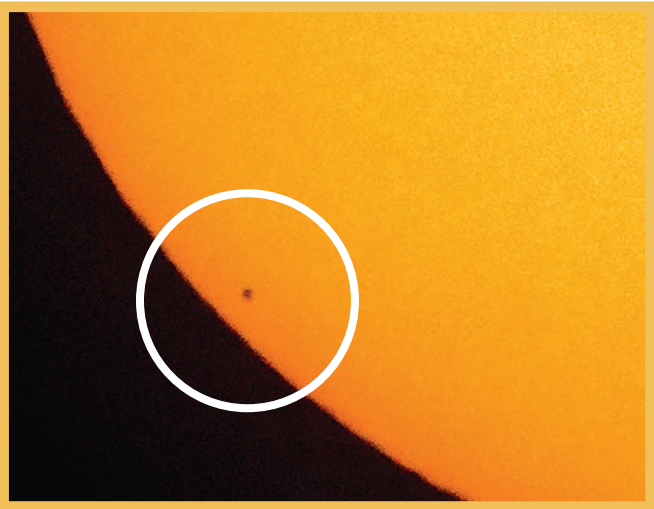


Looking up



BILL INGALLS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boyertown Area High School astronomy teacher Peter Dettlerline prepares high powered binoculars with a solar filter so his students can see the planet Mercury as it crosses the face of the sun Monday. Mercury passes between Earth and the sun only about 13 times a century, with the previous crossing in 2006.



Bensalem OKs plan to divide \$250K grant

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo said the amount of money the township is getting has fallen in recent years.

By CHRIS ENGLISH  
STAFF WRITER

The Bensalem council voted unanimously at its Monday night meeting to divide up this year's \$250,278 community development block grant four ways.

The grant is for the fiscal year starting July 1. It comes to the township every year from the state Department of Community and Economic Development using funds provided by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This year's block grant to Bensalem will be split up as follows:

- \$58,000 to housing rehabilitation in the

form of deferred payment loans of up to \$15,000 for lower and moderate-income residents across the township.

- \$27,500 as Bensalem's contribution this year toward operational costs at the Bucks County Homeless Shelter in Bristol Township.
- \$117,278 to install more curb cuts and other work to make the township more accessible for the physically disabled.
- \$47,500 for administrative costs of the community development block grant program.

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo said the amount of money Bensalem is getting from the grant program has fallen in recent years.

"It used to be up around \$500,000 to \$600,000," he said.

Township guidelines for use of the money are:

- Conservation and expansion of the township housing stock for all persons,

but principally those of low and moderate income.

- Expansion and improvement of the quality and quantity of community services and facilities, principally for persons of low and moderate income.
- The promotion of economic development and the creation of new jobs and the retention of existing jobs.
- The elimination of slum and blight and prevention of blighting influences.
- The elimination of conditions which are detrimental to health, safety and public welfare.
- The preparation of plans for a better utilization of land and other natural resources.
- The restoration and preservation of properties of historic value.

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HGP to build \$3.5M center

By PEG QUANN  
STAFF WRITER

Holy Ghost Prep will begin construction next winter on a \$3.5 million activity center across Bristol Pike from its main campus in Bensalem.

The 26,000-square-foot building will include a 240-seat performing arts space and a multi-sport gymnasium, as well as additional workout and music rooms.

In addition, school administrators are planning to renovate the school's clock tower and its 100-plus year-old clock, which are located in the central part of Cornwells Hall, "the main Gothic building on campus," said Gregory Geruson, the school's principal.

Geruson, an alumni who was appointed this year as the school's first lay principal, said the school currently uses its field house as both a gym and auditorium, but the facility lacks the acoustics, lighting or sound capabilities needed for stage performances.

"We want to put in this space for the performing arts," he said. "We just started the fundraising process."

The school also needed additional gym space for basketball, indoor lacrosse and winter baseball practices when the field house is in use.

One challenge will be getting students and event attendees safely across Bristol Pike when the new building is in use, Geruson said.

"We had a new crosswalk put in, updated for pedestrian crossings," he said. The driveways going into the current campus and the new activity center will be aligned.

The activity center will have parking for about 40 to 45 cars. When a show is going on there, patrons also will be able to park on the main campus.

See CENTER, Page A2

Officials push to get naloxone in schools

By MARGARET GIBBONS  
STAFF WRITER


The Montgomery County Health Board is targeting area school districts to encourage them to take Gov. Tom Wolf up on his offer to provide two free doses of naloxone to every public high school in the state.

"Sometimes, academia tends to bury their heads in the sand on these issues," said board Chairman Michael B. Laign.

That does not appear to be the case in school districts serving students in the North Penn and Eastern Montgomery County areas.

Abington School District Board President Raymond McGarry said the police officers assigned to the high school and junior high school already carry naloxone, a lifesaving medication used to reverse drug overdoses from heroin and other opiates.

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57° Partly sunny, then

44° showers. Cooler. A13

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Anxiety over Trump cuts into House support

Several Republicans want to follow House Speaker Paul Ryan's lead and withhold their support from the billionaire.

By ERICA WERNER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Anxiety over Donald Trump spread among congressional Republicans Monday, pushing several to follow House Speaker Paul Ryan's lead and withhold their support from the divisive billionaire. Ryan himself declared there's no point in trying to "fake" party unity.

"If we go forward pretending that we're unified, then we are going to be at half-strength this fall," Ryan told The Journal Times in Racine, Wisconsin, defending his stunning decision last week to refuse to endorse his party's presumptive presidential nominee.

Still, in interviews with home-state reporters Monday, Ryan denounced the idea of any Republican launching a third-party or independent candidacy to challenge Trump, telling the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel it "would be a disaster for our party."

And Ryan said he'd step aside from the House speaker's traditional role as chairman of the Republican National Convention if Trump wants him to, a scenario that Trump left open over the weekend, underscoring the depths of strife now afflicting a GOP divided against itself.

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Christie's bet on Trump pays off A6

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VOTING ENDS MAY 22

