

Scranton Mayors' Annual Prayer Breakfast frames the future

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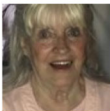
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Former Scranton mayor Jimmy Connors looks on at the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019. Christopher Dolan / Staff Photographer



BY JIM LOCKWOOD, STAFF WRITER / PUBLISHED: OCTOBER 24, 2019

SCRANTON — Speakers at the 57th annual Mayors' Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday called for continued support for the city's vibrant arts community.

With a theme of "Framing the Future," the interfaith event hosted by nonprofit Scranton

Tomorrow at the Radisson at Lackawanna Station hotel spotlighted the importance of developing and sustaining the arts. The annual interfaith event began in 1963 to help break down barriers by bringing together a broad cross-section of the community.

Calling himself a longtime patron of the arts, Mayor Wayne Evans said he has a deep appreciation for the vital role arts play in the city. He cited the Scranton Jazz Festival, Scranton Fringe Festival, public art initiatives and a mayor's advisory committee on the arts as a few examples of the community's ongoing commitment to the arts.



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Friday Playlist: Candy Songs

Welcome to this week's edition of Friday Playlist where members of the Times-Tribune staff submit their music picks based on a theme. (read more)



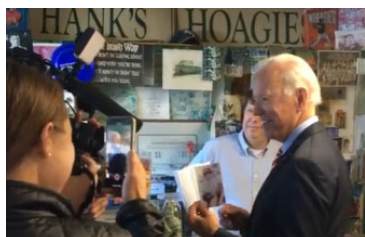
90 Years Ago - Stock market stabilizes some after chaotic trading the day before

After the frantic selling of 12.9 million shares the previous day on the New York Stock Exchange, stock prices seemed to stabilize because of massive purchases by large banks. (read more)



In Scranton, Biden says Trump doesn't understand the struggles of the middle class

SCRANTON — Rallying supporters gathered in his hometown, Joe Biden painted President Donald Trump as an enemy of the middle class unable to understand the struggles of working people. (read more)



“Enriching our lives culturally, spiritually and economically, the arts are — and always have been — integral to the lifeblood of our city,” Evans said. “As public officials, we have a responsibility to foster and grow the arts within our community ... with the understanding that the arts should always, and I mean always, transcend politics.”

Evans also cited a quote attributed to John F. Kennedy: “If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him.”

Evans added, “I do hope that our city continues to embrace and support the arts, leaving our artists free to follow their vision wherever it takes them.”

Keynote speaker Sondra Myers, a senior fellow for international, civic and cultural projects and director of the Schemel Forum at the University of Scranton, spoke of the integration of culture into public policy in the nation, as well as the strengthening of the culture of democracy worldwide. An author and frequent lecturer on the arts, humanities and civil society, Myers also said the forward-thinking theme of the prayer breakfast reflected the role of Scranton Tomorrow, which she said lives up to its name daily.

“The sacred responsibility that we have is to work toward progress, to defy, to reject corruption, and use our creativity, our imaginations, our capacities for innovation, (and) our courage to choose a better tomorrow,” Myers said.

The Scranton High School Knight Rhythms, under the direction of Lisa McConlogue, sang three songs.

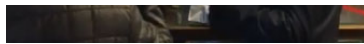
About 520 people attended, said Scranton Tomorrow Executive Director Leslie Collins.



Lackawanna County Judge Andrew Jarbola and former Scranton Mayor Gene Peters also recalled the life and legacies of former mayor and longtime county Judge James J. Walsh, who died in July at age 88. Known as a maverick mayor during the turbulent 1960s, Walsh later became Lackawanna County president judge and was one of the county's best known and respected public officials for decades.

Although he only served one term, Walsh's many initiatives included parking, sewer, parks, pools, road and bridge projects still used today, Jarbola said. Walsh also took the mayoral oath of office on the steps of City Hall, a tradition that also continues.

Jarbola also spoke of owing his career to Walsh, who hired him as a clerk fresh out of law school in 1985. Over the years, they maintained a close professional and personal



Biden visits Scranton childhood home, hoagie shop

SCRANTON — After rousing a crowd of 400 people Wednesday morning at the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple, former Vice President Joe Biden stepped out of a silver Cadillac onto a quiet Green Ridge sidewalk and climbed the steps of his childhood home. (read more)



Scranton mayor candidates profiles: Paige Cognetti

Paige Cognetti expected to earn a living as a college English professor. Then, President George W. Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq in 2003. (read more)



Scranton mayor candidates profiles: Chris Cullen

In the Scranton mayor's race, Democratic attorney Chris Cullen represents the party insider who turned into an outsider and then, unexpectedly, into the party's nominee for mayor. (read more)



relationship.

"Some people call Judge Walsh a maverick because he always tried to do things his way. But, he always did it with the mindset of doing it for the betterment of the city of Scranton," Jarbola said. "When Jim Walsh put his mind to something, he would do anything and everything that he could, but he always did it with the city's best interest in mind."

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13-year-old boy dies in Scranton fire

A 13-year-old boy died Thursday in a fire that destroyed a Scranton home. Brandin Churmblo, a Northeast Intermediate eighth grader, was missing after fire broke out at 2007 Wayne Ave., a double home, at 5 a.m. Thursday. (read more)

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CLARKS SUMMIT Two men face simple assault and other charges after a weekend fight sent one of them crashing through a glass door, borough police said. (read more)

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Authorities investigating Green Ridge fire

SCRANTON Authorities are investigating a structure fire that occurred early Thursday in

Tunkhannock man guilty of drug delivery resulting in death

SCRANTON A federal jury found a 31-year-old Tunkhannock man guilty of drug delivery