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Allegheny West

Volume 19, Issue 111
February / March 2018

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Magazine

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



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Some of the craft brews offered at Helicon
Brewing in Oakdale include an American
pale ale, a German pale ale, a raspberry
wheat, an old ale and an oatmeal stout.
Helicon is one of five local breweries
profiled in this month's feature, starting
on page 46. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

From the Publisher

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up our February West Allegheny edition of Allegheny West Magazine.

Each month, we try to highlight the accomplishments and livelihoods of people who either live within our readership area or have a strong connection to it. This month's edition is no different.

In our feature this month, starting on page 46, our writer Jill Bordo checks out five craft breweries that recently opened in the area. While each takes a different approach to brewing, they're all passionate about creating fresh, local, craft brews. Could this be the future of pubs? Jill explores that question and gives our readers the lowdown on what makes each of these breweries unique.

Our Around Your Town section this month is packed with stories about great accomplishments. Starting on page 20, read about a former West Allegheny athlete who had to give up hockey but is now excelling at weight lifting, an educator who recently won a national teacher of the year award and President Donald Trump's recent visit to a company in North Fayette Township.

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On page 24, read about how the West Allegheny Middle School hockey team welcomed a special teammate this year. On page 26, read about a West Allegheny graduate who's now heading up a company that could revolutionize the travel industry.

In this month's Chamber Link column, read about the new leadership at the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce and a new business resource center the organization just opened to facilitate business creation in the area.

Starting on page 35, read about the happenings at West Allegheny School District in this month's latest official newsletter, WA Today. In this edition's superintendent's message, Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert discusses a new program that will allow students to dual enroll in college before they graduate.

Look for our next West Allegheny edition in April.

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor



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ABOUT THE COVER

West Allegheny alumnus Josh Giegel stands next to a hyperloop prototype in Nevada. Giegel co-founded the company Hyperloop One, which is developing the new form of transportation. Read more on page 26. PHOTO BY VIRGIN HYPERLOOP ONE

STORY SUBMITTED
PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

STORY SUBMITTED

Steubenville Pike Auto and Heroes Supporting Heroes team up to donate fourth vehicle



Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity announced the recipient of its fourth car giveaway on Dec. 4 as Shannon Miller. She is pictured fourth from right with her daughter, Steubenville Pike Auto president Jason Pottle, Linda Pottle and Steubenville Pike Auto staff who helped refurbish the vehicle.

Steubenville Pike Auto in Robinson Township donated a vehicle for the fourth time through its Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity program this past holiday season.

On Dec. 4, Steubenville Pike Auto owner Jason Pottle handed Shannon Miller the keys to a midnight blue Chevy Outlander. SPARC's selection committee chose Miller after reading an application submitted by her neighbor detailing the challenges that she and her family have faced. Recently, the family's 20-year-old vehicle quit working, which made it difficult for Miller to make it to work and get her children to activities and events.

While filling out papers to transfer ownership of the vehicle, Miller spoke of the snowball effect that having a reliable vehicle will have on her and her family. Steubenville Pike Auto is excited to have had a hand in creating that snowball.

"Our program is truly changing lives one vehicle at a time!" Pottle said.

Steubenville Pike Auto gives away two vehicles per year through its SPARC program. Over the past two years, Heroes Supporting Heroes has graciously covered the taxes and state transfer fees for each of those donations. HSH once again covered the fees for Miller's vehicle. HSH is a not-for-profit organization that supports stable and safe housing for military members and their families, as well as for veterans and senior citizens. HSH also provides a variety of support services for service members' families during times of deployment. For more, visit www.heroessupportingheroes.org.

Steubenville Pike Auto will be giving away another vehicle to a deserving individual in 2018. Nominations can be made by visiting www.steubenvillepike.com and clicking on the SPARC icon.

Steubenville Pike Auto is a five-acre, full service auto business located at 6112 Steubenville Pike. It has been honored as the seventh fastest growing business in Pittsburgh by the Pittsburgh Business Times and named by INC Magazine as one of the 5,000 fastest growing companies in the U.S.

Thunderbirds announce Wings Over Pittsburgh as best military show site of 2017

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds have named Wings Over Pittsburgh the Military Show Site of the Year for the 2017 show season. Wings Over Pittsburgh took place at the Pittsburgh International Air Reserve Station in Moon Township last May. It was the first time the show had taken place there in six years.

"The entire squadron, all 12 officers and 120 enlisted, vote on the award," said Maj. Erik Gonsalves, Thunderbird #8/advance pilot and narrator. "The votes are based on the best adherence to the support manual, organization, and who showed above and beyond care for not just the Thunderbird team but all airshow performers, volunteers and staff."

Gonsalves said that the Show Site of the Year award highlights to the airshow industry what show sites are putting on the best show.

"We ultimately look at how these shows help us in our goal of recruiting, retaining and inspiring the next generation of airmen," Gonsalves said.

The Thunderbirds have been presenting the award to the best military show site and the best civilian show site since 2009.

"We knew we put on a great show," said Col. Jeffrey VanDootingh, 911th Airlift Wing commander. "It's really nice when a premier team such as the Thunderbirds recognize that we put on a great show."

VanDootingh said that the event takes a lot of teamwork.

"It's important to recognize that a show of this caliber doesn't happen without the support from everyone in the community," said VanDootingh. "We love our community partners and friends of the 911th Airlift Wing. This award is not just for us, but for them as well."

The best civilian show site was awarded to the National Cherry Festival-Air Show in Traverse City, Michigan.

Maj. Erik Gonsalves, Thunderbird #8/Advance Pilot and Narrator (second from left) is pictured with Wings Over Pittsburgh Air Show organizers Capt. Jonathan Gyory, 758th Airlift Squadron; Capt. Richard Bell, 758th Airlift Squadron; and Senior Master Sgt. John Cellurale, 758th Airlift Squadron. The Thunderbirds awarded the team with its Military Show Site of the Year award on Dec. 12 at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. The show took place at the Pittsburgh International Air Reserve Station in Moon Township in May. The Thunderbirds team votes on the winner based on adherence to the support manual, organization and support of the performers.

PHOTO BY U.S. AIR FORCE/STAFF SGT. STEPHANIE ENGLAR



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Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K returning for 38th year

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Runners in last year's Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K take on the hilly course.

It's a race partnership that's been 37 years in the making. After welcoming more than 200 runners and walkers last May, the Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K will again take place May 12. Hopes are to achieve an even bigger turnout this year.

The 5K kicks off at the hospital at 8 a.m. A DJ will be playing to help participants get started on the rolling, hilly course. An after party will feature a continental breakfast and awards ceremony. The race offers prizes for top overall runners and by age group.

Sign up at www.active.com. For more information about the race, visit www.OhioValleyHospital.org.

Scholarship applications now available from Clearview FCU

Applications are now being accepted for Clearview Federal Credit Union's 19th Annual Ralph B. Canterbury Scholarship Award. This year, 10 scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,500 each.

Applicants will be judged on a number of criteria, including: academic performance, activities and community involvement, personal goals, and an essay on "Why I choose to belong to Clearview FCU." Applications must be received at Clearview by March 31 and winners will be honored at the credit union's annual meeting at Clearview's main office in Moon Township on June 28.

For complete scholarship eligibility information, and to complete an application online or download a paper application, visit clearviewfcu.org/rbc.

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WA fourth-grader helps soccer team win national championship

STORY SUBMITTED

West Allegheny fourth-grader Tanner Rosborough helped a three-man soccer team win the 3v3 Soccer National Championship in November. The tournament took place in Nashville, Tennessee among 25 teams from across the country. Those teams had won regional competitions to advance to the national level.

Tanner's 1898 team went undefeated in the tournament, finishing with a 7-0 record. In the final seconds of the championship match, Tanner scored a goal with under a minute remaining to tie and assisted on another goal with 15 seconds remaining to win. He finished the championship game with two goals and an assist to secure the team's 5-4 win over a team from Chicago.



West Allegheny fourth-grader Tanner Rosborough is pictured here with his father, Chad Rosborough, who helped coach his son's three-on-three soccer team. The team won a national championship in November. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Helping Hands collected gifts for children this past holiday season

STORY SUBMITTED



Students at Helping Hands Childcare in Imperial helped collect these gifts for children in need this past holiday season. PHOTO SUBMITTED

This past November, Helping Hands Childcare helped collect 45 boxes filled with gifts and basic necessities for the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child project. The boxes were donated at McDonald Presbyterian Church, which served as a drop-off site for the effort. The gift boxes were then shipped to children in need around the world. In all, Helping Hands' contributions helped the church collect 2,650 gifts for children in need.

In December, Helping Hands also collected new books to donate to Beverly's Birthdays, a nonprofit that makes birthday celebrations happen for children in need. The center held the collection at the suggestion of elementary students Cecily Dober and Ava Usko. Helping Hands worked with Daisy Troop 46756 of Imperial to collect the books. The troop consists of kindergarten students at Donaldson Elementary School.

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Caroling for a Cause raises funds for fifth consecutive year

An area effort intended to collect donations for the Make-A-Wish Foundation by caroling once again took place this past holiday season. On Dec. 15, 24 teenagers went caroling across a North Fayette Township neighborhood, braving frigid temperatures in order to help grant a wish to a child in need. The effort, which has become an annual tradition for the Chiodo family and their friends, raised \$400 for the foundation.

“It is so amazing for my husband and I to see such a large group of kids always willing to help a child,” said Lori Chiodo.

This past holiday season marked the fifth that Lori and her husband, Gino, have raised money for the foundation in their neighborhood. Lori says the tradition started in 2013 with their three daughters and some of their friends. In the years since, dozens of young carolers have joined the family in their annual effort.

“Our neighborhood has been so generous and supportive,” says Lori.

Participating this year were Brianna Chiodo, Cierra Chiodo, Cayla Chiodo, Julia Stalling, Owen Sagnimen, Jada Babich, Elyssia Lesko, Brylenn Adamson, Olivia Thompson, Alyssa Conn, Emma Main, Keegan Hitchings, Jillian Wallace, Libby Hitchings, Ella Sekelik, Nadia Pollinger, Amanda Schoppe, Clara Santos, Sophia Morton, Maddie Montello, Lily Lee, Emma Bohley, Annabelle Lapin, Aleah Dudek, Gino Chiodo and Lori Chiodo.



Twenty-four teenagers joined Lori and Gino Chiodo as they went caroling in their neighborhood this past holiday season. The annual tradition, which the Chiodos started, raises money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. PHOTO BY TODD JONES



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White Viper Martial Arts adds to its karate and MMA titles

Team Viper out of White Viper Martial Arts Training Center in Imperial once again competed in the National Blackbelt League Super Grands World Games between Dec. 26 and Dec. 31.

This year's event took place at the Adams Mark Hotel and Event Center in Buffalo, New York, where Team Viper added to an already impressive list of championships and hardware. West Allegheny's own 13-year-old Colin Rakolta defended and earned another world title in traditional weapons. Rakolta, now a two-time NBL world champion, not only had to compete during the course of 2017 to earn seeding, but also had to finish in the top two at the Super Grands' competition floor. He then competed again on the Super Grands nighttime Finals Stage to earn the coveted world title.

"Competing in the NBL for a chance at the world title is the most coveted prize in all of sport karate," explained Team Viper's head coach Peter Chase. "It doesn't matter how good you do all year, you still have to compete for it at Super Grands, and even if you win on the floor, you still have to compete later in the week on stage for a shot at the title."

White Viper black belt Raymond McDonald of North Fayette Township also won an NBL world title in traditional forms. Capturing a world title as well was Team Viper coach Brigid "Primetime" Chase, earning the victory with her creative musical choreographed staff routine. She also won her third world title in traditional self defense. These were Brigid's sixth and seventh world titles.

"Hurricane" Hope Chase, another coach on "Team Viper," won three adult black belt NBL world titles. Hope was also voted to compete at the Super Grands' Grand Finale Show on New Year's Eve, in which she won her fifth red-metallic World Grand belt. She became the only NBL competitor in its 28-year history to have won the red-metallic World Grand in all phases of sport karate - fighting, traditional and creative.

Bessy "Bam-Bam" Chase, also a Team Viper coach, added to her list of World Title victories by winning three at Super Grands, making her a five-time NBL world champion. She earned wins in team fighting, point fighting and continuous fighting.

Also part of the Super Grands black belt squad were Team Viper members Ryan Vujanovich of Burgettstown and West Allegheny students Parker Shoup, Connor McDonald and Samantha Rossman. Vujanovich, 19, won his first-ever NBL belt, earning two bronzes in adult black belt competition. In amateur competition/color belts, West Allegheny students Nick Shoup and Colby McDonald each won first place amateur world championships.

As well, Team Viper has an MMA Team that captured wins during the 2017 holiday season. On Thanksgiving Eve, and with only four days notice, "Hurricane" Hope Chase took

advantage of a last minute opportunity to fight at Bayfront Brawl IV for Bizzarro Promotions' Women's Amateur MMA Bantamweight Title at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, and won. Not only did she win on four days notice, but she defeated an opponent who had three times as many fights in the cage. Hope is scheduled to defend her title on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, at Bayfront Brawl V.

Also on the MMA side of Team Viper, Brigid "Primetime" Chase fought on Dec. 15 in Columbus, Ohio at IT Fight Series 79 against the second-ranked woman in Indiana at the time. She won by a TKO at 2:45 of the very first round.

"Traditional martial arts, and also sport karate, are two legit martial art bases to have in MMA," explained Team Viper head coach Peter Chase. "More and more, traditional and sport karate are becoming the next big base thing in professional MMA. At White Viper Martial Arts, we teach world class traditional and sport martial arts, which is proving to be an amazing foundational base for many of the professional fighters in top leagues such as the UFC and Bellator today."

To learn more about White Viper Martial Arts, visit their website at www.whiteviperkarate.com.



Team Viper out of White Viper Martial Arts Training Center in Imperial poses for a picture with their awards from the recent National Blackbelt League Super Grands World Games competition. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY



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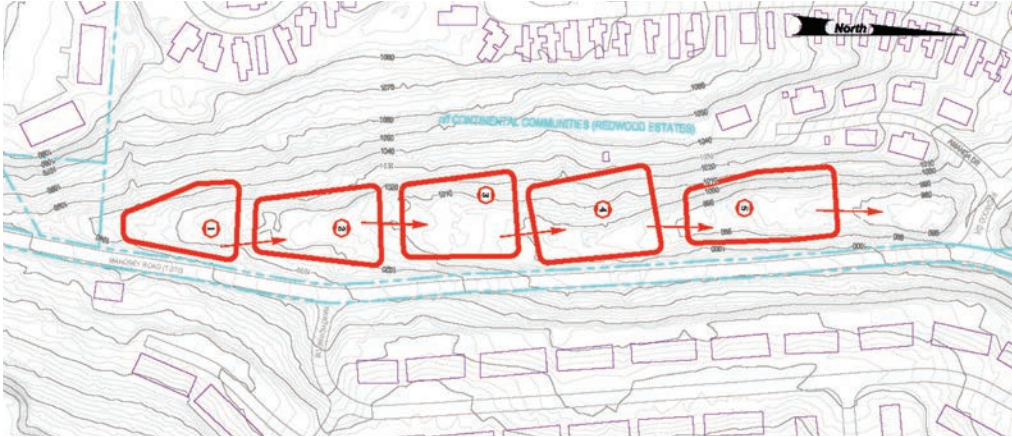
STORY AND GRAPHIC SUBMITTED BY
MONTOUR RUN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

In the coming months, construction will begin on a new passive treatment water system alongside Mahoney Road in North Fayette Township. The intention of the system is to filter abandoned mine drainage out of Milk Run, which is a tributary of Montour Run. Milk Run flows parallel Mahoney Road and has been unhealthy for nearly a century.

Abandoned mine drainage has been flowing from an old underground coal mine into Milk Run since the early 1900s. Sulfur in and around the

Pittsburgh number 8 coal seam oxidizes when exposed to air in the mine. When the sulfur breaks down, it creates dissolved iron and sulfuric acid. The acid dissolves additional minerals, including aluminum, found in clay underlying the coal. When the mine drainage that contains dissolved aluminum is mixed with alkaline or water with higher acidity, the aluminum precipitates out as a white substance, giving the stream a milky appearance.

