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The Signs Of Our Times

By Michael Ortoski

OUR COMMUNITIES - Step back, take a deep breath and turn off the media drama for a break!

I know it hard to do because it's every where you go but stressing out will not help. This virus according to the CDC 'has to run it's course,' the best thing we can do is contain it. If we all work together we can get this done.

This is a good time to connect with family, friends and loved ones thru phone, e-mail, social media and discuss positive things that will happen in the near future.

With that said we do have to stay prepared. The following is from Lamont G. McClure Northampton County Executive.

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L-R Senator Mario Scavello and his chief of staff Taylor Munoz

Thank You Taylor Munoz and Good Luck!

By Michael Ortoski

PEN ARGYL - My friend Taylor Munoz from Mario Scavello's office who served as chief of staff will be leaving to become the new Pocono Township Manager. Munoz at 30 years old will be the youngest Pocono Township manager to date.

Munoz has served as chief of staff for Scavello since December of 2014. Having grown up in the area for over 20 years and also having served three years on the Pocono Township Planning Commission Munoz said "It's like a homecoming."

Taylor and I sat together on the Friends of Minsi Lake committee which he was very passionate about being an outdoors man. He has been a very big advocate for both Northampton County and Monroe thru his career and we are going to miss him.

"Taylor Muñoz has been my Chief of Staff since starting in the Senate five years ago. Taylor has represented me at countless meetings, Eagle Scout ceremonies, and events throughout the 40th Senatorial District. Taylor has been a true steward in making tough decisions with the compassion to listen to the needs of others. I am blessed to have many great staff members over my years serving the Commonwealth and Taylor had been one of the best. Therefore, it is bittersweet to see him go" said Mario Scavello."

Munoz lives in Saylorburg with wife, Devin, and seven-month-old son, Landon.

Community Takes Pride in Fixing Up Their Downtown



By Laura McClain / Slate Belt Chamber

BANGOR - Last month the Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce, Bangor Borough and Bangor Historic Business Association met to discuss the vacant storefronts. Since that meeting the SBCC has been doing some research to provide to our local property owners.

Our towns of today aren't filled with tumbleweeds, instead they are our main streets, filled with empty stores. Across the country, physical stores struggle to compete with online commerce. The trend is taking place in both large and small towns. Online stores have permanently changed our buying habits and now they are beginning to change the habits of landlords

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Letter to the Editor

More Flu Thoughts

Bob Dylan once said "A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom." At this point in time I'm not quite sure whether the key word in that quote is responsibility or freedom. Being responsible means not relying on others for things you can and should be doing yourself. It requires a certain level of discipline and maybe even discomfort. It is not the job of the government to feed you or give you medical care. I have heard people say that medical care is a human right but if doctors don't grow on trees or work for free, your right would be a serious inconvenience for them and that is just not fair. Earning money is no fun but how else will you pay your taxes? And once they are paid, you can buy food and clothes and pay for shelter for your family with what's left over. There is almost always too much month left at the end of the money so stockpiling supplies is not easy even if you know it is your responsibility to do so.

Everyone has a smart phone today and that is one of the most helpful devices ever created. It is also one of the most insidious devices ever to get in our hands. The amount of information available is mindboggling and if you get your information from the wrong place, you may actually be less intelligent than if you threw the phone in the river and used your own head.

I should probably stick to my usual topics but I'm a little bit ashamed of the way some people have been acting during this coronavirus problem. By now I'm pretty sure that every single one of us has been inconvenienced by this bug in one way or another and it is nowhere near over yet. Being inconvenienced is about a 1 on a scale of 10 and yet some people are losing their minds over it. Panic buying makes no sense at all but it is all over social media and that keeps it spiraling upward. Business and school closures create some very serious scheduling problems with regard to employment. That may have lasting financial effects on a family unless we can take a tax credit for being quarantined. Ignoring recommendations to stay home will lead to government intervention and a more dangerous environment in public. Remember, this is a viral flu, not the black plague.

Be a hero and take responsibility for yourself and your family and prepare for limited contact with the outside world.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. and writes a weekly column in the Blue Valley Times (page 6).



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