

# Candidate Follweiler picnics in downpour at Leaser Lake

## Campaign event focuses on environment

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If Mother Nature believed in symbolism, water was the word for Archie Follweiler Jr. on Saturday.

Follweiler, a Democrat who is seeking to unseat state Rep. Paul Semmel in the 187th Legislative District, threw a campaign picnic at Leaser Lake on Saturday, Earth Day.

With the decreased water level in the lake in the background, and buckets of rain pouring down from the darkened skies, Follweiler welcomed some 70 brave souls to the event, held under a green-

and-white-striped tent.

The Follweilers date back to 1752 in Berks and Lehigh counties.

The candidate's great-great-great-grandfather was Daniel Follweiler, who married the daughter of Frederick Leaser from Jacksonville, after whom the lake was named.

Leaser is credited with saving the Liberty Bell after going to Philadelphia with vegetables and, possibly applejack.

The Revolutionary Army asked him to take the State House bell and hide it, which he did in Allentown.

Follweiler, who along with

Drs. Samuel and Annemarie Yoder, organized the Pennsylvania Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Festival held last year at the Kempton Community Center, spoke of independence from foreign oil and this nation's need for clean renewable energy.

"We need to put the Liberty Bell on the flat-bed trailer of a Willie Nelson biodiesel truck," said Follweiler, jokingly. "Take it around the country and call for independence from foreign oil by growing our own energy."

The candidate using the theme, "It is not a Democrat or Republican issue. It's a human issue," also discussed the community based Leaser Lake Heritage Foundation, formed to repair the long-standing leaking dam.

"Recreation sites are a quality of life issue," said Follweiler. "This is the only public lake in Lehigh County. It needs to be repaired. It is a failure to neglect this project."

In closing, Follweiler com-

pared his campaign to the seeds of an apple tree.

"If I asked you to count the number of apples on a tree, we could do it," said Follweiler. "If I asked that we count the number of apple seeds in those apples, we could take our time and do it."

"If I then asked you to plant a seed and tell us how many apples will grow from that tree over time, you would not know how much fruit it will grow."

"So, take this seed of a campaign, nourish it and help me grow."

"Together we can bear fruit and be responsible stewards of our community."

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The 187th District consists of Lowhill, Lynn, Heidelberg, North Whitehall, Upper Macungie (Districts 1, 2, and 3) and Weisenberg townships in Lehigh County, and the Boroughs of Kutztown, Lyons and Topton and the Townships of Longswamp, Maxatawny and Richmond in Berks County.



Archie Follweiler Jr. and his wife, Dr. Virginia Grim, braved heavy rain and winds to hold a campaign picnic Saturday at Leaser Lake in Lynn Township.

PRESS PHOTO BY DEBRA PALMIERI

Weather Corrected Ad

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