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PERSPECTIVE

Prominent Lancaster County residents recommend books to read this summer.

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SPORTS

Chris Maiorino tackles role as Lancaster Catholic's new football coach amid pandemic challenges.

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Independence Day 2020 finds Americans **confronting a legacy of racial injustice that conflicts with our founding ideals.**

As many take to the streets, a powerful song from 120 years ago, of liberty and oppression, resonates today, asking:

WHAT DOES AMERICA MEAN?

A REPORTED ESSAY BY JEFF HAWKES | JHAWKES@LNPNEWS.COM

A song widely beloved by African Americans opens with a call to all people. "Lift ev'ry voice," it says, "and sing." Sing loud, it implores, loud as the rolling sea. Often referred to as the Black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is a century-old masterpiece that speaks to America today.

Written by Black brothers living under Jim Crow's codified oppression, the song balances two truths: the aspirational "harmonies of Liberty" and the suffering that Black people endured as slaves and second-class citizens.

The song is blunt about the violence. It references the "chastening rod" and "blood of the slaughtered."

But that reality didn't cause brothers James and J. Rosamond Johnson to lose faith in "the rising sun of our

new day."

Our history is rooted in contradictions from its founding. Moving toward an honest reckoning with that past is where America unexpectedly finds itself this Fourth of July.

"Lift Every Voice" invites us to greater understanding.

"It's a rich song that speaks to what we're going through today, reminding us all, white and Black, what it is we are trying to overcome," said Catherine Williams, an as-

SONG, page A8

ABOUT THE SONG

'LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING'

THE WRITERS: James Weldon Johnson wrote it as a poem, and his brother, John Rosamond Johnson, set the words to music.

FIRST PERFORMANCE: By a choir of 500 children at a segregated school in Jacksonville, Florida, on Feb. 12, 1900, during a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

STATUS: It became the official song of the NAACP in 1919.

ACCEPTANCE: It can be found in the hymnals of nearly 30 Christian denominations. Performers have ranged from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to Beyoncé at Coachella.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Protest demands capture city's ear

Mayor, council taking steps to increase accountability

ABIGAIL KING
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For the past month, protesters have taken to streets throughout Lancaster County to fight racial injustice.

For days in the beginning of June, hundreds of people camped out across the street from the Lancaster city police station, chanted in front of Lancaster County Prison and kneeled in the center of Penn Square. Protests followed throughout the county, from Lititz to Quarryville.

While national protests were spurred by the death of George Floyd, a Black man killed by police in Minneapolis, protesters in Lancaster County expressed their own grievances against institutionalized racism and police brutality against Black residents and others in their community.

Interactive posters popped up in the Art Park, located next to the Lancaster police station at Chestnut and Prince streets. Among other things, demonstrators were able to write on the posters what changes they wanted to see. They also were given opportunities to share their demands with elected officials during a City Council town hall and a meeting with U.S. Sen. Bob Casey.

PROTEST, page A9



TOM MURSE
FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

LNP to resume printing in Lancaster County

Dear readers,

We have exciting news. After more than a year of planning, testing and work, LNP will begin printing its newspaper on a state-of-the-art press in Lancaster County this week.

The production of a section of Wednesday's newspaper on our new press, in the Greenfield Corporate Center in East Lampeter Township, will mark the first step in resuming our print operations here for the first time since 2015.

By month's end, LNP will print its entire newspaper on the new press.

"The completion of this significant press facility marks a milestone in Steinman Communications' commitment to local journalism in Lancaster County at a time where many local communities are losing their newspaper," said Caroline Muraro, president of LNP Media Group, which publishes LNP.

"I am very proud of our team and organization for their hard work and

MURSE, page A5



People gather for a Black Lives Matter rally June 13 in Quarryville.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / PATRICK BLAIN | LNP CORRESPONDENT