

POOL TIME
Expanded pool opens at
Central Bucks YMCA. **B1**

ECLIPSING THE STARS
Graeme McDowell
grabs US Open. **C1**

BACK FENCES
See what's happening
in your community. **B4**

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Monday, June 21, 2010

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Careers are
Going Green. Page A3
GOING GREEN

JUST IN...

Buffett plans concert on Alabama beach

Jimmy Buffett and a few of his friends plan to give a free concert on the Alabama coast to show support for the Gulf region. Alabama tourism director Lee Sentell says show will be July 1 on the beach at Gulf Shores.

Buffett's website says the concert is meant to demonstrate support for the people, businesses and culture of the Gulf Coast. It will be broadcast live on CMT. Buffett and his Coral Reefer Band will be joined in Gulf Shores by Sonny Landreth, Zac Brown Band, Kenny Chesney, Jesse Winchester and Allen Toussaint. A special souvenir T-shirt will be designed for the concert. It will be available online and at the show.

McConnell: Talk of Kagan filibuster premature

The Senate's top Republican says it's too early to say whether GOP lawmakers might try to filibuster Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan even though hearings are set to begin June 28.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky says he finds some of her views "quite troubling" and mentions political speech and the First Amendment in particular.

He's leaving open the possibility of a filibuster, but tells "Fox News Sunday" it's "entirely too early to know whether that would be appropriate."

President Barack Obama chose Kagan, the solicitor general, to succeed retiring Justice John Paul Stevens.

Tornado rips businesses, arena in Billings, Mont.

A tornado that ripped the roof off a sports arena Sunday evening also tore through businesses, damaging a bar and a casino and leaving just the walls of an auto glass shop standing. The tornado struck at about 4:30 p.m. as a big storm system with golf ball-sized hail passed through the area, National Weather Service meteorologist Keith Meier said.

Ready for fun



Marian Sitko prepares to serve during a game of pickleball on the tennis courts in Falls on Thursday. The game, which is a combination of tennis and ping pong with elements of volleyball and badminton, is growing in popularity in this area.

Play pickleball!

It has nothing to do with dill cucumbers but pickleball is turning some heads and gaining some fans locally.

By **HILARY BENTMAN**
STAFF WRITER

Stan Shoemaker's group shuffled onto the tennis courts holding wooden paddles and Wiffle-like balls.

At a nearby court, a few tennis players stopped to eye the group with curiosity, perhaps even with a hint of suspicion.

It's doubtful they'd ever seen pickleball before. Then again, few in this region have. "It's so much fun," said 68-year-old Marie Robertson of Levittown, who plays the game a couple of times a week. When she winters near Orlando she plays almost daily.

That's because pickleball — no connection to dilled cucumbers — is all the rage in Florida and other Southern states, particularly where there are large retirement communities.

Now Shoemaker, a Philadelphia-based tennis instructor, and others, are trying to bring pickleball to Pennsylvania, hoping to establish

designated courts at area parks. Their efforts are buoyed by Bucks and Montgomery county snowbirds who play the game down south.

Described as an inter-generational game, pickleball combines elements of tennis and ping-pong, with some badminton and volleyball sprinkled in. It's a good workout but less strenuous than other racket sports.

"It's easy and quick to learn and it's competitive," said Shoemaker, who first encountered the game in Arizona. "This is going to be the East Coast capital of pickleball."

Earlier this month, he offered a free pickleball tutorial at Masons Mill Park in Upper Merion during International Pickleball Week. Yes, the game has a celebratory week and an association (USA Pickleball Association) that maintains the rules, promotes the game and runs tournaments.

More than 30 people braved the heat to try their hand at pickleball. Most had never heard of it, let alone seen it in action.

Played on a badminton-sized court with lowered net, pickleball can be played as a singles or doubles game. The racket is a hard paddle and the ball is perforated and looks like a Wiffle.

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Pickleball combines elements of tennis and ping-pong, with some badminton and volleyball sprinkled in. It's a good workout but less strenuous than other racket sports.

Get your popcorn ready

New Hope's first film festival begins today with independent filmmakers from around the world taking part.

By **FREDA R. SAVANA**
STAFF WRITER

When Doug Whipple and Tom Mulligan had breakfast together almost two years ago they talked about how cool it would be for New Hope to have a film festival.

Both actors and writers, the New Hope-area men thought the arts-rich riverside community would be an ideal spot to host a film festival that could offer independent filmmakers an opportunity to have their work seen.

Today, the first New Hope Film Festival begins with a series of 86 feature films, documentaries, shorts and student films. Screenings at the New

Visit www.newhopefilmfestival.com to learn more about the movies and purchase tickets at a discounted price.

