

What even a modest syringe exchange accomplishes in a month!

The below report is not about the Lancaster Syringe Exchange operated by the Bethel AME Church, but rather from a comparable Pennsylvania city.

“July 2010 Report

Twenty-five participants were tested for HIV in July.

Total contacts: 355

Total IDU contacts: 317

Total unduplicated IDU contacts: 248

Syringes: 3170

Condoms distributed: Male- 2024, Female-58,

Dental Dams-40 Finger Cots-80

Demographics of unduplicated IDU [syringe] contacts:

African American male: 35

White Male: 41

Latino: 58

African American female: 37

White female: 36

Latina: 41

“We completed 296 referrals for various services.

“This month, as a result of our 91 total D&A referrals, twelve participants entered into drug treatment facilities. This indicates those of whom we are aware; there may be additional entries of which we are not aware.”

The Urban League offered to operate and expand the syringe exchange in Lancaster. Despite its average hundred million dollar a year profits, Public Charity Lancaster General Health refused to help with funding.

Skyline Park Pool well guarded, with one exception

In the midst of a hot Saturday afternoon, the Watchdog visited Skyline Park and observed the operations of the pool from outside the chain link fence. He wanted to be certain that circumstances no longer existed that had led to a child almost drowning and being rushed to the hospital [after regaining conscience.]

Properly guarding this expansive pool is a daunting task since it consists of five distinct areas of varying functions, all interconnected in an irregular manner. There are several well positioned guard stands with different orientations and each guard is responsibility for watching over a specific pool area.

Approximately a half dozen uniformed guards were in the elevated chairs, with whistles at hand, and observant of their area of responsibility. During the visit, a guard change took place with a minimum of distraction as one guard climbed down and the other immediately took the seat.

Either diving should or should not be permitted at a given period, with the board blocked off when diving is not allowed and the pool clear of bathers when the board is being used. There is simply too much to expect of a guard to be able to clear a diving pool in the seconds it may take for someone to decide to hop up on the board and take a running dive. Current practice is inherently dangerous.

READER'S COMMENT: *"I thank you for observing those charged with keeping swimmers safe at Skyline. The guards at Skyline are very observant and enforce all rules, but the diving area does seem dangerous with crowds. However, you state that the victim of the July incident was rushed to the hospital in an unconscious state, but this is simply untrue. The victim began breathing on her own accord once removed from the water, and was completely conscious while being treated by guards while waiting for the ambulance..."*

SUNDAY NEWS: The lead article on the Business Page headed "**Pennsylvania Academy of Music presses donors to stand by pledges**" reports *"PAM has had little success collecting the \$1.2 million in unpaid pledges made to it by 28 firms, couples and individuals, despite several pleas...PAM also needs to convince a bankruptcy judge that it's doing everything possible to deserve a chance to reorganize and stay open..."*

Roger Sandt, who has joined the PAM Board, *"dismissed the argument that PAM's change in address justifies a change in donations. 'You don't teach a building how to play music. You teach kids.' He said."*

WATCHDOG: Two wags of the tail for a thorough, fact filled, and balanced account and for the courage to name individuals who are declining to provide allegedly pledged funds along with their explanations, including the Lancaster Newspapers Inc's own chair, John Buckwalter.

LETTER: Grateful for syringe exchange efforts

"As a recovering intravenous drug user, I can only express my gratitude for the work the NewsLanc publisher has done in the area of syringe exchange

"No one wants to be a junkie. I certainly did not... One thing the public that does not use drugs

must understand is that a junkie will shoot up, whether it is with a dirty needle, or a clean one. And if they use the wrong needle, and go back to their wives or boyfriends or one night stands, they are sharing whatever was in that syringe. That can be death."

INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA: The lead article "**Pa. shorts libraries**" reports: *"As Gov. Ed Rendell authorized \$20 million for the Arlen Specter Library Project Center at Philadelphia University and the John P. Murtha Center for Public Policy in Johnstown, local public libraries are staggering under yet another cut in funding.*

"In 2003, library funding was \$2.9 million. It dropped to \$2 million in 2004. Increases in 2005 through 2008 brought it up to almost \$3 million. "Last year, funding plummeted to \$2.1 million.

WATCHDOG: *A wag of the tail for highlighting the way state and county are bleeding the public library systems dry, despite that they are busier now than ever.*

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