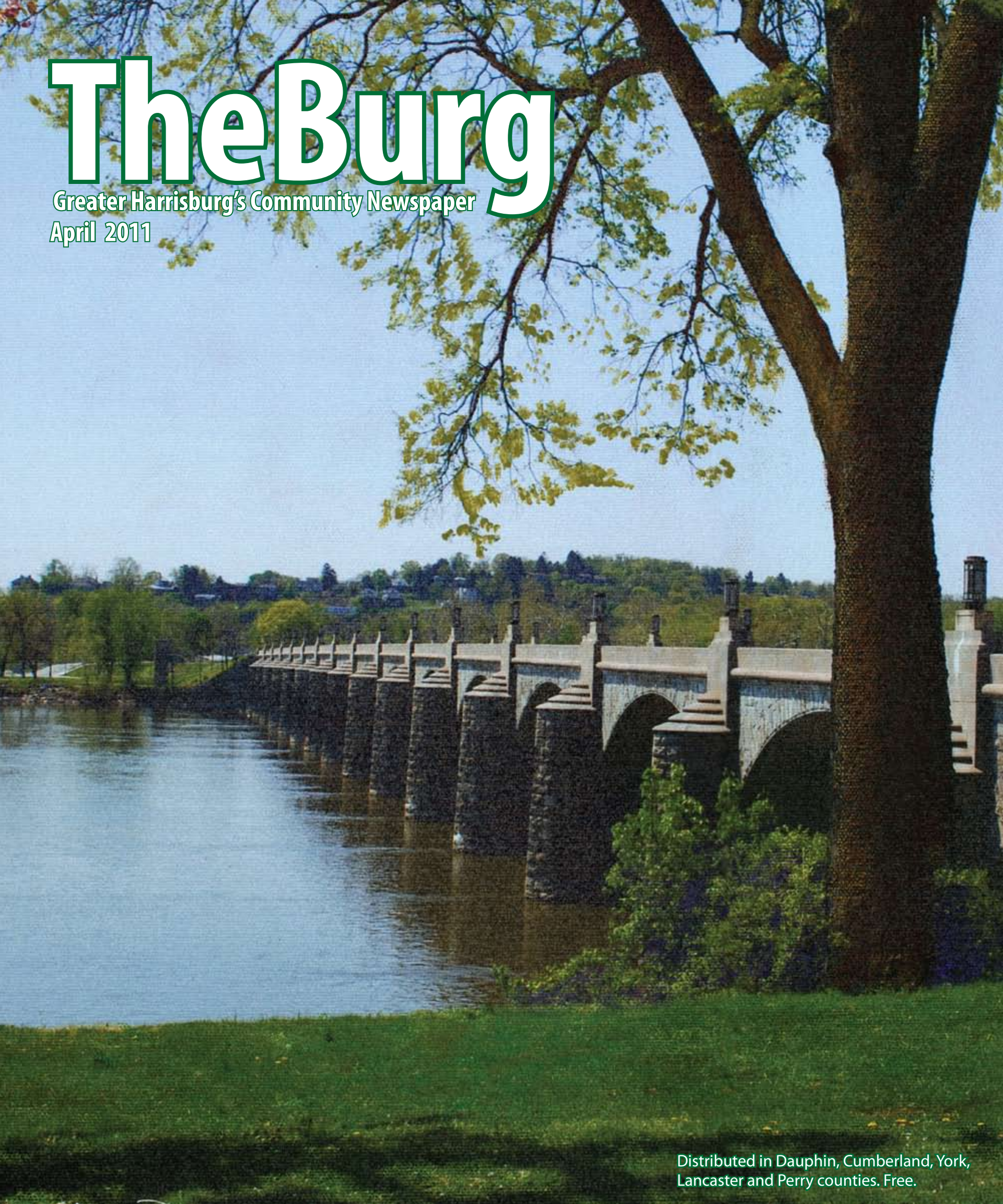


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Greater Harrisburg's Community Newspaper

April 2011



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*This month's cover:
"Lying on the Green Blanket
Relaxes My City Soul"
by Stacey Martin.
For more on the artist,
flip to p. 17.*

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Council to Lose Martin-Roberts

Harrisburg Council President Gloria Martin-Roberts will not run for re-election this year, as Mayor Linda Thompson loses her main ally on the City Council.

Martin-Roberts did not file a nominating petition and later confirmed that she will retire from the council after two terms. Incumbents Brad Koplinski and Susan Brown-Wilson both will be on the May 17 primary ballot.

Other residents running for the three council seats include, for the Democratic nomination, Camille Erice of S. 18th Street, Iya Isoke of S. 24th Street, Sandra Reid of Liberty Street, Ellis "Rick" Roy of Curtin Street and Patricia Stringer of Kensington Street. Allen Bair of Crescent Street, Michael Bretz of S. 18th Street and Ruth Cruz of Fulton Street filed for the Republican nomination.

This year, Harrisburg also selects a new city treasurer, as long-time Treasurer Paul Wambach is not seeking re-election. Two Democrats have filed petitions for that office: John Campbell of Boas Street and Steven Ketterer of Duke Street.

The race for school board is crowded, with 12 Democrats vying for five seats for full, four-year terms. Brendan Murray of North Street is the sole candidate for one seat with a two-year term.

Governor's Budget Cuts Local Funds

Harrisburg would suffer a reduction of about 50 percent in state funds for fire protection of the Capitol complex under the state budget unveiled last month by Gov. Tom Corbett.

Corbett proposed funding of \$496,000 for next fiscal year. The money goes to the city to offset some of the cost of providing fire protection services to the Capitol.

For many years, Harrisburg received about \$1 million annually for these services. That amount was slashed in half last year, but restored after the city received a \$500,000 community revitalization grant as part of the effort by former Gov. Ed Rendell and state Rep. Ron Buxton to save the city from default on its general obligation bonds.

Corbett's proposed \$27.3 billion budget could impact the Harrisburg area in many other ways.

The budget proposes eliminating some 1,500 state government positions, reducing salary and benefits for other state workers and cutting state funding to both K-12 and higher education. The Harrisburg school district faces a crippling cut of \$13 million in state aid under Corbett's plan.

The Republican-controlled state legislature now will begin to grapple with the budget specifics.

City Receives Offer for Incinerator

Harrisburg last month received an unsolicited \$45 million cash bid for its troubled incinerator, an offer that the city is taking seriously.

The Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority made a detailed offer for the facility, later meeting with city officials.

The incinerator is the principal source of Harrisburg's financial woes. The city owes some \$282 million on the facility after backing bonds issued by the Harrisburg Authority for a series of improvements.

Estimates vary widely on the incinerator's value, but range as high as about \$159 million, according to a recent assessment, assuming a guaranteed flow of solid waste.

The Lancaster Authority's offer includes an aggressive timeline for a complex deal, which, under the proposal, would close on Aug. 31.

Other elements of the proposal include a large reduction in disposal fees for Harrisburg residents, from \$200 per ton of trash today to \$78 per ton by 2019. The Lancaster Authority also would undertake significant upgrades to the facility.

The offer received a mixed response from city officials and residents. Most called the offer too low, as the city's debt service for the facility is \$54 million just this year.

Councilman Brad Koplinski urged caution, as the state-appointed Act 47 team only recently advised the city to avoid entering into any financial arrangements until it concluded a financial recovery plan for Harrisburg, slated for late May. Meanwhile, the city awaits a separate report on its options from the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore and on a forensic audit from the Harrisburg Authority.

"Let's not short-circuit this process that we have started and is moving to completion," he said.

J. Marc Kurowski, chairman of the Harrisburg Authority board, said that he expected any sale to take considerable time, as the city, Dauphin County and the debt holders all have to be on board.

"We can't sell the facility without the permission of the bondholders," he said.

—Lawrance Binda

TheBurg

Greater Harrisburg's Community Newspaper

General & Letters

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Lost Boys Find a Home

Harrisburg area embraces Sudanese refugees.

T.W. Burger



Lost no more: Mach Paul tells a story of civil war, displacement and a new home.

Mach Paul is 31, thin, almost spidery. He works at the Dauphin County Case Management Union on S. Cameron Street, where his job title is Adult Intensive Case Manager for Mental Health.

Paul's story began in Sudan. The African country was torn by a civil war that churned from 1983 to 2005, leaving 2 million killed. About 27,000 boys of Nuer and Dinka ethnic groups were displaced and orphaned.

In 2001, about 3,800 of those orphans, dubbed by aid workers as "The Lost Boys of Sudan," came to the United States, where they eventually scattered to 38 host cities. Harrisburg became home to 42 of them.

"Some are still in the area. Some moved to other states. Some, I'm not sure about," Paul said.

"My village was attacked by Sudanese Army Forces from the north," Paul said. "My father was killed during the war. My mother and my four siblings are alive, and are living in south Sudan."

The younger boys survived because they were away tending the village herds or were able to escape into the jungle. Girls, who were in the villages, were killed outright, or raped and taken away to a life of slavery.

During the civil war, boys like Mach Paul made long journeys, often lasting years, to international relief camps in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Many died from thirst, hunger, attacks by predators —human and animal—and disease.

Mach Paul was one of the lucky ones. He survived and then was chosen to come to the United States.

"I came to Camp Hill, and started working in a warehouse there in 2001, then moved to a job in another warehouse in Mechanicsburg," he said.

Greg McCutcheon, mental health services director for the Dauphin County Case Management Unit and Paul's boss, said Mach shares a characteristic he found typical in the African refugees that McCutcheon worked with at the center.

"Like Mach, they were all very hard-working," he said. "Mach gets very involved with the people we're trying to help. He and the others see being over here as a great opportunity. They've been through so much, that they feel that it's great to have a job where you're helping people and getting paid for it and nobody is trying to kill you."

Another Lost Boy, Abraham Anyieth, was the last one working at the center other than Paul. He left recently to return to Africa, intending to use his experience to work with the mentally ill there.

Paul attended Penn State, where he received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 2006. The next year, he went back to Sudan for a visit. Later that year, he took a job with the CMU, where he has worked since. He became a U.S. citizen and, in 2009, returned to Africa long enough to marry his fiancé.

Paul is pleased with the way he has been treated since he came to the United States. He's in the middle of a long battle with Sudan's government to get his wife here.

So far, even with the help of an attorney, he has not managed to break through the bureaucratic barrier.

"I went back in January," he said, in hopes that a personal visit would break the logjam. It did not. "I nearly did not come back here," he said. "I was very discouraged."

"But people in this country are really very helpful," he said. "There is always somebody to listen and pay attention to you. In my personal

experience, Americans are often nicer to people from other countries than they are to one another."

One of the most striking things McCutcheon noticed about the young Africans has been how even-tempered they were.

"Mach and Abraham, for example, they were the gentlest young men. Yet you hear their stories, having guns put in their hands at 12, of growing up in refugee camps," McCutcheon said. "That was just normal life for where they were. I don't know how they came out of that so balanced."

For Paul, "The best thing about my job at CMU is, for the first time, I can give back to the community. So many people helped me when I came here, and I feel I need to give something back. There are people in the community who need help, and I can help them find those resources. I feel good about it because every day is different, every case is different."

On July 9, as part of a peace agreement that ended Africa's longest-running civil war, Sudan splits into two nations. South Sudan becomes independent from the predominately Arab Muslim north.



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An Issue of Pixels

How do local libraries thrive in the digital age?

Lauren Hickok



Digital citizens: Students, including William Hinton (right), use computers at the Olewine Library after school.

The information age has dawned, and Pennsylvania libraries are rising to the challenge.

In December 2010, local libraries made available a collection of 1,213 e-books, which can be borrowed electronically for two weeks at a time. Library patrons in Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry counties

have responded with enthusiasm—since December, they’ve made more than 1,000 check-outs from the collection.

The process is simple, and it doesn’t require a trek to the library. On an iPhone, users download the Overdrive app, note their library system and select e-books for download.

