

THE VALLEY VOICE

SAUCON VALLEY'S WEEKLY PAPER

75¢

'Mr. Joe' always listened to Hellertonians

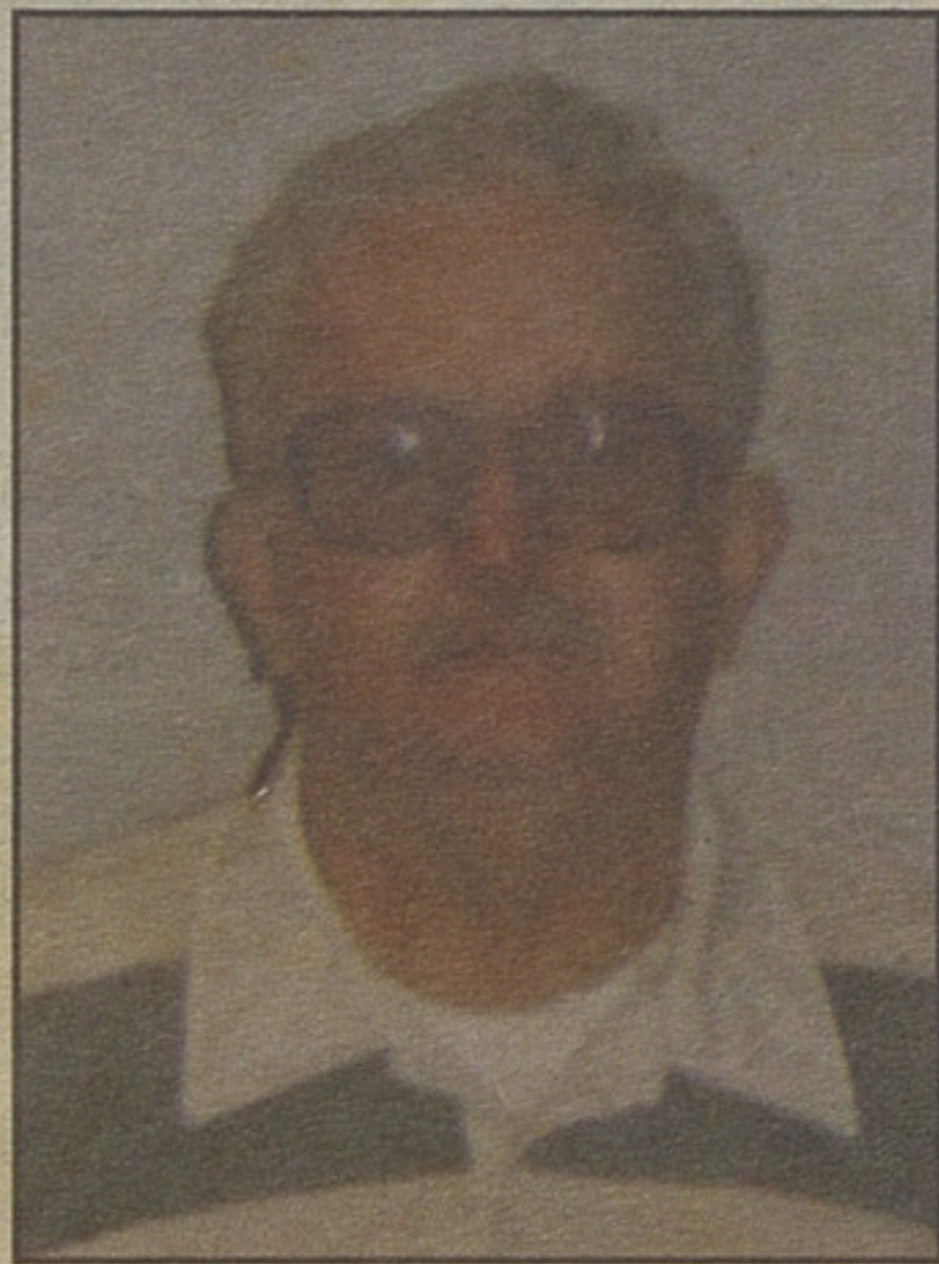
By Paul Bealer
Of The Valley Voice

Very few things exceeded his cheerleading as a Notre Dame and Boston Red Sox fan, but after his love of family, Hellertown's Joe Gushen's spark came from his love of Hellertown.

Sometimes referred to as "Mister Joe," Gushen gained respect for his devotion to listen and aid residents during his years as a borough councilman. Affectionately referred to as "vote no Joe" in borough politics, he was known for weighing the community's needs and the financial implications of council actions in sticking up for his constituents.

Gushen, 87, died Feb. 19.

"Joe was a very dedicated councilman," former Hellertown councilman Joe Chunko recalled. "He spent hours each week preparing for the council meetings. He would pick up his mail at Borough Hall on a Friday evening, review it over the weekend and on Monday mornings, Joe would come down to Borough Hall to discuss various issues with the borough manager. He would always say at the council meetings, 'I done my homework.'"



JOE GUSHEN

Valley Voice publisher Ann Marie Gonsalves reported on borough council during Gushen's tenure from the 1980s through his retirement in 2003. She joined Chunko in recalling Gushen was the go-to man when residents had a problem with actions taken by Hellertown leaders. "When residents had a problem they called Joe," Gonsalves said. "Joe would follow up on the problem or complaint and get back to the resident with an answer," Chunko added.

"Uppermost in his mind was weighing the municipal needs as well as the financial means of residents," Gonsalves said. "He served Hellertown without a personal agenda and without looking for applause," Gonsalves said.

A staunch Democrat, Gushen started in borough politics by serving a term on council from 1962-

66. A 60-year resident of the borough, he retired as a repairman from Bethlehem Steel in the 1980s after 41 years of service. He has served on Hellertown's health and recreation boards, police pension board, was a liaison to the borough water

(continued on page 9)

Two area Republicans seek to challenge Bob Freeman for 136th state House seat

A Hellertown man is expected this weekend to announce he will try a third time to unseat state Rep. Robert Freeman. But Hellertown Planning Commission member Ron Shegda faces competition in trying to unseat the longtime Democratic representative.



FREEMAN

Shegda has scheduled a public appearance for 9 a.m. Saturday at The Meadows to announce his candidacy for the 136th District House of Representatives seat that Freeman has held for more than 20 years. Earlier this week, Williams Township resident Heidi Markow announced that she too hopes to get the Republican nod to face Freeman. It is her first foray into politics, Markow said.



MARKOW

Shegda and Markow would each need to get 300 signatures by March 9 to be included on the May 18 primary election ballot.

Markow is founder of Beginning Over Foundation which works to shed light on domestic violence, remember victims, and aid survivors and advocates fighting to support abuse victims. Markow formed the advocacy and support group after the 2005 death of her sister, who was killed by an abusive husband.

She said she "has served the people of the district and beyond for the past five years through her non-profit organization and wishes to continue her work to meet the needs of the citizens."



SHEGDA

Shegda's theme in this year's try for the Republican nod to face Freeman is "Community Yes, Government Less." Shegda in past runs for the state representative seat has said he wants to "return the power of government to the people." Shegda has argued that long-term incumbents lose connection to serve the people as they spend years in office. One of his stated goals during his previous runs for the state representative seat has been to pare back spending.

In 2006, Shegda tried a write-in campaign to unseat then 11-term incumbent Freeman, garnering 250 votes to Freeman's 12,725. In 2008, Shegda staged a traditional campaign and garnered more than 6,000 votes, but Freeman won his largest margin of victory in a contested race, earning more than 20,000 votes.

Easton resident Freeman, 53, has served as chairman of the House Select Committee on Land Use and Growth Management, which recommended ways to improve growth management and reduce sprawl. He was one of the leaders in revising the Municipalities Planning Code in 2000 and authored the Elm Street Program designed to revitalize older residential neighborhoods.

He is the chairman of the House Local Government Committee. Freeman has served on committees of labor relations, local government, environmental resources and energy, and state government.

The 136th district includes Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township, except Seidersville.

Stench be gone, neighbors rejoice

Some Easton Road residents were glad to see the MFS Industries building knocked down last week. The company, which made slag wool products used in ceiling tile, insulation and other items, has been in town since 1989. In the past decade, the business was under scrutiny from Lower Saucon Township Council and the state Department of Environmental Protection for its odor-spewing smokestacks. In 2004, the company was named in a federal racketeering lawsuit filed by a former employee. In 2006, the beleaguered plant shut down a furnace when more than \$28,000 in copper feed troughs and breast plates was reported stolen. Lower Saucon Council Vice President Tom Maxfield, who daily travels Easton Road, said it "warmed the cockles of my heart" to see the troublesome stacks being torn down.



Photo by Paul Bealer

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AROUND SAUCON VALLEY

Lower Saucon's Amber tapped to play in Via All-Star Classic



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Lower Saucon Township's Catherine Amber has been tapped to represent Saucon Valley in the 35th annual Via All-Star Basketball Classic.

The event, set for March 28 at Northampton Community College, raises funds for Via of the Lehigh Valley's programs for adults and children with disabilities.

The Via All-Star Classic Banquet returns to Freedom High School 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 24 to honor the Via All-Stars. Keynote speaker is Gerald Henderson Sr., a shooting guard who played in the NBA from 1979 to 1992. He played for the Boston Celtics, Seattle SuperSonics, New York Knicks, Philadelphia 76ers, Milwaukee Bucks, Detroit Pistons, and Houston Rockets. Henderson is most famous for his steal of a James Worthy pass to score a game-tying layup in game two of the 1984 NBA Finals between the Boston Celtics and the L.A. Lakers.



