wish list include
**faster Internet and
BETTER WiFi?**



**Choose
Service Electric
Internet for:**

- Fast, Reliable speeds up to 1 Gig
- eero Whole Home WiFi blankets your home in TrueMesh technology. No more "dead zones."
- Free standard service calls
- No contract required

SERVICE ELECTRIC
610-865-9100  **SECTV.COM**
CABLE TV & COMMUNICATIONS

period dress; includes two National Historic Landmarks. 1, 3 and 6 p.m. Historic Bethlehem Visitor Center, 505 Main St. Seniors, special combination offers, discounts available. Visit <https://historicbethlehem.org/>

Horse drawn carriage rides, every 20 minutes, 3 to 9 p.m. Hours of operation and availability subject to change. Depart from Central Moravian Church Church, 73 W. Church St. No carriage rides on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Information and tickets: visit <https://historicbethlehem.org/carriage-rides-christmas-hours/>

Sunday, December 26

Christmas City Stroll Outdoor Walking Tour, certified guide in period dress; includes two National Historic Landmarks. 1, 3 and 6 p.m. Historic Bethlehem Visitor Center, 505 Main St. Seniors, special combination offers, discounts available. Visit <https://historicbethlehem.org/>

December 26 to 31

Horse drawn carriage rides, every 20 minutes, 3 to 9 p.m. Hours of operation and availability subject to change. Depart from Central Moravian Church Church, 73 W. Church St. No carriage rides New Year's Day. Information and tickets: visit <https://historicbethlehem.org/carriage-rides-christmas-hours/>

To January 9

Trees of Historic Bethlehem, 26 trees; five historic sites, each decorated by the Bethlehem Garden Club to reference a classic holiday movie, including favorites such as "It's a Wonderful Life," "The Grinch," and "A Christmas Carol." 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays through Jan. 9, 2022. Kemmerer Museum of Decorative Arts, Moravian Museum of Bethlehem, Single Sisters House, Luckenbach Mill and 1810 Goundie House. For single, multi-site passes, combination offers and discounts, visit <https://historicbethlehem.org/christmas/activities/>

Holiday Putz Trail, Moravian Museum of Bethlehem and Single Sisters' House. Traditional Moravian settings of the Nativity used around Christmas. Putz is a German term for decorate or embellish. This year's miniatures feature hand-crafted models of Moravian Landmark District buildings. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Single and multi-site passes, combination offers and discounts available. Putz displays included in a Trees of Historic Bethlehem pass. Visit <https://historicbethlehem.org/holiday-putz-trail/> for days, hours, tickets and more information.

January 8, 9, 15, 16

Black Diamond Society of Model Engineers, 902 E. Macada Road. 1 to 4 p.m. Cost; 12 and under free. For additional dates and information, visit www.bdsme.org or call 610-867-2591.

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.

LIBRARY NOTES

General information

Visit the Bethlehem Area Public Library at 11 E. Church St. (main) or 400 Webster St. (Southside branch) or 2740 Fifth St. (Coolidge) or visit www.youtube.com/channel/UCsuAN4Af6kv-3QI1us_WkWQ or www.bapl.org/events/categories/virtual-events for a variety of items. For hours, information or to speak with staff members, call 610-867-3761 (main-11 W. Church St.) or 610-867-7852-400 Webster St. (Southside branch) or 484-892-6267 (Coolidge). Chat service and general information: visit www.bapl.org (main) or www.facebook.com/paBAPL or www.bapl.org/ssmain.htm (Southside) or <https://www.bapl.org/coolidge/> (Coolidge).

Events are held live and virtually; refer to the BAPL calendar for details. There is a "grab and go" check-out; place books or other items on reserve and pick them up with your library card at the door or inside.

Due to the pandemic: hours, masking and capacity limits may change without prior notice. Check the websites or call.

New places and events

Preschool storytime on the road. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Crayola Gallery, Banana Factory, 25 E. Third St. First Thursday of the month: Miss Regina from Coolidge Branch; Second Thursday of the month: Miss Joanne en Espanol; Third Thursday of the month: Miss Stephanie from Southside branch; Fourth Thursday of the month: Miss Lisa from ArtsQuest. Information: visit www.bapl.org/events/bapl-preschool-storytime-at-the-banana-factory-2-2021-10-21/

Books on The Hill (Stanley and Spiegel streets, Fountain Hill) stationary bookmobile

Stationary book mobile hours: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays; 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; Closed Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. alternate Fridays / Saturdays. Information: visit www.bapl.org/books-on-the-hill-rolls-into-fountain-hill/

Main Library

Monday through Thursday except holidays

Homework help, grades K-12. Moravian U. America Reads program provides tutors to help with school assignment questions. No registration required. 4 to 6 p.m. Follow social distancing guidelines; must mask. Visit www.bapl.org/events/homework-help-tutoring-for-grades-k-12-at-the-main-library-11/

December 25: Library closed for the holiday.

Southside Branch

December

Adult DIY Literature Lovers kits. All day. Visit www.bapl.org/events/adult-diy-craft-literature-lovers-ornament/

Ongoing, Mondays through Thursdays (except holidays)

SouthSide mini book sales. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Homework help for grades K-12. 4 p.m. Visit www.bapl.org/events/homework-helpers-the-south-side-branch-11/

Wednesdays, to February 23

Winter Preschool storytime, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Masks are a must for ages two and older. Information: visit www.bapl.org/events/winter-preschool-storytime-at-south-side-2021-12-01/



PRESS PHOTOS BY JENN RAGO

Christkindlmarkt's 29th year brings record attendance to the SteelStacks venue. Event planners report mild temperatures and the general desire to "get out and do things" as motivating factors.

29 years of Christkindlmarkt

BY JENN RAGO
Special to the Bethlehem Press

To understand what Christkindlmarkt is, you need to understand what it is not. It is not a shopping frenzy, but rather shopping via selection. It is not a big box store with hundreds of imported toys du jour, but rather individually crafted keepsakes. People do not grab or snarl at each other, but rather smile and honor each other's space. It is not a place you rush in "grab-pay-wrap-deliver", but rather thoughtfully linger and select. It is not cheap reproductions or one-time use products, but a place to buy hand-crafted American made unique individual pieces of art. Products are not mass-produced to meet demand, but rather are lovingly created, some as collectibles and ultimately family heirlooms.

Christkindlmarkt comprises 150 individual artisans, food vendors, craftsmen and merchants who gather now at SteelStacks for five weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas since 1992. The holiday lights and the festive music create a magical holiday diversion from the seasonal stress, world conflicts, and COVID surrounding us. Even Scrooge would feel festive upon stepping into any of the four tents and courtyard filled with yummy food choices, beverages and a seemingly endless variety of merchants.