E-books also can be downloaded to a broad range of

smart phones, computers, tablets and e-readers. The only exception is Amazon’s Kindle, as the device’s proprietary software is not currently compatible with Overdrive.

According to Deborah Battisti, the East Shore Area Library administrator, e-book demand grew throughout 2010—and the library

system responded. While the library does not intend to duplicate its print holdings, its e-book collection will focus on popular fiction, literary fiction and nonfiction.

William Hinton, a 10th grade patron of Harrisburg’s Madeleine L. Olewine Memorial Library, looks forward to trying the new e-books.

But he’s also enthusiastic about visiting the library in person—to meet friends, to use the computers or to do homework after school. Local libraries are striving to create just such an atmosphere of camaraderie and learning.

In a digitized world, spreading the word about the library has become easier than ever. Today, patrons can “like” the library on Facebook, check out photos of events on Flickr, get the latest news on events and programs and chat online with a librarian. And then there’s free Wi-Fi, so you can bring your laptop.

Area libraries also are establishing a presence in the blogosphere. “It’s really a handy, easy way for me to be able to reach out to the public,” said Jonelle Darr, the executive director of the Cumberland County Library System. She maintains the blog, “Libraries, Books and Technology,” keeping readers up to date on new developments. Camp Hill’s Fredricksen Library has two blogs: one on upcoming library events and a second for teens.

The purpose of all this is, of course, to bring patrons to the library. And these days, there is a great deal happening. Christina Lauver, marketing and public relations manager for the Dauphin County Library System, highlights the “One Book, One Community” initiative as an excellent example. Each year, six county libraries come together to recommend a book—offering book discussions, author lectures and more. This year, the program featured “The Book Thief” by Markus Zusak.

Eager to engage the community, Dauphin County had an open house in January, raising awareness about new library features and offerings—everything from a demonstration of the new e-books to a spotlight on traditional library programs that foster a love of reading in children and a sense of

community among adults.

What’s next for local libraries in a globalized, digitized world? That largely depends on funding, which could accelerate development of an e-book library or enable the purchase of language learning software, such as Rosetta Stone or Mango Languages. These goals will require a general re-appraisal of the budget cuts that have limited library programming in recent years and a solid commitment from local governments.

In the meantime, residents can rest assured that local libraries have made substantial strides, adding value in a digitized world. Patrons can browse the e-book collection, attend an array of outstanding library events or ... even borrow a traditional book.

Re-Vote Scheduled for Superintendent

The Harrisburg school board again this month will take up the issue of whether to name acting Superintendent Sybil Knight-Burney as its permanent schools chief.

Last month, a divided board voted 5-4 to appoint her to a three-year term at \$160,000 per year.

However, the appointment, which was put on the school board’s agenda at the last minute, violated state law because it was not properly advertised. The re-vote is expected during the April meeting.

Audit Funds Approved

Harrisburg’s 2009 audit should finally get off the ground after the City Council last month approved a budget transfer to pay for the work.

The council allocated \$84,000 in unspent state grants to hire an outside accountant to conduct both the 2009 and 2010 audits. The work is authorized at no more than \$42,000 for each audit.



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Around Town

From Wreck to Restored

Historic Harrisburg banks on fundraiser.

Lawrance Binda

The Pa. National Bank building is emblematic of so much of Midtown Harrisburg—rising, falling and now, thanks to a new spark of effort and vision, reviving again.

The stone building at N. 3rd and Verbeke streets started life in 1893 as a grand commercial edifice, with soaring ceilings and an impressive array of skylights, which allowed the daytime sun to sparkle off the brass and marble interior.

Then, like so many buildings in the city, it suffered the indignities of “modernization.”

Vents were laced through the skylights, largely destroying them. Drop ceilings were installed, hiding the ornate ceiling and cutting the interior height in half. Then came the even worse fate of virtual abandonment and slow decay.

Today, the cavernous structure’s sole occupant is the Historic Harrisburg Association, which slowly is restoring its grandeur. The drop ceilings were removed, and the building was re-opened so the public again could marvel at the magnificent high-Victorian architecture and decor.

An overwhelming amount of work, though, remains. Therefore, the association is mounting a campaign to raise funds to offset an estimated \$500,000 in renovation and construction costs.

“We want to restore the building as it once was,” said HHA Executive Director John Campbell.

First job on the to-do list: the rehabilitation of the skylights, which, while exposed again, are cracked, peeling and filthy. Then the building’s electrical and plumbing systems need to be totally overhauled and upgraded. Painting, plastering, window, floor and roof work are required throughout much of the structure.

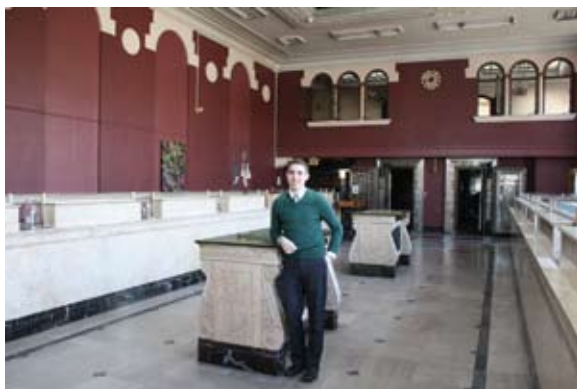
Historic Harrisburg’s goal is not just aesthetic, but a desire to re-animate the building with life and the clamor of business being done.

Campbell plans to convert the back area into for-rent office space, giving the building a new purpose as a cultural and nonprofit center. He currently is seeking tenants interested in setting up shop smack-dab in the center of Midtown.

Two board rooms, which overlook the stunning bank lobby, will be restored so they can be used by community organizations for their meetings. The old banking area will be rented out for parties, functions and other events. Making the building ADA-compliant and restoring the expansive, badly decayed basement are two longer-term objectives.

“We want to finish a project that’s in dire need of completion,” said Campbell. “With the revitalization of Midtown, we don’t want to be left behind. We want to be part of the effort to make the community a better place.”

Historic Harrisburg is in need of your support to restore the historic bank building. You can contribute online at historicharrisburg.com or make a check out to the Elias Capital Fund and mail it to Historic Harrisburg, P.O. Box 1843, Harrisburg, Pa. 17105.



John Campbell, executive director of the Historic Harrisburg Association, stands in the main room of the bank building. Drop ceilings once reached halfway up the walls, hiding the magnificent ceiling and skylights.



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Events

Charter School Forum

Apr. 2: A forum on charter schools will be held at 11 a.m. at the Harrisburg YWCA, 1101 Market St. Three school providers will make presentations and answer questions.

Habitat Benefit

April 3: Bel Voce, a 24-voice choral ensemble, will hold a spring concert to benefit Habitat for Humanity at 3 p.m., Camp Hill United Methodist Church (www.belvoce.org).

Networking Mixer

April 6: Central Pa. Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce holds its monthly mixer, plus a networking workshop, at 6 p.m. at the Lancaster Arts Hotel, 300 Harrisburg Ave., Lancaster (www.cpglcc.org).

CPAFE Meets

April 6: Central PA Association for Female Executives' monthly meeting is at 6 p.m. at Laguna Pointe Salon and Day Resort, 950 Woodland St., Mechanicsburg.

The Pajama Game

April 8-10: "The Pajama Game" is on stage at Bishop McDevitt High School, 2200 Market St. Donations of new pajamas and books for ages infant to 18 years will be accepted at each show. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Contact 717-236-7973 or visit www.bishopmcdevitt.org.

Egg Hunts

April 9 & 16: Dauphin County will hold its annual egg hunt at 10 a.m. on April 9 at Fort Hunter Park. Harrisburg will hold its annual hunt on April 16 at 11 a.m. at Reservoir Park.

Garden Lecture

April 14: Doug Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens," will lecture on the ecological roles of native plants in our landscapes at 7 p.m. at Lower Dauphin High School, 201 S. Hanover St., Hummelstown.

Slow Food Film & Dinner

April 15: Earth Day dinner and film ("The Garden") with Slow Food Harrisburg is at HACC Midtown, 1500 N. 3rd St., at 6:30 p.m. Reception at the Green Center across the street starts at 5:30 p.m. For tickets, 717-221-1125 or slowfoodhbgvents@gmail.com.

Free Panel on Video Game Careers

April 15: Game designers, producers, and directors will be among the panelists at "Establishing a Career in Video Games," a free event at 10 a.m. at Harrisburg University, 326 Market St. RSVP is requested and can be sent to Connect@HarrisburgU.edu or to www.HarrisburgU.edu/VideoGameCareers.

Spring Event

April 15: Spring Event, a show featuring two local artists, author E.M. Albano and artist Henry Pontius, at 6 p.m. at JM's Thrift & Vintage, 1308 N. 3rd St. Proceeds benefit The Firm Foundation. For more, 717-233-3995.

Light the Way to Learning Banquet

April 16: Author Rebecca Skloot will speak at the Dauphin County Library System board of trustees' 2011 Light the Way to Learning Banquet, 6 p.m., at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey, 4650 Lindle Rd. Cost is \$100 per person. Proceeds to support the DCLS Light the Way to Learning Endowment Fund. Visit dcls.org or call Lori Lane at 234-4961, ext. 110.

Citizen Foot Patrol

April 21: Friends of Midtown will hold a meeting to gauge interest in and discuss ideas for starting a citizen foot patrol. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Heinz-Menaker Senior Center, 1824 N. 4th St. For more information, go to www.friendsofmidtown.org.

Commemorative Week

April 25-30: Holistic Hands Community Development Corp. sponsors "We Can't Give Up Now," a MAAFA commemoration. Events nightly, starting at 6:30 p.m., Apr. 25-27, at Kingdom Assembly, 2111 N. 4th St. A drama entitled, "Law and Disorder" will be staged Apr. 28-30 at 7 p.m. at Scottish Rite Cathedral, 2701 N. 3rd St. Contact 717-236-6574 or visit www.cdcmaafa.net/lawanddisorder.

Race Against Racism

April 30: YWCA of Greater Harrisburg hosts the seventh annual 5K race/walk. Event starts at 9 a.m. on City Island. Contact Devan Drabik at 717-724-2248.

Free Screening Clinic for Children

April 30: A no-cost screening clinic to identify children who can benefit from orthopedic and burn care is slated from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Zembo Shrine, 2801 N. 3rd St. Children who have problems associated with bones, joints, muscles, spine or acute burns are welcome for evaluation for acceptance into the Shriners Hospitals Program. For an appointment, call 717-238-8107.

Other

New Executive Director

The Susquehanna Riverboat Society has named Mia Wood as its new executive director, responsible for implementing new programs for the 2011 sailing season. Also, Andrew Ponti was promoted to new administrative manager.

Iacocca Award

Darwin E. Clark, president of the Antique Automobile Club of America Museum's board of directors, has received the prestigious Lee Iacocca Award, which honors classic car enthusiasts who exhibit excellence in perpetuating an automotive tradition. Clark enjoyed a 44-year career with General Motors before retiring as vice president in 2004.

Call for Preservation Awards Entries

Historic Harrisburg Association is accepting nominations for its annual Preservation Award through April 18. Nominations should follow guidelines that can be found at www.historicharrisburg.com. Submissions should be sent by mail or email to Historic Harrisburg Association, PO Box 1843, Harrisburg, Pa., 17105-1843 or info@historicharrisburg.com. Awards will be given May 25.

