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Vouchers, Higher Ed, Fracking Main Topics at Simmons Town Hall Meeting

By Judd Wilson

COOPERSBURG -- State Rep. Justin Simmons met with residents here Thursday at Borough Hall. Simmons has been busy holding town halls this week in Allentown, Salisbury, Lower Milford, Lower Saucon, Upper Saucon and Coopersburg.

Simmons began the town hall by commenting on Gov. Tom Corbett's proposed budget, which Corbett unveiled this week. Simmons said he was "concerned about cuts in higher education." He couldn't reconcile the 53 percent reduction in state funding for higher education with the \$600 million increase for the Department of Public Welfare. Simmons said he and his fellow legislators were "shocked" by the higher education proposal. Simmons held true to his pledge to "give it to you the way I see it" throughout the town hall meeting.

Coopersburg resident John Shields asked Simmons his thoughts on why governments at all levels seem to perpetually operate in debt. If they were private businesses, Shields said, they would all go out of business. Simmons told Shields that government has gotten too big, and that their "day of reckoning is here." "We have a spending problem," Simmons said. If the state cuts spending, he said, the typical argument is that local school boards will have to raise taxes to keep meeting state-

SEE **SIMMONS** PG 4



A prominent Christchurch landmark lay in ruins after the devastating magnitude 6.3 earthquake in New Zealand Feb. 22. Hundreds died and hundreds of thousands are in dire need. Photo courtesy of Brenda Knight.

Saucon & New Zealand Rotarians Unite for Earthquake Relief

By Brenda Knight

NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND -- Just over two weeks ago, a devastating magnitude 6.3 earthquake destroyed New Zealand's beautiful, historic second city of Christchurch.

This came at a time when the city was gradually rebuilding after a magnitude 7.1 earthquake in Sept. 2010. In the previous quake there was thankfully no loss of life. However, the death toll from

the Feb. 22 quake has grown to over 200. Many people will never be recovered or identified. Hundreds have suffered serious injuries. The traumatized local population of over 400,000 have been continually harassed by aftershocks.

As soon as Melinda Stitt, President of Saucon Rotary Club heard about the earthquake, she contacted the

SEE **ROTARY** PG 3

Revitalization Program Discusses Farmers' Market

By Judd Wilson

COOPERSBURG -- The Coopersburg Borough Revitalization Program held a meeting at Borough Hall here Feb. 16. Representatives of community organizations and businesses attended, including Jennifer Wescoe-Schaninger, Sharon Riu-Porter, Cari Poole, Wendy Sinko, and Mark McCormick.

The main topic of discussion was the Coopersburg Farmers' Market's upcoming 2011 season. Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Borough Business Revitalization Coordinator Mary Himmelberger said that the farmers' market would require a special exception from the zoning hearing board. According to Himmelberger, due to its age the zoning ordinance doesn't include a provision for farmers' markets. Borough officials have been helpful, said Himmelberger. Mayor Tim Paashaus said his understanding is that zoning procedures became necessary due to the growth of the farmers' market. Paashaus said he supports both the Thursday and Saturday farmers' markets, which benefit Coopersburg businesses, farmers, and residents with increased commerce, great food, and healthy activities.

The market is scheduled to be held at the Village Shopping Center on N. Main St., the same site it was held at last year. According to the farmers' market website,

SEE **FARMERS** PG 2

INSIDE

HAPPY TRAILS

Borough Council talks Rails to Trails.

pg. 5

TOMORROW...

Casey McGinty & company shine in SLHS production of "Annie."

pg. 6



KIWANIS 5K

Registration open for May 14 run/walk in Upper Saucon.

pg. 6

BRIEFS

Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday, March 13. Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour.

Clean Up activities across Southern Lehigh are scheduled for April 16. Lower Milford Township will hold its clean-up from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. with refreshments provided afterwards. Volunteers should show up at 7:45 a.m. at the Township Municipal Building.

