

# TheBurg

Greater Harrisburg's Community Newspaper

November 2010

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**GENERAL ELECTION: Tuesday, November 2nd**

Paid for by Onorato for Governor

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## Harrisburg Appears Headed for "Distressed City" Designation

Harrisburg seems destined for "distressed municipality" status, as the staff of the state Department of Community and Economic Development has recommended that the city enter its Act 47 program.

Disclosure of the staff's recommendation came at the end of a lengthy hearing held recently by DCED on the city's application to enter the program.

"In our opinion, the city is exhibiting symptoms of distress that support a distress determination under Act 47," said the DCED report.

During the hearing, Mayor Linda Thompson and Finance Director Robert Kroboth urged DCED officials to approve the city's application.

Kroboth painted a dire picture of Harrisburg's finances, saying that the city might not be able to meet its payroll and certainly would not be able to make about \$43 million in debt payments due this year, most tied to past upgrades over many years to the city's incinerator.

"There will be no funds available that we envision to make any of these payments," said Kroboth.

DCED Secretary Austin J. Burke has until mid-November to issue a determination on Harrisburg's application, though a decision is expected much sooner. The state

then would appoint an Act 47 coordinator, who would supervise the creation of a plan designed to help Harrisburg dig out of debt.

Following Thompson and Kroboth, dozens of speakers took to the microphone to comment on how Harrisburg got into financial chaos and how it may find its way out. Most speakers seemed inclined to support Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy over Act 47, as the city's debt—some \$288 million from incinerator upgrades alone—is massive compared to its annual budget of about \$63 million.

In addition, speaker after speaker pointed out that bankruptcy puts greater pressure on creditors to negotiate, perhaps forcing them to make concessions on principal and interest. In contrast, an explicit goal of Act 47 is to enable a municipality to pay its debts in full.

Many speakers were concerned that those who put Harrisburg in this state—former municipal officials who borrowed recklessly, consultants who advised them and creditors who made unwise, high-risk loans—would experience no consequences, while city residents would foot the entire bill in much higher taxes and reduced services.

—Lawrance Bindra

## TheBurg

Greater Harrisburg's Community Newspaper

### General & Letters

TheBurg  
1103 N. Front St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17102  
[www.theburgnews.com](http://www.theburgnews.com)

Editorial: 717-602-4300  
Ad Sales: 717-350-0428

### Publishers

Editor: Peter Durantine  
[pdurantine@theburgnews.com](mailto:pdurantine@theburgnews.com)

Advertising Executive:  
Angela Durantine  
[adurantine@theburgnews.com](mailto:adurantine@theburgnews.com)

Co-Editor/Creative Director:  
Lawrance Bindra  
[lbinda@theburgnews.com](mailto:lbinda@theburgnews.com)

### Staff & Contributors

Reporters:  
T.W. Burger  
[twburger@embarqmail.com](mailto:twburger@embarqmail.com)

Pat Carroll  
[paddydear@epix.net](mailto:paddydear@epix.net)

Sylvia Grove  
[sylvia.grove@hotmail.com](mailto:sylvia.grove@hotmail.com)

Ruth Hoover-Seitz  
[ruthhooverseitz@gmail.com](mailto:ruthhooverseitz@gmail.com)

Stephanie Kalina-Metzger  
[stephaniekalinametzger@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniekalinametzger@yahoo.com)

Rick Kearns  
[rickearns@comcast.net](mailto:rickearns@comcast.net)

Tara Leo Auchey  
[todaysthedayhbg@gmail.com](mailto:todaysthedayhbg@gmail.com)

Carol Maravic  
[carol.maravic@live.com](mailto:carol.maravic@live.com)

M. Diane McCormick  
[dmccormick113@aol.com](mailto:dmccormick113@aol.com)

Lori Myers  
[lori@lorimy়ers.com](mailto:lori@lorimy়ers.com)

Mike Walsh  
[mikewalsh32@hotmail.com](mailto:mikewalsh32@hotmail.com)

Columnists:  
Cooking: Rosemary Ruggieri Baer  
[rrbgu69@aol.com](mailto:rrbgu69@aol.com)

Cooking: Sara Goulet  
[putch@putchandbuckies.com](mailto:putch@putchandbuckies.com)

Local History: Jason Wilson  
[jason.wilson@embarqmail.com](mailto:jason.wilson@embarqmail.com)

Cinema: Kevyn Knox  
[kevynknox@thecinematheque.com](mailto:kevynknox@thecinematheque.com)

Sports & Fitness: Laura Spurgeon  
[lspurgeon@aol.com](mailto:lspurgeon@aol.com)

Outdoors: Kermit Henning  
[kghenning@aol.com](mailto:kghenning@aol.com)

Pets: Todd Rubey  
[reptilevet@yahoo.com](mailto:reptilevet@yahoo.com)

Pets: Kristen Zellner  
[kristenzellner@gmail.com](mailto:kristenzellner@gmail.com)

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**Peter J. Shelly, President**

## Smoke Detector Checks Are Urged

Mayor Linda Thompson is urging city residents to make sure their smoke detectors are in working order, after five people, including four children, died in a blaze in Uptown last month.

The house, on the 600-block of Forrest Street, had smoke detectors installed, but investigators believe they were not working.

"This is a senseless way to have children die," she said.

Thompson said that residents should check on their neighbors to ensure that they also have operable smoke detectors. Residents who lack detectors should call 255-6464, and the city's fire bureau will install them free of charge. People who wish to donate smoke detectors also should call that number.

In addition, a fund has been set up to aid the family of the victims: Derionn Terry, 2; Deandre Terry, 3; Tysheen Terry, 4; Kelli Franklin, 4; and Cornelia Brooks, 49. Contributions can be brought to any M&T Bank branch, or mailed to M&T at 1002 N. 7th St., Harrisburg, Pa., 17110.

## Taxpayer Group Forms in Harrisburg

A group called "Debt Watch Harrisburg" has formed to advocate for the rights of taxpayers as Harrisburg proceeds through its financial crisis.

The group will push to ensure that meetings and legal proceedings are open to the public and that citizens' voices are heard, according to attorney Neil Grover, a founding member. In addition, it will work to see that people who led Harrisburg into financial chaos are held responsible.

For more information, please contact [debtwatchhbg@gmail.com](mailto:debtwatchhbg@gmail.com).



**PENNSYLVANIA  
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# Street Corners

## A Century of Helping Others

Quietly, the Neighborhood Center turns 100.

Lawrance Binda



In the Neighborhood Center, Alex Lane and Chelin Gallagher put some touches on a trash barrel as part of BARAK Inc.'s "Trashcan Transformers" project.

If you're a Harrisburg resident feeling done in by bad news, I have a suggestion. Go to a special place called the Neighborhood Center.

In one room, teenagers diligently paint trash cans, part of an ongoing art project sponsored by the youth arts organization, BARAK Inc. In another, children help organize the center's food bank. And in another, in a fully equipped classroom, pre-schoolers quietly follow a lesson then spontaneously hug Assistant Director Ronda Peters as she walks into the room.

No doubt this scene would delight the women (yes, they were mostly women) who founded the Neighborhood Center, then called the Methodist Mission, in 1910.

At the time, workers were flooding into Harrisburg to labor in its mills. In response, the Central Pennsylvania Conference (now the Susquehanna Conference) of the United Methodist Church formed a mission to aid these families, many of whom had migrated from eastern and southern Europe.

"We came about just after the turn of the last century, when a group of churchwomen said, 'We can help these people,'" said Peters.

The first mission was located in a building in Shipoke, which, at the time, was a center of millwork in Harrisburg. Much of the Center's work, though, was done in homes, as women went door to door to discuss family life, child-rearing and health and nutrition issues, mostly with other women.

A century later, the needs of impoverished families remain the core of the Neighborhood Center's mission, though most activities now take place at the 3rd and Kelker facility, which has been the Center's home since 1984, following several moves around the city. A large play area across the street gives children a place to unwind outdoors.

The Neighborhood Center has adjusted in other ways. Health and education still guide much of the center's work, but changing times have placed a greater emphasis on pre-, before- and after-school programs. Also, the active TECH-Teen Expression Center helps support and guide young people during the difficult years of adolescence.

Recently, the Center set up a work room for a growing number of art projects. Besides the painted trash cans (which can be seen in city parks), Center youth recently created a painted chair exhibit called "Seats for Peace," sponsored by the arts organization, Jump Street.

The 3rd Street Studio hosted the installation, and the imaginatively decorated chairs were auctioned off to raise money for the Center. "It was great to partner with my neighbor," said Lessa Helm, the studio's owner.

The Center marked its birthday with a few events earlier this year, including the dedication of a peace pole and a special service at Grace United Methodist Church on State Street, where the first meeting was held to form the mission.

Most of the year, though, was spent quietly, doing the work of assisting others that has gone on, day to day, without stop, for a century—and counting.

"Our mission really hasn't changed over all these years," remarked Peters. "We were founded to meet the needs of children, women and families in the community. That's still what we do."

*The Neighborhood Center always needs volunteers to help out in many ways. If interested, call 717-233-6541.*

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**Upcoming Performances**

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Presented by Shippensburg University APB Performing Arts Committee  
Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011 - 8 PM  
\$20, \$18, \$15 & \$12

The dance company presents African American and African dance traditions and drumming rooted in the African and African Diaspora societies from which these traditions come.

**ArcheDream for Humankind: Deep Blue**  
Presented by Shippensburg University APB Performing Arts Committee  
Thursday, Mar. 24, 2011 - 8 PM  
\$20, \$18, \$15 & \$12

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**PHOTO BY: felapank**

## New Energy, New Causes

Harrisburg Civic Club responds to changing times.

M. Diane McCormick

**T**he club never asked city council to do anything either ill-considered or foolish. There was a complete absence of the 'nut' suggestions that so often characterize appeals to city councils."

So said former Harrisburg Mayor John A.F. Hall, long ago, in testament to the women of the Civic Club of Harrisburg. The Civic Club of Harrisburg passed the century mark in 1998, but its values have never changed. The betterment of Harrisburg. Education. Citizenship. The environment.

For its first 70 years or so, the Civic Club was powerful, politically active and ahead of its time. The club funded the city's first free kindergarten. Planted elm trees along Riverfront Park. Helped clean filthy streets and riverbanks. Hired the county jail's first matron. Created an air pollution clean-up plan—in the 1940s.

A 1948 article in *The Patriot* complimented the club's progressive ways: Members decorated classrooms, hired playground supervisors "and in the best feminist tradition asked why not

equal educational opportunities for girls."

But times change. Some suffragists among the club's early leaders might have gotten just what they wanted—not only the vote, but women's rights to forge careers. As the Civic Club's members aged, younger women weren't taking their place.

Today, President Beth Cornell, daughter of a long-time member, oversees 85 members, a planned membership campaign and restoration of the club's impact on city life. With an energized board and members, Cornell and Jeanne Schmedlen have teamed to revive the Civic Club of Harrisburg and maintain its landmark building along Front Street between North and State streets.

The Civic Club's mission is intricately twined with stewardship of its English Tudor mansion, donated in 1914 by Virginia Hammond Fleming, widow of



The stately Harrisburg Civic Club sits in a prime location along the waterfront (left). President Beth Cornell and Jeanne Schmedlen, inside the club, are spearheading its revival (right).

William Reynolds Fleming of Gannett-Fleming fame. Even as Cornell and Schmedlen discussed roof repairs, the ornate mansion sparkled with newly refinished floors. Its riverside garden is flourishing under the care of Mary Beth Lehtimaki—and she's hinting at spectacular holiday plans, Schmedlen said.

The club is forging partnerships with nonprofits and opening the building for their use. Someday, maybe technology upgrades will attract business retreats, Schmedlen said.

"We'd love to use the building every day," she said. "It's not only a landmark, but it's a great place to have fun."

A non-profit arm, the Civic Club of Harrisburg Affiliates, raises funds to support programs. Fundraisers include Manners Matter, a program teaching children tolerance, cell phone manners and—in a surprisingly popular segment—the basic box step of ballroom dancing.

And of course, the Civic Club hosts monthly luncheons. Topics range from the art of Korean gift wrapping to the women

of the Pennsylvania legislature. When the lecture season ends in May, Cornell said, members will elect new leaders "and move on from there." A strategic plan for growing membership, revitalizing services, improving marketing and maintaining the building will guide them.

"Our wish and our hope and our dream is that this club, this landmark building, and our mission—which we're true to—will be restored and maintained to keep going into the future," said Cornell.

*The Civic Club of Harrisburg, 612 N. Front St., 717-234-673*

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It was colorful last year outside the Riverside firehouse polling station. Expect a similar scene on Nov. 2, as Harrisburg area voters head to the polls on Election Day. Municipal races take a rest this year, but seats are up for governor, U.S. senator, U.S. representative and many state legislators.