Concert Band Seeks Musicians

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- Apr. 1: Aortic Valve Dance Party
- Apr. 2: **Pariah Piranha** w/Dangerous Ponies & Kelly and the Ruths
- Apr. 4: Zach Brock Trio
- Apr. 7: **Don Dixon & Marti Jones**
- Apr. 8: **Colebrook Road** w/Herb and Hanson
- Apr. 9: Kilmaine Saints
- Apr. 10: Soul Comedy Café
- Apr. 14: **Girlyman**
- Apr. 15: **The Fleshtones** w/Pufferfish
- Apr. 16: **Sarah Blacker** w/Suzie Brown
- Apr. 17: Menya w/Paradise Movement
- Apr. 21: **Freedy Johnston** w/Darden Smith
- Apr. 22: **Deadbeat Poets** w/The Jellybricks
- Apr. 23: AV Dance Party w/The City Music Project
- Apr. 28: **Sean Ashby**
- Apr. 29: Dana Alexander w/Kings Foil & Farewell Flight
- Apr. 30: **The Greatest Funeral Ever**
- Every Monday: Karaoke
- Every Wednesday: Open Mic w/Mike Banks

For full event information visit www.harrisburgarts.com or call 717-701-6199

Market Opportunity

Jennifer Sim takes Broad Street Market in new directions.

Sylvia Grove



Broad Street Market Manager Jennifer Sim plucks some flowers from Kocavar Farms. Photo: Amber Steele

Since its opening nearly 150 years ago, the Broad Street Market has seen many seasons.

A brief timeline includes the season of 700 market vendors in the late 1800s, when vendors had to spend time on a waiting list to get in. A steam heater was installed in the 1920s, just after World War I—the original documents are still in Market archives. The Market was a Harrisburg destination in the 1940s; it was transferred to community ownership in the 1970s, and the '90s saw the Market's remodeling, when the square between the buildings was paved as we know it today.

As for 2011? The Broad Street Market faces this year with the same time-tested ability to move through change. Jennifer Sim, Market manager since August 2010, is the vanguard of these changes.

Originally from York County, Sim is familiar with both Harrisburg and beyond. After college, she moved to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, where her work at a small sandwich shop sparked her interest in food. There, she also worked with a desktop publishing company, where she designed menus and built a graphic design portfolio.

In 2003, she took a job as a marketing specialist with Ettline

Food Corp. based in York. She moved up to marketing manager in 2006, negotiating business deals, organizing trade shows and attempting to connect the community to its food.

According to Sim, moving to the Market was "a natural transition." "The Market is such a rich cultural environment," she said. "I love the flavors and smells of every day. I love encouraging this kind of local, community lifestyle."

John Campbell, executive director of Historic Harrisburg Association—and part of the board of directors that oversees the Market—agrees.

"Jennifer is a definite fit to the position," he said. With her marketing experience and food safety knowledge, Sim was selected among 15 candidates for the position. She had come equipped to the interview with a full grant proposal, and, under Sim's leadership, some of this grant money has already been secured. The original 1920s steam heater is set to be replaced next year.

While Sim's face may not yet be as familiar as Nora's from P&R Baked Goods or those of the pretzel-rolling Stoltzfus family, Sim

oversees every aspect that makes the market atmosphere welcoming: from general maintenance and cleanliness to bringing in new vendors. She has updated the Market's website, introduced a Facebook page and created a newsletter. "We've made good forward-moving progress," Sim said.

Calling the market "the true melting pot of Harrisburg," Sim also operates "Spring Fever" Saturdays for children that have included such activities as cupcake decorating and coloring contests. Her "Sing for Your Supper" program allows local artists to perform in the Market in exchange for on-site meals. 3rd in The Burg festivities will return when the weather is warmer.

Sim encourages residents to understand the significance behind the community market. "Just show up and support the vendors," she said. "Don't take them or the Market for granted. The Market is one of Harrisburg's greatest treasures."

Broad Street Market, 1233 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg 717-236-7923. For a full list of vendors, hours and activities, visit www.broadstreetmarket.org.

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... a Month in Pictures



Mar. 3: Dauphin County Commissioners Jeff Haste (pictured), Mike Pries and George Hartwick shared their views at the State of the County dinner at the Harrisburg Hilton.



Mar. 5: Dancers got down and funky during "Prom Night," the Art Association of Harrisburg's annual Bal Masque, held at Appalachian Brewing Company.



Mar. 7: Julia Novak of the Novak Consulting Group led the Act 47 team's second public session on the city's debt crisis at the Heinz-Menaker Senior Center.



Mar. 12: Spring floods came again to Harrisburg, with the Susquehanna River cresting 3 feet above flood stage, sending water into low-lying areas like Shipoke.



Mar. 15: Harrisburg Councilwoman Patty Kim, Parking Authority board member Corky Goldstein and civic leader Joseph Robinson Jr. were among the panelists at a well-attended forum on the future of the city held by Harrisburg Hope at Midtown Scholar.



Mar. 18: Wendell C. Murray, CEO of BARAK, Inc., a community youth arts organization, poses next to one of the group's signature art pieces at BARAK's new quarters, which opened last month at 914 S. 13th St., Harrisburg.



Mar. 18: Art Proctor, father of Monica Archie, founder of Mikayla's Place, sings "Unforgettable" to his daughter as his granddaughter, Mikayla, stands by her mother. Archie's family and supporters celebrated the official opening of the second location of Mikayla's Place's, a 24-hour day care center at 914 S. 13th St., Harrisburg.



Mar. 19: Irish-style dancers, along with bands, floats and marchers, wound their way through downtown Harrisburg to mark St. Patrick's Day.

VIPs in HBG

Midstate has played host to some of history's bigwigs.

Jason Wilson

As the commonwealth's capital city, Harrisburg has seen its share of noted visitors and dignitaries throughout the last two centuries.

From its humble beginnings in 1785 to its designation as the site of state government in 1812, few dignitaries had much cause to stop in the small village, which numbered about 300 houses. The building of the Pennsylvania canal in the 1820s and '30s really made Harrisburg a stopping point for visitors, both national and international.

In 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette was an honored guest in the hall of the old Pennsylvania State House. He was something of an international superstar at the time and held in great regard by the many aging Revolutionary War veterans for his assistance in winning the revolution.

In 1842, Charles Dickens made a stop along the canal in Harrisburg and was welcomed by the General Assembly. His welcome may have been less warm had they known that Dickens was generally appalled by what he considered the lack of manners of the members and wrote down his memoirs in a book called "American Notes." (Interestingly enough, Dickens was largely unimpressed by American manners and culture as a whole.)

The Civil War period saw numerous dignitaries and now-famous political and historical figures grace Harrisburg with their presence. U.S. Secretary of War under Abraham Lincoln, Simon Cameron, of course, came from Harrisburg, while others like James Buchanan and Thaddeus Stevens both served as members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives before rising to the presidency and Congress, respectively.

Lincoln made two trips through Harrisburg. In February of 1861, while on his way to Washington for the inauguration, a plot to assassinate him was uncovered while he was visiting with Gov. Andrew Curtin in the city. The president-elect was smuggled out of town on a secret railcar and escorted through the streets of Baltimore and into the nation's capital to avoid the plot. Four years later, after the successful attempt on his life, Lincoln's funeral train traced the exact same route as it had in 1861. His coffin laid in-state in the House Chamber of the old Hill's Capitol.

In an odd parallel, President William McKinley visited Camp Meade just outside of Middletown in September of 1898. Three years later, in September of 1901, Harrisburg residents gathered to



Pres. William McKinley exits a train while visiting Camp Meade in 1898.

watch as McKinley's funeral train passed through the city en route to Washington after his assassination in Buffalo, N.Y.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt was a guest of honor of the commonwealth as the keynote speaker at the dedication of the new Capitol building. He proclaimed it "the most handsome" building he had ever seen and gave a long speech on the Capitol steps, despite a pouring rain.

Over the course of the 20th century, numerous political figures have made campaign appearances in Harrisburg, but most have been whistle-stop speeches on the campaign trail—the growth of other major cities and electoral politics having much to do with this. But despite the change in dynamics, Harrisburg has seen a quite a few notable people pass through, throughout its 226-year history.

Harrisburg Records Population Rise

Harrisburg's population clicked up slightly in the 2010 census, the first increase in the decennial count in six decades.

The U.S. Census Bureau last month reported the city's population as 49,528, an increase of 1.2 percent over the 2000 tally of 48,950.

Like many U.S. cities, Harrisburg reached a peak population in the 1950 census (89,544) and had been falling since, with massive out-migration to the suburbs during the 1960s and 1970s.

Dauphin County also experienced a small population gain, to 268,100 in 2010, compared to 251,798 in 2000.

Surrounding counties saw greater percentage increases. Cumberland County went to 235,406 from 213,674 and York County went to 434,972 from 381,751.

Lancaster County, the largest county in the area, experienced an increase to 519,445 from 470,658, while rural Perry County increased to 45,969 from 43,602.

Then & Now



In 1905, Harrisburg celebrated homecoming week, putting up a temporary archway in front of the Broad Street Market (left). Minus the trolley tracks, the view at the corner of N. 3rd and Verbeke streets is largely the same today. (Photo: Historic Harrisburg Association)

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New Funds from Old Stuff

Got used clothes, shoes? Put it in the beige bin.

Andrea Ciccocioppo

It's hard to miss the big, beige bins that have sprouted like dandelions in church and shopping center parking lots—and behind gas stations—in communities across the Harrisburg area.

But there's more to these metal receptacles than just serving as a tidy dumping ground for outgrown and unwanted clothing and shoes. The Community Aid bins are a veritable recycling system—not only to move goods from one in-need user to another, but to channel desperately needed money to the organizations most wanting.

For more than a year, Community Aid has provided help

to residents of central Pennsylvania from its Hampden Township, Cumberland County storefront and through more than 100 bins scattered across the region.

The business is simple: Clothing is placed in the bins; the bins are "serviced"—emptied and cleaned; the clothing is taken to the store, where it's evaluated, tagged and racked for sale; shoppers purchase the resale goods at reasonable prices; proceeds (after overhead and payroll) are divvied out quarterly to area partner nonprofits.

It's not a new business plan, but Director Glenn Chandler has been perfecting it for years.

Chandler honed his skills in the resale business working as an officer with The Salvation Army. There, he could see potential for helping others. "I knew in the used clothing business that there was much money to be made, and it needed to be used locally within our area," he said. "I knew about many local charities that needed help with funding, so the idea of Community Aid was a no-brainer."

Chandler's faith inspired him to apply his skills to his own nonprofit business, not for self-promotion, but for the greater good. "Taking a local resource in much abundance, such as used clothing, and turning it into jobs and funding for those in need in the area smelled of God," he said. "I follow God, so here we are, aiding our community."

Chandler has received positive feedback from donors, buyers and the more than 70 partner nonprofits. "People here in the community want to help our own first," he said. "They like the concept of 'neighbors helping neighbors.'"

In just over a year, business has blossomed. "We have created 50 full-time jobs with benefits, recycled over 2 million pounds of clothing



Insert here: Community Aid Director Glenn Chandler and one of many donation bins.

that would have gone into our local landfill ... provided over \$42,000 in Community Care [gift] cards for those in need through our partners and given over \$200,000 in cash grants to our partners," he said.

Certain bins are designated to benefit the various nonprofit agencies, so that any items donated into those bins are credited to that particular agency. Most agencies receive about 4 cents per pound of clothing each quarter.

And the help is appreciated. "It's an organization that is such a blessing," said Shari Bellish, executive director of Carlisle

CARES, a nonprofit homeless shelter and resource center in Cumberland County and a Community Aid beneficiary.

Community Aid has provided CARES more than \$15,000—a figure that greatly helps the bottom line. "Just the utilities alone [at the Resource Center] are \$2,500 each month," Bellish said. "That \$10,000 each quarter pays for our operations in this building so the homeless have a place to go."

