

Bulletin board

Civil War re-enactors to talk in Reamstown

READING EAGLE

Two Civil War re-enactors will tell about life as Union and Confederate soldiers in a presentation sponsored by the Reamstown Historical Society & Museum.

The presentation is May 17 at 7 p.m. at the Reamstown Community Center, 23 E. Church St., Reamstown.

Jeff Pollock, Birdsboro, will portray the Union soldier and David Culp, Mohnton, the Confederate soldier.

The lecture is one in a continuing series sponsored by the historical society.

Parking is in the rear of the Reamstown Community Center. For more information, call 717-364-0865.

■**“Women and Money”** is the topic May 17 at 6:30 p.m. during a presentation at the Spring Township Fire Department, Monroe Avenue and West Wyomissing Boulevard.

Suzanne Rigg from Thrivent Financial will discuss how and why women’s economic clout is growing, unique financial challenges women face and steps women can take to help them achieve financial security.

Those steps include taking control of their money, becoming more knowledgeable investors, advocating for themselves in the workplace, planning for retirement, protecting their income and assets and creating an estate plan.

Registration is recommended, but not required.

Light refreshments will be served.

To register, visit Thrivent.com and click on “Find Work-

shop and Events, or contact Suzanne Rigg at 484-374-5531 or suzanne.rigg@thrivent.com.

The seminar is a function of the Spring Township Library.

For questions or more information, contact the library at 610-373-9888 or www.berks.lib.pa.us/sst.

■Fleetwood Area Public Library is holding a **used book sale** Thursday from noon to 8 p.m.; Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On Saturday, the books are just \$5 for a bag.

The library is at 110 W. Arch St., second floor, Suite 209, Fleetwood. For more details, call 610-944-0146.

■The Blandon site of the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network is holding an **open house and wellness clinic** on Wednesday from 3 to 6 p.m.

Physical, occupational and speech therapists will be at

the facility, 850 Golden Drive, Suites 13 & 14 to answer questions.

There will also be tours of the expanded facility and free health screenings for blood pressure, stroke, carpal tunnel, balance and bone density.

■A free **informational session on adoption and foster care** will be held May 17 at 6 p.m. at Diakon Adoption & Foster Care at Manatawny Manor, 30 Old Schuylkill Road, Pottstown.

Staff will explain foster parenting and the processes involved in adopting youngsters.

Attendees also will learn about those available for adoption and the foster-to-adopt program.

Call 610-682-1504 to reserve a seat.

Please submit your Bulletin Board items of community interest by email to news@readingeagle.com or by fax to 610-371-5098.

Daily docket

Daily thought

“... God said to Abraham ... ‘In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. ...’” Genesis 12:1-3

From the beginning, God has revealed His heart, not just for a few, but for all peoples. It’s His plan to bless, and to bless all through faith in Christ. Isn’t that good news for our fractured world! — *The Rev. Jonathan Peters, pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Sinking Spring.*

Births

In Reading Hospital:

- A son to Peter J. and Angela M. (Miller) **Fisher**, West Reading.
- A son to Eric and Tracey (Wagner) **Sallade**, Sinking Spring.
- A son to Damien **Hoffert** and his wife, Kathleen **Oshman**, Phoenixville.
- A son to Joe **Acevedo** and Darleen **Cartagena**, Reading.

- A son to Christopher **Martir Jr.** and Kimberlyn **Colon**, West Reading.
- A son to Samuel and Mary (McDonald) **Tomilson**, Birdsboro.

In WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital:

- A son to John **Gonzalez** and Rachel **Siegrist**, Ephrata.
- A son to Benjamin and Ashley (Kilmer) **Wenger**, Ephrata.

Pottstown charity must make case for use of new property as offices



By Gabbie O’Grady
Reading Eagle

The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities hoped the borough’s zoning hearing board would allow the nonprofit to use a recently acquired property as office and meeting space.

At a hearing Thursday night, the Cluster learned that it will have to make its case at a meeting next month.

