

West Allegheny Edition

Allegheny West

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FREE Direct Mail Community Publication

Magazine

**WA Athletic Hall of Fame
inducts class of 2016**

**REMEMBERING
WA's "MUSIC MAN"**

**Senior project nets
bikes for local families**

**Local family's military
service spans 63 years**

PLUS OUR ANNUAL

*Summer fun guide
to fairs, festivals and more*

**WA alumna records career
softball season at W&J**

**Civil Air Patrol
mentors next generation**

**New North Fayette
Community Center opens**



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the airport region, and build pride in the western
suburbs of Allegheny County.



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Members of Vietnam Veterans Incorporated applaud following the reading of a proclamation declaring Oakdale a Purple Heart Community this past Memorial Day. Pictured right to left are George Coppola (in fatigues), Greg Daley, Jim Sabo, Bryan Bossong and Joe Mlinac, all of whom served in the Vietnam War and were awarded Purple Heart medals. The same VVI members received a proclamation from Collier Township earlier that day designating it a Purple Heart Community. On June 1, they received yet another proclamation naming Pittsburgh a Purple Heart City. Oakdale's proclamation, signed by Oakdale Mayor Paul Hennemuth, was read by William Gamble during Oakdale's annual Memorial Day ceremony.
PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY



Jim Sabo, Greg Daley, Dave Laepple and Joe Mlinac receive a proclamation naming Oakdale a Purple Heart Community on Memorial Day.
PHOTO BY GEORGE COPPOLA

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up this edition of Allegheny West Magazine. As we head into the summer, we are once again bringing you our Summer Fun Guide. Knowing full well that we're approaching vacation season, when people tend to head out of town in search of fun things to do, we decided to compile a list of fun things to do right in the immediate area. Our suggestions are based on the coverage areas of our three editions, so we've listed ideas from throughout, and sometimes just beyond the borders of, the Moon Area, Montour and West Allegheny school districts. We've compiled lists of festivals, fairs, races, day camps, sporting events and more. Be sure to flip through the guide, starting on page 48. Maybe there's something you know of that we missed. In that case, I hope you'll let us know so we can try to include it next year.

As with all of our editions of Allegheny West Magazine, we also have plenty of positive and interesting local news packed into this edition. On page 6, read about the most recent West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony, which took place May 21. On page 8, our publisher emeritus, Pat Jennette, looks back on the life of Stewart Morgan, West Allegheny's longtime chorus director who passed away recently. On page 11, we profile a recent WA graduate whose love of bikes led him to make a difference for some local families, and on page 12, our writer Jocelyn Grecko profiles a local family with a long military service record. Be sure to also read about a WA alumna who just recorded a career season on the Washington and Jefferson College softball team on page 13.

On page 10, our writer Rebecca Ferraro profiles Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603. The CAP is congressionally chartered and served our country during World War II. Today, this local squadron and the rest of the CAP are educating our next generation of pilots. Read more on page 10.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Recent West Allegheny graduate Jacob Pijar performs a mid-air stunt at the skate park at the Findlay Township Recreation and Sports Complex at Leopold Lake. Pijar raised money for bikes that he donated to the thrift store in Imperial. Read more about his efforts on page 11. Visiting the skate park is also one of our suggestions in our Summer Fun Guide, which starts on page 48. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY



If you haven't already seen the North Fayette's new community center at Donaldson Park, which opened to the public June 9, get a preview of the new facility on page 34. If you have seen it, you can still learn more about the history behind construction of the new facility.

Be sure also to read the newest official West Allegheny School District newsletter on page 37. In this month's newsletter, read about the district's new Safe and Supportive Schools initiative, its pioneering energy conservation efforts, the new budget (with no new tax increases) and more.

Finally, be sure to read a new section we're publishing starting this month called Locally Sourced. In this section, we'll be running articles from the general public. These articles are either submitted by local readers or have a local focus. It starts on page 18. Have something you'd like to submit? Let us know by sending an email to: info@awmagazine.com.

Look for our next edition in August. In the meantime, I hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor



Annual banquet honors newest WA Athletic Hall of Fame inductees

STORY AND PHOTO
BY DOUG HUGHEY



Four individuals and one team were honored as the newest inductees into the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame on May 21. Pictured are Amanda Yothers Yriberri, Lauren Roberts, Amy Palko, Michelle Walker, Melissa Orr, Courtney Holdreith, Pat Allison (on behalf of George Allison), Bill Hager and Matt Majocka.

The West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame hosted its 2016 inductees at a banquet held at the SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial on May 21. Four individuals and members of the 2006 girls state championship volleyball team were honored.

This year marked a number of firsts for the hall of fame, as both a girls' team and a female swimmer were inducted. Speaking on behalf of the 2006 girls volleyball team, West Allegheny Athletic Director David McBain said that the team set the bar for state championship-winning teams at that time. McBain explained that after the volleyball team won the PIAA Class AA championship - which was the second-ever state championship in school history - the boys 2007-2008 basketball team won a state championship, as did the 2008 baseball team, which repeated with another state championship in 2009.

"That team was an absolute joy to watch the entire season," McBain said about the volleyball team. "The athletic talent up and down the net was breathtaking."

Accepting the award at the banquet were team members Lauren Roberts, Amy Palko, Michelle Walker, Melissa Orr and Courtney Holdreith. A team captain that season, Holdreith described the group as a family, one that taught them skills that would become invaluable off the court as well. She referred to a particularly meaningful moment in the team's final huddle prior to a match point that won them the state championship against Brandywine Heights High School.

"If you were in that huddle, you know what I mean," said Holdreith.

Another first for the hall of fame was the induction of a female swimmer, Amanda Yothers Yriberri. A 2002 WA graduate, and two-time WPIAL champion, Yriberri's accomplishments were, as master of ceremonies William Gamble put it, so numerous that they are hard to name. During her four years at WA, Yothers was a three-time MAC champion and qualified for the state meet all four years, finishing six times among the top 10 in the state. A school record she set in the 100 butterfly still stands today.

In remarks, Yothers said she didn't start out thinking about swimming in state meets or being inducted into a hall of fame. Instead, she credited her coach, Bob Miller, with helping her set goals, and her parents for driving her to 5 a.m. swim meets.

After graduating from WA, Yriberri attended Virginia Tech

University on a swimming scholarship and majored in aerospace engineering. She worked for a time for Northrop Grumman but has since returned to Pittsburgh with her husband and daughter to complete a nursing degree at the University of Pittsburgh.

The hall of fame also honored a member of the 1997 WPIAL-winning football team. In remarks, former WA running back Matt Majocka said that, when head football coach Bob Palko approached him about playing football, he was planning on taking the summer off following a successful basketball season. Majocka was a point guard on the team. The rest of his high school career, he was also a running back on the football team. Despite suffering an ACL tear prior to the start of his junior season, Majocka bounced back his senior year to help the football team win its first AAA WPIAL football title in school history. He earned numerous regional honors along the way.

"I know it sounds kind of cliché for a running back, but I had some big guys in front of me opening up some big holes," he said in remarks. "All I had to do was run in a straight line."

After graduating from WA, Majocka went on to play for Allegheny College. He is now a central station manager for Guardian Protection Services.

Another West Allegheny athlete, Bill Hager, was also honored at the banquet, but only in part for his athletic achievements. Rather, Hager's induction also recognized how he applied the athletic skills he developed at WA toward a successful coaching career, said Gamble. A standout basketball and baseball player at WA, Hager was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1967. He attended the University of Iowa on a baseball scholarship and went on to coach high school basketball, winning a combined 22 section championships. In 2001, he won a PIAA Class AAA state championship with the Franklin Area High School boys team.

In remarks, Hager became emotional while talking about the successes he experienced followed his marriage to his wife, Maureen, and how he enjoyed coaching his own children.

While introducing the final inductee, George Allison, who was inducted posthumously, Gamble said that the hall of fame recognizes not just those who contributed to WA athletics but also those who contributed prior to its formation. Gamble said that Allison, WA's first-ever athletic director, took over at a time when three area school districts were forming into one.

"If memory serves me right, the athletes were not fond of that jointure," Gamble said.

Prior to the formation of WA, Allison taught and coached at Findlay Vocational High School, where his basketball teams won three section championships. He was WA's athletic director until 1967. In between, he also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. At WA, he established the senior night tradition.

Allison's induction award was received by his son, Pat, who played for his father and earned the title "Mr. Basketball." Gamble said that despite Pat's successes, his father refused to give him anything higher than a "B" in physical education classes because he did not want to appear as though he was playing favorites.

The West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame is accepting nominations for the class of 2017. Nominations can be made online at www.awmagazine.com. Nomination packets can also be picked up at the Oakdale Borough, Findlay Township and North Fayette Township municipal buildings.

You might not think a simple fall could end up costing you more than a few stitches. But after local community member Yvonne Pirro took a tumble on some icy steps in February of 2015, she had a widening hole in her leg that just wouldn't close. Yvonne spent a week at Ohio Valley Hospital receiving treatment. It was at the hospital where she learned about their outpatient Wound Care Center from its Medical Director, Dr. Phillip Georgevich.



"Dr. Georgevich came to visit me and check on my wound. He started making daily visits to see my leg," said Yvonne. "The wound was just too deep to be taken care of on my own."

Yvonne's story is a common one. More than 6.7 million people suffer from non-healing wounds every year in the U.S. These chronic conditions typically go untreated, although Dr. Georgevich says when you have a wound that won't heal right away, it is important to seek medical treatment immediately.



If you would like more information about Ohio Valley Hospital's The Wound Care Center® visit: www.ohiovalleyhospital.org/services/wound-care-center/

According to Dr. Georgevich, "The skin is your body's first line of defense. Once the barrier is broken, things can begin to go wrong. Although the body is good at healing itself, conditions can arise that might impede the healing process. If this happens, the patient needs to be monitored and any problems that arise need to be fixed quickly, or the wound can become much worse."

After leaving the hospital, with the threat of infection ever-present, Yvonne started treatment at Ohio Valley Hospital's The Wound Care Center® under the watchful eye of Dr. Georgevich and his staff. The wound itself, which did not seem like a lasting issue initially, took almost three months to heal.

Dr. Georgevich stated, "Yvonne's wound required a combination of interventions. She needed weekly assessments to monitor the progress of her healing wound. Weekly debridements (removing dead tissue from the wound) at our center in addition to daily dressing changes done at home with a special enzymatic ointment was the best course of action for Yvonne's type of wound."

During those long months of treatment, Yvonne said the wound care staff became just like family. "The entire staff was wonderful. It was a painful time, but it was always such a pleasure to come here. They made such a fuss over me," Yvonne exclaimed.

With the wound finally closed, Yvonne was able to say good bye to the caring staff at the center. But she's happy to have them be part of her community.

"I didn't even know The Wound Care Center existed here in my community, but it's great to have it because it's so convenient and nice to have follow-through care in the area when you need it," said Yvonne.

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West Allegheny's "music man" laid to rest

He has an auditorium named after him. He fought in World War II in Gen. George Patton's Army. He taught three generations of students how to sing and love music. He served his community on the school board. He was the choir director at Valley Church in Imperial for two decades. In March, he was honored with a 70-year membership pin from Oakdale Masonic Lodge #669. He received a Friend of Education Award from the West Allegheny Education Association. The venerable, tough, determined and sometimes temperamental Daniel Stewart Morgan was, and always will remain, a West Allegheny legend, the community's own "music man." Morgan passed away May 3 in his sleep at the Masonic Village in Sewickley.



Stewart Morgan

Born June 3, 1920, Morgan grew up on his family's dairy farm in Clinton with his parents and four siblings. The house and property were part of land that once belonged to his ancestor, Charles Morgan, who came down the Ohio River with George Washington and others to survey the river. As a result of his service in the Revolutionary War, Charles was granted a tract of land in Clinton, where he established his homestead. In "History of Allegheny County, Pa., 1753 -1876" by L.H. Everts and Co., it is noted that Charles planted a potato patch there, so the stream was called Potato Garden Run.

In the book "History of Clinton United Presbyterian Church, 1797-1997," compiled by Ama Joan McElhaney Chambers, it is noted that Charles deeded eight acres to the church in 1797, to be used for establishing Clinton United Presbyterian Church and an adjacent cemetery. Charles and some of his ancestors are buried there.

It was here that Stewart was raised. His family intended the children to be farmers. That wasn't in Stewart's plans.

As a child, according to West Allegheny High School chorus teacher Earl Wiechelt, he almost didn't have the opportunity to be a music teacher. At age 7, Stewart had a mastoid infection that almost took his life.

He continued, "The doctor cut it out and told his parents that he would never hear. Well, he did, and what an ear he had."

Stewart attended Findlay High School, graduating in 1938. Rather than be involved in his family's dairy farm, his love of music pointed him toward Westminster College, where he graduated in 1942 with a double major in music education and English.

Findlay High School hired him to teach primarily English, plus one period of chorus. From there, Stewart went on to build a first-class choral program.

By that time, World War II was at the country's doorstep. For the next four years, Stewart served in Patton's Third Army and was involved in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

His understudy, Wiechelt, remembers well how proud Stewart was of his involvement in the war.

"Morgan was told by the recruiter that he could opt out of serving because his family had a dairy farm," he said. "Not the farmer, he chose to serve, saying he'd rather be in the Army."

Upon his discharge, he quickly resumed teaching, finishing out the 1945-1946 school year at Findlay High School. For the next 40 years, the chorus program blossomed under his leadership, first at Findlay and then at West Allegheny after Findlay merged with Oakdale and North Fayette schools. During that time, Stewart, or "Stew" as he became known, held strong to his beliefs that music of all genres belonged in schools. When school officials began to take steps to remove Judeo-Christian influences from public schools, he defiantly stood his ground, making sure that students continued to be exposed to all genres of music as part of a well-rounded music curriculum. To that end, Stewart made sure that he taught classic hymns, which the chorus performed regularly.

Former student Laura Scarborough noted in her blog, "I learned and performed Gregorian chants, spirituals, Broadway classics, Ziegfeld era classics, hits of the day, and years gone by, classical selections including, always, his favorite, Johann Sebastian Bach. We learned everything one could possibly know about Johann Sebastian Bach. Not many 16-17-year-olds will celebrate Johann's birthday (March 21, 1685), but we did."

She added, "Stew's exacting demands on those who took his optional class taught us all discipline and order in our lives. It's no secret these days as schools across the country cut out musical arts programs that music enhances the development of the part of the brain that is used for critical thinking skills. That part of my brain got quite the workout those seven years under Stew's direction."

Stewart's love of music transcended the school chorus. He became an accomplished saxophone player, studying under one of the first clarinetists to play with the Pittsburgh Symphony.

For nearly 20 years, he served as the choir director for Valley Presbyterian Church, a position he held until the late 1970s.

In 1965, upon his mother's passing, he closed out his family's farming chapter when he sold the family farm to the Morris family, recalls his niece Judy Morgan Lange. Stewart moved to Hankey Farms.

Lange studied under Stewart in the chorus, as did all five of her brothers.

"There was no favoritism, even though we were related," she says. "He was a tough teacher, very strict. Outside the classroom, though, he sure had a soft heart."

She said Stewart was full of quips, too. After

This collage of photos shows Stewart Morgan conducting the senior chorus at West Allegheny.



his mother died, Lange's brother John Morgan and his family invited Stewart to their nightly dinners. Lange said Stewart would say, following the meal, "Oh my gosh, a feast of feasts; now I gotta go home and feed my beast," referring to his Dalmatian.

Lange said another his sayings every spring was, "Spring has sprung, the grass has risen; I wonder where the flowers is."

Wiechelt, only the second chorus director at the school district, has many fond memories of Stewart.

"I was a student under Stew from 1975 to 1979 at the high school," he said. "When I decided to pursue my music education degree from Edinboro, it was an honor to come back to West Allegheny and pursue my student teaching under Stew's guidance."

He adamantly recalled, "I learned more from him in my 16 weeks of student teaching than I did in three-and-one-half years at Edinboro."

Wiechelt said that, on top of doing what he had to do as a student teacher, Stewart gave him many articles, books and instruction manuals to study.

"He would expect me to study these daily, then we would discuss what I read and he would quiz me orally," Wiechelt said.

He would visit Stewart at his home, where the two would practice conducting in front of a mirror. Stewart told him, "You have to remember a lot is going on when you are conducting, not just the conducting."

Said Wiechelt, "So I had to know the songs inside out."

He notes that Stewart was truly one of the smartest men he's ever known.

"He had so much world knowledge, and he loved American history. I traveled with him in the summer all over the country and learned so much from him. Those were great times," he said.

Stewart retired from the school district in 1985 and Wiechelt took over the reins of the chorus program. After molding and shaping thousands of young music students, he remained passionate about his role as an educator. At the age of 65, when most people are enjoying the retired life, Stewart was volunteering behind the scenes in the music department; lending a hand in the classroom and with chorus groups; or assisting with school musicals.

Stewart also served two terms on the West Allegheny School Board after he retired from teaching. He was as passionate about his role on the board as he was being a music teacher and determined to protect the school's music program when other schools were cutting the arts from their curriculums due to budget constraints. He understood how music enhanced the development of critical thinking skills and thus protected the music curriculum for future generations.

Wiechelt said that Stewart was a regular presence at the school up until 2012, when he suffered a stroke. This year's graduating senior class was the last class he mentored.

Three generations of students studied under his tutelage.

His "Hallelujah" chorus number at the annual winter holiday concert became a tradition for generations of chorus alumni who joined the chorus to sing together under Stewart's direction. His great-niece, Tiffany Morgan Mangan, herself a teacher at Donaldson Elementary, remembered, "When I began singing with the chorus in high school, he was already retired. It was special to see him in this role outside of the family. I'll never forget when

my late father, Jack Morgan, was on the stage with me as Uncle Stewart directed. It was a very special moment to have three generations of us on the stage together."

As retired middle school music teacher Sherry Remaly fondly remembered, "Mr. Morgan was more than a successful music educator. He was a role model for all of us in West Allegheny's music department. He was a master of vocal music, accompaniment and classroom management. Mr. Morgan taught his students all the skills they needed to be part of an excellent chorus, but the experience itself was even more important. This is apparent when you look at WA's high school chorus today and consider how many students are third and fourth generation chorus members. His legacy lives on through them."

"Mr. Morgan was one of my most memorable teachers," wrote Sandi Cogis of Clinton on Stewart's online memorial page. "Because of his teaching and dedicated service, I am still singing today at age 75. He is a legend of our school, West Allegheny, and our community."

Dr. Charles Hughey, retired superintendent of the school district, noted, "I met Mr. Morgan on my first day in the West Allegheny School District and he remained a mentor and subsequent friend until I retired from the district 28 years later. During that time, the one aspect of our relationship that I most valued was his constant reminder to me that, even in an era of increased academic accountability based on test scores, we must always strive to have our students graduate with a lifelong appreciation for the arts."

Wiechelt recounted that West Allegheny alumnus Ray DeFade will always remember something Stewart said to him. He said it may be Stewart's best quote.

Wiechelt said, "DeFade told Stew one day he was taking music in college, and Stew told him, you don't take music, music takes you."

In a fitting final tribute, members of the student quartet who performed under Stewart during his last year with the school district in 1985 sang at his funeral. They were Craig Brautigam, Doug White, Mike Meliton and Dave Glowark. Services were held at Clinton United Presbyterian Church, where his family's roots began. The church's pastor, Rev. Laura Strauss, recounted Morgan's accomplishments and family history, giving thanks to the Morgan family for the opportunity to have the church established and become an integral part of the community for more than 200 years.

His influence will no doubt be felt for years to come by thousands of students as they make their homes across the country and around the world.

Thank you, Mr. Stewart Morgan, for being a remarkable teacher, mentor and friend, and for everything you did for West Allegheny.



Stewart Morgan is pictured here with Earl Wiechelt, who succeeded Morgan as the chorus director at West Allegheny.



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STORY AND PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

Senior project nets bikes for local families

Recent West Allegheny graduate Jacob Pijar has long loved to ride bikes. He started riding at age 2 and today, when he's not working for a tree removal company, spends much of his free time performing stunts either at the skate park at the Findlay Township Recreation and Sports Complex at Leopold Lake or at the Wheel Mill, an indoor bike park in Pittsburgh.