# Around Town

## Battlefield Bravery

Harrisburg native earns Purple Heart.

TheBurg Staff

Spc. Shawn M. Mason of Harrisburg received the Purple Heart from U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates during a September ceremony at Camp Ramadi in Iraq.

The medal was given for injuries Mason suffered during a grenade attack Aug. 9 near Fallujah, Iraq. He is a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division—Center.

Mason said his squad was returning from an advising mission with Iraqi police near Fallujah, when he noticed a man walking, then running, toward the convoy with what Mason said appeared to be an orange bag in his hand.

By the time he radioed to the machine-gunner to cover the man, it was too late. The man threw an RKG-3 grenade that, upon explosion, shredded the right, front side of the armored vehicle. Mason, the driver, took shrapnel through his jaw.

"Everything went into slow motion," Mason said. "There was a loud boom, then a flash and a lot of smoke. My instincts told me to keep driving. It felt like we drove about a half-mile, when actually, we only



Spc. Shawn M. Mason

drove about 100 meters."

Mason said once the area was cleared, he and other members of his truck were evacuated to nearby Camp Fallujah, before being returned to Camp Ramadi by convoy.

"I am very happy the situation wasn't worse than it was," he said. "It's great knowing no one was seriously hurt or injured."

Mason has seven more months in Iraq.

## Veteran's Day



Nov. 11 is Veteran's Day, marked by remembrances around the area. Last year, hundreds of flags added patriotic flair during the "Massing of the Colors" outside of the Zembo Shrine in Harrisburg.

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## From the Cellar to the Skies

Someday, Dan Reeves' plane will fly. First, he needs to dig it out of his basement.

T.W. Burger

In the spring, cicadas hatch out of their larval form and emerge from the ground, where they have been growing for years, to take flight at last.

Dan Reeves, 47, of Zenu Road in Lower Allen Township, has a sort of cicada in his own basement.

The big difference is that he is building it himself. He has been at it since April of 2002, when the first set of packages arrived in the U.S. mail and he began riveting things together in his basement.

Taking shape in Reeves' suburban home is an airplane with a 25-foot wingspan. The aircraft, called a Van's RV-7A, seats two people and can fly about 200 mph. It can travel 800 miles or better before it needs to be refueled.

There is just one hitch.

There is no access from the basement to the surface of the ground, much less the open skies. And this cicada is not going to dig itself out.

"I have to dig a ramp down to the basement wall, knock a hole in it big enough to drag out the fuselage with the wings detached—it's eight feet wide—and get it all over to my hanger for the finishing touches. Oh,

and I'll have to patch the hole in the wall and fill the hole back up."

He said he's been getting estimates in the \$10,000 range.

"I may just have to get a shovel and a sledge hammer and do it myself," he said.

He is not kidding.

He is not crazy, either. He just really, really wanted to build and fly his own plane, and his basement was the only place he had to do it. The garage? Well, some years back Reeves and his wife, Daisy, rebuilt the garage as an apartment for her mother.

End of dream? You don't know Dan Reeves. He ordered the parts and got to work in his basement. It has taken about eight years. He said if he had to start over, he could probably build another one in a year or so, if he didn't have to do anything else, now that he's getting the hang of it.

Dick Knapinski, spokesman for the 160,000-member Experimental Aircraft Association, based in Oshkosh, Wis., said Reeves' determination, even his choice of workshop, is not really all that unique for aviation enthusiasts on a tight budget.

"We've seen members building them in basements, kitchens, mixing chemicals in bathtubs. People will go to enormous lengths to achieve their own dreams of flight," he said. "It's challenging, but very fulfilling. It gives you a perspective you can't get anywhere else."

Reeves

figures he will have spent about \$50,000 on the RV-7A. That compares to a new, factory-built plane, which run about five times that much.

"I never let (building the plane) be a source of stress," he said. "I would work on it when I had the time, enthusiasm and money. If I didn't have any one of those, it would just sit here. It's been purely for enjoyment. My kids, their friends,



A man can dream: Dan Reeves sits in the cockpit of the airplane he's building in the basement of his suburban home.

my friends—they've all come down and helped me on it. Anybody who worked on it signed their name somewhere on the structure."

He just recently signed a lease for a hangar, so he'll have a place to finish the detail work on the plane. And he recently just earned his pilot's license, which will come in handy.

Before he can fly the plane, it has to pass inspection by the Federal Aviation Administration. And then he has to fly solo in it for 40 hours before he can take anybody up with him.

The craft will have to be inspected every 12 months by an FAA inspector as well. And Reeves has to be able to show a log book of every step of the construction. He's got that: small type, lots of photos, in a three-ring binder. It's about three inches thick.

If all goes as planned, he hopes to have the aircraft out of the basement and into the air by late spring. His goal is to attend the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual convention in Oshkosh. He goes every year, but always before he has gone by car.

"This time, I'm flying in," he said.



### Free Literary Events!

- Blue Orchard author JACKSON TAYLOR, 11/11, 7:30p
- "Stage Brew": Contemporary short plays, 11/10, 7p
- George Nagle, author of Year of Jubilee, 11/12, 7p

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# Around Town

## Our Cover: "Heated Capitol"



John Holtzman stands beside "Heated Capitol," his original oil painting that adorns our cover this month. John is a local Harrisburg artist and art educator at Central Dauphin East High School. A graduate of CD East, John returned to the Harrisburg area after earning his BFA in art education from Ohio University. Recently, he painted a number of landscapes that strive to create a harmony between his audience and the naturalistic surroundings that he lives in. His painting, "Warm Subliminal Diptych," is currently on display as the backdrop at HMAC Stage on Herr, in response to his spring show for "3rd in The Burg." Information on commissions, paintings and upcoming exhibitions can be found at [www.johnholtzman.com](http://www.johnholtzman.com).

## Changing Hands: September Property Sales

Benton St., 614: A Day to J. Benner, \$60,000

Boas St., 1500: Citibank Trustee to PA Deals, \$73,625

Chestnut St., 2203: S. & V. Scharnhorst to H. & M. Dyson, \$290,000

Graham St., 500: C. Semmel to K. Mussomeli, \$124,900

Green St., 810: R. Murray to M. Hillman: \$145,000

Green St., 1309: R. & T. King to R.J. Williams, \$137,000

Green St., 1836: 3L Inc. to WCI Partners LP, \$275,000

Green St., 1905: Crossroads Investment Associates LLC to HBG Uptown Properties LLC, \$150,000

Green St., 1928: WCI Partners LP to R. Riley & K. Stutzman, \$203,900

Green St., 3117: L. & S. Hopkins to B. Joyner, \$184,600

Hudson St., 1250: PA Deals LLC to A. Ferrara, \$58,200

Market St., 2048: M. Adley et al to E. & N. Anderson, \$61,000

N. 2nd St., 1313-15: Bethesda Leasing LLC to Brick City Investments LLC, \$162,500

N. 3rd St., 2317: KCS Investment Assoc. to Crossroads Investment Assoc., \$158,600

N. 3rd St., 2319: KCS Investment Assoc. to Crossroads Investment Assoc., \$146,400

N. 4th St., 1432: Mikeron Inc. to D. Placide, \$56,250

N. Front St., 1017: Absecon Holdings Inc. to R. Dishong, \$300,000

N. Front St., 1525, Unit 511: Riverview Manor Associates LP to A. Yastishock, \$189,900

Penn St. 1922: WCI Partners LP to H. Shonk, \$157,000

Rumson Dr., 2829: M. Kruger to D. Davis, \$80,000

Rumson Dr., 2857: NationStar Mortgage LLC to S. Leon, \$57,525

Rumson Dr., 2995: B. Wedovau to R. Miller, \$58,000

S. 13th St., 1237: K. Na to Willow LLC, \$75,000

S. 23rd St., 615: Freeman Boornazian LLC to D. Taverez & A. Diaz, \$95,000

Susquehanna St., 1424: K. Staub to M. Wyckoff, \$147,000

Susquehanna St., 1908: P. Bayer to WCI Partners LP, \$70,000

Source: Dauphin County, City of Harrisburg, property sales greater than \$50,000. Data is deemed to be accurate.

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Oct. 1: Mayor Linda Thompson and Gov. Ed Rendell announce that Harrisburg will enter the state's Act 47 program for financially distressed cities.



Oct. 16: Tim Hefflefinger gets his face painted at The Hodge-Podgey by Melissa Boyd during October's 3rd in The Burg.



Oct. 16: Neighbors and friends arrived to play, picnic, clean and repair Shoop Street Playground in Allison Hill, after vandals destroyed some of the equipment.



Oct. 3:  
Mountains of sweets—and lots of smiles—were on display at the 2nd annual Harrisburg Cupcake Cup at Midtown Scholar Bookstore.



Oct. 16: Crusts flew at "The World's Largest Pie Fight" at Central Penn College's Summerdale campus. The event raised more than \$1,400 to help fight cancer.



Oct. 19: Tragedy struck Harrisburg when five people, including four children, died in a house fire on the 600-block of Forrest Street. The city poured out its love and sympathy, including this tribute across the street.

**Fall Shopping Extravaganza**  
**One Stop Holiday Shop/Craft Fair**  
**Chambers Hill United Methodist Church**  
**Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 9 pm**  
**Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> 9am – 3pm**  
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## When Wishes Come True

PaySmart dedicated to Make-A-Wish Foundation.

TheBurg Staff

Like many successful local businesses, family-owned PaySmart believes in giving back to the community. One of its charities of choice is the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which helps give children with life-threatening illnesses joy, hope and strength.

"At PaySmart we started community outreach initiatives because we felt that as a group we could make a greater impact than as individuals," said Kelli Gift, a managing member in the Mechanicsburg-based payroll service. "Together, we are making a difference."

The company, which spun off seven years ago from the accounting

firm Gift and Associates, has helped Make-A-Wish for the last three years. In the process, Gift and her staff found their efforts also have had beneficial consequences for them.

"We've also enhanced our ability to work as a team," she said.

In September, PaySmart invited clients to a special Happy Hour fundraiser to support the Make-a-Wish Foundation. They provided food, beverages and prizes to attendees. They raised \$3,400.

To date, PaySmart has raised \$10,200 through events such as carnivals and picnics with family activities.

"We're dedicated to providing our clients with exceptional

customer service with a personalized approach," Gift said. "Because many of them are also locally owned and operated, they support our commitment to do more for our community."

Make-A-Wish fulfills an ailing child's dream, whether something as humble as riding a farm tractor or playing ice hockey. The purpose, according to the foundation, is to rekindle children's "belief in themselves and the promise of their future."

The foundation's regional director, Paulette Battenfelder, praised PaySmart for its volunteer and fundraising efforts. She said 86.9 percent of all donations go toward

the foundation's wish-granting mission.

"Almost every day a child living in our community sees his or her fondest dream come true," Battenfelder said. "Their days will be filled with huge smiles, long hugs, tears of happiness, and vivid memories that will not fade with time. I guarantee it."

This year, the money PaySmart raised helped Mollie, a little girl who loves Cinderella. She realized her wish to visit Disney World to see all the princesses.

Gift, a modest woman, said, "We were happy to do our part in making her dream come true."

**SUNDAY JAN. 16<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**Chocolatefest**

Presented by Keystone Human Services' at The Hershey Lodge

Premiere Reception, 11 am to 12:30 pm, \$50.00

A limited number of tickets will be sold for each session.

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 Session #2 - 3:15 pm to 5:00 pm  
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 \$25 at the door (as available)  
 Children 5-12, \$5.00

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# Past Tense

## A Parade of Their Own

Colored Troops were honored—and will be again—in Harrisburg.

Jamal A. Jones

Imagine doing an important job and having no one acknowledge your efforts.

Such was the case in 1865, when the United States Colored Troops (USCT) completed their mission in the Civil War. To celebrate victory over the Confederacy, the Union Army held a Grand Review in Washington, D.C. Union soldiers marched through the streets of the nation's capital, engulfed in the cheers of appreciative citizens, including President Andrew Johnson. Despite the efforts of the USCT, which, at about 180,000, accounted for 10 percent of the Union Army and helped to fortify it in the final years of the war, colored troops were not invited to participate in the Grand Review.

If not for a few African American women, members of the William Garnett Society, the contributions of the USCT would have gone unacknowledged. These women organized a Grand Review that allowed the colored troops to

receive the recognition that had previously been denied. The affair drew soldiers from 25 states and was the only ceremony of the 19th century to honor the USCT. The event took place in a small city in Pennsylvania—Harrisburg.

To commemorate the Harrisburg Grand Review, the city and state will honor the USCT on Nov. 4 to 7, as part of the city's SusqueCentennial celebration. The highlight of the events will be a parade on Saturday, Nov. 6, that recreates the Grand Review. Complete with re-enactors dressed out as members of the USCT, the streets of Harrisburg will come alive as the procession simulates the route of the original parade held on Nov. 14, 1865. The procession will pass several historic landmarks before ending at the Capitol steps with an address by Gov. Ed Rendell.

