



The Intelligencer

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Vigil in Doylestown marks National Suicide Prevention Week



KIM WEIMER / PHOTOJOURNALIST

Darla Yeager (left), of Warrington, and Terri Hollander, of Warwick, who lost sons to suicide, comfort each other during the sixth annual suicide awareness vigil Tuesday in Doylestown Borough. The event, sponsored by the Lenape Valley Foundation, memorializes victims of suicide, offers support for family and friends affected by suicide and highlights prevention efforts.

Out of the dark

By CHRISTIAN MENNO
STAFF WRITER

Darla Yeager and Terri Hollander sat together Tuesday with arms draped around each other's shoulders in a supportive embrace.

The longtime friends have been like sisters for years, but they now share a tragic bond. Both of their sons took their own lives.

The women, along with Terri's husband, Orin Hollander, were among those that attended an outdoor vigil on Court Street in Doylestown Borough in the name of suicide prevention.

Lenape Valley Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Doylestown and Bristol, has hosted the gathering for the last six years during National Suicide Prevention Week.

"We were friends before we lost both our sons," said Yeager, of Warrington, as

"We're here to try to prevent the next person from taking their own life, because it gives our child's life meaning."

ORIN HOLLANDER
BOARD MEMBER OF AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION

she recalled the death of her son Kurt Yeager at age 25 in 2013. Kurt, she said, was friends with 19-year-old Matthew Hollander, who died in 2008.

"We're here to try to prevent the next person from taking their own life, because it gives our child's life meaning," said Orin Hollander, of Warwick, who is a board member of American Foundation of Suicide Prevention.

The group hosts awareness gatherings across the country called Out of the Darkness Walks. The local walk is set for Oct. 1 at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

While the work of groups such as the Lenape Valley Foundation is often sobering, the foundation's Chief Executive Officer Alan Hartl offered one bit of encouraging news Tuesday: Suicides in Bucks County fell from 88 in 2015 to 76 in 2016.

"It's an improvement we hope becomes a trend but there is still much work to do," he said.

The organization is hosting its annual public forum at Delaware Valley University on Oct. 9.

Hartl, during his remarks Tuesday, said "preventable, premature death is a global issue," with more than 800,000 lives lost

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Flying ants swarm the Delaware Valley

By KYLE BAGENSTOSE
STAFF WRITER

Late summer evenings are some of the best of the year, bringing perfect 70-degree temperatures, darkening blue skies, cool breezes of the impending autumn and swarming black masses of flying ants.

Well, maybe not so much the last one.

But flying masses of pesky critters are exactly what residents across the Delaware Valley encountered Monday evening, with residents from Philadelphia, to Medford, New Jersey, to Bucks and Montgomery counties calling their local police departments and newspapers to report the swarming insects.

So what are they? Well, they're ants, according to Pennsylvania State University's environmental extension program.

"It's part of an ant colony trying to divide," said Emilie Swackhamer, horticulture educator at the extension's Montgomery County office.

An extension fact sheet says there are a variety of ants that swarm: the typical "little black ant," the pavement ant, cornfield ant and "larger yellow ant." These species of ants are typically wingless, but as a colony gains strength, particularly in the summer months, some will begin to develop wings in anticipation of splitting off from the group.

During specific times of the year, typically early spring or late summer, new potential queens take flight and the males follow in a frenzied pursuit called the "nuptial flight." A queen-in-waiting plays a game of catch-up to select only the fittest males. For all its hard work, a "winning

ant" gets to mate and then quickly die thereafter.

"Swarming happens," it's dramatic, and then they die and you can vacuum them up," Swackhamer said, adding that she actually had a swarm in her Berks

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New home found for Bucks hero banners

By JAMES BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

A once familiar sight in Doylestown Borough returns this weekend with a ceremony marking the hanging of banners honoring the sacrifice of Bucks County men and women killed while serving in the military since the 9/11 terror attacks.

Freedom Square, located at Pine Street and Garden Alley, will host memorial flags remembering members of the military from Bucks County who died serving the country in the war on terror. In 2009, the Travis Manion Foundation created Freedom Square, a community-built mosaic memorial.

The foundation partnered with the North Penn chapter of the American Gold Star Mothers and the Goldman Family to raise money for the production and maintenance of the banners. They will be unveiled beginning at 4 p.m. Sept. 23 during a ceremony open to the public at Freedom Square. U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-8, of Middletown, will be among the speakers.

Rhonda Worthington, president of the North Penn chapter of American Gold Star Mothers and mother to Navy Seal Eric Shellenberger, and Ryan Manion Borek, president of the Travis Manion Foundation and sister of 1st Marine Lt. Travis Manion, also will address the guests. Radio host Dom Giordano will emcee the ceremony.

"We are proud to offer this venue as a permanent home to memorialize all those who served in the Global War on Terror

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KIM WEIMER / PHOTOJOURNALIST

(File) U.S. Army Spcs. Maurice J. Johnson and Tamarra J. Ramos are honored, along with other Bucks County residents who lost their lives in military service, on banners that will be hung in Freedom Square in Doylestown Borough later this month.



73° Clouds, sun,
63° brief shower. B3

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DIY junk food without the junk
Food, D1



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PHOTOS BY KIM WEINER / PHOTOJOURNALIST
Kris Thompson, director of crisis services at the Lenape Valley Foundation, thanks Nicole Wolf for sharing her story about her brother-in-law's suicide during the sixth annual suicide awareness vigil Tuesday in Doylestown Borough.

Vigil

Continued from Page A1

to suicide worldwide in 2015. In the U.S. that year, more than 44,000 suicides occurred, nearly 1,900 of those in Pennsylvania. Lenape's Chief Operations Officer Sharon Curran touched on the popular Netflix series, "13 Reasons Why," that aired earlier this year and featured a character who killed herself.