It only made sense, then, that when it came time to settle on a senior project this past spring, he would choose something that had to do with bikes.

"It's brought nothing but great things to my life," says Pijar, "like, awesome friends, and I've gone plenty of awesome places because of it. I wanted to help other people and put them in that position."

Pijar came up with an idea to design and sell bracelets to raise money that he could use to donate bikes to a local family. He approached West Allegheny Food Pantry and Thrift Store coordinator Carol Messner with the idea.

"He just came down one day out of the blue and asked if we would do this," she says.

A couple months later, Pijar returned with two youth Huffu bikes.

Messner says that she often has people Pijar's age willing to donate their time, but that few take the initiative to raise funds on their own with the intention of making a donation either to the store or to someone in need. Messner suggested that they hold a drawing for the bikes, with the only stipulation being that the



Recent West Allegheny graduate Jacob Pijar designed and sold bracelets to raise money for two bikes that he donated to two local families. He is pictured here outside the West Allegheny Food Pantry and Thrift Store in Imperial with thrift store coordinator Carol Messner. Recipients were chosen via a drawing arranged by the thrift store.

family has to live in the West Allegheny School District. Entry into the drawing was free. Winners were selected May 7. A 20-inch girls' bike went to a girl in Oakdale, while a smaller boys' bike for a 2- to 3-year-old went to a boy in Imperial.

Pijar also refurbished a third bike which he donated and will be sold by the store. Funds raised by the thrift store help support the food pantry.

Pijar says that donating the bikes to a local family was important to him. He hopes that maybe some day he'll see one of those kids riding at a bike park and he'll know that he helped them.

In order to fundraise, Pijar found a website that allowed him to design and produce the bracelets, which he designed with a tire tread pattern and the words "Go Ride." West Allegheny junior Paige Toulouse, a friend of Pijar's, designed a logo and helped market the bracelets on social media. Pijar also hung fliers at school.

Together, they sold 130 of the bracelets.

As part of his senior project, Pijar also wrote an argumentative paper on the health benefits of bike riding.

In the fall, he will be taking a course at the Community College of Allegheny County that will help him earn entry into the steamfitters union. While at West Allegheny, he studied welding at Parkway West Career and Technology Center. One day, he says he hopes to apply his trade to crafting his own bikes.

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STORY AND PHOTOS
BY JOCELYN GRECKO

Local family's military service in reserves spans 63 years

For the past 63 years, members of the Enlow-based Killmeyer family have been answering the call to their home state and nation at the Air National Guard 171st Air Refueling Wing in Coraopolis. Recently, Ret. Master Sgt. Monica Heyl sat happily at her parent's kitchen table, looking back with fond memories on her family's



ABOVE: Monica Heyl is pictured here with her father, Regis Killmeyer, outside her parent's home in Enlow. Heyl's daughter Deborah painted this mural (detail at right), which commemorates their family's long military service record.

service history. Her own 32-year service record, which concluded at the end of 2015, contributes to 126 years that she and her siblings have served. Her

father, Regis Killmeyer, spent another 41 years in the guard.

Military service isn't a tradition in the Killmeyer family, per se, but its roots do run deep. Today, Monica and her own children live next to her parents in Enlow. Family members have long served as role models to each other and everyone with whom they cross paths.

Their sense of duty and service dates back to 1952, when Regis joined the Air National Guard. A few years later, in 1955, he married Heyl's mother, Elizabeth, and the couple settled in nearby Crafton. After a few years spent in Crafton, they moved to Enlow, into the house where Monica now lives with her own children and husband. Her parents live next door.

Elizabeth recalled taking her children to the guard base for family visit days, during which her children got a chance to hop into a simulator and pretend they were flying. Having a big family, and attending family days at the base, made the life and camaraderie that existed there seem only natural to the Killmeyer children. Eventually, all but one of the eight Killmeyer children would join the guard and serve at the 171st.

Heyl said that, although military service was always an inherent part of her life, it was something she never pictured turning into a career.

"I thought I'd be the black sheep of the family," she said.

Heyl graduated from West Allegheny High School in 1982 and from Robert Morris University with a degree in sports management in 1988. She said she had no desire to join the guard.

If there's one thing about being a Killmeyer, though, Heyl says, it's "family first." She stuck to that motto when her sister Helen, in the heat of the summer, headed from Enlow to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas for basic training. She asked Monica to go with her. Heyl reflected with a grin, "There are some things that you just don't tell your younger sister 'no' to."

So, off to basic training the two girls went.

"They were joined at the hip," Elizabeth said.

That summer's "on the job training" got Heyl to thinking that maybe she would like to make a career out of it, too. She knew there would be many opportunities to grow and help serve a greater good while also carrying on her family's service record.

During her 32 years in the guard, Heyl got to experience many

different types of service and watch the guard evolve. It was, and still is, much different than other branches of the military.

"There has always been a strong focus placed on domestic initiatives," explained Heyl.

Domestically, guard members tend to be called upon to respond in times of natural disaster or emergencies. During Heyl's tenure, members of the 171st were called on during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. They also played a major role in providing aid during major snow blizzards and floods.

During wartime, Heyl says, "We were always called last."

Not until the Gulf War did she recall the guard being called on for wartime service. Both Helen and her father served overseas during the war.

Being called last certainly didn't short guard members of opportunities to serve, however.

"The air refueling wing was available to serve everyone," Heyl said.

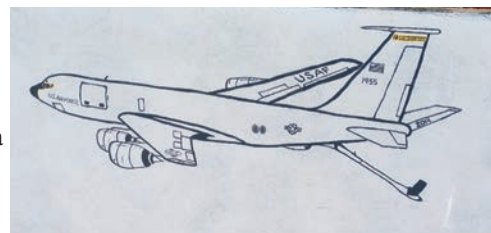
She explained that she worked in administrative capacities, trained for wartime and was deployed for special tasks to Pisa, Italy and the Panama Canal. She has traveled to nearly every state in the nation.

She said the opportunities for recreation were also an important part of guard camaraderie. She played in softball leagues and forged a great sense of teamwork.

Even after her retirement, Heyl still stays closely connected to the guard. In May, she accepted a recreation assistant position at the 911th Airlift Wing in Moon Township, thereby combining her love of sports and nation.

Outside Regis and Elizabeth's house, in their driveway, Monica's daughter Deborah painted a mural commemorating the Killmeyer family's service record. It recalls many

moments of sacrifice and teamwork that helped forge and hold their family together as they served both the guard and each other.



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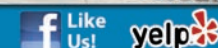


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WA alumna records career softball season at Washington and Jefferson

When Oakdale native Rachel Marx was a child, her father, Dave, used to coach her two brothers in an American Legion league. Ten years their junior, Rachel would come to the games, but not just to watch. Her father would let her sit on his lap and signal his pitch calls to the catcher.



Rachel Marx
PHOTO BY
WASHINGTON AND
JEFFERSON
COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Now a standout center fielder for the Washington and Jefferson College softball team, Rachel says there's hardly a time that she can remember when baseball wasn't a part of her life. Her father was, like her, a standout center fielder. He tried out for the Pittsburgh Pirates and played for the Pittsburgh Hard Hats, a professional softball team.

"My dad was a big influence on me," says Rachel, who graduated from West Allegheny in 2013. "He was always involved in baseball and softball. I had older brothers, and when my dad coached them, I was always involved. I loved to be around the baseball atmosphere."

As soon as she was 6 years old, Rachel tried softball and hasn't looked back since. In high school, she played for three years on the West Allegheny varsity softball team, helping them reach the state playoffs for just the second time in school history her senior season. She was also a member of the cheer squad, and named a Universal Cheerleaders Association all-American cheerleader.

This past softball season at Washington and Jefferson, Rachel registered in the top 10 in just about every offensive category in the President's Athletic Conference. Her .386 batting average ranked fifth while her .598 slugging percentage ranked fourth. She tied for eighth with 27 runs scored and fifth with 49 hits. Her 10 doubles ranked eighth while her four triples tied her for first. She recorded 76 total bases, which was the fifth most in the conference.

The previous season, during her sophomore year, Rachel didn't register in any of those categories, but she also wasn't the team's starting center fielder.

"Going into the off-season last year, our coach said that the center field position was mine if I worked for it," she says. "I've always worked with my dad separately, so we worked almost every day in the summer, on fielding, hitting, fly balls. He runs [the Dave Marx Baseball and Softball Academy] in Carnegie so we were able to work down there. We knew we had to work if we wanted to come up big."

In the spring, during a 10-game trip to Clermont, Florida, Rachel opened the season by racking up a .450 batting average. She was named an athlete of the week by the college and earned the starting center field spot. She went on to lead the team in every offensive category, except RBIs. She came in second in that category. Her 49 hits this past season were the fourth most in school history.

At Division III Washington and Jefferson, Rachel is studying psychology under an academic scholarship. She is considering pursuing a master's in mental health counseling. Over the summer, she plans to work on her game in between assisting with softball camps and giving private lessons. She'll also be playing again for the Pittsburgh Lady Bulldogs, an AAU travel softball team. She's been a member of the team for the past seven years.

Next season at Washington and Jefferson, Rachel is hoping to help her team get back to the playoffs after they finished one slot out of making them this past season. If she does, it'll be with her family behind her. They come to just about every game, she says. Of course, the work she'll be putting in with her father over the summer will go a long way as well. She doesn't discount that for a moment.

"If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be in this position," she says.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

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For more information about bunions and their treatment, visit the American Podiatric Medical Association Web site at: www.apma.org.

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With West Allegheny Workcamp quickly approaching, donations are still needed

From July 31 through Aug. 6, around 200 teenagers and adults from across the U.S. will descend on the West Allegheny community to participate in the second-ever West Allegheny Workcamp. As in 2014, when the first West Allegheny Workcamp took place, volunteers will be fanning out across the area, helping local residents whom they have never met with home repairs. Building materials will either be donated or bought with monetary donations and the work will all be done free of charge.

The not-so-random act of kindness is once again being coordinated by Group Mission Trips and Heroes Supporting Heroes, a local, faith-based organization founded by North Fayette residents John and Sheri Lee, Jeff Lutz and Don Steward. HSH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides support to local veterans, the families of local veterans and area seniors. West Allegheny Workcamp operates under the nonprofit umbrella of HSH.

Steward says that this year, applications submitted for work were up, thanks to peoples' familiarity with the project.

"The first time we hosted the camp, we almost had to sell it to people," says Steward. "We had to tell them it's a habitat for humanity type of thing. Now, you have neighbors telling neighbors about it."

Due to schedule conflicts, and a later start date this year, Steward says their volunteer numbers are fewer than compared to 2014 year but he still estimates they will be completing projects at about 30 to 35 homes in the area. He says he wishes they could tackle every project on their list.

"We know there's a need there," Steward says. "It just breaks your heart when you read the stories on some of these applications. You know that if you don't help them, no one else will."

The work camp has not yet found a single regular large sponsor, which has prompted local businesses to chip in to do what they can to help. On July 8, Allegheny Muscle Therapy and Massage will be hosting health and wellness event at its office at 120 West Allegheny Road in Imperial. The clinic will be offering massages, foot detox sessions, waxing and facials, all in exchange for

donations that support the work camp. Over a half dozen vendors will also be on hand, including Nutritional Frontiers, Vital Health, Sanaljon Shoes, Vitamin Shop, Norwex, Keystone Therapy, The Diet Doc, Sam's Club and the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce.

On May 26, Allegheny West Magazine participated in a charity event hosted by the PAACC. Participating businesses bartended for an evening, with tips and a portion of ticket sales benefitting a charity of their choice. Allegheny West Magazine's charity was West Allegheny Work Camp.

Steward says that monetary donations are still needed, both to ensure the success of this work camp and those in the future. He is also asking to borrow ladders for the week. Steward says they prefer ladders be delivered to a site that has yet to be determined but that volunteers can also pick up ladders if need be. They are asking for everything from stepladders to 30-foot extension ladders.

The work camp is also looking for volunteers to help with hospitality by serving food to campers throughout the week and to help at a social event. Entertainment is also needed.

Tax-deductible donations can be made by contacting HSH at WAW@HeroesSupportingHeroes.org. For more, visit www.HeroesSupportingHeroes.org. Learn more about Group Mission Trips at groupmissiontrips.com.

West Allegheny Workcamp volunteers are pictured here during the last work camp in 2014.



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Civil Air Patrol mentors next generation

The Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station in Moon Township is home to the 911th Airlift Wing and a naval command base, both of which provide support to U.S. military operations and strategic national defense.

The base is also home to a group of civilians who do their own part to contribute to national defense as members of an organization called the Civil Air Patrol. Established in 1941, just a week prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, CAP squadrons today serve as the official auxiliary to the U.S. Air Force. During World



Civil Air Patrol cadets of Squadron 603 stand at attention during a regular meeting at the Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station in Moon Township.

War II, CAP pilots flew under the jurisdiction of the Office of Civilian Defense and later the Army Air Force, accumulating more than 500,000 hours. They patrolled coasts, searching for enemy submarines and ships, as well as personnel in distress. They also patrolled forest and southern borders, target towing for the armed

forces, and flew courier flights. While flying their own civilian aircraft, CAP pilots sank two German submarines. In 2014, Congress awarded CAP a Congressional Gold Medal for its service during the war.

Today, CAP's mission is to support America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, and youth development. It also promotes air, space and cyber power. CAP offers opportunities for volunteer members to serve their community, participate in leadership development training and acquire new skills that benefit personal and professional growth.

Across the country, there are 52 CAP wings - one for each state - as well as wings in Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. It consists of 1,400 squadrons and approximately 56,000 volunteer youth and adult members nationwide. In 2015, the organization was credited with saving five lives.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY REBECCA L. FERRARO
ROBERT FROST CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY

Squadron 603, which meets at the 911th, has been around since 1942. It has long welcomed members from throughout the area, including the West Allegheny community. Today, the squadron is a close-knit group that meets at the air reserve base every Monday night to train and learn. It has 52 members, with 32 cadets and 20 seniors, all of whom are referred to by a ranking system that uses the same military titles as U.S. Air Force officer grades.

Similar to Junior ROTC programs at many public high schools, the CAP instructs basic military practices, but is less of a direct conduit for the military. Instead, CAP focuses on providing cadets - who range from age 12 to 20 - with the opportunity to do everything from participate in search and rescue missions to operate the flight controls of a Cessna aircraft through the Cadet Orientation Flight Program.

"That's probably one of the more exciting parts of the program," said Cadet Capt. Greg Grover. "There are huge opportunities in the CAP."

Grover is one of several siblings, all of whom passed through CAP's cadet program. His younger brother, Cadet Airman Owen Grover, recently joined the program and jokes he was "pushed into it," but fully enjoys each aspect of cadet education. Their sister, 2nd Lt. Michelle Grover, is the squadron's administrative officer and conducts monthly physical training and emergency services training.

Similarly, Capt. John Roberts joined after his daughter got involved in the program five years ago.

"This is like one big family and we would do anything for each other," said Squadron Commander Capt. John Roberts.

Cadet 1st Lt. Colin Pritchard seconded the captain's sentiment. "I showed up with no idea what to expect, love the activity, and have been here ever since," he said. "This stems from both the close family atmosphere and also the opportunities the cadets get to interact with the U.S. Air Force."

Capt. Bill Ellis, the squadron's aerospace education officer, joined in 2003, after both his son and wife joined.

"You find out that you really start to love the kids and you want to see them succeed. There's something for everyone," Ellis said.



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Around Your Town

Between weekly meetings, an aerospace education program, and search and rescue missions, CAP members spend a considerable amount of time together. At the same time, the CAP, as a whole, maintains a close relationship with the Air Force, assisting with upwards of 90 percent of its inland search and rescue missions. Young cadets get to participate in the search and rescue missions alongside or in lieu of the Air Force with CAP senior cadets.

“We never send cadets out without seniors because we are sensitive to the fact that they are still youth,” Grover said.

Squadron 603 also enjoys a close relationship with the 911th, coordinating community events such as children’s Easter Egg Hunts, “Truck or Treat” Halloween activities, Wings Over Pittsburgh, and Wreaths Across America. One time, CAP senior member Rendon Elsesser – who is also a U.S. Army Reserve pilot – flew a Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopter from Johnstown to the 911th to provide training for both base medical personnel and CAP cadets.

“We are involved with the 911th on a very intimate level,” Michelle said.

CAP Squadron 603, as well as other active squadrons in western Pennsylvania, primarily gain new members through word of mouth, open house events, air shows and fundraising. They recruit heavily in the Moon Area School District, though many of its members are home schooled.

The highest rank achievable for cadets is that of cadet colonel, which is usually obtained between four-and-a-half and five years. Cadets must pass a four-part test administered by an Air Force officer to earn the award. They must also pass a physical training test and score 80 percent or better on a written leadership essay, a leadership module and an aerospace exam.

Additionally, there is an intense screening process for senior members that requires clear records, a federal background check and five levels of achievement.

When cadets graduate ranks, family members are invited to a rank and promotion ceremony.

Donna Constantino’s son Angelo, 16, found the CAP program online when he was 11 and joined Squadron 603 at age 12 so he could pursue his dream of becoming a pilot. Angelo, who is now

a cadet second lieutenant, says the opportunity to do an O-flight is definitely a motivating factor.

“The search and rescue is quite an opportunity to serve,” said Donna. “The program is wonderful. It’s the manners and the respect and the way they carry themselves.”

Each meeting begins with a uniform inspection and any infractions are recorded and taken into account for 56 days between rank promotions. Inspections are always done outside.

“We try to keep them engaged because they sit in a classroom all day,” Grover said.

During their weekly meetings, they cycle through one week of physical training and safety, one week of character development, one week of aerospace, and then one of drug demand reduction. Capt. Bryan Clelland is in charge of the drug demand reduction classes. In the classes, cadets examine real-world cases that teach them not just to say no, but how to say no.

“Everything’s not black and white but when you’re a kid you kind of think that,” Clelland said.

He says that many of the younger cadets have already been offered drugs, which is why they need to learn how to implement what they are taught in the program into their daily lives.

Another program cadets participate in is a monthly program taught by Ellis about principles of flight. Ellis uses an array of methods and tools in the class, from a Cessna 182 aircraft simulator to having cadets build and test their own rockets.

“This is science. We’re trying to keep this as far into today as possible,” Ellis said, referencing the Estes rockets and Virtual Altitrak apps on phones. “I love science and I love talking with the kids.”

For more information on the Civil Air Patrol, visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

Robert Frost served in the Air Force from 1966-1970. Retired from a career at ExxonMobil, he is now a private pilot and a lieutenant colonel in the Civil Air Patrol.



Bill Ellis, Squadron 603's aerospace education officer, teaches cadets using a number of tools, among them, rockets.



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WA seniors raise thousands of dollars for Western Psych

Three recent West Allegheny graduates - Derek Clontz, Mikayla Bogaski, and Katie Hannan - worked together to organize a charity golf outing April 23 at Blackhawk Golf Course in Beaver Falls. The outing was the focal point of their senior project and helped raise money and awareness of teens suffering from mental illness.

Despite chilly temperatures that failed to get above 55 degrees, the outing proved to be a rousing success, with over 100 golfers who enjoyed breakfast, 18 holes of golf, lunch, skill prizes, a Chinese auction and catered dinner. Attendees appreciated the time and dedication that the three students put into the project, which raised \$5,000 for Western

Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.

Their efforts were helped by many local businesses that donated their time, services or merchandise to help support the event.

Recent West Allegheny graduates Derek Clontz, Katie Hannan and Mikayla Bogaski organized a golf outing that raised thousands of dollars for Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic on April 23.



STORY SUBMITTED
PHOTO BY EMILY DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

SUBMITTED BY THE
ZIEMNIAK FAMILY

A "thank you" letter to the West Allegheny community

The Ziemniak family would like to thank the people of North Fayette Township and neighboring communities for all of their support following the loss of our son, Evan. The kindness and generosity we have received from these wonderful local residents have helped us get through this extremely difficult time.

