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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR THE BETHLEHEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 16, 2011

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50¢ A COPY

Rubbing road salt in local budget wounds

By **BERNIE O'HARE**
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

How much does it cost to keep the roads salted during this difficult winter weather?

These are the facts, as of Feb 8.

Tiny Fountain Hill, only 0.7 square miles large, has already spent \$9,372 of the \$12,000 earmarked for this year, according to Director of Finance Sook Choi. Freemansburg, only slightly larger at one square mile, is already over budget. Borough Manager Judy

Danko reports it's \$484 over the \$4,000 set aside for salt treatments.

Bethlehem Township Manager Howard Kutzler has spent \$23,167.90, about 70 percent of his budget. He thinks the township will make it through the winter, but is worried about next November and December.

Hanover Township has spent \$20,205.90 for salt this year at \$61.23 ton. Public Works Director Vince Milite told supervisors Feb. 8 that he's been waiting for a 100-ton delivery, and any additional

orders this year may come at a premium. That's not his only headache. One of his snowplows was swallowed Feb. 2 when a water line broke on Brentwood Avenue, opening up a sinkhole.

How about Bethlehem? With more than 300 miles of streets, the Christmas City has already spent \$200,000, blowing its budget. Director of Public Works Mike Alkahl explains that because of the frigid temperatures, it's been necessary to treat roads repeatedly.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hanover Township Public Works Director Vince Milite studies his sinking plow truck on Hanover's Brentwood Avenue.

COUNTY Judge rules petition valid

By **CAROL SMITH**
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

Finding that the Gracedale ballot initiative petition and its signatures are valid, Northampton County Judge Stephen Baratta ruled Feb. 9 that the Gracedale petition could be placed on the spring ballot.

Baratta's decision on a separate lawsuit filed by Northampton County's administration was not available as this issue of the Bethlehem Press went to print. The county's lawsuit, which was heard in Baratta's Common Pleas Court Feb. 11, seeks to determine if the petition, which asks the county not to sell or lease Gracedale for five years is in keeping with the county's Home Rule Charter.

Describing the objections filed by former attorney Bernie O'Hare and Councilman Ron Angle as a "political dispute between warring factions related to the sale of" Gracedale, the county's nursing home, Baratta denied that the challenges to the signatures and to the petitions violated the state's election code. After hours of testimony from O'Hare arguing that thousands of signatures were

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BETHLEHEM PRESS

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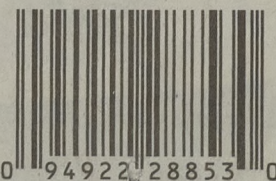


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BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Tiff over TIF

By **DOUGLAS GRAVES**
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

The Bethlehem Area School District Finance Committee, after acrimonious debate, voted Feb. 7 to put the Martin Tower TIF back on the school board's agenda for its next meeting scheduled for Feb 28.

The board voted 5 to 3 to put the TIF on the agenda. Loretta Leeson, a vocal opponent of the plan, was absent.

Supported by the administration last year, the TIF was defeated by the school board. It took on new life after Bethlehem Mayor John Callahan called at least two members of the school board and encouraged them to reconsider their previous opposition. Finance Committee Chair Eugene McKeon and school board member Aurea Ortiz both said that Callahan had called them. Both Ortiz and McKeon had voted against the TIF (tax incremental financing) plan when it last appeared before school board.

McKeon said in an interview new information had come up - specif-

UPDATE

Bethlehem Area School Board, sitting as the Curriculum Committee, on Feb. 14 took back the Valentine they had given to Mayor John Callahan and developer Lewis Ronca when they agreed to put the previously defeated Martin Tower TIF on the agenda for the regular school board meeting. Board member Loretta Leeson, who had not been at the meeting last week, opened the discussion and soon had her fellow board members voting 5 to 4 to reverse their decision made last week to reopen discussion on the controversial tax-based financial plan. It's not clear what further action the board will take on the matter.

ically that developers Lewis Ronca and his partner now plan to put up to 700 housing units on the plot of land that formerly housed the international headquarters of defunct Bethlehem Steel. However, Ronca's spokesman Duane Wag-

ner, who attended the meeting, would make no comment other than to say he attended the meeting to answer questions if the committee had any; however, Finance Committee Chair McKeon didn't call on him.

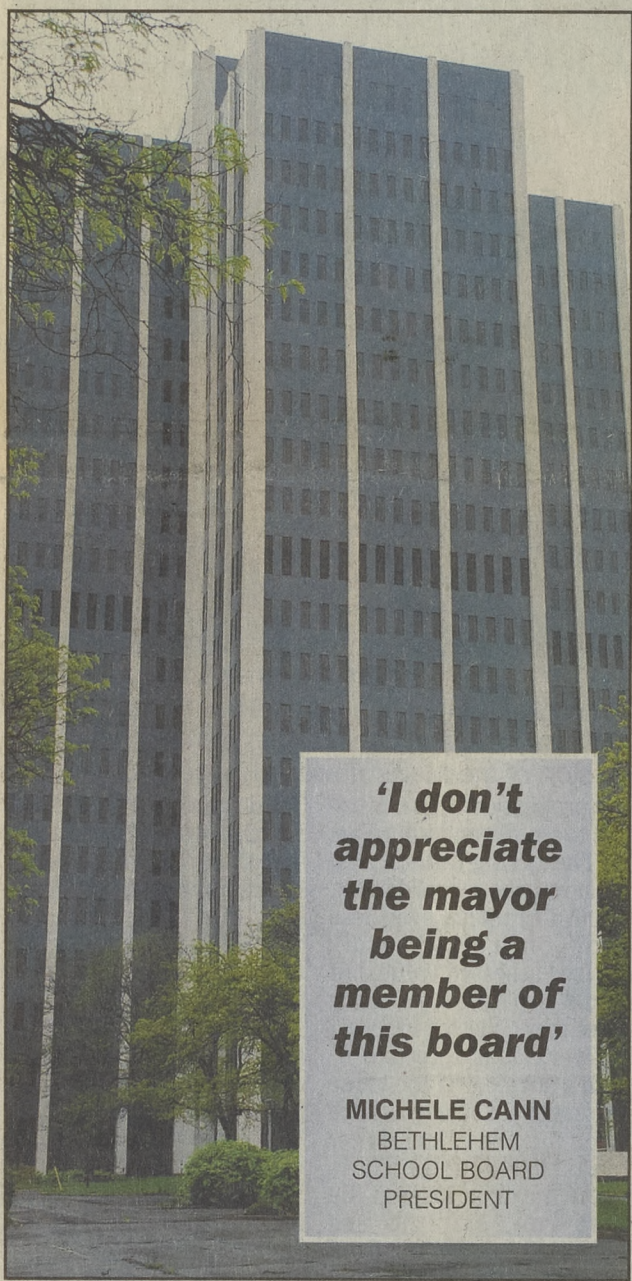
No new information was given beyond what the developers had presented last year.

At that time, Ronca had put forth a plan with 717 units. It is not clear if this is the number that McKeon was referencing when he said Ronca might build up to 700 housing units. Burkhardt estimated the number to be as high as 890 units.

After the meeting, Ronca representative Wagner said he didn't know where Burkhardt was getting the 890 number. Burkhardt didn't return a call to clarify where his higher number was coming from.

The school board is generally concerned that the cost of additional students would overburden the system.

Member Irene Follweiler maintained her opposition to the plan, saying, "I don't see anything new See **TIF** on Page A2



'I don't appreciate the mayor being a member of this board'

MICHELE CANN
 BETHLEHEM SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

PRESS FILE PHOTO

The Martin Tower building has been declared a blighted area due to asbestos throughout the structure.

'Let Me Go'

Marathon biker wants to 'pay it forward' by supporting hospice care

By **DANA GRUBB**
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, John-William (JW) Frye is building on personal tragedy to undertake a six-month, 7,500-mile bicycle journey from Key West, Fla., to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, in which he hopes to raise hospice awareness and funding for St. Luke's Hospice along the roadways and in the communities he visits on his trek.

The 27-year-old Sarasota, Fla., resident approached St. Luke's Hospice with the idea because his mother, Tara Mullin Wright, had received care and support from hospice in her valiant but unsuccessful battle with brain cancer in 2006. Frye has since lost his father to colon cancer.

Frye says he wants "to pay forward what was so freely given to me," citing the care not only given to mother, but to his family as they dealt with her

passing.

"Let Me Go; One Bike One Cause 7,500 Miles" will give Frye an opportunity to mirror the true spirit of hospice by demonstrating how important the support efforts of strangers can be.

"It will force me to rely on a vast network of new friends to support me," he said, explaining the similarities between his one-man trip and having a loved one being cared for in hospice. He plans to cycle at a 12-mph pace and will find shelter in a portable tent he'll carry with him.

Linda Moller, director of St. Luke's Hospice, thanked Frye for giving back to hospice.

Frye and Moller were joined by Keith Borch, director of the St. Luke's Visiting Nurse Association, and Phil Ensemble, past president and current board member of the Lehigh Valley Wheelman's Association. Olympic bicyclist

See **CARE** on Page A2



PRESS PHOTO BY DANA GRUBB

John-William Frye explains his personal journey through St. Luke's Hospice, saying they "nursed an entire family back to health."

CARE

Continued from page A1

medalist Marty Nothstein also attended to show support.

Frye will set out from Key West Feb. 23 and is scheduled to pass through the Lehigh Valley April 2. St. Luke's Hospice will also hold the first annual "Let Me Go" charity bike ride fundraiser at 9 a.m. April 2. Local residents and bicycling enthusiasts will be able to participate in rides of 11, 25 and 62 miles and all will begin and end at the Bob Rodale Cycling and Fitness Park in Trexlertown.

