

The convergence of Business & Leisure



Defense study seeks to retain military presence in local economy

CDBG cut would hit revitalization programs
Page 2

Officials upset with railway over Lower Allen project
Page 4

Cold snap helps stall premature fruit blossoms Page 10



MILITARY

PAGE 2 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Study puts fine point on over \$1 billion in military value for region

Zack Hoopes

CVBJ

It seems you can never stack the cards too far in your favor, as far as the Cumberland region's military interests are concerned.

Coming on the heels of what is expected to be a hike in federal defense spending, the Cumberland York Area Local Defense Group rolled out its study this month on the impact of local military installations, with plans to further develop the region's attractiveness as a military hub.

The study was performed over the past year by consulting firm Michael Baker Associates, sorting data and conducting hundreds of interviews with local businesses and officials.

The top-line finding is that the military presence in Cumberland and northern York counties generates roughly \$1 billion in cash flow outside of the military installations' gates, with over 11,000 military employees in the region as well as private sector jobs supported through military contracts.

The study was funded by the state and Cumberland County, and was spearheaded by the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation, a county-owned nonprofit.

CAEDC CEO Jonathan Bowser said earlier this year that the study's intent is to quantify what sort of boost Cumberland County gets from the military, and what sort of advantages the military has by keeping installations in Cumberland County.

"We want to define exactly why this is a great region and a great area for the military to continue to be present, and also look for some new opportunities," Bowser said.

One of the major drivers to assemble such data is BRAC – the US Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure program, which has sought to streamline the US military's physical footprint since the end of the Cold War.

The new study, Bowser noted, would be a tool to help the community make its case for the military to keep local installations open, given the rich benefit they receive in the Midstate, and instead look for cuts in other parts of the country.

The last round of BRAC occurred in 2005, at which time the Carlisle Barracks was listed as a possible candidate for downsizing. Rumors of another round have circulated frequently since, but are looking increasingly less likely.

The Department of Defense would have to request BRAC authorization via the Senate Armed Services Committee, to be included in the annual Defense Authorization Act which comes out of the US Senate.

This presents two possible tipping



Sentinel File

The U.S. Army War College Ashburn Drive Gate in Carlisle.

points – the fiscal need for BRAC, and the political appetite in the Senate for doing so.

Requests by the DoD to initiate BRAC since 2005 have been panned by senators on both sides of the aisle. One of the often-cited issues is the upfront cost of moving equipment out of obsolete military installations and preparing the facilities for sale to a private party.

In 2012, former New Hampshire

Senator and Armed Services Committee member Kelly Ayotte blasted the DoD for underestimating costs for the 2005 round of BRAC. The cost of closures was \$35 billion in 2005, \$14 billion above the DoD's estimate, Ayotte's office said at the time.

Further, the Trump Administration is pitching a \$54 billion increase in defense spending in the next fiscal year.

Please see Value, Page A5

Federal cuts threaten local revitalization funds

Cumberland uses millions per year in development funds under axe by Trump

Zack Hoopes

CVBJ

Cumberland County and the Borough of Carlisle stand to lose millions in downtown redevelopment funding under the federal budget draft presented this month by the Trump Administration

The White House is proposing to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant program, a system which gives federal tax dollars back to communities to development programs, under a rubric controlled by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In the 2015 fiscal year, the county and borough used roughly \$1.6 million in CDBG funds on a diverse array of projects, according to reports filed with HUD. These include small business loans, upgrades to community parks and senior centers, loans to low-income homeowners to repair blighted residences, and other initiatives.



Jason Malmont, The Sentinel

Please see Cuts, Page A3

NAT'L BUDGE

PAGE 3 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Cuts

From A3

In Cumberland, HUD issues two separate annual grants - one to Cumberland County as a whole, and another specifically for Carlisle, the only borough in Cumberland large enough to qualify for its own funding under HUD's rubric.

Both of these block grants are managed by the Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (CCHRA), a county-run office.

"There's really no way to say for sure what the impact will be in a given year until we get those two numbers - the Cumberland grant, and the Carlisle grant - from HUD," said Kate Molinaro, Community Development Director for the CCHRA.

"At this point, we're just watching the news out of Washington like everyone else," Molinaro said.

The Trump budget was described by White House Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney as a "hard power" proposal, hiking military expenditures roughly \$54 billion dollars.

In exchange, the budget cuts what the administration considers to be "soft power" items, mostly domestic aid measures from HUD, the Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others.

The CCHRA runs CDBG and other HUD funds as fluid accounts, in the sense that they don't spend the exact amount they receive in any given year. Much of this is due to the fact that many CDBG expenditures are not simple handouts, but are loans.

The county's "shopsteading" program, for instance, gives out low or zero-interest loans to small business owners to help renovate their storefronts. Many of these loans leverage additional investment from private lenders, multiplying the value of the CDBG funds expended. In many cases, banks would not loan to a small business at an affordable interest rate without the guarantee of capital from

"We've been able to develop great

relationships with commercial lenders in the community, so we can have local lenders come in and partner with us on a project," said Rebecca Yearick, **CCHRA Downtown Program Services** Manager. "We traditionally take on part of a project's financing and work with a lender so that we can present a united front in support of these small businesses."

According to the county's 2016 CDBG summary, the fund started the year with around \$1.1 million in its account. HUD's CDBG allocation added another \$1.1 million, and the fund generated \$145,393 itself from repayments on prior loans and other fees from CD-BG-backed services.

The fund disbursed just over \$1.2 million last year in new loans and support to other economic development programs, with the account closing the year roughly where it began.

The same cycle is run for Carlisle's CDBG funding, although a significantly larger portion of this fund goes toward public housing initiatives, including units owned by the CCHRA as well as rental assistance programs. The authority also assists first-time home buyers who are transitioning off public assistance.

According to the CCHRA's HUD filing, 567 families were assisted in Carlisle alone last year with roughly \$255,000 worth of CDBG funding.

Case study

Although the county approves dozens of CDBG allocations to various programs every year, the most recent allocation approved serves as a good example of the value that CDBG funding is designed to create.

Earlier this month, Yearick requested a \$35,000 allocation for a loan to hairstylist Margo Albright, to assist in purchasing the Sound of Shears hair salon in Shiremanstown Borough.

An employee of the salon for 20 years, Albright will be buying the business from its former owner, who is retiring, and upgrading the facility. The loan will give Albright the necessary working capital to improve the business and retain its four employees, Yearick noted, and will be paid back at 2 percent interest over 25 years.

As a condition of the loan, the busi-

CDBG allocations, last reporting year (2015)			
County-wide efforts			
Senior support coordination	\$26,000		
Housing options coordination	\$30,000		
Emergency shelter operation	\$80,000		
Just for Today (veterans & recovery center)	\$55,000		
Cyberspace (computer access for job seekers)	\$5,500		
New Visions (rehab center)	\$45,000		
Grandview afterschool program	\$5,500		
Cumberland Streetview program	\$27,500		
Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation	\$205,000		
Shopsteading loans	\$130,000		
Staff and administration	\$210,423		
Municipal-specific efforts			
Shippensburg Borough			
Code enforcement aid	\$20,000		
Senior center upgrades	\$15,000		
Park improvements	\$10,000		
Enhanced police patrols	\$15,000		
Shippensburg Township			
Park Improvements	\$25,000		
Code enforcement aid	\$50,000		
Newville			
Recreation improvements	\$50,000		
Parsonage Street reconstruction	\$70,000		
Camp Hill – 17 th St. crosswalks	\$40,000		
Wormleysburg – ADA improvements	\$7,500		
Carlisle Allocation			
Housing & related	\$121,978		
Public services	\$35,061		
Public facilities	\$36,230		
Planning & administration	\$51,496		
Economic development	\$10,964		

Data from US Department of Housing and Urban Development

ness will create an additional full-time position at the salon within two years, to be offered to a person with a household income of no more than 80 percent of the county median.

Using CDBG funds for small loans, such as the one to Albright, is a sustainable way to guarantee that small businesses continue to be long-term viable, Yearick noted.

The alternative scenario, were CDBG funds not present, would be for the business to close and property go on market - leaving the employees without jobs, and Shiremanstown with another vacant storefront whose value exists only as a line item in the portfolio of a real estate investment fund.





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LOCAL GOV.

PAGE 4 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Norfolk Southern accused of ill conduct

Zack Hoopes

CVBJ

Local officials are crying foul after a community improvement effort in Lower Allen Township was scrapped due to objections by Norfolk Southern railway – an apparent about-face by the rail company after it had given approval for the project years before.

In a letter signed last month, the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) – a council of public and private transit interests organized by PennDOT – slammed Norfolk Southern's conduct, which cost taxpayers nearly \$130,000, HATS said.

Lower Allen had already expended those funds after having been led to believe that Norfolk Southern was okay with the township's desire to build a pedestrian and bike pathway through an existing culvert that runs beneath the railway's lines near Orchard Road.

"I write to express our organization's extreme disappointment in Norfolk Southern's utter failure to participate in a productive and cooperative fashion in addressing the safety and transportation needs in our area," wrote HATS Chairman leff Haste.

The letter was copied to dozens of officials, including the governor's office as well as the area's state and national senators, members of congress, and statehouse representatives.

"This issue has been voiced around the table for the last two meetings of our HATS group," said Cumberland County Commissioner Jim Hertzler, who presented the issue to county officials at a commissioners' session earlier this month.

"Norfolk Southern had given every indication that they were okay with this project, and then they get to a field meeting and suddenly it's a no-go," Hertzler said. "It's troubling, the indifference to the community need and the indifference to providing safe access."

