

YORK SUNDAY NEWS

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She TAUGHT the boys to FLY

\$10 led to an aviation career during WW II, world travel and more



By JEFF FRANTZ
Daily Record/Sunday News

Susan Smith was just out of college and teaching foreign languages in 1942, an emergency replacement because the regular teacher had just gone off to war.

Every morning her father, a doctor, would give her a ride to York Collegiate Institute — what is today York College — then pick her up on his way home. She wasn't sure teaching would be her way in the world, and she wasn't sure she would be getting married soon, like so many other women did then.

One day, her father set \$10 on the kitchen table. Her brother had recently started taking flying lessons. Why don't you go out to the airport, he told her, and see what's going on?

More on 4A

- Platts honors Rodriguez on House floor
- Local Veterans Day events

Rodriguez, 90, living in Bethesda, Md. — to teach American boys how to fly, to a newly liberated Paris

and to the Moroccan coast before World War II was done.

Look down at that pylon, the instructor told Smith the first time she flew. Curve around it, and double back.

She had to gauge her place in the air and keep the plane level. By the time she had finished the turn, she was hooked.

In 1943, she bought a share of a 65 horsepower plane that flew from the airport in Thomasville.

See FLY, page 4A



Susan (Smith) Rodriguez

Age: 90
Birthplace: York
Resides: Bethesda, Md.
Education: Bachelor's degree from Vassar College; intensive French courses at McGill University
Family: Husband, Alfonso Rodriguez, died in 2001. Children, Eric, Allen, Susan and Bess.

Susan Rodriguez, who grew up in York County, recalls qualifying for her pilot's license, becoming a flight instructor during WWII and teaching servicemen to fly. Now 90, she lives in Bethesda, Md.
DAILY RECORD / SUNDAY NEWS — PAUL KUEHNEL

400 FOR JOE



Joe Paterno is carried to the middle of the field Saturday at Beaver Stadium following his 400th victory. The Nittany Lions came back from a 21-0 deficit to defeat Northwestern, 35-21.
DAILY RECORD / SUNDAY NEWS — JASON PLOTKIN

Paterno hits career milestone in dramatic win

By JIM SEIP
Daily Record/Sunday News

STATE COLLEGE — Penn State quarterback Matt McGloin had just led his team to victory in record-breaking fashion, orchestrating the biggest comeback at Beaver Stadium under legendary head coach Joe Paterno.

The Nittany Lions had overcome a three-touchdown deficit to beat Northwestern, 35-21. The unexpected turnaround allowed Paterno to record his 400th career victory Saturday.

A former walk-on, McGloin stood away from the fray with the game ball — something he wanted to present to Paterno. He



DAILY RECORD / SUNDAY NEWS — JASON PLOTKIN

could barely see him. And as players lifted Paterno onto their shoulders, McGloin had one thought: "Oh please don't drop him."

"But they had to carry him off," McGloin said about Penn State's 83-year-old coach.

See JOE, page 5A

PSU fans get in the spirit of Joe Paterno's 400th victory at Saturday's game against Northwestern.

Milestone wins

No. 1
Sept. 17, 1966 — Penn State 15, Maryland 7

No. 100
Nov. 6, 1976 — Penn State 21, N.C. State 17

No. 200
Sept. 5, 1987 — Penn State 45, Bowling Green 19

No. 300
Sept. 12, 1998 — Penn State 48, Bowling Green 3

No. 400
Nov. 6, 2010 — Penn State 35, Northwestern 21

More inside

- See past milestones, other winning coaches, 5A
- Full game coverage, 1D

Property tax reform

Voting effect murky

Republicans soon will control the state House legislature and the governor's seat, but it's not clear yet what that means for your tax bill.

By TOM JOYCE
Daily Record/Sunday News

Jessica Buck of Shrewsbury said she and her husband, Daniel Eckhard, used to go out every week or so. Nothing fancy. Just someplace where they could hear some bluegrass.

No more. Now they're lucky if they can get out more than once a month. The reason mainly comes down to their property tax payments, Buck said.

About four years ago, a reassessment doubled the value of their home. Now they pay about \$4,000 a year.

During the campaign season that concluded with Tuesday's election, candidates were trying to get through to people like Buck. Whether they were Democrats, Republicans or third-party candidates, everyone from York County who was running for state office made property tax reform a major part of his or her campaign.

So will things be different now that the election is over?

The political situation in York County is essentially unchanged, with all incumbents for state offices retaining their seats. But circumstances in Harrisburg will be very different come January, with Republican Tom Corbett taking over after eight years of a Democratic governor, and Republicans in the House joining their colleagues in the Senate as the majority party.

State Rep. Stan Saylor, R-Windsor Township, who defeated Democratic challenger

See TAX, page 4A

Inside

U.S. Rep. Todd Platts rises in seniority, 4A.

Did you forget?



Turn your clocks back one hour.

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Year 83, No. 45; York, Pa.
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Honored for his bravery

Spc. Ryan Walton was given a medal for helping Fort Hood wounded.

By TED CZECH
Daily Record/Sunday News

What Ryan Walton did that day at Fort Hood came naturally — he found soldiers who had been wounded in a shooting rampage and knew he could help them, he said.

Walton, 24, a U.S. Army specialist and York County native, received the Meritorious Service Medal on Friday at Fort Hood in Texas, for treating numerous wounded victims in the shooting massacre there a year ago.

But while he is grateful to receive the award, his actions — and those of others that day — are what's really important, he said.

See SOLDIER, page 6A

The medal

The Meritorious Service Medal is gold, with a star and eagle embossed on its front, and has a cranberry and white ribbon. The medal is just below the Purple Heart in the hierarchy of U.S. military awards.



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