

West Allegheny Edition

Allegheny West

Volume 19, Issue 110
December 2017/January 2018

FREE Direct Mail Community Publication

Magazine



911th breaks ground on
C-17 conversion project

Janoski's joins farmland
conservation program

Oakdale VFD to acquire
new fire engine

WA alumnus named 2018
Ohio Teacher of the Year

Mustio and Kulik
emphasize collaboration

Local veterans' groups
team on Day of Caring

PAACC Community
Impact Award winners



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Peace on Earth

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For the third consecutive year, we asked West Allegheny elementary students in grades K through five to create the cover of our December edition. They did not disappoint. With the help of elementary art teachers, we picked our 15 favorite drawings and chose one for our cover. The rest are shown above. The artists who created these pieces of art are (starting at top left): kindergardener Milanya Hines; third-graders Alexandra Tate, Alyssa Sciulli, Caitlyn Schmac, Elijah Cischke, Joy Rose, Lainey Esposito, and Layni Watson; fourth-graders Olivia DeLuca, Emmerson Swick, and Aubrey Schwarz; fifth-graders Melia Petrello, Julianna Wozniak, and Aubrey Kubiak.

From the Publisher

Dear Readers,

I'd like start this editor's note by thanking all of the West Allegheny elementary students who participated in this year's holiday coloring and drawing contest. This was the third year we held this contest and, once again, students did not disappoint. We opened this contest to grades K through five and the art teachers at each school sent us their best entries. We then picked our favorite 15 and printed our overall favorite on this edition's cover. The rest are printed at left.

Also in this holiday edition we're bringing you our annual Holiday Events Guide, starting on page 36. In this guide we list area holiday-related happenings, including light-up nights, breakfasts with Santa and more. Check it out and mark these dates on your calendar. Then flip to page 16 and read about an agreement that the Janoski family recently signed to preserve their farm well into the future. On page 21, we look at an effort by local veterans to help VA patients, and then on page 19 we interview a WA alumnus who recently was named Ohio's teacher of the year. Be sure to also read the latest official West Allegheny School District newsletter on page 25.

Look for our next edition in January. Until then, enjoy the holiday season.

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor



Allegheny West Magazine

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Allegheny West Magazine - Moon Edition, is an all positive, good news publication mailed free into the homes and businesses of the Moon Area School District communities of Moon and Crescent to connect communities, promote people, heighten awareness about the richness of the airport region, and build pride in the western suburbs of Allegheny County.

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ABOUT THE COVER

West Allegheny third-grader Sammy Lowman created this drawing of a miniature gingerbread house in a snow globe. We liked Sammy's imagination and attention to detail.

West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame calling for nominations

Over the past six years, the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame has recognized sports teams and individuals who have made significant contributions to West Allegheny athletic programs.


Starting in March, the hall of fame board of directors will be evaluating nominees for its class of 2018. These inductees will be recognized at a banquet in May. Proceeds from the annual banquet will benefit West Allegheny athletic programs.

Nominees must be nominated by a member of the general public to be considered for induction. As such, the board of directors is asking for nominations in the following categories: athlete, coach/administrator, team and patron/contributor.

In addition to direct contributions to West Allegheny athletics, inductees are evaluated based on their athletic achievements at the post-secondary and professional levels. Board members also evaluate nominees based on their contributions to their communities, both during and following their athletic careers.

Nomination applications can be obtained at the Findlay Township, North Fayette Township and Oakdale Borough municipal buildings. Nominations can also be made online at awmagazine.com. Click on the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame tab and complete all applicable fields. Two nomination letters are also required. For a nominee to be considered for induction with the class of 2018, an application and all supporting material must be received by Feb. 28, 2018.

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Ohio Valley Hospital and CORE dedicate rose for 2018 Rose Parade



ABOVE: David W. Scott, FACHE, president and CEO of Ohio Valley Hospital, is pictured with Kelly Stettenbenz, RN, director of nursing services (at right) and a representative from CORE at the rose vial signing.

BELOW: Scott signs a rose vial that will be placed on CORE's float in the Rose Parade on behalf of Ohio Valley Hospital.

For the past 15 years, the Center for Organ Recovery and Education has been taking part in the nationally televised Rose Parade. With their annual float, CORE puts a spotlight on the fact that a single organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people. A donor who gives their corneas or tissue can improve the lives of up to 75 people.

This year's float entry is called The Gift of Time. It reflects the parade's theme of "Making a Difference." It also celebrates the power of kindness and the generous acts of people throughout the world who are making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Every year, the CORE float is covered in rose vials and signed by more than 50 organizations that believe their message is one worth promoting. That's why, for the past several years, Ohio Valley Hospital's President and CEO David W. Scott, FACHE, has gladly signed a vial to be placed on the float.

"It's important to show the public that the healthcare community stands together on the importance of life-saving organ transplants and tissue donation," said Scott.

"More than 35,000 life-saving transplants were performed in the United States last year, but tragically, an average of 21 people still die each day while waiting for a life-saving organ transplant," said Susan Stuart, president and CEO of CORE. "It's very inspiring that this float is adorned with the rose vials that symbolize a commitment to donation by the hospitals we work with in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia."

The Rose Parade will take place Jan. 1 in Pasadena, California.



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SPARC to donate car, asking for nominees

On Dec. 20, Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity is planning to donate a refurbished, pre-owned vehicle to a local individual or family in need. Giving back is a key value at Steubenville Pike Auto and, after many great years in business, they are continuing to share their blessings through their charity. The donated vehicle is one that Steubenville Pike Auto has serviced by installing new tires and brakes, replacing fluids, updating the Pennsylvania state inspection and emissions test, and detailing to like-new condition. This will be the fourth car that the charity has donated.

Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity will be accepting nominations for an individual or family deserving of this opportunity until Dec. 15. The ideal nominee is somebody who thinks of others before themselves, is in need of a vehicle and resides in the local area. Heroes Supporting Heroes will once again be covering Pennsylvania state transfer fees.

Nominations can be mailed to: Steubenville Pike Auto, ATTN: SPARC, 6112 Steubenville Pike, Robinson Township, PA 15136. Email nominations to SPARC@steubenvillepike.com or click on the link at steubenvillepike.com. An independent group of trusted community members will review nominations. The recipient must have a current Pennsylvania driver's license and be able to obtain vehicle insurance. Nominations must include the name, address, phone number and email of both the nominee and nominating person, along with a statement explaining why the individual or family nominated needs and deserves a vehicle. Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity looks forward to seeing the nominees.

Longtime area jewelry store to close

A well-known area jewelry store recently announced that it will be closing after 25 years in business.

North Fayette Township residents Rich and Donna Rabinek, who own Accent on Gold at 7900 Steubenville Pike in Imperial, say they are planning to retire at the end of the year. Up until Dec. 31, they are selling off all their remaining inventory for as much as 70 percent off regular pricing. That includes diamond engagement rings, diamond earrings, tennis bracelets, gold and silver jewelry, vintage pieces, and unique pieces crafted by an expert jeweler. Prices are well below those of chain jewelry stores.

The couple says that a number of factors led to their recent decision to retire, among them, the price of gold,



Donna and Rich Rabinek have announced that they will be closing their jewelry store, Accent on Gold, at the end of this year. They are now selling off their remaining inventory of tennis bracelets, diamond rings, pendants, necklaces and more at considerable discounts.

Ready to get outside and play ball?

The Oakdale Youth League offers a great atmosphere for players from the ages of 5-18 who wish to play recreational baseball and softball.

Our programs are open to all area residents and include:

- T-ball
- Slow pitch softball (from 8U to 18U)
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For more information, email us at info@OakdaleYouthLeague.com or call 412-327-4508.

*Online registration
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January 15th.
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In-person registration is also available on:

**Saturday, January 27 - 12 - 4 p.m.
Wednesday, February 13 - 6 - 7 p.m.**

**Oakdale Community Center
104 Seminary Avenue in Oakdale**



which spiked about four years ago. That's made their business that much more difficult, they say. The Rabineks are now the last in a number of a smalltime local jewelers that are no longer operating in the area.

"We're the last little mom and pop around," says Rich.

The Rabineks say they aren't planning to move. Instead, they intend to stay in the area, in the house in North Fayette where they raised their four children.

"There's just too many memories there," says Donna. "We could never sell."

Three of their children - Richelle, Trey and Ian - attended West Allegheny High School, where they were standout athletes. Ian played football and Richelle played volleyball. Trey, who set swimming records at WA, went on to swim for Penn State University. Rich coached their softball and baseball teams while they were growing up.



At one time, Accent on Gold even supplied the football team with their watches. Rich soldered each player's number on by hand and made WA-themed earrings for cheerleaders.

Prior to opening their store in the area, the Rabineks opened their first store in Carnegie. They started the business with members of Donna's family who were already in the business. They moved their store to North Fayette in the late 1990s and to their current location in 2000.

"We would like to thank all of the store patrons and the community for supporting us over the years we've been in business," says Rich.

He says that they'll be accepting reasonable offers for all in-stock items. The shop also offers expert jewelry repair and watch battery replacement while you wait. They are open Tuesday through Saturday. See below for hours. Call them at (724) 695-7717.



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Now is the time to trade in your old or unwanted gold for something new!

Self reflection: setting goals and being a helper

Look back on your 2017 - so much has happened! Did you achieve the goals you planned for yourself, your business, your family and your finances?

As an employer, my goals are driven by metrics. However, the greater priority is to have goals for my team members - collectively with them - to help them grow professionally, personally and financially. We focus on these goals through regular, one-on-one conversations. Identifying accomplishable goals and defining actions that exude commitment are part of these conversations. It is my job and my delight to help them in any way I can.

Whether you are an employer or an employee, a parent, student or family member - challenge yourself to think about who you are helping. Our society is in need of every individual effort to help another person. Can you help mentor or will you be the listener who supports a difficult decision-making process?

My look back includes both supportive and challenging decisions throughout 2017 - many to help my mom, my siblings, nieces and nephews, and myself to live beyond the death of my dad this past March. In my case, without faith, this would be more difficult. At work, we added a new division, new consultants, and saw a couple team members leave us who had their own decisions to make. Throughout all these decisions, I default to a couple basic criteria:

- What are the facts? What are the motivators? What are the consequences?
- Will this matter in a day, a week, a month, a year?
- Do I need to offer help? Or do I need to listen?

Emotions are a basic part of our makeup, but often drive us to hasty decisions that are reactive versus proactive. Self-awareness

and the ability to acknowledge our feelings throughout life's changes are equally important.

As we approach the year end, what is your look back? Did you have goals? Did you track your progress? Did you have integrity in your actions? Were you kind?

In seeking improvement for the coming year, we may need to:

- Personally: Consider what the challenge is to yourself about change. Who do you need to help mentor or support you in that change?
- Professionally (in the workplace): Ask for one-on-ones to plan a goal-oriented 2018.

- Financially: Review the numbers (the facts) to identify areas of opportunity.

Be honest about needing help or being the helper. Keep your word and be true to yourself and others. Acknowledge the wins and course correct the misses.

I will close with a Mister Rogers quote: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" To this day,

especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers - so many caring people in this world."

Add this action to your goals for 2018: find a helper - or better yet, BE one!

Deb Gray owns and operates the Express Employment Professionals Pittsburgh West Office. She can be reached at (412) 494-2000 or deb.gray@expresspros.com. More information is available at ExpressPros.com/wpittsburghpa.



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TMJD can be difficult to cure. Typically, dentists treat the condition with hard, hand-made molded inserts that cost anywhere from \$336 to \$525.

A better type of TMJD device used by dentists is a soft mouthpiece. One such mouthpiece offered by Aquatemp Global covers the upper and lower teeth. It has a patented upside-down curve in the lower rear wing that rocks the mandible very slightly. This opens the jaw joint and allows the condyle to start moving back into its original place. This device has been shown to end symptoms associated with TMJD within about three weeks when the wearer uses the mouthpiece for one hour per day for at least 30 minutes at a time. The device can also be worn while sleeping, which prevents grinding or clenching of the teeth.

Unlike firm inserts, this appliance is made of soft silicone and is comfortable to wear. Once TMJD symptoms have subsided, the device can be stored in a supplied storage cup and used again if symptoms return. It may be necessary to repeat the process three times per year.