Norfolk Southern spokesman Dave Pidgeon responded by noting that the project had a lengthy timeline, over which the railway's views changed.

"This project was proposed almost a decade ago," Pidgeon said. "Personnel, at least here at Norfolk Southern, have changed, and new eyes take a look at things."

Although the railway approved designs submitted by the township in 2006, and again in 2013, "there was never a signed construction agreement in place, so review was considered ongoing," Pidgeon said.

Project

The project at issue is an effort by Lower Allen Township to improve Cedar Spring Run Park, a stretch of public land located on the south side of Gettysburg Road next to the township's municipal offices.

The plan for the park includes new paths, parking, playground equipment and other amenities. Most critically, it calls for a pedestrian and bike path going through the park and connecting it with Orchard Road, which runs along the southern edge of the park.

Access to the park from Orchard Road is currently non-existent, given the rail line that runs adjacent to it. However, there is an existing culvert running under the railway that allows Cedar Run creek itself to flow through.

"It's a masonry arch with a stream that runs through it, but it's fairly large so that a pathway could be put through the culvert alongside the stream without altering its flow," said Lower Allen Township Engineer Dan Flint. "I had gotten a permit from DEP (state Department of Environmental Protection) saying it was okay to do the work alongside the stream."

Correspondence with Norfolk Southern started in February 2006, according to letters provided to HATS. In July 2006, Flint received a letter back from Norfolk Southern's engineering department stating that the company "has no objections" to the proposal provided that detail plans be submitted, and work be done in accordance with the company's legal provisions.

Several years then passed, as Lower Allen worked through a number of capital improvements in its master plan for Cedar Spring Run Park.

In February 2012, Flint submitted his designs to Norfolk Southern for review, along with a check for \$11,347 – the fee Norfolk Southern required for the company to review any plans to modify its right-of-way.

In November 2013, Norfolk Southern sent a letter back to Flint stating that the plans were "approved as noted," with commentary and revisions from the railway's engineering advisers.

A request to make the modification to the culvert was then filed with the state Public Utility Commission, with the PUC record starting in May 2016.

"Basically, the PUC has jurisdiction wherever public infrastructure intersects with utility right-of-ways," said PUC spokesman Nils Hagen-Frederiksen.

Like electrical lines, natural gas conduits and other privately-owned infrastructure, railways are granted certain privileges—and also subject to public oversight—as they are considered vital to the public good. Any disagreements over utilities rights-of-way are publicly adjudicated by the PUC.

Concerns

A field conference at the site was held among all involved parties on June 23, 2016. According to Flint, Norfolk Southern's representatives denied approval of the project full-stop during the meeting.

"At this field conference, Norfolk Southern just objected to the project period – the whole project as a concept, not just parts of the project," Flint said.

This is corroborated by Norfolk Southern's follow-up brief, filed in September, stating that "Norfolk Southern's position is that there are too many outstanding safety concerns to warrant approval of the township project."

The railway's listed objections included the "low clearance" on the proposed pathway of seven feet; the potential for the pathway to become wet and slippery; the potential for vandalism, and other small items.

None of these issues are ones that do not already exist on the infrastructure, or could not be remedied by simple design changes, Flint noted. The township's initial design pitch induced options for signs regarding clearance, ice and other hazards, with which Norfolk Southern's engineers concurred, at least at the time.

The case could be litigated by the PUC if the township wished to press onward, but in November, the township decided

to withdraw its request due to the cost of doing so.

"There's a substantial up-front cost of going through the process, and no guarantee that it would go in our favor, which the township supervisors decided was prohibitive," Flint said.

Reaction

The outrage, voiced by Hertzler and other members of HATS, is both philosophical and financial.

The HATS letter notes that Norfolk Southern's about-face on its approval cost taxpayers \$130,000 – Lower Allen had already spent \$88,000 on design work, \$30,000 on legal filings and fees, and \$11,347 directly to Norfolk Southern itself for the approval that the company ultimately reneged.

Because of the considerable cost of litigating through the PUC, the township is at an inherent disadvantage – putting up even more money that many not go anywhere is a big risk for a municipality whose annual budget is only \$12 million.

For Norfolk Southern—whose revenues topped \$10.5 billion in 2015, according to their last annual disclosure—the cost of litigation is negligible.

The other concern is that the Cedar Spring Run Park project represented a dire need for the community. The pathway that was proposed would've allowed residents of the neighborhood along Orchard Road to directly access the park.

Like many parts of eastern Cumberland

County, Lower Allen is experiencing rapid suburbanization and rising costs of living for working-class citizens. The Orchard Road neighborhood "is the township's only moderate-income neighborhood as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development," according to Lower Allen's development plan.

Providing better pedestrian and bicycle access would help retain the viability of the middle-class residential neighborhood, the township noted, which contains a number of apartments that do not have open spaces or play areas for children.

Pidgeon encouraged residents to use only existing vehicular crossings to traverse Norfolk Southern lines. When asked how lower-income residents without automobiles should access public spaces, Pidegon said "don't trespass on railroad property."

"What Lower Allen Township went through, from our perspective, represents the height of arrogance and indifference on the part of Norfolk Southern to the kind of cooperative partnership we should be able to expect from one of our nation's major rail carriers," Haste wrote in his letter.

"It would appear from Norfolk Southern's handling of this, and other matters, along with its ongoing failure to attend any of our regular HATS meetings, that Norfolk Southern has no intention of being a good neighbor to the communities its rail lines traverse and that we represent," Haste concluded.

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CAEDC UPDATE

Jonathan Bowser
CEO, Cumberland Area
Economic Development
Corporation

PAGE 5 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Threat of base closures must be kept in mind

Tn a recent military report, I read **⊥**notes from a committee meeting on the future of a Base Realignment and Closure or BRAC. This committee was in the House of Representatives, and without being at the meeting or seeing video coverage, I could easily tell that the tone from the House was no BRAC. It was very obvious, and was also mentioned in the report that no Congressman at this point has the appetite for a BRAC that could potentially impact an installation in their district or impact constituents that work at installations in other congressional districts. This point is very understandable and if I were in their shoes, I would probably have the same mindset and opinion.

For instance, in our region, Cumberland and York counties are home to three military installations and one military facility that employs over 11,000 and generates approximately \$1 billion into our local economy through payroll and government contracts. Even broader, the National Conference of State Legislatures concludes that the Department of Defense (DOD) has an approximate annual spending of \$12.1 billion and total jobs of approximately 57,919 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This equates to 1.9% of the total state Gross Domestic Product (GDP) annu-

ally. According to the same source, the State of Pennsylvania is the sixth largest in the U.S. in terms of DOD spending, yet we rank in the bottom half in terms of state direct spending to support DOD efforts and operations.

The question I am often asked, as it relates to military, is will there be a BRAC and if so when? The response and outcome to this question is a double edge sword. First, as it relates to will there be a BRAC, I do not think anyone knows. Senator John McCain, who is the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, continues to push for a BRAC. His position on the issue has been that the DOD has significant excess capacity and therefore, significant tax payer dollars are spent maintaining installations and facilities that are currently not in use by DOD. I think it is fair to say that not too many people would disagree with this analysis.

So the second part of the question is, when will there be a BRAC assuming one will move forward? That is also a very hard question to respond to because not too many House members want to sign off on a death warrant that could do away with an installation in their district or near their district. So our conclusion and response is that we all know there needs to be a BRAC due

to excess capacity, but no one wants to put one into motion in fear of a realignment or closure of a facility in their district. The result of this conundrum has been to do nothing. While that may be a logical strategy in Washington D.C., it is a non-starter for us here in the community.

In 2014, when Cumberland Area Economic Development Corp. (CAEDC) took the lead on a military local defense group for Cumberland and Northern York Counties, I was given a lot of advice. I knew very little about the military sector or the impact it has on our local economy. So I did a lot of listening to those who had come before me and were heavily involved in previous BRACs. I learned their mistakes and also their successes. It was a lot to soak in. However, the best piece of advice I received came from a Retired General, who simply said to be successful in protecting our bases, you have to be willing to "shift the landscape".

I looked the Retired General in the eyes and said "Ok, no problem". I then proceeded to say, "but can you help me understand what that means?" I had heard other people give me that same advice as well, but I never really understood what it meant. He leaned in and said, "I have two pieces of critical advice

for you. First, every community cries wolf about the negative impacts a BRAC could have if it closes their base, but your strategy needs to be focused on the value the community brings to the DOD. Secondly, do not prepare for a BRAC once a BRAC has been announced (essentially, do not fall asleep at the wheel). You must be prepared with the mindset that a BRAC is imminent. Military not only has economic impacts that are positive in your community, but it also has indirect benefits that have become part of the fabric of South Central Pennsylvania, and you do not want to lose that?"

The Cumberland York Area Local Defense Group, is a committee within CAEDC, lead by a group of talented and knowledgeable volunteers who are committed to maintaining and enhancing that military fabric in our communities. As a result of the Strategic Position Plan we just finalized, we are going to focus on three key areas: Workforce Development & Education; Infrastructure & Utilities; and Community Cooperation with Military Installations. As we continue down this journey, your support as a community leader and member is critical. Please consider volunteering your time to help enhance our military bases and the CYALDG and CAEDC thank you for your continued support!

Value____

From A5

Even though this number may be cut down by Congress, it significantly reduces the chance of the DoD expecting long-term budget shortages that would necessitate BRAC.

Representatives for both of Pennsylvania's Senators – Bob Casey and Pat Toomey – said appetite for BRAC was unlikely to increase.

