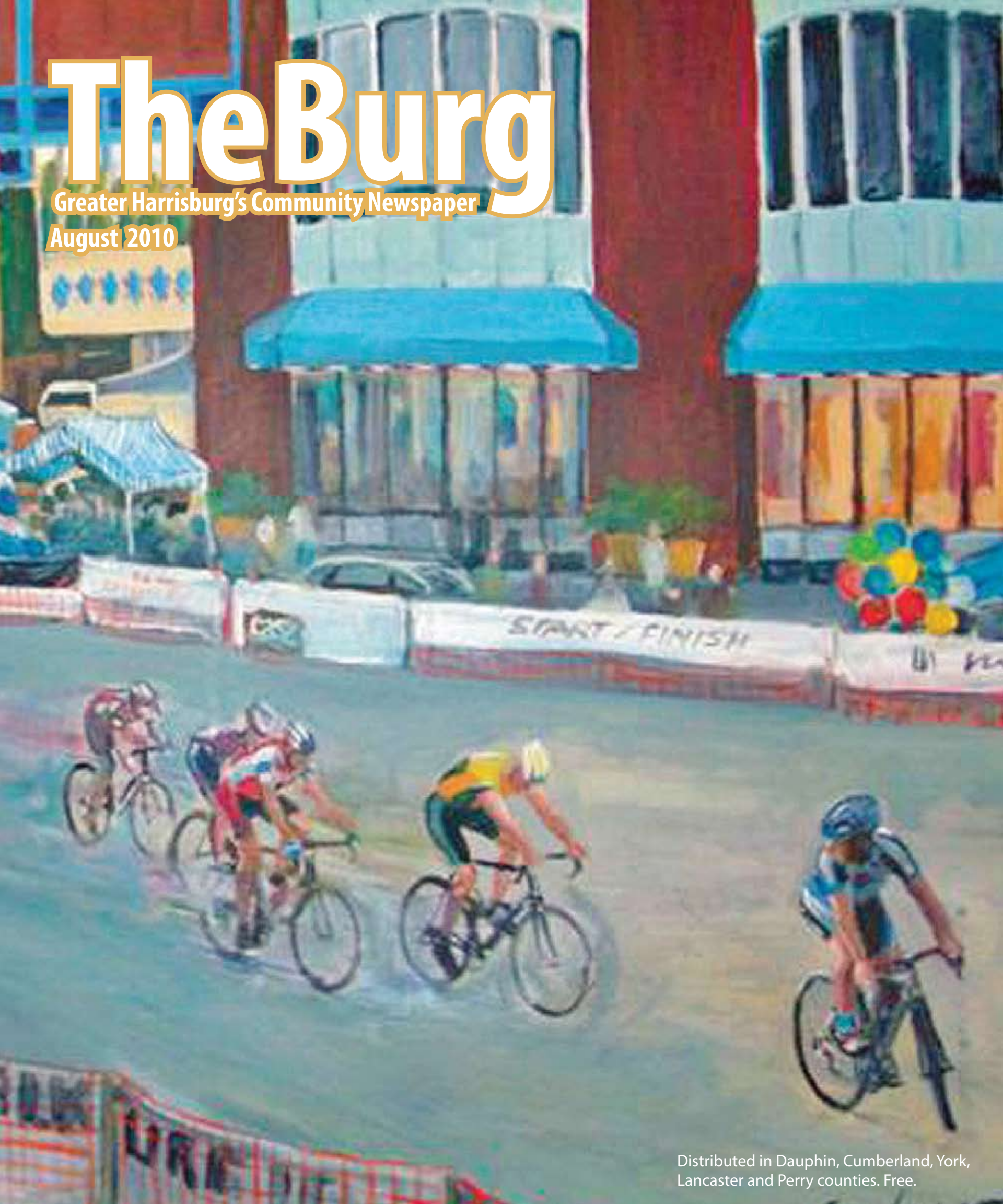


TheBurg

Greater Harrisburg's Community Newspaper

August 2010



Distributed in Dauphin, Cumberland, York,
Lancaster and Perry counties. Free.

HMAC

harrisburg midtown arts center

stage n herr

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music/art/bar/games/meetings/privateparties/stage/acoustics
community/dance/performance/multi-cultural**August Schedule**

- 1st: Ryan Wickersham
- 2nd: Adam Arcuragi and The Lupine Chorale Society
- 3rd: The Jesse Maurer Jazz Quartet
- 4th: Open Mic w/Mike Banks
- 5th: Jimmy Lafave
- 6th: Danny Miller Band w/ShaiKa
- 7th: Puffer Fish w/Bos Taurus and Adomo Drive
- 8th: Soul Comedy Café
- 11th: Open Mic w/Mike Banks
- 12th: Underground Saints
- 13th: Iain Matthews
- 14th: Hexbelt
- 16th: Mike Mains and The Branches
- 18th: Open Mic w/Mike Banks
- 19th: Shannon Whitworth and Girls Guns & Glory
- 20th: Colebrook Road w/Defibulators
- 21st: Dehlia Low w/CASE 150 and Colebrook Road
- 22nd: Tom Goss
- 23rd: Mostly Dimes
- 24th: Vita Ruins
- 25th: Open Mic w/Mike Banks
- 26th: Mike Banks and Special Guests
- 27th: Parallax Project w/Wayne Supergenius and Turning Violet Violet
- 28th: Eli Charleston
- 29th: Driving Vegas (2 pm) and My Rural Radio (6:30 pm)
- 30th: Music Makers Showcase Concert

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This month's cover:
"Harrisburg Bike Race" by Gene Suchma. Go to p.16 for more on Gene and his painting.



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Greater Harrisburg's Community Newspaper

General & Letters

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Where Do We Go from Here? Dueling Plans, Approaches to the City Debt Crisis Emerge

Plans to solve Harrisburg's financial woes swirled around the capital city last month, though a resolution to the crisis remained far off.

Both city Controller Dan Miller and former Harrisburg Authority member Neil Grover released comprehensive plans to address the city's crippling \$288 million debt, an amount owed due to numerous upgrades, some botched, over many years to the city's incinerator.

Meanwhile, Mayor Linda Thompson vowed that progress was being made by her office.

Brian Hudson, a state official who represented the Thompson administration at a recent forum on the crisis, said steps are being taken to explore the long-term lease of the incinerator, appraise the value of the city's parking garages and hire a financial adviser. In addition, he said the administration has begun to draft a forbearance agreement, which would shield the city from creditors for a few months as officials work out a recovery plan.

Thompson also addressed critics who have said her administration's response to the crisis has been slow.

"This is a very complex deal and a very complex solution," she said. "To do it in haste would be a disaster."

Separately, Grover and Miller presented soup-to-nuts plans to resolve the crisis.

Speaking before a City Council committee, Grover advocated a plan that included contributions—and some pain—from all the parties involved: bondholders, the city, Dauphin County, the Harrisburg Authority and Covanta, which runs the incinerator.

Similarly, Miller's plan would require shared responsibility and sacrifice.

He advocated that the county take over the incinerator, including all finances, allowing it to pay at least \$5.5 million each year in incinerator-related debt. The city would pledge \$4.5 million a year in parking revenue for debt payments.

The remaining annual debt would be paid for by concessions from bond holders, increased fees county-wide for incinerator use and possible parking fee hikes.

Under his plan, Miller said that the debt should be paid off in about 20 years. He said he's already received interest in his plan from some council members and representatives of Dauphin County.

Both Grover's and Miller's plans would require tremendous cooperation and concessions among stakeholders, which, at the moment, would appear to be their principal weaknesses. Major bondholders are reluctant to take a hit, and the mayor's office, the council and the county all appear to be acting separately and often in conflict.

In fact, both Thompson and County Commissioner Jeff Haste immediately criticized Miller's plan. In a press conference, Haste took issue with Miller's suggestion that the county could raise tipping fees for trash disposal, while Thompson released a statement that called elements of the plan "unrealistic."

—Lawrance Binda

Chief of Staff Resigns

Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson lost another key member of her administration last month after Chief of Staff Michael Holmes resigned.

Robert Kroboth, the city's finance director, assumed the post until a permanent replacement could be found.

Harrisburg Authority: Uncertainty Reigns

The makeup of the embattled Harrisburg Authority remained up in the air last month, as the City Council rejected two of Mayor Linda Thompson's nominees.

The council voted down the nominations of both former authority member Cathy M. Hall and Herbert "Corky" Goldstein, a former member of Harrisburg's Board of Control.

In addition, two of Thompson's nominees, Barton A. Fields and Tonya McGee, withdrew their names before a council vote.

The council approved only the nominations of J. Marc Kurowski and William Cluck, both of whom had served on the prior authority board.

The crisis on the authority was prompted by a state Supreme Court decision, which ruled that the mayor, not the council, had the right to appoint authority members. Therefore, sitting members, all of whom had been appointed by the council, lost their seats.

Since the court's May decision, the authority's board has been either vacant or lacking a quorum, causing much of the work of the body to grind to a halt. The board must vote on such matters as paying vendors and, importantly, dealing with the authority's overwhelming debt resulting from past upgrades to the city's incinerator.

Council members who voted against Goldstein said they wanted Thompson to re-appoint all five authority members who lost their seats due to the court ruling, so that the board could resume a multi-year audit of the authority. However, council President Gloria Martin-Roberts, who voted to appoint Goldstein, characterized the rift as a power struggle between a council majority and the mayor.

—Lawrance Binda



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Beer, for Chocolate City

Tröegs grew up in Harrisburg, but soon will leave for Hershey.

Peter Durantine

Since 1995, when their dream began fermenting into Tröegs Brewing Company, Chris and John Trogner have traveled the world visiting various breweries, seeking knowledge and ideas. Their travels have led to one of the finest micro-brewed beers in the mid-Atlantic region. But, sadly for Harrisburg, Tröegs' success also has caused the brewery to relocate to Hershey, where a 90,000-square-foot facility will open in August 2011. "Once we open in Hershey, we plan to be as active in Harrisburg as we are now," said Chris Trogner. "We are going to operate the way we do now, but at a larger scale." Since 1997, when the Trogner opened their family-run brewhouse in the city at 800 Paxton St., they have shared a building in an industrial yard a little off the beaten path. Tröegs has steadily grown as a regional brewery serving eight states: Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, New York, Ohio and Massachusetts.

Growth has been so significant —Trogner said retailers in the south and west have asked for distribution in those regions—that the Paxton Street brewery has reached its limit. Trogner said they are now brewing 24 hours a day, five days a week. The brothers considered expanding at their present location, but it would have meant taking valuable parking spaces, they said. The facility they will lease at 200 E. Hersheypark Dr. will meet their needs for parking, as well as for a modern plant with refrigeration. "We settled on Hershey because it used to be a food facility," Chris Trogner said. The plant, located near a rail line and close to the interstates, needs some re-design work for a state-of-the-art brewery four times the size of what they now have. It will include a 5,000-square-foot tasting room with the brewhouse surrounding it. "Visitors in our tasting room will be sitting literally in the middle of the brewhouse," Trogner said. "They

will be able to watch our brewers in action." Another issue for the Trogner was that the Paxton Street location is in a flood plain. Even with insurance, Trogner said, "If we were flooded it would be very catastrophic to our business." Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson expressed frustration that the brewers never approached her for help in finding another location. "That this took place without a conversation or discussion that would allow Harrisburg to help keep this business partner here is a missed opportunity for Tröegs," Thompson said. "If there are others who may consider such a move, they can trust Harrisburg is here to help and open for business and ready to do business." Trogner said Hershey also offers something Harrisburg does not: 3 million tourists a year. The brewery will be next to the Hershey Outlets and down the street from Hershey's



John and Chris Trogner inside their brewhouse on Paxton Street.

attractions. "We hope that means increased traffic for us as well," he said, noting the new brewery is somewhat unique. "There are only a couple in the world that are set up the way we will be."

