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FIELDS OF SCREAMS?

TREDYFFRIN – The township's proposal to require outside residents to pay more in order to use its athletic fields has drawn a mixed reaction.

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PARKING PLAN APPROVED

ARDMORE – Lower Merion commissioners last week approved a zoning code amendment clearing the way for new restaurants to count spaces in designated Ardmore public lots toward their required parking.

• PAGE 3 •

POOLING RESOURCES

LOWER MERION – Township commissioners and school directors will hold a joint meeting April 4 to discuss a combined venture to build a new indoor swimming pool.

PAGE 6 •

SIGNS OF SPRING

MAIN LINE – Check Sports for previews of high school girls lacrosse and baseball.

• PAGES 22-23 •

JUDDS, MOVE OVER

MERION – Deborajane Platzkere and Jennifer Snyder might be the Main Line's busiest and most multitalented mother and daughter. Their "jazz version of the Judds" show, *The Governors*, centers around their mother/daughter relationship and includes numbers spanning genre and time.

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Uncertain future for tax reform act

n Too many details and too few guarantees have school districts wary about the legislation.

By Noelle Via

Gov. Ed Rendell's law to lower school property taxes from gaming revenue, Act 72, received a unanimous vote of approval from the Senate, but has proved to be far less popular among school boards across the state. As of March 10, only four of the state's 501 districts have opted in to the legislation, with no support from Main Line schools.

Time for debate and information gathering is quickly coming to an end. The deadline for opting into the program is May 30.

Along the Main Line, opinion diverges.

Scott Shafer, Lower Merion School District's business manager, called Act 72 "one of the worst pieces of Pennsylvania legislation I've ever seen."

Judy Sherry, Radnor school board member, is in favor of the law and said, "I have not received one article in favor of Act 72, not

School forums on tap

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one." Sherry thinks school boards should be disseminating more neutral information about the law.

Act 72, which promises schools a cut of profits from gaming revenue, is not as simple as lowering property taxes.

The law requires a 0.1-percent raise in the earned income tax, or an implementation if the school districts lack such a tax. This shifts some of the tax burden off of those who own property and on to those who work.

According to Radnor Superintendent Gary Cooper, 36 percent of township residents rent and

See **REFORM**, Page 7

Radnor Middle School estimate: \$47.3 million

By Sam Strike

In a special meeting of the Radnor School Board last Thursday, members unanimously approved a comprehensive design and funding option for the future Radnor Middle School.

Option B, presented by Todd Buzard, director of pre-construction services at Reynolds Construction, was voted in at an estimated cost of \$47.3 million. The price is subject to changes by the project's architects and once bidding for alternate items takes place this summer.

Some items in the "cost adjustment," which totaled about

\$620,000, were originally in the three options offered to the board during the March 8 meeting.

Option A cost \$48.9 million and included all the adjustment items desired. Many have been reduced in size, and price, like cast stone detailing on the façade, which went from \$750,000 to \$550,000.

Total project costs include everything from the price to demolish the existing middle school to "soft costs," which cover utility connection fees, location studies and architectural

See **RADNOR**, Page 7

End to a great ride



Main Line Life photo — PETE BANNAN

Lower Merion senior Dan Capkin is overcome during the medals ceremony at Hersheypark Arena Saturday night after the Aces' electric post-season came to an end in the Class AAAA PIAA finals against Chester High. For the details, please turn to Page 19.

No 'roid rage in Main Line schools, but as for adults ...

By Anthony Roberts

In Mark McGwire's less-than-mea culpa before Congress last week, he said his heart went out to the parents of children who were victims of steroid abuse.

And Congress generated a statistic that 500,000 high school students have tried steroids – up threefold from a decade ago – as justification for spending more than 11 hours tackling the issue on national television with some of baseball's biggest names.

Congressional posturing aside, the health risks associated with steroids are not overstated, according to a prominent Main Line physician.

Dr. David Rubenstein, director of sports medicine at Lankenau Hospital and team doctor for the Arena Football League's

Philadelphia Soul, said use among Main Line youth is less prevalent than in other areas.

However, he said, in searching for causes for the national spike in steroid use, you need look no further than the Web.

"Now it's the Internet," he said in a recent interview. "Before, typically one kid or an assistant coach or somebody that had access would spread them around ... there was a different philosophy then, and there were still some coaches or trainers who thought it was OK."

Today, Rubenstein sees patients in their late 20s and early 30s who finally admit to using steroids in the past. These same patients often denied it to him a decade earlier when he saw the

In Our Life



Main Line Life photo — PETE BANNAN

Dr. David Rubenstein says that the consequences of steroids are often delayed for years.

See **STERIODS**, Page 7

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