

THE KING OF SWING

Swing over to the Kirby for the Philharmonic tribute to Benny Goodman this Weekend! with **Lifestyles, C1**

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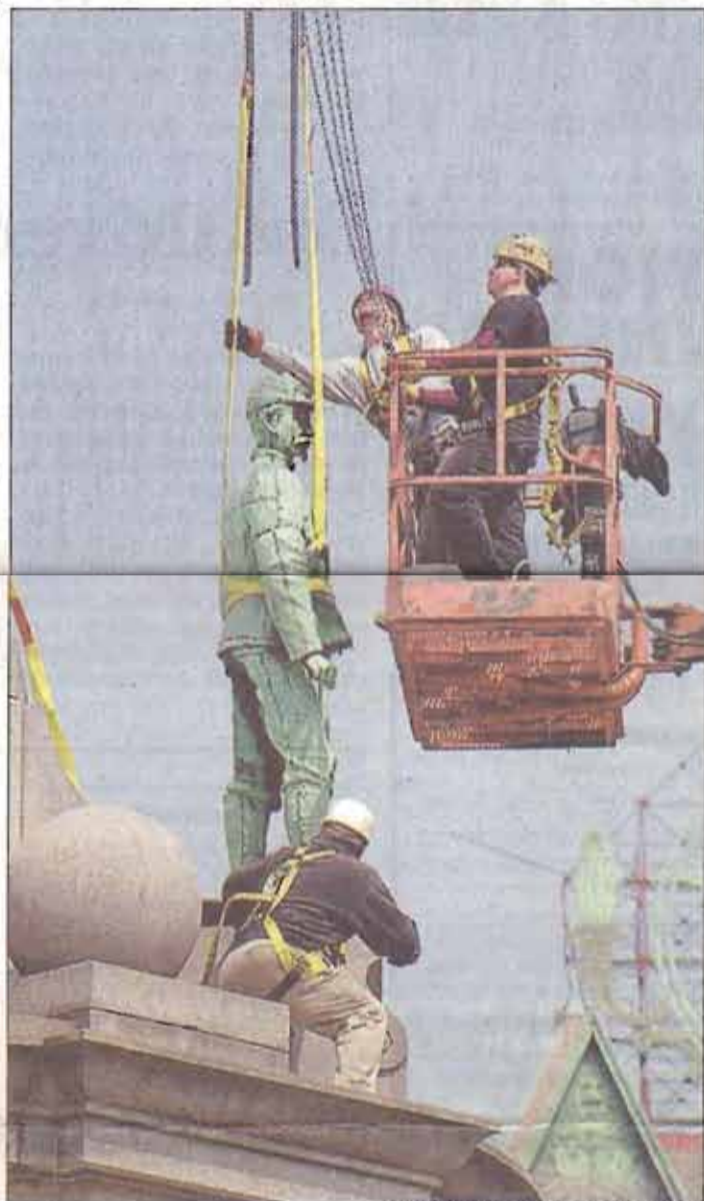
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MICHAEL J. MULLEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LEFT: Kreilick Conservation, Oreland, and iron workers from Local 489 begin restoration work on the Soldiers and Sailors monument on Lackawanna County Courthouse Square on Wednesday. **RIGHT:** Workers Chas Messina, left, and John

Sweat arrange straps as Scott Kreilick, of Kreilick Conservation, frees the base of a copper Civil War artillery soldier statue on the monument. The statues will be refurbished at Kreilick's Oreland facility and returned to the city in June.

A MONUMENTAL TASK

Restoration work begins on Soldiers and Sailors memorial at courthouse

BY ROGER DUPUIS II
STAFF WRITER

Johnny's marching out of town, and he's taking his buddies and the Goddess of Victory with him. Don't worry, though, they're all expected to come marching home again in June.

Contractors were at work on Courthouse Square on Wednesday, starting to remove the first of five statues from the Soldiers and Sailors monument for refurbishing as part of a project to restore the century-old memorial to America's Civil War heroes.

Kreilick Conservation will take the statues to its facility in Oreland for metal refurbishment, conservator and metallurgist Scott Kreilick said Wednesday.

Though built in 1900, the monument is an homage to the war between the states, nearly 40 years earlier, and the statues depict servicemen wearing the garb of that era.

"It is a beautiful monument, a very important tribute, and it's a work of art."

Robert C. Cordaro
Lackawanna County commissioner

They stand on the monument's colonnade cap, while the Goddess of Victory looks out over downtown Scranton from the orb at its peak, more than 100 feet off the ground.

"They had done the most restorative work," Lackawanna County Commissioner Chairman Robert C. Cordaro said of Mr. Kreilick's firm, which got all three commissioners' blessing last month on a \$234,644 metal restoration contract. "They had the best reputation in the field."

Their portfolio includes work on historic structures and statues, such as Philadelphia's Laurel Hill Cemetery, Camden N.J.'s Johnson Park and the Franklin Institute.

While the copper alloy stat-

ues are in Oreland, other workers will be cleaning the monument's granite base. Houck and Co., of Harrisburg, last month was awarded a \$79,120 professional services contract for masonry restoration.

And a local firm, Acker Associates, has a \$12,000, multiyear annual contract to monitor the monument for any settling. "We don't want the Leaning Tower of Pisa," Mr. Cordaro quipped.

The refurbished monument will be incorporated into the new Veterans Plaza. All together, its restoration and the need to shore up the foundations of other monuments on Courthouse Square will cost about \$1 million on top of

work already planned.

The original \$23.3 million renovation plan for the courthouse included \$15 million in interior work and \$8.3 million for exterior improvements. Renovations include extensive interior work, demolition of the courthouse annex and the Courthouse Square improvements.

But, Mr. Cordaro said, work on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument was planned before the administration embarked on the larger designs.

"Alan Sweeney (president of the Lackawanna Historical Society) came to me as soon as A.J. (Munchak) and I were elected, and told me his concerns" about the memorial's condition, Mr. Cordaro said.

"It is a beautiful monument, a very important tribute, and it's a work of art."

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