



First row: Nikita Mendellsohn, Kristen Stopfer, Sophia Villano, Michael Spagnola, Brookel Sabella, Gracie Caiazzo, Andrew Spagnola

Second Row: Cathianne McKenna, Clara Oxford, Ryan Gambale, Marino Bubba, Nikolas Hendershot, Andrea Morokutti, Mandy Voorhees

Third Row: Heather Heath, Hannah Almanzar, Evan Finkbeiner, Joshua Lopez, Aaron Hartzell, Noelle Schwartz, Fourth

Row: Mason Cruz, Jesse Geiger, CJ Fassl, Not Pictured: Deja Breitfeller

## Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 10 Chorus

By Mary Lou Cole

BANGOR - Twenty-four Bangor Area High School students were accepted into the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 10 Chorus. Selected students are Hannah Almanzar, Deja Breitfeller, Marino Bubba, Gracie Caiazzo, Mason Cruz, CJ Fassl, Evan Finkbeiner, Ryan Gambale, Jesse Geiger, Aaron Hartzell, Heather Heath, Nikolas Hendershot, Joshua Lopez, Cathianne McKenna, Nikita Mendellsohn, Andrea Morokutti, Clara Oxford, Brookel Sabella, Noelle Schwartz, Sophia Villano, Andrew Spagnola, Michael Spagnola, Kristen Stopfer and Mandy Voorhees. They were among over 700 students who auditioned from schools in the counties of Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, and Schuylkill. Of that, 200 were selected to create the District 10 Chorus. Bangor students will represent more than 10% of this chorus.

The students will be traveling to Boyertown Area High School to participate in the festival January 15-17. While there, they will work under the direction of Dr. Peggy Dettwiler, Professor of Music at Mansfield University. The students will also audition for the Region V Chorus. One-half of the District 10 participants will move onto the Region V level.

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO  
ALL OF OUR CLIENTS,  
FRIENDS AND  
FAMILIES!**



**Ken  
Field**

*Owner of Slate  
Belt Energy  
Services*

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

## Happy Holidays

Things always get hectic around the holidays. Traffic gets worse and lines get longer at almost every store. Some people get stressed and may have a shorter than usual temper, others just seem to have no patience. Everyone has a vision of a perfect holiday season but that is mostly a dream. It has been many years since we were snowed in on Christmas or even had a couple inches of snow around the holidays. Rain and 40° does not set the scene for me but that seems to be the weather we get anymore. Some people get time off around the holidays and others have to work even Christmas and New Year's day. That certainly has an effect on their enjoyment of those days. Those of us who have lost a loved one seem to feel the hole in our lives more now than for the rest of the year and we may not be as jovial as others but it is not fair to be a drain on the happiness that others feel this time of year. Because it is the end of the calendar year I think it is appropriate to reflect on the whole year and try to get a feel for how I did as a person so that I can do better next year. The older I get the more I cherish the interactions I have with people I admire and respect. One day they will be gone, or I will, and memories are all that will remain.

Hopefully they are fond memories. Helping people is one way to kindle the holiday spirit but I don't constrain this thought just to December. If everyone looked around and paid a little more attention to their surroundings, there is likely someone they could cheer up with a small act of kindness. Something as simple as paying for the coffee for the person behind you in line can make their day brighter. They will probably brighten someone else's day in return. Find a reason to celebrate the holiday season and show some generosity and kindness in excess of what you may do on a daily basis. It is good for the soul and it may just become part of your normal behavior. Most of all, try to remember the excitement when you see kids who can barely contain theirs and let it take you back to the time you felt the same way. Focus on the good and the positive aspects of your life and cherish the interaction with people who make you want to be a better person.

*Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at [www.SlateBeltEnergy.com](http://www.SlateBeltEnergy.com)*

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## BASD Ratification Of A New Collective Bargaining Agreement

By Mr. Braden Hendershot / Assistant to the Superintendent  
Bangor Area School District

BANGOR - Please notice the attached joint statement from the Bangor Area School District Board of School Directors and Bangor Area Education Association regarding the ratification of a new collective bargaining agreement.

The Bangor Area School District Board of School Directors and Education Association jointly announce the ratification of a five-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement, retroactive to September 1, continues through June 30, 2024. This contract succeeds a previous two-year agreement, which expired on June 30, 2019. Negotiations held over many months produced an agreement that recognizes the Board's commitment to maintaining modest tax increases for local families, while also valuing Bangor's dedicated teachers with competitive salaries, benefits, and working conditions. Specific contractual highlights include:

- All teachers receive the same, flat dollar, annual raise according to the following schedule:
  - 2019-2020: \$1,350
  - 2020-2021: \$1,350
  - 2021-2022: \$1,500
  - 2022-2023: \$1,600
  - 2023-2024: \$1,700
- Over the term of the 5-year agreement starting salaries for beginning teachers with a Bachelor's degree rise from \$46,240 to \$50,000 and top salaries are raised to \$93,313.
- Health care deductibles remain unchanged from the previous agreement. The Association consented to raises in co-pay and prescription amounts.
  - Single: \$19.90 (2018-2019) to \$25.00 (2019-2020)
  - Family: \$47.15 (2018-2019) to \$55.00 (2019-2020)

Together, the Board and Association look forward to accomplishing the shared mission of an excellent education for Bangor Area School District students.

*Kenneth P. Brewer, Jr.*  
Mr. Kenneth Brewer, Jr.

President, Bangor Area School District

*Edward Ziegenfuss*  
Mr. Edward Ziegenfuss

President, Bangor Area  
Education Association

## Celebrate Agriculture at 104th Pennsylvania Farm Show

By Michael Ortoski

HARRISBURG - The Pennsylvania Farm Show – the largest indoor agricultural exposition under one roof in the nation – kicks off Saturday, Jan. 4, in Harrisburg. The show will run through Saturday, Jan. 11.

The show offers something for everyone with nearly 6,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits and 300 commercial exhibitors highlighting an industry that employs nearly half a million people and contributes \$185 billion to the state's economy every year.

Visitors will find food, entertainment and plenty of opportunity to learn more about how our food goes "from farm to fork."

Admission to the show is free, but parking is \$15 per vehicle. Shuttle service is provided.

For all the latest news about the Farm Show, follow it on Facebook or visit [www.farmshow.pa.gov](http://www.farmshow.pa.gov).