Hope-Solebury High School theater and the New Hope Arts Center will offer audiences a chance to see the work of filmmakers from 15 countries.

Filmgoers will also be able to vote on their favorite movies.

"New voices need to be heard," said Whipple, an author and screen writer who founded the festival. "These independent filmmakers need a forum. We want to help them make it into the mainstream of the film industry."

At a kick-off party Sunday at New Hope's Tuscany at the Towpath restaurant, supporters and organizers of the week-long festival honored Emmy Award-winning casting director Lynn

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Emmy Award-winning casting director Lynn Kressel gives an acceptance speech after being presented a Lifetime Achievement Award at Tuscany at the Towpath in New Hope on Sunday evening. This award presentation event was the launch of the New Hope Film Festival.

Proposals intended to keep county's surplus fund safe

By **PETER HALL**
STAFF WRITER

Bucks County officials have worked hard to put the county government on a strong financial footing, Commissioner Diane Ellis-Marseglia said, and she believes steps are necessary to ensure future leaders don't squander the county's nest egg.

Marseglia proposed a pair of resolutions Wednesday that would place restrictions on when the county could dip into its surplus fund and bar commissioners from taking a salary increase in years when they raise county taxes.

"Part of my worry is that the state and federal government could take a look at a county like ours and say, 'They're doing so well. Look at the size of that contingency fund. They're going to be just fine if we do some cuts,'" Marseglia said during the commissioners' meeting Wednesday.

She added that future boards of commissioners might not be as fiscally prudent as the commissioners currently in office.

"I also worry that as our state Legislature has done in the past, some future board, not the current board, could somehow find

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Film

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Kressel with a Lifetime Achievement Award and shared their enthusiasm for the festival. Kressel's best known for her work with the television show "Law and Order."

"It's Sundance Two," said New Hope Borough Councilman and board member of the arts center, Richard Hirschfeld. "We're planning to follow up throughout the year with workshops and symposiums at the arts center to keep the momentum going."

For Whipple and Mulligan, who lived in New Hope for a dozen years but now calls Los Angeles home, launching the festival has been hard, but they've enjoyed the project. "We're having a lot of fun," said Whipple.

As executive director of submissions, Mulligan viewed 300 submissions from all over the world, helping to narrow the choices to those in the festival. Movies, many of them short films, flowed in from film schools too. The festival's communications director, Marianne Speiser, said she sent letters to film schools across the country and around the globe encouraging students to enter the festival.

"Unfortunately we can't take every film," Mulligan said, adding that he and Whipple sometimes spent months discussing the movies to be chosen.

Besides being a venue for filmmakers, actors too often get their break being seen at film festivals, noted Mulligan.

Although directors and producers tend to visit the larger festivals, he said, "in a town like New Hope you never know who will stroll through."

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Lotteries

Numbers drawn Sun., 6-20-10

Pennsylvania

Daily 0-6-4 Big 4 2-9-6-2
Cash 5 4-16-24-28-31

Match 6

Midday Daily 0-1-0

Midday Big 4 4-5-0-1

Treasure Hunt 7-9-11-13-30

Sat., 6-19-10

Powerball 9-30-31-50-54 39

Power Play 3

Quinto night 7-0-1-9-3

Quinto midday 5-0-8-9-4

Fri., 6-18-10

Mega Millions 11-36-37-41-55 7

New Jersey

Pick 3 0-6-7 Straight \$240.50

Box \$40 Pairs \$24

Pick 4 3-0-6-2

Straight \$2,374.50 Box \$98.50

Cash 5 1-5-9-24-36

Pick 6

Midday Pick 3 9-9-8

Midday Pick 4 1-1-4-2

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Surplus

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a way to use that contingency fund and start spending it down, especially if it ends up being for salaries," she said.

Bucks County's fund balance — the amount of cash the county has on hand that is not allocated for government operations — stood at about \$72 million at the end of 2008. Chief Operating Officer Brian Henthenthaler said the current fund balance will not be known until the end of June.

Henthenthaler said guidelines for government budgeting recommend that a county should maintain a fund balance of at least 10 percent of its budget. Bucks County's 2010 budget is about \$440 million, meaning that the fund balance far surpasses the 10 percent benchmark.

Henthenthaler said the commissioners passed a resolution in 2008 that the county would maintain a surplus of at least 10 percent and that the commissioners would need to formally revoke the resolution in order to draw the county's accounts below that level.