CATHERINE AMBER

Amber's game, pitting Colonial League and Lehigh Valley Conference all-stars, will begin at 10:30 a.m. March 28 in the college's Spartan Center. For tickets, call 484-893-5389.

During Lent, soup and a service will be offered 7 p.m. Wednesdays at Mountainview Moravian Church, Hellertown.

On Monday, March 1, Young and Restless Hellertown travel group plans a bus trip to Hollywood Casino in Grantville.

Cost is \$23 which includes a five hour stay, casino rebate of \$25 in slot play and \$5 food credit, transportation and taxes.

Departure is 9:30 a.m. from the Trans-Bridge terminal, Industrial Drive, Bethlehem and 10 a.m. from Tobias Drive parking lot, Hellertown. For reservations and more information, call Fran at 610-838-9472.

A penny party will be held 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 7 at St. Luke's (Old Williams) Church, Easton Road, Hellertown.

Doors open at 1. For details, call 610-838-0897.

Bulletin Board

Feb. 27

5:30 p.m., Penny party, Se-Wy-Co Banquet Hall, Route 378, Lower Saucon Township.

March 1

6:30 p.m., Saucon Valley Lions Club meets, The Meadows, Lower Saucon.

March 2

7:30 a.m., Saucon Rotary Club meets, DeSales University, Center Valley.

7 p.m., Saucon Valley Supporters of the Performing Arts meets, high school chorus room.

March 3

1:45 p.m., Bookmobile, Pathmark, Route 378.

4:15 p.m., Bookmobile, Caryn Drive, Lower Saucon.

4:50 p.m., Bookmobile, Viola Lane, Lower Saucon.

6:45 p.m., Bookmobile, Saucon Terrace at Sandbrook Drive, Lower Saucon.

March 4

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., State Rep. Robert Freeman meets citizens, Hellertown Borough Hall.

6:45 p.m., P.F.I.W. Bingo, Dewey Fire Company Social Hall, Hellertown.

7 p.m., Hellertown Historical Society meets, Wagner Grist Mill, Hellertown.

7:30 p.m., "My Favorite Year" performance, Saucon Valley High School Auditorium.

8 p.m., Hellertown-Lower Saucon Little League meets, Dimmick Park fieldhouse, Hellertown.

March 5

7:30 p.m., "My Favorite Year" performance, Saucon Valley High School Auditorium.

Government Meeting

March 1

7 p.m., Hellertown Borough Council meets, Borough Hall.

7 p.m., Lower Saucon Parks and Recreation Board meets, Lower Saucon Town Hall.

March 3

7 p.m., Lower Saucon Township Council meets, Town Hall.

Saucon Valley children can get ready to roll

White House to hold online lottery Feb. 25-28 for tickets to its 130-year-old Easter Egg Roll

Saucon Valley residents can now apply for White House Easter Egg Roll tickets that will be distributed through an online lottery system.

President and First Lady Obama announced the White House Easter Egg Roll will be held Monday, April 5 with the theme of "Ready, Set, Go!" promoting health and wellness.

The event will feature live music, sports courts, cooking stations, storytelling and Easter egg rolling.

All of the activities will encourage children to lead

healthy and active lives and follow the First Lady's "Let's Move!" initiative, a national campaign to combat childhood obesity.

The White House will open its South Lawn for children, age 12 and younger, and their families allowing guests from across the United States to participate in a tradition that dates back to 1878.

The lottery will open for entries Feb. 25 and close Feb. 28. Ticket details can be found at www.whitehouse.gov/eastereggroll.

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VIEWPOINT

Knox boxes should not be mandatory for Hellertown

DOES HELLERTOWN NEED a law forcing business owners to put keys to their properties in a locked box outside, in case of emergencies? In a word, no.

Reaching that simple answer has not been easy, however. In fact, that may not be the final answer when Borough Council takes up the matter again on May 3.

At issue is a proprietary device known as the "Knox box," sold by a Phoenix, Ariz. company, Knox Associates Inc. At a cost of about \$250 plus installation, owners of Hellertown businesses would be required to install the devices at entrances to their buildings. The boxes could be opened only by a master key kept by firefighters. The idea is that individual door keys would be stored inside, thus allowing first-responders access without breaking doors or windows, thereby sparing property owners the cost of such repairs, which might not be covered by insurance.

The proposed ordinance was the result of some salesmanship by Knox Associates. Coun-

cil was ready to pass the law in January, but business owners protested. Council tabled the matter, discussed it again on Feb. 15 and agreed to make changes before it takes it up again in May. We don't know yet what those changes might be, but the best one would be to make use of Knox boxes voluntary, not mandatory. And if Hellertown does that, the value of a Knox box ordinance all but disappears.

Business owners have offered two arguments. One says that protections against unwarranted searches and seizures guaranteed in the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution would be violated. We're not constitutional scholars, but that seems a bit overwrought.

The business owners' practical protest makes more sense. It ought to be up to individual property owners to figure the cost, in dollars and suspicion, of installing a Knox box against the cost of replacing a broken door or window. Business people routinely consult with their property insurance companies about the most cost-efficient

way to protect their investments, and whether a Knox box should be part of the answer ought to be a private business decision. Besides, if the borough forces property owners to install a device like this, make no mistake about it, it's a tax by another name.

The promised gains to be had by requiring the Knox box are not worth their cost or the loss of confidence in one's sense of property security by being forced to buy them.

If Dewey Fire Company wants to encourage their use, fine. But Hellertown does not need a mandatory Knox box law.

Embattled ex-postmaster cited for drunk driving

A week after his arrest for stealing a postal check, a former Hellertown postmaster was stopped for drunken driving.

Hellertown police on Monday released the report on the January citation of Richard A. Fluck, 49, of 830 Detweiler Ave.

Police said he was stopped in the 1300 block of Oliver Street around 1 a.m. Jan. 29 on suspicion of drunk driving.

Police said Fluck's blood-alcohol content registered at 0.19 percent, more than twice the state limit. Police said Fluck was sent a summons to appear in court on the charge.

Fluck is scheduled to

appear in district court next week to answer charges that he and another man allegedly stole the \$950 postal check, forged a name on it and cashed it.

Fluck, the son of Hellertown's mayor, retired in February 2009 as borough postmaster. He served in that post five years, and said he accepted an early retirement package offered by the U.S. Postal Service.

Court records state Fluck and Bryan Flok, 47, of 1052 Detweiler Ave., are accused of stealing the check in August and cashing it.

Fluck and Flok are charged with identity theft, receiving stolen property and tampering with records.

