



BUCKS COUNTY HERALD

THE VOICE OF CENTRAL AND UPPER BUCKS COUNTY
An Independent Newspaper

January 6, 2011
Four sections 40 pages

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Volume 9, Number 14
FREE

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The weather outside was frightful

Herald photographer Debby High ventured outside in Perkasie on Dec. 27 to catch a few glimpses of the benefits and drawbacks of snow in Perkasie Borough. For Zack High-Zandier, 5, and Kyle Ehle, 7, the snow provided a chance for an old-fashioned snowball fight. For Nick Ritter and Mike McBrearty, the snow brought extra work.

Haycock Township employees: No raises for us this year please!

Diane Marczely Gimpel

Usually, employees ask their employers for raises. The employees in Haycock, however, have asked their employers not to give them more money.

The four employees – secretary-treasurer Nancy Yodis, roadmaster David Long, road foreman Christopher Bauer and zoning office Kathy Stover – asked the supervisors not to boost their pay in 2011 because of the poor financial climate that has affected taxpayers and the township budget. As a result, the supervisors set the employees' wages at 2010 levels at their annual reorganization meeting Jan. 3. "It's because of the economy," Yodis said.

"This board is so good to us. We wanted to try to help."

Haycock has not been immune from the recession. One place it has been felt has been in real estate transfer tax revenue, which has decreased dramatically following the burst of the real estate bubble.

At the same time, the township has had to continue paying its bills, including one for \$60,000 for a sewage treatment plan update mandated by the state. These are among the factors that led the township to raise the property tax rate in 2011 for the third year in a row, even as its expenditure budget shrunk. An employee pay raise would have cost the town-

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Palisades Foundation adds \$22,000 to pledge

Robert Noonan

\$170,000 toward the initial \$250,000 pledge.

Before the holidays, the Palisades Community Foundation presented a check for \$22,000, to the Palisades School District.

In a gentleman's agreement, back in 2003, PCF pledged to help finance the construction of the all-weather track and artificial turf playing field, completed in 2005. It was all a part of what was then the Jolly Rodgers' "STAR" Project, so named because its goals were to develop Stadium lighting, Tennis courts, an all weather track and recreation facilities.

Thus far, the community-minded organization has donated a total of

"Ideally," longtime PCF treasurer, Joanne Allen said, "We would like to fulfill the pledge in its entirety within the next three to four years."

Palisades Community Foundation raises close to \$30,000 each year to support athletic, academic and artistic programming in the school district.

Recent projects funded by PCF include sculpture added to the Palisades High School Courtyard, a middle school dance program and a native garden at the Palisades Area Middle School.

The Foundation has restructured

Continued on page A8



Moody Movers take the clock tower first into the Children's Museum. More photos page A8.

Family finds perfect place for its toys F.A.O. Schwarz display moves into Bucks Children's Museum

Bridget Wingert

When Steve McCaffrey won the bid at an auction of display items from F.A.O. Schwarz store in New York, he planned that his children would use them.

"My goal was to create the most unique play experience for my children in our home," says McCaffrey. "When I learned of the mission of the Bucks County Children's Museum, I knew that these special pieces would be a perfect fit."

On December 28, the McCaffrey family of Upper Makefield presented their extraordinary playthings to the Bucks County Children's Museum. The 15-foot-high clock tower and tree house will be fundamental to the design of the museum,

which will open this year in the space that was initially occupied by the James A. Michener Art Museum, in Union Square, New Hope.

Dylan, 3, Chase, 6, twins Brian and Taylor, 7, and Jenna, 10, came with their parents, Steve and Danielle to contribute their clock tower, tree house and a teddy bear driven car to the museum's fledgling collection.

Steve McCaffrey hopes that by furnishing the museum with their gifts, his children learn the value of donating and being involved with a great cause.

The museum expects to open to the public in late 2011. To volunteer or donate to the nonprofit, contact info@buckskids.org.



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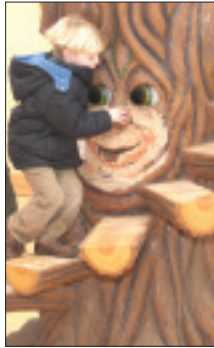
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Toys that children's dreams are made of



Taylor McCaffrey, left, climbs to the top of the tree house.