"I'm proud of what PA brings to the table for DoD and will work with local communities to make sure DoD does not make arbitrary cuts that would undermine those contributions," Casey said in a statement.

Even if another round of BRAC were to come, the defense study makes a strong case that the military gets more value by being the Midstate than it does elsewhere.

The major emphasis of the Baker Associates' report is convenience – the I-81 corridor in the Harrisburg-Carlisle region carries a full 10 percent of the nation's GDP.

There are also over 100 other Department of Defense installations within 300 miles of Carlisle, the report calculated, as well as the nation's major eastern seaports at Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York.

Another big selling point is the job market. While the Midstate's un-

employment rate is lower than the national average, indicating a tight market for labor, the total workforce is growing at a rapid pace – which means that the military should have no issue finding qualified civil-

ian workers if they offer competitive-paying positions.

Since the recession, the Harrisburg-Carlisle metro statistical area has added over 23,000 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Michael Bupp, The Sentinel

Carlisle Barracks Golf Course.



Jason Malmont, The Sentinel

Marthann Sunday, left; Alan Sunday, center; and his sister, Suzanne Sunday, right, talk with Jay Geaybeal, chief curator for AHEC, about Japanese swords their father brought back from World War II.



HEALTHCARE

PAGE 6 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Acquisition, affiliation could mean growth for CRMC

Pinnacle takeover would provide larger capital base as hospital industry changes

Naomi Creason

The Sentinel

If an affiliation between Pinnacle-Health and the University of Pitts-burgh Medical Center is approved, some health care advocates say that could be a boon for the health system's local hospitals — including the soon-to-be acquired Carlisle Regional Medical Center.

PinnacleHealth Tuesday announced both its acquisition of four hospitals — CRMC, Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center, Lancaster Regional Medical Center and Memorial Hospital in York — and its pursuit of an affiliation with UPMC.

In its announcement on the affiliation, PinnacleHealth cited reasons that Jeff Bechtel said are common for



Bechte

Pennsylvania health systems looking at affiliations and mergers. Bechtel, senior vice president of health economics and policy at the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, didn't comment on the specifics of Pinnacle-

Health and UPMC's movement toward affiliation, but he said the range of reasons for affiliations and mergers include more services to offer, improvement in quality, recruitment of staff and better access to capital for technology and health information system.

Because of that, Pennsylvania is seeing an increase in the number of hospitals aligning themselves with health systems.

"In 2000, about one out of every three Pennsylvania hospitals was part of a system. Now three out of four are part of a system," he said.

Market

What that means for CRMC could be access to more services, especially if the affiliation with UPMC is approved. It would also mean CRMC would be part of a strong market in the region and state, according to Joe Lupica, chairman of Newpoint

Healthcare Advisors.



Lunic

Newpoint Healthcare Advisors provides health care organizations with assistance and information to stay ahead in the market. Lupica admitted that he often advocates for hospitals and

health systems to reconsider mergers and affiliations, but he sees promise for PinnacleHealth's pursuit of an affiliation with UPMC.

"There are incentives in this given the distance," he said, noting that he hasn't seen the paperwork between the two organizations regarding their intent to affiliate. "UPMC won't be



Jason Malmont, The Sentinel

The Carlisle Regional Medical Center is located in South Middleton Township.

able to bleed patients from the local market to draw them to Pittsburgh."

That could mean PinnacleHealth could be a substation for a health care organization with a large balance sheet, he said. That, in turn, could mean more foot traffic through CRMC's doors.

With UPMC also being a health plan provider, Lupica said that could result in UPMC expanding its health plan to the region and potentially reduce health costs in doing so.

"I think we're going to see the evolution in which giant providers with their own health plans will become health plans that have its own hospitals and doctors," he said. "They're the ones trying to keep the prices down."

Acquisition

The discussion around CRMC's future was prompted by Pinnacle-Health's announcement Tuesday of its acquisition of the local hospital, as well as three others belonging to Community Health Systems.

CHS had been selling other properties that had formerly belonged to Health Management Associates. Lupica said the acquisition of the four properties — CRMC, Heart of Lancaster, Lancaster Regional and Memorial York — doesn't mean the four were necessarily poor performing hospitals.

"(CHS) started to have a balance sheet issue," he said. "CHS acquired HMA, which had a large portfolio of hospitals — which was a lot for them to digest."

Part of the work now is divesting themselves of that portfolio, Lupica said, which means they're selling hospitals. And, generally, selling good hospitals means CHS will make more money.

PinnacleHealth has not yet released information on how much it is paying to acquire the four hospitals, whose sale should close in the summer.

And though fiscal year 2015 numbers from the Pennsylvania Healthcare Cost Containment Council showed that CRMC was still making money, Lupica said more recent numbers did show a loss of patient volume at the hospital.

Monopoly

One outstanding question regarding PinnacleHealth's announcements is whether the acquisition and affiliation will pass muster with the Federal Trade Commission.

The FTC and the state Attorney

General's Office had been opposed to PinnacleHealth's previous plans to merge with Penn State Hershey Medical Center. A federal appeals court judge eventually agreed in September, overturning a ruling that would have allowed the two health systems to merge.

Lupica said that while some may argue UPMC may have a monopoly in Pittsburgh — and it likely can't affiliate or merge with any other hospitals in that area — an affiliation between the two seems like something that could be approved.

"What market power do competitors have to change that market? You have strong competition from Well-Span and the University of Pennsylvania in Lancaster and Geisinger," he said. "The ability for competitors to invest in the market is very strong."

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JDGE'

PAGE 8 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Bloom, Tallman talk state budget with chamber members

Reps. say Wolf proposal much easier for GOP to work with than years past

Zack Hoopes

The Sentinel

State Reps. Stephen Bloom and Will Tallman gathered with business leaders recently to discuss what is shaping up to be a somewhat different state budget season.

"We have a Republican-style budget from a Democratic governor," Bloom said. "We're starting this budget season from a place much closer together ... the whole environment is much different."

The event, hosted by the Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce, took place at the Comfort Suites in Carlisle and was sponsored by Advanced Disposal.

Bloom and Tallman discussed a number of aspects of the state's 2017-2018 fiscal plan, which the Legislature is working through following Gov. Tom Wolf's presentation of his initial draft

The budget seeks to close the estimated \$700 million revenue shortfall the state is experiencing in the current fiscal year, as well as reduce the roughly \$2 billion structural deficit the state has experienced as it continually pushes off fixed expenses.

To do this, Wolf has dropped the idea of an income tax hike that has caused controversy in the past — instead opting for corporate tax reform, a severance tax for Marcellus Shale drillers and streamlining of administrative functions, among other initiatives.

Wolf's pledge of no new "broadbased" tax increases is much more in line with the Republican philosophy than in years past, Bloom and Tallman said, although Tallman cautioned that the Marcellus Shale excise cannot be considered strictly as such, since energy producers may hike their prices in response to the added cost.

"More and more of our electricity is generated by natural gas, so that does affect all of us," Tallman said.

The budget also includes a number of spending hikes, which have met with mixed review.

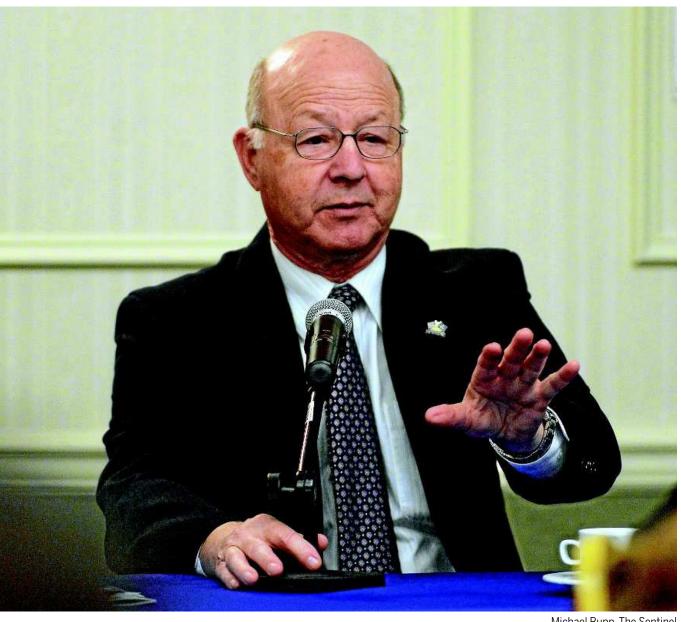
Basic education funding – which goes toward school districts to supplement local property taxes – is proposed to increase \$100 million, with another \$75 million devoted to pre-K and other early childhood initiatives.

"I'm not sure we can hold the pre-K at that increase," Tallman said. "I think we are going to keep the \$100 million in for basic education, but that's not guaranteed with a \$2 billion hole."

As with any budget, Wolf's proposal is an estimate of what can happen in the coming fiscal year. If the savings the governor envisions don't materialize, additional spending will only dip the state further into the red.

"If we don't hit the revenues the governor is projecting, we're going to be looking at added deficit," Tall-

One proposal, likely to be the most contentious between Wolf and the GOP-dominated Legislature, is the pitch to raise the minimum wage to \$12. This is an integral part of Wolf's budget, since higher wages mean more income



Michael Bupp, The Sentinel

State Rep. Will Tallman says the state would be looking at a larger deficit if it does not hit Gov. Tom Wolf's revenue targets.

Economic studies frequently conflict on the issue of whether a higher wage produces better long-term worker outcomes. Republicans have traditionally opposed increases, submitting that increased labor costs will result in employers cutting back hours and new hires.