To host the event is an opportunity to link the past and the present. Descendants of the soldiers who comprised the USCT have

been invited, with some attending to walk the same path their relatives marched

A drawing of the Harrisburg Grand Review (right) and a drummer with the U.S. Colored Troops (far right).



more than a century ago. Some city residents will play important roles in commemorating the day.

"It is an honor," said local Harrisburg historian, Calobe Jackson, Jr. Jackson will march in the procession, portraying the role of Thomas Morris Chester, grand marshall of the parade in 1865. Chester, born in Harrisburg, was an educator and journalist and one of the most revered African Americans in the city.

The colored troops suffered more than 68,000 casualties during the conflict.

These kinds of facts remain undiscovered to many city residents, said Ellen Brown, executive director of the Harrisburg SusqueCentennial Commission. The Grand Review, she said, "is part of our history that very few people know about. We must

restore things to their rightful place in history or they will all be lost."

Other events during the commemorative weekend include a day-long symposium, "Rather Die Free than Remain a Slave," on Nov. 5 at the John Harris-Simon Cameron House, featuring some of the leading experts in the country on slavery. The weekend will conclude on Nov. 7, with a Women's Luncheon at the Harrisburg Hilton, co-sponsored by the Governor's Commission on African American Affairs, to honor the contributions of the women of the Garnett Society.

*The Grand Review Parade is 9 a.m. to noon, Nov. 6, downtown. For parade route and more information, visit [www.visitpa.com/grandreview](http://www.visitpa.com/grandreview).*

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**On a Heart Walk:**  
Members of the Penn State Hershey Stroke Rehab Team joined more than 1,000 others in the 19th Annual American Heart Association Capital Region Start! Heart and Stroke Walk on Sept. 26 at Harrisburg Area Community College. The Walk encouraged Capital Region residents to take steps toward heart-healthy lifestyles while helping to raise funds and awareness to fight cardiovascular disease and stroke. To date, the Walk has raised \$185,000. Photo by Carol Warzicki.



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**The English Rose**

## Toys, with a Twist

Playtime is uniquely creative at Toys On The Square.

Peter Durantine



Three-year-old Emma Devine, a regular customer, loves the trains at Toys On The Square.

It's the toy store of dreams—nooks and crannies filled with hard-to-find items, a Lionel train set of a town square in the window and a store owner who knows his stuff and likes to quote British playwright George Bernard Shaw:

"We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing."

Toys On The Square, Unusual Toys & Pottery Painting, is one of the most unique shops of its kind in the greater Harrisburg area. Its owner,

decades ago in Hershey. By 2002, he had moved into space eight times that size on Hummelstown's square to meet the demand for his selective merchandise.

Regular customers come from far and wide to the store, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary. One cool, fall afternoon Jessica Fulchiero of Altoona came into the store with her 6-year-old son, Judah, and 9-year-old daughter Madilyn.

"Every time we pass the exit on the turnpike, we have to stop and

Grafton Stine, puts many of the toys through rigorous study and test before deciding to sell them.

"We are very selective," he said. "Our toys are new and innovative, and they are also nostalgic—they take you back to your childhood."

Stine started in the business with a 1,000-square-foot shop two

come to this store," Fulchiero said.

Until about five years ago, the Fulchieros were Hummelstown residents, which is how they know the store. She still shops there because of "the unique toys that you can't find anywhere else. The amazing selection; we're always drawn back."

Some of the toys she has bought at the store over the years include a life-size Madeline doll for daughter Madilyn and "cool Legos that we couldn't find anywhere else" for Judah, she said.

Sandi Steward of New Cumberland, who was browsing the board games, said she visits Toys On The Square about once every two months.

"You find stuff here you don't find anywhere else," she said, noting that, before they became popular, she bought a plasma car for her grandson at the shop. "It's different. I really like it a lot."

Stine is rewarded to see a second generation—the children of his early customers—now coming in to buy for their children.

It's an adventure just to visit the shop with its abundance of toys, kaleidoscope displays and wide

variety of stuffed animals, including a tall giraffe that stands in the aisle. Knowledgeable staff is on hand to answer questions.

There's a party room for birthdays and a pottery painting studio, where they also hold community events such as Retro Family Game Night on Nov. 11. From Nov. 5–14, they will celebrate the first national Neighborhood Toy Store Day, which is on the 13th.

The shop also works each year with Children's Miracle Network, where about 15 children under care at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital paint a pottery piece that is then auctioned off at the Miracle Ball, which is Nov. 6 at the Hilton Harrisburg.

Stine's toy business philosophy is reflected in a quote he likes from Albert Einstein: "Imagination is more important than knowledge."

*Toys On The Square, Unusual Toys & Pottery Painting, 22 E. Main St., Hummelstown, 717-566-6301 or [www.toysonthesquare.com](http://www.toysonthesquare.com). Mon./Tues./Wed./Sat., 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thurs./Fri., 9:30 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun., noon–5 p.m.*

## Arts at 510 to Close

Harrisburg soon will be down one significant arts space, as Arts at 510 will close at the end of the year.

Susan Schreckengast opened the gallery and shop across from the state Capitol in 2006, featuring arts and crafts from area artists. She now plans to retire after more than 30 years in the business, so is seeking a retail tenant for the building at 510 N. 3rd St., which she owns.

Schreckengast said she will continue to be active in 3rd in The Burg, the city-wide arts event held the third Friday of each month, which she helped to found.

Anyone interested in leasing the space should call 717-979-7167.

In NOVEMBER, warm up at Cafe di Luna!

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A photograph showing the exterior of the Cafe di Luna. The building has a blue door and a window displaying artwork. A sign above the entrance reads "Cafe di Luna" and "The Best Coffee in Town!".

Folk Concerts Coming Up:

**Battlefield Band**  
Iconic Scottish trad group  
**Sat, November 6**  
**Camp Hill United Methodist**  
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**James Keelaghan**  
Poet laureate of folk/roots music  
**Sat, November 20**  
**Midtown Scholar**  
7:30pm ... \$18

[www.SusquehannaFolk.org](http://www.SusquehannaFolk.org)

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# From the Ground Up

## Amid the Old, Something New

Modern-style home adds texture, beauty to Olde Uptown streetscape.

Lawrance Binda



Modern times: Ruggero Scarabello's eye-catching house.

"Oh, wow, what's that?" asked my out-of-town visitor.

I had taken Marla, who was passing through Harrisburg, on a

Scarabello.

"This house is something very different for Harrisburg," I remarked. Indeed, walking up narrow

walk through the quaint, beautifully restored streets of historic Olde Uptown when we came across a house that was definitely not a century-plus old.

As luck would have it, I knew exactly the story behind the ultra-modern house, since, just two days before, I had spoken with the owner, Ruggero

Susquehanna Street, at the corner of Peffer Street, Scarabello's house is a visual stunner. Its bright colors, irregular shape and dramatic windows make a casual stroller stop, stare and think, if just for a moment, about architecture—its aesthetics, its place in the neighborhood.

It's not uncommon for a passerby to go up to the house and run a hand over the exterior, a mix of corrugated metal panels and fiber cement siding.

The 41-year-old Scarabello, who works for an architecture firm, said that, when he decided to build new, he wanted his house to reflect the sensibility of today, not the Victorian age.

"I felt that my house should be an expression of our time," he said.

As an Italian, he also was influenced by the modernist architecture of Europe, as well as the contemporary look of the newer buildings in the reviving Philadelphia neighborhood of Northern Liberties, several of which he helped design after arriving in the United States from Italy.

Moving to Harrisburg in 2007, Scarabello rented downtown awhile, scouting out different areas before deciding to settle in Olde Uptown. Houses on the market there, though, just didn't suit his taste. So, he bought two parcels from the developer, WCI Partners, got the necessary city approvals and began construction over the winter.

The house went up quickly, as it lacks a basement (due to flood concerns) and was built using a panelized construction method, with entire wall sections built off-site in a factory. In June, he moved into the open, bright, energy-efficient three-bedroom home, where he now lives with Bear, his extremely friendly cat.

"The challenge was to place a contemporary building in a historic setting," he said.

Scarabello said that his house has been warmly received by his



Scarabello stands in the sleek kitchen of his Olde Uptown house (top). His living room offers spectacular views of the historic neighborhood (below).

neighbors, who, without exception, have chosen very different living environments.

Dave Butcher, president of WCI, which has rebuilt and restored Olde Uptown almost single-handedly, compliments Scarabello both for his architectural vision and for forging ahead with a residential building project during a tough economic and political time.

"It shows tremendous faith in the future of our city," he said.

Not that Scarabello's house will be the lone modern structure on the block for long. He plans to erect a contemporary-style house on the adjoining lot, so there will be greater harmony among the row of houses on the street.

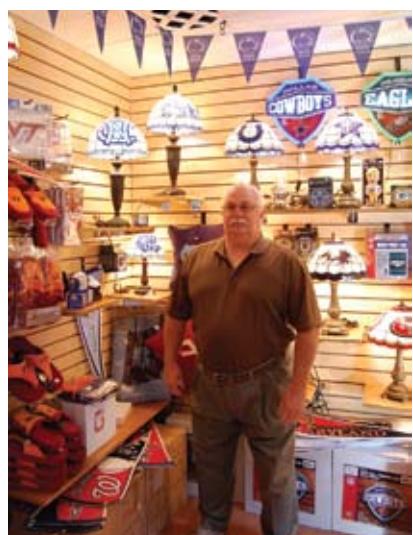
"I love that my house projects into the neighborhood," he said. "It really makes me feel a part of this community and this beautiful place."

For more information, email Ruggero at [ruggeroscarabello@msn.com](mailto:ruggeroscarabello@msn.com).

## A Sports Fan's Paradise

If you have a team, Annie B's has your gear.

Peter Durantine



**Memorabilia & more:** Melvin Cross, owner of Annie B's, Too.

**D**on't let the name throw you. Annie B's, Too is more than a light and lamp repair shop—it sells collegiate and professional football, baseball and hockey memorabilia. And what sports paraphernalia he doesn't have, shop owner Melvin

Cross said he can get, and have it sent wherever the customer wants.

Why the name, Annie B's? That's his wife's name.

Cross started the shop five years ago in the West Shore Farmer's Market, selling household lamps to a steady clientele, but, when he put a couple of sports memorabilia lamps on the shelf, they went fast.

"That really took off," Cross said. "I decided I might as well go totally sports."

From the Eagles to the Steelers, from the Phillies to the Pirates, from Penn State to West Virginia.

West Virginia? Cross, a Middletown native, attended a junior college in the Mountaineer State.

"I lean toward West Virginia," he said.

Lights, bobbleheads, hats, pennants, night lights, slippers, throw quilts, flags, bottle openers, pillows, earrings, soap dispensers, NASCAR grill sets, etc. You name it, and Cross has it in the team of your choice.

He also custom-makes lamps, as well as repairs them. He turned an Indianapolis Colts football helmet into a lamp for one customer.

But while he may be a sports memorabilia machine, Cross still has that household touch. He said that he recently turned an old coffee pot into a lamp.

*Annie B's, Too, West Shore Farmers Market, 2nd floor, Suite 12, Lemoyne, 717-761-1169.*

## HodgePodgery Grows

The HodgePodgery, just a year old, is already expanding, opening a second location at Stahr Living Arts Village, 438 N. Queen St., Lancaster.

Since debuting in Harrisburg at 1100 N. 3rd St., the "HoPo" has become a premier shop for crafts and wearable art. Owner Dawn Rettinger said Lancaster's vibrant arts scene attracted her to the city. For more, go to hodgepodgery.com.

## State Uncorks a Better Wine Store



A redesigned, refurbished state-owned Fine Wine & Spirits Shop opened recently at 333 Market St., Harrisburg. Store hours are 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. It's closed Sunday.

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# New Business

## New Biz: Grand Openings



**Brick City Bar and Grille:** Big crowds and rave reviews greeted the opening of Brick City Bar and Grille, 1313 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg. Patrons praised the new restaurant for its food, service and two dozen tap beers. Late-night diners were excited to learn that a full menu is served until the wee hours on weekends. Phone: 717-232-2522.



**Clear:** Owners Steve Lam and Bill Heilig stand outside their new Clear store at 1001 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg. It's the second location for the partners, who also own the store at the Uptown Plaza. Clear offers affordable, hi-speed wireless Internet for both home and on the go, as well as Internet/voice bundles. Call 717-798-9125; visit [www.clear.com](http://www.clear.com).



**Garden Fresh Market & Deli:** Natural food fans got their wishes granted last month, as Garden Fresh Market & Deli opened at 1300 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg. One of just a few organic markets in the midstate, Garden Fresh caters to people who want to eat healthy and who have special dietary needs. In this photo, owner Justin Peterson stands near his first batch of produce on opening day. Call 717-994-8552.