Changing Hands: June Property Sales

Adrian St., 2243: S. Marchi to R. Neals, \$69,000	Hillside Rd., 113: Jane E. Kadel Trust to M. & L. Early, \$215,000	Penn St., 1711: W. Stehr et al to M. Ramey, \$162,000
Adrian St., 2434: G. Swanson to D. Tesfamical, \$75,000	Hillside Rd., 215: T. Murray & G. O'Donel to T. Watson, \$165,000	Penn St., 1922: R. Riley to WCI Partners LLC, \$144,300
Berryhill St., 2152: P. Harnish to D. Hess, \$74,900	Kensington St., 2262: Capital Prop. Partners LLC to R. Eden, \$69,000	Reily St., 222: Wilmington Trust Co. to PA Deals LLC, \$40,000
Berryhill St., 2332: T. Bell to J. Mayhew, \$74,900	Kensington St., 2408: S. Toomey to Fern Lane LLC, \$33,100	Rudy Rd., 2256: C. & M. Zavrel to W. Ryan & T. Zyla, \$170,000
Bigelow Dr., 1300: K. Fells to R. Shalhoub, \$68,000	Lewis St., 303: S. Concannon to E. Gadsen, \$139,900	Rumson Dr., 302: Kings Inv. Co. LP to M. Branch, \$88,000
Derry St., 2140: J. Shue to G. Jones, \$104,900	Market St., 1931: US Bank Wilshire Credit Corp. to K. High, \$66,450	Rumson Dr., 2627: D. & C. Thames to G. Chacon, \$81,000
Forster St., 228: M. Hogan to D. Lauver, \$80,000	Muench St., 230: H. Shellenhamer et al to R. Boswell, \$159,000	S. 17th St., 25: D. Rivera to V. Ledesma, \$42,000
Fox Ridge Ct., 307: F. Miller to B. Miller, \$128,000	N. 2nd St., 1815: J. & S. Tang to Pharma Enterprises LLC, \$124,900	State St., 121: Williams Gerow Hldngs. Prtnshp. to Commonwealth Strategic Solutions, \$354,000
Green St., 1110: M. Allison to M. Sciavo, \$159,900	N. 2nd St., 2842: PA Deals LLC to JW Investors LLC, \$97,000	Susquehanna St., 1735: B. & K. Simcox to R. Cummins, \$120,000
Green St., 1603: M. Tanzini to T. Moberg, \$125,000	N. 4th St., 1418: L. & B. McDonald to A. Manana & S. Morel, \$81,100	Wayne St., 1609: M. Santiago to D. & J. Shertzler, \$61,000
Green St., 3121: R. Blouch & M. Bova to R. Bouch Jr. & T. Stroh, \$99,680	N. 16th St., 811: C.W. Ford to K.W. Ford, \$47,700	Zarker St., 1909: R. Gutshall to Y. Purdy, \$77,000
Hamilton St., 501½: Fannie Mae to E. Mwangi, \$84,000	N. Front St., 1525, #410: Riverview Manor Assoc. to P. Krantz, \$32,000	Source: Dauphin County, City of Harrisburg, property sales greater than \$30,000. Data is deemed to be accurate.
Harris St., 342: PA Deals LLC to D. & C. Mallow, \$49,700	Paxton St., 1621: T. Colello to D. Rivera, \$40,000	

Boost Mobile Opens in Midtown



Partners Rick Collotia, Gary Collotia, Amrik Dhanota, and Kamal Collotia are joined by a Boost Mobile representative (far left) at the opening of their new store, Class A Wireless. The store, at 1312 N. 3rd St. in Harrisburg, offers Boost Mobile and Virgin Mobile phones, phone plans and accessories, as well as some convenience store items. It's open Monday to Friday, 7 a.m.–7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.–7 p.m. Phone: 717-238-9990.

HMAC Makes Progress in Bond Sale; Arts Center Eyes Rapid Completion

Owners of the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center expect to secure \$4.3 million by the beginning of September and complete the enormous arts, music and restaurant complex by late fall, according to co-owner John Traynor.

"We're moving forward," Traynor said, a few days before a public hearing conducted by Dauphin County. "We have an underwriter for our bonds and we're starting the application process."

The hearing provided information about the financing agreement the owners, Bartlett, Traynor and London LLC, will receive. The Dauphin County Economic Development Corp. passed a resolution that essentially confirmed HMAC as a worthwhile project.

The financing includes \$3.2 million in tax-exempt bonds and another \$1.1 million in taxable bonds. The city firm Rhoads & Sinon is bond counsel.

With the county's imprimatur, HMAC is being allowed to access the bond market like a municipality would to secure tax-exempt bonds that will keep its interest

rate low, said August Memmi, executive director of the county's economic development office.

Memmi said no tax dollars are being used.

Under the agreement, HMAC's owners must use part of the bond money for reserves equaling two years of bond payments. The bonds are for 30 years, but the owners can buy them back after five years.

Once the bonds are sold on the market, Wohlsen Construction, which has an office in Midtown, will finish the uncompleted center, which will have a restaurant, pool, classrooms and a large auditorium with capacity for about 800 people, Traynor said.

—Peter Durantine



HMAC co-owner John Traynor in Stage on Herr, the center's completed performing arts space.

From Busboy to Owner: Restaurateur Reaches for the American Dream

By virtue of his name, Salvador Paniaqua seemed destined to prepare food for people. Paniaqua is Spanish for bread and water.

The 41-year-old restaurateur, who owns Salvador's Place in the Town House apartment tower at 660 Boas St., has worked in the business since he was a teenager, starting out as a busboy and dishwasher, moving up to cook and manager.

For the last 10 years he has managed restaurants in New York City, Baltimore, Lemoyne and Mechanicsburg. Last year, the Town House's ground-floor restaurant became available and Paniaqua decided to realize a dream.

"I thought it was a good opportunity," he said. "I've always wanted to do it."

Paniaqua, who comes from the west coast of Mexico near Acapulco, opened in June 2009. He works the kitchen, making a variety of standard diner dishes from American, Greek, Italian and Mexican cuisines.

Like many entrepreneurs in these economic times, Paniaqua has struggled, but he said things are getting better. He benefits from being near many state government

buildings, which send him workers looking for breakfast, lunch and sometimes dinner.

"I honestly have a good feeling about this place," Paniaqua said. "I fell in love with it when I saw it."

A sign for Salvador's Place is soon to go up outside the building, which he expects will help boost his visibility and increase his business.

Also, parking is available in the building's lot behind the apartment house, so there's no need to hunt down rare street spaces in an area where parking often is scarce.

Salvador's Place, 660 Boas St., Harrisburg, 717-232-6200. Open Monday to Saturday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Salvador Paniaqua in his dining room at Salvador's Place in the Town House apartment building near the Capitol complex.

New Business: Grab a Dog, Sandwich, Salad Downtown at Lunch Box Xpress

It's not The Spot, although the old downtown luncheonette that closed a few years back was the inspiration for Lunch Box Xpress at the corner of 2nd and Locust streets, just one block north of the former restaurant's location.

"I used to go to The Spot all the time," said Jeremy Maher, 30, who, with his brother, Chris, 27, recently opened LBX.

The brothers come from a restaurant family—their father was a restaurateur in Florida. They sell hot dogs (Nathan's), preparing them just as The Spot did with onions, chili and mustard.

They also offer sandwiches, from ham and cheese to tuna salad,

and healthy fare featuring salads. It's basically The Spot, said Maher, "but without the fried food."

Lunch Box Xpress, 200 N. 2nd St., 717-232-1011. Mon.–Thurs., 10:30 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri.–Sat., 10:30 a.m.–3 a.m.



Jeremy Maher of Lunch Box Xpress.

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The Car Stays Parked

Public transit rides a new wave in Central Pa.

Peter Durantine

In this day of high gas prices and catastrophic oil spills browning the oceans, it would be no surprise to learn that ridership has increased significantly on greater Harrisburg's public transportation system, Capital Area Transit.

However, said CAT Executive Director James Hoffer, bus ridership began increasing well before spiking gas prices and BP's environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Ridership had taken off in 2005," he said.

Between fiscal years 2004 and 2009, the annual number of rides on CAT's buses grew from 2 million to 2.8 million, making it both a critical transportation service to the region and a significant economic force.

Although some of CAT's passengers don't possess a driver's license, most have a license and a vehicle. For a host of reasons—from no longer wanting to deal with heavy traffic to the cost of maintaining and fueling their vehicles to tax incentives—more commuters are choosing the bus.

"That's becoming a greater part of our ridership," said Bill Parkin, manager of marketing for the bus agency.

Routes with park-and-ride areas that have opened over the last few years offer testimony. These include the Elizabethville/Millersburg/Halifax route in the northern reaches of Dauphin County in 2008 and Shippensburg/Newville in southern Cumberland County in 2006.

The developers and businesses of High Pointe Commons in Swatara Township, and the newly built Blue Mountain Commons off Linglestown Road in Susquehanna Township, asked CAT to open routes to their suburban shopping centers, which CAT did in 2006 and 2009.

Giant, the anchor store at Blue Mountain, specifically appealed for a park-and-ride because it hired 500 employees, many of whom lived in the city. But Hoffer said CAT also agreed because township

commuters wanted bus service.

"We needed to transport people back into the city, and that works with the park-and-ride," he said.

Park-and-rides also work because shopping centers typically have vast parking lots, so can offer a section to CAT. And riders often stop—at stores at Blue Commons or the Wal-Mart in Elizabethville—before going to their vehicles.

"It's a benefit to the merchant," Parkin said.

Commuter growth in central Pennsylvania has been so significant in recent years—York's rabbittransit and Lebanon Transit now have service into Harrisburg—that transit agencies in the nine-county area are conducting a study to determine whether greater inter-agency cooperation is needed.

Another driver of CAT's increased ridership has been the commuter benefit program, a federal incentive that gives employers a tax deduction, as well as a reduction in payroll taxes, for subsidizing their employees' public transit costs.

The program allows employers to provide—either through a benefit or payroll deduction plan—up to \$230 per month in pre-tax transit vouchers.

"We've really had an emphasis on the commuter benefit program," Hoffer said.

Also, to meet bicyclists' demand, CAT recently outfitted its buses with racks on the front of each vehicle that can accommodate two bikes.

"We've had a lot of interest from the Hershey area and the Carlisle area for the bike racks," Parkin said.

CAT's growth reflects a nationwide trend. According to the American Public Transportation Association, between 1995 and the end of 2009, ridership increased by 31 percent, a rate higher than the 21 percent growth in use of highways in the same period.

Last year, the association reported, Americans took 10.2

billion trips on public transportation, a \$48.4 billion industry employing more than 380,000 people.

CAT was born from a failing private concern, Harrisburg Railways Company, which in 1939—74 years after the introduction of horse-drawn trolleys—abandoned the last electric trolley line because of increased demand for automobiles. Harrisburg Railways went to buses, but ridership continued to decline because of the car. When it decided to abandon much of its service, Harrisburg, Dauphin and Cumberland counties created CAT in 1973 and acquired the company's assets.

