



REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

See what homes, businesses and properties are being sold throughout the area. **Page 16.**



'HERE & NOW'

The exhibit "Sharif Bey: Here & Now" is on display at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild. **Page 19.**



FUN AND GAMES

Do you puzzle over crosswords? Struggle with Sudoku? Keep on gaming. **Page 24.**

THE TIMES EXPRESS

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Thursday, December 26, 2013

MONROEVILLE • PITCAIRN BOROUGH

An edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW with **Pennysaver**
CLASSIFIEDS

INSIDE

YMCA donations

Officials with the East Suburban YMCA are looking to leverage end-of-year donations to unlock more money for an expansion project. **Page 4.**



Stepping down

After 28 years on Pitcairn Council, Patsy Pizzuto stepped down from local government. **Page 6.**

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Lending a hand



ALISA JACOBSON | FOR THE TIMES EXPRESS

The Knights of Columbus Pius XII Council distributed food to families in need on Saturday. Bob Condrac, Nick Fiasco and John Yakim prepare to head out for deliveries.

SOUR NOTE?

Hindus upset by church's Indian music program

BY KYLE LAWSON

With five Hindu temples in the region, it's fairly common for Indian cultural programs to be staged in the greater Pittsburgh area.

However, some local Hindus say that a recent Indian music program was a thinly veiled attempt by a Monroeville church to convert members of their faith to Christianity.

On Friday, Monroeville Assembly of God on Old William Penn Highway invited the public to watch people of Indian descent perform traditional Indian music. Although Qawwali music traditionally features lyrics about man's inner search for the divine, the performers — who are members of a nondenominational Christian church

HINDU • 12

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Hindus upset by Assembly of God's Indian music program

HINDU • FROM 1

in Maryland — instead sang about Jesus Christ.

The show was organized by Pastor Abraham Simon, who is of Indian descent and was hired this year to fill the position of "Indian pastor," according to an online Assembly of God church bulletin.

Simon said he hoped to attract residents of Indian descent, with both short-term and long-term goals in mind.

"First and foremost, (the goal) is to engage them, to know them," Simon said. "And in the long run, we'll try to reach to them."

"One thing is very clear, if we try to make it too religious from the outset, they might shy away."

Members of the Hindu Jain Temple in Monroe-

ville weren't shy with their reaction. They said they're fed up with Christians trying to convert members of their religion.

"This is the kind of activity that needs to be banned," said Harilal Patel of the Hindu Jain Temple. Patel represents the Hindu community on the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium.

The news release for the show welcomed anyone, "especially those of Indian descent," to attend.

"We're not looking for people in the temples, like 'Oh leave there,'" said Kay Gardone, spokeswoman for Monroeville Assembly of God. "But we're giving them another choice, letting them know what else is out there."

On multiple occasions over the last 30 years, mem-



LILLIAN DEDOMENIC | FOR THE TIMES EXPRESS

Indian Musical Night at the Monroeville Assembly of God featured traditional Indian music and dance on Friday.

bers of some Christian churches and Jehovah's Witnesses have "harassed" Hindus both inside and outside of their temples with fliers, informational CDs and unannounced visits at local temples, Patel said.

"They've found that Hindus are more gullible," Patel said. "Tell them to go

to the (Islamic) mosque."

Patel said that Jehovah's Witnesses have waited outside of temples, which are private property, to speak with worshipers as they walk to their cars. He said that both he and the priest at Hindu Jain received informational CDs from Monroeville Assembly of God in their mailbox last

summer.

"This is the kind of activity that needs to be banned," Patel said.

But the issue should be viewed from both sides, said Matthew Sayers, an assistant professor of religion at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Lebanon County.

"If we are generous, we

should assume that the Christians are motivated by love and a true concern for the immortal souls of the Hindus," Sayers said. "But we also need to consider how a pluralistic society requires of us to respect others, especially if we disagree with them."

Religion professor Deepak Saarma of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland said the issue is not so black and white.

"The issue is an interesting one and has very complicated echoes in Indian history, where Christians were stereotyped as converting low-caste Hindus through bribery," Saarma said.

But the idea that Hindus do not try convert others is "largely a new one told by contemporary Hindus," he said. "There is a long history, for example, of attempts by Hindus to convert others through the use of intellectual and philosophical debate."

Lance Lecocq, head pastor of Monroeville

RELIGION • 13

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John J. Catone

FORMERLY OF MONROEVILLE

John J. Catone, formerly of Monroeville, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013, in Coffeyville, Kan. John was a teacher and coach at East Allegheny School District. Please join the family of John J. Catone for a memorial Mass at 11 a.m. Saturday, in Madonna Del Castello Church, Swissvale.

Eugenia (Tonet)

Gregowich
MONROEVILLE

Eugenia "Dolly" (Tonet) Gregowich, 90, of Monroeville, died Friday, Dec. 20, 2013. She was the beloved wife of the late George; mother of the late Lisa Poorman (surviving husband, Greg); sister of the late Angelo (Anna), Sylvester, Rose, Vic (Julie), John (Esther) and Ernest (Josephine) Tonet, Josephine (Quinto) De-

Munari, Florence (Pasquale) Ruggiero and Edith (Charles) Kritzman; aunt of the late Father James Ruggiero. Dolly is survived by many loving nieces and nephews; and her sister-in-law, Virginia Gregowich. Dolly was a great cook and baker, and really loved her family and her home. We would like to thank our special friends of the family for their love and devotion to Dolly over the years, Bev and Josh Ohrman and Patty, Cyndi and Chrissy Costa. Friends were received at the GENE H. CORL INC. FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATION SERVICES OF MONROEVILLE, 4335 Northern Pike. A Mass of Christian Burial was held in St. Bernadette Church, with Father Tony Gargotta as celebrant. Interment followed in Cross Roads Cemetery. Corl Family Directors, 412-372-2100, www.corlfuneralchapel.com.

[corlfuneralchapel.com](http://www.corlfuneralchapel.com).

Frances (Kavran) Mochan

MONROEVILLE

Frances (Kavran) Mochan, 98, of Monroeville and Rockledge, Fla., died Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2013. She was a member of St. Jude the Apostle Church in Wilmerding. She was a daughter of the late Joseph and Clara (Sintic) Kavran; wife of the late Joseph Mochan; beloved mother of Robert Mochan, Jean Kissel, Andrew Mochan and Gerald "Jerry" Mochan; dear sister of Clara (Dominic) Parisi, the late Catherine (Joseph) Vana, Anne (James) Schredl, Margaret (Carl) Reiss, Rose (Peter) Latch and William Kavran; and is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. There will be no visitation. ALFIERI FUNERAL HOME INC., Wilmerding, 412-824-4332.