**Howard Motors:** Howard Henry, owner of the newly opened Howard Motors at 201 S. Cameron St., Harrisburg, is joined for the grand opening by Mayor Linda Thompson, his wife Monique and two sons, Jake and Luke. Contact 717-303-1917.



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## Let Them Eat Car-Shaped Cake

Specialty cakes are a rising trend in central Pa.

Stephanie Kalina-Metzger



They make funky cake: Darmayne and Robby Robertson of Sweet Confections Cakes.

If you are unaware of the cake phenomenon sweeping the nation, then you just aren't tuned in.

It seems you can't flip through television channels without stumbling on a cake show. There's "Cake Boss," the "Ultimate Cake Off," "Ace of Cakes," and "Amazing Wedding Cakes," to name just a few. And it's not just limited to television. Cake competitions are springing up at convention centers all around the country as bakers compete to out-wow the audience and each other.

So is it fair to say the market is oversaturated? Ray Walmer doesn't think so. He started Linglestown-based "Ray Walmer Cakes" in July, taking advantage of the trend. Said Walmer, "The introduction of Cake Boss and Ace of Cakes has popularized the cake business."

He specializes in 3-D cakes for birthday parties, but creates cakes for any occasion. The most interesting cake request, to date, was a pig for a pig-loving birthday girl.

"I create a lot of army tanks for boys' birthday parties," Walmer said. "For girls, anything abstract and girly tends to be popular. If people call with an idea in mind, I can help them along in the conceptualization process."

Darmayne and Willard "Robby" Robertson said business is booming at their specialty cake shop, "Sweet

Confections Cakes" in Colonial Park.

"A lot of people drop by with ideas they get from "Cake Boss" and other shows, and as we say, 'your only limit is your imagination,'" Darmayne said.

Darmayne, a retired Capital Blue Cross supervisor, started making cakes in the '90s after work and on the weekends in her spare time. She began with simple pound cakes then took a class at Boscov's department store where she learned basic decorating techniques like the "basket weave" and how to craft roses.

Seeking a bigger challenge, Darmayne signed up for more advanced courses at the Wilton School, where she became so adept at cake decorating that she taught classes for several years, while continuing to bake cakes after work and on weekends. Her client base kept growing and, before long, she needed to lease space. She laughed, "Our home address somehow ended up on the Internet, and people kept dropping by." In 2005, she and her husband leased the building that now houses the business.

Darmayne's husband Robby, who is retired from the military, now does all the baking with an assistant. Darmayne acts as chief decorator, assisted by Le Cordon Bleu graduate, Melanie Corrad, who recently relocated from Scottsdale, Ariz.

Darmayne said clients have ranged in age from 3 months old to 90, and clients aren't limited to females. "Groom's cakes are now very popular and approximately 60 percent of the couples order them. About half will serve them at the wedding, and about half will serve them at the rehearsals," she said.

Perusing the hundreds of pictures on display at the shop, one becomes overwhelmed at the variety of cakes crafted throughout the years. Designs run the gamut from food (one cake was a bucket

of Kentucky Fried Chicken) to cars to treasure chests to designer shoes to the ubiquitous princess castles popular with the little girls. There is even a replica of the Pennsylvania state Capitol that was ordered by state Rep. Dwight Evans for a birthday.

Thanks to the Internet, people from as far away as Germany and Paris have ordered online from the website (which Darmayne developed herself, by the way). "They were coming through town and picked up the cakes, but we've also hand-delivered cakes as far away as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh," Darmayne said.

Celebrity baker Chef Duff Goldman, owner of Charm City Cakes in Baltimore, knows about the Robertsons—and sent a client their way when they were overloaded with work and unable to accommodate a request.

Asked if they've witnessed a downturn in business during the recession, the Robertsons said business is as busy as ever, and they're even hiring another staff member soon.

And that's just icing on the cake!



Edible art: A cake shaped like a cell phone from Ray Walmer Cakes (top) and a Chanel handbag cake from Sweet Confections Cakes (bottom).

*Ray Walmer Cakes, 717-608-5666*

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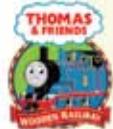
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### Calendar of Events!

Nov 5, Fri 5-7pm - Wheel of Fortune - Be a lucky winner!  
Unveiling of ASTRA's Best Toys for Kids  
2010 Award List!

Nov 7, Sun 1-3 pm - "Dinorific Poetry - Stories of ancient animals"  
Author & Illustrator Book Signing  
Michael Sgrignoli and his son Ethan!

Nov 11, Thurs 5-7pm - Retro Family Game Night; Play games with  
our fun Toy Manufacturer Representatives!

Nov 12, Fri 5 - 7pm - Wheel of Fortune - Spin for a prize! Be a  
lucky winner!

Nov 13, Sat 10am-2pm- Playmobil Sale! Giveaways!  
Representative on hand.  
Celebrating Neighborhood Toy Store Day!

Nov 14, Sun 12 - 3pm - Magic and Entertainment from the magical  
world of Brent Keener!



American Specialty Toy Retailing Association's  
Best Toys for Kids Award list of 2010 will be on  
display Friday Nov 5 thru Saturday Nov 13 for the  
celebration of national "Neighborhood Toy Store Day!"

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## Taste of the Town

### General Store, Latin Style

Tres Hermanos has a little of everything.

Peter Durantine



Warm welcome: Ricardo Ortiz found an eager clientele when he moved his restaurant/grocery to Harrisburg.

After five years along Steelton's Front Street, Tres Hermanos, a Mexican grocery store and restaurant, had to find a new location, to make way for an urban renewal project. Owner Ricardo Ortiz looked north.

The 39-year-old Ortiz and his wife, Anabel, moved their bustling business to Harrisburg, near the intersection of Paxton and Cameron streets, in February.

Ortiz started the store six years ago to fill what he considered a need, noting the growing Hispanic population—not to mention non-Hispanics—had few options when it came to shopping for ethnic groceries and sundries and dining on authentic cuisine.

Browse the aisles while waiting for breakfast, lunch or dinner, and find a true ethnic grocery—coconut water from the Goya brand;

Horchata rice drink; sodas from Mexico (Sidral Mudet, Jarritos) and Columbia (Colombiana); juice from Guatemala (Del Fruta); and Mexican popsicles, baked goods, spices, herbs and peppers.

"We sell everything," Ortiz said, waving his arm toward the aisles.

Tres Hermanos also sells toiletries, cowboy boots, religious candles and statuary, Latin movies and Latin music, which is piped through the restaurant and store, further adding to the ethnic experience.

In the restaurant, diners can order from a large menu that includes Italian as well as Mexican—from standard fare like tacos, burritos to more complex dishes such as Enchiladas Verdes con Pollo (green enchiladas and chicken) or Camarones al Mojo de Ajo (shrimp in a garlic sauce).

"I want to introduce a lot of dishes," Ortiz said.

While the move from Steelton to Harrisburg may have been disruptive, Ortiz is pleased by the re-location, a high-traffic area with more visibility and more customers. "It's a better place," he said. "It's closer to the city."

*Tres Hermanos Grocery Store and Mexican Food & Pizza Restaurant, 712 S. Cameron St., Harrisburg; 717-233-2210; Open Monday to Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.*

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## Wise Up with a Little Sage

The hearty herb adds zest to many meals.

Rosemary Ruggieri Baer

It is now fall. And as I walk by my herb garden, I feel compelled to take advantage of these wonderful plants before the cold, harsh winter arrives.

They look a little forlorn this year. For although herbs enjoy warm sunshine, I fear I didn't water them nearly enough. One herb garden inhabitant looks especially lonely: my long-lived and faithful sage plant. Although I gave it several "haircuts" this summer, it saw little use in the kitchen. However, its gray-green velvety leaves were a wonderful addition to my bouquets of cut summer flowers.

But at this time of year, with cooler weather arriving, I am reminded of how much I love the unique taste sage imparts to fall and winter foods. Sage is one of the primary ingredients in the herb blend we know as poultry seasoning, something I have used tons of in my cooking lifetime. But it is too good to save for Thanksgiving stuffing and other holiday dishes. And it is far too distinguished an herb to not stand alone because it truly can define a dish.

Sage is readily available in the produce section of your supermarket, but it is also very easy to grow at home. Find a little pot of it at a local garden center or nursery, plant it in a sunny spot and, in a couple of years, you will have more sage than you will know what to do with. There are many varieties, including purple and pineapple sage. Choose one you like best. I like to replace my sage plant every couple of years as it tends to get "woody." You will find it will be a trooper in your herb garden, weathering the elements far better than its fickle neighbor, rosemary.

Wash a bunch of fresh sage leaves, wrap them in paper towels and place them in a zip lock plastic bag for use within five days. The sage leaves also can be placed in a jar, covered with olive oil and stored in the fridge for up to three weeks.

You can use the flavored sage oil in salad dressings or for sautéing chicken or steaks.

As you become familiar with this strong-flavored herb, you will think of more ways to use it. In a hurry to fix something on a busy weeknight? Grab a box of pre-made fresh ravioli from your local supermarket and cook according to package directions. Melt some butter (real sweet cream butter) in a small skillet and add about eight large shredded sage leaves. Cook until the butter foams and turns golden brown and the sage leaves start to crisp a little. Add some ground pepper and a dash or two of nutmeg and drizzle over the cooked ravioli. As the "Barefoot Contessa" would say: "How easy is that?"

My favorite sage recipe, though, is a traditional one. It is called saltimbocca, which translates to "jump in the mouth." It is a dish of complex tastes and is thought to be of Roman origin. It calls for veal, which can be pricey, but you can also make it with very thin chicken cutlets if you prefer. Pound the veal or chicken to an even thinness, little slices of meat referred to as "scalloppini." The recipe is easy to make. It can be prepared quickly on a weeknight, but is elegant enough to serve for company.

### Saltimbocca alla Romana

#### Ingredients:

- 8 thin slices of veal scallopini
- 8 slices of prosciutto
- 8 fresh sage leaves
- 1 tablespoon of sweet (unsalted) butter
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 cup of dry white wine

1. On each veal slice, place a slice of prosciutto (cut to fit) and a sage leaf. Roll and fasten both to the veal with a toothpick.
2. Melt the butter and oil in a skillet and brown the veal packets on both sides.

3. Add the white wine and simmer for about 10 minutes.

4. Remove the veal and place on a platter.

5. Boil the pan juices until they're reduced to half their original volume.

6. Pour the pan juices over the veal and serve. Garnish the serving dish with additional fresh sage sprigs for a beautiful presentation.

Some cooking tips:

- Some recipes for saltimbocca call for a slice of fontina cheese to be placed on the veal in addition to the prosciutto and sage. This is delicious. But if you do add the cheese, brown only on the bottom side and then cover the pan briefly to cook the top and melt the cheese.
- Add salt carefully, if at all. Some prosciutto can be very salty. You can always salt at the table.
- Using a non-stick skillet will prevent sticking, but can also prevent the veal slices from getting nice and brown. If you cook with stainless steel, make sure you don't

turn the veal until it is browned on the bottom.

Serve your saltimbocca with a crisp, dry white wine to cut the saltiness of the prosciutto. Enjoy this unique Italian dish from Rome!



Rosemary Ruggieri Baer, a first generation Italian-American, grew up in Harrisburg and has spent her life perfecting her mother's country cooking.

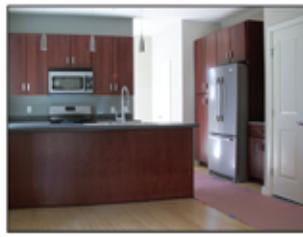
## Extended Hours

Responding to demand, several popular Harrisburg businesses have recently extended their hours:

- Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café, 1302 N. 3rd St., now is open Tues.-Sat., 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sun., 12-7 p.m.
- Alvaro Bread & Pastry Shoppe, 236 Peffer St., now is open Mon.-Thu., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Fri.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Keystone Diner, 1000 N. 3rd St., has added Sunday hours, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

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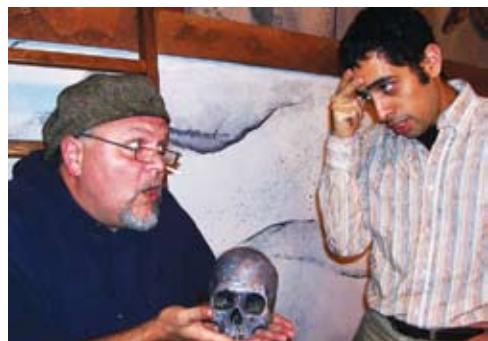
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## They Live for the Laugh

Fun is serious stuff for improv group Utterly Stupid.

Lori Myers



Utterly Stupid and Corrupt members go through their improvised paces.