We would especially like to thank Patrick Konieczny and Thomas-Little Funeral Service for providing a ceremony that truly honored Evan's life. They went above and beyond and we will be forever grateful.

We would also like to thank Saint Patrick Roman Catholic Parish in Oakdale and the Rev. Ben Vaghetto for their spiritual support.

And finally, we would like to thank our friends Patrick and Sabrina Brindle, who were there for us when we needed them most.

Although we will continue to mourn our loss of Evan, we are grateful that we live in a compassionate community that truly cares.

Thank you and God bless!

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“You’ve been Pink’d” by the WA volleyball team

SUBMITTED BY THE WEST ALLEGHENY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

This fall, thousands of volleyball teams around the country will participate in the Dig Pink Rally, which promotes breast cancer awareness and raises funds to help eradicate the disease.

The West Allegheny volleyball team has participated in its own Dig Pink Rally event for the past six years and successfully raised over \$22,000 during that time. Proceeds from the West Allegheny Dig Pink Rally have been donated to the Side-Out Foundation, a nonprofit organization established in 2004 to unite U.S. volleyball players and coaches with the goal of furthering breast cancer awareness, research and education.

Last summer, the West Allegheny volleyball team initiated a fundraising campaign involving plastic pink flamingo yard decorations. To the surprise of unsuspecting West Allegheny residents, pink flamingos were discovered flocking onto area properties. For a monetary donation, the flamingos were removed by “highly trained professionals” from the West Allegheny volleyball team.

Given the generosity of the West Allegheny community, the 2015 Flamingo Campaign proved to be a success and will be revived again this summer. The team will also be holding its annual Dig Pink Rally volleyball match Oct. 4 against Ambridge High School at the West Allegheny High School gymnasium at 6 p.m. Donations can be made at www.side-out.org/cb/campaigns/campaign/11498.

Help is needed to make this year’s 2016 Dig Pink Rally successful. The team thanks the community in advance for its support of this important cause.



Members of the West Allegheny volleyball team have been raising money for the Side-Out Foundation in part by decorating lawns with pink flamingos and removing them for a fee.



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SUBMITTED BY THE SCOTT FAMILY

STORY AND PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BOY SCOUT TROOP 248

A "thank you" from the Scott family

Dear friends and neighbors:

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the tremendous outpouring of support in the wake of our recent barn fire. We are extremely humbled by the magnitude of support from everybody, from the first responders to our friends and neighbors. There are too many others to mention individually for all everyone has done to help us through this tough time.

We are extremely proud and fortunate to be a part of this community.

Sincerely,
The Scott Family

Boy Scout Troop 248 member becomes 88th to earn Eagle Scout rank

On April 21, Cory J. Supan, a member of Boy Scout Troop 248, completed his Eagle Board of Review, making him the troop's 88th to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

For his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, Supan planned, laid out and installed a cement walkway from a parking lot to a U.S. flag pole at a park in South Fayette Township. He also planned, laid out and installed two sets of double decker stadium-style seating to look out over the ball fields next to the flag pole. As well, the project provides additional access for wheelchairs, making it easier to access the flag area and seating.

Supan is a senior at South Fayette School District. He plans to attend college and study criminal justice.

STORY AND PHOTO SUBMITTED

Biology students apply lessons learned

Several West Allegheny High School biology students volunteered at Keelboat Farms on April 16 as an extension of a class project and as partners of the Live Well Allegheny initiative. In addition to a tour of the community supported agriculture farm, students provided maintenance and spring planting.



Volunteers take a break from a hard day's work at Keelboat Farms.

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Staubenville Pike Auto announces recipient of first vehicle giveaway



Staubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity announced the recipient of its first car giveaway on May 31 as Melissa Mock. She is pictured at center with Staubenville Pike Auto president Jason Pottle, who teamed with Heroes Supporting Heroes president John Lee (at far right) on the car giveaway. Staubenville Pike Auto team members pictured refurbished the vehicle. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

Staubenville Pike Auto in Robinson Township is excited to announce the recipient of the first vehicle given under its Staubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity program. SPARC's selection committee chose Melissa Mock, a mother of three, after hearing her inspiring life story. Mock has overcome several challenging obstacles in her life and through it all has never given up hope for a better tomorrow. She continuously inspires those around her to succeed and gives her time willingly to help others.

Staubenville Pike Auto presented Mock with a vehicle on May 31 at its used car sales location at 6112 Staubenville Pike.

"Melissa is representative of Staubenville Pike Auto, Inc.'s mission to give back to the community and change lives one vehicle at a time," explained Jason Pottle, president of Staubenville Pike Auto. "She exemplifies the type of individual who can succeed if given the opportunity and necessary resources and we believe that reliable transportation can be a necessary resource for success in our community."

Staubenville Pike Auto, Inc. will be giving away two vehicles yearly through its SPARC program. Pottle commented, "we believe that there is no greater feeling than helping others succeed and it is our belief that a 'HERO' is someone who brings out the best in others. That is why we have partnered with so many fine organizations like Heroes Supporting Heroes, which graciously paid the taxes and state transfer fees for Ms. Mock's vehicle, to make our own vision of helping others a reality. Our program is truly changing lives one vehicle at a time!"

Staubenville Pike Auto will be giving away another vehicle to a deserving individual or family Dec. 7. Nominations for the second vehicle giveaway can be submitted starting in mid-October. To nominate someone, visit www.staubenvillepike.com and click on the SPARC icon.

For more on Heroes Supporting Heroes, visit www.heroessupportingheroes.org.

WA alumna named Thiel College valedictorian

Allison Gloor was one of five members of the Thiel College Class of 2016 to earn valedictorian honors at the college's 142nd commencement, which was held May 8. Gloor, a 2012 West Allegheny graduate and native of Coraopolis, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She majored in both business administration and criminal justice. She also completed a minor in psychology. In March, she earned student of the month recognition and departmental honors. Gloor plans to attend graduate school at Youngstown State University in the fall to pursue a master's degree in counseling and student affairs in higher education.



Allison Gloor PHOTO SUBMITTED

The graduating class' five valedictorians were selected based on their perfect 4.0 grade point averages. Students graduated summa cum laude and received the Dean's Key for making the Dean's List during all eight semesters at Thiel.

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STORY AND PHOTO SUBMITTED

SUBMITTED BY ANNA PARKER,
ERIN BERG AND RACHAEL HORSTMAN

Local pharmacist earns doctorate

Thomas James Gallant Jr. of Findlay Township fulfilled a lifelong dream of becoming a doctor when he graduated from Duquesne University on May 21 with a doctorate in pharmacology.

A graduate of OLSH High School, Gallant attended Quinnipiac University, where he earned a degree in biology and graduated cum laude. He then attended the Mylan School of Pharmacy at Duquesne, where he earned his doctorate. He interned for Giant Eagle, where he now works as a full-time pharmacist. He plans to take his state license exams in July.



Tom Gallant Jr. is pictured here with his father, Tom Gallant Sr., and mother, Mary.

New PWCTC charitable foundation hosts first golf outing

STORY AND PHOTO
SUBMITTED BY
PARKWAY WEST CAREER
AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

During the 2015-2016 school year, the state of Pennsylvania approved a new foundation established by Parkway West Career and Technology Center. The purpose of the foundation is to raise money that can be used to improve program delivery through technology upgrades.

On May 9, the Parkway West Education Foundation hosted its first golf outing at Montour Heights Country Club. The outing attracted 90 individuals from across Allegheny County, with 57 area companies sponsoring the event.

The success of the outing comes as more awareness is being generated about the value and importance of the trades and career education. Parkway West Career and Technology Center provides students entering into the workforce with the skills needed to meet the challenges facing them, either as they enter the workforce directly out of high school or enroll in a post-secondary program. PWCTC offers 14 career-driven programs that are designed to teach students the necessary skills to have a successful career.

Participants at the Parkway West Education Foundation 1st Annual Golf Outing enjoy dinner at Montour Heights County Club following a golf scramble. Pictured are: building construction technology instructor Kevin Lewis, Parkway West Career and Technology Center assistant director Brock Snedeker, PWCTC masonry instructor Charlie Sweeney, PWCTC school counselor Rich Wittebort and PACTA school consultant Dr. Michael Curley.



The truth about West Allegheny's cafeteria food

Editor's note:

The following was submitted by Anna Parker, Erin Berg and Rachel Horstman, all of whom are eighth-graders at West Allegheny Middle School. This article was written as part of a class assignment.

In May, our class studied and read about where our food comes from before it gets to our plates. The book that we read was "The Omnivore's Dilemma," and it went into detail about our food industry. An omnivore's main issue is that, while they can eat anything, they do not always know what they are eating. This prompted us to want to learn about our cafeteria food and its suppliers.

We chose to learn about our very own cafeteria because we wanted to know if the food is really as bad as society has made cafeteria food out to be. After learning about the food served in our own school's cafeteria, we learned that it is not as bad as we had previously thought.

Though most students think that we are served mystery meat and frozen entrees, it is quite the opposite. We spoke with our cafeteria workers and a representative from the Nutrition Group, the food service company with which West Allegheny contracts. The Nutrition Group gets its supplies from Monteverde's Catering and Reinhart Food Supplies.

According to these individuals, the food we eat is actually healthy. Most of the fruits and vegetables from these two companies are locally grown. Meat, some of which is subsidized by the government, is sourced from around the country. When the school receives the food, it is frozen and not cooked. In the past, food has been cooked and then frozen. The food that we receive is not organic because organic food is very expensive. Our school pays \$1,800 to \$2,300 a week per shipment of food. If the school purchased organic food, that cost would increase dramatically.

Food service workers prepare most of the food at school. For example, ground meat in tacos and special chicken entrees - not patties or nuggets - are prepared at the school. Lettuce and other fruit, including for the salad bar, are cut at the school by food service workers.

The school has also removed its fryer. The food that you would expect to be fried is baked. It is either frozen or cooked at the school by the lunch staff. All of these delicious meals take days and sometimes a week to prepare in advance. Chicken nuggets and patties, along with hamburger patties, are the exception. No one from our school knows how they are really made, and as a consequence, they are rarely served.

There have been many positive changes that have improved the quality of our cafeteria food but we feel that additional improvements could be made. It is our opinion that the school should stop serving frozen processed chicken products such as patties and nuggets. We would also like to see more organic food and less processed food, even though the food already costs a lot. Additionally, we recommend purchasing meat from local farms instead of from across the country.

Clinic introduces area students to tennis

The West Allegheny High School girls tennis team hosted their annual two-day tennis clinic May 24 and 25 for third through

proper stance, serve, volleying and groundstrokes. At the completion of the program, each student was recognized with a

SUBMITTED BY WEST ALLEGHENY TENNIS

certificate of completion.

Those who participated from the girls tennis team were: Kaitlyn Bolton, Rachel Ecoff, Kali Rossi, Marina Maropis, Mikalya Medved, Sydney Saunders, Hannah Cook, Megan Rutch, Mackenzie Walters, Madison Cunningham and Kimberly Davis. Students participants



eighth grade students in the school district. The clinic was held with the goal of introducing youngsters to tennis. It attracted 20 participants.

Under the direction of WA girls tennis team coach Rita Wilson, the team led drills and taught participants how to hold a racquet,

were: Kellie Bolton, Julianne Brindle, Madison Davies, Drew Dudeck, Nikoletta Jarman, Melina King, Alex Kot, Brett Kot, Lily Lee, Mallory McElhaney, Kate Miller, Rebecca Miller, Kaitlyn Oslick, Abigail Perimutter, Erica Prologo, Julia Prologo, Brooke Shephard, Kaitlyn Slick, Kristen Stofan and Riley Welte.

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Express joins nationwide effort to fight hunger

SUBMITTED BY EXPRESS
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

Express Employment Professionals, an internationally franchised staffing company, once again set aside June 11 as a day of volunteerism known as Brand It Blue Day. On the day, Express Employment Professionals' Pittsburgh West office joined Express offices across the country to donate food to local food banks and pantries to help fight hunger.

"Brand It Blue Day is a day each Express franchise can come together for one great cause to help the community," said Deb Gray, Pittsburgh West Express franchisee. "This is a chance for Express offices to honor and give back to the communities that have supported us through the years."

From mid-May through June 11, Express hosted a food donation drive at its Robinson Township office. Express also helped local businesses get involved by offering to deliver food donation collection boxes to businesses wishing to participate. During the week of June 5, Express and campaign volunteers collected boxes and delivered donations to local food banks. Express also provided onsite volunteer assistance at food banks.

At the same time, Express is organizing donations to support the Blessings in a BatchPacks campaign for the Charlie Batch Foundation. In partnership with local grocery stores, Express purchased snacks and delivered them to the Batch Foundation for summer programs.

"The summertime is an especially difficult season for children who depend on the meals they receive at school," Gray said. "The

donations we receive will help provide meals for children and their families in our community."

This year marks Express' fourth year of hosting Brand It Blue Day. To date, more than 200 Express offices and 1,500 volunteers have donated their time and resources to provide more than 156,000 meals to local food banks and charitable organizations.

The Express Employment Professionals Pittsburgh West Express office is located at 6200 Steubenville Pike in Robinson Township. Last year, Express nationally generated \$3.02 billion in sales and employed a record 500,002 people. The Pittsburgh office serves Allegheny and Beaver counties. Local businesses and applicants are encouraged to stop by, visit expresspros.com/wpgghpa or call (412) 494-2000.

St. James Catholic School registration now open

SUBMITTED BY
ST. JAMES
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. James Catholic Parish in Sewickley is currently accepting registration for the 2016-2017 school year for preschool through eighth grade. With 102 years of Catholic education experience in the heart of Sewickley, St. James is an excellent place to start a child's journey, through social awareness, academics and faith in a safe, loving environment.

St. James Catholic Parish is located at 200 Walnut Street in Sewickley. For more information, and for a tour of the school, or to reserve a seat for the open house, call (412) 741-5540 x 100. Visit them online at www.stjameschool.us.



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MOSAIC CHURCH

South Sudan "lost boy" speaks at Mosaic Church in Imperial



The Rev. John Chol Daau is pictured here with students at his school, Good Shepard Academy, in South Sudan.

On April 25, Mosaic Church in Imperial invited the North Fayette community to hear a talk by The Rev. John Chol Daau, a former refugee from South Sudan. Daau was a refugee from 1983 through 2005 during the Second Sudanese Civil War. Over 2.5 million people died during the war. At age 12, Daau found himself running for his life in the wild and looking for safety. He was one of a group of about 20,000 boys from the Neur and Dinka ethnic groups who fled to Ethiopia and became known as the lost boys.

In the recently published book "God's Refugee," Daau details his time as a lost boy. In 2004, while still a refugee, Daau began training lost boys and lost girls - who were now adults - to become leaders as they prepared to return to South Sudan. As South Sudan became an independent nation, Daau continued to train adults in college and at the seminary. His journey ultimately led him to the U.S., where he attended Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge.

In 2014, Daau founded the Good Shepard Academy, which

teaches children in South Sudan. Currently, 117 children attend GSA. A daily meal is provided. Oftentimes, this is the only meal the child will receive.

Daau addressed some of the urgent needs that the GSA faces, one of which is a way to provide clean water to students. In South Sudan, only about half of the population has access to safe drinking water. One of Daau's goals is to provide safe drinking water through a system that catches rain water.

Another goal that John has for GSA is to create a place where students feel safe and can be themselves. During his talk, Daau recalled a rare moment when he observed children being children as they played with the school's only soccer ball. He described the joy felt among the students. As South Sudan rebuilds itself, hopes are that this rare moment will become a daily occurrence.

"God's Refugee" can be purchased on Amazon. For more about Daau's ministry in South Sudan, visit www.newhopeforsudan.org. Emails can be directed to admin@mosaicpgh.org.

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MOSAIC CHURCH

STORY SUBMITTED BY LUCKY'S BARBIERE
PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY

Longtime area barbershop gets new look and owner

Anyone who patronizes Clips Barbershop on Steubenville Pike in Oakdale might have noticed some changes at the shop over the



past six months. The studio space has expanded. New chairs have been added. There's also some new artwork on the walls, flat screen televisions, new faces cutting hair and a new sign outside the shop.

No longer Clips, the barbershop is now called Lucky's Barbieri and is under the management of new owner Kyle Presogna, who took over at the end of 2015. Regulars of the shop would likely know

ABOVE: Kyle Presogna (pictured at right) cuts a client's hair at Lucky's Barbieri on Steubenville Pike. Presogna took over ownership of the barbershop, which was formerly known as Clips Barbershop, last year.
BELOW: The tools of the trade at Lucky's Barbieri.

Presogna, as he's been barbering at the shop since 2009. He's been the shop's manager since 2012.

Like any new business owner, Presogna has been busy putting his personal stamp on the shop, one that encapsulates his own vision of what a barbershop should be.

"I wanted the style of the shop to reflect the style and culture of the barber shops our ancestors went to," he says, "in order to be respectful to our trade."

An Erie native, Presogna graduated from Erie Cathedral Preparatory School and earned a bachelor's in marketing at Indiana University of Pennsylvania before moving to Pittsburgh in 2007. He started out as an apprentice at Clips, completing a state-certified program that earned him his license.

"I was fortunate enough to study under some of the most talented barbers in Pittsburgh," he says.

After a few years of barbering at Clips, he earned his barber manager license, which allows him to both manage a shop and foster aspiring barber apprentices like he once was.

Now, Lucky's Barbieri has sizeable staff for a shop of its size, with four fulltime barbers and one part-



Familiar and new faces are now barbering at Lucky's Barbieri on Steubenville Pike. Pictured above in the newly remodeled shop is new owner Kyle Presogna with Holly Hursky and DJ Persichetti.

timer. They accept cash and credit cards, and offer a hot lather, straight razor neck shave finished with a steam towel with every haircut at no extra charge. No appointments are needed. They are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Along with haircuts, they also offer beard trims and discounts for seniors and children under 12. They are located at 7352 Steubenville Pike and can be reached at (412) 489-5867.

"Barbering is an art," says Presogna. "Being able to see a look before it's finished is a gift. Knowing that a gentleman can walk through my doors and not only get a fantastic haircut, but a piece of their childhood back while they're there...that's what makes it all worth it."



A hot lather, straight razor neck shave finished with steam towel included with each haircut at no additional cost.

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New Imperial-based outdoor construction and landscaping company builds, "Everything in the yard."

In 2006, Moon Township native Rob Cronin did what a lot of teenagers do to make money over the summer. He cut grass.

Teaming up with his cousin, Chris, the two traveled to clients' homes using Chris' parent's SUV.

When the next summer rolled around, Cronin approached his cousin about getting started up again, but Chris wanted to work for his father's painting company. So Cronin enlisted the help of his own father, who helped him build a trailer so he could haul his equipment and supplies.

"My dad would drive me around on weekends," says Cronin. "I got my sister and her friends to drive me to jobs. My mom even drove me every once in a while."

Cronin hasn't looked back since. Today, his company, C&R Landscape Development - named after Rob and Chris - has 24 employees and a service footprint that extends as far as Mars and Smith Township. Cronin says about half of their clients

are residential and half are businesses. The bulk of their work consists of design and heavy installation work, building walls, installing patios with pavers and laying concrete.

At the start of this year, the company also teamed up with a professional builder so they could begin offering decks, pergolas and even small additions. Cronin named the company Cronin Construction.

"Before, if you wanted to build a deck with a step down onto pavers with a fire pit, we had to bring in a deck company," says

Cronin. "But now, we can do it on our own."

As far as what they can't do in terms of outdoor construction, there isn't much.

"Anything in the yard," says Cronin.

That includes driveways, gazebos,

patios, new decks, deck refinishing and more. They even remodel bathrooms and basements.

"Say you want a paver patio with a pergola," says Cronin. "We coordinate it so that our professional paver installers will work with our carpenters to build the entire project, which saves our customers time and money."

For pergolas and a lot of other projects, Cronin says his carpenters custom cut everything, which means they don't have to buy kits. That saves customers additional money.

Currently, the company is building its first full house - a cottage-style custom home in Raccoon.