As CAT's fleet of 76 buses and 41 share-a-ride vans work to meet demand from commuters and bicyclists, the agency's growth is ironic. Whereas 70 years ago people were leaving trolleys and buses for cars, today they appear to be leaving cars for buses.

Quick Facts

- Riders of public transportation save on average \$9,343 annually based on the July national average gas price and the national unreserved monthly parking rate. They save an average of \$779 per month.

- Public transportation saves the United States 4.2 billion gallons

of gas annually—more than three times the amount of gasoline imported from Kuwait.

- Households near public transit drive an average of 4,400 fewer miles than



Bus passengers wait to board at Market Square.

households with no access to public transit. This equates to a household reduction of 223 gallons per year.

Source: American Public Transportation Association

New Intercity Service Rolls into Harrisburg

Megabus.com added Harrisburg last month to the cities it serves with its nonstop, inexpensive bus service.

Leaving from the southeast corner of the Harrisburg Mall parking lot, buses serve State College, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh daily for as little as \$1 per trip.

Megabus is part of a growing trend of comfortable, inexpensive bus service in the congested northeast and mid-Atlantic. Go to us.megabus.com for details.

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Whutta Great Idea!

Design team's humor, spirit captured in their creations.

Peter Durantine



Amber Topper and Bob Ford of Whutta Design, pondering their next inspiration.

While you may not know Bob Ford or Amber Topper, you more than likely know their work—remember those blue and beige Sparky & Clark's Roasting Co. & Coffee Bar signs at the former shops on 2nd and 3rd streets?

That was Whutta Design, Ford and Topper's company. Located on Walnut Street, across from the city's main library, Whutta Design has been crafting advertising, logos, brochures, magazines and websites for 16 years. Their most recent logo design is for the 2011 Keystone State Games.

Ford started the company in York and gave it the name Whutta

Design instead of, what is often the case, naming it after himself. Ford Design just didn't ring right to him.

"I've always felt that was a little egotistical," he said. "I wanted to focus on the work itself."

Five years ago, after significant growth from a clientele that spans locally, regionally and nationally, Topper became his partner. One of their not-so-familiar ad/logos for a Hershey Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau campaign was "You gotta love the Burg."

The concept came about one day after observing the antics and odd behavior sometimes seen in passersby on downtown streets, which prompted Topper to offhandedly remark, "You gotta love the Burg."

The slogan was a hit with the visitor's bureau and city officials, but budget constraints halted the campaign—for now at least.

Their creativity is juiced in so many ways, such as playing cards or shooting pool or "just going for a drive or a walk," Topper said.

The easy-going duo fuse their work with fun, whether they're creating a brand for a company or designing a state necktie, which they did for former Gov. Tom Ridge.

"That was one of the weirdest, oddest projects we've worked on," Ford said. "We get a lot of freedom to do what we're doing."

Long-haired with glasses, Ford has an affable manner that complements Topper's positive, energetic attitude. "Life is too short to be uptight about stuff," Ford said. It shows in their work. Take this ad for a pet resort: "Countryside surroundings, classical dinner music, and a biscuit if you go wee-wee outside."

Ford's career path started in design. He graduated York Vo-Tech's industrial arts program and worked in AT&T's marketing department in Hunt Valley, Md., later graduating from the Art Institute of Philadelphia.

He worked for a printer, but wanted more design work. He went freelance and soon after started Whutta Design.

Topper, who attended Pennsylvania College of Art & Design in Lancaster, met Ford in 2006. At



the time, he had partnered with another agency, and she was the first art director they hired.

Creative differences ended the partnership, but Ford re-launched Whutta Design and Topper joined as partner. "We clicked right away in our approach to developing creative, as well as working with clients in a partnership way," he said.

For Ford and Topper, brainstorming ideas for a client begins with absorbing information about the subject. "If it's a new client, we tend to throw ourselves into research and learn everything we can about them," he said.

It's a team effort, they say, and building relationships with clients, while also providing them quality service and product, is the key to their success as a company. "If we can make our client successful, that reverts back to us," Ford said.

Whutta Design, 114 Walnut St., Harrisburg, 717-309-8392, www.whutta.com

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State Funding Cuts Impact Harrisburg

The state passed its budget on time, but not without considerable pain for the Harrisburg area.

About 700 state workers will lose their jobs under the plan, which disproportionately will affect the capital region. Also, the budget cuts in half reimbursement to the city for fire protection for the Capitol complex to \$497,000. Two years ago, the city received \$1.2 million for fire services.

Leadership, with an ImPAct

Young professionals set to swarm into Harrisburg.

Lawrance Binda

Can several hundred young professionals, all gathered in a single place, change the course of the city, the state, the country?

It could well happen, as ideas will germinate and dreams will take flight at the 2010 ImPAct Conference, which settles into Harrisburg next month.

Hosted by Harrisburg Young Professionals, the Sept. 10–12 confab brings together young people from around the state to discuss, debate and share. The theme for this year's conference is leadership, said Nicole Borda, an ImPAct co-chair.

"Our goal is to offer a weekend of networking and leadership development opportunities for our young professionals throughout Pennsylvania," she said.

Attendees will be able to select sessions emphasizing four types of leadership: personal, political, corporate and community. There will be additional sessions on best



practices and on using social media, Borda said.

Of course, as one would expect from a gathering of 20- and 30-somethings, the conference will have a fun side too. ImPAct 2010 kicks off with a reception at Level 2 on Friday night. A Saturday night mix-and-meet with lawmakers at the state Capitol is another highlight.

Harrisburg will play host to the conference for the third time in seven years, said Borda.

"It's an appropriate place because it's an election year," she said. "Also, we thought that, if we could bring people to Harrisburg, they could see that it has so much to offer, despite the bad headlines they've certainly read."

Most events will take place at the Hilton Harrisburg and Harrisburg University. The keynote speaker will be James E. Nevels, chairman of The Swarthmore Group and non-executive chairman of The Hershey Company board of directors.

At its core, the conference really is about preparing the next generation of leaders. Harrisburg Young Professionals—and similar organizations around the state—want to ensure that the best and brightest have opportunities to thrive and be successful without feeling that they need to leave their home state.

"In Pennsylvania as a whole, the problem of brain drain has been serious," said Borda. "So, we want to find ways to keep young, talented, educated professionals here."

For more information about ImPAct Conference 2010, including a schedule and registration form, visit Harrisburg Young Professionals at www.hyp.org.



Lawrance Binda

Things are never dull at the Broad Street Market, and this month was no exception. The Market has hired a new manager, replacing acting manager Rafiqqa Muhammad, who has taken a job managing vendor Shady Nook Farm.

Speaking of Shady Nook, owner Justin Peterson expects to open his latest venture, Robinson's Natural Market and Deli, at Verbeke and N. 3rd streets, in September.

Did you make it to the debut of the HoPo Road Show, the new monthly crafts market just outside the Broad Street Market? If not, no sweat, as the Road Show will set up shop again on Aug. 20–21.

It may not seem like soup weather, but Randy at The Soup Spot wants you to know he's serving up cold soups. Try a fruity soup, which is more dessert than meal.

Lastly, Café di Luna has begun a delivery service for you office jockeys who just can't escape your cubicles. Call Ambreen for coffee, tea and treats brought right to you.

Breaking Ground: Midtown Condos Slated to Rise on 6th St.

First came Riverview Manor, Harrisburg's first major condominium project.

Now prepare for the second, The 1500 Project, a five-story building expected to break ground late this fall at N. 6th and Reily streets, across the street from the federal courthouse site.

On July 20, the Vartan Group filed condominium papers with Dauphin County and immediately began taking pre-sales reservations for the 43 studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and loft units. A restaurant and/or retailer will occupy the ground floor, and 47 parking spaces will be below ground, said H. Ralph Vartan, company chairman.

The project has been on the drawing board for years, but the time seemed right to proceed, Vartan said, adding

that demand for condo space in Harrisburg was a far more important factor in the decision to build now than the pending courthouse.

"There is latent demand for this type of living in the city," he said.

Construction is expected to take 10 to 14 months.

The building's architecture will be somewhat different for Harrisburg—a modern take on art

deco design, with sleek lines, lots of glass, a rooftop garden, private terraces, loft spaces and green-friendly features.

"We wanted to provide something a little edgy," Vartan said. "Architecturally, it's very stunning."

Visit 1500project.com for more information.

—Lawrance Binda



Artist's rendering of The 1500 Project.

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... a Month in Pictures



July 4: The Maxwell Project had the crowd jumping on a hot day during the Independence Day music festival on the waterfront.



July 4: Fireworks blasted off from City Island to celebrate the 4th.



July 10: A block party marked the grand opening of the Latino Hispanic American Community Center, attracting a large crowd of neighbors, politicians and city officials.

Photo: Ronaldo Davis



July 14: The Eastern League All-Star game attracted a record crowd of 8,078 to Metro Bank Park. It resulted in a 10-3 victory by the Western Division, which includes the Harrisburg Senators. Senators pitcher Tom Milone (pictured) started the game.



July 16: Vendors David Pringle and Diane Layden sold their creations at the HoPo Road Show, a monthly crafts market that debuted outside the Broad Street Market. The Road Show continues this month, Aug. 20-21.



July 16: People flocked to Gallery Blu for the opening of the "Pride" exhibit, held during last month's 3rd in The Burg. This month, 3rd in The Burg takes place Aug. 20.



July 18: Re-enactor Keith MacGregor, 49, of Mechanicsburg stands next to a recruiting tent for Union soldiers, part of the Civil War encampments at the National Civil War Museum that run every weekend through Sept. 18.



July 21: The Harrisburg Mile attracted thousands of runners of all ages, types and skill levels as they walked, jogged and sprinted down Front Street.

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July 24: Pridefest 2010 kicked off with the annual Unity Parade down Front Street, followed by a festival in Riverside Park.

A Place of Comfort

The Caring Place offers solace, support for grieving children.

John Kajic

One out of 20 children will have a parent die before they graduate high school.

That's an average of one child in every classroom, on every sports team, in every scout troop or after-school club—more than 150,000 children in Pennsylvania alone.

And that does not include the children who experience the death of brothers or sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, or close friends.

Yet, as many children as this is, a grieving child often feels isolated and alone, different from all of his or her classmates, friends and peers. Grieving children feel alone and afraid, heart-broken and devastated.

Brooke was 9 years old when her father, older brother and baby sister died in a car accident. Now 14, she spoke about what it was like trying to connect with her friends.

"Talking to my friends at school was hard because nobody had gone through that situation," she said.

"When my friends didn't want to talk about it, it made me not want to talk about it. I kind of felt shut down and like nobody was ever going to listen to me."

Brooke also found it hard to talk with her mother.

"There was a wall between us," she said. "We were struggling, and we both didn't know what to do. It's bad enough you lose somebody in your family, but to also lose such a

great relationship with somebody who you need the most at the time, that can be just as hard. We couldn't talk. We'd butt heads all the time."

When a family member dies, a child's life is turned upside down. The impact is shattering—nothing is ever the same. It is often the defining moment of their lives, as Brooke experienced.

"You just feel so stuck, isolated and secluded," she said. "It's like a new life where we had to pick up everything and then try to learn how to do everything, with just the two of us. That was hard to adjust to. When you have a loss of someone who's really close, it kind of feels like you're being sucked into a black hole. Like everything that mattered to you is gone, and there's no point in really doing anything. You feel really pulled into something that doesn't exist. And it's hard to try to find a way to climb out of it."