Compared to hard oral inserts, this TMJ intra-oral appliance is inexpensive. It costs \$59 plus \$3 shipping and can be obtained through any dentist, chiropractor, doctor or physical therapist. It can also be purchased directly from Aquatemp Global. To order or ask questions, call (412) 471-1212 or email at sellam@buggs.net.



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Black Dog Wine Company opens tasting room at Half Crown Hill Orchard

A locally owned and operated boutique winery opened the doors to its first tasting room in North Fayette Township in November.

Black Dog Wine Company is now welcoming tasters to sample and purchase wines at Half Crown Hill Orchard at 600 North Branch Road. The winery offers award-winning varietals ranging from a dry red made from DeChaunac grapes to fruitier wines made from local and regional fruit.

This year marks the second year of full operation for Black Dog Wine Company, which is owned and operated by Mark Rozum of North Fayette Township. Rozum says he started the company after dabbling in wine making and experiencing some success.

“People seemed to enjoy them and I won a few amateur wine making awards,” he says. “I looked into what it was going to take to ‘go pro.’ I put together a plan and scraped together some money to do it.”

In early 2016, Rozum and his wife, Amy, invested in six stainless steel tanks and launched into full production. Their first vintage has thus far won nine awards. Their Keelboat Red varietal won a double gold medal at the 2017 Denver International Wine Competition and a bronze medal at the 2017 Lone Star



International Wine Competition. A semi-dry Riesling they make won awards at both of those shows as well as at the 2017 Finger Lakes International Competition. Big Beaver Blush, a sweet Concord/Niagara blend they make, won awards at those shows as well, as did their Wine Farm White, a sweet white wine made from Niagara grapes.

Since launching into full production at the start of 2016, Black Dog Wine Company’s varietals have won nine awards.



Mark Rozum and his wife, Amy, of North Fayette Township are pictured here in their wine making facility. The couple recently opened their first tasting room at Half Crown Hill Orchard in North Fayette Township.

At the start of November, Mark traveled back out to Denver to participate in the Denver Wine Festival, where he was paired with

a local chef for the Pairsine Food and Wine Pairing competition. He received the invite after his Keelboat Red won double gold at the Denver International Wine Competition.

Black Dog Wine Company sources its fruit from local or regional farms. The grapes come from the Erie and Finger Lakes regions. Topsy Turkey, their pumpkin spice wine, uses pumpkins from Janoski’s Farm in Clinton and their Red Dog strawberry wine uses strawberries grown at Trax Farms in Finleyville.

Despite being the new kids on the block in the wine

world, Mark says they’ve been getting accolades.

“At wine festivals and wine events we get told all the time that we are their new favorite winery,” says Mark.

Black Dog Wine Company produced a little less than 600 cases in its first year of production. As they continue to experience more success and open more tasting rooms, Mark says they’ll be looking to increase their production. He says they’re expecting to make 1,800 cases in 2018.

Black Dog Wine Company’s tasting room at Half Crown Hill Orchard is open Thursday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. -7 p.m., and on Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. They are also planning some paint and sip as well as holiday events. Check their website at blackdogwinecompany.com and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



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STORY AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY SCARMAZZI HOMES

North Fayette patio home community provides low-maintenance lifestyle



There comes a time when you realize your life has changed. It may be the day when your youngest child leaves for college, a parent or spouse has passed away, you signed a divorce decree, or you simply need a change.

Such a day is usually bittersweet and yet full of promise - an opportunity for a new journey that provides you with a sense of freedom - one with more time to spend with friends and family, to pursue hobbies, new careers, or travel.

As Pittsburgh's largest low-maintenance patio homebuilder, Scarmazzi Homes provides communities where residents can experience the carefree living lifestyle they desire and deserve.

"We don't simply sell homes," says Lisa Scarmazzi who, along with her husband, Paul, are the owners of Scarmazzi Homes. "We create vibrant neighborhoods where our residents make new friends, interact and have more time to do the things they want to do, not have to do."

The Courtyards at the Preserves, Scarmazzi Homes' North Fayette patio home community, provides those in the Pittsburgh region with this low-maintenance form of homeownership. By eliminating time-consuming lawn chores and offering sun-filled, single-level floorplans with private outdoor courtyards, homeowners are recreating their lives and living to the fullest.

The patio homes at Courtyards at the Preserves range from 1,561 square-feet to 2,755 square-feet, with prices starting in the high \$280,000s. Each home includes an open layout with two bedrooms, two baths, a laundry room and oversized two-and-a-half car garage, all on one floor. Hall space, steps and transition areas are eliminated, promoting flexibility and ease of use. A private first-floor den is included with select homes while a second level bonus room, which provides an additional bedroom, bath, living, or storage area, is available on all.

With the introduction of more free time, residents now have the opportunity to take advantage of outdoor living.

"Outdoor space is very important to our homeowners" says Scarmazzi. "Our private courtyards, which come standard on each home, provide another living area for relaxation and entertainment. The interiors wrap around these outdoor living rooms and provide natural light and courtyard views from all areas of the home. "

Scarmazzi Homes is now selling the final phase at Courtyards at the Preserves. Only 24 homes will be featured in this tree-lined, tucked away community located within minutes of Route 22/30, Route 60, I-79, Pittsburgh International Airport and Robinson Town Centre. For more information, visit www.scarmazzihomes.com or call (724) 223-1844. To stay up to date on community news, visit www.facebook.com/Scarmazzihomes.





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SCARMAZZIHOMES.COM

Pack N Ship now open in North Fayette, just in time for the holidays

SUBMITTED BY PACK N SHIP
PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY



ABOVE AND RIGHT: A.J. and Anthony Kokoskie recently opened their second Pack N Ship location in the former Santiago Distributing warehouse in North Fayette Township.

A packaging company with area roots recently opened a new storefront and fulfillment center in North Fayette Township in October, just in time for the holiday season. The convenient location allows customers to avoid the traffic and congestion of the post office or shops in Robinson and, unlike other dedicated carrier stores, it offers shipping services through all three major carriers: FedEx, the United States Postal Service and UPS.

Pack N Ship was established by two Independence Township natives, brothers A.J. and Anthony Kokoskie, in Aliquippa in 2011. Their North Fayette location, which is their second, operates out of the former Santiago Distributing warehouse off Route 22/30 and Steubenville Pike.

In addition to shipping and packaging services, Pack N Ship offers black and white and color copying, banners, signs, and posters. Pack N Ship also offers U-Haul rentals, faxing, binding services, shrink-wrapping, labeling, collating, displays, warehousing and all types of hands-on projects. College students can even sell their used textbooks at Pack N Ship through a program called cash for books. Pack N Ship assesses the value of the textbooks through a resale company and then ships to the company. Pack N Ship offers a similar service for video games.

AFK Packaging is a fulfillment business attached to Pack N Ship that is owned and operated by Anthony Kokoskie. AFK fulfills orders for many online retail companies, including some local companies like Miller's Mustard and Surprise My Pet. It works with several national companies as well.

Anthony says they opened their new Pack N Ship location to serve the West Allegheny and surrounding communities after he decided to move a fulfillment business he owns called AFK Packaging to the area. AFK, which is attached to Pack N Ship, handles fulfillment orders for many online retail stores and some large national companies. Anthony says their father founded a similar business in the 1970s out of their two-car garage when he started manufacturing extension cords for Stylette Plastics, which was at one time located in Oakdale. Their father expanded the business to encompass packaging and shipping before moving into the original Santiago Distributing building in 1985. The white building sits a stone's throw from Pack N Ship's North Fayette location. Anthony followed in his father's footsteps, opening his own packaging company in 2002 right after he graduated from Hopewell High School.

"Six years ago I asked my brother to get involved in a similar business and that's when we opened our first Pack N Ship location in Aliquippa," says Anthony.

AFK Packaging is a member of the Better Business Bureau and the National Federation of Independent Business. Pack N Ship is a member of the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce. They are located at 8175 Steubenville Pike, Imperial, 15126. Reach them at (724) 695-7101 or at packnship2017@outlook.com.





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911th breaks ground on C-17 conversion project



Col. Jeffrey Van Dootingh (fourth from left), commander of the 911th Airlift Wing, is joined by Lt. Gov. Mike Stack (fifth from left), construction company representatives, local officials, and representatives for state officials for a groundbreaking at the Air Force Reserve base Nov. 7.

The 911th Airlift Wing in Moon Township celebrated the start of a major new initiative Nov. 7.

In 2018, hangars, runways and other infrastructure across the Air Force Reserve base will undergo construction to accommodate larger C-17 aircraft. The cargo planes will replace the base's aging C-130 aircraft. The mission of the 911th will also shift from a tactical one to a strategic one. That means its personnel and planes won't just be flying training missions anymore. They'll also be flying directly into other theaters on planes with a global flight range.

For supporters of the base, the new construction is a positive sign, given past attempts by the Department of Defense to close it. Each of those attempts were met by public outcry and thwarted by Congress. In 2016, lawmakers approved a budget that included \$85 million earmarked by President Barack Obama for new construction on the base. That followed news that the Air Force had designated the base to receive a new fleet of C-17 aircraft.

Yet despite those positive signs, advocates of the base and even base personnel have remained cautiously optimistic, until recently. Col. Jeffrey Van Dootingh's tone at the Nov. 7 event was much more definitive.

"We're here today not to talk about the potential closing of the 911th Airlift Wing, but instead how this wing is here to stay, is expanding, it's growing, and will be here for the foreseeable future with an entirely new management," Van Dootingh said to a crowd assembled in a hangar on the base.

In 2018 alone, Van Dootingh said, over \$122 million in construction projects will take place across the base. Those projects include upgrading the base's runways and constructing an entirely new 2.66-acre hangar to accommodate the larger planes.

The new hangar will be over twice the size of the base's largest existing hangar, which will be transformed into a sheet metal, welding, structural maintenance and metals technology shop. Two of the base's other hangars will be converted into maintenance shops and the final remaining one will house a new C-17 flight simulator.

Yet another project at the far end of the base involves upgrading its fuel hydrant system.

Van Dootingh said that, in order to secure that money from

the Department of Defense, the base first had to renegotiate the terms of its lease with the Allegheny County Airport Authority. The 911th leases the property where it operates and, in exchange, is able to use the airport's runways, air traffic control and disaster response services. Supporters of the base have estimated the arrangement saves the federal government millions of dollars each year.

Van Dootingh, though, said that the Air Force was concerned that the term of its lease was too short and that its acreage wasn't sufficient.

"With only 23 years left on that lease we were not eligible to receive even \$1 in military construction funding under the rules set by Congress," he said.

Van Dootingh said he reached out to Allegheny County Airport Authority CEO and president Christina Cassotis, who offered to extend the base's lease to 2048 and give it an additional 25.3 acres. The arrangement will not cost the base any additional money.

"I said, 'You'll have to excuse me, I've been flying C-130s all my life and my hearing's a bit off. Did you say it won't cost us anything?'" Van Dootingh said, recalling when Cassotis called him to deliver the good news.

In the past, the base has estimated its total annual economic impact to be around \$126.6 million, with \$30.2 million injected directly into the local economy. A new estimate prepared in October by the base puts that figure at over \$200 million.

That does not take into account the economic impact from the upcoming construction.

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Janoski's joins farmland conservation program

Mike and Patty Janoski of Clinton have known for a long time that they would never sell their farm and that the land it operates on would never become a strip mall or housing development.

In October, the couple made that official when they signed an agreement with the Allegheny Land Preservation program. The arrangement places an easement on the property that prevents anyone from ever developing the 100 acres that the Janoskis currently farm in Findlay Township. At the very least, the farm will remain green space.

In exchange, the Janoski family has been awarded a sum of money representing the difference between what the farm would be worth to developers and the value of the land as farm acreage. That money is already helping the family expand and upgrade their farm market with a 1,500 square-foot addition that will double the size of its current market. Patty says it will provide plenty of space for shoppers to browse through produce and other locally made goods.

"It's going to be really nice for shoppers," says Patty.

According to Tom Headley, Allegheny County Farmland Preservation Program board chair, the Janoski Farm is the 36th farm that the program has preserved in Allegheny County. It is also the first farm it has preserved in Findlay Township.

Like many other similar programs across the state, the Allegheny County Farmland Preservation Program is funded by the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, which Headley credited with preserving thousands of farms across Pennsylvania.