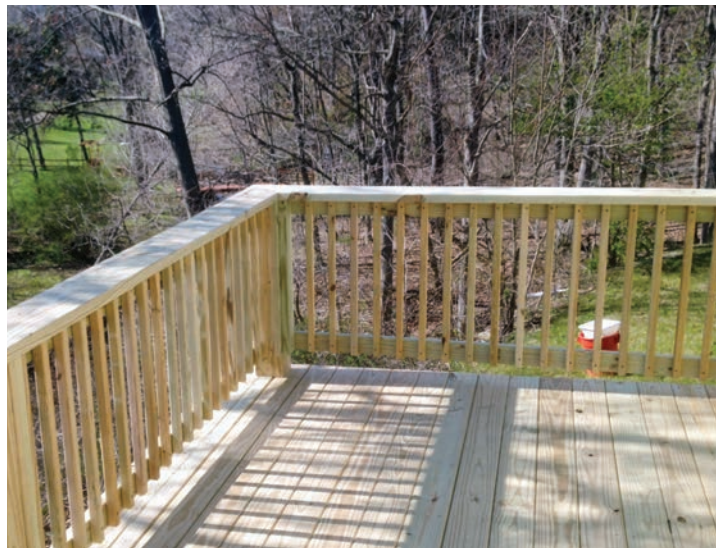
C&R's office is located at 667 Route 30, just outside of downtown Imperial, in Findlay Township. The business opened its office there in 2013, after C&R acquired TLC Landscaping, which was based in Imperial. Next year, Cronin is planning to open a full-service garden center on the site and to start selling a variety of plants and flowers. They already sell bulk landscaping material - including mulch, gravel, soil

and pavers - and offer delivery services. They deliver every day, starting at 5 a.m. On Saturdays, they deliver from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Both C&R Landscaping and Cronin Construction are fully insured and licensed. They can be reached at (412) 302-1341 or at rob@crpgh.com.



Rob Cronin (pictured above) owns C&R Landscape Development and Cronin Construction. The two companies can complete a range of projects, from patios to decks (pictured below). More of their projects are pictured on the adjacent page.





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The journey from graduation to the workplace

SUBMITTED BY DEB GRAY,
EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

Think about how you prepare for a vacation or a trip. The event is certainly more enjoyable when you've done some research on how to ENJOY your time. Without planning, all kinds of things can occur: the hotel is full, the baseball game is sold out, the restaurant is closed for a private celebration. Even when we plan, unexpected travails can happen. I have learned to expect the unexpected when traveling, and I work to incorporate buffers to ensure minimal stress. However, I did not have that knowledge when I first started my road warrior travels years ago. Quickly, I learned from seasoned travelers.

I write this with new graduates in mind. To them, I say "Congratulations." I also challenge you to LOOK, LISTEN, LEARN and ENJOY as you embark upon your job search journey. Keep in mind that how you navigate the job market is all about how you plan. Think about your accomplishments. Revisit what you've learned, what you enjoy, and what you have to offer an employer. Confidently prepare and identify your BRAND before you answer every ad or apply to every opportunity. Learning who you are is a lifetime process, but it is also an important part of your personal branding process.

It helps to know that when employers evaluate potential employees, they look at both hard skills and soft skills. Hard skills are those acquired through education and experience, like your ability to operate a machine or a computer. Soft skills include how well you communicate with others or how well you manage your time. Though more subjective, soft skills are equally - if not more important - than hard skills, which can be taught. Soft skills have more to do with a candidate's character.

Every communication with a potential employer - whether a cover letter, resume, interview or follow-up email - reveals some of your soft skills. Social media can also reveal soft skills and character, so take time to detox your social media platforms by getting rid of any harmful posts. Replace them with good posts and, while you're at it, set boundaries by checking privacy settings.



Top five soft skills

A recent survey of 115 Express franchises across the nation found that the top five most important soft skills employers look for are:

- Dependability
- Communication
- Commitment
- Motivation
- Initiative

For the second consecutive year, dependability was considered the most important soft skill. Make sure you exhibit that skill during the application and interview process. Update your resume and cover letter, plan to give examples of your dependability during your interview and be sure to follow up after the interview.

Additionally, the number one trait job seekers need to possess is a positive attitude. Keep positive by organizing your search and remember to utilize your family, friends, teachers, church, volunteer groups - your entire network - to help you find the opening that will be a match for your initial career goals.

As you navigate the many steps of your job search, you will also have the options of applying online or using a staffing agency. Whichever road or roads you choose, make the most of every step and enjoy the journey!

For more job search and work related information, be sure to visit: blog.expresspros.com/movinonup/.

Survey Says...



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Got the job search blues? We can help!

Call today to learn about full-time, part-time or flexible hours positions that may be a match for you!

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No more pencils, no more books.....

We all looked forward to summer break when we were students: no alarm clocks, no classes, no homework and no tests!

Summer is a great time for our children to investigate their interests, something they don't always get to do in school. Encourage them to be explorers over the summer. They can do science experiments, create art, bake, research an area of interest or a career, read books they want for fun, and/or attend summer camps. There is plenty of information on the Internet and at your public library about how to foster interest in all of these.

It is, however, a well-documented fact that school skills slide over the summer. As the saying goes, "Skills they are not using, they are losing." Reading a little every day works wonders, whether it be a book, newspaper or blog on the Internet. Math can be highlighted daily by asking questions like, "If we leave now and get to the game at 10:45, how long will it take?" "If the recipe calls for 2 cups of flour, how many half cups is that?" "If you get paid \$40 for mowing the neighbor's lawn and it took two hours, how much did you make an hour?"

How can Huntington Learning Centers help?

We can assist your child with academic skills that they were not very strong in at the end of the school year, such as phonics, reading comprehension, writing, study skills and math. This extra help can give your child the skills, confidence and motivation they need to successfully tackle the new school year.

We hear the "L" word a lot from parents. In our line of work, the "L" word I am referring to is "lazy." Parents can mistakenly identify a lack of skills as laziness, because they look a lot alike. The symptoms of both present as:

- Not doing or turning in homework.
- Rushing through homework.
- Passive studying or no studying for tests.
- Not getting good grades on homework or tests.

If you are not sure whether a lack of skills or laziness is to blame for your child's poor performance in school, please call and consult with us!

Now is the time to prepare for the ACT and SAT

For college-bound high school students, summer is a great time to prepare for the ACT or SAT. Yes, traditionally students take the test during the spring of their junior year, but they do not have to do so. For the fall's senior class, they may not have achieved the scores they wished and will need to gain admission to their target college, be accepted into an honors program or receive scholarships.

- Scores for both tests are good for a number of years. Your 11th-grader can take the exams in September or October instead of waiting until April, May or June. The scores will still be valid.
- Look at your student's other activities to decide the best time to take the ACT or SAT. When do they play sports? Are they taking AP classes that have tests in May?
- Exam preparation requires time and, oftentimes, students have more time available in the summer.
- Exam preparation helps with critical thinking and test-taking skills for regular, honors and AP classes.
- All of our exam prep programs use a 1:1 student-to-teacher ratio.

Huntington is the tutoring and test prep leader. Its certified tutors provide individualized instruction in reading, phonics, writing, study skills, math, algebra through calculus, chemistry, biology and physics. Huntington preps for the SAT and ACT, as well as for state and standardized exams. Founded in 1977, Huntington's mission is to give every student the best education possible.



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Katie, Barb and Alaina

Academic Skills K-12

Reading•Writing•Math•
Study Skills•Spelling•
Vocabulary• Phonics

Subject Tutoring

Algebra•Geometry•
Trigonometry•Pre-Calculus•
Calculus•Biology•
Chemistry•Physics•

Exam Prep

Next test dates

SAT June 4, Oct 1
ACT June 11, Sept 10

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SUBMITTED BY ALLEGHENY MUSCLE THERAPY AND MASSAGE

Foot detox works, and here's how

The Bio-Electric Stimulating Technique - also known as BEST - Energy Foot Spa is a natural health device that can help the body strengthen and balance itself. The human body functions from electromagnetic signals. The brain sends signals to each part of the body and the body sends signals back to the brain. When cells have enough energy, they are able to function properly.

The BEST energy foot spa charges the water in which the feet are soaking. This, in turn, charges the body, allowing it to absorb vital energy on a cellular level and creating cell balance.

For best results, we suggest two sessions per week for three weeks or three sessions a week for two weeks to start. Users have experienced improvement in muscle and joint pain, sleep, energy levels and all over wellness.

It is important to consume clean water and foods between ion foot bath sessions.

Here's what people are saying:

"After each treatment I have an overwhelming sense of calm. I sleep like a baby and always have really great energy the next day/days following treatment. Also, great bodily functions for a few days. I will never be without the foot detox treatments."

~ Allegheny Muscle Therapy and Massage Client, Tina

"I have osteoarthritis in most of my body, swelling in my ankles and leg. The foot detox has taken away a lot of the swelling and pain. In addition, it gives me more energy."

~ Allegheny Muscle Therapy and Massage Client, Faye

"The best thing I can say about the foot detox is the amazing energy and sense of well-being I immediately felt afterwards. I felt 'lighter on my feet' and my body just felt cleaner and healthier after getting rid of the toxins in the body. I also noticed I slept better and my digestion was noticeably better with less bloating in my stomach."

~ Allegheny Muscle Therapy and Massage Client, Tony

DISCLAIMER: Individual results may vary. Products mentioned are not meant to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. Advice on treatment or care of an individual patient should be obtained through consultation with a physician or trained health care provider who is familiar with the patient's medical health history. You can not have an ion foot detox session if you have a pace maker, are pregnant or lactating, if you have undergone an organ transplant OR if you are using any electrical medical devices attached to the body.



Before BEST treatment.*



After BEST treatment.*

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for
Heroes Supporting
Heroes
Workcamp

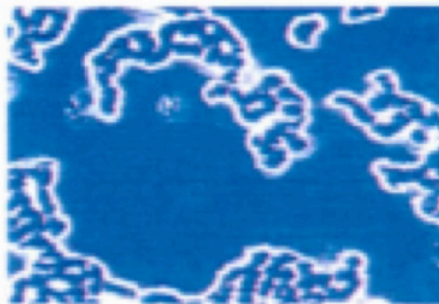
* Actual AMTM Client Photos; blood cell analysis from BEST

Allegheny Muscle Therapy
and Massage
Foot Detox
\$25 Single Session
with coupon

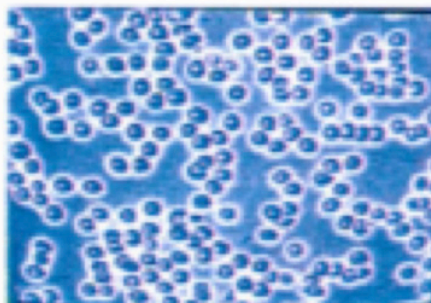


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Live Blood Analysis
Before BEST Treatment



After BEST Treatment



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Excel in Sport Performance • Chronic Stress
Medical • Sports • Pregnancy • Children
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SUBMITTED BY ROCK, MULCH & MORE

Topsoil . . . screened at Rock, Mulch & More

Topsoil is required to plant lawns and gardens. Quality topsoil is what leads to lush, green lawns and thriving gardens. Raw topsoil is the top layer of soil that has the greatest organic matter content and microorganisms, which work together to create a rich, nutritive topsoil that is able to hold more water and support plant growth. Topsoil is the layer of soil where all the action is. When building a new home or planting a new lawn, it is important to shop for quality topsoil to ensure a healthy lawn. When planting a new garden or enhancing an existing garden, it is important to shop for quality topsoil that will increase nutrient cycling, organic matter and water holding capacity. Whether putting in a lawn or garden, using a quality topsoil positively affects results. Rock, Mulch & More produces a quality topsoil product for its customers.

Screened topsoil impacts lush lawns

To create a nutrient-rich environment for grass seed to germinate and grow, several key factors are essential. A good balance of sand, silt, clay and organic matter create soil texture or structure. Combining these ingredients occurs during the mixing and screening process, creating an aggregate product that best supports plant growth. Soil structure can be modified to support individual growing needs by changing the proportions of key topsoil ingredients that affect soil structure, pH and water holding capacity. Screened topsoil can be used to create the base for a new lawn or worked into an existing lawn to create optimal growing conditions. Rock, Mulch & More screens topsoil on-site, takes pride in their screened topsoil product and has the ability to create custom screened topsoil aggregates for a variety of customer needs.

Significance of topsoil depth on thriving gardens

Topsoil is the soil layer in a garden that provides the nutrients and minerals needed to support plant success. Topsoil is the soil layer where most of the plant's roots live. For new garden sites, 6 to 12 inches of topsoil is recommended. Topsoil depth depends on the type of vegetables or annuals that are being planted and the type of soil already available on the site. Once you have decided where to plant your garden, what you will plant and your garden site dimensions, the staff at Rock, Mulch & More can assist you to determine how many cubic yards will best support your garden. The company's website, www.RockMulchandMore.com, has a materials calculator. Screened topsoil, mushroom manure or leaf compost can be added to enhance the topsoil level in existing gardens.

A popular gardening trend is to create raised beds. Factors that need to be considered when determining the depth of a raised bed include noting the type and depth of soil located beneath the bed, whether the bed has a solid bottom, soil depth requirements for the intended crop and how much bending over you are willing to do. Once built, the dimensions of a raised bed can be used to calculate the amount of screened topsoil needed.



Available lawn and garden products

Raw products can be purchased at Rock, Mulch & More and loaded into your truck or trailer, or delivered to your garden site. Please call Rock Mulch & More at (724) 796-1558 or visit our website, www.RockMulchandMore.com, for information about unscreened or screened topsoil, mushroom manure and leaf compost, as well as a full line of aggregate products.

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\$5 off Any Delivery • Or • \$25 off Any Block Delivery	ROCK MULCH & MORE aggregate and landscape supply For residential customers only. Not valid with other offers. Offer expires 7-15-16.	\$2 off Mulch ROCK MULCH & MORE aggregate and landscape supply For residential customers only. Not valid with other offers. Offer expires 7-15-16.	15% off Block Delivery ROCK MULCH & MORE aggregate and landscape supply For residential customers only. Not valid with other offers. Offer expires 7-15-16.
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STORY AND PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY

New North Fayette Community Center reaches completion

Three weeks before the new North Fayette Community Center in Donaldson Park officially opened its doors to the public, the building looked like a lot of construction projects at that phase. Workers were still finishing drywall seams, hanging drop ceilings, painting walls and spreading grass seed around the perimeter.

After nearly four years of planning, and three years of construction, the project was in its home stretch, with what amounted to some finishing touches still needing to be made on much of the four-level structure. Accented with steel and large, floor-to-ceiling windows on its top floor, the building quadrupled the usable space of the township's existing, half-century old community center. It would allow the township to expand its preschool and afterschool programs, form new sports leagues, accommodate its growing summer camps and provide a new venue for senior luncheons.

Its basketball court, with six hoops, was large enough to allow two basketball games or two volleyball games to take place at once. With a walking track, party rooms, indoor playground and a state-of-the-art conference room on its top floor, there was a little something for everyone. That would help to establish a central place for a growing township that had, incidentally, joined the Live Well Allegheny campaign, an initiative to improve the health and

wellness of county residents.

Still, with a June 9 opening date closing in, and a big celebration planned around the opening, it was enough to make anyone wonder if the project would really be finished in time.

"We were joking at a staff meeting not long ago that we're going to have our opening and have to tell people not to lean up against that wall because the paint is still drying," said North Fayette manager Bob Grimm during a tour of the building in May.

Initially, township officials had settled on an opening date sometime in July of 2015. That was before bad weather and a number of other complications delayed construction. Before that, said township supervisor James Morosetti, supervisors had considered remodeling the existing community center, which for many years shared space with both the Western Allegheny Community Library and the magistrate court. Township supervisor James Mangan says that the township started seriously considering constructing a new building after Donaldson Park opened in 2010. Shortly thereafter, the housing crisis hit, which dropped interest rates.

"When those interest rates got very low, that's when we decided to go," said Morosetti.

Grimm says that in order to figure out what they wanted in a community center,

they looked at other community centers across Allegheny County.

"We wanted functionality," said Grimm. "We wanted ease of maintenance; we wanted a building people could be proud of but we weren't going to spend a lot of money on amenities that we didn't need."

They took their ideas to a number of architectural firms, among them, Pittsburgh-based DRS Architects, which has done work for, among others, Duquesne University, Nemaquin Woodlands Resort and Allegheny General Hospital. The company developed a design and unveiled it to township officials in 2013. Their plan called for a four-level structure with a split entry that followed the slope leading up to Donaldson Park. A cantilevered roof supported a suspended running track that circled a large basketball court. A fourth-floor banquet room with floor-to-ceiling windows and a wrap-around terrace overlooked the park.

On the bottom floor, alongside the basketball court, designs called for three locker rooms with showers and two party rooms. On the second floor, there was an indoor playground, a preschool room and more.

Officials at the time called the plans "impressive." They put the project out for bid and settled on R.A. Glancy Sons, but months of design tweaks were still ahead.

"That was the hardest part of the design



process,” said Grimm. “We spent months meeting with the architects and the engineers over those little details.”

Many of those details were the kinds of things that would be hard to imagine before standing in the finished structure, but officials knew that future changes would only multiply costs. For instance, they had interior windows installed instead of grates on some of the party rooms looking out onto the basketball courts to help dampen sound. They also expanded one end of the gymnasium into the hillside to make room for cardio equipment and a storage room. On an adjacent side, they graded the hill so an addition could be added in the future.

“You want to be prepared for the future,” said Mangan. “You don’t want a center that just meets our needs in 2016. You really want to be prepared to grow.”

Project manager Tim Shannon of R.A. Glancy Sons says there are plenty of less obvious but equally important details that will help cut operating costs.

“There’s a lot of really nice stuff people will never see,” said Shannon.

For example, township officials decided on a durable rubber and urethane floor for the basketball court instead of wood, which would have required more maintenance. They installed the same material on the track surface. On the structure’s top floor, officials invested in windows with a high insulation rating to help save on heating and cooling costs. The structure also has double exterior walls.

The top floor has also been equipped with coaxial cable for television, Ethernet for Internet and wireless access points. Digital projectors will be installed in the future. Township supervisor Bob Doddato said the space will be used both for senior luncheons and rented out to offset operating costs.

“Any local company would love to have an event there,” he said. “It’s spacious, has a great view, it’s just nice.”

Grimm said a nominal membership fee will also help offset operating costs, but that with that fee, members will get a discount on rentals.

To date, two grants have helped with construction. In 2014, officials worked with former state Sen. Matt Smith to secure \$163,000 through the Community Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program. In 2015, the township worked with state Rep. Mark Mustio to secure a grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority. A total of \$102,570 of the grant went directly toward construction.

The township is also offering sponsorships in the form of naming rights for various parts of the center, including the playground and basketball courts.

Morosetti said that a big impetus behind building the new center was to accommodate the township’s growth, which is the result of both commercial and residential development.

“The idea between us was, we can’t become stagnant,” said Morosetti. “We need to keep moving North Fayette forward.”

North Fayette Parks and Recreation

Check out these programs at the new North Fayette Community Center at Donaldson Park

Unless otherwise noted, contact the parks and recreation office at (724) 307-3725 to register or for more information.

North Fayette Summer Camp, annual summer camp for grades 1-8, **through Aug. 19, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday**, weekly field trips.

Minecraft Camps, June 20-24, ages 8-13, moviemaking: **9 a.m.-12 p.m.**, map creation: **1-4 p.m.**, \$185 per camper, township residents receive \$15 discount, register at www.hi-techlearning.com.

Lego Superhero Camp by Bricks 4 Kids, Aug. 8-12, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., ages 5-12, \$125, register at www.bricks4kidz.com/pennsylvania-pittsburghsouthhills/.

Three-on-three basketball tournament, July, co-ed: third grade through adult.

PALS, Providing Assistance Love and Support, contact recreation department for upcoming events.

After School Programming 2016-2017, 3-5:30 p.m., K-8 programs designed to provide a safe environment for children to come after school, **registration starts July 1**, transportation provided from schools to community center when school is in session.

New Programs/Events and Leagues, coming **summer/fall 2016** to the new North Fayette Community Center in Donaldson Park.