Upper Saucon Township will hold its clean-up from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For a list of items being accepted please stop by the Township Municipal Building or Coopersburg Borough Office. Fees apply to certain items for the recycling cost of hazardous or data sensitive material. To sign up or for more information please contact Erin Frederick at uppersauconeac@gmail.com or 610-391-9583 ext.25

Coopersburg Family Chiropractic is holding Patient Appreciation Day on March 14 with food, drink, and consultations at no cost for both new and old patients. CFC will present a free health and wellness seminar on March 16 at 6:30 p.m. Register at the front desk.

FARMERS FROM PG 1
"This market was created to provide local citizens with high quality, safe, farm fresh produce and related products. It is a goal of the Coopersburg Farmers' Market to support the local farming community by helping to preserve precious farmland, promote sustainable agriculture and offer our farmers an additional way to market their products." Vendors, corporate sponsors, and volunteers are wanted.

Attendees also discussed grant money that will be used to buy and install eight planters at street corners around Coopersburg. Eight were installed in 2010 as well, according to Himmelberger.

The Coopersburg Farmers' Market will hold its kick-off during the Coopersburg 5K, Kids' Fun Run, and Health and Wellness Expo on May 28 from 7:30-11 a.m. Afterwards, the market is scheduled to be open each

Thursday at 3:30-7 p.m. between June 2 and Oct. 6, 2011. To learn more, please visit www.coopersburgfarmersmarket.org, or contact Wendy Sinko at wendy@coopersburgfarmersmarket.org or 610-248-1469.

The next Coopersburg Borough Revitalization Program meeting will be held at Borough Hall on March 16 at 6 p.m.

Fifth Annual Coopersburg 5K, Kids' Fun Run, and Health and Wellness Expo will take place May 28. To register or learn more, visit www.coopersburg.org or contact Jennifer Wescoe-Schaninger from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday at 484-553-6340 or jwschaninger@hotmail.com.

First Church of Christ, Scientist in Allentown presents "Prayer in a Postmodern World" on April 3 at 2 p.m. in Oberkotter Hall at Cedar Crest College in Allentown. For more information, contact allentownschurch@gmail.com or call 610-432-1114.

Kiwanis Club of Southern Lehigh will have its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Upper Saucon Township Community Park on April 16. Kiwanis also present the 3rd Annual 5K Run/Walk on May 14 at the Upper Saucon Township Community Park. See page 6 for a registration form, or register online at www.active.com.

Eat at Friendly's in Quakertown on March 14 between 5-8 p.m. and 10 percent of all proceeds will go to support the **Lower Milford Residents' Association**.

Rotary Club of Saucon will meet on March 15 at 7:30 a.m. in the University Center Building at DeSales University.

Eat at Red Robin in Quakertown on March 24 between 5-9 p.m. and 10 percent of all proceeds will go to support the **Southern Lehigh Public Library**.

Female high school seniors may be eligible for a \$500 college scholarship from the **Womens' Business Council** of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. Contact Danielle Joseph at 610-841-5851 or daniellej@lehighvalleychamber.org to learn more.

Word Search # 9 -- Saint Patrick's Day

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



Saint Patrick helped bring the Gospel to Ireland in the fifth century A.D. and is the patron saint of Ireland. His feast day is celebrated each year on March 17. Photo by Sicarr, courtesy of Wikipedia Commons.

- Beer
- Celebrate
- Celtic
- Christian
- Clover
- Druid
- Fire
- Freedom
- Green

- Ireland
- Leprechaun
- Pot of Gold
- Shamrock
- Shepherd
- Snakes
- St. Patrick
- Rainbow

Word Search #8 Key-- Mardi Gras

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

ROTARY FROM PG 1

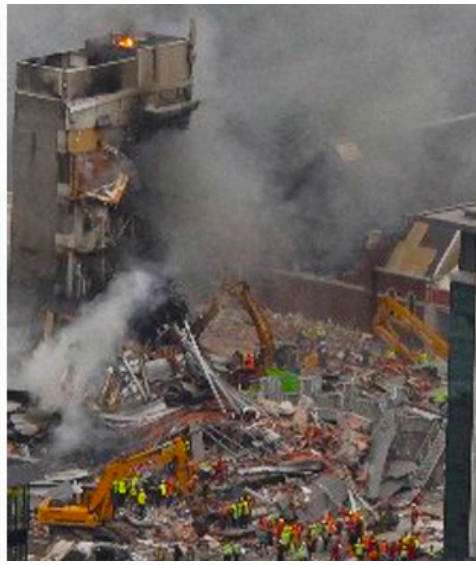
writer to ask how she and her club could help. The friendship between Saucon, Emmaus and Bethlehem clubs with New Zealand came about through a friendship exchange in 2009 when New Zealand Rotarians from District 9930 visited Pennsylvania. In 2010, Rotarians from Southern Lehigh and elsewhere in Pennsylvania's District 7430 enjoyed the hospitality of their friends in New Zealand.

