

West Allegheny Edition

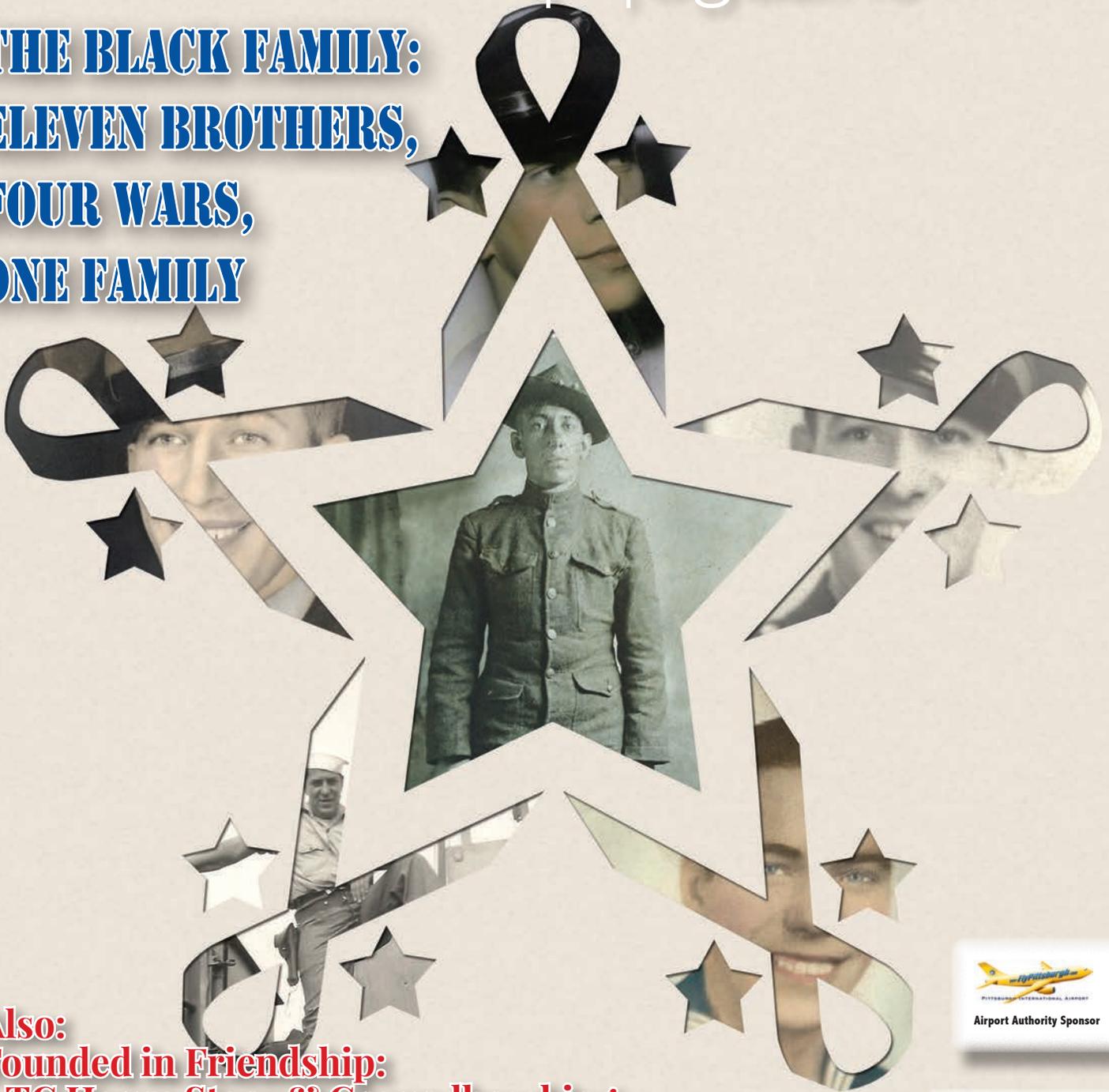
Allegheny West

Volume 15, Issue 89
April/May 2014

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Magazine

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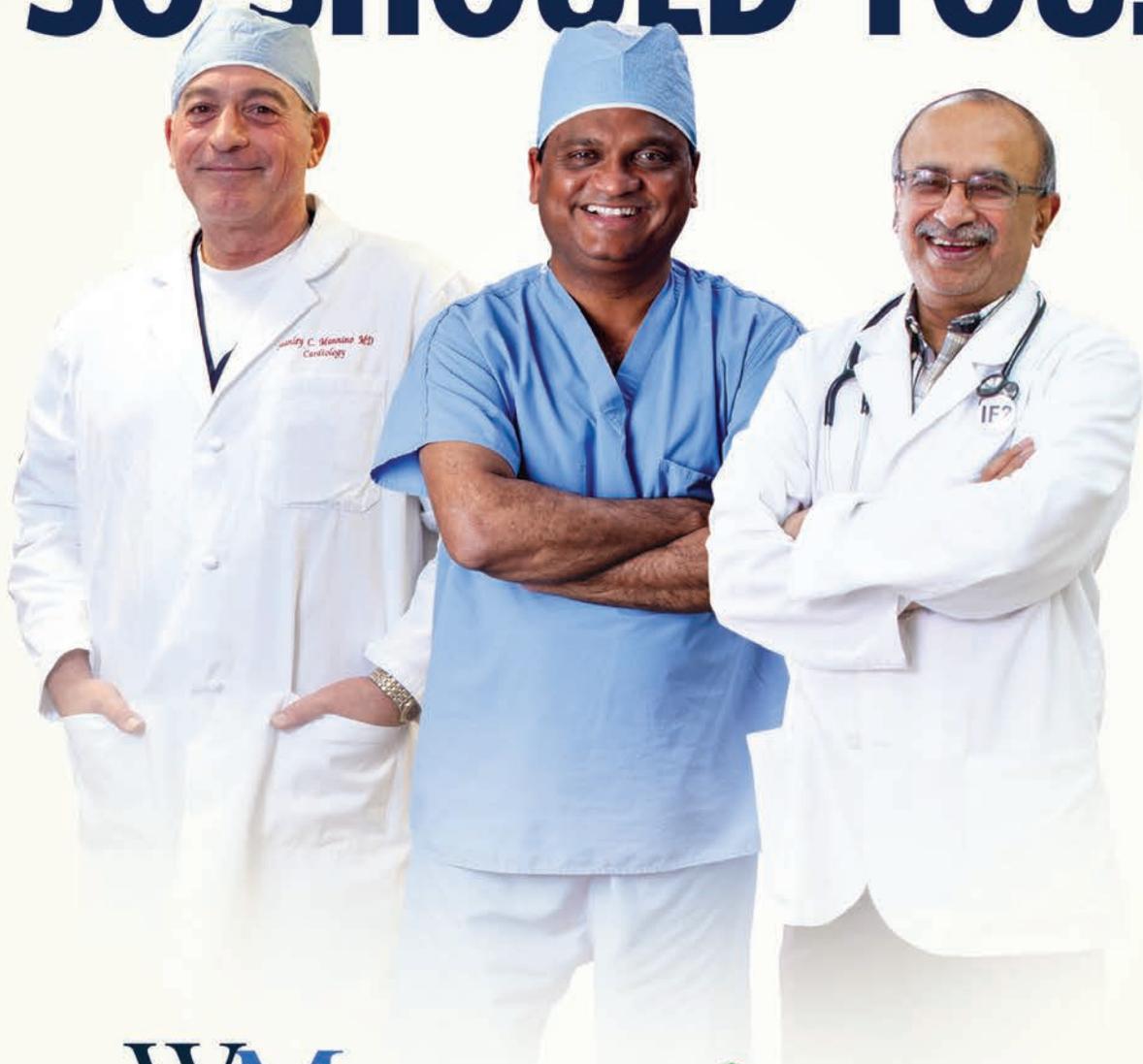


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Inside
Page 21

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PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

Doug Hughey

PHOTOGRAPHERS

G. Paul DeBor, Sarah Hughey

WRITERS

Jocelyn Grecko,

Carolyn Morrison, Heather Schiefer Murray,

Mike Stancil

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Sarah Hughey

ADVERTISING SALES

Michele Shrader

WEBMASTER

www.ddswebdesign.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Macaroni Kids, Robinson

Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce

Findlay Township, North Fayette Township

Oakdale Borough, McDonald Borough, West

Allegheny School District, Western Allegheny

Community Library, Erma Dodd

FOUNDING PUBLISHER

Pat Jennette



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



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West Allegheny Students Prepare for Recital at High School

West Allegheny students of all ages are preparing to perform in The Thomas Studio of Performing Arts' annual recital, held at the high school in May. Students train in a variety of genres, including ballet, jazz, gymnastics, and hip hop, and are given the opportunity to showcase their work in a recital performance.

Recital performances will be held at West Allegheny High School on May 17 at 2 p.m. and May 18 at 12 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.



ABOVE: Dance company members from The Thomas Studio pose in front of West Allegheny High School.