Senior Picnic, June 18, 12-3 p.m.

More North Fayette Programs

Community Tennis, June 14-July 28, ages 4-17, adults by appointment, West Allegheny High School tennis courts, space is limited.

Water Aerobics, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Hankey Farms Pool, \$2 per class or medical insurance card, 18+, **through Sept. 5**.

Hankey Farms Pool Membership, call the parks and recreation office at (724) 307-3725.



West Allegheny Youth Soccer Association

Fall 2016 REGISTRATION

Season starts late August

DEADLINE: June 30th

(Registration for In-house players only will be accepted until July 15 with a \$25 late fee.)

Travel players must register by June 30th.

Child must turn 4 years old in 2016

NO EXCEPTIONS

Visit www.westasoccer.com
for age chart and more information

BIRTH YEAR AGE GROUPS

Players born 2012 Academy Practices (6 weeks/12 sessions)	Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 pm	Saturday 10:00 – 11:00 am	\$65.00
Players born in 2011 Practices and Games			
Players born in 2010 & 2009*	Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 pm	Saturday 11:15 am-12:15 pm	\$75.00
Players born in 2008 & 2007*	Monday 6:15 – 7:15 pm	Saturday 8:30-9:30 am	\$75.00
2008 & 2007 Co-Ed Travel Team	See website for more information	Sunday afternoon games	\$85.00
*additional skills training by PSA (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)	Thursday 6:15 - 7:45 pm	4 sessions	Included!
Travel (2006 & earlier)	TBD practice day and location	Sunday afternoon games	\$85.00

**PLEASE NOTE
PROGRAM
CHANGES TO
CONFORM
WITH U.S.
SOCCER'S NEW
BIRTH YEAR
MANDATE**

Ways to Register:

- Go to: www.westasoccer.com
(Register on-line and SAVE \$10.00)
No longer an additional fee for credit card payments

- Print registration form on website and mail to P.O. Box

- June 25th at WA Community Library from 10-12.

Questions Call Heather Chappel (724) 693-2536 OR Liz Pons (412) 716-8000

Email: westasoccer1@gmail.com

Financial assistance may be available to those that qualify. Contact Doug G at (724)926-2270 to inquire





District launches Safe and Supportive Schools Committee

Since forming just three months ago, the District's newly established Safe and Supportive Schools Committee has made meaningful progress on several fronts. Notably, the committee has defined its role and priorities, implemented new anti-bullying actions, and drafted a relevant and comprehensive bullying policy.

The committee is under the leadership of Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, superintendent, and committee co-chairs Christopher Shattuck, assistant superintendent of schools, and Tracy Pustover, school board director. The committee has worked diligently to ensure that West Allegheny schools are free from judgment, prejudice and bias, and that all students can learn and grow in a safe and supportive environment.



High school students created artwork to serve as a reminder to #BeTheChange.

The following committee work was designed to reach and benefit every West Allegheny student:

Box Out Bullying

Middle school students were introduced to an anonymous reporting system for acts of bullying. Four boxes were installed in key areas of the school and students have been encouraged to drop a note if they wish to report bullying while remaining anonymous. Based on student input, this same system is also used to recognize peers for acts of kindness.

#BeTheChange Campaign

Students in grades 6-12 and teachers were invited to sign the following pledge developed by the committee to help stop bullying and encourage acts of kindness:

I pledge to do my part to make WAMS a better place. I know treating others right means that everyone should be respected for their individuality. I will treat all of my classmates with respect and compassion in class, at school events, outside of school and on social media. I pledge that if I witness any of my fellow classmates in a situation where they are being harmed and/or mistreated, I will step up and get help. I will not stand for bullying of any kind; I pledge to #BeTheChange.

This campaign was launched May 9 with a middle school spoof video. Upon signing the pledge, students received a double-sided bracelet. Those who wear the bracelet start the day with the gray side that is imprinted with the phrase #BeTheChange. When a teacher or student does something kind for someone, they flip the bracelet to the red side, which reads #KeepItGoing. This serves as a reminder to continue acts of random kindness throughout the day.

Parent Workshops

In partnership with the Pupil Services team and the North Fayette Police Department, the Safe and Supportive



Students Dylan Grass and Sanskar Raghuwanshi display their anti-bullying pledges, bracelets and hashtags.

Schools Committee developed three informative parent workshops. These sessions provided parents with key strategies concerning awareness, prevention and support of students regarding social media, Internet safety and bullying prevention and intervention.

Bullying Policy

The committee drafted a revised bullying policy, which was reviewed by administrators, parents, teachers and students. The new policy reflects a more comprehensive view of bullying and addresses acts of cyber-bullying as well. A final draft will go to the school board of directors for their final review and adoption in June and July. Next on the committee's agenda is to propose revisions to the Student Code of Conduct to reflect the District's stance on bullying.

Anti-Bullying Program Review

The committee is in the process of assessing the effectiveness of the District's existing anti-bullying programs as well as actively reviewing new programs. Recommendations will be considered for the 2016-2017 school year.

The District extends a sincere "thank you" to all members of the Safe and Supportive Schools Committee, as their demonstrated passion for serving students is commendable and greatly appreciated. As the committee continues its work, meeting updates may be found on the District website under the Safe and Supportive Schools link.



Book Bus 2016 Summer Schedule

June 13	Maronda Farms - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Elm Street Park - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
June 20	Old Ridge Ball Field - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Seabright - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
June 27	Pointe West - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Walden Woods - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
July 11	Fayette Farms - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Oakdale Playground - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
July 18	Maronda Farms - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Elm Street Park - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
July 25	Old Ridge Ball Field - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Seabright - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
August 1	Pointe West - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Walden Woods - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
August 8	Fayette Farms - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Oakdale Playground - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
August 15	Maronda Farms - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Elm Street Park - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
August 22	Old Ridge Ball Field - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Seabright - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
August 29	Pointe West - 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Walden Woods - 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.



The Book Bus is a mobile literacy resource made possible through a partnership between the West Allegheny School District, Western Allegheny Community Library and Monark Student Transportation. Please contact the **Western Allegheny Community Library** at 724.695.8150 for additional details.

Superintendent's Message

We were very pleased recently to present an approved 2016-2017 proposed final district budget. Final approval is anticipated on June 15 with NO tax increase for the ninth consecutive year.

This is an amazing accomplishment, as headline after headline lately has seemed to focus on districts that have been forced to offset their financial distress with furloughs, increases in class sizes, and cutting academic and extracurricular programs. Our District budget includes revenues of \$60.1 million and expenditures of \$60.6 million. Our fund balance remains healthy, at \$13.5 million, with approximately \$8 million unassigned, as defined by the state. As part of West Allegheny's Framework for Academic Excellence Priority 3, financial responsibility and operational efficiency remain key priorities and focus areas for the District.

While holding the line on taxes and maintaining a healthy savings account (fund balance), we have been able to provide the West Allegheny community with full-day kindergarten and two fully renovated elementary schools. We have maintained average to lower class sizes, as based on historical data. We also have not furloughed one teacher or other staff member; nor do we have plans to do so. Our administrators, teachers and staff continue to earn regionally competitive salaries, as evidenced by the ratification of a teacher contract last year and our support employee contract this year.

We have provided students across all grade levels with new curricula and academic programming materials in literacy and mathematics that support remediation and acceleration for all students. We have been able to increase time dedicated to mathematics with the addition of four math teachers at the middle school. At the same time, we have preserved and are enhancing our exploratory arts program.

At the high school, we continue to add Advanced Placement course offerings, with 18 currently available, as well as access to AP courses in 10th grade. The District has also begun to pay for AP tests, accounting for approximately 650 taken this past spring. We have launched and enhanced our innovation, creativity and design program by investing in robots for elementary and middle school students. We have also purchased innovative robotics, computer programming and pre-engineering curricula. In May, the District hosted its first annual creativity, innovation and design showcase, which served to

spotlight an impressive array of student work. All of the above has been accomplished within budgetary constraints, without one staff furlough, and without adding any additional taxpayer burden.

In addition to these enhancements, the District continues to absorb dramatically escalating expenditures from retirement costs for employees. In the past six years, those expenditures have totaled over \$3 million, increasing on average by 35%. Further, repayment for money borrowed for the elementary renovation projects adds approximately \$620,000 annually to our budget.

How have we been able to manage the above accomplishments while living within our means? We have been fortunate to capitalize on an early retirement incentive and applied a staffing efficiency model that best utilizes individual skills and abilities while ensuring students remain our top priority. We restructured health benefits for all employees, which saved considerable money. We also implemented an aggressive energy conservation model that yields a cost avoidance of over \$200,000 annually. As a result, West Allegheny recently became the first District in Pennsylvania to be recognized as a full District by the KEEA Energy Education Fund.

Additionally, we have realized transportation route consolidation and lower fuel prices. We have also partnered with a food service management company, The Nutrition Group, to manage our cafeteria service. This has dramatically decreased our annual food service deficit while providing fresh, healthy and child-friendly meal choices.

As well, we have developed multi-year budgeting plans for academics, technology and capital improvement projects within budgetary projections. The above resulted in approximately \$2 million not being spent on an annual and rolling basis. The value of these cost savings measured is approximately \$14 million by the budget year 2020-2021!

We will continue to pursue cost saving measures and monitor fiscal impacts to our budget, including state funding. We remain committed to advancing West Allegheny as a top-rated district in Pennsylvania, one that provides students with world-class education and opportunities but maintains fiscal prudence and conservatism.

This is an amazing accomplishment, as headline after headline lately has seemed to focus on districts that have been forced to offset their financial distress with furloughs, increases in class sizes, and cutting academic and extracurricular programs.

All of the above has been accomplished within budgetary constraints, without one staff furlough, and without adding any additional taxpayer burden.

.....

Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert,
Superintendent

District honored for energy conservation

The District was proud to be recognized as an honorable mention recipient of the 2016 Moving to the Head of the Class Award for its significant energy and cost savings efforts. The awards ceremony was held at the Pennsylvania State Capitol building in Harrisburg on May 18. The event was hosted by the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance.

“While we typically honor at the school [building] level, the entire District had done such wonderful work, that the judges made the unprecedented decision to recognize the entire District,” said Alana Zola from the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance.

The District’s energy conservation program was launched in 2014, when administration brought on Colleen Kartychak as its District energy specialist to perform energy audits and provide program education to teachers and staff members so that they could become active participants in the program. The outstanding energy savings realized by the District in the first year of the program were attributable to the efforts of teachers and staff.

“If it were not for the efforts of the teachers and staff and their active participation in the program, we could not have achieved our high level of success,” said Ken Fibbi, director of buildings and grounds. “It is a great honor to be recognized at the state level and to share this award with Ms. Kartychak and with the entire district.”

Colleen Kartychak (fifth from left) and Ken Fibbi (fourth from left) accept a Moving to the Head of the Class Award honorable mention on behalf of the District in the Pennsylvania State Capitol building rotunda.



Important Summer Building Schedules

Please be advised that all West Allegheny School Buildings and Facilities will be closed on the following Fridays:

**June 17,
July 15, 22, & 29,
Aug. 5**
and:
June 24 through July 10



The district has adopted a four-day summer work week as an energy and cost-saving measure.

Daily building hours will be extended Mondays through Thursdays from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Senior project takes Danielle Wicklund to state capital

It has been a personal undertaking for senior Danielle Wicklund to get school districts across the Commonwealth to adopt CPR training at their high schools. Wicklund was recently asked to address state politicians at the Pennsylvania Capitol building about her efforts, which were inspired by a tragic event involving her uncle.

A retired basketball player in the Philippines, Wicklund’s uncle suffered a heart attack at an exhibition game. Because CPR was not administered, he suffered from hypoxia, or a lack of oxygen



Danielle Wicklund speaks about the benefits of CPR training at a press conference in Harrisburg.

to the brain. He is now unable to see, speak or function on his own. Medical professionals believe that if CPR had been administered, the outcome would have been much different.

With this in mind, Wicklund not only decided to become AED/CPR certified, but she also took the issue to Pennsylvania legislators and the West Allegheny School Board. Her commitment to her cause resulted in the American Heart Association giving her an opportunity to speak at a press conference in Harrisburg. She also met with state Sen. Guy Reschenthaler, state Rep. Nick Kotik and state Rep. Mark Mustio, all of whom voiced their support of the legislation and informed her that they are on board.

“We are incredibly proud of Danielle for this and so many other accomplishments,” stated Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, superintendent. “Her poise and perseverance will undoubtedly take her far as she has proven with the success and reach of her senior project. Her CPR initiative has led the District to incorporate the training into the high school curriculum for the 2016-2017 school year.”

SADD Club activities prove educational

This spring has been busy for the Students Against Destructive Decisions Club, as members have hosted and participated in several educational programs.

On April 27, the club hosted a mock crash, which illustrated the importance of making smart decisions and the impact of distracted and impaired driving. Sgt. Michael Hayes, West Allegheny's student resource officer, and athletic director Dave McBain detailed the student-led event for juniors and seniors in attendance. A huge thank you is extended to local emergency responders who made the demonstration a huge success.

SADD club members Jacob Wesley, Devin Selinsky and Evan Stitch also participated in the Allegheny County Teen Driving Competition on April 11 and claimed first place in the category of best overall team. For their first place finish, the club was awarded \$500 and a trophy. Each school had three students compete in a driving and simulator course as well as a written exam. SADD members were accompanied by Hayes and school counselor Sue Kriznik.

On April 21, Hayes and SADD Club staff sponsor Kateri Meinert took 27 high school students to the 13th annual Allegheny County Fatal Awareness Conference at the Ross Township Community Center. The countywide conference attracted nearly 300 students. West Allegheny was recognized during the event for their school programming and community service.



Emergency responders remove student actors from a car during a mock crash demonstration on April 27.

Pi Day activities prove a piece of pie for WA students



Students Xavier Santiago-Sanchez, Alex Rule, Joe Honeychuck and Dylan Teague display certificates they won for placing in Pi Day activities at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Teachers Chris Lucas and Dan Marshall took 40 students from the high school's Gaming Academy to Edinboro University of Pennsylvania on March 14 for Pi Day activities. Joe Honeychuck took first place in a Rubik's Cube competition by completing the puzzle in 33 seconds. Xavier Santiago-Sanchez took second place by solving a Rubik's Cube in 36 seconds. Alex Rule took second place in the game of sets competition and Dylan Teague took third place in digits of pi by listing 87 digits.

Students spearhead Live Well Allegheny initiative

The Live Well Allegheny campaign, which was launched by the Allegheny County Health Department in 2014, strives to address the primary behaviors that contribute to a majority of preventable chronic diseases by encouraging preventative health behaviors. Through a coordinated effort, the campaign has been intended to improve the health and wellbeing of county residents, particularly the most vulnerable.

This year, ACHD expanded the LWA campaign by engaging youth as leaders as part of a student-led health initiative. Its goal was to empower youth leaders who could then develop and deliver health messages to youth in the community, thereby encouraging them to develop lifelong habits that would help them live healthier lives.

Twelve students were recruited from across the county, including Hannah Salvucci, Marina Maropis, Abby Walls and Brenna Rupnik from West Allegheny High School. Students attended bi-monthly meetings to learn about public health, determinants of health and how to develop health campaigns. Subsequently, the LWA Student-Led Health Initiative identified key health issues among peers through a combination of county-level data and personal experience.

Areas of interest include: body image, stress and mental and physical health.

Marina Maropis, Hannah Salvucci, Brenna Rupnik and Abby Walls represented West Allegheny in the Live Well Allegheny student-led health initiative.



The LWA Student-Led Health Initiative was then compiled and presented at the Allegheny County Board of Health meeting on May 4. Additional outreach events were scheduled, including at the North Fayette Community Center grand opening event on June 9.

Abby Walls and Brenna Rupnik also incorporated the Live Well Teen Initiative into their senior projects, which they presented April 29.

SHASDA recognizes two seniors



Two seniors were honored at the South Hills Area School Districts Association Conference and Awards Ceremony held at Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn on April 30. Both Kaitlyn Kariman and Joseph Smeltzer received a 2016 Student Performance Award, which recognizes students who have demonstrated significant improvement in classroom performance and/or overcome obstacles to attain their present status.



JROTC trip takes in U.S. history

Members of the West Allegheny JROTC traveled south May 5-7 for an annual trip to a number of historic treasures in Virginia honoring the country's military history. Members of the JROTC visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, the American Civil War Museum in Richmond and the Historic Tredegar Iron Works and Civil War Museum, also in Richmond. As well, the trip included a visit to Kings Dominion Amusement Park in Doswell.

This year marked the 14th for the JROTC trip, which was under the guidance of Maj. David Botizan and Sgt. Maj. Robert Word.



Senior earns Gene Kelly Awards nomination



Noah Skowron (pictured at front) has received a Gene Kelly Awards nomination for his performance in the role of Zach in the District's production of "A Chorus Line."

Senior Noah Skowron has received a Gene Kelly Awards nomination in the best supporting actor category for his role as Zach in West Allegheny's spring production of the musical "A Chorus Line." Skowron was recognized and performed on stage with other nominees as part of the 26th Annual Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theatre on May 28 at the Benedum Center.

"We are extremely proud of Noah and the entire cast, crew and orchestra for performing a tremendously challenging, intricate show with such great intensity, depth and passion," said Tom Snyder, musical producer and District arts coordinator.

Middle and high school guidance counselors promote Autism Awareness Month

Autism Awareness Month was recognized at the middle and high schools in April as the guidance offices focused on educating students through a pledge to appreciate the unique aspects of all individuals. Students were encouraged to sign colorful puzzle pieces and affix them to paper trees and flower gardens located in the hallways to watch them bloom.

The middle school autism awareness garden starts to grow.



High school Spanish classes put a tasty twist on Cinco de Mayo

High school Spanish classes celebrated Cinco de Mayo on May 5 as the Burgh Bites Company parked its food truck outside classrooms and provided traditional Mexican fare throughout the day. Students also celebrated with music and dances native to the culture while showcasing their yearlong study.

Teachers Colleen Cunningham, Michelle Matoney and Allison McLaren organized the day's events.

Students enjoy traditional Mexican foods provided by the Burgh Bites food truck.



Students honored at American Legion Youth Achievement Dinner



Carolyn Stout and Derek Clontz display their American Legion award certificates.

Two high school students were honored at the American Legion Youth Achievement Dinner at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall on April 6. Both Derek Clontz and Carolyn Stout were recognized for their athletic achievements. As seniors, Clontz was a member of the football team and Stout was a member of the tennis, track and basketball teams.

Students participate in enrichment musical festivals

West Allegheny was well represented at several recent music festivals that were sponsored by the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association.

Three high school band members participated in the District 1 Band Festival on January 28-29 at South Fayette High



Students Katlyn Roberts, Sarah Elske, Nate Presutti, Anna Sawford, Nadia Pollinger, Eleni Fitsioris, Mackenzie Evers and Kaylie Stein attend the District 1 SingFest. Not pictured is Tia Schaefer.

School. Representing WA were seniors Hunter Evans on flute and Spencer Steward on baritone saxophone, along with junior Shawn Holl on trombone.

Junior Kaylie Wallace and sophomore Katie Carnot participated in the District 1 Chorus Festival on February 4-5 at Penn Trafford High School. Both were also selected by audition to participate in the Region 1 Chorus Festival on March 17-18 at Western Beaver High School.

As well, freshman Michael Cosnek, on trumpet, participated in the District 1 Junior High Orchestra Festival on April 22 at Pine Richland Middle School.

Two high school band members participated in the District 1 Junior High Band Festival on April 29-30 at Baldwin High School. Representing WA were freshmen Alex Berhosky on trumpet and Victoria Beuchat on clarinet.

Nine chorus members participated in the District 1 SingFest on March 4 at Baldwin High School. They were sixth-graders

Mackenzie Evers, Nate Presutti and Kaylie Stein. Representing the elementary schools were fifth-graders Sarah Elske and Katlyn Roberts from Donaldson; Eleni Fitsioris and Tia Schaefer from McKee; and Nadia Pollinger and Anna Sawford from Wilson.