Vendors travel from all over the country to



Susan Cole, owner of ONICE, and Bethlehem resident Brianna Ortiz both have good things to say about their first time at this event. This is Cole's first year as a vendor and Ortiz's as a patron. Both say they will definitely be back.

participate in this nationally acclaimed event. Wallets and handbags from Salem, Wis., Wool sweaters from Trenton, Ga., Bows by Lisa from Mt. Juliet, Tenn., House of Morgon Pewter from Kinston, N.C., and the list goes on. Jon and Terri Dearborn, owners of Nectar of the Vine, from Burton, Ohio, have been at this event for six years and report, "We'd never miss it; this year is awesome." They offer customers a choice of 23 different flavored mixes to make wine frappes and gourmet wine slushies at home.

For the wine consum-

er, local wineries, Franklin Hill in Bangor and Vynecrest in Breiningsville provided gift ideas. And let's not forget the baked goods - pumpkin bread, cranberry bread, cookies, rum cake, fruit cakes, sticky buns and more. A crowd favorite is the unique spreadable bacon sold by TBJ Gourmet Bacon Jam. Sales person Ben VanAulen proudly explains the concept of spreadable bacon as he gives samples to eager bystanders. This isn't your grandma's jam - true to their brochure, it is both spreadable and tastes just like bacon! This is their fifth year

at this event and Ben said, "We look forward to being here every year; the people are friendly and happy to try our products."

Some merchants have been at Christkindlmarkt for so many years they couldn't say exactly how many. Nancy Mitchell, representing La Cigale, from Mt. Gretna, Pa., said "people are happy to be out and about after 2020 and COVID; sales are great and I'm happy to be here."

One of the largest displays was that of Kathe Wolfahrt, from Germany. Her collection

See 29TH on Page A11



Donna Gunn from Stewartsville NJ makes her yearly trip to Christkindlmarkt to buy her toffee. Carino says its his twelfth year at this event.



LaCigale owner Nancy Mitchell shows her handmade French tableclothes, napkins and table runners to admiring onlookers.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Simple • Safe • Secure
www.fms.treas.gov/ef
A public service of this publication

ELECTION BOARD MEETING

The Lehigh County Board of Elections will convene a meeting on Thursday, December 30th, 2021 at 1:30PM in the Public Hearing Room, Government Center, 17 South 7th Street, Allentown, for the purpose of Final Certification of the results for the 2021 Municipal Election within Lehigh County and for general purposes.

Election Board of Lehigh County
By: Timothy A. Benyo

REUNIÓN JUNTA ELECTORAL

La junta de Elecciones del Condado de Lehigh convocará una reunión el jueves, 30 de diciembre, de 2021 a la 1:30PM, en la Sala de Audiencias Públicas, Centro de Gobierno, 17 South 7th St, Allentown, con el propósito de certificación final condicional de los resultados para las Elecciones Municipales del 2021 dentro del Condado de Lehigh y para fines generales.

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

HAVE SOME FUN WITH THE NEW SCRATCH-OFF GAME FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA LOTTERY

Gingerbread Dough

The Pennsylvania Lottery generated more than \$1 billion last year for programs that benefit older Pennsylvanians.

YOU COULD WIN ONE OF 10 TOP PRIZES OF \$20,000

Must be 18 years or older to play.
Please play responsibly.
Problem Gambling Helpline: 1-800-GAMBLER

Blake Sheridan

Notre Dame HS

Grade: 12
 Family members: Lori (mom), Brian (dad), Taylor (older brother)
 Favorite subject: History - I love learning about my country's past/present and how our government runs.
 Activities: National Honors Society, Student Council, Peer Listening
 Next steps: 4-year university
 Career goals: Become a police officer then work up to the FBI
 Heroes: Tom Brady - I admire his work ethic and I love the image he puts out.
 Hobbies: Lifting/Running
 Current job(s): Three Oak Steakhouse employee
 Volunteer/community work: Angel 34, ICANBIKE, Special Olympics
 Likes: Hanging out with friends and my dogs, listening to music, making other people



happy
 Dislikes: Not a fan of math; don't like the color red
 Greatest accomplishment (so far): Getting chosen by my school for a retreat; 3.96 overall general average
 Advice for peers: Do what makes YOU happy!
Student profile subjects are selected by faculty and administration at the individual schools.

SCHOOL NEWS

BETHLEHEM AREA

Board members take oath of office

Magisterial Judge Nancy Matos Gonzales administered the oath of office to the Bethlehem Area School District elected directors Dec. 6. The new school board includes incumbents Winston Alozie, Michael E. Facchinetto and Shannon L. Patrick and newly elected member Silagh White.

Roy appears on Valley's 'Business Matters'

Dr. Joseph Roy of the Bethlehem Area School District and Dr. Mark Madson, the Parkland School District superintendent, appeared recently on WFMZ Business Matters, The television show was hosted by Tony Iannelli from the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Scholarships reminder

Apply for Superintendent Roy's full-tuition scholarships to Moravian University and East Stroudsburg University.

Foundation update

Formerly known as the Bethlehem Area Education Foundation, the Foundation for the Bethlehem Area School District began in March 1999, after a one-year feasibility study. The foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of members of the community working in concert with, but independent of, the Bethlehem Area School District. To move the foundation forward, the Board of Trustees amended the bylaws to include paid employees and hired a part-time executive director in the fall of 2014. Over the years, the foundation has worked closely with school district administrators to prepare programs and opportunities for funding that will support rigor, relevance and innovation in classrooms throughout the district.

SAUCON VALLEY

Third grader delivers 'Blessing Bags'

While most kids her age are wrapped up in the excitement of the Christmas holidays, young Evelyn Yoder is looking for ways to help the homeless in the Lehigh Valley keep warm during the winter. The 8-year-old from Saucon Valley is donating wool socks, gloves and caps to them during this season of giving.

She delivered 30 "Blessing Bags" to the Family Wash Day laundromat, at 911 Linden St., Allentown, Dec. 14. That's during "laundry ministry," sponsored by St. Luke's Parish Nurses, when homeless and underprivileged people can do their laundry there for free.

"The purpose of the laundry ministry has always been to share the gospel through loving action by giving dignity of clean clothing to our street neighbors," says Deborah Bartholomew, RN, FCN, manager of Parish Nursing/Community Outreach for St. Luke's. "Evelyn is sharing in that dignity outreach by giving the gift of warmth to our neighbors."

This third grader at Saucon Valley Elementary School was inspired to do this good deed while learning a song at school, called "Make a difference." Her chorus teacher leading the class told them that even kids can change the world.

The song's final stanzas say it all: "We can make a difference in our world today/Together we can make our world a better place/When we work together so much can be done/If all the children in the world would sing in unison/We know what's right, and we know what to do/The future can be brighter, it's up to me and you."

"She told us that 8-year-olds can change the world, so I thought, 'Why not me?'" says Evelyn, the daughter of St. Luke's physician Nicki Yoder, DO.

She had seen homeless people outside at a local shopping complex and was worried about how they will keep warm in the winter, explained Dr. Yoder. Her daughter's curiosity and kind heart sparked her clever plan.

To raise funds to buy the goods, she baked and sold cookies, cupcakes and breads, netting \$500, said her mother. "Evelyn loves to bake, so this was a natural fit."