Children need help and support. Highmark's Caring Place is a safe haven where grieving children and families gather and join others who understand what they're going through. An essential community resource, the Caring Place offers services at no charge to grieving families from throughout the community.

"After my father died in the car accident, I couldn't contain or control myself," Brooke said. "And

then after the Caring Place, it kind of seemed like the Caring Place symbol—my heart was still broken but a butterfly was flying out of it. And that butterfly was just free and so carefree, and I knew how to be a kid again."

The Caring Place in Lemoyne, just across the river from Harrisburg, opened its doors in 2003. Facilities also serve families in Erie and the Pittsburgh region, where the first site was dedicated downtown in 1997. The most recent site opened in the Warrendale/Cranberry region last year. The Caring Place's focus is consistent across the facilities, regardless of geographical location—to make a difference in the lives of grieving children.

The Highmark Caring Place provides peer support, where the children who attend come to know that they are not alone as they share their feelings, memories and experiences.

Children and families get support and encouragement from each other, facilitated by a caring community made up of professionals, trained volunteers and other children and adults who also have experienced a death.

The larger mission of the Caring Place—funded by the Highmark Foundation with community contributions matched by Highmark Blue Shield—is to raise

awareness in the community of the needs of grieving children and how to respond to them. Referral services, adult telephone support and educational programs and resources are also provided, as well as consultation services, educational presentations and resources for schools and other professionals in the community who work with children. Since opening the first Caring Place, the program has served more than 60,000 family and community members.

For more information about children's grief services or to volunteer at the Caring Place, 3 Walnut St., Suite 2000, Lemoyne, call 1-866-613-HOPE (4673) or visit www.highmarkcaringplace.com.

John Kajic, Psy.D, a child grief specialist, is manager of the Harrisburg Region Caring Place.



John Kajic leads the Harrisburg Region Caring Place.



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How Sweet (and Cold) It Is

Armed with a spoon, one man hits the hot streets of Harrisburg.

Lawrance Binda

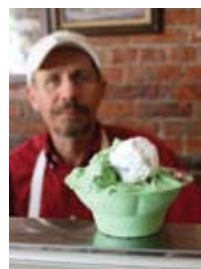
It's August, it's steamy and you're on the hunt for something cold and luscious.

As a selfless service to our readers, I intrepidly set forth on foot to unearth superior summertime treats. There were just two criteria—the frosty sweets had to be inexpensive and available pronto.

I found that fast, delicious, homemade and all-natural are yours for the taking. So put down that partially hydrogenated goop that oozed out of some machine and follow me, north to south through Harrisburg, on one tasty tour.

gelato-maker in his home province of Calabria, Italy. Today, he offers 20 flavors of the creamy, low-fat Italian-style ice cream, including eight fruit flavors and some that are hard to find outside of Europe, such as the chocolate-hazelnut Nutella. There may be no more sophisticated urban experience in Harrisburg than strolling the restored streets of Olde Uptown, admiring the architecture and sampling some of Sal's lemon, orange or pistachio gelato.

Alvaro Bread & Pastry Shoppe, 236 Peffer St., 717-238-1999



Stop 1: Gelato at Alvaro's

Alvaro Bread & Pastry Shoppe has become a hot spot in Harrisburg for authentic Italian bread, goodies and prepared

food. Last year, Sal Alvaro added homemade gelato to his menu, a craft he learned from a master



Stop 2: Italian Ice at Nonna's

A few blocks down Green Street, Ray and Grace

Diaz have brought the Italian deli of their New Jersey childhoods to Harrisburg. For the second summer, their Italian ice cart has taken a place of prominence in Nonna's dining room. Did you ever, as a kid, wander

the boardwalk of Seaside Heights or Wildwood, with colored, melted ice dripping down your hand? I did, every summer, and I can attest that Nonna's ices rival anything I remember (the two New Jersey women pictured agreed). Grace recommends a dab of orange ice atop a mound of chocolate, which is indeed fabulous. For fruit lovers, watermelon ice also is served.

Nonna's Deli Sioso, 263 Reily St., 717-232-6150



Stop 3: Home-made Ice Cream at breads 'n spreads

You'd better

finish off that ice fast, because, just around the corner at breads 'n spreads, the totally worth-it calories pile up fast. Patty Coke (pictured) makes the homemade, American-style ice cream regularly. Coffee, coconut and vanilla are usually on offer, but pistachio, strawberry, chocolate mint and other flavors also serve time on the menu, depending on customer requests, in-season fruit and, well, Patty's mood. For a special treat, try the coffee ice cream with a hunk of Ghirardelli chocolate chunk brownie. You'll roll out of there with a great, big smile on your face.

bread's 'n spreads, 1419 N. 3rd St., 717-695-7713



Stop 4: Coffee & Tea Drinks at Café di Luna

It's hard to find more imaginative, delectable iced and blended coffee drinks

than those offered at Café di Luna. Owner Ambreen Esmail (pictured)

has a knack for unique concoctions using espresso as a base. The cappuccino cream, blended with vanilla bean ice cream, is a personal favorite, though other regulars go for drinks flavored with peanut butter, bananas and many other types of fruit. Non-blended iced drinks, such as the spicy "Indian Buzz" and regular iced coffees, also fly out the door on hot days. Not into coffee? Ambreen offers creative cold tea drinks, including a refreshing, non-alcoholic cocktail called "Green Tea Champagne" and the flowery Rose Garden Tea. For an international flare, Café di Luna is one of the few places in the area that serves a traditional Indian quaff called Mango Lassi, a drink derived from yogurt and mango pulp. Feel free to bring your own warm weather ideas to Ambreen, who is happy to experiment.

Café di Luna, 1004 N. 3rd St., 717-695-9449



Stop 5: Smoothies at Juicy Rumors

The summer heat sure has been kind to one of downtown's newest shops. In the middle of one

steamy week, a stream of sweaty customers cycled in and out of Juicy Rumors for the icy smoothies and cold fruit drinks. Owner Steve Leslie (pictured) reports strong sales on hot days for such drinks as Tutti Frutti, Tropical Breeze and Banana Frosty, all made with fresh fruit that he cuts up right in front of you. For August, Steve is blending up some additional treats. Just-picked New Jersey blueberries are arriving for his seasonal Blueberry Blast, as are local peaches (aka, heaven on Earth) for the Peachy Keen smoothie. Mention TheBurg and get 50 cents off!

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Ambreen Esmail

"A cup of coffee commits one to 40 years of friendship."—Turkish Proverb

Imagine establishing friendships over a cup of coffee.

The culture surrounding coffeehouses makes them such excellent gathering places. The popular Turkish proverb reflects on the influence coffee has had in the ancient empires of the East, carrying over into the western civilization. For centuries, coffee has been the center of political and social interaction. For both men and women, the art of coffee-serving and drinking reflects a sense of pride, as well as community involvement.

The word for "coffeehouse" in modern Arabic is *maqha*, literally meaning "place of coffee-ing," but the more common term is *qahawa*, meaning "coffee," in much the same way as French uses *café* for both things.

Coffee and coffeehouses did not exist in the lands now known as Turkey until the year 962. Legend has it that the drink was brought to Istanbul, then called Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, by two Syrian traders. There are numerous accounts of the first coffeehouse, "Kiva Han." Soon, perhaps because of the games played in the *café*, coffee became known as the "milk of chess players and thinkers."

By the early 16th century, coffee had penetrated Middle Eastern culture. The popularity of coffeehouses, along with the mystique surrounding coffee, gave rise to coffee culture around the world.

Turkish coffee became a ceremony of cultural and ritualistic importance in the Ottoman empire after baristas, known as "kahacecusta," exhibited an elaborate ceremony of preparing coffee and serving it to the sultan. Women throughout the Middle East receive extensive training in the

preparation of coffee.

So, Turkish coffee refers to the preparation method rather than a special variety. Being true to its cultural origin, Turkish coffee is served very commonly as an important beverage throughout the Middle East, North Africa, the Caucasus and the Balkans. In the west, Turkish coffee has evolved over the years and has, in certain ways, been modified from its original course. Turks used to drink their coffee without any sugar. Instead, it was customary to eat or drink something sweet either before or after the coffee, such as sweetened fruit juices known as sherbet, fruit preserves or another confection.

Turkish coffeehouses had a significant role in the arts, music and intellectual thinking. Over the years, coffeehouses have become social places where people of different backgrounds and interests can meet and get inspired. However, the fast-paced, high-tech life today has created a void within our social structure. Cultures are no longer inspired. The "supersize/to go" environment has replaced the inspirational *cafés* of yesterday. There is a need to go back to the basics when knowledge was shared across borders and poets, when storytellers and intellectual minds inspired ideas on world economics and global trade.

While you sip your next cup, make a choice to wake up and smell the coffee. Take the time to talk to someone, share an idea, a thought or just get inspired!

Café di Luna, 1004 N. 3rd St., features Turkish night for 3rd in The Burg, Aug. 20, with Turkish coffee and belly dancing.



Ambreen Esmail, a coffee artisan, is the owner of Café di Luna in Harrisburg.

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He's Got 'Em and He Smokes 'Em

A mid-career switch turned a carpenter into a cook.

Peter Durantine

For Ron Beeck, it started at a cookout, where a friend shared smoked brisket one afternoon a few years ago. It quickly became a hobby (buying a small smoker and selling to friends), then a catering service and now a fledgling food stand.

"I'm getting some really good response, better than I ever hoped for," said the 47-year-old Beeck, owner of DJ's Smoke Shack at the West Shore Farmer's Market.

DJ's specializes in barbecued pulled pork and chicken, beef brisket, baby back ribs, smoked turkey and twice-smoked ham. Beeck opened DJ's because of demand for his meats from his catering business, which he started while running a carpentry business.

The smoked meats he sold to friends were so popular that he bought a 15-foot trailer that looks like a real log cabin—porch and all—with a large smoker that cooks 75 racks of ribs at one time.

Soon after bringing the trailer home from Indiana, a friend hired him for a golf outing, another friend working as a reporter at the Central

Penn Business Journal wrote a story about his catering service and then Hershey Gardens called for his catering.

"Once we started with Hershey Gardens, it just exploded," Beeck said.

A native of Long Island, N.Y., Beeck was 12 years old when he started working in the deli with his father, who, like Beeck, worked construction before deciding to prepare and sell food. Beeck's grandfather, a German immigrant, was a butcher.

"I learned everything about meat and cheese and salads," he said.

Beeck worked in the deli with its 30-foot long counter until he was 21, when he decided to become a carpenter. When his soon-to-be wife, Laura, took a job in Mechanicsburg as a physical therapist, he decided to move to the Harrisburg area.

His carpentry business thrived, but he was starting to look for something different, and that afternoon cookout with the smoked



Ron Beeck with children Jessie and Danny.

brisket inspired him. Looking at his food stand in the market, he said, "My last construction job was building this."

DJ's also offers sides, such as macaroni and cheese and baked beans, and soups such as smoked chicken and rice and broccoli and cheddar.

"Everything is made from scratch—except the baked beans, and I'm working on that," he said.

Beeck named DJ's after his 12-year-old son, Danny, and 16-year-old daughter, Jessie, who help with the catering and work behind the counter when they can.

"I really wanted to show them a work ethic and what it takes to run a business," Beeck said. "I'm not afraid to take risks."

DJ's Smoke Shack, West Shore Farmer's Market, 900 Market St., Lemoyne. Open Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 717-554-7220 or djssmokeshack@verizon.net.

