



## BIRD-BANDING

Bangor man puts up boxes for birds in Monroe and Northampton counties, checking their health and applying tags

See photos on Page B1

## BASKING IN THE SUN

John Serrao looks at the Poconos' two species of lizards

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# Sunday POCONO RECORD

SUNDAY  
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## Police use tear gas to end 7-hour standoff

By MICHAEL SADOWSKI

Pocono Record Writer

**MARSHALLS CREEK** — The man who fired shots at police from his rented cottage is in the hospital after police used non-lethal force to end a seven-hour standoff Saturday morning and afternoon.

Police said Joseph Frank Sarcone Jr., 51, was taken to Pocono Medical Center for evaluation after he kept police at bay from about 5:30 a.m. until they took him

into custody around 12:45 p.m.

In between, Sarcone fired shots at state troopers, declined to speak with police negotiators and withstood two hours of tear gas.

Police finally entered the small, one-story home at 6 Huffman Hill Road off Route 402 in Middle Smithfield Township and subdued Sarcone with what was termed as "non-lethal force," like rubber bullets or Tasers.

Lt. Robert Bartal of the state police

Hazleton barracks said other than the minor injuries Sarcone suffered, no one was hurt.

He is being treated for non-life-threatening injuries, according to police.

While at the hospital, Bartal said Sarcone will undergo a mental health evaluation.

He is expected to be charged with reckless endangerment, but Bartal said

See **STANDOFF**, Page A2



ADAM RICHINS/Pocono Record

Cpl. Jody Radziewicz of the Hazleton Forensic Services Unit carries shotgun shells out of the cottage where a man was arrested following a seven-hour standoff with police Saturday morning in Marshalls Creek. Police fired tear gas into the house, causing minor injuries to the suspect.

# STRAIGHT & NARROW

**Who will guide young people** away from drugs, gangs and apathy and set them on the right path? In Monroe County, a handful of adults are showing the way.

## NYC transplant forms mentoring program for kids

By ANDREW SCOTT

Pocono Record Writer

It's a familiar tale by now in the Poconos.

Johnny and his family move here from somewhere else, escaping crime, noise and dirt for cleaner, safer, more peaceful surroundings.

For Johnny's parents, if both are present, it's a fresh start. They ignore the glum look on his face that says, "You made me leave all my friends behind to move to this boring place," and enroll him in the local school.



**Norman McCullough**  
Matches youths with volunteer mentors

Time passes. Because jobs here don't pay enough, the parents have been getting up before sunrise, commuting two hours to work and coming home after sunset. The only time they can spend with Johnny is on the weekends. It's hard for them to get to school board and parent-teacher meetings to address any concerns about his academic performance and have a say in the quality of his education.