The Montour Run Watershed Association is now working with government agencies and officials, private companies and environmental advocacy groups on the new passive treatment system. The project is funded by a Range Resources reclamation in-lieu of penalty project (\$949,089), the U.S. Office of Surface Mining (\$150,000) and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Waterways (\$20,000). The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Allegheny County Conservation District, the not-for-profit Stream Restorations, Independence Conservancy, Landowners Continental Communities, Great Rentals, and the Washington County Conservation District have also been instrumental to the project. BioMost, a design-build firm that specializes in passive treatment systems and has constructed other facilities within the Montour Run Watershed, is the design and construction contractor that will build the system in 2018.



This map shows where several segments of a passive treatment system will be constructed in order to filter contaminants out of abandoned mine drainage flowing into Milk Run (pictured below) along Mahoney Road.

Extensive designing and permitting activities have been taking place since 2015 on the project. In the late fall of 2017, BioMost received the last of the necessary permits to begin construction.

Ground breaking is expected to start in the spring, most likely in March. The passive system will require no electricity, no pumps and no operator.

The design uses natural limestone and gravity to treat the water.

The Montour Run Watershed Association will monitor the system and take corrective actions if necessary.

Funding from Range Resources includes designated operation and maintenance funds of \$191,000 to ensure the system remains effective for decades. Once completed, the system will restore one mile of stream and improve Montour Run by removing an estimated 72,000 pounds of acid and 7,000 pounds of aluminum per year. For more, visit www.mrwa.info.



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Two Paragon homes receive Housing Excellence Awards

Paragon Homes recently earned two home of the year awards at the Housing Excellence Awards hosted by the Builder's Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh. Paragon won the awards for two custom homes the company completed for clients last year. Those homes were selected among the largest pool of applicants in the history of the Housing Excellence Awards.

Paragon custom built one of those award-winning homes for the Mowrey family. Paragon created a custom floor plan with a large, open living area with tons of natural light, a custom kitchen, and his-and-her private studies.

Upstairs, the master bedroom has a spectacular shower, double vanities with a makeup table, and double walk-in closets for lots of storage. Two additional bedrooms have their own walk-in closets and there is a spare bedroom for guests or crafts. The family requested a second-floor laundry and designed custom storage spaces above the garage and on the lower level.

Outside, the home boasts ample space for relaxing and for children to play. Examples of high-quality construction practices in the home include premium grade lumber and other building materials; upgraded fixtures and hardware; 16-inch stud spacing interior and exterior with 2x6 exterior walls; solid core doors; and real wood windows.

Paragon's second winning home was built for the Schmitz family. Their award-winning custom dream home was intended to be an elegant, modern retreat for the parents that could also grow with the family as their needs change. Entering the home through the four-car attached garage, one passes through a long hallway of custom-built lockers and drop zones that help keep things organized. The interior then opens into a great room, kitchen and sunroom area where the family spends



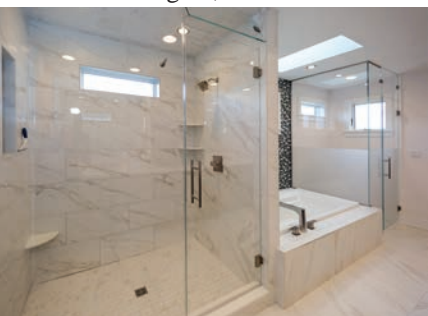
Paragon Homes recently earned two Housing Excellence Awards for these homes. The pictures below shows a kitchen/living area and bathroom from one of the homes.



most of their time. The first floor also has a formal living room and a large formal dining room for dinners with extended family and friends.

The home's second level has a large laundry room, a spectacular overlook of the foyer, a master suite with dual master closets and three additional bedrooms. One bedroom has a private bath and two share a Jack and Jill bath. A third-floor loft includes two additional bedrooms, a full bathroom and a movie room.

For more about Paragon Homes, visit ParagonHomesCustomBuilder.com. Paragon specializes in building custom homes with amenities that many developers consider upgrades. In addition to Paragon's Deerfield Ridge community in South Fayette Township and Parkside Meadows community in Collier Township, Paragon also offers sites in Peters Township, Moon Township and a brand new community in Robinson Township. To visit one of these communities, call (412) 787-8807.



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St. Clair Hospital names John T. Sullivan, M.D. new chief medical officer

St. Clair Hospital announced the appointment of John T. Sullivan, M.D. as the hospital's new senior vice president and chief medical officer in January. Sullivan joins St. Clair Hospital from Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, where he served for 17 years in a number of clinical, academic and management positions. Most recently, he was the associate chief medical officer for academic affairs and a professor of anesthesiology in the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Sullivan is also the immediate past president of the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology.

"I'm delighted to welcome Dr. Sullivan to Pittsburgh," says James M. Collins, president and CEO of St. Clair Hospital. "He is uniquely qualified to lead St. Clair's continued ascent as one of the nation's leaders in patient safety, quality, patient satisfaction and value."

Sullivan earned his medical degree at the University of Michigan Medical School and completed a residency in anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital, which is affiliated with Harvard Medical School. More recently, he received a MBA degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Sullivan has also held a series of progressively responsible positions with the U.S. Navy and currently serves as a commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

At St. Clair, Sullivan will be responsible for clinical program development, best-in-class performance and leveraging technology to better serve patients and the community.

St. Clair Hospital is a nationally recognized, integrated health system with more than 2,500 employees and 600 physicians serving 500,000 residents of southwestern Pennsylvania. In 2016, it became a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. St. Clair participates with all major insurers.

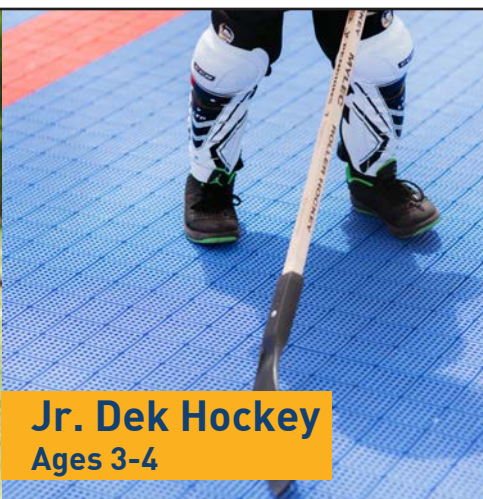
For more information, please visit stclair.org.



John T. Sullivan, M.D.
PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ST. CLAIR HOSPITAL



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For details, visit allegHENYcounty.us/youthsports



New hotel to open in March across from Settlers Ridge

STORY AND PHOTOS
SUBMITTED BY DRURY HOTELS



A conceptual drawing depicts the new 187-room Drury Inn and Suites Pittsburgh Airport Settlers Ridge, which is expected to open in March.

A family-owned and operated hotel company will be opening its newest location off I-376 across from Settlers Ridge this spring.

The 187-room Drury Inn and Suites Pittsburgh Airport Settlers Ridge, which is currently completing construction, is expected to open in March. The company is taking reservations for May 23 and later. The new hotel is conveniently located just minutes from Pittsburgh International Airport and directly off the I-376 Ridge Road Exit. It also sits just across the overpass from the shops and restaurants at Settlers Ridge.

Once completed, Drury Inn and Suites Pittsburgh Airport Settlers Ridge will feature 1,200 square feet of flexible meeting space, free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel, free hot breakfasts, and free hot food and cold beverages during its daily 5:30 p.m. “Kickback.” The hotel also features an indoor pool and whirlpool; microwaves and refrigerators in all rooms; and free soda and popcorn in the lobby.

The location is the second in the Pittsburgh area for St. Louis-based Drury Hotels, which also operates a hotel out of the historic Federal Reserve Bank building in downtown Pittsburgh. The company renovated the building for its operations.

Nationally, Drury owns more than 150 hotels in 25 states, including in the Carolinas, Arizona, Michigan and Texas. In 2017, Drury opened new hotels in Phoenix, Arizona; Fort Meyers, Florida; St. Charles, Missouri; Gainesville, Florida; Frisco, Texas; and Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Despite the company’s growth, the Drury family remains involved in all aspects of the hotel’s business, from site selection, to construction, to day-to-day operations. Chuck Drury is the company’s president and CEO. The company has distinguished itself by being named highest in guest satisfaction among upper midscale hotel chains by JD Power over the past 12 consecutive years.

For more, visit www.druryhotels.com. For corporate sales inquiries, call (412) 787-2053. For questions regarding groups or meetings, call (800) 436-1176 for social groups, (800) 436-1175 for corporate groups or (800) 436-1199 for tour groups.

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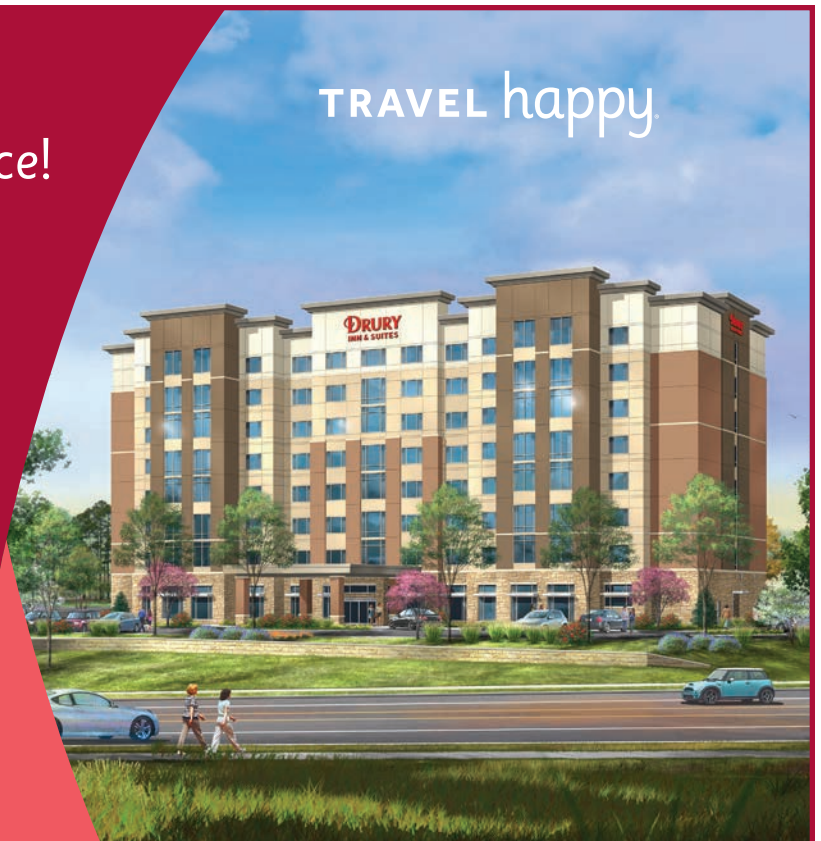
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Tender Shepherd Preschool to open new school on 20th anniversary

STORY AND PHOTO SUBMITTED
BY THE BIBLE CHAPEL

For 20 years, Tender Shepherd Preschool has served children and families in the South Hills of Pittsburgh with a simple vision: to provide children with a well-rounded, Christ-centered early education experience in a loving environment. As the area's top-ranking preschool, Tender Shepherd continues to grow and flourish. As part of their expansion plan, which includes opening new locations in the Robinson area and Wilkinsburg, The Bible Chapel Robinson Campus will become home to a brand new Tender Shepherd Preschool in September.

Faith is the cornerstone of everything that happens at Tender Shepherd Preschool. Each unit of study includes Bible stories and verses to help children develop firm foundations in their faith and learn valuable life lessons. Since the beginning, a key scripture

that has remained at the heart of Tender Shepherd Preschool's vision is Matthew 19:14, where Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Jesus knew that children are the future of the church and the community. He also understood the importance of investing in them.

At Tender Shepherd Preschool, students learn from an all-encompassing curriculum that encourages social, academic, creative and spiritual growth. Children not only build a firm educational

foundation that prepares them for kindergarten, but they also make friends and learn the art of foundational social skills like sharing, cooperation, helping each other, taking turns, and even forgiving one another when conflict resolution is needed. They also engage in fun, creative play that covers everything from finger painting to



Tender Shepherd Preschool will be opening at The Bible Chapel's Robinson campus near Settlers Cabin Park at 175 McMichael Road this September.



imaginative dress-up in classrooms, which are full of fun learning stations where children's imaginations can run wild.

Tender Shepherd Preschool teachers possess education degrees and teaching experience to ensure that students receive the best possible care. Along with

their classroom lessons, students participate in a number of special events throughout the year, including Thanksgiving, Pajama Day, Mother's Day Tea, Easter, a Christmas Pageant and many more.

Tender Shepherd Preschool will be located near Settlers Cabin Park at The Bible Chapel Robinson Campus, at 175 McMichael Road, Carnegie, 15106. The teaching staff will be welcoming incoming four- and five-year-olds on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. beginning this September. Tuition is affordable at only \$160 per month.

For more information and to register, visit www.biblechapel.org.





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STORY AND PHOTO SUBMITTED BY
INSIDE ADMISSIONS CONSULTING

Former college admissions counselor gives the inside scoop in new workshop

Jen Partica sometimes hesitates before telling people what she does for a living.

“My colleagues and I joke that telling someone you work in admissions is dropping the A-bomb,” she says. “Everyone knows a high school kid about to go through the college search, so they have lots of questions.”

Many wonder what the secret is to getting into a good university.

“I ask if they’ve got a few hours!” says Partica. “There are rarely easy answers when it comes to admissions.”

The search for a college has become an increasingly complex process.

“Figuring out what’s expected of you and your child can feel overwhelming,” Partica says.

During the decade she spent working for colleges, Partica met with families who often expressed anxiety about the college application process.

“Parents and students were eager to see if I thought they were on the right track. There is an overload of information and conflicting advice out there. Sometimes it’s hard just to get started,” she says.

Partica formed a unique bond with the families she counseled through the application process but, she says, “There was always information I had to hold back, things I couldn’t share because I still worked for a school. Now I’m independent, running Inside Admissions Consulting, and can tell families everything I know.”

Partica started her career at Bucknell University, where she worked with Division I athletic recruits, coordinated audition days for scholarships in the performing and visual arts, and managed the university’s tour guides.

“At Bucknell, I was a member of one of the most competitive application review committees in the country. We had 915 spots in the freshman class for which we received over 9,000 applications,” she says.

Partica found the job of an admissions counselor to be gratifying at times and disappointing at others.

“We knew that much of the applicant pool was qualified to come there and do the work, but you can’t admit everyone who deserves it,” Partica says. “When I championed a student’s application and the committee accepted them, it was awesome. When that didn’t happen, it hurt to think of them finding that denial letter in the mailbox.”

After a couple of years, Partica moved to Susquehanna University and into a position managing recruitment marketing.

“I regularly got VPs and directors into a room to hash out what the college wanted to say about itself, who it wanted to say it to, when, and how,” she says.

Partica wrote and managed the publications and emails the school used to sell itself to families.

“I saw the strategic side of admissions, blending the art and science of recruiting a class,” she says.



Jen Partica spent a decade working in college admissions before starting her own consulting company in late 2017. Now she’s giving prospective college students inside information on getting into their college of choice in a new workshop she’s teaching.

Partica has drawn on her career experience and graduate study in education to write the curriculum for a workshop she calls College Search 101. Intended for high school sophomores and juniors, the workshop is a fun and interactive way for students to kick off the college search with their parent or parents.

“We start with an exercise that gets everybody on the same page about what they’re looking for, then I explain what’s happening inside an admissions office and how families can use that knowledge to their advantage,” she says, “like learning how to cut through a college’s marketing spin to gauge your chances of getting in.”

Participants leave with an individualized timeline for moving forward and a promise from Partica that she’ll answer any questions they have in the future.

“You’ll walk out the door ready to go home and get things started. And if you ever need to know more, I’ll be there to find the answer for you,” says Partica.

To learn more and register for a workshop, visit InsideAdmissionsConsulting.com.

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Recent WA grad to compete at USA Weightlifting championship

STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY
PHOTO BY BRYAN MORSE



Ryan Rohal performs a weightlifting move known as the snatch during a USA Weightlifting competition in Bridgeville in January.