More Cigs: Another Corner Store to Open

Midtown appears set to get another convenience store, as the Harrisburg Zoning Board has given conditional approval for a 1,200-square-foot store at 1727 N. 2nd St.

The store will be in the same building that houses Classic Drycleaners at Kelker and N. 2nd streets. Store owner Ying Chen sought the variance because the property is not zoned for that use.

The zoning board voted 3-0 to approve the variance as long as five conditions were met. The store must keep its hours to 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; must not offer prepared foods; must keep trash inside the building until pickup day; must not have soda dispensing machines; and must submit a parking plan to the city. These conditions were prompted by residents' concerns over issues related to trash, traffic and parking.

Chen said he plans to offer typical convenience store items, such as cigarettes, soda, chips, lottery tickets and some groceries.

DiFrancesco Resigns

Dauphin County Commissioner Nick DiFrancesco has accepted a position in the private sector and will vacate his seat in September.

DiFrancesco accepted a position as president and chief operating officer of the Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers in Harrisburg.



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It's August—and the Peaches Are Ripe

Try a new dessert with an Italian twist.

Rosemary Ruggieri Baer

August is my favorite summer month.

The abundance of fruits and vegetables, the sound of chirping locusts, the deepening colors of flowers, the lengthening shadows at the end of the day, embody for me the fullness of the season. For me, August means wedding memories and time spent at the beach.

And what's more beautiful than big baskets of golden peaches lined up at farmers' markets and roadside stands in August? These luscious golden fruits brought my mother infinite delight.

We knew the whereabouts of all the local orchards and names of the varieties of peaches as they appeared throughout "peach season," as my mother called it. We had one favorite orchard. Every year, my father drove us over unpaved country roads to get there.

Sometimes, we picked our own right from the trees, a delight to growing boys. Other times, we chose our basket from the cool market room. My mother was fluent in "peach talk," asking when the "Red Havens" or "Yellow Hales" were coming. And usually we bought more peaches than we could use. My father got one or two for dessert every night in August even when we were at the beach where our affections turned to "Jersey peaches."

I've learned I come by my love of peaches honestly. Doing research for this column, I discovered that, although peaches originated in China some 5,000 years ago, Italy is the second-largest producer of the fruit. They were cultivated by the Romans and eventually found their way to other European countries and to America.

Growing up, I looked forward to my mother's pies: golden brown crusts over sliced peaches tossed with sugar, cinnamon and butter. Sometimes, she

placed peeled peach halves in an unbaked pie shell and sprinkled them with sugar and cinnamon, poured heavy cream over all and baked. I still make this simple and elegant "peaches and cream" dessert.

Recipes for peaches abound in Italian cuisine. One of my favorite summer drinks is the Bellini, made famous as the signature cocktail of Harry's Bar in Venice. There are many adulterations of this drink in bars all over America. The true Bellini is white peach puree and Prosecco, a sparkling Italian wine. Look for white peaches in the Farmer's Market toward the end of summer.

Giada DiLaurentis takes a spin on the traditional Bellini by using strawberries or blueberries instead of peaches. Often, Italians simply soak peach slices in Prosecco or other white wine and let peach slices marinate for a time. This is served as a dessert; one eats the fruit with a spoon and then drinks the wine.

I no longer make countless jars of peach preserves or peach chutney as I did in summers past. And I am saving peach canning for my retirement. But I still make a wonderful peach dessert I'd like to share with you. It is for baked peaches with crushed amaretti cookies, a traditional Italian sweet. Eating it is like being kissed by the summer sun.

Stuffed Baked Peaches

Note: This recipe calls for fine sponge cake crumbs, but you can substitute many different things: store-bought pound cake, packaged cookies such as Nilla Wafers or shortbread. Traditionally, amaretti cookies are used. Just make sure to crush or grind the cake or cookies very fine.

Instructions:

- Peel, halve and remove the skin from 4 large, ripe peaches. (In August, free-stone peaches arrive and are much easier to pit.)
- Scoop out enough of the peach flesh from each half to make an indentation for the stuffing.
- Chop the peach flesh you have removed and mix with the following:
 - A cup of crushed cake or cookie crumbs
 - ½ cup ground almonds or hazelnuts
 - ¼ cup of sugar
 - 2 tablespoons of softened butter
 - The juice of 1 lemon
 - A few drops of almond extract if you love almond flavor (Try vanilla extract also)
- Pile the stuffing into the center pocket of each peach half and smooth the tops.
- Place in a buttered baking dish and place in a pre-heated 350-degree



oven for about 30 minutes. The peaches should be bubbly and tender.

- Serve warm or cold with a little cream or vanilla ice cream. Easy and elegant!

This is just one peach recipe among my favorites. I also love Peach Melba, drizzled with raspberry syrup and served with vanilla ice cream and traditional double crust peach pie. These desserts mean summer to me, and I hope you enjoy them too.



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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One Race, Years to the Finish

For Gene Suchma, "Harrisburg Bike Race" was a personal victory.

Lawrance Binda

Motion. Excitement. Victory. In his painting, "Harrisburg Bike Race," Gene Suchma captured the action and rush of sport as bicyclists sprinted across the finish line at the end of a race in front of Strawberry Square in August 2005.

The work, featured on our cover this month (the uncropped, full image is below), was part of the Harrisburg-themed "The Burg" group exhibit, recently concluded at Gallery@Second.

Of the dozens of works featured in "The Burg" exhibit, four were selected to be covers for our newspaper. We selected Gene's painting because of its color, vibrancy and sense of movement, as well as its overall composition.

Those familiar with the Harrisburg art scene already may be familiar with Gene. His paintings, drawings and mixed media have appeared in many venues, including the Art Association of Harrisburg and the Susquehanna Art Museum. We recently asked Gene a few questions about his work.

TheBurg: Why did you choose a bike race as a subject for your work?

Gene: I had done a painting of a bike race, a montage of images, the previous year for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) as a fundraiser and thought the subject was interesting, so I decided to try again. In the new painting, I wanted to capture the moment in the race

when someone won. However, the scope of this picture proved to be much harder, and the painting took me such a long time that eventually I put it aside. After looking at it and thinking about it almost every time I worked in my studio, I finally decided to finish it a couple of years later.

TheBurg: What medium did you work in? Why?

Gene: I used acrylic paint and incorporated a collage of the digital photos I took of the race. The first-place racer is painted, but some of the rest, especially the ones in the rear, are collage. In my work, I like to try to see how close my rendering comes to the original photo image. Sometimes it's very close; other times it's way off. I'm exploring this technique in most of my work.

TheBurg: Why did you decide to submit that work to "The Burg" exhibit?

Gene: I am excited about the new galleries in town and wanted to be a part of what I see as a renaissance of fine art in Harrisburg, despite budget cutbacks and the economy. When Gallery@Second opened, I saw an opportunity to participate. Unfortunately, the only painting



Gene Suchma, in a recent photo, at work in his studio.

I still had of Harrisburg was the race picture. (I had sold a picture of Market Square in my "new" technique a year ago.) I was thrilled "Bike Race" was accepted into the show.

TheBurg: What other types of subjects and media do you enjoy working with?

Gene: I usually paint from digital photos I have taken on vacations. I like to explore patterns in rocks and movement of water. I recently have started manipulating my photos in Photoshop and use those images as the basis for my work. When I don't use acrylic and collage, I use watercolor and collage. For three-dimensional art, my favorite medium is papier maché.

TheBurg: Please provide some personal background for our readers.

Gene: I just retired from years of teaching art. I am continuing to do cartoons and illustrations while finally getting the time and energy to paint.

TheBurg: How can our readers find out more about you and your work?

Gene: I have a web site cartoonsandfineart.com.

Gene Suchma will be a featured artist at Gallery@Second from Sept. 23 to Oct. 30.



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The English Rose

To Bead or Not to Bead

Will she act or make jewelry? That is the question.

Lori Myers



Ellie Alayne on stage (top), and, samples of some of her jewelry (right).

Actress Ellie Alayne shamelessly admits that there's nothing dainty about her. Nothing. Except when a stage character she's playing demands her vulnerable/soft side. But the bracelets, necklaces and earrings she creates make no such demands.

"I create big chunky stuff!" Alayne explained. "Last fall, I was looking for a creative outlet that I could do quietly while sitting backstage during 'Richard III' (she played Lady Anne in Gamut Theatre's production). With the help of a former Gamut core company member, we came up with beading, so I tried it, and it has developed."

Acting and jewelry? According to Alayne, the two go perfectly together. After all, both are about creativity, about expressing oneself. And that's what talented and funny Alayne is all about.

Alayne's theater roots run deep within her midwest South Dakota upbringing, where she remembers having to travel three hours to see a touring musical. This self-proclaimed theater geek recalls how, one summer, she and her mother spent several weeks driving two hours both ways everyday

to attend a three-hour theater camp. Armed with a BFA in acting from the University of South Dakota, Alayne studied theater and English in London then worked with professional companies, including the Black Hills Playhouse, Theatre West Virginia and Nebraska Theatre Caravan. She had garnered stage roles that included Judith in "Hayfever," Hope in "Urinetown" and the Porter in "Macbeth." Now living in Harrisburg, where she's performed in "Julius Caesar," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Lysistrata" for Gamut Theatre, Alayne takes a sort of child-like delight in hopping a train to New York City and being amazed at Harrisburg's theater smorgasbord.

"When I see things like Capital Area School for the Arts (CASA) and numerous theater schools here for kids, I can feel my younger self get very, very jealous," she said. "My mom made sure I loved it before we spent all this time and money pursuing it. Luckily, I did love it, and my mom's encouragement fostered a love for theater inside me at a very young age."

All of that theater history makes Alayne feel safe when she's on stage, along with the art's collaborative nature. But jewelry? That's another story, because it's about being one-on-one with those beads.

"Creating a piece of jewelry from scratch and then watching people look it over and scrutinize it seems very exposed to me, yet so exciting! To be able to have people

who watch me on stage wear my creations is so cool to me. The core of who I am is about creation and individuality. Both of these art forms stay true to that statement."

There are differences between these art forms, of course. While a theatrical piece begins with a script, Alayne's jewelry starts with a color palette. While acting entails stretching those theatrical muscles over weeks of rehearsal and performances, bracelets and necklaces require the forming and bending of metal wire and metal clasps for an hour or two.

"I love combining colors and textures and I love when I find a bead and then I can SEE the piece I can create around it," she said. "I have been told I have the fastest beading hands this side of the Mississippi. I just think that I have an idea in my head that I need to create as fast as I can so I don't lose it."


Sometimes, Alayne will think of an outfit she has, realizes she has nothing to wear with it and then makes something to match. Other times, the beads themselves inspire her. So when it was time to come up with a name for her growing jewelry passion, Alayne didn't have to look any further than the stage lights. She named her company, "Buttercup Beads" from the character, Buttercup, that she had performed in the musical "HMS Pinafore"—a show she fell in love with.

"Theater and jewelry-making go hand-in-hand for me," she said. "They



are both forms of art and creation. I started making stuff for myself, and I still do. Every piece I create I would want to wear. Buttercup Beads is my little labor of love that has taken on a life I could have never imagined."

To contact Ellie Alayne about her jewelry, visit Buttercup Beads on Facebook or call 605-660-9688 or ellie1883@gmail.com.



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Happenings

Museums & Art Spaces

Antique Auto Museum at Hershey

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

"Muscle Car Mania," Detroit's muscle machines from the 1960s and '70s, through Sept. 6.