Four middle school chorus members participated in the District 1 Junior High Chorus Festival on April 8-9 at Trinity Area High School. These students were eighth-graders Cayla Chiodo and Hayden Shipley, along with seventh-graders Rain Greene and Cerina Wichryk.

Nine elementary and middle school band members participated in the District 1 BandFest on March 4 at Hampton Middle School. Representing the middle school were sixth-



District 1 BandFest participants were Jacob Packer, Ryan Landry, Alyssa Vattimo, Nathaniel Lowman, Luke Dale, Emma Bohley, Cooper Simpson, Gabby Holtz and Emily Nolan.

graders Luke Dale, Alyssa Vattimo and Jacob Packer.

Representing the elementary schools were fifth-graders Ryan Landry and Gabby Holtz from Donaldson; Emily Nolan and Cooper Simpson from McKee; and Nathaniel Lowman and Emma Bohley from Wilson.

Band and choral teachers from across the District work with students throughout the school year to prepare them for these festivals.

WAMS student named 2016 Carson Scholar

Middle school student Mackenzie Taranto was selected as a 2016 Carson Scholar for her academic achievements and service to her community. Taranto was recognized at the Carson Scholars Fund Annual Pittsburgh Awards Banquet on April 17 when she received a certificate and medal, as well as a \$1,000 academic scholarship to be invested for her college education. In addition, the middle school will receive a trophy in Taranto's honor. The scholarship was awarded on behalf of Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Carson.



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Mackenzie Taranto

Donaldson Student Council raises funds for local causes



Donaldson principal Patricia Nolan (far left) and teacher Tiffany Mangan (far right) joined student council members as they presented funds they had raised to Senior Master Sgt. John Lee and Cpl. Todd Heufelder of the North Fayette Police Department. They are pictured here with the department's K-9 officer, Nevo.

Donaldson Student Council raised \$2,000 this year through student fun days and invited recipients of their donations to their classroom for a presentation. Cpl. Todd Heufelder of the North Fayette Police Department, along with the department's K-9 officer, Nevo, accepted a \$1,000 donation for the North Fayette K-9 fund. Air Force reservist Senior Master Sgt. John Lee, president of Heroes Supporting Heroes, accepted a \$1,000 donation on behalf of HSH.

The Donaldson Student Council advisor is teacher Tiffany Mangan.

Wilson celebrates reading through One School - One Book campaign

Wilson Elementary staff and students celebrated their One School - One Book campaign with an interactive Charlie Bumpers kickoff assembly. The program was sponsored by Read to Them®, a national nonprofit organization that encourages reading together at home by providing schools with tools, resources, guidance and support.



LEFT: Wilson's new library was decorated with artwork created by senior Alyssa Kandrats. BELOW: Teacher Ray Lanich helps lead the One School - One Book student assembly.



Elementary students roll out the rain barrels



McKee third-graders and Donaldson fourth-graders participated in a colorful conservation project when they researched and decorated rain barrels through the Three Rivers Project - Environmental Service Learning Program. Students took the plastic barrels and transformed them into colorful works of art.

The project, which is linked to the nonprofit Barrels by the Bay program, was led by teachers Kim Dawson and Claire March. Barrels by the Bay educates young people about water resources in the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding regions.

LEFT: McKee students are pictured here starting a rain barrel project by painting a barrel with a coat of white primer. RIGHT: Donaldson students painted this barrel with bright artwork for a rain barrel project they completed.



Athletic department hosts departure ceremony



Family and friends send off their loved ones at departure ceremony.

The West Allegheny Athletic Department hosted over 330 members of the 1st Battalion/110th Infantry of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard at a departure ceremony May 14. Over 1,900 friends and family members packed the high school gym to wish military members well during their yearlong deployment overseas. A special thank you to: the West Allegheny High School Show Choir for performing the National Anthem; Nutrition Inc., the District's food service provider, for donating breakfast items; North Fayette and Findlay Police Departments for assisting with traffic control; and North West EMS for onsite support.

"It was a huge honor to be able to support those soldiers and their families at a special time in their lives. The individuals and groups from the West Allegheny community who volunteered their time to make this a successful and memorable event are to be congratulated," said David McBain, athletic director for the District.

West Allegheny sincerely thanks the soldiers for their sacrifice and service to our country.

Student athletes attend Your Personal Best Conference

Twelve student athletes represented West Allegheny on May 10 when they attended the Your Personal Best conference hosted by Lillian Abell. The event was held at Duquesne University and was designed to help middle and high school female athletes achieve their athletic, fitness and health potential at every stage of their lives as they grow up to become healthy, fit, self-motivated, strong leaders of tomorrow.

Student athletes who participated in Your Personal Best Conference were: (front) Amy Nolte, Taylor Cummings, Brooke Wilson, Brenna Rupnik, Ava Krapanza and Sydney Saunders, (back) Ashley Seamon, Morgan Ziolkowski, Allison Koester, Kristin Quasey, Taylor Goldstroh and Carli Eger.



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Summer Fun Guide

The lowdown on fun summer happenings in and around the area.

Festivals

Sip wine by the lake at Janoski's Harvest Wine Festival on July 16

Local wine aficionados will be able to again sample wines from premier

regional wineries at the fourth annual Harvest Wine Festival on Saturday, **July 16 from 3-8 p.m.** at Janoski's Farm in Clinton. In the past, this open air wine tasting has featured over a half dozen wineries pouring in total around 100 varietals ranging from riesling-style chocolate sweet

wines, to crisp, un-oaked chardonnays, to robust merlots.

Janoski's also serves a buffet of fresh food for the event, much of it grown on the farm. For \$39 (or \$49 at the door) attendees get a souvenir wine glass for tastings, unlimited access to a home-cooked food buffet, unlimited wine tastings and a chance to win a basket donated by the

wineries. Once you find a wine you like, buy a bottle, grab a spot on the deck by the pond and enjoy some soft jazz by Kelly Burgos Harper and Joe Munroe.

Tickets can be purchased in advance

at Janoski's Farm and on Eventbrite.com by searching Janoski Farms Harvest Wine Festival. This adult-only event takes place rain or shine and is sponsored by Janoski's, Volant Mill Winery and Allegheny West Magazine. Visit the Facebook page Harvest Wine Festival for updates. Search #harvestwinepgh on Twitter for updates.

Satisfy your fair food craving at Holy Trinity Festival, July 27-30

Family fun, food and games return this year at the Holy Trinity Festival during the last week of July. The fair takes place **6-11 p.m.** nightly at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Robinson Township. Count on festival staples like ethnic food booths, funnel cakes, sweet treats, lemonade, bingo, basket auctions and cash raffles, as well as live entertainment, games, rides, face painting and sand art. A white elephant sale also returns this year. Parking is free and there is a shuttle service.

The fair benefits Holy Trinity Catholic School. Stay up to date at www.holy-trinity-school.org.



McSummerfest in McDonald annually draws a nice crowd by holding fireworks around July 4 but not on the holiday. PHOTO BY ELMO CECCHETTI

Celebrate July 4 all week long at McSummerfest, July 2-9

Sure, you could just enjoy a fireworks show on July 4, or you can keep the celebration going another day and head to McSummerfest in McDonald. As in years past, this large area attraction will once again be bucking the trend by holding a Zambelli Fireworks show on a day other than July 4. This year, their fireworks show takes place **July 5**. If it's anything like years past, the night should by far draw the largest crowd of the seven-day event. McSummerfest organizers don't keep a tally of exactly how many people the festival attracts each year, but it's estimated around 20,000 show up to take in nightly live acts, carnival rides by Tropical Amusements, games and more. During the festival, parking spots in usually quiet McDonald disappear and the McDonald VFD pulls in about half of its annual operating budget by selling fried Oreos, fried Twinkies, fry buckets, beer and more.

Show up early to get a parking spot. If you want to get away from the crowd but still take in the fireworks, take a blanket up on the embankment overlooking Heritage Park. For more, visit www.mcdonaldfire.com. See page 50 for a complete schedule.

More Festivals

Imperial VFD Street Fair, June 16-18, new station on Pine Street, **7-11 p.m.**, parade on Saturday at **5 p.m.**, additional parking available at activity center, see the new station, (724) 695-0500 x 246.

Saint Joseph Parish Festival, July 14-16, 5-10 p.m., games, food, bake sale, nightly live music: Thursday, Boiler Maker Jazz Band; Friday: steel drums; Saturday, Johnny Angel and the Halos; (412) 264-6162.

Ingram Days Celebration, July 16 -17, 5-11 p.m., Ingram Park, food, games, crafters, vendors, performances, face painting, airbrush tattoos **5-7 p.m.**, balloon artist **6-8 p.m.**, Jill West and the Blues Attack **7:30 p.m.** Saturday, Trainwreck (band) **7:30 p.m.** and Zambelli fireworks **9:30 p.m.** Sunday, www.facebook.com/IngramDays.

Oakdale Hose Company Carnival, July 23-30, 7:30-10:30 p.m. nightly, Oakdale Borough, live entertainment, different band each night, **July 23** Bike Run, **July 25** Rib Night at **6 p.m.** at fire hall, **July 26** Classic Car Cruise, **July 27** Touch-A-Truck, **July 28** Little Oasis Pasta Dinner at Oakdale Community Center, **July 29** Parade, **July 30** Tuner and Import Car Cruise, oakdaleborough.com.

Feastival, Aug. 6, 2:30-9:30 p.m., McKees Rocks municipal lot, food trucks, beer, family-friendly activities, live music: The Naughty Professor, Dumpstaphunk, Turkuaz, Sister Sparrow and the Dirty Birds, bring blanket and chairs, www.pghfeastival.com.

Area 5Ks

Running out on the trail can get lonely over the summer, so sign up for these area 5K runs for a little competition and community atmosphere. They're also great for motivation and goal setting. Cheering provided with registration fee.

McDonald 5K Charity McRun, July 3, starts and ends at Heritage Park in McDonald, out-and-back course on Panhandle Trail, \$30 registration fee, supports Society of St. Vincent de Paul, **8 a.m.** registration, race starts **9 a.m.**, also register at Body Systems Fitness in McDonald or online: runsignup.com (search for "McRun").

Township of Moon Firecracker 5K Run and Walk, July 2, out-and-back looped course featuring challenging hills and gently rolling roads, water station at 1.5-mile mark, medals, ribbons, music, prizes, long sleeved t-shirts and giveaways guaranteed to all pre-registered runners, awards for top three male and female in divisions, no pets or bikes, register at <http://www.moonparks.org>.

North Fayette Township Community Days 5K, Aug. 1, begins and ends by the North Fayette Municipal Building, follows Donaldson Road up to Donaldson Park and around walking trail before doubling back, prizes for top male and female finishers as well as age groups, \$10 entry fee, race starts **9 a.m.**, two-mile kids' run and family fun walk coincides.

Findlay Township Semi-Great Race, Aug. 19, starts and finishes at Findlay Township Community Park, race starts **7 p.m.**, hilly course, \$10 entry fee, awards for top male and female finishers as well as age groups and top finishing Findlay Township resident, two-mile fun walk coincides, dlarson@findlaytwp.org, (724) 695-0500.

Township Fairs

North Fayette Township Community Days, Aug. 6, starts **1 p.m.**, live music throughout the day, fair food vendors, beer tent, inflatables, pony rides, petting zoo, dunk tank, clowns, games, Zambelli Fireworks show, organizations wishing to participate should contact the North Fayette Parks and Recreation Department, (412) 788-4888.

Kennedy Community Days, Aug. 10-13, Fairhaven Park, Wednesday-Thursday, **6-11 p.m.**, Friday, **5-11 p.m.**, Saturday, **5-11 p.m.**, rides, games, community group booths, fair food, parade and fireworks Saturday.

Findlay Township Fair in the Woodlands, Aug. 19-20, starts late Friday, ends late Saturday with fireworks show, community booths, fair food, live entertainment throughout the day, art and agricultural contests, dunk tank, petting zoo, pony rides, live music, pie eating and hoola hoop contests, Darlene Larson, (724) 695-0500 x 246.

Robinson Township's 14th Annual Autumn Festival, Sept. 17, **noon-10 p.m.**, Burkett Sports and Recreation Complex; live music by: Hometown Rock n Roll, Blue Bombers, Collisions, Not Too Old to Rock; youth dance performances; amusements **12:30-9:30 p.m.**: Ready Set Race, Rock Wall, Bungee Trampoline, Steel City Gamerz.

Bike Runs

Oakdale Hose Company, July 23, oakdaleborough.com.

Promises Never Broken, July 30, starts at SNPJ Lodge 89 in Bulger and then heads to the Bullpen, T's Locker Room, the Mousetrap, Harrington's and back, benefits PNB's mission of rescuing horses, \$20 riders, \$5 passengers, \$10 dinner, (724) 554-8913.

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<http://www.facebook.com/harvestwinefestival>
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Plan a trip to a national park

After selling Allegheny West Magazine, Pat and John Jennette of North Fayette Township settled into retirement by setting out in their recreational vehicle with the goal of seeing as many of the nation's national parks and monuments as possible. To date, they have explored 22 of the 59 national parks and 41 of the national park sites, monuments and seashores. They have also volunteered at Pinnacles National Park. Combined, the National Park Service has more than 400 parks and sites.

FIND YOUR PARK

To celebrate the centennial of the NPS in August, Pat will present a program and slideshow at three area libraries this summer on how to visit the national parks. The first takes place **Aug. 9 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Moon Township Public Library. Additional ones take place **Aug. 10 at 6 p.m.** at the Western Allegheny Community Library and **Aug. 18 at 6 p.m.** at the Robinson Township Library. The program will showcase some of

Pat and John Jennette are pictured here at Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument in New Mexico. PHOTO SUBMITTED

the parks and monuments the Jennette's have visited and provide tips on visiting the national parks.

"Our national parks are the purest example of America," Pat explained.

Pat said that by presenting the workshops and sharing knowledge gained from their travels, she hopes to inspire others to see their national parks.

2016 5th Annual McDonald 5k Charity McRun

Sunday, July 3

The race starts and ends at Heritage Park in McDonald, following a flat, out-and-back course on the Panhandle Trail.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the race starts at 9 a.m.

All Proceeds Support

Proud Sponsor



Register at Body Systems Fitness in McDonald or go online to runsignup.com and search for "McRun."

\$30 5k Run/Walk OR Family Fun 1 Mile Walk (Per Family) | **Early Bird Special!** Get \$5 off when you register by 6/8/16!

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24th Annual McSummerfest 2016

At Heritage Park • McDonald, Pa

July 2nd - July 9th

Sunday, July 3rd - Community Day begins at 9am
5k Run Sponsored by Body Systems Fitness

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One Price Ride Night Every Night
6:00pm - 11:00pm Nightly
All entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m.

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First Energy Foundation

Saturday, July 2nd

McSummerfest Parade at 5 p.m.

No Bad JuJu

Monday, July 4th

Justin Fabus Band

Tuesday, July 5th

Zambelli Fireworks at Dusk

Functional Chaos

Wednesday, July 6th

US Kids

Thursday, July 7th

Dancing Queen

Friday, July 8th

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Saturday, July 9th

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Car Cruises

Show off your ride at these car cruises, or just show up to drool

Whether you restore classic cars, tune imports or just like gawking at custom rides, these car cruises are for you. Awards entitle winners to bragging rights, but the real fun is getting up close to these great cars and talking with customizers. Cruises are free and many benefit good causes.

SNPJ Lodge 106 Car Cruises, noon, with live entertainment, food, drinks, 50/50, level paved parking, door prizes, air conditioned clubroom, bikes welcome, car cruise schedule magnets for the first 100 cars, **July 17**, The Messengers, **Aug. 14**, Elvis Lives: A Tribute to the King, **Sept. 18**, Black and Gold Car Cruise, first 100 cars receive Terrible Car Cruise Towel, dash plaques for first 50 cars, bikes welcome, (724) 695-1411.

McKees Rocks Sunday Super Cruise, 4-8:30 p.m., **July 17, 31, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, 25, Thursday: June 16**, Kennedy Shopping Center, (412) 807-1115.

Wheels, Wings and Wishes, **July 31, 12-6 p.m.**, The Hangar, 500 Flaugherly Run Road, entertainment, Chinese auction, benefits Make-A-Wish, (412) 972-0420.

Paradise Island Bowl, 5 p.m., **July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23**, Paradise Island Bowling on Neville Island, oldies from the 1950s and 1960s, (412) 537-7447.

Oakdale VFD Mega Cruise, **July 26, 7-11 p.m.**, Oakdale VFD Tuner and Import Night, **July 30, 7-11 p.m.**, coincides with Oakdale VFD street fair, live entertainment, beer, soft drinks, free event, (724) 350-6795.

West Hills Baptist Church Car Cruise, **Aug. 13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**, West Hills Baptist Church in Moon Township, 259 Shafer Road, classic/antique cars, live music, food, door prize drawings every 30 minutes, (412) 264-4061.

Pep Boys' and Cruisin' Classics Car Cruise, **Aug. 7, 12-4 p.m.**, Pep Boys in Robinson Township, open to all cars and trucks, dash plaques, 50/50 drawing, door prizes, music by DJ Danny Brown, (412) 278-0302.

North Fayette Township Fourth Annual Cruise to Benefit PALS, **Aug. 7, 12-4 p.m.**, Donaldson Park, open to all vehicles, dash plaques for first 100 cars, door prizes, 50/50, DJ, (724) 693-3118.

Rosedale Technical College Car Show, **Aug. 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**,

215 Beecham Drive, Ste. 2, Pittsburgh, food trucks, live entertainment; three categories: classic, import, diesel/truck/muscle; dynamometer machine, student wiring competition, first 100 registrants get dash plaque, school tours, raffles benefit Rosedale Enrichment Volunteers Squad charity, (412) 521-6200.



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ROSEDALE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HealthSouth Sewickley Car Cruise, **12-4 p.m.**, 303 Camp Meeting Road, oldies tunes, Chinese auction, 50/50, vendors, food, door prizes and free meal for cruisers while supplies last, first 100 cruisers get dash plaques, (412) 951-2315.

INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2016

Findlay Township is excited to announce that the Independence Day Celebration is back for its fifth year. It will be held on Sunday, July 3rd (Raindate, Sunday, July 10th) at the Recreation and Sports Complex located on Route 30 in Imperial.

DJ Dan Sheets will kick off the celebration with music at 7:30 p.m. and the Findlay Athletic Association will be on hand selling refreshments. Bring your chairs and blankets and hang out with the crowd. Come early to get your "Give Aways" (free stuff!).

Fireworks by "Pyrotechnico" will go off at dark (approximately 9:30 - 9:45 PM). To date, this celebration has been made possible by the generous donations of the following sponsors:

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THERE WILL BE NO PARKING ALONG ROUTE 30**
COME OUT AND ENJOY THE FUN!!

Fireworks Shuttle

** Monark Bus Company will be running a shuttle to the Recreation & Sports Complex from the Findlay Township Activity Center at 310 Main Street in Imperial. The shuttle picks up at the Activity Center at : 7:45, 8:15, and 9 p.m. Parking on upper and lower levels of center. Overflow parking at Valley Presbyterian Church (bus picks up at church).

Rainbow Blast Family Fun And Dance Party July 31, 2016

6-6:45 p.m. registration, 7 p.m. start,
Clinton Park, all ages.

Walk or run the mile loop around Clinton Park while getting blasted with cornstarch-based colored powder, water and healthy snacks to follow, music by DJ Dan Sheets, payment and waiver due at registration, download from website, \$8, 3 and under free, spectators welcome.

Garden Tour

Tour Moon Township's award-winning gardens, July 9

The Moon Township Garden Club has quite a few talented members among its ranks. On **July 9**, the club will be opening up six area gardens to the public for a self-guided tour from **9 a.m.-2 p.m.** Tickets can be pre-purchased for \$10 or for \$15 the day of the tour. Proceeds benefit the Jean Thompson Vernocy Memorial Scholarship Fund and other philanthropic activities. To register, call (412) 269-1048 or email: emnorthy@comcast.net.

