



At Hall's, working with boats is natural; Lecce wires the city

Free inside



Mussina wins sixth straight with 2-1 victory over Rangers

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Weather — mostly sunny, 82 today; mostly clear, 58 tonight

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Jeffrey F. Dowling
Richard R. Knier
Hazel M. Lechler
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James J. Prochaska
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Good morning, Kathy Kocher.
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Local lawyers don't shy away from pro bono work

By MIKE REUTHER
Sun-Gazette Staff

The image of lawyers as money-grubbing shysters in expensive suits may be a fine characterization for a John Grisham novel.

In fact, corporate America's slimier interests may even thrive with barristers of

that ilk pleading their cases.

But don't tell Lycoming County attorneys that they don't care about helping their fellow man.

In fact, members of the Lycoming Law Association better think twice before trying to escape pro bono work.

Most of the county's more than 100 attorneys, as it turns out, do their fair share

of representing those who otherwise couldn't afford a lawyer.

The Lycoming Law Association was recently selected as the winner of the 2004 Louis J. Goffman Award for organizational pro bono service. Each lawyer in the association fulfill an obligation by taking on three pro bono referrals a year, according to Dana Rich-Collins of North Penn Legal

Services, which provides many of the referrals for local attorneys.

"It grew out of discussion for the need for this kind of work," she said.

When an attorney is admitted to practice law in the county they are contracted by legal services, told how the referral program works, and given the chance to (See LOCAL, Page A-6)

Celebration of spring



STEPHANIE CAREY/Sun-Gazette Correspondent

Dave McGarvey admires the artwork of Emily Bixler of Hughesville, on display at the 48th annual Ways Garden Art Show. (More photos on Page A-3)

Art show, strawberry festival draw crowd

By JANNA RIGGLE
Sun-Gazette Staff

For three decades, people have gathered at Trinity Episcopal Church on West Fourth Street to enjoy food and fellowship. Sunday was no different as the church hosted its 30th annual Strawberry Festival.

Visitors to the Ways Garden Art Show had the opportunity to admire and purchase works by local artisans, then head across the street for some tasty treats.

Artists displayed a wide variety of works, from paintings and drawings to jewelry and fabric art. As guests wandered past booths admiring the artwork, they were serenaded by the Repasz Band and Heart's Choice, an all-female barbershop quartet.

Even the weather cooperated Sunday, with a comfortable, rain-free day.

Connie Snyder, co-chairman of the strawberry festival, said the event began 30 years ago with the church selling homemade ice cream. This year's menu included barbecue, hot dogs, baked beans — and of course, homemade ice cream, shortcake and fresh strawberries.

Hundreds of people turned out to enjoy the art show

and strawberry festival.

The festival is the result of much hard work by many church volunteers, Snyder said. The work is not without rewards, however.

"It's a good time for fellowship," she said. It is a tradition at the church that likely will continue for many years.

"If we say we're not going to have it, they say 'Oh no, we have to have it,'" she said.

Church members donate food, help serve and bus tables. Lending a hand this year were eight people who were fulfilling court-ordered community service.

Rector Andy France said retired city police officer W. Augustus "Gus" Wilson, a church member, deserves a lot of credit in getting the community-service people involved. Those extra hands did a lot of work getting things ready for the festival, he said.

"They really worked hard and well and had a really great attitude," France said. "They made a big difference."

All the profits from the festival are used for the church's outreach programs.

"After each year, we take the profits and fill needs in the community," France said.

City firefighter gets a surprise homecoming

By JANNA RIGGLE
Sun-Gazette Staff

A city firefighter received a hero's welcome Sunday afternoon after returning from a three-month tour of duty in Iraq.

Fire trucks escorted David Dymeck, a member of the 193rd Pennsylvania Air National Guard based in Harrisburg, from the Faxon Exit of Interstate 180 to his home in the city's East End. With sirens blaring and lights flashing, Dymeck and his family rode home surrounded by fanfare.

"I was very surprised," Dymeck said. "I wasn't expecting this."

The fire trucks stopped at his home and the firefighters on board got out to offer heartfelt greetings. A huge welcome banner stretched across his porch, while family, friends and neighbors lined up to give Dymeck hugs and handshakes.

Dymeck left for Iraq during the first week of March. His duties while there were something he is very familiar with.