Art Association of Harrisburg

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

Art School Annual Exhibition, through Sept. 2.

Arthouse Lounge

217 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
717-236-2550; www.arthouselounge.com

"Censor This 2: Fetish & Fantasy," erotic photography by Michael Barone.

Arts at 510

510 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-724-0364; www.artsat510.com

Mixed media by Cheryl Piperberg and Clare Margaret; jewelry by Roxanne Toser. Reception, Aug. 20, 5:10–8 p.m.

Café di Luna

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

Featured artist: Nataki McNeal Bhatti.

Gallery@Second

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

Surrealist works by Lawrence von Barann and abstracts by James M. Krabiel, through Aug. 2.

Works by Linda Benton McCloskey and Adrienne Stein, Aug. 12–Sept. 18. Reception, Aug. 13, 6–9 p.m.

Gallery at Walnut Place

413 Walnut St., Harrisburg
717-233-0487

"Welcome to Our World," photography by Danny Houston. Reception, Aug. 20, 5–9 p.m.

Gallery Blu

1633 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-234-3009; www.galleryblu.org

"Pride," an exhibit featuring art from the LGBT community of Harrisburg and beyond, through Aug. 27. Reception: Aug. 20, 7–9 p.m.

Harrisburg 2010 History Center

Dauphin Deposit Bank Building, Harrisburg
210 Market St.; dauphincountyhistory.org

A point-in-time view of Harrisburg, circa 1860, through Oct. 2.

Harsco Science Center

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

"Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition," explores the ill-fated 1912 cruise, through Sept. 5.

HMAC/Stage on Herr

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

Various local and regional artists.

Mangia Qui

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

Artist of the month: Joanne Landis.

The Mantis Collective

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

Mixed media and photography by Garrick Dorsett, through Aug. 15.

Paintings by Janette Toth, Aug. 20–Sept. 12.

Midtown Scholar/Yellow Wall Gallery

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

"Remnant," works by Benjamin Thorpe, through mid-August.

"They Speak with Tiny Voices," works by Tara Chickey. Reception, Aug. 20, 6–9 p.m.

National Civil War Museum

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

"Spies Among Us," focuses on efforts to form spy networks on both sides, through Sept. 6.

Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

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

"Moments in Time," art using natural elements by Andy Goldsworthy, through Dec. 31.

Rose Lehrman Arts Center

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

"Desirable Objects," paintings by Casey Lard, through Aug. 12.

"Cloudscapes," paintings by Vincent Hron, Aug. 23–Sept. 17; lecture, reception, Sept. 2.

SPRAMA.gallery

308 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
717-238-1001; www.sprama.com

"Natalie Lock: Legacy," works of the renowned Harrisburg-area artist, through Sept. 6.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania

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

"Art of the State," a juried exhibition featuring 152 works by artists from 34 Pennsylvania counties, through Sept. 12.

"Voices of the Revolution," an exhibit commemorating the Civil Rights movement through woodcuts, poetry and more.

Susquehanna Art Museum

301 Market St., Harrisburg
717-233-8668; www.sqart.org

"People, Places and Things: A Celebration of Harrisburg's Artistic Heritage," Aug. 19–Jan. 2.

Dōshi Gallery: "Noir et Blanc," works by Florence Putterman, through Aug. 22; Juried Exhibition, Aug. 26–Sept. 26.

The Stage Door

Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse

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

"My Fair Lady," through Aug. 15

"Mid-Life: The Crisis Musical," opens Aug. 18

Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival

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

No shows scheduled for August.

Hershey Area Playhouse

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

No shows scheduled for August.

HMAC/Stage on Herr

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

"Soul Comedy Café," Aug. 8

Open Stage of Harrisburg

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

No shows scheduled for August.

Oyster Mill Playhouse

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

"The Lion in Winter," Aug. 20–Sept. 5

Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut

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

"Princess and the Pea," through Aug. 21

Theatre Harrisburg

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

No shows scheduled for August.

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3rd in The Burg: Aug. 20



Works by Clare Margaret and Cheryl Piperberg are featured at Arts at 510 this month for 3rd in The Burg. Among the exhibited works are Clare's oil painting, "Horses" (left), and Cheryl's colorful abstract collage, "Dance" (right). You can view the exhibit—and visit many more galleries and restaurants—on Friday, Aug. 20 for 3rd in The Burg, the monthly event featuring art, music and more at numerous venues around Harrisburg. For more information, see our back cover or visit 3rdinTheBurg.com.

Live Music around Harrisburg

Appalachian Brewing Co./Abbey Bar

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

Aug. 1: Guerilla Gardener Fundraiser w/Punk Rock Flea Market, Paper Tongue, Union Strike
Aug. 3: Ike Reilly Assassination w/Michael Males
Aug. 4: Infamous Stringdusters w/Cabinet
Aug. 6: Los Straitjackets
Aug. 9: Flatfoot 56 w/guests Kilmaine Saints
Aug. 13: Aaron Daniel Gaul
Aug. 14: Trypod
Aug. 20: Hackensaw Boys
Aug. 21: Mark Santanna
Aug. 27: Coney Island Cockabilly Roadshow

Carley's Ristorante and Piano Bar

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

Aug. 4: Andrew Bargh
Aug. 5: Chelsea Bowman
Aug. 6: Wade Preston
Aug. 11: Mark Zangrilli
Aug. 12: Giovanni Traino
Aug. 13: Ted Ansel
Aug. 14: Noel Gevers
Aug. 18: Chelsea Bowman
Aug. 19: Anthony Haubert
Aug. 20: Giovanni Traino
Aug. 21: Ted Ansel
Aug. 25: Andrew Bargh
Aug. 26: Giovanni Traino
Aug. 27: Ted Ansel
Aug. 28: Noel Gevers
Every Tuesday, Open Mic Night

Ceolta's Irish Pub

310 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
717-233-3202; www.ceoltasirishpub.com

Aug. 6: Natural 9
Aug. 21: Kenton Shelley Band
Aug. 27: Goodbye Horses

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

Aug. 20: Central PA Friends of Jazz Youth Allstar Band w/Butch Ross.

Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market Street, Camp Hill
www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Aug. 1: Kevin Kline
Aug. 6: Radar 5
Aug. 7: Shanna Rae
Aug. 8: Aaron Daniel Gau
Aug. 13: Phillip Freeman
Aug. 14: Womack and Lowery
Aug. 15: Andrew Bellanca and Friends
Aug. 20: Buckhill Aces
Aug. 21: Ruby and the Hummingbirds
Aug. 22: Kevin Kline
Aug. 27: Jeanine and Friends
Aug. 28: Trey Overholt
Aug. 29: Jazz Me

Cygnnet Studios/Conewago Coffeehouse

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

Aug. 6: Mike Rydock

Dragonfly Club/Spy Club

234 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
866-468-7619; www.dragonflyclub.com

Please contact the venue.

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HMAC/Stage on Herr

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

Aug. 1: Ryan Wickersham
Aug. 2: Adam Arcuragi and The Lupine Chorale Society
Aug. 3: The Jesse Maurer Jazz Quartet
Aug. 5: Jimmy Lafave
Aug. 6: Danny Miller Band w/Shanka
Aug. 7: Puffer Fish w/Bos Taurus and Adomo Drive
Aug. 12: Underground Saints
Aug. 13: Iain Matthews
Aug. 14: Hexbelt
Aug. 16: Mike Mains and The Branches
Aug. 19: Shannon Whitworth and Girls Guns & Glory
Aug. 20: Colebrook Road w/The Defibulators
Aug. 21: Dehli Low w/CASE 150 and Colebrook Road
Aug. 22: Tom Goss
Aug. 23: Mostly Dimes
Aug. 24: Vita Ruins
Aug. 26: Mike Banks and Special Guests
Aug. 27: Parallax Project w/Wayne Supergenius and Turning Violet Violet
Aug. 28: Eli Charleston
Aug. 29: Driving Vegas and My Rural Radio
Aug. 30: Music Makers Showcase Concert
Every Wednesday: Open Mic Night

Hollywood Casino at Penn National

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

Aug. 6: Vinyl Groove
Aug. 7: Echelon
Aug. 13: Honey Pump
Aug. 14: Rod Stewart Tribute and Restless
Aug. 20: Don Johnson Project
Aug. 21: Pentagon
Aug. 27: Uptown Band
Aug. 28: John King's Dance Band

Mangia Qui/Suba

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

Aug. 6: iNFiNiEn
Aug. 7: Kyle Morgan and The Back Road
Aug. 13: Flint Zeigler
Aug. 14: Honey Clover
Aug. 20: Phipps and Phriends
Aug. 21: Bucky's Brother
Aug. 27: Nate Myers and The Aces
Aug. 28: Batida

Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

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

Aug. 8: Music and performances for LGBT's Community Center's youth programs
Aug. 20: Lizanne Knott and Craig Bickhardt

The Midtown Tavern

1101 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
717-236-7583; themidtowntavern.com

Please contact the venue.

Morgan's Place

4425 N. Front St., Harrisburg
717-234-8103; www.morgans-place.com

Aug. 6: Kings & Queens
Aug. 7: New Experience
Aug. 13: Jewett Brothers
Aug. 14: Not Guilty
Aug. 20: Shea Quinn
Aug. 21: Strange Eden
Aug. 27: Don Johnson Project
Aug. 28: Black Mountain Jack

Ski Roundtop

925 Roundtop Rd., Lewisburg
www.skiroundtop.com; 717-432-9631

Aug. 6: Hot Wing Jones
Aug. 7: Deeze Church
Aug. 13: Indian Summer Jars
Aug. 14: Ric LeBlanc
Aug. 20: Copper Sky
Aug. 21: Hot Wing Jones
Aug. 27: Indian Summer Jars
Aug. 28: Tuckahoe Ridge

Stock's on 2nd

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

Aug. 7: Cruise Control
Aug. 14: Funktion with Robin McLellan
Aug. 21: 5th Element
Aug. 28: Shea Quinn and Steve Swisher

TuesdayBluesday

Der Maennerchor, 221 North St., Harrisburg
www.tuesdaybluesday.com

No shows scheduled for August.

Whitaker Center

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

Aug. 20: Horse Feathers
Aug. 21: John Edward Group

Other Highlights

Aug. 1: Star Gazing. Astronomical observing starts at dusk every Sunday night through Aug. 29, weather permitting. Free. The Astronomical Society of Harrisburg's Naylor Observatory, 670 Observatory Dr., Lewisberry.

Aug. 6: Lancaster First Friday. Lancaster highlights its arts and gallery community in this citywide event. lancasterarts.com

Aug. 7: Wild Edibles. Join Kermit Henning for an entertaining program about local plants that are edible by humans. Wildwood Park, 1-3 p.m. Cost: \$5. forthunter.org

Aug. 11: Food Summit. Harrisburg University hosts a food summit that examines the impact of the pending federal Food Safety and Modernization Act. 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Harrisburg University, 326 Market St. Tickets are \$35. Call 717-236-4300.

Aug. 15: Fifth Annual Polo Event. Central PA Chapter of the National MS Society holds its annual polo fundraiser. Gates open at noon, Hempt Farm Polo Field, Mechanicsburg. \$25 admission per car. pac.nationalMSsociety.org

Aug. 20-21: The HoPo Road Show. Crafts vendors show and sell their wares outside the Broad Street Market. thehodgepodgery.com

Aug. 27-29: West Hanover Celebration. West Hanover Township marks its 225th anniversary with a weekend of music, food, dance and fun. westhanoveronline.com

Lectures, Readings & Classes

The HodgePodgery

1100 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-236-0150; www.thehodgepodgery.com

Aug. 14: Alterations and Notions, 12-2 p.m.