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- **INK-A-THON.** Apr. 3, 2–10p. Tattoo event hosted by Black Thorn Gallery and Cashmere Entertainment at The Maennerchor, 221 North St. Tattoo prices vary. Food, tarot, pet portraits and photos. Photographer on site!
- **Cabaret of Talent.** Apr. 3, 8–10p. Buy your way to fame—or just watch others perform. Stage on Herr, 269 Herr St. Doors open at 7.
- **Kid.Art.Love Photo Collage Class.** Apr. 9 (part 1) & Apr. 16 (part 2). Parent & child digital photo project by Fusion Photography and Riverside PD \$40. Ages 3-7, 11-1p; ages 8-12, 2-4p. Space limited, reserve* today at the HoPo.
- **Paws for a Cure.** Apr. 10, 12–4p. The 2nd annual Petwalk, City Island. Registration and details at AbramsandWeakley.com.
- **Poetry SLAM.** Apr. 10, 3–6:30p. Gallery at ABC, 50 N. Cameron St.
- **Bluegrass & Art Auction.** Apr. 10, 7–10p., w/ Ragtime Willi, Gallery at ABC, 50 N. Cameron St.
- **Bacon & Brew Ha Ha.** Apr. 17, 3–9p. Bacon recipe contest and Home Brew competition hosted by Greenbelt Events, The Abbey Bar at ABC, 50 N. Cameron St.

For DETAILS ON ALL EVENTS: GoTeamHoPo.wordpress.com/events or call the HoPo at 717-236-0150. *Register for events at GoTeamHopo@gmail.com. ALL EVENT PROCEEDS to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Central PA.

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Convent Controversy

Neighbors crusade against conversion.

Peter Durantine

Skynet Property Management has been stymied again in a months-long effort to convert a Catholic convent in downtown Harrisburg into living space.

At last month’s Zoning Hearing Board meeting, an adjacent property owner filed a claim against the project, arguing that its density and accompanying parking issues would have adverse effects on her and the neighborhood’s quality of life.

The claimant, Kathy Speaker MacNett, said the quiet neighborhood bordered by Forster, State, 2nd and 3rd streets is already struggling with parking issues and that Skynet’s project would add to the problem.

“What we see is an exacerbation of things,” MacNett said.

Twice before, the board has sent Skynet back to the drawing board, saying that its initial proposal—a 39-unit rooming house—was too dense for the building at 603-605 N. 2nd St. The company is seeking a special zoning exception to allow for the project in the neighborhood. MacNett and other neighbors, including the downtown group, Capitol Area Neighbors, argued it would place too many people in a building that for decades was used lightly by a handful of nuns in a communal setting.

Skynet returned with a scaled-down version—30 units, including



three one-bedroom apartments and 27 efficiency apartments, all with kitchens and baths that would potentially rent monthly, the least expensive at \$650 per month.

It was a complete departure from the original plan to have units with shared kitchens and baths, at rents of \$90 to \$150 per week. Yet, area residents remained concerned about the density—the 30 units could accommodate as many as two and three people—and parking, telling the board that parking is already at a premium in the neighborhood.

Josh Juffe, president of Skynet, which already owns and operates 80 low-income rental units in the city, expressed frustration at being unsuccessful in trying to meet neighbors’ concerns, saying he had compromised as much as he could.

Skynet sought a continuance on its special exception request because its attorney was unable to make the hearing and was unaware of the claim MacNett had filed. The board expects to take up the issue again at its next meeting, April 21.

Changing Hands: February Property Sales

Dunkle St., 631: R. & N. Rissler to O. Edward, \$81,000	N. 2nd St., 401: WCI Hotel Partners LP to 401 Partners LLC, \$510,000
Green St., 1915: WCI Partners LP to T. Whitney, \$199,900	N. 4th St., 2605: Freddie Mac to R. Davis, \$36,000
Green St., 1930: WCI Partners LP to A. Miller, \$200,000	N. 18th St., 703: Kusic Financial Services LLC to WK Rentals LLC, \$37,500
Green St., 2216: T. Bridgwater to B. Garrity, \$85,000	Peffer St., 219: J. Gardiner to N. Braun, \$112,000
Hale Ave., 445: JAK Investment Properties LLC to N. Hoch, \$70,000	Penn St., 1809: T. Clopp to K. Hyp, \$159,000
Herr St., 1611: Kusic Financial Services LLC to WK Rentals LLC, \$37,500	Sassafras St., 253: S. Bridge to D. Fulton, \$95,000
Hoffman St., 3005: Clark Resources to Dauphin County Industrial Development Auth., \$300,000	Sayford St., 124: C. Baldwin to N. Paul, \$119,900
Maclay St., 242: PA Deals to S. Maurer, \$45,250	S. 13th St., 347: SJN Realty Holdings LLC to CNT Enterprises LLC, \$70,000
	Susquehanna St., 1338: Freddie Mac to B. Smith, \$40,000

Source: Dauphin County, City of Harrisburg, property sales greater than \$30,000. Data is deemed accurate.

Equipment on Site



Work began last month on The 1500 Project, a new condominium mid-rise at 6th and Reily streets, across from the new federal courthouse site. The Vartan Group plans 43 efficiency, one-bedroom two-bedroom and loft units, with restaurant/retail space and reserved parking. Construction should take about a year. For more information on the building, visit www.1500project.com.

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Your Money

It's April: Time to Plan

Little preparation goes a long way.

Anthony Conte

If you're reading this, it's probably too late.

You're across the lobby watching the elevator door slide silently shut while the guy inside pretends to hold it for you. We both know he's really pressing the button for his floor, feverishly. With a meeting on floor 14 and the lunch rush cramming the lift, you wish you were already there. You're going to be late. Maybe you should have timed this out a bit better, maybe you should have planned.

That's tax time for you.

Every year it's like this: gather up the documents, all the W-2s, 1099s, gain/loss statements and wait. Wait for a CPA to fit you into the calendar, stand by patiently as everyone else seems to rush past you bearing the fruits of their organizational skill with their orderly forms, so proud of their early filing.

I'll let you in on what will be our little secret: this year is different. April 15 is the date to file in any normal year, but not this year. This year is going to be your year, and I can tell you why. You have until April 18 to do what you've put off for a year and three months. That includes not only filing your tax returns, but also contributing to your IRA for 2010.

I don't do taxes, though I still meet people at Chamber mixers and cocktail parties who think I do. I'm a certified financial planner, which is kind of like being a therapist with financial services training. Most people know they should save money, but I spend a lot of time listening to the reasons why they don't. It's like eating broccoli. You know it's good for you, but that doesn't mean you do it.

I find it's easiest to do the difficult deeds in life when you know the reasons why you do them, so here they are.

If your income limits permit (check www.irs.gov for the details), you can take a tax deduction for up to \$5,000 a year in savings to a

traditional IRA. Those over 50 years old can save and deduct an extra \$1,000. That means your tax bill just got cheaper.

ROTH IRAs work a little differently. The money you save in a ROTH will have already been taxed, but it can grow tax-free for years. But wait, there's more. Even when you take the money out of your ROTH, it's all going to be tax-free. Even the stuff that grew out of your deposits. It's true.

Sure there are some stipulations to this, there always are, but they're easy to meet.

Wait until you're 59½ to take a withdrawal and you won't be penalized. If it's a ROTH IRA, just hold onto the account for a full five years, and, if you're older than 59½, you're golden. Easy enough, no?

Start saving for 2011 now, and you'll find your contributions to be relatively painless. Commit to a savings plan early in the year, and you too can be in that elevator on the way up.

I enjoyed sharing this moment of financial planning Zen with you, but wouldn't it be more fun if you had your say? You can. Shoot me an email with your planning or investment questions, and I'll do what I can to tackle them with fervor and panache.



Anthony M. Conte MSFS, CFP, is a certified financial advisor with The Conte Browne Group, LLC in Camp Hill, tony.conte@contebrowne.com.

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In Praise of Great Italian Food

An old church, a new restaurant.

Peter Durantine



Located in a century-old church in Linglestown, La Piazza opened in March to the warm aromas of upscale Italian cuisine featuring such house specialties as the popular Pasta Alla-Kali, a dish of shrimp, crabmeat and asparagus served in tomato cream sauce (pictured).

Alla-Kali is named after Nikki Bressi's daughter, Kali. Bressi, who co-owns the restaurant with business partner Colby Shenck, is carrying on a restaurant tradition started by her father Joe Bressi, retired Central Dauphin athletic director.

"This is casual fine dining," said Bressi, noting the town praised the restaurant's arrival in the white clapboard building, formerly a United Brethren church, the interior of which they painted and decorated. The last tenant, Chocolate Café, closed two years ago.

"The church provides a unique setting," said Shenck, who is the chef, having prepared food for 15 years. He makes most everything fresh and most of it is homemade—including the tiramisu, crème Brule and peanut butter pie.

La Piazza offers everything from

classic pasta dishes, salads, seafood and steaks to specialty pizzas, strombolis, burgers and wraps.

The restaurant retains flourishes of the old church—the hostess stand had been the lectern; the large sanctuary with its wood floors serves as the dining room; a pew provides seating in the casual dining area. On some of the earth-tone walls hang color photographs of Italy taken by Shenck's father.

La Piazza offers takeout, delivery, catering and a full selection of party options with the future holding the promise of a banquet hall in the basement. Bressi and Shenck look forward to the warm months to make use of La Piazza's deck and patio.

Live music is planned, outdoors on the patio with seating around fire pits and on a professional stage in the banquet hall, to be called Blue Mountain Lounge. La Piazza works with Local Beat Events, which



Pasta people: Nikki Bressi and Colby Shenck near the front entrance of their new restaurant, La Piazza.

booked bands for the restaurant's March grand opening. The musicians performed before the church's large front windows.

Bressi and Shenck consider the location for their first restaurant a blessing. "It's just a great location," Bressi said. "The town and people are great."

La Piazza of Linglestown, 5948 Linglestown Rd.; open Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sat., 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sun., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 866-974-2969 or visit www.lapiazzaoflinglestown.com.

Restaurant Notes

Nick Laus' new restaurant at North and Green streets, at the old Zephyr spot, will be called **Home 231** and should open in mid-April. Laus, of **Café Fresco** fame, plans a contemporary homestyle menu.

Brick City, 1313 N. 2nd St., has a new menu, adding several customer-requested items and cocktails.

3rd Street Diner, 210 N. 3rd St., is now open late and serving dinner, offering a wide range of dishes and dinner specials.

Shady McGrady's Downtown is now **Anthony's Micropub & Pizza**, 225 N. 2nd St. Same wide array of craft beer on tap.

Renovations are proceeding on **MoMo's BBQ & Grill** at 307 Market St., a new barbeque-style restaurant at the former Eddie's Furniture & Shoe Repair.

Taco Bell has announced that it will take the final available spot in the food court at Strawberry Square, opening in May.

C&J Catering, based in West Hanover Township, was selected as the new operator of the Capitol cafeteria inside the Capitol. The eatery is closed until late May to allow for the transition from long-time operator Aramark.

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Spring Begins with Peas

First from the garden, first into the pasta.

Rosemary Ruggieri Baer

I am sometimes ashamed to admit I like winter.

I love a cold, crisp day with a sapphire blue sky. I love to see the earth blanketed in snow and the long, blue shadows of a winter afternoon. Walking into a warm house on a cold day and smelling good things simmering on the stove or roasting in the oven has always been very comforting to me.

But this year, I have had enough. We had a few small snowstorms, but no blizzard to stir the soul. And those sapphire blue skies turned to leaden gray this winter. There were so many of them.

The arrival of spring was celebrated in our house. My mother anxiously waited for the little yellow and purple crocuses to spring up around our front door and she would start to talk about the "growing season," her favorite time of year. And although T.S. Eliot may have called April the "cruellest month," my mother only

saw the debut of her favorite spring vegetables at the Farmers' Market. And she dreamt of strawberries!