Day Camps

Register for these township camps and programs

North Fayette and Findlay Township, as well as the Western Allegheny Community Library, all run fun day camps and programs to keep all ages busy and active throughout the summer months. See Findlay's full listing on page 58. See page 35 for more information on North Fayette's summer camps. See page 59 for the WACL's camps.

Sign the kids up to make art

and build with Legos at Painting with a Twist (ages 5-14)

Painting with a Twist has created a niche for itself by offering painting sessions to adults and encouraging them to tote along their favorite adult beverage. In June, July and August, PWAT will also be offering day camps for kids ages 5-14 at its Robinson location at 5994 Steubenville Pike on Route 60. As well, it will be offering camps at its South Hills location at 250 Mt. Lebanon Boulevard. Camp hours run all day, from **9 a.m.-4 p.m.**, and campers can sign up by the day or week.

In the morning, campers get to take a painting and art education class. In the afternoon, there will be a Bricks 4 Kidz Lego build. Each week features a different theme and each day there will be a different painting to complete. PWAT provides all the painting supplies, including paint, brushes, canvases, easel and a local artist who will teach the kids how to paint, step-by-step.

Register at www.paintingwithatwist.com/pittsburgh-west or by calling (412) 787-7928. There's a discount for weeklong registration, but you need to call to get the discount.

Dates of camp:

Robinson location: **June 27-July 1, July 11-15, Aug. 8-12.**

South Hills location: **June 20-24, July 18-22.**

Daily camp rate: \$70 per child

Weekly camp rate: \$300 per child (discount of \$50/week)

Drop off time is 9 a.m. / **Pick up time** is 4 p.m.

A kids' camp release form will be emailed to all who register. The release form must be completed within one week of the camp start date.



For the hobbyists

Fly with the Greater Pittsburgh Aero Radio Control Society

In the middle of Hillman State Park is a plot of asphalt that looks like it could be used to land a small airplane. Throughout much of the spring, summer and fall, members of the Greater Pittsburgh Aero Radio Control Society show up on **Thursdays at 5 p.m.** at the remote hilltop airstrip to do just that. Their planes, though, are the remote-controlled type, and members use them to perform barrel rolls against a backdrop of real planes taking off from Pittsburgh International Airport. Their model planes range from simple to the complex, from ones carved out of Styrofoam to ones running on jet fuel.

Not only are there no overhead power lines or buildings to obstruct flight paths, but there also aren't any neighbors to complain about the sound of gas-powered engines. Both of those aspects have kept model airplane enthusiasts flying at the Kirkland Leroy Irvis Radio Control Model Airport since the mid-1970s. The airstrip was built with funds secured by Irvis, the first African American to serve as speaker of the house in any state. Irvis long harbored a love of aviation.

Anyone can fly a radio-controlled plane at the airstrip, so long as they are a current member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics and follow the AMA National Safety Code. AMA membership requires pilots to purchase a special type of liability insurance. GPARCS membership, however, has its benefits, especially for beginners.

"The biggest advantage we offer is assistance to new pilots," says club president Paul Dunn. "You'd be surprised how many people come out here and have their controls reversed."

Club members describe the hobby as a great father-son bonding experience. Some have even watched their sons grow up to become commercial pilots. That's not to say, of course, that it doesn't also make for a great father-daughter hobby as well.

The airstrip is located at 80 Model Airport Road in Burgettstown. For more, visit www.gparcs.org.



Greater Pittsburgh Aero Radio Control Society member Rick Grimes holds a remote-controlled plane that he made using insulation board.

Outdoor Classical Music

Take in a West Hills Symphonic Band Concert

The West Hills Symphonic Band is comprised of area musicians who volunteer their time because they love music. Many are professional and semi-professional musicians. Check out these free outdoor concerts the band will be playing over the summer. If that's not summer, what is?

Oakdale Borough, June 24, 7 p.m.

Collier Township Municipal Park, July 17, 7 p.m.

Kennedy Township Fairhaven Park, Aug. 11, 7 p.m.

G.P.A.R.C.S.
Greater Pittsburgh Aero Radio Control Society

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For information see www.gparcs.org

GPS directions
80 Model Airport Road • Burgettstown, PA 15021

Sports

Take tennis lessons in McDonald (ages 5 and up)

Want to improve on your tennis game or just learn how to play? Then sign yourself and the kids up for this tennis program in McDonald. It takes place throughout the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Kids' sessions are in the morning, teens in the afternoon and adult sessions are in the evening. There are also drop-in sessions on Wednesday evenings.

Tuesday sessions: **June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2.**

Thursday sessions: **June 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 4.**

Times (both days): **10-11 a.m.** (ages 5-6), **11 a.m.-12 p.m.** (ages 7-9), **12:15-1:15 p.m.** (ages 10-12), **1:15-2:45 p.m.** (ages 13-17), **3-4:30 p.m.** (co-ed high school team prep class), **6-7:30 p.m.** (adults, Tuesdays only).

Fees: \$60 adults, \$50 first child, \$25 each additional child.

Stop by the McDonald Borough office or Heritage Public Library for a registration form. Be sure to register by **June 1**. For more information, call (724) 926-4266.



Check out a race at

Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway

Just off the Noblestown Exit on Route 22/30 sits something of a rarity in the area. Since the late 1970s, souped-up racecars have been making trips there to race around a half-mile, oval dirt racetrack. Once located in Heidelberg, the track moved to the area after its former site was sold and destined to become the site of a shopping mall. The Miley family started operating the track in the mid-1980s and continues to do so today. PPMS, meanwhile, continues to be a destination for racecar drivers, enthusiasts and families looking for some affordable fun on **Saturday nights through October**.

Weekly races feature late models, sportsman cars and hobby stocks. There are also Young Guns races for youngsters who are just getting started in the sport and sprint car races with cars that can reach upwards of 160 miles per hour. Special events like the Laboon Memorial, UFO DIEHL Auto Herb Scott and Red Miley race, BRP Modasaures X and Jook George Classic bring out regional stars. Additional special races include Falconi's Auto Sprint Monster featuring Tony Stewart's All-Stars as part of the I-79 Summer Shootout, Outlaw 410s, RaceSavers and BOSS Wingless Sprints. The Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series returns this year on **Oct. 7 and 8** for the 28th annual Pittsburgher 100.

Racing usually starts around **7 p.m.** Gates open at **5 p.m.** Adult beverages are available at Ed's Pub but there are also drinks and fair food for the whole family. For upcoming dates, see next page. Visit ppms.com for a complete schedule.

DIEHL Auto Super Late Models race around the track at Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway. PHOTO BY FRANK WILSON



Try out the 3-D archery course at McDonald Sportsmen's Association

Located on 239 acres just outside of downtown McDonald, the McDonald Sportsmen's Association boasts numerous firing ranges, a pond for fishing, archery ranges and more. It also maintains a lengthy 3D archery course with 40 stations that winds through forest on club property. The course sports both moving and stationary targets that will challenge just about any archer. Usually, the club's amenities are only open to members, but it is open to the public on certain days throughout the summer and early fall. Events include competitive shoots, educational programs, archery shoots, skeet shoots, groundhog shoots and even fly-fish lure tying.

For a complete schedule of public events, see below. Youth events are free for anyone 18 and under. The club's YouthFest program on **June 25** includes a .22 pistol and rifle shoot, an archery shoot, and fishing. Participants also shoot muzzleloaders and are served lunch, compliments of the club.

For more, check out mcdonaldsportsmen.com or call (724) 796-2271.

3D Archery Shoot, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., third Saturdays and Sundays.

Trap and Skeet, Thursdays, 6:30-10 p.m., Wednesdays in the summer, 10 a.m.-noon.

YouthFest, June 25; Gun Bash, Aug. 13; Family Picnic, Aug. 28;

Wounded Warriors Shoot, Sept. 10; Junior Pheasant Hunt, Oct. 8.

NRA Sanctioned Matches, black powder cartridge, rifle silhouettes, first Saturdays, 7 a.m. registration.

Bench rest rifle, score shoot, first Sundays, 7 a.m. registration.

Groundhog Shoot, 8 a.m. registration, May 29, June 26, July 24, Aug. 21, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, 100-500-meter targets, optional one-shot 500-meter clay bird target, groundhog targets.

Hunter-Trapper Safety Class, Aug. 27, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bulls Eye League, .22 rimfire, second Fridays, 7-9 p.m.

Fly Tiers Guild, third Thursdays, September-April, 7-9 p.m.

Middle school athletes and freshmen:

brush up on your volleyball skills at this camp in Moon

Run by the Moon Area Volleyball boosters, this annual camp lets both newbies and experienced players learn and brush up on skills over the summer. It's open to any fourth- through eighth-graders and to incoming freshmen who did not participate last year. Campers work with Moon Area High School head volleyball coach Sam Woods, assistant coach Sarah Durham and members of the girls varsity team. It is open to all school districts. The camp takes place in the Moon Area High School gym **July 11-14, 9 a.m.-noon**. The day includes a 30-minute lunch break. Be sure to bring a lunch and wear athletic clothing, including tennis shoes, along with kneepads and a water bottle. The \$75 fee covers all three days. Sign up by emailing sims1008@comcast.net.

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Golf Outings

Montour Valley VFW Post 7714 and American Legion

Wesoloski-Hays Post 335 Annual Golf Outing, June 18, Indian Run Golf Club in Avella, **1 p.m.** shotgun start, four-player scramble, \$85, includes lunch, dinner, beer, non-alcoholic beverages, prizes, benefits area veterans and disabled veterans, Nancy, (412) 496-1475.

Bob Pompeani Charity Golf Classic, June 20, Chartiers Country Club, **9:15 a.m.** registration and brunch, **10:15 a.m.** brunch program, **10:30 a.m.** million-dollar hole contest, **10:45 a.m.** shotgun start, **4:30-6:30 p.m.** reception on veranda, **6:30 p.m.** awards program, \$300, \$100 reception only, benefits Citizen Care/Partners for Quality, provides day services and employment opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities, sponsorships available, pqgolf.eventbrite.com.

Harry Quinn-Ralph Schorr Memorial Golf Classic, July 16, Quicksilver Golf Club, **2 p.m.** shotgun start, **6 p.m.** dinner, cart, snack, drink at turn, gifts, prizes, Chinese auction, register by **July 5**, \$95, \$25 dinner buffet only, sponsorships available, benefits scholarships awarded to regional students by the Greater Pittsburgh Football Officials Association, (412) 974-2473.

First Annual Fighting Fore Roman Golf Outing, Aug. 20, Quicksilver Golf Club, **7 a.m.** registration, **8 a.m.** shotgun start, scramble format, lunch served after round with Chinese auction and raffle, sponsorships available, foursomes available to first 36 groups to register, \$125 per golfer, benefits Children's Tumor Foundation, MJAntonucci@gmail.com, register by **July 1**.

Flea Markets

You never know what you'll find at area flea markets, especially at these ones that have been around awhile. Be sure to mark them on your calendar and pick up a conversation piece. The best part is, they're helping a good cause.

Montours Presbyterian Church Flea Market, July 9 and 16, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Montours Presbyterian Church, (412) 787-1050.

Saint Joseph Parish Festival Rummage Sale, July 14-16, 5-10 p.m., 1304 4th Avenue in Coraopolis, pre-sale admission \$5, **July 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Noblestown UP Church Annual Flea Market, Aug. 13, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., bake sale, good eats, slightly used goods, Bake Sale, **June 30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**, get your baked goods for the July 4 celebration, 7427 Noblestown Road (Oakdale), (724) 693-8250.

SNPJ Events

Events take place at SNPJ Lodge 106 and are open to the public unless otherwise indicated. Memberships available to the public at clubroom door. For more, (724) 695-1411, snpjimperialpa.com imperialroomsnpj.com.

Bar Bingo, for members and guests, second and fourth Thursdays, early bird games start **6:30 p.m.**, regular games **7 p.m.**, play until **9 p.m.**, kitchen open.

Car Cruises, see page 52.

Slovene Radio Program Picnic / Dance, July 31, Frank Stanger Band, food booths, extra entertainment provided throughout SNPJ Lodge 106 grounds.

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June 11 - 4th Annual Diehl Auto Ufo Herb Scott Mem.
June 18 - Outlaw Winged Sprints
July 2 - BOSS Outlaw Sprints
July 9 - Diehl Automotive Night, Autograph Night!
July 16 - BRP Modified Tour "Modasaures X"
July 23 - Precise RUSH Dirt Late Model Series Summer Sizzler
July 30 - Tony Stewart's Arctic Cat All Star / 3rd Annual Falconi's "Sprint Monster"
August 6 - PENN OHIO Pro Stock Series Summer Showdown by Miley CruiseAmerica

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Get Outdoors

Hike and bike on Hollow Oak Land Trust trails

The Hollow Oak Land Trust owns over 400 acres of woodlands and wetlands in Allegheny County. Its largest continuous tract of land, though, sits off the Montour Trail in Moon Township, across Montour Run from the Forest Grove Sportsmen Rod and Gun Club. Trailheads off Hassam Road, Nike Road and Downing Drive lead into the tract, known as the Montour Woods Conservation Area. Roughly nine miles of trails follow ridges and streams, gaining and losing a good bit of elevation. Long descents make for some nice mountain biking, as well as hiking either shorter loops or longer day hikes.

New this season is a second trail connector on Downing Drive that leads to Moon Park, along with some new trails off Lollipop Trail. Plans are to one day connect this trail to Sonoma Ridge, McCormick Elementary and Hunters Run.

Just like on the Montour Trail, there are reminders of the area's industrialized past in the conservation area, including the remnants of an old oil well sitting along the aptly named Oil Well Trail. The Frank A. Santucci Trail, meanwhile, skirts the old Nike missile site. The area abounds with over 300 types of fauna.

Group bike rides take place weekly throughout the summer. See below for more information. There are also opportunities to volunteer.

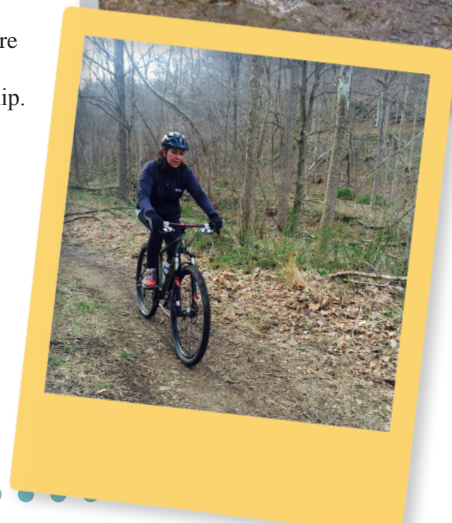
Also be sure to check out the Kenmawr Conservation Area, HOLT's property in Kennedy Township. Though no official trails have been blazed there yet, some do meander throughout the property, offering nice views of the Ohio River.

Download maps at: www.hollowoak.org.

Weekly mountain bike rides, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 6 p.m.; come out for a mellow, moderate or rockin' guided mountain bike ride; beginner rides on Wednesday.

Monday Trail "Luv," group meets **Mondays at 5:30 p.m.** at the end of Downing Drive; dress for weather; boots or shoes that can get wet and muddy recommended; gloves, water, tools and instruction provided; snacks and libations to follow.

Mega Work Day with Trail Pittsburgh, July 16; tackle a major project and then celebrate with a cookout and refreshments; all ages welcome; to RSVP or get more details: info@hollowoak.org or (412) 264-5354.



Take a stroll at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden officially opened to the public in August of 2014 with a ribbon cutting attended by local, regional and national officials, including U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. The PBG project aims to eventually convert 460 acres of reclaimed strip mine just outside of Oakdale into a regional outdoor attraction, with 18 unique gardens, three ponds and miles of hiking trails. Sixty of the garden's acres are now open year round, along with three miles of trails. Visitors can meander on paths through the dogwood meadow or relax next to the Lotus Pond. There's also an 18th century homestead to check out, along with a massive flower garden just outside the welcome center.



Adult Education Classes:

- June 30** - Identifying Weeds
- July 7** - Growing Fruits and Berries
- July 17** - Harvesting and Preserving the Garden's Bounty
- July 21** - Gardening with Perennials
- Aug. 4** - Annuals: Old and New Favorites
- Aug. 11** - An Abundance of Plants - How to Have More
- Aug. 18** - Invite the Birds into Your Landscape
- Sept. 8** - All about Growing Garlic

Various activities, events and programs also take place throughout the year, including regular yoga and tai chi sessions by the Lotus Pond. Check pittsburghbotanicgarden.org for dates and times. Adult education courses are being offered throughout the summer as well. See above for the schedule and check the website for pricing, times and registration information.

PHASE ONE

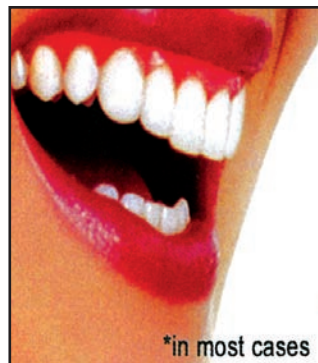
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*in most cases

Bike 36 continuous miles on the Montour Trail

JESSE FORQUER
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ARTICLE
PHOTOS BY JESSE FORQUER

Last October, the Montour Trail Council celebrated the opening of the Flyover Bridge in Cecil and the Valley Brook Bridge in Library. The two new bridges let cyclists and hikers on the Montour Trail circumvent busy intersections and roads, connecting nearly 36 continuous miles of trail from Groveton to Library. Parking is available at Mile Zero in Groveton, near the intersection of Route 51 and Montour Coketown Road. The first seven miles of trail follow Montour Run, which makes for good fishing if you want to bring your pole. The stream is stocked with trout early in the year.



The new Library Viaduct Bridge sits at Mile 35.6.

Along the way are constant reminders of Montour Railroad history. Keep an eye out for interpretative signs mounted along the trail by Bryan Seip, president of the Montour Railroad Historical Society.

One such piece of history is the McDonald Trestle at Mile 17. One of 70 original Montour Railroad bridges in the first 36 miles of trail, the 960-foot long bridge hovers hundreds of feet above the Panhandle Trail, making for an exciting experience.

At about Mile 27.2, stop for a bite and some bike maintenance at the Tandem Connection Bike Shop and Bike Shop Grille. Then bike another couple miles and appreciate the natural beauty of the Pittsburgh and Ohio



ABOVE: The Empress Arabians horse ranch at Mile 34.
BELOW: The Pittsburgh and Ohio Central Bridge at Mile 29.

Central Bridge at Mile 29.

At approximately Mile 29.5, check out the Montour Railroad Rail-Mounted Maintenance Crane, which is being restored by Montour Railroad Historical Society.

Then head onto the three-mile Arrowhead

section of trail, which starts at about Mile 30.5 in Peters Township. This section has a smooth, asphalt surface, so go ahead and pump up the pressure on your tires and watch for roller-bladers. Stop in for a gyro at the Simple Greek if you're hungry and grab some outdoor seating next to the trail. At Mile 34 is the entrance to the Bethel Branch section of the trail. Stop for a minute to appreciate the beauty of the Empress Arabians horse ranch in the distance before veering right to bike over the Library Viaduct at Mile 35.6. The trail lets off in another half mile at Pleasant Street.

For a detailed, interactive map, visit www.montourtrail.org.

Jesse Forquer has been volunteering with the Montour Trail for 19 years. He is the director of trail security and oversees the Trail Monitor Patrol Program. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact him at: jiforquer@comcast.net.



Cookouts

Summer is all about cooking out, and plenty of organizations doing good in their communities use that as a means to raise funds for worthy causes. Here are a couple to check out over the summer:

McDonald Lions Club Rib Cookout, McDonald Trail Station, **June 25, July 30, Aug. 27**, ribs come off the grill about **9:30 a.m.** and are sold by the one-pound boat until gone, benefits Lions Club projects throughout the year, for pre-orders call Gene Speranza, (724) 622-3359.

53rd Annual Moon Township Rotary Club Corn Roast, **Aug. 9**, Rotary Shelter in Moon Park, **5-8 p.m.**, \$15 in advance, \$20 at door, corn on the cob, burgers, hot dogs, sweet and hot sausage, potato salad, baked beans, desserts, beer, soft drinks, benefits West Hills Food Bank, Robert Morris University Scholarship Fund and other Rotary charities, Andy Keppel, (412) 264-8072.

