



WHO’S TO BLAME?

THE PHILADELPHIA EAGLES WERE BOOED TIME AND TIME AGAIN ON FRIDAY, AND IT’S HARD TO BLAME THOSE AT LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD FOR LETTING THEIR FRUSTRATIONS FLY. **E1**

UPPER NAZARETH

Township celebrates holidays with tree lighting



The holidays have officially begun in Upper Nazareth Township. The community turned out Friday night to kick off this year’s holiday season for the fourth annual tree-lighting ceremony, outside the Upper Nazareth Township Municipal Building at 100 Newport Ave. There was hot cocoa, fire pits and plenty of music to put everyone in the holiday spirit. Santa arrived on a fire truck and met with youngsters and posed for photos. The highlight this year was the unveiling of a custom-built Moravian Star that topped the Christmas tree. The star was handcrafted by the township’s public works department and measures over five feet in diameter and is illuminated by 1,300 lights. *Saed Hindash, photos by Donna Fisher*



Santa greets Nash Galligan, 7, of Nazareth.



Guests roast marshmallows before lighting the tree.

EASTON

Developer still plans 405 apartments at Dixie Cup factory

Officials denied the tax break proposal, but the developer maintains the site will see new apartments despite the setback.

Chelsea McClure For The Express-Times

Developer Brian Bartee of Skyline Investment Group is reportedly moving forward with plans to redevelop the former Dixie Cup factory in Wilson Borough into 405 apartments despite losing a key tax incentive.

The \$160 million project sought local approvals for Tax Increment Financing, or TIF, which would have allowed local taxing bodies to delay increasing the property’s assessed value for a set number of years. The resulting tax revenue from the higher assessment would have been used to pay off bonds issued for construction.

Wilson Borough Council and the Wilson Area School District approved the TIF proposal. Northampton County Council voted it down in early November.

Bartee described the outcome as disappointing but said the development will proceed.

“This was not an unexpected result,” he said, according to a report earlier this month in Lehigh Valley Business. “I had a plan for this. It’s not going to slow us down. It’s too important for too many people.”

He indicated to the business news organization he may seek TIF support again next year, noting that the three county council members who opposed the measure did not win re-election.

County council members cited several reasons for rejecting the plan at their meeting in early November. They raised concerns about granting tax breaks to a developer while the county faces budget

SEE APARTMENTS, A3

ALLENTOWN

1 of 5 charged in basketball court slaying sentenced

City man, 20, gets decades in prison after pleading guilty to third-degree murder, conspiracy in 2024 shooting.

Kurt Bresswein For The Express-Times

One of five people charged in a fatal shooting on an Allentown basketball court has been sentenced to state prison, according to a news release from Lehigh County District Attorney Gavin Holihan’s office.

Angel Martinez-Velez, 25, of Allentown, was shot numerous times while playing basketball June 1, 2024, at Fountain Park on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Carlos Landesta-Agramonte, 20, also of Allentown, pleaded guilty in September to third-degree murder and conspiracy. Lehigh County Common Pleas Court Judge Thomas Caffrey on Tuesday sentenced Landesta-Agramonte to serve 20 to 40 years in prison.

A jury last month convicted his co-defendant Grelvis Estevez Cabrera of all

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