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Scouts Donate to Portland Food Pantry
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Left Guest speaker Rep. Joe Emrick
"It seems that for many young people, heroes are made in Hollywood where movies glamorize and offer romantic images of war. But in the real world, our great veterans will tell you there is nothing glamorous about the sacrifices they made."

Veterans Day

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - For the first time in over 20 years WWII Veteran Donald Jones was not the MC for the Veterans Day event this year held at the VFW hall in Bangor. At 97 years old "It's time to pass the torch to some one else" said Donald Jones. "I've always loved meeting the community there each year to honor all the men and women who protect this great country every day, but my health says its time."

Gene Trigiani who assisted Jones for years took over the MC duty "I have big shoes to fill" said Trigiani and then announced that all further VFW Veterans Day events will be held at the VFW Post in Bangor. "We just can't trust 'Mother Nature from year to year."

Rev. Larry Laine gave the Invocation, Bangor Mayor Brooke Kerzner and Roseto Mayor Joe Angelini each gave welcome speeches to a full house.

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Merchants Bank Partners With Ymca To Support Pre-K Counts And Facility Expansion

By Susan Kovacs

PEN ARGYL - Merchants Bank partnered with the Greater Valley YMCA to support the expansion of the Slate Belt facility and its Pre-K Counts program. The Pre-K Counts program is offered to children ages 3 and 4 and whose families have incomes 300% below the poverty line. The program is 100% subsidized by the Greater Valley YMCA and through grants offered by Keystone STARS.

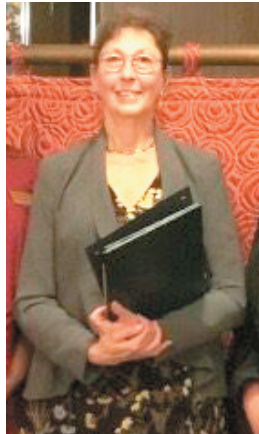
"We had the privilege of touring the educational facility at The Forks Education Center. The quality of the programs, the parent engagement, and the care provided by the team is truly impressive, says Sandee Kennedy, Vice President, Community Development & Public Relations Officer. She adds Merchants Bank is proud to support their mission and the children they service throughout the Lehigh Valley."



Continued on page 2 L-R David Fagerstrom, Mark Jobes, Rocco Del Vecchio, Jim Hunter



Business Person of the Year Carl Tolino



Volunteer of the Year Melissa Hough

SBCC Annual Business Person & Volunteer of the Year

BANGOR - The Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce was pleased to announce the 2019 Business Person of the Year Carl Tolino and Volunteer of the Year Melissa Hough at their annual banquet this year at Broadway Pub in Bangor.

Carl Tolino of Tolino Vineyard

Carl and his four children have done an outstanding job in business and service. Since 2013, Carl and his four children, Mandy, Carl, Liz & Mark have grown a breathtaking vineyard with excellent wine, opened in Stroudsburg and Easton Public Market as well as hold Friday night community events on the property and even fundraising events. Carl also has Tolino Fuel Service which employs over 65 local full and part time positions and is dedicated to the local community.

Melissa Hough Slate Belt Heritage Center

Melissa has been a driving force behind preserving a historical legacy for the residents of

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SBCC Annual Business Person & Volunteer of the Year

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the entire Slate Belt. As President of the Slate Belt Heritage Center she works countless hours obtaining grants, cataloging relics and mementos, setting up displays, speaking at numerous clubs, attending workshops and regional meetings in an effort to enhance the historical aspect of the Slate Belt. Melissa assisted the Borough of Bangor in acquiring "Historical Status" and also assisted in developing a "Walking Historical" venue.

Greater Valley YMCA

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"Day in and day out, the Greater Valley YMCA is committed to providing quality educational programming for all families throughout the Valley, regardless of background or financial ability. Merchants Bank's generous partnership through EITC investment dollars helps the YMCA ensure these opportunities for even more families and children in need," says Kate Cohen, MPA, Chief Development Officer.

Slate Belt Expansion

Earlier this year, the Slate Belt Branch of the Greater Valley YMCA broke ground on the construction to add a new pool, gymnasium, and childcare wing. The Bank not only assisted in funding the project with a loan but contributed another \$25,000 donation toward the capital campaign.

"The importance of the expansion is to aid the growth and development of the community, which is a cornerstone of our mission, says Mark P. Jobes, Senior Vice President, Chief Banking Officer. We see the value that the Slate Belt YMCA offers the community and believe in reinforcing them in their execution of a similar mission. In total, the Bank committed to a \$50,000 donation over five years; \$25,000 for the capital campaign and \$25,000 in EITC funding," added Jobes.

Northampton County: City of Easton to Close PA 611 to Install Sewer Line

By Ronald Young / PEN DOT

The City of Easton PA 611/North Delaware Drive Between Bushkill Drive and Lafayette Street will be closing PA 611 from 7 AM on Nov. 12th to 4:30 PM on Nov. 14th to install a sanitary sewer line. Traffic will be detoured on Lafayette Street, Cattell Street, College Avenue, 3rd Street and Bushkill Street. Expect delays and please use caution driving through the area. Start date: 11/12/19, Est completion date: 11/14/19.



Work will continue in Easton and will be closing PA 611 from 7 AM on Nov. 18th to 4 PM on Nov. 20th to install a sanitary sewer line. Traffic will be detoured on Lafayette Street, Cattell Street, College Avenue, 3rd Street and Bushkill Street. Expect delays and please use caution driving through the area. Start date: 11/18/19, Est completion date: 11/20/19.

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Blue Valley Times

900 N. Main Street., Bangor, PA 18013

Published Weekly/Every Tuesday

Available on the web 24/7 at www.bluevalleytimes.com and Facebook

Phone: 610-452-9234
Email: bvtimes@rcn.com

News / Advertising Deadline
12 noon Fridays

Owner - Michael Ortoski / Michele Hanna
Publisher - Michael Ortoski
Sales - Michael Ortoski
Asst. Editor - Anne Brown

Graphic Design / Photography - MM4 Corp
Feature Writers - Peg R. Berger
Interns from Pen Argyl, Bangor and
Stroudsburg H.S.

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Blue Valley Times