She bought 30 pairs of socks, gloves and hats and stuffed them into individual "Blessing Bags," as she calls them, along with healthy snacks.

But Evelyn isn't stopping there. Next, she is going to deliver hats and gloves to Project Valor for homeless vets, then she'll buy travel toiletries for the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter.

She's not looking for anyone to sing her praises for this generous and lifechanging idea that all started with a song. And Evelyn is not likely to forget that song or moment of inspiration at school as she tries to change the world one pair of warm, woolen gloves, socks or a hat at a time.

COLLEGE NOTES

Northampton Community College

College second in nation for dual enrollment

Northampton Community College was ranked second in the country for its online dual enrollment program. This distinction is conferred by onlineassociatesdegrees.net, which based its rankings on several factors, including accreditation, program affordability, and number of courses offered.

Dual enrollment programs at NCC make it possible for students enrolled in high school to earn college credit while also meeting high school requirements for mandatory courses. NCC offers over 100 degree and specialized diploma offerings, and Dual Enrollment students can select from a variety of college-level courses that are offered on-campus and online, all taught by NCC faculty. NCC Dual Enrollment students are considered NCC students and have access to the Library, Learning Center, Career Services, and more.

See **NOTES** on Page A12

29TH

Continued from page A10

of handmade ornaments, nutcrackers and collectible figurines enchanted visitors. Purveyors of jewelry hail from JH Crystal Creations, Allentown, Iciss jewelry from Upper Black Eddy, Wild Honey and Gold from Center Valley, Celtic Vibe, from Bushkill JAAZ accessories from Allentown, and many others.

So if scented soaps, small batch peanut butter, herbs and oils, sauces and salsa, homemade dog treats, woven wool sweaters, lawn ornaments and seasonal décor interest you, or if you are looking for a unique one of a kind gift - this is the place for you.



Sales associate Suzanne Harding has been at Christkindlmarkt for "at least 10 years and I would say this is one of the best years ever." Nicole Serra agrees as she makes her purchase at I See Spain.



Shreenath Saranathan and Shreya Rajaram can't decide which they like best as they sample TBJ Gourmet Bacon Jam. Sales Agent Ben VanAulen helps with the sampling.



Customers fill the aisles eagerly exploring and admiring the assortment of products.



Patrons admire the work of Kathe Wohlfahrt and the tree with her handmade ornaments. You can't pick just one!



Crowds gather at The Olde Toffee Shoppe, where owner Keith Carino reports this is "a great year with great crowds, like always."

YOUR LOCAL WEATHER

7 Day Forecast	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Few Showers	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	
45 / 24 <small>1-10 mph WNW</small>	39 / 27 <small>2-6 mph W</small>	44 / 34 <small>1-5 mph SE</small>	52 / 35 <small>2-7 mph SW</small>	47 / 31 <small>8-13 mph W</small>	45 / 27 <small>3-13 mph NW</small>	43 / 28 <small>3-10 mph W</small>	

Today we will see mostly sunny skies, high of 45°, humidity of 51%. West northwest wind 1 to 10 mph. The record high for today is 65° set in 2013. Expect clear skies tonight, overnight low of 24°. West northwest wind 3 to 8 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 22°. The record low for tonight is -2° set in 1944. Thursday, skies will be partly cloudy, high of 39°, humidity of 49%. West wind 2 to 6 mph. Thursday night, skies will be mostly cloudy, overnight low of 27°. Light winds. Friday, skies will be mostly cloudy, high of 44°, humidity of 65%. Southeast wind 1 to 5 mph. Friday night, skies will be mostly cloudy with a 55% chance of showers, overnight low of 34°. Light winds. Saturday, skies will be mostly cloudy with a 55% chance of showers, high of 52°, humidity of 68%.

Weather Trivia

Did the Greeks and Romans often erect temples where lightning struck?

Answer: Yes, they worshiped the gods there in an attempt to appease them.

Merry Christmas

We'll Bring the HEAT!
Order Online ANYTIME!

lehighfuels.com

LEHIGH FUELS LLC
610.266.8990

Happy Holidays

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

VETO

Continued from page A9

liberations, including the suggestion of large signs directing truckers to turn around, council member Andrew Hughes joined Rieger, but the two 'no' votes were not enough to sustain the mayor's veto.

In other news, Borough engineer Bryan Smith provided brief updates on several items: the completion of the Main Street Pedestrian Safety Project with the installation of a bus shelter at Thomas Avenue; construction concluding on the Dimmick Park Swale Greening Project; and the Walnut Street Project is "complete aside from the installation of rapid (crosswalk) flashers," he said.

Police Chief Robert Shupp offered his department's idea to assist borough residents' understanding of the new crosswalks, with flashers at several Main Street locations: an instructional video. The department has shared "typical Penn DOT video(s)" in the past on social media, but a more specific video for the borough featuring members of the

department might "gain more traction" with residents, he said.

The final 2022 General, Sanitation, Fire, Liquid Fuels and Capital budgets were unanimously approved. They were soon followed by the 2022 tax rate, which will go unchanged, and Fee Schedule (of which the only notable increase will be Hellertown Pool admissions).

The remainder of the meeting consisted of regular business, including authorization of several payments totaling approximately \$200,000 to Kobalt Construction for the previously-mentioned Swale Greening and Walnut Street projects.

ROCK SALT AVAILABLE NOW!
50 lb BAG
\$9.00 (tax included)

Joe's LLC
Battery & Tire AUTO SERVICE
2225 Union Blvd.
Allentown
610-437-4961

Say you saw it in the Bethlehem Press

Think before you react.

We welcome constructive comments about our content, but please be kind.

LEHIGH VALLEY PRESS
lvppnews
lvppnews.com

We'd Like to Shout It From the Rooftops:
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thanks to all of our friends and clients for making 2021 an outstanding year for us. We owe our success to your loyal support, and we wish you and yours a very happy holiday!

Paul S. Evans
BUILDING CONTRACTOR, LLC
Bethlehem • 610-262-6646
www.paulevansbuild.com Lic. #PA006229

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.

After being found as a stray in the beginning of the year, **Bubbles** is on the hunt for her forever home. This super friendly 3.5-year-old is cat friendly and loves people of all ages and sizes.

As a shepherd mix, **Rango** is on the hunt for an active family that can keep up with him. At 10 months old, Rango is dog friendly and would love a home with older children.

NOTES

Continued from page A11

NCC has several College Connections Specialists who spend a lot of time in the local high schools, and are available to answer questions on the program. They can be reached by emailing collegeconnections@northampton.edu. Interested students and their parents can also attend a virtual dual enrollment information session on 12/20 at 5 p.m. Register at info.northampton.edu/de-info-sessions

Northampton Community College's main campus is located at 3835 Green Pond Road. The Fowler Family Southside Center is located at 511 E. Third St. For information, call 610-861-5000 or visit www.northampton.edu.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

2022 PUZZLE BOOK

This special Mini-Tabloid will be inserted into all 8 Lehigh Valley Press Newspapers and Times News!

