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CITY
Council
mounts
bamboo
defense

BY MICHELLE MEEH
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

In a narrow vote, city council members approved an ordinance regulating bamboo, 4-3 with councilmembers Bryan Callahan, Adam Waldron and Olga Negrón voting against the measure.

During the public portion of the meeting, council members heard from two homeowners who said they have no trouble containing running bamboo growing on their properties.

The ordinance was first proposed after the city health department received complaints from residents who said the plant is invading their properties from neighboring areas. The city had no ordinance regulating running bamboo, so there was nothing the health department could do about these complaints.

Running bamboo is an invasive that plant grows rapidly and can cause infrastructure damage.

Resident Jamie Lantz said English Ivy is a greater hazard, choking out even large trees. He also said the city itself has large bamboo stands growing on at least two properties, including at the maintenance garage on Schoenersville Road.

While the new law prohibits homeowners from planting new bam-

See **CITY** on Page A2



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Police Chief Mark DiLuzio has more than 25 years with the department and is dedicated first and foremost to community policing, which he says makes for a stronger, safer city.

'We all have the same concerns'

BY NATE JASTRZEMSKI
 njastrzemi@tntonline.com

AN INTERVIEW WITH
POLICE CHIEF MARK DILUZIO

When I recently asked Bethlehem Police Chief Mark DiLuzio what he would wish for given unlimited resources; he said, "World peace."

The line from the film "Miss Congeniality" was delivered with his signature lilt, a deadpan that somehow conveys an expectation of laughter. DiLuzio is known for throwing groan-inducing remarks into interviews, and that day was no different. We did laugh, admitting we'd both watched the movie re-

cently, but we spent the better part of an hour discussing very real matters for his department; successes and challenges and what he feels will make Bethlehem a safer, closer community.

For those unaware, the Bethlehem Police Department has 154 officers, with five more training at the Allentown Police Academy. There are substations throughout the city, a four-horse mounted unit with a new home in Northeast Bethlehem expected to be complet-

ed in May, and four dogs trained to patrol and sniff out drugs or explosives.

Additionally, the department installed a new record management system last year, which DiLuzio said is a good program for data management; Naloxone, used to stabilize overdose victims, is now kept in all patrol vehicles; and there are officers, called Student Resource Officers, stationed in the middle schools and high schools both for safety and to work directly

with kids in any number of activities.

"I'm trying to bring back many of the things we had years ago that went away through budget crunches," he said, but the cornerstone of his yearslong strategy is evident: Community policing.

DiLuzio said Bethlehem has always practiced some form of community policing, but it fell by the wayside due to cuts more than a decade ago. He's stressed its usefulness as chief and works continually to expand its influence. "I see one of the biggest pushes [nationwide] is

See **CHIEF** on Page A2

PEOPLE SAY
 BY DANA GRUBB

If you could bring back any television program from when you were a kid, which one would it be?



"Star Trek and Felix the Cat from when I was little."

Babak Kamyab
 Allentown



"Ren and Stimpy."
Jackie Dougert
 West Milford, N.J.

PEOPLE SAY
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BETHLEHEM PRESS

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BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Property value error causes momentary budget hold up

BY LIZ KEMERRER
 Special to the Bethlehem Press

A miscalculation of the real estate market value of Northampton County is causing a momentary hiccup in the district budget approval process, reported directors at the finance committee meeting April 10.

School districts use real estate market values to determine tax rates for the current year, which impacts district budget calculations, explained Bethlehem Area

School District Chief Financial Officer Stacy Gober. The State Tax Equalization Board (STEB) is responsible for determining the aggregate market value of taxable real estate property across Pennsylvania.

This year, STEB determined the market value of Northampton County properties within BASD to be over \$345 million less than last year. This unforeseen drop in value resulted when STEB, in error, removed certain land parcels belonging to Sands BethWorks that are normally included in the

assessment.

"This would clearly address the large reduction in market value for Northampton County," Gober said.

School districts that lie in more than one county, as BASD lies in both Northampton and Lehigh counties, have a particular challenge calculating tax rates, Gober explained. State guidelines dictate that school districts in more than one county will adjust the taxation rates so the tax burden

See **BASD** on Page 2

"This would clearly address the large reduction in market value for Northampton County."

STACY GOBER

SPRING MUSICALS: CHARTER ARTS, A3; LIBERTY HS, A10



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If you could bring back any television program from when you were a kid, which one would it be?



"Scrubs."
Andrew Utah
Bethlehem



"Seinfeld."
Paul Utah
Bethlehem



"The Angry Beavers."
Stephanie Loschiavo
Bethlehem



"Hey Arnold."
Jenna Marino
Ramsey, N.J.

CITY

Continued from page A1

boo, property owners with existing running bamboo are grandfathered. Director of Community and Economic Development Alicia Karner said, "Our goal is compliance," and the city works with those involved to solve the problem rather than using fines. "We are being patient as long as progress is being made," she said.

In other business, council members unanimously voted to expand the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) zone. The north side LERTA was originally passed in the fall of 2016, but council members voted not to

expand it at that time, opting first to see how the zone would work.

The expanded district will include neighborhoods around Moravian College, from East Laurel Street to the north and West Broad Street on the south, to Maple Street on the east and Main Street and Mauch Chunk Road on the west.

Council is set to discuss a proposed ethics ordinance at the May 2 meeting. The proposal would make ethics training mandatory.

The meeting originally scheduled for May 16 has been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 17, because of the primary election.

CHIEF

Continued from page A1 bringing community policing back. We started officer beats throughout the city. We have bike officers out now when the weather is good, and we have a joint program with Lehigh: A Lehigh officer and a city officer [riding together]. We have officers attending every block watch in the city to talk with the people. We work with the Ambassadors on the Southside and the Downtown Bethlehem Association on the Northside and the Chamber of Commerce. And our horses work with everybody.

"I think it's doing damn good in the city," he said. "People love one-on-one talking to a cop. The businesses, the residents ... I like when beat officers or those bike officers take ownership of a neighborhood. The people and the cop work together and the cop says, 'This is my neighborhood. I'm going to take care of it.' If we do each neighborhood this way, we're making a whole community safe."

DiLuzio cites transparency and partnerships with the community as great modern successes for the department. Learning programs such as Citizens' and Junior Police academies, both of which are popular enough for expansion, and regular public forums with the local NAACP, supplementing community policing, have convinced him residents have more in common with each other than not. "If we all just sit down and talk, we find out we all have the same concerns."

Meanwhile the bane of public services, budgets, is his biggest administrative hurdle. "There's a price of goods and services - supplies we need to run the department - computer goods, high tech stuff - the prices always go up. As you know, we're on a fixed budget to an



Chief Mark DiLuzio at a press conference in the Rotunda with Mayor Bob Donchez and District Attorney John Morganello.

extent. Make sure you do the best you could for your department and the citizens with what you have."

With that in mind, DiLuzio said if he could truly wish for anything to better his department it would begin with more training for officers. "We do more than is state-mandated, but I have a limited training budget."

"A well-trained officer does a good job, because training is something you do your whole life. Society changes every year, and training has to change every year. You always have a new set of problems." He would also like more officers out in the community and others specialized in certain problems, such as a dedicated animal control officer, a rehab and drug violation specialist, and a cybercrime specialist.

He said the department is in the process of training one detective to work cybercrime full time. He said computer crimes such as fraud, theft, child pornography and sex trafficking are everywhere, and the internet is like the Wild West. "It is uncontrolled and there's a lot of criminal activity. A lot of people think that doesn't happen here. Yes it does. This is the future of crime in America." Amercia's current

struggle is with drugs, he said.

The nationwide increase in drug use, especially heroin, is being confronted every day in the city. DiLuzio said in 2016 city emergency service responders saved 93 overdose victims with Naloxone, and police officers saved another 24. However, he said some among those people were saved more than once; some within a few days and one the very same day.

"Drug abuse is the basis for a lot of crime in this country. If we ever got a handle on drug abuse in this country we'd see the crime rate cut in half or almost three-quarters. And I say that from experience from arresting people for theft, robbery, burglary, murders. The majority of murders are gang or drug related, taking out the domestic or DUI issues."

To see real results in drug abuse though, DiLuzio said, "We have to sit down and air out all our dirty laundry. And a lot of people don't want to do that."

By that he means getting everyone at the local, state and federal levels of government on the same page; an unlikely prospect. "To affect overall crime in this country you have to get everyone involved in the dialog, and we're not doing that. You can't even get two

groups in the same room together. It's sad."

But DiLuzio wants people to trust the police and call if they see something that doesn't feel right. "Call us when you see it. If you see kids walking down the street at 2 a.m. testing car doors, call us. It doesn't help us the next day when you say, 'It was three and one of them was on a bike.' It's your community, step up and make the call. You might be helping your neighbor and you're probably gonna help yourself because people involved in burglaries, robberies and thefts don't just do one. I never caught a burglar that did one burglary. When they confess ... I had one guy, he did 52 of them. He showed me the houses. That's what he did to support a heroin addiction. He knew he was caught and needed help."

DiLuzio also expects to hear from residents if they have a problem with the police, but he said he's pleased with the performance of his department. He has been chief since 2014 and, unlike his predecessors, has no plans to move along anytime soon. Already with the department for 25 years, he said, "When I took this job, I could have retired. I'm giving back. I'll do this for 10 years if they let me."

BRIEFLY

BETHLEHEM

Recycling center closed April 24-27

The Thies/Cornfeld Recycling Center will be closed April 24, 25, 26 and 27 for the installation of a new baler and spring cleaning. No materials will be accepted on any of these days.

All questions should be referred to the Recycling Bureau at 610-865-7082.



PRESS PHOTO BY LIZ KEMMERER

Chief Financial Officer Stacy Gober (with director Dr. Dean Donher) explains how the district uses real estate market values to calculate tax rates at the finance committee meeting Apr. 10.

BASD

Continued from page 1

is proportionately balanced between the two counties to account for fluctuating property values.

A drop in value in Northampton County, therefore, results in that large percentage of the district tax burden being shifted to Lehigh County to balance the scales, resulting in a higher adjusted millage rate for Lehigh County.

"These market values will impact that shift between the two counties and we have to make sure that it is fair and equitable and following the same trend that we would normally expect," said Gober.

Gober said STEB is currently in Northampton County evaluating the error. After this, the STEB board will need to approve the cor-

rected millage rate for Northampton County before BASD can use it to calculate their budget. This puts the district in a bit of a time crunch, as tentative adoption of the budget is scheduled for May 15 and the STEB board does not meet until May 30, said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Roy.

The district will continue working with STEB, but is also calling in help from local legislators to make sure STEB finishes their process in time for the district to approve their tentative budget May 15.

"Right now, it's a big question mark right in the middle of our process," Roy said.

The last budget workshop is scheduled for April 26, followed by the tentative budget adoption on May 15 and the final budget adoption on June 19.

