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APRIL 15, 2015

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**BUSINESS**

## 95 new hi-tech jobs

Curtiss-Wright supplies pumps to the U.S. Navy

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

More than 100 people were at the April 7 grand opening of defense contractor Curtiss-Wright facility in Bethlehem.

More specifically, it is Curtiss-Wright's Engineered Pump Division, which supplies the United States Navy with high tech pumps for both submarines and surface craft. This division, which will employ about 95 people, is no simple warehouse. The people who work in the 145,000 square-foot warehouse and factory, and the 35,000 square-foot office, are actually involved in the manufacture and testing of highly advanced pumps. "We've invested heavily in the Lehigh Valley," said General Manager Todd Schura, whose company has sunk \$25 million into its new facility. He hopes to attract and retain a local workforce.

Kerry A. Wrobel, president of the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, said the employees who work at Curtiss-Wright can expect to see \$500-750 million in new business development over the next few years.

See **Jobs** on Page A2



**Joanie Balderstone** and **Rebecca McIntire** are the two founders of Distributing Dignity. They started collecting new bras and feminine hygiene products in 2010.

## Distributing Dignity

Lehigh alumnae want all women to have the essentials

By **LISA KOCAY**  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Bras, tampons, pads and panty liners are female necessities that come at a high cost. For the women who cannot afford these supplies, Distributing Dignity is there to provide them.

Distributing Dignity was founded by Lehigh University alumnae Joanie Balderstone and Rebecca McIntire. They were doing donation work in Camden, N.J., receiving gently used business clothing from organizations they belonged to. One of the women who was a recipient of donated clothing pulled Balderstone and McIntire aside and

**ABOUT DISTRIBUTING DIGNITY**  
To learn more about Distributing Dignity, go to <http://www.distributingdignity.org/>.  
To contact, call (609) 217-5002 or email [balderstone@distributingdignity.org](mailto:balderstone@distributingdignity.org) and [rmcintire@distributingdignity.org](mailto:rmcintire@distributingdignity.org).

thanked them for the clothing, but expressed her concern for not having a decent bra to wear under the clothes. Balderstone and McIntire did research and found most women don't have these necessities because although many donation sites receive toiletries such as tooth-

brushes and soap, they seldom receive pads, tampons and panty liners.

To receive these necessary items, they decided to throw a party for their female friends and family. The party was "Mardi Bra" themed, and they asked the attendees to bring a donation of new bras or feminine hygiene products. People ended up bringing bags full of items, and Balderstone and McIntire said they ended up receiving over 80 new bras and thousands of pads and tampons from the party.

The two hosted the party as an annual event for a few years, but were not able to in 2012 because Balderstone's mother passed

See **Dignity** on Page A2

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**PEOPLE SAY**

BY **DANA GRUBB**

President Obama met with Cuban President Castro this past week. How do you feel about normalizing relations between Cuba and the United States?



"I think the more peace the better off we will be. We can't be a bully. That only makes things worse."

**Vitorio Escobar**  
Allentown



"I think we're in a day and age where there can't be a reason for us not to have peace with another nation."

**Doug Folker**  
Nazareth

**PEOPLE SAY**  
continues on page A2

**BETHLEHEM PRESS**

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**INSIDE THE PRESS**

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## Watch your speed in E-Z Pass lane

By **CHRIS PARKER**  
[cparker@tnonline.com](mailto:cparker@tnonline.com)

The Pennsylvania Turnpike's electronic toll transponder, or E-ZPass, allows drivers to pay without stopping to hand a collector change.

But not so fast: The Turnpike Commission wants people to remember the speed limit for E-ZPass lanes is 5 mph.

Turnpike Commission spokesman Carl DeFebo says safety is the driving force behind the commission's decision to install more speed limit and pedestrian crossing signs, and digital signs that show drivers how fast they are going through E-ZPass lanes.

"Most of our customers, about three-quarters of them, are now paying with E-ZPass, and we wanted to be sure we're keeping them safe, and keeping the collectors safe," he says.

"We want our customers to be aware that there are people who are working who cross those lanes. Collectors often have to cross the lanes to get to their booths. It was time for us to step up awareness," DeFebo says.

Speeding through an E-ZPass lane can

**E-Z PASS FAST FACTS**

**Growth:** In 2003, there were 92,803 E-ZPass accounts that generated \$135.2 million, or 35 percent of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's annual revenue. By 2014, the number of accounts had grown to 215,000, generating \$610.3 million, or 71.2 percent of the commission's annual revenue.