**W**hat is "Utterly Stupid and Corrupt?"

Is it a road rage rant? A \$1.01 item at the Dollar Store? Or perhaps a way to describe your latest blind date? Nope. It's a very funny, very irreverent and very creative ensemble of actors and comics from Harrisburg's Gamut Theatre Group who decided that being funny is serious business. They dare you to laugh. They double-dare you ... and they always get their way.

Based on tried-and-true improvisational games and the well-known English and American shows, "Who's Line Is It Anyway?", the Utterly Stupid and Corrupt crew get Harrisburg audiences involved in the shenanigans so that they, too, can be utterly stupid and corrupt.

"I've been a fan of improv and its direct relation, sketch comedy, for a longer period of time than I have been involved in Shakespearian performance or other types of theater," said Clark Nicholson, Gamut's artistic director/co-founder and one of the Utterly Stupids. "I was initially inspired to become an actor not by the idea of performing 'Hamlet,' but by the wish to be on Saturday Night Live. 'Hamlet' came later."

So there you have it. Inside every Laurence Olivier or Al Pacino is a Jerry Lewis yearning to break free.

And, yes, women are funny, too. Versatile actress Lisa Weitzman

says that bubbles up. You don't want to be too cerebral. Planning in improv is a bad thing."

The talented Jennie Adams would agree. She only has to say a word and make a face and the whole room is rolling in the aisles ... making it impossible for anyone to leave. Also impossible is "rehearsing" prior to a performance because what is being said and the ideas being tossed about during showtime are being created on the spot. There's no time out, no chance to jot down a few notes, no time to talk it over with a fellow performer. Instead, it all happens right there and in your face. The group's "rehearsals" have more to do with preparation, playing various games and trying out new games and scenarios. What IS possible is building an ensemble and learning to trust and listen to one another.

"That comes with time and practice," Adams said. "Clark has taught us that listening is the single most important skill we can learn in improv. If we are not listening to our fellow actors and are just trying to be funny by ourselves, we will fail."

Adams claims that Harrisburg is the perfect spot for this sort of comedy because the people who live here have a terrific sense of humor.

"I'm from Snyder County," Adams said, "and people up there still think cow tipping is funny. Cow tipping is so '90s."

Well, cow tipping aside, one of the games the group plays on stage involves having the audience shout out names of things, descriptions or phrases while one of the improv members is out of earshot. When the person returns, other

improvisers create scenarios and offer clues to try and get the person to come up with the chosen idea. Another game is when each actor takes on the personality and goal of a superpower. And there's more. Much more. The Gamut folks are such believers in the art of improv that they offer a workshop for teens to help hone their comedic edge.

"I'm not sure where that idea will go," Nicholson said. "Perhaps the kids will be inspired to form their own troupe. In any case, I think that is great 'continuing ed' for anyone involved in theater. The skill set is a bit different than that utilized in putting together a straight play, but the constant exercise of actively listening is great training for someone learning to do scripted work."

Okay. Enough with the intellectualism. Nicholson admits that audiences have been so supportive that Utterly Stupid and Corrupt has become famous for "yards" around.

"And they always laugh 'til they quit. Without fail."

*Utterly Stupid and Corrupt performs at Stage on Herr at the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center on "3rd in The Burg," the third Friday of each month.*

## Let the Holidays Begin



Harrisburg's annual Holiday Parade hits the streets on Saturday, Nov. 20. The marchers, bands and floats kick off from City Island at 10 a.m.

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## Portrait of the Advocate as a Young Man

New book recounts a bittersweet boyhood.

Michael Walsh

**I**t was 1973, Milton Shapp was governor, and he was looking for a "nobody."

In the wake of Hurricane Agnes, Shapp wanted to transform a toll-free flood hotline established to help with claims into a "Governor's Action Center," where citizens could seek information, request assistance or report problems. The governor wanted a direct line from the people to his office, and he wanted it run by a "nobody"—someone free from the influences of political calculations.

As fate would have it, a 26-year-old assistant bureau director from the Department of Public Welfare was just the person Shapp sought.

Joe Farrell was recommended because he was young and smart, a good manager—and a "nobody." Shapp made the tall, likeable Irish guy the first director of the Governor's Action Center. His career took off. After leaving the Shapp administration, Joe spent the next 21 years at the Public Utility Commission working in consumer protection—continuing to advocate for citizens. After a stint in the private sector, he is now executive director of the state Supreme Court's Disciplinary Board. As they say, "the luck of the Irish."

Hearing Joe Farrell tell the story is like hearing about those well-deserving folks who win Powerball jackpots: plucked from obscurity and given that once-in-a-lifetime shot; the kind of story that makes you feel good, told in a way that leaves you laughing. In fact, it's like many stories Joe likes to tell friends—filled with humor and a head-shaking "did you really do that?"

Long before he joined state government, Joe was a product of Catholic schools—



in the 1950s and '60s—when the scars you might leave school with were not just emotional. He was the class clown, the student who showed no fear when questioning the logic of church teachings. The nuns and brothers didn't always enjoy his quest for truth and clarity.

Even so, it makes for great storytelling. So, at the urging of friends who have listened to him recount stories of his school years, Joe spent the last nine years writing them down for "Confessions of a Catholic Schoolboy," recently published.

In Catholic school, the month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. At Joe's grade school, St. Andrew Avellino in Queens, N.Y., each fifth-grader took a turn bringing home the statue of Mary so the family could say the full rosary together after dinner. As Joe recounts, the night it was his turn just so happened to be the night of his favorite TV show. He decided to hide the statue in the hedges outside his parents' home and return Mary to class the next day, assuring Sister Charles Marie his family did its good deed.

It would have worked, but Joe forgot the statue and was forced by the principal to call his mother so she could retrieve Mary from the shrubs. The beating he took at school was matched only by the one he received at home that evening. In those days, before such acts were outlawed, Joe received his share of corporal punishment at the hands of

those in service to God—I lost count somewhere in the fifth chapter.

Coming of age during a time of social and political upheaval offered as much excitement and uncertainty as a strict Catholic school. Those were the days of Sputnik, air raid drills (Joe wondered if hiding under the desk would make any difference in the event of nuclear war) and the Cuban Missile Crisis (shouldn't they skip school if it was going to be their last day on Earth?).

Joe recounts the late-night dorm room debates he and his classmates squared off on, such as the question of civil rights and the prospect of fighting in an unpopular war in the jungles of Vietnam.

"Confessions" is a snapshot of America during tumultuous times and a telling account of the collective journey taken by the baby-boomer generation. It is at times very humorous, but it's also a deeply personal book about schooling, teachers and friendships.

The education of Joe Farrell was clearly not limited to the classroom.

*Joe Farrell will sign copies of his book at Nick's in New Cumberland at 6 p.m. on Nov. 10.*

## Geller to Perform at Opera Fundraiser

Baritone Ian Geller will perform for Capitol Opera Harrisburg, singing favorite operatic arias at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, and 2 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Harrisburg Academy Theater, 10 Erford Rd., Wormleysburg.

The performances will feature a cameo appearance by Soprano Kathleen Torchia, artistic director of Capitol Opera, with piano accompaniment by Elena Millar.

Geller is the artistic director of Capitol Opera Albany and has a wide operatic and Hebrew repertoire. Torchia, a Harrisburg native, will sing "Vissi d'arte" from Puccini's "Tosca" and a Mozart duet with Geller. Admission is \$20; for seniors and students, \$17; and for groups of 10 or more \$15. For ticket information, call 717-303-9030 or visit [www.capopera.com](http://www.capopera.com).

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# Happenings

## Museums & Art Spaces

### 3rd Street Studio

1725 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-385-3315; [www.3rdstreetstudio.org](http://www.3rdstreetstudio.org)  
"Indigenous Vernacular," works by Nataki McNeal Bhatti, with an interactive component focusing on community art and artistic expression, through November.  
Works by Carolyn Pio and Lawrence Charles Miller. Reception: Nov. 19, 6–8 p.m.

### Antique Auto Museum at Hershey

161 Museum Dr., Hershey  
717-566-7100; [www.aacamuseum.org](http://www.aacamuseum.org)  
"From Roads to Rails," a custom train display, through Jan. 2.  
"Ash & Maple Marvels, Wood-Bodied Cars 1910–1953," through Jan. 31.  
"Two-Wheeled Treasures from the Dennis Carpenter Collection," motorcycles from the 1930s to the 1970s, through May.  
"Stainless Steel, 1967 Lincoln Continental Convertible," through September.

### Art Association of Harrisburg

21 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1432; [www.artassocofhbg.com](http://www.artassocofhbg.com)  
"4 Artist Invitational Exhibit," through Nov. 24.

### ArtHouse Lounge

217 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-2550; [www.arthouselounge.com](http://www.arthouselounge.com)  
Works by Jeff Wiles and PIPER. Reception: Nov. 19, 6–9 p.m.

### Arts at 510

510 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-724-0364; [www.artsat510.com](http://www.artsat510.com)  
Oil paintings by Jenna Campbell. Reception: Nov. 19, 5:10–8 p.m., music by 510 Express.

### Café di Luna

1004 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-695-9449; [cafediluna.com](http://cafediluna.com)  
Art by Stephen C. Shaw, through November; "Dual Vision Artists," a discussion group re: painters who were also writers, every Tuesday.



## 3rd in The Burg: Nov. 19

Can you name either of the two movies that secured Oscar awards for Jack Lemmon? It's not as easy as you think! Test your cinematic knowledge at Movie Trivia Night (right) at Midtown Cinema during November's 3rd in The Burg. Enjoy free popcorn, answer a few questions, win prizes—have fun! While there, check out the cinema's gallery, which this month features works by Anna Novak. You can visit many other galleries, restaurants and venues on Friday, Nov. 19 for 3rd in The Burg, the monthly event featuring art, music and more at venues around Harrisburg. For more information, see our back cover or visit [www.3rdinTheBurg.com](http://www.3rdinTheBurg.com).

### Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
[www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com](http://www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com)  
November Artist of the Month: Christina Heintzelman-Jones, photography.

### Cygnets Studios/ConeWago Coffeehouse

336 S. Market St., Elizabethtown  
717-367-6140; [conewagocoffee.com](http://conewagocoffee.com)  
November Artist of the Month: Diana Robinson.

### Gallerie Thirteen

13 E. Main St., Mechanicsburg  
717-591-6940; [www.gallerie13.com](http://www.gallerie13.com)  
November Artists of the Month: Raymond Philbrick and P. Buckley Moss.

### Gallery@Second

608 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
[galleryatsecond.com](http://galleryatsecond.com)  
Featured works by Barbara Passeri-Warfel and Judith Sen, Nov. 4–Dec. 11. Reception: Nov. 5, 6–9 p.m.

### Gallery at Walnut Place

413 Walnut St., Harrisburg/717-233-0487  
Oil and acrylic works by Fritz Vonderheiden. Artist reception: Nov. 19, 5–8 p.m.

### Gallery Blu

1633 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-234-3009; [www.galleryblu.org](http://www.galleryblu.org)  
"I Hear What You're Seeing: Artists and Their Music," Nov. 19 through January. Reception: Nov. 19, 7–9 p.m.

### Garden Fresh Market & Deli

1300 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-994-8552  
Works by John Davis, through November.

### Harrisburg 2010 History Center

Dauphin Deposit Bank Building, Harrisburg  
210 Market St.; [dauphincountyhistory.org](http://dauphincountyhistory.org)  
United States Colored Troops and the Harrisburg Grand Review, through Dec. 11.

### Harsco Science Center

Whitaker Center, 222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; [www.whitakercenter.org](http://www.whitakercenter.org)  
"The Eyes Have It ...," through Nov. 7.

### HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg  
717-441-7506; [www.harrisburgarts.com](http://www.harrisburgarts.com)  
Works by various local and regional artists.

### The Mantis Collective

1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
[themantiscollective@yahoo.com](mailto:themantiscollective@yahoo.com)  
Paintings by Jeffrey Johnson, through Nov. 14.

Paintings by Tara Chickey, Nov. 19–Dec. 12.

### Midtown Cinema

250 Reily St., Harrisburg  
[www.midtowncinema.com](http://www.midtowncinema.com)  
Artwork by Anna Novak, through November.

### Midtown Scholar/Yellow Wall Gallery

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; [www.midtownscholar.com](http://www.midtownscholar.com)  
"Seeing through Design," graphic design works by Messiah College's Allison Coleman and Cristina Ortiz, through November. Artists reception, Nov. 19, 6–9 p.m.

### National Civil War Museum

One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir, Harrisburg  
717-260-1861; [nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](http://nationalcivilwarmuseum.org)  
"War on the Homefront," through March 13.

### Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

176 Water Company Rd., Millersburg  
717-692-3699; [www.nedsmithcenter.org](http://www.nedsmithcenter.org)  
"Moments in Time," art using natural elements by Andy Goldsworthy, through Dec. 31.

### Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
[www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter](http://www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter)  
Student Invitational Exhibit, Nov. 1–19.  
Student Photography Show, Nov. 29–Dec. 9.