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The Truly Heroic Rescue

The jump began as a routine skydiving exercise, but within seconds sky diver Gregory Robertson saw that fellow parachutist Debbie Williams was in big trouble. Instead of "floating" in the proper stretched-out position she was tumbling like a rag doll. In attempting to join other divers in a handholding ring formation, she had slammed into the backpack of another chutist, and was knocked unconscious!

From his instructor's position 40 feet above the divers, Robertson reacted with instincts that had been honed by 1,700 jumps. He straightened into a vertical dart, arms pinned to his body, ankles crossed, head aimed at the ground in a 200 mph "no-lift" dive and caught up with Williams about ten seconds before impact. He angled the unconscious sky diver so her chute could open readily and yanked the rip cord on her emergency chute before pulling his own rip cord just six seconds before he would have slammed into the ground.

Robertson's daring rescue is worthy of admiration because he sacrificed his own safety to save another. Such is the character of a genuine hero and true love. Jesus Christ said it this way, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). But Robertson's heroic rescue, as admirable as it is, was for a friend, a fellow sky diver—not an enemy. This is where God's love is greater! The Bible says, "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7-8). Yes, Jesus Christ made the truly heroic rescue in that He sacrificially died for sinners, the enemies of God hopelessly headed to eternal death, that those who receive Him might have eternal life (see John 1:12).

CITY POLICE Standoff

Police arrested Aristotle Tarboro, 48, of Fillmore Street following a standoff during which he allegedly threatened officers late April 19.

According to police, an officer responding to a 911 call to Fillmore Street for a "true emergency" was quickly approached by Tarboro, who had been waiting nearby in his pickup. He had a 14-inch machete duct taped to his right hand and threatened to kill officers as more arrived. He returned to his truck and drove off at one point, over a curb and eventually was surrounded by police cruisers. Police suspected there was also a handgun in the truck.

By 2:30 a.m. police succeeded in convincing him to surrender peacefully.

Tarboro was remanded to the Northampton County Sheriff's Department on an open warrant and following a medical evaluation was committed to Northampton County Prison.

Tarboro is expected to be arraigned on assault, threat, endangerment, fleeing police and possessing an instrument of crime charges.

Drug possession

Police arrested Rene Marrero Jr. following a traffic stop around 11 p.m. April 19.

Officers allegedly observed Marrero, 42, of West Livingston Street in Allentown, driving near Broadway and Fiot streets, and officers recognized him and stopped him to verify his license was suspended.

While search of the vehicle police allegedly found a loaded Taurus .45 caliber pistol and 136 grams of loose heroin.

Marrero is charged with intent to deliver heroin and carrying a firearm without a license. He was remanded to Northampton County Prison in lieu of \$30,000 bail.

Police Chief Mark DiLuzio said in a statement the heroin, if processed and packaged for individual sale on the streets of Bethlehem, would be worth over \$30,000. When broken down into individual packets of heroin for sale on the streets of Bethlehem, this amount of heroin would yield upwards of 6,000 individual packets.

DiLuzio asks residents with knowledge of anyone selling heroin in the city of Bethlehem to contact Tip Line at 610-691-6660.

Women's Club donates books to Cops 'n' Kids



PRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF BETHLEHEM WOMEN'S CLUB

General Federation of Women's Clubs GFWC Bethlehem Women's Club recently donated 1,600 new and gently used books to the Lehigh Valley Cops 'n' Kids Children's Literacy Program. The Women's Club partnered with Cops 'n' Kids as part of the GFWC's state president's project to support "every child every day." Cops 'n' Kids personifies this mission. **Above:** Bethlehem Women's Club members Chris Ippoliti, Fae Guerin, Jean Larkin (president) and Linda Zimmers (past president).

BRIEFLY SENIORS

Health Expo set for April 27

There will be a free Senior Health and Wellness expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 27 at the Old York Road Senior Center at Moravian House II, 720 Old York Road. Representatives from Golds Gym, Senior Life, Moravian and DeSales colleges, as well as Bethlehem Area Vo-tech will be present.

Twenty-plus vendors will offer educational information, including what services are available for seniors. Presentations include health screenings, reflexology, aromatherapy, blood pressure, blood sugar checks, massages and fitness demonstrations.

There will be low cost manicures and haircuts and giveaways. Food will be available for purchase. For information, call 610-867-4378, ext. 128.

HALL

Continued from page A4

basement of the Heritage Foundation" and "is dead on arrival." He said Americans will oppose many of the cuts to popular programs.

Appropriations

"I really enjoy working on the Appropriations Committee," Cartwright said. It's a position he shares with Dent, for whom he had high praise.

Trump taxes

Cartwright explained that there is a bill to force Trump to release his tax

returns. But he added that Republicans are in charge of the House. "They control what bills come up for vote in committee." He said that even if such a bill were to pass the House and Senate, it would have to go to the White House for Trump's signature. "Raise your hand if you think he's gonna sign that," he joked

Social Security

Cartwright supports SS2100, an attempt to extend the solvency of Social Security. He said Schuylkill County has 150,000 people and 38,000 are on Social Security.

Regulations

Cartwright opposed and voted against the Scrub Act, aimed at cutting regulations, because there were no hearings. "I don't call them regulations, I call them protections." He admitted "there are some bad regulations out there that need to go, but we need to work on them one at a time."

Trump

"Make no mistake, I am not here to trash Donald Trump. He won the election," said Cartwright. "Not by a majority," someone in the audience muttered. "He won it by the rules that

are laid out and I have to work with him," responded Cartwright. He said he likes Trump's desire to invest \$1 trillion in infrastructure, but not by tax credits to private corporations.

Next president

"Not me."

Gerrymandering

Like Dent, Cartwright explained that redistricting is done by the state legislature, not Congress. Speaking of his own district, he asked, "Did you ever see a map of my district? That is a shape that does not occur in nature."

ARTSQUEST

'Great News' screening May 4

There will be a preview screening of Tracy Wigfield's "Great News," featuring John Michael Higgins, at 8 p.m. May 4, at Steel-Stacks, Arts Quest, 101 Founders Way.

Wigfield is the Emmy Award winning writer for "30 Rock" and "The Mindy Project." The show's pilot, produced by Tina Fey and Robert Carlock, premiered April 25 on NBC.

For information and tickets, visit www.steelstacks.org or call 610-332-3378.

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CENTER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE

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



Rex is high energy and needs an active family that is willing to give him the time he needs to run, play, and just be a dog. Rex has lived with another dog as well as children.



Gizmo is sweet, good with other cats, and gentle. He was adopted and brought back through no fault of his own. Gizmo is looking for a forever home.

VOLUNTEERS

ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION needs volunteers (age 25+ years) to read to kindergarten students once a week during the school year. Contact Susan Williams, 484-765-4093, williamssu@allentownsd.org.

AUTISM SPEAKS, Bethlehem, needs volunteers (18+ years) for their Lehigh Valley Autism Speaks Walk April 29. For more info, visit www.Act.AutismSpeaks.org/LehighValley or contact Laura Casolaro, 856-858-5400, lehighvalleywalk@autismspeaks.org.

CEDARBROOK NURSING HOME, Fountain Hill, needs a volunteer to play hymns one hour a week for Sunday church service. Contact Kerry Magliane, 610-336-5684, kerrymagliane@lehighcounty.org.

DA VINCI SCIENCE CENTER, Allentown, needs enthusiastic volunteers (18+ years) to help bring science to life on the exhibit floor and assist with public programs. Contact Joan Amayo, 484-664-1002, joan@davincisciencecenter.org.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE, Whitehall, needs volunteer help (16+ years) with sorting, pricing and organizing donated light fixtures, lamps, home décor, furniture, and more. Email Camille@habitat.org for details.

HISTORIC BETHLEHEM MUSEUMS & SITES needs volunteers for the "Sweetest Festival," the annual Blueberry Festival July 15 and 16. Contact Tavia Minnich, 610-882-0450, ext. 20, tminnich@historicbethlehem.org.

TABOR SERVICES INC., Bethlehem and Allentown, needs volunteers to become mentors to children who have very few adult connections and would be happy to have someone to talk to, go for a walk, fly a kite or play ball. Contact Kea at 610-739-0524, Nykea.Alvarez-Macey@tabor.org.

THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDREN'S SERVICES, Allentown, is looking for volunteers to help with their sixth annual Rock N Run 4Kids 10k, 5k, and Kids Fun Run at Coca-Cola Park May 13. Contact Angie, 610-821-7706, angie.gillen@use.salvationarmy.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.

Brodhead Road work begins in July

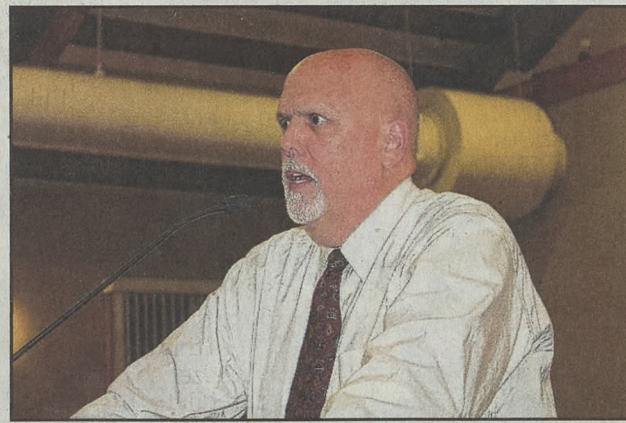
BY BERNIE O'HARE
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Sometime in mid or late July, Bethlehem Township will finally begin work on the reconstruction of Brodhead Road. That's a 9,000 foot long, two-lane township road that extends east from Township Line Road until it intersects with Route 191. Located in Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, the road is heavily traveled by tractor trailers, and has been the subject of numerous complaints. Commissioners set aside \$1.3 million for this project in this year's budget, and a \$400,000 grant has been secured.

Township engineer Brian Dillman got the green light from commissioners at their April 17 meeting. They adopted resolutions seeking PennDOT approval for warning signals at three pedestrian crossings near Township Line Road, Miller Circle and Opus Way. They also authorized Manager Melissa Shafer to seek bids, which are expected by late May.

Once work begins,

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP



PRESS PHOTOS BY BERNIE O'HARE
Township Engineer Brian Dillman designed the reconstruction of Brodhead Road.

Brodhead Road will be a one-way road going westbound to Route 512. Some of the work will be done at night, but Dillman said paving must also be done in daylight or the product suffers.

Tom Nolan, Malissa Davis and Pat Breslin cast the yes votes. Mike Hudak and Kim Jenkins were absent.

In other business, commissioners approved an update to the township's comprehensive plan after an exhaustive review that

included 14 meetings. Planning Commissioner James Daley told the board that traffic mitigation and stormwater management are the two critical issues they considered most.

