

PICTURE THIS

Winners of this week's photo competition. A3.



FAMILY PRIDE

Brothers from New Florence take spots in ACC tournament. B1.



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MONDAY

\$1.00 NEWSSTAND

MARCH 7, 2016

'Bigger than these scars'

Priest calls for reform following AG report

BY DAVID HURST

Standing inside Our Mother of Sorrows' stained glass doors before Sunday Mass, Rick Messina had no trouble finding words to describe his reaction to new details released last week regarding decades of years-old child abuse by local Roman Catholic clergy.

The OMOS parishioner called it a striking reminder that "horrible and disgusting" things happened for far too long in churches like his.

"The victims and their families need to heal - and we as a Catholic community need to learn from this and move forward."

RICK MESSINA, OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS PARISHIONER

As hard as it was to hear, it was also a necessary reminder, he said.

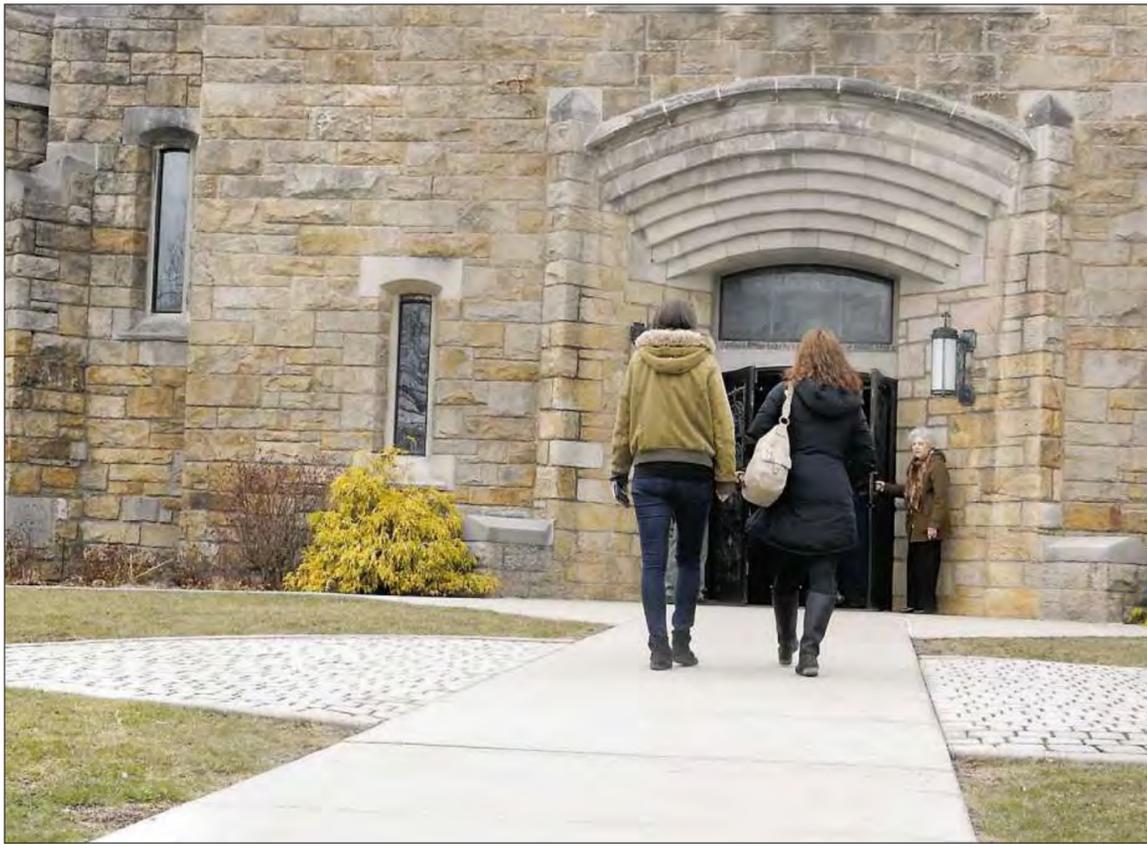
"It's sad that things that happened so many years ago are taking away from the beautiful things that are happening in this church," Messina said.

"But it's happening right now because it needs to.

"This has to be out in the open so we can learn from it and people can heal."

He was among parishioners Sunday who said the decades-long scandal has hung over the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and its

Please see REFORM, A2



Parishioners at Our Mother of Sorrows in Westmont walk to the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday morning.

DAVID HURST/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

Kiniry resigns from Bishop McCort board

BY DAVID HURST

A Cambria County judge - and former prosecutor - has resigned from Bishop McCort's trustees board, chairman Mark Pasquerilla said Sunday.