Participants may register at www.bikereg.com.



PHOTO BY DANA GRUBB
'JW' Frye warms up.

LEGION
Post needs rifle volunteers

The Harry F.W. Johnson Post #379 American Legion's Rifle Squad is in need of volunteers to conduct Military Honors at veteran's funerals. Military Honors, which currently average one per week, are considered an honor and a duty by squad members to fulfill the funeral wishes of departed veterans. Members are rotated, so it is not necessary to participate in every call up.

Joining the Johnson Post, or transferring to it if one is a member of the State Post, is required. Lapsed membership reinstatement is an option. Squad members are offered free membership

in the American Legion as long as a squad member remains active. Uniforms, with the exceptions of pants socks, socks and shoes, will be provided. M-1 Garand rifle and drills procedures will be addressed.

If you are a war time veteran, honorably discharged, the Legion meetings are on the first Monday of the month at 1900 hours (7 p.m.) at the D.A.R. Log Cabin in the Rose Garden, Eighth Avenue and West Union Boulevard. For more information, call Squad Leader John McCulloch at 610-866-8098, or Post #379 Commander Ralph Romano at 610-351-1720 or Past Commander Leonard Ziegler at 908-750-4110. The email address is lziegler2019@comcast.net.

PEACE CORPS

Former, prospective volunteers sought

The Peace Corps has been in operation for fifty years, and plans are under way for an anniversary celebration in Bethlehem. This will also be an opportunity for potential new volunteers to learn about the Peace Corps from people who have experience. To find out about the planned celebration or to share your experiences in the Peace Corps, please leave your name and contact information for Jennifer Lader at the Bethlehem Press office, phone number 610-625-2121.

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For the benefit of those affected by the recent gas explosion in Allentown...

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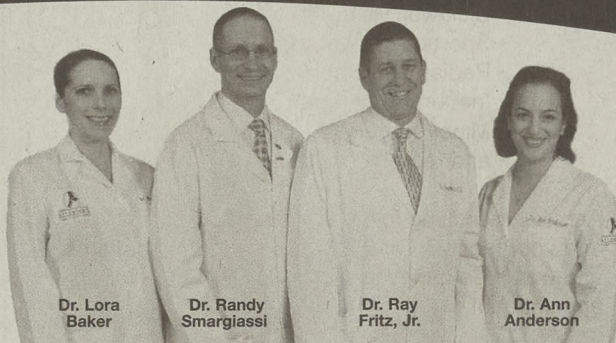
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Notre Dame teacher honored



PRESS PHOTO BY BERNIE O'HARE

At Notre Dame grade school in Bethlehem she's known as a stern eighth grade math teacher, a taskmaster who demands the very best from her students. But when the students go on to high school, they're glad that Maureen M. Thorley was one of their mentors. Hanover Township Supervisors honored Thorley at their Jan. 25 meeting for nine years of tireless dedication as committee chairperson of Boy Scout Troop 352, which is headquartered at Notre Dame of Bethlehem Church. Thorley was instrumental in helping 21 young men earn the rank of Eagle Scout. In addition to their proclamation, supervisors established the week of Feb. 6, 2011, as Maureen Thorley Week in Hanover Township. **ABOVE:** Honoree Maureen M. Thorley and some of her Notre Dame scouts.

TIF

Continued from page A1

here." Board President Michele Cann agreed with Follweiler.

"I don't appreciate the mayor being a member of this board," said Cann, clearly rankled that individual members had gotten calls from the mayor. Callahan defended his phone calls in a post-meeting interview.

"Is it OK for me to call board members? Yes," Callahan said. He said he went to school in the BASD system, his children go to BASD schools, and he lives in Bethlehem.

He said that the TIF has wrongly been characterized as a tax give-away.

"Nothing is further from the truth," Callahan said. "The school district stands to gain \$7.6 million to \$22.2 million over the next 20 years. It's in everyone's long-term best interest."

Ortiz said she has changed her mind and now wants the school board to reconsider the Martin Tower TIF to, "see how we could benefit in the long run."

"This is an opportunity to go back and reconsider," said Ortiz.

Michael Faccinnetto and school board Vice President William Burkhardt seemed open to the idea of putting the project back on the agenda.

"We are not giving up 100 percent of the [tax] revenue," Faccinnetto said. "Only 75 percent."

"This is not a typical TIF," Burkhardt said. "We would be getting revenue immediately."

The BASD school board, like school boards across the region, is faced with the prospect of property owners like Ronca asking that



PRESS PHOTO BY DOUGLAS GRAVES

Lewis Ronca employee Duane Wagner (right) looks as Mayor John Callahan talks with Luke Cunningham (squatting behind Wagner) during the Finance Committee's discussion of the Martin Tower TIF.

their properties be reassessed to reduce their tax burden.

Ronca and the school board have been in negotiations to reset the Martin Tower property's value

Callahan, who attended the meeting but was not invited to speak, told The Press that Ronca has offered to settle with the school board for a value of \$6 million if the school board will approved the TIF. Callahan said that Ronca has an appraisal that sets the value at \$4.6 million.

At one point last year, Lehigh County was reportedly considering dropping the assessed value to \$1.7 million. For a property that 10 years ago was assessed at \$31.5 million, it has been a steep slide.

If the developer succeeds in revitalizing the property, the taxing authorities, BASD, the City of Bethlehem and Lehigh County may see their tax revenues from the property start to increase at a time when all three are in poor financial shape.

Currently the developers are losing money by paying taxes and maintenance on

the property, which continues to sit idle and unusable.

The taxing authorities, including the school district, stand to receive even less taxes on a downwardly revised assessed value, but would also have to pay back taxes they collected in 2010 if a lower rate is agreed to.

It's not clear if the value reassessment struggles have given the school board new reason to revisit the TIF to see if it can, at least in the long run, start to see improved tax income from the blighted property.

A TIF is a way to use future gains in taxes to finance current improvements, which theoretically will create the conditions for those future gains. After a public project such as a road, school or hazardous waste cleanup, there is often an increase in the value of surrounding real estate, and perhaps new investment such as new or rehabilitated buildings.

The Martin Tower building has been declared a blighted area due to asbestos throughout the structure.

Last August Callahan supported a TIF for Martin

Tower, emphasizing that the city had worked hard to get the asbestos-plagued 21-story building and its adjacent buildings "certified to be blighted" and thus qualifying the property to be eligible for a TIF.

"You have much to gain and little risk," Callahan told the board in August, a position he repeated to The Press in an interview last week.

Callahan said that Bethlehem City Council President Robert Donchez supports a TIF for the property.

Lehigh County Director of Community and Economic Development Cindy Feinberg, in August, also spoke in support of a TIF. Lehigh County Commissioner Glenn Eckhart supported a TIF. He said that Lehigh County Commissioners also support it.

BASD Superintendent Joseph Roy kept his opinion to himself when asked if the administration still supports the Martin Tower TIF. He said it's a school board initiative if it wants to reconsider the TIF.

Attention Veterans, Spouses and Widows of Veterans

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Wednesday, February 16

YWCA's Great Decisions Lecture Series, 11:30 a.m. Auditorium, 1 Kirkland Village Circle. Call 610-867-4669.
Fountain Hill Council work session, 7 p.m. 941 Long St.
Hellertown Zoning Hearing Board, 7 p.m. 685 Main St.

Thursday, February 17

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

Saturday, February 19

League of Women Voters coffee with legislators, 9:30 a.m., Moravian Village, 526 Wood St. Visit lwv.org/NCVoter_1_11.pdf.
Multi-choir "Spirit Divine" concert for Black History Month, 4:30 p.m. St. Peter's Lutheran, 474 Vine St. Call 610-865-2888.
Moravian College Conservation Association's Israel film adventure, 7:30 p.m. Collier Hall of Science. Call 610-730-8451.

Monday, February 21

First Presbyterian Church Hi Neighbors, 10 and 11:15 a.m. 2344 Center St.
Bethlehem Township Board of Commissioners, 7 p.m. Municipal Building, 4225 Easton Ave.
Fountain Hill Zoning Board, 7 p.m. 941 Long St.
Freemansburg Council, 7 p.m. 600 Monroe St.
Hellertown Council, 7 p.m. 685 Main St.

Tuesday, February 22

Freemansburg Zoning Board, 7 p.m. 600 Monroe St.
Hanover Township Supervisors, 7:30 p.m. 3630 Jack-sonville Road.
Saucon Valley School Board, 7:30 p.m. Audion building, 2097 Polk Valley Road.

Wednesday, February 23

YWCA's Great Decisions Lecture Series, 11:30 a.m. Auditorium, 1 Kirkland Village Circle. Call 610-867-4669.
Bethlehem Parking Authority, 4:30 p.m. 85 W. North St.
Bethlehem Township Zoning Hearing, 6:30 p.m. 4225 Easton Ave.
Colonial Northampton I.U. Board, 6:30 p.m. 6 Danforth Dr., Easton.
Bethlehem Zoning Hearing Board, 7 p.m. Town Hall, 10 E. Church St.
City of Bethlehem Zoning Board, 7 p.m. 10 E. Church St.
Lehigh Co. Board of Commissioners, 7:30 p.m. public hearing room, Government Center, 17 S. Seventh St., Allentown.

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

COLLEGE NOTES

Northampton Community College Financial aid, FAFSA workshops Feb. 23

NCC will hold a financial aid workshop at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 23, in room 220, College Center at the Main Campus, Bethlehem Township, for parents and students planning to attend NCC.