**HOW TO get an E-ZPass:** Online at [www.paturndrive.com/ezpass](http://www.paturndrive.com/ezpass).

- Call the E-ZPass Customer Service Center at 877-736-6727

- From Sunoco APlus Convenience Stores inside turnpike service plazas

- At Giant Stores. For a list of other participating stores visit the website. Most retailers charge a one-time fee; accounts must be registered within 72 hours.

**How it works:** The E-ZPass transponder is usually mounted inside the vehicle on the windshield. It sends a signal to an overhead reader in the toll lane to classify the vehicle and deduct the appropriate toll from a prepaid account.

get your account suspended, or even involve state police. Collectors who see a driver speeding through an E-ZPass lane can get the license plate. The commission will send a warning letter for the first violation. Repeat offenders could lose their accounts.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission operates 336 E-ZPass entry and exit lanes combined. Of those, 157 lanes are dedicated E-ZPass-only lanes. Another 80 lanes are mixed-mode lanes that accept both cash and E-ZPass, and the remaining 99 are E-ZPass capable lanes that are mostly being operated in cash-only mode.

These E-ZPass capable lanes can be switched over at each interchange as needed to accommodate future E-ZPass growth in the long run, and they can temporarily be switched to accommodate a short-term rush of E-ZPass traffic as needed.

E-ZPass, the world's largest interoperable tolling system, has been available in Pennsylvania for nearly 15 years. There are more than 26 million E-ZPass tags in circulation among 26 toll agencies across 15 states, according to the Turnpike Commission.



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BY DANA GRUBB

President Obama met with Cuban President Castro this past week. How do you feel about normalizing relations between Cuba and the United States?



"I feel that they should open relations because Cuba has become like a medieval country due to the embargoes of all these years. It would open up Cuba to the Internet and more commerce, and Cuban families could reunite as well."

**Shawn Harvey**  
Bethlehem Township



"I think it's essential that we reach out to all of our neighbors. It's important to establish ties since they're so close to our borders. And, families will be able to re-establish their familial bonds."

**Leslie Cox**  
Hatboro



"I feel like it's a good idea, a step in the right direction, leaving what has happened in the past behind. It's time."

**Nicole Peterson**  
Bethlehem Township



"I follow politics a lot and I honestly think it's risky."

**Brenda G.**  
Northampton

DIGNITY

Continued from page 1  
away. They weren't in the mindset at the time to throw the party, but they still wanted to be able to make a donation. They decided to use Facebook to spread the word about the donations they needed, and as a result they received donations from women and sorority members they went to college with. With the help of the donations they received from Facebook, the two were able to make a donation that spring.

"It was really that display of generosity that we felt that led us to believe we should be doing this on a bigger scale," Balderstone said.

They have continued to host similar events throughout the year. Many of their donations come from these parties and events, but they also receive support from individuals or groups who form their own collections of new bras and feminine hygiene products.

Balderstone said they use "dignity" in their organization's name to show that they're not



Balderstone and McIntire collect new bras that still have tags on them. Balderstone said they want to show the women they donate to that people care about them and that they're worth it.

just giving the items to women, but they also want to send a message to the women that they deserve it, are worth it, and people care and

support them. Balderstone said she feels privileged to do the work she does, but Distributing Dignity has also allowed her to meet

and work with many people, going from the social workers they work with to the women they are donating to.

"We've been able to meet a tremendous amount of fantastic people who are interested in giving back to the community and interested in helping each other," Balderstone said. "It's really been a very positive experience and a very positive outlook on the world for me to be able to have that experience."

McIntire said they worked with about 12 partner organizations in 2014, including Turning Point in Allentown, although most of their work is in South Jersey and Philadelphia. She said Distributing Dignity has officially been in existence for one year, and they currently do a donation once a year depending on the supply and need. She said they hope to be able to do a donation twice a year, and eventually quarterly.

"I would love to see us reach the place where there is no woman in a position to have to go without these essential items," Balderstone said.

JOBS

Continued from page 1  
Another location, closer to the train tracks, had to be scrapped. Vibrations from moving trains could affect testing. Lehigh Valley Industrial Park and J.G. Petrucci were able to find a more suitable site atop a knoll not far from Saucon Park. But there was no access. Installing a road and utilities, and in less than a year, was the challenge. They succeeded, thanks in large part to Bethlehem city officials.

Petrucci, whose company works with about 50 different municipalities, had high praise for Bethlehem. "The City of Bethlehem is the gold standard of municipalities,"



J.G. Petrucci says he likes building a factory instead of a warehouse.

he said as Mayor Bob Donchez blushed. He called Bethlehem's staff "phenomenal."