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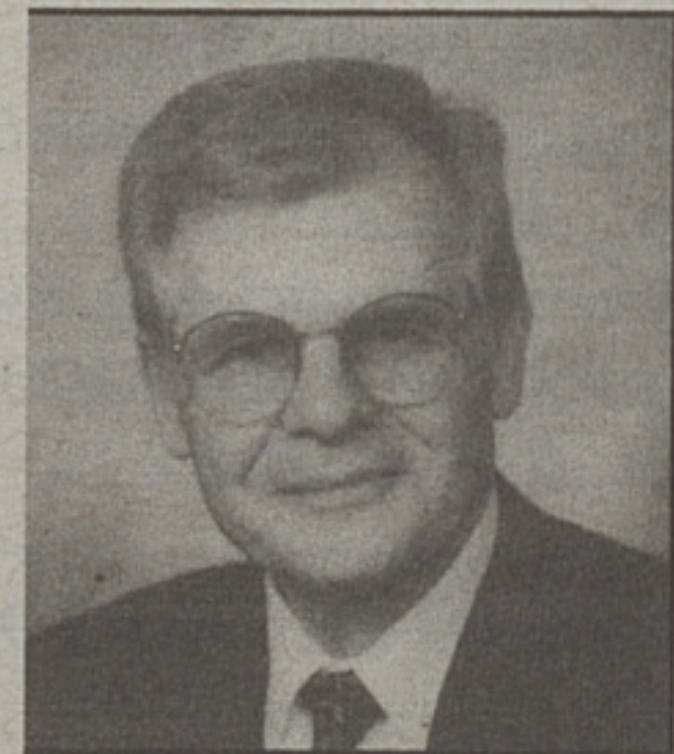
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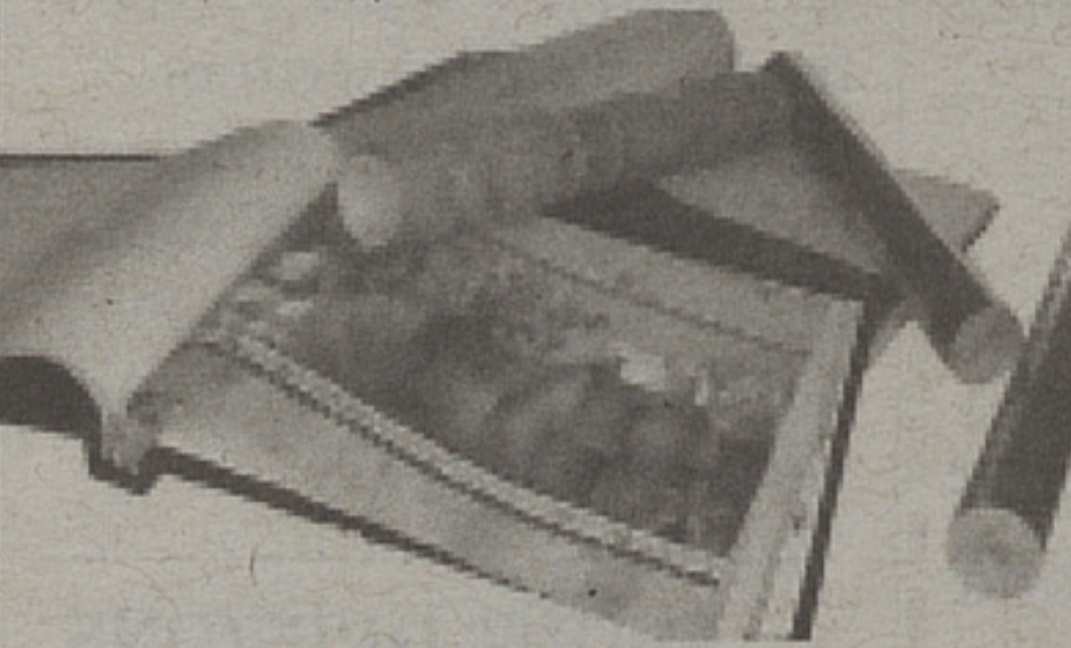
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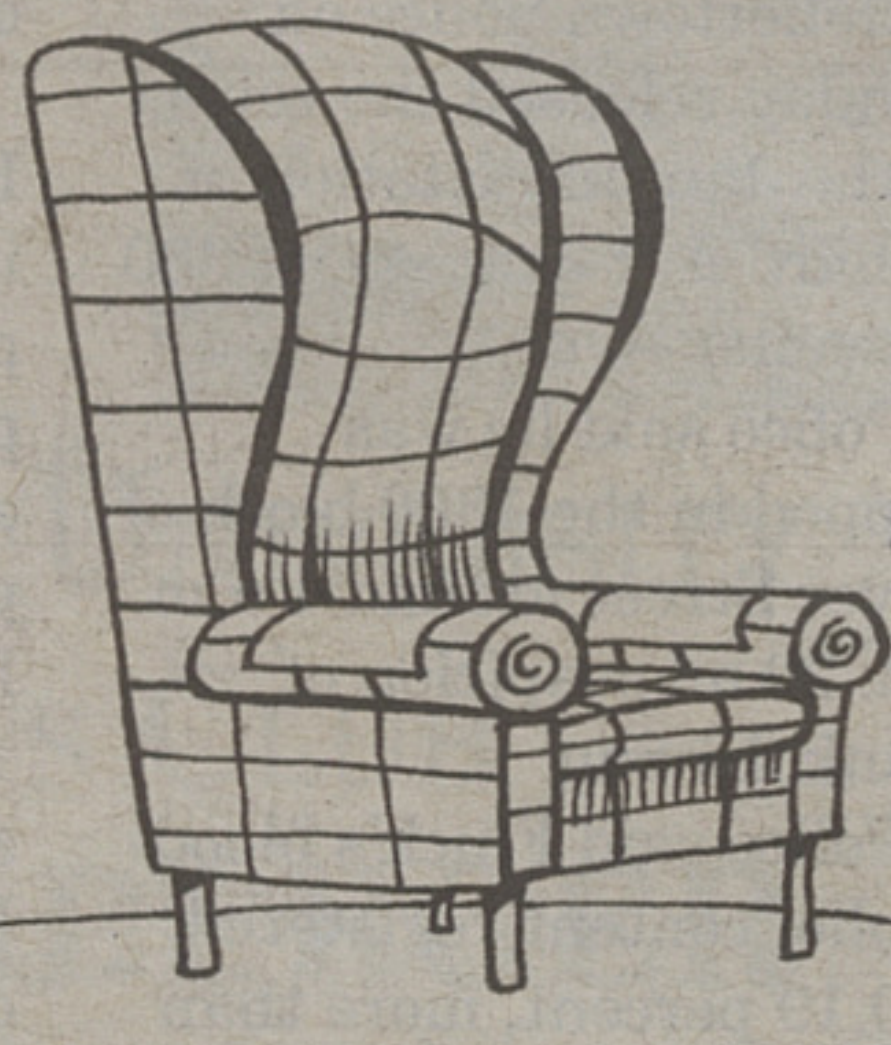
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AND A TEAM OF HUSKIES**

YOUR VOICES / YOUR VIEWS

Promotions for St. Theresa Church pastors by Allentown Diocese bishop are well deserved

After Diocese of Allentown Bishop John Barres' installation in July, he said Mass at St. Theresa's Church in Hellertown and made a really good impression on me by his demeanor—social as well as professional.

In his infinite wisdom, he has appointed our pastor, Monsignor Alfred Schlert, to be full-time vicar-general.

Monsignor Schlert had that position for 10 years during the tenure of Bishop Edward Cullen. He was then made Pastor of St. Theresa's and continued in the vicar-general's position part-time.

This bishop could have appointed someone new to that position, but saw in Monsignor Schlert what I think most of his parishioners have seen since he has been here. He is a very spiritual man who leads by example. He walks the walk that he talks. One would never know by his unassuming manner what a great leader he is.

While his appointment is St. Theresa's loss, it is certainly the bishop's and the diocese's gain.

There are two sides to every story. Father Jerome A. Tauber has been the assistant to the pastor during Monsignor Schlert's tenure. He, too, has been a great spiritual leader and leads by example as well as by word. It compliments the bishop for



St. Theresa Assistant Pastor Jerome Tauber (foreground) and Pastor Alfred Schlert serve communion in July 2008 during their first service at the Hellertown church.

File photo

appointing him to be our new pastor. It would appear that this transition will be seamless.

Lillian Weddigen,
Hellertown

New Orleans deserved that Superbowl win

WHEN THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS WON THE Super Bowl, I could only think that it was to happen that way. Here was a city that has been through several weather tragedies, the last one being Hurricane Katrina.

Truly here was something for them to cheer about and to enjoy the moment.



AS I SEE IT

By Bud Prosser
Valley Voice columnist

For that day and the celebrations that followed, all of the local people and indeed the state of Louisiana could smile, cheer and forget the past. There probably was no other Super Bowl that gave so much to an area in a way that not all of us can fully understand.

And this is As I See It!

YOU ARE A LONE VOICE. WE HAVE THE BULLHORN.

Let your views be known! E-mail Letters to the Editor to us at valleyvoice@verizon.net or mail them to us at The Valley Voice, 1188 Main St., Hellertown, PA 18055

Thoughts & Opinions

THE VALLEY VOICE

SAUCON VALLEY'S
WEEKLY PAPER

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PAUL BEALER,
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BUD PROSSER,
Columnist

KARA GETSKO,
Editorial

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters on any topic are welcome. They may be edited and they must be signed.

Letters must be submitted exclusively to *The Valley Voice*. Letters will not be repeated, either when they are from the same writer or from a group of writers making the same points.

You must include your phone number — not for publication, but so we can verify the letter.

ABOUT OPINIONS

Only those articles with the "Viewpoint" heading express *this newspaper's* opinions. An article with someone's name as its heading is called a "column" or "personal piece" and expresses that writer's *personal* opinions. We run opinion pieces not because we necessarily agree with the writers, but because they have something to say.

Fred's Bad Day

THIS LITTLE STORY HAS A HAPPY ENDING, I HOPE. Yesterday morning, I was up before the rest of my family putting away the dishes and making coffee, starting the fire. Per usual, Fred, my basset hound, was up and ready to investigate the day's smells. I strapped on his collar and his reflective vest and let him out.

The reflective vest is because Fred has three sets of friends:



BUBBLY MOMENTS

By Sarah Strohmeier

Valley Voice guest columnist

Shayla, a doodle something next door, Lilly and Sam, a mutt and a pug next door to her, and Niko, a whatever, across the street. These are Fred's people and he makes the rounds to visit them all before coming home and sleeping off the rest of the afternoon.

Normally, I call him in before the school bus rounds, but, as it was Saturday, I let him out longer. Besides, he was having a fantastic time, nose to the ground following the trail of deer and fox, his tail upright and wagging. Last I saw was of him going over the bank and into the woods exactly where the fox lives. Hey, it's been a lousy winter. Maybe the fox had started to venture out of her hole.

Ten minutes later, there was a breathless knocking at my door. My next door neighbor with his dog. Chris, a lawyer like Charlie, is Irish and a joker, forever pulling tricks. So I didn't take him seriously when he said, "Come quick. Fred's been hit," until I saw it wasn't laughable.

Charlie leaped to the rescue, got the car and headed next door. Meanwhile, I called the vet who wasn't in because it was Saturday and found another, who happened to see our other dog, Ben. Charlie brought back Fred, stunned, bruised, not too bloody and in shock. A wonderful neighbor saw him as she came up the road, slowed and yet still hit him. My guess? Fred ran into the car, rolled into a gully and ended up with his friends Sam and Lilly, which is where Charlie found him, standing and dazed.

Now, I don't know if you are familiar with hounds, but here's the thing: they complain. Loudly. At the vet, he was inconsolable, howling, yelping and thrashing if she

so much as lifted his injured leg. The only option was to sedate him heavily, take tons of x-rays, and decide that while he hadn't broken anything, he needed monitoring. There is one puncture wound that's nasty and a bunch of "road rash" - red skin. Not to mention whatever trauma happened to him rolling into the ditch.