Fat artichokes, bright green spring onions, sugar peas, red and white "new" potatoes, pod peas, asparagus and dandelion greens all made their way to our spring table. In Italy, fava beans are the most cherished of all the spring vegetables, but are so hard to find here. Stuffed artichokes with breadcrumbs and cheese, sugar peas cooked with new potatoes and lots of olive oil, little new potatoes tossed with chopped scallions and chopped fresh parsley and salads of bitter dandelion greens all were lovingly prepared as a rite of spring in our house.

Of all the spring vegetables, I like baby peas the best. Now, my husband is not fond of peas, but he gets them anyway. He muddles through, mostly grumbling that he "hates peas." What's not to like? And such an important part of Italian

cooking! Think *risi bisi* or rice with peas, a classic Italian dish or risotto with peas and Parmesan. Or peas with sautéed prosciutto and fresh mint. Giada DiLaurentis makes a pea puree for crostini, but that recipe may take some getting used to in our house.

Nevertheless, I sneak baby peas into many pasta dishes, a good technique for a stubborn husband. He has a hard time complaining about pasta in any form.

The pasta dish that follows is so easy to make. It calls for wide, fresh pappardelle noodles, but you can use any other dried wide pasta noodles like malfadine or tagliatele. And tiny, frozen peas work just as well as fresh peas that you must shell.

Pappardelle con Salsiccia e Piselli

- Warm a large, non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Sauté ½ to ¾ pound Italian sweet sausage, their casings removed, until lightly browned, breaking

up the sausage pieces with a wooden spoon as they cook. When no pink remains in the meat, remove it with a slotted spoon to a dish.

- Wipe out the skillet with a paper towel and return the sausage to the pan. Add 1 cup of heavy cream and bring to a simmer. Cook about 5 minutes or until the cream thickens.

- Add 1 cup tiny peas, fresh or frozen, and salt and pepper to taste. Simmer for another 5 minutes until the peas are cooked (fresh will take a little longer) and the flavors are blended.

- Cook the pasta in rapidly boiling salted water until al dente. When cooked, drain and place in a warmed pasta bowl.

- Add the sauce and toss gently to combine. Toss with freshly grated Parmesan cheese and serve immediately.

Try this easy-to-prepare pasta on a cool April night and think about the wonderful "growing season" that lies ahead. (Even if you don't like peas.)



Rosemary Ruggieri Baer, a first generation Italian-American, grew up in Harrisburg and has spent her life perfecting her mother's country cooking.

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State Shutters Pa. Bookstore

The Pennsylvania State Bookstore closed last month, another victim of budget cuts and changing book buying and reading habits.

The store, located in the State Museum at 400 North St., shut its doors after many years of operation.

The state still will sell books online at shopPAheritage.com, and select titles will be available at the museum's gift shop.

Living Poets Society

The Den keeps the art form alive, edgy, popular.

Debbie Merlo

Who said poetry is dead? It certainly wasn't The Academy of American Poets that established April as National Poetry month in 1996, nor was it The Pennsylvania Poetry Society, with more than 200 members, founded in 1949.

Richard Lake, award-winning poet, Pennsylvania Poetry Society president and contributor to the Keysner chapter of poets in Camp Hill, believes poetry is a "common language" to which many are receptive. He isn't willing to definitively answer the question, "What makes a good poet?" But he does use Abraham Lincoln as an example of a person with a "deep poetic soul."

As for who claimed poetry's demise—certainly not anyone who attends The Den's poetry night in Harrisburg. Deep poetic souls with vibrant and passionate talent are plentiful in the capital city of Pennsylvania—and can usually be found in abundance at The Rafferty

Room above Ceolta's Irish Pub on N. 2nd Street. Hear the verses every third Sunday of each month.

The Den made its debut at Rookies Sports Bar and Grille in November 2009. The event was made possible by the fierce determination and giving spirit of Darlene Arp. Her love for the spoken word inspired her to do something to give others a place to share and express their writing and talents.

John Brooks, a friend, encouraged Darlene by telling her to "put your mind to your passion." He said he was excited by The Den because it was "something different, something needed."

Thomas "Kwoteman" Tolbert, said that, after a friend told him about poetry night, he sensed a need to become involved and offered to become a regular commentator. Darlene accepted, and Tolbert credits the union as "divine intervention."

Darlene said there's never been

a shortage of people to help her with preparing for each month's show. Friends are happy to donate their time to ensure each gathering is an energy-filled, exciting and inspiring experience. And, as each month brings new faces, talent and friends, Darlene also says she has had no problem finding featured guest speakers. They are now booked until August.

Poetry night doesn't lack in loyal attendees either. Some come only to be inspired, some to inspire. Most have been there since the beginning.

Tiger Rose, who attended the first poetry night, is an author and performer with a degree in communications and a book due out in April. He said of his many times at the mic: "I perform for reactions to help people relate." He attributes the success of poetry night to Darlene. "She's keeping it fresh," he said.



Poetry ladies: Jessica Ruth and Darlene Arp at The Den's poetry night at Ceolta's in downtown Harrisburg.

So fresh and successful that The Den quickly outgrew its digs at Rookies, leading participants to The Rafferty Room, though it, too, is nearing capacity. February's poetry night resulted in standing room only with about 120 guests and performers in attendance.

When asked what she thinks the future holds for poetry night, Darlene smiles modestly and said she really doesn't know.

"I never expected it to grow like it did," she said.

For her, poetry night is not about financial gain (she used money out of her own pocket, earned from working two jobs, to keep it going). She did it for the inspiration and pleasure of seeing the many talented artists who fearlessly step up to the mic and breathe life into their words.

So, who said poetry is dead? It's really not important, is it?

Our Cover: "Lying on the Green Blanket Relaxes My City Soul"

For our April cover, we sought an image that evoked springtime in Harrisburg.

Stacey Martin's mixed media work, "Lying on the Green Blanket Relaxes My City Soul," combines the healthy, light green of leafing trees, along with the iconic Market Street

Bridge spanning the Susquehanna River. What could be more perfect?

"I'm really drawn to the bridges and architecture of Harrisburg," she said. "That spot reminds me that I may be in the city, but I'm still in peaceful surroundings."

Stacey uses the word

"charcography" to describe her technique in this work—a photo, enhanced and highlighted with charcoal and, in this case, acrylic as well.

She since has used the technique several other times, and examples will be on display later this month at Gallery@Second, which opens an exhibit of her art.

In addition, Stacey, just last month, opened her own gallery—The Post and Lintel: A Studio for the Arts—in her charming hometown of Selinsgrove. A short drive up Rte. 15 takes you to this combination of gallery, artists' studio, shop and class space. Pay a visit!

Stacey's exhibit runs April 28 to June 4 at Gallery@Second, 608 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg. Reception: April 29, 6–9 p.m. www.galleryatsecond.com

The Post and Lintel is at 34 S. Market St., Selinsgrove, Pa. 570-374-0606. www.thepostandlintel.com



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A Life of Storytelling

Paul Brown speaks through words, music.

Jess Hayden



Paul Brown: From NPR, with a fiddle.

Paul Brown; musician, producer and journalist for National Public Radio has been a lover of southern mountain music since childhood. As a young boy, his mother taught him songs that she had learned from elderly black people in the Bedford and Lynchburg areas of southwestern Virginia.

"They were largely songs that told people's stories," he said during a recent interview from NPR headquarters in Washington, D.C. "Then, when I sought out older musicians to learn for myself, I started to understand that their stories were as interesting as the music that they played. I wanted to understand the ways in which they lived during times that were very different from the times that I grew up in."

Brown has spent decades researching and learning old-time music from musicians in the rural south. He plays banjo, fiddle, guitar and sings. Occasionally, he comes together with other musicians and performs the music that he loves. He enjoys sharing the songs and stories of the people who he has met in the Appalachian Mountain region with audiences.

"The world has changed so much with new media and new lifestyles and a new economy very different from the old agricultural economy," he said. "I'm finding that people are ever-more interested in the old music and the stories of those times. That's what people seem to want more than anything else, to find out what life was like back then."

During concerts, he performs the music that he learned in his early in his life, like the mountain songs that his mother taught him and the fiddle tunes that he discovered during his field research. He also plays the styles heard on southern radio during the first half of the 20th century, things like old-time string band music, blues and early crossover songs between old-time and bluegrass. During performances, he talks about how the

advent of radio had a profound effect on southern mountain music.

"If you listen to recordings of old-time music before the days of radio, the musicians sound vastly different than what you would hear today in their uniqueness. Every band, every group, every individual seemed to have a signature that was unmistakable," he said. "Radio had the effect of homogenizing music to some extent, even as it had a positive impact by allowing people to hear music from further away."

Brown starts his concerts solo, but then gradually adds more musicians.

"The second half tends to be more performance-oriented music," he said. "That was what radio was about, and that was what bluegrass was about."

People often ask Brown about the connections between the two great loves in his life: old-time music and journalism.

"I tell them that the two things are basically the same," he said. "It's all storytelling. Just like what I do when I perform music, my idea as a journalist is to understand people's stories and help them to share them."

For his work at NPR, he anchors newscasts, reports breaking news and

produces in-depth stories on the arts, including segments that he produced on Mike Seeger, Ralph Blizard and John Hartford.

More information on Paul Brown can be found at www.brownpaul.net.

Paul Brown performs with Ann Porcella, Bill Schmidt and John Schwab at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 16 at the Fort Hunter Barn, Harrisburg, in a concert sponsored by the Susquehanna Folk Music Society. Preceding the concert at 5 p.m., Brown will give a talk about how bluegrass and old-time music was affected by the arrival of the radio. A potluck dinner follows at 6 p.m. For tickets and additional information, visit www.susquehannafolk.org.



Jess Hayden is executive director of the Susquehanna Folk Music Society. She can be reached at concerts@sfmsfolk.org or www.sfmsfolk.org.

City Walking Tours

The Historic Harrisburg Association will sponsor guided walking tours of Harrisburg the first four Saturdays in April, starting at 9 a.m. Each tour focuses on a different part of the city.

For reservations, contact 717-770-0235 or office@dauphincountyhistory.org. The cost is \$7.50 per person (cash on day of tour). Proceeds benefit the Dauphin County Historical Society and Harris Cameron Mansion.

Wetlands Festival

Foot-stomping music, bird walks with interpreters, delicious food and children's activities all will be featured during the Wetlands Festival in Wildwood Park, Harrisburg.

The free event runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 30. Event brochures are available at the Olewine Nature Center or at www.wildwoodlake.org.

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Paul Brown & Friends
a musical ramble through the old-time rural South
Sat, April 16
7:30pm ... \$18

www.SusquehannaFolk.org

Musical Notes

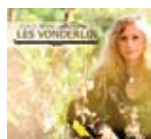
Songwriters Among Us

Recent CDs, local connections.

TheBurg Staff

Les is More

Les Vonderlin (lesvonderlin.com)



In her debut CD, "Les is More," Les Vonderlin casts spells with her honey-smooth vocals, uttering each lyric with grace, and melodies that

flow like water in a country brook.

A New York native who makes Harrisburg home, Vonderlin has sung since childhood. She's been featured on numerous recordings, including three with Voxology, the local contemporary folk trio of Kevin Neidig, Bob Arbogast and Vonderlin.

An award-winning vocalist and songwriter, Vonderlin says her inspirations range from the Beatles to bluegrass. You can hear McCartney-like melodies in "If She Waits," about a woman searching for love that also has Lennon-like truths in the lyrics.

In "Vowels," there are strong hints of the folk-rock melodies of the early 1970s—vocally she brings to mind Maria Muldaur and Joni Mitchell, but Vonderlin has taken her influences and created a unique vocal style.

Despite the lightness of the music and themes of love, faith and hope, Vonderlin writes to provoke deeper meaning. She achieves this with words in "The Struggle" and with her vocals in Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

Vonderlin may be a singer-songwriter, but she gets the economics right in "Les is More."

The Waltz Set

Miss Tess (misstessmusic.com)



Wielding a 1940s arch-top guitar and with a voice reminiscent of Ella Fitzgerald, New York-based singer and songwriter Miss Tess

performed her latest CD, "The Waltz Set," at Midtown's Stage on Herr in March.