He's proud of this project for three reasons: First, it is a factory, putting peo-

ple to work with sophisticated and high-paying jobs. Second, it is an adaptive re-use of an old factory site. Finally, it is on the "front lines of our country's security."

Those security concerns prevented photography of much of what goes on inside the facility, which was partially blocked from public view. Cell phones were prohibited, too. General Manager Todd Schurra assured this reporter that there are no flying saucers stashed away. He did say the Curtiss-Wright company has a history going back three centuries, at least if its predecessor companies count. It built the first naval pump used by Commodore Perry's fleet. It also built the pumps used on the USS Monitor during the Civil War.

That vessel sank, prompting Petrucci to joke with Schurra to come up with a better example.

BETHLEHEM PRESS

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EDITORIAL

SPORTS

If you would like your community, civic or cultural events published, please send a typed press release to:  
George Taylor, editor  
Phone: 610-625-2121 Fax: 610-625-2126  
E-mail: gtaylor@tncnline.com

If you would like coverage for your school or community sporting event, please contact:  
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**AROUND TOWN**

**Wednesday, April 15**

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

**BAPL SouthSide Book Sale**, noon to 2 p.m. Bethlehem Area Public Library, 400 Webster St. Visit [www.bapl.org](http://www.bapl.org) or call 610-867-7852.

**Thursday, April 16**

**Salvation Army**, seniors 50 and up, 10:45 a.m. 521 Pembroke Road. Call 610-867-4681.

**BAPL SouthSide Book Sale**, 5 to 8 p.m. Bethlehem Area Public Library, 400 Webster St. Visit [www.bapl.org](http://www.bapl.org) or call 610-867-7852.

**Friday, April 17**

**Senior Fair**, 9 a.m. to noon, Westgate Mall, 2285 Schoenersville Road. Call 610- 266-1273.

**Saturday, April 18**

**Salvation Army flea market**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Salvation Army, 521 Pembroke Road. Call 610-867-4681.

**Teen Reading Lounge** free, grades 6 to 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bethlehem Area Public Library, 11 W. Church St. Series; registration required. Visit [www.bapl.org](http://www.bapl.org) or call 610-867-3761 x499.

**Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites** Steampunk pocket watch collage, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts, 427 N. New St. Information: [mdepcinski@historicbethlehem.org](mailto:mdepcinski@historicbethlehem.org) or call 610-882-0450, ext. 13 or visit [www.historicbethlehem.org](http://www.historicbethlehem.org).

**Cops 'n Kids Celebration of Reading** free, open to the public. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 511 E. Third St. Information: email [tgjampapa@basd-schools.org](mailto:tgjampapa@basd-schools.org) or visit <http://copsnkidslv.org>.

**Spring on Fourth, What's On Third?** Street Festival and Chili Cook-off, 11 a.m., SouthSide.

**BAPL SouthSide Book Sale**, noon to 3 p.m. Bethlehem Area Public Library, 400 Webster St. Visit [www.bapl.org](http://www.bapl.org) or call 610-867-7852.

**Tuesday, April 21**

**Salvation Army**, Calling All Bridge players, for seniors 50 and up, 9:30 a.m. to noon. 521 Pembroke Road. Call 610-867-4681.

**Wednesday, April 22**

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

**Spaghetti Supper**, benefits St. Andrew's ministries, 5 to 7 p.m. Parish Hall, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Allentown. Visit [www.standrewsbethlehem.org](http://www.standrewsbethlehem.org) or call 610-865-3603.

*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**

**Wednesday, April 15**

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

**Thursday, April 16**

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

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

See **METETINGS** on Page A4

**Sketching in the sun**



**PRESS PHOTO BY DANA GRUBB**

**Eric Kaczynski**, a portrait artist from Allentown, takes advantage of warmer sunny weather April 12 to set up on Historic Main Street and work on a project. Kaczynski said he was visiting his mother, who lives in Bethlehem's center city, and couldn't miss the opportunity such a day provided. He uses charcoal mixed with pastels to give his work a 3D style.

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP Board OKs 2 contracts**

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

With little discussion, Bethlehem Township Commissioners approved two new union contracts at their April 6 meeting. By a vote of 4-0, with Pat Breslin being absent, three-year agreements were ratified with AFSCME and the Teamsters. AFSCME is the bar-

gaining unit for around 25 employees in public works and the physical plant and information services departments. The Teamsters represent about ten clerical employees.