Nolan, Davis and Breslin also voted to adopt a resolution supporting legislative efforts to end gerrymandering in Pennsylvania by establishing an independent commission to draw state legislative and congressional districts following the 2020



Fritz Walker gave a detailed presentation on gerrymandering.

census. They did so following a lengthy presentation by Fritz Walker of Fair Districts Pa. "Voters should choose their legislators," said Walker. "Unfortunately, it's frequently legislators who are choosing the voters. That's not the way it should be."

Bethlehem Township is the 21st Pennsylvania municipality to adopt a resolution in support of an independent redistricting commission.

Governor announces Union Blvd. work

CONTRIBUTED

The Wolf administration announced recently that work is scheduled to begin on a \$3.6 million project to repair and resurface Union Boulevard in the cities of Allentown and Bethlehem, Lehigh County.

"This busy east-west corridor between Allentown and Bethlehem is used by thousands of motorists each day, and will soon be resurfaced due to Act 89," Governor Tom Wolf said.

Union Boulevard will be milled and resurfaced between the Lehigh River in Allentown and Route 378 in Bethlehem. Union Boulevard has an average daily traffic volume that varies between 8,284 and 17,398 vehicles.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Lasting throughout the duration of the project, motorists should be alert for lane restrictions weekdays between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.. Updates will be provided whenever schedules change.

Under this improvement project, the contractor will mill off the existing roadway surface and repave the state highways with new asphalt. The new pavement will seal the roadways and provide motorists with a smoother riding surface. They will also replace existing curb ramps with new Americans with Disabilities Act compliant ramps. All work on the

project is expected to be complete in October.

New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. of New Enterprise, Pa. is the general contractor on the project, which is financed with 100 percent state funds from Act 89, Pennsylvania's Transportation Plan.

For more information on projects occurring or being bid this year, those made possible by or accelerated by the state transportation funding plan (Act 89), or those on the department's Four and Twelve Year Plans, visit www.projects.pennndot.gov.

Motorists can check conditions on major roadways

by visiting www.511PA.com. 511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 825 traffic cameras.

511PA is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website.

Follow regional Penn DOT information on Twitter at www.twitter.com/511PAAllentown, and like the department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaDepartmentofTransportation.

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Lori Coursen at Lori.Coursen@sluhn.org

BY MAIL TO: Mrs. Lori Coursen, St. Luke's University Health Network
Development Office, 801 Ostrum Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015

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INSIDE
SPORTS



TRACK

Becahi track finds a new home this season.

A9

TRACK

A look at the updated list of top performers in the EPC.

A9

▼ **THEY SAID IT**

"It was a huge game for us. It was very intense, like a playoff atmosphere. The kids came in ready to play and we just had a really good game."

Andy Pitsolis

Liberty baseball coach

▼ **BRIEFLY**

RUNNING

LHS to FHS

Win the Race for Adam, Liberty to Freedom Run will take place May 13.

It's a four-mile run that begins at 10 a.m. at the Liberty HS track. Or, a two-mile walk that starts at the Freedom HS track.

Cost is \$10 for any BASD member, \$10 for kids fun run (11:30 a.m. Freedom), \$10 for the walk (community) and \$20 for the four-mile run (community).

For more info, visit basdwpweb.beth.k12.pa.us/freedom/

GOLF

Victory House

Victory House of the Lehigh Valley will host the 11th annual Golf Charity Classic.

It takes place Monday, June 5, at Green Pond Country Club on Farmersville Road.

Registration is 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Cost is \$100 per golfer. Sponsorships available.

Call 610-691-3373 ext. 312 to register or for more information.

Lehigh Valley Press
SPORTS
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Liberty boys win EPC tennis title

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcdonald@tnonline.com

The Liberty Hurricanes boys' tennis team finished the regular season with a record of 14-0 and are the 2017 East Penn Conference Champions.

"I am very happy for the team," said Hurri-

cane coach Leo Schnalzer. "Prior to the season, I knew we would have very good players, so I can't take a lot of responsibility for their success. I was there to help and support them, and may be add to their success."

Schnalzer is extremely grateful to his assistants, Chris Conrad,

Dawn Ketterman-Benner, and Linda Minarik, who have also supported the team and Schnalzer.

Hurricane team members include Dan Lynn, Louis Gruber, Jacob Berg, Luke Conrad, David Lynn, Duke Jin, Gavin Snyder, Marc Burritt, and Jacob Wong.

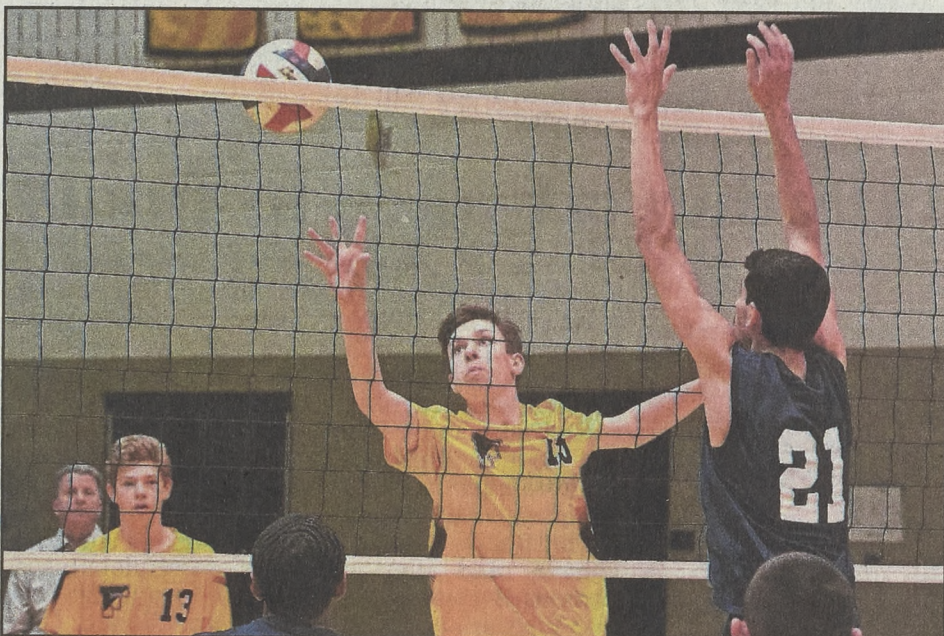
"They are a great bunch of kids to coach, and they're knowledgeable and supportive of each other," Schnalzer said. "I am very pleased."

Seven Hurricanes are still in the process of competing in the East Penn Conference Tennis Tournament which be-

gan on Apr. 21.

Rain delayed the tournament hosted by Freedom High School, first temporarily, then permanently, with the remaining matches to be played at a date and time to be determined.

Freedom athletic director Nate Stannard See **LHS** on Page 8



PRESS PHOTO BY ROB MERCHANT

Michael Marakovits and the Pates are eying a run to districts.



PRESS PHOTO BY ROB MERCHANT

Simeon Martinez (left) and the Hurricanes sit at 7-4 this season.

Pates look for run to districts

BY PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

With just over two weeks left in the volleyball season, all three of Bethlehem's teams appear poised for the District 11 postseason, barring second half collapses.

Freedom (9-5, 5-5) pushed themselves in position with a four-game win streak that continued on Monday with a sweep [25-19, 29-27, 25-23] over Easton.

It's been a story of inconsistency for the Patriots this season, as they've defeated the teams they're supposed to, but haven't been able to register that signature win on the season.

"We are inconsistent during matches," said head coach John Yanek. "However, we are actually very consistent at other times. I believe we are near where I thought we would be, but we haven't exceeded expectations."

Yanek can point to an early season loss to Nazareth in five games and a recent defeat to Beth-

lehem Catholic in four games as evidence at the Pates inconsistency.

"Nazareth would have been a huge win for us, as we were up 2-0," he said, "and the loss to Bethlehem Catholic was disappointing. We have the ability. We just can't seem to finish the deal."

The Pates will have a tough task on Wednesday night taking on an undefeated Whitehall (11-0) team at home, but rounding out the week against Pocono Mountain East (1-11).

With Emmaus (10-0), Northampton (6-4) and Liberty (7-4) rounding out the schedule in three of their last four matches, Freedom will need every win they can get in order to solidify a postseason berth.

"We've been working hard on defense and serve-serve," said Yanek. "That will separate us from other teams, since our hitting is average. We need to concentrate on passion, drive and belief."

Liberty (7-4, 6-4) en- See **VBALL** on Page 8

Hawks get past Freedom

BY KATIE MCDONALD
kmcdonald@tnonline.com

When Bethlehem Catholic pitcher Tatum Kresley was asked if she needed to come out of the game during the sixth inning of the Hawks' game against Freedom last Thursday, her response was heck no, and Kresley and the Hawks proceeded to finish off the Patriots 8-3.

"I was feeling really, really good except for the sixth inning. I got a little tired," said Kresley.

The Patriots strung together three hits to load the bases when Julia Roman doubled, Jana Boksan singled, and Shay Banas had a base

hit. "We wanted to chip away and get some runs one hit at a time and make her throw strikes," said Boksan. "It felt good, and I thought if I put the ball in play, we could make something happen."

The Patriots scored three runs in that inning, all on walks with the bases loaded.

"I had to close my eyes and walk behind the mound, and then look at our second baseman or shortstop," said Kresley. "That helped me."

Becahi third baseman Alexis Lopez hit a home run to start the seventh

See **GIRLS** on Page 8



PRESS PHOTO BY SCOTT PAGEL

Jacob Wagner slides safely into third during a recent home game.

Liberty stays hot with victory over Freedom

BY PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

Every game is a big game according to Liberty head coach Andy Pitsilos, but whenever Liberty and Freedom come together for one of their two regular season rivalry contests, it's fair to say the stakes get even bigger.

During Saturday's affair at Liberty, the Hurricanes had everything going the right way en route to a five inning, 10-0 shutout over the Patriots to bolster their confidence heading into another packed week of games.

With Liberty playing twelve games in the past 16 days, there isn't much time to savor victories, but Saturday's win

pushed the Hurricanes (10-2, 7-1) to sole possession of first place in the East Penn Conference's Steel Division and gave them a convincing win over one of the league's top teams.

"It was a huge game for us," said Pitsilos of the Freedom contest. "It was very intense, like a playoff atmosphere. The kids came in ready to play and we just had a really good game."

The Hurricanes scored five runs in the second and third innings to catapult themselves to the early double digit advantage, as Jared Burcin knocked in four RBI on the day, clubbing a pair of two-run doubles, as the 'Canes collected 10 hits on the afternoon

to jump the Pates.

Becahi transfer, Alex Super, provided the shutout performance on the mound, striking out five and giving up three hits over five innings, as well as a walk.

"We have around eight to ten guys that can pitch for us, but our top four or five guys have really done a great job," Pitsilos said. "Alex has been a big part of the pitching staff and he threw another great game."