"I helped to train the Iraqi firefighters and provided fire protection for Baghdad International Airport," he said.

He said that he doesn't expect that he will be deployed again, at least not any time soon.

(See CITY, Page A-6)

Philadelphia Coast Guard unit guards Delaware River

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Inside what used to be a dentist's office at the former Naval Shipyard, Lt. Wade Kirschner and his four-person team gather intelligence about suspicious activity on the Delaware River.

The two-month-old intelligence unit at the Naval Business Center marks a critical step in preventing terrorism along the high-risk river. They are the eyes and ears of the Coast Guard, analyzing and sharing intelligence on everything from police reports to the previous ports of call of incoming cargo ships.

"Without good intelligence, you're out there blind," Kirschner said.

The intelligence team is part of an effort by (See PHILADELPHIA, Page A-6)

D-Day ceremonies revive flagging relations

Bush, Chirac meet in France

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press Writer

ARROMANCHES, France — Near the five beaches where waves of Allied soldiers stormed ashore 60 years ago, world leaders put aside their differences Sunday to commemorate the D-Day invasion that broke Nazi Germany's grip on continental Europe.

President Bush and French President Jacques Chirac used the opportunity to reinvigorate the flagging U.S.-European bond cemented during World War II.

Chirac, a leading critic of the U.S.-led war in Iraq, thanked America for its part in the June 6, 1944, invasion of Normandy, one of the boldest military operations ever and one that led to the defeat of Adolf Hitler.

"France will never forget," Chirac said. "It will never forget those men who made the supreme

sacrifice to liberate our soil, our native land, our continent, from the yoke of Nazi barbarity and its murderous folly.

"Nor will it ever forget its debt to America, its everlasting friend."

Earlier, Chirac welcomed Bush at the American cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, where 9,387 fallen U.S. service members are buried. There, Bush tried to ease the strain in the trans-Atlantic alliance.

"The nations that battled across the continent would become trusted partners in the cause of peace. And our great alliance of freedom is strong, and it is still needed today," Bush said. "America would do it again for our friends."

Under gloriously sunny skies, Chirac pinned Legion of Honor medals on veterans from 14 nations in a pomp-filled ceremony at Arromanches, near the midpoint of the five code-named beaches where about 156,000 Allied soldiers stormed in from the English Channel.

As Allied flags fluttered in the (See CEREMONIES, Page A-6)



ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President George W. Bush, center, shares a laugh with his wife, U.S. first lady Laura Bush, fourth right, as Head of States attend the International Ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings in France, Sunday in Arromanches, Normandy. At the left of President Bush stands French President Jacques Chirac. At the right of Laura Bush is Russian President Vladimir Putin. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, gives a military salute at left.

D-Day remembered



The Montoursville American Legion Post 104's D-Day ceremony included a rifle salute from World War II veterans.

Photos
by
Anne Moore
Sun-Gazette



Jess P. Hackenburg, of The Lycoming County Veterans Council, holds a uniform Sunday at American Legion Post 104 in Montoursville during a ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy by Allied troops. He said he found the uniform at a thrift store and keeps it to remind people that "we must honor the past."



Several military uniforms were displayed at the Montoursville American Legion Post's D-Day ceremony Sunday. Pictured here is a World War II U.S. Army uniform, which belonged to 1st Sgt. Gerald E. Lynch Sr. Also shown are his patches and Purple Heart.

Ceremonies revive flagging relations

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wind, Chirac, Bush and leaders of more than a dozen countries and hundreds of dignitaries gave a standing ovation to the veterans, ranging in age from 79 to 94.

"To you, on behalf of all French men and women, on behalf of all the heads of state and government gathered here today and of all freedom-loving people, I express our gratitude, our pride and our admiration," Chirac said in a passionate speech to the former combatants.

The 14 recipients included Charles Hostler, 84, of Coronado, Calif., a team leader for the Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the CIA. Hostler's mission was to force German spies along the French coast to send their spymasters false reports on Allied troops.

All told, about 300 veterans from more than a dozen countries — mostly the United States, Britain and Canada — were to receive the Legion of Honor in ceremonies over the weekend.

The world leaders attending the festivities included Russian President Vladimir Putin, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder — the first German leader to attend a D-Day commemoration in Normandy. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II also attended.