The agreements run from 2015-2017.

These contracts include signing bonuses of \$1,100 for each AFSCME participant and \$1,000 for each See **BOARD** on Page A5

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**WATER CAMP • July 20-24** This camp is all about everything that is found in and around or impacted by water. The tubes are inflated, frogs are splashing and dragonflies are crawling out of their final molts. A week of fun and educational games, exploration and experiments ends with Water Olympics.

**WILDLIFE CAMP • AUG 17-21** We'll flip rocks and explore the Monocacy Creek and meadows as we ignite an interest in ornithology, herpetology, entomology or mammalogy. Live animals, games and crafts are part of the fun.



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**Mary "Miss Pongracz" T. Pongracz**  
community advocate, educator

Mary "Miss Pongracz" T. Pongracz, 84, lifelong resident of South Bethlehem, died April 3, 2015, at St. Luke's Hospital.

She was a daughter of the late Anna M. and Joseph J. Pongracz.

She studied music in Bethlehem and at the Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia, and was educated at Holy Infancy School and Bethlehem Catholic High School. A graduate of Moravian College, she earned a master's degree and additional professional certificates from Lehigh University.

She taught music in the Bethlehem Area School District for near-

ly 40 years and arranged and directed Glee Club performances and seasonal musicales.

She was a volunteer organist and choir master with her parish, Holy Infancy Roman Catholic Church, for nearly 70 years, since the age of 14.

She is survived by a sister Josephine (Winfred); and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was predeceased by two brothers Joseph C. Pongracz and Virgil Falco.

Contributions may be made to Holy Infancy Church, 312 E. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, or c/o the funeral home, 1311 Broadway, Fountain Hill.

Arrangements were made by Cantelmi Funeral Home Inc.



**Mary J. Spirk**  
OLPH member

Mary L. Spirk, 93, of Bethlehem, died March 29, 2015.

Born in Pottsville, she was a daughter of the late Rose (Loprete) and Theodosio Soda.

She was the wife of the late John F. Spirk Sr. for 62 years.

She worked for Western Electric from which she retired in 1983.

She was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.

She was a member of the Pioneers Club and UNICO.

She is survived by a

daughter, Rosemary Spirk Hensel; a son, John "Jack" Jr. and his wife Marian; a sister, Joann "Jennie" Harrison; five grandchildren, Drew and his wife Tanya Hensel and Maria, John, Kathryn and Michael Spirk; and two great-granddaughters, Leah and Erika Hensel.

She was predeceased by an infant son, John Ralph; two brothers, Ralph and Frank; and two sisters, Lucy and Rose.

Contributions may be made to Meals on Wheels of Northampton County or to the Salvation Army of Bethlehem.

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



**Egg hunting in Fountain Hill**



Jayden Colodonato takes a picture of toddler Sabrina Ruttler, accompanied by her mother Rachel, with her Easter candy pail after the Fountain Hill Easter egg hunt The Easter weekend

PRESS PHOTOS BY TIM GILMAN event for children is a cooperative project sponsored by the Fountain Hill Police Department, the borough's Volunteer Fire and Public Works departments.

**MEETINGS**

Continued from page A3

**Monday, April 20**

- BASD Facilities and Human Resources committees** meeting, 6 p.m., Edgeboro room, Education Center, 1516 Sycamore St.
- Bethlehem Twp. Commissioners** meeting, 7 p.m. Municipal building, 4225 Easton Ave.
- Fountain Hill Zoning** meeting, 7 p.m., 941 Long St. (not confirmed)
- H.C.C.** meeting, 7 p.m. Risbon room, Banana Factory, 25 E. Third St.
- Hellertown Borough Council** meeting, 7 p.m., 685 Main St.

**Tuesday, April 21**

- Bethlehem City Council** meeting, 7 p.m. 10 E. Church St.
- Freemansburg Council** meeting, 7 p.m., 600 Monroe St.

**Wednesday, April 22**

- Bethlehem Parking Authority**, 4:30 p.m., 85 W. North St.
- Lehigh Co. Commissioners**, 7:30 p.m., public hearing room, Government Center, 17 S. Seventh St., Allentown.
- Bethlehem City Zoning Hearing Board**, 7 p.m., 10 E. Church St.
- Hanover Twp. Board of Supervisors**, 7 p.m., 3630 Jacksonville Road.

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.



Egg hunters Anjalea Colodonato and Juliet Ayer of Fountain Hill sort through their Easter treats after the Fountain Hill event, which attracted close to 100 children, including 75 registrants, according to the organizers.



