



Senator Specter says he will not switch to Democrat Party

A March 17 posting at www.TheHill.com, "[Senator Arlen] Specter won't rule out run as an independent" goes on to say "Sen. Arlen Specter said Tuesday that he will not run for reelection in 2010 as a Democrat, but might run as an Independent...." and caucus with the Republicans, as Senator Joe Lieberman has done with the Democrats.

"I'm staying a Republican because I think I have a more important role to play there," he said. "I think the United States very desperately needs a two-party system. ... And I'm afraid that we're becoming a one-party system, with Republicans becoming just a regional party."

\$5,000 interest free loan for city home buyers

At Wednesday's County Commissioners' Meeting, the Countywide Redevelopment Authority was authorized to amend its contract with the Lancaster Housing Opportunity Partnership (LHOP), allowing the provision of \$300,000 in LHOP assistance funds to City homebuyers.

LHOP lends as much \$5,000 interest-free to first-time homebuyers of low to moderate income. Before qualifying for these funds, individuals are walked through a 10-hour Homebuyer Education course to discuss all of the financial obligations associated with home-ownership.

Under the new arrangement, LHOP funds can now be accessed for homes within the City limits.

For more information regarding LHOP, visit their homepage at www.lhop.com

Cork Factory Hotel to open soon downtown

According to magazine web site *Small Market Meetings*: "The 70-room Cork Factory Hotel is scheduled to open this summer in downtown Lancaster in a converted industrial building. The Cork Factory will have 4,000 square feet of meeting space, and is part of a resurgence that includes the new Lancaster County Convention Center and the Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square."

LETTER: Lancaster's Debtors Prison

Are you interested in looking into how divorce lawyers and the county judgeship are milking divorce suits to the point where there is no money left?

About 130 men are in jail right now for failure to pay court ordered support. How does that help the situation?

EDITORIAL: Librarian acknowledges role in project cancellation

"We were hoping to get more funding than we did in 2008," Debra Rosser-Hogben said. "And with the economy doing a downturn, the board felt — and I fully supported — that it just wasn't the time to continue on with it."

Those are the startling words of retiring Director of the Lancaster Public Library (Duke Street) as published in the March 13 *Intelligencer Journal*.

Rosser-Hogben acknowledges she helped bring about the last minute switch of board members from unanimous support for remodeling and expanding the library to the last minute aborting the project despite financial arrangement with the State and encouragement and assistance from the mayor and other governmental officials.

Rosser-Hogben did not succeed in generating successful fund raising program, a task foreign to her experience and skills. Other than major gifts from a board member, unsolicited requests, and book sale profits, fund raising costs largely offset amounts raised throughout her tenure. She was not receptive to advice from a knowledgeable source. Perhaps her failures in that area brought about a sense of panic.

Yet only \$1.3 million at most remained to be raised for the remodeling and a feasibility study and other information indicated twice that amount could be raised.

It was understandable that Rosser-Hogben would not care to take on the burden of managing the library through a period of major renovation while operations continued. She had indicated in the past a desire to resign. But, had the project proceeded, she would have had an entire year to help make the transition to a director experienced in renovations and fund raising.

Are we bitter that Rosser-Hogben withdrew her support of the project at the last minute? Absolutely! Thirteen hundred people a day are deprived of a remodeled central library and the expansion which the community so needs.

Fortunately board members have since been added from General Hospital and Fulton Bank, adding talent and experienced to the board. Perhaps in a couple of years as memories fade, the plans can be dusted off and another attempt made at remodeling and expansion.

NEW ERA: The front Page March 12th article pronounces *"The Curse of TMI: No nuke plants built in U. S. since 1979 accident. Experts say that won't change."* It goes on to say *"For Jerry Taylor, a senior fellow at the CATO Institute, a well-regarded conservative Washington think-tank, it's purely a matter of economics."* Taylor contends that nuclear plants cost too much to build.

WATCHDOG: Too expensive? With a bit of research, the *New Era* would learn that there are currently 32 applications for new plants before the Nuclear Energy Commission. Government officials recently testified before a congressional committee that they are doing what ever is feasible to expedite approvals although the process by necessity takes about five years.

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