Now Pitsilos hopes those great games continue as they headed into a week with three home games in three days, starting with Monday's win 3-0 over Easton (5-5), followed by Tuesday's

See **BALL** on Page 9



PRESS PHOTO BY NANCY SCHOLZ

Tatum Kresley and the Hawks, shown here against Parkland, recently beat Freedom.

EPC TRACK AND FIELD TOP PERFORMANCES

Below is the second release of the East Penn Conference top track and field performances for the 2017 season thus far, which came out Friday morning, April 21.

- 100 — 1.10.20 Julian Liaci (Naz), 2. 10.70 Jahvanne Alexander (Allen), Zaher Seabrooks (BC), 4. 10.80 Khalil Edwards (PMW), Izaiah McPherson (Emm), Eddie Brown (ESN).
200 — 1.21.70 Julian Liaci (Naz), 2. 21.90 Jahvanne Alexander (Allen), 3. 22.30 Julian Colon (Park), 4. 22.60 Martin Labib (WHS), Lubens Myers (Emm), Camden Gordan (ESS), Dyonny Bueno (Stds).

- 110 HH — 1.14.40 Shamus Williams (BC), 2. 15.20 Jose Rosario (PV), Angel Marquez Pizarro (ESN), Jevaughn Stewart (PME), Isreal Selassie (Eas).
300 IH — 1.40.40 Isreal Selassie (Eas), 2. 40.70 Katrell Thompson (Eas), 3. 40.80 Shamus Williams (BC), 4. 41.00 Michael Couch (Eas), 5. 41.30 Jevaughn Stewart (PME), Javier Hernandez (Allen).

- 400 relay — 1.43.50 PM WEST (Jonathan St Hilaire, Khalil Edwards, Chris Monaco, Isaiah Wiggins), 2. 43.70 NAZARETH (Garrett Eldridge, Julian Liaci, Noah Mennona, Kyle Paccio), 3. 43.72 PARKLAND (Julian Colon, Anthony Glosson, Christopher Matiski, Habeeb Salau), 4. 43.80 FREEDOM (Kyree Marshburn, Nicholas King, Cyrus Thompson, Dashaun Peterson), EMMAUS (Allen Doelue, Brian Mantone, Izaiah McPherson, Lubens Myers).
1600 relay — 1.3:27.30 ALLEN (Carlos Coronel, Javier Hernandez, Ahmed Toure, Duquan Stellingburg), 2. 3:29.70 PARKLAND (Connor Tempro, Habeeb Salau, Daniel Pruzinsky, Samuel Morgan), 3. 3:30.00 ES SOUTH (Omari Slocombe, Jarrad Pope, Camden Gordan, Xavier Lockard), 4. 3:35.00 FREEDOM (Kyree Marshburn, Dashaun Peterson, Cyrus Thompson, Lewis Hargett), 5. 3:36.30 EASTON (Donovan Sanders, Tawheed Muhammad, Isreal Selassie, Katrell Thompson).

- 300 IH — 1.47.10 Jaida Fenn (Stds), 2. 47.80 Mikayla Jones (BC), 3. 50.10 Jillian Potcher (Stds), 4. 50.20 Christine Hutchinson (Park), 5. 50.30 Madelyn Mertz (WHS), Payton Shaffer (Lib).
400 relay — 1.50.10 WHITEHALL (Helen Davis, Kate Bonshak, Amanda Crooks, Kyle Cunningham), 2. 50.40 EMMAUS (Alanna Smith, Breyanna Roper, Kenya Ra'oof, Kayla Smith), 3. 51.10 PL VALLEY (Armani Dunkley, Alana Porter, Julia Butchkoski, Jalurah Moore), 4. 51.40 STROUDSBURG (Jillian Bruno, Sydney Graves, Deja Spears, Ayanna Burrell), 5. 51.50 ES SOUTH (Destiny Denny, Alexis Morra, Gabriella Taylor, Courtney Anderson).

- 1600 relay — 1.2:00.00 ACC (Allyssa Deschler, Morgan Dietz, Natasha Kuklis, Devon Montanari), 2. 3:00.00 EASTON (Kianna Willis, Pia Mazzella, Di Bosco, Crystal Wilkinson, Jasmine Reed), 3. 4:12.00 STROUDSBURG (Avery Francis, Jaida Fenn, Allana Powlette, Jasmine Douglas-Grant), 4. 4:15.00 PM EAST (Nia Harris, Khyasia Caldwell, Ebony Kennedy, Kiaya Jones), 5. 4:15.90 LIBERTY (Alicia Vallederas, Greta Stuckey, Payton Shaffer, Rachel Byrne).
3200 relay — 1.9:55.00 EASTON (Nina Corpora, Morgan McDonald, Alyssa Repsher, Ellissa Slader), 2. 10:00.50 EMMAUS (Katrina Durrwachter, Abby Dalton, Abby Heilenman, Sophie Pickering), 3. 10:02.50 PARKLAND (Devyn Anderson, Sydney DelVecchio, Kiley Krasley, Ava Schaller), 4. 10:12.34 LIBERTY (no names given), 5. 10:13.60 STROUDSBURG (Jasmine Douglas-Grant, Em-

- ily Banashefski, Avery Francis, Allana Powlette).
High jump — 1. 5-6 Kate Willshaw (Eas), Morgan Sherwin (Park), 3. 5-4 Armani Dunkley (PV), 4. 5-2 Madison McTier (FHS), 5. 5-1 Anais Wilson (ESN).
Pole vault — 1. 11-0 Alexandra Guardo (Stds), 2. 10-3 Alexis Barrall (Nor), 3. 10-0 Mary Michael (PV), 4. 9-6, 5' 9-0 Darby Reiss (PV), Analise Vaccari (Park), Savannah Rivera (WHS), Sabrina Zayas (ESS).
Long jump — 1. 19-11 Khyasia Caldwell (PME), 2. 17-10 Grace Mittl (Lib), 3. 17-01 Juanita Wiggins (PMW), 4. 16-8 Ayanna Burrell (Stds), 5. 16-7 Liz Lieb (BC).
Triple jump — 1. 36-09.50 Ayanna Burrell (Stds), 2. 36-05.50 Madison McTier (Free), 3. 36-4 Grace Mittl (Lib), 4. 35-11.50 Rachel Tanczos (BC), 5. 35-5 Liz Lieb (BC).
Shot put — 1. 42-01.50 Jochebed Arthur (Lib), 2. 35-9 Rachel Tanczos (BC), 3. 33-11 Sydney Wilson (Lib), 4. 32-5 Kristina Polak (Lib), 5. 32-00 Aja Blount (Nor), Sarah Baumann (BC).
Discus — 1. 131-4 Rachel Tanczos (BC), 2. 130-9 Jochebed Arthur (Lib), 3. 108-10 Aja Blount (Nor), 4. 108-8 Sydney Wilson (Lib), 5. 105-3 Quintessa Zamolyi (BC).
Javelin — 1. 122-0 Eleni Prodes (Lib), 2. 120-5 Becca Meisse (Stds), 3. 115-11 Quintessa Zamolyi (BC), 4. 114-11 Sarah Cuttice (BC), 5. 109-6 Paige Konso (Park).

FHS boys lacrosse looks for momentum

BY PETER CAR pcar@tnonline.com

It was another building block for Freedom's boys lacrosse program last week when the Patriots topped Nazareth 14-12 to register their first ever victory over the Blue Eagles.

Jamal Williamson led the charge with four goals in the win, as Freedom's program continues to make strides each year.

"This win was huge for our team and our program," said head coach Tony Fabrizio. "We took a couple of tough losses recently and we're finally able to bounce back to beat Nazareth. We played well as a team. Beating Nazareth was a large hurdle we wanted to get over."

The win was the third in four games for the Pates (5-6, 4-4) heading

into this week's slate of four games, starting with Monday's 7-4 loss to Southern Lehigh.

They should have a favorable rest of the week with games against Northampton on Tuesday, Pleasant Valley on Thursday and Liberty on Saturday afternoon.

This week's tilt with Pleasant Valley (3-8, 3-6) could decide the EPC West division, as both teams are the clear leaders of the pack.

"These boys have achieved so much already, but are still hungry for more," said Fabrizio. "We hit a rough patch as a team losing close games against good opponents, but we're now seeing a team with a purpose. I couldn't be prouder of them coming together. The heart, hustle, and determination will get these boys far."

Liberty (1-9, 1-7) got their first win of the season last week with a 9-4 win over Northampton (0-12), as Jacob Anthony led the way with four goals.

Bethlehem Catholic (2-8, 2-7) have only registered wins over Northampton and Liberty this season and will look to double their win total this week when they face each opponent again.

On the girls side, Freedom (7-3, 5-3) will have a shot at closing within a game of Easton (8-1, 7-1) in the EPC's Steel Division when the two sides meet on Thursday.

Liberty (1-10, 0-8) are still searching for their first league win, as they head into a week with Saucon Valley (6-3), Central Catholic (6-7) and Delaware Valley (5-4).

BALL

Continued from page 7 contest with Bethlehem Catholic (3-6), rounded out by Wednesday's affair with Stroudsburg (6-4).

"We have three big games in a row this week," Pitsilos said. "It helps to have the type of depth we do on the mound, but we just take things one game at a time. I know we're in good position right now in the league, but we'll see how things shake out when it's all said and done. We just have to keep playing well."

DARTS

Bethlehem Inter-Church Dart Baseball League Semifinals

- (4) St. Peter's vs. (1) Holy Trinity
Game 1: 8-7 Holy Trinity — Holy Trinity scored 3 runs in the bottom of the ninth for the walk off win.
Game 2: 7-2 Holy Trinity

For the Patriots (9-2, 6-2), Saturday's defeat puts them a game behind the Hurricanes in the division.

However, Monday's 4-0 win over Allen (2-9) put the Pates back on track before their trip up north on Wednesday against Pocono Mountain West (1-7). They'll round out the week on Saturday against Bethlehem Catholic (3-6, 3-5) for a 1:30 p.m. start at Coca-Cola Park.

The Golden Hawks have struggled as of late, losing three straight before Monday's 13-3 win over Dieruff (0-10).

Becahi has three

St. Peter's: Ron Frankenfield 5-8, Travis Frankenfield 4-7, Tyron Rivera 4-9

Holy Trinity: Dale Wesner 7-9, Dale Mack 5-7, Gary Mosser 4-10

(3) Fritz-Wesleyan vs. (2) Christ Lutheran
Game 1: 7-5 Fritz-Wesleyan
Game 2: 8-2 Christ Lutheran

Game 3: 5-4 Fritz-Wesleyan (10 innings)

straight games to start this week as well, as they took on Liberty on Tuesday and Northampton (9-2) on Wednesday, before rounding out the week on Saturday against the Pates.

It could prove to be a make or break week for the Hawks and their playoff chances, as Liberty, Northampton and Freedom have six combined losses between them.

With Becahi needing wins to stay alive in the playoff race, this week's gauntlet could determine their fate the rest of the season.