"A large number of people will simply not be able to get jobs under a higher minimum wage ... raising minimum wage raises the unemployment rate," Bloom said.

As it has been for years, the shadow looming over next year's budget is the state's pension system, which consists of two funds – one pool for state employees, and another for local school teachers.

The system is funded around 60 percent, meaning the state's retirement investment pools have roughly 60 percent of the total funds they are projected to pay out in the coming years, given the current group of employees and retirees.

That unfunded 40 percent, however, is estimated at about \$70 billion. Future costs estimates continue to grow, even as more dollars are added to the pension funds, meaning that the ratio of funding is still projected to drop in coming years.

The GOP has pushed for reform legislation that would cut off the system, putting new teachers and state workers into individualized 401(k)-style retirement plans. The criticism of this, however, is while it will stop the unfunded liability from growing, it won't help the \$70 billion already outstanding, and may cause additional financial stress since new employees wont' be paying into the system.

Bloom said the GOP would again submit pension cut-off legislation, while looking for additional solutions.

"The first thing we have to do is stop digging the hole," he said. "The question then is how we backfill the hole."

Pension costs are a burden on school districts, which must contribute a portion of their teachers' liability each year, in addition to the contributions taken out of teachers' paychecks. All told, school districts are expected to fork over \$4.33 billion to the retirement system next fiscal year, according to Wolf's estimates.

This concern dovetails with fear over legislation, championed by some GOP senators, to eliminate local school property taxes and replace them with disbursements from a state funding pool, which would be created by an increased income and sales tax.

Fred Withum, superintendent of Cumberland Valley School District, questioned the idea of taking away lo-

"It drives us a little batty to think that money is going to be taken out of CV and into Harrisburg for redistribution," Withum said.

While both Bloom and Tallman said

property tax reform is needed, they were also skeptical of removing local control.

"You send money across the river and it's hard to get it back," Tallman said. "We need to fix [property taxation]. How we fix it is an issue."

School districts like Cumberland Valley would likely see their residents pay more in increased income and sales tax than they would save from property tax elimination. This would penalize CV, Withum said, even though it offers one of the state's most competitive curriculums while still having the 12th-lowest per-pupil cost out of all Pennsylvania's public school districts.

"I agree that it would be a huge mistake to penalize our taxpayers to get other schools in other parts of the state, who aren't as well managed, out of the bad financial position they're in," Bloom said.

One of the final parts of Wolf's budget that has raised interest is the proposal for municipalities who do not have their own police forces to pay a \$25 per resident surcharge for state police coverage.

Bloom said this proposal took the GOP by surprise, although they're not necessarily opposed to the idea as long as the cost is kept low. The Pennsylvania State Police actually spends \$297 per resident in otherwise unpoliced municipalities, Tallman said.

"Really, \$25 is a good deal," Tallman said. "Previous proposals have been in the \$200 range per head."

Please join us in welcoming our newest addition to the Martson team!

- McKenzie M. Clark, Esquire -



McKenzie M. Clark, Esquire

McKenzie M. Clark has become an associate attorney with the firm. Mr. Clark will serve Martson Law and its clients with emphasis on family law, criminal defense, and estate planning. His experience includes representation of individuals in matters of divorce, support, custody, dependency, guardianship, criminal, DUI, traffic law throughout central PA.

Mr. Clark is a member of the Carlisle Rotary Club, the Cumberland County Bar Association, and Cumberland County Inns of Court. He also serves on the newly formed Carlisle Borough Human Relations Commission. He also looks forward to serving as a judge advocate with the U.S. Army Reserve in the near future.

Originally from North Carolina, Mr. Clark graduated from Wake Forest University in 2007. He then served for three years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kazakhstan before returning to the United States and earning his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 2014.

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AGRICULTURE

PAGE 10 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL



Michael Bupp, The Sentinel

Apple trees were hit with snow along Oxford Road in Gardners.

Winter storm stalls bud growth

Snow, cold might have prevented problems, growers say

Joseph Cress

The Sentinel

The winter storm had arrived just when David Peters needed a change in the business climate.

Warm temperatures this winter forced him to keep a close eye on the fruit trees that make up his livelihood.

The concern was the warmer temperatures could fool the trees into coming out of dormancy too early, putting the blossoms that bear the fruit at risk of being damaged by a subsequent dip in the mercury.

"It came at a very good time for us," said Peters, manager and part-owner of Peters Orchards of Adams County, which has a few hundred acres along the border with South Middleton Township in Cumberland County.

The cold temperatures and heavy snow that came with the storm earlier this month delayed any further development of buds on most of the fruit trees, putting the plants back on a normal seasonal pattern.

"I've looked yesterday and today. ... I don't see any damage," Peters said on Wednesday. "I don't see anything I'm worried about. Some of the buds almost look smaller as if some of the sap went back to the roots."

The orchard includes low-volume apricot and plum trees planted mostly for the fruit stand and high-volume acres of apple and peach trees. Because apricot and plum trees tend to respond quicker to warmer temperatures, those plants had buds that were starting to swell and show color, but had not yet opened in the days before the storm arrived.

Though the chill-down over the past week affected some of the buds, there are enough in good condition for Peters to be optimistic. "I feel we're really fortunate," he said. "We can tolerate a little bit of damage." Peters has heard of growers in York County losing big after their apricot trees went into full bloom.

Though the mild winter weather has increased the risk of bud damage, the full extent of the impact will not be known until the spring when the trees blossom and prepare to bear fruit, said David Swartz, director of the Penn

State Agriculture Extension office in Cumberland County.

"We are anticipating damage to the peach and other stone fruits such as apricots, cherries and nectarines," Swartz said. "We don't know for sure how much damage." Those type of fruit trees tend to bloom earlier and be less hardy.

The snow will help to hold temperatures from spiking above the seasonal normal, but Peters said he didn't want to jinx himself. "We as farmers do not consider ourselves safe until we see the fruit on the tree. We still have many weeks."

While some people don't want the snow and are ready for spring, Peters wanted the cold and inches of accumulation. In early March, he was concerned about the lack of a snowpack, which helps to saturate the top layer of soil with moisture as it melts.

The lack of a snowpack also means there is dry leaf litter around the trees and the ground is exposed to the wind. This dries out the soil, prompting concern for a bigger problem as the year progresses.

Warmer temperatures also include the risk of harmful insects surviving the winter and coming out of the dormant cycle, Swartz said. "We do count on the cold weather to knock back insect populations."

The deep snow that came with the storm will have no effect on insects that over-winter in the crevasses of tree bark and in cracks in ornamental shrubs, Swartz said. He added, even with the colder temperatures that came with the snow, it was not cold enough long enough this winter to make an appreciable dent in the population of scale insects that prey upon plant-life

As it melts, the snow will help to recharge the less than adequate supply of groundwater that most counties in south-central Pennsylvania are dealing with, Swartz said. He said crops that are currently in the field are well protected, even if the warm temperatures of February got the plants to break dormancy and start to grow early.

"The snow cover is protecting them," Swartz said. "They are not in danger from the wind chill or low temperatures. They should be fine." These tend to be hardier crops, such as alfalfa and such grains as wheat, barley and rye.

Email Joseph Cress at jcress@cumberlink.com

STATE UPDATE



PAGE 11 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Lawsuit abuse reform would help business climate

Tn addition to tax structure and reg-**⊥**ulatory environment, a state's legal climate is one of the leading factors that drive business decisions. A fair and equitable legal system is essential toward ensuring swift justice and more certainty, which in turn attracts business development. But Pennsylvania has a long road toward achieving this balance.

Despite some steps forward under the Corbett administration, Pennsylvania's legal climate remains one of the worst in the nation. The American Tort Reform Association recently put the Commonwealth on a list of "Judicial Hellholes,' citing pro-plaintiff court systems in Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties as the catalyst behind delayed and costly cases. Additionally, the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform has also ranked our state 37th in the nation in terms

of favorability, adding that this dismal standing is estimated to reduce employment by 1.53 percent. This ranking is due in large part to the court system in Philadelphia, which has one of the "least fair and reasonable litigation environments in the country." These distinctions put the Commonwealth at a competitive disadvantage, which is why lawsuit abuse reform a top priority for our organization.

The Pennsylvania Chamber has long pushed for legal reforms that will bring balance to our legal climate and rein in the actions of some trial lawyers, whose constant search for their next big pay day knows virtually no bounds. We were successful in 2011, when we led the charge on the enactment of the Fair Share Act - a Joint and Several Liability Law that prevents trial lawyers from targeting deep pocket defendants, even if they

were at minimal fault for any harm caused. However, that legislation was just a first step. The PA Chamber supports additional reforms that include eliminating the practice of "venue shopping"; requiring a certificate of merit in all professional liability actions; and preventing "double dipping" in asbestos claims by plaintiffs attorneys. Clearly, when it comes to the broad-based business community, we still have a long way to go to right size the Commonwealth's legal environment.

To that end, our organization is proud to be a part of the Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform, a group that was recently formed to address imbalances in our state's civil justice system. The PCCJR is working to educate Pennsylvania residents and their elected representatives about the negative effects of the imbalanced lawsuit system, while promoting commonsense policies that bring needed reform and ensure redress for those injured. At the same time, our group is committed to protecting citizens, employers and health care providers from any legislation that would only serve to benefit lawyers at the expense of jobs and access to health care.

Attracting private-sector businesses - and the jobs that come with them - requires an environment where job creators can grow and operate responsibly without fear of unfair litigation. The PA Chamber looks forward to working with the PCCJR to ensure that our legal system is fair for all and does not jeopardize business and job growth that is necessary for real economic prosperity. To learn more about our collective efforts toward a fairer and more just legal system, visit paforciviljusticereform.org.