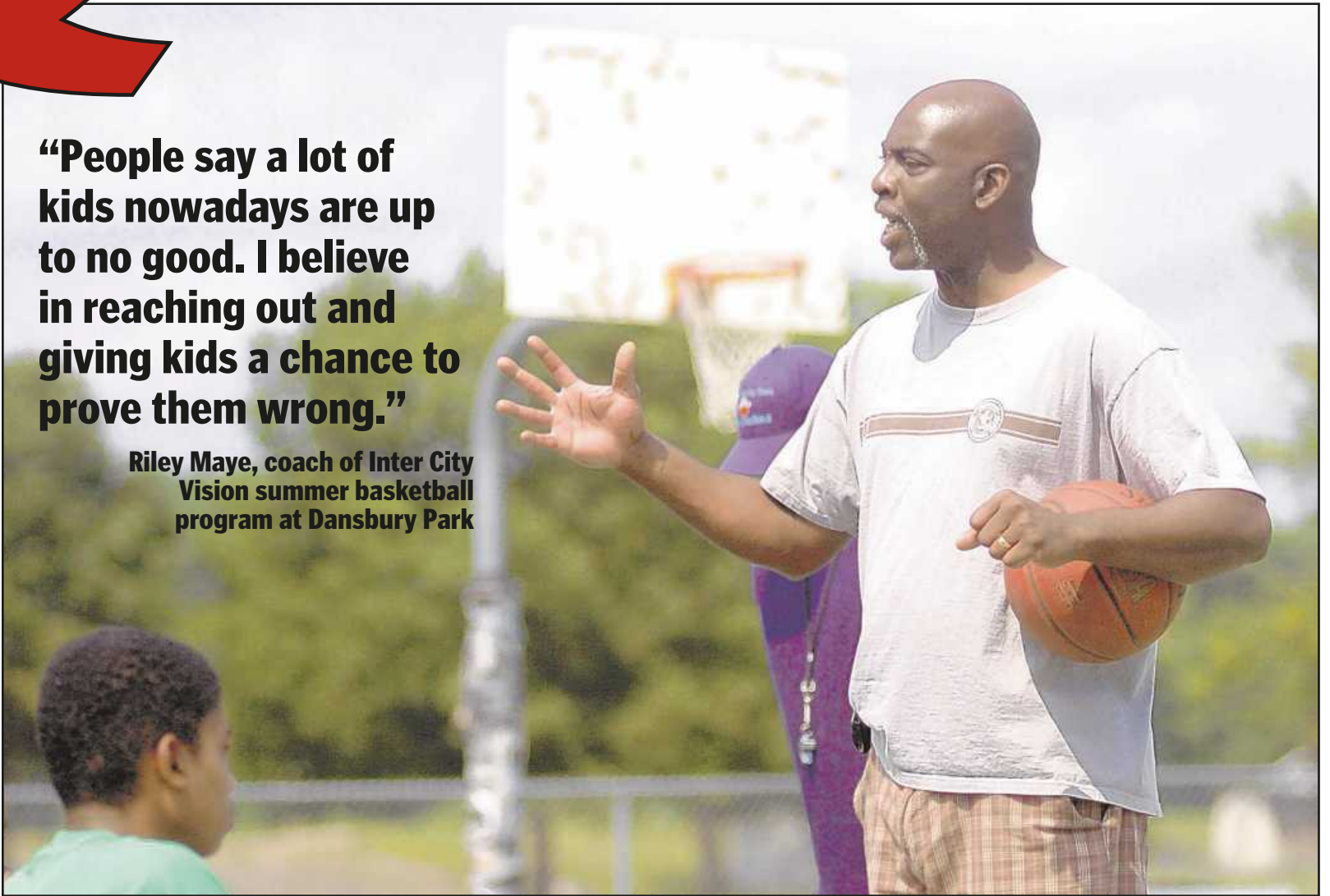
Johnny meanwhile has been having trouble in school. His grades aren't what they should be because he doesn't learn as quickly as do some of the other students. Or he might have trouble sitting still and paying attention.

In his classes are many other children

See **MENTORS**, Page A3

**"People say a lot of kids nowadays are up to no good. I believe in reaching out and giving kids a chance to prove them wrong."**

**Riley Maye, coach of Inter City Vision summer basketball program at Dansbury Park**



KEITH R. STEVENSON/Pocono Record



MELISSA EVANKO/Pocono Record

## Anti-gang activist preaches to youth on the value of leading the good life

By ANDREW SCOTT

Pocono Record Writer

Michael Leonard of Stroudsburg is no stranger to facing physical danger to work with at-risk children in tough neighborhoods.

Leonard, 51, recalled one day when he and a group of teenagers arrived at a street corner in his native Brooklyn, N.Y., to remove graffiti from a wall as part of a com-

munity improvement project. They were about to go to work when about 200 Blood street gang members suddenly surrounded them, daring them to touch any part of the graffiti the gang had put there to mark its turf.

Leonard called a friend who worked at a nearby prison and asked him to drive a

See **LEONARD**, Page A3

**"Whether you want to believe it or not, gangs are here in Monroe County, and they're looking to recruit our kids."** — Michael Leonard

### TODAY'S FORECAST



Partly cloudy  
High: 75 to 81  
Low: 52 to 60  
Weather, B10

### TODAY'S FEATURE

#### E-BURG SOUTH GRAD STARS AT BLOOM

Kelsey Gallagher, a former hoops star at Eastburg South, performed so well as a Bloomsburg freshman that she even surprised herself. **Page C1**

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