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Monday, January 3rd
Publication Dates: January 19 & 20

Call our Award-Winning Advertising Department to Reserve your Ad Space Today!

610-740-0944

LEHIGH VALLEY PRESS LVP
A Division of TIMES NEWS Media Group

Reach more than 50,000 readers!

CROSSWORD

WORD SEARCH

Bridal

2022 January Edition

Showcase your wedding products and services to more than 50,000 readers in this special Bridal Edition!

The Bridal Mini-Tabloid will be inserted into all 8 Lehigh Valley Press Newspapers and Times News!

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Monday, January 10th
Publication Dates: January 26 & 27

Ask About the Free Press Release
with the purchase of a Quarter Page ad or larger

Call our Award-Winning Advertising Department to Reserve your Ad Space Today!

610-740-0944

LEHIGH VALLEY PRESS LVP
A Division of TIMES NEWS Media Group

VOLUNTEERS

CEDARBROOK SENIOR CARE AND REHAB - Fountain Hill and Allentown invites you to become a member of the auxiliary. This wonderful group raises money to purchase special things for residents throughout the year. It's easy to join and fun to be a part of this amazing group. They are currently looking for new members and will begin having monthly meetings in 2022. Contact Kerry Magliane, 610-336-5684, kerrymagliane@lehighcounty.org.

GRACEDALE NURSING HOME, Nazareth needs help UN-decorating Christmas Trees. Once the hustle and bustle of the holidays are over, the decorations must come down to prepare for a new season! They will be undecorating 30+ Christmas trees starting at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 3. Minimum age 14. All volunteers must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Contact Jennie Repsher, 610-829-3686, jrepshe@northamptoncounty.org.

HISPANIC CENTER LEHIGH VALLEY, Bethlehem is looking for volunteers to assist with food prep, serving and interacting with seniors, and keeping kitchen space neat and organized. No habla español? No problema! They can teach you, too! They need three volunteers from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the kitchen area. Contact Liza Perez, 610-868-7800, lizaperezleon@hclv.org.

HISTORIC BETHLEHEM MUSEUMS & SITES is seeking volunteers to help at the Visitor Center & Goundie House with answering questions, monitoring the Trees of Historic Bethlehem, and restocking/bagging merchandise. The store is open seven days a week during the holiday season. Contact Tavia Minnich, 610-882-0450, tminnich@historicbethlehem.org.

NORTHAMPTON CO. HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Easton needs visitor services representatives to welcome tourists and local guests, provide information about the organization's programs and services, and provide information and assistance regarding activities and events in the surrounding communities. Training is provided and shifts of three to four hours are available Thursday through Sunday. Contact Sarah White, 610-253-1222, sarah@northamptonctymuseum.org.

TURNING POINT OF LEHIGH VALLEY is looking for a group of three to four people with two minivans/SUVs/pickup trucks to pick up and load orders on the second Tuesday of every month at Second Harvest Food Bank in Nazareth between 12-3 p.m. and then drop off at a location about 15 miles toward the Bethlehem area and unload. Contact Andrea Search 610-797-0530, ext. 229, andreas@turningpointlv.org.

THE CENTER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE, Easton, is seeking volunteers to walk dogs, assist with a.m. cleanings, attend off site events to promote the shelter, cat and dog enrichment and general shelter help. If interested in helping, please contact Walt Hoffman at 610-252-7722, ext. 4 or email cahwolunteercoordinator@rcn.com.



Santa Claus & the Belsnickel

Michael Vianello © 1991 Revised 1993, 2003

The night before Christmas
is very near
but creatures are stirring,
even the mice.
All quiver in fear, cause
Belsnickel soon will be here.
What? — What happened to
Santa Claus? What happened to
sugarplum fairies,
sweets and spice?
And who's this Belsnickel
fellow?
He's neither jolly nor mellow.
Belsnickel gets children who
are naughty, not nice.
His glaring stare is colder

than arctic ice.
He comes before Christmas
and carries a switch.
This Belsnickel fellow sounds
more like a Halloween witch.
Does this script have
some kind of glitch?
No carrot at Christmas,
only the stick?
Must Christmas come with
some kind of hitch?
None of this Belsnickel stuff
say the kids today.
Just give us our gifts
'cause we want to play.
Winter's no time to be

out making hay!
In trumpy brown knickers,
a coat and a cap,
Belsnickel comes to each house
following his map.
His gray beard flowing over his
tattered old scarf,
He carries a switch
to help with his part.
To get your attention
he'll jingle his bell and
scratch at your door.
To lower your guard he'll
scatter peanuts, oranges and
treats on your floor.
When you pick up your treat,

he'll switch at your feet
Before Christmas sun,
he'll come just one more time if
you're good,
to leave nice gifts under your
tree as you hoped he would
That's the Belsnickel;
he's nasty but nice.
Du besser bischt gudt,
der Belsnickel kumpt!
Well kids, have no fear
Belsnickel hasn't been seen
very near for many a year.
These days it's usually Santa
who comes around here

About the Belsnickel

The Belsnickel used to visit the homes of Pennsylvania Dutch children many years ago.

In those days, the children were often told during the year, "Du besser bischt gudt der Belsnickel kumpt." (Loosely — you'd better be good, the Belsnickel will come.)

The last sighting of Belsnickel around here reported to us was by Ruth Rinker of Sciota. She grew up in the West End of Monroe County. Ruth tells us that Belsnickel visited her home only once, in 1926. She was around 6 years old then.

Ruth, then Ruth Gougher, lived on the "outskirts" of Kunkletown with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Gougher, and her younger brother, Walter. It was Christmas Eve 1926, just a little after dark. Ruth and her 4-year-old brother, both in stocking feet, were dressed in their flannel nightclothes — almost ready for bed. Mom and Dad were around, but Ruth's grandfather had gone to visit some neighbors. They heard some sleigh bells jingling. Then, there was a scary rattling on the porch. Suddenly, there appeared at the window an old man in trumpy clothes. He scratched his switch on the window to get the children's attention and scare them. The children were really frightened. They wouldn't go near the door. So Ruth's dad opened the door for Belsnickel.

There stood the Belsnickel. He was an old man dressed in trumpy clothes. He wore brown knickers, boots and a dark



overcoat. His long, gray beard flowed out from under a visored cap and poured over his tattered scarf. He was about the same height as her grandfather, but Belsnickel had a potbelly as big as a pillow. Belsnickel only stepped a foot or two into the Gouchers' kitchen. He scattered peanuts and oranges on the floor — a very special treat in those days.

This relaxed the kids a little. A sudden rush of braveness came over Ruth and Walter. It was brought on by the treats Belsnickel had spread on the floor in front of him. They moved forward and started picking up the orange and peanut treats. Then, without even the hint of a warning, Belsnickel lashed out with his fresh-cut switch. He started thrashing their legs with the birch twig. It hurt,

tells Ruth.

