

Tourist Bureau anticipates insolvent Convention Center

From their web site: *“As the voice of this county’s tourism industry with a fiduciary responsibility to its members, and as a recognized leader in the community, the PA Dutch CVB Board of Directors has adopted the following position:*

“The PA Dutch CVB does not support an increase in the hotel tax or excise tax (currently set at 3.9% and 1.1%, respectively) for the purpose of funding shortfalls in operating expenses or debt service requirements related to the Lancaster County Convention Center...”

LETTER: Tourist Bureau tax revenue already pledged to CC bond holders

“The LCCCA has no authority to take additional tax revenue from the County; it is Wachovia Bank which holds a 40-year lien against ‘hotel tax’ revenue. The trustee of the bond sale (M&T Bank) will unilaterally decide if additional funds are needed; without any action by the LCCCA board or the County Commissioners, M&T has the legal

right to confiscate the Visitors Bureau’s portion of the ‘hotel tax’.

“Because of the agreements signed by former County Commissioners Paul Thibault and Ron Ford, there is nothing that anyone can do to stop this from happening...”

Fulton Financial repays government TARP fund

From the **EXPRESS-TIMES**:... Fulton Financial, which owns Easton-based Lafayette Ambassador and Hackettstown-based Skylands Community banks, said it repaid the U.S. Treasury **\$376.5 million**, plus **\$3.01 million** in accrued and unpaid dividends.

effort intended to stabilize banks from the global financial meltdown.

“The TARP funds served as a form of insurance against the risk of a very severe and prolonged recession, and we appreciate how this investment bolstered our company’s historically strong capital position,” R. Scott Smith Jr., the bank’s chairman and chief executive officer, said in a news release...

The government purchased preferred stock from Fulton Financial as part of TARP, named after the federal Troubled Asset Relief Program — a rescue

LETTER: Justifying little girl nearly drowning at Skyline

“What is a tragedy is the fact that people are on here talking smack about a situation that they don’t fully know or understand. Everything was done correctly at Skyline Pool. The people posting on here have no clue of the actual events that occurred at Skyline...”

plans on returning to the pool as soon as the doctors say it’s safe to return to the water.

“Second of all, what gives you the right to attack a young 16 year old lifeguard, because by your standards she didn’t do her job properly. .. She recognized the girl was in trouble, got down from her stand, and removed the girl from the water in a timely and safe manner. Without her, the girl would have suffered some of these ‘life long implications’ ...” [Continued on back]

“First of all, the 3 year old girl is fine. There are absolutely no long term, life altering complications from the accident. She will be a healthy child and

Editor's comment: We are relieved to learn the little girl has fully recovered... No child or bather

should ever nearly drown in a pool if properly staffed and guarded... ever!

How US Health Care stacks up

The World Health Organization ranked health care quality by countries. The USA came in 37th.

The OECD ranked Infant Mortality rates per thousand for 2005:

Sweden – 2.4; Japan – 2.8; Norway – 3.1; France – 3.6; Germany – 3.9; Switzerland – 4.2; UK – 5.1; Canada – 5.3; Poland – 6.4; United States – 6.8.

The OECD ranked Health Expenditure as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product 2005: USA – 15.3; Switzerland – 11.6; France – 11.1; Germany – 10.7; Canada – 9.8; Sweden – 9.1; UK – 8.3; Japan – 8.0

“How many people go bankrupt because of medical ills? In Britain, zero. In France, zero. In Japan,

*Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, Switzerland: zero. In the United States, according to a joint study by Harvard Law School and Harvard Medical School, the annual figure is around 700,000.” **

*“Here is a statistic to ponder: Among those nine rich nations, the per-capital rate of ‘Deaths Due to Surgical or Medical Mishaps’ was the highest by far in the USA.”**

*“The profit-making health insurance giants in the United States generally spend about 20 percent of all premium income on administrative expenses; the French [rated first in the world] insurance plans routinely keep administrative costs below 5 percent.”**

***“The healing of America” by T.R. Reid, 2009*

LETTER: Re “Tutorial in Economics”

“Gil Smart and others, easy-to-say, ‘Bring it on’, forget, or are totally ignorant of what a depression really means. The human suffering breaks up people and families and institutions, anger builds to explosiveness, competition for scarce resources increases between people and countries, wars begin and the absolute terrors of that reality are far too horrific to comprehend.

“The totem pole religion of free market capitalism almost collapsed recently and Republican and Democrats, to their credit did what was necessary; not what was desirable or pretty or even good. But the best minds in the country, Republican, Democrat and Independent, said it was absolutely

necessary. So, we did that. To second guess that now and pretend that it never happened, and/or that we had nothing to do with it, is disingenuous, self-serving and, with some people, a politically motivated bold-faced lie.

“Because the consumer based economy is severely crippled, something needs to happen. If the government has been painted as the demonic, anti-Christ, we are stuck with destructive inaction. Some people will applaud the coming destruction as somehow in God's plan but God gave us intelligence to take action in crisis, and to sit on our hands and do nothing is to throw it all back in God's face.”

**The above have been excerpted from NewsLanc.com.
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