Sisters Maya and Sofia Nieto have plenty to smile about after the Fountain Hill egg hunt April 4 at the Stanley Avenue Playground. The sisters were lucky to win major prizes in addition to the regular Easter candy that covered the fields. Their parents, long-time Fountain Hill residents Miguel and Tara Nieto, were happy for their children who will likely remember this year's event more than others.

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY**

**County to transport voting machines itself**

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

By a 3 to 1 vote, the Northampton County Elections Commission endorsed a plan April 3 to stop using a \$40,000 per year private hauler of election machines. Instead, the county will rent trucks and do the job itself.

Elections officials were less than enthusiastic about the cost-saving measure. Voting Registrar Dee Rumsey told the Elections Board that her office is already short-staffed, but that she was directed to find something

to cut. Eliminating the private hauler was the only solution left.

Voting machine operator David Zawick said, "Anything's possible." Noting that each voting machine weighs 265 pounds, he explained that they are on rollers and can be moved fairly easily, although they are "delicate machines." He added that Frick Transfer, which has done this transfer for over three decades, has "done a marvelous job."

Zawick explained that six county workers in the maintenance or custodial departments will be pulled from those jobs for

three days to deliver the machines, and another three days to get them back.

Each of the county's 149 polling districts has at least two machines.

Mary Diggs, for instance, really wanted to know what the elections office staff thought about the proposal. That is something they were unwilling to do. As a result, Diggs supported the switch, joined by fellow Republicans Joshua Weinstein and Joan Rosenthal. Democrat George Treisner was the sole no vote.



**BERNIE O'HARE**  
Joan Rosenthal chairs the Elections Commission.

**County council establishes rainy day fund**

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

By a 6 to 2 vote, Northampton County Council adopted an ordinance April 1 that officially establishes a rainy day fund that will segregate between 5-15 percent of the general government portion of each annual budget. Based on the current budget, that's between \$6.9 and \$20 million. A one mill tax increase, approved by council last year will go into this fund, which is designated officially as the committed fund balance. This measure was proposed by Hayden

Phillips and Glenn Geissinger.

Before this measure was adopted, Budget Administrator Doran Hammann was asked what he thought. Hammann told council this fund is something rating agencies would look at when the county decided to float its next bond for capital improvements. "The bond rating is very critical to the price you pay," he observed. "I see no problems with moving forward."

"I don't see why we raise taxes and put it in a piggy bank," complained Ken Kraft.

"It's not a piggy bank,"

responded Glenn Geissinger. "I don't want our infrastructure to fail," he said, meaning the bridges and other capital improvements that are needed down the road, including \$15 million in repairs at Gracedale Nursing Home.

Lamont McClure derided the notion of raising taxes and adopting this measure "to please Wall Street and please accountants." He said the fund balance is currently approaching \$30 million.

As originally drafted, this fund would be in what Phillips called a "lock-box" that could only be opened by a two-thirds

vote of council. Lamont McClure proposed giving the key to a bare majority, warning that a minority could thwart the will of council. That reasoning swayed Glenn Geissinger, who provided the fifth vote to an amendment supported by McClure, Kraft, Scott Parsons and Bob Werner.

Democrats Scott Parsons and Bob Werner joined four Republicans in establishing this fund. "It is the right thing to do," Parsons simply explained. McClure and Kraft were the sole hold-outs.

Peg Ferraro, fighting an illness, was absent.

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**CITY POLICE**  
**Murder charge**

A 25-year-old man has been charged in the shooting death of another city man in June 2013.

Lehigh County District Attorney Jim Martin announced recently that evidence compiled at the scene behind an Eighth Avenue address and analyzed at a local forensics lab, including fingerprints, DNA on a cigarette butt and phone records.

Kawan Arron Morrison, who is in Northampton County Prison, is charged with homicide in the death of 21-year-old Ian Juma. Martin did not indicate when the trial would begin.

**Possession**

Police arrested 28-year-old Jonathan Reade of Stonington Road after he was allegedly observed shoplifting at the West Union Boulevard Giant supermarket.

Police said that around 6 p.m. March 22, Reade was arrested for stealing unspecified items and eventually resisted and ran off.

While searching for him police said they found several packets of suspected heroin.

Reade is charged with retail theft, resisting arrest, escaping and possession of controlled substances and paraphernalia.

**DUI**

Responding to a reported vehicle accident on East Third Street near Loopers Grille around 3:45 a.m. April 7, police allege the driver was under the influence of alcohol.