Fritz-Wesleyan: Blair Weller 7-13, Jack Rohal 5-12

Christ Lutheran: Norm Hein 7-14, Bob Filaseta and John Collins 6-13, Sarah Jak 5-12

Finals (1) Holy Trinity Best-of-5 League Championship Match: Monday, May 1, at East Hills Moravian — 7 p.m.



Shamus Williams, shown here at the Allen Invitational, is among the leaders in the hurdles this season.

PRESS PHOTO BY NANCY SCHOLZ

BC track finds a home

BY KATIE MCDONALD kmcdonald@tnonline.com

Bethlehem Catholic High School track and field coach Fred Rice has his hands full with 157 athletes on the roster this year, and he couldn't be happier.

In addition, the Hawks have finally found a place to practice since Becahi does not have a track.

"Our A.D. Chris Doman called Freedom's A.D. Nate Stannard and asked if they would have any time availability, and then their new coach Ben Reph and I figured out what to do, how to lock up, and things like that," said Rice. "They were so nice, and we are so thankful to them."

The Hawks practice there twice a week, and Rice drives the team to and from Freedom on Becahi's bus.

"What a difference being able to go to a track is," Rice said. "The kids just want to stay and stay. It's like Christmas to them. The jumpers would jump forever if I let them."

Rice and his assistants Nicole Chickey, Tyler Horton, and Jeanna Sante-Stefano use those days as structural, technical practice days.

"We work on hand-offs, hurdles, jumping in the pits, and there's a throwing area we use," said Rice.

Rowan Pepe, Lauren Bunke, and Mary Frances Scheidel are the top distance runners for the girls' team, and Allison Hontz is returning as a sprinter.

"Ally is experiencing senior year in the right way, trying different events, like the long jump," Rice said.

Elizabeth Lieb is also a long jumper and triple jumper and runs the 400. Makayla Jones is on the 4x1 and 4x4 relay teams, and is doing the 300 hurdles.

Becahi has two returning school record holder throwers, Rachel Tanczos in the discus and Tessa Zamolyi in the javelin.

On the boys' team, William Tucker is returning in the 800 and 1600, and Brandon Kelly

is returning in several events.

"William is having a really nice year for us and showing good leadership," said Rice.

"Brandon holds the school record in the javelin. He's also doing the triple jump, sprints, and shot put."

Shamus Williams competes in hurdles and the 4x1 relay.

Zaheer Seabrooks, Joe Kurtz, Daiszhun Rhodes, and Randy Terry are all sprinters, while Seabrooks also competes in the triple jump.

Matt Bisco is also a triple jumper in addition to being a sprinter and javelin thrower.

Coach Rice is less concerned about the Hawks' win-loss records than his athletes' progress leading up to leagues and districts, although the girls' team lost two of their meets by less than four points.

This week, the Hawks will have faced Freedom past Press deadlines at the track on which both teams practice.

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Social issue event April 29

The Allentown Public Theatre presents a free, open to the public "Voices of Conscience: Toward Racial Understanding" program at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Bethlehem Area Public Library, 11 W. Church St. There will be an open dialogue with the audience following the performance.

The event includes an overview of the structures of systemic racism and some tools to combat it in the work environment and within organizations.

No registration is required. For more information, visit www.bapl.org or phone 610-867-3761, ext. 399.

CIVIL WAR

Roundtable event May 3

The Civil War Roundtable will unveil the refurbished Post 182 G.A.R. monument at 2 p.m. May 3 at Bethlehem's Rose Garden, Eighth Avenue and Union Boulevard.

The keynote speaker will be Bethlehem native Peter Maugle, a National Park Service ranger at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania. Expected guests included Bethlehem Mayor Robert Donchez as well as city and BASD officials. The Nitschmann MS band will play.

The event is free and open to the public. For information, visit www.cwrteasternpa.org.

COLONIAL

Police 5k, walk set for May 6

Colonial Regional Police Department will hold a one-mile fun run at 8:30 a.m. and a Race to the Blue Line 5k race at 9 a.m. May 6 at the Hanover Township Community Center, 3660 Jacksonville Road. Check-in opens at 7:30 a.m. for all events.

To register, visit www.pretzelcitysports.com. For more information, email CRA5K@yahoo.com or visit facebook: @crpa5k.

KUTZTOWN

Summer music session offered

The Kutztown University Department of Music will host a large ensemble festival for orchestra, wind ensemble and jazz band July 9 through 15. The festival is open to students entering freshman year of high school through graduating seniors with at least three years of music studies.

Numerous faculty and student concerts will be held daily. In addition, students can take elective classes in

- Conducting
- Music History
- Music Theory
- World Music
- Small Ensemble
- Introduction to Improvisation
- Brass Choir
- Woodwind Choir
- Jazz Combos

Interested students should apply through the website app.getacceptd.com/kutztownmusicfestival

Applications will be reviewed for merit and need-based scholarships, pre-formed woodwind and brass quintets and will be considered for principal positions in the large ensembles.

Deadline to apply is June 15. An application fee is payable on the application site and is applied toward tuition if application is received by June 1.

For more information, contact the department of music at 610-583-4550 or email at music@kutztown.edu



Anita (Alyssa Rosario), the girlfriend of gang leader Bernardo (Fahvian Shorey) dances with the Shark girls ensemble.



Maria (Brielle Rivera) dances the Cha-Cha with Tony (Liam Mulligan) at the community dance in the gym, attended by members of both rival gangs. Maria and Tony meet at the dance for the first time.

PRESS PHOTOS BY TIM GILMAN

Liberty HS presents **'West Side Story'**

BY TIM GILMAN
Special to the Bethlehem Press

The popular musical "West Side Story" is being presented by Liberty HS on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at 1115 Linden St. Set in the 1950's, the story features a rivalry between two gangs in the Upper West Side of New York City during the last days of summer. Influenced by Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," the playwright included some tragic consequences in the script. The main characters are Tony (Liam Mulligan), from a white gang called the Jets, who falls in love with Maria (Brielle Rivera), sister of the leader of the Sharks, a Puerto Rican gang. The leaders are Riff

(Thomas Carolan) and Bernardo (Fahvian Shorey), Judith Rivera has returned to Liberty HS as director and producer. She is assisted by vocal director Gayle Justice, stage managers Caitlin Saege and Lucy Kitch-Peck, costume designers Ree Harrington and Laura Papera, light designer Justin Amann, set designer Dan Mulligan, choreographer Camille Armstrong and assistant Darah Donaher, sound technician Timothy Treweck and orchestra conductor Allen Frank. Liberty Theatre will celebrate 100 years of productions in the 2017-18 school year since its first production, "A Christmas Carol," in 1919.

Tickets: lhstheatretix@yahoo.com and 610-865-0615.



Rif (Thomas Carolan), leader of the Jets, sings "Jet Song" in front of their hangout. Rif is killed the next evening during a rumble between rival gangs. The stationary set on the main stage is used throughout the play.



Tony (Liam Mulligan) sings "Something's Coming" as he thinks about Maria (Brielle Rivera).



An end of summer dance in the gym for the Upper West Side neighborhood in New York City attracts members of the two rival gangs – the Jets and the Sharks.

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MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA

Nathan Bennett

Bethlehem Catholic HS

Grade: 12

Family members: Father (Scott Bennett), mother (Tracy Bennett), sister (Taylor Bennett)

Favorite subject: Math and economics because I enjoy using problem-solving and math to solve real world issues

Activities: Ice hockey, skiing, motocross and golf

Next steps: I plan to attend a four-year college to study international finance or economics.

Career goals: I would like to work in finance and possibly in another country, or travel for a few years.

Heroes: My dad, because of his success from the position he started at; all of his wisdom and advice will always stick with me.

Hobbies: Skiing, hockey, golf, motocross and video production

Current job(s): Service Tire truck centers, and Awshucks during the baseball season

Volunteer/community work: I volunteer at a local boys and girls club, as well as I am the head of our Mini-THON, which raises money for childhood cancer.



Likes: Music, sports, movies, extreme sports

Dislikes: Chocolate

Greatest accomplishment (so far): My ice hockey team won the regional international tournament, Silver Sticks.

Advice for peers: Something my dad always told me; "Being successful isn't about where you study or if you pass with an A or C, it's about the connection you create between people and those you do business with."

Julia Swan coordinates student profiles for the Bethlehem Press. Student profile subjects are selected by faculty and administration at the individual schools.

Moravian scholarship recipients



PRESS PHOTOS COURTESY GEORGE WACKER

Education administrators announced the winners of the annual Superintendent's Scholarship to Moravian College recently. Lexi Vega of Liberty HS and Gabriella Greenhoward of Freedom HS received a full-tuition four-year scholarship to the college.

Freedom HS senior and award recipient Gabriella Greenhoward with Superintendent Dr. Joseph J. Roy and Moravian College President Bryon Grigsby.



Liberty HS award winner Lexi Vega (center) with her grandmother Olga Diaz (left) and mother Liz Rivera.

LV CHARTER ARTS NOTES

By Jordynn Gemberling

Shows end the year

Performances and showcases are in full swing at the Lehigh Valley Charter HS for the Arts during the final months of school. The spring concert season is jam-packed with different exhibits every week from each artistic major, ensuring the school year ends with a bang.

Beginning tonight the theater department hosts its spring musical, 'HAIR- the American Tribal Love-Rock Musical.' Evening performances take place through Saturday at 7 p.m., with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. Sunday. The performance features select theater students and live music from select instrumental music majors, truly making it an event that cannot be missed. Tickets should be bought in advance at the Charter Arts website.

May begins with a week of music. On Tuesday, the instrumental department hosts its Spring Chamber Ensemble Concert, followed by the Senior Instrumental Showcase May 3. A piano recital will follow on May 4. All three events will take place in the Charter Arts. See **NOTES** on Page A12



Gemberling

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2017 Mother's Day Contest Rules:

- TO ENTER:** Each entry must be submitted together with a fully completed Original OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK (see below). No copies or reproductions accepted. All entries must be RECEIVED at our office before 4pm, Friday, April 28th. No purchase necessary. Entry blanks are available at our office 8:30 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Mail or drop off entries to: THE PRESS - "Mother's Day" CONTEST before 4pm, Friday, April 28th. 1633 N. 26th Street, Allentown, PA 18104 (On the corner of Walbert Ave. and 26th Street in South Whitehall. Mail slot available for your 24-hour convenience.)
 - Drawing may be created with marker, crayon or pen on a plain white 8-1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. **PLEASE NOTE:** glitter and pencil do not reproduce well in the newspaper.
 - One entry per child. Entries from children all ages will be accepted. No group entries permitted. PENCOR Services, Inc. employees and family members residing in the household are not eligible to enter the contest.
 - PRIZES:** Eight winners will be chosen by our staff: one from each of six age ranges - 30 months to 4 years, 5-7 years, 8-10 years, 11-13 years, 14-17 years, and 18 years and over. Only one winner per household. Each winner will receive a 4 pack of passes to the Lehigh Valley Zoo. Winners will be notified by phone. All prizes are final. Neither exchange nor refund will be made.
 - Winners are announced May 10 & 11, 2017 in our special Mother's Day gift pages, in all eight newspapers. Additional entries will be published AS SPACE ALLOWS.
 - All drawings and materials entered become property of THE PRESS, which reserves the right to publish the drawing along with the entrant's identity.
- *By providing email address I hereby give my permission that allows Pencor Services and its affiliates to send me emails containing news and advertising messages.