"While total farm acreage in Pennsylvania has decreased over the past decade, the state farmland preservation program has supported hard working family farms with agricultural conservation easement purchases [for] more than 5,000 farms ensuring permanent protection to more than 543,000 acres," Headley said to a group assembled at Janoski's on Oct. 25 to celebrate the agreement.

Local officials attending the event praised the Janoski family for their hard work and vision. Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald called the farm a "Pittsburgh institution."

"We're just proud of what you do," Fitzgerald said. "It's a really big deal. And you probably don't think about it because every day you just get up and work..."

Fitzgerald said the farm is special for people in the region.

Findlay Township Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Janet Craig, who is an Allegheny County Farmland Preservation Program board member as well, said that the preservation "illustrates how communities can encourage responsible growth while simultaneously supporting the protection of agricultural land and farm families."

Judge Anthony Saveikis, who also serves on the farmland preservation board, said, "The dollars we've spent from the public treasury truly make this farm a public treasure."

Headley pointed out that the farm was first purchased by the Janoski family in the late 1950s after they sold another plot of land



JoAnn, Patty and Mike Janoski (pictured at center) celebrate joining the Allegheny County Farmland Preservation Program. They are pictured with Findlay Township Board of Commissioners Chairwoman Janet Craig, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Councilman Tom Baker and Allegheny County Councilman Patrick Catena. PHOTO BY ALLEGHENY COUNTY

they were farming in Mt. Lebanon.

"They moved out here to escape development in the South Hills," he said.

In the years following, Sonny Janoski and his wife, JoAnn, along with their son, Mike, and his wife, Patty, diversified the farm's operations. Today it is home to a farm market, a nursery, a bakery and a restaurant.

Mike said that the family started the application process to join the Allegheny County Farmland Preservation Program a couple of years before his father, Sonny, passed away in June of 2015. He says they did so with the intention that the family would have the farm for generations to come.

"We're doing it for the future, for the grandchildren," he said, "so they have the security that this place will be here forever."

He said that he and Patty - between their children, nephews and nieces - have seven younger family members working on the farm. Patty says that each of them has their own specialty and that they are all good at what they do.

"Everybody has their little niche and we make it work," she says.

In 2017, as the family was entering the final stages of the application process, they started diversifying what they sell at their market. They've since added canned and pickled vegetables, along with jarred tomato sauce and salsa, all of which are made from their homegrown produce. Janoski's is now also selling locally made goods like candy and candles. Patty says they'll be looking to sell more locally produced products in the future.

Mike says they'll also be expanding their parking lot at the rear of the market to accommodate additional traffic.

Increasingly, the Janoskis have been utilizing their farm for events like a fall festival and an annual wine festival that features local wines. Just prior to hosting its first Harvest Wine Festival in 2013, the Janoskis constructed a pavilion next to a pond on the property. They have since enclosed that pavilion and constructed another for the public to rent for parties and events. For more information, visit their website their website at www.janoskis.com.



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Oakdale VFD to acquire new fire engine

STORY AND PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

The Oakdale VFD signed a contract to acquire a new fire engine Nov. 7.

The truck will replace a 1984 Seagrave that was purchased for the department for around \$2,000 by members of the Oakdale Masonic Lodge and the Parkway West Rotary in 2005. That truck replaced a 1977 MAC that was lost in flooding caused by Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

“It was supposed to be a one- or two-year fill-in and it’s been there since,” said Bill Hartman, Oakdale’s fire chief.

The agreement between the department and Toyne Fire Apparatus of Breda, Iowa requires the company to deliver the truck within 365 working days. Hartman, who has been working with Toyne to outfit the truck to meet the needs of the department, said the new truck will be able to carry much more equipment, including 127 feet of ladders.

“[Our] thought process was to get as much equipment that three of our guys can use in front of the building first,” Hartman said.

He said they made that decision with Oakdale’s narrow streets in mind. As more trucks arrive to respond to a call, that won’t limit their ability to get their equipment into place.

To pay for the truck, the department made an up-front payment of \$150,000. Mark Snatchko, Oakdale VFD’s president, said the department anticipates having the department’s total cost of \$525,000 paid off over the next 10 years.

Snatchko credited past volunteer fundraising efforts, along with public and borough support, with making the purchase a reality.

“The amount of money that’s in our treasury and for us to be able to put \$150,000 down, that’s not something that just happened overnight or even in the past couple years,” he said. “That goes back decades with all the volunteer efforts here in Oakdale.”



Mark Snatchko, Oakdale VFD president, and Brian Kokkila of Toyne Fire Apparatus sign a contract that will supply the department with a new fire engine by the end of 2018.

Snatchko cited the department’s annual street fair as the department’s most important fundraiser of the year, and a significant way the general public shows its support.

“It’s amazing how people will come out and support you when you need help,” he said.

He also cited the support of businesses in and around Oakdale, along with assistance from the borough, which makes a contribution to the department each year. This year, the borough stepped up that contribution and matched 50 percent of all funds raised by the department throughout the year. Snatchko said that contribution from the borough made the department very comfortable with purchasing a new truck.

Mark Maximovich, Oakdale Borough Council president, said the borough is proud of the department and its fundraising efforts, which members volunteer to do on top of all their training and regular service.

“We’re proud as a council to be able to do this for our fire department,” he said. “One would think that for a small town like this it would be impossible without state or federal funds to assist but these guys did it on their own. It’s a proud moment.”

Snatchko said that the department had tried several times in the past to obtain grants to pay for a new truck but had been unsuccessful.

The Oakdale VFD’s next fundraiser that it is hosting is a purse bingo Dec. 3. Stay up to date on upcoming fundraisers and events by following the department on Facebook and checking the On the Horizon section in future editions of Allegheny West Magazine.



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WA alumnus named 2018 Ohio Teacher of the Year

STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY
 PHOTO BY THE JACKSONS PHOTOGRAPHY
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West Allegheny alumnus Jonathan Juravich was named the 2018 Ohio Teacher of the Year in September by the Ohio Department of Education. According to the department's website, the program "identifies exceptional teachers statewide and celebrates their effective work in and outside the classroom."



Jonathan Juravich

Juravich graduated from West Allegheny in 2001 and earned his bachelor's at Otterbein University. He went on to earn a master's at the Art Academy of Cincinnati and began teaching at Liberty Tree elementary in the Olentangy Local Schools system in 2005.

At Liberty Tree, Juravich teaches art to students in grades K through five. He's also Olentangy's K-5 visual art department chair and, as such, develops professional development programs for art teachers. Among the programs he's developed for his fellow teachers are departmental graduate courses on contemporary art, diversity and using smart boards in the elementary art classroom.

He also teaches art education to college students at Otterbein in the evenings.

"The college students I teach are pre-service art educators who will one day inspire their own students," he says. "It is exciting to work with such a wide range of learners in a single day."

As well, Juravich develops art programs for teens at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Last year, he partnered with the zoo to pilot a course in his first grade art class that allowed students to interact with a box turtle named Cecil. Students rotated through stations to construct habitats and then, during the following class, worked collaboratively to create a painting based on their interactions with the turtle.

"Cecil then joined us again at the school for an enrichment activity," he says. "During each first grade art class, he walked

through paint, making his own marks on the surface of the student collaborative paintings. This type of enrichment activity is common at zoos, because of the different surfaces and textures that the animal is encountering."

The works of art created by both students and Cecil were auctioned off to raise money for the Ohio Wildlife Center.

"The students' learning became real," he says. "It was impactful, it opened their eyes to simple ways they can foster conservation in their own backyards, and the power of the visual arts to benefit others."

This most recent award isn't the first Juravich has won. In 2014, he was named Central Region Outstanding Art Teacher by the Ohio Art Education Association. Otterbein awarded him with its Community Engagement Award in 2013. Liberty Tree named Juravich its teacher of the year in 2008.

He's also been a member of and leader within the Ohio Art Education Association since 2011.

Juravich says high school art teachers Carol DeWitt and Linda Hilbish both made impressions on him at West Allegheny.


"They fostered a safe space to experiment artistically and where all members felt valued and had a sense of belonging," he says. "[They] encouraged me to pursue art education and my own artistic pursuits."

DeWitt, who taught at West Allegheny for 20 years before retiring in 2014, applauded Juravich as both an artist and instructor.

"He so deserves the honor," she says. "He's a very dedicated teacher and creative artist, and not to mention he has exceptional character."

When Juravich isn't teaching elementary or college students, he coaches track and cross country at Hyatts Middle School. He ran cross country himself at West Allegheny under coach Jim Hamilton.

Juravich is married to WA alumna Amy (DiFiore) Juravich, who is now an assistant program director and midday host for NPR News at Columbus radio station 89-7.



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Mustio and Kulik emphasize collaboration at Rotary luncheon

STORY AND PHOTO
BY DOUG HUGHEY

State representatives Mark Mustio and Anita Kulik might not sit on the same side of the aisle in Harrisburg, but that hasn't stopped them from working together to help their neighboring districts in western Allegheny County.

That was the message the two representatives gave during a luncheon hosted by the Parkway West Rotary at Montour Heights Country Club on Nov. 10. Speaking in front of current and prospective Rotary members, the two representatives, who are Rotarians themselves, talked about how their common creed has influenced them as lawmakers and helped them reach across the aisle.

"One of the things that is critical, is that if we do our jobs effectively, and you become a credible elected official, I don't care at what level, it really is what the Rotary motto is. It's service above self," said Mustio.

Both Kulik and Mustio won elections in 2016. Kulik won the 45th District seat to succeed Nick Kotik, who did not run for reelection. Mustio was reelected to represent the 44th District. Both ran unopposed.

Kulik said that, in their first year of working together, she and Mustio have tackled a number of issues that are important to both of their constituencies.

"I know you've noticed that there's a lot going on in Harrisburg and that things seem really contentious..." Kulik said. "Like Mark said, under the radar, we are working together to get things done."

In the coming year, the two lawmakers will be working on a number of pressing matters, several of which were brought up by attendees. PennDOT is currently racing to get up to date with the federal REAL ID Act, which will make Pennsylvania licenses invalid for certain federal uses by October of 2020. Starting then, Pennsylvanians won't be able to use their state-issued IDs to board planes or enter federal buildings. Pennsylvania lawmakers have already lobbied the federal government for an extension and may have to lobby for another if PennDOT is not up to speed by the spring of 2019.

"The worst case scenario for people in our position is the family

who doesn't pay attention to the news," said Mustio. "They drive down from Mercer County to get on a plane to Disney World with the kids and they can't get on the plane. So, government doesn't always work proactively. The message we keep telling our leaders is that story. That's a nightmare in our lives."

On Nov. 11, Pennsylvanians voted to approve House Bill 76, which will require state lawmakers to pass legislation allowing municipalities to assess property taxes on less than 100 percent of the value of primary properties. The bill could conceivably eliminate property taxes in Pennsylvania, though municipalities likely wouldn't adopt such a measure without offsetting sources of revenue such as increased sales tax or by raising taxes on businesses.

Another way Kulik and Mustio have worked together is by attempting to improve trade relations with Cuba. Earlier this year, the two were part of a delegation of Pennsylvania representatives who traveled to the country. Kulik wrote about the trip in the 2017 May/June Montour edition of Allegheny West Magazine.

For Mustio, working with a Democrat in his neighboring district is nothing new. After Republican state Sen. John Pippy left office in 2012, he was succeeded by Democratic state Sen. Matt Smith. The two lawmakers worked together on a range of issues and efforts, from transportation to senior care. Smith, who went on to head the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, was succeeded by Republican state Sen. Guy Reschenthaler.



State Rep. Anita Kulik laughs at an anecdote told by state Rep. Mark Mustio during a Parkway West Rotary luncheon at Montour Heights Country Club on Nov. 10. The two representatives, who are both Rotary members, emphasized the importance of collaboration.

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STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY
PHOTO SUBMITTED

Local veterans' groups team up on Day of Caring

Members of VFW Post 7714 and American Legion Post 335, both of which are located in Imperial, visited with veterans at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System on Oct. 14. Eleven individuals representing both posts spent time with patients receiving treatment for a range of conditions.

For Marty Morris, the VFW post's certified post service officer, the trip was one of many such trips he's made to the hospital over the years. Each week, Morris and another post member, Rick Kennedy, visit patients in the hospital's psychiatric unit. Morris says he and Kennedy advise patients on how to obtain benefits and, through shared experience, have even helped some patients work through their problems.