Fellow trustees accepted Patrick T. Kiniry's resignation, "effective immediately," Pasquerilla said - and just days after a state Attorney General's Office report portrayed current and former local law enforcement leaders - including Kiniry in one 1985 case - as alleged conspirators in efforts to keep child sexual abuse scandals under wraps.

McCort's trustees board made the announcement of Kiniry's resignation in a single, one-sentence paragraph sent to The Tribune-Democrat on Sunday.

Kiniry confirmed his resignation, but said he was not yet prepared to comment on the decision behind it in a late Sunday interview.

He was named in the state Attorney General's Office report regarding the investigation of the late Msgr. Francis

McCaa, who served for more than two decades at Ebensburg's Holy Name Catholic Church until 1985. The report called McCaa "a monster" who groped and fondled as many as 15 juvenile victims at the church - and cited then-Bishop James Hogan's own notes indicating the late bishop had full knowledge of the acts.

Kiniry, then an assistant district attorney, met with Hogan to discuss the matter in November 1985 after also meeting with concerned Holy Name parents - and the sides "agreed" to have McCaa pulled from the church and given psychiatric counseling, the report details.

"Back then, the diocese moved the problem, that is just how it was," Kiniry allegedly told state investigators.

While Kiniry declined comment Sun-



Kiniry

day, he has discussed the well-known case with The Tribune-Democrat before.

When McCaa resigned due to "unspecified allegations" in late 1985, Kiniry confirmed he and a fellow assistant district attorney met with Holy Name parents a few weeks earlier. No further investigation was planned as a follow-up, he indicated in a Dec. 17, 1985, article.

Kiniry offered more details 17 years later, at a time when priest sex abuse scandals were making headlines nationwide.

In a 2002 article, he said the parents involved wanted rid of McCaa but didn't want their children in the spotlight of what would have been a high-profile criminal case.

"You have to understand that it was a different time," Kiniry said in 2002.

"Then, more so than now, people were opposed to subjecting children to the exposure that a case like that would bring.

Please see KINIRY, A2

Nancy Reagan dies at age 94

BY CHRISTOPHER WEBER

LOS ANGELES - Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president - and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease - has died.



Reagan

She was 94. The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining.

By the time she moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she was a behind-the-scenes "dragon lady" wielding unchecked power over the Reagan administration - and doing it based on astrology to boot.

All along she maintained that her only mission was to back her "Ronnie" and strengthen his presidency.

Mrs. Reagan carried that charge through the rest of her days. She served as a full-time caretaker as Alzheimer's melted away her husband's memory.

Please see REAGAN, A2

Republicans move to retake attorney general's office

BY JOHN FINNERTY

HARRISBURG - The Republican contest for attorney general pits a former high-level drug investigator against a longtime state senator from the Philadelphia suburbs.

State Sen. John Rafferty, R-Chester, has the party's endorsement in an April 26 primary against Joe Peters, from Lackawanna County, who was briefly employed as director of communications for outgoing Attorney General Kathleen Kane.

Kane is not seeking a second term as she fights criminal charges that she leaked grand jury secrets, and as House lawmakers mull impeach-

ment proceedings against her.

Rafferty and Peters are seeking the GOP nomination to try to reclaim the office for their party and keep Kane as the only Democrat to hold the \$158,764 a year post.

Before her election in 2012, Republicans had a lock on the attorney general's office, winning every election since a 1980 law gave voters the power to pick the state's top law enforcement officer.

Peters hopes to cast the campaign as a contrast between himself as a career cop, and Rafferty as a career politician.

Please see RETAKE, A2

"I like the guy, and you want everyone to like you, but the office of attorney general is supposed to be independent. You can't serve two masters. You either serve the people, or you serve a political agenda."

STEPHEN ZAPPALA JR., ALLEGHENY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Three angling to grab Democratic nomination

BY JOHN FINNERTY

HARRISBURG - Prosecutors from two of the state's biggest counties and a well-connected commissioner from the Philadelphia suburbs are vying for the Democratic nomination to replace outgoing Attorney General Kathleen Kane - and to keep the office in the party's hands.

Stephen Zappala Jr., district attorney in Allegheny County, and John Morganelli, the prosecutor in Northamp-

ton County, are both looking to step up into the statewide role, which pays \$158,764 a year.

Montgomery County Commissioner Josh Shapiro is the third candidate on the April 26 Democratic ballot.

He's running with the backing of first-term Gov. Tom Wolf.

All three are looking for the right to represent Democrats in a bid to hold the office.

Please see ANGLING, A2

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LOCAL

Women's Showcase, Basket Bash set for center. A5

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NATION

Clinton, Sanders square off in Dem debate. A5



WEATHER

Partly sunny, warmer and breezy. High 57, low 43. Five-day forecast/B8