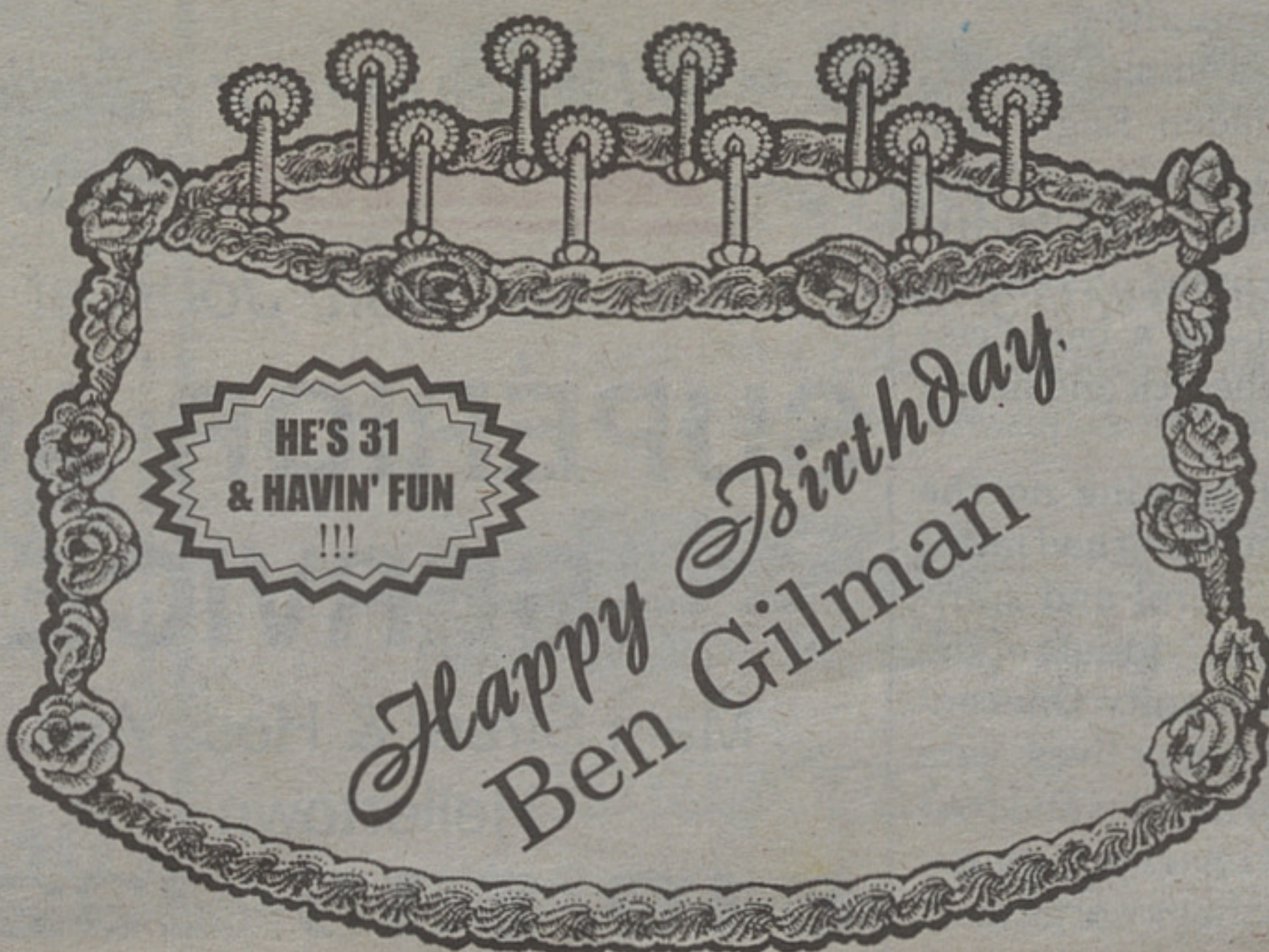
Two hours and \$500 later, Fred was home in front of the fire on a bed with a down cover, head on a pillow. Every 12 hours, I have to feed him antibiotics and pain medication and treat the puncture - a process he does not like.

I am currently waiting for him to urinate. I haven't been so anxious about a bodily function since birthing Sam.

And, yet, it's been hard to leave his side. Fred's a good dog - loving beyond measure, happy, naughty, a bundle of joy. As humans, it's so hard to see our friends in pain, their eyes glaze, their heads nodding, as they follow nature's cues better than we would to rest and heal. I remember when our cat, Jainey, was hit by a car. For three days, she sat on the couch in our bedroom and didn't move. Then, on day three - voila! - she got up and hopped off the couch as good as new.

I don't expect the same miracle healing for Fred. But I do know one thing - his days of visiting Shayla, Lilly, Sam and Niko are over. From now on, it's a leash or an electric fence or both.

He's too much of my heart to let wander. :(



Save yourself some greenbacks by living and working green

IN THESE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC times everyone is looking to save money in every way they can. Proven energy and water conservation practices have the potential to save homeowners, businesses, and organizations hundreds if not thousands of dollars per year if implemented consistently. At the same time, these practices will benefit the environment. By the community becoming aware of these great money-saving conservation ideas and how they can be implemented everyone wins—people and the planet.

Are you questioning which light bulbs should I change to: CFLs or LEDs? Which programmable thermostat should I pick? Should I upgrade my appliances? Should I change out my windows? Should I add insulation to my attic?

A green consultant can help you with your questions and also offer no-cost or low-cost changes to save 10-30 percent off your utility bills. A green consultant will help you prioritize where to start.

Behavioral changes can save money by reducing unnecessary and unintended

CLASS NOTES

Two Lower Saucon Township men were named to the fall semester dean's list at University of Delaware.

Named to the list are full-time students with grade point averages of 3.33 or above.

Earning the recognition were James Airoidi, a freshman university studies major, and Jordan Knisley, a sophomore university studies major.

uses of energy and water in their homes and workplaces. Physical changes with a low investment cost can also have



GO GREEN

By Casey D. Gatchel

Valley Voice guest columnist

significant impacts in conserving energy and water. With the help of a green consultant a realistic plan can be developed. After an initial discus-

sion to define goals, a detailed green home or green workplace survey is completed which helps to identify where best to invest to save the most. A series of detailed, often low-cost or no-cost recommendations for saving energy and water is presented in a final report.

Then with this knowledge it's time to implement some solutions at your own pace.

Editor's note: The writer is a Lower Saucon resident.

Saucon Valley Trivia

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: Can you name the Lower Saucon Township native that is credited with beginning the "Each One Teach One" literacy method?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER: Hellertown's Dr. Frank Rauscher distinguished himself as a cancer researcher.



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THE VALLEY VOICE

Saucon Valley's Weekly Newspaper

From graduations to 'flicker' shows, Odd Fellows Hall was gathering place

This recollection by the late Herb Weisel appeared nearly 30 years ago in *The Look Back*, produced by Lower Saucon Township Historical Society.

By Herbert S. Weisel

Hellertown's Masonic Hall contributed in many ways to the make-up of our lives in a growing Saucon Valley community.

The third floor of the Main Street building (pictured at far right) provided a meeting room for many fraternal, beneficial and patriotic organizations. Their fundamental purposes were to fulfill a desire of many citizens of the Saucon Valley for a better life, health and fellowship by getting together in a joint effort to provide financial aid to needy members and their families and by promoting the general welfare of the entire community.

Following is a list of the many organizations meeting here over the years. Some of them have disbanded, while others are still alive.

◆ Saucona Lodge No. 606, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was instituted in 1867, and erected the building in 1876. It was the first fraternal and beneficial organization in Lower Saucon Township's village of Hellertown. Its principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth as practiced by its membership added materially in the uplifting and betterment of community life.

◆ Theodore S. Weaver Post of the Grand Army of the Republic No. 271, an organization of Union Civil War Veterans, was organized July 23, 1882. The organization remembered their fallen comrades on Memorial Day by commemorative services and by the placing of floral wreaths on their graves. It was actively engaged in community affairs and proudly upheld the principles of patriotism, love of home, life and liberty.

◆ In 1883, Hellertown Lodge No. 563, Free and Accepted Masons was constituted in the building. This fraternal order employs rites and ceremonies in which the Holy Bible occupies an important place. Its teachings are basically simple, prescribing morality, charity and obedience to the laws of the land.

◆ Hellertown Castle No. 112, Knights of the Golden Eagle was constituted in 1866. The principles of the order are the cultivation of social, moral and intellectual feelings, and assisting widows and orphans. The foundation of the order is the Holy Bible and the motto is Fidelity, Valor and Honor. Regular meetings are still held here. For many years their uniformed Commandery was well-known throughout Pennsylvania for its award-winning exhibitions of precision drilling in parades under the command of Captains Quintus Wagner and Herbert Cless.

◆ Camp No. 295, Sons of Veterans was organized in 1891. The principles and objects of the order were to help the Civil War veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic in paying tribute to the departed Saucon Valley Union Army veterans. When the G.A.R. disbanded, the Camp took over their work.

◆ Hellertown Council, No. 538, Fraternal Patriotic Americans was instituted in 1892 to maintain and promote

the interests of Americanism, free competition in business, employment, the public school system and uphold reading of the Holy Bible in the public schools. The order was previously known as the Junior Order of United American Mechanics.

◆ Killatin Tribe, No. 121, Improved Order of Red Men was instituted in 1904. It taught the principles of Freedom, Friendship and Charity. For parade purposes they wore replicas of American Indian costumes and performed cultural Indian dances. Colorful floats depicted the Indian's primitive living customs.

◆ Edward H. Ackerman Post No. 397, American Legion was organized in 1919. Originally an organization for veterans of World War I, its membership now admits veterans of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War. It sponsors service-oriented, welfare and Americanism programs. The Post met here until the erection of their own building in 1927.

◆ Hellertown Camp No. 200, Patriotic Order of America was instituted in 1924. This ladies organization motto is God, our Country, and our Free Schools. Its purpose is to promote patriotic principles, protect and support our public institutions, safeguard our schools, and help provide for orphans and aged members.

