

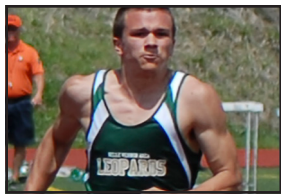


MONDAY,
MAY 2, 2016

\$1.00

THE MON VALLEY INDEPENDENT

WHAT HAPPENS HERE, MATTERS HERE.



BVA wins
The Belle Vernon Area boys' track team claimed the Fayette County title. **B2**

INSIDE



Musical memories
Elizabeth Forward students delivered personalized MP3 players to Mt. Vernon of Elizabeth residents. **A3**

VALLEY WEEKEND



Raise Your Voice
Several bands performed during the fifth annual Raise Your Music and Arts Festival at Monessen City Park. **A12**

SPORTS



Sasko legacy
Even after the death of former BVA girls' soccer coach Paul Sasko, his players continue to move forward in their playing careers. **B1**

DEATHS

- Barbara Alesiani, 88, Crystal River, Fla., formerly of Monessen
 - Artie Artis, New Eagle
 - Oreste "Mario" Berardelli, 87, Monessen
 - Cletus R. Doptis, 83, Monessen
 - David W. Igoe, 94, Washington Township
 - Blanchard
 - "JAY-D" L. Key, 52, Monessen
 - Vincent Rotolo, 64, Irmo, S.C., formerly of Charleroi
 - Arlene Ann Pasterick Triplett, 73, Frederick, Md.
- A4-5**

INDEX

Celebrity Cipher	A8
Classified	B7-10
Comics	B4
Dear Abby	B5
Lotteries	A5
News Roundup	A5
Obituaries	A4-5
Opinion	A6
Sports	B1-3
Television	B5
Two sections, 24 pages	

TOMORROW

Don't miss Ron Paglia's first installment of a two-part series on the anniversary of the Kent State shootings.

Valley gets its voice back

'What happens here, matters here'

Mon Valley Independent opens to serve area residents and businesses who have been in the dark for four months.

By **STACY WOLFORD**
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In this age of 24-hour cable news and social media, starting a daily newspaper might seem akin to introducing a new horse-drawn carriage. But not to a group of Mon Valley businessmen.

The board comprising Mid Mon Valley Publishing Co. LLC has spent the past six months working diligently since the closure of *The Valley In-*

dependent Dec. 31 to bring a local newspaper back to the Valley and its residents. The culmination of those efforts came to fruition today with the launch of the *Mon Valley Independent*.

The *Mon Valley Independent*, located at 996 Donner Ave., Monessen, has hired more than 75 percent of the employees of the former newspaper.

"We're all very excited about the first publication. It's all about tying our Valley back together again and giving it a local voice," said MMVPC board director Keith Bassi. "We're very happy to know we could bring back the former writers and editors,

advertising and circulation employees to come together as a team for the new paper. We care about what happens here and we want people to know how proud we are to be a part of the Mon Valley."

The *Mon Valley Independent* is an afternoon publication printing Monday through Saturday. The staff has already been putting news, sports, obituaries and classified ads on its website, www.monvalleyindependent.com.

Mid Mon Valley Publishing Co. decided to name the new paper the *Mon Valley Independent* to not only keep ties with the former newspaper that

was closed after 113 years in business, but also to demonstrate its intent to serve the entire Mon Valley region as a leader for reporting local news and sports.

MMVPC was formed in November by Bassi, a Charleroi attorney; businessmen Nazareth Victoria and Moe Galis; and Monessen Magisterial District Judge Joseph Dalfonso. The board started negotiating with Trib Total Media to purchase the Monessen-based newspaper in late November when TTM announced it was planning to close both *The Valley Independent* and the McKeesport-based