Ryan Rohal of Oakdale grew up playing hockey. He started when he was 2 and went on to play for the West Allegheny Indians varsity team.

His junior year, though, his doctors advised him to stop.

"I had a couple concussions and the doctors said I should probably think about quitting," he says. "All my friends still play."

Rohal heeded that medical advice and gave up the sport he'd spent his entire life playing. What he didn't give up, though, was weight lifting, which he'd started as a way to build up strength in his legs for hockey. He was no stranger to the weight room at the high school and had even joined a strength and conditioning gym called FOCUS in Robinson Township. For the past four years, he's been working out at that gym with weight training coach Bryan Morse.

Last year, the same year Rohal graduated from high school, he started competing in the sport of weightlifting and won three meets. In January, he won a regional USA Weightlifting competition in Bridgeville, which earned him an invite to the USA Weightlifting Nike National Junior Championships. The competition takes place mid-February in Spokane.

USA Weightlifting is the governing body for Olympic athletes and Rohal says he's hoping to catch an Olympic scout's eye at the competition.

"That's definitely the goal," he says about his Olympic aspirations.

Rohal, who stands about five feet, six inches and weighs 149 pounds, competes in the 69-kilogram junior division, which is made up of weightlifters between the ages of 17 and 22. He specializes in the snatch and the clean and jerk events. Thus far, he's lifted 244.2 pounds in the snatch and 295 pounds in the clean and jerk during competition. He's hoping to put up 260 pounds and 310 pounds in those two lifts, respectively, when he heads to Spokane.

FOCUS has helped pay for Rohal's entry fees and incidentals, but other expenses - including airfare hotel stays - Rohal pays for himself. He buses tables at Red Lobster on the weekends and

also works at Quicksilver Golf Club, where one of the benefits of the job includes time on the course. Rohal played golf for West Allegheny his sophomore, junior and senior years.

He's also taking classes at CCAC and says he's thinking about pursuing a career in business or criminal justice.

Rohal says he's already passed up competing in one national competition due to a lack of funds. In 2017, he competed at the American Open in Miami, where he placed 11th overall. That performance qualified him for a finals competition that he would have attended if he hadn't been wiped out by the expenses of traveling to and staying in Miami.

"Miami is expensive," he says. "I came back and couldn't even afford gas."

Rohal says he does have one sponsorship through a protein company, which is tied to how much of their product he sells. He says he's currently hoping for additional sponsorships that can help fund him. In addition to the upcoming USA Weightlifting competition in Spokane, he's also qualified for the Arnold Sports Festival, which will take place in Columbus, Ohio in March.

Morse says Rohal's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. "Ryan continues to amaze people with his continual progress on the platform," he says. "The juniors category is filled with very talented athletes. So, qualifying for the junior nationals is an impressive accomplishment."

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STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY
PHOTO SUBMITTED

DeBor receives national teaching award

The National Council of Teachers of English presented Jonathan DeBor of Oakdale with its 2017 High School Teacher of Excellence Award this past November.

A 1994 West Allegheny graduate, DeBor currently teaches English literature at The Neighborhood Academy in Pittsburgh. He was one of 15 teachers across the country chosen to receive the award.

“The big thing for me is connecting students to literature,” says DeBor about his profession. “I’ve always said that I understand if there’s an option between a kid picking up the remote, a book or an Xbox controller, they might still pick up the remote - but at least the book is on the table.”

He adds that he often tells students who don’t like to read that they just haven’t picked up the right book yet.

“That’s the kind of thing a student turns their nose at, but it’s true,” he says.

DeBor was nominated by two of his colleagues at The Neighborhood Academy. One of them, Ravit Shpiez, writes in his nomination letter that DeBor doesn’t just want his students to read text, but also to “make connections to their own lives” as well as to the world in which they live. Jennifer Kane, who wrote the second letter nominating DeBor, detailed some of his innovative teaching methods. One involves having students write various types of newspaper articles while studying themes in “To Kill a Mockingbird.” Another of DeBor’s lessons focuses on banned books and uses the novel “Fahrenheit 451” to discuss the subject.



National Council of Teachers of English secondary chair Shekema Silveri presents Jonathan DeBor with the organization’s 2017 High School Teacher of Excellence Award.

“Lessons like these help [students] see literature in the context of a wider world and a wider history, which I believe is such an important part of what a literature teacher does,” writes Kane.

She writes that DeBor also keeps his classroom bookshelves stocked with a healthy collection of young adult fiction and purchases classroom materials himself.


DeBor, who teaches ninth grade English literature, says he likes to use various forms of multimedia while teaching a book. For instance, for one class he may have students read a chapter but then for the next class he might have students watch a performance based on part of the book. For the next chapter, he might have them read a graphic novel version.

Real-life examples of prevalent themes are also part of the discussion. For instance, he says that a recent discussion about religious persecution in “The Crucible” led to a discussion about President Donald Trump’s proposed Muslim travel ban.

DeBor describes The Neighborhood Academy as one that offers a private school experience to students who would otherwise be unable to attend such a school. The nonprofit pays for upwards of 90 percent of tuition for students through various grants and fundraising efforts, sending 100 percent of their graduates to college.

Outside of school, DeBor is an active board member on numerous community organizations. He serves as president of the West Allegheny Foundation, which awards grant money to West Allegheny teachers and area athletic organizations. He’s vice president of the Friends of the Hollywood Theater and a member of the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts. As well, DeBor is a member of the Oakdale Borough Council.

DeBor’s wife, Lynn Ann, is the assessment coordinator for West Allegheny High School. The couple has two children - Maura and Brenna. Both are West Allegheny students and enjoy Irish dance. They regularly participate in Feis competitions and have won several of them.



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For the second time in three years, a sitting U.S. President visits North Fayette

When the White House originally contacted H&K Equipment in North Fayette Township the week before Christmas, owner and CEO George Koch was told that a “high-level White House official” wanted to visit his company in January.

With the ink still fresh on the newly-signed federal tax plan, Koch and others in charge at H&K suspected that President Donald Trump may be the visitor. They soon found out they were correct.

The President toured the 85,000-square-foot H&K facility located off Montour Run Road on the afternoon of Jan. 18. Following the tour, he spoke to nearly 700 people in attendance. The crowd included employees, their guests, local business leaders and politicians.

Political speculation was that the president’s visit was primarily to lend support to state Rep. Rick Saccone, the Elizabeth Township Republican who is running for the 18th Congressional District seat vacated by former GOP Congressman Tim Murphy. The President, however, focused his remarks on H&K Equipment, the surging economy and the success of American businesses.

“The signs of America’s growth are at H&K,” said Trump, adding that the 300-employee company just experienced the most successful year in its 35-year history.

The President congratulated those associated with the business, calling H&K “an incredible company.”

As a result of the government’s new tax reform plan, Trump said that H&K Equipment will make a \$2.7 million capital investment into its business operations.

Following that declaration, the President then put the spotlight on a 14-year employee of H&K who has worked his way up to the position of foreman. Trump unexpectedly called “the legendary Ken Wilson... who will save \$2,200 in taxes” this year to the stage to give a few words.

The President also recognized local Marine Corps veteran Kevin Hodits, who recently received a \$1,000 bonus from Comcast, where he is employed as a technical operations manager. Trump mentioned several other businesses in Pennsylvania, including PNC and NexTier Bank, which have provided bonuses to their employees following passage of the new tax legislation.

Standing before an oversized American flag and two gleaming new pieces of H&K equipment, Trump stated that the American people can “do anything, build anything, and create anything” as long as they have pride in their country. “There has never been a

better time than right now to believe in the American dream,” said Trump.

H&K Equipment has been in business since 1983 and operating out of its current location since 2002. It provides material handling equipment and heavy machinery solutions to businesses and manufacturers in Pittsburgh, North America and beyond.

The company maintains an extensive rental fleet of machines such as lift trucks, fork lifts and industrial cleaning equipment. It also rebuilds and refurbishes used equipment.

George Koch manages H&K with Pete Cicero, his partner of 30 years. Koch said that a frenzy of cleaning and painting occurred at the shop in the days prior to the President’s visit, along with preparation of the best pieces of H&K equipment to showcase.

The CEO said it was an honor to have the President visit his business, saying “President Trump knows equipment and he asked some very pertinent questions” during the tour.

Koch also mentioned the instrumental role played by the National Federation of Independent Businesses in securing the President’s visit to H&K. As a long-time member of the group, H&K was specifically recommended to the White House by Kevin Shivers, the NFIB state director.

H&K general manager Patrick Koch recognized the involvement in the event by Dave Cranston of local company Cranston Material Handling. An NFIB area leader, Cranston assisted with President Trump’s visit. He has facilitated past visits to H&K by former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and Sen. Pat Toomey.

North Fayette Township supervisor Bob Doddato commented on the palpable excitement of the crowd at

H&K amidst the country’s current economic growth. From a local standpoint, Doddato stated that North Fayette Township has been “very fortunate to have two presidential visits” in recent years. The supervisor was referring to a previous visit from President Barack Obama, who spoke at the CCAC West Hills campus in 2014 in order to announce new funding for mechatronics programs. Obama was accompanied during that visit by Vice President Joe Biden in a rare joint appearance by the two officials.

“I think the fact that both [presidents] visited North Fayette speaks to the diverse economy and services provided within our community,” said Doddato.



President Donald Trump visited H&K Equipment in North Fayette Township in January. There, he toured the company’s facilities with CEO George Koch (pictured below) and spoke to a crowd of about 700 people. PHOTOS BY JOSEPH STEIGERWALD



Hebron Presbyterian names new minister

Hebron Presbyterian Church in Clinton named a new minister this past November. Rev. Lorrie Ghering-Burick became the church's pastor following the departure of Rev. Cynda Isler, who led the church for almost six years. Isler has since taken a position at a church in Burgettstown.



Rev. Lori Ghering-Burick

A native of Zelienople, Ghering-Burick comes to the area after serving as a pastor at Roanoke Island Presbyterian Church in Manteo, North Carolina for almost six years.

Prior to that, she served as a pastor at Buffalo Presbyterian Sarver in Sarver. She moved

back to the area to be with her husband, Daniel, who works as a certified registered nurse anesthetist at UPMC Jameson hospital. The couple married six years ago and were co-commuting until Ghering-Burick decided to make the move last year.

"We're still in our honeymoon phase," she says.

She says the church is undergoing a number of changes and that the congregation has taken to them better than any other congregation she's worked with. Ghering-Burick says she's also been impressed by the ability of the church's choir.

In the coming months, she says the church will be looking for opportunities for outreach and has formed a team to explore options.

"The question for me always is, if this building burnt down tomorrow, would the community miss this congregation?" she says. "So, if they don't, what are we not doing?"

She says the church's congregation has also been looking for opportunities to be more hospitable, whether by serving coffee and food between services or operating its library on an honor system.

"They're looking at the spaces in the church and thinking about how to use them effectively to engage people in a relationship," she says, "which is wonderful, because that's what the early church did. It was about getting together, eating, sharing their stories, talking about how God worked in their life."

A graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Ghering-Burick says she enjoys teaching meditation and modes of prayer such as contemplative and healing prayer. She's also working with a church elder to create a study in discipleship.

Prior to coming to Hebron, Ghering-Burick also served on the board and then as president of a homeless ministry in Dare County, North Carolina.

"I think a lot of people fly under the radar," she says, "and it bothers me that, as churches, we get real orderly and neat - which is great - to the point that we get uncomfortable around people who aren't. And a lot of people in need aren't."

Worship at Hebron begins at 11 a.m. with children's Sunday school and adult discipleship at 9:45 a.m. Bible study takes place at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays through Lent. For more, visit www.hebronatclinton.org.

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2018 Induction Class nominations due by Feb. 28

WA Middle School hockey team welcomed a special teammate this season



Members of the West Allegheny Middle School hockey team celebrate with Sean Pellegrino, who is wearing the number 21, after he scored his first career goal with the team in November.

Seventh-grader Sean Pellegrino scored his first career goal for the West Allegheny Indians' middle school hockey team Nov. 9. Pellegrino took the puck in the opening minute of the game and scored on a shot that skirted through the goalie's pads to land squarely in the back of the net.

In a show of support that would usually draw a penalty, Pellegrino's teammates mobbed him. Even the team's bench cleared. The referees let it go, however.

This season has marked Pellegrino's first with the team. The four years prior, he was a member of the Steel City Icebergs, a team with a roster comprised of adults and children with special needs. Pellegrino has both autism and Down syndrome.

To get Pellegrino that goal, the WA team coordinated with Chartiers Valley and WA players guided Sean by skating on either side of him. WA then pulled their own goalie later in the period, which resulted in a tying Chartiers Valley goal.

The Indians went on to win not just that match but five of their next six games. At the time of this writing, the team has just two games remaining in its regular season schedule and has already secured a playoff spot. They are ranked first in the Tier 3 South division with 11 wins. Throughout the season, Sean has remained a constant presence on the team, showing support for his teammates and affection for coaches who treat him like he's just another player.

"The boys on this team really rally around him and help him out in practices and games and even in school," says Sean's mother, Deana.

Most of the time, Sean has to watch games from the bench with his father, Bill. Tempich says that during practices, though, the team has made arrangements for Sean to participate. Tempich says Sean has become a capable skater with good balance and speed.

"Every practice he looks like he's getting faster," says Tempich. "Sometimes I'll turn my head and Sean's flying up the ice with the big boys. On the bench it's fun too because he'll get into it."

Tempich says that if they don't keep their eye on Sean during a game, he'll readily jump out onto the ice in the middle of a substitution.

Deana says Sean's interest in hockey started when his older brother, Zeke, started playing in-line hockey. She says the family first tried to seek out an in-line hockey team for Sean but that when they were unable they came across the Steel City Icebergs. Zeke recalls that when Sean first started skating he required an assistive device which he no longer uses.

Chris Kiss, a member of the West Allegheny hockey board, says that for much of the past two years the program has been making an effort to not only grow and invest in player development but also build character among players.

"We felt it equally important that the players understand it's not always about the game, but about giving back and being a part of something greater than themselves," she says.

Kiss says the board reached out to three West Allegheny students who play on the Steel City Icebergs and that Sean was the only one who was able to participate. The West Allegheny Middle School team added Sean as an official member to its roster at the beginning of the season.

"The response from coaches and players has been overwhelming and to the players, he is really just another member of the team," says Kiss.

On Jan. 26, Sean and the rest of the middle school team were recognized during a pep rally in lieu of the playoffs starting mid-February.

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Holy Trinity

Salvation Army toy drive

Members of the student council collected toys during December for the Salvation Army Treasures for Children program. The Salvation Army distributes these toys as Christmas gifts to children in need in the community where the campaign is conducted.



Student council treasurer Braehm Brown, president Audrey Flanagan, recording secretary Chiara Golomb and vice president Ethan Williams hold toys collected by students for the Salvation Army.

The primary goal of the program is to share the love of Christ through service to others. The donation of presents by Holy Trinity students helps provide a happier holiday for children in the area. Over the past 10 years, Holy Trinity has collected over 1,000 toys.

Forensics team takes third in its first meet of the season



The forensics team at Holy Trinity came in third place in its first meet of the season while several individual members took home first place ribbons.

The forensics team placed third overall in their first meet of the year at St. Kilian in December. Individually, Reighan Bean received two first place ribbons for prose, Bianca Golomb received two first place ribbons in drama, Jillian Frosell received two first place ribbons for drama, Melaina Merlo received a first place ribbon in poetry, and Olivia Mulvay received a first place ribbon for drama. Six second-place and 12 third-place ribbons were awarded to other members of the team. Every member received a winning ribbon.

Sixth- and seventh-graders take on Phipps Fairfield Challenge

Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School students are participating in the Phipps Conservatory's Fairchild Challenge. The Fairchild Challenge is a free, environmental education outreach program that was developed by the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami, Florida and adopted by Phipps Conservatory nearly 10 years ago.

By offering five challenges throughout the school year, both middle school and high school students must investigate various environmental issues and design creative solutions. The seventh grade class at Holy Trinity was tasked with addressing the first challenge by creating edible recipes using discarded plant parts. Food waste contributes to greenhouse gases and has been linked to global warming. Students not only made a plant-based recipe, but also had to write about how they were reducing food waste and what resources were used in producing the plants. They also had to write about how they were reducing their household contribution to climate change.

