

Proud city will fight the violence

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JEERS to the packs behind the Harrisburg shootings and to those who want to be a part of "the crowd" by harming innocent people. There are no puns for this. The people of this city are fighting back.

CHEERS to Gov. Rendell (not someone we are usually quick to praise) for personally showing up to the community meeting Thursday night and directing more state police to help patrol Harrisburg's streets. That's leadership.

CHEERS to the "Guardian Angels" of York for coming up to Harrisburg to be a visible sign of taking back the streets from criminals. We salute your red barretts.

And for reminding us that there were some uplifting moments in the Harrisburg area this week:

CHEERS to Audrey Lyter of Perry County for "nailing it" (literally) by taking top honors in the Empire Beauty Schools' Future Professionals Expo with her Hershey-themed nail designs. As a "mature" student, she's proving that dreams come true at any age.

CHEERS to the saving of the Fourth of July fireworks in Carlisle and other midstate towns. The displays might not be as big as last year in some cases, but the bang for the buck will be better than ever.

CHEERS to Bethesda Mission for opening a new facility with overnight beds for the homeless. It's the first of its kind to be open during the summer months. It might not be a place of "sweet dreams," but at least it's safe.

CHEERS to the Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC, Harrisburg Young Professionals, Harrisburg University and TEACHQuest for teaming up this week to put on a large-scale networking event. It was a reminder that despite this week's headlines, this city is full of exciting people and ideas.



Heather Long is deputy editorial page editor.

CHEERS to the students and staff at Cumberland Perry Area Vo-Tech School who rallied around cafeteria worker Annie Bittner after she lost her house in a fire. The students and faculty raised money for Annie and "rebuilt" morale.

CHEERS to the Lebanon YMCA for stepping in to take over Covenant Christian Child Care Center after it was about to be shut down. It's time for a new chapter for the kids.

CHEERS to the many recreational programs for city youth at Harrisburg's 12 playgrounds and two swimming pools this summer and the special summer camps. The programs offer free lunches and supervised activities through Aug. 14.

CHEERS to Sally Kraus, the "green commuter of Carlisle" who has been cycling 36 miles to work for the last few years. Her efforts were recently recognized with a National Bike to Work Week Award. You pedal it, girl!

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