The county's commitment to maintaining a healthy financial buffer contributed to the decision in April by Moody's Investor Service to upgrade the county's bond rating to AAA, the highest rating Moody's issues, Henthenthaler said. A bond rating is used by investors to gauge the security of an investment in municipal bonds.

Marseglia's first proposed resolution would allow the county to tap its surplus only in the event of a declared state of emergency, natural or man-made, for which there is no other source of funds; in the event state or federal funding cuts endanger crucial county government services; or in the event that no other source of funds is available to undertake a necessary capital improvement project.

The second resolution bars a salary increase or adjustment for the commissioners in any year that there will be a property tax increase for the residents of Bucks County and bars the use of surplus funds to pay for a salary increase.

Marseglia said the second resolution would provide an additional incentive for the commissioners to avoid property tax increases unless they are absolutely necessary.

"It sends a message to people that if we're saying we have to raise your property taxes, we're so sure about it that we're not taking our cost of living increase as a result. It's a confidence thing," she said.

Commissioner Charley Martin

said he has not reviewed the proposals, but said he would take seriously the proposal to limit the use of surplus funds.

"I'll look into it, I'll evaluate it and take it seriously," he said.

Martin and Commissioner Jim Cawley both dismissed the proposal to bar salary increases for the commissioners.

"I just happen to think the commissioners are not overpaid for what they do," Martin said Friday, adding that the commissioners' salaries and benefits are comparable to those of a school teacher in Bucks County.

Cawley and Marseglia receive an \$86,478 salary as commissioners. Martin receives \$87,478 as commissioner chairman.

"If there was an absolute severe budget crisis and we were telling the employees we cannot give you a cost of living increase, it might be appropriate to decline any increase (for the commissioners)," Martin said.

Cawley said Marseglia's proposal to limit use of the budget surplus is encouraging if it indicates a shift in her fiscal policy.

"We're glad that she has recognized that the days of tax increases and reckless spending have come to an end," he said.

However, Cawley was critical of Marseglia's proposal to bar salary increases in light of a news release Friday by the Bucks County Democratic Committee.

The release criticizes Republican 8th District Congressional candidate Mike Fitzpatrick for taking salary increases during six years when he was a commissioner when county property taxes also increased.

"I think it's very troubling that this appears to be an orchestrated effort between Commissioner Marseglia and the county Democratic Committee," Cawley said.

Marseglia said her resolution proposals and the news release were not coordinated.

Cawley noted that Fitzpatrick and Martin were responsible during the 1990s for eliminating a yearly 5 percent salary increase for the commissioners and tying the board's cost of living adjustment to that received by county employees.

Marseglia said she has a record of promoting cost cutting measures including pushing for the commissioners to forgo a salary increase each year since she was elected.

"To suggest that I have this new understanding of government spending is a little ridiculous," she said.

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'UN' of faith groups set roles in disaster relief

By TOM BREEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. — For every hurricane, earthquake or flood, there is help: food, bottled water, crews of volunteers nailing shingles to brand new roofs.

What even grateful recipients of that aid may not realize is that much of it comes from an unlikely hodgepodge of religious groups who put aside their doctrinal differences and coordinate their efforts as soon as the wind starts blowing.

Southern Baptists cook meals from Texas to Massachusetts. Seventh-day Adventists dispense aid from makeshift warehouses that can be running within eight hours. Mennonites haul away debris. Buddhists provide financial aid and chaplains with the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team counsel the traumatized and grieving.

This "juice and cookies fellowship," as one organizer calls it, is mostly invisible to the public, but it provides interfaith infrastructure for disaster response around the country that state and federal officials could scarcely live without.

"Think of us as the United Nations of disaster relief," said Diana Rothe-Smith, executive director of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

approach to disaster response," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. The national group, which also works through state-level versions of the coalition, provides essential on-the-ground knowledge that government responders don't have time to develop on their own, Fugate said.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, for instance, is famous for its ability to prepare tens of thousands of hot meals at disasters from Hurricane Ike to flooding in New England. The North Carolina Baptist Men, for example, have three food trailers that can serve a combined 75,000 meals a day.

"The Red Cross distributes the meals, but it's Southern Baptists doing the cooking," said Lin Honeycutt, a volunteer with the North Carolina group for more than 20 years.

The denomination apparently developed its affinity for mass meals after a hurricane hit Texas in the early 1960s, but the vast group — there are more than 10,000 Southern Baptist disaster volunteers in North Carolina alone — can do everything from dispensing supplies to cleaning out inches of mud in flooded basements.



Don Sutton returns the ball during a game of pickleball on the tennis courts in Falls on Thursday. The game is a combination of tennis and ping pong with elements of volleyball and badminton.