Recipes included watermelon rind popsicles, tomato basil soup with bruised tomatoes and muffins with bruised apples. The top 10 recipes were added to the school's recipe book and submitted for judging. Students then went on the "Saturday Light Brigade" radio show to discuss the Fairchild Challenge and their "Eco Edibles" project.

The sixth grade class at Holy Trinity participated in the second Fairchild Challenge, called Petals and Pollinators. Students were tasked with creating a 3-D model of a fictional flower, labeling at least three scientific parts and writing a paper about its environment, the type of pollinator the flower relies on, and the adaptation that co-evolved to facilitate pollination.

All challenges are totaled at the end of the year and prizes awarded to the top schools.



ABOVE: Seventh-graders discuss recipes they created to help eliminate food waste for the Fairchild Challenge on NPR's "Saturday Night Light Brigade." BELOW: Two groups of sixth-graders also created 3-D models of a fictional flower and wrote about it for another part of the Fairchild Challenge.



**Have a story you'd like to share?
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A WA grad and former Elon Musk employee now heads Hyperloop One, a supersonic transport company

Everyone loves a contest and Pittsburgh has garnered national attention recently for two high-profile competitions.

The HQ2 challenge, the winner of which will determine the host city of Amazon's second headquarters, will be finalized sometime in 2018. Pittsburgh was recently named among Amazon's 20 finalists.

Pittsburgh also recently emerged as one of 10 winners in the Global Challenge set forth by Los Angeles-based Hyperloop One, a company deep into development on a supersonic, electronic propulsion transportation system.

The company's co-founder and president of engineering of Hyperloop is Josh Giegel, a McDonald native and 2003 graduate of West Allegheny High School.

Giegel, who holds a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from Penn State University and a master's in mechanical engineering from Stanford University, began his career at SpaceX, the company founded by entrepreneur genius Elon Musk. As a lead analyst, Giegel worked on six rocket engines including the Merlin 1D and SuperDraco models.

The WA grad next led research activities at Echogen Power Systems, a start-up company in the waste heat-to-power energy sector. While at Echogen, Giegel not only invented four CO₂ power cycles that lowered costs and improved efficiency, but also developed custom power cycle optimization software.

In November of 2014, Giegel co-founded Hyperloop One, a company named for Musk's idea of using electronic propulsion to move passenger pods through low-pressure tubes. After gradual acceleration, the pods are lifted above the tracks by magnetic levitation and propelled to a maximum speed of 700 miles per hour.

Described as a "bullet train in a pneumatic tube," Musk's idea was originally labeled a pipe dream. The project picked up steam, however, in 2013 with the release of a white paper published by SpaceX.

Millions of venture capital dollars were invested in the project and, following the formation of Giegel's Hyperloop One in 2014, an international Global Challenge was issued. The goal was to select 10 regions in which to develop a hyperloop system of transportation.

Roughly 2,600 applications from around the world were submitted and 35 semi-finalist routes were announced in January of 2017. Pittsburgh was a strong contender as a finalist for several

reasons. The city is home to one of the world's largest cargo-only airports and is the second largest inland port in the country. Fifty-five percent of the U.S. population is within a day's drive of the area, yet there is no direct passenger or freight rail connection in the mid-west corridor.

In September, the 10 finalists were revealed. Pittsburgh emerged as a winner on the Midwest Connection. The route could conceivably transport passengers from Pittsburgh to Columbus, Ohio in 18 minutes and cover the 488 miles from Pittsburgh to Chicago, Illinois in roughly 45 minutes.

A month before the finalists were chosen, Hyperloop One completed its first successful test of an XP-1 passenger pod (minus passengers) at DevLoop, the company's test location north of Las Vegas, Nevada. The pod traveled nearly 1,000 feet and reached a speed of 192 miles per hour.

Giegel stated that the process has now moved into the feasibility study phase - "to prove the system will work, exactly where it will go along each route, where stations would be, how many people would ride, and how funding the project will work."

Other U.S. finalists include loops from Miami to Orlando, Los Angeles to San Diego, Denver to Pueblo to Cheyenne, and Dallas to Laredo to Houston. Hyperloop One plans to have three, full-scale operating systems in place for cargo by 2021 and begin offering passenger service in 2022.

Giegel stressed that a commonality will exist between all of the transportation systems around the world. He attributes the feasibility of the project to advancements in magnets, batteries, compact power electronics, computing and processing power.

Though exact routes are yet to be determined, Giegel mentioned the likelihood of Hyperloop One lines following portions of existing, unused railroad track routes.

During an interview in September with Liz Claman on the Fox Business channel, Giegel referenced Kitty Hawk, calling the hyperloop "a new mode of transportation." Though Giegel did not provide a specific answer when asked about the cost of a hyperloop ticket, the system is being described as an affordable alternative to long-distance trips.



Josh Giegel poses for a picture with Virgin Airlines CEO, Hyperloop One investor and board member Richard Branson after Hyperloop One announced a partnership with Virgin. PHOTO BY VIRGIN HYPERLOOP ONE

STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY
PHOTO COURTESY
ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY

More alumni news: Herbert named Michigan strength and conditioning coach

For this story, Giegel compared the feeling of acceleration while riding in a Hyperloop One pod to the sensation of taking off in an airplane. He emphasized a major difference, however, between the two forms of transportation. When a hyperloop train reaches maximum speed, passengers will experience no turbulence.

As his parents, Dave and Tommilea, were both engineers, Giegel learned to be analytical at a young age. Whether building Christmas gifts for people, working on cars with his father, or helping to refinish the basement of the family home in McDonald, Giegel was taught to “measure twice, cut once!”

Giegel recalls that the dreamer side of him came in the form of space travel.

“When we would go on camping trips, I couldn’t take my Legos, so my dad would give me graph paper,” he says. “I would draw and design the spaceships I would build when I got home.”

Giegel encourages high school and college students to find something that they are passionate about and to pursue it with hard work. He stressed the importance of curiosity and creativity, as well as learning to be a great communicator.

“The only thing standing between you and your dreams is you,” says Giegel.

The West Allegheny alumnus credits several teachers for pushing him to excel and influencing his future. His physics teacher, Curt Johnson, embraced a fun, upbeat method of teaching, making Giegel want to learn more about how things work.

Giegel also mentioned his Horizons teacher, Mike Quinn, as a straight shooter who discussed college and career choices with him, and Katie Zanella, his German instructor. He says Zanella cared about her students and taught him the importance of a positive outlook as an approach to life.

Giegel is excited about the emergence of the Pittsburgh region as both a technological and cultural hotspot. He references his recent recruitment of a skilled engineer for the Hyperloop One offices in Los Angeles. The young man’s response was that he would have to work remotely as he did not want to leave Pittsburgh.

“The cities which embrace this change and attract the disruptors will be relevant in the future economy,” says Giegel.

Giegel and his wife, Stephanie, who is originally from Saltsburg, reside in California.



Ben Herbert

Michigan University named area native Ben Herbert as the football program’s new director of strength and conditioning in January. Herbert served in the same role under Bret Bielema at Arkansas University for the past five seasons. Bielema was let go by Arkansas at the end of this past season.

Prior to the Arkansas job, Herbert worked under Bielma for 11 seasons at Wisconsin. He was the program’s head strength and conditioning coach for four of those seasons and followed Bielma to Arkansas when he took that school’s head coaching position in 2013.

At Michigan, Herbert replaces longtime director of strength and conditioning Kevin Tolbert, whose contract was not renewed at the end of this past season. Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh, who is coming off his worst season at Michigan, has been quoted as saying that improving the team’s strength is a priority. Harbaugh’s Wolverines capped off the season by handing their coach his second consecutive bowl loss. The team also dropped a difficult regular season game to conference rival Michigan State.

A 1998 West Allegheny High School graduate, Herbert played on the defensive line for Wisconsin University and helped the team win two Rose Bowls. He set school records for most tackles for a loss and sacks in a bowl game. Upon graduation, he became the team’s strength and conditioning intern, working up to assistant coach and eventually head strength and conditioning coach.

To date, Herbert has coached 71 NFL draft picks, eight of which were selected in the first round and two of which were Heisman Trophy finalists.

At West Allegheny, Herbert was a captain on the football program’s first-ever WPIAL championship-winning team in 1997. He earned numerous honors, including being named to the All-Parkway conference first team, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Fabulous 22 and the Pennsylvania Big 33 Classic.

In 2015, Herbert was inducted into the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame.

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PAACC opens business resource center

The Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated the opening of its newly remodeled Moon Township offices at 850 Beaver Grade Road on Nov. 17. Just as the organization has done for thousands of businesses and organizations in the airport corridor, it held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate, with officials, chamber members and friends crowding in to attend.

The \$600,000 project has expanded the chamber's offices to 3,750 square feet. It now has two meeting rooms, several individual offices and a kitchen. The chamber has rented out a number of those offices on long- and short-term bases and is making its open meeting spaces available to members at no additional cost.

The entrance to the chamber's offices now sits at the corner of the same building where it has been operating, with large windows looking out onto a patio and parking lot that was also altered to accommodate additional traffic. Windows throughout the space let in ample natural light while a revolving collection of artwork lent by the West Hills Art League decorates the space. The offices have also been completely rewired with new data and phone lines by Midnight Blue Technology Services and Sierra Experts. There is new flooring throughout, along with window graphics.

The purpose of the project, says Bernadette Puzzuole, who oversaw the renovation as the chamber's president and CEO, was in part to give businesses operating in the airport corridor a place to meet and work. That may include a small business that doesn't have a meeting space or a business that is moving into the area but doesn't yet have an office established.

"We were hoping that the people who are going to business meetings at Starbucks can come here," says Puzzuole.

She says the resource center was also designed to host regular free education sessions on a number of business topics. One of



ABOVE: Chris Hudac, state Sen. Guy Reschenthaler, state Rep. Mark Mustio, Bernadette Puzzuole, Debra Krumenacker, Deborah Gray, Kristin Haas and Kenneth Faux celebrate the completion of a major renovation to the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce's offices in Moon Township. PHOTO BY ALLISON FRANZ



ABOVE AND BELOW: These two meeting rooms are part of the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce's new business resource center. The one below was outfitted with the intention that it would also be used for regular free educational sessions on a number of business topics.

PHOTOS BY MIKE LEONARDI, CANDIDLY YOURS PHOTOGRAPHY



its meeting rooms has been furnished with individual desks and an LED television for the sessions.

Puzzuole says that when she originally took over the chamber CEO job on a temporary basis in 2013, it was to see the project through to completion. She did so after the chamber's CEO of 18 years, Sally Haas, passed away suddenly at the end of 2012. At the time, Puzzuole, who was the chamber board's immediate past chair, was practicing law. She was also part of a committee at the chamber working with Haas to develop plans for a business incubator using a \$1 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant. The chamber's lobbyist at the time, Joe Kuklis, and state Rep. Mark Mustio helped the chamber apply for the grant.

"When Sally passed away, I was about to retire," she says. "But then I kept thinking, we were the only ones who were working on [the grant]. I figured it would expire otherwise."

Puzzuole says she figured she would be able to retire within a couple of years. At the time, recalls Michelle Kreuzer, the chamber's executive director who began working for the chamber in 2000, the organization had already considered several sites for its incubator and even held at least one groundbreaking. Those sites, though, were eventually

abandoned for a variety of reasons. By the time Haas passed away, the chamber had settled on the former Neville Island High School building as the latest site for its incubator. The organization had even formed a tentative agreement to rent out half of the building. With 68,000 total square feet, that still left adequate room for the chamber's offices and hosting large events. The building even allowed for manufacturing.

When those plans fell through, however, the site search continued for another four years, causing Puzzuole to put off her retirement plans even longer in order to see the project through

to completion. Then, in 2015, Puzzuole approached Phil Bondi, who owns the building where the chamber was renting its office space, with an idea to expand on the chamber's current space. Bondi agreed to arrangement that entailed the chamber renting out the office spaces adjacent to its office and for construction that would join them. The chamber has since signed a 20-year lease on the space with an option to extend. Several committee members said that agreement was entered into in order to satisfy stipulations in the grant, one of which required a third party to match any funds spent by the grant. That stipulation was part of what made the site search so lengthy, they said.

Despite the potential promised by several other sites considered by the chamber over the years, committee members said they are happy with the end result.

"I think it's a wonderful space," says Kenneth Faux, who owns Imperial Construction and started serving on the committee in 2012. "The layout turned out extremely well, it's going to serve [the chamber] very well for quite some time."

Faux says that, in the beginning, Haas envisioned a business incubator for startups that provided a meeting space and resources to help those businesses get off the ground. He says he thinks the project they settled on met those goals, and points to how one of its offices is currently being rented by Drury Hotels management as they are completing construction on a new hotel near Settlers Ridge.

One thing the chamber did not get in its new space, however, was a large meeting space. Such a space would have been part of its offices had it gone through with its original plans to remodel the former Neville Island High School. A subsequent building plan that also fell through contained similar plans for a large event space. At Mustio's suggestion, Puzzuole approached North Fayette Township last year about the possibility of using the remaining RACP grant funds to gain exclusive rights to the second-floor meeting space in the township's new community center, which was completed in 2016. The large meeting space features two-story high windows looking out onto Donaldson Park and is large enough for 124 to 150 people. The chamber and township are still in talks about the agreement and have thus far entered into a memorandum of understanding.

Deborah Gray, who owns Express Employment Pittsburgh West and who also served on that committee, says she thinks they made the right decision by utilizing what was within reach.

"I think the result is worth the effort and laborious process we went through," she says. "I'm more than pleased. I'm very, very happy with the result."

Gray says that at one point there was real worry among committee members about whether the project would be completed after a second promising site fell through and the possibility that the grant could expire loomed.

"[We] really had to help people see the opportunity that existed in the current space," she says.

As the committee was continuing their search, Mustio made the organization aware of yet another grant opportunity through the Gaming and Economic Development Program. The chamber applied for the grant and was awarded \$350,000, which it has since used for new furniture, fixtures, computers and phones. Deborah Krumenacher of Mt. Lebanon Office Furniture, which won the bid to furnish the offices, helped choose the furniture.

Mustio, who received an award during the ribbon cutting ceremony, says that he's glad to see the chamber offices get a facelift. Formerly a chamber board chair himself, he said Puzzuole deserves credit for seeing the project through to completion. She retired at the end of December and has been succeeded by Chris Heck. Read more about him on page 32.

"I think she did a fabulous job," Mustio says about Puzzuole. "She had huge shoes to fill and she did a great job doing that. Quite honestly, she didn't miss a beat."

Gray, Faux, Midnight Blue Technology Services, Sierra Experts, and Mt. Lebanon Office Furniture and Interiors were also all recognized with awards at the ribbon cutting. F. J. Busse Company, the project's contractor, was recognized as well, along with Vector Security, Huntington Bank and Duane Morris, the chamber's current lobbyist. Kreutzer says Duane Morris was vital to helping the chamber complete the project and satisfy stipulations required by the grant.

At the chamber's Annual Celebration of Excellence Awards event in January, Puzzuole was recognized with the Sally Award. The award recognizes a chamber member whose service to the chamber exemplifies the leadership qualities of Haas.



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PAACC hires new CEO, promotes executive director

The Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce hired its third CEO in 23 years at the end of 2017.

Chris Heck officially took over the chamber's CEO duties this past December. At the same time, the chamber's board of directors voted to promote executive vice president Michelle Kreutzer to the role of executive director. Both took on their new roles following the departure of Bernadette Puzzuole, who retired as the chamber's president and CEO at the end of December.



Chris Heck

Heck comes to the chamber following a long career with various area nonprofit business groups. Most recently, he was the director of corporate development and membership services with the SMC Business Councils. He also worked for the Marcellus Shale Coalition as its director of membership services and, prior to that, worked for the Pittsburgh Technology Council.

Kreutzer, meanwhile, first came to work for the chamber in 2000 under its CEO of 18 years, Sally Haas. She was hired as the membership director and then promoted to vice president of business development and marketing before being named executive vice president. In that role over the past four-and-a-half years, she, Puzzuole and membership director Doug Keeter have increased the chamber's membership by roughly 100. Last August, Kreutzer completed a four-year program with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute of Organizational Management.