Schroeder's participation symbolized Germany's transformation from mortal enemy to trusted partner.

"France's memory of June 6, 1944, is different than that of Germany," Schroeder said. "Nevertheless we share the same common conviction: We want peace."

The waves on Normandy shores ran red with blood on D-Day as Allied soldiers scurried across heavily mined and obstacle-covered beaches. Other flew into the back country in gliders or dropped in by parachute, with some getting snagged in trees or buildings.

There is no definitive D-Day death toll, but estimates range from 2,500 to more than 5,000. Bodies still are unearthed along the Normandy coast.



ASSOCIATED PRESS
Laura and Michael Pickell of Baltimore, Md., take a rubbing from the cross, which marks the grave of the only recovered remains of a member in the same unit in which their uncle served, following the 60th anniversary of D-Day visit by President Bush to the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, Sunday.

Soviet generals and many military historians argue that D-Day was of secondary importance in World War II because the German military machine had already been broken beyond recovery in the battles of Stalingrad and Kursk.

In the Soviet Union and Russia, D-Day is widely known as the opening of a "second front."

In Colleville-sur-Mer, French and American flags flew at half-staff in memory of former President Reagan, who

died Saturday at age 93 following a 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Actor Tom Hanks and director Steven Spielberg, whose movie "Saving Private Ryan" depicted the invasion, sat discreetly in the audience, surrounded by aging veterans in military uniforms and wheelchairs.

Queen Elizabeth began the commemorations at Juno Beach by thanking Canadian soldiers, who were assigned to capture it during the invasion.

"Britain had been directly threatened by the enemy, but you came across the Atlantic from the relative security of your homeland to fight for the freedom of Europe," Elizabeth said.

Several thousand people, including hundreds of British veterans, crowded between rows of white gravestones during a British-French memorial service at a British cemetery in Bayeux.

"On behalf of my generation, the younger one, I thank you," Blair told Australian veteran Gordon Church, 96, who landed on Gold Beach.

The queen and Chirac laid a wreath of red poppies at one grave as Australian Prime Minister John Howard and New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark looked on.

At dawn Sunday, veterans proudly supporting their medals came to Omaha Beach, the bloodiest of the landing sites, to remember friends killed.

More than 500 people attended a ceremony in front of the Caen prison to honor the 87 French Resistance fighters shot to death there by the Gestapo on D-Day.

"It's very moving to be here," said 76-year-old Robert Duval, whose father was executed. "I come every year, but I would prefer a memorial to honor the dead. That way we wouldn't have to come here to the site of the massacre."

With more than 20 world leaders arriving in Normandy at a time of high terror threat, France deployed fighter jets, surface-to-air missiles and 15,000 gendarmes and soldiers for security. Access to the region was sharply restricted by police after daybreak.



MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette

Joy Reynolds McCoy, left, and Gary Weber, two city lawyers among those who do pro bono work.

Local lawyers

(From Page A-1)

indicate how they want to participate.

Lawyers can fulfill their pro bono obligation in one of three ways: Many take on protection-from-abuse cases referred by legal services. Other kinds of cases are referred by legal services on an as-needed basis, and still others come when another lawyer cannot take them due to conflicts arising with clients.

Since 1985, the law association, along with the county president judge, has mandated that lawyers take three pro bono cases a year.

"I've never felt any different about my pro bono cases than I have my other cases," said Joy Reynolds McCoy of the city law firm McNerney, Page, Vanderlin and Hall. "I think it's good that you have this. It was just always instilled in me from the beginning."

Jack Humphrey of the city law firm of Rieders, Travis, Humphrey, Harris, Waters and Waffenschmidt, recalled spending 22 days in trial on one pro bono case.

Fewer than 10 attorneys, it was noted, have opted out of the pro bono obligations since the law association required such work.

Michael Collins of McNerney, Page, Vanderlin and Hall said that great pains are taken to ensure that local lawyers fulfill their pro bono work.

"When it's expected, it helps," said McCoy.

William H. Askey, an attorney for more than 60 years, said pro bono work just comes with the territory of being a lawyer.

"It's an obligation," he said. "We must do it."

Local lawyers made it clear that taking on pro bono cases can mean the surrender of lucrative work.