Rotary Clubs in New Zealand are helping in many ways, and offers from other clubs throughout the world have been an inspiration and comfort to everyone.

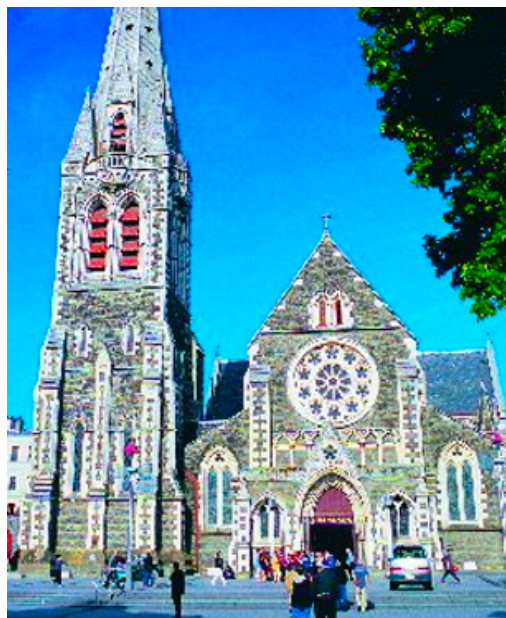
One-fifth of the population have relocated throughout New Zealand either with relatives, friends, or with strangers who have opened their homes to help. Hospital patients, rest home residents, and school children have also been relocated throughout the country.

This week the government announced that 10,000 homes will be demolished and many more need major repairs. Whilst chemical toilets arrive from Australia, USA and China, 158,000 people still lack toilet facilities, making the possibility of disease a real concern.

So many people fled from their homes in just the clothes they were wearing that relief which



The CTV Building, above, before and after the Feb. 22 earthquake. Below, the Anglican Cathedral of Christchurch before and after the earthquake. *Photos courtesy of Brenda Knight.*



flooded in from around the world is getting used up at a rapid rate. The Red Cross and the Salvation Army are doing wonderful work distributing donated food and

clothing to those in need. Most of the overseas search and rescue teams which came from USA, Britain, Australia, Japan and Taiwan and did a wonderful job

rescuing and recovering people have now returned home. New Zealand search and rescue teams from throughout the country are still working. Working in 12 hour shifts, they undertake the heroic and horrific tasks of bringing out trapped people and recovering bodies which such care.

Tales of bravery and self sacrifice make sad reading. On Tuesday the young father of Sarah, 6, and Eric, 3, was buried. He had a joinery business and after the quake contacted his home and learned that his family was safe. He cleared up his workshop and set off home in his Land Rover only to find the road was closed. He set off up a hill on a bridle path.

On the way, he met many tired and frightened people trying to walk home, so he gave them lifts, returning numerous times for more passengers. When he eventually set off to complete his journey home, he texted his wife to say "HOME in 10 minutes." Sarah and Eric's father was crushed by a falling rock before he ever made it home.

To donate to Rotary's relief efforts in New Zealand via PayPal, go to www.rnzwcs.org, and click on "Christchurch/Canterbury Earthquake Appeal." To learn more about Rotary Clubs in the Lehigh Valley, visit www.rotarydistrict7430.org.

2011 Buy Lehigh Valley Expo

The Women's Business Council of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Presents the Twenty-Sixth Annual Buy Lehigh Valley Expo.



Wednesday, March 16, 9 - 4

Northampton Community College Spartan Center
3835 Green Pond Drive, Bethlehem
FREE to attend

More than 120 vendors and nearly 2,000 participants in the year's biggest B2B event in the Lehigh Valley!