Moving forward, Kreutzer says she's looking forward to expanding the role of the Enterprise Foundation, a nonprofit entity connected to the chamber. Through that foundation, Kreutzer says the chamber will be looking for ways to obtain grants that will help it create programs to enhance workforce development and leadership in its footprint. In November of 2017, the chamber opened the doors to its new 3,750 square-foot business resource center, which contains meeting rooms ideal for business incubation and education.

"We really felt we got a two-fer," says Myles Lilley, who served on the search committee that recommended Heck's hiring and Kreutzer's promotion.

Lilley says the search committee and board of directors felt that Kreutzer was crucial to the future of the chamber while Heck brought the connections that will enhance the chamber's growth even further.

"We felt he had the connections particularly on the larger side of things to get us in the doors with some of the organizations that we want to be partnered with," says chamber board chair Mike Czerniewski about Heck. "Frankly, just his overall presence was impressive."

A New Jersey native with Pittsburgh area roots, Heck moved to Pittsburgh in the 1980s from South Florida and found work in the ad sales department at the Pittsburgh Business Times, where he moved up to the role of sales manager. He was then lured away to the Pittsburgh Technology Council by its founder, Tim Parks, and started working with Pittsburgh's major service providers. He served as its vice president of business development.

In 2011, toward the beginning of the Marcellus Shale boom, he took a similar position with the Marcellus Shale Coalition.

"It was very similar to the Pittsburgh Technology Council," Heck says about the timing of the job. "It was right at the beginning of the Marcellus boom and we saw an influx of companies. It was a great time to be a part of that."

Heck then took a similar position with The Marcellus Network and then the SMC Business Councils, which provides a number of resources to small manufacturing businesses.

Going forward, Heck says he's looking forward to serving local businesses by using the chamber's connections to involve chamber members in major area projects. He says he also envisions the future of the chamber as one that encompasses workforce and



Michelle Kreutzer

economic development. He points in particular to major area partners and economic drivers such as Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh International Airport, area military Reserve bases such as the 911th Airlift Wing and Shell's ethane cracker plant in Beaver County.

"That's what's exciting about the footprint we're in," he says. "It's great timing right now."

At the same time, he says he hasn't overlooked the fact that at least half of the chamber's membership consists of businesses looking to network. As such, he says he's looking forward to planning and implementing events to help those businesses build leads and grow.

Heck resides in Mt. Lebanon Township with his wife, Michelle, who co-founded the nonprofit job search company Nonprofit Talent. The couple has four children and they volunteer with the Mt. Lebanon Public Library, the Mt. Lebanon Sports Authority and area schools. Like many parents, Chris has dedicated his time over a number of years to coaching various youth sports.



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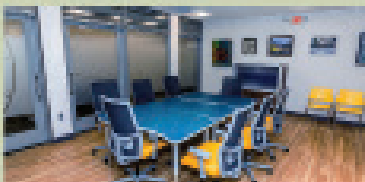
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National Honor Society ceremony recognizes new inductees



National Honor Society inductees gather prior to this year's induction ceremony.

The annual National Honor Society induction ceremony was held December 4 when 50 students were recognized for their achievements. The student-led ceremony carried on the time-honored candle lighting tradition welcoming new members. To be eligible for membership, juniors and seniors must have met one of two requirements: maintain a minimum GPA of 3.75 with at least two honors level classes in both ninth and 10th grade and be scheduled for 2 AP or 5.0 level classes in 11th and 12th grade, or have an overall QPA of 4.0 or higher. Through required service hours and letters of recommendation, NHS balances the focus on four pillars: scholarship, character, leadership and service.

This year's inductees were Casey Bachowski, Lauren Bayer, Gabriella Brady, Shannon Clontz, Sean Collins, Jacob Costantino, Tara Coulter, Madison Cunningham, Juliana Dominick, Sydni Ellis, James Ervin, Grace Faulk, Alexis Fleet, Mitchell Gumbert, Derek Halbedl, Mackenzie Hammers, Bethani Hrapczak, Trevor King, Haley Kozel, Alexander Kwiatkowski, Kylie Laughery, Hannah Lindemuth, Danielle Longo, Madison Lisotto, Breanna McMurtrie, Brittany Morrison, Arielle Moulinie, Alicia Peng, Loren Perry, Christina Prologo, Mackenzie Reed, Renae Roscart, Bradley Ryniawec, Lindsey Sabo, Justin Shaytar, Stacia Staytar, Aaron Silvis, Maya Snyder, Courtney Spicer, Morgan Stewart, Liam Sturgeon, Camryn Tudor, Madison Twardy, Kaitlyn Uram, Elizabeth Vollmer, John Walls, Sydney Williams, Braden Wurst, Scott Zanella and Gage Zurcher.

Jennifer Cook and Sara Ferko serve as faculty sponsors.

Sponsor Jennifer Cook presents a National Honor Society certificate to junior Gabriella Brady, who is escorted by senior Brandon Ferruzza.



#WeAreStudentStrong

Superintendent's Message

As the communication coordinator for the District, it is always interesting to sit down with superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert to learn more about new opportunities that are in the works for West Allegheny students. We recently met to discuss the new Early College In High School Academy, which is an exciting partnership between WA and the Community College of Allegheny County that will provide incredible benefits to high school students and parents. A few excerpts from the conversation are as follows:

Q: I understand that one of your educational milestones will be met with the introduction of the West Allegheny Early College in High School Academy. What is the academy?

A: The Early College in High School Academy is an exciting opportunity that will be launched next school year through a partnership with the Community College of Allegheny County. Simply put, the academy will allow our students to work toward attaining a high school diploma and complete the first year or two of college at the same time, thus earning a college certificate and/or associate degree. Unlike most dual enrollment programs where students take additional college courses outside of their high school courses, the ECIHSA model means our courses will embed and align with CCAC course requirements, counting for credit toward both transcripts. This will be a genuine early college program where West Allegheny students will have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma along with a college certificate and/or associate degree in an accredited program of studies by the time they graduate from high school.

Q: What programs of study will be offered through the academy?

A: In its inaugural year, the Early College In High School Academy will have programs aligned to CCAC's Computer Information Technology Program. They include a Multimedia Game Simulation Certificate and a Cybersecurity Certificate, as well as a Multimedia Programming, Simulation and Gaming Associate Degree. Rather than starting with a general studies program through the academy, we focused on computers, information and technology because that is a high demand, high priority occupation where employers report not having enough graduates to fill that growing demand.

Q: Who will teach the Early College in High School Academy courses?

A: Our Early College in High School Academy is completely taught by highly qualified West Allegheny teachers who are also certified as adjunct CCAC professors. They meet the high quality criteria to be hired by CCAC by either having a content certification in the discipline they are teaching and/or completed college board level training, which is what our teachers are required to do in order to teach Advanced Placement courses. Based on the initial focus on the Computer Information Technology Program, the instructors will include West Allegheny teachers Chris Lucas, Dan Marshall and Lisa Monzo as well as other AP-certified teachers in English, math and science if students choose to pursue the associate degree.

Q: Why will this model be so impactful for our students?

A: It is considered a best educational practice to minimize tough transitions for students. Transitions are a source of stress and laden with trepidation for many students who may not know what to expect or are worried about not being prepared or about navigating

a new landscape, etc. One major transition for students is when high school ends and post-secondary endeavors start. The more you can overlap and assist in the transition, the more successful the student will be and the less stress the student will experience. This can significantly minimize the risk of not completing the pursued post-secondary endeavor. At West Allegheny, we ascribe to a K-14 or K-16 model. This is opposed to a K-12 model where the focus is only on providing a high school diploma to every student. The K-14/K-16 model emphasizes our responsibility to ensure that our students are ready and prepared to persist to degree completion after their second year of any post-secondary endeavor. It could be entry into the workforce, a two-year technical college, an associate degree or a four-year college program. That means that they are prepared and do not require remediation upon starting their first year of post-secondary study. And as much as possible, we are trying to blur these lines by supporting students earning post-secondary credits through our Parkway West Career and Technology Center programs, our AP courses, our Project Lead the Way program, and now through our new addition of the Early College In High School Academy.

Q: Why does a partnership with CCAC make so much sense for West Allegheny?

A: Many might be surprised to know that the number one post-secondary institution that our West Allegheny graduates attend is CCAC. Approximately 14 to 20 percent of each of our graduating classes over the past eight years (2010 to 2017) chose CCAC for their post-secondary education - that is approximately 254 of our students. That is compared to their second highest post-secondary choice, Penn State University, with approximately 150 students. With such a large number of our students choosing CCAC, it was a logical choice to pursue CCAC as a partner to develop the early college model focused on the high priority occupations of cybersecurity and multimedia game simulation.

Also, by partnering with CCAC, our students will be granted the same campus supports as a CCAC student, including access to the campus library, tutoring services or any of the other campus resources. Further, CCAC credits are transferrable to most other colleges and universities.

Q: Which students will benefit most from the Early College in High School Academy?

A: We have a large number of students who start high school with the intention of attending a four-year college/university. There are other students who have a very strong career interest and get involved in our career and technical education program starting in ninth grade, where they are completing industry certifications and potential college credits through our partnership with Parkway West Career and Technology Center. Then you have students who may not be interested in a four-year college or technical career and may not yet be sure of their career interest or trajectory. As a result, they are unsure of their intentions for a post-secondary plan. Many of these students choose CCAC. As you have heard me state many times over the last four years, our primary goal at West Allegheny is to connect every student with a viable post-secondary pathway where they are ready and prepared to persist. This is again why CCAC is the logical choice for this program.

We developed the Early College in High School Academy for students who might not currently be connected to a pathway and/

or who have a real interest in cybersecurity and/or multimedia game simulation. The idea is to get students connected and to provide a viable pathway for students with a computer information technology interest and aptitude, specifically gamification and related programming. We already have significant interest among many students who have shown a significant connection to the West Allegheny Gaming Academy, with over 90 students enrolled this year. We believe we are giving students a leg up on earning a certification in a high demand occupation, based on something they are already interested in as well as courses they are already taking.

Q: How will the academy benefit our parents?

A: It will tremendously benefit our parents financially because there is a dramatically reduced tuition rate and in some cases no tuition at all. Instead of paying the CCAC per credit cost, which is currently \$110, our students will only pay \$110 **per course** (based on 2017-2018 CCAC tuition rates). The majority of CCAC's fees will be waived for our students, making the out-of-pocket costs significantly lower - as indicated in the chart below.

		Community College of Allegheny County	West Allegheny Early College in High School Academy
<i>Prices below subject to change & reflect the 2017 tuition rates</i>			
Multimedia Game Simulation Certificate	27 credits (9 CCAC courses)	\$2970.00	\$990.00
	Fees	\$895.30	\$25.00
	Total	\$3865.30	\$1015.00
Cybersecurity Certificate	24 credits (8 CCAC courses)	\$2640.00	\$880.00
	Fees	\$815.80	\$25.00
	Total	\$3455.80	\$905.00
Multimedia Programming, Simulation & Gaming Associates Degree	65 credits (20 CCAC courses)	\$6600.00	\$2200.00
	Fees	\$2057.10	\$25.00
	Total	\$8657.10	\$2225.00

The District also plans to offer several scholarship opportunities. For example, students who qualify for free and reduced lunch will have every credit paid for by the District as long as they meet expectations around GPA and attendance. For all other families, we are considering a 50 percent cost-sharing model for the initial launch. Families would pay half and the District would pay half of the \$110 fee, or \$55 for each CCAC course. As the program progresses, the District will reevaluate the cost sharing structure based on student enrollment. The bottom line is that qualifying students will receive free or significantly reduced tuition and will have the potential to earn a Multimedia Game Simulation Certificate attainable through completing only six WAHS courses as part of the Zulama Gaming Program (27 CCAC credits) and a Cybersecurity Certificate attainable through completing only four WAHS courses (24 CCAC credits), as well as a Multimedia Programming, Simulation and Gaming Associate Degree achievable by completing 15 WAHS courses (65 CCAC credits). That is an amazing discount and parents could save the majority of the costs of the first two years of college. It is important to remember that those credits are transferable to most colleges and universities.

Q: Are there plans to expand the academy's program offerings?

A: Yes. As noted earlier, we are currently working on completing the associates degree option for the cybersecurity program. Going

forward, we are looking at a business management program certificate as well as a data analytics certificate. CCAC very much wants to expand West Allegheny's Early College in High School Academy program with the intention of building a successful model and scaling it to other districts in the area.

Q: How does this model fit in with the District's overall K-12 academic vision?

A: The goal of K-8 is to prepare students to be high school ready and to be able to take advantage of all the different programs in the high school's seven college and career pathways. All of the academic programs are vertically aligned by K-12 so that career interests and awareness start at the elementary level and continue to build and expand. This is particularly the case with computer innovation, creativity and design. Students are now starting computer science and computer programming as early as second grade. That continues to build as students matriculate through elementary and middle school. This deliberate vertical alignment supports students' knowledge of careers aligned to their interests, talents and academic strengths by the time they arrive at high school.

Q: What are teachers saying about the Early College in High School Academy?

A: It is best captured by one of our design team members and lead teacher on the Multimedia Game Simulation Certificate, Chris Lucas: "This is a really exciting opportunity for our students. There are so many career opportunities in the computer science field and not enough people to fill them. Both of these programs are going to allow us to help our students get a head start on their careers and college coursework. I am personally excited because I have really enjoyed teaching in our gaming program, and I think it will be even more effective now that we are aligning it to the CCAC curriculum. We also have a great resource to utilize now in CCAC."

This interview was conducted by Karen Ruhl. She is the community relations coordinator, West Allegheny School District.

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Read Across America
Celebration

Sponsored by the
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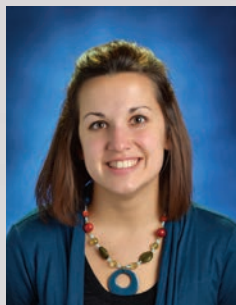
April 6, 7, 8, 13 and 14

English teachers earn National Board Certification

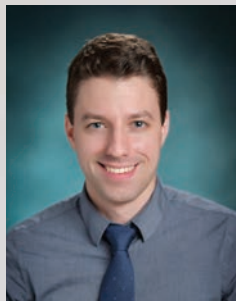
High school English teacher Stephanie White and middle school English teacher Jacob Minsinger recently earned National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. National Board Certification is a demanding process of advancing teaching skills through performance-based evaluations.

White began the process during the 2014-2015 school year and earned her certification in English Language Arts - Adolescence and Young Adulthood. Completing the process during the 2016-2017 school year, Minsinger earned his certification in English Language Arts - Early Adolescence. In addition to testing, both teachers were required to submit three portfolios: one on differentiation in instruction; one on teaching practices and the learning environment; and one on being an effective and reflective practitioner. The portfolios included 20-page papers as well as both written and video artifacts. White joined the District in 2010 and Minsinger in 2014.

For more information about the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and National Board Certification, visit www.nbpts.org.



Stephanie White



Jacob Minsinger

Junior Seminar mini-course prepares students with essential skills for success after high school

How do I navigate the college application process? How do I apply and navigate the financial aid process? What skills will I need for my chosen career path? What makes me a competitive candidate for the career field I intend to pursue? Should I attend a two-year, four-year or other post-secondary institution after I graduate from high school? How can I be sure I have the soft skills needed to be successful? Am I truly connected to a 21st century career and/or college pathway?

It is critical that every West Allegheny student be able to answer these questions and others as they approach the end of their high school career. Through the completion of a junior seminar mini-course embedded in the newly required world cultures/world history social studies course, students will learn the essential skills they need in order to navigate and prepare for viable post-secondary plans. Whether students are planning to attend a two- or four-year college, serve in the armed forces or embark on the first steps in their career, these lessons will help prepare them. This course will help students learn more about themselves and garner the necessary skills and dispositions they will need upon leaving West Allegheny High School.