There will be two FAFSA sessions to assist those filling out the FAFSA application. Sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on both March 5 at the Main Campus, Library, Bethlehem Township, and on March 12 at the Fowler Family Southside Center, Room 503.

The sessions are a public service and are not limited to students attending NCC. Call 610-861-5510 to RSVP.

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 more information, contact NCC at 610-861-5300 or 1-877-543-0998 or visit www.northampton.edu.

Moravian College

Tworowski to address students Feb. 22

Jamie Tworowski, founder of the global movement "To Write Love On Her Arms (TWLOHA)", will speak at 8 p.m. Feb. 22 in Prosser Auditorium, Haupt Union Building. TWLOHA is a nonprofit group dedicated to helping those who suffer from depression, addiction, self-injury and suicidal tendencies find hope, support and love. Attendance is limited to students. Tworowski founded TWLOHA in 2006 to tell the story of a friend in need. TWLOHA has the largest online audience of any non-profit on Facebook and MySpace. The organization has donated \$500,000 to help fund treatment. It has been featured on NBC Nightly News, in Rolling Stone magazine and more.

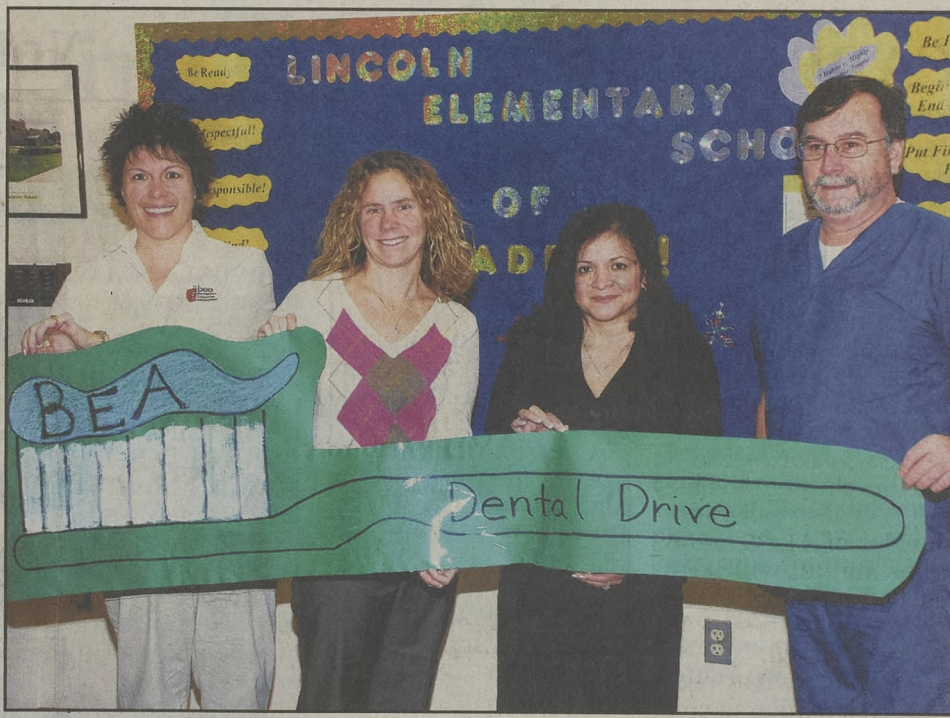
Moravian College is located at 1200 Main St. For more information, call 610-861-1300 or visit www.moravian.edu.



The St. Luke's Hospital dental van.

What a smile

The Bethlehem Education Association collected more than 2,000 dental items to support the St. Luke's Hospital dental van services, which were provided to 1,637 BASD students in 2010. Items collected included toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss. The 1,076-member BEA expressed its appreciation recently by presenting a large toothbrush to dental van staff.



PRESS PHOTO BY DANA GRUBB

BEA president Jolene Vitalos and BEA public relations rep Chrissy Santana present a ceremonial toothbrush to St. Luke's Hospital manager of dental operations Maribel Rivera and Dr. Thomas Madara, DMD, FICOI, FAGD. Madara works in the hospital's public health dental van two days a week. The presentation took place at Lincoln ES, where BEA members donated the largest amount of dental supplies.

CACLV fights for funds
Proposed federal cuts could doom shelters

By NATE JASTRZEMSKI
njastrzowski@ttonline.com

President Barack Obama's State of the Union address Jan. 25 included messages of support to businesses, teachers, allies and gays serving in the military, but a single sentence sent chills down the spines of those involved with community support.

The Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley could be struck a tremendous blow if proposed cuts to federal spending on community grants pass. The White House is currently seeking a 50 percent cut, while Congress wants 60 percent, said CACLV Executive Director Alan Jennings.

"The Senate will be our savior if there will be one," he added in a tone of finality.

CACLV, with its 120 employees, gets about 1/12 of its funding from an "obscure" federal grant worth \$900 million, Jennings explained. Of the approximate thousand similar agencies, CACLV receives \$860,000, which will amount to about 1/12 of its \$20 million bud-

get this year.

That grant amount may sound huge, but it's a proverbial drop in the bucket for the federal government, adding up to only about \$6 for each of 140 million taxpayers. But if cut in half, CACLV and its sister organizations nationwide could become ghosts of their former selves.

Jennings said CACLV supports or administers numerous programs, including the Second Harvest Food Bank, Sixth Street Shelter and Safe Harbor Easton, and helps people save money, weatherize their homes and extend bank credit.

A 50 percent cut of the grant would likely close the doors of Safe Harbor Easton and Community Action Development Corporation of Allentown. CADC of Bethlehem and others would be "difficult to operate" he said, while more, like Work Ready, would have to be picked up by other agencies.

A handful of programs, like Second Harvest and the Sixth Street Shelter, might be able to survive on

their own, but only a few programs would actually be safe.

CACLV is a particularly lean-running machine, spending only about 7.6 percent of its budget on administrative costs, whereas most nonprofits spend more than 10 percent, but if the grant were cut entirely, Jennings said, "The whole thing falls apart. Self-sustaining programs would survive but the organization will cease to exist," because the grant pays for administration and fundraising.

Jennings said important aspects of their work - community problem-solving and guarding residents from predatory banking processes - would end.

"Everything we get fame or notoriety for would be gone," he said.

"Our effort right now is to get our friends and allies to press our elected representatives not to let this happen," Jennings said. "We have every intention of standing up and fighting to enable us to continue to solve this community's problems."

RULES

Continued from page A1

obtained improperly and that some petition collectors were not Northampton County registered voters, Baratta found that the Gracedale petition had met the required 10 percent of signatures of Northampton County voters.

To understand the judge's ruling requires an understanding of other legal precedents. In this case, Baratta relied on a Supreme Court decision that said "challenges to individual signatures must have proof of what

makes them invalid and must contain the exact page number and line number of the petition. Because Baratta was not convinced that the challenged signatures or other information in the petition were problematic, he ruled in favor of the validity of the petition.

According to O'Hare, there were about 3,500 invalid signatures of the more than 23,000 signatures collected. For the petition to go on the spring ballot only about 19,631 were needed.

According to Angle, "I believe they didn't meet the number of required voters." Baratta even added signatures that the

registrar's office did not certify as valid, he added.

Angle did not see much hope that the county's lawsuit would be upheld. County solicitor Karl Longenbach argued in Baratta's court that the Gracedale question violates the charter's ban on voters interfering with matters involving the budget and capital programs.

For Angle, the next step is to let it go on the ballot. As an additional step, he thinks sending out letters informing the public that a vote for keeping Gracedale is a vote for a tax increase of 15 percent to 18 percent is also needed.

BRIEFLY

SAT PREP
Classes to begin
March 5

The City of Bethlehem Southside Recreation Department and Northampton Community College will hold SAT Prep classes in math, English, and verbal areas. Classes begin March 5 and are held at NCC Main and South Side campuses. Students must live in South Bethlehem. Class size is limited; register by Feb. 18. Call 610-997-7971 for information.

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STATE POLICE

DUI

Colonial Regional Police arrested 42-year-old Heather Frantz around 2:30 a.m. Jan. 20 after a brief car chase. According to police, they observed a white Ford Contour entering the parking lot of the Route 512 Turkey Hill when it crossed the median and struck a road sign. When they attempted to flag the car down it sped off through a red light at Sterners Way. Police relocated the car at Southland Drive and pulled it over. The driver initially gave a false name and birthdate and smelled strongly of alcohol, police said. When her real name was discovered, officers found Frantz was wanted on an active warrant for failure to appear in Northampton County Court for a previous DUI. Frantz was processed at Bethlehem DUI Center and remanded to Northampton County Sheriff's Department.

AREA POLICE
Disorderly

Freemansburg Police arrested a man they found standing on Ramblewood Lane with his pants down around 6 p.m. Feb 9. When officers asked what the man was doing, he allegedly answered, "Urinating." Police said Keith Schenck, 54, of Ramblewood's 600 block, smelled strongly of alcohol and is charged with disorderly conduct and public drunkenness.

GOT NEWS?
Call 610-625-2121

Zoners reject landlord's request
Deplorable conditions detailed at Southside rental property

By **BERNIE O'HARE**
Special to the Bethlehem Press

As the president of the local Korean American Association, it's his "duty" to help people who need housing. That's the reason Hyoung Joon Park gave to the Bethlehem Zoners for wanting to convert 454 Carlton Ave. from a single family detached dwelling into a two-family home, with separate apartments on the first and second floor, and storage on the third floor.

Sometimes, he explained, he just looks into someone's eyes and wants to help, even if a prospective tenant is unable to afford a security deposit. But Bethlehem Housing Inspector Suzanne Borzak, at a Feb. 10 hearing, questioned Park's intentions.