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Use Fire Fund for Fire Company EDUs, Say Supervisors

By Judd Wilson

LOWER MILFORD -- Volunteer firefighters and supervisors wrangled over sewage fees Feb. 17 during a board of supervisors meeting here at the Township Municipal Building.

The volunteer fire department had approached the township with a request to have the township absorb the costs of sewer hookups for the fire company hall in Limeport. Since the firefighters serve the entire township, Lloyd Ohl said, the firefighters would like the township to pay the sewage expense out of the general fund.

Solicitor Mark Cappuccio reported that a previous solicitor noted that to do so would be unfair to other non-profit organizations in the township. Unfortunately, the relevant ordinance did not allow

for hookups to be deferred or exempted.

Supervisor Michael Snovitch inquired if it would be possible to pay for the EDUs out of the fire company's special fund, created several years ago in order to raise enough money to build a new fire hall. Lower Milford residents pay a 1 mill property tax annually to the fire fund. As of January, the fire fund had over \$200,000 in it.

Chairwoman Donna Wright said it would be inadvisable to tax residents for the fire fund and then use general fund tax revenues for the fire company as well. Township Manager Ellen Koplín said that the language in the ordinance which created the fire fund mirrored that of the second-class township code, which authorized the tax to purchase and

maintain fire apparatus and house, to train firefighters, and to contract with other fire departments. Cappuccio said the township could therefore use money from the fire fund for the fire company's sewage hookup costs.

Wright said the fire department had been receiving \$40,000 annually from the township plus \$20,000 in insurance and other costs. Now the firefighters receive twice as much from the tax as they did before from donations only, she said. Wright explained that the \$60,000 the fire department formerly received now stays in the general fund to pay for other expenses.

Former supervisor Arland Schantz pointed out that the supervisors were effectively denying the fire department's request. Ohl added that "donations are way down"

since creation of the fire fund. People are less inclined to help out than they were before, he said, when 42 percent of residents contributed annually to the fire department's fundraising drives. "We're getting hurt," he said.

Koplín said the 42 percent figure showed that Lower Milford residents gave an "overwhelming response" to their volunteer fire department compared to other townships. If the 1 mill tax isn't working for the fire department, she said, the township could revisit going back to the way things used to be.

The March 3 board of supervisors workshop meeting was cancelled. The next Lower Milford Township Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on March 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Municipal Building.

SIMMONS FROM PG 1
mandated requirements. In order to effectively cut spending and taxes, therefore, the legislator said he supported giving more power back to local school boards through mandate relief. Raising property taxes would then not be the state's fault, he said, and citizens could hold their school boards more accountable.

As a teacher of 42 years, Val Walter asked Simmons how the state planned to pay for school vouchers, which have been proposed by Republicans as Senate Bill 1. State Sen. Bob Mensch, who represents Southern Lehigh, has cosponsored the bill. Simmons said the bill, which "is a long way from passage," would phase in school vouchers over a three-year period.

In the first year, the state would give a check to parents at or near the poverty level, which they could use to enroll to their children in school districts outside their area. In the third year of the program, Simmons said, all low-income parents would receive such checks.

Walter pointed out that in her experience the schools that failed did so because of uninvolved parents. Giving uninterested and negligent parents the ability to put their kids in good schools will only drag down good schools, she said.

Simmons also explained that SB 1 would give school districts the

right to refuse to accept vouchers. However, they would have to either refuse all vouchers entirely, or accept vouchers from whomever applied to enroll their children in that school district. Pennsylvania should "give it at least a shot," Simmons said. Let's "try something different," he suggested.

Walter said later in an interview that if parents commit to their children's educations, attend open houses, meet with teachers, and participate in conferences, their children and their schools will do well. "A community makes the school."

However, parents who pass on the responsibility of raising their children to schools foster disruptive kids who tend to dominate their teachers' attention. Bussing in students from Allentown to Southern Lehigh would lead to classrooms oriented on the bad behavior of a few students.

"Average kids never get a fair shake," she said. Too much educational spending goes to very good or very bad students, she said, leaving the majority of students high and dry. In her experience, class sizes for gifted students and remedial students were much smaller than those for the majority.