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From the Publisher



Dear Readers,

In our last issue of *Allegheny West Magazine*, I asked that you send us your story ideas and let us hear what you wanted to see in this magazine. You did not disappoint. We received a number of letters and emails, some of which we will be looking to print in coming issues, and others that have given us good ideas for future articles.

Among the letters we did not get to incorporate into this issue came from Janet Babski. In her letter to us, Janet expressed her gratitude to road crews over this past winter for their exemplary work. Facing a salt shortage and relentless winter weather, state and local road crews worked tirelessly to keep roads clear. Janet wanted to thank everyone involved, from the top to the bottom. This certainly warrants a story in a future issue, but with spring coming and winter behind us, we're not sure when, so we wanted to make sure we mention it now.

Ahead of the coming much-needed winter reprieve, the country will celebrate Memorial Day on May 26, and remember those who gave their lives while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. We thought this therefore would be a good time to print a story we've been working on since last year, about a large family from Imperial that contributed to America's global conflicts from WWI up through Vietnam. Theirs is an amazing story.

You will find plenty of good news in this issue of *Allegheny West Magazine*. You can read a story about a community coming together to build a house and another about a young racing champion. Be sure to read about Blake and Kati Lightholder's new web series on page 12, and then go online to watch this homegrown new series. Also, check out the new West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame inductees on pages 18 and 19, and upcoming area events on page 54.

I'm looking forward to more letters and emails from you, our readers, who send us story ideas and help make this magazine what it is.

Editor's Note: In the February/March edition in the article "New Imperial VFD Station Breaks Ground," the Imperial VFD was mistakenly referred to as the North Fayette VFD in the first line of the article as well as in the accompanying photo caption. The doors at the current facility are 10 feet, not 12 feet. It was also not mentioned that in 2010, Findlay Township provided a one-time contribution of \$30,000 for the project design.

{ Contents }

West Allegheny - 21
School District Newsletter

Welcome Spring Guide - 35

The Black Family: - 48
11 Brothers, Four Wars, One Family

Founded in Friendship: - 58
TC House Story & Groundbreaking

Columns

Around Your Town - 8

WA Hall of Fame 2014 - 18

Your Schools - 32

Chamber Link - 33

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden - 40

Library News - 42

Macaroni Kid - 43

Airport Authority - 46

Easter Service Schedule - 52

On the Horizon - 54

Community Connections - 61

Penned by Erma - 62

ABOUT THE COVER

Black Family Members: James, Sr, center, in his WWI uniform; clockwise from top, James Sr.'s sons: Jack, James, Jr., EJ, Frank, and Albert.

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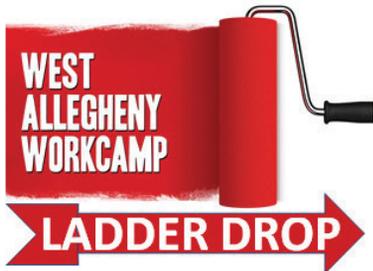
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West Allegheny Workcamp Asking for Ladders, Donations, Volunteers, and More

From June 22-28, 400 youth and adult participants from across the nation will arrive in the West Allegheny neighborhood to participate in West Allegheny Workcamp, a home repair youth mission project under the auspices of a national organization, Group Mission Trips. West Allegheny Workcamp is a project of Heroes Supporting Heroes.

During that week, the youths and adults will eat and sleep at West Allegheny Middle School while making repairs and upgrades to 75 to 80 homes belonging to community residents in need.

While each volunteer pays his/her own way to attend, as well as gives up a week of summer vacation, the costs for the materials



for the projects still need to be covered. Expenses often seen in such community service projects include tools, wood, paint, nails, and cleaning products. WAW is in particular

need of ladders, which, because they are difficult to transport, participants will not be able to bring them.

WAW is asking the community to lend ladders to be used during the workcamp. Ladders will be tracked carefully, treated respectfully, and returned immediately following the workcamp. WAW is asking for ladders from 6-32 feet that are operational and safe with no broken or missing parts. Ladders can be dropped off

now through May 31, or, if too large to transport, can be picked up by HSH. Please email: info@westaworkcamp.org.

Ladders are being accepted at: 249 Bateman Road, Oakdale, PA 15071. Please make sure to fill out a form at the drop-off location or visit <http://www.westaworkcamp.org>.

For more information, also visit www.heroessupportingheroes.org, <https://www.facebook.com/HeroesSupportingHeroes>.

