

# OUR TOWNS

## The Vent



Contact The Vent at  
538-6373 Ext. 3050

I want to commend you for printing the fine letter from Joe Conti, our local senator. I second all of his comments on Ben Jones. He was truly the idea man behind the basic changes in the borough. We worked together to formulate the revitalization board. It's a difficult job he has to do and I am proud to call myself among his friends.

Betty Strecker, Doylestown Borough Council

The Flyers are in a slump, and the coach tells them after Thursday night's game, "Go home, figure out what you are doing wrong." Yo, coaches! The players are looking to you for support, leadership and guidance. We've got until April 21 to get our act together. Do something, Coach Neilson. Talk is only cheap now.

D. Lloyd, Horsham

### Need to Vent?

You can also fax The Vent to 345-3150 or e-mail it to [intell\\_news@calkinsnews.com](mailto:intell_news@calkinsnews.com). You can also participate via the Web at [www.intelligencer-record.com](http://www.intelligencer-record.com)

## Notebook



### Blood drive

If you've been thinking about donating blood lately, here's your chance. The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive today at the Horsham Days Inn, 245 Easton Road from 2-7:30 p.m. The American Red Cross notes that you are ready to give blood if you are in general good health, at least 17 years of age and weigh at least 110 pounds. You are also ready if it has been at least 56 days since your last donation. The event is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Horsham, the Horsham Township Chamber of Commerce and the Horsham Days Inn. For more information, call the Red Cross at 1-800-26BLOOD.

Beth Long

## Quote of the Day

"I'm neat, creative, and willing to give up recess."

What Marissa Beldler, a sixth-grader at Seylar Elementary School, wrote on her "job application."

## Today in History



- 1702 England's Queen Anne ascended the throne upon the death of King William III.
- 1854 U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry made his second landing in Japan. Within a month, he concluded a treaty with the Japanese.
- 1874 The 13th president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, died in Buffalo, N.Y.
- 1917 Russia's "February Revolution" — so called because of the Old Style calendar used by Russians at the time — began with rioting and strikes in St. Petersburg.
- 1917 The U.S. Senate voted to limit filibusters by adopting the cloture rule.
- 1930 The 27th president of the United States, William Howard Taft, died in Washington.
- 1942 Japanese forces captured Rangoon, Burma, during World War II.
- 1944 U.S. bombers resumed bombing Berlin.
- 1965 The United States landed about 3,500 Marines in South Vietnam.
- 1986 four French television crew members were abducted in west Beirut; a caller claimed Islamic Jihad was responsible. All four were eventually released.
- 1989 In Lebanon, daily artillery barrages between Christian and Syrian forces and their militia allies began in Beirut; at least 930 people were killed before a cease-fire took hold the following September.
- 1994 President Clinton announced the appointment of Washington attorney Lloyd Cutler as senior counsel, replacing Bernard Nussbaum.
- 1998 James McDougal, one of the most important cooperating witnesses in Kenneth Starr's Whitewater investigation, died in a federal medical prison in Fort Worth, Texas, at age 57.

# Students get jump on job hunting process

Sixth-graders at Seylar Elementary School volunteer their time in a special "jobs" program.

BY PAUL A. RIEMERMAN  
Staff Writer



Staff photos by Donald R. Bourse

George Paone announces the buses for dismissals at Seylar Elementary School in Hilltown Township.

PENNRIDGE SCHOOLS — Seylar Elementary School students get an early education in the job hunting process, thanks to the Panther Partners program created by school counselor Chris Grady.

Each and every sixth-grade youngster at the school is required to apply for and get a school job ranging from announcing when school buses arrive at the end of the day to helping teachers with autistic children, said Grady.

The idea of Panther Partners, said Grady, is "teaching responsibility, and I think it works."

"I run it like an employment agency," the guidance counselor said, adding children choose three jobs from a list of available positions.

The application also asks children for recommendations.

"It's like filling out a job application form," said Grady.