Instead of spending money on bringing poor students to good school districts like Southern Lehigh, she said the state should

require parents of those failing students to get involved in their children's education at their current schools.

In response to a question about Corbett's proposed cuts in funding for the Penn State University system, Simmons said there "needs to be some changes before it gets my vote." "Penn State is a really good economic engine for Pennsylvania," he said. The large proposed cuts are "a little bit of a concern."

Walter recommended that if cuts need to be made, they be made in community colleges which remediate reading and math courses students didn't succeed in during high school. Instead of teaching them over and over again at taxpayer expense from kindergarten through college, she said, students should be made to learn before graduating high school.

Simmons said he supports privatization of state-owned liquor stores. "The will is there" to do it in legislature, he said. "I do think it will get done."

Similarly, things are "full steam ahead" on Marcellus Shale operations. Simmons said because of the revenue it will bring to Pennsylvania, he supports fracking. Fracking is the term to describe how gas companies break open the subterranean rock to get natural gas. "This could be the gold rush

of Pennsylvania," he said, citing a study purporting \$250 billion in revenue for state coffers. "We need the revenue." Fracking will generate "our biggest economic growth in Pennsylvania," Simmons said.

Shields said he is concerned that gas companies will lease acreage from private owners, install wells, and then not do anything with them, in order to keep gas prices artificially high "like the Saudis." Shields said he has leased land to gas companies who installed wells but have not yet extracted natural gas from them.

State Rep. Justin Simmons has offices in Bethlehem and Harrisburg, and satellite offices across his district. To reach his Bethlehem office, call 610-861-5201, fax 610-861-2069, or visit 3606 Rte. 378 South, Ste. A, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

Simmons' Harrisburg office is available at 717-783-1673, fax 717-705-7012, or via mail at 5 East Wing, P.O. Box 202131, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2131.

Staff regularly visit the Lower Milford Township Municipal Building each Tuesday from 12:30 to 4 p.m. and the Southern Lehigh Public Library each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, go to www.repsimmons.com.

Trails, Rain, Amber Alerts Discussed at Borough Council

By Judd Wilson

COOPERSBURG -- Borough council met here Tuesday night for a regularly scheduled meeting. Councilmen Larry Pummer and Jack Felch did not attend.

Former mayor Jonathan Mack, who had recently attended a Rails to Trails meeting, asked council members when Coopersburg planned on constructing its portion of the trail. Borough Manager Dawn Kresge said she has been in touch with Upper Saucon Township Manager Tom Beil on the matter. Upper Saucon is finishing its first phase of Rails to Trails this year, Kresge said. The second phase was not funded in the 2011 budget, however, and at the soonest will be built in 2012.

At that point in time, Kresge noted, Coopersburg would be in a position to begin preparations for its approximately one-half mile section of the Rails to Trails

path. Coopersburg has inadequate parking for people who will drive to the trail, she said, leaving the borough dependent on Upper Saucon for parking near the trail. It might be hazardous for people living on Main St. to walk across Highway 309 to get to the trail, she said.

Kresge said she will work with highway superintendent Dennis Nace in the future on a cost estimate for the Coopersburg portion of the trail. Councilman Dennis Balascak told Mack the bottom line was that no money in the 2011 budget had been allocated by the borough for construction of the trail. Council president Gary Hovis said the borough should do a cost estimate sometime this year.

Balascak reported that the downpour on March 6 constituted a storm event of 1.6-1.8 million gallons of water for the borough sewer infrastructure. Based on Tuesday's weather forecasts, he

anticipated another storm event possibly March 10 or 11, and wanted to gather data during that storm at sites on Horse Alley, Second St. and Oxford St., and elsewhere.

Balascak later said the data is required in compliance with the borough's comprehensive corrective action plan. The borough's camera equipment allows highway department crew to see where leaks are occurring during a storm. All of the borough's sewer lines have been "TV'd" one or more times, Balascak said. No other municipality has done so much research and repair on their inflow and infiltration as Coopersburg has, he added.

Council approved a resolution designating Spruce Alley a one-way street westward from Highway 309 to Fourth St. Councilwoman Linda Minarik opposed it, but the resolution passed 4-1.

