

LOCAL NEWS

Number of hate groups rises slightly in Penna. **B2**

Mummers on Main Street

Parade's family-friendly celebration struts in Manayunk.

By **Tricia Nadolny**
STAFF WRITER

As he made his way to the start of the Manayunk parade route Saturday morning — weaving among plumes of feathers, floats, and Mummers tuning their instruments — Tom Loomis could hardly make it two feet without being stopped to shake a hand or give a hug.

"It's going to be a great day!" an event organizer in a golf cart yelled at him as she came to a brief stop.

"It's going to be a beautiful day," Loomis, president of the Philadelphia String Band Association, said before she sped off. By all accounts, it was.

The event, a Mardi Gras celebration with performances from all 17 of the city's string bands, drew an estimated 12,000 to 14,000 people, according to organizers. That's twice as many as last year's parade, a solid turnout on the heels of weak fundraising leading up to the event.

To make up a shortfall, U.S. Rep. Robert Brady on Thursday announced he had secured an \$8,000 donation from the Greater Philadelphia Traditions Fund. Organizers suspected their fundraising efforts were hurt by the controversy surrounding the Mummers Parade on New Year's Day, when disparaging remarks about African Americans, Mexicans, gays, and transgender people drew widespread outrage.

Brady, a purple Grand Marshal sash draped across him, said Saturday that many people are committed to making sure that never happens again. He stressed that the actions of a few shouldn't reflect on the Mummers institution as a whole.

"That's a couple knuckleheads doing stupid things, probably with too much alcohol in them," Brady said. "And that will be corrected for sure next year, without question."

"They bailed us out," Loomis said of Brady's intervention. "It See **NUMMERS** on B3



Anna Rose Makitka, 7, dances with Quaker City String Band captain Jimmy Good during Manayunk's Mummers Mardi Gras parade. AARON WINDHORST / Staff Photographer

After police shooting, questions

On Feb. 8, a 100-bullet fusillade killed Shalamar Longer in Chester.

By **Caitlin McCabe**
STAFF WRITER

Six officers. As many as 100 bullets. One man dead.

Two lingering questions: Did police unfairly execute Shalamar Longer? Or were they properly defending themselves against an armed ex-con?

Longer, 33, died in a hail of police gunfire after an early-morning chase Feb. 8 ended with him crashing his SUV in a Chester neighborhood.

Delaware County District Attorney Jack Whelan ruled the shooting justified, saying Longer had aimed a loaded gun at police and vowed not to return to prison.

Yet nearly two weeks since Longer's death, community members remain skeptical.

Officials acknowledge Longer never fired a shot. No video captured the scene.

Investigators questioned witnesses to the 2 a.m. shooting, Whelan said. Some neighbors on the block that night say police never talked to them.

Other residents say several dozen shots at one man — armed or not — is just too many.

"This is a breaking point," the Rev. Calvin Williams of Chester's Temple of Brotherly Love, said Friday. "When there are 100 shots fired ... that's excessive force on any level."

The differing views of law enforcement and the community have put yet another spotlight on Chester, a notoriously violent and poor Delaware County city of 34,000 See **CHESTER** on B5

Thousands rally to support convicted New York officer



They defend Chinese American in death of unarmed black man.

By **Patricia Madej**
STAFF WRITER

Several thousand Chinese Americans marched downtown Saturday to protest the conviction of New York police officer Peter Liang in the 2014 shooting death of an unarmed black man.

The Philadelphia march was one of several around the country in support of Liang, events that one protester called a "milestone" for the ethnic community. In Brooklyn, a crowd estimated at 10,000 rallied in support of the officer.

Liang, a 28-year-old Chinese American and a rookie officer, was convicted of second-degree manslaughter Feb. 11 for the 2014 death of Akai Gurley, who was shot by a ricocheting bullet as See **PROTEST** on B4

Bo Zhang shouts "Scapegoat no more!" during the protest here. DAVID SWANSON / Staff Photographer

THE REGION | B2



A drive to honor "Black Doctor of the Pines."

PHILLY.COM

For the latest news from the region

From Italy to Phila., con amore

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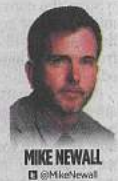
The invitation arrived in November. It offered dates in February. The consul general is a busy man, I figured.

