

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

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Haycock resident earns captain title

Greg Seifert, Haycock Township, obtained the title of captain after successfully completing a Master Mariners course at the Charter Captains School, Kent Island, Md.

The 12-week course covered mandatory topics that included international and inland rules of the road, navigation and chart plotting, safety, First Aid and deck general. After completing the course, passing a Coast Guard exam and submitting the required sea time, Capt. Seifert was issued a

Merchant Mariner Credential qualifying him to operate as a master of a vessel up to 100 gross tons.

Seifert is known locally as the teamster who gives hayrides with a team of Belgian draft horses at Traugers Farm Market during the month of October.

Army staff sergeant serves as Bethlehem recruiter

Army Staff Sgt. Aaron W. Oxenford has arrived for duty as a recruiter with U.S. Army Lehigh Valley Recruiting Company Bethlehem Center, Bethlehem.

Oxenford is the husband of Danielle M. Oxenford of Upper Black Eddy.

He is a 2004 graduate of Southern Lehigh High School, Coopersburg.



Raffle winner named

The Patriot Detachment Marine Corps League presented a \$5,000 check to Susan Spadafora, winner of the June 25 grand prize raffle. The presentation was made on July 12 at the James E. Kinney Senior Center, Richboro. The proceeds of the annual raffle, which is sponsored by the Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League, benefits the department's veterans and youth programs. The raffle tickets were sold by the Patriot Detachment during the Memorial Day weekend. From left are: Bob Young, Mike Clark, John Koutsouras, Gus Cales, Bill Miller, Dick Weaver, Susan Spadafora, John Frain, Harry Niemann, Jimmy Clendennen, Neil Clark and Pete Palestina.

Camille Granito Mancuso: Chatterbox

With great regularity, I struggle to make any sense of our current political climate. Of course, unfortunately, one can't make a silk purse of a sow's ear. Our current American scene is laughable, though not for us.

Many who followed the whole nominating process with great interest, watched the nominees fall or survive, and wondered, "Why?"

We talked among ourselves, even if we didn't agree on who should get the nomination. Now, many of us are in a glazed over, confused state about how we ended up with the choices we have. More confusing still is how we ended up with two parties controlling this system, and two candidates neither party truly believes in, yet still supports.

If one could say all the things

which are imprudent, indeed, inflammatory, one would say that the nominating process is not just unfair but corrupted. Not a surprise. If we would say what we believe we shouldn't, we'd say we don't understand the process that left us with two candidates, both of which many of us doubt. Now, both parties have shot themselves in the foot.

First, there is Donald Trump, who is trying to represent American conservatives, having had three wives, and with a centerfold as his first lady. In the politest of terms, he is under suspicion for dubious business practices, or at the very least, serious incompetency in several of his financial undertakings. He has absolutely no

couth, no political experience, and is obviously, verified by his own words, clearly under-informed, if not uninformed, on many or most of the topics he will, as president, have command of. His character is sketchy, his ability is dubious, and his reliability is clearly a risk. Throughout the campaign he has answered questions with unfounded opinion and vague rhetoric. He has no clear policies planned. Yet, his chances of winning the presidency are very good. We are all concerned, including both the Republican Party, which was corner-painted into nominating him, and many of those who will actually vote for him.

Our other option is Hillary Clinton. Firstly, it is infuriating to think

Reality bites

that, in America, today, we are nurturing a dynasty mentality that already gave us the Bushes. There have been, of course, other related presidents, but they had the discretion to make it appear less contrived by skipping, or removing a generation. If we are honest, we might say, that we know her greatest motivation is already proven not to be serving the nation but to go down in history as America's first female president and to increase her purse. Her greatest supporters are of the energy and financial/banking industries (let's see those transcripts), and her credit's volley between perfunctory, requisite and muddled, at best. She was lining up her ducks. She can't be believed; she can't be trusted.

If we are honest with ourselves, the facts are staring us in the face. Neither of our current options is promising enough. We're aware of what our concerns are. These are the things we are thinking, even those of us who are confident about which one of these final contenders will get our vote. Committed, some of us may be; confident, many of us aren't.

Still, these are the things we aren't supposed to say. These are the things that get people heated and angry, spewing, verbatim, the rhetoric they've memorized from their preferred news channel. These are the things which turn relatives into former friends, but these are the truths. Many Americans, including we who will actually vote, are thinking that this election will be a contest between the lesser of two evils.

Many of us are thinking that there is something wrong with a system which, somehow, offers us a choice between too much control, and not enough control. We've got a radical who proves that Americans are discouraged enough to put almost anyone in office, if that person just goes against the establishment. Alternately, we've got a deeply embedded establishment candidate who garnered the nomination from that establishment.

Somehow, the process, as it exists, doesn't seem to put the best people in the running, or in the White House.

These are inflammatory words, the things we are not supposed to say. Yet, these are the things we should all be saying, openly. Most importantly, we should address how to fix the broken system, which has condemned us to such a choice.

This must be remedied. This, we should be talking about.

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William Penn Bank Community Foundation Awards \$80,000 in Grants

As part of an on-going commitment to make the community we serve a better place to live, the William Penn Bank Community Foundation recently awarded \$80,000 in grants to the following non-profit organizations: Lower Bucks County YMCA; Welcoming the Stranger; No Longer Bound; Family Service Association; YWCA of Bucks County; Ivins Outreach Center; Bucks County Housing Group; Credit Counseling Center; Destined for a Dream; A Woman's Place; Habitat for Humanity; Advocates for the Homeless; Snipes Farm Summer Camp; and Solid Rock Youth Center.

The foundation was established in 2008 with the goal of supporting local charities that improve the quality of life for low income families, especially those families and individuals in crisis or at risk. Since its inception, the William Penn Bank Community Foundation has awarded a total of \$720,000.

William Penn Bank, headquartered in Levittown, Pa., has been serving the Bucks County community since 1870. For more information, please visit our website: www.willpenn.com.



Pictured from left to right: Valerie Kennedy, William Penn Bank; Audrey Tucker, Chief Executive Officer, Family Service Association; Terry Sager, President, William Penn Bank; and Michele Herzog, William Penn Bank.

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