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WA Class of 1963 Celebrates 50-year Anniversary



The West Allegheny class of 1963 celebrated their 50-year anniversary on September 28. Pictured are, back row: Fred Werner, Jim Langer, Ray Delaney, Tom Phillips, Don Bozick, Dennis Moeller, Ralph Hicks, Bob Hughes, John Bundy. Middle row: Harry Alloway, Jim Osborne, John Robertson, Judy Jeannette, Rebecca Bradburn, Patty McCullough, Joanne Gorenc, Diane Delamontague, Carol Beck, Pete Beaumont, Carol Pattison, Rich Hughes, Bill Campbell, Kenny Sacks. Front row: Pam Martincic, Darlene Campbell, Sandy Heindl, Vicki Lukasiewicz, Virginia Shattuck, Bob Eiler, Carol Lundeen, Joyce Metz, Regina Puskar, Holly Hayward.

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Bible Chapel Celebrates 50 Years

A group of nine couples who had been attending a church in Pittsburgh had a vision for something bigger and began a midweek in-home Bible study. A little more than a year later, on April 15, 1964, they incorporated as St. Clair Bible Chapel.

Today, The Bible Chapel is a non-denominational, Bible church with over 3,500 members and more than 70 employees. Its five campuses are located across the Pittsburgh area, including on the PTI campus. Along with its online presence, the church serves nearly 3,500 people each week.

"We are a blessed organization and it is important for us to share these blessings with the community," says Bill Harmon, Executive Director of The Bible Chapel. "This is why we open our doors for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program each year to serve over 3,000 low income and elderly people. We are a municipal voting precinct and sports leagues are played here on a regular basis. We will continue to be a collection site for the National Drug Take Back program and many other events that take place for the benefit of the community outside of our congregation."

The Bible Chapel also offers a wide array of services and ministries for individuals and families, such as Grief Share, Divorce Care, Marital Counseling, Celebrate Recovery, programs for special needs children and personal financial instruction.

For more information on The Bible Chapel, its various campuses, programs and current events, visit biblechapel.org.

Local Efforts to Support Food Pantry

A number of local efforts in April promise to support the West Allegheny Food Pantry's continuing mission to feed over 150 families in the West Allegheny School District area.

W.A. senior Rachel Smith, for her senior project, developed an idea for a charitable race to support the pantry. Aptly named "Run Down Hunger," the race will take place on April 12. It will start and end at the Oakdale Community Center and follow the Panhandle Trail. Runners can choose between a 5K race that starts at 9 a.m., or a 10K that starts at 9:45 a.m. The cost to enter is \$25 for the 5K, \$30 for the 10K, and \$35 for both. Prizes will be awarded in each age group. To register and inquire about sponsorship opportunities, go to: www.tinyurl.com/rdh5k10k. Also check out their Facebook page.

On April 24, eating at the T.G.I.Friday's in Robinson Town Centre will support the food pantry, provided the proper charity card is shown at the time of purchase (right). Twenty percent of sales from those purchases of any sit-down or carry-out food will be donated to the food pantry.

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Nicole Kreutzman at
nkreutzman@north-fayette.com

Lifeguards- North Fayette Township is now hiring seasonal employees to staff the Hankey Farms Pool from May 24th through September 1st. CPR Certification is required. Flexible hours. To apply please contact:

Zach Kelley at
zkelly@north-fayette.com

Imperial Residents Blake and Kati Lightholder Keep it Local for New Web Series

The D.I.Y. (Do It Yourself) movement in the entertainment industry has become a steady trend over the past few years. While Imperial couple Blake and Kati Lightholder are excited to ride the momentum of that movement for their own web-based project, there are other trends in entertainment they would rather avoid. Drawing on Kati's experience in television and film, and Blake's advertising and communications background, the two set out to create something that stands out in today's entertainment landscape.

The Lightholder's new internet comedy series, "Jack & Emma," is being developed like scores of other YouTube and purely internet-based series - with a passion for creativity and help from their friends and community. The twist, or the divergence from the well-worn path of comedy, is that they are embracing an emphasis on clean content.

"We realized just how many shows rely on content that's crude, violent, or sexual to engage their audiences," the Lightholders explain. "Whether they mean to or not, these shows end up defining social norms around issues that probably should not be defined by the entertainment industry."

Their show, based around Jack and Emma, a couple returning from a failed, 12-year try at making it in Hollywood, is an attempt to create what the Lightholders call "socially responsible entertainment." The focus is comedy, but with an expressed desire to avoid sexual, crude or vulgar humor; or any other content that might come off as overtly offensive.

So far, the show has been produced in short vignettes that the creators refer to as "The Miniseries," and is available to view on their webpage, JackandEmmaSeries.com, YouTube, and Facebook. Filled with eccentric and humorous characters excitedly anticipating the return of Jack and Emma, these short episodes

introduce the ideas and themes they hope to eventually bring to life in a fully developed pilot. It's a coming home story, where the humor and story are explored through the titular characters' prodigal reception. The Lightholders are hoping the reception of the miniseries will be strong enough to fund that first full-length episode.