The children scampered and ran. They hid behind the old brown Apollo cookstove. They stayed behind the stove until Belsnickel left. Then the kids came out from behind the old brown cookstove and picked up the treats.

After that they went to bed — their legs still smarting a little from the Belsnickel's switch. The next morning when they awoke, Ruth and her brother Walter found gifts under the Christmas tree. Belsnickel had returned later Christmas Eve and left them under the tree for Ruth and Walter. That was the one and only time Belsnickel visited Ruth and Walter. After that, it was Santa Claus instead of Belsnickel who visited the Goucher home in Kunkletown each Christmas to leave presents for the kids.

Ruth and Walter liked Santa much better than Belsnickel. Santa doesn't have a switch. Knecht Ruprecht, perhaps a distant cousin of Belsnickel, still visits children in Germany. Several weeks before Christmas, St. Nikolaus and one of his helpers, Ruprecht, visit German children. St. Nikolaus (Santa) has a list with all the children's names. The list tells what things naughty and what things nice the children did during the year. St. Nikolaus gives the kids treats, oranges, candy, apples and nuts, for the nice things they have done.

On the other hand, Ruprecht carries his stick. Ruprecht swats the naughty kids with his stick. The kids sing Christmas songs and recite poetry as part of the festivities. Then St. Nikolaus makes a list of what toys and things the children want for Christmas. Neither St. Nikolaus, nor his nasty helper Ruprecht, return on Christmas Day. Rather, on Christmas Eve, Christkind and the Christmas angels come, unseen by anyone, and place gifts under the tree. Merry Christmas!

Author's Note:

We asked other people with Pennsylvania Dutch roots if Belsnickel had ever visited them. Only a few had been visited by him. Some said they had heard about Belsnickel from the older folks, but their childhoods were spent years after Ruth Rinker's 1926 encounter with Belsnickel. In the early 1900s, as well as the 1800s, the West End of Monroe County, at the foothills of the Pocono Mountains, was a very remote and isolated area. (So were many other rural areas.) It's rather tempting to speculate therefore that it was difficult for St. Nikolaus, Ruprecht, Christkind and the Christmas angels all to make their way to the West End at Christmastime. Perhaps that is why Belsnickel performed all the tasks of these other Christmas personalities — Ruprecht's switching, St. Nikolaus' scattering treats, and Christkind's leaving gifts. These Christmas personalities are very cooperative indeed. They change and modify their schedules and roles somewhat to accommodate the Christmas customs and calendars of each region, or sometimes each household, they visit. Unfortunately, Belsnickel is another one of those precious and unique elements of the local Pennsylvania Dutch culture that is being lost.

We would like to hear about more encounters with Belsnickel. If you have or if you know anyone who has ever encountered Belsnickel, email treditor@tnonline.com. We would like to put together a compendium of stories about Belsnickel — before he disappears forever.

Santa and the Belsnickel make a deal

Once upon a time, in the Pocono Mountain forest in Pennsylvania, Santa Claus was bringing Christmas joy to the homes of the mountain forest folks — as well as the rest of the world. He heard some little children crying "What? — How could this be? Children crying on Christmas Eve?" thought Santa.

In a very uncommon event, Santa appeared before the kids.

"Why are you crying on Christmas Eve?" asked Santa.

The children told Santa about the Belsnickel.

The Belsnickel lived deep in the mountain forest. Belsnickel was an older man. In the wintertime, his long gray beard flowed out from under his visored cap and poured over his tattered old scarf.

When he would go out in the winter's cold, he would wear old boots, brown knickers, and a trumpy old topcoat.

The Belsnickel was rigid and strict. His eyes were colder than Arctic ice. And he never put up with any foolishness.

In his younger days, Belsnickel had been a schoolmaster. He was known throughout the land as the meanest and toughest schoolmaster ever.

The children who attended Belsnickel's school were well-behaved due to Belsnickel's very strict discipline. But they did not enjoy his school.

When Belsnickel finally retired, the

kids were happy indeed. They had one of the best parties ever.

Well, after Belsnickel retired, the teachers let the kids get away with murder. The kids didn't do their homework. They partied all the time. And they got into all kinds of mischief. Somebody had to step in and do something. The parents didn't know who to turn to. Finally they sought out Belsnickel. "Belsnickel, you've got to come back," the parents said.

"Since you retired there is no one to discipline the kids. They do whatever they want to do. And they aren't learning a thing in school. Not only that, but the kids have gotten unruly around their homes. And they have become very rude, too."

"But what can I do?" said the grumpy old Belsnickel. "I'm not at the school anymore."

Then Belsnickel had an idea. In the middle of the winter he would get fresh oranges, fruits and nuts — a very special winter treat in those days — and go around to each house. He would use the treats to bait the kids. And when they would come after the treats, he would thrash them with his switch for their naughty deeds.

And so, every year after that, in the middle of the winter, around Christmastime, Belsnickel would hitch the horse to the old country sleigh. He would go to each child's house. Belsnickel would

make scary noises on the porch and scratch at the window with his switch to frighten the children and get their attention. After that he would knock at the door.

The parents would open the door for Belsnickel. Belsnickel would take just one or two steps into the house. He would scatter his oranges, nuts and treats on the floor in front of him. When the children would come forward to pick up the treats, Belsnickel would take his switch to their legs.

The children would scamper and run. They would hide behind the cookstove or whatever was handy.

After the Belsnickel would leave, the children would come out from their hiding places and pick up their treats.

During the year, whenever the children were naughty, the parents would remind them that if they didn't behave, the Belsnickel would put them on his list and come to thrash them on the night of the winter solstice — the longest night of the year.

Well, it worked! The kids were so scared of Belsnickel. All their parents and teachers had to do was remind them that if they misbehaved, the Belsnickel would come at Christmastime and take his switch to them. The children did their homework. They were well-behaved. And they were polite.

But the kids were just terrified of this Belsnickel fellow. And what made it even worse for the kids was that Belsnickel came just a few nights before Christmas.

After the kids told Santa about the Belsnickel, they asked Santa for his help. And they promised Santa that if he would get the Belsnickel to stop coming around at Christmastime, they would behave all year long.

"OK," said Santa. "That sounds good to me. But if you don't keep your promise to behave all year, I'll cross you off my Christmas gift list."

Then Santa asked Rudolph, the reindeer, to lead him to the Belsnick-

el. "Merry Christmas, Belsnickel," said Santa when he found him.

"Humbug," grumped Belsnickel.

"Why do you take your switch to the children at Christmastime?" asked Santa. After the Belsnickel finished explaining the reasons, Santa said, "Well, Belsnickel, then all you want is that the children should be good, right?"

"Exactly," said Belsnickel.

"Let me suggest a solution," said Santa.

"I'll keep a list of the kids who have been naughty and the kids who have been nice. I won't leave toys for the naughty kids at Christmas — if you won't go around switching at them any more. No toys will be punishment enough."

"You've got yourself a deal," said the Belsnickel.