Aug. 20: Candle-making for 3rd in The Burg.

Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

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

Aug. 28: Judy Coopey signs copies of her historical novel "Redfield Farm," set in Bedford County, Pa., 2 p.m.

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Out of Clay

Throw it Here: Pottery Studio, Shop Set to Open in August

Robert Cappelutti dabbled in various artistic mediums throughout his life while he made his living for 35 years in the corporate world. Then he decided to retire to pursue his long-held passion—pottery.

On Aug. 16, Cappelutti and his daughter Lauren (pictured), will open Riverbottom Pottery at 3809 Paxton St. next to the TecPort Office Complex. Cappelutti promises a unique experience for artists and would-be artists.

"You can't find anything that has a pottery class, a work shop, consignment shop, a retail shop and studio rentals," he said. "It'll be a one-stop shop."

A research analyst by trade—he has degrees in biology and chemistry—Cappelutti is a native of New York. Five years ago, work brought him to the area, and he moved into a home in Shipoke.

Cappelutti has been offering one-on-one lessons at his home studio, but now those, along with group classes, will be conducted at Riverbottom, where students can learn ceramic, pottery, raku pottery, sculpting and, his specialty, hand-thrown pottery.

Students will learn all aspects of the craft, from the technique of clay throwing to the science behind firing in the kiln, he said. Classes will be tailored to specific needs, such as senior workshops, aspiring artists and special needs, Lauren said.

"What I'm hoping to do is more charitable events, such as work with children with autism, to see if we can help the community," she said.

The shop has separate rooms for glazing, the kilns, studio space rentals, galleries and 12 pottery wheels. The retail store offers an array of supplies, including tools for clay molding and sculpting.

"We want to give people the opportunity to work with pottery," Cappelutti said.

Riverbottom Pottery, 3809 Paxton St., 614-0317, riverbottompottery.com

—Peter Durantine



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How about Fishing?

Explore a few spots made just for kids.

Pamela Waters

The Harrisburg area is bursting with all kinds of experiences, from sporting events to artistic opportunities to historic locales. Turn the pages of TheBurg, and you will find more happenings than you could possibly fit into one month.

If you have children, though, you may have to work a little harder to find new outings for them. So, TheBurg will be occasionally highlighting unique ideas for kids and families in our area.

This month, the dog days of summer suggest Huck Finn walking down to the fishing hole with a rod over his shoulder. Two trout-stocked fishing spots in the Harrisburg area are especially suited to the smallest fishermen, because they offer more than fish.

Children's Lake in Boiling Springs is a spring-fed oasis offering boating, picnicking and historic surroundings. For spontaneous anglers, the nearby Getty station sells hooks, bait and other fishing necessities. When casting into the lake, be cautious about the many ducks that are conditioned to expect food from humans. Hooking a fuzzy duckling is definitely not part of a successful outing!

Another interesting place to fish with youngsters is the portion of Clark's Creek from the Route 225 bridge in Dauphin to the next bridge upstream. This portion of the creek is designated specifically for children and adults with disabilities. Here, parents do not need a fishing license to help, as long as the child is actively involved in the fishing.

Clark's Creek offers an opportunity to wade on a hot day. On a recent trip, there were small children playing with the rocks that cover the creek bottom.

Surrounding trees can be a casting hazard, as the segments of fishing line dangling from various branches attest, but the

shade they offer is welcome. Poison ivy is plentiful here, so know how to spot it.

Of course, the best time to fish in trout-stocked waters is in mid-April, soon after the trout have been added. Mid-summer fishing trips are less likely to provide dinner, but kids can still enjoy the ducks, the rocks and the adventure.

Do you have a favorite off-the-beaten-path outing for families in the Harrisburg area? Email info@theburgnews.com with your ideas.



Pamela Waters is a freelance writer who lives in Hummelstown.

New Library Opens in Hummelstown

Dauphin County Library System dedicated a new library in Hummelstown on July 21, named for William H. and Marion C. Alexander.

The library, at 200 W. 2nd St., is nearly four times the size of the former facility on John Street. It is 13,000 square feet, offers 27 public use computers and almost 38,000 items for borrowing.

Some key features include space for expanded collections, four community meeting rooms, an area for teens with three computers, ADA accessibility, a green roof, on-site parking and an outdoor plaza.

It's Trash for Cash for Area Students

John Harris High School students this year collected 10,160 pieces of waste for the purpose of re-using, earning them \$203.20 as part of a "trash for cash" program.

The program, called TerraCycle Brigades, pays schools 2 cents for each piece of non-recyclable and recyclable waste, like chip bags, cookie wrappers, milk or glue bottles, juice pouches, writing instruments, etc., they collect. It is then sent to the waste-repurposing company, TerraCycle, which uses the items to make new products.

Other area schools that participated include:

- William Penn High School
- Cornell Abraxas School
- Cathedral Consolidated School
- Paxtonia Elementary
- Camp Curtin School
- Holy Name of Jesus School

David Lloyd, coordinator of the program at John Harris, said the money raised would go toward classroom projects.

Solar Panels Light HACC Urban Meadow

A solar panels project in the Urban Meadow at HACC's Midtown campus has been producing energy since the switch was flipped earlier this summer by HACC President Edna Baehre and Chris Flynn of the Sustainable Energy Fund.

The 3kW solar photovoltaic system is tied to the PPL grid. The meter runs backward as it collects solar energy, then expends that energy at night to illuminate pedestrian lighting in the Urban Meadow and adjacent parking lots for HACC students and faculty.

The project, funded by a \$15,000 grant from SEF, was a training lab for students in sustainability and further strengthened the partnerships between HACC and central Pennsylvania business and industry that worked with the students.




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Flee, Fleas!

Those tiny buggers often can be controlled naturally.

Kristen Zellner

We are well into flea season and, for many pet owners, that means the battle is in full swing. It isn't fun watching our furry friends scratch, bite and rub themselves raw.

There are hundreds of flea control products on the market to choose from. Shampoos, powders, sprays, wipes, dips, pills and drops line pet store shelves. The type of treatment you choose depends on the lifestyle of your pet, your budget and the severity of the problem. If your pets stay indoors, you may not have as much of a problem as someone who takes their dogs hiking or lets their cats roam.

Although topical flea control drops are sometimes necessary, they can be very harmful. Users of these products have reported skin irritations, burns, hair loss and even seizures in their pets. If you must use topical treatments, limit them to the warmer months and discontinue their use in the winter, when fleas are less of a problem. Always use the correct dosage on the appropriate animal.

Flea combing your pet daily

is a safer way to remove the pests. Concentrate on areas at the base of the tail and around the neck. These are favorite flea hideouts. When you catch fleas, simply scrape them into a dish full of soapy water. They will drown.

Most fleas live in a pet's environment, rather than in its fur. One flea can lay 60 eggs per day in carpets, curtains, upholstery and bedding. Weekly vacuuming and washing of animal bedding will help eliminate the flea population. After vacuuming, replace the bag. Doing this, in conjunction with bathing the animals, is the most effective way to stop the problem.

Understanding the risk of using chemicals on pets, some companies have developed natural flea control products that are much safer. For instance, sprays with neem oil are very effective in warding off fleas and other biting insects. These products may not kill the fleas, but they will repel them. However, be aware that, even if the ingredients in a product are natural, this doesn't ensure that they won't be toxic to your pet. Read ingredients and

precautions very carefully before purchasing. Furthermore, if the instructions tell you not to touch the product yourself, chances are that it isn't safe for your pet.

If your cat or dog has a severe flea problem, it's often a sign of poor health. Many commercial pet foods are nutritionally inadequate and contain harmful additives and by-products. By feeding pets a higher quality, natural diet, free of additives and preservatives, you can improve their health and dramatically increase their protection from fleas. Healthy animals do not taste as good to fleas.

Most importantly, gather as much information about flea control products before you buy. Don't hesitate to call the companies and ask questions. It's senseless to use products that will harm your pets as you are trying to help them.



Kristen Zellner is the owner of Abrams & Weakley General Store for Animals in Harrisburg.

Annual Fundraiser: Pasta & Barbershop

"Pasta: Barbershop Style" is Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, 2701 N. 3rd St. The Keystone Capital Chorus serves up a complete baked lasagna dinner, followed by an hour-long show featuring the award-winning chorus and its quartets.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m., the show at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 (adults) and \$10 (children 10 and younger) from chorus members or call 695-7527.

Friends of Midtown Hosts Summer Social

Friends of Midtown hosts its Summer Social, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, Aug. 13 at Moviate/Mantis Collective Gallery, 1306 N. 3rd St.

Guests will enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, a film, art and more. Contact Devan Drabik at devandrabik@hotmail.com.

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Schools Open Amid Change

Elected school board back in charge.

TheBurg Staff

Harrisburg City schools open for class Aug. 30 after a tumultuous summer that has brought enormous change to the 8,100-student district.

Most notably, the school system once again is in the hands of city residents, as the elected school board re-gained control of the district on July 1.

For a decade, a mayor-appointed Board of Control has made most decisions for the district, while the elected school board was largely marginalized. In 2000, a state law gave the Board of Control a 10-year mandate to improve the school system, then failing by almost any measure.

As its first act, the newly empowered school board passed an austere \$137.5 million budget for the 2010-11 school year that slashed more than 100 professional jobs throughout the system, though most cuts were not for classroom teachers. The board also shuttered the historic William Penn School and Steele Elementary School.

The board then named Audrey Utley the district's acting superintendent, but she soon announced that she would leave her post. A search now is on for a permanent school chief.

As of press time, the future of Harrisburg High School's popular football coach, George Chaump, remained up in the air. As part of its cost-cutting, the school board eliminated his full-time position of assistant athletic director, while

retaining his part-time coaching slot, which pays just \$7,500 a year and offers no benefits.

Chaump has said he would continue to coach football this year, but still hopes to address the school board at its August meeting. He has proposed retaining the assistant AD position at least through the end of the football season.

Finally, city property owners will pay more in school taxes this year. The district's school tax has increased by the cap of 4.4 percent to \$26.31 per \$1,000 assessed property valuation.

Harrisburg U. Names Dolan Board Chair



Robert J. Dolan was named the new chair of the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology board of trustees.

A resident of Elizabethtown, Dolan is chairman of the board for Conrad Siegel Actuaries in Harrisburg.

The university also named new board members: Emily Stover DeRocco, Dan Schwab, Dr. Stephen Tang and Dr. David S. Weir.

Dolan is a founding board member at the university and has served as vice chair of the board. He replaces outgoing board Chair R. Timothy Weston.



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The King of the Forest

The American chestnut mounts a human-assisted comeback.

Kermit G. Henning

The majestic American chestnut, once the primary tree species in more than 188 million acres of eastern woodlands, reigned supreme as the most valuable tree from Maine to Florida.

Estimates of more than 4 billion trees once dominated the eastern forests. Growing up to 150 feet high and 10 feet in diameter, the chestnut was much more coveted as a timber tree than the oak. The strong, straight-grained wood was used in hundreds of applications, from furniture to split-rail fences and house construction to telephone poles. It was once known as a cradle-to-grave tree—the wood being used for everything from cradles to caskets. Used as firewood, chestnut produces very little smoke, making it a favorite to fuel the illegal whiskey stills in the Appalachians. If the revenuers didn't see the smoke, they couldn't find the stills.