"[Creating a professional show can cost] hundreds of thousands of dollars -, but with our connections we're going to do it for \$29,872," they explain. "That's for a 23-minute episode, and of course, that number involves doing a lot of the work ourselves and

maximizing every dollar in terms of people, equipment, and other costs."

The Lightholders are hoping that through donations made to their website, they will be able to raise enough money to film their pilot episode, and possibly more. The risk of the D.I.Y. approach is the uncertainty of raising and maintaining enough support. The couple's ultimate goal is to produce a series, not a one-off episode.

"Our unofficial slogan is '1,500 people at \$20 each.' Or better yet,"

they say, "2,000 people at \$15 each."

The number of fans, they explain, may actually be more important than individual contributions. There is a trade-off between donations and exposure that the couple actively encourages. Like any other series, the size of the audience more or less measures success. The goal now is to build that foundational supporting audience through the short episodes, available on their website and YouTube. The more people who tune into episodes, the more likely it will eventually find its way to consistent sources of funding.

"The Miniseries" is the hook. The Lightholders are just hoping enough people bite.



Weirton Medical Center Opens Imperial Location

A new home for medical care has opened its doors in the Imperial/Oakdale area next to the Imperial Shop 'n Save. Elizabeth Massella, MD Pediatrics/Adolescent Medicine, and Kelly DeVoogd, DO Obstetrics/Gynecology, are now accepting new patients at the new location.

Dr. Massella is a graduate of Yale University and the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. She performed her residency at the University Hospitals of Cleveland. Her office moves to Imperial from Burgettstown. Dr. Massella lives in the South Hills.

Dr. DeVoogd, of All About Women Health Associates, is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She performed her residency at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. DeVoogd lives in North Fayette Township.

On May 31, WMC Primary Care will host a children's health fair in front of the new office. Look for more details in the Moon and Montour May editions of *Allegheny West Magazine*.

Same day appointments are usually available. X-ray and lab draws are done on-site. Call (724) 414-5020 to make an appointment today.

Local Dance

Studio wins National Award

The Thomas Studio of Performing Arts was recently awarded the Federation of Dance Competitions' People's Choice Award. The award recognizes excellence in the categories of performance and choreography, as displayed by the studio's senior-level dance company members.

Artistic Director Jessica Spencer oversees the instruction and curriculum of the studio's entire student body of more than 1,000 dancers, including the award-winning competitive dance company.



BY JOCELYN GRECKO

Heritage Library Welcomes New Director

Earlier this year, Heritage Public Library in McDonald welcomed a new director, Rebecca Price. Under her direction, library patrons will be able to take part in a number of new and exciting opportunities and events.

A patron for the past nine years, Price says she has always enjoyed bringing her son to story time, and has actively volunteered at the library. When the opportunity arose for her to become director, she was excited to accept the position.

The library has seen an increase in activity, and its members have hopes that the events and programs Price introduces will continue to be an excellent source for reading and education in the community. Programs at the library include Preschool Story Time, Free Film Friday, Lego Club and E-Reader classes.

"We hope to promote technology," explained Price.

The library now educates its patrons on how they can access a large collection of

electronic books. This summer, they will host a summer reading program focused on science. The group will meet for six sessions each Friday, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning July 11.

In an effort to continue offering educational opportunities to its patrons, the library works in conjunction with the Washington County Library System, and offers free, six-week online courses on topics such as healthcare, accounting, business, computer applications, ACT/SAT preparation, and more. This opportunity is offered to all card holding members.

Most of the library's visitors are from the Fort Cherry School District, within McDonald, Mt. Pleasant Township, and Midway. Under Rebecca's direction, the library plans to continue offering excellent opportunities.

"My hope is to promote and provide the best services to residents of this area," she said.

For more information, please visit: www.washlibs.org/heritage.

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Scrapbookers Help Food Pantry Fight Hunger

The Eighth Annual Pittsburgh Scrap Away Weekend once again brought scrapbookers together from across Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia to work on creating their scrapbooks of family, vacations, sports events, weddings, and more from January 31 through February 2. Held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Moon Township, the event attracted 70 women, who this year also brought along food items to donate to the West Allegheny Food Pantry.

Organizer Melissa Merritt says that she and her parents participate in food pantry donations twice a year. The owner of Helping Hands Childcare and Learning Center in Imperial, she collects donations at her center. This year, she got the idea to combine her event with a food drive, and handed out extra tickets for Chinese auction prizes throughout the weekend to encourage donations. Between what she was able to collect at her center and the event, Melissa donated over 450 items to the food pantry.