It's her sixth CD and the six "waltzes" evoke early 20th century periods of jazz, blues and Americana.

Critics also compare her with early Bette Midler and Tom Waits. On "The

Bicycle Song," "Wonder Wheel" and "Save Me Saint Peter," those artists, as well as jazz/blues performer Leon Redbone, do come to mind. In fact, the lyrics of "Save Me Saint Peter" sound rather Redbone-ish.

Influences aside, Miss Tess has her own vocal style and a seemingly unending range. Her writing is fresh, such as these lyrics on "Bicycle Song": "Wheels are turning/you're burning the asphalt/and breezing the air/Looking ahead/ instead of where you've already been."

Miss Tess is a Baltimore native who studied classical piano and grew up in a musical family. Whether in New York or Baltimore, it's nice to know she's nearby.

Exact Change

Victoria Vox (victoriavox.com)



When you think of the ukulele, what comes to mind? Luaus and Don Ho?

That's why, in part, you need to listen to Victoria Vox's latest CD,

"Exact Change," which will give you a new understanding of this often-pigeonholed instrument.

The other reason you should pick up Vox's CD: her musicianship. Vox pairs her instrument with a full band in a series of melodic songs that demonstrate superb songwriting.

Tunes such as "Technicolor Way" and "Summertime" should be the envy of songwriters who've labored to compose over an acoustic guitar, much less an instrument a fraction of the size. Often, you can't even tell the ukulele forms the core of the music.

But sometimes you can. "French Café," in particular, beautifully blends Vox's sweet soprano voice and her instrument, yielding a stunning ballad. Speaking of French, it's a language Vox often sings in, such as on the song, "La Musique," giving her music yet another dimension.

Fortunately, Vox will be visiting from Baltimore this month for 3rd in The Burg, April 15, playing at Midtown Scholar. The price? Free. Such an easy way to get some ukulele love.

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3rd Street Studio

1725 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-385-3315; www.3rdstreetstudio.org

"Recycled Plastic Crocheted Creations" of Karen Lee Miller-Newman; artist reception and folk music, Apr. 15, 6-9 p.m.

Antique Auto Museum at Hershey

161 Museum Dr., Hershey
717-566-7100; www.aacmuseum.org

"Shelby: A Retrospective," the career and cars of Carroll Shelby, through April 24.

"Herbie the Love Bug," the adorable VW from the Disney movies, through April 24.

"Two-Wheeled Treasures from the Dennis Carpenter Collection," motorcycles from the 1930s to the 1970s, through May.

"Stainless Steel, 1967 Lincoln Continental Convertible," through September.

Art Association of Harrisburg

21 N. Front St., Harrisburg
717-236-1432; www.artassocofhbg.com

"4 Artist Invitational," featuring Merle Reivich, Lois Schlachter, Peter Smyth and Solange Villeneuve, through May 5; reception, Apr. 1.

Café di Luna

1004 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-695-9449; cafediluna.com

"Artistic Expressions: Central Pennsylvania Student Art Show," through April.

Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market St., Camp Hill
www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Lance Williams, photography, through April.

Cygnets Studios/Conewago Coffeehouse

336 S. Market St., Elizabethtown
717-367-6140; conewagocoffee.com

Eric Tonzola, mixed media, through June 30.

Gallerie Thirteen

13 E. Main St., Mechanicsburg
717-591-6940; www.gallerie13.com

Group show by 23 members of the Harrisburg Camera Club; reception, Apr. 1, 6 p.m.

Gallery@Second

608 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
galleryatsecond.com

The artwork of Tara Chickey and Chet Davis, through Apr. 23.

The artwork of Stacey Martin and Karen Commings, Apr. 28-June 4; artists' reception, Apr. 29, 6-9 p.m.

Gallery at Walnut Place

413 Walnut St., Harrisburg/717-233-0487

Works by local artist Donna Reeder, through April 29; artist reception, Apr. 15, 5-8 p.m.

Garden Fresh Market & Deli

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"Artistic Expressions: Central Pennsylvania Student Art Show," through April.

"Cosas Hermosas/Beautiful Things," seasonal paintings by Rachel Marie Campbell, through April 14.

HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg
717-441-7506; www.harrisburgarts.com

Works by various local and regional artists.

The Mantis Collective

1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
themantiscollective@yahoo.com

"Artistic Expressions: Central Pennsylvania Student Art Show," through Apr. 10.

Paintings by Eleanor Selden Smith, Apr. 15-May 16; artist reception, Apr. 15, 8-10 p.m.

Midtown Scholar/Yellow Wall Gallery

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-236-1680; www.midtownscholar.com

"Artistic Expressions: Central Pennsylvania Student Art Show," through April; opening reception, Apr. 2, 1-4 p.m.

Screen printings by John Maneval, through Apr. 10.

Nature-inspired photographs and paintings by Courtney Crans, Apr. 12-May 15; artist reception, Apr. 15, 6-9 p.m.

National Civil War Museum

One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir, Harrisburg
717-260-1861; nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

"Among Soldiers: Animals in the Ranks of the Civil War," through Sept. 4.

"1861," an exhibit highlighting the first year of the Civil War, through December.

Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

176 Water Company Rd., Millersburg
717-692-3699; www.nedsmithcenter.org

"Gone for the Day: Ned Smith and the Pa. Game Commission," through Aug. 13.

Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg
www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter

"Unnatural Disorder," prints by Sue Coe, through Apr. 7.

"Student Honors Show," Apr. 13-May 6.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania

300 North St., Harrisburg
717-787-4980; www.statemuseumpa.org

"Voices of the Revolution," an exhibit commemorating the Civil Rights movement.

"Wood on Glass: The Lumber Industry Photos of William T. Clarke," through May 1.

The Susquehanna Art Museum

717-233-8668; www.sqart.org

Dōshi Gallery: "38 Works by 35 Artists," juried exhibit, held at The State Museum of Pennsylvania, through June 20.

"Variations on a Theme," juried exhibit, held at Whitaker Center, Apr. 29-July 15.

West Shore Gallery

100 S. Front St., Wormleysburg
717-713-5635; www.westshoregallery.com

Artwork of Rocky Woodling, through Apr. 8.

The Stage Door

Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse

1559 Boiling Springs Rd., Boiling Springs
717-258-3211; allenberry.com

"Footloose," Apr. 6-May 1

Broadway Classics Productions

Harrisburg Mall, 3501 Paxton St., Harrisburg
877-717-7969; broadwayclassicspa.com

"Godspell," through Apr. 23

Fishing Creek Playhouse & Dinner Theatre

450 Fishing Creek Rd., Etters
877-998-7469; fishingcreekplayhouse.com

"Beehive," through Apr. 10

"Moon over Buffalo," Apr. 15-May 8

Harrisburg Comedy Zone

110 Limekiln Rd., New Cumberland
717-920-3627; harrisburgcomedyzone.com

Mimi Gonzalez, Apr. 1-2; Big Al Goodwin, Apr. 8-9; Darren "D. S." Sanders, Apr. 15-16; Dave Landau, Apr. 22-23; Mike Eagan, Apr. 29-30

Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg
717-238-4111; www.gamutplays.org

"You Could Drive a Person Crazy," Apr. 8-9

Hershey Area Playhouse

Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive, Hershey
717-838-8164; hersheyareaplayhouse.com

"The Dining Room," Apr. 28-May 8

Hershey Theatre

15 E. Caracas Ave., Hershey
717-534-3405; www.hersheytheatre.com

"Hair," Apr. 12-17

HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg
717-441-7506; www.harrisburgarts.com

"Soul Comedy Café," Apr. 10

Open Stage of Harrisburg

223 Walnut St., Harrisburg
717-214-ARTS; www.openstagehbg.com

"August: Osage County," Apr. 15-May 8

Oyster Mill Playhouse

1001 Oyster Mill Road, Camp Hill
717-737-6768; www.oystermill.com

"Desperate Affection," Apr. 1-10

Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg
717-238-4111; www.gamutplays.org

"The Elves and the Shoemaker," through Apr. 2

Theatre Harrisburg

Whitaker Center, Harrisburg
717-214-ARTS; www.theatreharrisburg.com

"Same Time Next Year," Apr. 1-10 (Krevsky Ctr.)

Whitaker Center

222 Market St., Harrisburg
717-214-ARTS; www.whitakercenter.org

"Swan Lake" (Central Pa. Youth Ballet), Apr. 9-10

3rd in The Burg: April 15



Brenda Eppley and Valerie Smith prepare for their roles as two of the Weston girls in Tracy Letts' is-it-safe-to-go-home-again play "August: Osage County," which opens at Open Stage of Harrisburg during this month's 3rd in The Burg, April 15. You can visit many galleries, restaurants and other venues at the monthly celebration of art, music and more at locations throughout Harrisburg. For additional information on April's event, see our back cover or visit www.3rdinTheBurg.com.

Live Music around Harrisburg

Appalachian Brewing Co./Abbey Bar

50 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg
717-221-1083; www.abcbrew.com

Apr. 1: The Joy Formidable
Apr. 2: Mike Doughty
Apr. 5: Toubab Krewe
Apr. 7: Jefferson Starship (Anniversary Tour)
Apr. 8: Splintered Sunlight
Apr. 9: Morning Teleportation w/guests
Apr. 11: EOTO w/guests
Apr. 14: Franz Nicolay & David Dondero
Apr. 15: Hexbelt
Apr. 16: Harpapalooza (for March of Dimes)
Apr. 20: Jah Works
Apr. 21: Shawn Mullins
Apr. 22: Punchline w/guests
Apr. 23: Yellow Dubmarine
Apr. 28: Girls, Guns & Glory
Apr. 29: The Greens w/guests

Broad Street Market/Stone Building

N. 3rd and Verbeke streets, Harrisburg
www.broadstreetmarket.org

Apr. 2: Chris Gassaway
Apr. 9: Andrew Bellanca & Friends
Apr. 16: Kevin Neidig
Apr. 23: Hemlock Hollow
Apr. 30: Rhyne McCormick

Carley's Ristorante and Piano Bar

204 Locust St., Harrisburg
717-909-9191; www.carleysristorante.com

Apr. 1, 9, 29: Ted Ansel
Apr. 2, 8, 16, 22: Noel Gevers
Apr. 6, 20: Brandon Parsons
Apr. 7, 21, 30: Giovanni Traino
Apr. 13: Mark Zangrilli
Apr. 14: Wade Preston
Apr. 15, 28: Anthony Haubert
Apr. 23: Robin McClellan Duo
Apr. 27: Chelsea Caroline
Every Tuesday, Open Mic Night

Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz

Hilton Harrisburg, 1 N. 2nd St., 2nd Floor
717-540-1010; www.cpfj.org

Apr. 17: Mulgrew Miller (at Hollywood Casino)

Char's Bella Mundo

540 Race St., Harrisburg
717-213-4002; www.charsbellamundo.com

"Jazz Wednesdays," with special wine menu

Clover Lane Coffeehouse

1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg
717-564-4761; www.harrisburguu.org

Apr. 15: Coyote Grace

Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market Street, Camp Hill
www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Apr. 1: Sweet Life
Apr. 2: Womack & Lawery
Apr. 3: Mitch & Lee
Apr. 8: Ed Horan
Apr. 9: Memphis Charlie
Apr. 10: Jazz Me
Apr. 15: Seasons
Apr. 16: J. C. Fisher
Apr. 17: Andrew Bellanca & Friends
Apr. 22: Jeanine & Friend
Apr. 23: Kevin Kline