◆ Washington Camp No. 275, Patriotic Order Sons of America adopted as its motto, "God, Country, and our Free Schools." Its purpose was to promote patriotic principles, protect and support our Free Public Schools. American flags were presented to public schools for display on an outside flag pole and in the school room.

◆ The Order of the Eastern Star in the United States was founded by Rob Morris in 1850, as a result of his interest in an idea that the female relatives of Master Masons should share the benefits from knowledge of this great fraternal order. The Hellertown Chapter of the order was formed in 1954. The teachings of the Order are based on the morality of brotherly love, relief and truth. These principles are expressed through ritualistic ceremonies portrayed through stories of several Biblical heroines. The Order is not a religion nor does it wish to compete with established religion. However, those members who best understand must truly live by the teachings of the Order and are better members of their respective churches and communities.

◆ Hellertown Temple, No. 47, Ladies of the Golden Eagle was organized in 1925. The motto of the order is Faith, Hope and Charity. Its teachings are based on religion and fraternalism. As a beneficial society it assists the sick and needy members.

Organizations meeting on the third floor of the building had much influence on the moral and spiritual life of many individuals of the Saucon Valley community. One cannot imagine how many lives were touched by their principles and purposes. One cannot imagine the number of friendships that were formed,



the amount of sick and death benefits granted and the charitable contributions made.

The second floor hall of the building became the center for the social, recreational and civic activities of the community. Living in my memory are some of the educational, political and social affairs enjoyed after days of toil by farm and village families in a spirit of neighborly friendliness.

The Hellertown High School senior class graduation exercises were held here from 1897 to 1910.

The hall served the community well a time of disaster in 1890, when during severe thunderstorm, the Christ Union (Lutheran and Reformed) Church building was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire.

Worship services and Sunday School sessions were held here until the dedication of a new church building in 1897.

My first motion picture show was seen in the hall in 1908. It was an old silent film of an 1899 heavyweight boxing match between Bob Fitzsimmons and James Jeffries held in Coney Island, N.Y. The film was shown by "Put" Keller, a Lower Saucon Township resident and the keeper of a saloon located on the site of the present Braveheart Pub [sic] parking lot. The moving picture machine was placed about 25 feet from the screen and operated by hand. The hall was darkened and as the machine was cranked the noise made by the ratchet wheel sounded like that of winding up the spring of an old fashioned wall clock.

There were a number of interruptions during the show when the

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Recalling old times in Saucon Valley



HERB WEISEL

Emerging spot for Hellertown good times

FOND MEMORIES

well in reels had to be changed or a torn film had to be spliced. Due to the fluttering motion of the pictures, they were called "flickers."

The price of admission to my first moving picture show was 5 cents. It was a most thrilling and exciting event in the life of a 12-year-old boy.

On Fastnacht Day or Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, the hall was usually the scene of a happy and festive occasion. It was a religious day set aside by the church for the purpose of preparation for the Lenten season of repentance and self-denial.

Many people gathered to feast on "fawsnacht-kuche" or doughnuts and coffee. The doughnuts were not the typically shaped kind with a hole in the

center, but the old fashioned kind cut in a rectangular or triangular shape. The doughnut was usually cut in half lengthwise and with a generous portion of "eating" molasses (the Wassergass country store kind) between the two layers. The doughnut was carefully dunked in coffee and eaten, in bite size portions, of course. Seated next to me at one of these socials was a rather buxom and dignified elderly lady. She was well prepared for the dunking bit, having bedecked her bosom with a large napkin carefully tucked under her double chin. With her pinkie finger extended she delicately dunked her doughnut and bending forward she ate it without a drip. For the non-dunkees or the more fastidious eaters there were sugar covered or just plain doughnuts. These fund raising occasions were usually sponsored by a church organization.

Fund-raising events of a carnival nature were held frequently. A cake walk was usually a popular attraction. A chalked circle on the floor was divided into about 20 numbered spaces. A person paid five cents for a space in the circle. When all the spaces were filled, the band played a tune and the walk around the circle began and continued until the abrupt stop of the music. A number was drawn from a box and the person standing in that numbered space was awarded a home-baked cake. Raffle wheels were used in awarding prizes to lucky winners of kewpie dolls, teddy bears and boxes of candy. It was customary to hire a special policeman to preserve order at these affairs.

Band concerts were held annually by the Hellertown Band directed by Professor Milton J. Warmkessel, a talented musician, a member of the Allentown Band and a former member of the world-famous John Philip Sousa Band. Admission tickets were sold and the proceeds were used for the benefit of a new band uniform fund. Guest soloists were members of the Allentown Band and local band member soloists were Erwin Reiss, cornet, Alvin Arnold, baritone, Herman Leibert, trombone, and director Warmkessel, clarinetist.

Strawberry and ice cream festivals were an annual event. They were usually sponsored by a community organization as a means of raising funds. Home baked pastry and fancy cakes were awarded to cakewalk winners and slices of cake were also served with strawberries and ice-cream. Strawberries were served with the old fashioned short-cake and ice-cream of various flavors. The big feature of the evening was the drawing held for a fancy homemade quilt.

A political rally was held in the hall in 1924. Republican County Chairman and State Assemblyman, Titus M. Ruch, of Hellertown, arranged the meeting during the campaign for election to a full term of U. S. Sen. George Wharton Pepper, who was the main speaker at the rally. In 1922, Sen. Pepper had been appointed by President Harding to fill the unexpired term of the late Sen. Boise Penrose.

Chairman Ruch had the Hellertown Male Quartette, a singing group appear on the program at this gathering and

other rallies throughout the county. The quartet consisted of R. N. Taylor, 1st Tenor, Paul Trumbower, 2nd Tenor, Herbert Weisel, 1st Bass, Asher Kichline, 2nd Bass, and Leona Metzger, accompanist. We were proud to sit on the same platform and enjoy being in the company of such a prominent political figure but I am not certain what influence our singing may have had on the outcome of the election, since the senator was defeated.

Many minstrel shows, a comic variety of songs, jokes and dancing were a very popular type of entertainment produced entirely by local talent. Among the participants was Titus M. Ruch, who frequently served as the interlocutor or center man of the minstrel troupe, who engaged in comic dialogue with the black-faced end men. End men were Alvin Arnold, Vince Ache, Emory Sleider, Willis Pepper, Charles Fluck and Stanley Bergstresser. The jokes usually involved the names of well-known persons in the audience and "brought down the house." The musical numbers of a male chorus were well received, as well as the solo singing of tenor, Charles Hagey and bass, Asher Kichline. Special features were the tap dancing of Emory Sleider and the jiggling of Stanley Bergstresser. And then there was the never to be forgotten team of blackface end men Granville Abel and Alvin Arnold with their humorous Pennsylvania Dutch songs.

The second floor hall was used for regular meetings of the Saucon Valley Camp No. 168, United Sportsmen of Pennsylvania. Its real purpose was the conservation of national resources by fostering reforestation as well as preventing stream pollution. It also promoted the stocking of forests and streams with game and fish. On the walls of the hall were exhibited many mounted specimens of game and fish from Pennsylvania's forests and streams.

Also a part of the Masonic Hall building is the small one-story frame addition on the north side. At one time it was occupied by a young men's group called the Night Owl Club.

It served as a gathering place for young men to spend an evening or a Sunday afternoon enjoying a card game or a few hours of good fellowship. They assisted community organizations in the promotion of minstrel shows under the leadership of Emory Sleider, a one-time professional vaudevillian song and dance man. They also organized and developed the sport of baseball, and boosted the Hellertown team to a semiprofessional standing. On a lazy, warm, sunny Sunday afternoon a group of club members could be seen seated in front of the building "watching the girls go by."

This concludes my reminiscing about the Masonic Hall building. It is in this Saucon Valley landmark where we find a sense of life that lives in the memory of older residents. Before the building was erected, the land was swampy and near a creek.

For many years the first floor was a drug store.

All this was made possible by the foresight of an organization, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and their concern for the welfare of this community.

The Hellertown hall is now Saucon Valley Dance Conservatory.

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Fernandez was surprised to see the rodent, thinking they hibernate in winter. But the critters make their presence known year-round. Voles love to eat succulent root systems and will burrow under plants or ground cover they are particularly fond of and eat away until the plant is dead. They also eat fruit, seeds and nuts.

Photos by Gene Fernandez

FOR SAUCON BOOKWORMS

Children and parents are invited to join members of the theatre department from DeSales University for a preview at Hellertown Area Library of the upcoming university play "The Little Mermaid."

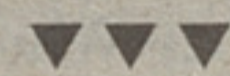
Cast members will read from the play and everyone will make sailor hats and play games. The free event begins at 10 a.m. Saturday March 6 at the library, 409 Constitution Ave.

Registration is required. Call 610-838-8381.

• A "Get ready for spring reading" sale will be held in March in the lower level of the

borough library.

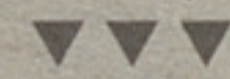
For \$2, patrons can fill a bag with kids books, paperbacks, hardcovers and more.



Bethlehem Area Public Library will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday 7 p.m. March 2.

The Teen Advisory Board is planning stories, crafts, and music for preschool and elementary age children. The one hour program is free, but registration is required.

Register online at www.bapl.org/wordpress or call 610-867-3761, ext. 499.



Saucon Valley Elementary

School Book Fair Family Night will be held 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 11 at the elementary school cafeteria.

This year's theme is "Book Fair Diner: All You Can Read."