"We have a session in the dining room and just talk with them," said Morris. "One guy said, 'Hey I got more help from you guys in one hour than I did with my psychiatric doctor.'"

Morris, a Vietnam veteran, said members of the post started visiting the hospital about 15 years ago. He says they started out by hosting bingo and pizza parties for patients. A couple of years ago, the American Legion and VFW posts adopted the psychiatric unit. Now, the posts also raise money to purchase gift cards that staff members can use to purchase basic necessities for patients, some of whom are homeless.

"We give them maybe a couple hundred dollars in gift cards every month," he says. "Just this week they needed shoes so we gave them gift cards for shoes. We don't give them new gift cards until we get a receipt showing what they got with the old gift cards."

Morris says the post raises money to purchase the gift cards primarily through an annual Poppy Drive at Pittsburgh International Airport. During the drive, post members solicit donations and hand out paper poppies. Eat'n Park donates special cookies with red poppies that they also hand out and take with them to the hospital. The posts raise money internally through raffles and an annual golf outing.

Last year, the two posts expanded their outreach effort and visited with patients throughout the hospital. The posts called it

their Day of Caring. During this year's Day of Caring in October, one group of volunteers visited with patients throughout the hospital while another group held a pizza and bingo party for patients in the psychiatric unit. The group also donated sweatshirts and sweatpants for patients in the unit.

"They're in a much more restrictive environment and there's certain things they can wear," says Aaron Morris, Marty's son, who is also a veteran and a member of both posts.

Both Aaron and his wife, Deanna, who is also a veteran, were among the volunteers who visited the hospital that day. Aaron says the event went well and that they'll be holding their Day of Caring a couple of times per year.

"It was outstanding," Marty says. "The patients and staff were very appreciative...I thought it was a very rewarding experience for those who did it with us."

Members of VFW Post 7714 and American Legion Post 335 visited patients at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in October. Pictured are Scott Rold, Owen Meier, Martin Morris, Lisa Stierheim, Betsy Kralovic, Rick Kennedy (seated), Duane Montgomery, Shallyn Rold, Aaron Morris, Deanna Morris and Bud Knisley.



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Parkway West Career & Technology Center
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- March 8th | **New Member Mixer**
The Hormone Center
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PAACC holds inaugural Community Impact Awards dinner

The Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce held its first-ever Community Impact Awards Dinner on Nov. 2 at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott.

The newly founded award recognizes an individual or business in the airport area that has positively impacted their community. Earlier this year, the chamber put out a call for nominees from several townships in its footprint. Nominees were then evaluated by a panel comprised of Jon Delano, money politics editor for KDKA-TV; Lynne Popash, director of the Women's Leadership Council of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania; and Matt Smith, president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce. Smith was also formerly a state senator whose district encompassed parts of western Allegheny County.

The evening featured guest speaker Yvonne Van Haitsma, director of the Covestro Institute of Engagement at the Bayer Center at Robert Morris University. Nominees represented Findlay Township, Moon Township and North Fayette Township. Each was introduced by a local official from that township.

The winners of the inaugural Community Impact Awards were as follows:

Chief Master Sgt. John L. Lee

In 2012, Chief Master Sgt. John Lee, his wife, Sherri, and some members of the Civil Engineering Squad at the 911th Airlift Wing in Moon Township sent letters to the households of base personnel who were preparing to be deployed. The Lees knew all about the struggles that the family members of deployed military personnel face and, in that letter, they offered to help those families with a range of services, from snow removal and cleaning out gutters to car repairs. Members of the civil engineering squad had built runways, schools and police stations abroad. They didn't see why they couldn't help military families at home.



Chief Master Sgt. John Lee

That first year, they were able to replace a hot water tank for one family and help a veteran find work. Then they built a wheelchair ramp for a World War II veteran.

Since then, HSH has continued to help military families with a range of needs and have even expanded their services to help area senior citizens. West Allegheny Workcamp, a faith-based biannual mission trip that brings people into the area to perform home repairs for those in need, now operates under the nonprofit umbrella of HSH.

John could not attend the awards dinner because he has been deployed to an undisclosed location. In the past, he has served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Jordan and Africa. Sherri and the couple's children accepted the award. Findlay Township Supervisor Thomas Gallant also spoke on Lee's behalf about his service to his community and country.

Gwen Ogle

Gwen Ogle has been an active voice for the senior community in the West Hills for many years. She is credited with helping to bring the LifeSpan community resource center to Imperial. The center opened its doors in 2016 and is now a gathering place for

area seniors. It offers a range of programming, from day trips to luncheons, for seniors across the West Hills. It has also offered language classes and clubs.

Ogle was nominated for the Community Impact Award by Moon Township and Findlay Township. She was introduced by North Fayette Township Manager Robert Grimm.



Gwen Ogle

Kenny Ross Toyota of Moon Township

Kenny Ross Toyota of Moon Township is a multi-year sponsor of the township's annual Firecracker 5K Race/Walk as well as Moon Community Access Television's annual film fest. The business also supports many youth-oriented programs and events, including a recreational basketball league, children's inflatable rides at Moon Community Days and the township's Independence Day celebration. As well, Kenny Ross has donated to scoreboards for three fields at Moon Park and two scoreboards for Moon Township Little League Baseball.



PAACC treasurer Mike Czerniewski presents Kenny Ross general manager David Baselj and store manager Kevin Clay with their Community Impact Award.

Kenny Ross Toyota of Moon Township was nominated by Moon Township and introduced by Moon Township Manager Dawn Lane.

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FOOT FACTS

Bunions are among the most common type of foot ailment today's podiatrist treats, especially in women. Studies show that women are anywhere from two to nine times more likely to develop a bunion than men! While your high heels and peep toes are partially to blame, your foot type (passed down through your family) is the true culprit. Here's the good news! Today's podiatrist is the true expert when it comes to diagnosing and treating bunions.

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

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District proudly recognizes academic achievement



ABOVE: National AP Scholars Billy Robertson, Megan Ye and Tim Tan are congratulated by superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert (at left), high school academic principal Kate McClelland (second from right) and principal Kevin McKiernan (right).

BELOW: Students with passing AP exam scores are recognized during a ceremony in September.

The District proudly celebrated the academic achievements of high school students who earned passing scores on their Advanced Placement exams September 29. Those students' parents and guardians were invited to a recognition ceremony and breakfast with awards and words of congratulations from superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert and principal Kevin McKiernan. AP teachers were also in attendance and recognized students' dedication, hard work and accomplishments.

Completing the second year of the three-year \$730,000 AP grant and partnership with the National Math + Science Initiative, students earned over \$19,000 for their passing scores. WA students earned 294 qualifying exam scores in 2017. Sixty WA students received the AP Scholar distinction and three WA students earned the National AP Scholar distinction for scoring at least a four on eight or more AP exams. Remarkably, those students achieved this highest level of distinction by the end of their junior year.

By 2018, the District will offer a total of 20 AP courses including the prestigious AP Capstone courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Students who earn scores of three or higher on AP Seminar and AP Research assessments, and on four additional

AP Exams of their choosing, will earn the distinguished AP Capstone Diploma. This signifies their outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Students who earn scores of three or higher on both AP Seminar and AP Research assessments only (but not on four additional AP Exams) will earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate, making these students stand out above other students in a very competitive college admissions process.



#WeAreStudentStrong

Superintendent's Message

In recent editions, I have focused on District happenings and good news at the high school and middle school. In this edition, I am spotlighting our three elementary schools and their exciting achievements. Though each utilizes the same academic curriculum, they also have their own unique character, school culture and extracurricular focus, which serves to strengthen the District as a whole. Reflective of their distinct yet inclusive approaches, we chose to share this spotlight from the voice of Patricia Nolan, principal of Donaldson, Tom Orr, principal of McKee, and Rachel Gray, principal of Wilson.

The following comes from the desk of Principal Nolan, the proud leader of the District's National Blue Ribbon School:

The number one priority of Donaldson Elementary School is to emulate for students, families and the community that our school functions as a family. The Donaldson staff works hard to create a caring, safe and welcoming culture for every student. Each year, a relatable theme for the school is chosen. Donaldson's theme this year is emoji faces, which connects several initiatives both at Donaldson and across the District. These initiatives include welcoming students back at the start of school, promoting strong attendance, recognizing all students' unique characteristics through inclusive practices, introducing the Buddy Bench, and rewarding students with Star Awards for demonstrating acts of kindness and positive behavior.

Students are learning the value of communication and the necessity of kindness and inclusion through the District's anti-bullying programs Rachel's Challenge and Olweus.

Donaldson is home to students with diverse ethnic backgrounds in which these differences are celebrated.

Similarly, Donaldson staff uses positive reinforcement and student recognition to motivate students to achieve goals in various areas. By reaching attendance goals and completing summer reading and other academic assignments, students receive reinforcement that encourages them to become intrinsically-motivated learners who make positive contributions to the school culture.

Donaldson's primary grades are engaged in rich learning experiences. Students are successfully diving into updated, challenging curriculum. The classroom, as well as the fine and applied arts staff, make students feel special by celebrating diversity and uniqueness through All About Me projects, Star Student weeks and Owl Awards.

Our third-graders transition to "big kids" throughout the year. Teachers focus on emphasizing reading to learn instead of learning to read in a supportive environment. Classroom cafés (individualized or small groups help during lunch) and book club are two examples of the guidance provided as students become more independent. Fourth and fifth grade are arguably the most exciting years of elementary school. Students learn to

apply the imperative soft skills of being respectful, punctual, motivated, collaborative, persistent, responsible and kind. Students demonstrate these skills through literary analysis, solving incredibly difficult math problems, working in groups, mentoring younger students, and being bus patrols.

Innovative technology applications and rigorous instruction are used to support students in the completion of projects and assignments. Their newly learned technology skills help students create: inventions using makerspace materials, robotics, and technology animation; meaningful projects such as bullying prevention posters; Reflections entries; and miniature models of Native American homes. Noticeably, our hallways are bursting with student projects and evidence of learning, hard work and effort.

Donaldson's fine and applied arts teachers contribute daily to creating a fun and artistically enhanced school. They are always willing to help with school-wide initiatives. Art teachers are

engaging students in creative and expressive techniques that make the hallways look incredible! Technology and makerspace classes are constantly evolving and producing amazing products. Together, these special area classes demonstrate to students that anyone can be anything that he or she dreams.

Donaldson is fortunate to have a supportive PTA that provides opportunities for students, staff and families. Some favorite PTA initiatives include the annual Walk-a-Thon, fundraising for field trips, support of summer reading incentives, Donaldson Discovers, and Fall into Reading Night.

Donaldson is proud of the many events and in/after school programs

available, including STEAM TEAM, Math 24, Battle of the Books, Veterans Day Program (an immense collaboration between the fifth grade teachers and the art, music and tech departments), Track and Field Day, Fun in the Sun, seasonal celebrations in classrooms, our special school Elf on the Shelf, afterschool tutoring, community connections through boys and girl scouts, and various sports teams. This list is not exhaustive.

At Donaldson, we value and celebrate all students, staff and families. We strive to provide programs, collaborations, academics and more that connect and invest students to school and make them feel like important members of our cherished Donaldson Family.

In the words of Principal Orr: "McKee Elementary School has a dedicated staff that is committed to creating well-rounded students who are prepared for the challenges in middle school and beyond. Our teachers believe in the growth mindset approach; meaning children can do great things when given the proper instruction, support and challenge. We have an updated curriculum that provides ample opportunities for our students to be engaged in rigorous, minds-on activities. Our students solve real world problems, engage in academic discussions with each

"We are incredibly proud of our elementary schools as they consistently outperform the state in assessed areas while providing strong and unified school cultures where all students are celebrated, valued and supported."

other and embrace discovery learning, all in a safe and supportive environment.

Beginning in kindergarten, our students are exposed to a literacy-rich curriculum that focuses on phonemic awareness, word building and vocabulary development. These skills are further developed as children progress through elementary school. They also begin learning technology skills that will carry over to engineering challenges in our makerspace classroom, a place where creativity and innovation are on display. We utilize Ozobots to explore robotics and computer coding skills to prepare our students for an exciting middle school innovation and design curriculum that includes computer programming and robotics.

The McKee staff takes pride in their work with children of all abilities. We offer students opportunities to receive remediation and enrichment during WIN - what I need - time, exposure to high-quality classroom instruction for our special education students, tutoring, and counseling groups. In addition, we take a positive approach to increasing student attendance by utilizing individual and classroom challenges. This year's theme is "Building a Better McKee." Students are selected weekly to craft a Lego model of our school for meeting the attendance challenge.