Over the six years that he's owned this property, Park testified he has used it only as a single-family dwelling. But he explained that most tenants only need one or two bedrooms.

"I'm always troubled when I see a single unit



PRESS PHOTO BY BERNIE O'HARE

Hyoung Joon Park responds to questions from city housing inspector Suzanne Borzak.

converted into apartments," cautioned Zoner William Fitzpatrick. He had to be troubled even more when Borzak, employed as a housing inspector for the past three years, detailed a pattern showing that Park has been renting all three floors to multiple families.

Borzak stated that when Park purchased his

property no inspection was done. When the city discovered there was no inspection, Park was contacted, 454 Carlton was inspected and a certificate of occupancy was issued, but only for a single-family dwelling.

On Nov. 4, 2010, a cease and desist order was issued when it was discovered that Park was using the property as a

combination church and single family dwelling. An inspection at that time revealed that the place was also home to several families of rats, fleas and cockroaches.

On Jan. 25, another cease and desist order was issued when it was discovered that Park was using 454 Carlton as a multi-family dwelling. In response to a no-heat complaint from a tenant, Borzak visited the property Jan. 27. She learned Park is currently using all three floors as a multi-family unit.

Plug-in space heaters were the only source of heat.

Borzak took 10 pictures revealing, among other things, rat feces, exposed wires, inoperable sinks and loose floorboards.

Park complained about the pictures, claiming that nobody called him and that his tenants were responsible for those conditions.

Zoners unanimously rejected Park's application.

CITY POLICE
Assault

Police arrested Ricardo Chery, 28, of East Fourth Street, Feb. 10 for assaulting a young girl the week prior.

According to police, an 11-year-old girl walking to Donegan ES around 9 a.m. Feb. 4 reported she was followed and grabbed by an unknown man. The man crossed streets to stay on her trail and rushed her from behind, but the victim managed to free herself by elbowing him.

Information gleaned from the community and police and business surveillance cameras led officers to Chery, who was arrested without incident. Clothing matching the description given by the victim was recovered in his home.

Chery is charged with two counts of indecent assault, disorderly conduct, corruption of minors, unlawful contact, reckless endangerment and unlawful restraint.

Anyone with additional information for this or similar incidents should call Det. Moses Miller at 610-997-7674.

Robbery

A man bearing a pistol robbed the 2930 Linden St. 7-Eleven store around 6:15 a.m. Feb. 9.

According to police the suspect grabbed an undisclosed amount of cash and cigarettes before fleeing the area on foot. No one was injured.

The suspect is described as a dark-skinned male in his 20s, standing about 5 feet, 10 inches tall with a medium build. He wore a dark hooded jacket and a mask covering the lower part of his face.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Jason Fulmer at 610-997-7682.

Elias expansion case continues

By **BERNIE O'HARE**
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Following a performance that could rival Hamlet, Bethlehem Planning Chair Larry Krauter single-handedly persuaded Elias Farmers Market to grant a 90-day extension for plan approval at a Feb. 10 meeting. It's the latest chapter of a zoning saga that pits a busy market's desire to expand against neighbors concerned about their quality of life.

For a second time, Bethlehem Planners listened as engineer Steve Pany detailed plans for a three-bay loading dock, as well as landscaping changes, at Elias' Linden Street market. But as passionate as ever, Sue Fang listed concerns about a loading dock only 40 feet from her back yard, idling trucks and noisy HVAC coolers.

Calling the Zoning Hearing Board "inept," Al Bernotas announced that his neighborhood group,

the Bethlehem Homeowners Association, has again appealed a Zoning Hearing Board decision that would allow an Elias expansion to 19,279 square feet. He claimed his real argument is with zoners, not Elias.

"I can't wait until this is all over so I can go into Elias to buy bread," he said.

But he also claimed that the Elias family, during a meeting with Bethlehem neighbors, had bragged about "inside connections" at the courthouse that

would assure them victory on appeal. That comments brought the usually quiet George Azar, one of the market's owners and managers, to his feet.

"What did he say?" he angrily demanded.

Yong Hao appealed to planners, stating, "I know there is something you guys can do."

But Krauter answered that, although "sensitive to your situation," planners' sole role is to determine whether the plan sub-

See **ELIAS** on Page A6

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Board OKs preliminary budget

By DOUGLAS GRAVES
Special to the Bethlehem Press

BASD: NEWS ANALYSIS

At a special school board meeting Feb. 7, Bethlehem Area School Board approved a preliminary budget for school year 2011-2012. The proposed budget contemplates expenditures of \$212,540,516 or \$5 million more than the current budget.

Still, it is \$3 million less than last month's "insulting" – as school board member Loretta Leeson described it – preliminary budget.

This time, the board approved the budget with little comment. Board Vice President William Burkhardt implied that the administration would reduce the numbers even more.

"We have a lot of work to do before adoption in June," said the former Liberty HS principal.

The preliminary budget passed 6-2. Rosario Amato and Irene Follweiler voted against the budget. Loretta Leeson was absent.

In the Finance Committee meeting, the school board approved the Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 proposed budget as presented by CIU 20's Executive Director Charlene Brennan. BASD's contri-

bution to their budget will be \$102,448.81.

The administration's numbers show projected revenues for 2011-2012 (\$204,863,025.00) are down 1.15 percent from last year leaving a \$7,677,491 difference between what the school district needs to spend and what is expected to get in revenues.

The 2.55 percent increase in expenditures is the smallest increase proposed in a preliminary budget in more than a decade, according to documents provided by the administration.

However, at the same time, revenues are down 1.15 percent, which, according to the administration, is the largest decline in more than 10 years and creates significant pressures on next year's

budget.

If the administration strives for a zero percent tax rate increase, this \$7.7 million budget gap could be closed by reducing expenditures or by getting more money from the federal or state government.

Neither of these options seem likely because state and federal funds are drying up and the school board quietly raised teachers' salaries last year, to the public's surprise. The three-hour period between ratifying the teachers' contract and the school board's approval assured practically no public comment.

A 1.7 percent tax rate (0.7508 mills) as allowed by law under Act 1 would reduce the gap by \$2.1 million. That

would leave the gap at \$5.5 million.

The likely option is for BASD to raise taxes by seeking state approval of certain exceptions by the state Department of Education.

Act 1 allows for "exceptions" which could let the school board seek a 6.16 percent tax increase and this option, seen as the most likely, would decrease the gap between income and expenses to zero.

This will put the 2011-2012 millage rate at 46.8905 up from the current 44.17. One mil is worth \$2,822,125. income to the school district.

If the referendum tax question should fail, it would force BASD to cut or reduce programs from the budget. For this reason, BASD is unlikely to seek a referendum.

The referendum exceptions built into Act 1 allow a district to raise taxes beyond the new inflationary index cap (this year, 1.7 percent). The exception categories provide partial relief for increases in the cost of special education, retirement expenses and health care; emergencies and disasters; and some school construction projects.



DOUGLAS GRAVES
CIU 20's Executive Director Charlene Brennan.



Ginger is a small girl that originally came in with a larger dog but would prefer to be the only pet in her new home. She came to us with a skin condition but is looking much better. She is affectionate and walks nicely on a leash.



After 7 years in his home, Uno parted with his owners, who were moving. He has had surgery to remove a mass on his chest. He is front and back paw declawed. He is up to date on his shots and litter trained.

ELIAS

Continued from page A5

mitted "meets the conditions of the zoning hearing board decision and the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance."

Noting the appeal, Planner Jim Fiorentino moved that planners reject Elias' plan.

"I, for one, am not interested in voting for a plan that is not the final plan," he reasoned. He added that Elias should move the HVAC system closer to Linden street and away from the neighbors.

But planner Steve Thode disagreed.

"I believe the applicant has complied with all the applicable land development guidelines. They have been responsive, not only to their neighbors in a variety of ways, but also with our planning staff. I don't know what more the applicant can do to satisfy us as a planning commission."

He added that the zoning appeal should be irrelevant.

"I cannot see how litigation is going to affect the site plan," he reasoned. "It didn't affect it the first time. So obviously, I don't see where it's going to be an issue the second time."

Andrew Twigg joined Fiorentino in voting to reject the plan. Katie Lynch joined Thode in voting to accept the plan. This left everything up to Chairman Krauter. In the middle of a vote, disregarding Robert's Rules, Krauter weighed the pluses and minuses of the plan for more than a half-hour.

Finally, he reached out to Elias and asked the market's representatives to agree to continue this matter for 90 days, giving them more time to talk to their neighbors.

Engineer Steve Pany agreed.

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ACS Training set for Feb. 28

The American Cancer Society is currently recruiting licensed cosmetologists to volunteer as facilitators for the Look Good...Feel Better program. Volunteers will be trained to conduct sessions that teach female cancer patients how to use make-up and accessories to minimize appearance-related side effects

of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. A new facilitators training session will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Lehigh Valley Unit office, 3893 Adler Place. To register, call 610-921-2329, ext. 3006.

HELLERTOWN Applications due March 11

The Hellertown Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce partner of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Chamber of Commerce is seeking applicants for its annual \$1,000 scholarship Phyllis M. Schnaible Merit Award. The scholarship is open to any high school senior who resides in the Saucon Valley School District and who will graduate in 2011 from either Saucon Valley High School or any non-public school. The student must be accepted to a post-secondary school which the student will attend this fall. The application deadline is March 11. The winner will be honored at the

annual banquet on April 8. The award is dedicated to the memory of Schnaible, a chamber board member who was part of the Merit award committee. She was an 11 year director of the Saucon Valley Community Center and managed the SVCC's "Fore" and "Aft" programs. For information and application forms, call 610-841-5804 or email EllieP@lehighvalleychamber.org.