"I'm getting very old and very tired. And I really don't enjoy having to go around every Christmas and taking my switch to the naughty children."

"But Santa," said Belsnickel, "if your plan doesn't work and the kids get bad again — well maybe I'll just have to come back"

"Belsnickel," said Santa, "now you won't have very much to do. Why don't you come up to the North Pole with Rudolph and me. You can help us make toys for the kids. There's plenty of room, and Mrs. Claus is an excellent cook, you'll see."

And so it was. Santa and the Belsnickel had their deal. Belsnickel retired and went to the North Pole with Santa. He doesn't come around anymore — except sometimes he still helps Santa deliver his Christmas gifts in the mountain forests.

These days the parents tell their children when they misbehave — you better be good or Santa won't bring you anything for Christmas!

Belsnickel now lives at the North Pole with Santa and his helpers making toys all summer long for Christmas Eve night.

Nester: 'Vaccines save lives,' LVHN annual meeting is told

During the 2021 Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) Community Annual Meeting, LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer Brian A. Nester, DO, MBA, provided evidence that life today is better than it was one year ago.



Brian A. Nester

"By vaccinating our communities, caring for those with COVID-19 and other conditions, and growing our health network to give you even more convenient access to care, LVHN is creating better days ahead for you and those you love," Nester said.

In addition to his virtual presentation Dec. 1 during LVHN's annual public board of trustees meeting held each December, Nester recapped the health network's efforts to care for and vaccinate the community during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

He said LVHN continues its leadership in protecting the community against COVID-19 by recently surpassing a milestone of administering more than 500,000 free vaccinations. This includes almost 9,000 doses to the 5-11 age group in just four weeks following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approval. LVHN administered the vaccines for no cost in order to make vaccines available to as many people as possible as fast as possible.

"Vaccines save lives," Nester said. "I say this with the utmost confidence because science tells us so."

Nester provided the following evidence of vaccine efficacy:

- Nationwide, about 85 percent of those hospitalized for COVID-19 are unvaccinated.
- States with higher vaccination rates are experiencing fewer hospitalizations than those with lower rates.
- While no vaccine

is 100 percent effective, data suggest that vaccinated individuals who contract COVID-19 have symptoms that are less severe.

Nester said the role that the health network has played in combating COVID-19 is demonstrated by government data that consistently shows LVHN has cared for more patients confirmed or suspected of having the virus than any other health-care provider in the Lehigh Valley area.

Nester emphasized how LVHN has been in the forefront of the battle against COVID-19 since the early days of the pandemic by being the only health-care provider in the region selected to participate in the Pfizer-BioNTech clinical studies to test its safety and effectiveness. In July, LVHN was the only regional health network to become part of the Pfizer booster shot trial, again, leading the way in curbing the spread of COVID-19.

In addition to the health network's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Nester said LVHN remains focused on delivering the highest quality care to people in each community it serves. "We are in the midst of an unprecedented period of growth that will give you convenient access to the world-class care you and your family need," Nester said.

The opening of Lehigh Valley Hospital

(LVH - Hecktown Oaks in Lower Nazareth Township, a new ER and the Breidegam Family Children's ER at LVH - Cedar Crest, as well as the 2022 openings of LVH - Carbon near Lehigh and LVH - Dickson City near Scranton are among the list of new LVHN facilities designed to make specialized care available close to home.

Investments in new facilities are possible because LVHN is financially strong. The health network reported operating income of \$150.7 million for fiscal year 2021, or an operating margin of 4.4 percent. Non-labor-related expense reductions implemented during the pandemic, as well as the return of patients who were avoiding health care during the early part of the pandemic contributed to LVHN's financial strength.

In fiscal year 2021, the number of visits to Lehigh Valley Physician Group (LVPG) practices increased by more than 100,000, bringing the total to 3.2 million visits. Outpatient registration increased significantly to nearly 1.5 million.

In addition to building new facilities, the health network used its financial strength to reward its health-care professionals for their exceptional work throughout the pandemic. The majority of nearly 20,000 LVHN colleagues received a merit increase and a bonus in 2021. Nearly 7,000 caregivers received a salary increase in addition to a merit increase.

To review the LVHN "2021 Report to the Community": LVHN.org/annual-report

For information about COVID-19 and to schedule a vaccination: LVHN.org/vaccines

Anne Baum first president of Reilly Children's Hospital

Anne Baum has been named the first president of Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital, part of Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN).

Baum, working in partnership with Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital Physician in Chief J. Nathan Hagstrom, MD, will oversee strategic planning and operations of Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital, the area's only children's hospital and the third largest children's hospital in Pennsylvania.

Baum will assume the role Jan. 3, 2022. She will report to LVHN Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John Pierro.

Baum, a well-known and respected business leader in the Lehigh Valley for more than 20 years, comes to Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital from Capital Blue Cross, where she was Lehigh Valley Market President and Vice President, Producer and Labor Relations.

"The reputation of Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital is phenomenal and having the chance to make a positive difference in the health and well-being of our community's children is the opportunity of a lifetime," Baum said.

"Good health is so important. Without good health, our children find it hard to learn, be active, enjoy art and music or just be kids. I'm excited to work with an outstanding team of health care professionals to care for children in times of sickness and to help children develop healthy lifestyles."

Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital provides access to more than 30 pediatric specialties, including pediatric surgery, a Children's ER, two Children's ExpressCARE locations,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anne Baum

the highest possible level of neonatal intensive care, a pediatric intensive care unit, pediatric burn and trauma care and a child-life program that helps children cope during a hospital visit.

"Anne's health care, business and leadership experience - coupled with her passion for this community and its people - make her a natural choice to lead the growth of Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital," said LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer Brian A. Nester, DO, MBA.

"Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital already is the region's leader in children's care, and now with Anne as a member of the LVHN family, the future is even brighter," Pierro said.

Baum's experience prior to Capital Blue Cross includes Director of Managed Care Services for Premier Inc., Executive Director of Eastern Pennsylvania Health Network, and Vice President of Managed Care at St. Luke's University Health Net-

work. She is founder and president of Vision Acc-omplished, which provides leadership and professional training programs that help businesses enhance customer satisfaction.

Baum is a member of numerous community boards and the recipient of several awards, including Pennsylvania Best Women in Business and the ATHENA Award.

She is the author of the books, "Small Mistakes, Big Consequences: Develop Your Soft Skills to Help You Succeed," which helps people identify common behavior mistakes that can make or break relationships, and "Small Mistakes, Big Consequences for Interviews."

Baum received a bachelor's degree in biology from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a master's degree in health systems management from Rush University.

An overview of low-impact exercises

Q. I've got problems with several joints and I heard low-impact exercise is something I should try. What is low-impact and can you suggest some exercises?

Warning: If you want to begin a new exercise program, you should consult your physician and request a list of exercises that are best for your age and physical condition.

HEALTHY GEEZER

By Fred Cicetti
fred@healthygeezers.com



As you age, your body becomes less flexible and more vulnerable to injury. Low-impact exercise does not place excessive pressure on your body. There are many low-impact activities that can

give you a good, relatively safe workout.