The event will be attended by Clifford the Big Red Dog and friends, who will be available for pictures and autographs.

Bring your camera and kids.


For more details on the Saucon book fair, visit bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/sauconvalleyelementary or call coordinator Carol Schneider at 610-838-1354.

So if you see a vole, how many more weeks of winter is there? Hellertown's Gene Fernandez discovered this vole that has tunneled into a snow bank under a bird feeder.

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Making waves with Saucon team



Hellertown's Rebekah Evangelista has been competitively swimming since her freshman year at Saucon Valley High School. The junior is making strides to be a medal contender in the upcoming District XI swim meet. *She is profiled on page 12.* Photo by Richard Hafner



Among those earning commendations were Charles Werkheiser, Stephen Kunigus, Sgt. Thomas Barndt, Eric Marth, Officer of the Year Jeremy Hantz and Officer of the Year runner-up Tim Connell, with Chief Guy Lesser. Missing from the photo are Scott Snyder, Willy Shelly and Keith Bredbenner.

Photos by Leslie Huhn

Lower Saucon police officers recognized for DUI enforcement efforts

By Paul Bealer
Of The Valley Voice

On Feb. 17, Lower Saucon Township Police Chief Guy Lesser issued commendations to nine township policemen for their work last year to take drunk drivers off the road.

Also, Lower Saucon Township native Jeremy Hantz, who became a township patrolman a year ago, has been named Officer of the Year. Hellertown native Timothy Connell, who has won the award several times, was named runner-up. The top cop award is issued by Lesser to recognize those police officers that score high totals in 13 areas of police performance. That evaluation covers appearance, report quality, commendation versus complaints, Vascar operation, criminal arrests, non-traffic citations, traffic citations, warning notices, parking tickets, patrol mileage, vacant home checks, vehicle stops, and incidents/accidents/offenses investigated.

Hantz also received a DUI enforcement commendation, as he had the highest number of department arrests of allegedly drunk drivers. Lesser said Hantz nabbed 34 drivers in 2009. Also earning DUI enforcement commendations were Sgt. Thomas Barndt, Tim Connell, Stephen Kunigus, Charles Werkheiser, Eric Marth, Scott Snyder, Willy Shelly and Keith Bredbenner.

As a group, the officers were among the top in Northampton County for arrests as confirmed by the county DUI Program, Lesser said.

Also last week, part-time Lower Saucon Police Patrolman Kyle Haggerty was sworn-in as a full-time officer.

A Saucon Valley resident, he graduated from Lehigh Area Senior High School and completed his Act 120 Police Certification at Lackawanna Junior College.

Haggerty had worked for B. Braun Medical since 1992 and was a part-time officer for Hellertown Police Department prior to coming to Lower Saucon.

Chief Lesser also congratulated Officer Ron Jones on his nearly 26 years of service as a township police officer. Jones retired from the department this year.

He headed the DUI enforcement program that holds roving patrols, Cops in Shops and DUI checkpoints with Hellertown and Freemansburg. Jones has earned 13 DUI enforcement commendations, Lesser said.



Riley Haggerty pins the Lower Saucon police patrolman's badge on his dad, Officer Kyle Haggerty. The township patrolmen has been a police officer part-time since May 2002. He was named a full-time officer last week.

GUSHEN

(continued from page 1)

authority, a member of the borough recycling committee.

"Vote No Joe" was my mentor. I learned a lot about being a councilman from Joe," Chunko said. "There were times when we disagreed on various issues, but through our great working relationship, we managed to help Hellertown move forward through the 1980s, 90s and early years of 2000."

The bulk of Gushen's service came throughout the 1990s as Hellertown saw change with the opening of I-78 and increased traffic, mandatory trash recycling, the startup of a borough library, and real estate reassessment. In his final year of service, Gushen urged residents to voice opinions on his primary concern, the traffic that speeds on Main Street through the heart of the borough.

After his retirement, Gushen each January or February would stop in *The Valley Voice* office to renew his subscription and offer commentary on Hellertown issues. His trademark gruff voice booming through the paper office, Gushen on at least two occasions said he considered coming out of retirement to run for council again. He never did, instead devoting retirement to his family.

This year, the visit came from Gushen's son, Gary, who reported his father was ill—but giving orders to doctors and nurses.

Gushen was devoted to his wife, Olga as they celebrated 61 years of marriage. The couple have three children, Gary of Hellertown, Diane of Martindale, Texas, and the late James Gushen. Other survivors include sisters, Marie Herstine of Massachusetts and Helene Richards of North Carolina, plus nephews and a niece.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Thomas.

The Hellertown man was a member of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church, Hellertown. He was also a member of the Hellertown Democratic Club, Hellertown American Legion Post 397, and Dewey Fire Company. Gushen served as a softball coach.

Ruthann Busolits recalled Gushen teasing her for being a Penn State fan. They would bet for a 12-pack of soda on outcomes of Penn State games. "It made me so happy when I won to see him come in my office with my winnings. He even brought a bag of pretzels!" Busolits wrote in an online memorial.

Arrangements were handled by Falk Funeral Home.

"I will miss seeing and hearing from Joe. I believe that Joe is talking to God and giving advice on handling the world problems," Chunko chuckled.

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SAUCON VALLEY DEATH NOTICES

Helen G. Bright

Helen G. Bright, 92, of Lower Saucon Township, died Feb. 21 at her residence. She was the wife of the late Forrest S. Bright.

Born in Lower Saucon, she was the daughter of the late Charles Edward and Beulah May Werkheiser.

She was a member of New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lower Saucon, and formerly attended Christ Lutheran Church of Lower Saucon.

There, she was past Sunday and Bible school teacher, choir mother, mission worker, and quilter.

Survivors: Daughter, Shirlene G. Moser of Lower Saucon Township, with whom Helen Bright resided; grandchildren, Dawn F. Jastrzemski, Faron Moser, Eric Moser; great-grandchildren, Autumn and Quintus

Jastrzemski, Amber, Kathryn and Walker Hulvat; niece, Ian Nutall and friend Roger Zerbe. She was predeceased by a sister, Arlene Wambold.

Arrangements, Heintzelman Funeral Home, Hellertown.

Harold R. Roth

Harold R. Roth, 71, of Hellertown, formerly of Brimfield, Ohio, died Feb. 10 at his residence.

For 44 years, he was the husband of Maria Concepcion Mendiola Roth.

He was a self-employed contractor and owned rental properties.

Born in Akron, Ohio, he was the son of the late Frederick



HAROLD R. ROTH

and Ella Roth. He served in the Army.

Survivors: Wife; son, Joseph M. of Denver, Colo.; daughter, Adrienne L. Robinson, Lower Saucon Township; brothers, Arnold and Kenneth; sister, Barbara Smith all of Brimfield, Ohio; grandchildren Tyler, Ryan and Nathan Robinson.

He was predeceased by sisters, Joanne Redenour and Geraldine Bertino.

A memorial service will be held in spring in Brimfield, Ohio.

Arrangements, Heintzelman Funeral Home, Hellertown.

Alice Sunukjian

Alice Sunukjian, 92, of Hellertown, died Feb. 16 at Sau-

con Valley Manor, Hellertown. She was born in Marash, Turkey.

She was a member of the Ilium Literary Club, Troy Women's Club, Church Women United, board member of Bethesda Home and Board of Trustees of Methodist Farm Sunday School Association. She was also past president of School 17 PTA, and a Brownie leader and a lay leader at the Memorial United Methodist Church.

Survivors: Daughters, Lydia Blankenship of Pittsburgh and Joan Bramfitt of Bethlehem; a son, John Sunukjian of Cary, N.C.; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

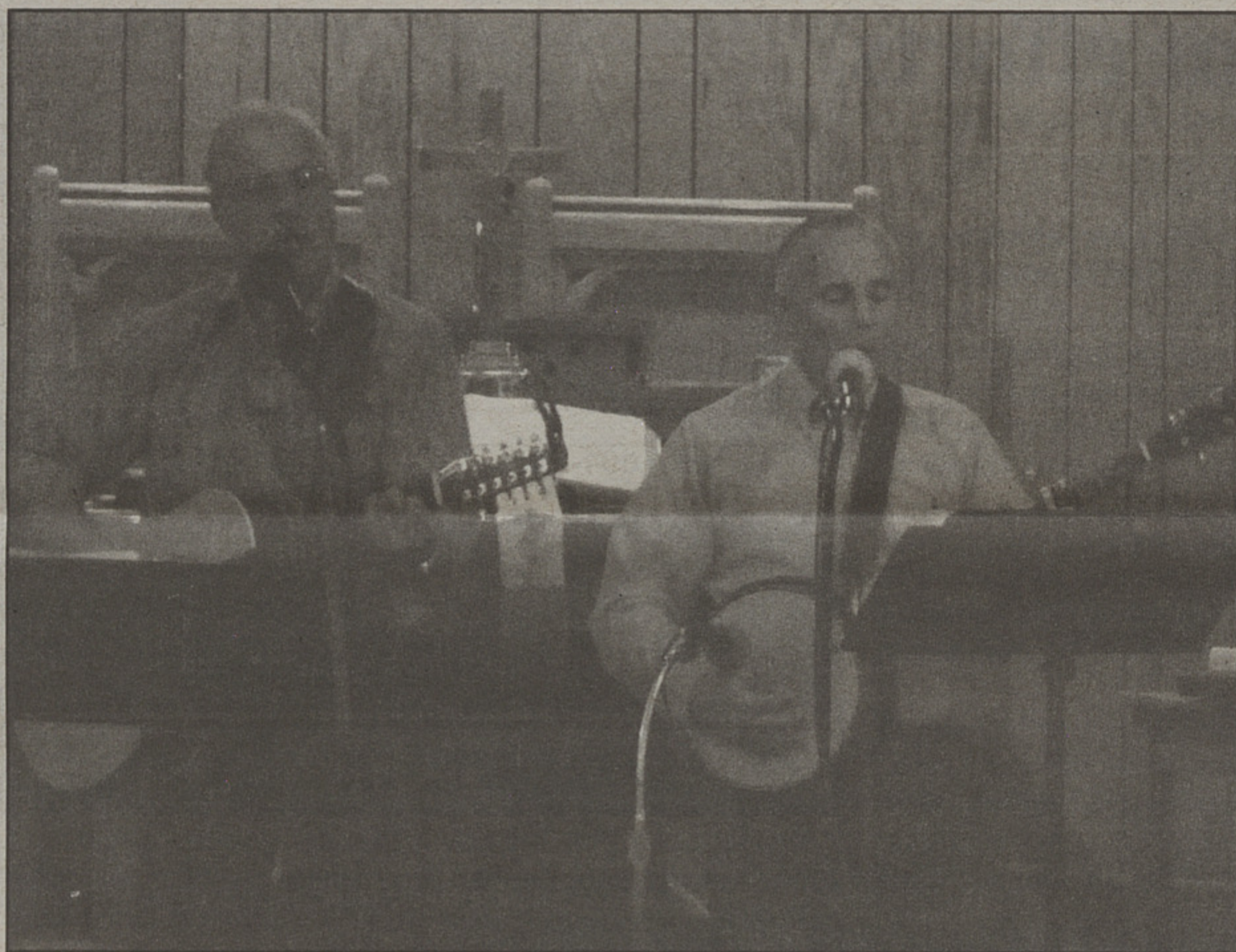
LU Philharmonic offers free concerts this weekend