WHAT WE DO: YWCA Carlisle seeks to Eliminate Racism and Empower Women and Girls through its many programs and services in Greater Carlisle Area and Cumberland County. It operates Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Services of Cumberland County providing a 24-hour hotline staffed by professional counselors/advocates and trained volunteers; individual counseling plus support groups; medical and legal advocacy/accompaniment; and prevention education programs for students, college campuses, professionals, and community groups. Services are free and confidential! Additionally, YWCA leads a unique 4-hour a day (9 am – 1 pm) preschool program at its expansive property with grounds perfect for outdoor classroom activities. Special Time for 2 & 3 year olds plus a Pre-Kindergarten 4 & 5 year old class and preschool summer camp programs offer year-round options to help youngsters grow and develop in a safe, healthy, diverse and positive environment. For older students, YWCA Carlisle offers several longtime programs such as GirlPower in conjunction with Carlisle Area School District; Young Wonders Summer Day Camp; two off-site Afterschool Homework Clubs with Dickinson College students serving as mentors; and a new group called LEAD (Lead. Empower. Advocate. Develop) for middle school girls. YWCA has always been at the forefront of the community addressing critical social and racial justice issues through community conversations/forums, Kings Kamp-honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, hosting the Annual Youth Leadership Conference for teens during Week Without Violence and advocacy efforts to educate and bring about positive change.

WHO WE HELP: YWCA Carlisle annually supports over 8,000 individuals and families of all backgrounds, race, ethnicities, religions, sexual identities, genders, and abilities. The organization, now in its 98th year, serves residents of Cumberland County and provides a variety of free and affordable services. While the agency maintains a focus on empowering and engaging women and girls, men and boys are invited and included in many regular programs and events as well.

HOW CAN YOU HELP: Volunteer. Donate. Advocate. YWCA Carlisle requires volunteers to serve on committees, Board of Directors and Trustees, plan and execute fundraisers and events and share time and talent with youth programs and the preschool. Individuals who can dedicate regular time each month to serve on the Rape Crisis Hotline are invaluable to helping victims and their families. Training is provided for hotline shift volunteers. Follow us on Facebook and visit ywcacarlisle.org to learn about upcoming events and regular services. Every donation helps support YWCA's efforts to better serve the community. Thank you for partnering with YWCA Carlisle!

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*Non-Profit Spotlight is a monthly feature that highlights a non-profit in the Cumberland Valley. Non-profits are choosen at random by the CVBJ sponsors.



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LEADERS

PAGE 12 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL



Michael Bupp, The Sentinel

Kenn Tuckey, third from left, visits Wednesday with employees from left, Larry Souder, Logan Sheely and Chad Decker at Tuckey Mechanical Services in Carlisle.

A vision of service

Tuckey honored with Molly Pitcher award

Tammie Gitt

The Sentinel

After a fire destroyed the Centenary Building in downtown Carlisle in 1999, then-borough manager Fred Bean called Kenneth Tuckey and asked him to tag along on a walk-through of the building.

Tuckey, the owner of Tuckey Restoration Services, had been there a few days earlier in December 1999 when flames engulfed the building, helping to direct stabilization efforts. He would eventually become involved in the initial restoration work on the historic structure.

As Bean and Tuckey walked through the remains of the building, they noticed Christmas presents in one of the apartments that survived the fire relatively unscathed. There was only one thing Tuckey could do.

"It was pretty nice when we were able to retrieve the Christmas gifts and give them to the family," Tuckey said.

It's one memory from a lifetime of service and decades of business in the Carlisle area.

It's also a memory that brings into focus the philosophy of a business-man with a bent for community service that has earned him this year's Molly Pitcher Award as the Carlisle Area Citizen of the Year for 2016 from the Exchange Club of Carlisle. Tuckey was

honored during a dinner on March 10 at the Dickinson College Holland Union Building.

Presented every year since 1969, the Molly Pitcher Award honors people who have provided outstanding service to the community. The silver pitcher that symbolizes the award is named after Mary Ludwig Hays McCaully, who became famous as Molly Pitcher and who was a heroine in the Revolutionary War after bringing water to artillerymen under fire.

Building a business

Today Tuckey Cos. includes Tuckey Metal Fabricators, Tuckey Mechanical Services and Tuckey Restoration. Other companies, 3T Investors and 3T Management, work in conjunction with Tuckey Cos. Together, Tuckey Cos. employ more than 100 people, according to its website.

It's a long way from the company's beginning in Newville.

"I literally started in the garage in a very small business," said Tuckey, a 1970 graduate of Big Spring High School.

In 1978, Tuckey bought a metal fabricating business and merged it with his own business to create Tuckey Metal Fabricators. A few years later, Tuckey bought Tuckey Mechanical Services from his father, Denver, who purchased Frank Black Mechanical Services in 1981. The two companies remained independent, and added Tuckey Restoration to the fold in 1995.

"I took a very conservative approach

in business, but also combined that with more calculated risks to allow us to grow," Tuckey said, reflecting on the growth of his company.

The Centenary Building project could well be counted among one of those risks.

The arson fire at the corner of West High and South Pitt streets in 1999 destroyed one building and damaged a second. Tuckey's company, 3T Investors, formed to carry out the project to reconstruct the Centenary building and also to build the Addison building on an adjacent vacant lot. The project was the first in town to incorporate upscale apartments.

"It was a challenge because a lot of people wondered whether it would work in Carlisle," Tuckey said.

People were curious about what Tuckey was doing in the building and, when the work was completed, he held an open house to invite the community to check it out.

"We had a line around the building of people who wanted to come and see," Tuckey said.

It was a risk for Tuckey Cos., but it set the stage for future downtown development. In the years that followed, upscale apartments became part of renovations at the Livery, 20 N. Pitt St., the Stuart building, 1-3 N. Hanover St., and, most recently, the Wheelhouse on College Street.

For Tuckey, the greatest success in his career has not been counted in awards — and there have been several — or in profit. Success is found in the

development of employees and relationships with customers.

Tuckey talks enthusiastically about Sharon Gless, who retired in March 2016 — 50 years to the day after she first walked through the doors. She started as a secretary for Frank Black Mechanical Services and stuck around after Denver Tuckey purchased the company. She later ran the service department.

"What was interesting about Sharon's story is she kept reinventing herself," Tuckey said.

Or, he said, look at Hope Coutts. She came in as a clerk in the metal shop and now serves alongside Tuckey's two sons, Matthew and Nathan, as a company director.

"I definitely want them to go away with better skills than when they came here," Tuckey said. "It's their success, not mine."

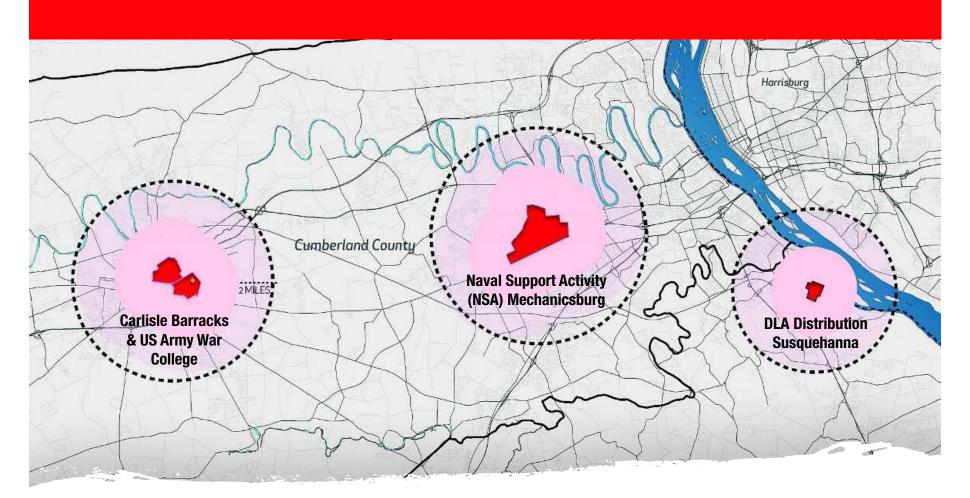
Tuckey has been a visionary with workforce development, said Michelle Crowley, president and CEO of the Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Being engaged with the state workforce investment board has given him the opportunity to be one of the leaders in the state of Pennsylvania when it comes to understanding what our future employment needs will be," Crowley said.

Amy Routson, director of First Night Carlisle, has seen Tuckey's knack for people development extend into his

Please see Tuckey, Page 19

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COMMUNITY

PAGE 14 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Food draws a crowd

Hundreds attend Taste of Carlisle

Tammie Gitt

The Sentinel

The Taste of Carlisle may have seen its largest crowd yet as more than 600 people sampled the town's cuisine.

The 17th annual event was held March 12 at the Carlisle Expo Center, and brought together local restaurants, pubs, caterers, cafes, bakeries and chocolatiers for samples of the culinary delights Carlisle has to offer.

Michelle Crowley, president and CEO of the Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce, said the crowd attending the Sunday event was one of the largest in the 17-year history of Taste of Carlisle.

Two changes seemed to make the event even more enjoyable for guests. The first was bringing the event to Carlisle Expo Center. Crowley said that the extra seating available at the venue gave people more opportunity to relax and graze. The added space made

more room for creativity with Create-A-Palooza.

"We didn't really have food, but we have everything you can put food on," said Karen Griffith, owner of Create-A-Palooza.