Police said Ian Salvage-Jezick, 22, of Fountain Hill, crashed his car and admitted to being the sole occupant. During a search, officers found he was also in possession of a small amount of marijuana and cocaine.

Salvage-Jezick is charged with DUI, possession, and driving infractions.

**BOARD**

Continued from page A3  
Teamster. There will also be pay raises of 2 percent this and next year, followed by a 3 percent increase in 2017, the final year of the contracts.

Health insurance coverage will cost workers \$25 per month for single coverage and \$50 per month for families. In 2017, that cost will double. There will be slight increases in the co-pays. A doctor's office visit goes up from \$10 to \$15 and ER visits go up from \$25 to \$75, but urgent care co-pay decreases from \$35 to \$20.

Both contracts will decrease sick days for new hires. They will drop from 15 sick days with a 50 percent buyback to 10 sick days with a 75 percent buyback.

AFSCME has also agreed to switch to a defined contribution pension plan for new hires. The Teamsters had agreed to a similar switch in 2013.

How does this affect the staff?

A heavy equipment operator with three years of experience, and who is currently paid \$25.80 per hour, will see his wages climb to \$27.10 per hour by 2017. A Clerk 1, who starts at an hourly wage of \$15.75, will see that climb to \$16.88 in 2017.

**Council gets 911 Center update tour**

By MICHELLE MEAH  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Members of the Bethlehem City Council Public Safety Committee got a tour of the city's 911 center prior to their meeting April 7. Committee Chair Eric Evans and committee members Cathy Reuscher and Louis Stellato were joined by council members Adam Waldron and Michael Recchiuti for the tour. Evans said he was "very impressed." He said the city's emergency services "have always had a great reputation."

Police Chief Mark DiLuzio told committee

members that Bethlehem opened its Emergency Communication Center in 1934. The center has handled all emergency calls for police, fire and rescue since then. When Pennsylvania adopted the 911 system in 1990, Bethlehem's Center had already been in operation for 56 years.

Today the Bethlehem Police 911 Center employs a director of 911 as well as 20 full-time and 5 part-time 911 dispatchers. The 911 Center handles more than 50,000 911 calls and

another 150,000 related calls each year.

The Bethlehem Police 911 Center now also accepts "Text 911" calls, sharing software and equipment for this feature with Allentown 911 Center and Northampton County 911 Center. This sharing of infrastructure and equipment is nothing new, DiLuzio said, adding it is budget-friendly as costs are divided among those sharing the equipment.

Another sharing plan is in the works, DiLuzio

told council members, saying a 911 Phone Switch Hookup with Northampton County 911 and Allentown Police 911 Center should be operational by June.

Long-term plans for 2016 include sharing radio systems by both Bethlehem and Allentown 911 Centers. Over time, sharing equipment will save both cities funds on upgrades, fees and maintenance agreements, DiLuzio said.

"Why purchase three systems when you can do one," he asked, saying Bethlehem is working See **TOUR** on Page A8

**BRIEFLY**

**GWHS**

Annual dinner set for May 1

The Governor Wolf Historical Society will hold its annual open to the public dinner at 6 p.m. May 1 in the Wolf Academy, on the society's campus, 6600 Jacksonville Road, Bath. There is a cost.

Neil Curtis will speak on General James Longstreet: The South's Most Controversial General. There will be time for questions.

Dinner reservations are required; call 610-838-8923. Visit [www.govwolf.org](http://www.govwolf.org).

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Following a tiring journey, Jesus sat on Jacob's well to rest. Soon a woman of nearby Samaria came to draw water, and Jesus asked her for a drink. As a Samaritan, she was surprised a Jew would ask her for a drink. Jesus sensed her spiritual emptiness and told her if she had known Who He was, she would have asked of Him and He would have given her "living water." He told her, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." The woman eagerly responded "Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not" (John 4:13-15). Her spiritual thirst and dissatisfaction with the fleeting pleasures of life were apparent as Jesus revealed that she had had five husbands and was living at the time with yet another man. She was astonished that He knew this! Jesus revealed Himself to her as the Messiah, and she discovered that He is the Well—the only Source of the soul-satisfying water of life!

Like this woman, you may be seeking what you will never find in illicit sex, drugs, or alcohol. Jesus knows all of your human longings and declares, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37). For more on this see <http://www.naog.ws/thirsty.htm>

Jesus promises, "he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). He assures, "I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely" (Revelation 21:6). Believe Jesus and respond now to His invitation, "let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17). Just cry out to Him in prayer. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins and come into your heart. Drink now of this "water of life" that Jesus gives, and you will never thirst again!