WOMEN VOTERS Coffee meeting set for Feb. 19

The League of Women Voters of Northampton County will hold a "Coffee with Our Legislators" from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Feb. 19. The meeting will be held at Moravian Village, 526 Wood St. All state senators and representatives from Northampton County have been invited. League members will

ask legislators questions about government transparency, natural gas extraction in the Marcellus Shale, judicial independence and other issues. The League cordially invites members of the public to meet and ask questions of our representatives from the 135th District Steve Samuelson, 136th District Robert Freeman and 133rd District, Joseph Brennan. For more information, see www.lwvlv.org/NCVoter_1_11.pdf.

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100's Lined up Yesterday at the Hilton Garden Inn Allentown- Airport for The Vintage Guitar Show.

By Bryan Durbin
STAFF WRITER

The International Vintage Guitar Collectors Association will be placing ads in newspapers, radio and running television spots this week asking people to bring in any and all guitars. Those that do bring in their guitars will be able to speak with collectors one on one and have their items looked at with an expert set of eyes. With the help of these IVGCA members, offers will be made to those that have vintage and modern guitars. Those made before 1970 are most valuable. All guitars will be examined and purchased including vintage guitars, acoustic guitars, banjos, any and all other types of musical instruments. Those that decide to sell their items will be paid on the spot.

If you are like a lot of people, you might have an old Vintage Guitar lying around. If you have ever wondered what it's worth, now might be your chance to find out and even sell it, if you choose. Vintage guitars could be worth a lot according to the International Vintage Guitar Collectors Association also known as IVGCA. Collectors will pay a fortune for Vintage Guitars, Banjos, Acoustic Guitars and even Drum Sets for their collections. If they are rare enough, one could be worth over \$100,000 according to David McIntosh, Vintage Guitar Collector and IVGCA member. One 1960 Gibson Les Paul went for \$100,000 to a collector in July of 2007. While that is an extreme example, many rare and valuable guitars are stashed away in attics, closets, basements, or in a garage around the country. The IVGCA and its collectors have organized a traveling event in search of all types of Vintage Guitars and Instruments. "Even common guitars can be worth a significant amount due to high collector demands," says McIntosh. The rarest guitars these collectors are looking for include: Martin, Gibson, Gretsch and Rickenbacker. These guitars always bring big premiums according to the IVGCA.

While the IVGCA's specialty is guitars, they are also examining other instruments, including drum sets, banjos, flutes, clarinets, etc. The

IVGCA says, "You never really know what you have until your item is evaluated by experts." Whatever kind of instrument you may have, bring it in to our experts. Think about it. You could walk away \$100,000 richer!"

So, whether you have one instrument you think might be valuable or a large collection you recently inherited, you can talk to these collectors for free. If you're lucky, you may have a rarity worth thousands. Either way, there is nothing to lose and it sounds like fun.

Here's How It Works:

- Gather any and all musical instruments there is no limit to the amount of items you can bring.
- No appointment necessary.
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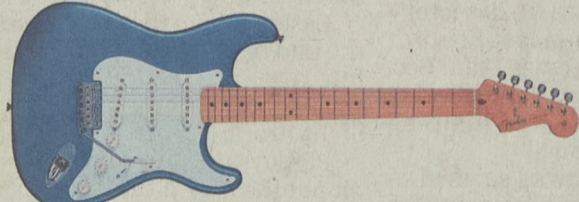
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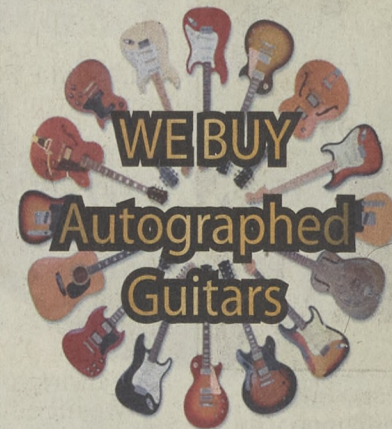
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• St. Catharines' Jean-Claude Mallais brought in his rare 1956 Hofner Custom Special Deluxe guitar to see what kind of offer he could get for the instrument he purchased for about \$700 at a flea market 10 years ago. Jean-Claude walked away \$2500 richer.





Touchstone Theatre Apprentices Anne Losq, above, left, and Mariel Iezzoni, above, right, showcase their original works-in-progress in "Fresh Voices: The Matter of Moments," 8 p.m. Feb. 18, 19, Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. Fourth St., Bethlehem.

'Fresh Voices'

Touchstone Theatre apprentices find 'Moments' matter

By PAUL WILLISTEIN
Focus Editor



For Bethlehem native Mariel Iezzoni, it's a return to the stage that inspired her.

For Paris, France, native Anne Losq, it's about the last time she saw Paris.

For both, it's "Fresh Voices," the annual Touchstone Theatre Apprentices' showcase of original works-in-progress, 8 p.m. Feb. 18, 19, Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. Fourth St., Bethlehem.

Iezzoni, a first-year apprentice, and Losq, a second-year apprentice, subtitle the piece, "The Matter of Moments." Each presents a solo work and join for a third in the approximate one hour and 15 minute performance (with no intermission).

Touchstone's Apprentice Program selects emerging and transitioning artists to study within the company, which has observed its 30th anniversary.

The apprentices' work includes acting, stage management, playwriting, teaching, prop-making, technique classes, box office, lighting design, project management and marketing. In the last decade, Touchstone has graduated 35 theater artists from its apprentice program.

In her new work, Losq plays multiple characters and employs movement, poetry and puppets (which she made). Sarah, her main character, travels to "The Third Place."

"It's more in the realm of an imagined landscape," Losq explains. "The words, Third Place, are linked to the sociological phenomenon called the Third Culture Kid."

The term describes sons and daughters, for example, of missionaries and military parents. "Their sense

of self has been molded by the different cultures they've been in," says Losq, herself cross-cultural with a French father and American mother. "I relate to that sense of not always knowing where you come from. I have that feeling of coming from two places," notes Losq, who received a BA in theater studies from the Royal Holloway campus of the University of London and an MA in dramaturgy from the Sorbonne Nouvelle University.

The theme has intensely interested her for some time. She began articulating the 20-minute piece last year. Rehearsals began in January.

"It's a journey for the audience. It's generally finding what the third place is, which is transition, which is a beautiful place," Losq says.

Important to the process were three "sharings" with Touchstone Ensemble members, for feedback and pointers. "We definitely have an exterior eye," says Losq.

At Touchstone, Losq performed in "Christmas City Follies X" and "XI," "Fresh Voices" 2010, and was stage manager for last year's "The Pan Show" and "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog."

Losq and Iezzoni brainstormed the "Fresh Voices" subtitle, "The Matter of Moments," even before they wrote their works. "It's tangible and ephemeral at the same time and that's exactly what moments are," Losq says of the subtitle.

Iezzoni's first original

work, also 20 minutes in length, was inspired by a true story told to her by her grandfather.

"The power of a good story has such an ability to reveal things in life and in ourselves," Iezzoni notes.

"I was especially inspired by a story of my grandfather during the Korean War. It was about how they had run out of water. He went in search of water," says Iezzoni, who graduated last year from The Pennsylvania State University with a double major in theater and English.

There are multiple characters in Iezzoni's documentary-like work.

Iezzoni reasons that storytelling evokes empathy. Of the work's surprise plot twist — which won't be revealed here, Iezzoni says, "Such a small thing can speak to a multitude of situations."

Iezzoni and Losq join for the 30-minute final work, a collaborative piece about two sisters.

"We were trying to find a through-line to work together," Losq says.

"We realized that both of us tend to gravitate toward things that relate to family. So, it made sense to explore that. And also to use that fact that we're young women in theater to its full potential," says Losq.

"In terms of theater dynamics, it's more of a realistic piece," Iezzoni says.

"We have sort of a realistic dialogue and a realistic plot. But it does abstract into memory moments," Iezzoni says.

"It's two sisters exploring their home. We're showing some of that relationship by showing the childhood memory. You could call them flash-

backs, but we call them memory moments," says Iezzoni.

"Fresh Voices" brings Iezzoni full circle. She attended Touchstone Theater as a child with her family to see a performance by storyteller Jay O'Callahan.

"I was so inspired by his performance. And now I'm doing a storytelling piece on the same stage 10 - 15 years later," Iezzoni says, a sense of marvel in her voice.

Of Touchstone, Iezzoni observes, "It's been for me personally a breath of fresh air. It is so rare to find a group of people who are dedicated to creating original work that is relevant to the arts but also to our community."

"Fresh Voices" brings Losq to a destination. She was in Paris, looking for an internship in the United States. Touchstone was listed on the web site for the International Theatre School Jacques Lecoq, Paris, founded by the legendary French movement artist (1921-1999).

"It seemed to fit exactly what I liked about theater. I sent in a video audition," Losq says.

Of Touchstone, Losq observes, "That the theater has such high standards is something that I really love. And it's really an ensemble. Any show that you're in, you're really in it together. And there's a connectiveness between the actors."

Appropriately enough, "Unison," an exhibit of work by 15 area visual artists curated by Loly Reynolds, is in the Touchstone Gallery.