The following are some low-impact exercises, in alphabetical order, that you can review and discuss with your doctor.

Cycling

Riding a bike gives you a substantial workout. I enjoy riding bike trails because I get to enjoy nature while getting low-impact exercise. I gave up riding on streets because there are too many dangers posed by cars and trucks. If you don't want to ride outdoors, you can pedal a stationary bike indoors.

Golf

Golf is great for increasing flexibility and strength. Swinging a club is more exercise than it appears to be. If you can walk 18 holes with a hand cart, you are in great shape already. But riding the course with a golf cart will still

have you walking more than you would think.

Swimming

Swimming poses very little injury risk. The water relieves the stress on your body. Swimming also is a whole-body exercise. There's lots of strengthening and stretching while afloat. It's great for your arms, legs, back and shoulders.

Tai Chi

In Asia, tai chi (tie-chee) is considered to be the most beneficial exercise for older people, because it is gentle and can be modified easily if a person has health limitations. A person doing tai chi progresses slowly and gracefully through a series of movements while breathing deeply and meditating. Tai chi relaxes and stimulates the body and mind. Tai chi has been called "moving meditation."

Walking

Walking is one of the simplest and best low-impact exercises. All you need is a good pair of shoes or sneakers and a place to walk. On cold and rainy days, I see a lot of seniors walking around indoor malls. When you can, a beneficial exercise is leaving the car keys at home when you have to run an errand.

Water aerobics

Water aerobics is another exercise that can work the whole body. The concept behind this exercise is that everything you do is resisted by the water. This exercise is so popular among seniors that an iconic photo you see often is of a bunch of older people in a pool smiling.

Weight-lifting

You should begin doing your moves without weights. Then go to light weights. You can increase the weight amounts gradually. Getting a personal trainer for weight-lifting is a smart idea.

Yoga

Yoga practice includes physical postures that participants flow into and then hold before proceeding to the next posture. Yoga has

been shown to help alleviate many of the health problems faced by older adults. In fact, the many benefits of Yoga are supposed to combat the aging process. Yoga can help your balance, a serious concern for seniors.

Have a question? Email: fred@healthygeezers.com. Order "How To Be A Healthy Geezer," 218-page compilation of columns: healthygeezers.com

All Rights Reserved © 2021 Fred Cicetti

The Times News, Inc., and affiliates (Lehigh Valley Press) do not endorse or recommend any medical products, processes, or services or provide medical advice. The views of the columnist and column do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Lehigh Valley Press. The article content is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician, or other qualified health-care provider, with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

MOUNTAINTOP CONCERT VENUE & RESTAURANT
PENN'S PEAK
LIVE MUSIC. GREAT TIMES.
325 MAURY ROAD
JIM THORPE, PA
PENN'SPEAK.COM
866-605-PEAK

Merry Christmas
The Kids Closet Sale
A Semi-Annual Children's Consignment Event
Learn more at www.thekidsclosetsale.com • Follow us on [f](https://www.facebook.com/thekidsclosetsale) • Shop next spring

OUTER BANKS, NORTH CAROLINA • VACATION RENTALS
500 VACATION HOMES
Selling fast for Summer 2022 due to need to escape covid
Brindley Beach
VACATIONS & SALES
Book now for best selection!
www.brindleybeach.com **877-642-3224**

A Spielbergian 'Story'

Director Steven Spielberg's retelling of "West Side Story" takes the classic 1957 Broadway musical to a whole new level of emotion, performance and production. It's spectacular, superb and a must-see, especially on a big screen in a movie theater.



AT THE MOVIES

By Paul Willistein
pwillistein@ttonline.com

The screenplay by Tony Kushner examines themes not immediately apparent, possibly overlooked or glossed over in the 1961 Hollywood movie version.

It's as if a classic or collectible car was restored, taken down to the frame and reassembled with new paint, interior and updated electronics and stereo while retaining the original appearance, beauty and aesthetics. (Speaking of cars, there's a bevy of circa 1957 rides in the "West Side Story" remake that should please car buffs.)

It's the details in the Spielberg movie that make the retelling of "West Side Story" so delightful, powerful and meaningful. Spielberg is a master storyteller. "West Side Story" is a masterful story.

Spielberg and Kushner not only remake the 1957 Broadway musical (six Tony Award nominations) and 1961 movie musical (11 Academy Award nominations), they dust off the primary source material, William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" (1597), about the star-crossed lovers from opposite sides of the warring families: House of Capulet and House of Montague, circa 13th-14th century Verona and Mantua, Italy.

The 1957 musical was conceived by Jerome Robbins, the show's choreographer, with music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Arthur Laurents. The musical, as with a classic car, motorboat or yacht, and well-designed and constructed house, has good bones. Spielberg and Kushner meticulously restore the best parts and navigate the Scylla and Charybdis of contemporary culture wars as best they can. They mostly succeed.

In Spielberg's and Kushner's amplification of the 1957 musical and 1961 movie, the turf is San Juan Hill, cleared by "master builder" Robert Moses for Lincoln Center, the 16.3-acre performing arts complex on New York City's Upper West Side.

The movie opens powerfully and symbolically with wrecking balls knocking down walls. An estimated 17,000 were displaced in the predom-

inantly African-American, Africo-Caribbean and Puerto Rican neighborhood. Jazz pianist Thelonious Monk and stride pianist James P Johnson lived in San Juan Hill.

In Robert Caro's Pulitzer-winning biography "The Power Broker" (1974), Moses is accused of using "urban removal," aka urban renewal, on black and Latino neighborhoods.

"West Side Story" opens exuberantly with a kaleidoscope of choreography, cinematography and editing in one of the most astounding opening sequences ever put on film. It's no mere backdrop, giving a whole new *raison d'être* to the warring Sharks, the Puerto Rican gang, and the Jets, the Italian and Eastern European gang. They are rebels with a cause.

This is no shiny Spielbergian suburban utopia, admittedly, with undertones of conflict, of some of his previous films (notably, "E.T." 1982). The world in "West Side Story" is a ghetto. The details, not only to clothes hanging from wash lines on fire escapes, but to the gritty interior of Doc's Drugstore, now run by Doc's widow, Valentina (Rita Moreno, Oscar winner, supporting actress, Anita, "West Side Story," 1961) and the worn-through linoleum on the floor of the apartment of Maria (Rachel Zegler) and her sister Anita (Ariana DeBose).

OK, that's granular. Big picture: "West Side Story" has some terrific performances, tremendous song and dance numbers and a profound conclusion that is Shakespearean in its tragedy.

The terrific numbers include: "Something's Coming," "Maria," "Tonight," "America" and "Gee, Officer Krupke."

The cinematography by Director of Photography Janusz Kaminski (Oscar, Cinematography, "Saving Private Ryan," 1998; "Schindler's List," 1993) recreates the splashy colors of films from Hollywood's Golden Age.