For example, a lawyer's retainer for a protection-from-abuse case typically is \$500, according to McCoy.

Not surprisingly, much pro bono work is tied to domestic cases.

"That's been very helpful," said McCoy. "A lot of people in many cases can't afford it."

Contrary to belief, attorneys just getting established in the law are not eager to steer clear from pro bono work, simply because they need to build up their practices with any type of work they can get.

Thomas Raup, a former president judge now practicing law in the city, is credited with getting the referral program started.

"He twisted the arms of local attorneys to raise \$100,000 for an endowment fund," said Humphrey. "Law firms pledged \$10,000 apiece."

The endowment, he explained, is used to provide the legal costs of the poor.

"I was off the bench by then," Raup recalled. "A resolution was passed to have each member of the bar pledge so much."

Raup said he was astounded that a lawyers in a city the size of Williamsport were able to raise as much money as they did.

He said while he occasionally had to be "an autocrat and push someone" to get a law firm to give its share, most firms generally live up to their pledges.

Jonathan E. Butterfield of Murphy, Butterfield and Holland said that an attorney simply must take the legal work done for pro bono clients as seriously as that done for others.

The law association and its members provide other services in addition to traditional pro bono work.

Attorneys and volunteer paralegals, for example, conduct divorce clinics for abuse victims. Other members serve as mentors or co-counsel to the legal services staff, while still others conduct "behind-the-scenes work," researching and authoring briefs in cases handled by legal services.

Philadelphia Coast Guard unit guards Delaware River

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the local Coast Guard station to strengthen security and prevent sabotage on the river.

The Coast Guard has added faster, smaller, rubber-hulled patrol crafts staffed by armed officers on the river. And it is working more closely with local law-enforcement units to coordinate river patrols.

Meanwhile, the security picture on the Delaware River, as well as at other ports across the nation, should improve after July 1, when new maritime security standards take effect.

With the passage by Congress in 2002 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act, operators of vessels and facilities using the nation's 361 ports were required to draw up plans showing how they would deal with the terrorism threat.

Ships without approved plans, or facilities without adequate security, could be shut down by the Coast Guard.

Officials of facilities on the river are tight-lipped about their plans. But Capt. John Sarubbi said, "We're working closely with vessel and facility operators to make sure their plans are being approved and implemented."

With 120 miles of river and a concentration of sensitive assets — oil refineries, chemical plants, and the Salem nuclear power station in New Jersey — the Delaware River is viewed as a high-threat port by the federal Department of Homeland Security.

The job of the intelligence

team, which includes three Coast Guard analysts and one agent from the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is to anticipate as well as investigate problems.

A recent incident involved a ship hauling cocoa beans from Ivory Coast. Reviewing the history of the vessel, the Coast Guard team noticed that the ship had had a problem with stowaways. They issued a warning.

Before the ship came up the Delaware, Coast Guard officers boarded the vessel, and found that the crew already had discovered two stowaways.

Kirschner said the issue was important in the context of terrorism because a terrorist could use a cargo ship to sneak into the country.

Investigators in the field office also have helped local police question people picked up for suspicious activity — such as a couple photographing a bridge or a man videotaping near a refinery.

It's the job of the intelligence team to try to connect the dots, said Rear Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara of the Coast Guard's Portsmouth, Va., district office, which oversees the Philadelphia operation. So far, however, it hasn't led to anything.

"We run across suspicious activity frequently," she said. "Then, when we pull all the strings together, we have not found anything that makes us think we have terrorists at work in this port. But we've had plenty to keep us busy."

City firefighter welcomed home

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Dymeck said he is looking forward to relaxing and spending some quality time with his wife, Carolyn, and children, Justin, 8, and Danelle, 12, before he returns to work later this month.

When he does, he will have plenty to talk about with fellow firefighters John Dewald and Sam Aungst, who also recently returned from Iraq. A fourth firefighter, John McCann, is overseas in the service, too, Dymeck said.

"We're proud of what everybody has done over there," said firefighter Eric Smith, who helped organize the escort. "We're glad to have them



JANNA RIGGLE/Sun-Gazette

Williamsport firefighter David Dymeck, right, who spent three months in Iraq, received a surprise welcome home from his fellow firefighters Sunday afternoon.