David C. Babbitt, a certified land planner representing the nonprofit, said he believes the Cluster’s plans for 61 N. Franklin St. fall under general office space, a permissible conditional use in the residential zone.

However, borough Solicitor R. Kurtz Holloway said the Cluster’s intended use is of office space for a client-based social service, which is not permitted.

The Cluster is a charity dedicated to assisting people in need with food, clothing and supportive services.

The property for which a permit is being sought is next to the Cluster’s outreach center at 57 N. Franklin St. The new site is a house zoned for residential use.

The Cluster purchased 61 N. Franklin St. for additional space because its outreach center is too small, said Ken Picardi, attorney for the Cluster.

The nonprofit wants to use the first floor as a large con-



READING EAGLE: HAROLD HOCH

The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities purchased this building at 61 N. Franklin St. in Pottstown.

ference area for educational programs and board and staff meetings, said Barbara Wilhelmy, Cluster executive director. The second and third floors would be used for general office space for staff, she said.

The basement and small carriage house on the property would be for storage, she said.

The Zoning Hearing Board received two letters opposing the Cluster’s request: One from Pottstown Borough Council and one from the school district.

Picardi said the letters were not relevant because they failed to state reasons for the either body’s opposition.

He mentioned that both bodies indicated to him that they were opposed because 61 N. Franklin St. would be tax-exempt, or there are too many nonprofits in the community.

Both of those objections, he said, are irrelevant to the zon-

ing hearing board’s review.

The Cluster moved into that neighborhood instead of the outskirts of town because it was near its clients, Wilhelmy said.

“People have little means of transportation and our facility is in walking distance,” she said. “Moving somewhere else would make it that much more difficult for these families that are already having difficulties.”

The Cluster had letters of support from neighboring property owners and politicians, including state Sen. Bob Mensch, a Montgomery County Republican whose district includes Pottstown and part of Berks and Bucks counties.

The hearing will continue Tuesday, June 14, at 7 p.m. in the third floor meeting room borough hall at 100 E. High St.

Contact Gabbie O’Grady: 610-371-5021 or gogrady@readingeagle.com.

Tell Daniel Boone School Board: Don’t hand over control to GCA Services Group



Loss of control over employees puts students at risk.

Because private contractors like GCA Services Group offer low wages, few benefits and have high employee turnover, they have a harder time than the School District attracting top-notch staff. When the School District hands control to private contractors, they lose control over the individuals who work in our schools, with or near our students.

Handing control over our schools benefits Wall Street, not Main Street.

GCA Services Group is owned by one of Wall Street’s largest investment banks, which put profits ahead of pupils. GCA’s proposal slashes workers’ salaries by 15-25%, in addition to cutting healthcare for their families and eliminating other family-sustaining benefits. Why would the District take money out of our community, and away from local families and businesses, to line Wall Street CEOs’ pockets?

Handing over control isn’t always cheaper and undermines transparency and accountability.

If the quality of GCA Services’ work declines or it raises cost of services – as its proposed contract allows – taxpayers and voters will have little say. When the work is done by public employees who answer to the District, we can demand that operations be open to public review, accountable to parents and taxpayers and run in the students’ best interests.

GCA wants to make a profit. We want to make a difference.

We are professionals! 35 experienced groundskeepers, custodians and maintenance workers go above and beyond our jobs daily to help your children. We are well trained. We know these schools inside and out. We have all of the required background checks school employees.

We take pride in our work! We live in the School District. We vote and pay taxes here. We take care of your children as if they were our own, and we maintain our school buildings and grounds to ensure that your hard-earned tax dollars aren’t wasted.

We care about your children! Our children attend or graduated from Daniel Boone schools, too. We know how important it is to you as a parent that Daniel Boone schools are safe, healthy and inviting learning environments.

We believe local is better! Like many Daniel Boone residents, we are tired of watching the Board give our schools and our jobs away.

✓ **Tell school board members: Enough is enough. Stop giving away our School District, one job and one school at a time!**

Daniel Boone Federation of Support Staff, Local 4954