"Please come inside," Andrea Canepari said with a smile and the offer of an espresso when I arrived the other afternoon at his ornate office in the Public Ledger Building.

He wore a pin with the Italian and American flags fastened to the lapel of his dark-blue wool suit. He was exceedingly polite. He guided me toward leather armchairs arranged around a marble fireplace. He sat beneath an Italian flag. His window overlooks Independence Hall.

He got right to it. He had been reading my columns. He wanted to discuss our shared love of Philadelphia. How it's too often overlooked and underappreciated.

"I think Philadelphia is a top-class city in the world," he said, earnestly. "I am a passionate advocate of that. I think peo- See **CANEARI** on B2



COMMENTARY | BY MIKE NEWALL

Italian consul at home in Philly

CANEPARI from B1

ple here have to believe it as well. "This is a great city," he said. "This was the first capital of the U.S. This is one of the most European cities in the U.S. that I have been."

Sure, the consul general is a diplomat. He's not going to trash us. But he sounded like a man speaking from conviction. He sounded excited.

And a big part of this column has always been about celebrating Philly for the city it's becoming — about how although we still have far to go, we've come a long way. About seeing ourselves a little differently — as a place we can be proud of.

Well, the consul general is on board. Fully.

That says something because he's a man accustomed to beauty. Raised in Pavia, a beautiful, medieval town in northern Italy, he studied at one of the top business schools in Milan.

Before accepting his post here in 2013, he worked at La Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, the Italian White House, at a posting in Turkey, and at the Italian Embassy in Washington, as a liaison to Congress.

He's been around. And he knows Philly — how it was a different city even just a short time ago.

After business school and a law degree in Parma, he got a master's of law at Penn in 1999 and headed home to pursue politics.

But while at Penn, he threw himself into the culture of Philadelphia.

"I went to all the concerts," he said. "The opera. The orchestra. I attended the museums — all of the historical places in Philadelphia."

There was that wonderful night he saw famed Italian conductor Riccardo Muti at the Academy of Mu-



Andrea Canepari, the consul general of Italy in Philadelphia, studied law at the University of Pennsylvania in the late 1990s, and sought to be posted here. JENNIFER KERRIGAN / Staff Photographer

sic. "The Great Muti," he called him.

The night was all the more special because the academy is modeled after Milan's historic Teatro alla Scala opera house. "I mean it was emotional," he said.

But the city felt different then, he said. As if it was on the verge of something.

"There was not that vibrancy that you're feeling right now," he said. "Now it is much more alive. You felt the potentiality, but you did not see it at the time."

Three years ago, he was offered to choose among postings in Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco.

"I prefer Philadelphia," he said. "In Philadelphia, you feel a European atmosphere."

He found a changed city upon his return.

"You just feel it," he said. "You really see a vibe."

Canepari, 43, lives with his wife and their two children in the Naval Square area just south of Center City. He loves the new Schuylkill River Trail and the old-world-meets-millennials energy of Passunk Avenue. He's a huge fan of the Philly Pops.

"I do believe the Philly Pops are another demonstration of the great level of sophistication of the city," he said.

He's doing his best to sell Philly to his fellow countrymen, he said. But also to his fellow Philadelphians.

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ization as a hate group and called for a showdown. "First, 'hate' is always manifested not just with words but with deeds ...," he said. "If we are haters, why can't you show me some hateful act that we have done other than our telling the truth that exposes your lies and your deceit? So let's have the showdown. I love the term 'showdown.'"

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Staff writer Rob Tornoe contributed to this article.

Woman found in car overdosed

A 35-year-old Philadelphia woman who was found dead on Valentine's Day on a central Pennsylvania roadside — with no obvious injuries, or immediately evident cause of death — died of a drug overdose, police said.

Corinne Pena was found that Sunday morning by a passerby on Plainfield Road in Ferguson Township, Centre County, just southwest of Pennsylvania State University's main campus. Ferguson police announced Saturday that Pena appeared to have died from a drug overdose. It appears that a friend of Pena found her dead inside his home the night of Feb. 13, then drove her body to Plainfield Road and abandoned it, police said in a news release.

