



## Are Lancaster prison guards more brutal than the inmates?

A yet to be identified inmate from Brooklyn, New York allegedly hung himself at the Lancaster Prison on Nov. 19.

According to a report in the Nov. 20 *Intelligencer Journal*, "While Warden Vincent Guarini said the death was 'definitely' a suicide, Lancaster County Coroner Dr. Stephen Diamantoni said he would not rule on the manner of death until after an autopsy today."

Rumors have reached *NewsLanc* that the inmate had been severely beaten by guards in recent days. *NewsLanc* is investigating.

On Thursday, Nov 13, *NewsLanc* broke the story of a lawsuit against the county maintaining that the prison guards are treating prisoners with

extreme cruelty. "*According to the complaint, the prison, under Mr. Guarini, 'has implemented policies and acquiesced to a culture of violence in its prison that led to the brutal beating of Plaintiff.'*"

*NewsLanc* continued "The case is reminiscent of a 2006 case of Jon Eichelman, a painter who suffered a lacerated liver, broken ribs, and a fractured eye socket while incarcerated at the prison. In that case, the guards were alleged to have allowed other inmates to beat Eichelman. The County made a half million dollar settlement with Mr. Eichelman."

Earlier this week, the *New Era* launched a series dealing with treatment of local prisoners. *NewsLanc* welcomes their investigation.

## SD of L Superintendent discusses challenges with Rotary

School District of Lancaster Superintendent Pedro Rivera spoke to the Rotary Club of Lancaster about the district's goals and challenges on Wednesday afternoon.

It's not just about teaching, he said. "*In an urban setting, you have to ensure that kids are learning.*"

He noted that the district serves over 900 homeless families and many Spanish-speaking ones.

Rivera said that the planned renovations to Washington Elementary will include a clinic, to be run in partnership with Lancaster General Hospital.

Daycare from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. is another service that will be available, Rivera said, and the auditorium and athletic fields will also be available for public use.

Asked about the school's dropout rate, Rivera said that there is still work to be done and he hopes to make the process easier for students who have dropped out to come back to school.

Concerning merit pay for teachers, Rivera said that he is supportive of the concept and has been involved in attempts to implement it in the School District of Philadelphia.

**But he said that the single biggest obstacle to implementing merit pay for teachers has been organized labor. Teachers unions generally insist on compensation on the basis of seniority, not performance, he said.**

He added that the process to fire teachers for poor performance has become a very difficult, long and involved under union collective bargaining agreements.

## Opponents to Library renovation take over leadership

At its Oct. 28th trustees meeting, then Lancaster Public Library President Karen Haley Field proposed the library move ahead with the renovation of the Duke Street building rather than delay both renovation and expansion to the indefinite future. The motion was rejected by a vote of 6 - 2. Field stepped down as president while remaining treasurer.

At the Nov. 18th meeting, a motion was made to accept the new slate of nominated officers. They are: John McGrann, President; Gary Weaver, Vice President; and Karen Haley Field,

Treasurer. This motion was approved by the board by unanimous vote.

**As for the now moribund renovation that McGrann and Weaver had insisted be postponed, Weaver said, "We need to establish a new timeline. It does sound like it will be at least a year."**

Not proceeding with the \$2.3 project meant forfeiting a million dollars in State and matching grants after having invested about \$600,000 in plans and studies.

## Sunday News fooled; John Fry strikes again?

On Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, the *Sunday News* ran an op-ed written by Ronald Bailey supporting Franklin and Marshall College's position on the relocation of the Norfolk Southern rail yard which attacked a 'straw man' of whether moving the yard is necessary (TRRAAC agrees it is necessary!)

Bailey avoided the true issue: Which of three alternate locations is the best location from the points of view of public health and tax payer subsidies?

Bailey mentioned he was on the board of the

Hourglass Foundation, implying its approval.

**In response to *NewsLanc*'s inquiry, *Sunday News* editor Marv Adams responded: "That information should have been included at the end of the article. It was an oversight on our part not to remember that connection between Mr. Bailey and F&M."**

Shame on Ronald Bailey! Shame on F&M! This is another indication of the deceitfulness and bullying that John Fry has brought to a college that was the pride of our community.

## Thanks to viewers...

*NewsLanc* broke three stories in a matter of four days: Lancaster County prison inmate abuse, Ronald Bailey failing to identify himself as an employee of an F&M subsidiaries when he attacked TRRAAC in a *Sunday News* op-ed, and Fulton Bank applying for a federal "bail out" loan.

**In all three cases, readers tipped *NewsLanc* off to stories that they felt were unlikely to be carried in the local press. Such reader participation is essential for *NewsLanc* to be a valuable alternate source of news and commentary.**

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