

FREE

Blue Valley Times

Labor Day
Monday,
September
7th

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SERVING THE SLATE BELT AREA AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

September 1, 2009

Roseto Columbia Fire Company 100th Anniversary

by Michael Ortoski

ROSETO- Despite the rainy weather, the Rose-

to Columbia Fire Co celebrated its 100 years of dedicated volunteer service. Over the three days of celebration, there was lots of entertainment and food at the Roseto Ball Park.

On Saturday, there was a parade with Drum and Bugle Corps and several high school bands and a variety of fire apparatus. The parade was 1.3 miles long and was judged as they approached the Municipal building on Garibaldi Avenue.

The Columbia Fire Company was organized in 1909, three years before Ro-



Members of the Columbia Fire Company in the parade

seto was incorporated. The company grew from the original two hand pulled carts, to the present equipment consisting of two modern pumpers and a mobile utility cascade unit.

The Columbia Fire Company wishes to thank the community of Roseto for all their continued support throughout these past 100 years!

Continued on pages 10-11



Scotty Hechenbach, co-owner of Horn's Outdoor

Blue Valley Diner Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

by Candy Martin

BANGOR- This past Tuesday the Blue Valley Diner gave free breakfast to its customers as part of their 2 year anniversary celebration. Brothers Amr and Magdy Abbady owners of the diner said "it's our way of saying thank you to our customers for helping to make our second year a success."

The diner is also offering a \$15 dinner special for two including appetizer through September 20th. The Blue Valley Diner is located at 370 Blue Valley, Bangor, Pa. The phone number is 610-599-0880.



Staff at Blue Valley Diner



Merchants Bank's "Pete" Cann Scholarship Granted \$2,250 Awarded Since Established

BANGOR- The Board of Directors of Merchants Bank is pleased to announce that Robert R. Smith, Jr. is the recipient of the annual Ronald H. "Pete" Cann Academic Scholarship. Scholarship gifts to date have totaled \$2,250. The Directors established the Scholarship in 2003 to honor past President and Director Emeritus, Ronald H. "Pete" Cann, who retired that year after fifty years of service with the Bank. He passed away on August 27, 2004. The scholarships have been awarded to children of the Bank's employees and Directors who have completed their first year of college or trade school.

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Shown in photo, left to right: Richard M. Hotchkiss, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Merchants Bank; Robert R. Smith, Jr., scholarship recipient; Anthony J. Biondi, CEO and Director of Merchants Bank

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HORN'S

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 Candidates for the scholarship must exemplify the attributes of Cann, who was well known for his honesty, integrity, and dedication to community service. As a business leader, Cann was focused on "giving back" to the community, and would be especially proud of this year's recipient. Smith, the son of Robert and Tracey S. Smith, Senior Vice President of Branch Administration at Merchants, will begin his junior year at East Stroudsburg University,

majoring in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice. Upon graduation from ESU, he hopes to pursue a career with the State Police, advancing into the Secret Service. In addition to attending college, Smith devotes his time to serving as a member of his local fire company, as well as participating in community projects such as the annual clean up of the Delaware River.

"I'm grateful to the Directors of Merchants Bank for awarding this scholarship to me," said Robert Smith. "This will help me

achieve my goal of serving the public as a law enforcement officer when I earn my college degree," added Smith.

"It's such a pleasure to present this award to Robert in honor of Pete Cann," said Richard M. Hotchkiss, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Merchants Bank. "Pete was a very well respected leader of our community, and he would be happy to have the opportunity to recognize Robert's achievements and support his education," added Hotchkiss

LVEDC's Paul Marin articulates progressive vision of Lehigh Valley Transit to Sec. LaHood, Sen. Specter

ALLENTOWN- Paul Marin continues to share his progressive vision of what the Lehigh Valley's transportation future could become during Monday's panel discussion featuring U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter in addition to top regional and federal legislative officials and business leaders held at the America on Wheels Museum. Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation's Chairman of the Passenger Rail Committee provided a concise and vision-

ary argument about why federal funding should be allocated for constructing a world-class passenger rail service into the Lehigh Valley.

During a three-minute presentation, Mr. Marin, who is also LVEDC's Treasurer, began by citing President Obama's commitment to transforming the nation's transportation system to address 21st century needs, before citing statistics to show how the United States is significantly lagging behind other nations in this effort. "This year China will spend \$50 billion on its rail system," Mr. Marin noted. "The U.S. has only \$8 billion allocated for high-speed trains, all coming from the Obama stimulus package and to be spent by 2012."