Cygnal Studios/Conewago Coffeehouse

336 S. Market St., Elizabethtown
717-367-6140; conewagocoffee.com

Apr. 1: Rupert Wates
Apr. 3: Rick Hill
Apr. 15: Kama Linden

Dragonfly Club/Spy Club

234 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg; dragonflyclub.com

Apr. 1: Eddie Spaghetti and others

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

The Forum (5th and Walnut Sts.), Harrisburg
717-545-5527; harrisburgsymphony.org

Apr. 16-17: Mahler's Majestic Landscapes
Apr. 30-May 1: Franc D'Ambrosio's Broadway

Hershey Theatre

15 E. Caracas Ave., Hershey
717-534-3405; www.hersheytheatre.com

Apr. 1: James Taylor
Apr. 8: Hershey Symphony Orchestra

HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg
717-441-7506; www.harrisburgarts.com

Apr. 1: Aortic Valve Dance Party
Apr. 2: Pariah Piranha w/Dangerous Ponies & Kelly and the Ruths
Apr. 4: Zach Brock Trio
Apr. 7: Don Dixon & Marti Jones
Apr. 8: Colebrook Road w/Herb and Hanson
Apr. 9: Kilmaine Saints
Apr. 14: Girlyman
Apr. 15: The Fleshtones w/Pufferfish
Apr. 16: Sarah Blacker w/Suzie Brown
Apr. 17: Menya w/Paradise Movement
Apr. 21: Freedy Johnston w/Darden Smith
Apr. 22: Deadbeat Poets w/The Jellybricks
Apr. 23: AV Dance Party w/City Music Project
Apr. 28: Sean Ashby
Apr. 29: Dana Alexander w/Kings Foil & Farewell Flight
Apr. 30: The Greatest Funeral Ever
Every Wednesday, Open Mic Night

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777 Hollywood Blvd., Grantville
877-565-2112; www.hcpn.com

Apr. 1-2: Mustang Sally
Apr. 16: Al Nelson

Mangia Qui/Suba

272 North St., Harrisburg
717-233-7358; www.mangiaqui.com

Apr. 1: Alexandra Day (CD Release Party)
Apr. 2: The Alonso Mendez Duo
Apr. 8: The Robert Bobby Trio
Apr. 9: Fatback
Apr. 15: Jackson Monsour
Apr. 16: The Humblers
Apr. 23: Nina Scarcia
Apr. 29: Thought Prysm
Apr. 30: Batida

Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-236-1680; www.midtownscholar.com

Apr. 1: Kelly & the Ruths
Apr. 8: Folk Café concert
Apr. 15: Victoria Vox
Apr. 29: Maria Wilson

Morgan's Place

4425 N. Front St., Harrisburg; 717-234-8103

Apr. 1: Kings & Queens
Apr. 8: Just One More
Apr. 15: South Street
Apr. 22: Kings & Queens
Apr. 29: Don Johnson Project

Stock's on 2nd

211 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
717-233-6699; www.stocksonsecond.com

Apr. 2: Shea Quinn and Steve Swisher
Apr. 9: Jazz Me Rhythm and Blues Band
Apr. 16: 5th Element
Apr. 23: Cruise Control

The Susquehanna Folk Music Society

www.sfmfolk.org (check website for location)

Apr. 2: Sheila Kay Adams
Apr. 9: Mary Flower
Apr. 16: Paul Brown & Friends

Whitaker Center

222 Market St., Harrisburg
717-214-ARTS; www.whitakercenter.org

Apr. 1: Orla Fallon
Apr. 12: Jonathan Biss & Miriam Fried
Apr. 17: Tower of Power & Average White Band

At the Cinema

Movie Film Co-Op

1106 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg; www.movieate.org

Apr. 7: Pier Passolini's "The Gospel According to St. Matthew," on 16mm film, 8 p.m.

Apr. 13: Filmmaker Steve Cossman in-person (creator of Mono No Aware festival), 8 p.m.

Apr. 16: 14th anniversary screening and Movieate fundraiser, 6-8 p.m.

Apr. 28: "Spirit of '68, Films of Protest," rare protest films from the 1960s curated by film historian Jack Stevenson, 8 p.m.

Midtown to Host Student Art Show

Midtown's galleries, businesses and institutions will host the "2nd Annual Artistic Expressions: Central Pennsylvania Student Art Show 2011," which runs through April 10, with a reception open to the public on Saturday, April 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Midtown Scholar Bookstore, 1302 N. 3rd St.

The show features the works of exemplary student artists from secondary schools throughout the region. High schools participating this year are: Camp Hill, CASA, Carlisle, Cedar Cliff, Central Dauphin, Central Dauphin-East, Cumberland Valley, Harrisburg, Hershey, Lower Dauphin, Mechanicsburg and Middletown.

Coordinator Steve Koons said Midtown was chosen as this year's location because of its "lively artistic community."

Approximately 150 works will be exhibited at the following 3rd Street venues: Garden Fresh Market & Deli, Mantis Gallery, HACC Midtown, Midtown Scholar, Café Di Luna and The HodgePodgery.

Last year, Susquehanna Art Museum, which is planning to move to Midtown's arts corridor on 3rd Street within the next two years, hosted the show.

Koons, an art teacher at Hershey High School, said the show affirms the belief in art as an essential subject in every child's educational process. Learning about art and creating art teaches discipline, focus and self-confidence, as well as providing cultural content and context to support every other academic area, he said.

"Viewing student artwork allows us to peek inside the minds of today's youth and better understand life as they are living it," Koons said. "Central Pennsylvanians live in an area rich in cultural resources, providing inspiration and support for young artists."

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A Mission Expanded

St. Stephen's launches cyber school for high school ages.

Peter Durantine

To further its educational mission and outreach that began in downtown Harrisburg more than 30 years ago, St. Stephen's Episcopal School is expanding its elementary and middle school programs to include high school-age students.

Classes begin in the fall for the new Learning Community. It will offer a limited number of students—between 16 and 18 this first year—a state-certified cyber school education.

"We're very excited," said Ruth Graffius, head of school. "It's something new."

For students, a typical school day will be self-paced (they spend no more than three hours on the computer), guided by a learning coach as they receive academic instruction online through one of the 12 state-certified cyber schools the students choose.

The students' public cyber school curriculum has the highest criteria for graduation in the nation, according to state and school officials. "Cyber schools offer an individualized program for each student," Graffius said.

Patricia Anderson, president of the school's board of directors, noted, "Cyber schools can offer five to six different language classes" as opposed to perhaps two or three offered in other schools.

Two large rooms within the complex of buildings at St. Stephen's will serve as the Learning Community for students. Cyber schools provide the students' laptops, books and other course materials. St. Stephen's based this concept on a successful program at Quakertown Christian School.

The motivation to offer a Christian learning environment for high school-age students came from two mothers who were looking for a school for their eighth-graders once they finished St. Stephen's.

One of them, Betty Ferster, an adjunct college professor, said she likes that cyber school meets the highest state standards and that her son, Max, can work at his own pace within the flexible schedule the school provides.

"It would be like he was going to the best public school in the U.S., [but] he will be part of a community

we know and love, and he will be able to participate in all the great things the St. Stephen's Learning Community is planning for the students to make them ready to take on college and the world."

The Learning Community will provide opportunities for physical activity, but it does not offer gym classes. Students can adopt their own phys. ed program—such as using the YMCA facilities or joining a sports team—and log in hours.

Additionally, the Learning Community offers several extracurricular activities, including a running club, karate, choir and musical instrument lessons. Students also will participate in volunteer work at one of many nearby organizations.

Annual tuition is \$5,150 per student, which covers a full day of supervision and enrichment at the Learning Community. The cyber education program is funded by each student's individual school district.



A middle school class gets to work at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in downtown Harrisburg.

In 1978, St. Stephen's started a day school in Harrisburg with an enrollment that cut across all ethnic, racial, religious, socio-economic and geographic boundaries. The Learning Community is another step in their mission.

"We can be another whole outreach for the community," said Anderson, school board president. "We see this as a tremendous opportunity for the city."

St. Stephen's Episcopal School, 215 N. Front St., 717-238-8590. Visit www.ststephensschoolharrisburg.org.

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Animals in Wartime

Exhibit examines roles of the furry, the feathered.

Peter Durantine

Practically every type of domesticated animal, from dogs to pigeons, has been used during wartime—even dolphins have been considered. But these beasts of burden often became pets to the soldiers struggling in the desperateness of battle.

"Regimental mascots gave soldiers a chance to express affection to another living being in the midst of so much death and destruction, creating a positive effect on morale," said Brett Kelley, curator of collections at the National Civil War Museum.

Animals in war is the museum's latest exhibit, which opened in March and runs until September. It examines the ways in which various types of animals were adopted by regiments and became mascots for Civil War troops, and focuses on the relationships between these animals and their owners.

"There are many references to animals in letters home, including Col. Joshua Chamberlain's personal letters in the museum archives," said Kelley, referring to the officer who led the 20th Maine Regiment in gallant victory at Gettysburg.

According to Kelley, by the 19th century, people began to change the way they viewed animals. No longer were they thought of as existing only to fulfill a specific purpose, such as horses for labor or dogs for hunting. They were considered companions.

Nonetheless, animals are still used for the cruelest of purposes. In their battle against the Nazis in World War II, the Soviets used dogs as anti-tank weapons, training the canines to carry a bomb to a tank that also killed the animal, according to Russian and British histories. More recently, in 2005, Iraqi insurgents were unsuccessful in their attempts to strap explosives to dogs.

Horses, though, have been the most widely used animals in warfare, most recently used by U.S. forces during 2001 fighting in Afghanistan, considered the first American cavalry charge



Gen. George Custer and one of his dogs, in camp.

of the 21st century.

Soldiers and officers alike grow strong emotional attachments to the animals that serve with them. Consider homing pigeons, which can home from short and long distances, up to 800 miles and some even further, and were used extensively in World War I and II.

Col. Clifford Poutre, chief pigeoneer of the U.S. Army Signal Corps Pigeon Service from 1936 to '43, "treated his pigeons like they were family members, children, buddies," said Alessandro Croseri, a documentary filmmaker who has studied the use of pigeons in war. "They were a soldier's best friend as they saved thousands of lives in combat."

"Among Soldiers: Animals in the Ranks of the Civil War" runs through Sept. 7. For more information, call 717-260-1861, or visit www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org. For more on homing pigeons, visit www.pigeonsincombat.com.

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Steppin' Out for Trout

Time to put on your hook hat, fishing vest and waders.

Kermit Henning

Are you ready? You put fresh, new line on your reel, stocked up on Power Bait and sharp, new hooks and planned out your opening day strategy. The first day of trout season in Pennsylvania is at hand.

Not unlike the first day of rifle deer season, this is a ritual. Close to a million anglers will spread across the commonwealth's trout waters with the hope of bringing home a limit of fish from the nearly 4 million stocked by the Fish & Boat Commission. Whether you will stand along a crowded creek bank, fish from a boat on a trout lake or seek the solitude of a wild mountain stream, the opening day of trout is something no angler wants to miss.

Here in our area, an 18-county block in south-central Pennsylvania, the season opens 8 a.m., Saturday, April 2. The commission has determined that the waters in this area reach the desired temperature for trout well before the rest of the state, hence the early opener. The first day for the rest of the commonwealth waters is two weeks later, April 16. The limit is five trout, 7-inches long at least. In addition to a current 2011 fishing license, anglers 16 years and older are required to have a trout stamp.

Depending on the weather, keeping your fresh fish fresh can be tricky. Trout are fragile fish and must be cared for properly in the field if

you want to enjoy them on the table. I take a small cooler filled with ice and keep it with me either streamside or in a boat. My fish are gutted as soon as caught and placed on the ice. Whether merely pan-fried in butter or as part of an elaborate recipe, I can be sure my family enjoys them at their best. When she was quite young, my daughter would be standing at the back door with a frying pan in her hand, waiting for me to come home with fresh trout. The butter in the pan was barely melted while I cleaned the fish for her favorite breakfast.