In response to a query posed by council members earlier this year, Kresge reported that Fred Derby, owner of the large digital billboard sign on Highway 309 in Coopersburg, has said his billboard ran one Amber Alert for missing children to date. Zoning officer Larry Andes told Kresge that the sign was in line with applicable laws.

However, Chief of Police Daniel Trexler said he and his men have gone to the billboard previously and waited in vain to see an active Amber Alert show on the screen. Hovis asked that Kresge get documentation from Derby on the prior Amber Alert showing, and if none can be found, asked that an Amber Alert test be scheduled for council and police to witness.

The next Coopersburg Borough Council meeting will be held on March 22 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Upper Saucon Supervisors Recognize Eagle Scout Kostecki

By Judd Wilson

UPPER SAUCON -- A short but sweet board of supervisors meeting took place at the Township Municipal Building here Monday night. Chairman Miro Gutzmirtl and vice chairman Stephen Wagner participated in the meeting via teleconference.

Acting chairman Joseph Horvath led the board in unanimously approving Resolution 2011-14, which recognized Upper Saucon Township's own Charles Kostecki for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. Kostecki, who led board members in the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the meeting, belongs to Boy Scout Troop 191 at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church in Center Valley.

According to Kostecki, his Eagle Scout project saved approximately \$1,000 of manual labor expenses to Jenn's House, a hospitality house for families of hospital patients in the Lehigh Valley. Horvath said

he had worked with one of the founders of Jenn's House, Richard Dillmann, whose daughter's passing in 1991 inspired the project.

Kostecki told Horvath that since he wants to be a dentist, the dentistry merit badge is his favorite. Gutzmirtl told Kostecki that his favorite badge from his Boy Scout days was the cooking merit badge, and jokingly advised him to learn how to cook for his future wife's sake. Horvath said he was "very proud" of Kostecki.

With unanimous votes, supervisors also conditionally approved plans to consolidate four lots owned by Joseph and Ruthann Russo on Ballybunion Road into two lots, and for DeSales University to develop a new education building at the northeast corner of Landis Mill Rd. and Station Ave. They also voted to release a \$790,898 construction security for the Southern Lehigh Intermediate School project, and approved the purchase of a \$161,000 tandem

axle dump truck through the state's CoStars Cooperative Purchasing Program. Horvath mentioned that a township dump truck had recently had a second crack in the frame that needed to be welded together.

PNC Bank Vice President and Senior Investment Advisor Paul Kamor presented a 10-minute overview of the township's uniformed and non-uniformed employee pension plans. Each had good years in 2010, he said. His presentation reported that the police pension plan has \$3.58 million, which made 10.5 percent returns last year. The non-uniformed pension plan has \$3.8 million and made 10 percent returns last year. Each plan consists of approximately two-thirds stocks, thirty percent bonds, and less than five percent cash.

According to Kamor, 2010 was "another great year for the equity market," increasing 15 percent according to the S&P 500. He expected the economy to grow

2.5-3 percent this year as an expansionary period following the end of "the Great Recession." Kamor said that 8.5 million Americans lost their jobs during the recession, and only 1.2 million found new jobs during it.

He anticipated oil prices to remain in the \$100-120 per barrel range despite "upward pressure" on oil prices. Last year, lower-quality stocks outperformed high-quality stocks, which meant that the high-quality stock-laden pension plans did well but not as well as they could have. Following two straight years of double-digit returns in 2009 and 2010, Kamor predicted returns of just under 10 percent this year. According to him, since 1929 the S&P 500 have never had three consecutive years of double-digit returns.

The next Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on March 21 at 6 p.m. at the Township Municipal Building.

Ann-credible!

By Judd Wilson

SOUTHERN LEHIGH HIGH SCHOOL -- If ever there was a time when America needed a healthy dose of grit and grin, it would be now. Widespread foreclosures, bankruptcies, and expanding government spending made Matthew Wehr remark that while the comparison between now and the 1930s "is not identical, the comparison still is really quite undeniable."

Into that scenario the Southern Lehigh High School music teacher brought his powerful, uplifting production of "Annie," an irrepressibly stouthearted orphan who refused to lose hope that one day she would have a mom and dad.