Mr. Marin briefly cited international reports indicating a massive global energy crisis that would cripple an international economic recovery is moving closer to reality with each passing day, as most of the major oil fields in the world have passed peak production. Using this information as the backdrop, Mr. Marin articulated his goal of a Pennsylvania Proposed Network of rail systems from five separate corridors - two of which would involve service from Bethlehem to Philadelphia and Easton to New York City - that would funnel into a unified regional network that would encompass the Boston to Washington D.C. corridor.

"The economic possibility this opens up is unlimited," Mr. Marin noted. "About 50 million people live within 200 miles of the Lehigh Valley. And the proposed rail network has more than 26 million people, roughly the same size as Switzerland, which has a population

would be part of the Quakertown Commuter Rail System, while the Easton connection would be part of the Easton Commuter Rail system.

"When we unite the various proposals we create a fully-realized intercity network that features the Lehigh Valley as the crossroads," Mr. Marin explained.

A united rail network has considerable advantages over individual corridors, according to Mr. Marin. "You'll have larger ridership gains for one, since you'll have a greater number of origin-destination pairs," he noted. "A shared fleet will save money for both procurement and operating costs. And a much greater mobility per unit of investment will exist because all of the cities are connected together, providing more origin-destination cities."

Mr. Marin also noted that struggling downtowns will see increased traffic, and it will reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, saving our nation billions of dollars over the long-term.

Mr. Marin's final quote to Sec. LaHood and Sen. Specter may have been his most poignant.

"Even if we did have the money, we can no longer afford the conventional approach to tackling transportation and land use issues," he said matter-of-fact. "Costs of construction materials have also changed, and continue to rise every day. Even if we did have the funding now, we cannot afford the increased costs of materials. Due in part to this massive infrastructure spending in China, India, and elsewhere in the world, costs for raw materials are soaring."

For more information, please contact Stephen Althouse at 610.266.3817 or salthouse@lehighvalley.org.

Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) is a one-stop, full-service business and economic development agency. Created to promote and foster economic prosperity in the Lehigh Valley, LVEDC assists businesses by providing them with regional, economic and demographic information, finance and business incentives, site and facility availability, business networking, and workforce services. By coordinating with state, county, and municipal governments, chambers of commerce, industry organizations, educational institutions and utilities, the award-winning LVEDC streamlines the relocation and expansion process for businesses. Visit LVEDC online at www.lehighvalley.org.

74TH ANNUAL LOOKOUT FIRE CO. NO. 1 LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

WEONA PARK - ROUTE 512 - PEN ARCYL, PA

SEPTEMBER 4 - SEPTEMBER 7

<p>Friday, September 4 • 6-11pm \$15 Ride Special (In the Ball Field).....6-10pm Mudd Flaps.....7:30-10:30pm</p> <p>Saturday, September 5 • 5-11pm MidLife Crisis.....7-10pm FireWorks (Rain date Sunday) Sponsored by A Scott Int.....10pm BBQ Chicken Dinner (while supplies last, \$6.50 per person).....6pm</p> <p>Sunday, September 6 • 3-11pm - Kids Day \$15 Ride Special (In the Ball Field).....3-7pm Firemans Competition (in Ball Field).....2pm Slate Belt Municipal Band.....3-4:15pm Baby Parade (on Stage) (Sponsored by Kids Campus Day Care).....5pm Big Wheel Race (old tennis courts) (Sponsored by Cozy Barn Hinton & Sons).....6:30pm Dave Rehg & The Twitty Fever Band.....7:30-10:30pm BBQ Chicken Dinner (while supplies last, \$6.50 per person).....5pm</p>	<p>LABOR DAY Monday, September 7 • 2-9pm Parade Registration at Boro Hall...9am-12 Noon register for parade online at www.lookoutfireco.com 74th Annual Labor Day Parade.....1pm MidLife Crisis.....2-5:30pm Celtic United Pipe & Drum Show (in ball field).....4:15pm Parade Awards on Stage.....5:30pm Jesse Wade Band.....6:30-9pm Grand Drawing with \$2000 in Prizes.....9pm</p>
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