Middle school looks to engage students with new elective model

At the start of the 2018-2019 school year, West Allegheny Middle School will introduce an elective scheduling model in eighth grade that will allow students to choose their related arts classes based on personal and career interests. The new model will offer flexibility for students to choose high interest and new related arts classes while also providing a multi-tiered system of supports for students who may need guided academic support. This opportunity reflects the collaborative hard work of District and middle school administration and was developed based on feedback from students and parents. Both indicated that students would greatly benefit from spending more time in related arts courses that are directly aligned to their interests. In addition to the current related arts classes, new course offerings will include Introduction to American Sign Language, Introduction to Fitness and Weightlifting, Advanced Art, Exploratory German, Exploratory Spanish, and Academic Support.

This model is a change from the current format in which all students take the same six related arts classes on a 30-day rotation. A focused academic support program is currently not offered. Students will have the option to take up to seven, 45-day (quarter) electives throughout the year during periods eight and nine. Students will be required to dedicate one of those electives to physical education. Students will be able to take some electives more than once per quarter.

By moving to an elective model in eighth grade, the District will be able to more effectively support students' transition to high school and our comprehensive career awareness program by engaging students in course work aligned to their skills, interests and aptitudes.

Windstax project culminates in ribbon cutting ceremony

Several West Allegheny High School students had a unique opportunity to participate in the Windstax installation and ribbon cutting ceremony at the Energy Innovation Center on December 19. The event marked the culmination of a months-long project in which WA students partnered with students from Carlynton and Parkway West Career and Technology Center to design a windmill. The windmill design met the project criteria of serving as a symbol of the EIC's commitment to innovative, sustainable energy and included functional, artistic and educational components.



Those on hand for a ribbon cutting included: Samantha Cox, principal Kevin McKiernan, Aubrey Hanna, Jeremiah Brosovic, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Anna Parker, teacher Amy Schweinsberg and Rachel Jak.

#WeAreInnovators&Designers

Students place in CyberPatriot competition

High school students Derek Halbedl, Trevor King, Amir Littles, Arielle Moulinie and Ben Schaupp put their computer skills to the test as they participated in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Competition sponsored by the national Air Force Association.

The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems. They are then tasked with finding

cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services in a six-hour period. After two rounds of competition, West Allegheny students finished 25th out of 49 teams in the state and 1,030th out of 2,100 teams in the nation, placing them in the gold tier of teams for the state playoff round of the competition.

“For the first year of competition, I couldn’t be more proud,” said Chris Lucas, Zulama Gaming Academy teacher and team sponsor. “We have a young team and most will be back to compete again next year.”



Teacher Chris Lucas (standing) works with Amir Littles, Ben Schaupp, Derek Halbedl and Arielle Moulinie to prepare for the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Competition. Missing from the photo is Trevor King.

High school launches mental health and substance abuse disorder awareness committee

The high school was excited to launch Stand Together at the start of this school year. This peer-driven committee is working to raise awareness surrounding mental health and substance abuse disorders while reducing the stigma that exists in society. Coordinated by the Allegheny County Department of Behavioral Health, Stand Together teaches students to ‘stand together’ to increase education and awareness, increase social inclusion, and encourage adolescents to talk to an adult if they are concerned about someone’s mental health.

The committee is made up of 22 student members in grades nine through 12 and is supervised by school psychologists Erica Cicero and Meredith Gillo; guidance counselor Laura Montecalvo; and teacher Katie Zanella. The committee will be implementing awareness activities throughout the school year.

Stand Together members hold their first meeting of the school year.



National Honor Society executive board attends state summit



Representing West Allegheny at the NHS State Summit were (front) Zach Painter, Noah Brosovic and Tim Tan; (back) Morgan Swasey, Mackenzie Walters, Veronica Heyl and Miala Palaima.

On November 30, National Honor Society executive board members Zach Painter, Noah Brosovic, Tim Tan, Morgan Swasey, Mackenzie Walters, Veronica Heyl and Miala Palaima attended the NHS State Summit along with advisers Jennifer Cook and Sara Ferko. The focus of the summit was to strengthen student empowerment and leadership development. Students had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with other motivated and like-minded individuals. With the support of facilitators and guest speakers, students learned about and sought to address issues impacting students, schools and communities throughout the state.

#WeAreWestA

High school students show kindness to Texas shooting victim



Students display holiday cards they created for a 5-year-old who survived a deadly mass shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas last year.

In conjunction with a unit on survival and resiliency, high school students in Jennifer Jones's and intern Ms. Capelli's class created heartfelt cards for a 5-year-old who survived a mass shooting at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas last year. The child, whose name is Ryland, was one of the youngest survivors of the shooting. Ryland, who lost family members in the tragic event, wished to receive holiday cards as he continued to recover in the hospital.

SADD club shines light on dangers of impaired holiday driving

'Twas the season for tree trimmings as the high school SADD club partnered with local organizations to decorate a holiday tree in the high school lobby on November 22 that symbolized Allegheny County's 2016 impaired driving statistics. A total of 970 lights represented annual crashes and 112 red ribbons represented crashes during the holiday season. Nineteen gold ornaments represented annual fatalities and one red ornament represented fatalities during the holiday season.

SADD club members Jillian Weber, Isabella Maltony, Kylie Martin, McKenna Pasic, Zachary DeFabbo and Chaniyah Stokes joined North Fayette Township police officers Sgt. Mike Hayes, Lt. John Walls and Cpl. Mark Kern in decorating the symbolic tree. West Allegheny partnered with Allegheny County Pre-trial Services, PennDOT and AAA.



SADD club members joined North Fayette police officers to decorate a holiday tree that reminded the school community of impaired driving statistics in the county.

#WeAreStudentStrong

Senior performs in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Senior percussionist Justin Rippole spent his Thanksgiving performing with the Macy's Great American Marching Band in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. He was selected from a video audition and then traveled to New York City to perform with the 185-musician marching band, which was directed by Richard Good of Auburn University. Rippole joined students from across the country in New Jersey for band rehearsals the week leading up to the parade and had the opportunity to tour New York City.

Justin Rippole marches with the Macy's Great American Marching Band on Thanksgiving day.



A member of the West Allegheny Marching Pride, Rippole also participates in the high school concert band, jazz band and percussion ensemble. Most recently, he was selected for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 1 Honors Band, PMEA District 1 Honors Jazz Band and PMEA Senior High District Band.

Peer to Peer Empowerment group addresses cyber harassment

The high school's Peer to Peer Empowerment group attended their second workshop of the school year at the North Fayette Community Center on November 16. The session included a visit from Darieth Chisolm, former WPXI news anchor who brought her film crew with her to record moments for her upcoming documentary "50 Shades of Silence."



Peer to Peer Empowerment students and sponsors are joined by Darieth Chisolm (center) to discuss workshop topics.

Chisolm, a survivor of cybersexual assault, harassment, stalking and extortion, hopes that through the production of her documentary and advocacy organization she will be able help other victims.

After speaking to the group, Conner Bartley and Juliana Dominick were selected to represent West Allegheny in a small group setting where they joined Chisolm in a discussion about ways to be an "up-stander" rather than a bystander and help prevent similar abuses from happening in their community.

Kennan Grabner and Sgt. Mike Hayes serve as faculty sponsors for the Peer to Peer Empowerment group.

History Bee winner named at middle school

Following several rounds of the middle school's annual history bee, Michael Crowe was named the winner. Haley Holbrook, Brett Kot, Winston Moore, Owen Osborn, Avery Palombia, Joseph Pustover, Jiya Vaidya, Quinlan Walsh and Francis Wichryk finished in the top 10, which qualified them for the regional finals.

Quinlan Walsh, Francis Wichryk, Winston Moore, Owen Osborn, Brett Kot, Avery Palombia, Haley Holbrook, Jiya Vaidya, Michael Crowe and Joseph Pustover all placed in the top 10 during the middle school's history bee this year.



Middle school donations help community members

As a holiday service project, sixth grade students and staff sponsored a fundraiser to help the West Allegheny Family Support Committee in their efforts to provide holiday baskets containing food, toys and clothing to community families. A total of \$1,375 was raised. Sixth grade students collected the most donations and received two free phone/device days during lunch in the cafeteria. Gabrielle Monti and Leda Niccolai's homeroom collected the most donations and enjoyed breakfast provided by the sixth grade teachers.

WAMS students engage in tradition of service

The WAMS 7 Wonders team has participated in various service learning projects throughout the year, including their tradition of donating Halloween candy and treats to the West Allegheny Food Pantry. The treats were well-received when they were delivered by teachers on November 15.



Brian Curry, Eddie Staub, Jaden Giles, Holden Corsi-Bostock, Camden Colinear, Kristina Fatigati, Alan Berlinger, Ethan DeBoth and Caleb Vanspronsen helped with collecting Halloween candy.

Middle school art students demonstrate talents in national competition

This year, two groups of eighth grade students participated in the Wyland Challenge, a national art competition sponsored by internationally known environmental artist Wyland and his foundation, the Wyland Foundation. Students were tasked with creating a mural that promotes the protection of oceans, lakes and streams, along with the creatures that live within. West Allegheny Middle School was one of only 100 schools across the country that received an official canvas to use for submissions. A second mural was also submitted, along with individual pieces. Art teacher Sharon Harn organized the students and their submissions.



Period eight (above) and period nine (below) art students display their submissions to the Wyland Challenge.



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Tradition of Veterans Day tribute continued at Donaldson



ABOVE: Fifth grade classes perform a musical tribute for friends and family. **BELOW:** Fifth-grader Addison Mack shares a tribute with her grandfather Steve Mack.

Fifth grade students at Donaldson Elementary continued their school's tradition of honoring veterans with a touching ceremony November 10. Honorees and guests were treated to a tribute that included patriotic songs, poems, personalized messages, and a history of service for veteran families and friends in attendance. A gift of appreciation was presented to veteran honorees. The celebration was a fitting and meaningful culmination of students' research on American symbols and monuments.



McKee families were rounded up for a night of reading



Giada DeFilippis moseys into Reading Night with her brother Marco.

McKee Elementary staff and PTA partnered to host the school's annual Reading Night on November 9. This year's theme was "Saddle Up and Read!" Families enjoyed a fun-filled night on the range with guest readers, crafts, activities, camp fire songs, a "wanted" photo booth, a Cowpoke Café and Watering Hole. The event promoted early literacy.



Addison and Tessa Staab create paper campfires with Susie Dorman.

Love Our Log House Day transports students back in time

Wilson Elementary students and staff celebrated their annual Love Our Log House Day on November 21. Students participated in a variety of hands-on activities that demonstrated the challenges of life without modern conveniences like electricity.

The historic log house, which is located on school grounds, provided the historical significance for the day's agenda. Activities included: candle dipping; tin punching; making applesauce and butter; square dancing; pioneer songs; and silhouette creations. To round out the day, students enjoyed an array of pioneer games.

West Allegheny graduate Zach Stephens shares his love of history with Wilson students.



#WeAreStudentStrong

#WeAreTeacherProud

Wilson librarian publishes young adult novel

It seems only fitting that a keeper of books would be inspired to write her own novel. As the librarian at Wilson Elementary School, Kathleen Denniston recently did exactly that and adapted her master's thesis into a young adult novel titled "Alli's Gift." This story follows a young girl's experiences as she embarks on high school, capturing all of the tragedy, hope and humor that comes with it.



Kathleen Denniston

"Alli's Gift" is available on Amazon.

Wilson Elementary partners with Findlay Township to bring joy to Children's Hospital patients

Wilson Elementary School families and staff partnered with Findlay Township police to bring gifts to patients at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh this past holiday season. The effort was made possible through the Presents from Police program, which was spearheaded at Wilson by Findlay police officer Jamie Sacco. Several large boxes of gifts were generously donated by Wilson families and staff. The gifts were then delivered to Children's Hospital by the police on December 21, just in time for Christmas. Presents from Police is a local organization with the mission of bringing joy to young patients so parents can focus on their child's health.



Wilson principal Rachel Gray recruits helpers Dante Hill and Liam Kilbourn to assist with loading gifts.

McKee students learn about weather on two fronts

Students at McKee Elementary enjoyed visits from two local weathermen during the month of November. WPXI-TV's chief meteorologist Stephen Cropper visited third grade classes on November 9 as a culmination of the study on weather. His presentation touched on different types of clouds and storms as well as on weather-related safety tips.

Students also welcomed WTAE-TV Chief Meteorologist Mike Harvey during an assembly on November 29 when they presented him with a \$2,250 check to benefit WTAE-TV's Project Bundle-Up. The Carnegie Science Center was also on hand to demonstrate weather-related experiments.



ABOVE: WPXI-TV's Stephen Cropper shares weather-related safety tips with McKee students. BELOW: McKee students proudly present their Project Bundle Up check to WTAE-TV's Mike Harvey.



Gold Card Club members welcomed for holiday breakfast and musical performances



Superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert greets Gold Card Club members at the District's annual holiday breakfast in December.

Over 150 Gold Card Club members attended this year's holiday breakfast and musical performance on December 8. In addition to a breakfast provided by the District's food service department, guests also enjoyed musical performances by the high school brass ensemble and show choir, as well as the middle school jazz and percussion ensembles. JROTC students served as greeters, helping to welcome and assist attendees throughout the morning. Administrators and board members were on hand to serve guests as well.

The high school show choir performs holiday selections for attendees.



Anti-bullying poster contest winners recognized



Anti-bullying post contest winners were recognized by administrators and school board members at the November school board meeting.

The incredible talent and creativity of WA students was evident in the artwork submitted for the second annual anti-bullying poster contest sponsored by the Safe and Supportive Schools Committee. The following winners received gift cards from Barnes & Noble and were recognized at the November 15 school board meeting:

Brian Curry - grade 7 - Middle School

Sarah Twiss - grade 4 - McKee

Isabella Trapuzzano - grade 4 - Wilson

Aashrith Nalluri - grade 4 - Donaldson

All of the student poster entries shared messages of respect and kindness. They were displayed in their respective schools.

#WeAreWestA

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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of Athletics

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Grounds

FOR WEEKLY
EVENTS,
SCHOOL CLOSINGS,
AND DELAYS.

VISIT
WEST ALLEGHENY
ONLINE:

WWW.WESTASD.ORG

#WeAreWestA

All material has been prepared,
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Karen Ruhl,
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*Beat the Winter Blues with
Findlay Township Parks and Rec*

ANNUAL INDOOR FLEA MARKET

Saturday, March 10
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Browse two levels of 60+
tables at the
**Annual Findlay Township
Indoor Flea Market**
where, no matter what the
weather, you will be warm and
dry to shop!
Don't miss it!

KID'S RESALE EVENT

Sunday, March 11, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

If you are looking for kids' clothes, sports
equipment, toys and more, then this is the
sale you will want to attend!

Browse through the upper level of the
activity center, which will be filled with
"stuff" for the kids.

If you are interested in selling, call Darlene
or Stephanie at the township office to
reserve a table. Cost is \$10 per table, limit
2 tables per person: (724) 695-0500 x 246

*Dreaming of a Green Garden?
Join us with these spring events!*

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS: "GARDENERS HUDDLE"

Saturday, March 17

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Are you a gardening enthusiast?

Then you won't want to miss

these lectures on:

Pollinator Gardening,

Worm Farming, and

Why are Bees SO Important?

Doors open at 7:30 a.m. for

registration and a continental

breakfast. Plus snacks, door

prizes, give-aways!!

\$20 per person.

PLEASE call by

March 9 to reserve

your spot.

Spring is just around

the corner!!!

Friday Night "HIVE" Bee Hive Painting Class

Brought to you by
BEEFUDDLED FARMS

Friday, March 23
6-8 p.m.

Want to "BEE" part of a fun
night of painting? Join us as

we paint some real bee hive

boxes for Beefuddled

Farms.* Wear old clothes

and bring a friend. All

supplies will be provided.

This is a free event, but

please call the Recreation

Department to register:

(724) 695-0500 x 246

**Don't worry, it's just the boxes the*

bees lived in; no actual honey bees

will be at the event.

SEMI-SUPER MORNING BINGO

Fridays, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25 and
June 29. Doors open at 9 a.m., Bingo starts at 10 a.m.

\$10 per packet: includes 3 cards for each regular game, 1 triple
card for each special, coffee, water, and light snacks. Additional
packets can be purchased for \$5. Coverall jackpots will be sold
separately for \$1 each. Bingo daubers available to purchase.

Call (724) 695-0500 in the event of inclement weather to check for
cancellation. COME OUT AND JOIN US!!!