We are proud of the extracurricular activities available for our students. Arts Alive is an event that incorporates student artwork and musical performances. Fourth and fifth grade students have the ability to partake in band and chorus. Reading Night promotes a love of reading. McKee After Three, which is sponsored by the McKee PTA, is an afterschool program that allows students to select amongst a variety of course offerings in which they are interested. Many community members act as presenters for this unique program. We are fortunate to have an active and supportive PTA that goes out of its way for our students and staff. Our PTA provides financial resources for field trips and special annual event nights such as a talent show and bingo night.

Our students are learning the value of philanthropy by helping to raise money for a Houston-area school devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Our fifth grade student council also helps raise funds for veterans and the local food bank. These endeavors have helped our students realize that you are never too young to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

McKee Elementary is a safe, supportive and caring school that challenges children to exceed expectations. We recognize the world is changing at a rapid pace. It is our belief that our whole child approach will best support our students in realizing success and preparedness for middle school."

Principal Gray shares her vision of Wilson: "This year at Wilson Elementary, we are proud to say that we are marking our second year as a Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) school. This approach to creating a whole school positive culture has really taken off. We are proud to report that our students are thriving under the school-wide expectations of safe, respectful and responsible behavior. We are excited as we observe our students using appropriate prosocial and interpersonal skills to help build a positive school culture. Safe, respectful, and responsible are not just buzzwords, they are the premise of what we do each and every day here at Wilson.

Our PBIS model is not the only thing that we as a community celebrate at Wilson. We can be proud of the academic climate that focuses on student-centered instruction. We continue to look for ways to support and enhance students' growth and learning each

and every day. That may look like a kindergarten student learning foundational technology skills through a co-taught class with our computer innovation and design teacher. Or it may look like a student being exposed to rich vocabulary or rigorous mathematical tasks. We are fortunate to not only have a robust and aligned curriculum, but also to be able to provide a full range of special area classes to help develop the whole student.

We pride ourselves on our collective approach to student learning, which is rooted in a growth mindset. We realize that our students' brains are like a muscle, and that they have to be pushed to grow. That is okay. We call this brain sweat. We encourage students to develop a sense of 'grit' in their learning, to stay with a task and persist even though it may be hard. Through a comprehensive student data review cycle, and reflective teaching, we are happy to celebrate the hard work our students and teachers put forth on a daily basis to learn as much as they can.

Wilson truly is a family that works to support all students, staff and families. Our teaching staff, our support staff and our PTA members work in conjunction to ensure that all students have what they need. For that we are grateful."

We are incredibly proud of our elementary schools as they consistently outperform the state in assessed areas while providing strong and unified school cultures where all students are celebrated, valued and supported.

Dr. Jerrí Lynn Lippert, Superintendent

Holiday Concerts

Please join us as we celebrate the sounds of the season and showcase our incredible student talent.

Donaldson Elementary Bands & Chorus at Donaldson
November 30 - 6:30 & 7:30 PM

McKee Elementary Bands & Chorus at McKee
December 7 - 6:30 & 7:30 PM

High School Bands
December 11 - 7:00 PM

7th & 8th Grade Bands at the High School
December 12 - 7:00 PM

6th Grade Band & Chorus at the High School
December 14 - 7 PM

Wilson Elementary Band & Chorus
at Wilson
December 18 - 6:30 & 7:30 PM

7th & 8th Grade Chorus
at the High School
December 19 - 7:00 PM

High School Choruses
December 20 - 7:00 PM

Happy Holidays
from
West Allegheny Arts

Marching Pride showcases talent at home and on the road

The Marching Pride experienced a busy fall after a trip to Heinz Field and playing host to the annual Cavalcade of Bands. When invited by the Pittsburgh Steelers to perform the October 8 pregame show, it did not take long for band director TJ Fox to confirm and arrange the trip. Upon arriving at Heinz Field, the marching band improvised a sneak preview of their performance for fans in the parking lot to much fanfare. Once on the field, the 122-member Marching Pride demonstrated their impressive talent and poise in front of thousands when they performed selections from this year's show "School of Rock." Following their performance, band members were invited to sit in designated on-field seating to watch the game and cheer on the black and gold.

On October 14, the Marching Pride again hosted the annual Cavalcade of Bands, which showcased eight regional marching bands and concluded with West Allegheny's show-stopping

The Marching Pride takes to Heinz Field for the pregame show.



Seniors Michael Bagnell and Billy Robertson display the band's new uniforms at the Cavalcade of Bands.

performance. The event also provided an opportunity for the band to unveil its new stylish uniforms.

Issues of social injustice a focus of Peer to Peer Empowerment Group

The high school Peer to Peer Empowerment Group met with 15 other school districts in western Pennsylvania in collaboration with the Crisis Center North for their first of two workshops of the 2017-2018 school year. During the October 3 workshop, the students identified, created and performed original scenarios to promote respect and high-quality relationships within their communities. The students also conducted discussions amongst themselves to identify moments when we may tend to overlook social injustices. They developed ways to be positive role models and leaders in order to ultimately combat the injustices within their schools' hallways.

Students who attended the workshop were: Conner Bartley, Ashley Seamon, Tim Tan, Katie Borgo, Richard Mamula, Amaka Joanis, Junior Bates, Haley Kozel, Emma Hamm, Connor Stout, Robert Moran, Lexi Hottenfeller, Alivia Cerciello, Megan Pollinger, John Kutzavich and Anthony Ross. Kennan Grabner serves as the group's advisor.

West Allegheny students attended the first Peer to Peer Empowerment Group workshop of the year at the North Fayette Community Center.



Chorus and band students selected to represent West Allegheny in regional performances

Several students were selected to represent the District this fall in regional chorus and band showcases. Four high school students were selected to perform in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Honors Choir Festival on October 27-28 at Trinity High School. Trevor King, Dylan Mersing, Loren Perry and Cerina Wichryk joined high school students from all over Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties for the two-day festival, which culminated in a concert on the last day.

Four West Allegheny students participated in the Mucho Macho Music Festival for young men at Boyce Middle School in Upper St. Clair on October 31.



The daylong festival was guest conducted by Guy Russo and featured singers from various school districts. Eighth-graders Sean Emmett and Nathan Presutti, along with ninth-graders Andrew Martin and Dylan Mersing, performed.



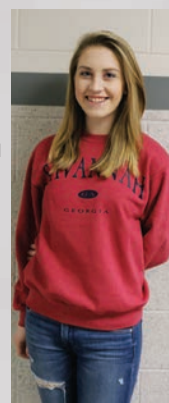
On November 2, West Allegheny hosted the Sweet Harmony Chorus Festival, which was sponsored by the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. The young women's song festival was for girls in grades six through nine. Singers represented 12 schools in eight school districts.



FROM TOP: Trevor King, Dylan Mersing, Loren Perry and Cerina Wichryk perform at the PMEA Honors Choir Festival in October.

West Allegheny representatives at the annual Mucho Macho Festival were Dylan Mersing, Andrew Martin, Nate Presutti and Sean Emmett.

Eighth and ninth grade girls participated in the Sweet Harmony Festival hosted by West Allegheny. Stephanie Berhosky was selected for the District 1 Honors Band.



West Allegheny students participating were: Alexandria Booth, Mya Clay, Mara Corey, Mackenzie Evers, Eleni Fitsioris, Grace Holder, Mallory McElhaney, Aubrey Page, Zoe Pratt, Madison Rieker, Lauren Toth, Kylee Wagner and Kristina Zadrozny. Meagan Bruno served as the festival host and middle school teacher. Dana McCaskey led a dance workshop for the girls in the afternoon.

On November 19, Stephanie Berhosky performed in the District 1 Honors Band concert at North Hills High School. Students from every high school in five regional counties auditioned to play in the ensemble. Berhosky rehearsed with the band throughout November.

Language students learn cultural lessons from Pittsburgh field trip

The AP German and AP Spanish classes enjoyed a unique field trip October 13 when they set out on a writing marathon around Pittsburgh. The excursion included visits to Mount Washington, Randyland and the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. At each stop, students wrote responses to writing prompts in German and Spanish and then shared what they had written. For lunch, German students sampled traditional foods at the Hofbrauhaus and Spanish students experienced the same at Emiliano's.

Teachers Katie Zanella and Colleen Cunningham organized the trip.

AP German and Spanish students, along with their teachers, transformed their field trip into a colorful and adventurous learning experience at the Cathedral of Learning and Randyland.



Annual powder puff game raises more than school spirit



Junior and senior powder puff players come together for a good cause.

November 2 was a powder puff football night in West Allegheny, with nearly 170 junior and senior girls facing off in a much anticipated fundraising event. The annual game of flag football was organized by National Honor Society members and their sponsors, Jennifer Cook and Sara Ferko. The event raised \$3,200, which will be used by the NHS to help the West Allegheny Food Pantry purchase Christmas gifts for children. Players and their families also donated enough non-perishable food items to fill an SUV.

Even though the 47-27 score went in favor of the seniors and their coaches, everyone was a winner.

#WeAreInnovators&Designers

High school guidance counselors provide college and career exploration opportunities

As the District continues its focus on ensuring that all students are prepared for college and/or career pathways upon graduation, high school guidance counselors are continuing to provide exploration opportunities for students.

On September 27, juniors and seniors attended the annual fall Career and College Fair in the high school gymnasium. This year's fair attracted 60 colleges, several career and technical schools and three branches of the military, as well as regional and local businesses.

On October 10, sophomores made their annual visit to Pittsburgh Technical College, where they were divided into teams and spent the day rotating through programs that have proven popular as career interests. In each program, students participated in an activity that allowed them to experience that field firsthand.



LEFT: Students take time to ask questions of representatives during a career and college fair. ABOVE: Popular career programs are explored during students' annual visit to Pittsburgh Technical College.



#WeAreStudentStrong

Afterschool leadership program attracts middle school students

In its second year, iLead continues to attract middle school students with over 160 participating in the afterschool program. Kicking off on November 1, the popular leadership program meets weekly to provide team building activities, academic and homework support and leadership opportunities. The middle school partnered with Crossroads to offer the program.

Several iLead students engage in leadership and team-building activities.



Hats off to the middle school student government

The middle school's student government stepped up to help others when it sponsored a hat day on October 27 and raised over \$275 for Children's Hospital to help fight childhood cancer.

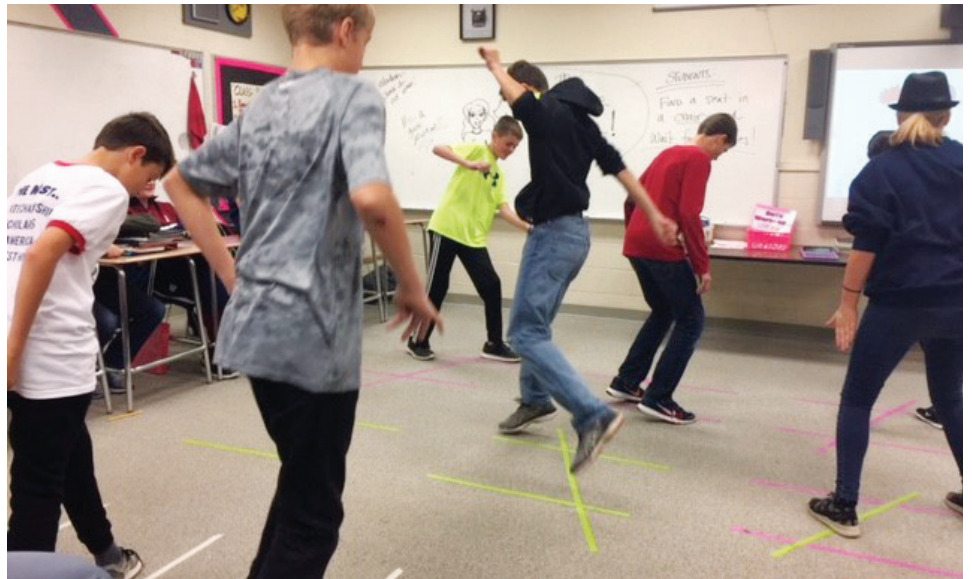
Members of student government sport their fun hats for a good cause.



Who says math can't be fun?