The production design (Adam Stockhausen, Oscar, production design, "The Grand Budapest Hotel," 2014), art direction, costume design and set decoration is phenomenal.

Spielberg (Oscar recipient: director, "Saving Private Ryan," 1998;

specific employability skills for entry-level positions.

Students can take courses in electives and one of seven career focus areas, including art, hospitality, health, general trades, educational support, technology and science.

Millersville University's Integrated Studies is a two- or four-year inclusive college initiative for young adults with an intellectual disability.

Information: Michelle Mitchell, mmitchell@lccc.edu



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY WALT DISNEY STUDIO MOTION PICTURES

Ansel Elgort (Tony), Rachel Zegler (Maria), "West Side Story."

picture, "Schindler's List," 1994; Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award, 1987; 14 Oscar nominations; 57 director credits on the Internet Movie Database) directs with consummate skill. Kushner (Oscar nominee, adapted screenplay, "Lincoln," 2013; adapted screenplay, "Munich," 2008; Pulitzer Prize, drama, "Angels in America," 1993) has made interesting and important changes in updating characters and storyline. Little is spared in the fight scenes.

Ansel Elgort ("Baby Driver," 2017; "The Fault in Our Stars," 2014) plays Tony as a responsible young man trying to go straight after a jail stint for assault and battery. Elgort moves well and sings lovely. He has the quiet screen presence of a young Marlon Brando.

Rachel Zegler (theatrical motion picture debut) is charming and engaging as Maria. She has a beautiful voice. The casting of Zegler and Elgort is perfect.

Ariana DeBose (TV's "Schmigadoon!," 2021) is strong and impressive as Anita.

David Alvarez (TV's "American Rust," 2021) is dynamic as Bernardo. Memorable in the huge cast: Brian d'Arcy James (Officer Krupke), Corey Stoll (Lt. Schrank), Mike Faist (Riff), Josh Andres Rivera (Chino) and Iris Menas (Anybodies).

Rita Moreno will be

nominated for another supporting actress Oscar for her role as Valentina. She may just win a second Oscar. Moreno brings a wealth of humanity to the role. She's given one of the show's signature songs, "Somewhere," and imbues the lyrics, "We'll find there's a way of forgiving," with whole new meaning. It becomes an "Imagine" for racial peace.

"West Side Story" is an iconic musical and movie. In Spielberg's and Kushner's interpretation, it is even more so. Look for multiple Oscar nominations.

"West Side Story," MPAA rated PG-13 (Parents Strongly Cautioned) Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. Parents are urged to be cautious. Some material may be inappropriate for pre-teenagers,) for some strong violence, strong language, thematic content, suggestive material and brief smoking; Genre, Musical, Drama, Romance; Run time: 2 hr., 36 min. Distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures.

Credit Readers Anonymous: Singer and songwriter Rachel Zegler, a Colombian-American, of Hackensack, N.J., was one of 30,000 to audition for the role of Maria in "West Side Story." She first played the role in a Performing Arts School production at Bergen Performing Arts Center, N.J. Filming took place

in Harlem, Brooklyn; Steiner Studios, Brooklyn Navy Yard, New York City; Newark, Essex County, and Paterson, N.J., where an outdoor set was built.

At The Movies: "West Side Story" was seen in the Dolby Theatre at AMC, AMC Center Valley 16, Promenade Shops at Saucun Valley, Upper Saucun Township.

Box Office: Dec. 17-19 weekend box office results were unavailable because of the early Focus section print deadline for the Christmas Day holiday.

More movie reviews: Paul Willistein reviews "Encanto," "King Richard," "Spencer," "Belfast," "Eternals," "The French Dispatch," "Dune" and other recent movie releases on the Lehigh Valley Press website on the Focus page. There is also box office information and theatrical movie releases opening dates: www.lvpnews.com

Unreel, Dec. 24:

"The Matrix Resurrections," R: Lana Wachowski directs Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Jessica Henwick in the Science-Fiction Action film. One world. Two realities. No, it's not fake news. It's The Matrix.

"The King's Man," R: Matthew Vaughn directs Ralph Fiennes,

Gemma Arterton, Rhys Ifans and Harris Dickinson in the Action Comedy. The Kingsman agency battles a cabal plotting a war.

"The Tragedy of Macbeth," R: Joel Coen directs Denzel Washington, Frances McDormand, Alex Hassell and Bertie Carvel in the Drama. The Scottish play gets a re-do.

"Sing 2," PG: Garth Jennings directs the voice talents of Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Scarlett Johansson and Tori Kelly and the Animation in the Musical Comedy.

"A Journal for Jordan," PG-13: Denzel Washington directs Michael B. Jordan, Tamara Tunie, Chanté Adams and Robert Wisdom in the Drama. A sergeant writes a journal for his son.

"American Underdog," PG: Andrew Erwin and Jon Erwin direct Zachary Levi, Anna Paquin, Dennis Quaid and Adam Baldwin in the Biography Drama. It's the story of NFL MVP and Hall of Fame quarterback, Kurt Warner.

This column is dedicated to Stephen Joshua Sondheim (March 22, 1930 - Nov. 26, 2021). In American musical theater, there are two eras: Before Sondheim and After Sondheim.



LCCC

Millersville pact

Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) and Millersville University have signed an agreement to provide an opportunity for students with an intellectual disability to achieve academic credentials.

The agreement is said to be the first of its kind in the United States.

LCCC's Cross-Institutional Studies program is designed to help college students develop

The Gold Standard in Pre-owned Auto Sales

All Vehicles Inspected & Guaranteed Free Vehicle History Reports Honest No-Haggle Pricing

We Buy Used Cars! Trades Welcome

Joshav Motors AUTO SALES

Open Monday thru Saturday 9am - 6pm closed Sunday over 30 cars on lot

4390 Lehigh Drive, Walnutport, Pa. 18088 610-760-3190

JOSHAV MOTORS, WHERE WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE!

Solutions Since 1975

HOME SOLUTIONS PARTNERS

Now Working Together, For You... With Countrywide Enterprises.

- Roofing • Siding • Windows
- FREE ESTIMATES
- Basement Finishing
- Decks & Fencing
- Home Designs & Builds
- Additions & Garages

The Best Solution for Building and Renovations. 100% Financing To Qualified Buyers

FIRE, WATER & STORM DAMAGE INSURANCE CLAIMS

Please visit our Showroom

3295 Forest Inn Road, Palmerton Weekdays (M-F) 9:00am to 5:00pm Evenings & Weekends by Appointment OR... CALL NOW! 610-824-2222 HOMESOLUTIONSPARTNERS.COM

BECKER Homes Established 1961 RT. 145 WALNUTPORT 610-767-5248 www.beckerhomesofpa.com

Check out our large selection of NEW Model Homes!

PRE-OWNED HOMES As low as \$15,000 Set up with lots of extras & ready to move in!!

Celebrating 60 years in business

Hours: Mon. & Thurs. 9-8 • Tues. & Wed. 9-5 • Fri. 9-4:30 • Closed Sat. & Sun.