Children could decorate paper tea cups while adults had the option to channel their inner child to decorate small plastic wine glasses with stickers and markers. It's a more disposable version of the plates, bowls and cups available at their studio, which is in the process of moving into a new location at 11 E. High St.

"It all transfers to what we do at the studio," Griffith said.

The second change was shifting to an earlier start time with the VIP entry starting at 11:30 and the general admission entry starting at noon.

"We hit that brunch window, and more people were able to get here," Crowley said.

Last year, Matt Ramsey, owner of Denim Coffee, was one of the people strolling through the aisles, plate in hand. This year, he's near the table,

Please see Food, Page A15



Wes Peterson, For The Sentinel

Attendees packed the aisles at the Carlisle Expo Center on Sunday for the 17th annual Taste of Carlisle event.



Wes Peterson, For The Sentinel

Pam Hartman samples wine from Castlerigg Wine Shop at the Taste of Carlisle.



Wes Peterson, For The Sentinel

Josh Dellinger displays food prepared by the Carlisle High School Culinary Arts Department Taste of Carlisle.



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MUNI

PAGE 15 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL



Wes Peterson. For The Sentinel

From left, James Todd and Dave McCord serve samples from 1794 The Whiskey Rebellion.



Wes Peterson, For The Sentinel

From left, Charlotte Ulrich and Cindy Spitman were on hand Sunday at the Taste of Carlisle to raise awareness for the Salvation Army.



Wes Peterson, For The Sentinel

Bob DelRaso welcomed patrons to the **Entenmann's booth Sunday at the Taste** of Carlisle event held at the Carlisle Expo

Food

From A14

handing out coupons and samples of the shop's fresh-roasted Nicaragua blend.

"We just opened three months ago, so this is a first," Ramsey said.

On the other end of the scale, Market Cross Pub has been part of the Taste of Carlisle since the beginning. It's an opportunity to show off the products and services available at the restaurant, said owner Ashleigh Corby.

"We always try to support our community," Corby said. "There are great causes that are involved in this."

Proceeds from the event benefit the chamber, DCA, Project SHARE, the United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County and the Salvation Army, which also would be the recipient of any leftover food from the event's vendors.



Wes Peterson, For The Sentinel

Dan Freberg tries barbeque from Redd's Smokehouse BBQ at the Taste of Carlisle.

nesses and other non-profits.

Heidi Witmer, executive director of the LEAF Project, said it was important for the non-profit to be part of the event to highlight the relationship between farm and table. Students in the agriculture-based leadership program now sell the produce they raise to six local restaurants, some of which were participants in Taste of Carlisle.

"It really helps them make the connection," Witmer said.

The Culinary Arts program at Carlisle High School took its place among the established restaurants with its

eye-catching display.

Josh Dellinger, a sophomore in the program, said the Taste of Carlisle was completely different from the luncheons and other events the class normally does.

"It will prepare me for my life outside of school and prepare me for the future when I might do catering or work in a fast-paced restaurant," Dellinger said.

Janet Noggle helped pack those bags as one of the event's volunteers. Volunteers also greeted guests at the door,

Vendors also included area busi-esses and other non-profits. take on surf and turf featuring sea-food salad and beef tenderloin in an helped set up the event, among other tasks.

"It gives you a chance to sample things before you go into a restaurant,"

It was a day of discovery for Carol Kilko.

"This is the first time I've been here and this is terrific," she said.

Kilko said she has lived in Carlisle for 30 years, but found three restaurants that she had not known about prior to the event. There's "no question" about making a visit to the restaurant in the future, she said.

IGHER ED.

PAGE 16 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Dickinson building dorm

Residence hall to be completed in 2018

Tammie Gitt

The Sentinel

Nixon was president, 8-track tapes were popular and a gallon of gas cost only 40 cents the last time Dickinson College built a new residence hall from the

That changes this spring as the college broke ground this month on a new residence hall that will be located at the corner of West High and Conway streets. McKenney Hall, built in 1973, was the last new dormitory to be constructed on campus.

"This building is a long time coming and really overdue," said Joyce Bylander, vice president for student life and dean of students, during the groundbreaking ceremony.

The new 40,475-square foot building will house 129 students in both single and double occupancy rooms, and will include a great room, living room, an outdoor patio, an indoor bike storage room and com-

Rhoda Kennedy, principal at Deborah Berke Partners, architect for the project, said the project embraces both environmental and social sustainability. It will be built with locally sourced limestone, materials with high pre-and post-recycled content and energy recovery ventilators, and will be equipped with high-efficiency appliances. Energy consumption for the building will also be metered separately.

"Students will be able to measure their resources. More importantly, students will be aware of the building's energy consumption so the building, essentially, is a learning tool," Kennedy said.

Meeting spaces and nooks for study, along with a design that promotes circulation through the building rather than a reliance on elevators speaks to the social sustainability of the structure.

"The sheer variety of spaces can accommodate diversity while still promoting a sense of community. This is really what social sustainability is about," Kennedy said.

The design is expected to earn platinum certification from Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. It will be the sixth building on campus to earn LEED



Courtesy Dickinson College

Dickinson College broke ground Thursday on a new residence hall that will be located at the corner of West High and Conway streets in Carlisle. Pictured is a drawing of the proposed residence hall.

certification.

Interim President Neil Weissman said facilities play a role in educating and transforming the whole student. Designing the right building doesn't mean having a luxurious space, but, rather, "having buildings that encourage students and others to have dialog that teach them about elements of living such as sustainability and that generally connect in very creative ways with what goes on in the classroom."

This building will do that, he said.

The \$19 million building is being financed by tax-exempt bonds through the Cumberland County Municipali-

Bronte Burleigh-Jones, vice-president for finance and administration, said the project was intended to be part of a group of capital projects undertaken when she arrived on campus four years ago. The other projects included a new athletic training center, soccer field and greenhouse as well as an expansion of the Kline Fitness Center and Rector Sci-

The plans were put aside, but the college returned to them a year or so later



West High Street at Conway Street is the site of a Dickinson College dormitory that is under construction.

when the need for additional housing became apparent. In the meantime, the college's financial picture also improved.

"We were in a position not only to secure the funds, but to afford the funds. As we like to say in the business office, there's a big difference between your debt capacity and your debt affordability. In our case, because we had two very solid

years, we were solid in both of those areas," Burleigh-Jones said.

Three college-owned buildings will be demolished to make room for the new structure. Construction will start this spring with an anticipated completion date in fall 2018. Benchmark Construction of Lancaster will lead construction and demolition.





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REAL ESTATE

Ray L. "Buz" Wolfe, Jr., CRS Broker/Owner, Wolfe & Company Realtors Greater Harrisburg Association of Realtors Hall of Fame Inductee (2010)



PAGE 17 | CHMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS IOURNAL

SCHOOL IS IN

Each year, dozens and dozens of individuals and families relocate into the Greater Carlisle Area. Although many of these families are affiliated with the United States Army War College, just as many others are transferees who are newly employed due to the nice diversification of businesses, industries and institutions that support our strong local economy.

In many instances, folks actually select a school district before selecting a new home. Here in Southcentral Pennsylvania, we are blessed to have some of the best public schools among the 499 School Districts serving the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce hosts an "Education Breakfast" each year at which the Superintendents of the four Carlisle Area Schools - Big Spring School District, Carlisle Area School District, Cumberland Valley School District and South Middleton School District - bring local business leaders up to date on happenings within the overall education sector as well as within their own School District. I was happy to attend that function again this year and will share some of those thoughts - - along with a few personal anecdotes.

The Big Spring School District, located in Newville, is our most rural school district. It serves the Municipalities of West Pennsboro Township, Borough of Newville, South Newton Township, North Newton Township, Lower Frankford, Upper Frankford, Cooke Township, Lower Mifflin Township, Upper Mifflin Township and Penn Township. It is the only area school district with a declining enrollment - like approximately 2/3 of Pennsylvania's total School Districts. With a \$48 million budget and an enrollment of 2,560 students, the District largely faces an aging population and the relocation of fewer families than its peer School Districts. The Big Spring School District experiences a poverty level of approximately 44%. Despite all of these obstacles, Superintendent Dr. Richard Fry is quick to point out that the District boasts very good buildings and facilities and more than 19 Advanced Placement (AP) offerings. And, when it comes to PIAA wrestling, the Bulldogs are always a factor with which to be reckoned!

The Carlisle Area School District serves the Borough of Carlisle, Borough of Mount Holly Springs, Dickinson Township and North Middleton Townships. Carlisle sees a slightly increasing enrollment which currently stands at about 5,200 students. It tends to be the most transient of the four neighboring School Districts largely due to the existence of the United States Army War College. About 350 students per year are introduced into the Carlisle Area Schools because of the USAWC - - this representing an annual "in and out" figure of about 28%. The student body tends to be more diverse than the other area Districts and experiences about a 40% poverty level factor. Its \$79 million annual budget is carefully managed - as evidence by the continued on-going building

improvements seen within the District. The Carlisle Thundering Herd has a renowned reputations in both athletics and music. Its boys basketball team won four consecutive State Championships in the 80's and finds itself again this year competing in the State Tournament. John Friend is the latest in a long line of distinguished educators and administrators who have served as Superintendent of Schools.

The fact that Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in Pennsylvania is well evidenced by the Cumberland Valley School system. Serving a number of the "West Shore" municipalities -Middlesex Township, Silver Spring Township, Hampden Township and Monroe Township, Cumberland Valley is the largest school district within the Greater Carlisle Area and is growing at a very rapid rate. An increase of 1,450 students is projected over the next ten years according to Superintendent Fred Withum. Their 9,000 student enrollment includes approximately 20% at poverty level, making it easily the most affluent District within our market area. The Cumberland Valley Eagles are no stranger to State Championships either - having secured several State High School Football Championships.