8 Winners will be Chosen!

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	5-9 mph NE	10-15 mph NE	14-16 mph E	8-11 mph E	5-9 mph E	6-11 mph NE	3-7 mph SE

FORECAST FOR LEHIGH VALLEY PENNSYLVANIA

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 40% chance of showers, high temperature of 67°, humidity of 60%. The record high temperature for today is 91° set in 1976. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 55°. The record low for tonight is 26° set in 2001. Thursday, skies will be mostly sunny with a high temperature of 80°, humidity of 57%. Skies will be mostly cloudy Thursday night with an overnight low of 58°. Expect partly cloudy skies Friday with a high temperature of 80°. Skies will become mostly cloudy Saturday with a high temperature of 76°. Sunday, skies will be partly cloudy with a high temperature of 71°.

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NOTES

Continued from page A11

theater from 7-9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased upon arrival.

The Spring Student Art Exhibit will be on display from May 5 to 26 in the Charter Arts Corporate Gallery. The first Friday reception is on May 5 from 6-9 p.m.

The dance department hosts its first spring performance, Young Choreographers in Concert, beginning May 6 at 2 p.m. The performance features original pieces choreographed and danced entirely by Charter Arts students. Additional performances take place on May 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased upon arrival.

On May 9, the vocal music department will host its Senior Vocal Showcase. The event will be held in the Charter Arts theater from 7-9 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at the door.

The instrumental music department will hold its Night of Percussion in the Charter Arts theater on May 10 from 7-9 p.m. The performance will feature percussion students throughout all grades, and tickets will be sold upon arrival.

The New Play Festival will be held in the Charter Arts theater on May 11, from 7-9 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door.

The Spring Ice Show: Constellations will feature talented figure skating students from each grade. This event takes place at the Steel Ice Center in Bethlehem

from 7-9 p.m. May 13.

The instrumental music department's Jazz Ensemble Concert will be held in the Charter Arts Commons Cafe May 17 from 7-9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased upon arrival.

The dance department hosts its final performance of the year, Dance Quilt, May 19 and 20. The performance features original pieces choreographed by Charter Arts dance instructors. Performances will take place in the Charter Arts theater May 19 and 20 at 7 p.m., as well as a matinee performance at 2 p.m. May 20. Tickets can be purchased upon arrival.

On May 22 and 23, the vocal music department will host its Spring Choral Concert. Both performances take place at 7 p.m. in the Charter Arts theater and feature vocal music students from all grades. Tickets will be sold at the door.

The Spring Instrumental Concert will take place May 25, from 7-9 p.m. in the Charter Arts theater. Tickets can be purchased upon arrival.

The Senior Student Art Exhibit will be on display in the Charter Arts Corporate Art Gallery from June 2-11. The first Friday reception will take place June 2 from 7-9 p.m.

Show dates and times are subject to change. For show information and tickets, check www.charterarts.org.

YMCA to manage pool this summer

BY TRACY RICE

Special to the Bethlehem Press

Fountain Hill Borough did not get any other interested parties for the position of the pool manager for the summer, so it went to the Bethlehem YMCA for help.

Vanessa Rex, the aquatic/youth coordinator at the YMCA, put together a proposal for borough council, which would have the pool open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The YMCA would manage the lifeguards only. The borough would be responsible to hire people for the ticket booth for admissions and for supplying all the necessary chemicals for the pool maintenance.

"The YMCA would hire lifeguards and ensure that they are all certified," Rex explained. There would be two managers to split the hours. The number of lifeguards on duty each day would depend on the weather and how many people are at the pool. The ratio the

FOUNTAIN HILL

YMCA uses is 25 people to one lifeguard. If lifeguards on duty feel they could close one of the three pools to better utilize the staff for the day, then they can make that decision, Rex added.

The YMCA has proposed a budget of \$43,950, but that will fluctuate during the season depending on the weather and attendance at the pool each day.

"Our goal is to keep the pool open all season," Rex said.

When Jason Quarry, Fountain Hill public works supervisor, asked if the pool would be tested hourly by the lifeguards, Rex assured him that as long as the chemicals and necessary equipment were provided, the lifeguards will do the required testing.

The goal is to open for Memorial Day.

The motion to hire the YMCA to manage the Fountain Hill Borough pool for the summer was

made by council member Carolee Gifford and the second was by Philip Trabel. All present voted in favor and the motion carried.

In other business, council President Larry Rapp noted Borough Park is cleaned daily of all trash and debris, but by the next day, it is littered with trash, broken glass bottles, profanity covered picnic tables and drug baggies.

"It's only the middle of April," Rapp said, "and it's only going to get worse. We have to do something."

As a temporary measure, Fountain Hill Police Chief Ed Bachert said he has removed the basketball rims to deter teens from loitering at the park after hours. The video cameras that were installed have already been smashed, garbage is strewn all over the park nightly, disrespectful teenagers hang out at the park and families

are afraid to take their young children there.

Bachert assured council that his patrols make regular checks on middle shift to check on things at the park after hours. It's one step at a time, the chief added. He's hoping that removing the basketball rims will prompt the teens to go somewhere else to hang out.

Fountain Hill will be organizing its first borough cleanup day on Saturday, May 6, at 9 a.m. Bachert suggested that in the future, the cleanup committee meet every two weeks to plan the next area to be cleaned up. Executive Administrator Anthony Branco will be reaching out to a few organizations to assist in the cleanup process.

Residents are asked to check the website www.fountainhill.org for more details. The cleanup crews plan to meet at Borough Hall, 941 Long St.

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National Drug Take Back Day on April 29

BY SUSAN BRYANT

srbryant@nonline.com

The 13th National Take Back Day drug collection event has been scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 29.

Lehigh County residents can take expired and unused prescription and over-the-counter medications to police de-

partments and other locations at 11 sites in the county.

Residents can dispose of capsules, pills, including pet medications, and liquids.

Syringes or Sharps will not be accepted. Residents who dispose of medications will remain anonymous, and no

questions will be asked.

If residents can't dispose of their medications during the April 2017 Take Back Day, they can deposit unused drugs in the permanent collection boxes.

Computer users also can visit deadversion.usdoj.gov and click on "Got Drugs" on the left to find locations.

Click on "search for a collection site near you"

and then enter Zip code.

DEA personnel will take the drugs to an incinerator where they will be burned.

This event is being coordinated by the Lehigh County District Attorney's office, area police departments, Allentown Health Bureau, Pa. State Police and the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration.

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THE PRESS 12TH ANNUAL

Student Poetry Project

BY PAUL WILLISTEIN
pwillistein@tnonline.com

To commemorate National Poetry Month in April, the Lehigh Valley Press newspapers and web sites present the 12th annual Student Poetry Project.

Please see Page B1 and B3 and the Focus pages online for poems selected in the Elemen-

tary School, Middle School and High School categories. See Page B2 for additional photo.

Students whose poems appear on Page B1 read their poems and were interviewed on the April 17 broadcast of "Lehigh Valley Arts Salon" on Lehigh Valley Community Public Radio Station, WDIY, 88.1, wdiy.org.

The Student Poetry Project adjudication committee convened March 21 and read more

than 100 poems submitted by students from the Lehigh Valley region. This year, The Press newspapers' "Student Poetry Project" again received a Keystone professional journalism state award.

The Lehigh Valley Press thanks the students who submitted poems, as well as the school teachers, parents and guardians who encouraged them.

HIGH SCHOOL

James Alley

We grew into angels on this asphalt
Childhood daring turned blood
to scabs
to reluctant caution
to restlessness
to blood once again

As plates converged and skin stretched
Our heads grew higher in pursuit of the stars
we gazed at while fighting sleep in the grass

We did not let go of one another
Our hands were hungry for something to hold on to
yet we leaped fences
ran, chasing chickadees
as one body

Olivia Sica
Age 17, Grade 11
Kutztown Area High School
Kutztown Area School District



Olivia Sica

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our Saturdays

Saturday morning wasn't the same without you,
I still woke up early and watched our cartoons,
but you weren't there to make us breakfast.

A year passed and I didn't hear from you, I only saw
you one week in the summer, after that you never
called.

Another year, then another and finally your graduation,
You were home

Although, it's like you were a new person, a stranger
In my brother's shoes, I feel like I lost you

Now not a word is spoken on Saturday mornings, but we
Both get up and watch cartoons like nothing has changed.

Victoria Farrell
Age 13, Grade 8
Trexler Middle School
Allentown School District



Victoria Farrell

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Music in All of Us

There's not just music in me and there's not just music in you

There's music in all of us and it plays long and true

Some of the tunes are happy, some of the tunes are blue

Yet deep down inside the music sounds the same through and through

We may not look the same, think the same or speak the same but our
music plays long and true,
through and through

Kara Gardner
11, Grade 5
Lincoln Elementary School
East Penn School District



Kara Gardner

PRESS PHOTO BY ED COURRIER

Additional Student Poetry Project winners appear on page B3



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Poetry in the air

From left, Kara Gardner, Lincoln Elementary School, East Penn School District; Victoria Farrell, Trexler Middle School, Allentown School District, and Olivia Sica, Kutztown Area High School, Kutztown Area School District, read their poems and were interviewed by George VanDoren and Marilyn Hazelton on WDIY's "Lehigh Valley Arts Salon" broadcast April 17, 2017, for the 12th annual Press Lehigh Valley Poetry Project.

PRESS PHOTO BY PAUL WILLISTEIN



Call it 'FFgr8'

BY PAUL WILLISTEIN
pwillistein@tnonline.com

MOVIE REVIEW

By Paul Willistein
pwillistein@tnonline.com



A movie sequel often doesn't improve on the original movie.

After eight installments, "The Fate of the Furious" improves on nearly all of the previous seven "Fast and Furious" movies.

Call it "FFgr8." The first "The Fast and the Furious," released in 2001, unleashed Universal Studios' biggest franchise. Already, "Fast and Furious" nine and 10 are in preproduction.

The eighth installment brings back the crew of tart-tongued misfits and malcontents with hearts of bold, and gold.

The opening scenes returns "Furious" to its street-racing roots as Dom (enigmatically-great Vin Diesel), honeymooning in Havana, Cuba, with Letty (tough but tender Michelle Rodriguez), is challenged to a pink-slip race for his cherry 1961 Chevy Impala. He races his cousin's 1951 Chevy rat-car against a buffed matte-black 1956 Ford. The sequence, like most in the film, is as exciting as it is preposterous.

