

the book at Mr. Williams. It upon further reflection, the Estep showed mercy. Mr. Williams screwed up, the judge pronounced. He needed help. I'm not here to persecute the judge said. "I'm 72; he's I'd like to see him get on the track. The poor guy needs help." That's a remarkable attitude, obviously borne of the wisdom George Estep acquired in his

That said, this week is prime-time for drunken driving, with New Year's Eve and its traditional bacchanalian celebration resulting in lots of impaired drivers taking to the road.

A little advice: If you don't want to have to put yourself at the mercy of the court, don't do it. Appoint a designated driver or take a cab.

You might not get any mercy.

**HATS OFF**

**Gift givers lauded**

I would like to thank the students of York Township Elementary school for hand making more than 100 Christmas cards to accompany gifts donated to seniors through "Be a Santa to a Senior" program. Each year the names of isolated seniors are collected in area nursing homes and non-profit agencies. Gift ideas are written on a bulb and hung on a tree. Participating businesses such as Scoop's at the Galleria, and the Orthopedic Spine Specialists display a

tree with the bulbs. The good citizens of York select a bulb and buy or donate the present.

This year more than 800 items were collected for the seniors. Non-profit agencies and Home Instead Senior Care will finish the delivery of all presents this week. For many York seniors the gift and the card may be the only ones they receive this year. We thank all of you that contributed unselfishly and helped bring surprise and joy to their lives.

**DOUG HEVNER  
OWNER  
HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE**

**OUR POLICY**

The Daily Record welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be fewer than 300 words — 200 for Hats Off and election letters. All letters should include the writer's full name, address and telephone number for verification.

Letters may be edited for brevity, clarity and taste. Please limit submissions to one per month.

Mail to: Letters to the Editor, York Daily Record, 1891 Loucks Road, York, PA 17408.

Fax: 771-2009.  
E-mail: letters@ydr.com.

**MORE ONLINE**

The York Daily Record/Sunday News offers many options to read and share opinions on the Web at [inyork.com/ydr](http://inyork.com/ydr).  
 ■ Comment on stories, letters, editorials and columns instantly with our online commenting feature. Just scroll to the bottom of each story, type your comment and click on "Post Comment."  
 ■ Read comments on a variety of topics at [yorkblog.com](http://yorkblog.com).  
 ■ Have good news to share about someone or something in York County? **Twitter** to let people know by including the hashtag #yorkparoses. Your "Rose" show up on the opinion page at [inyork.com/ydr](http://inyork.com/ydr)

**Bioswales can help the bay**

This semester at Penn State University I am taking a class on sustainability and we have been conducting a semester-long project to promote sustainability ideas to the public.

My focus was on suggesting the implementation of bioswales in areas where stormwater management and runoff is an issue. A bioswale is essentially a ditch that is planted with native and ornamental plant life that collects runoff water and cleanses it of toxins before the water enters creeks, streams and rivers. My principal concern is the quality of water that's entering local streams and eventually entering the Chesapeake Bay.

It is no secret that the state of the Chesapeake Bay continues to be dismal, as are the efforts of local governments and communities to combat this problem. In addition to relieving overtaxed sewer systems, reducing or eliminating flooding, and minimizing erosion, bioswales serve as a buffer for the harmful pollutants that enter our streams and rivers and eventually end up in the Chesapeake Bay.

Upstream urban areas like York play a leading role in the health of the bay, especially considering all the farming in the county. Two of the primary pollutants of the Chesapeake are nitrogen and phosphorus. The majority of these pollutants come from fertilizers used by farmers and many local homeowners. These pollutants are causing potentially catastrophic algal blooms in

**LETTERS**

the Chesapeake. These algal blooms cause an oxygen deficiency in the water which can kill large numbers of fish and marine life.

I propose that the first step to mollifying the ongoing problems with the Chesapeake Bay is to install bioswales adjacent to all watersheds that receive runoff from farms and urban areas. The use of bioswales along with responsible fertilizing practices will certainly help us save the bay.

**JOSEPH BOWSER  
STATE COLLEGE**

**Reconsider closing day care**

On Dec. 4, parents of children in Learning Tree Child Care were notified the daycare program will be closing by Feb. 28, 2010. This program was supported by Lutheran Social Services for more than 25 years. The decision was made by their governing board "due to the current inconsistent economy."

As a parent of three children who have attended Learning Tree, I find closing the daycare to be an unacceptable decision. During a poor economy, it is imperative that programs are maintained to allow working families to continue to have safe, reliable, high-quality care for their children. There is a waiting list to get a child enrolled into many local programs. Recently, I contacted a local child care facility only to find out I am on their waiting list from three years ago with an opening still unavailable. This certainly implies a shortage of suitable daycare. While

York Daily Record  
Monday 28 December 2009