South Middleton Township is home to the South Middleton School District, headquartered in Boiling Springs. It is the only area District to serve one single municipality. According to Dr. Alan Moyer, current enrollment stands at approximately 2,200 student (25% poverty). The South Middleton School District is also home to many newer and upgraded buildings and facilities. The "Bubblers" are also recognized for having one of the finest high school wrestling programs in the Commonwealth.

As a homeowner in any of these Districts - or a property owner, in general - your property taxes are a key factor in supporting the financial operations of each District. Total property taxes in Pennsylvania exceed \$14 billion annually. While elected officials continue to search for ways to replace real estate/property tax with other forms of revenue, school districts must continue to rely on this income as actual Federal dollars continue to dwindle while Federal mandates on our schools continue to increase. Your real estate taxes are based upon the assessed value of your home as established by Cumberland County in January of 2010. Later in this series, we will discuss the difference between Assessed Value and Appraised Value.

To sum it up, the Greater Carlisle Area is blessed with four excellent public school systems that boast outstanding programs, facilities and leadership. Each of the Districts have some of their own unique and special characteristics. Finding the one that best suits your children might just determine where your next house will be!

Ray L. "Buz" Wolfe, Jr., CRS Broker/Owner, Wolfe & Company Realtors

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING STATISTICS BY COUNTY

In Cumberland County, units sold increased 4%; median price increased 6.5%. In Dauphin County, units sold increased 18.7%; median price decreased 1.6%. In Perry County, units sold increased 23.1%; median price decreased 23.4%. In Juniata County, units sold decreased 28.6%; median price decreased 36.8%. In York County, units sold increased 25%; median price increased 10.4%.

increased 10.4% CUMBERLANI				
Quarter/ Year	Units Sold	Median Price	Average Price	Average Days on Market
Feb. 2013	158	\$154,500	\$191,156	100
Feb. 2014	131	\$185,000	\$223,498	94
Feb. 2015	139	\$1 <i>75,</i> 000	\$210,019	101
Feb. 2016	1 <i>75</i>	\$169,900	\$192,596	96
Feb. 2017	182	\$181,000	\$210,580	77
DAUPHIN CC	OUNTY ——			
Quarter/ Year	Units Sold	Median Price	Average Price	Average Days on Market
Feb. 2013	156	\$140,000	\$1 <i>5</i> 1 <i>,</i> 71 <i>5</i>	101
Feb. 2014	146	\$132,500	\$142,870	121
Feb. 2015	144	\$136,950	\$165 <i>,</i> 763	123
Feb. 2016	182	\$134 <i>,</i> 950	\$165,794	76
Feb. 2017	216	\$132 <i>,75</i> 0	\$156,738	79
PERRY COUN	ITY ———			
Quarter/ Year	Units Sold	Median Price	Average Price	Average Days on Market
Feb. 2013	28	\$142,450	\$1 <i>67,</i> 339	116
Feb. 2014	27	\$115,000	\$127,672	120
Feb. 2015	20	\$88,200	\$110,015	103
Feb. 2016	13	\$121,200	\$131 <i>,</i> 730	94
Feb. 2017	16	\$93,000	\$130,674	141
JUNIATA COL	JNTY ——			
Quarter/ Year	Units Sold	Median Price	Average Price	Average Days on Market
Feb. 2013	0			00.5
	8	\$95,250	\$104 <i>,</i> 862	205
Feb. 2014	8	\$95,250 \$164,500	\$104,862 \$149,050	205 98
Feb. 2015		•	•	
Feb. 2015 Feb. 2016	8	\$164,500	\$149,050	98
Feb. 2015	8 10	\$164,500 \$142,500	\$149,050 \$163,930	98 106
Feb. 2015 Feb. 2016	8 10 7 5	\$164,500 \$142,500 \$110,000 \$69,500	\$149,050 \$163,930 \$104,271 \$110,180	98 106 104
Feb. 2015 Feb. 2016 Feb. 2017 YORK COUN Quarter/	8 10 7 5 TY———————————————————————————————————	\$164,500 \$142,500 \$110,000 \$69,500	\$149,050 \$163,930 \$104,271 \$110,180	98 106 104 87 Average Days
Feb. 2015 Feb. 2016 Feb. 2017 YORK COUN Quarter/ Year	8 10 7 5 TY———————————————————————————————————	\$164,500 \$142,500 \$110,000 \$69,500 Median Price	\$149,050 \$163,930 \$104,271 \$110,180 Average Price	98 106 104 87 Average Days on Market
Feb. 2015 Feb. 2016 Feb. 2017 YORK COUN Quarter/ Year Feb. 2013	8 10 7 5 TY———————————————————————————————————	\$164,500 \$142,500 \$110,000 \$69,500 Median Price \$168,700	\$149,050 \$163,930 \$104,271 \$110,180 Average Price \$207,133	98 106 104 87 Average Days on Market 105
Feb. 2015 Feb. 2016 Feb. 2017 YORK COUN Quarter/ Year Feb. 2013 Feb. 2014	8 10 7 5 TY———————————————————————————————————	\$164,500 \$142,500 \$110,000 \$69,500 Median Price \$168,700 \$138,200	\$149,050 \$163,930 \$104,271 \$110,180 Average Price \$207,133 \$163,007	98 106 104 87 Average Days on Market 105 86
Feb. 2015 Feb. 2016 Feb. 2017 YORK COUN Quarter/ Year Feb. 2013	8 10 7 5 TY———————————————————————————————————	\$164,500 \$142,500 \$110,000 \$69,500 Median Price \$168,700	\$149,050 \$163,930 \$104,271 \$110,180 Average Price \$207,133	98 106 104 87 Average Days on Market 105

Definitions: Units sold = number of properties that settled in the month. Average price = average sale price of all properties sold in month Median price = half of all settled properties priced higher, half lower. Days on Market = average number of days sold properties were on market *Statistics provided by the Greater Harrisburg Association of REALTORS® Multiple Using Service. The GHAR MLS covers Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry, and portions of other counties, including lancaster, Lebanon, and northern York Counties.

** The statistics listed indicate only the GHAR MLS listings for that county.

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on obtaining her PA Real Estate Broker License

BIZ BUZZ

PAGE 18 | CUMBERLAND VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

The Sentinel offers news and notes from business and industry in the Cumberland Valley:

HB McClure adds Harvey

HB McClure Company announced in February the addition of Paul Harvey as purchasing manager. Harvey will implement new purchasing strategies and objectives to supplement company growth for HB McClure as well as IT Landes Company of Harleysville.

Harvey's past work experience includes director of sales at New York/ Harrisburg based publishing company, PriMedia. More recently, Harvey owned and operated his own residential construction company, Paul Harvey Homes LLC, for the past 15 years.

Outside of his position at HB, Harvey spends his time with his loving wife, Lisa, step-son, Garrett, and German Short-haired Pointer, Lundin. He also enjoys staying active and participating in outdoor activities.

Orrstown Bank adds Karomfily

Orrstown Bank recently announced that Kaliopi (Kali) Karomfily joined the bank as Vice President, Com-

mercial and Industrial Lending Relationship Manager.

Karomfily has more than 24 years financial services experience, most recently serving at BB&T and predecessor organizations, Susquehanna Bank and Graystone Bank in Lancaster County.



Karomfily

Karomfily joins the Lancaster/ Berks County team managed by David Hornberger, SVP/Market President. She will be the sixth commercial lender to join the Lancaster team in the past year as Orrstown Bank continues its strategic expansion into Lancaster and Berks counties.

In addition to the Commercial Lending team, Karomfily joins representatives from Cash Management, Mortgage Lending, and Orrstown Financial Advisors (Trust and Wealth Management) as Orrstown Bank continues to expand its presence in Lancaster County.



Brubaker





Gift CPAs adds four partners

Gift CPAs, a small business accounting and advisory firm in Central Pennsylvania, announce recently the addition of four new partners: Jamie

Beane, CPA: Shawn Brubaker, CPA; Jesse Lambert, CPA; and Jason Vathis,

"I am pleased to welcome these four experienced professionals into partnership with the firm," said Steve Gift, CPA, the firm's founding and managing partner. "The new partners have been long-term team members who bring significant and varied talents to the table, ensuring excellent representation across disciplines as we serve our client base. These respected leaders are equipped to take the firm into the future, as the marketplace continues to grow and change."

Hartz, Frelin, Gearhart join Rotz & Stonesifer

Rotz & Stonesifer, P.C. is pleased to announce the hiring of Danielle Hartz,

a recent graduate of Strayer University, as an associate. Her responsibilities include the areas of nonprofit auditing, governmental auditing, financial statement preparation and non-profit tax preparation.



Hartz brings to Rotz & Stonesifer, P.C. prior experience working within the accounting and finance department of governmental entities. In addition, she has experience working in the banking industry.



Zachary T. Frelin also recently joined the firm as an intern for the firm's Chambersburg office.

Frelin graduated from Penn State University in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management and Minor in Business Administration. His areas of practice with Rotz & Stonesifer, P.C. include bookkeeping, accounting, financial statement preparation, and personal and business income tax preparation.