"Whether you are in support of that series or whether you think it was in poor taste, it made people talk about suicide in a very real and normalizing way," Curran said. "And because of that I think it was a positive thing. I think the series itself certainly did glamorize some aspects of it that may not have been healthy, but I think it raised consciousness and got people talking and brought it out in the open." In 2015, Nicole Wolf had already been working



Sam Haines and Michael Notarangelo play music at the vigil.

at the foundation when her brother-in-law Stephen Wolf took his own life. "I think it gave me perspective in the sense that I don't know that I'd ever experienced that kind of

heartache before. My heart was broken," said Wolf. "So now, when families come to me and are scared and fearful and confused about what to do I feel honored to be able to guide them

in a more meaningful way because I understand those emotions on a personal level."

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Ants

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County basement in August. After mating, the queen lands, tears off her wings and lays eggs, often in the soil. She cares for the first batch of larvae, but then lets her generations of offspring take over the hard work of maintaining the colony and foraging. She'll live anywhere from one to 15 years, producing eggs the

whole time. But why all the swarming this year? John Cambridge, CEO of Northeast Philadelphia's Insectarium and Butterfly Pavilion museum, said it's a part of natural variation. Some years there are fewer ants, and some years there are more. "There are more ants out this year than last year," Cambridge said. "That's just natural." Cambridge adds the large swarms offer two advantages: more chances to find a mate, particularly

one that's not from the same nest, and also being too large a feast for predators to devour. "The large majority are not going to survive. They hedge their bets with these huge meeting swarms," Cambridge said. Swackhamer and Cambridge say the swarms are no cause for alarm. However, termites also have a potential infestation of nearby structures. The insects can be distinguished by their antennae; ants have

crooked, boomerang-shaped antennae, while termites' antennae are straight. Swackhamer said the swarms are transient in nature and should soon be out of the area. And the extension website reminds residents to appreciate the insects. "Many ants are considered beneficial because they are scavengers and predators on certain harmful insects," the site says. Kyle Bagenstose: 215-949-4211; email: kbagenstose@calkins.com; Twitter: @KyleBagenstose

Hometown Heroes

The following Hometown Heroes will be honored with banners at Freedom Square:

- SPC Edward W. Brabazon, Army, Levittown
- SSG Mark C. Baum, Army, Quakertown
- Capt. Scott E. Craven, Air Force, Bensalem
- PFC Robert H. Dembowski Jr., Army, Ivyland
- PFC Nathaniel E. DeTemple, Army, Morrisville
- Sgt. Allen James Duncley, Army, Yardley
- 1st Sgt. Kenneth B. Elwell, Army, Holland
- Capt. Brian F. Faunce, Army, Bensalem
- Cpl. Barton R. Humhant, Marines Corps, Doylestown
- SPC Maurice J. Johnson, Army, Levittown
- SPC Kurt E. Kroat, Army, Spinnerstown
- SPC William J. Maher III, Army, Yardley
- 1st Lt. Travis L. Manion, Marine Corps, Doylestown
- Lt. Robert T. Mininger, Marine Corps, Sellersville
- SSG Jae S. Moon, Army, Levittown
- SFC Liam J. Nevins, Army, Bristol
- Cpl. Patrick R. Nixon, Marine Corps, Doylestown
- SPC Tamara J. Ramos, Army, Quakertown
- SPC Nicholas D. Roberts, Army, Buckingham
- SGT SEAL Eric F. Shellenberger, Navy, Milford
- PFC Kristofor T. Stonesifer, Army, Doylestown
- SFC Shawn M. Suzych, Army, Hilltown
- Cpl. Elliot D. Teisler, Marine Corps, Doylestown
- 1st Lt. Colby J. Umbrell, Army, Doylestown
- Sgt. Daniel J. Warriner, Army, Levittown

Banners

Continued from Page A1

that are no longer with us," said Manion Borek in a statement. "The banners to be displayed in Freedom Square will honor every Bucks County post-9/11 Fallen Hero in perpetuity, and will provide a private place of reflection for their families."

Manion Borek in May led a vocal protest of Bucks County's decision to take down its Hometown Heroes banners from their perch around the county administration building on Court Street.

Bucks County started hanging the memorials in 2007, adding one following each death of a local soldier, sailor, airman or marine while serving the country.

In 2014, a new, \$200,000 Global War on Terrorism memorial was added to the courtyard, joining similar memorials honoring the sacrifice of local service members in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War.

The addition was designed to serve as a permanent replacement for the banners, said Bucks County Veterans Services Director Dan Fraley in May. The banners were taken down and presented to families of the fallen in a ceremony four months ago.

According to Derrick Morgan, marketing director for the Travis Manion Foundation, new banners have been created, replacing the 22 removed by the county earlier this year and adding three more.

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Pick 4: 1-8-5, Fireball: 5
Midday Pick 3: 1-5-9
Fireball: 4
Midday Pick 4: 7-9-1-8, Fireball: 4
Cash 5: 5-14-24-29-32
Xtra: 3
5 Card Cash:
A D 3 4 J K 7
AD 34 J K 7

PENNSYLVANIA
Pick 2 Day: 8-4, Wild: 2
Pick 2 Evening: 9-5, Wild: 2
Pick 3 Day: 2-7-3, Wild: 2
Pick 3 Evening: 7-7-5, Wild: 2
Pick 4 Day: 0-2-8-4, Wild: 2
Pick 4 Evening: 6-9-4-7, Wild: 2
Pick 5 Day: 4-5-6-4-3, Wild: 2
Pick 5 Evening: 7-8-8-7-0, Wild: 2
Cash 5: 8-15-30-33-37
Match 6: 11-20-21-22-30-38
Treasure Hunt: 3-5-10-17-18

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