Each year, the chestnuts produced huge crops of nuts with enormous economic value. Schools and factories often closed when the chestnuts dropped so kids and adults could reap the harvest. Gathered by the bushels, they were more important a food crop than wheat. They also were a food source for most wildlife, including deer, bear, turkeys and grouse, even the extinct passenger pigeon.

As prolific as it once was, the native American chestnut

has virtually disappeared from its former range. In the late 19th century, a chestnut blight fungus was accidentally introduced to North America, either by infected chestnut lumber or chestnut trees. The fungus, *Cryphonectria parasitica*, is wind-borne and enters the trees through breaks in the bark or stems, eventually spreading to the tree's inner cambium layer and wood, killing the tree within two years. Only the above-ground parts of the trees were affected, leaving a healthy root system, which continues to send up sprouts that also succumb to the blight.

By the late 1940s, the blight had practically wiped out the American chestnut, causing a dramatic reduction in the tree population in the east. Biologists have been trying ever since to produce blight-resistant trees to replace the tremendous loss.

The American Chestnut Foundation was founded by a group of plant scientists in 1984 in Minnesota. Today, the Foundation has chapters in 15 states, with thousands of volunteers dedicated to breeding a blight-resistant American chestnut tree and eventually reintroducing the tree to the forests of the eastern United States.

In 1989, the ACF established a breeding station in Virginia and

began cross-breeding American chestnuts with Chinese chestnuts, which are naturally immune to the blight, resulting in trees that were 50 percent American. These new trees were again backcross bred to produce 75 percent pure American trees. After a six-step cross-breeding program, experts are hopeful that the result will be an American chestnut tree with no characteristics of the Chinese tree except the blight resistance.

The end goal is a return of the towering giants we once had, growing tall and straight, rather than the lower, branched, spreading tendency of the Chinese variety. Today, there are more than 34,000 trees planted in the Virginia nursery at various stages of breeding. Blight-resistant nuts were first harvested in 2005, and the foundation hopes soon to begin reforestation trials with blight-resistant trees.

There are now regional breeding programs going on in 16 eastern states, helping to preserve the regional diversity of the original trees. The Pennsylvania chapter, headquartered at Penn State, has more than 16 local nurseries, including one at the Boyd Big Tree Preserve on Fishing Creek Valley Road in Dauphin County.

According to Alex Day, president of the PA Chapter, this nursery, like



Coming back? The majestic American chestnut tree, in close up.

all the Pennsylvania sites, uses only Pennsylvania trees in its orchards so that the end result—blight-free trees—can be planted anywhere in the state. As long as the many volunteers continue their vigilance and long-term dedication, hope is real that the "King of the Forest" will return to the eastern woodlands.

For more information about The American Chestnut Foundation, visit their website at www.acf.org.



Kermit G. Henning, host of *abc27 Outdoors TV*, is a past president of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association and a member of

the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

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State Sen. Jeff Piccola (center) joined state Agriculture Secretary Russell C. Redding (far right) and young men mentored by the Joshua Group who are planting an urban garden along a tract of land by the State Farm Show Building. The men sell the produce they grow, allowing them to earn money, learn skills and develop character. Joshua Group, an Allison-Hill-based Christian organization, shelters, mentors and teaches at-risk young people. Their farm stand will operate during harvest season and is expected to include beans, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce.

Lower that Blood Pressure

Reducing hypertension is vital for good health, long life.

Dr. John Goldman

A recent Institute of Medicine report described high blood pressure or hypertension as one of America's neglected diseases. Hypertension is deadly, costly and all too common.

Hypertension increases the incidence of heart attacks, strokes, congestive heart failure and kidney failure. Treating hypertension and its side effects cost the American healthcare system \$73 billion annually. High blood pressure is either directly or indirectly responsible for approximately one-sixth of all deaths each year in the United States.

Most Americans who live long enough will develop an elevated blood pressure that requires treatment. One-third of Americans and two-thirds of people over 65 have a blood pressure that is too high. Consequently, the Institute of Medicine recommended a population-based approach for the prevention of hypertension. This approach suggests simple lifestyle modifications.

These modifications include weight loss in people who are obese, a healthy diet, moderate exercise and limiting alcohol intake. Obesity is one the most common risk factors for high blood pressure. As a first step, one should aim for a body mass index of less than 25. This corresponds to a weight of about 175 pounds for a 5-foot-10-inch man and 145 pounds for a 5-foot-4-inch woman. Unfortunately, an increasing number of Americans are already at a weight that increases their risk of developing high blood pressure. The good news is even small weight loss can lower the blood pressure and provide a benefit.

Another common risk factor is salt intake. The typical American consumes 5-7 grams of salt per day. A patient with hypertension should consume 1-2 grams of salt. This drastic reduction can only be accomplished by reading labels and modifying your eating habits. Salt is

added to almost all pre-packaged foods, fast foods and restaurant foods. Throwing away the salt shaker is not enough.

In addition to cutting down on salt, a diet that is high in potassium and calcium is recommended. This is typically achieved by a diet that is high in fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy products and low in saturated fats. For most of us, this means avoiding fast food, avoiding fried foods and increasing our intake of fruit and vegetables (at least four to five servings) per day.

Patients with hypertension should also engage in moderate exercise—at least 30 minutes of brisk walking on most days of the week. One does not have to run a marathon. Just going for a short walk each night after dinner will help you lose weight, lower your stress and lower your blood

pressure.

Finally, people should limit their alcohol intake. Men should have no more than two drinks per day and women no more than one. Any more than these amounts increase both your risk of developing high blood pressure and your overall mortality. Remember, you cannot save the drinks up during the week and binge on the weekend.

Hypertension is so common that it is now recommended that all Americans adopt these simple measures to prevent this life threatening illness.



Dr. John Goldman is the Program Director of Internal Medicine at PinnacleHealth.

New Alumni Director

Ryan T. Riley was named Harrisburg University's director of Development and Alumni Relations.

He manages all aspects of the university's Annual Fund Program for individual and corporate constituencies, leads the development and implementation of alumni relations outreach and engagement and manages the university's Donor Relations/Stewardship programs.

Riley also helps lead the \$40 million fundraising campaign, "CONNECT: The Campaign for Harrisburg University."

Reed to Teach a Class

Former Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed will join the corporate faculty of Harrisburg University this fall as a part of the school's entrepreneurship in residence program. He will lead a seminar on how entrepreneurship can play a role in politics.

HIA Traffic Ascends

Nearly 126,000 people flew to or from Harrisburg International Airport during June 2010—an increase of 9.6 percent compared to June 2009.

More service and competitive fares were credited for the increase in travel, said HIA. American Eagle, AirTran Airways, United, Delta and Air Canada all posted increases in traffic while US Airways and Continental were off slightly.

June 2010 was the second busiest ever for the terminal building complex, which opened in 2004, said HIA.

New Music Director for Youth Symphony



Tara Simoncic

Tara Simoncic has been appointed Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra's new assistant conductor. She also was named the Harrisburg Youth Symphony's

music director, replacing Dr. Ronald Schafer, who had directed the symphony for 42 years.

Simoncic came aboard in late June. She had been music director of the Norwalk Youth Symphony in Norwalk, Conn., where she built the program from four orchestras to six, adding a mid-level orchestral winds training ensemble, as well as a level chamber orchestra that performs free concerts in the surrounding communities.

Simoncic's experience includes conductor of the Flexible Orchestra in New York and cover conductor for the Manhattan School of Music.



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One More Thing ...

A Time to Heal

Let's put aside divisions and work for the common good.

Linda Thompson

If I could reduce the needs of Harrisburg into a few short words, it would be "time to heal."

Heal the political divides that often let pride and emotion get in the way of real progress. Heal the social and cultural issues that allow fellow citizens to dislike one another based on skin color, social class or even who and how we love those we hold dearest to our hearts. Heal the financial wounds that threaten to stunt our growth as a community and have caused panic and fighting among those of us too shaken by the large numbers to react with calm and purpose.

When I was first elected mayor, I felt it a great honor and viewed it as a tremendous responsibility. I had specific courses of action to tackle crime in the streets, financial troubles and educational needs for citizens young and old. We have started implementing those changes and on many fronts we are winning the day.

Perhaps the challenge I underestimated was the emotional earthquake Harrisburg had suffered.

The stress of the financial times and the political battle that had to be waged to effect change had left us all on shaky ground. There was a need for calm, a need for healing, so that we could come together.

Often, when there is a change in government from members who have held office for long periods of time, there is a power void, an uncertainty. It is no one's fault, but it affects us all and is part of the human condition. Fear of the unknown.

Much of my plan to bring police into the neighborhoods, offer educational opportunities for adults looking for a better job and a better life, working with those who are partners in our financial challenges, helping home renters become home owners, is working and shows promise of a better day for Harrisburg.

Still the aftershocks of our emotional earthquake remain and can spread fear and misunderstanding.

All this said, it seems obvious to me that the details of what we

do from here are in place and, while progress can be incremental, it is still progress. But we must go back to the start of our emotional tremors as a community and reinforce that we are in this together. That we can get through this or any other challenge. That our goals are the same—quality education for our children, safe streets for us all, financial opportunity to those who wish to work and invest, fiscal responsibility and transparency to those who pay taxes, as much energy in our neighborhoods as in our business corridors and the understanding that there have been emotional and financial wounds that must be healed.

I have mentioned in the past that, as a new mayor, the financial challenges we face were part of a difficult inheritance. In my time as mayor, I have grown to see that, while these problems existed before I took office, they have always belonged to all of us who call Harrisburg home. All of us, myself included, need not look to the past and let anger and regret rule the day.

We need to look forward and allow ourselves to heal so we can do what is right, not what is easy. Healing, of course, does not mean an absence of difficult choices, but it does mean a constant reinforcement of our strength as a family and that we can get through this or any other challenge.



Linda Thompson is the mayor of Harrisburg.

The writer's views are her own and are not necessarily shared or endorsed by TheBurg.

TheBurg welcomes thoughtful commentary from our government, business and cultural leaders.

Letters

I realize that, like many major cities, Harrisburg is currently struggling to meet its financial obligations. However, I believe there are many credible ways that new revenue can be found.

We have an eclectic assortment of European and Asian eateries, and friendly bars and sidewalk cafés. Yet, our parking garages lack revenue. Perhaps we have made street parking too cheap and available to those who come to our city to play. Why should this thriving city offer free meter parking on Saturdays and Friday evenings to those who enjoy spending their weekends in our city?

City Council acted too hastily when they decided to enact an antiquated parking ordinance that had never been enforced (perhaps since its conception, but most certainly during the 30 years I have owned property on South Street). The solution to increased revenue is not going to be found by imposing additional taxes and meter charges to residents who are issued residential parking permits.

We all want what is best for our city. Let's work together rather than being divisive and losing the trust of the residents.

Eugenio M. Albano
Harrisburg

Just wanted to let you know how much Jean and I enjoy TheBurg.

Nevin J. Mindlin
Harrisburg

Always so wonderful to see a new edition of TheBurg. By the by, the little article on the 2nd and Chestnut Peanut Shop ("Then and Now," June 2010, p. 13) ... thought I'd mention that during the late '70s and early '80s it became a Mother's Submarines and Specialties Shop. I managed it for about three years until 1980.

We always make sure to have copies of TheBurg available in the Writing Center at HACC and encourage our students to read. So much cool stuff in there about all of the cultural and fun activities available. Wish all of that had been available when I lived in the city.

Deb Helwig
Dillsburg

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