A giant teddy bear drives the convertible that was donated to the Children's Museum by the McCaffrey family. Story is on page A1.

Photographs by Rick Gould

"Quakertown Cares" passes last year

Jane Thompson-Smith

"Quakertown Cares" has collected a total of \$45,254 so far this season, surpassing last year's record of \$43,000 and making this one of the campaign's best results ever.

The fund-raiser's turnaround from near demise has been inspiring, almost magical, reminding this writer of some of the miraculous giving of the past. "Quakertown Cares" has survived wars, recession, the attack of the country, tidal waves, earthquakes and the death of the newspaper that founded it.

Like "The Little Engine that Could," this little campaign keeps on going with the Herald's help because people care about it — both the givers and the receivers. Thank you to everyone who gave this week.

These include our anonymous donors, \$2,575 strong — gifts of \$2,500, \$50 and \$25!

Also carrying the campaign over the holidays was the Bucks County Twin Rink LLC of Warminster

with a gift of \$1,100. This continues the trend of giving from outside of the Quakertown area, which adds a special dimension to the campaign. Businesses, groups and individuals from outside the community are continuing to give in a big way to help families, seniors and veterans who live within the area of the Quakertown Community School District purchase necessities.

"Quakertown Cares" also received three \$200 donations this week. These were from Lewis Bros. of Quakertown, Kimberly and Neil Stettler of Richland Township and the Quakertown Business and Professional Women's Club of Spinnerstown.

Giving \$50 were Harriet Wolfinger and Sandra A. Barrow, both of Quakertown.

The campaign is running down but officially continues through mid-January. If you are able to give, please do. Your donations go straight to those in need, with very little used for campaign expenses.

Fill out the coupon on this page at left and send it with a check

made out to "Quakertown Cares" to QNB, P.O. Box 9005, Quakertown 18951. Donations may also be dropped off at any QNB branch office.

Haycock budget

Continued from page 1
ship an additional \$6,000 or more.

It is not the first time the employees have forgone a pay hike to help keep township spending down. In the past they also have accepted higher health insurance copayments. This year, they accepted both a pay freeze and an insurance copayment boost. The employees will see their copayment for primary care increase to \$15 from \$10 and for specialty care increase to \$30 from \$20.

"We definitely appreciate everything they've done," Supervisor Henry DePue said.

Also at the reorganization meeting, the supervisors set the 2011 property tax rate at 5 mills, up from 4 mills in 2010. That will amount to a hike of about \$26 for the owner of a property assessed at the township average — \$26,000. In addition, they again chose Kathy Babb to be the board chairman and Michael Lennard to be the vice chairman.

Palisades Foundation

Continued from page 1
itself to support three different sectors of the rural Upper Bucks County community. The "silos" include Education, Community and Youth Development.

Presently, the foundation is facing difficulty in dividing the monies it raises, to fulfill both the obligation to the track, and many other community projects members would like to support.

A silent auction, which has taken place every October, and a 5K run, which will be held again in May, are the foundation's two biggest fund-raisers. Most, if not all of the money raised at these two events goes toward meeting the pledge.

The foundation wants to live up to its promise but the board needs to also to think about meeting other needs in the community. That might require taking at least a small percentage of earnings from the auction and 5K and putting it toward other projects. It will also require more creative and different fund-raising efforts.

"Things are not yet in place for that to happen," says board President Jen Hooper, "but we are moving in that direction. We already help finance scholarships offered directly by the district. It would be terrific, if we could offer our own, as well."


Make donations at pcfnow.org

Robert Noonan is a board member of the Palisades Community Foundation.
weather.

Make someone's life a little better this holiday season!

Your cash donation to "Quakertown Cares" will provide food and other necessities for Quakertown-area families, veterans, and seniors.



To help "Share the Spirit" please send your contribution - any amount - to QNB.



Steering Committee

Thomas Bisko QNB	Craig Gillahan, CPA Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh
Jane Thompson-Smith St Luke's Hospital	Kirsten Cochran Quakertown Community School District
Jim Newcomer Quakertown Community School District, Retired	Lisa Green Community Member/fund-raiser

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"Quakertown Cares" Donation Form

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Please do not publish my name in the paper. I support "Quakertown Cares" because*....

* Optional - Your comments may appear in the Bucks County Herald
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