According to the Brewers Association, the number of craft breweries in the U.S. increased from roughly 500 in 1994 to more than 5,000 in 2016. In Pennsylvania alone, 300 licensed craft breweries are on record for 2017, with beer comprising a \$5.8 billion industry for the state.

Five of those breweries opened in the last two years either in or near the readership area of Allegheny West Magazine. Though each of the following businesses has a unique vibe and brews a particular specialty, all of the owners share a passion for their craft and a close connection with their customers. Another recurring theme among them is their delight with the locations they chose for their businesses.

HELICON BREWING

102 UNION AVENUE, OAKDALE

OPEN TUESDAY-SUNDAY, 11 A.M.-10 P.M.

On a warm Friday evening in early autumn, traffic was at a crawl past Helicon Brewing in downtown Oakdale. The large parking lot there, as well as one across the road, was full, prompting many residents of Oakdale to walk to Helicon from their homes.

The crowd was coming to savor not only the craft beer brewed at Helicon, but also the fare dished out from two well-known Pittsburgh food trucks typically present at events in or close to the city.

Soon after launching his brewery in November of 2016, Helicon owner Chris Brunetti received approval for both outdoor seating and the operation of food trucks on site. Brunetti has been thrilled with the response to the restaurants on wheels, which have included PGH Taco Truck, Asado and Driftwood.

A native of Peters Township, Brunetti and his wife, Cherie, cashed in much of their life savings to open the brewery. Though many components of the property - space, utilities, gas and water supply - were the determining factors for its location, Brunetti said he “fell in love” with Oakdale’s central business area. During an early visit, he experienced one of the town’s closed-street festivals.

The brewery name also pays homage to the town.

Unable to settle on a simple name with “local appeal but not too Pittsburgh,” Brunetti stumbled on Helicon while researching the history of Oakdale.

Municipal records of the original land grant to Judge Hugh Henry Brackenridge in the late 1700s deeded a 400-acre parcel that straddled North and South Fayette townships. The name on the document was Mt. Helicon, named after a famous peak in Greece. Brunetti instantly decided on the name and also chose a Greek harp base for the Helicon logo.

Brunetti began brewing beer at home in 2000 and advanced

to membership in beer clubs and a position as a beer judge. After deciding to open a business, he spent 18 weeks in brewery school at the Siebel Institute of Technology in Chicago, followed by 22 weeks at a partner school in Munich, Germany.

Helicon has several pale ales on tap, including an American India west coast brewed with a lightly toasted malt foundation and an amber India, which has an abundance of citrus and tropical hops.

The interior of Helicon Brewing, which is housed in the lower half of the only remaining building of the Joy Dog Food company, has a streamlined, industrial appeal. Black granite counters sit atop a horseshoe-shaped bar faced with corrugated metal sheets. The bar is furnished with silver chairs and tables. Gleaming tanks in full operation form the backdrop behind the tap system.

Unlike other brewpubs, Helicon has a “production brewery” license. Brunetti said his goal is to eventually export 90 percent of the beer brewed there to establishments around the Pittsburgh region.

Helicon’s brews are currently on tap at Cole’s Pub and Celebrations in Imperial, Industry Public House at The Pointe in North Fayette Township, the Bottleshop Café in Bridgeville, four Mad Mex locations, and several bars in downtown Pittsburgh.

Brunetti, head brew master Andy Weigel and assistant brewer Luke Roginski produce 15 barrels every two weeks, an equivalent of 2,000 kegs per year. Though currently equipped with four tanks, Brunetti has the capacity for more than 40 tanks.

Helicon has become a popular place to host events such as birthday parties, fantasy football drafts, and activities connected with the Panhandle Trail.

In addition to the enthusiastic response to Helicon by area residents, Brunetti is most pleased with his choice of location. Though he estimates that 95 percent of his business comes from North Fayette and South Fayette townships, Helicon’s proximity to Pittsburgh International Airport has allowed many customers to take an Uber to the brewery while on a layover.

Another perk is that the Panhandle Trail runs directly alongside Brunetti’s parking lot. A bike rack outside one of the brewery’s garage doors allows riders to park and stop for a beverage. Brunetti recalled with amusement the day a customer who had been walking his horse on the trail tied the animal outside and stopped for a cold one - just like in the late 1700s.

Visit Helicon online at www.heliconbrewing.com.



COAL TIPPLE BREWERY

1905 STEUBENVILLE PIKE, BULGER

OPEN DAILY, HOURS AT WWW.COALTIPPLEBREWERY.COM/BREWERY

Dawn and Chris Kramer got the inspiration to open a brewery in 2014 while on a hiking trip in upstate New York. The couple stopped at a brewpub they passed and found the place packed with customers well before noon.

The Kramers were already operating a well-established greenhouse and winery. Aware of the success of several recently opened craft brew houses in Pittsburgh, the couple decided a brewery should be next on the list.

Not only was there not a single brewery in the neighboring towns, but neither was there one in all of Washington County or the West Virginia panhandle. Chris' best friend from high school, Dayne Crowley, had also been brewing beer in his house for 10 years and perfected several recipes.

After nearly two years of construction, equipment acquisition and research, Coal Tipple Brewery opened in October of 2016. The brewery name coincides with the mission of the Kramers and Crowley to honor and preserve the history of coal mining in the tri-state area.

All of the beer titles at Coal Tipple are references to mining terms. A tipple was the common name for the contraption used to transfer coal to a train car, conveyor barge or other mode of transportation. Tipple, coincidentally, also means to drink in excess.

"When we first opened, the coal theme brought so many miners in," said Chris, adding that those customers were very appreciative of the recognition to an industry that they feel has become overshadowed by the high-profile gas and oil business.

The Nippy Tipple, Crowley's favorite beer to make, is an English ale brewed primarily from Munich and Pilsen light malts and flavored with cascade, nugget, Willamette and East Kent Golding hops. Their top-selling Pit Pony is a German-style wheat with tones of blueberry, orange, coriander and apricot. It is served in a sugar-rimmed glass with fresh blueberries.

Other beers include an original recipe strong American ale called Sixteen Tons, Longwall IPA, a 90-minute strong American IPA called Dead Canary, and Drag Lime - a blonde made with fresh lime.

Crowley, a geologist by day, uses a methodical, scientific approach in his brewing technique, improving on the consistency and carbonation of each batch. He and Chris spend roughly 10 hours per week brewing and producing two batches of beer equaling 65 gallons.

The biggest surprise to Crowley about the whole endeavor has been "how people have taken to the beer. I never expected the reaction we've gotten," he said.

Dawn said there's a unique bond among craft brewers that tends to supersede competition.

"[Brewers] promote craft beer because they love craft beer," she said.

Chris also mentioned that most patrons of craft breweries don't limit themselves to one establishment, but make it a point to visit multiple brewpubs. He credited some of Coal Tipple's success to its location on a main thoroughfare between Pittsburgh, West Virginia and Ohio, as well as its proximity to the Panhandle bike trail and a nearby state park that attracts mountain bikers.

Coal Tipple's brews are also sold at Bavington Roadhouse, the Mouse Trap, Harrington's in McDonald, the Bullpen in Avella and the Keybank Pavilion concert venue.

The brewery can be reached at (724) 899-3344. Children, as well as pets on leashes, are welcome and customers may bring their own food to enjoy.



ABOVE (from top): Helicon's four-tank brewing system; Helicon owner Chris Brunetti; food trucks set up outside Helicon Brewery. PHOTOS BY JILL BORDO

RIGHT TOP: Coal Tipple brewmaster Dayne Crowley and owner Chris Kramer; Coal Tipple's mining-themed merchandise and pricing display; the tasting room at Coal Tipple. PHOTOS BY JILL BORDO



COBBLEHAUS BREWING CO.

1021 FIFTH AVE., CORAOPOLIS

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NOON-11 P.M. SATURDAY, NOON-5 P.M. SUNDAY

TOURS AVAILABLE THROUGH CITY BREW TOURS:

WWW.CITYBREWTOURS.COM/PITTSBURGH/

Cobblehaus Brewing Company opened its doors in downtown Coraopolis last April. With reclaimed wood on the floor and ceiling, soothing green walls and a warm upscale ambiance, Cobblehaus has a unique vibe that falls somewhere between the previous breweries.

Owner Scott Mills said he loved the location in a “walking around kind of town on the main drag.” With a buzz of development and revival, yet reasonable real estate prices, Mills described Coraopolis as an “up and coming town that’s not all the way up yet.”

Mills had been a fan of craft beer since first trying it on a trip to Colorado years ago. He began brewing at home in 1995. When business slowed at his day job in the gas and oil industry three years ago, he and his wife, Janet, decided to take the plunge and invest their spare time in a brewery.

Mills leases the entire building of a previous furniture store and, as such, has several empty offices and plenty of room for brewery expansion. With the help of family and friends, Mills did all of the renovations himself, with the exception of the plumbing.

Since opening, Mills has tripled his production and is now brewing two to three days a week, with an output of 24 barrels per month. With German and Belgian beers as his preference, Mills keeps two lighter Belgians and a French saison on tap, along with two IPAs and two dark beers. Brewing fairly small batches allows Mills to rotate his tap options frequently.

The German Olde Towne Alt is a standard brew that is always available at Cobblehaus. Another popular brew is the Porch Swing Dampfbier, brewed from barley and fermented with wheat yeast. Mills said that the refreshing beer is made from a very old recipe and that, while researching it, he found that it originated in poor German towns when the cost of wheat was too high.

Mills said one of the more difficult parts of starting up the business was coming up with a lasting name that appealed to all those involved. Cobblehaus combined the image of cobblestoned Belgian streets with the houses and stores of Germany.

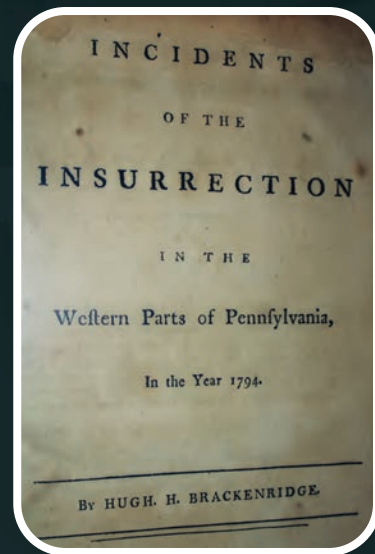
While several snacks are available at Cobblehaus, patrons can bring their own food to enjoy. Several Coraopolis restaurants, including Anthony Jrs, Big Shot Bob’s and Zuko’s, also deliver.

Visit Cobblehaus Brewing Company online at www.cobblehaus.com.



ABOVE (from top): The price list and a small Cobblehaus beer glass displaying the brewery’s motto; patrons congregate in the tasting room and at the bar at Cobblehaus; Cobblehaus Brewing owner Scott Mills in front of his tap system. **PHOTOS BY JILL BORDO**

ABOVE RIGHT (from top): A sign displays a proclamation from the Whiskey Rebellion, also known as the Insurrection, of the late 1700s; patrons enjoy artisan food and craft beer at Insurrection on a busy weeknight. **PHOTOS BY JILL BORDO**



INSURRECTION ALEWORKS

1635 E. RAILROAD STREET, HEIDELBERG

OPEN 4-11 P.M. WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,

NOON-MIDNIGHT FRIDAY-SATURDAY, 12-8 P.M. SUNDAY

With an extra year of experience and a full food menu, Insurrection AleWorks in Heidelberg is slightly different from the three previous establishments.

Opened in 2015 by co-owners Matt Messer and Brad Primozic - a trained chemist - Insurrection produces small-batch artisan ales while specializing in sour production. Messer has owned and operated a 21-tap/400 bottle establishment in Murrysville for nine years, and Primozic previously apprenticed at a brewery in upstate New York.

The brewery exudes a casual feel with roll-up doors at the rear entrance opening onto a quiet residential street.

As the brewers are fans of the Grateful Dead, many of the beer names are band references, such as the double IPA Captain Trips and the robust American porter Dark Star Crashes.

The brewery draws its name from the role western Pennsylvania played in the Whiskey Rebellion of 1791 to 1794.

The establishment capitalizes not only on craft beer, but also fresh food. Using local, high-end ingredients and simple preparation, Insurrection serves charcuterie-style artisan meats and cheeses, wood-fired pizza, wings, salads and sandwiches. Menu items include smoked pork sliders, fried cheese curds and wild boar.

In its current space, Insurrection brewed only 600 barrels of beer in 2016. Messer recently bought the building next door and plans to open in the expanded location soon. The new, 15-barrel brewing system will produce four-and-a-half times as much beer.

Messer also mentioned the need for increased output of Insurrection's unique sour beers, which take at least five months to brew and sell out very quickly.

As Primozic's passion is fermentation, the new facility will include a Belgian-style koelschip, or the Americanized coolship, on the roof. The shallow, stainless steel screened tub uses "whatever is in the air" for spontaneous fermentation rather than brewer's yeast, Messer said, to produce complex flavors in beer.

Though few craft breweries in the U.S. currently use this method, which dates back to at least medieval times, the trend is beginning to pick up steam.

Messer is working with the borough to add additional parking for the brewery, but says he has been happy with the location in Heidelberg and the many good people who they've gotten to know there.

"Having people appreciate your beer and come back time and time again" makes all of the work worthwhile, he said.

Visit them online at:
www.insurrectionaleworks.com.

ABJURATION BREWING

644 BROADWAY AVE., MCKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

OPEN 5 P.M.-12 A.M. FRIDAY AND 1 P.M.-MIDNIGHT SATURDAY

Abjuration Brewing opened to the public in early December in one-half of the historic Parkway Theater in downtown McKees Rocks.

Co-owners Dave Hallam and Tom Glover, who were college friends and home brewing partners, were searching for a location west of Pittsburgh for their business. They were intrigued not only by the idea of being housed in a theater, but also by the vision of the Community Reel Arts Center, which owns the building. For the past six years, Aaron Stubna, who operates the nonprofit, has been securing grants to remodel and update the theater into a multi-use space for live performances, film screenings and more. The newly rebuilt screening room seats 50 people and a lounge in the lobby area has been outfitted with comfy chairs and a projection television to watch sports.

Abjuration currently pours its brews on Fridays and Saturdays in the lobby area but Stubna operates a bar there throughout the week. Patrons are welcome to carry their beverages into the theater.

Currently a one-barrel operation offering eight different beers, Abjuration Brewing makes up for what it lacks in volume with a variety of daring recipes. Alongside staples like American and double India pale ales, the brewery also pours some more adventurous brews like a chocolate hot pepper stout, vanilla oak Belgian and almond pecan brown.

All of Abjuration's beer recipes are shared online as part of their "open-source" policy.

"It's a unique thing we do...it's an homage to being home brewers," said Hallam, adding that he and Glover have nothing to hide and are unconcerned about other brewers using their recipes.

Several food trucks from the area have sold their wares outside of the theater and plans are to have a regular Saturday food truck schedule throughout the winter. At least one local restaurant will deliver food to the theater and customers are welcome to bring food in with them.

The name Abjuration is affiliated with a gaming term and means renunciation of an oath. With that in mind, the owners hope that beer drinkers renounce their average, everyday beverages and try one of Abjuration's ales.

The brewery is currently operating under a special permit from the state but Hallam says once it obtains permanent licensing its hours could expand. He's hopeful that the new licensing will still allow patrons to carry their beverages into the theater.

The Parkway Theater shows independent movies, documentaries and classic art house films. It also hosts special events. For more, visit communityreelartscenter.org.

For more about Abjuration Brewing, visit abjurationbrewing.com.



TOP: Abjuration Brewing serves its brews in the lobby of the Parkway Theater, which has been remodeled into a lounge with a bar and performance space. **BOTTOM:** For the past six years, Aaron Stubna (pictured at center) has been securing grants to update and remodel the theater. Last year, he partnered with Tom Glover (left) and Dave Hallam (right) of Abjuration Brewing, who are now pouring their brews there on Fridays and Saturdays. Stubna also operates a bar in the building throughout the week. Beverages can be enjoyed in the theater. **PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY**



LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

SPRING FLOWER SALE

Save the Date – March 2018

Buy flowers & support your library—just in time for Easter! Check back for details.

