

Cong. Marino votes against bill giving Del. River Basin Comm. more power

Congressman Tom Marino recently issued the following statement regarding his "no" vote on the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIN) Act which came before Congress in the waning days of the Obama Administration:

"Reining in federal agencies has been central to my work in Congress and protecting individuals and job creators from burdensome regulation is something I have always championed. This is why I oppose the water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIN) Act.

The Delaware River Basin Commission has continuously halted industrial activity in

northeastern Pennsylvania to the detriment of workers, businesses and landowners. Sadly, last minute changes to this bill added language that would expand authorization of invasive policies that further harm workers and industries across the region. In addition the vague language throughout the bill lays the foundation for exploitation and excessive regulations in the future.

Our federal government is already too involved in the everyday lives of hard-working Americans. Rather than burden our timber, construction and gas industries by funding big organizations with misguided interests, we should be supporting local businesses by

giving them the opportunity to directly address their concerns. This last minute add-in ignores Pennsylvanians' expansive efforts to preserve and responsibly utilize the woods, fields and streams of the region.

While I actually support many provisions included in this measure, this bill sadly ignores the true struggles facing working class people, particularly in the 10th congressional District. For the sake of my constituents and the economic development in our region, I was forced to oppose the costly environmental overstep added in this legislation."

Cong. Tom Marino

Designer Purse Bingo Sun., March 12



Erin Go Bragh Designer Purse Bingo will be presented by the L.A.O.H. Division 3, Carbondale, on Sunday, March 12, at St. Rose Family Center. Doors open at 1 PM. Games begin at 2 PM. Tickets are \$25.00. For tickets and more information, Call: Laure Carlo...570-351-3048; Donna Bannon...570-687-6892; Michele Bannon...570-351-5607. 50/50 Basket Raffles and Special Games. Refreshments will be available. Pictured left to right are: Laure E. Carlo, Bingo Chairwoman; Donna Bannon Co-Chair; Nancy Earyes, Pat Bianchi, Mary Fran Smith, Kathy Connor, Pres., LAOH Div. 3, and Michele Bannon.

Twirling Benefit Fri., March 10



Lynnette's Twirlerettes will conduct a twirling benefit on Friday, March 10th beginning at 6pm center court at the Marketplace Steamtown. Proceeds benefit the Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA. This event is truly kids helping kids. Over 100 twirlers from all 3 divisions Carbondale, Forest City and Lake Ariel will perform. Ages range from 3 thru 18 years old. Anyone wishing to make a donation is asked to contact Lynnette at 570-281-9797 or logo onto www.lynnestetwirlerettes.com

Pictured front is Ashley Bossick, second row left to right is Riley Bossick and Anastasia Tasso.

Semiauto rifles Could be OK'd For PA hunting

Semiautomatic rifles may soon be approved for hunting in Pennsylvania. A proposal to allow them in hunting seasons will be voted on at the March meeting of the Game Commission.

It would cover semiautomatic rifles and shotguns while hunting, big game, small game and furbearers. If approved, semiautomatic rifles in .22 caliber or less, that propel single-projectile ammo, and semiautomatic shotguns 10 gauge or smaller propelling ammo not larger than No. 4 lead—also No. 2 steel or No. 4 composition or alloy—would be legal firearms for small game season.

Semiautomatic firearms that propel single projectile ammo would be legal sporting arms for woodchucks and furbearers with no caliber restrictions.

For big game, semiautomatic centerfire rifles and shotguns would be legal sporting arms. Full metal jacket ammo would continue to be prohibited for deer, bear and elk hunting.

All semiautomatic firearms would be limited to six rounds ammo capacity—magazines could hold no more than five rounds.

Semiautomatics would be legal in seasons in which modern firearms can be used to take deer, black bears, elk and fall turkeys.

Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation that currently has no hunting seasons during which semiautomatics rifles can be used.

Benefit for Cherry Peck Sat., April 1

A Benefit Pasta Dinner will be held for Cherry Peck on Sat., April 1 from 12 noon to 4 PM at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Carbondale. It will be eat in or take out. The cost will be \$10.

Cherry Peck is a 39 year old wife and mother of two who was diagnosed with Stage 3 invasive ductal carcinoma. She is currently undergoing her second round of chemotherapy and will have surgery in a few weeks, followed by radiation and more chemotherapy.

We are honored to host a pasta dinner, basket raffle, 50/50 drawing, t-shirt sale, and bake sale to defray some of the cost of her medical care.

Tickets may be purchased by calling: Joy 570-259-6466 or joybaron1218@yahoo.com or Debbie 850-261-0656 or at either Tiny Treasures Child Care Center Locations in Mayfield or Forest City.