“Everyone really enjoyed donating the food items and thought it was a wonderful idea,” says Melissa. “We will definitely do this again next year.”

Next year’s scrap away weekend will again be held at the Doubletree, from January 9-11. For more information, contact Melissa at helpinghands001@verizon.net.



ABOVE: Melissa Merritt and Robbilyn Wineland box donations for the West Allegheny Food Pantry during the Eighth Annual Pittsburgh Scrap Away Weekend at the Doubletree Hotel on February 2.

Massage Event to Benefit Heroes Supporting Heroes

On May 30, Allegheny Muscle Therapy and Massage in Imperial will be putting their hands to work for a good cause. The clinic is asking for donations of any amount in exchange for 15-minute massages from their licensed massage therapists. All proceeds will go toward Heroes Supporting Heroes, an organization made up largely of veterans performing community service projects throughout the region. The money will help the organization purchase supplies and equipment to help fellow veterans and senior citizens with projects ranging from yard work and light construction to appliance repair and replacement.

Allegheny Muscle Therapy and Massage owner Renee Swasey says that she became involved in the organization through HSH



West Allegheny Athletes Win Best in the West Tournament

A basketball team made up of West Allegheny eighth graders (pictured above) won the fourth annual Best in the West tournament in February. The tournament was sponsored by the West Allegheny Basketball Boosters, and this year featured 56 teams from 30 different school districts representing grades four through eight in Western Pennsylvania. Teams in the tournament play in both A and B divisions in order to maintain a competitive atmosphere between large and small schools. The tournament took place following the junior varsity regular season.

“This tournament has become one of the biggest community / school-based boys basketball tournaments in western Pennsylvania in just four years,” says West Allegheny Boosters President Todd Scanlon.

Members of that same team also played on a post-season travel team sponsored by the boosters and coached by Paul Votour. They reached the semi-finals before being eliminated. The players captured the Best in the West 4B division by defeating Mt. Lebanon. The other eighth grade team winners were Moon (4A), Mill Creek (5A), Blackhawk (5B), Fox Chapel (6A) and Hopewell (6B).

Executive Director Donald Steward. The two attend the same church.

“It’s an amazing opportunity to help our community and impact generations to come,” says Swasey.

The event marks the second time the clinic has traded relaxing and therapeutic massages for a charitable purpose. Earlier this year, the clinic held a similar event that benefitted the West Allegheny Food Pantry, netting the pantry 31 bags of non-perishable food and monetary donations.

Swasey is asking those interested to call (724) 695-5300 to reserve a spot. Any donations of \$150 or more will receive a certificate for a one-hour massage.

Dreams and Needs are Met

Thanks to the efforts of the organization Heroes Supporting Heroes, and the generosity of an Iowa woman relocated temporarily for her job, a young Air Force family of seven now has a minivan for their family.

Until recently, Tara and her husband, Rich, a master sergeant with the 911th Airlift Wing, had been finding it difficult to transport their five children back and forth between school and community activities. They had been using two cars to do so.

When Lori Brees of Indianola, Iowa - whose work had relocated her to Moon Township for a couple months - heard of the family's need for a larger vehicle through an HSH volunteer, she immediately offered to donate her minivan. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. John Lee, president of Heroes Supporting Heroes, connected Lori with Tara. One day later, the van was transferred to the family.

Says Tara, "I am speechless and humbled. I can't even imagine being able to pick up the kids now. We are so excited and blessed to have such a gift. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. This is beyond anything we've ever imagined."



HSH is a nonprofit organization made up largely of military veterans who volunteer their time to serve military families, fellow veterans, and others in need. To learn more, visit www.heroessupportingheroes.org.

InstTAN Offers Free Tans to Drug-Free Teens

From now through prom season, teens who sign a pledge not to use alcohol or drugs can receive a free sunless airbrush tan at InstaTAN on Route 60 in Robinson Township. InstaTAN tanning consultant Renee Taddeo says that the business is hoping to help teens to safely enjoy the prom season.

"We do not want any student to lose their life or a life of a friend or classmate due to alcohol or drugs," says Taddeo. "Everyone attending prom is very excited and spends a lot of time and money to look their best. We wanted to reward the students for pledging to be drug and alcohol free at such a memorable event in their lives."

Taddeo says that part of the pledge is also not to get into a car with someone who has been drinking and/or using drugs, and to wear their seat belts.