AUTHOR VISIT: ZACH OHORA @ NORTH FAYETTE COMMUNITY CENTER

Tuesday, April 10, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The library is proud to welcome Zach Ohora, author of the 2017 One Book Every Young Child selection, *My Cousin Momo*. This is an awesome chance for children to hear an author read his own stories! For all ages, but ages 2–7 would be most interested. Please register online—space is limited!

SPRING VENDOR & CRAFT SALE

Saturday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Come and do some spring shopping with your tax return! Just in time for Tax Day, we're hosting a Vendor & Craft sale, featuring a variety of vendors and crafts. *Attention Vendors & Crafters! Sign up online to join our event (\$25 per table plus raffle item).*

VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Are you ready for the vote? Come to the library for help registering for the 2018 elections. Dedicated computers and staff will be available to help you register online; paper forms will also be available. *Note: April 16 is the last day to register before the May 15 election. Can't make our Voter Registration day? Stop in the library any time during open hours for voter information & registration forms.*

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE @ THE LIBRARY

Saturday, May 5, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Central Blood Bank is once again holding a Blood Drive at the library. Check back for details on our website & sign up online to participate in this worthy cause. Walk-ins are also welcome!

AMERICAN GIRL TEA PARTY

Saturday, May 19, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

We'll have tea & treats, games, activities, door prizes, & more! Bring your own American Girl doll or check out one of ours to take to tea. Fundraiser tickets cost \$25 a pair, \$10 additional child, \$15 additional parent. A perfect Mother's Day gift!

MATTRESS FACTORY PASS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE LIBRARY

Don't just check out a book! Check out ART! Thanks to a partnership with the Mattress Factory, the library is now offering a museum pass that you can check out for a week with your library card. Use the pass to receive FREE & unlimited access to all three of the Mattress Factory's buildings, plus discounts at the MF Shop and Café. Simply present the library pass to the front desk on your next visit for free admission for up to 3 adults and all children under the age of 18.

PITTSBURGH BOTANIC GARDEN PASS ALSO AVAILABLE

You can also explore Western PA's first outdoor botanic garden using the other FREE experience pass from the library! Open since April 2015, Pittsburgh Botanic Garden has transformed 60 acres of land once mined, logged, and farmed into a flourishing garden for all to enjoy. Three miles of groomed trails take visitors through gardens, woodlands, and attractions including the award winning Lotus Pond, the peaceful Margaret Lawrence Simon Dogwood Meadow, and the historic Heritage Homestead.

Please Note: Experience passes are available on a first come, first serve basis & check out for ONE week, NO renewals. Call the library or check the online catalog for availability & enjoy your adventures in the library—& beyond!

ONGOING PROGRAMS

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

ADULT

Bookworms

1st Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.

We Be Book'N Book Club

3rd Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.

Anime & Manga Club

4th Mondays, 6:00 p.m.

TEEN

Teen Anime Club

Mondays, 4:30 p.m.

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. OR

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.

Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. OR

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

Pre-K Storytime

Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.

Location:

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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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ALLEGHENY
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West Allegheny Youth Baseball Camps, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., hitting camp: **March 3**; pitching/throwing camp: **March 10**; fielding camp: **March 17**; taught by West Allegheny varsity baseball coaches, \$40/player, \$100 for all three **if registered before Feb. 24**, space limited, download form at: www.leaguelineup.com/wabaseball.

West Hills Symphonic Band Concert, **March 4**, 3 p.m., Montour High School, "March Gladness," www.whsb.org.

Family Bingo Night, **March 9**, 6-9 p.m., Wilson Elementary School Cafeteria, bingo prizes, student door prizes, Chinese auction, 50/50 raffle, concessions, grand prize, sponsored by Wilson Elementary PTA, a.zakutuey@gmail.com.

Healthy Foods and Wellness Expo, **March 10**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Community College of Beaver County Dome, Monaca, free food and product samples, local community resources, live fitness demonstrations, free health screenings, door prizes, consult with health experts, sponsored by Heritage Valley Health System, (724) 773-2045, heritagevalley.org/expo, see back cover.

Montours Soup 'n Salad Supper, **March 17**, 4-6 p.m., Montours Presbyterian Church, homemade soups, salad, desserts, beverages, Mancini's bread, adults \$9, children 5-10 \$5, under 4 free, (412) 787-1050, www.montourschurch.com, see below.

Diabetes Day, **March 20**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Ohio Valley Hospital, first floor of School of Nursing, free testing, prevention and lifestyle management panel, cooking demonstrations, expert lectures, free samples, raffles, vendor booths, RSVP: ohiovalleyhospital.org/event/diabetes-day-2018/, (412) 777-6205, see page 7.

Easter Egg Hunt, **March 31**, 11 a.m., Rock Youth and Family Center, preschool through grade five, noon luncheon, prizes, Chinese auction, (724) 693-2777.

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.

Meet The Clydesdales, **March 16**, 4-7 p.m., Donaldson Park, get up close and personal with Clydesdale horses, benefits local military, sponsored by: Express Employment Professionals, North Fayette Township, Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce.

Adults and Seniors

Yoga, Sundays, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

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

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

Adult Volleyball League, contact sfox@north-fayette.com.

Adult Basketball League, contact sfox@north-fayette.com.

Water Walking, Monday-Thursday, 6-8 p.m., Donaldson Elementary, \$2, ages 18+.

Water Aerobics, Tuesday and Thursday, 5-6 p.m., Donaldson Elementary, \$2, ages 18+.

Pickle Ball, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 a.m., Fridays, 5-7 p.m.

Senior Luncheons, second Wednesdays, noon.

Fitness Center and Walking Track, available to members during open hours.

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.

Afterschool Sports Session 3, Tuesdays through March 20, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Afterschool Hobbies, Thursdays through March 22, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Youth Sports

Indoor Flag Football League, ages 6-14, Saturdays through March 10, times vary.

Youth Floor Hockey League, ages 6-14, Sundays through March 25, times vary.

Youth Indoor Soccer League ages 6-8, Thursdays through March 22, times vary.

Super Kids Basketball, ages 3-5, Wednesdays, Feb. 21-March 28, 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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

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www.montourschurch.com

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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 by emailing clarson@findlaytp.org, unless otherwise indicated. Programs take place at the Findlay Township Community Center unless otherwise indicated.

2018 Pavilion Rentals, reserve at township office in Clinton or online at www.findlay.pa.us, \$60 fee, \$25 deposit, **non-resident rentals start April 1**, \$85 fee, \$25 deposit, Pavilion at Leopold Lake, seats 150+, 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.

Semi-Super Morning Bingo, Feb. 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, doors open 9 a.m., bingo starts 10 a.m., see page 45.

Indoor Flea Market, March 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., see page 45.

Kids Resale Event, March 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., see page 45.

Gardeners Huddle, March 17, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., see page 45.

Bee Hive Painting Class, March 23, 6-8 p.m., see page 45.

Wedding Checklist Class, March 24, 9:30-11 a.m., bring your wedding details and discuss them with an experienced planner/coordinator, \$5 registration required.

Spring Community Cleanup, April 21, 9 a.m.-noon, meets at activity center, donate a few short hours to help spruce up the community, community service hours available, youth groups and high school students encouraged to join, call to volunteer.

Health and Fitness

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

Water Aerobics, Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m., Wilson Elementary School, call for details.

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

Total Bladder Control, Tuesdays through mid-April, 7-8 p.m., training program for women of all fitness levels who want improved pelvic and core fitness and control, registration required.

Self-Defense Class for Women, March 7, 7-9 p.m., Findlay Township Municipal Building, learn self-defense tactics, preparation, awareness, taught by retired state police parole agent, free, registration required, space limited.

Youth Programs

Little Sprouts Cooking Class, March 6, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., ages 3-5, hands-on age appropriate activities get children involved in preparing healthy snacks, \$6, registration required.

Kids' Creative Cooking, March 6, 4-5:15 p.m., grades K-5, hands-on class teaches children how to prepare a variety of seasonal afterschool snacks, \$8, registration required.

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.

Easter Bunny Breakfast, March 24, details TBA.

Fittest Community Weight Loss Challenge, 12-week program with a trainer in a small group setting, education on weight loss and exercise, eight-week nutritional program, prize for person who loses the highest percentage of weight, call or email to register: Jcersosimo@ymcapgh.org, (412) 489-3231.

Tennis, Soccer, Lacrosse Programs, call for details, also seeking coaches and volunteers to work with children.

DAR Jacob Ferree Chapter

Meetings are held at Montour Heights Country Club, unless otherwise noted. RSVP to Ruth Pickett: (724) 538-4623, rpickett12351@embarqmail.com.

American History/JAC/DAR Good Citizens

Awards Tea, March 3, 11 a.m., celebrate local students' achievements, **RSVP by Feb. 28**

PSSDAR State Conference, April 5-7, Gettysburg.

Chapter Meeting, April 14, 11 a.m., with local author Sabrina Fedel, author of "Leaving Kent State," **RSVP by April 11**.

Local Networking Groups

Greater Pittsburgh Business Connection, Wednesdays, 7:15 a.m., Eat'n Park on Rt. 60, find new leads and make more sales, (412) 364-6446 x 302, www.gpbc-pgh.org.

Toastmasters International City of Bridges, odd Thursdays, 12-1 p.m., Robinson Township Eat'n Park on Rt. 60, become a more confident speaker and leader, www.d13tm.com.

Women's Business Network, meets first and third Tuesdays, 7:30 a.m., Panera Bread meeting room in North Fayette.

HealthSouth Support Groups

Meetings take place at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Sewickley. For more information, call Michelle McCann, (412) 749-2388. Call to confirm meeting dates on holidays.


Brain Injury & Stroke Support Group, third Wednesdays, noon-1:15 p.m., free lunch provided, call in advance if dietary modifications are required.

Amputee Support Group, third Wednesdays, 4-5:30 p.m., third floor boardroom, RSVP to Michelle McCann, (412) 749-2388.

We'd like to hear from you!

As a neighborhood based and community focused publication, Allegheny West Magazine encourages complimentary submission of informational school news, as well as informational (non-promotional) news from community groups, nonprofit organizations and churches. Please submit via e-mail to: info@awmagazine.com.

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The rock in the pocket

"To the world you may be one person; but to one person you may be the world." ~ Dr. Seuss

Sixty years ago, Toppo came into the world. His mother, Maggie McKean, was devastated when she was told her newborn son was diagnosed with Down syndrome. She cried. She prayed on her knees. Her world was turned upside down. He was in the hospital for four weeks. They were not sure he would live. His dad, gentle Harold "Big Top," and the McKean family were Maggie's support.

As the years passed, Maggie accepted the challenges day by day. When Toppo was 4, his healthy little brother, Tim, was born.

Ask her today and she will tell you, "Toppo is one of the best things that ever happened in my life."

Toppo attends church nearly every Sunday. He listens and remembers the messages.

One Sunday about two years ago, Rev. Dr.

James Evans' theme for Montours Presbyterian Church's worship service was "remembering." Everyone was invited to take home a memory stone, a reminder that "God always remembers you."

"If you would like to take a stone for a friend and share with them the meaning of the stone, please do so," Evans said.

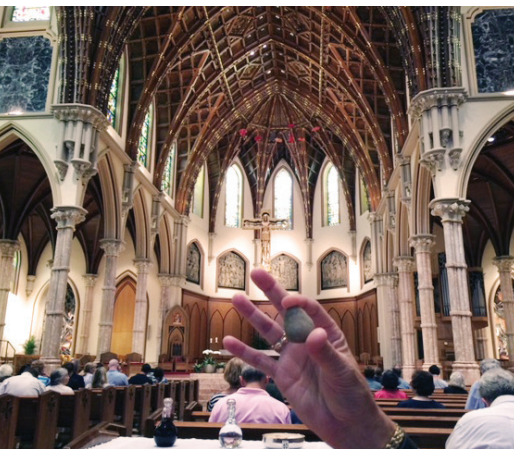
His message took strong hold of Toppo, who gave his stones to friends and told them about the sermon.

So, Toppo asked Evans for more stones, and then more stones. The pastor gave him a bag of stones.

Over the years, no one has given away more stones than Toppo. The stones became known as "the rock for your pocket." He gave one to his "wonderful" doctor, Dr. Gene Battistella of Ohio Valley Hospital. Every time Maggie and Toppo go to see "Dr. B," he reaches into his pocket and gets his rock out to show Toppo.



ABOVE: Toppo McKean sings on his birthday at Montours Presbyterian Church with Rev. Dr. James Evans. BELOW: Dr. Gene Battistella took this photo at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago with a stone McKean gave him.



Recently, Dr. B took the rock to Chicago and to church. When he returned, he showed Maggie a picture of the rock in his hand in a magnificent Catholic cathedral. Maggie says, "Dr. B is so good to Toppo and to me. We love him."

Toppo loves Christian music and sings along with the Gaithers "all the time" while riding with his mom. His 60th birthday was on a Sunday. Evans invited Toppo to sing a duet with him while Evans played his guitar. They sang one of Toppo's favorites, entitled "There's Something About That Name." Toppo's church family applauded. He bowed and smiled.

Quietly active in his church, he hands out the bulletins as people arrive, often wearing a Pittsburgh Penguins shirt or that of another Pittsburgh sports team.

He always wears his cross and, in his pocket, carries his rock.

At times, Toppo has overheard conversations and reminded family or friends, "God doesn't like that!"

When his Uncle Bill McKean was very ill, Toppo proclaimed, "God's not ready for him yet."

When God was ready for him, Toppo knew.

Maggie has been diagnosed with cancer and has shingles. Toppo saw his mother in pain. She had her hand on the painful shingles. He moved her hand and placed his hands on her. He looked up and said, "God, please heal my mother."

Now, Toppo brings strength to his mom.

Robert H. Schuller wrote a book entitled "Turning Hurts into Halos and Scars into Stars." Maggie tells everyone, "He is my rock and a blessing."

Traditions

Once a year, Carol Lowden of North Fayette Township and her family dine at the Wilkes Boarding House, in Savannah, Georgia, where they vacation. The restaurant was established after World War II.

They wait in line together and are seated together but sit with folks they have been waiting in line with - people they do not know. There are 10 seats to a table and 10 big round oak tables in the dining room. There is no menu, just southern cooking and "pass the gravy" family-style dining. Bowl after bowl of delicious foods are shared. Carol has counted 26 bowls on their table at one time.

"Best fried chicken ever," she says.

Once the seats are full, and the food is about to be served, it is time for a blessing. Mrs. Wilkes has been saying the prayer for years before lunch begins. After lunch, you are expected to take your plate and silverware to the kitchen.

Another favorite restaurant of Carol's is in Greene County. One time while enjoying a quiet lunch there, Carol and her friends saw a lot of motorcycles pulling into the parking lot.

"There goes the quiet," they thought.

Much to her amazement, the bikers came in, ordered their lunch and bowed their heads. One biker said a prayer before they enjoyed lunch - a pleasant surprise. That led to a discussion about the many bikers who come together to support charities by joining bike runs.





Free Home Repair Application

29 JUL - 04 AUG 2018



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Work that will NOT be considered: Concrete, Drywall, Electrical, HVAC, Landscaping, Masonry, Paving, Plumbing, Window/Door install/repair

Application must be received by **28 February 2018** to be considered!

Both labor and materials are free to qualifying households. Applicants who have not participated in previous West Allegheny Workcamps will be given 1st priority. To learn how your home *might be included*, please complete & sign this confidential application and return to:

EMAIL: WAW@HeroesSupportingHeroes.org
FAX: 412.235.1737
USPS: **Heroes Supporting Heroes**
ATTN: West Allegheny Workcamp
7313 Noblestown Rd
Oakdale, PA 15017.1905

Your name: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Physical address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____ Do you own your home? Yes No

Is your home within a 20-minute drive from **West Allegheny Middle School** Yes No

Are you US Military? (or if prior military, can you provide a copy of your DD 214?) Yes No

Directions to your home from **West Allegheny Middle School** (please be as specific as possible):

Describe the work you would like to have done: _____

Mailing address (if different from above): _____

City, State, ZIP: _____ (Continue on back if more space required above)

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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- WIN Great Door Prizes
- Ask a Doctor, Dietitian & Nurse
- For event questions, please call 724-773-2045 or email rcatley@hvhs.org
- Visit www.heritagevalley.org/expo for more information.