

# Blue Valley Times

**FREE** SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.  
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**Mission Of Love**  
 \$10,500 in Donations  
 page 5



**Freeman Tilden Award**  
 page 4



**HBBA Holiday Event**  
 page 2



**Tyber Medical Unveils New Facility**  
 page 7



## Totts Gap Arts Open House

By Michael Ortoski  
 UPPER MT. BETHEL - For the first time Totts Gap Arts (TGA) held their Open House at Bangor middle school to accommodate more visitors to see their students shine! It was a day of dance & theater performances, along with an art show and film presentation, they attracted over 260 visitors.

"We're trying something different this year to make it possible for everyone to see the performances of these talented students" said Jim Gloria Director and co-founder of TGA. The dance room at TGA only holds about 100 people.

About 100 pieces of art were on display from TGA adult and childrens work of paintings, drawing and ceramics.

A presentation of short films & exercises by film students: Ben Kanofsky, Sam Lovet led off the program in the theatre.

Angeline Gloria head dance instructor and co-founder of TGA and her instructors put on 14 different numbers for the audience consisting of

*Continued on page 8*



## Roseto Breakfast With Santa & Mrs. Clause

By Michael Ortoski  
 ROSETO - Columbia Fire Co. Hosted their annual 'Breakfast with Santa' on Saturday for residents of their small borough. Presents for each child were given out after they got a chance to sit on Santas lap for a photo.

*Continued on page 6*



## Waste Management Contributes \$10,000 to Slate Belt YMCA Expansion

By Emily Mullen / Chief Communications Officer GREATER VALLEY Y  
 PEN ARGYL – The Slate Belt Branch of the Greater Valley YMCA will expand to a full YMCA facility in 2020. The Y's expansion will include a heated indoor pool, gymnasium and preschool childcare wing.

*Continued on page 2*

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## Slate Belt Y

Continued from page 1

The Y's land development is currently underway, with most of the construction occurring in spring of 2020.

David Fagerstrom, President and CEO of the Greater Valley YMCA shares, "This is an exciting moment for our community. It took patience and years of persistence, but I'm proud to see this full-facility expansion come to fruition. We are grateful for the Y's relationship with Waste Management and look forward to better serving the Slate Belt Community in the future."



The facility addition will allow the Y to serve more individuals through life-saving swim lessons, teens through the 7th Grade Initiative program, seniors through activities combating isolation, and children through education for their futures.

Adrienne Fors, Waste Management Community Relations Manager, added, "Our Grand Central team members are looking forward to utilizing the amenities that the expansion will soon include. We feel as passionate as the YMCA does about healthy lifestyles and feel that the amenities will be a nice addition to the Slate Belt."

The Y's Slate Belt Canvassing Committee is currently working to secure the rest of the necessary funding; pledging and naming opportunities are still available now. Once the project is completed, the YMCA will host a public grand re-opening / ribbon cutting to highlight the upgraded facility.

## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP Northampton County, PA

### SEASONAL PUBLIC WORKS POSITION:

Washington Twp., Northampton County is seeking an exp. individual to assist with the winter maintenance on the Township roads. CDL preferred.

Interested individuals may submit a letter of interest with three references by noon on Friday, January 3, 2020. Compensation commensurate with exp.

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1021 Washington Blvd.  
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## HBBA Holiday Event

By Jill Matthews

BANGOR - On Thursday December 5th the HBBA hosted their annual holiday Santa pictures. Thanks to Borked PC for allowing the HBBA use their space at One Way Church. The event was a great success. Several families from around the area came out to enjoy free photos with Santa, craft decorating for the children and free delicious cookies and hot chocolate for the families to enjoy.

The Animal Advocacy group was invited to the event along with their furry friends. The money raised from the event went to the Animal Advocacy group. The HBBA would like to thank all that came and helped with the event and wishes everyone a happy holiday season.

## Working Toward a Healthier PA

By Rep. Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - This session, I was proud to join my fellow lawmakers in supporting several bills designed to remove barriers to treatment and to better assess behavioral health and other needs.

When dealing with cancer, time is of the essence. We in the House passed the Fair Access to Treatment Act (House Bill 427) to give Stage IV cancer patients easier access to alternative, innovative treatment options. Under current law, patients have to first fail on one FDA-approved drug consistent with best practices for Stage IV metastatic cancer treatment before another would be covered by their insurance. Instead, this bill removes that hurdle and would ensure cancer patients receive the best treatment available, as quickly as possible.

One of our caucus' major priorities is providing access to healthcare for those who would have otherwise gone without. Recognizing the need to help people seeking addiction treatment, I voted "Yes" on House Bill 1024, which would prohibit facilities from denying treatment to an individual based solely on a negative drug test.

Working to better understand our capacity to address behavioral health needs, our caucus introduced House Resolution 268, directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the impact of behavioral health treatment needs and behavioral health care system capacity on hospital emergency departments and patient health.

Finally, House Bill 1662 would require suboxone/buprenorphine-related deaths to be included in the Medication Death and Incident Review Act so any deeper issues can be addressed, such as a pill-pushing doctor or treatment facility.

Each of these bills is pending action in the Senate. I invite you to learn more about our #HealthierPA initiative by visiting the caucus website at <http://www.pahousegop.com/healthierpa>.

# Blue Valley Times

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