

NewsLanc.com

Providing Lancaster City & County with an Alternative Source for
Local News and Commentary

2/18/11 • Publisher: NewsLanc.com, LLC • Volume II, No. 152

We are seizing a break in the weather to remind everyone that NewsLanc is published daily at www.NewsLanc.com and provides links to informative state, national and international coverage, as well as reports, commentaries and letters concerning local issues. Join the thousands who visit NewsLanc.

“Person of the year” in 2009 now school board candidate

A local reporter recently asked Randolph (‘Randy’) Carney why he was running for the school board of the School District of Lancaster. Excerpts from his response follow:

“...For the past half-dozen years, I have been regularly attending City Council and other public meetings, often speaking out to promote the interests of taxpayers. Many millions of tax dollars have been spent on economic development projects in Lancaster City, too many of which have been structured in ways that deprive local taxpayers of desperately-needed real estate tax revenue. All property owners located within the School District of Lancaster are now paying higher real estate taxes because of government-funded projects that do not carry their fair share of the tax burden...

“In Pennsylvania, schools cannot lay off teachers for economic reasons; professional staff can be reduced only by attrition, or by eliminating entire programs. Schools in PA are also burdened with

SUNDAY NEWS: *The following are responses to a op-ed by School District of Lancaster board member Charlie Crystal entitled “Post McCaskey East: Stop criticizing, start conversing”:*

WATCHDOG: We agree that dedicating home rooms to African-American students should have been reviewed with the Board. We also agree that the effort was praiseworthy and, despite the oversight, the principal and teachers should be applauded for their initiative and commitment.

numerous other State mandates, often without adequate State funding to pay for them.

“Costs are further increased by the social issues which urban schools must deal with...

“There can be no doubt that State funding for all local programs, including schools, will be cut substantially – most likely by percentages in the double-digits. This will shift the burden of tax increases from Harrisburg to local municipalities and school districts.

“But homeowners cannot afford any more tax increases. ...

“My running mates for School Board are focused on education, which is as it should be. My personal interest in helping taxpayers get the most value for their money compliments the perspective of the other candidates.”

We disagree that the SD of L should be concerned about the national publicity. We think that those opposing so called “segregation” of student for about six minutes a day are fighting the last war, one that was one a generation ago, as evidence note the race of the President of the United States. The problem today is providing encouragement and guidance to inner city youngsters.

A young man who doused himself with gasoline and set himself afire in protest of an unjust political

system in Tunisia helped spark the revolution there and in Egypt, demonstrating there must always be a first.

Our community should take up a collection for legal defense and the SD of L should continue the program. Even if it is struck down, the resulting

LETTER: PSP agreements 'looting' Convention Center

"If the convention center were a business, it would be reporting that during 2010 it lost \$1,400,000 on revenue of \$1,300,000, with operating costs the total of both. The tragedy is that taxpayer dollars seem to be considered somehow different than business dollars.

"Meanwhile, the Penn Square Partners keep their revenue figures a closely-guarded secret, even though they are operating rent-free in a taxpayer-owned building. They are paying down a \$24 million construction bond for their building, in addition to their initial \$11 million "equity" investment to furnish and equip the hotel. The total

discussion will help the public to discern the nature of today's challenges. We must find ways to improve education here in the USA.

Two wags of the tail for the faculty at McCaskey East and Crystal.

cost of the hotel building was in excess of \$76 million, with taxpayers funding the balance.

"Adding insult to injury, the hotel receives ALL revenue from the third and fourth floor ballroom and meeting rooms, even though these spaces were built and are being maintained by taxpayers. ...

"100% of the hotel's kitchen was built and is being maintained by taxpayers, as is the connection between the parking garage and the hotel lobby, half of the hotel lobby (including the piano!), and portions of Interstate Hotels and Resorts' offices. The public also has total responsibility for both the Queen Street lobby and the Vine Street lobby..."

LETTER: Methadone no panacea; straights more shocking than addicts

"...Methadone gets into the bones and causes aching, loss of appetite, and lethargy. After spending 19 months in a 6 month rehabilitation center, I shot dope the day I got out. You must WANT to stop using. It doesn't come when you read reports and medical findings.

"I have been clean for over 25 years and I have done it on my own. For me, it was a surprise pregnancy... I played around for a few more years, mostly week-ends when my daughter was with her

father. One time I got the itch and drove downtown with my daughter who was 8 years old, in the backseat to an area known for drug buys. I pulled over, rolled down the window, and turned to look at my daughter. She had a look that said "what are you doing here! Why??" I drove home, and I knew that part of my life was over.

"It was a strange trip to be living among straight people. Out of society for so long, I was shocked how people lied and talked against each other

SUNDAY NEWS: Article **"In the name of excellence"** reports :*"To help heal soldiers with traumatic brain injury and psychological damage, [Tom Beeman's] put on hold his career as chief executive officer of Lancaster General Health and president of Lancaster General Hospital."*

WATCHDOG: We can all be proud of the work that Beeman is doing. However, it should be made clear that he is making no financial sacrifice, since 'public charity' Lancaster General Hospital, and indirectly the citizenry, is paying him the difference between Navy pay and the \$1,300,000 salary and bonuses he receives at LGH.

The average \$100 million annual profit provides ample money for Beeman and others at the hospital, but no funds at all for a syringe exchange to be sponsored by the Urban League and little if any for the public libraries, education of children, and other public health and educational matters.