"Fresh Voices: The Matter of Moments" is presented on a "Pay What You Will" admission basis. Ticket information: 610-867-1689

8 DAYS A WEEK

Your look ahead at Valley Arts



PRESS PHOTO BY SHERI BAYNE
Jazz interface: The Jazz Cabaret Series continues with New Kind of Talk at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Rodale Community Room, Symphony Hall, 23 N. Sixth St., Allentown. The jazz-fusion group's latest CD, "Songs Out of Character," is expected to be available at the concert. The lineup is, above, from left, Dave Libecap, electronic keyboards; founder-composer Jim McGee, electric bass; Wayne Maura, drums; Bill Washer, electric guitar; and Michael Trach, saxophone, flute. 610-432-6715

See **STORY:** Page B2



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE
They're naturals: The Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission exhibit, "Winnie and Jim Nature Studies," continues through Feb. 28 in the Rotunda Gallery, City Hall, Payrow Plaza, 10 E. Church St., Bethlehem. The work of James Harmon, including "Birch Tree" (charcoal on artist's paper, 12 in. x 12 in., 2005), above, and Winifred Helton-Harmon is on view 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Says James Harmon, "The work chosen for this show is a new direction for me. In the past few years I have chosen to study nature - specifically trees. The drawings and photos you see here are my first steps in that direction."



PRESS PHOTO BY PAUL WILLISTEIN
Show up: "The Art Behind the Instruction: Artists who Teach at Penn State Lehigh Valley" continues through Feb. 19 at the Penn State Lehigh Valley campus. The exhibition includes drawing, painting, sculpture, jewelry and photography by, above, Jacqueline McLaughlin, Greta Brubaker, Kate Morgan, Ron DeLong, Kevin Kelley, gallery director Ann Lalik and Glen Hansen. Work by Jeanine Hill and Ann Williams is also included. The gallery, on the third floor of the campus building, 2809 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley, is open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Thursday.

More **8 DAYS A WEEK:** Page B4

March 15 deadline to enter student poems

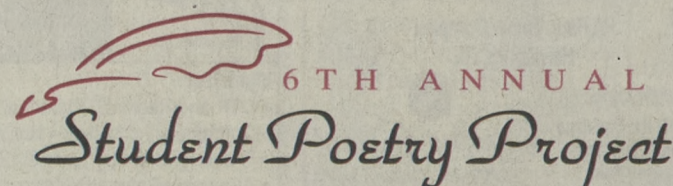
The sixth annual Student Poetry Project is accepting poems.

In celebration of National Poetry Month in April, the top three poems in the Elementary, Middle and High School categories will be published in the April 27 and 28 Focus section of the Lehigh Valley Press newspapers.

The Lehigh Valley Press Newspapers received a Readership Initiative Award in 2010 for the Student Poetry Project from the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association Foundation.

The student whose poem places first in each category may have his or her photo published.

First-place winners are invited to read their poems on "Lehigh Valley Arts Salon," 6-6:30 p.m. April 25, WDIY, 88.1 FM, www.wdiy.org.



All entrants are invited to read their poems at 2 p.m. May 7 at Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. Fourth St., Bethlehem.

Entry guidelines:

1. The Student Poetry Project is open to elementary, middle and high school students in the circulation areas of Bethlehem, East Penn, Salisbury, Parkland, North-western, Whitehall-Coplay, Catasauqua and Northampton Press, including public, parochial, private, charter and cyber schools.

2. Poems are not to exceed one typed, double-spaced,

maximum 60-space line, 8 1/2 x 11-inch page.

3. Poems must be the original work of the student.

4. One poem may be submitted per email. Email submissions are welcomed.

5. Multiple printed entries from classrooms may be submitted in one envelope.

6. Entries must be received by the Ides of March, March 15, 2011.

7. Permission of a parent or guardian is required for a student's photo to be made and published in the Focus section.

8. Copies of poems will

not be returned.

9. Include student name, age, school grade, school, school district, telephone number (of parent or guardian, where applicable) for notification, if the poem is selected for publication. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

10. Email your poem, with Student Poetry Project in the subject line to: pwillistein@gmail.com; mail your poem to: Student Poetry Project, Lehigh Valley Press, 308 E. Third St., Bethlehem, Pa. 18015; drop off your poem at the Bethlehem office, 308 E. Third St., Bethlehem, or the Parkland area office, 1633 N. 26th St. (26th Street and Walbert Avenue), South Whitehall, of Lehigh Valley Press.

Information: Paul Willistein, Focus Editor, pwillistein@ttronline.com



Nominees for the 83rd Academy Awards ceremony have been announced.

Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2010 will be presented at 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time Feb. 27 in the Kodak Theatre, Hollywood and Highland Center, and televised live by the ABC Television Network.

The person who chooses the most correct number of Oscar recipients receives a \$50 Penn's Peak gift card; tickets to movies at the Roxxy Theatre, Northampton; a Lehigh Valley Press newspapers prize package; and the winner's photo in the Focus section.

See **Contest Entry Form:** Page B5

State Champs!

LVC
crown
now on
the line

By PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

Jeff Karam wouldn't go as far as saying that tonight's Bethlehem Catholic-Easton wrestling match is the biggest bout of the season, but the general consensus is that the Golden Hawks gymnasium will be capacity filled tonight when the two programs square off in Bethlehem at 7 p.m.

Tonight's bout may be the biggest regular season dual meet the Hawks have had in nearly two decades, especially since both teams found a spot in the PIAA state finals over the weekend.

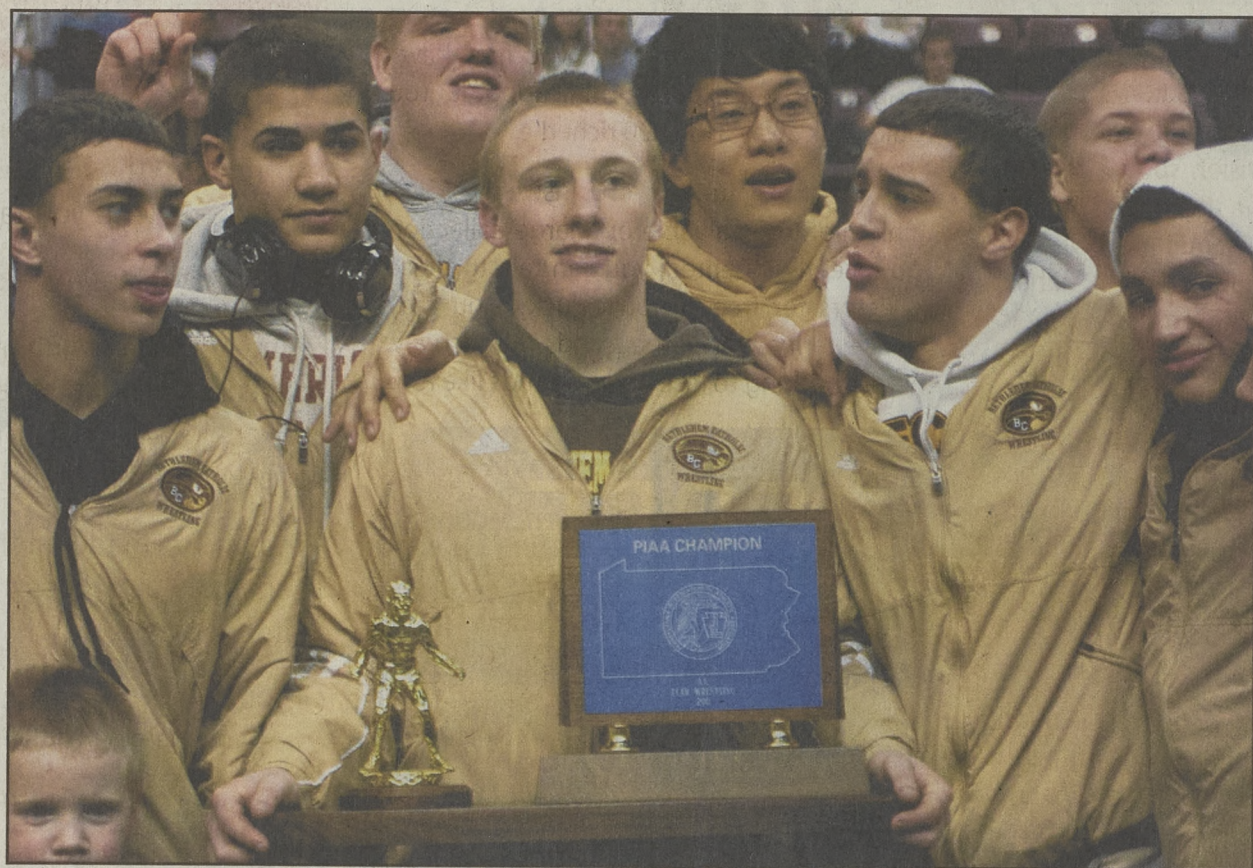
Becahi, of course won the 2A crown, while Easton lost to Central Dauphin 36-18, to fall short of the once in a lifetime opportunity of having the 3A and 2A state champions meet after the state duals.

This match was rescheduled from its original Feb. 2 date because of snow.

With the bout postponed, it has actually added more allure to tonight's action because of how well both teams did at the state championships in Hershey.

Plus, there's still a title up for grabs, as the winner will claim the Lehigh Valley Conference championship.

See LVC on Page A10



Kyle Dehaut, center with trophy, celebrates with his teammates after Bethlehem Catholic captured the PIAA 2A team wrestling title in Hershey this past weekend.

PRESS PHOTO BY ELLIS WEITZMAN

Bethlehem Catholic soars to title



At 103, Darian Cruz took on Danny May-Cruz of Biglerville. Darian won by fall during last week's quarterfinal action.

By PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

Over the summer months, when high school youth are hanging out with their friends on a daily basis, Bethlehem Catholic's wrestling team was going to work.

Many of the Hawks spent countless hours during the summer in their wrestling room, working on getting better to achieve the ultimate status that Becahi coveted all season long—becoming state champions.