Played by junior Casey McGinty, the red-headed orphan "Annie" presented Southern Lehigh family and friends with a triumphant, bold expression of the American

spirit. The little but strong McGinty packed a powerful punch of optimism in the midst of terrible circumstances such as neglect, abandonment, humiliation, homelessness, and deception.

Senior Deven Knox played the part of Annie's nemesis and orphan warden "Miss Hannigan" to perfection, with such a voice and vivid characterization as to make audience members revolt at Hannigan's devilishness right down to their toes.

With a stiff, unbending, and proud performance, senior Kevin Rose aptly illustrated the gulf between billionaire tycoon "Oliver Warbucks'" head and heart -- a chasm which could only be bridged by the love and affection of Annie.

Tony Zitta and Alyssa Lorin Lowry's over-the-top performances as "Rooster" and "Miss Lily St. Regis" wowed the crowd with a delightfully deplorable dose of

comic relief. Knox, Zitta and Lowry's decadent, high-kicking rendition of "Easy Street" was truly worthy of an encore.

"Sandy the Dog," played by Kiara, stole the scene during McGinty's first performance of "Tomorrow." For a dog to be so well-behaved in front of hundreds of people, with lights in her face, and off of a leash, was remarkable. It was heart-warming to see "Sandy" come to "Annie" so affectionately and on command. Whoever trained McGinty and Kiara how to work together deserves a special award.

Douglas Bolasky's symphony could have fooled audience members into thinking they were listening to a professional musical performance. The symphony's performance was flawless, well-timed and impressive.

So too were choreographer Erin Hurley's dance routines, without

which the whole production would have fallen flat. Along with the music and dancing, the set constructions -- Warbucks' mansion in particular -- gave the show an extra dimension that film simply lacks. The voices, faces, dancing, and songs of human beings close enough to reach out to and touch created an experience that no cell phone, computer, TV, or movie screen could ever match.

Long live humanity and joy! Long live Annie!

To learn more about Southern Lehigh High School musical productions, visit www.slsd.org/webpages/mwehr or contact Matthew Wehr at 610-282-1421 ext. 7097 or wehrm@slsd.org.



3rd Annual Southern Lehigh Kiwanis 5k Run/Walk

- WHO:** All joggers, runners and walkers; registration is limited to 300 participants.
- WHAT:** 5K Run/Walk to benefit Kiwanis Club of Southern Lehigh
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 14th, 2011, 8:30AM
- WHERE:** Upper Saucon Township Community Park; Preston Lane (between Route 378 and Desales University)
- RACE FEE:** **Cash or Check (payable to Kiwanis Club of Southern Lehigh)**
\$20 if pre-registered, and \$25 on race day (registration fee is non-refundable)
- CHECK-IN:** 7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
- AWARDS:** Awards will be given to the top male and female finishers in each age group.
- T-SHIRTS:** Available to first 100 registrants—register before April 1st for preferred t-shirt size
- ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Erin Ofner eofner15@hotmail.com 484-515-5415

***Online Registration also available at: http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1939004

Name: _____ Sex (circle one) M F

Address: _____

Age on race day: UNDER 18 18-25 26-40 41-60 61+

Phone #: _____ Email: _____ Shirt size (circle one): S M L XL

Waiver--Participants under 18 must have a parent/guardian sign.

I know that running, jogging or walking in the Kiwanis Club of Southern Lehigh's 5K Run/Walk or any road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter unless I am medically able and properly trained. I assume all risks associated with the Kiwanis Club of Southern Lehigh's 5K Run/Walk including but not limited to contact with other participants, falls, health risks, foul weather, traffic and road conditions, animals, all such risks being accepted by me. I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the Kiwanis Club of Southern Lehigh, **Upper Saucon Township**, any and all sponsors, race organizers, law enforcement, emergency medical personnel, and volunteers, from all claims and liabilities of any kind arising from the Kiwanis Club of Southern Lehigh's 5K Run/Walk.

Please sign below to agree to the waiver and verify that all above information is correct.

X _____

Quarry Projections Incorrect, Says Expert

By Judd Wilson

LOWER MILFORD -- An expert hydrogeologist told the zoning hearing board here Feb. 23 that the Geryville Materials quarry will create a huge pool overflowing into the Hosensack Creek.

