



HEALTHY READING

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BABY BARGAINS

It's possible to prepare for your bundle of joy without breaking the bank **Page 21**



PRESS ENTERPRISE

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\$1

Fair tears into ticket trickery

Unpaid admissions amounted to 'stealing,' security chief says

By **PETER KENDRON**
Press Enterprise Writer

BLOOMSBURG — Bloomsburg Fair admission tickets were being used more than once and ticket takers were letting friends in for free before the fair cracked down this year, its security chief says.

Those practices amounted to "stealing" the fair's money, said security director Bill Barratt. Fair records appear to back him up. Attendance in 2004 was down by 22 percent from 2003, but the amount of money collected at the entrance gates and through advance ticket sales dropped only 3.25 percent.

Barratt credited both newly installed security cameras and a new practice of ripping up tickets once they were used.

"If you don't rip a ticket, you recycle it," he

said, meaning someone uses it without paying.

In previous years, ticket takers had collected the whole tickets. Their superintendent then gathered them all together and counted the tickets, Barratt said.

"That was supposed to be the end of them," Barratt said. But many somehow ended up being used again, he said.

"That's like stealing \$4 of the fair's money each time [a recycled ticket was] used," Barratt said.

But Earl E. Davis, superintendent of ticket collectors, said he never saw a ticket being stolen or reused.

"If I would have, I would have put a stop to it," Davis said.

Davis said the tickets were "collected, counted and destroyed" in previous years. They were thrown in the trash right after

being counted, he said.

Fair President Fred Trump said it's been rumored for years that tickets were being recycled, but he never saw any proof of it. "And the superintendent insisted it was not a fact," Trump said.

After the policy was changed this year to require ticket ripping, Barratt and his security guards personally went to the gates to make sure ticket takers followed the policy.

For the first two days of this year's fair, many had not been told they had to, Barratt said. But for the remainder of the days, all tickets were ripped, he said.

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Stats: Less than half of '04 fairgoers paid

BLOOMSBURG — Only about 47 percent of the people who attended the Bloomsburg Fair this year paid to get in, according to fair numbers.

But that's a jump of nearly 9 percent from 2003, when only 38 percent bought admission tickets.

Fair President Fred Trump said the percentage is low because the fair allows children and high school students in free for most of the week.

Uniformed military personnel also get in for free. So do the media, concessionaires and fair

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■ **Fair's amusement tax paid Bloom \$119G** **Page 6**

POSTCARD FROM THE HOME FRONT

Well-wishers pose for photo in Bloom to show support for troops abroad

By **SIMON SHIFRIN**
Press Enterprise Writer

BLOOMSBURG — Tom Shuman says there's been a big hole in his life since his son Seth, 22, shipped off to Iraq with the National Guard's 103rd Armored Division in March.

Though he can't fill that hole until Seth returns, Shuman said he showed up at the Columbia County Courthouse Saturday to pose for a photograph for troops abroad because he knows what gifts from home have meant to his son.

Shuman and his wife have sent packages filled with snacks and odds-and-ends, from individually-wrapped Rice Krispie treats to batteries and heaps of family pictures.

"To see that local people support them, it's got to be good for morale," Shuman said.

Columbia County Commissioner Dave Kovach said he helped organize the photo shoot with the other commissioners, as well as the family support groups for the Guard and Reserve units from Bloomsburg and Berwick, to show local soldiers they have strong support back home.

And he said it was a chance to help the families do something nice for their loved ones.

"They're the ones that are living this," Kovach said. "They're the ones hoping the phone doesn't ring."

But some who turned out for the photo, like Beverly Michael of Berwick, have no personal connection to any soldiers abroad.

Michael, the register and recorder at the courthouse, brought along her 12-year-old nephew, Adam Schell, Bloomsburg, after receiving a letter in her courthouse mailbox about the gathering.

"It was something I thought we should participate in," she said. "I think it means to them that we at home are behind them and thinking of them. We hope they have a quick return home, safely."



Press Enterprise/Tom Adams

BECKY DAVIS, left, and **Karen Finucan**, far right, distribute flags to those who turned out for the group photo for U.S. troops in front of the Columbia County Courthouse on Saturday. With them is Finucan's daughter, **Grace**, 3½, and Staff Sgt. **Scott Alleman** of Charlie Company 2nd Battalion 103rd Armored Division of Berwick. Davis's husband, **Chad Davis**, and Finucan's husband, **Guy**, are serving in Iraq. **More photos, back page.**

'The least I could do'

The crowd of about 75 that turned out ranged from family members, like Shuman, to those who just believed it was a worthwhile cause, like Michael.

Dick Donald, Wonderview, said he read about the gathering in the newspaper last week and couldn't pass up the opportunity.

Donald, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, said he doesn't know anyone serving abroad in the

military right now. But that didn't matter.

"I think it's the least I could do to support those fellas over there," he said. "I'm obliged to be here."

Donald said he fought in seven **Please see POSTCARD** back page

Finances threaten Catholic school

Meeting tonight to seek answers for Holy Family

By **SUSAN SCHWARTZ**
Press Enterprise Writer

BERWICK — Declining enrollments and financial difficulties could force Holy Family Catholic School to close its doors, says a school official.

The school is holding a community meeting this evening open to everyone to discuss ways to bolster finances, said Sister Judith Tarozzi, principal.

"Our hope is not to have to close," she said. "We're having a big drive to see what we can do to keep open and viable."

Ultimately, the diocese would decide whether the school will remain. But the local school board recognizes there's a problem, and will be sending a recommendation to the bishop in Harrisburg, she said.

Small classes

The private school on Washington Street has 87 students in kindergarten through fifth grades.

"Educationally, it's ideal," she said. "We have only 15 students in a class."

But with each student paying about \$1,700 in tuition per year, it isn't enough to keep the school going. **Please see SCHOOL** back page

WEATHER

TODAY: Fair, chilly
HIGH TEMP: 47°
PRECIPITATION: 0%
TONIGHT: Fair, cold
LOW TEMP: 30°
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Central, Danville Southern still top area in Pa. scores

Vo-Tech, Northwest, Benton lag

By **KATIE HETRICK**
Press Enterprise Writer

HARRISBURG — Central Columbia, Danville and Southern Columbia continue to be the best scoring local high schools on state tests.

Lagging at the bottom of the list are Columbia-Montour Area Vo-Tech, Benton High and Northwest High. Vo-Tech and Northwest both had at least one score lower than the state threshold on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment test in 2003-04. **Please see SCORES** page 4

■ **Charts track scores** **Pages 4-5**

Top scoring schools

Below are the local schools with the most students scoring proficient or better on last spring's PSSAs, a state standardized test.

High schools	Proficient	
	Math	Reading
Central Columbia	67%	81%
Danville	59%	83%
Southern Columbia	62%	78%
Middle schools		
Greenwood Friends	100%	100%
Danville	71%	79%
Central Columbia	67%	79%
Elementary schools		
Mulberry Street, Berwick	100%	89%
Beaver-Main, Bloomsburg	92%	85%
Riverside, Danville	88%	85%

Source: Pa. Department of Education Katie Hetrick/Press Enterprise

U.S. occupies insurgent city

Officer: Fallujah not yet 'subdued'

By **JIM KRANE**
Associated Press Writer

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. military officials said Saturday that American troops had now "occupied" the entire city of Fallujah and there were no more major concentrations of insurgents still fighting after nearly a week of intense urban combat.

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A U.S. officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Fallujah was "occupied but not subdued." Artillery and airstrikes also were halted after nightfall to prevent mistaken attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces who had taken up positions throughout the city.

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