After a long week of studying parallel line theorems and writing complex proofs, Dana McCaskey's middle school geometry students put their skills to the test with an interactive game called Dance Dance Transversal. When various angle pairs appeared quickly on the screen, students had to jump into the correct angle position on the taped game board on the floor. One wrong move and they were eliminated from that round. The students watching from the side had the task of judging the moves to help eliminate their peers. Students could then rely on their muscle memory to help them on the next test.

Middle school geometry students use their math skills in an interactive dance game.



#WeAreWestA

Middle school celebrates fall with festival and dance



Students successfully duct taped assistant principal Megan Huchko to the wall.

Middle school administrators and staff partnered with the PTA and iLead to host the first fall festival and dance on September 30. The dance, which took place following the middle school football game, was a huge success, drawing nearly 500 students. Several activities were organized, including pumpkin painting, photo booth, karaoke, face painting and outdoor games. There were also pictures with a cow from the Scott Farm. Music and dancing were also in the event lineup with themed snacks and drinks provided. Assistant principal Megan Huchko got in on the fun as students were challenged with duct taping her to the gymnasium wall.

The event served as a great way to kick off the school year by bringing students together in a positive and entertaining atmosphere outside of the academic school day.



Middle school students Alaina Beeler, Grace Parton, Hope Fronczek and Kaylei Guiney play a friendly board game at the fall festival.

#WeAreTeacherProud

Mere seventh grade mortals study Greek gods



Students used their knowledge of Greek mythology to create these costumes.

Seventh grade students came together to celebrate their annual Greek Mythology Day on October 26. For this hands-on extension of the social studies curriculum, students dressed in Greek costumes and were invited to participate in the play “Orpheus and Eurydice.” The classes were visited by Zeus and Athena, as played by teachers Todd Rasbach and Jessica Henry, who also organized the daylong event.

Red Ribbon Week celebrated across the District

Throughout the week of October 23, schools across the District celebrated Red Ribbon Week. The theme of this year’s Red Ribbon Week was “Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free.” The annual campaign is recognized nationally and promotes the importance of making good life choices. In addition to hosting various fun days at the elementary schools, students learned about the impact drugs can have on individuals, their family members and their friends.

McKee students sport their favorite team jerseys on a special day during Red Ribbon Week.



Halloween safety tips presented at elementary schools

Both the North Fayette Township and Findlay Township police departments sponsored Halloween safety presentations at the elementary schools this fall. Students learned several easy and helpful tips on how to stay safe while trick-or-treating.

School resource officer Sgt. Mike Hayes presents safety tips to McKee students.



Donaldson students get a surprise visit

Donaldson students in Tiffany Mangan's class received an exciting surprise October 6 when U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shawn McKay paid them a thank you visit. McKay wanted to show his appreciation for cards and letters students wrote to him after he was deployed overseas for several months. Mangan's class was given an opportunity to ask him a variety of interesting questions.

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shawn McKay surprised his daughter Raygan with a visit to her classroom.



Halloween celebrated by students and staff

Students and staff alike got into the Halloween spirit this year with celebrations and parades held at the elementary schools. The middle school also got in on the fun and for the first time in recent history allowed students to dress in costume for the day.



ABOVE: Off to work they go were Wilson staff members dressed as the seven dwarfs.

TOP LEFT: McKee teacher Tom Hamm leads students in the annual parade.

BOTTOM LEFT: Middle school administrators and teachers get creative with their Halloween costumes.

BELOW: Students and staff parade around Donaldson to much fanfare.



Second annual Elementary Curriculum Night covers a broad array of academic topics

The second annual Elementary Curriculum Night was held on October 12 when all three schools came together at Donaldson. A focus of this year's event was the new student information system Skyward and the new standards-based report cards introduced at the elementary level this year. The session also covered an overview of the elementary instructional programs including the digital platforms for the reading and math programs; the Creativity, Innovation and Design program; and WIN (What I Need) program. Students had an opportunity to demonstrate just a few of the learner lab activities for parents.



Parents get a firsthand demonstration of the technology curriculum and the learner lab activities, as presented by students.

Fall into Reading introduced at Donaldson

Donaldson staff partnered with the PTA to host a Fall into Reading Night on October 25. Families were invited to participate in a variety of fall themed book activities, games and crafts. Teachers joined in the fun with a Reader's Theater and a few high school football players were on hand to read to students. The event served as a meet and greet for returning and new families as well as a creative means to promote reading and early literacy.



LEFT: Principal Patricia Nolan joined other Donaldson teachers to present a Reader's Theater for families. RIGHT: Students make Fall into Reading bookmarks at the Donaldson family event.



Wilson Elementary promotes kindness and respect



In an ongoing effort to erase bullying and teach students to treat each other with respect and kindness, the Wilson Elementary staff have been promoting classroom discussions, actions and assemblies. To further promote the theme, students and staff created and wore t-shirts provided by the PTA to show their unity in the mission of being safe, respectful and responsible.



Wilson Elementary students wore t-shirts like this one in a show of unity.

#WeAreWestA

West Allegheny teams battle at regional and state level

Four West Allegheny teams closed out their fall season by advancing to post-season play. Following a stellar season and a WPIAL run, the boys soccer team experienced a tough 1-0 loss to Montour in the WPIAL Class 3A Championship on November 4 at Highmark Stadium. With the top three teams from each division moving on to PIAA play, the boys claimed victory in the first round, beating DuBois 7-0. The team later fell to Lower Dauphin 4-1 in the quarterfinal round, which wrapped up their season.



LEFT: Varsity boys soccer advanced to the quarter final PIAA round.
BELOW: Teamwork pays off as the girls cross country team claims their section title.

The girls volleyball team advanced through the first two rounds of the Class 3A WPIAL tournament, beating Mars 3-0 in the first round and Central Valley 3-2 in the second round. This advanced the team to the semifinals, where they came up short against Montour in a 3-0 loss. The team then moved to the consolation match where they fought hard against Thomas Jefferson, who took the match 3-2.



ABOVE: The volleyball team battles through the regular season to advance to post-season play.
RIGHT: Team captains lead the football team onto the field.

The girls cross-country team claimed their section title in Class 3A competition. Individually, freshman Laura Croco posted a 22nd place finish in the WPIAL finals, which advanced her to the PIAA Championship at Hershey. She finished in the top 100.

The football team had another winning season and closed out their season with a 6-2 record. The team advanced to the first round of the Class 5A WPIAL playoffs, where they fell 22-21 to rival McKeesport.



WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mrs. Elaine Fitzgerald, Director of Student Services	Mr. Thomas Orr, McKee Elementary Principal
Mr. Kevin McKiernan, High School Principal	Mrs. Rachel Gray, Wilson Elementary Principal
Ms. Katharine McClelland, High School Academic Principal	Mr. Kenneth Fibbi, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. David McBain, Dean of Students/ Director of Athletics	

FOR WEEKLY
EVENTS,
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AND DELAYS.
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All material has been prepared,
written or edited by
Karen Ruhl,
School Community
Relations Coordinator,
West Allegheny School District
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Stay Healthy this Winter with the Findlay Township Activity Center!

YOGA for Beginners (and Beyond)

Every Friday
6:30–7:30 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to try yoga, but thought: “I’m not fit, I’m not flexible, I’m too old, it’s too expensive?” Time to stop with the excuses and come give yoga a try. Yoga can be great for everyone for many reasons. Come and join Master Julia Harvey (Imperial Tang Soo Do School) to exercise, stretch and meditate. Find out for yourself what a benefit yoga can be for your whole body and at a reasonable price!

\$5 a class,
Findlay Township Activity Center in Imperial / Lower Level

For additional information call: (724) 695–1976

SENIOR YOGA AND QI GONG

Thursdays
11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Come join Master Julia Harvey for mixed yoga and Qi gong. The gentle stretches and energy flow are sure to fuel the inner fire. Some stretches and flow will be performed from a chair or seated on the ground, some standing. This class will offer mixed levels for all participants and is great for older adults. Come out and get stretching and breathing together. Call now and register.

FREE
Findlay Township Activity Center in Imperial Lower Level

For information call: (724) 695–1976 or email: Info@idtsd.net.

“WALK 15” (FORMERLY “WALK Live”)

Tuesdays and Thursdays
6–7 p.m.

Donna Kuzio is opening the doors to a better way of health and weight loss by offering indoor walk classes. She is very excited to announce the Launch of WALK 15. Walk at Home has re-branded the Walk Live group fitness classes to emphasize the foundation of the program – 15 minute miles. New name-same great program. Same Mission: “To inspire All Walks of Life to walk more for a healthy world”. Come join us for an all-over cardio workout. All levels of fitness can do this class. Hope to see you there!

\$5 per class
Findlay Township Activity Center in Imperial Lower Level

To register or for additional information email Donna at: kuziofjr@gmail.com. OR Call Darlene at the Township

WATER AEROBICS

NEW SESSION WILL BEGIN IN THE END OF JANUARY
6–7 p.m.

Do you need to get started exercising or need a variation in your workout routine? Is inclement weather keeping you from outdoor activities? Then come and join us for water aerobics. Aquatic exercise is a fun way to exercise your heart and lungs while toning muscles. The water provides a great form of resistance with little impact on your muscle and skeletal systems. All levels of ability can benefit from this program.

You must pre-register and payment is due the first class. There is a \$5 discount for attending both Monday & Wednesday classes.
Wilson Elementary School
317 Boggs Road

CALL THE TOWNSHIP FOR CLASS DATES

PLEASE NOTE: We follow the WA School District Schedule. In the event of inclement weather or any district school closings, we will not have class.



Holiday Guide

Festive events in and around your area



Light-up nights

Jump in the car, put on some holiday music and head out to enjoy the twinkling lights of the season at these area light-up displays.

Meander through this forested light up in Clinton, through Jan. 7

Since 1993, longtime Clinton residents Patty and Lloyd Faux have been organizing a Christmas light-up display in Clinton Park. The couple started out small, collecting decorations from just about any place they could. That, in turn, inspired locals to donate their own used decorations. Today, this one-mile drive-through holiday extravaganza spans just about every Christmas theme there is, and then some. The route winds through Clinton Park's scenic woodlands area and gives spectators the feeling of dashing through a snowy, magical forest.

The all-volunteer effort to get the display's hundreds of decorations set up gets off the ground in September, shortly after the park closes for the winter. The \$10 entrance fee per car goes right back into the community, via a committee that runs the light up. Those dollars address a variety of needs in the community throughout the year. Various community organizations, residents and businesses also sponsor a Christmas tree display toward the end of the drive.

This year's light up is open every evening through Jan. 7 from 5-10 p.m., including on Christmas and New Year's. It is located at 600 Clinton Park Drive off Route 30 in Clinton.

Hayrides will also be offered every day. Call Judy Heck at (724) 899-3159 for more information. There will also be horses decked out in Christmas lights certain evenings. Visit www.christmaslightup.com for more. To volunteer or donate, call (724) 899-3602.



The Christmas Light-Up in Clinton Park features light-up displays along a mile-long route.

North Fayette Christmas Tree Lighting, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m., North Fayette Community Center at Donaldson Park, West Allegheny choral performances, snow queen sing-a-long, story time, refreshments, train rides, selfies with Santa, www.north-fayette.com, (724) 307-3725.

Rock out to this high-tech holiday light up at Pittsburgh Technical College, Dec. 6-Jan. 1

Every November, students and faculty from the School of Energy and Electronics Technology at Pittsburgh Technical College begin working on an hour-long holiday music and light show that illuminates the college's 2,500-square-foot campus pavilion with more than 10,000 individual lights. Each year, new holiday songs are added to the play list, which now exceeds 60 selections. Tune to 96.5 FM on the radio to enjoy the show from your car. The show officially debuts Dec. 6 and continues through New Year's Day.



Each year, Pittsburgh Technical College students turn the pavilion on the college campus into a light show set to music on the school's radio station.



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Christmas Eve 7:00 pm
Candlelight Service with Communion



SANTA'S EXPERIENCE

HOLIDAY GIFT WRAP

10AM - 9PM, MON.-SAT.
11AM-6PM, SUN.

NOV. 24 - DEC. 24

Reindeer Breaks: 1-2pm & 5-6pm M-Sa., | 2-3pm, Sun.