Final toxicology results are pending. Police said they are searching the car used to transport Pena's body and expect charges to be filed this week.

— Jonathan Lai

LOTTERIES

Multistate	New Jersey 609-599-5800
Feb. 20 Powerball 11 12 15 16 54 Powerball 25 Powerplay 05	Daily Drawings, Feb. 20 Pick 3 Afternoon 3 5 4 Pick 3 Evening 2 7 4 Pick 4 Afternoon 2 5 9 1 Pick 4 Evening 9 1 7 2 Jersey Cash 5 02 13 18 33 39
Feb. 19 Mega Millions 02 27 41 50 75 Mega Ball 04	Feb. 18 Pick 6 Xtra 10 11 14 18 29 31
Feb. 18 Cash 4 Life 21 24 37 38 49 Cash Ball 04	Delaware 302-739-5291 Daily Drawings, Feb. 20 Play 3 Afternoon 9 1 3 Play 3 Evening 2 0 1 Play 4 Afternoon 5 7 7 1 Play 4 Evening 0 9 6 2
Pennsylvania 1-800-692-7481 Daily Drawings, Feb. 20 Pick 2 Afternoon 0 2 Pick 2 Evening 1 1 Pick 3 Afternoon 7 6 4 Pick 3 Evening 6 8 6 Pick 4 Afternoon 3 9 8 0 Pick 4 Evening 2 8 5 7 Pick 5 Afternoon 0 5 9 9 8 Pick 5 Evening 3 1 2 2 7 Treasure Hunt 05 16 22 24 25 Cash 5 03 07 10 11 30	Feb. 19 Multi-Win Lotto 05 09 15 20 22 29 Feb. 20 Hot Lotto 05 12 27 35 38 Hot Ball 11 Feb. 18 Lucky for Life 05 16 21 26 41 Lucky Ball 02
Feb. 18 Match 6 08 12 18 19 25 45	

WHAT TO DO

Listings are published as space permits. Information must be received in writing by fax or e-mail at least two weeks before intended publication. Due to volume, information cannot be taken over the phone. Please include dates, times and locations of events, plus a phone number that can be called during weekday business hours for verification. All submissions should be sent to philly@event-source.com or faxed to 1-888-438-0043.

PHILADELPHIA

► **Building and Theater Tour**
Focusing on the Kimmel Center's history & architectural highlights. Kimmel Center, Broad & Spruce Sts., 215-893-1999. Free.

► **NBC The Voice Acoustic Concert** Free performance by "Voice" contestants Matt McAndrew, Jake Barker, Luke Wade, Braiden Sunshine, Matthew

Schuler, and Chance Pena. Xfinity Live! Philadelphia, 3601 S. Broad St. Free. 2/21. 5-7 pm.

► **The Philadelphia Home Show** More than 500 exhibits of home product and service purveyors show what's new in home-improvement possibilities. 215-418-2003. Convention Center, 1101 Arch St.; 215-418-4700. \$3-\$13; free for children 5 and under. 2/21.

BUCKS COUNTY

► **Sellersville: Leon Russell** Accomplished performer with five-decade career. Known for hits like "Tight Rope," "Back to the Island," and "Lady Blue." Sellersville Theater 1894, Main St. & Temple Ave. www.leonrussellrecords.com. \$39.50-\$55. 2/21. 7:30 p.m.

► **Bristol: Sunday Stroll**

Naturalist-led nature walk. Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Rd.; 215-785-1177. Free. 2/21. 2-3 p.m.

DELAWARE COUNTY

► **Wallingford: Dale O. Roberts Exhibition** Exhibition of encaustic paintings, paintings created from hot wax. Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd. Free. 2/21.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

► **Ardmore: Kaki King** The San Francisco Chronicle wrote that King's music "teems with life, coursing with wide-ranging emotional currents." Ardmore Music Hall, 23 E. Lancaster Ave.; 610-649-8389. www.kakiking.com. \$20-\$45. 2/21. 7:30 p.m.

From Italy to Phila., con amore

BY MIKE NEWALL



MIKE NEWALL

@MikeNewall

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