Val Britton, principal scientist at the Exton, Pa. NTH Consultants office, said that while the modeling done by Geryville Materials witnesses was done well, the simulation parameters were "constructed erroneously" and gave a wrong picture of what would happen if the quarry began operations.

Using ModFlow modeling developed by the U.S. Geological Survey to simulate the infiltration of water into the ground, Britton predicted that 25 gallons of water

would stay above ground each minute that quarry sumps pumped groundwater out of the proposed quarry site and onto the ground elsewhere, creating a large area of swampy or pond-like conditions. That doesn't even include the effect of rainwater, he added.

What's more, he explained, is that the resulting body of water would wash debris into the Hosensack Creek, which runs through the proposed quarry site. Therefore, whatever is on the ground in that swampy area created by the excess water would potentially flow down into the Hosensack and on through the rest of the Upper Perkiomen Watershed.

Britton then presented photographic evidence that a large, illegal dump used to exist in a deep ravine on the site. According to

Britton, he learned from Robert Krauss and township files that in 1966 "the Fretz dump", as solicitor Mark Cappuccio called it, opened in Lower Milford. The 10- to 20-foot deep ravine was too steep to be farmed, and was thus utilized for dumping. Fires occasionally broke out there and it got the attention of the state Department of Environmental Protection, Britton said.

While a 1942 aerial photo clearly showed the ravine's contour lines on the ground, a 2010 Google Maps aerial photo of the site showed no ravine at all. One way or another, the ravine has been replaced by flat land.

The excess water pumped out of the Geryville Materials quarry would overflow the site, said Britton, washing contaminants,

volatiles, and more into the Hosensack. "We don't know what's in the dump," he said.

Lower Milford resident Ron Tomes said it was "refreshing to hear a good witness who's agreeing with us for a change." Britton examined the same evidence as Geryville Materials' witnesses, he said, but reached a completely different conclusion. Vicki Lightcap, supporter of Lower Milford Residents' Association's fight against the quarry, called Britton's testimony an "extremely positive" development for Lower Milford residents and the township zoning ordinance.

The next Lower Milford Township Zoning Hearing Board meeting is scheduled for March 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Municipal Building.

Lower Milford Park Dedication Set for April 30

By Judd Wilson

LOWER MILFORD -- The recreation and open space board met here Wednesday night to work on plans for the April 30 community park dedication ceremony.

Chairman Gary Campbell, Vice Chairman Terry Haggerty, Lori Sickenberger, Donna Wright, and Erin Shellaway discussed the ceremony agenda, invitations, ribbon cutting, and refreshments. Wright said the ceremony itself should be brief, but she and other board members investigated purchasing low-cost kites for kids to enjoy during the noon to 5 p.m. event.

She also hoped elementary and middle school girls' lacrosse players from the Southern Lehigh Girls Lacrosse program would be able to attend. The Lower Milford Community Park will be the girls' home field beginning this spring.

Wright said she had been in touch with Erin Frederick at the Lehigh County Conservation District about the Seed Farm project, which aims to promote and revitalize sustainable farming here in Lehigh County.

According to Wright, Frederick has organized a charitable bike ride for each of the last two years starting at Jasper Park in Upper Milford Township. The event has outgrown

the facility, and might be perfect to base at Lower Milford's new park, said Wright. Other board members were very supportive of the idea. The event is in the fall, said Wright, so nothing definite has been arranged yet. For more information on the Seed Farm, visit www.theseedfarm.org or sites.google.com/site/theseedfarm.

Wright also said the township has received and is reviewing the subdivision and land development ordinance draft. Township manager Ellen Koplin "has found issues" and will suggest revisions as the next step of the SALDO process, said Wright. Campbell said he was optimistic about getting GIS map files from Cowan

Associates. He has inquired about the price of said maps, but expects them to be affordable.

Shellaway renewed discussion about holding stream education sessions for the public. Campbell liked the idea of looking at stream care from the standpoint of the history of the ice house, dams, and so on. Board members said holding sessions in the fall, after the community day is over, would be best.

The next Lower Milford Township Recreation and Open Space Board meeting is scheduled for April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Municipal Building.

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