By now, you and a legion of trout fishermen have shopped the aisles and aisles of gear in local stores. No other fish that swims has a more diversified following. Some anglers demand the lightest of lines, the smallest of hooks and the tiniest of baits. In small mountain streams, an ultra light rod with a tiny reel spooled with 2-pound test line will deliver delicate baits to wild, skittish fish. I use a #20 treble hook baited with a small ball of Berkley Power Bait or homemade bait made with ground trout food pellets. Small pieces of garden worm or small live minnows will also work.

In larger streams or lakes, where you have the chance to catch bigger fish, you would do well with



Trout time: Eager anglers cast into the chilly waters of Yellow Breeches Creek in Cumberland County.

line in the 4- to 8-pound test and hook sizes eight or 10. I prefer live minnows, a much more natural food for the trout. Keeping them alive and lively is key. Keep them in a well-aerated bucket with fresh, cold water. Keep the bucket immersed in the water you are fishing as much as possible. Worms, too, are best when live and wiggly.

As you no doubt have noticed, the shelves are full of a myriad of prepared baits and lures. Small spinners, such as Mepps Aglia and Black Fury, are deadly for hungry trout—especially trout that have spent considerable time in the water as opposed to newly stocked fish from the hatchery. I keep a variety of Aglia Ultra Lites in my box as well.

One of the most important pieces of gear you just can't do without is a good net. You don't need a huge boat net that will bring in the largest pike and muskies. A small trout-sized net is adequate and is crucial to landing your catch.

Wherever you decide to go for the opener, you'll have a much better day if you share it. Take along a youngster or a novice angler and introduce them to the mania that is opening day. Good luck and tight lines.



Kermit G. Henning, host of abc27 Outdoors TV, is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

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Back Health

Difficult Curve to Navigate

New methods are being used to treat scoliosis.

Peter Durantine

It's a disease that can debilitate, if not, in rare cases, cause fatality. It can be congenital; it can be caused by a physical trauma or a tumor. Doctors believe it affects more than one-quarter of the population, yet it's hardly familiar to people.

The disease is scoliosis, better known as curvature of the spine. Fourteen percent of the U.S. population is documented to suffer from it, but, said Jason Fullmer, a doctor of chiropractic medicine, "We are estimating it's probably twice that."

Fullmer, who runs Central PA Spinal Health Chiropractic LLC in Mechanicsburg, is one of the few doctors in the region who specializes in treating scoliosis.

Other than humans, koala bears are the only known species on the planet that suffer from scoliosis. For koalas, it's from leaning against trees nine hours a day, said Fullmer. Looking at a patient's back, scoliosis is curvature of the spine above 10 degrees.

The three general causes of scoliosis are congenital, related to formation of the spinal bones or fused ribs in fetal development; neuromuscular such as poor muscle control or weakness, or paralysis brought on by such diseases as cerebral palsy and polio; and unknown causes, which is the most common type in adolescents.

Simply put, all kinds of things can cause scoliosis, said Fullmer, describing three main factors to the disease: biomechanical, neurological and hormonal.

"It's a disease of which we have no cure," Fullmer said. And because it affects bone structure, drugs cannot address the problem. "You can't take a chemical solution for a mechanical problem," he said.

From a doctor's observation, a patient could have scoliosis if one shoulder appears higher than the other or the pelvis appears tilted. Friends and family are likely to notice spinal curving in its earlier stages.

Other symptoms of scoliosis could include backache or low-back pain, fatigue, or the spine curves abnormally to the side, but, as Fullmer said, "Symptoms are the last indication of the problem." In rare instances, the spine could curve life-threateningly toward the heart and lungs.



Dr. Jason Fullmer, with the source of many people's woes—a curved spine.

Proper treatment of scoliosis is dependent on cause, size and location of the curve and, in young patients, how much more they will grow. A curve in an adolescent that is 10 to 25 degrees typically requires no treatment, just observation every six months.

For curvature of 25 to 40 degrees, medical doctors often recommend treatments and bracing, but curvature of 40 degrees or more are immediately recommended for surgery.

Treatments involve a combined chiropractic and physical medicine regimen involving adjustment to the bones and a home care routine provided by the chiropractor, Fullmer said. Part of Fullmer's process in educating patients and designing a personalized treatment program involves a complimentary patient evaluation.

Fullmer has a three-pronged, non-surgical approach to treating scoliosis: relax the muscles and ligaments; adjust the bones to open up the joints; and exercise weakened muscles and stretch tightened muscles over parts of the spine to form proper alignment. This approach is designed to correct the source of the problem to provide lasting pain relief and results.

The good news is that research continues to find ways to improve treatment for scoliosis, Fullmer said. "They're constantly finding new things and making things better."

For more information on scoliosis, contact Central PA Spinal Chiropractic LLC, 4920 E. Trindle Rd., Mechanicsburg, 717-737-4450.



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One More Thing ...

The Day I Met Shelby

This muscle-car lover had a brush with greatness.

William S. Jackson



Author Bill Jackson with a 1957 British AC Ace Bristol, which he loaned to the Antique Automobile Club of America Museum for its Shelby exhibit.

The Antique Automobile Club of America Museum in Hershey is featuring a special exhibit this month, "Shelby: A Retrospective." For you car guys and gals, you know it refers to the vehicles and racing record of the cars built by Carroll Shelby in the 1960s, during his quest for the national sports car and international production car racing championship.

For me, it brought back a lot of memories.

It was the summer of 1956. I had just started racing in the Sports Car Club of America's amateur production car racing series with my 1954 Jaguar XK120-M roadster. You were first

required to undergo 21 hours of observed practice under club scrutiny, which I had done at the Upper Marlboro, Md., track.

They then issued you a temporary competition license, with the stipulation that you run in one to three hill-climb events before getting your national competition license, which let you road-race anywhere in the country.

I was running my second hill-climb called "Breakneck" outside Cumberland, Md. In those days you "run what you bring," and there was little of trailer-hauling your cars to the events. In fact, the Jaguar was my everyday transportation, as well.

Before going out on the course, we stripped the cars down—took off the bumpers, windshields, exhaust system, taped the headlights and took out anything that might rattle around.

I was under the car dropping the exhaust system and putting on the short straight pipes when someone started kicking my feet. I looked out to see the bottom of a pair of overalls and thought some jerk was going to ask me questions about the car.

So, being busy, I yelled out, "What the hell do you want!" To which, a soft Texas drawl answered: "Y'all got a jack?" It then struck me that a famous driver from Texas was prone to wearing bib overalls when he raced.

I slid out from under the Jag ... and met Carroll Shelby.

Shelby was then driving mostly Italian cars—Ferraris and Maseratis—for various owners and was at the "Breakneck" driving Alfred Momo's front-engined grand prix Ferrari, trying to win the unlimited class national title, which he did.

I walked up the pit lane with my jack to the front where the big, red Momo van was parked beside Shelby's Ferrari with a flat left rear tire and two Italian mechanics yelling at each other over who forgot to bring the jack.

The following March 1957, I was at Sebring, Fla., for the 12-hour race as a relief driver and pit crew for the British AC Ace Bristol factory team. Shelby was there driving a 300S Maserati for the Maserati factory, along with British driver Roy Salvadori. On lap 68, they were disqualified for a refueling violation, and Shelby spent the rest of the race going up and down the pit area looking around. He

spent a bit of time in our pit looking over our cars, impressed that our 150-horsepower, 2-liter, six-cylinder machines were good enough to finish 17th, 22nd and 41st.

Six years later, Shelby bought several AC Ace roadsters without an engine, dropped a 260-cubic-inch Ford V-8 engine in them and renamed the cars Cobras. The legend was born. He soon upped it to the 289-cubic-inch V-8 and turned his attention to the Ford Mustang. From 1965 to 1970, specially modified Mustangs named the Shelby GT350 and GT500 were produced in his California shop and by Ford under licensed contract.

The museum's exhibit on Shelby features 24 cars representing all phases of his career, including my 1957 AC Ace Bristol that I bought from the factory in September 1957. The exhibit runs through April 24. An all-Ford and Shelby vehicle gathering is scheduled at the museum on Sunday, April 17, to celebrate the 46th anniversary of the iconic Mustang.

The Antique Automobile Club of America Museum, 161 Museum Dr., Hershey. 717-566-7100 or www.aacmuseum.org. William S. Jackson is the retired editor and publisher of the Hummelstown Sun.

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FOR A DAY OF KENTUCKY DERBY DAY FUN
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KING MANSION

2201 NORTH FRONT STREET
SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011 • 2:30 PM—7:30 PM

Excitement is building for the 10th Anniversary Derby Day, which will be held on the grounds of Harrisburg's largest, most opulent mansion. Overlooking the scenic Susquehanna River, the King Mansion will provide a beautiful location to celebrate the coming of spring and the Run for the Roses.

In the tradition of Churchill Downs, enjoy a day of Kentucky Derby fun, complete with a traditional Derby Day menu, mint juleps, a ladies hat contest, silent & live auctions, entertainment and live showing of the 137th Kentucky Derby.

It will be the next best thing to being at the track on race day!

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FRIDAY, APRIL 15



THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH IN HARRISBURG



3rd Street Studio • 1725 N 3rd St • 385-3315 • 3rdstreetstudio.org • The Recycled Plastic Crocheted Creations of Karen Lee Miller-Newman; meet the artist/ musician (known by names of Rumpelstiltskin Unltd... and KLMN-tine) as she discusses her Earth-friendly art and plays folk tunes on the guitar, Apr. 15, 6-9p.



Gallery at Walnut Place • 413 Walnut St • 233-0487 • The watercolors of local artist Donna Reeder. Reception, 5-8p.

City House B&B • 915 N Front St • 903-2489 • cityhousebb.com • City House Bed and Breakfast will showcase works from local artists with live music and refreshments, 5-9p.



Nonna's • 263 Reily St • 232-6150 • nonnasdeli.com • Back for Spring: Apple-stuffed chicken sausage over bed of greens w/ apricots, cranberries, walnuts & a raspberry vinaigrette, 5-9p.



Open Stage of Harrisburg • 223 Walnut St (street level of Walnut St. Garage) • 232-1505 • openstagehbg.com • Join us for opening night of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY. A dysfunctional Oklahoma family juggles the hilarious, the poignant and the appalling in a gripping epic you will not soon forget! Post-show reception included. 7:30p., \$27 (reservations recommended).



Midtown Cinema • 250 Reily St • 909-6566 • Movie trivia, prizes & free popcorn, 7:30p.

Gallery@Second • 608 N 2nd St • 233-2498 • galleryatsecond.com • Featured artists are Tara Chickey and Chet Davis. Music by Jonathan Frazier. Plus visit "The Upstairs Gallery" showcasing over 200 pieces of artwork. Food and drink served, 6-9p.



Mangia Qui • 272 North St • 233-7358 • Paintings by Elide Hower & Joanne Landis. Featured cocktail: Count Diablo.



Midtown Scholar Bookstore • 1302 N 3rd St • 236-1680 • midtownscholar.com • The science of coffee (cupping), noon. Sample organic teas, 2p. Yellow Wall Gallery reception for Courtnye Crans' nature-inspired photographs and paintings, 7-9p. Award-winning Baltimore songstress Victoria Vox on ukulele & guitar.

Historic Harrisburg Resource Center • 1230 N 3rd St • 233-4646 • historicharrisburg.org • The Historic Harrisburg Association will host student and community artists in the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center, 5:30-9p. Come and support Harrisburg's youth.



Other Participating Businesses

- **Art Association of Harrisburg**, 21 N Front St
- **Garden Fresh Market & Deli**, 1300 N 3rd St
- **The HodgePodgery**, 1100 N 3rd St
- **Mantis Collective Gallery**, 1306 N 3rd St
- **Whitaker Center**, 222 Market St



FOR MORE INFO & A PRINTABLE MAP: WWW.3RDINTHEBURG.COM