"We think that this is a great opportunity for any student willing to sign and pledge to be drug and alcohol free," she says. "We may not be able to reach every student, but the more we can reach, the better."

For more information, contact InstaTAN at: (412) 787-1857.

West Allegheny Alum and Hall of Fame Inductee Named All Marine Athlete of 2013

Before Marine Capt. Christine Taranto became a midshipman at the Naval Academy in Annapolis in 2003, she won numerous honors for West Allegheny.

In high school, she was a PTCFA Indoor Track and Field 3,000-meter state champion, a WPIAL AAA cross-country champion, and a PIAA cross-country state champion. At one point, she was named Fox Sports High School Athlete of the Week, and listed among Pittsburgh's Top 50 Student Athletes.

In February, Capt. Taranto added to her list of athletic accomplishments that of U.S. Marine Corps Female Athlete of the Year. Capt. Taranto earned the honor for her finishes in the Armed Forces Triathlon and the Armed Forces Marathon championships. She finished first in both races among Marine Corps active duty women, as well as first in the Marine Corps Marathon among active duty Marine women. She finished sixth overall in the triathlon against female athletes from all three branches of the military.

Previous to this year, Taranto served in Iraq in 2009 with the Combat Logistics Battalion 7. She also served in the CENTCOM Area of Operations with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit in 2011. Because of those deployments, this year marked the first that Capt. Taranto could again train to race.

"I was just running for fun," she says, "and then as I was training on my own I started getting faster."

Previously, she says, she hadn't bothered to try out for the team, despite her impressive high school and post-secondary career. At the Naval Academy, Capt. Taranto's cross-country team earned first team All Patriot League honors in 2003 and 2004. She stopped competing her sophomore year to focus on school and her career, but continued to run marathons and triathlons at a noncompetitive level.



Capt. Taranto was presented with the athlete of the year award by General James F. Amos, 35th commandant of the Marine Corps (pictured above) and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Michael P. Barrett. She says she plans to begin an MBA program in July in logistics support management at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey.

Capt. Taranto currently serves as the operations officer and headquarters and service company commander at Marine Wing Support Squadron 272 in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

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Patrick Konieczny is the owner of Thomas-Little Funeral Service, Inc. with locations in the McDonald, Midway, Imperial, and Oakdale communities. He and his wife, Kristen, live in McDonald, North Fayette Township, with their two daughters, Mya and Allie.

Patrick is a graduate of Thiel College and Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. He is a member of the West Allegheny Foundation, St. Alphonsus R.C. Church, McDonald Lions Club, Oakdale Merchants Association, and Oakdale F&AM Lodge #669. He is a former member of the West Allegheny School Board, served as vice-president and is present superintendent of the Oakdale Cemetery Association.

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BY KAYLA THOMPSON

Local Racing Champ Looks Ahead to Next Season

Imagine being a championship racecar driver before ever getting a driver's license. That's the situation in which 14-year-old Dylan Bolind found himself at the end of last season at Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway. Dylan is one of many teenage racers in the Imperial Heights Garage Young Guns division who race every Saturday night over the summer at PPMS in Imperial.

The West Allegheny High School freshman raced his first full season in 2013 after competing in just four events in 2012. During his 18-race championship run, Dylan won 10 races (five of which were consecutive), finished second seven times, and recorded only one DNF (did not finish) due to a bad wheel bearing.



ABOVE: Dylan after winning the Young Guns Championship at PPMS on Colussy Chevrolet night. It was also his 10th win of the season.

Despite all that early success, though, Dylan comes off as a shy and humble teenager who claims racing is "just what I do." He is quick to mention that, "it's all about teamwork in racing." To that point, racing is all about support, and Dylan has a great support system in his dad, Chris, mom, Maryann, and older brother, Jesse, for their Bolind-owned race car. He also benefitted from the expertise of Paul and Joe Podolinsky from Imperial-based JP Racing. The father and son team worked with Dylan throughout the season, providing their race knowledge and mechanical and auto body skills. Imperial-based Taylor Auto Body offered to paint the Bolind's car, while SpeedBearing donated all the car's rivets.

Dylan's love for racing and fast cars started at a young age. When he was just a toddler, he tagged along with his older brother's scout troop to a race at PPMS. A few years later, Dylan and his family became regular patrons. The Young Guns division was the hot, up-and-coming race division, which allows drivers as young as 13 to get behind the wheel of a racecar. As soon as he saw them on the track, Dylan knew that he could race with them just as soon as he got a car.