The Hawks earned their gold medals last Saturday afternoon in Hershey after handling Fort LeBoeuf 38-21 in the PIAA 2A state wrestling championship.

It's the first ever state dual title for the program and first team champi-

onship for the school since 1990, when the Hawks won the PIAA 3A crown.

The match didn't have the suspense that Becahi had been used to in league meets against Nazareth and Northampton this year, but rather, it was a comfortable ride to the championship after falling behind 12-0 after two falls at 215 and HWT.

The Hawks won the next five bouts to put them ahead 21-12 after Richie Cruz's 6-3 decision at 130 and they never looked back.

Elliot Riddick's 17-9 major decision over Craig Cihon sealed the championship with two bouts remaining to punctuate a long weekend at the Giant Center.

See Hawks on Page A10

PLAYOFF BASKETBALL

Becahi girls win division

By KATIE MCDONALD
kmcdonald@tnonline.com

Becahi's girls basketball team clinched the East Division title of the LVC after a 31-29 victory over Easton last Friday.

"It was crazy," said Becahi junior, Rana Plesko. "Everyone was jumping on everyone."

The Hawks seemed to have everything going for them from the start: home court advantage, an earlier season victory over the

Red Rovers, and, if nothing else, the excitement of senior night. But none of that seemed to work in the Hawks' favor for the first half of the game.

Easton took a 9-6 lead at the end of the first quarter, and proceeded to extend that lead by a score of 16-10 at halftime.

Plesko said, "We couldn't put the ball in the basket. We played good defense, but we couldn't convert."

In the lockerroom, Lanscek told his team that they needed their confidence back to go out there and take the win. The Hawks responded, scoring 12 points in the 3rd quarter to Easton's five. Still, Becahi only had a one-point lead going into the 4th quarter.

"It was scrappy at the end," said Plesko. "They were down and had to foul."

With Becahi ahead 27-26, Plesko converted two foul shots, followed by teammate Bridget Smith who converted two more. Easton hit a three-pointer in the final seconds, but it was not enough for the Red Rovers.

"We hit our foul shots when it was crucial," Plesko said.

See Girls on Page A11



Teammates swarm Izel Dickerson, left, after he hit a game-winning, three-pointer against Freedom on Friday night, Feb. 11.

PRESS PHOTO BY ROB MERCHANT

'Canes look for LVC title

By PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

An overtime loss and a buzzer beater win probably aren't the type of contests that Liberty head coach Chad Landis wants to see out of his Hurricanes as they winded down their final week of the regular season.

Liberty's 55-52 overtime loss to Easton last Tuesday featured James Middleton banking a three-pointer with 2.8 seconds left on the clock to seal the win.

Landis then saw his

own point guard, Izel Dickerson, nail a floating prayer on Friday night to sneak by Freedom 51-48.

Throw in convincing wins over Dieruff and Pleasant Valley over the course of a final four-game week, and most coaches would be content with their squads performance heading into the postseason.

But for Landis, the close calls have led to some hesitancy as the Hurricanes (18-4, 12-2) prepare for tonight's Lehigh Valley

Conference playoff opener at Freedom against Easton (19-2, 12-2) at 6 p.m.

"I'm not sure if we got complacent in the final week, but we need to get back to the type of energy needed to play better," said Landis. "We did not end the season the way we played through the middle part of the year."

"Not sure if we got a little high on our horse, but it's playoff time and I like our guys. We'll get everything fixed."

See Boys on Page A11

INSIDE SPORTS

INSIDE

HOOPS

The Liberty girls basketball team needed a last-second win over Freedom to secure a berth in the district playoffs.

A10

SWIMMING

Freedom's Carol Byrnes took second in the LVC diving meet, while the rest of the team recently swept the Kids.

A10

THEY SAID IT

"It just feels like everything came together for us this year. This just feels really good right now and I still have another year left, so I hope we can come back and do this again next year."

ELLIOT RIDDICK
BECAHI WRESTLING

BRIEFLY

FOOTBALL BANQUET

The football scholar athlete banquet is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., Sunday, March 6, 2011, at the Northampton Community Center.

The price is \$30, and if interested, call Herb Barral at 484-515-6530.

The Lehigh Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame covers 34 high schools and 6 colleges.

Look for a list of nominees in an upcoming issue of the Bethlehem Press.

SCHEDULE

Lehigh Valley Conference
2010-11 Basketball Tournament
at Freedom High School

Tuesday, Feb. 15
Girls Semifinals
Game 1, 6 p.m. #3 Parkland vs. #2 Nazareth
Game 2, 7:45 p.m. #4 Becahi vs. #1 Central

Wednesday, Feb. 16
Boys Semifinals
Game 3, 6 p.m. #3 Liberty vs. #2 Easton (White)
Game 4, 7:45 p.m. #4 Nazareth vs. #1 Allen (White)

Friday, Feb. 18
Girls Championship
Game 5, 6 p.m. Winners of Games 1 & 2
Boys Championship
Game 6, 7:45 p.m. Winners of Games 3 & 4
• Introduction of all-stars before boys championship game.



Rana Plesko and the Becahi girls face Central to open the LVC playoffs.



PRESS PHOTO BY JENNIFER LADER

Joanne Yazigi prepares fresh tabouli salad, one of many Middle Eastern and American favorites.

Come On By Chris's Deli

By JOANNE YAZIGI
as told to Jennifer Lader
Special to the Bethlehem Press

My mom's dream has been to go into the food business. Although we have cooking experience, this is our first time owning a deli and store. My dad and I run the place, and my mom works at her job nearby so she can come over and help us. Chris is my brother. He's in high school.

This space has always been a deli and mini-market, but we're doing a new twist with Mediterranean foods. We have fresh hummus and tabouli salad, gyros with marinated beef, and meat pies. We also have American favorites like hamburgers and pierogis, chicken and hot dogs.

On the shelves we have milk and all the basics, but also ingredients for Middle Eastern cooking.

We planned to open a restaurant, but found this place instead on Craigslist. We changed the setting and added a picnic table outside, then opened in the spring. There are lots of kids in the neighborhood so it's nice for them to sit outside with ice cream from the store.

What do you want on your gyro? No dairy in your sauce? Mom will make you a sauce with tahini, olive oil and a little lemon juice. You want it to be nice and juicy.

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For the 18th year, employees from St. Luke's Hospital contributed to purchase "coats for kids" as 119 kids and their families were assisted. They visited Bethlehem area Walmart and Sears Essentials stores to shop for coats, gloves, hats and boots. Each hospital-employee sponsor contributes at least \$60 and many sponsors join the families to help the kids try on their winter outerwear. A hospital spokesperson said some sponsors even sneak in a toy or two to help brighten a deserving child's life. After the shopping trip, everyone returns to St. Luke's to enjoy dinner in the hospital cafeteria. The 2010 Coats for Kids program benefited children who are clients of the Salvation Army and the VNA and AIDS Service Center at St. Luke's, as well as stu-



Genesis Gomez breaks into a huge smile as she models her selection of matching pink coat and ear muffs. Her mother, Maritza Ortiz, and St. Luke's lab employee Cynthia McKellin helped Genesis find the right match and fit.

dents at Fountain Hill and Donegan elementary schools. Palmeri Transportation provided transportation and both stores offered discounts to the young shoppers.



PRESS PHOTOS BY DANA GRUBB

Mom Kerri Kammeter smiles approvingly as Aiden Kammeter tries on a warm winter hat with a favorite team logo.



Occupational therapist Julia Glen helps bring a wonderful smile to Analia Deleon while shopping at Walmart.

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Special Charitable Contributions
for Certain IRA Owners

This provision, now available through the end of 2011, offers older owners of individual retirement accounts (IRAs) a different way to give to charity. An IRA owner age 70-1/2 or over can directly transfer, tax-free, up to \$100,000 per year to eligible charities. Known as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), this option is available for distributions from IRAs, regardless of whether the owners itemize their deductions. Distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans, including SIMPLE IRAs and simplified employee pension (SEP) plans, are not eligible to be treated as a qualified charitable distribution. For tax-year 2010 only, IRA owners can choose to treat QCDs made during January 2011 as if they occurred in 2010.

To qualify, the funds must be contributed directly by the IRA trustee to an eligible charity. Amounts so transferred are not taxable and no deduction is available for the transfer.

Not all charities are eligible. For example, donor-advised funds and supporting organizations are not eligible recipients. Remember to check eligibility of the charity before requesting a QCD.

All QCDs from an IRA to eligible charities are counted in determining whether the owner has met the IRA's required minimum distribution. Where individuals have made nondeductible contributions to their traditional IRAs, a special rule treats QCD amounts as coming first from taxable funds, instead of proportionately from taxable and nontaxable funds, as would be the case with regular distributions.

Pastor's Comments

In large print at: www.NAOG.ws/pc
Northampton Assembly of God

3449 Cheryville Rd., Northampton • Sun. 10:45 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7:30 pm
Daniel E. Lundmark • pastor@NAOG.ws • 610-262-5645

Salvation is EASY

During my 42 years of ministry at our church, I have talked with a number of people who expressed to me that they felt it would be just too hard for them to become a godly Christian. They felt that they would be unable to make the changes needed to live a life that would be pleasing to God. I had to agree with them that if they had to do it all in their own strength, it would be too hard, but I quickly assured them that it is not too hard for God! In Jeremiah 32:27, God says, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" He Who spoke the worlds into existence made it easy for us to become Christians. His plan of salvation is EASY:

Everyone is a sinner. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Roman 3:23).