"The questions I get are cute: they ask if they can put down their mom or an uncle. I try to give students as many of their first choices

as possible. This year only three or four students didn't get their first choice."

"I'm polite, nice, and like greeting people," Lillie Matyskiela of Hilltown wrote on her application.

Lillie got her first choice — greeting visitors to the school.

The most popular job for boys is helping the gym teacher, Grady said, adding, "they can get a little time playing basketball."

Students can help young students with spelling, cleaning classrooms, gardening, and clipping coupons.

"We get prizes for sending in soup labels; the students collect and sort them," said Grady.

Marissa Beldler, the daughter of Rodney Beldler in Hilltown, did



not get her first choice, but did get assigned to her fourth choice as a tutor.

"I'm neat, creative, and willing to give up recess," wrote Marissa. Marissa's first job choice was as an aide in the school's health room.

Jeremy Moyer covered all the bases for the jobs in his application.

"I'm very smart, strong, and very organized," Moyer said. Moyer got his first choice as a classroom aide, but his other picks were as a physical education aide and helping lower the flag at the end of the school day.

Other popular jobs, particularly for girls include helping out in kindergarten classrooms, greeting school visitors to special events. Tutoring is popular with the sixth-graders, said Grady.

The experience was a good one for Janelle Napolitano, who is a seventh-grader at Central Middle School this year.

Janelle, served as a bus caller the first half of last year, and as a teacher's aide the second half of the year. "They were both my first picks. It was a lot of fun because it gives you something to do."



Matt Best (right), a sixth-grader at Seylar Elementary School in Hilltown Township, tutors first-grader Ian Windish as part of the Panther Partners program.



Staff photos by Steven Mattner-Stearns

Debra MacDonald shows her son Jake, 1, just how friendly the calf in the hat can be at the Greater Philadelphia Horse and Pet Expo, Sunday, in Fort Washington.

## Expo: 4 legs, feathers, floppy ears

The answer is the Greater Philadelphia Horse and Pet Expo held this past weekend in Fort Washington.

BY BETH LONG  
Staff Writer

FORT WASHINGTON — If Candy Miesen had her way, man's best friend wouldn't be a dog.

It would be a rat. "They are friendly, intelligent and make great companions," said the Glasboro, N.J., resident and member of the North American Rat and Mouse Club International.

Her group was just one of dozens represented at the Greater Philadelphia Horse and Pet Expo this weekend.

Pet fanciers had a field day at the fifth annual event at the Fort Washington Expo Center. Thousands came to shop and learn about a variety of pets.

If it had four legs, feathers or floppy ears, it was there.

"I love introducing the kids to animals," said Gina Rondinelli of Abington.

Sunday marked the first pony ride for niece Amanda Montgomery, 1.

"It's fascinating," said mom, Theresa Montgomery of Ardsley. "I've enjoyed seeing the horses up close. They're so beautiful."

The only problem was, Amanda was

having so much fun that "she won't let us leave," said her aunt.

In addition to many retailers selling everything from saddle soap to dog treats, a number of spay and neutering groups, animal rescuers and specialized clubs had booths and displays.

"We're here letting people know who we are," said Rhonda Davies, kennel manager for the Montgomery County SPCA's Conshohocken facility.

"We've had a lot of nice people coming through. It gets people familiar with our shelters," she added, referring to the SPCA's other sites in Abington and Perkiomenville.