From there, it's on to a covert operation in Berlin, complete with a wrecking-ball attack; a humongous prison break; a dizzying New York City Times Square car-hacking scene that's beyond belief (well, not all that unbelievable given today's technology-laden vehicles), and an ice-race to the finish on the Russian tundra, which, oh and by the way, involves a submarine.

The storyline includes yet another face-off between Deckard (excellent Jason Statham) and Hobbs (ever-likable Dwayne Johnson).

Back from three previous "F&F" installments is Elena (Elss Pataky) with a surprise package for Dom and a major plot point explaining his crew turncoat.

Cipher (Charlize Theron, "Mad Max: Fury Road," 2015, exploring her newfound villain status) has Dom between a rock and hard place (you might say she has his Vin number) as she controls the mayhem game from an Air Force One size plane circling the globe. Cipher's aide de camp, Rhodes (Kristofer Hivju), is a character written and played a bit too campy.

Roman (Tyrese Gibson) has the film's best quips, often at the expense of Tej (Ludacris).

Some characters are mere sketches. Ramsey (Nathalie Emmanuel), Mr. Nobody (Kurt Russell), Scott Eastwood (Little Nobody) function mostly as plot-point functionaries.

The cars match the drivers (After all, "The only thing that matters is who's behind the wheel," says Dom). Among them: Dodge Ice Charger, a modified 1968 Dodge Charger (Dom); Rally Fighter SUV (Letty); Lamborghini Murcielago (Roman); Rip-saw tank (Tej); Dodge Ice Ram truck (Hobbs) and Mercedes AMG GT (Deckard). There's also a Corvette Stingray, contemporary Dodge Charger, Subaru BRZ and Bentley GT BR9 Coupe.

Director F. Gary Gray ("Straight Outta Compton," 2015; "Law Abiding Citizen," 2009; "The Italian Job," 2003) makes sure the action comes at you so fast there's little time to quibble about pot holes, er, plot holes, of which there are many. You're along for the ride. And what a thrill and chill ride it is.

The screenplay by Chris Morgan ("Furious 7," 2015; "Fast Five," 2011; "Fast & Furious," 2009; "The Fast & Furious: Tokyo Drift," 2006; "Cellular," 2004) based on characters created by Gary

Scott Thompson ("The Fast and the Furious," 2001) utilizes several big set pieces within which there's time for character development, interplay and quips.

The cinematography by Stephen F. Windon ("Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift"; "Fast Five"; "Fast & Furious 6," 2013; "Furious 7") is crisp and up-close on the characters' faces for dialogue and react shots; blurry and intense for fight scenes, and expansive and all-encompassing for aerial and overhead shots.

The editing by Christian Wagner ("Fast & Furious"; "Fast & Furious 6," "Furious 7") and Paul Rubell ("Transformers" series, 2014, 2009, 2007) is rat-a-tat, fuel-injected and hyper-drive. It's frenetic but effective, especially in the fast-forward flashbacks, which reveal plot after-the-fact.

"The Fate of the Furious" out-Bournes the "Bourne" franchise, out-Bonds the "James Bond" franchise, out-missions the "Mission Impossible" franchise, out-transforms the "Transformers" franchise and out-Marvels the Marvel franchise.

"The Fate of the Furious" races its own franchise to the next level. Who knows where it will go next?

"The Fate of the Furious," MPAA PG-13 (Parents Strongly Cautioned. Some Material May Be Inappropriate For Children Under 13.) for prolonged sequences of violence and destruction, suggestive content, and language; Genre: Action, Adventure, Crime Thriller; Run time: 2 hrs., 16 mins.; Distributed by Universal Pictures.

Credit Readers Anonymous: "The Fate of the Furious" was filmed in Havana, Cuba; Berlin, Germany; Iceland; Atlanta, New York City and Cleveland.

Box Office, April 21: "The Fate of the Furious" continued to out-run the competition, with a still-powerful \$38.6 million, to continue at No. 1 two weeks straight, with \$163.5 million, two weeks.

"The Boss Baby" continued at No. 1 for a second week, with \$12.7 million, \$136.9 million, four weeks.

"Beauty and the Beast" continued at No. 3 with \$9.9 million, \$471 million, six weeks.

On Earth Day weekend, Disney's "Born in China" opened at No. 4 with \$5.1 million.

5. "Going In Style," \$5 million, \$31.7 million, three weeks

6. "Smurfs: The Lost Village," \$4.8 million, \$33.3 million, three weeks

7. "Unforgettable," \$4.8 million, opening

8. "Gifted," \$4.5 million, \$10.7 million, three weeks

9. "The Promise," \$4 million, opening

10. "The Lost City of Z," \$2.1 million, \$2.2 million, two weeks

Unreel, April 28: "The Circle," PG-13: James Ponsoldt directs Emma Watson, Tom Hanks, John Boyega and Karen Gillan in the Science-Fiction Thriller about woman who uncovers a hidden agenda at the tech firm where she works.

"How to Be a Latin Lover," PG-13: Ken Marino directs Eugenio Derbez, Salma Hayek, Rob Lowe and Kristen Bell in the Comedy about a divorced man who moves in with his sister's family.

'Little Prince' to land on Allentown stage

SPOTLIGHT ON

BY ERIN FERGUSON
Special to The Press

"The Little Prince," with actors and puppeteers sharing the stage, will be presented in the "Family Series: Live Musical Theatre," 2 p.m. April 29, Miller Symphony Hall, Allentown.

The Antoine de St. Exupery classic children's book about a pilot whose plane crashes in the Sahara Desert and gains insight into love, loss and laughter through the eyes of The Little Prince, is brought to the stage by Swazzle, a Glendale, Calif.-based puppet company founded in 2004 by twin brothers Sean and Patrick Johnson.

"It's a moving and emotional book," says Sean Johnson in a phone interview. "It's a lot like poetry so you have to try to bring the meaning by the way you are saying



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The Little Prince," 2 p.m. April 29, Miller Symphony Hall, Allentown

the words."

The novella, one of the most beloved books of all time was written in 1943 and has sold more than 80 million copies in more than 200 languages, and was adapted for the stage by Rick Cummins and John Scoullar, with incidental music composed by Cummins.

The show invites audiences to experience the wonderment of childhood as The Little Prince transports the audience

to exotic worlds and introduces them to whimsical characters. There's a bombastic king, a talking rose and a cheerful fox who is eager to be domesticated.

"It's a book that changes every time you read it. It's about the power of childhood and how children learn from adults, but more importantly how adults can learn from children," Sean Johnson says.

The book is based on St. Exupery's life as an aviator prior to and

during World War II and his relationship with his wife, Consuelo. In the storyline, she is represented by a rose.

The stage adaptation is produced in association with Emmy Award-winning puppet designer, Michael Schubach and Monkey Boy Productions, puppet builders for the West End London production of "Avenue Q" and the Broadway production and tour of "Little Shop of Horrors."

"It kind of came as a little serpentine route," says Sean Johnson of the production process. "There were two fantastic companies on the East Coast who had produced this show and our agent came to us to try to get a West Coast tour together.

"Since they were all on the East Coast, it wasn't really feasible. They presented the idea to us again and after reading the book we fell in love with it. Sitting down and actually falling in love with the story is what got me so excited to do this show," Sean Johnson

See SPOTLIGHT on Page B6

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Student Poetry Project

HIGH SCHOOL

Vultures

Beware of the vulture,
My parents would say,
The black bird brings death,
You'd best stay away

But how did the vultures,
Receive their ill fame?
They refuse to kill,
Or prey on live game.

We all hate the vultures,

Because they look vile,
With frightful feathers,
And devious smiles,

But why hate something,
For how it appears?
If people were vultures,
Would you point and sneer?

So don't scorn the vultures,
Because there are times,

We all feel like them,
Desperate to hide.

Christopher Hippensteel
Age 15, Grade 10
Northwestern Lehigh High School
Northwestern Lehigh School District

The Tree

But I am still a tree
Of knowledge and power
That will grow bigger and stronger
Year after year

After awhile,
The axe starts to grow dull
You don't try to cut me down any more
But in fact,

You start to plant other trees around me
You start to accept the tree,
That I will come to be

The years go by
And you say goodbye to that axe
Of insecurities
You now stand by my side
You believe in me
So to that I say thank you,
To helping me grow
Bigger than I thought I could possibly be

Nathan Cowling
Age 15, Grade 10
Parkland High School
Parkland School District

There are things you don't know
The feelings I don't care to show
You chop me down
With that axe of
Insecurities

For I am a tree
Of knowledge and power
But you do not dare
To see the true me

I grow back year after year
But I still have these,
These feelings that I, myself fear

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Little Beast

Wind whips around you as your wings push
down,
Up and down air surrounds your wings and
their rhythmic song
Enchanting song and eclectic melodies are
these effortless flights.
The sky seems a friend in your monody, your
effortless elegy.

I wish I could show you how beautiful your
monstrous, garish wings make a picture,
Even shadow-filled as they are.
Garish and gargantuan though they are, they
gleam in the night
Never detracting from your other-worldly
beauty,

Dearest dreamer born from nightmares.
Little beast.

Madeline Foster
Age 14, Grade 8
School needed
District needed

Siri

Siri
is really just every iPhone holder's personal
slave.
Siri do this
Siri do that
Hey, Siri!
What would we do without Siri?
We would have to go through our own contacts
list
or worse,
dial a phone number.
We would have to type our own messages

and search on Safari ourselves.
What would we do without Siri?
Would we not be able to survive?
That's not true.
What did people do before Siri?
They called their friends and family
by dialing
a phone
on the wall.
And they had to wait until a line
Was open so the call could be answered!
Or else they walked to talk with that person

in person.
What would we do without Siri?
I don't know.
I'll ask
Siri, what would we do without you?

Alexis Rounds
Age 14, Grade 8
Trexler Middle School
Allentown School District

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

My family

My family is awesome
And I want a possum.

I do have four sisters
with high heels and blisters.

I also have two brothers
and of course they

don't act like fathers

I am the 7th kid,
and being the littlest
is the best that I did

I also have a dad
that's always glad

I do have a mom that's
always calm

Xeni Vasilopoulos
Age 8, Grade 3
Parkway Manor Elementary School
Parkland School District

Beach

Walking on the hot sand
Tingling my feet
Trot towards the ocean
Waves waiting
I can't wait to splash
Play in the water
While seashells massage my feet

I step in wet sand
Below the ocean waves
Soft, brown sand
Holding up the shells
Bend down
Pick one up
Splash, splash

Run back
Oh, how I love the beach!

Rachel Moss
Age 10, Grade 5
Siegfried Elementary School
Northampton Area School District

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Borealis Wind in concert

The Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem welcomes back the Borealis Wind Quintet for a concert at 3 p.m. April 30, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, 321 Wyandotte St. (Route 378), Bethlehem.