F.N.B. Corporation Reports Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2016 Earnings

F.N.B. Corporation (NYSE: FNB) reported earnings for the fourth quarter of 2016 with net income available to common stockholders of \$49.3 million, or \$0.23 per diluted common share, including \$0.01 per share in merger expense. Comparatively, third quarter of 2016 net income available to common stockholders totaled \$50.2 million, or \$0.24 per diluted common share, and fourth quarter of 2015 net income available to common stockholders totaled \$37.1 million, or \$0.21 per diluted common share. Net income available to common stockholders for the full year of 2016 totaled

\$162.9 million, or \$0.78 per diluted common share, including \$0.12 per share in merger expense, compared to net income available to common stockholders of \$151.6 million, or \$0.86 per diluted common share in 2015, including \$0.01 per share in merger expense. Quarterly and full-year operating results are presented in the tables below.

Vincent J. Delie, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "We are pleased with the quarter's results and another outstanding year at FNB. Fourth quarter operating net income per diluted common share was \$0.24 per

share and increased 10% from the year-ago quarter. Full-year operating net income per diluted common share increased to \$0.90 and we successfully integrated Metro Bancorp, Inc. and 17 Fifth Third branches during 2016. Our financial performance was highlighted by high-single digit organic loan and deposit growth, solid asset quality and continued growth in our fee-based businesses. These ongoing trends led to an outstanding year, as the full-year efficiency ratio improved 76 basis points to 55.4% compared to 2015."

"Faith Matters"

The Book That Gives Meaning To Life

Though it sometimes seems like it is under attack in our current culture, the Judeo-Christian Bible is the most published, read, quoted, and portrayed in the arts of all literature ever written. Nothing else comes close. How does such an ancient book maintain such acclaim over thousands of years?

Last year the Gideons gave away almost sixty million Bibles world-wide. Twenty million are sold each year in the US alone. Ninety-two percent of Americans own at least one Bible, whether it was given to them or purchased. Since the printing of the Gutenberg Bible over five hundred years ago, almost six billion Bibles have been sold or distributed. Two-thirds of those who own Bibles, regardless of religious affiliation, say that it holds the meaning of life. So how has this book given meaning to life for those who hold it in high regard?

The Bible is the first historical as well as religious document to give hope and freedom to oppressed people. The account of the Israelite exodus from slavery has been an inspiration to millions of people who have experienced slavery, oppression and injustice which is unfortunately still so much a part of our world. Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah in his sermon to his home town when he said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's

favor." (Luke 4:18-19) For all who feel oppressed, poverty-stricken, down-trodden, the Bible has good news.

People we look up to credit the Bible as being the source of their peace and perseverance for enduring and growing through difficult times. President Abraham Lincoln stated, "I am busily engaged in the study of the Bible. I believe it is God's word because it finds me where I am. I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good of the Savior of the world is communicated to us through the Book." President Theodore Roosevelt wrote, "A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education." And President Jimmy Carter said: "If we subjugate our lives to God, if we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, if our life is consistent with the purpose or example of Christ ... in our relationship with God, and others, then we will have inner peace."

The Old Testament is the first recorded historical literature to gratefully recognize God-given validity and uniqueness to every human life. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;" (Psalm 139:13-14) The New Testament even goes further for all who have experienced darkness and oppression in life. "...you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9) Recognizing one's self as God's special possession has transforming power for bringing

inner peace and divine purpose upon those willing to act upon it.

This ancient document was the first to declare the community of all humanity under God. "...in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26-28) At the time this was written, such thinking was totally counter-cultural and counter-religious. The fledgling Christian sect was the first movement in history to consider everyone to be on an equal basis.

So what meaning to life does the Bible give to people? Apparently a foundation for hope, peace and thankfulness to God. By surrounding themselves with his love and purpose, it enables them to not only be a blessing to themselves and others, but to their heavenly Father as well. Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) It is God's intention for us to have His abundance in our lives. All we have to do is read His book, believe it and put it into action.

Rev. Jay Best is the Pastor of Community Bible Church, Route 107, Heart Lake Road, Jermyn. Look for the three crosses! Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m.

Get a subscription to the News 570-785-3800

Pizza sale at Christ Episcopal

A pizza sale will be held on the Fridays in March and also April 7th and 14th at Christ Episcopal Church, Dundaff & Delaware Sts, Forest City. Pick-up a prepared 12-cut, three cheese pizza for \$10 or a 12-cut potato/cheese/onion pizza for \$12 at the church between 3 and 6 PM and bake it at home. Advance orders recommended. Call 785-3425 and leave a call back message. Benefits the good works of the church.

FC Recycling Curb Pickup

The weekly Forest City curbside pickup of recyclables is held every Tuesday of the month, weather permitting.

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