Farmers' Markets

Farmers' markets are great for finding fresh, locally grown vegetables. They also offer the occasional surprises, like crafts, honey, meats and cheeses. Check out these ones running throughout the summer.

Moon Township Farmers' Market, **Wednesdays, June 1-Sept. 28, 3-6 p.m.**, Municipal Building, 1000 Beaver Grade Road, prepared foods, veggies, meats, herbs, dog treats, art vendors, accepts debit, credit and food stamps, for every \$5 in SNAP receive \$2 coupon for fruits and vegetables, Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers accepted, (412) 262-1700.

St. James Farmers' Market, St. James Catholic Church in Sewickley, 200 Walnut St., **Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**, vegetables, organic farm products, meats, honey, pierogies, pasta, more, (412) 741-6650, www.saintjames-church.com.

The Original Farmers' Market, starts **5:30 p.m.**; open **Fridays only in May**; open **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, June-November**; Bridgeville area; Route 50 East off Bridgeville I-79 Exit; www.theoriginalfarmersmarket.net.

McDonald Trail Station Farmers' Market, **July 8 through mid-September**, McDonald Trail Station parking lot in McDonald, **Saturdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.**, (724) 926-4617.



Jami Jodikinos from Jodikinos Farm in Clinton sells fresh vegetables at the Moon Township Farmers' Market.

Findlay Township Programs

The Findlay Township Recreation and Sports Complex at Leopold Lake on Route 30 has plenty to offer in terms of summer fun. Its impressive skate park sports a half pipe, quarter pipe, spine ramp, fun box, picnic table, grind rail, flow bowl and pool. There's also fishing at Leopold Lake, which the township stocks with trout and catfish. As well, there are deck hockey and basketball courts, a baseball diamond, soccer field and playground. Recently added are courts for pickleball, which is like a cross between badminton, ping-pong and tennis. Clinics are being offered **June 29**. See below for times.

The jewel of the sports complex though may be its pavilion, which has a kitchen. The township will be hosting a number of events there this summer. See below for a listing. Register for any of the following programs by calling Findlay Township Parks and Recreation at (724) 695-0500 x 246 or email dlarson@findlaytpw.org, unless otherwise indicated. Checks payable to Findlay Township.

Pickleball, courts at the Recreation and Sports Complex, clinics **June 29, 10 a.m.-noon and 7-9 p.m.**

Independence Day Fireworks Celebration, July 3, 7:30 p.m., Recreation and Sports Complex, see page 52 for details.

Planting with a Twist Ladies Night Out, July 7, 6:30 p.m., ages 21+, Recreation and Sports Complex pavilion, make a whimsical miniature container garden while enjoying refreshments and socializing, bring container no larger than 12 inches (no baskets), light refreshments, BYOB if desired, accessories/decorations/plants available for purchase by cash or check, registration required, \$25 per person.

Community Farm to Table Adult Program Series, 6 p.m., Recreation and Sports Complex pavilion, ages 21+, four fun-filled evenings of hands-on cooking (and drinking), prepare a meal with locally grown produce from Keelboat Farms, registration required, \$15 per session, bring table setting (plate, bowl, cutlery, wine/water glass, non-alcoholic drinks also served); **June 15**: summer grilled chicken salad, with homemade dressing, bread, wine slush; **July 13**: shrimp stir fry, choice of red or white wine; **Aug. 3**: tacos with Mexican coleslaw, black bean and corn salsa, sangria or Mexican beer; **Sept. 14**: late summer vegetable minestrone, bread, appetizer, red or white wine.

Rainbow Blast Family Fun And Dance Party, July 31, 6-6:45 p.m. registration, **7 p.m.** start, Clinton Park, all ages, walk or run the mile loop around Clinton Park while getting blasted with cornstarch-based colored powder, water and healthy snacks to follow, music by DJ Dan Sheets, payment and waiver due at registration, download from website, \$8, 3 and under free, spectators welcome.

First Steps in Digital Photography, Mondays, June 27-July 25, 6:30-9 p.m., no class **July 4**, Findlay Township Activity Center, for beginners and those who want to review; lectures, critiques, peer review, and guided practice; student presents final project to demonstrate understanding of coursework, for beginners, \$99, bring camera and equipment, class shoots every session.

Yoga for beginners (and beyond), Fridays except June 24 and July 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, \$5 per class, (724) 695-1976.

Semi-Super Morning Bingos, June 24 and Sept. 30, doors open **9 a.m.**, bingo starts **10 a.m.**, air conditioned Findlay Township Activity Center, free refreshments, \$10 per packet, \$5 each additional packet, coverall jackpots \$1, daubers available for purchase.



The pavilion at the Recreation and Sports Complex at Leopold Lake.

Free Summer Concert Series, amphitheater in Clinton Park, concerts start **7 p.m.**; **June 21**: The Lou Ross Quartet (jazz); **June 28**: Ray Lanich Band (rock, alternative, country, pop, funk); **July 12**: Pittsburgh Banjo Band.

Imperial VFD Craft and Vendor Indoor/Outdoor Fair, Pine Street station, **July 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**, over 20 vendors, Chinese auction, station tours, (412) 477-2931.

Children's Programs

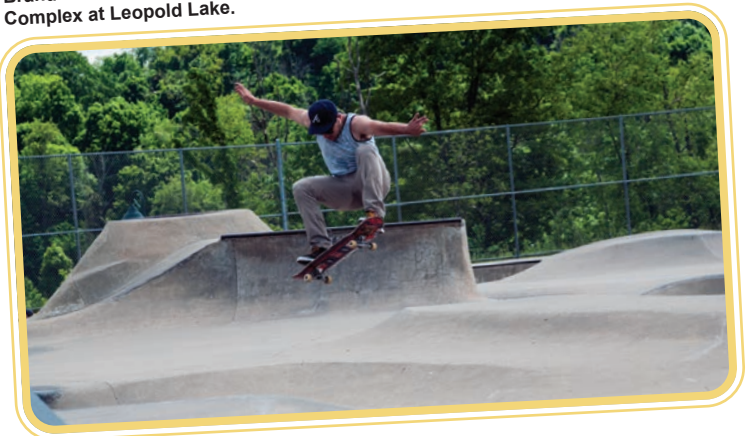
American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Class, June 21, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, ages 11-15, fast-paced class with hands-on activities, gain the confidence to make smart decisions and stay safe, topics covered: emergencies, keeping yourself and children safe, bedtime and discipline issues, communicating with parents, finding and interviewing for babysitting jobs; certificate awarded upon completion, wear comfortable clothing and bring a sweater or jacket as the center is air conditioned along with lunch, registration required \$80.

Shopkins Painting for Kids with Create a Canvas, June 27-30, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., ages 6-10, four summer painting classes each focus on a different character, with step-by-step instruction from a certified art teacher, pizza lunch to follow, bring a beverage, painting supplies and aprons provided, for more: createacanvaspgh.com, \$25 per class, \$80 all four classes, checks payable to Create a Canvas, register by **June 24**, space limited.

Summer Lunchtime Kids' Cooking Class, July 7, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, grades K-5, lunchtime version of popular after-school cooking program, payment taken at first class, pre-register at least two days prior, \$8.

Little Sprouts Cooking Class, July 7, 10-11 a.m., ages 3-5, age-appropriate activities get children involved in preparing healthy snacks, \$6, registration required.

Brandon Barber performs a stunt at the skate park at the Recreation and Sports Complex at Leopold Lake.



SUMMER CAMPS AT THE LIBRARY

New this summer, WACL is offering summer camps in addition to regular summer programs. Please register online for all camps. Visit WesternAlleghenyLibrary.org for camp and program descriptions, and to get the most up-to-date information.

Sense-sational Science Camp
(ages 3-6)
June 27—30, 10 a.m.

Harry Potter Camp (4th-7th grade)
July 11—14, 3 p.m.

Wee Build Camp (ages 3-6)
July 18—21, 10:30 a.m.

Circuit Camp (1st-4th grade)
July 18—21, 1 p.m.

Messy Art Camp (ages 3-6)
July 25—28, 10 a.m.

Stop-Motion Animation Camps
July 25—28, 12 p.m. (1st-4th grade)
July 25—28, 3 p.m. (5th-8th grade)

Animals Camp (K-3rd grade)
August 1—4, 10:30 a.m.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ADULT

Crochet Clinic
Saturdays, June 18 & 25,
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Community Farm to Table Series
Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.
July 13: Shrimp Stir Fry
August 3: Tacos

Free Summer eReads
Saturday, June 25, 1 p.m.

New Movie Release
Aug. 9, 6 p.m.

Summer Nail Polish Swap
Tuesday, July 12, 5-7 p.m.

HOOPLA=Free Movies & Music
Tuesday, July 12, 6:30 p.m.



YOUTH & FAMILY

Storywalks @ Clinton Park
Mondays, June 20 & July 11, 9 a.m.

Disney Movie Nights
Thursdays, 6 p.m.
June 23, July 7 & Aug. 4

Exploding Watermelons
Monday, June 27, 1 p.m.

Think Like a Computer
Saturday, July 9, 1 p.m.

Everything Harry Potter
Monday, July 11, 1 p.m.

The Pittsburgh Ballet
Tuesday, July 12, 6 p.m.

Egg Drop
Thursday, July 21, 3 p.m.

Cupcake Wars
Thursday, July 21, 5 p.m.

Make a Crankie
Saturday, July 30, 1 p.m.

Y On The Fly
Tuesday, Aug. 2, 1 p.m.

The Pittsburgh Zoo
Wed., Aug. 3, 10:45 a.m. and 12 p.m.



ONGOING PROGRAMS

ADULT

“Who Done It?” Book Club
1st Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Cookbook Club
1st Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Bookworms
2nd Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Forever Fiction
3rd Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

YA @ Heart
3rd Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

21+ Coloring Club
3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Anime & Manga Club
4th Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Pinterest Playgorund
4th Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Geek Club
Every other Tuesday beginning
June 21, 3 p.m.

Baby Circle Time
Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.

**Toddler & Preschool
Storytime**
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

**Rollin’ & Strollin’ at
Clinton Park**
Thursdays, 9 a.m. (thru July 14)

**WASD Required Reading
Book Clubs**
Various dates throughout the
summer for each grade level.
Check website for details.

Location

181 Bateman Road
Oakdale PA 15071

Library Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Closed Sundays thru Labor Day

For more information visit www.WesternAlleghenyLibrary.org or call 724-695-8150



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First Steps Pediatrics, p. 14, 412.788.1999, www.fspkids.com
Findlay Township, p. 52, 724.695.0500, www.findlay.pa.us
Greater Pittsburgh Aero Radio Control Society, p. 53, www.gparcs.org
Harvest Wine Festival, p. 13, 49, www.janoskis.com
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Heritage Valley, p. bk. cover, 412.749.6934, www.heritagevalley.org
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Community Connections

MUNICIPALITIES

Findlay Township
1271 Route 30, Clinton, PA 15026
(724) 695-0500, www.findlay.pa.us
North Fayette Township
400 North Branch Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 788-4888, www.north-fayette.com
Oakdale Borough
6115 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-9740, www.oakdaleborough.com
McDonald Borough
151 School Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-8711, www.mcdonaldboro.com

PUBLIC & PRIVATE

SCHOOLS K-12

West Allegheny School District
110 Bruno Lane, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-3422, www.westasd.org
Parkway West Career & Technology Center
7101 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 923-1772, www.parkwaywest.org
This list includes only those public and private schools located within the municipalities served by the West Allegheny Edition of Allegheny West Magazine

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

AI-Anon, West A area, (412) 683-4279
American Legion Post 171 Oakdale, (724) 693-759
American Legion Post 335 Imperial, (724) 695-0491
Boy Scouts-Grtr. Pgh. Council-Frontier, (412) 325-7971 or 7995
Faith in Action, (724) 921-0027
Findlay Athletic Assn., (412) 874-9348
Findlay Garden Club, (724) 350-9837
Girl Scouts WPA, (724) 774-3553
Heritage Public Library-McDonald, (724) 926-8400
Kiwanis Club of the Pittsburgh Airport Area, PAAKiwanis@gmail.com
Lions Club Imperial, (724) 513-7616
Masonic Lodge #669, (724) 693-8274
McDonald Area Redevelop. Assn., (724) 926-4617
Meals on Wheels-W.A., (412) 279-5670
Montour Run Watershed Assn., www.mrwa.info
Montour Trail Council, (412) 257-3011
Montour Valley Grange, (724) 695-0481
Mothers of Preschoolers-Crossroads, (412) 494-9999
Mothers of Preschoolers-Hebron, (724) 899-2276
North Fayette Athletic Assn., (412) 580-0655
North Fayette Garden Club, (724) 693-8413
Oakdale Youth League, (724) 693-8951
Rotary - Parkway West, (412) 787-5280

Senior Citizen Groups:
- **Findlay Township**, (724) 695-0500
- **North Fayette Township**, (724) 693-3118
- **St. Columbkille**, (724) 695-7325
SNPJ Lodge 106, (724) 695-1411
Sturgeon Athletic Association, (724) 926-2150
The ROCK Community Center, (724) 693-2777
VFW Ladies Auxiliary, (412) 788-4674
VFW Post #7070 Oakdale, (412) 427-9195
VFW Post #7714 Imperial, (724) 695-8866
West Allegheny Food Pantry & Thrift Shop, (724) 695-1305
West Allegheny Foundation, inquiries@wafoundation.org
West Allegheny Friends to Enhance the Library (WAFEL), (724) 695-8150
West Allegheny Ministerium, (724) 693-8950
West Allegheny Booster & PTA Groups, www.westasd.org
Western Allegheny Community Library, (724) 695-8150
West Allegheny Aqua Club, (412) 608-4583
West Allegheny Inline Hockey, (412) 334-2640
West Allegheny Youth Assn., www.westayouth.net
West Allegheny Youth Soccer Assn., (724) 693-8073
West Allegheny Youth Wrestling, (724) 695-8132

CHURCHES

Church of The Living Christ
220 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-7188, www.cotlc.com
Church of the Nazarene
(moved to Florence) 1080 Steubenville Pike, Burgetstown, PA 15021
(724) 947-9223, www.nazarene.org
Clinton UP Church
25 Wilson Road, Clinton, PA 15026
(724) 695-7993
Clinton Wesleyan Church
1022 Clinton Road, Clinton, PA 15026
(724) 695-7076
Covenant Family Church
P. O. Box 15533, Pittsburgh, PA 15244
(724) 263-7147, www.covenantfamily.cc
(meets at Courtyard Pgh. Airport)
Cross Connections Alliance Church
201 Valley Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-2453, www.crossconnectionsac.org
Crossroads Methodist Church
1000 Crossroads Drive, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 494-9999, www.crossroadsumc.org
First Baptist Church
141 N. McDonald Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-4216
Hebron Presbyterian Church
1767 Route 30, Clinton, PA 15026
(725) 899-2276
Independent Bible Presbyterian Church
112 Dempe Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-3355
Montours Presbyterian Church
3151 Montour Church Road, Oakdale, PA 15071,
(412) 787-1050, www.montourschurch.org
Mosaic Church
140 Imperial Plaza Dr., Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-3129, www.mosaicpgh.com

Noblestown United Methodist Church
7313 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-2755
Noblestown United Presbyterian Church
7427 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-8250
Oakdale United Presbyterian Church
62 Hastings Avenue, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-8950
Rivers of Living Waters Church
7120 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 787-1888, www.rwlwc.tripod.com
Resurrection Lutheran Church
7600 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 788-4513
St. Columbkille Church
103 Church Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-7325, www.saintcolumbkilleparish.org
St. Patrick's Church
7322 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-9260, www.saint-patrick-parish.com
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(724) 695-0300, www.valleychurchweb.com
West Ridge Christian Community Church
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520 Rt. 30, Imperial, Pa
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Bad news and a blessing. Bad news and a blessing.

BY ERMA DODD
PHOTOS SUBMITTED



An auto accident is always bad news. Four teens were enjoying time together the evening of Oct. 7, 2015 while riding along a country road.

Suddenly, the driver lost control of the car, and in seconds, the car was upside down, 10 feet below the road, in a ditch, in the dark.

Taylor Race does not remember the crash. Most likely she lost consciousness when her head hit the windshield. The glass shattered. Her first memory was trying to find her phone. She found it and dialed 9-1-1.

The second call was to mom and dad. Her father, Harold, answered. He heard his daughter crying.

"Daddy, please come help me," she was crying. "I can't get out." "Where are you?" Harold asked.

"On Seabright Road," Taylor said. "We wrecked. Daddy, help me. I can't get out."

Harold hung up the phone and looked at Taylor's mom, Tara. "Come on," he said. "Let's go, Taylor's been in an accident."

The accident was less than five minutes from their home. A 14-year-old passenger helped Taylor by pulling her out of the car door's broken window. She was the last one out of the car. He then helped Taylor climb the steep embankment. They tried to flag down the first passing car, but that driver did not stop.

By the time Taylor's mom and dad arrived at the scene the police and fire trucks were already there. Two ambulances drove up just behind them. All Tara could see were lights. She rushed out of her car and began asking, "Where is the car? Where is she?" Tara looked over the hill but could not see the car. Someone hollered, "She is here."

"Taylor appeared and walked toward me," Tara said today. "She came out of the bright lights of the fire trucks. Her face was covered with blood. Her clothes were ripped."

She was so relieved and grateful to be able to hug her daughter, and hugged her very gently, afraid she was going to hurt her.

She called it "...a miracle. No other explanation."

She said she has to think Taylor's maternal grandmother and paternal grandfather - Harold's dad, the famous Clark Race - were watching over her from heaven. Tara believes angels were with Taylor and her friends that night.

Tara has worked for 25 years in nursing and recently received her doctorate. Harold is also a nurse and for the past nine years has served as a "flight" nurse, arriving at accident scenes like the one Taylor was involved in by helicopter.

When Harold appeared on this scene, his friend, a paramedic, saw him and assumed he had stopped to see if he could help.

"Hey, Harold, how are you?" he asked.

Harold's response was, "This is my daughter."

The friend quickly replied, "Let's get her in the ambulance."

Being nurses, they understood the magnitude of the situation, but, "Nursing was out the window, we were just Taylor's parents," explained Tara.

At the hospital in the emergency department, the CT scan of Taylor's head showed no internal injuries. The doctor did say, though, "Mom and dad, the scan shows incidental findings, there appears to be a cyst in the back of her head. Follow up with her pediatrician."



Taylor patiently laid waiting as the doctor removed each piece of windshield glass from her forehead. She heard the glass plink as each piece hit the metal tray. Then she was sent home. Her partially

separated shoulder would heal on its own. The rest of the passengers only suffered minor injuries. The driver was not seriously hurt.

Six days later, Taylor and her dad went for a follow-up with the pediatrician.

Whereas the injuries from the accident were healing well, the cyst concerned the doctor. She ordered an MRI. A week later, just a half hour after Taylor had the MRI, she got a call at work. Taylor was to see a neurosurgeon. The "cyst" was a tumor, two centimeters by three centimeters, about the size of a man's thumb. All feared cancer.

During the appointment with the neurosurgeon, the options were explained. Mom and dad looked to Taylor. She said, "I want it out." Then she turned to the neurosurgeon and said, very calmly, "What would you do if you were me?"

He thought for a second, probably surprised by her very mature question, then responded, "I would have it removed. It will most likely grow and right now your neurological exam is normal."

Taylor made the decision for surgery.

She was scared. She has been grateful for family and friends. "They made a big difference," she says.

The surgery, an open craniotomy, was very risky. It took five hours. The tumor had been growing a long time and begun to erode a portion of her skull. Tentacles had started forming. After surgery, they all awaited the pathology report.

If the accident had not resulted in a CT scan, the secret tumor would still be growing today.

Tara's work as a nurse has made her "a spiritual person," she says.

"So much cannot be explained. So often I have seen what can only be called 'divine intervention.'"

Taylor is changed and grateful, too. She says, "I live and enjoy one day at a time."

One has to wonder if she will ever tire of being called mom's "miracle child."



Pictured here are Tara, Autumn, Harold and Taylor Race.

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