Lehigh University Philharmonic Orchestra will perform free concerts 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26 and Saturday, Feb. 27 in Zoellner Arts Center's Baker Hall, Bethlehem. No tickets are required for admittance.

On Friday, the pieces to be performed include Mozart Clarinet Concerto with Geoffrey Groman, clarinet; Vivaldi Double Cello Concerto with Brittany Foster and T.J. Berntsen, cello; Bach Double Violin Concerto with Patricia Sabin and Justin Serrine, violins; Vivaldi Oboe Concerto with Amy Forando, oboe and Mozart Flute Concerto with Madeline Weiss, flute. On both nights the groups will perform Haydn Clock Symphony, No. 101.

On Saturday, the pieces to be performed include: Haydn Cello Concerto with David Weidman, cello; Mozart Flute/Harp Concerto with Linda Ganus, flute and Andrea Wittchen, harp; Frackenpohl Tuba Concertino with Michael Giangreco, tuba; Grieg Piano Concerto with Alice Gonzalez Cavalcanti de Araujo, piano and Strauss Horn Concerto with Brian Godshall, horn.

For more information visit www.zoellnerartscenter.org or e-mail zcs2@lehigh.edu



Members of Rockhill Mountain Boys performed Sunday during a gospel gathering at Ebenezer New Reformed Church, Bingen.

Photo by Paul Bealer

Meals on Wheels seeks office paper

Meals On Wheels of Northampton County is accepting donations of unused or new paper.

JoAnn Bergeron Nenow, Executive Director said old letterhead or unwanted fliers will also be accepted.

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The public is hereby notified that Borough Council will be conducting work sessions prior to the commencement of the Monday, March 15, 2010 and Monday April 19, 2010 Council meetings. Each work session will convene at 6:30 p.m. followed by the regular meeting of Council at 7 p.m., both at the Hellertown Borough Hall, 685 Main Street, Hellertown, PA 18055.
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SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

SAUCON JUNIOR **R**ebecca Evangelista swims the 50-meter and 100-meter freestyle events for Saucon Valley High School and is a member of the 200-meter medley relay and 400-meter relay teams. This petite swimmer has only been swimming competitively since she tried out for the Panther swim team as a freshman.



**REBEKAH
EVANGELISTA**

Becky is continually working to lower her times and improve her techniques. In July, she and four other Saucon swimmers participated in a four day swim camp at Penn State, where she was able to work on her techniques.

"Rebekah's swimming roots don't extend back to club or elite programs here in the Lehigh Valley, and that is one of her qualities that delights me the most and makes me the proudest of her," Coach Ed Kolosky said. "She is a very driven young lady and has become the swimmer that she is through good old-fashioned, gut-busting hard work and determination. I feel that Beck is one of the fastest sprinters in the area in AA, we are presently tweaking a few little things and making some minor adjustments to make her more competitive at the district level."

Kolosky added, "I believe that she's going to turn more

than a few heads by that meet. She leads by example and many of our younger athletes feed off the energy that she brings to practice and to meets. Rebekah is as coachable as any swimmer that I've ever worked with; a true joy to work with! Best of luck to her."

Becky's favorite subject is history and in her spare time she likes to listen to music. Her favorite food is the cheeseburger made at home. She has a younger sister, Alexandra, and a younger brother, Nick.

Rebekah is the daughter of Michael and Theresa Evangelista of Hellertown.