MON VALLEY INDEPENDENT • A2



Wayne Ray / For The Mon Valley Independent

The board of directors and staff of the new *Mon Valley Independent* are pictured in front of the newspaper's headquarters at 996 Donner Ave. in Monessen. In front, General Manager John Eckert, center, is flanked by board members, from left, Joseph Dalfonso, Keith Bassi, Moe Galis and Nazareth Victoria; second row, Ruth Ames, Jennifer Martini, Debra Tydings, Taylor Brown, Kristie Linden, Heather Weightman, Linda Schaum, Jeff Oliver, Karen Peters, Bibianna Goetz, Laura Borne, Becky Drudul, Kayla Allen, Michele Conte, Regina Stefan; third row, Jenn Codeluppi, Carl Hill, Greg Reinbold, Sharri Todd, Stacy Wolford, Scott Sawa, Trudy Radus, Terri Sichi, Justin Criado, Marian Tabish, Jeremy Sellw, Joe Abramowitz, Ed Marcus, John Eckert IV, Laurie Sasanko and Chris Bodner.

Celebration honors loyal volunteer

Donora resident provided assistance to St. Vincent de Paul organizations for many years.

By **KRISTIE LINDEN**
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When Alex Sanchez began volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul in Monessen almost 20 years ago, he was following in his parents' footsteps.

"My mother and father, they used to tell me all the time (to help others), especially when people come in and don't have anything," said Sanchez, a longtime Donora resident.

Sanchez and his wife, Teresa, have moved to the North Hills town of McCandless to be closer to their daughter, Becky Scibetta, and her family. The move means Sanchez is no longer able to volunteer at the Grand Boulevard store.

"This has been his life," Scibetta said. "He's always here to help people. It's what he lives for."

Scibetta said it was bitter-sweet when her dad's fellow volunteers and board members gathered for a farewell party in Monessen. She said it was wonderful, but also the end of an era.

The group, including Sanchez's family, enjoyed a boisterous celebration laced with

many sentimental stories.

"Everyone who comes (to the store) asks to see Mr. Sanchez," volunteer Rosemarie Dattillio said. "He's helped more people than you can imagine."

Dattillio began volunteering because Alex Sanchez reached out after her husband died and told her to start coming in one day a week to work. She's been part of the crew ever since.

Lou Sanchez, the couple's daughter-in-law, said being generous and helping others is deeply rooted in the family.

Scibetta agrees. "They've always taught us that you're always thankful," Scibetta said. "You thank God for everything you have, no matter how small or how big."

"You always do for others. Happiness and family are more important than any material things you could have." "They are the most unselfish people," Lou Sanchez said of her in-laws. "They're always behind the scenes, never in front. I married into a wonderful family."

Lou Sanchez said that over the years, her father-in-law has worked in the store, delivered furniture, registered families for food assistance and answered calls at all hours of the day and night.



Jenn Codeluppi / Mon Valley Independent

Alex and Teresa Sanchez talk with Armand DeRose during a farewell party at the St. Vincent de Paul social hall in Monessen.

"He's always the first person anyone called," Lou Sanchez said. "Everyone in the Valley knew his name. He would get out of bed at midnight to go help people."

During the celebration, Alex Sanchez received a photo portraying him and former Donora Mayor John "Chummy" Lignelli. In the photo, taken several years ago, Lignelli is reading a proclamation naming a day in honor of Sanchez.

Alex Sanchez's friends offered a number of stories during the luncheon. Several speakers shared their

"He's always the first person anyone called. Everyone in the Valley knew his name. He would get out of bed at midnight to go help people."

LOU SANCHEZ
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF ALEX SANCHEZ

thoughts, but the theme never changed. Everyone talked about how much Alex Sanchez had done for Valley residents.

Once, a call came in from a single mother whose toddler had thrown baby formula meant for a younger sibling in a toilet. The mother had no other food for the baby, recalled St. Vincent de Paul store day manager Emma Jene Lelik.

"(Sanchez) went to Walmart

to get new food," she said.

Sanchez played a role in bringing together the St. Vincent de Paul store council, which comprises

representatives of several churches.

Each church has its own group that works within the council. The store brought those groups together.

Alex Sanchez was instrumental in establishing Our Lady of the Valley Church's St. Vincent de Paul group 35 years ago, said Lelik, the store council secretary.

SANCHEZ • A2



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