Lisa D. Gearhart has joined the firm as an associated. She earned her license in 2009 and has more than 10 years of experience in public accounting. She is now licensed in both Maryland and

Gearhart's areas of practice with Rotz & Stonesifer, P.C. include accounting, financial statement preparation, and personal and business income tax preparation. She enjoys teaching on a one of one basis to help improve the financial reporting so clients can more effectively and efficiently run their daily business functions. Lisa is also a member of the AICPA, MACPA, PIC-PA, and she is the treasurer of Humane Society of Washington County.

Rotz & Stonesifer, P.C. offers a wide range of services including auditing, accounting, tax planning and compliance and payroll administration.

Mid Penn Bank adds Hall

Mid Penn Bank recently announced the appointment of Heather R. Hall as senior vice president and commercial loan manager.



A resident of New Cumberland, Hall previously served as director of surety at Gunn-Mowery, LLC. Prior to that, she served as a commercial executive at Susquehanna Bank. She has more than 16 years of experience in financial services.

Hall holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Shippensburg University. She serves on the board of directors for the Cultural Enrichment Fund.

HB McClure announces restructuring moves

HB McClure Company recently announced several upcoming strategic promotions for both HB McClure and IT Landes of Harleysville.

Korey Kann will become Vice President of Consulting for the Technical Division of HB McClure. In this role, Kann will focus on the technical training of HB McClure's learning management system, HB University, and will develop this content into a business.

Ken Albers will take on the role of Vice President of Consulting for HB McClure's Davisware Division. Albers will create a new business in which he consults with other companies regarding all aspects of Davisware. Albers will also assist the acquisition integration team with Davisware implementation.

Adam Smith will become Vice President of Commercial Service for HB Central. He will lead the HB McClure York and HB Central's Commercial Service departments and drive success for both going forward.

Kyle Seaman will become Senior Vice President of Development and Acquisitions for IT Landes. Seaman's main focus will be to develop new business opportunities, entrepreneurial endeavors, and overseeing all facets of the acquisition team. Seaman will fully transition into this role by July 1.

Kerrin Musselman will serve as Senior Vice President and General Manager of IT Landes effective July 1.

Smith joins Gunn-Mowery

Gunn-Mowery, LLC recently announced the addition of Kassie Smith as a Licensed Personal Lines Agent.

Smith is a Central Pennsylvania native and is a graduate of Palmyra Area High School. Previously, she worked as a Commercial Account Manager for KHB Insurance based in Hershey, as well as in health administration for a rehabilitation facility. Her duties at Gunn-Mowery, LLC will include reviewing applications and preparing

quotations for personal insurance coverage, as well as managing a book of commercial policies.

Brath joins Barton & Loguidice's Camp Hill office

Barton & Loguidice (B&L) announces Phillip W. Brath, P.E., has joined the Sustainable Planning & Design Group as a Senior Managing Engineer in the firm's Camp Hill office.

A resident of Cumberland County, Brath previously was a Senior Engineer/Project Manager with another Mid-Atlantic firm where he was involved with wastewater treatment and land development as well as stormwater and erosion control for numerous projects.

Brath will manage public and private sector planning and design projects for the Camp Hill office. His background includes water and wastewater plant and equipment design, municipal consulting and engineering, land development reviews and planning, as well as experience in design, sales, and costing, manufacturing, installation, and service of manufactured equipment. controls, instrumentation and systems, including profit/loss and budgeting responsibility at project and operational levels. He is a leading regulatory specialist for NPDES and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4).

Brath is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Thiel College with a B.A. in Physics, and earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering Technology from Point Park University.

Medical Center appoints Mikula chief quality officer

Dr. Margaret Mikula has been appointed chief quality officer (CQO)

for the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Penn State Medical Group practices. Mikula served as interim CQO following the departure of Dr. Andrew Resnick in July, 2016. Mikula was previously the medical director of quality and safety for Penn State Children's Hospital.



Mikula

During Mikula's tenure as interim CQO, the Medical Center secured its second consecutive "A" grade for

Please see Biz Buzz, Page A19



HERE ARE THE TOPICS WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON IN UPCOMING ISSUES:

APRIL: 2016 Year End Wrap Up/Final Stats **MAY:** Tourism

JUNE: Real Estate Development

Have a story idea you would like to share? Email cvbj@cumberlink.com. Would you like to advertise in an upcoming issue? Contact Kim Kamowski at kkamowski@cumberlink.com or 717-240-7114.



Tuckey—

From Page 12

his service to the community through his work as a long-standing sponsor of the event.

"He is an incredibly kind man and has been supportive of my personal growth, as well, encouraging me to lead and not to be afraid," Routson said.

Serving the community

Giving to the community is part of Tuckey's core philosophy.

"I really think God's given us an opportunity. It's always been that I want to put more into the community than I get out," Tuckey said.

His service has taken him to the board room for the Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce, Carlisle Regional Medical Center, Cumberland Area Economic Development Corp. and the Salvation Army, among others. He's also sponsored events in town, and rolled up his sleeves to pitch in on projects like Carlisle's Summerfair.

"We helped with logistics and running cords, whatever it is they needed help with. To this day, we're still sponsoring Summerfair," Tuckey said.

Gayle Bollinger, principal at Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz who served with Tuckey on the CAEDC board, said Tuckey was the first chairman of the CAEDC board and served in that position for several years.

"His visionary leadership helped put the organization on a path that laid the groundwork for CAEDC to grow into the organization it is today," Bollinger said.

Tuckey's faith is foundational to his work in business and in the community, and it found an outlet as a member of the board of directors for Carlisle Christian Academy.

"I can tell you that he was the backbone of the board for many years, and his faith in our school as a source of good Christian education has always been evident," said Christine Tiday, director of academics at Carlisle Christian Academy.

Customer service and community service is intertwined for Tuckey and his company. A page on the company website lists the number of organizations to which employees donate their time, talent and funds. Sometimes, Tuckey said, the employees serve the community by responding to service calls on snowmobiles in the middle of a snowstorm to help elderly people who are isolated and alone.

"Every aspect of what we do is ser-



Michael Bupp photos, The Sentinel

Kenn Tuckey, right, visits Wednesday with employee Alyson Lenox at Tuckey Mechanical Services in Carlisle.

vice," he said.

The greatest reward from volunteering, Tuckey said, is "to see small things" from the smiles on children's faces when he hands out ice cream cones to helping a family recover after a fire.

Tuckey said it was never a goal of his to be honored for his service to the community, and that he's surprised and humbled by having been added to what he described as "a very distinguished list of recipients" of the Molly Pitcher Award that includes his own father. The Exchange Club honored Denver Tuckey with the 2007 Molly Pitcher Award.

"It shows you how I was taught," Tuckey said.

That he is being honored is no surprise to those who have served with Tuckey in the community.

Carlisle Borough Councilman Perry Heath has worked with Tuckey on projects in the community through Mowery, where he works. Heath said Tuckey respects the companies with whom he co-contracts, and all of these business relationships are treated fairly.

"Kenn professionally epitomizes everything the Molly Pitcher Award stands for — service, professionalism and integrity in all of his business dealings," he said.

"There's no one more deserving of the Molly Pitcher award than Kenn Tuckey. He is a true pillar of the community, and a champion of both the arts and of our local social services agencies," said Christin Kapp, who worked with Tuckey as a former director of First Night Carlisle and as the Corps Community Relations and Development director for the Salvation Army.

"Standing with him each New Year's

Eve at the base of the drop button is one of the highlights of the year for me. Kenn truly embodies what it means to live in community; he expresses his love for this town through his sponsorship and service, and Carlisle is all the richer because he has made his home here," she said.

Looking to the future

Tuckey's vision for the future of the company and his work in the community continues to build on what he has done in the past.

"It's to do the same thing we've always done year after year and see what God has for the future," he said.

At the center of it, as always, is Tuckey's wife, Marsha, who Tuckey said

keeps him grounded in faith and life while serving in her own right by taking care of the family and raising their two sons, Matthew and Nathan.

"She's very much allowed me to go and grow," Tuckey said.

Tuckey's sons have found their places in the organization as directors alongside Coutts, the operations director. Nathan Tuckey takes a more internal role as corporate systems director, working with the back office teams in accounting, information technology and marketing. Matt Tuckey is more outward focused with responsibilities for business development, culture changes and growing the workforce.

"Just like his dad, Denver, did with him and his brothers, Kenn has challenged his sons, Matt and Nathan, on what to do next to meet the needs of our region with their companies, and we know that they will continue to be innovative," Crowley said.

Tuckey knows his sons will continue the family tradition of community service, and he sees the same spirit in town with many people getting involved with volunteering and community service.

"We have a wonderful community and people ought to be proud of that," he said.

Tuckey encourages those who may not be active in the community to look around, see what they are interested in, and get involved. He reminds them that all contributions count.

"Don't feel like every taste of volunteering and getting involved has to be a big thing. Every little thing matters," he said.



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Biz Buzz-

From A18

hospital safety from the Leapfrog Group. Under her leadership, the organization continued to implement many evidence-based initiatives hospital-wide, such as improving the recognition and outcomes of sepsis.

As an assistant professor of pediatrics and a faculty member since 2004, Mikula has chaired the multiple teams and committees related to quality and safety of care at the Children's Hospital. She helped institute the daily op-

erations safety brief in the Children's Hospital. The daily briefing brings together physicians, administration and staff from across the hospital each day to proactively discuss and correct equipment, facilities, staffing and other issues that could affect the quality of care. Since its success in the Children's Hospital, the briefing is now an essential practice in the adult hospital.

Mikula is a graduate of Wayne State University, where she received a bachelor's degree in chemistry, and later earned her medical doctorate from Wayne State University School of Medicine. She completed a dual residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at Penn State.



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