### SPRAMA.gallery

308 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-238-1001; [www.sprama.com](http://www.sprama.com)  
Contemporary works of Sandra Milner; sculptures of Mary Lee Kerr, through November. Reception, Nov. 19, 5–9 p.m.

### The State Museum of Pennsylvania

300 North St., Harrisburg  
717-787-4980; [www.statemuseumupa.org](http://www.statemuseumupa.org)  
"Voices of the Revolution," an exhibit commemorating the Civil Rights movement through woodcuts, poetry and more.

### Susquehanna Art Museum

301 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-233-8668; [www.sqart.org](http://www.sqart.org)  
"People, Places and Things: A Celebration of Harrisburg's Artistic Heritage," through Jan. 2.  
Dōshi Gallery: Ceramic sculpture by Shalya Marsh, Nov. 4–Dec. 5.

## The Stage Door

### Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse

1559 Boiling Springs Rd., Boiling Springs  
717-258-3211; [allenberry.com](http://allenberry.com)  
"The Allenberry Christmas Show," Nov. 3–Dec. 23

### H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center

Shippensburg University, Shippensburg  
717-477-SHOW; [www.luhrscenter.com](http://www.luhrscenter.com)  
"The Lion, The Witch & the Wardrobe," Nov. 13

### Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; [www.gamutplays.org](http://www.gamutplays.org)  
"Barefoot in Athens," Nov. 5–20

### Hershey Area Playhouse

Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive, Hershey  
717-838-8164; [hersheyareaplayhouse.com](http://hersheyareaplayhouse.com)  
No shows scheduled for November.

### HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg  
717-441-7506; [www.harrisburgarts.com](http://www.harrisburgarts.com)  
Soul Comedy Café, Nov. 21

Utterly Stupid and Corrupt, Nov. 19

Don't Break the Streak, Nov. 28

### Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; [www.midtownscholar.com](http://www.midtownscholar.com)  
"Stage Brew: An Experimental Concoction of Contemporary Theatre," assorted short plays and monologues, Nov. 10

### Open Stage of Harrisburg

223 Walnut St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; [www.openstagehbg.com](http://www.openstagehbg.com)  
"[title of show]," through Nov. 6  
"Glitterama 8: Not without My DJ," Nov. 13

### Oyster Mill Playhouse

1001 Oyster Mill Road, Camp Hill  
717-737-6768; [www.oystermill.com](http://www.oystermill.com)  
"How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying," Nov. 5–21

### Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; [www.gamutplays.org](http://www.gamutplays.org)  
No shows scheduled for November.

### Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
[www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter](http://www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter)  
"Ball in the House," Nov. 4–5  
"Wizard of Oz," (Missoula Children's Theatre), Nov. 20

### Theatre Harrisburg

Whitaker Center, Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; [www.theatreharrisburg.com](http://www.theatreharrisburg.com)  
"Camelot," Nov. 5–21

# Happenings

## Live Music around Harrisburg

### Appalachian Brewing Co./Abbey Bar

50 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg  
717-221-1083; [www.abcbrew.com](http://www.abcbrew.com)  
Nov. 4: Girls, Guns & Glory  
Nov. 5: Project Object  
Nov. 8: The Low Anthem  
Nov. 9: The City Champs  
Nov. 11: Reverend Peytons Big Damn Band w/  
Hamell on Trial  
Nov. 12: The Joy Formidable w/The Dig & The  
Shackletons  
Nov. 13: River 97.3 Toys for Tots Benefit  
Nov. 13: Franz Nicolay  
Nov. 19: Danger Muffin  
Nov. 24: Quagmire Swim Team  
Nov. 26: In Wilderness w/guests  
Nov. 27: The Almighty Senators w/Hexbelt

### Carley's Ristorante and Piano Bar

204 Locust St., Harrisburg  
717-909-9191; [www.carleysristorante.com](http://www.carleysristorante.com)  
Nov. 3: Mark Zangrilli  
Nov. 4: Giovanni Traino  
Nov. 5: Wade Preston  
Nov. 6: TBA  
Nov. 10: Andrew Bargh  
Nov. 11: Anthony Haubert  
Nov. 12: Ted Ansel  
Nov. 13: Noel Gevers  
Nov. 17: Chelsea Caroline  
Nov. 18: Giovanni Traino  
Nov. 19: Noel Gevers  
Nov. 20: Ted Ansel  
Nov. 24: Mark Zangrilli  
Nov. 26: TBA  
Nov. 27: Noel Gevers  
Every Tuesday, Open Mic Night

### Ceolta's Irish Pub

310 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-233-3202; [www.ceoltasirishpub.com](http://www.ceoltasirishpub.com)  
Nov. 5: The Elton Joel

### Char's Bella Mundo

540 Race St., Harrisburg  
717-213-4002; [www.charsbellamundo.com](http://www.charsbellamundo.com)  
"Jazz Wednesdays," with special wine menu

### Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market Street, Camp Hill  
[www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com](http://www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com)  
Nov. 5: Sierra Uttrinek  
Nov. 6: Hemlock Hollow  
Nov. 7: Mitch and Lee  
Nov. 12: John Kelly  
Nov. 13: Steven Gellman  
Nov. 14: Andrew Bellanca and Friend  
Nov. 19: Skim Hands  
Nov. 20: Ruby and the Hummingbirds  
Nov. 21: Aaron Daniel Gaul  
Nov. 26: Keven Kline  
Nov. 27: Andy Mowatt  
Nov. 28: Jazz Me

### Cygnets Studios/Conewago Coffeehouse

336 S. Market St., Elizabethtown  
717-367-6140; [conewagocoffee.com](http://conewagocoffee.com)  
Nov. 5: Mike Rydick  
Nov. 6: Michael & Tom  
Nov. 13: Rick Hill  
Nov. 20: Andy Mowatt  
Nov. 24: Liam McCormack

### Dragonfly Club

234 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
[dragonflyclub.com](http://dragonflyclub.com)  
Nov. 11: The Demo Rats  
Nov. 13: KJ Sawka  
Nov. 18: Waitin' on a Train  
Nov. 20: Vulgarrry & The 91's  
  
**H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center**  
Shippensburg University, Shippensburg  
717-477-SHOW; [www.luhrscenter.com](http://www.luhrscenter.com)  
Nov. 4: An Evening with Amy Grant  
Nov. 11: The Punch Brothers, featuring Chris  
Thile  
Nov. 17: Doobie Brothers  
Nov. 21: Shippensburg University Community  
Orchestra Fall Concert

### Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

The Forum (5th and Walnut Sts.), Harrisburg  
717-545-5527; [harrisburgsymphony.org](http://harrisburgsymphony.org)  
Nov. 13-14: Sharon Isbin plays "Rodrigo"

### Hilton Harrisburg and Towers

1 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
Tues.-Sat.: Solo jazz piano in the bar

### HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg  
717-441-7506; [www.harrisburgarts.com](http://www.harrisburgarts.com)  
Nov. 4: Rhyne McCormick w/Johnny Blair and  
Michael James Anderson  
Nov. 5: Miss Tess w/Eric-Scott Guthrie  
Nov. 6: The Greatest Funeral Ever  
Nov. 7: Claude Bolling Suites featuring Tom  
and Laurie Reese  
Nov. 11: Mike Banks and Friends  
Nov. 12: Adam Arcuragi w/Mia Riddle  
Nov. 13: CASE 150 and Slimfit  
Nov. 14: The Tough Cats w/Hymn for Her  
Nov. 18: Honey Dewdrops  
Nov. 19: Freedy Johnston & Richard Barone w/  
Darcy Miner  
Nov. 20: Hot Wing Jones  
Nov. 26: Colebrook Road w/The Swaines  
Nov. 27: April Skies  
Every Wednesday: Open Mic Night

### Hollywood Casino at Penn National

777 Hollywood Blvd., Grantville  
877-565-2112; [www.hcpn.com](http://www.hcpn.com)  
Nov. 5: Category 5  
Nov. 6: Philadelphia Funk Society  
Nov. 12: Cornwallace  
Nov. 13: 7 Bridges & Escape  
Nov. 19: Marshall's Highway  
Nov. 20: Luv Gods  
Nov. 26: Uptown  
Nov. 27: Fleetwood Mix & Honeypump

### Mangia Qui/Suba

272 North St., Harrisburg  
717-233-7358; [www.mangiaqui.com](http://www.mangiaqui.com)  
Nov. 5: Via Motive  
Nov. 6: Chelsea Caroline  
Nov. 12: Alexandra Day  
Nov. 13: TBA  
Nov. 19: Suzi Brown and Friends  
Nov. 20: Flamenco In The States  
Nov. 27: Batida

### Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; [www.midtownscholar.com](http://www.midtownscholar.com)  
Nov. 13: Moviate-sponsored concert  
Nov. 19: Transcendent Third  
Nov. 20: James Keelaghan (Susquehanna Folk  
Music Society)  
Nov. 26: Folk Café Friday

### Morgan's Place

4425 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-234-8103; [www.morgans-place.com](http://www.morgans-place.com)  
Nov. 5: Kings & Queens  
Nov. 6: Shea Quinn & Swish Dog  
Nov. 12: South Street  
Nov. 13: Don Johnson Project  
Nov. 19: Black Mountain Jack  
Nov. 20: Not Guilty  
Nov. 24: Strange Eden  
Nov. 26: Shea Quinn & Swish Dog  
Nov. 27: Jon Michaels Band

### Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
[www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter](http://www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter)  
Nov. 4-5: Ball in the House  
Nov. 12: Concertante (all-Schumann program)

### Stock's on 2nd

211 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-233-6699; [www.stocksonsecond.com](http://www.stocksonsecond.com)  
Nov. 6: Don Johnson Project Band  
Nov. 13: Shea Quinn and Steve Swisher  
Nov. 20: Cruise Control  
Nov. 27: Funktion

### The Susquehanna Folk Music Society

[www.sfmsfolk.org](http://www.sfmsfolk.org) (check website for location)  
Nov. 6: Battlefield Band  
Nov. 14: Jam Session  
Nov. 20: Hungarian/Croatian Dancing &  
Concert/Dance w/Gypsy Stringz  
Nov. 20: James Keelaghan

### TuesdayBluesday

Der Maennerchor, 221 North St., Harrisburg  
[www.tuesdaybluesday.com](http://www.tuesdaybluesday.com)

Nov. 2: Boss Guitar

Nov. 16: Chris Cawthray & Simone Abbott

### Whitaker Center

222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; [www.whitakercenter.org](http://www.whitakercenter.org)  
Nov. 5: Procol Harum  
Nov. 10: Bret Michaels  
Nov. 24: The Machine  
Nov. 27: Class Act featuring Rita  
Nov. 28: Harp-Felt Christmas

## At the Cinema

### Midtown Cinema

250 Reily St., Harrisburg  
[www.midtowncinema.com](http://www.midtowncinema.com)  
Nov. 12-13: Meet the filmmaker of "Honest  
Man," a documentary about former state  
Treasurer Budd Dwyer. Members of Dwyer's  
family also will be in attendance. A question-  
and-answer period will follow the last  
showing on Nov. 12 and all three showings  
on Nov. 13. The film runs until Nov. 19.

## Other Highlights

**Nov. 5: Lancaster First Friday.** Lancaster  
highlights its arts and gallery community in  
this citywide event. [lancasterfirstfriday.com](http://lancasterfirstfriday.com)

**Nov. 6: Luncheon of Love.** Residents and  
police share lunch, with an address by Judge  
Robert Jennings. 11:30 a.m. Second City  
Church, 251 Verbeke St., Harrisburg. Free.

**Nov. 6: "Requiem."** Choir of Market Square  
Presbyterian Church and Jubilate Choral  
Ensemble presents "Requiem." 8 p.m. Market  
Square Church, 20 S. 2nd St., Harrisburg. Free.

**Nov. 7: See the Stars.** Observing session at the  
Astronomical Society of Harrisburg's Naylor  
Observatory, 670 Observatory Drive. 6:15 p.m.  
938-6041 or [www.astrohbg.org](http://www.astrohbg.org)

**Nov. 12: Autos & Ales.** Antique Automobile  
Club of America Museum hosts the area's best  
microbrews, live music, food and more. 6 p.m.  
161 Museum Dr., Hershey. [aacamuseum.org](http://aacamuseum.org)

**Nov. 12-14: Mediterranean Festival.** Enjoy  
Mediterranean-style goods, food and fun.  
Mitrani at Home, 3535 Walnut St., Harrisburg.  
Part of the proceeds benefit the non-profit  
Arava Institute. 717-526-7930

**Nov. 14: Cap City Record Swap.** Area vendors  
buy, sell and trade records and music  
memorabilia. 1-6 p.m. Appalachian Brewing  
Co., 50 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg.