*Photo & text
by Richard Hafner*



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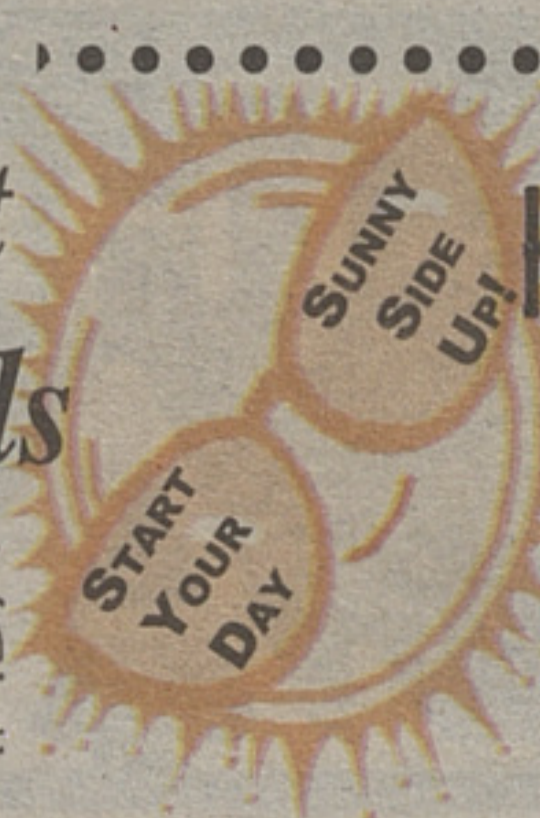
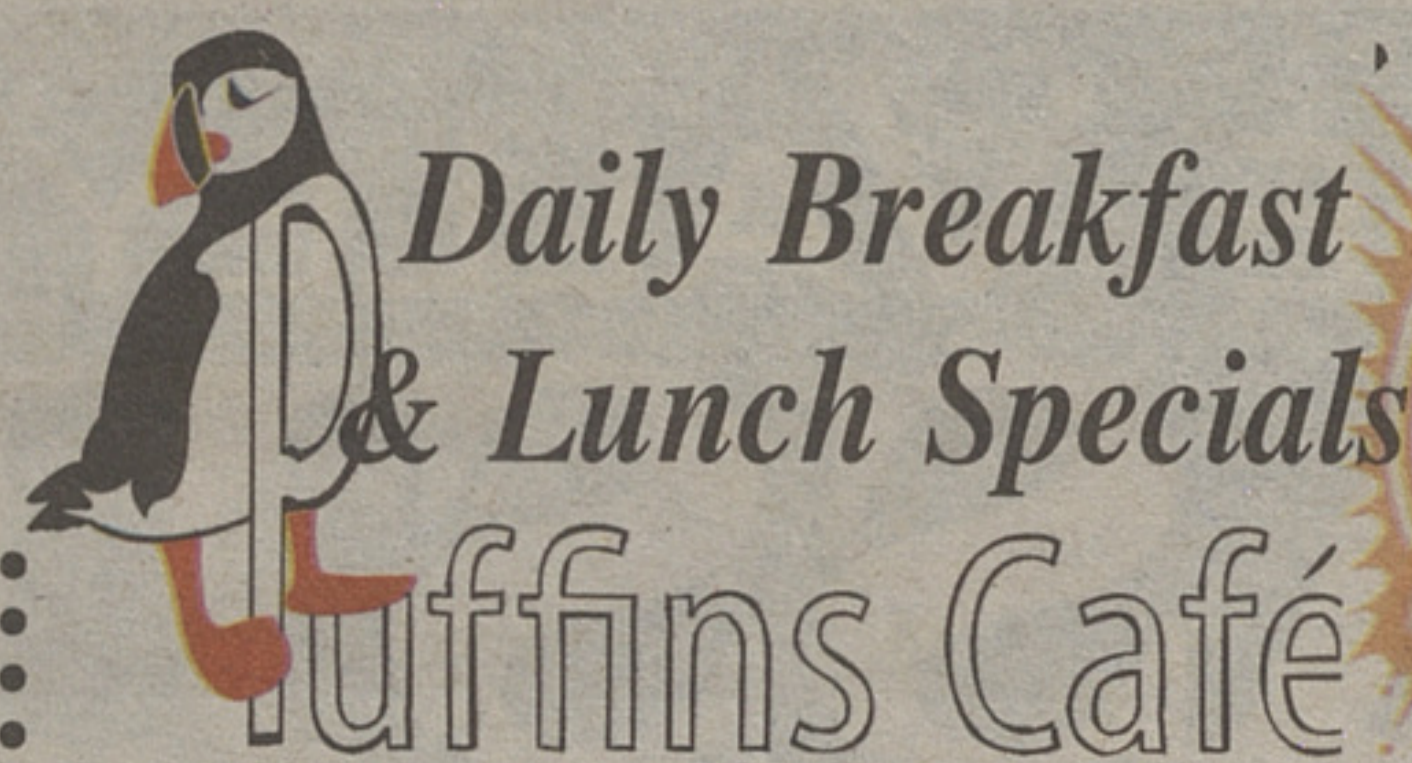
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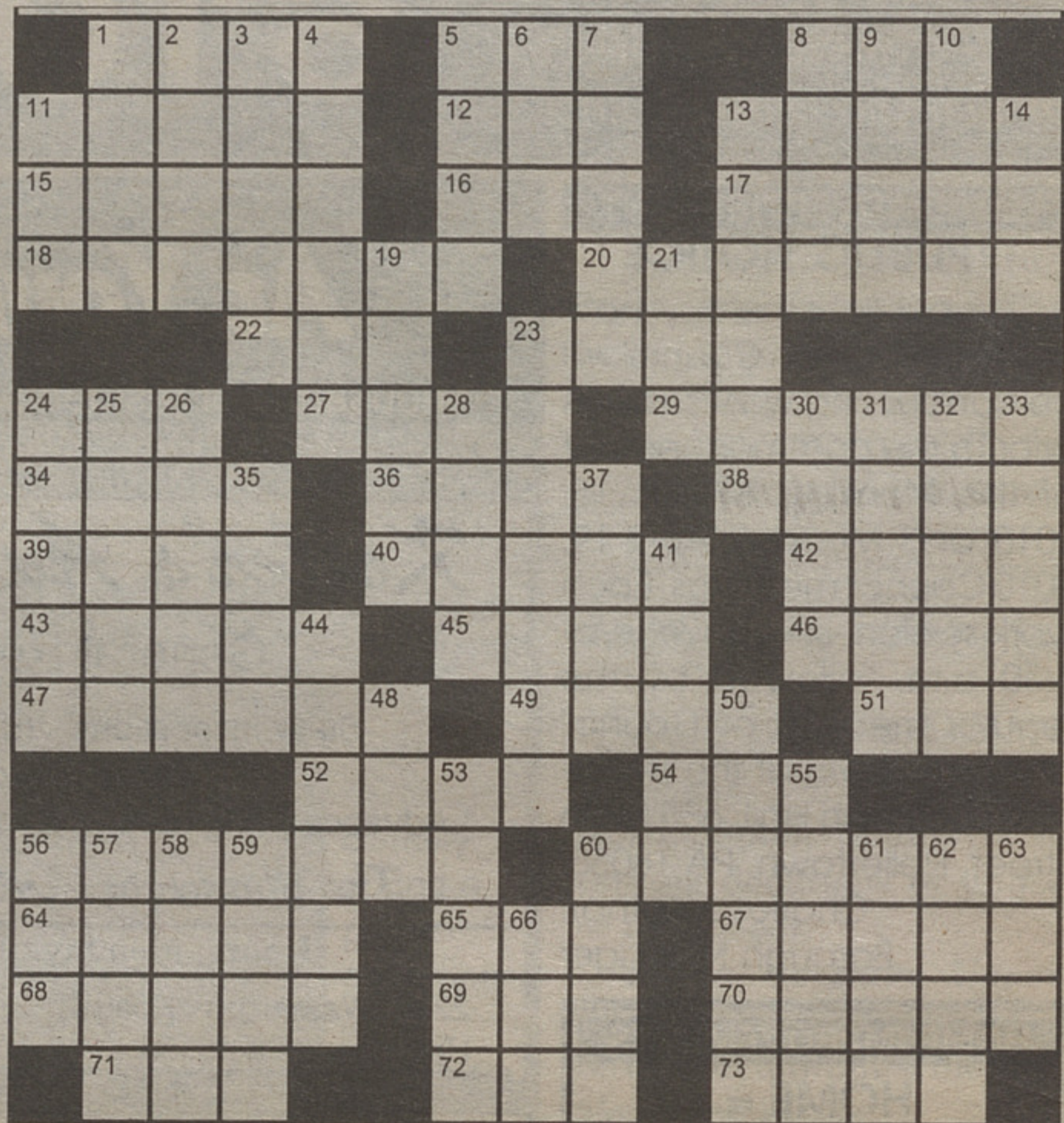
THE OSCARS

Across

1. Not final or absolute
5. Arabic garment
8. Christopher Plummer's role
11. Core remover, as in for apples
12. This McKellen was nominated twice
13. Bird of prey nest
15. Ancient Greek marketplace
16. Banned pesticide
17. They are lifted at weddings
18. She played an abusive mom
20. Barest or scantiest
22. Shark sign
23. Abnormal body growth
24. Brassiere
27. Farmer's storage
29. Kind of metrical foot, poetry
34. "___ Dance" won for music and lyrics in 1978.
36. Chinese-American secret society
38. This Fiennes was nominated for "The English Patient" in '97
39. 2009 movie "He's Just Not That ___ You"
40. Traditionally heard in the mountains
42. Between larva and adult
43. Stallion's cry
45. Opposite of knit
46. Button on the radio
47. Cause to run off tracks
49. Prayer leader in mosque
51. 1989's "A ___ White Season" received one Oscar nomination
52. It is typically written versus oral
54. Barkeeper on "The Simpsons"
56. Directors Jason or Ivan
60. Tarantino's character
64. Love intensely
65. E.T. transporter (1982)
67. Spasms of pain
68. Tennessee footballer
69. This Mr. is Fantastic
70. Popular disinfectant
71. Gregory Hines' skill
72. A fast food staple
73. Big bang theory's original matter

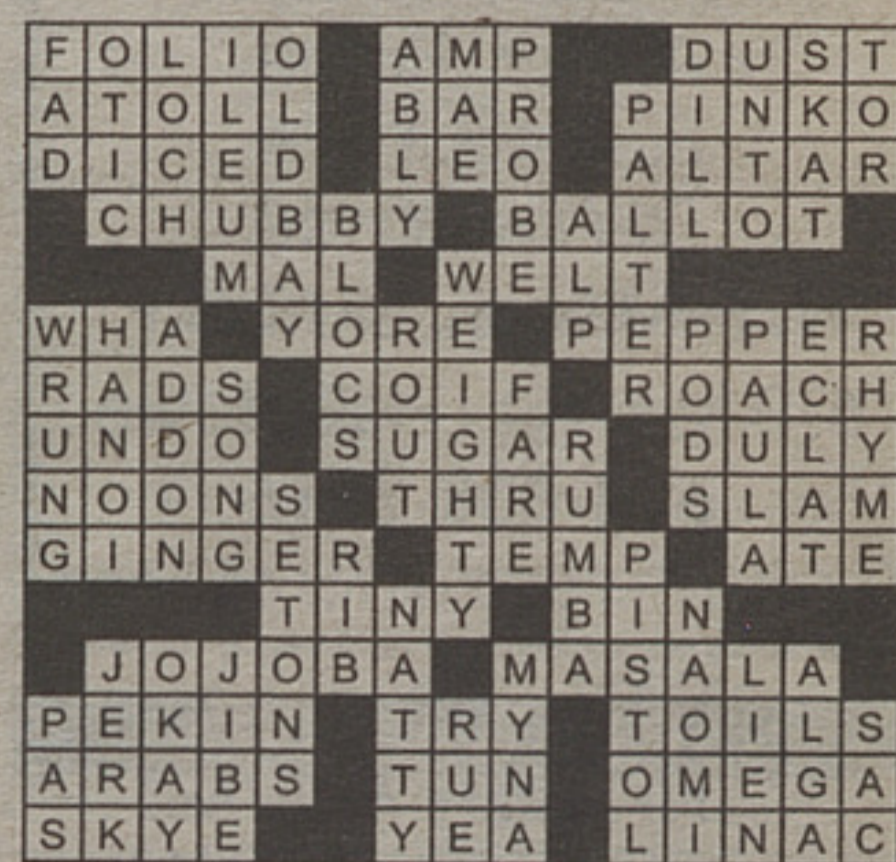
Down

1. Cancelled
2. Type of ore
3. Sans-___ font
4. Inhabitants of country north of Saudi Arabia
5. ___-de-camp
6. He has a crazy heart
7. Opposite of calm
8. Suggestive look
9. Cleveland, OH lake
10. Olive and canola ___
11. Computer-Aided Manufacturing
13. It received nine nominations
14. NYC time
19. Oneness, as in state
21. Pressure unit
23. Passage
24. "___ Side"
25. Wife of a raja
26. On the move
28. Pilot's stunt
30. Atlas contents
31. "... ___ and tattooed"
32. Like the highest deck, e.g.
33. Like nervous person's hands
35. "Animal House" party
37. Cold transmitter
41. South American camelid
44. Nicholson in "Prizzi's Honor" and Bardem in "No Country for Old Men", e.g.
48. Actress Thompson
50. More often than not
53. Type of film to be avoided
55. ___ alcohol, a.k.a. ethanol
56. "Ratatouille" (2007) chef
57. You can win if you act, direct, write or do this
58. Tiny amount
59. Mouse catcher
60. Square looking
61. Gaelic
62. Dining ___
63. Ctrl+Alt+___
66. "No Country ___ Old Men" won 4 Oscars



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