For three decades, the Borealis Wind Quintet has been a leading woodwind quintet, receiving critical acclaim and recording numerous works.

The concert program is: Charles Lefebvre, "Suite,"

Op. 57; Eric Ewazen, "Roaring Fork Quintet"; Nino Rota, "Petite Offrande Musicale"; Samuel Barber, "Summer Music," Op. 31, and Carl Nielsen, "Wind Quintet," Op. 43.

The concert is preceded at 2:30 p.m. April 30 "Curtain Warmer" performance by the Young People's Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet.

Tickets: at the door or in advance on line, cmsob.org.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page B2

says. "We created all the puppets from scratch. It was a big part of the exciting challenge to take a stab at some iconic characters.

"This show is small and large at the same time. It's an intimate story but as big as the universe," says Sean Johnson.

"Children should be exposed to live theater as early as possible to give them that love

for the theater. I would suggest five and up would be most appropriate for this show.

"It's really geared for the very young all the way up. They all enjoy it on different levels. It's entertaining and acceptable for children and has a strong emotional pull for the adults," Sean Johnson says.

The most iconic line from "The Little Prince" book is: "It is only with heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye."

Says Sean Johnson, "On the

page the story is perfect. But I feel like the more you add to the beauty and simplicity of the story, the more you take away from it. So we did what we needed to do so the story stood on its own merits."

A pre-show activity for children begins at 12:30 p.m. April 29 in the Rodale Community Room, Miller Symphony Hall.

Tickets: Miller Symphony Hall Box Office, 23 N. Sixth St., Allentown; allentownsymphony.org; 610-432-6715



Wedding

LET THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES HELP

THROW A CASUAL WEDDING

Elegant, lavish weddings provide moments couples will remember for years to come. But while such storybook ceremonies and receptions remain popular, casual affairs are gaining popularity.

According to the bridal resource The Knot, more and more couples are opting for less pageantry and more laid back panache when planning their weddings. For those who prefer something more intimate and more personalized, casual weddings may be right on target.

There are many advantages to having a "luxe with less" wedding, including the ability to break molds and impart more of the couple's personality into the event.

Another advantage is the price tag. The average U.S. wedding, according to The Knot 2014 Real Weddings Study, costs \$31,213. In some urban areas, particularly New York City, average costs are three times that amount. Golden Girl Finance, a leader in financial digital media, has found that of Canadian weddings average \$31,000 with honeymoon included. Although wedding costs have gone up, the average number of wedding guests has gone down. As such, certain couples might look to rein in other aspects of their wedding. Transforming the festivities into a casual affair can help keep the overall budget low while still allowing for an exciting and enjoyable event. To put casual plans into motion, consider these ideas to help the wedding vision come to fruition.

VENUE

Catering halls and other reception sites do a wonderful job of meeting the needs of their clientele. However, food and beverage costs are often the most expensive wedding expense. To reduce the per-guest cost and also incorporate some variety into their wedding days, couples can consider a venue change. Look for public locations that allow couples to hire their own caterer, which may be a favorite restaurant or specialty food shop. The cost per person may decrease dramatically from the venue costs.

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Arts at St. John's

From left, Sheila Evans, Executive Director, Allentown Symphony Association; Diane Wittry, Music Director, Conductor, Allentown Symphony Orchestra; Robin Kani, flute; Frances Duffy, harp; Dr. Nelvin Vos, Chair, Arts at St. John's, after "Noon-10 Series" April 18 concert. Next: Allentown Symphony Chorus, Allentown Symphony Brass, Percussion and Organ; Diane Wittry, ASO Music Director-Conductor; Eduardo Azzati, Chorus Master, 7:30 p.m. April 28, St. John's Lutheran Evangelical Church, 37 S. Fifth St., Allentown. Information: Allentownsymphony.org, 610-432-6751; stjohsallentown, 610-435-1587

PRESS PHOTO BY PAUL WILLISTEIN

g Planner

HELP MAKE YOUR BIG DAY SPECIAL

WEDDING TO REMEMBER

Changing the venue also enables couples to pick unique spots that may hold special meaning to them. For example, couples can choose the site of their first date or the location where their proposal took place.

CONTRAST

Enjoy a casual, free-spirited wedding that incorporates some aspects of formality in an off-beat way. Think about serving fast food, such as fried chicken or pizza, on fine china. Those wearing tuxedos and gowns can opt for casual footwear, such as athletic shoes. Place wildflowers in crystal vases. These are just some methods to give a rich feel without removing the fun element.

PERSONAL TOUCHES

Menus or wedding programs printed at home in a fun font can set the casual tone couples are looking for. Look for eclectic fabrics to use as gift tags or napkin holders. Hand-painted signs or a hodge-podge of picture frames can display pertinent information, such as itineraries or seating arrangements. Encourage friends or family to contribute a favorite menu item to the food offerings. A home-baked dessert can be delicious and budget-friendly.

WARDROBE

Clothing often indicates the formality of an occasion. Everyone from the wedding party to the guests can dress down. Sundresses can replace taffeta bridesmaids' gowns. Guys can opt for tailored sports coats with jeans. Guests may feel comfortable in less formal attire that facilitates dancing and mingling.

Casual weddings are becoming more popular as many couples are playing down the party for various reasons.

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March LV house sales rebound 13.7 percent

BY PAUL WILLISTEIN
pwillistein@ttonline.com

Sales of houses in the greater Lehigh Valley rebounded in March to put first-quarter 2017 house sales in positive territory. Closed sales increased by double digits, up 13.7 percent in March to 616 houses sold, compared to 542 in March 2016, according to the Greater Lehigh Valley Realtors (GLVR). For the first quarter of 2017, closed sales have increased 1.8 percent year to date, to 1,483 in 2017 from 1,457 in 2016.

Pending house sales in the Lehigh Valley were again up by double digits in March.

Pending sales were up 20.6 percent in March to 859, compared to 712 in March 2016.

For the first quarter of 2017, pending sales are up 14.2 percent to 2,062, compared to 1,806 for first-quarter 2016.

The March bounce reversed three straight months of declining closed sales: 4.4 percent in February, 10.8 percent in January and 3.5 percent in December 2016.

According to the GLVR data for March, which was released April 11, the first quarter showed a good start for residential real estate in the Lehigh Valley in 2017.

Market analysis

"There was certainly plenty to worry over when the year began," said GLVR CEO Justin Poremba. "Aside from new national leadership in Washington, D.C., and the policy shifts that can occur during such transitions, there was also the matter of continuous low housing supply, steadily rising mortgage rates and ever-increasing home prices."

Nevertheless, Poremba said, sales have held their own in year-to-year comparisons and should improve during the busiest months of the real estate sales cycle.

While inventory levels continued to shrink, with inventory down 45 percent in March, the first quarter ended with promising statistics as prices continued to gain traction.

New listings decreased 11.5 percent to 1,059 in March, compared to 1,197 in March 2016.

Inventory continued to decrease dramatically, down 45 percent in March to 1,953 units, compared to 3,552 units in March 2016.

The median sales price again increased, 4.8 percent to \$175,000 in March from \$167,000 in March 2016.

The average sales price increased 4 percent in March to \$198,301 from \$190,708 in March 2016.

The percentage of list price received increased slightly, up 0.7 percent in March to 97.7 percent from 97 percent in March 2016.

The housing afford-

ability index continued to decrease in March by 8.5 percent compared to March 2016.

Days on the market again decreased by double digits, down 13 percent to 67 days in March from 77 days in March 2016.

The months supply of inventory was down 48.2 percent to 2.9 months in March from 5.6 months in March 2016.

Sellers were encouraged by the months supply of inventory decrease.

"With the final snow storm behind us, our Realtor members are comparing recent activity to a dam bursting," said Cass Chies, President of GLVR. "We've been anticipating this increase in activity."

"The weather has improved and sellers have caught wind that the market is leaning in their favor. We have sellers ready to take advantage of the market and buyers ready for new inventory," Chies said.

The United States economy has improved for several quarters in a row, which has helped wage growth and retail consumption increase in year-over-year comparisons.

Couple that with an unemployment rate that has been holding steady or dropping nationally and in many localities, and consumer confidence is on the rise.

Poremba and Chies agree that consumer confidence is on the rise.

"As the economy improves, home sales tend to go up," Chies said. "It isn't much more complex than that right now."

"Rising mortgage rates could slow growth eventually, but rate increases should be thought of as little more than a byproduct of a stronger economy and stronger demand," said Chies.

Closed sales declined 4.4 percent in February to 433 houses sold, compared to 453 in February 2016.

Closed sales declined 10.8 percent in January to 412 houses sold, compared to 462 in January 2016.

Closed sales declined 3.5 percent in December 2016 to 601 houses sold, compared to 623 in December 2015.

In Carbon County, the median sales price rose 37.2 percent to \$112,500. Closed sales were down 13.6 percent, and inventory levels shrank 36.4 percent to 278 units. Months Supply of Inventory was down 42 percent to 5.8 months. Days on Market decreased 22 percent to 99 days.

GLVR information

The monthly housing data is collected by the GLVR from its Multiple Listing Service, a database that includes housing market information from its more than 2,000

Realtor members.

The GLVR is a not-for-profit trade association providing professional development and training resources, competitive market information, legislative advocacy, a peer review and mediation process for members, and a dispute resolution service for consumers.

The GLVR owns and operates the Greater Lehigh Valley Multiple Listing Service, the Greater Lehigh Valley Real Estate Academy and is publisher of Greater Lehigh Valley Real Estate Weekly.

Information: Greater-LehighValleyRealtors.com

Two Realtors join Berkshire Hathaway

Barb Hodick, sales leader of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Fox & Roach, Realtors Macungie Office, has welcomed Ryan S. Miller as a sales associate.

He was previously with Coldwell Banker. Miller resides in Catasauqua and serves the Lehigh Valley.

Chris Rader, manager of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Fox & Roach, Realtors Allentown Office, welcomes Christine Borka as a sales associate on the Kay Niderostek Team.

Borka resides in Allentown and serves the Lehigh Valley.



Ryan S. Miller



Christine Borka

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Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) offers a free program, the 2017 Summer Bridge Program, for new or first-generation students, adult students returning to college and military veterans, as well as anyone wanting to learn skills for academic success, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. July 31 - Aug. 10, at LCCC sites in Allentown, Tamqua and Schnecksville.

The Bridge Program will provide students entering the fall 2017 semester with strategies and skills to achieve academic success, prepare for the transition into college level coursework,

and strengthen math and reading skills. Upon completion of the sessions, students will have the opportunity to retake the placement tests with the possibility of placing out of developmental courses.

Students interested in participating in the program must complete the registration form:

advising.lccc.edu/amonline/default.aspx?AG=630.

Information: Leslie Bartholomew, 610-799-1545



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