**Nov. 27-Dec. 17: Festival of Trees and Toy  
Train Exhibit.** The annual traditions return for  
the holidays. Free. [forthunter.org](http://forthunter.org)

**Nov. 30: Pursuit of Justice.** 3rd annual purse  
auction and reception benefits the YWCA of  
Greater Harrisburg Legal Center's services for  
battered women and children. Contact Codi  
at 717-724-0516 or [ctucker@ywcahbg.org](mailto:ctucker@ywcahbg.org).

## Readings, Classes, Etc.

### The HodgePodger

1100 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-0150; [www.thehodgepodger.com](http://www.thehodgepodger.com)

Nov. 6: "Trivet Make and Take," noon

Nov. 10: "Bookbinding," 6 p.m.

Nov. 17: "Scrapbooking: Tools of Trade," 7 p.m.

Nov. 19: "Aromatherapy Workshop," 5-10 p.m.

Nov. 20: "Embroidery w/Becky," 1 p.m.

### Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; [midtownscholar.com](http://www.midtownscholar.com)

Nov. 2: Watch election returns on Midtown  
Scholar's large screen, 8-11 p.m.

Nov. 4: Author Charles Eisenstein discusses his  
book, "The Ascent of Humanity," 7-9 p.m.

Nov. 11: Jackson Taylor, author of "The Blue  
Orchard" returns. He's joined by two men  
familiar with the events in his historical novel:  
acclaimed chef Joe Randall and Harrisburg  
historian Calobe Jackson, 7:30-9 p.m.

Nov. 12: Author George Nagle discusses his  
two-volume set about Harrisburg's African-  
American community, "The Year of Jubilee:  
Men of God" and "Men of Muscle," 7-9 p.m.

## Parlez Vous Rom-Com?

"Heartbreaker," a flashback to old Hollywood, via Paris.

Kevyn Knox

There is a classic New Yorker cartoon that shows a couple getting dressed and the caption reads, "We don't have to shower, it's a French film." This cartoon is hanging just beside the register at Harrisburg's own Midtown Cinema, and it is at this very cinema that one can now see a very entertaining French film—with or without a shower (but perhaps you should take one anyway, just for your fellow movie-goers' benefit).

The film in question is called "Heartbreaker," and it stars two of France's most popular stars, Romain Duris and Vanessa Paradis. The film is by no means a great work



of cinematic art, to be enshrined with such Gallic classics as "La Regle de jeu" or Godard's "Breathless," but that doesn't mean it is not worth your film-going time.

What

"Heartbreaker" is, other than the story of a charming rogue hired to break up the wedding of a beautiful, spoiled socialite, is a harkening back to the days of the classic Hollywood romantic comedy. Back to those halcyon days when stars such as Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn ruled the marqueses.

Yes, of course we know what is going to happen—there are no surprises waiting around the corner here—but, unlike many of today's mainstream rom-coms, the perfect pairing of Duris and Paradis, and the chemistry coming off these two stars, is more than enough to make up for the fluffiness of the film.

Duris, known for his work in two of the best films to come out of France in the last decade ("Dans Paris" and "The Beat That My Heart Skipped") and Paradis, both a pop singer and actress (and significant other to Johnny Depp) with the sexiest gap-toothed smile known to mankind, are simply wonderful in "Heartbreaker." As light a comedy as it is, it still exudes the old school charm of Grant and Hepburn, and thus saves itself from the mediocrity that takes down so many contemporary movies of the same basic ilk.

Well, the end of the cinematic year is coming up soon, and we critics must begin to gather together our eventual, and quite inevitable, top ten lists. With this thought in

mind, I need to mention a movie that could very easily take the top spot on that list—"The Social Network."

Directed by David Fincher and written by Aaron Sorkin, "The Social Network" is the story of the creation of Facebook, but it is so much more. Taking on the ideas of privacy in this modern-day brave new world, the movie, though technically a biopic of sorts, plays as much like a thriller as anything Hitchcock ever dared to do. Sorkin's acerbic screenplay and Fincher's bravura camera come together to create what may well be the best movie of the year. Well, so far at least.

Before I go, I do want to mention one other film making its East Coast Premier at Midtown Cinema in November, "Honest Man." It is a documentary about the late Budd Dwyer, former Pennsylvania treasurer, who committed suicide on live television in 1987. I have not seen "Honest Man" yet, but its place in local history should be more than sufficient a reason to go see it during its exclusive run at Midtown Cinema. The filmmaker and several members of Dwyer's family will be in attendance at some of the screenings.

Well that is it for this time around. I will be back next time with that aforementioned, inevitable top ten list. See you then.

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Well, the end of the cinematic year is coming up soon, and we critics must begin to gather together our eventual, and quite inevitable, top ten lists. With this thought in

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**712 Green Street, Hbg.**

Phone 236-8504 <http://tbwdailydiary.blogspot.com/>



Kevyn Knox is a film critic + historian. His reviews can be read at [thecinematheque.com](http://thecinematheque.com).

## What's Your Plan?

Think about your finances before year-end.

Donald F. Weaver

If you don't normally review your investments at the end of each year, 2010 might be a good time to start. If year-end investment planning is already part of your routine, you might want to pay special attention this year.

Why? Because significant changes in the tax code scheduled to go into effect in 2011 could substantially alter the taxation of your portfolio next year, which may affect your investment strategy.

*Begin planning before December 31.*

If you plan to sell a profitable investment, you'll want to assess whether you should sell before year-end. That's especially true if you're in a low tax bracket or you have investments that have appreciated substantially. Investors in the 10 percent and 15 percent tax brackets currently owe no capital gains taxes on long-term capital gains. That is scheduled to change in 2011, when the long-term capital gains rate at this level is scheduled to increase from 0 to 10 percent. If you're in the 25 percent bracket or higher this year, you'll also need to think about this issue, though the scheduled increase from the current 15 percent to 20 percent isn't quite as dramatic a leap from 0 to 10 percent. (Special, slightly lower rates for investments held for more than five years will apply beginning in 2011.)

Also, the tax brackets themselves are scheduled to change next year. If you plan to harvest a

tax loss and think you may be in a higher tax bracket next year, it might make sense to determine whether the loss would be more valuable later. Though tax considerations shouldn't be the sole factor in a decision to buy

or sell, they shouldn't be ignored, either—especially this year.

Complicating your decision is the uncertainty about whether the scheduled changes will undergo further revision before Dec. 31. Have a game plan based on the current scenario and adjust it as warranted.

*Think about your overall tax burden.*

If you converted an IRA to a Roth IRA this year or are thinking about doing so before year-end, consider whether to book capital gains in 2010. That's because you're able to report the taxable ordinary income from the conversion on either your 2010 return or the 2011 and 2012 tax years (half of income each year).

Your decision about when to account for taxable income that results from a Roth conversion may affect your decision about the timing of investment sales, or vice versa. If you choose to report the income from your Roth conversion on your 2010 return, consider whether it makes sense to realize sizable capital gains this year. If you feel it's to your advantage to sell assets and pay the capital gains tax in 2010, you may want to consider opting to postpone payment of the taxes owed on the Roth conversion until 2011 and 2012. That would mean total taxes owed would be spread over three years, not one.

*Consider the tax status of dividends.*

Qualifying dividends are scheduled once again to be taxed next year

as ordinary income, as they were before 2003, rather than at long-term capital gains rates, which are typically lower. If you're in the 15 percent tax bracket, that represents an increase of 15 percent. And if you're in the 28 percent tax bracket or higher next year, the change in the tax status of dividend payments could also have an impact; the higher your tax bracket in 2011, the greater the impact.

*Don't forget the usual suspects.*

In addition to staying on top of the tax, a portfolio review can tell you whether it's time to adjust your holdings to maintain an appropriate asset allocation. Also, if you have losses, you may be able to harvest those losing positions to offset some or all of any capital gains. Be sure to consider how long you've owned the asset; assets held a year or less generate short-term capital gains and are taxed as ordinary income.

If you're selling an investment, but intend to repurchase it later, be careful not to buy within 30 days before or after a sale of the same security. Doing so would constitute a violation of the "wash sale" rule, and

the tax loss would be disallowed. Finally, if you're considering the purchase of a mutual fund outside of a tax-advantaged account, find out when the fund will distribute dividends or capital gains and consider postponing action until after that date to avoid owing tax on that distribution.

*Donald F. Weaver is a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial in Lemoyne. 717-975-5555 or donald.f.weaver@ampf.com*

## Danzante Director

Danzante Community Arts Center, a South Allison Hill nonprofit dedicated to the development of young, talented artists, has hired Duane Shearer as its new executive director.

Shearer, a Harrisburg-area native, has more than 20 years experience working and volunteering for nonprofit organizations. Before joining Danzante, he served as director of programs at HandsOn Greater Phoenix.

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## Wags & Whiskers

### Matchmaker, Matchmaker

Tips for finding your next best furry friend.

Kristen Zellner

Choosing a dog requires research, patience and commitment. Doing research before you adopt or purchase a dog will likely result in a more positive experience for everyone. Shelters and rescues are filled with animals that were not chosen properly. This is why it is important to examine your needs and the traits you would like in a dog.

There are some critical issues to consider before making your choice. Will you have time to give your dog lots of attention? Do you have a fenced yard? Do you want an active dog or a couch potato? Will the breed you choose require grooming? Who will watch the dog when you go away? What size dog fits your lifestyle? Do you have the finances to pay for veterinary care and supplies?

Choosing a dog based on appearance or popularity alone is not recommended. Read about breeds that interest you in order to learn their histories, dispositions, energy levels and possible health problems. Doing this will help you make a better choice. Acquiring a dog is not difficult. The investment you make in training, exercise and healthcare is where the real work begins.

For many people, choosing the right dog involves visiting a shelter or contacting one of many rescues. Petfinder.com is also a wonderful resource. This website is linked with hundreds of rescues across the country and

provides pictures and descriptions of each pet in its

database. You can find almost any breed of dog at any stage of life. Be patient if you do find a dog here. The rescue personnel want to make sure that you are a proper match for the dog. Their goal is to find each animal a forever home. There is usually an application process, and an interview required, as well as an adoption fee, which is used to pay for medical bills and supplies.

If you do have your heart set on raising a purebred puppy, find a reputable breeder. Purebred dogs are expensive, but breeders will be able to provide information on the genetic background of the animals and records of medical testing to ensure that you are getting a healthy pet. Good breeders can be very selective because they want to choose the best families for their dogs. They should have as many questions for you as you do for them. Also, keep in mind that reputable breeders do not have to advertise. They often have waiting lists. Most will even ask you to sign a contract that stipulates that, if you need to place the dog elsewhere, the dog returns to the breeder. Good breeders care about their animals.

No matter where you decide to begin your search, please take your time. Having a pet is a long-term commitment, since your new family member will likely be with you for 10 or more years. Good planning will help you to make the best choice for you, your family and your future furry friend.



Kristen Zellner is the owner of Abrams & Weakley General Store for Animals in Harrisburg. [kristenzellner@gmail.com](mailto:kristenzellner@gmail.com)



[www.leadershipharrisburg.org](http://www.leadershipharrisburg.org)

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## Winter Wonder-Landscaping

Plants may go dormant, but green thumbs do not.

Rebecca Mack

**A**re you ready for it? I can almost hear the wind rustling through the barren trees. Old Man Winter's bite is just around the corner!

Fall is in full swing, and the temps are dropping as we near the change of seasons. The beauty of the landscape has transformed through the seasons—from the bright green buds of spring to the vibrant blooms of summer and just as seamlessly to the golden scheme of autumn. Gray skies of winter are soon upon us; the landscape will once again change.

Many of us think of winter as a time for hibernation—and not just for wild animals. It seems that, because our grass isn't growing and the trees are bare, we have an excuse to take the time off from tending to our yard. I hate to tell you this, my friend, but there is still work to be done! The most important reason for caring for your yard in winter is to make sure that, when spring returns, you have a healthy, beautiful yard once again.

You can start by continuing to water your plants and trees. I know it sounds odd, but winter can often be dry, so watering every few days will help the roots, which remain active.

November is a good time to finish getting rid of the last remaining leaves that litter your lawn. Clearing the debris will give your lawn the best chance of breathing through the winter. Starting a mulch pile with your leaves is a good way to recycle them. They contain a lot of nutrients, which you can use in the spring after they decompose.

Dormant pruning is a really good idea if you want to have optimal growth in spring. Prune any damaged

parts so that they are not taking vital nutrients from healthier areas. Shrubs and plants that haven't been looking so healthy or producing many leaves or buds might need to have a drastic cut-back (almost to the ground) to regain health. There are many great guides on the Internet to figure out what type of pruning is best for which plant.

Pay attention to your hardscapes, as well. They are part of the aesthetics of your yard. Taking care of them through winter will ensure their use and beauty when it's warm again. Keep your patios clear of water, snow and ice to prevent expansion and contraction. Shovel snow as soon as possible after it falls. If you use salt to melt ice, make sure it's plant-friendly so as not to harm the nearby landscape.

