

SILVER LINING

Valdez triples, singles, drives in pair, Rodriguez, Gonzalez homer as Pirates salvage split with win over Phillies. B1.



ON THE MARKET

Are you looking for a new house? Check out the properties listed on today's Real Estate page. B6.



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FRIDAY

\$2.50 NEWSSTAND

McCort: Nix motions to dismiss suit

BY JOSHUA BYERS
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Attorneys for Bishop McCort Catholic Academy have requested that a federal judge deny defendants' motions to dismiss its second amended complaint in its lawsuit against Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference members and the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Lawyers say alleged facts have 'enough traction' to overcome requests to toss school's complaint

"The facts, as alleged, have more than enough traction to overcome defendants' instant motions," the lawyers wrote. Attorneys for all public schools,

the PIAA, and nominal defendants Bishop Carroll and Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic high schools filed motions between June 10 and June 15 to dismiss the sec-

ond amended complaint, claiming Bishop McCort failed to state an injury and that the court didn't

Please see **MCCORT**, A2



Bishop McCort Catholic High School on Osborne Street in Johnstown is shown Monday.

THOMAS SLUSSER/
THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

Residences being developed downtown

Johnstown Capital Partners creates lofts at former Rexall building

BY DAVE SUTOR
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LaQuan Marshall stood in the corner of a recently constructed second-floor loft apartment, with downtown Johnstown's Central Park showcased through the windows behind him.

It was a beautiful, sunny summer morning. People and vehicles passed through the intersection of Main and Franklin streets below. Workers were doing landscaping in the town square that is undergoing a complete infrastructure and appearance remake.

"The view is absolutely amazing," Marshall said.

Marshall, Johnstown Capital Partners' managing partner, has been working for years to get the Dibert Lofts, located at 500 Main St., ready to be rented.

The former Rexall building was gutted. Eight modern apartment units, which also maintain a traditional feel with original brick and window frames, were built.

Five units are expected to soon have tenants.

Nearby, at 215 Franklin St., there are four condominiums that will soon be up for sale.

Construction is also being done to create apartments at 508-512 Main St.

In total, there will be 20 residential units - 16 rentals and four condos - in Johnstown Capital Partners' downtown properties.

Having market-rate residential properties in downtown has often been cited by city leaders as a key to helping the central business district grow.

"My goal for the city is to support them," Marshall said. "The county, the city, other organizations have already set ... a vision for what they see Johnstown to be. It isn't my job to fight them."

Marshall said he wants to be part of the collaboration of people and organizations that are "making incremental change and improvement to what downtown was."

In that pursuit, the company



LaQuan Marshall, Johnstown Capital Partners' managing partner, talks Thursday inside a newly renovated second-floor residential unit at the Dibert Lofts in the former Rexall building at the corner of Franklin and Main streets in downtown Johnstown, above. Below, Marshall stands inside a property that is under construction at 508-512 Main St. downtown. Find a gallery with more photos at www.TribDem.com.

PHOTOS BY THOMAS SLUSSER/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

has worked with various partners during the development of the properties, including former Johnstown Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Melissa Komar.

"I felt that it was a very positive and strong project that was going to be very difficult to navigate as far as timelines and implementation," Komar said, "but the team with Johnstown Capital Partners always followed through, always showed up at meetings and always wanted to be part of the community."

Johnstown Capital Partners plans to also develop four street-level commercial spaces.

In 2022, Downtown Yogurt, an independent business, was

Please see **LOFTS**, A2



Somerset fair grows, opens new show barn

Structure can host events year-round

BY DAVID HURST
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MEYERSDALE - The Somerset County Fair has a new home for its livestock shows, auctions and office staff.

A \$600,000 show barn debuted this week, giving event officials a new Fair Week centerpiece and a year-round space for events, Somerset County Fair President Dave Berkey said.

"It's a beautiful barn, and it's going to be great for the kids."

IRV KIMMEL JR.,
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

"We're continuing to grow," he said, adding that participation in the fair continues to climb. "We outgrew our old show barn."

Entries in the fair's annual livestock events are among the areas where interest is growing, Berkey said.

The 11,200-square-foot pole building will be large enough to host 1,000-person capacity events. That's well over twice the space in the older building, he added.

It's also designed to stay drier. The low-lying fairgrounds in the Meyersdale area have dealt with flooding three times in the past 15 years, including a May 2025 storm viewed as the worst in decades.

The fairground's older barn

Please see **BARN**, A2

Renovation project remaking first floor at Cambria County Library

Ashley Flynn, Cambria County Library executive director, talks amid first-floor renovations Thursday at the library in Johnstown.

THOMAS SLUSSER/
THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT



BY KELLY URBAN
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The first floor at the Cambria County Library in downtown Johnstown is getting a makeover.

Work began in November at the Main Street library, and it involves an overhaul of the area to create a more modern and user-friendly space.

"This is our significant first-floor renovation, and it was primarily funded through a \$2 million Pennsylvania Broadband

Upgrades designed to add more user-friendly, modern space

Development Authority grant," said Ashley Flynn, executive director of the library. "It's a complete renovation of probably 75% of the first floor."

She said the renovation work includes two new meeting rooms and five new focus rooms.

"There will be a new updated teen area, and we'll have a cafe space," Flynn said. "All of the restrooms will be fully ADA

(Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible. We also will have a special ADA family restroom with an adult changing table, which is special for us."

Additional upgrades will include a self-checkout station, new seating spaces provided throughout, a hands-on Learning Lab classroom and a new entryway from the patio into the library.

In addition, there will be

upgraded power outlets, lighting and fire suppression systems.

Flynn said the grand reopening for the first floor is tentatively set for Aug. 20.

"This truly is transformational," she said. "I think the aesthetics of the space is totally different and completely improved, but the functionality is going to be so

Please see **LIBRARY**, A2

Public Notices inside today

Including:

■ Nanty Glo Water Authority will hold a special meeting. B5.

And on our website at: <https://marketplace.tribune-democrat.com/johnstownnpa/publicnotices/search>

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ELMIRA FEATHERS!
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LOCAL Festivities planned to observe America's 250th anniversary. A3.

Coming Saturday

■ Band of Brothers Shakespeare Company to stage "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Stackhouse Park in Westmont.

■ Gallery on Gazebo in downtown Johnstown is planning "Lily Palooza," a garden party fundraiser.

■ In the Spotlight profiles Mike Rullo, whose family operates Villain Fireworks in Johnstown as a one-stop shop for fireworks.



WEATHER Thunderstorms today and tonight. High 91, low 72. Five-day forecast/B8



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