The Valley Mirror

No. 39 in our Twenty-seventh Year

Thursday, July 16, 2009

50¢

In case you missed it:

Wordless shirts: Germany's high court upheld a ban on T-shirts emblazoned with the words "die Fahnen hoch" (the flag on high) because it is too similar to the opening line of the Nazi anthem, the Horst Wessel song.

Happy workers: Two Pittsburgh area companies were names to the list of "Best Companies to Work for in America". Development Dimensions International in Bridgeville and Maya Design on the South Side ranked sixth and 16th respectively.

Fruit case: A bomb squad called to a Columbus, Ohio airport eventually determined a suspicious container was actually pickled mangoes. X-rays were unable to determine the contents of a jar marked baby food,

Heritage Health relocates and changes name

Story and photos by Jack Ruskin

The rumble of diesel trucks and buses created background noise for a unique ribbon-cutting event along Braddock Avenue last Saturday morning.

For more than 25 years Heritage Health Foundation (HHF) has been a vital part of Braddock and neighboring communities by offering programs and partnerships that improve people's lives.

Over the years, HHF has developed the nationally recognized 4- Kids Early Learning Network, WorkLink Community Van Service, Hospital Park Housing Initiative, and involvement with the Tri-Boro Development Forum to encourage community growth.

Sally Wiggin

On Saturday, WTAE-television news anchor Sally Wiggin was

Continued on page 8

The guests await the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Heritage Community Initiatives

Continued from page 1

present to introduce company officials and special guests gathered for the event as HHF announced an organizational name change to Heritage Community Initiative with an open house of their new offices at 820 Braddock Avenue.

The new name reflects an enlarged mission for the organization that outgrew their previous office space a few blocks away.

When called to the podium, Congressman Mike Doyle reflected on growing up in the area.

"I've lived most of my life in Swissvale, and as a youngster, coming to Braddock was a great experience as the community was a bustling area with many great businesses. This old bank building has fond memories because a member of our family worked here," he explained.

Mike Doyle

Doyle emphasized that Heritage Health Foundation has been a dynamic institution in the community, serving families and helping set young children on the right path through their 4-Kids Early Learning Network.

State Senator Jay Costa followed Doyle to the microphone and added that education is a very important topic in Harrisburg. "We are always doing what we can to find the money that can aid young children," Costa remarked.

Jay Costa

Michele Atkins

HHF Board of Directors Chair Michele Atkins said it was almost as if on cue that trucks and buses roared by as the event was taking place. "That is a good thing, showing there is life in the town," she remarked.

Stanley Herman

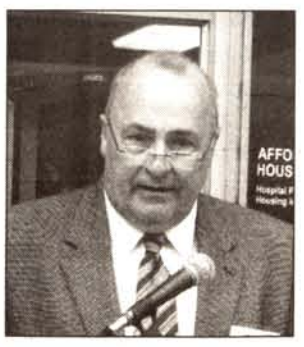
Stanley Herman, Vice Chair of the HHF board, stressed that Braddock has always been a vital community in the region, and although it has fallen on tough times, organizations like Heritage Health Foundation have been important to provide needed services.

One by one guest speakers acknowledged that the WorkLink, Hospital Park Housing Initiative, and Tri-Boro Development Forum programs all added spark to the community.

County Councilman Chuck Martoni said Braddock always had the best athletic programs. "We would play their teams and they would always win. That is a testament to the quality of people who have always been in the community," Martoni emphasized.

Additionally, everyone had high praise for Heritage Health Foundation President and CEO Bob Grom.

Jay Costa, Mike Doyle, Stanley Herman and several others remarked that Grom is the man who can and always gets things done.



Bob Grom

When Grom addressed the crowd he proudly announced that the commitment of the organization would continue and expand with the official announcement of the name change to Heritage Community Initiative and the unveiling of the name on the building.

"I've been working in Braddock for about 15 years. First in the hospital, then a funeral home, and now a bank, so I suppose things are looking up."

Before Grom invited Mark Silberman to speak, with nearly a dozen members of the family in attendance at their old business location, he unveiled a special plaque affixed to the front of the old bank, thanking the family for donating the building and for being a good friend.

Mark Silberman

"I noticed Bob has moved into my old office. We have always had a good working relationship with Heritage Health Foundation and helping them to have more room to develop and grow is our pleasure," Mark Silberman said.

Officials, business leaders, and several guests were invited to make everything official with the ribbon cutting, a tour of the building, and a visit to a Children's Festival at the Trau & Loevner parking lot next to the building.