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FOUNTAIN HILL

Parking issues abound

By DANIELLE MARTIN  
Special to the Bethlehem Press

"They put up 'No Parking' signs on Church Street," spoke one very adamant Deena Rohrback, a Bethlehem resident. "I lived there 25 years. I don't know why they were put there."

The April 6 Fountain Hill Borough Council meeting was unusually packed and the audience had plenty to say. Residents were not warned of a sudden planting of "no parking" signs on multiple streets around Moravian ES, and they now can no longer park in front of their own homes.

In response to

Rohrback, Council President Larry Rapp could merely reply that he'd only been informed of the change the previous Thursday, April 2.

Chief of Police Ed Bachert had more information on the subject, however. He explained that since the Moravian Academy owns the street, the school board decided to cut off parking to ensure easier traffic flow for buses and students. The parking situation is experimental and temporary.

But this explanation did not soothe anyone as Rohrback demanded to know, "Why are we being penalized?" Council quick-

ly sought to quiet the commotion by making an adjustment.

"Let's make the signs from 8-4 on school days only," Rapp suggested, a compromise he later tried justify by saying, "we're trying to work it out to suit everyone."

Council member Carolee Gifford added, "We're really trying to avert catastrophe," and said student safety trumps traffic concerns.

While that may be a just cause, said Albert Rohrback, standing beside Deena Rohrback, "It's not gonna help. It's just gonna create more congestion. Tell the school to create more parking space!"

The issue remains unresolved.

On the subject of street repair, many a needy roadway will have to go without as a new Community Development Block Grant will only restore Russell Avenue. Though it's not as plagued by crater-sized potholes and shredded to bits by Jack Frost as are other streets around town, it is the only street that meets regulations, such as homes with wheelchair ramps and residents living beneath a certain level of income.

"What do they consider 'low income,' I wanna know!" council member Helen Halleman interjected, upset by the dozens of neglected roads.

"How are we gonna do the other streets?" asked council member Philip Trabel, to which Halleman sarcastically replied, "The money tree."

Council member Fred Capuano said, "Lots of streets need repair. There are water main breaks, holes all over the world. We're going to do the best we can." He added, "Mother Nature does what she does best. You can whine all you want."

In older business, a tabled appeal for a handicapped parking space made by Maria Melendez at the March 2 meeting was readdressed. Also readdressed were some hard feelings.

"I did go down [to look]. I went across the street. There has to be a spot," Capuano said, having made the effort to solve the resident's parking issue.

That's when Council member Douglas Trotter Jr. asked Melendez, "How do you feel about Clewell Street?"

Vice President Norman

Blatt acknowledged to the applicant, "It's right around the corner."

Melendez, standing in the audience, quickly said, "We accept."

Just when the matter seemed to be finished, Halleman exclaimed, "I don't understand this! She can shovel, but she needs designated parking?"

Council and Melendez went back and forth in a sudden argument about the woman's physical abilities when Gifford angrily retorted to Halleman, "Who died and made you doctor?" Immediately, Capuano sought to quiet the onslaught of words and finished the discussion, declaring, "We need to pass a motion." And the motion at last was passed, granting Melendez a handicapped parking sign on Clewell Street.

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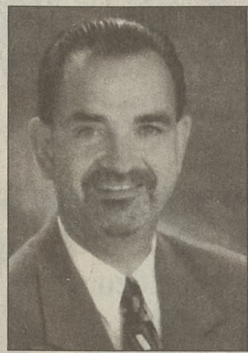
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# Random acts of kindness



PRESS PHOTOS COURTESY LV ACADEMY

The Eastern PA Down Syndrome Center partnered with LV Academy Regional Charter School recently to do "Random Acts of Kindness" for the school staff and local businesses located on the campus. Philly Pretzel in Kuhnsville donated pretzel trays that the students delivered to the St. Luke's Visiting Nurses Association, and Bonsall Shafferman Architects. LV Academy students painted canvases, created their, "LVA WSDS Ambassador" shirts and made other gifts to present to their school staff. It was a wonderful event that helped spread Down syndrome awareness and promote kindness in the community.



The 11th and 12th grade students of LV Academy proudly show their 3-21 shirts they created for World Down Syndrome Day. "3-21" symbolizes the three copies of the 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome. The students are Aliyah Gomez, Ashleen Caba, Angelica Aron, Sierra Austin, Julio Hernandez, Nicole Dajes, Linda Ortega, August Koehler and Kimberly Batista.