Caring for our yards even through the chilly winter guarantees that we will be rewarded with a beautiful landscape when those green buds of spring are once again poking through the surface of the newly thawed earth.

*Rebecca Mack is a freelance writer and the co-owner of New Growth Landscaping, located in Dillsburg. [www.nglandscaping.com](http://www.nglandscaping.com)*

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### New Museum Director

Michael J. Barrett, a former financier, has been named executive director of the Antique Automobile Club of America Museum in Hershey.

Barrett has worked as a business executive for more than 36 years. Most recently, he led a financial services organization in southeast Asia. Prior to that, he served as CEO and president of Chase USA, N.A.

Barrett is an active antique auto hobbyist, passionate about old cars.

### Concertante Performs

Chamber ensemble, Concertante, performs an all-Schumann program at 8 p.m., Nov. 12, at Rose Lehrman Arts Center. For tickets contact 717-780-7673 or [www.hacc.edu/rac](http://www.hacc.edu/rac).

### Tim Warfield in Town

Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz will present Tim Warfield and his band in celebration of his CD release, "A Sentimental Journey," 5-9 p.m., Nov. 14 at Hilton Harrisburg.

## Scribble Me This

Austin Keenan, Elisabeth Polanco and Sarah Donnelly, seniors at The Milton Hershey School, created some graffiti of their own last month at Gallery Blu in Harrisburg. Art teacher John Davis took his class to see the gallery's current exhibit, "Graffiti Then and Now: From Petroglyphs to Urban Scrawl." Gallery owner Christina Heintzelman-Jones discussed the history of graffiti and how it continues to evolve today as art.



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## The Dope on Deer

A hunter's favorite season has arrived.

Kermit G. Henning

There is absolutely no question that deer and deer hunting is the name of the game for Pennsylvania sportsmen.

From the forests of our northern tier to the developed cities and towns, the regular rifle season is as big an event as any holiday. Motels are booked a year in advance, camps are packed and work vacations are scheduled—all around the chance to take one of over 350,000 whitetail deer harvested each year in the commonwealth.

For legions of hunters, the first day of deer season has been the focal point of their hunting for decades. For many others, this year's hunt could very well be their first time afield in pursuit of America's most sought-after big game animal.

Heavy red-and-black plaid woolen suits from Woolrich have long given way to state-of-the-art clothing that is lightweight, warm and comfortable. Browse through any sporting goods catalog and you will discover new and high-tech gadgets and equipment that hunters years ago could never have dreamed of. Deer calls, scents, trail cameras, range finders, ammunition, GPS units—the list goes on.

Whether you are a rookie or a seasoned veteran in the woods, there are still certain deer hunting tactics that have not changed. Although we have evolved with

skills and equipment, the whitetail is still the same old savvy animal he has always been. Bagging a buck in Penn's Woods is a challenge that can more easily be met by following a few simple rules.

Get out early and stay late. The majority of deer are harvested early and late in the day. Don't miss your deer by leaving the woods early. Stick it out and reap the rewards.

Check your equipment when you get into the woods. Don't wait until the buck of a lifetime is coming your way to check if your rifle has a shell in the chamber or your scope is clear. Archers, check the limb of your bow to ensure it draws properly.

If you are hunting in a large, open field or a food plot, you will find more deer there in the evening. Maybe you have another spot you want to try early in the day, but get back to that field early enough in the afternoon to catch the deer coming in to feed there.

If you use a deer call, or rattling antlers, be sure to use them even on deer you do not intend to shoot. See how these deer react to your calling. Don't give up a chance to practice on live subjects.

Have a game plan in place well before the first day for getting your deer out of the woods safely and cleanly. Do you have a good sharp knife and are you familiar with how to properly field dress a deer? Do

you have a butcher already lined up? Are you prepared to do the job yourself? Will you have to drag your deer through a mucky swamp or deep mud to get it to your camp or car? If so, plan ahead. Nothing is worse than wasting the healthful and delicious meat of a whitetail by improper field care. Plan also on how you intend to use the meat. Does your family like roasts and steaks or is burger and baloney a better choice?

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has finally gotten a long-overdue tool to both help the state's whitetail herd and keep unlawful hunters from stealing big game. In September, Gov. Ed Rendell signed a law that puts in place stiffer fines and even jail time for poaching big game in Pennsylvania. It elevates poaching to a felony crime and puts us in line with other neighboring states. Reciprocal fines and license revocations will now be in effect.

This is a welcome addition to our state laws, as poaching must not be tolerated. Do your part. Every time you hear of poaching, report it. Good luck to you and hunt safe.



Kermit G. Henning, host of abc27 Outdoors TV, is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

## Self-Defense Program at Absolute Wellness

Steve Blackman this month will initiate a street-practical, self defense class at the Absolute Wellness Group's Midtown studio. The program is for men, women and young adults.

Blackman is the owner and primary instructor at Blackman MMA. He has 25 years experience in various disciplines, including boxing, Ishin/Ryu, Shotokan, Kenpo, wrestling and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. The program begins Nov. 16.

Participants meet Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for four weeks. Cost per person is \$100. For more, contact Brenda Hoover at Brenda@absolutewellnessgroup.com or 717-525-7037.

## MLK Projects Needed

For the Jan. 17 King Holiday, the Central Pennsylvania MLK Day of Service Committee is seeking advice on services projects, such as community centers or non-profits that need rooms painted or kitchens and shelters that need volunteer assistance.

Volunteers are also needed. To register a project, sign-up to volunteer, or make a tax-deductible donation, visit [www.centralpamlkday.org](http://www.centralpamlkday.org).



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## A Cancer Vaccine!

Cure has been found for a common cancer.

**Dr. Deepa Sekhar**

**A**nervous 11 year-old girl and her mother are in the office for an annual checkup.

The mother nods her head as I run through the standard vaccinations for this visit: a tetanus booster and the meningitis vaccine, but she raises her eyebrows as I mention the "HPV" vaccine. The most common comments I receive are: "What's HPV?" and "I don't really think we need that vaccine now." My parents are rightfully wary and concerned, and I hope the following comments provide some insight.

"HPV" is an abbreviation for human papillomavirus. The HPV virus is spread by skin-to-skin contact, specifically contact involving the genital area (i.e. sexual intercourse, oral sex, anal sex). It is estimated that 75 to 80 percent of sexually active adults will acquire the infection by age 50. Most individuals infected will have no signs or symptoms and will clear the infection within two years without treatment. However, in 10 to 20 percent of people, the infection persists with the potential to lead to the development of cancer.

In fact, HPV is responsible for more than 99 percent of cases of cervical cancer and genital warts. Each year, the United States sees about 11,000 cases of cervical cancer, a malignancy that causes about 4,000 deaths in women yearly.

Condoms do not cover all exposed genital skin and therefore do not provide complete protection from HPV. The risk of exposure to HPV increases with the number of sexual partners you have, as well as the number of partners your partner has. Most women become infected between 15 and 25 years old. There are more than 100 types of HPV, but types 16 and 18 are known to cause the majority (70 percent) of cervical cancers. Types 6 and 11 are responsible for about 90 percent of genital warts.

Two HPV vaccines are currently licensed in the United

States—Cervarix and Gardasil. These vaccines are unique in that they are the first to protect against cancer. Gardasil also protects against the HPV types that cause genital warts. Both vaccines require three doses.

The vaccine is currently recommended for females at the 11/12-year-old visit, the time when pre-teens receive other vaccinations. Additionally, the series should ideally be completed before an individual has any sexual contact. The HPV vaccine has not yet been added to the routine vaccination schedule for boys as studies suggest the best way to reduce the overall burden of HPV is to target females for vaccination. There are certain circumstances where young men may choose to receive Gardasil to prevent genital warts.

The vaccine is safe to give with the other vaccinations routinely administered at the 11/12-year examination. Both vaccines have been tested in thousands of people, with the most common side effects being pain at the injection site, fever, headache and nausea. There may be an increased risk of passing out after getting the vaccine, so patients are usually instructed to lie down for 15 minutes afterwards.

Regular testing for cervical cancer (Pap smear) is still recommended for women by age 21 or within three years of having sex for the first time. The HPV vaccine does not protect against other sexually transmitted infections or prevent pregnancy, so teens should still be encouraged to use condoms.

It is scary for parents and pre-teens alike to have a conversation about sex and a disease acquired by sexual contact. However, I tell parents it is preferable that your teen know they can come to you as a source of knowledge when they are struggling with a sex-related question as opposed to turning to less-reliable venues, including peers or mass media.

Giving consent for your pre-teen to receive the HPV vaccination does not mean you condone her having sex. It provides the opportunity to protect

her against a potentially devastating cancer and perhaps simultaneously opens the door for a dialogue between you and her about sex. Ideally, we would all like our children to make intelligent choices and delay having intercourse. It is our job as parents, teachers and healthcare professionals alike to arm them with the best knowledge and protection we have so they can make the best decisions related to their bodies.



*Dr. Deepa Sekhar is a pediatrician at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.*

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- 11/5: Miss Tess w/Eric-Scott Guthrie
- 11/6: **The Greatest Funeral Ever**
- 11/7: **Claude Bolling Suites** featuring Tom and Laurie Reese
- 11/11 Mike Banks and Friends
- 11/12: Adam Arcuragi w/Mia Riddle
- 11/13: CASE 150 and Slimfit
- 11/14: The Tough Cats w/Hymn for Her
- 11/18: **Honey Dewdrops**
- 11/19: **Freedy Johnston & Richard Barone** w/Darcy Miner
- 11/20: **Hot Wing Jones**
- 11/21: Soul Comedy Café
- 11/26: **Colebrook Road** w/The Swaines
- 11/27: April Skies
- 11/28: **Don't Break the Streak** (improv comedy troupe)
- Every Monday: Karaoke
- Every Wednesday: Open Mic w/Mike Banks

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# Move It!

## An Ancient Regimen

Tai Chi melds the physical, mental, spiritual.

Don Sarvey



A student goes through a routine as José Johnson (gray shirt, in mirror) supervises and instructs.

One of the fascinating aspects of Taiji (also written Tai Chi) is that it's as mysterious or as straightforward as you want it to be. Is it exercise that stretches and loosens the body and reduces stress? Or is it a practical martial art? Does it have a deeper dimension as an Eastern approach to health? Is it just a way to center the mind? Or is it a way to build and channel internal energy called Qi (Chi)?

Harrisburg martial arts instructor José Johnson will tell you it's the journey of self-discovery that counts—and that the destination can be any or all of those things.

Johnson pours his time and energy into José Johnson's Chinese Martial Arts and Wellness Center in Brandywine Plaza in Susquehanna Township. He's intent on making his school "a community as opposed to a place where people are paying to come and learn martial arts."

"The reality is that it's not mine," he said. "It belongs to all of us [here]. If the school is a success then all of us are going to benefit."

The school has more than 130 students, from primary-school age to graying seniors. On any given night, you'll see the younger set blasting through Kung Fu (Wushu) routines with seemingly limitless energy, while the older crowd works through Taiji forms and Qigong (energy-developing) exercises. Not that Taiji isn't demanding. The Fu style that Johnson teaches can be fairly fast-paced and is punctuated with some spins and jumps. Johnson

also offers special daytime classes for people with MS and arthritis and organizes classes off-site. He works with 300 to 350 people per week.

José Johnson was a preacher's kid, enamored of the 1970s TV series "Kung Fu." He says he started taking karate classes while growing up in Aliquippa because he used to get his butt kicked nearly every day on the way home from school.

He then enrolled at Ohio State for biochemistry but spent more time playing trumpet than studying, so became a music major. Eventually, he went on the road with a band, playing the club circuit, got tired of the grind and got bitten by the martial arts bug—again.

José Johnson spent several years learning and practicing while living in Ohio, then hooked up with esteemed teacher, Nick Gracenin.

"By 1993, I was on the U.S. Taiji team competing in China," Johnson says. "In 1995, I won two national major tournaments."

One was the USA All-Taiji Championship; the other the USA Wushu Kung Fu Federation Championship. That same year, José Johnson moved to Harrisburg and began work on his dream of establishing his own school.

In addition to acquainting people with Taiji, he has produced several champions from among his students. Galen Shaner was a USA grand champion in Taiji forms in 1999; Sara Gellhorn won USA championships in push-hands (a one-on-one form of Taiji competition) in 1997 and 1998; and Andy Smeltz was a U.S. Wushu champion in 2002.

When asked about the relevance of such an ancient regimen in today's fast-paced, high-tech world, José Johnson said, "Learning balance [in life] is probably the most important thing any of us can do."

*José Johnson's Chinese Martial Arts & Wellness Center, 2233 Paxton Church Rd., Harrisburg. 717-540-5345, [www.dowellness.com](http://www.dowellness.com)*

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