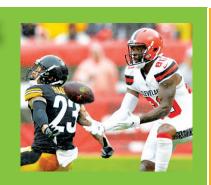


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SHAMOKIN NEWS-DISPATCH & MOUNT CARMEL ITEM

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THE NEWS-ITEM

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Historical gem

NCCAC building, an architectural work of art

BY CHRIS J. GREGO THE NEWS-ITEM chris_g@newsitem.com

SHAMOKIN — Situated on a hillside near the top of Arch Street between Grant and Eighth lies yet another architectural wonder that still stands in the city of Shamokin. The building known today as the Northumberland County Career and Arts Center (NCCAC) formerly served as the Shamokin High School (SHS) for 60 years, from its opening in 1915 until 1975, when construction of the present Shamokin Area High School (SAHS) building in Coal Township was completed.

Today, the NCCAC building serves the entire county as a multi-purpose educational and cultural center for the arts and humanities. Yet a walk-through of this local architectural wonder takes one back to a bye-gone era when schools and other buildings were designed as much for their beauty as the purpose for which they served. It was a balance of form and function, which seems

to have been lost in many of today's cookie-cutter designs. **Architectural wonder**

The architect of the former Shamokin High School was William Harold Lee, who also designed Shamokin's one-of-akind 2,000-seat showplace, the former Victoria Theatre, which was built two years later in 1917. A National Historic Landmark, "The Vickie" as it was known, was sadly demolished in 1999.

During his career Lee would go on to design some of the most $\,$ architecturally impressive movie theaters in Pennsylvania. Yet one of his first projects was the for-

mer Shamokin High School. The NCCAC building is an expertly crafted mixture of stained glass, wood, plaster, marble and brass. But beyond the obvious architectural elements, the building also contains many hidden gems, all of which hearken back to a time long gone.

The arched marble foyer

entrance located on the Arch Building, Page A8



View inside marble foyer looking toward the stairwell of the Northumberland County Career and Arts Center in Shamokin.



Arts Center auditorium.



Ground level illuminated view of the Northumberland County Career and Sunlight from stained glass plates reflects upon the darkened marble slabs inside the grand foyer

Schuylkill Co. man wanted in MC Twp. after gunshot fired

BY STEPHANIE BETTICK THE NEWS-ITEM stephanie_b@newsitem.com

MOUNT CARMEL—A 24-year-old Schuylkill County man is wanted by Mount Carmel Township Police Department in relation to an altercation Sunday afternoon at Choice Cigarette Discount Outlet during which a shot was reportedly

Charges are pending against Jared Azar, 24, in

Wanted, Page A6



Mount Carmel Township Police Department is seeking information on a man believed to have fired a shot at **Choice Discount Cigarette Outlet Sunday afternoon.**

Strengthening Hurricane Florence takes aim at US

BY RUSS BYNUM ASSOCIATED PRESS

A rapidly strengthening Hurricane Florence churned across the Atlantic on Sunday toward a possible direct hit on the U.S. Southeast late this week, triggering warnings to people up and down the coast to get their emergency kits ready, map out escape routes and fill sandbags.

Red flags flying on beaches warned swimmers to stay out of waters already roiled by the distant storm, and cruise ships and Navy vessels were set to be steered out of harm's way. People rushed to buy bottled water, plywood and other supplies.



This enhanced satellite image made available by NOAA shows Tropical Storm Florence, center, in the Atlantic Ocean Saturday.

Florence crossed the 74 mph threshold from tropical storm to hurricane Sunday morning, and by evening its winds and remain that way were up to 85 mph as the National Hurricane

Center warned it was expected to become an extremely dangerous major hurricane today

Florence, Page A6

Flood watch to end tonight

BY STEPHANIE BETTICK

THE NEWS-ITEM stephanie_b@newsitem.com

The remnants of Hurricane Gordon will make its way out of the area late tonight, ending the National

Flood, Page A6

WEATHER

Heavy storms warmer 70° / 61° Page A8



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