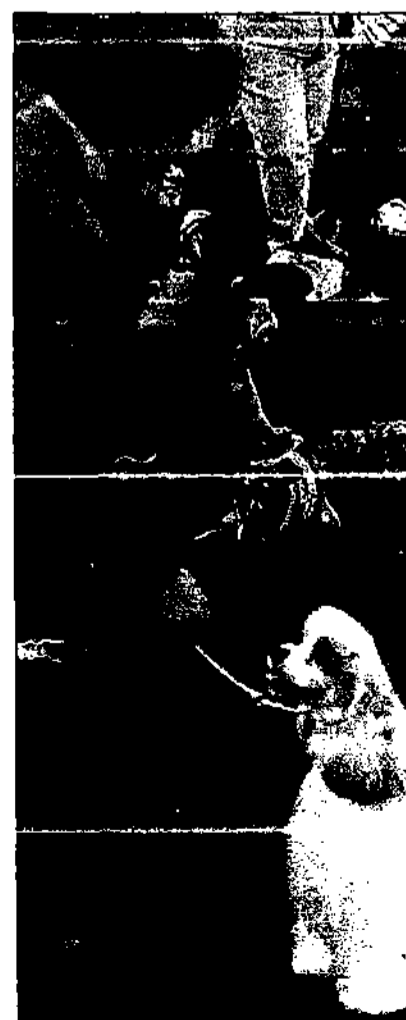
"When children, adults or hunters get lost, we are called to find them," said Trish Mannix of Drexel Hill.

She volunteers with the Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue's mounted unit. Her quarter horse, Penny, was on hand Sunday to show how effective these well-mannered mounts are in tracking down missing persons.

Mannix also enjoyed seeing other horses in Stallion and Breed Row, a line of stalls that housed show horses and registered breeders. She also couldn't resist the shopping opportunities.

"I must have bought \$100 worth of (supplies)," she said.

Demonstrations and attractions included ALPO canine Frisbee disc performances, tips on fitting your horse with the right saddle (with live models) and the K-9 Classic Dogs area, which resembled a show-jumping course for poodles.



Dogs spend some quality time with their owners at the Greater Philadelphia Horse and Pet Expo.

## Quakertown's Memorial Park hikes pool prices

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

QUAKERTOWN — Faced with a Memorial Park pool budget that's bleeding more and more red each year, council has raised admission prices about 10 percent for the upcoming swim season.

"Due to the continuing increases in costs in keeping the pool functioning, unfortunately there comes a time when the pool costs have to increase so that we can break even, if that," council President Dennis Hallman said before council voted on the increases last week.

The cost of a season ticket for a family of borough residents will increase from \$65 to \$72; for a single adult, from \$30 to \$33, and for a child or senior citizen, from \$20 to \$23. For nonresidents, those costs will be \$105, \$48 and \$38, respectively.

Daily ticket prices will also rise a quarter to \$2.50 for adults and \$2 for children and seniors. Officials said it's the first ticket markup in six years.

Borough manager David Woglom said that last summer, the pool's expenses were \$13,400 more than its revenue from ticket sales. In 1997, the pool showed a \$7,900 deficit, and in 1996, it lost \$1,000. The deficits are made up with money from borough coffers.

"The reason for (the losses) is the need for increased capital expenses at the pool," Woglom said. "The pool is about 40 years old now."

The aging pool needed work on its filtering and piping systems last year and is due for some crack sealing before the upcoming season.

Pool tickets go on sale at borough hall on May 11, and after June 12, season ticket prices increase a few dollars.

Woglom said he couldn't estimate how much the new ticket prices would cover the annual shortfall.

"A lot of that is dictated by the weather," he said.

## Police News

### Man critical after accident

RICHLAND — A Richlandtown man was critically injured in a one-car accident early Sunday morning on Route 212, near Raub Road.

George Slifer, 49, was driving north on Route 212 when, rounding a curve around 2:55 a.m., his car skidded sideways on the icy road, state police at Dublin said. The passenger side of his car hit a utility pole, police said.

Slifer was flown by medical helicopter to Lehigh Valley Hospital in Salisbury Township, Lehigh County, where a hospital spokeswoman said he was in critical condition Sunday night. Slifer was not wearing a seat belt, police said.

### Man charged with mail theft

SPRINGFIELD — A township man has been charged with four counts of mail theft and one count of recklessly endangering another person for allegedly taking mail from various boxes in Springfield and Durham townships in mid-February, state police at Dublin said.

Thomas E. Thompson, 21, was arraigned in Kintnersville district court on those charges as well as four counts of receiving stolen property, police said. The reckless endangerment charge is for allegedly trying to force an eyewitness to the thefts off the road with his vehicle, police said.