Here's how it works:

- **Check-in with Santa's helpers**
- **Be placed in a Virtual Line** with estimated wait time
- **Explore the mall, enjoy a treat or relax**
- **Receive a Text to return to the Santa set**
- **Enjoy Playtime under the Tree**
- **Visit with Santa**

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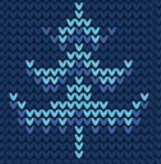
THE MALL
AT ROBINSON

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Santa

breakfasts

cookie walks

and more



SNPJ Children's Christmas Party, Dec. 10, 1-3 p.m., SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial, food, games, music, visit from Ole Saint Nick, open to non-members, (724) 695-1411, snpjimperialpa.com, imperialroomsnpj.com.

Holiday Cookie Walk, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center in Imperial, choose from over 45 different kinds of delicious and festive homemade holiday cookies, \$10/container, benefits West Allegheny Marching Pride, (724) 695-0500 x 246.

Local

donations

Breakfast with Frosty, Dec. 9, 9:30-11 a.m., Western Area YMCA, \$15/family of four, breakfast, games, crafts, face painting, photos with Frosty, childcare available following (see page 45), www.westernarea-y.org.

Get photos with Santa and play under the tree at The Mall at Robinson, through Dec. 24

One of the best things about the holiday season is getting a picture of the young ones on Santa's lap. This holiday season, The Mall at Robinson teamed up with Pittsburgh-based Schell Games and Chicago Scenic Studios to take that experience to a whole new level. Visitors will find themselves walking beneath the sparkle and shine of a two-story, custom holiday tree. This immersive interactive experience includes a photo box, snow globe, musical toys, oversized LEGOs, a train and a life-sized magna-doodle that children can play with while waiting to see Santa.

Santa's hours this year are 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Breaks those days are 1-2 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. He'll also be available 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday but not between the hours of 2-3 p.m.

Want to skip the line? Check in virtually or make a reservation by purchasing a package online ahead of time. For more, see page 37.

While children are waiting to see Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Mall at Robinson this year they can play under the tree.



McDonald Christmas Lights Project

For much of the latter part of the 20th century, McDonald Borough celebrated the holiday season by hanging lights on telephone poles along its main thoroughfares. When a truck making a turn through the town's central intersection clipped a telephone pole, it snapped an electrical line feeding those lights. Since then, the McDonald Area Redevelopment Association has been raising money to replace the aging lines and purchase new lights. Last year, Valley Electric donated much of their time to string new lines throughout town and MARA purchased enough new lights to hang ones on every other electric pole. MARA is continuing to collect donations to complete the rest of the project. Tax-exempt contributions can be sent to: McDonald Area Redevelopment Association, Christmas Lights Project, P.O. Box 152, McDonald, PA 15057. For more, visit www.mcdonaldtrailstation.com. Read the Allegheny West Magazine story on the project on page 17 of the December 2016 West Allegheny edition at awmagazine.com.

West Allegheny Workcamp, faith-based effort helps local residents in need with home repairs, donations help purchase supplies, sponsorships available, info@westworkcamp.org, download an application for home repairs at www.westworkcamp.org.

Marc's Christmas Wish, benefits Allegheny County Child, Youth and Family Services and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, new clothes, toys, books, puzzles, more for ages birth through 18, **collecting through Dec. 4**, nik849@aol.com, see page 32 of the November 2015 Moon edition of Allegheny West Magazine at awmagazine.com.

*The Day Heaven
Came Down To Earth*

CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Sunday 12/24 @ 10:30am

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Sunday 12/24 @ 6pm



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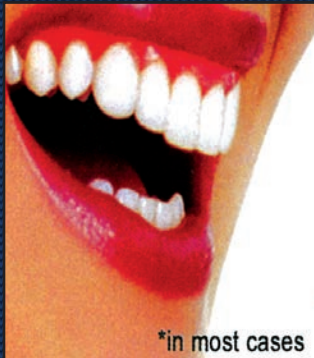
Drop your kids off for some cookies and hot chocolate while you take in some hands free holiday shopping.

Wednesdays in December: 6-8:30pm
RSVP to info@genesischurchlife.com

YMCA Service Members Drive, benefits service members deployed from 911th Airlift Wing, list available at Western Area YMCA, (412) 787-9622, www.westernarea-y.org.

Toys for Tots Collection, drop-off at Kennedy Township Police Department, 7:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m., **Monday-Friday, through Dec. 8**, new toys for ages up to 12, do not wrap toys, (412) 331-2408.

UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief, directs supplies to disaster areas, items needed for cleaning buckets and hygiene kits, for list of items: umcor.org, drop-off at Coraopolis Methodist Church, 1205 Ridge Avenue, **Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**, (412) 264.3727.



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December 23 • 5pm, 6:30pm
December 24 • 12:30pm, 2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm, 6:30pm
www.crossroadsumc.org/christmas

Developmental Hockey League

at North Park and South Park

Sundays 9:00-10:30 am
Ice Rink

Thursdays 5:00-6:30 pm
Dek Hockey Rink

January 7-February 11

Open to ages 4-10. Emphasis will be on individual skill development, as well as introducing team strategies. Games will consist of three 15-minute periods. Ice time will be managed to ensure maximum participation for every player.

\$175 for county residents; \$219 for non-residents. Pre-registration required at alleghenycounty.us/parkprograms

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(724) 695-1411
snppj106@gmail.com

Concerts, shows & get togethers



McKees Rocks Historical Society 10-year Anniversary, Dec. 2, 6-11 p.m., Kennedy Fire Hall, dinner dance, \$35/person, reservations required, etherbunny52@gmail.com, (412) 200-2594.

"The Nutcracker" performances, Dec. 8-17, Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall, with over 60 dancers, featuring area students ages 5-adult, performance in three acts, **8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m.**

Sundays, \$18 adults, \$15 seniors and children, purchase at door, (412) 279-8887, www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com.

Enjoy a Christmas symphony, Dec. 10

The West Hills Symphonic Band is made up of professional and amateur musicians of all ages who play because they love music. Their concerts are always free to attend and usually feature band arrangements of classical tunes. The band's last concert of the year is a holiday-themed show that takes place **Dec. 10 at**

3 p.m. at West Allegheny High School. It is entitled, "Joyous Memories." Stay up to date at www.whsb.org.

JOY: An Irish Christmas Concert, Dec. 10, 5-7 p.m., The Bible Chapel South Hills Campus, 300 Gallery Drive, spirited Celtic music, fiery fiddlers, audience sing-alongs, choirs, soloists, orchestra, Upper St. Clair drum line, childcare available for children up to 5, registration required, biblechapel.org.

LifeSpan Holiday Luncheon, Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m., catered lunch by The Cooked Goose, entertainment, prizes, register by **Dec. 4**, \$10/person, (724) 218-1669.

"The Nutcracker" Excerpts, Dec. 16, Karen Prunzik's Broadway Dance Studio and Performing Arts students perform excerpts of "The Nutcracker," **tickets on sale Dec. 4** at the studio, (412) 920-1841, www.pruniksbroadwaydancestudio.com.

SNPJ Adult Christmas Party, Dec. 16, food and prizes, SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial, open to non-members, (724) 695-1411, snpjimperialpa.com.

West Allegheny Winter Concerts, see page 27.

Catch these Christmas concerts, Dec. 17 and 18

In between teaching for 37 years at West Allegheny Middle School, raising a family and all the other things life before 60 entails, Dan Hanczar managed to write a lot of original music. Since retiring, he's released three albums. His latest,

"Christmas of the Ancestors," is a Christmas album that he released last year. This holiday season, Hanczar will be performing songs from that Christmas album during a concert **Dec. 17 at 11 a.m.** at



Members of the Dan Hanczar Orchestra perform during a fundraiser concert last year at Crossroads United Methodist Church. PHOTO BY PAT JENNETTE

Oakdale United Presbyterian Church. The following evening, on **Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.**, Hanczar will also be performing with the Trinity Jazz Orchestra during their annual free community Christmas concert at The Rock Youth and Family Center in Oakdale. Both concerts will feature a robust lineup of area musicians performing tunes to get revelers in the holiday spirit.

For more information, contact Hanczar at (724) 693-8241 or hanczar@verizon.net.



Madisen Albert will play the role of Clara in this year's Carnegie Performing Arts Center's production of "The Nutcracker."

Turning 65? **Edward Banaszak**
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West Allegheny Youth Soccer Association

Spring 2018 REGISTRATION

Season starts in April

DEADLINE: February 7th

Child must turn 4 years old in 2017

NO EXCEPTIONS

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

Age Group (Girls and Boys)	Time and Date (Practices and Games)	Cost
2013-2012	6:00 - 7:00 PM Wednesday 10:00 - 11:00 AM Saturday	\$80.00
2011-2010	6:00 - 7:00 PM Tuesday 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Saturday	\$80.00
2009-2008	6:15 - 7:15 PM Monday 8:30 - 9:30 AM Saturday	\$80.00
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- Print registration form on website and mail to P.O. Box

- In Person - January 20th

at WA Community Library from 10-12.

Questions Call Liz Pons (412) 716-8000

Financial assistance may be available to those that qualify.



Shopping

Want a unique holiday gift? Check out these venues where you will no doubt find something interesting and maybe some decor to spruce up the house for the holidays.

Greens and Things Holiday Sale, Dec. 2

This annual event at Robin Hill Park is organized by the Moon Township Garden Club and benefits the club's various philanthropic efforts. Garden club members will be on hand selling hand-made seasonal treasures, including swags, centerpieces, wreaths and more from **9 a.m.-3 p.m.** After you check a few things off your list, saunter over and take a tour of historic Coventry Log Cabin. The Old Moon Township Historical Society will be welcoming visitors during the sale.



Moon Township Garden Club members raise money for the club's philanthropic efforts by selling centerpieces, wreaths, swags and more at their annual Greens and Things Sale.

Lincoln Avenue Arts

On Lincoln Avenue in the heart of McDonald there's a small, artist-run store called Lincoln Avenue Arts. The shop offers unique, handmade creations crafted by local artisans, including artwork, stained glass, jewelry, clothing, accessories and much more. Sales support the local artists who operate the shop. Lincoln Avenue Arts is also celebrating its 11th anniversary this year.

The shop is open **Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** The week of **Dec. 18**, the store will also be open **Monday and Tuesday** during those hours. Swing by to pick up something unique for someone on your Christmas list and be sure to check out Lincoln Avenue Arts on Facebook.



Lincoln Avenue Arts offers an eclectic selection of handmade creations from area artists. Stop in during their holiday hours.

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Sunday, December 24th

10:00AM - 11:00AM

5:00PM - 6:00PM

7:00PM - 8:00PM



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LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

BLOOD DRIVE @ THE LIBRARY

Saturday, December 16, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

This holiday season—give the gift of life! Central Blood Bank is holding a Blood Drive at the library on December 16. Look for details on our website & sign up online to participate in this worthy cause. Walk-ins also welcome!

STAR WARS DAY

Saturday, December 16, 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

We are so excited for the premiere of the new Star Wars movie, and we know that you are too! To celebrate, we will have Star Wars crafts, activities, and snacks. Come in costume and get ready to party! All ages welcome.

HOLIDAY SALE

November 25—December 22

Our annual Holiday Sale begins after Thanksgiving and runs until Christmas. A variety of crafts, books, gift baskets, and goodies of all sorts will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the library. 'Tis the season for giving—and giving back!

HOLIDAY HOURS

December 23 – 26: Closed (Christmas)

December 31 & January 1: Closed (New Year's)

The book drop is open 24/7 for your returns. You can also go online or download our app to request or renew items. We wish all a safe and happy holiday season!

WACL NAMED COUNTY'S FIRST PA FORWARD "GOLD STAR" LIBRARY

About a year ago, the Pennsylvania Library Association launched their PA Forward Star Library program to raise awareness of library programs and offerings that help Pennsylvania citizens improve their command of five types of literacy – basic, information, civic & social, health, and financial. Today the program has some 170 libraries registered, including Western Allegheny Community Library, which was recently named as Allegheny County's first GOLD Level Library.

PA Forward offers support to libraries who participate and clearly demonstrate their incorporation of the literacies through meeting action items within the bronze, silver, and gold levels of the program. As part of PA Forward, Western Allegheny Community Library incorporates the five literacies as a guiding framework for setting service priorities, identifying potential community and funding partners, structuring strategic plans, and building well-rounded, multi-skilled boards. These literacies are essential to greater success in all vital roles of life: as students, as parents, as employees, as consumers, as citizens.