Pickleball

Continued from Page A 1

Shoemaker is working with Upper Moreland's parks and recreation department to get designated pickleball courts in the township. Eventually he would like to form a league.

Similar efforts are under way in Hatfield Township and in Middletown in Bucks.

In Hatfield, officials have lined a roller hockey court at Hatfield Community Park for pickleball, with the intention of sharing the space between the two activities. Currently people can play there if they have their own net. If there's enough interest the township could have a net available to rent out.

Pickleball enthusiast Edward Ross of Doylestown will run a demonstration of the game in Hatfield on June 26 at 10 a.m. and June 27 at 2 p.m.

Middletown officials are looking to possibly designate a court at Poplar Park and are offering pickleball as part of the youth and adult summer recreation program this year.

"I think it's a great sport," said Paul Kopera, program coordinator for Middletown's parks and rec department. "We have an aging Bucks County. This is definitely a sport we want to be involved with."

Back at Masons Mill Park, Michael Shore of Warwick and Broma Cohen of Philadelphia, fresh off a brief pickleball lesson, battled it out on the court.

Shore, a tennis and ping-pong player, took to the new game fairly quickly, adjusting his strokes for the ball's lack of spin. Cohen was attracted to pickleball because unlike tennis there's little running around.

The ball must be served underhand, but beyond that, players can hit it like tennis. There is also a non-volley zone close to the net. The scoring is the most complicated part of the game.

Pickleball was invented in 1965 by Joel Pritchard, a congressman from Washington state, and two of his friends, who tried to start a game of badminton at Pritchard's home to entertain their bored children. But the men couldn't find the necessary equip-

ment and instead improvised by lowering the net and using wooden paddles and plastic ball.

Rules were soon devised and pickleball was born. The game got its name because Pritchard's cocker spaniel, Pickles, kept running away with the ball.

Pickleball has garnered quite the following in retirement communities, where leagues have been established. But it can be played by all ages. Students in Council Rock and Neshaminy have played the game in gym class.

Mike Golenda, a middle school gym teacher, has introduced the game to his students in Hainesport, N.J. Golenda says it's a great way to stay active, though he acknowledges the curious and confused looks he gets when he tells people he plays pickle.

"The things they can imagine," he said.

As for its popularity, Golenda believes it will only grow, comparing it to where lacrosse was about a decade ago.

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O'Connell

Continued from Page A 1

12 years as the president of the university. He was called by Pope Benedict XVI to lead the Trenton diocese — home to some 800,000 Catholics — beginning July 30.

"It's very humbling to be selected, but it's also a wonderful assignment," O'Connell said. "I'll be right over the bridge. I'll be going right back home."

There are 258 bishops and 195 dioceses in the nation, according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

O'Connell attended Our Lady of Grace School in Pennell and got his high school diploma at St. Joseph's Preparatory Seminary in Princeton. He was ordained a priest in 1982, and one year later, he joined the faculty at Archbishop Wood High School in Warminster.

"I taught religion one year and then, the second year, I was appointed as head of student activities," he remembered. "I just loved everything about teaching."

As university president, O'Connell hosted a visit by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008. O'Connell also knew the pope as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

"He has this reputation as a very serious, tough-minded German," O'Connell said. "But he's very gentle, kind and grandfatherly."

Still, he added, it remains an otherworldly experience to be in the presence of the pontiff.

"As he approaches you, it's just overwhelming," O'Connell said. "And when the pope says — 'Hey, I remember you' — it's hard to control your emotions."

The bishop-elect described a similar set of emotions on meeting Msgr. Thomas Corrigan, the late pastor of Our Lady of Grace. When O'Connell was a boy, Corrigan visited the family home to perform sacraments on O'Connell's dying grandmother.

"There was just something so powerful and remarkable about this priest," O'Connell said. "The Mass and all the prayers were in Latin, so there was something mysterious and almost magical about it."

Today, O'Connell said he's still adjusting to the title of bishop. "It's a hard title to get used to," he said.

O'Connell's mother, June, still lives in Langhorne with his brother Daniel, a teacher at Nazareth Academy in Northeast Philadelphia.

His brother Arthur lives in Northeast Philadelphia, while sibling Dennis O'Connell lives in Treves.

O'Connell often returns to Our Lady of Grace to attend Mass with his family. The church is proud to have a former parishioner assume the role of bishop, the pastor said.

"(The Rev.) O'Connell is just such a very friendly and people-oriented person," said the Rev. William Dooner, pastor of Our Lady of Grace. "The people here are, of course, very proud of him and his accomplishments."

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