## PENN STATE/LV SAGE talks continue to June

Senior Adults Gaining Enrichment, an outreach program of Penn State Lehigh Valley has announced the schedule for its spring 2015 lecture series.

Each SAGE session begins with coffee at 10:30 a.m.; featured speaker at 11 a.m. and lunch at noon. All lectures are in room

135 at Penn State Lehigh Valley in Center Valley.

May 1: "The Art of Ancient Greece," presented by Elizabeth Flaherty Ph.D., instructor in art history, Penn State Lehigh Valley.

Greek art and sculpture has had a profound effect throughout the ages. Learn about the materials used by the ancient Greeks as well as the stories that their pieces tell.

June 5: "Inside Afghanistan: A Personal Experience," thoughts

from Pamela Varkony, journalist, who has twice been on the ground in Afghanistan.

June 19: "Your role in preventing West Nile virus," join them as they partner with the local Cooperative Extension to learn simple techniques for preventing West Nile virus.

There is a fee per lecture. Lunch is included.

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**TOUR**

Continued from page A5 with Lehigh County 911, Northampton County 911, and Allentown 911 to share infrastructure, software and equipment to jointly reduce 911 costs and to reduce duplication of services and purchase of products.

Another sharing plan is in the works, Chief Di Luzio told council members, adding a 911 Phone Switch Hookup with Northampton County 911 and Allentown Police 911 Center should be operational by June 2015.

Long-term plans for 2016 include sharing radio

systems by both Bethlehem and Allentown 911 Centers. Over time, sharing equipment will save both cities funds on upgrades, fees and maintenance agreement, DiLuzio said.

He said he has been in contact with PEMA and state representatives and state senators regarding 911 legislation, as they are considering reauthorizing the 911 tax. The state has collected \$1 a month on cellphones and between \$1 and \$1.50 on landlines to pay for the service since 1990. Proposed legislation would add a \$1.50-a-month charge on any line; this could go

as high as \$1.75 or \$2.

Mayor Bob Donchez said the city plans to undergo a study with Allentown, Lehigh County and Northampton County on how all four dispatching systems can best function and if there are benefits to consolidation. He said the study, which should be done by fall, will cost between \$11,000 and \$12,000 for each government entity involved. City council members agreed to again discuss the city's 911 service after the state budget is passed in late June and in the fall after the study is completed.

Recchiuti said an effec-

tive 911 Center gives residents a feeling of security. When he speaks with residents, Recchiuti said they tell him, "I feel safe. I feel secure. We're one of 2 non-county 911 centers in the state," he noted. "It's good to prepare for future. I'm glad it's being studied."

Waldron said the 911 Center is "the backbone of the safety of our community. Our public safety needs to be a priority."

Reuscher told DiLuzio, "Thank you for providing this information. I'm impressed with the work your department has done."

**VOLUNTEERS**

**HISPANIC CENTER OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY, Bethlehem**, is looking for volunteers who have a large vehicle and would be willing to pick up a large donation of food once a week on Fridays in Allentown and bring it to the center in Bethlehem. Call Bennie Khamneh, 610-868-7800, ext. 225, bkhamneh[at]hclv.org.

**HISTORIC BETHLEHEM MUSEUMS & SITES, Bethlehem**, needs volunteers for a new exhibition "Steam-punk" at the Kemerer Museum. Volunteers are needed Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Volunteers are needed from April 18 to Nov. 1. Call Melanie Depcinski, 610-882-0450, ext. 13, mdepkinski[at]historicbethlehem.org.

**LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK** needs volunteers to serve guests in the gift shops at LVH-Cedar Crest and LVH-Muhlenberg. Must possess great customer service skills, compassion, and be able to work a three or four hour shift. Evening and weekend shifts are most needed, however day shifts are accepted also. Call Karla Bachl, 610-402-8897, karla\_m.bachl[at]lvhn.org.

**THE COCO FOUNDATION, Bethlehem**, needs volunteers (age 13+) for the fifth annual Miles for Coco 5k Run/Walk on Sunday, April 19 at the Lehigh Parkway. Help is needed for several race related functions from set up, registration, kids' activities, parking directors, clean up, food set up, etc. Various time slots available between 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Tina Eichlin, 484-695-8923, tina[at]thecocofoundation.org.

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

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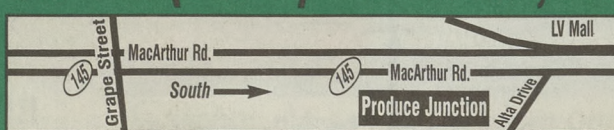
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