For WACL, the transition into the PA Forward program was a natural one, as its mission has always been "to inspire, engage, and educate the community." The process simply served to solidify the idea of lifelong learning into the five literacy categories, as well as brand it under the PA Forward initiative.

"Western Allegheny Community Library is very excited to take part in both the program and PA Forward," said Amanda Kirby, Library Director. "The library already offers a wide variety of programs that fit into PA Forward, but this program gives us a great outline of services we should be providing to the community. We hope that the public will become more aware of the important role libraries play in lifelong learning." Visit the library to take advantage of its exciting programs & services and become part of moving PA Forward!

For more information on all programs & events, visit www.WesternAlleghenyLibrary.org or call 724-695-8150.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Please check our website for specific dates & to register for all programs.

ADULT

Tech Takeout Night

1st Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Bookworms

1st Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.

BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Club

1st Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.

Anime & Manga Club

4th Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.

TEEN

Teen D&D

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Teen Maker Lab

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Baby Circle Time

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Play K

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.

Pre-K Storytime

Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.

Location:

181 Bateman Road
Oakdale, PA 15071

Library Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday – Saturday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.



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www.crossroadsumc.org/christmas
Davey Tree, p. 17, 724.746.8852, www.davey.com
DDS Web Design, p. 45, 412.965.0688,
www.ddswebdesign.com
DiSanti, Dr. Judy, DMD., p. 36, 412.264.6229,
www.coraopolisdentist.com
Epon/Scarmazzi Homes, p. 13, 724.223.1844,
scarmazzihomes.com
Express Employment Professionals, p. 10,
412.494.2000, expresspros.com
Findlay Township, p. 35, 724.695.0500,
www.findlaypa.us

First Steps Pediatrics, p. 24, 412.788.1999,
www.fspkids.com
Genesis Church, p. 38, 45, 724.512.5562,
www.genesischurchlife.com
Heritage Valley Medical Group, p. bk. cover,
412.749.6934, www.heritagevalley.org
Herrick Compassionate Funeral Svc., p. 3,
724.695.7332
Imperial Tax, p. 18, 724.695.7354,
www.imperialtaxandaccounting.com
Janoski's Farm & Greenhouse, p. 44, 724.899.3438,
www.janoskis.com
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Kovach's Body Shop, p. 44, 724.926.8706
Fred E. Liechti, Attorney, p. 44, 412.787.5280
Lincoln Avenue Arts, p. 46, 724.926.4617 or
724.554.5961, http://lincolnavenuearts.com
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www.montourschurch.org
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Mosaic Church, p. 42, www.mosaicpgh.org
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www.openmindsstudios.com

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www.padgettbusinessservices.com
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paradisepawslc.com
Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce,
p. 22, 412.264.6270, www.paacc.com
Pittsburgh Technical College, p. 17,
1.800.784.9675, www.ptcollege.edu
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www.play-academy.org
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www.pustoverfinancial.com
Robinson Chiropractic, p. 19, 412.706.7129,
www.myrobinsonchiropractic.com
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www.RobinsonStorage.com
John G. Rohm, DMD, p. 39, 724.695.2100
SNPJ Lodge 106 Club, p. 39, 724.695.1411,
www.snpjimperialpa.com
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SelfStorageNF.com
St. Clair Hospital, p. 47, 412.942.4000, StClair.org
Thomas-Little Funeral Svc., p. 10, 724.926.2800,
www.thomas-littlefuneralservice.com
Thrift Store, p. 44, 520 Rt. 30
Today's Hair, p. 35, 724.695.0478
Weirton Medical Center, p. 2, 412.505.8171,
wmcphysicians.com
West Allegheny School District, p. 25,
724.695.3422, www.westasd.org
West Allegheny Youth Soccer Association, p. 41,
www.westasoccer.com, (412) 716-8000

Findlay Parks and Rec.

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. Programs take place at the Findlay Township Community Center unless otherwise indicated.

Scrapbooking Workshops, Jan. 6, Feb. 10, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., enjoy uninterrupted time dedicated to safely protecting photos and memorabilia, bring tools, registration required, (724) 307-3333, michellekoestercm@comcast.net, \$60, includes lunch, dinner, beverages.

Semi-Super Morning Bingo, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, doors open 9 a.m., bingo starts 10 a.m., \$10/packet, includes one triple card for each regular game and one triple card for each special, additional packets \$5, overall jackpots \$1, daubers available for purchase, may cancel due to weather, call, \$20 regular game payouts, specials \$50 payout, jackpot 100 percent of what is sold.

2018 Pavilion Rentals, begins Feb. 3, 9-11 a.m., township office in Clinton, \$60 fee, \$25 deposit, online reservations start Feb. 5, www.findlay.pa.us, non-resident rentals start April 1, \$85 fee, \$25 deposit.

Pavilion at Leopold Lake, see above, seats 150+ and has a full stainless steel kitchen including refrigerator, stove/oven, toaster oven and microwave, residents: \$100 without kitchen, \$175 with kitchen; non-residents: \$150 without kitchen, \$250 with; \$100 security deposit, reservations not available online.

YOGA for Beginners and Beyond, Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$5/class, exercise, stretch, meditate, (724) 695-1976.

Senior Yoga and Qi Gong, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., gentle stretches while seated and standing, mixed levels, great for seniors, (724) 695-1976, Info@idtsd.net, free.

Walk 15, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7 p.m., indoor aerobic walk class, all ages and fitness levels, \$5/class.

Water Aerobics, Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m., Wilson Elementary School, fall session ongoing, winter session starts January, call for details.

Western Area YMCA

195 Montour Run Road Coraopolis, 15108
(412) 787-9622, www.westernarea-y.org

Child Care, programming for Montour and West Allegheny school districts, call for more information.

Santa's Helpers Childcare, Dec. 9, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., get holiday to-do list done while YMCA staff watch the kids, children get help wrapping gifts, \$20/child, includes lunch, afternoon snack, games, crafts, more, follows breakfast with Frosty (see page 38).

Fittest YOU Challenge, 12-week program with a trainer in a small group setting, one day per week, education on weight loss and exercise, eight-week nutritional program, call or email to register: Jcersosimo@ymcapgh.org, (412) 489-3231.



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North Fayette Parks and Rec.

Programs take place at the North Fayette Community Center at Donaldson Park, unless otherwise noted. Visit www.north-fayette.com or call (724) 307-3725 for more information.

Adults and Seniors

20/20/20, Mondays, 6-7 p.m.

Yoga-Sundays, noon-1 p.m.

Cardio Sculpt/HIIT, Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Boot Camp, Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10-11 a.m.

Rock N Roll Kickboxing, Tuesdays, 9:15-10:05 a.m.,

Thursdays, 7:30-8:20 p.m.

INSANITY, Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.

Pound/Zumba, Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m.

PiYo, Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m., Fridays, 9-10 a.m.

Water Walking, Monday-Thursday, 6-8 p.m., Donaldson

Elementary, \$2, ages 18+.

Water Aerobics, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6 p.m., Donaldson

Elementary, \$2, ages 18+.

Pickle Ball, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m.,

Fridays, 5-7 p.m.

Adult Volleyball League, Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Senior Luncheons, second Wednesdays, noon.

Senior Trip, Cirque du Soleil Crystal, Jan. 18, 7:30pm, \$60, includes ticket and bus transportation, register by Dec. 13.

North Fayette Afterschool Programs

K-8 programs designed to provide a safe environment for children after school, transportation provided from schools to community center when school is in session, \$10/day, nkreutzman@north-fayette.com to register.

Afterschool Program, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Sports Session II, Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Pinterest Party, Thursdays through Jan. 11, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Out of School and In-Service Days, see website.

Youth

Developmental Volleyball Leagues, ages 9-15, Wednesdays through Feb. 7, ages 12-15.

PALS, recreational opportunities for special needs children, email dhlidebrand@north-fayette.com for upcoming events.

Youth Lacrosse, ages 8-12, Mondays through Dec. 18.

Indoor Flag Football Leagues, ages 6-14, Saturdays through March 10.

Super Kids Soccer, ages 3-8, Tuesdays and Thursdays through Dec. 19.

Youth Pickleball, ages 8-12, Tuesdays through Dec. 19.

Hip Hop Dance Class, ages 3-8, Saturdays through Jan. 6.



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STORY BY ERMA DODD
PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Destination: hurricane relief

The phone rang at 7 p.m. on Sept. 13, just four days after Hurricane Irma hit Florida. Oren and Diane Boustead had been watching the news at their home on Main Street in Imperial. It was a call from Oren's friend and fellow pilot, Ross Brunberg of Baden.

Ross had gotten a call from a fireman friend who had gotten a call from a fireman in Chippewa. They needed small planes to carry supplies to the devastated Florida Keys. The roads and bridges were under water or unsafe. Residents had no electricity and no phone service but the sky was clear. Small planes seemed to be an answer to some needs.

Oren prayed, "Send me that I may Serve You." Oren loves flying his single-engine plane but it was being repaired. Ross and Dave Brunberg and their four-passenger planes were ready to answer the call. Fifteen hours later at 10 a.m. the three pilots and their two planes were airborne from Beaver County Airport.

They made two stops for fuel, filling their planes to their 56-gallon capacity. They paid \$5.50 per gallon out of their own pockets.

Upon arrival at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport, they were joined by other volunteer pilots. In all, there were about 20 planes from Minnesota, Tennessee, New Jersey, Georgia - all over - ready to deliver supplies, water, protein drinks, medical supplies, bleach, Band-Aids, food and much more. Donations had arrived from churches and other volunteer organizations. Oren remembers some from Walmart. One man arrived with his pickup truck full of donation bags. Another truck arrived filled with about 100 pairs of rubber boots in all sizes.

Oren planned to fly and he did some flying but once they got to an airport in Homestead he found that "the most urgent need was to organize." Being an engineer, he could do the organizing. The donations were staged in a plane hangar.

Donations had to be transferred by hand. They carried cases of water one at a time from each small plane to a hangar a football field's distance away. It was 105 degrees and humid.

An avocado farmer saw what they were doing and said, "I'll be back." He left in his pickup truck and returned with two carts they could load and pull to the building.

Another resident saw these pilots in action and, more than once, brought boxes of tacos from a restaurant that had just reopened.

Others in the Homestead area came to help too and offered, "Come stay [overnight] at our house." The electricity was still out but they were hospitable. Fortunately, Ross' family had a home in Sarasota where the Pittsburgh crew flew at day's end.

"The FAA was good to us and gave our planes priority," he says. "Our call sign was Compassion 887."

One lady met airplane after airplane at Summerland Key Cove Airport in the Keys, asking again and again, "Do you have insulin?" Oren got word of her need, made a call to Lakeland and



ABOVE: Supplies are loaded onto Ross Brunberg's plane.
BELOW: Oren Boustead is pictured with his wife, Diane.



the next flight out had her insulin. Oren was amazed.

The airport in Summerland had only one landing strip. It was 20 feet wide and 2,200 feet long. The airplane wings were nearly twice the width of the runway.

In flight, they saw sailboats sitting in swimming pools and a boat stranded inland on a desolate waterway. The everglades looked like little islands surrounded by water. There were saltwater fish washed ashore and swimming in swimming pools that were still filled with saltwater six days after the hurricane. Pictures they took show beautiful blue skies, white clouds and sunsets - the calm after the hurricane.

Oren said they wanted to be the bridge before the roads opened. Once the roads opened, they were no longer needed and it was time to go home. Their mission lasted six days. The West Allegheny Ministerial Association helped cover their fuel costs. Diane was teaching chemistry at West Allegheny during the mission.

"Diane was so jealous," Oren says.

Ross is from England. An engineer by trade, he works in Iraq for a month, then returns home to Baden for a month, then returns to Iraq. Fortunately, the call came just days after he had returned home. Dave, who is a chemical engineer and works for Calgon, took vacation time to go on the mission.

"We got so much more than we gave," Oren says.



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Brett C. Perricelli, M.D. is Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at St. Clair Hospital. He earned his medical degree at the University of Pittsburgh, and completed residencies in general surgery and orthopedic surgery at UPMC. Dr. Perricelli then completed an Adult Reconstruction Fellow at OrthoCarolina Hip and Knee Center, Charlotte, N.C. He is board-certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, and practices with South Hills Orthopaedic Surgery Associates. To contact Dr. Perricelli, please call 412.283.0260.





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