All sinners will die and be eternally separated from God. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Sin's penalty has been paid by the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. "The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

You do your part God will do the rest! Believe Jesus died for your sins. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). Confess your sins to Him. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Yes, God made salvation easy for us. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Jesus invites, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you ... and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy" (Matthew 11:28-30). I urge you to respond to Him now! After all, He is The Only Way to heaven! See www.naog.ws/theway.htm

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THIS WEEK IN
BETHLEHEM HISTORY



An oil painting by Johann Valentin Haidt of Christian Protten (1715-1769) and Rebecca (1718-1780), an ex-slave and Moravian convert, and their child, Anna Maria Protten, as shown on www.slaveryimages.org, sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the University of Virginia Library.

February 16, 2011

Early black families

In the early days of the settlement of Bethlehem, owning slaves was an accepted practice. The first federal census of 1790 reports that Bethlehem was home to slaves. We do not know their names because the census only lists the names of the white male heads of households. These slave owners were Charles Winick, Joseph Jones and Mercy Samons. Mathew S. Henry wrote in his book, "History of the Lehigh Valley," that John Okely and Jacob Van Vleck of Bethlehem were also slave owners. All of these men were well-respected men of the community at the time.



Karen M. Samuels
Columnist

migrate to the mines of Virginia. Also in Virginia, many blacks were employed building the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

A cluster of black families lived on Vineyard Street in West Bethlehem. Vineyard Street was located in an area that was frequently flooded by the Monocacy Creek. Vineyard Street residents George Crawley and his son William were "hod carriers" for a Bethlehem brickyard. Their duties included moving bricks from one pallet to another. According to the 1920 census, George at age 75 was still moving bricks; however, his son had moved to Homestead to work in a steel mill. Most likely Bethlehem Steel's discriminatory practices against hiring black workers sent William looking elsewhere for work.

The largest employer in the Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem Steel See **WEEK** on Page A15

During the 1700s, it was routine for the Moravian Church in Bethlehem to purchase slaves originating from Saint Thomas, Saint Vincent and Jamaica through slave brokers in New York or Philadelphia. Out of the more than three dozen slaves that were brought to Bethlehem to work as unskilled laborers, two dozen converted to the Moravian religion. The black Moravians lived with the rest of the brethren in the brothers and sisters houses. At the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem there are hand-written records in German about these enslaved residents. The records have not been translated to English yet. This would be a worthwhile project for someone fluent in German.

An examination of the 1910 federal census shows a handful of black families living in Bethlehem. Most were born in states other than Pennsylvania. It doesn't appear that the descendants of the 18th century Moravian slaves remained in Bethlehem. The new citizens of color living in Bethlehem at the beginning of the 20th century were a part of the "Great Migration." After the Civil War (1861-1865) the racial discrimination against the black population who lived in the south was intolerable. Six million black Southerners made their way north and to the Midwest in search of employment. The trip was long and expensive. Families would work together to send one member north, or the family migrated in steps. They stopped at cities along the way to earn enough money for the next leg of the journey.

The majority of the black residents listed in the 1910 Bethlehem census were born in Virginia. Virginian mine owners actively recruited laborers to mine their coal fields in the 1880s. Booker T. Washington was one of the ex-slaves to

Bethlehem Steel book 'timely'

By **DANA GRUBB**
Special to the Bethlehem Press

About 50 supporters and contributors attended a recent reception and book signing for the recently published "Bethlehem Steel in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania" at the National Museum of Industrial History's preview and staging facility. Co-author Ann Bartholomew was present to sign copies.

Also attending were former Bethlehem Steel CEO Curtis "Hank" Barnette and former Bethlehem Mayor Ken Smith, who were introduced by NMIH president and CEO Stephen Donches and National Canal Museum executive director Tom Stoneback.

Barnette described the publication as "a book that will be sought after," while Smith said the book was timely.

"Bethlehem Steel in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania" is a photographic history of the plant in Bethlehem which has been published by the National Canal Museum and National Museum of Industrial History. It was written and compiled by Bartholomew and Donald Stuart Young and contains about 600 photographs taken in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.



PRESS PHOTOS BY DANA GRUBB

Stephen G. Donches, president and CEO of the National Museum of Industrial History, presents a copy of the book to current Steelworkers Archives archivist Dennis Pearson.



"Bethlehem Steel in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania" co-author Ann Bartholomew meets Bethlehem Steel chairman emeritus and former CEO Curtis "Hank" Barnette prior to signing several copies of the book for him.

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Tiger Trek: Better late than never

By **DANA GRUBB**
Special to the Bethlehem Press

The "Tiger Trek," a fitness fundraiser organized by the Farmersville ES PTA, promotes activity for the students and raises money to support a variety of school programs. With a DJ's speak-

ers blaring up-tempo music, students ran, walked and skipped around three courses set on the school's athletic fields, accompanied by teachers and parents.

Students solicited pledges tied to the number of laps they completed or flat fees. Those walking

the most laps and raising the most money were awarded prizes at each grade level.

According to Wendy Simpson, a member of the PTA who handled publicity, the event was anticipated to raise \$10,000 which would be used to fund field trips, school

activities and the purchase of books for the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program.

Fifteen business, institutional and family sponsors supported the Tiger Trek. Co-chairs for the event were Cathy Shay and Stacey Turocy.



PRESS PHOTOS BY DANA GRUBB

PTA mom Angela Huertas marks Taylor Webber's lap tag. Students received credit for each lap completed.



All 550 Farmersville ES students participated in either the morning or afternoon sessions. Three courses were set up to handle various grades.



A group of Farmersville students gives a thumbs-up for the fitness and fundraising activity.



The Lehigh University Mountain Hawk mascot encourages the Farmersville students, giving many a high-five as they pass by.



Some Farmersville ES students ran and others walked. This group of students chose to run.



PTA moms Kristin Joseph and Amy Mann tend to a thirsty group of students at one of several water stations.

WEEK

Continued from page A13

Corporation had been found guilty over the years in various lawsuits for discrimination against black workers. In 1973 Bethlehem Steel was the largest industrial company in history to be ordered by the Labor Department to correct discriminating practices.

Also in 1920, George and his wife Betsy Crawley are joined by their daughters Lillian, 50, and Alberta, 33. The daughters were both single and worked as servants in the homes of Bethlehem families.

A couple of doors down from the Crawleys lived the Stewarts. Doxlogy Stewart, 44, worked as a butler in a private home. His wife Almeta, 25, was employed as a servant in a private home.

Another location where black families were found to reside was Scott Alley in Fountain Hill. Lillie Battle and Rose Vanz lived close to the mansions of Fountain Hill to work as cooks for the families there. The Crawleys, Stewarts, Battles and Vanzes all arrived in Bethlehem after 1900. The Great Migration had arrived in Bethlehem, as well as all the other cities in the Northeast.

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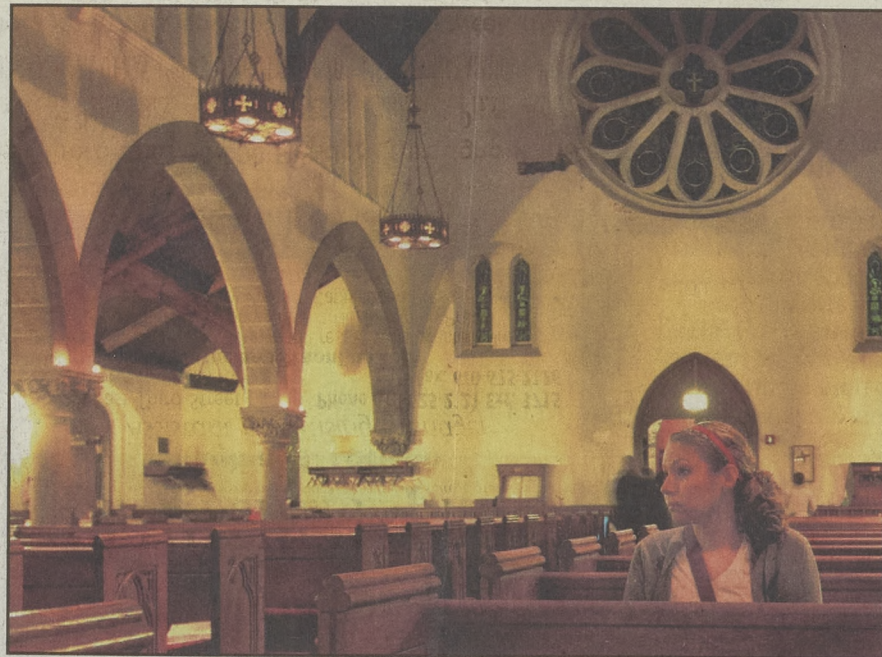
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The Very Rev. Anthony R. Pompa of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity receives an individual who has come forward for a laying on of hands for healing prayers during a candlelight service for World AIDS Day.



PRESS PHOTOS BY LINDA ANTHONY
Moravian College student Victoria Clark has a quiet moment following the candlelight service.

The Cathedral Church of the Nativity held a candlelight service of hope and healing in support of World AIDS Day. The service included readings and healing prayers for those whose lives had been touched by HIV/AIDS. The Very Rev. Anthony R. Pompa and The Rev. Mariclaire Partee held the service in the warm glow of candlelight. This was the second annual service for World AIDS Day at the Cathedral. A music program complemented the service as soloist Justin Holguin played Bach's Partita in A Minor for flute, followed by traditional Anglican music for choir and organ under the direction of Canon Precentor Russell Jackson.



The Advent candle casts a warm glow on Justin Holguin as he plays Bach's Partita in A Minor.



The Rev. Mariclaire Partee extinguishes the final candle at the close of the service.

Hope AND healing



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