After two years of looking for a racecar, and asking his dad, one became available for sale. The car, a four-cylinder Chevy Cavalier with a full roll cage and racing safety features, had a 4B painted on the side. Dylan and his dad knew they had to change the number. At first, they settled on 3D, but while working on the car, they found a black #3 under the door cover. Dylan and his dad thought that the car was meant to be the black #3 car in the iconic style of Dale Earnhardt's #3.

The black 3D with Dylan behind the wheel first appeared on the

racetrack on August 4. After gaining experience and competing in four races in 2012, Dylan felt as though he were ready to tackle a full, 18-race season. He expected 2013 to be more of a learning curve than a championship run, but after just a few races, Dylan knew this could be something special. Each race helped him feel more comfortable in the racecar. He learned to hold his line door-to-door with competitors, how to read the track's driving conditions, and exercise patience. While taking to riding high on the track early on, he also learned to stay out of what is known among racing circles as "the marbles." These are the bits of debris and loose dirt that accumulate along the track's retaining wall and can cause a loss of traction.

Even though racing is the only time Dylan can get behind the wheel of a car - one of the things he said that drew him into racing at such an early age - he has already gained an immense amount of knowledge about the mechanics and workings of a racecar. The learning curve not only helped Dylan gain confidence, but also helped him race his way to victory and his first championship. Last season, the Imperial native became the first Imperial Heights Garage Young Guns Champion to hail from Imperial, home of PPMS.

The season also wasn't without its surprises. During one race, a brand new wheel bearing snapped as Dylan was going into a turn, throwing his car into the wall backward. The rear wheel rolled all the way down the back stretch, and Dylan's car ended up being towed off the track in reverse. Even that, though, has since become a memorable experience, along with making new friends, and of course, winning a championship.

With the 2014 season quickly approaching, Dylan has a choice to make about his future plans. Currently, he is still deciding if he will stay in the Young Guns division or move up to the Hobby Stocks division. He's the first to tell you, though, that he could not have achieved what he has thus far without the support and help from the race community, the fans who come out to see the races, and all the great people on his team.

BELOW: Dylan with family and friends following his championship win: (l-r) Chris Bolind, Maryann Bolind, Joe Podolinsky, Dave Sedlock, Dylan Bolind, Paul Podolinsky, Zac Podolinsky, Bernie Blair.



Photos by Jody Halbedl, racingweb.com

Look for the 2014 Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway Race Schedule on page 63 for dates the Imperial Heights Garage Young Guns and other divisions are racing.

West Allegheny Athletic H

The West Allegheny Hall of Fame Board of Directors has announced its inductees for the class of 2014. Inductees will be honored at the third annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony on May 17 at The Cornerstone at Tonidale. Registration and a social hour will begin at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m. The

\$35/person ticket price will help financially support the P.A.L.S. Program, a North Fayette Township-sponsored organization providing recreational opportunities for special needs children. For tickets, call (724) 693-3118, or email rbrozovich@north-fayette.com.

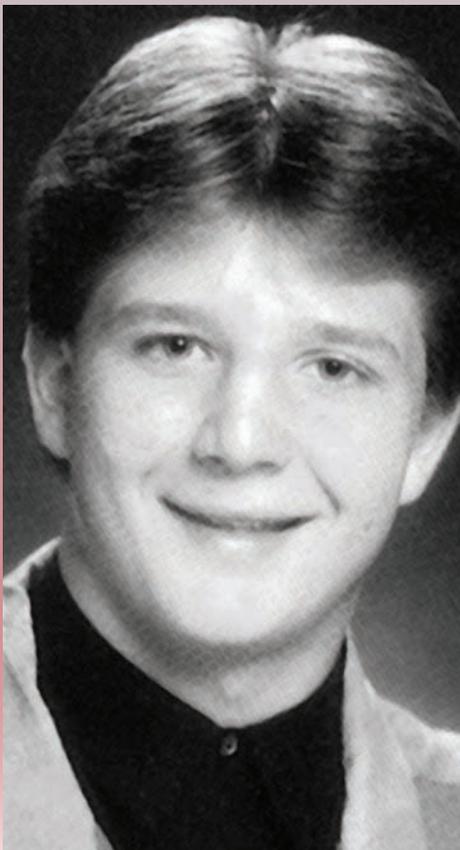


Bryan Cornell

Bryan Cornell has been recognized for his achievements in the sports of football and baseball, both while attending West Allegheny and Duquesne University.

During his high school football career, Cornell's achievements include being named: first-team all-state defensive back, first-team Three Rivers Conference defensive back, first-team running back, Three Rivers Offensive M.V.P., and a *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* Fabulous 22 selection. Cornell's baseball accomplishments include being named to first-team all-section for three years, with career records for batting average, hits, stolen bases, runs scored, walks and triples. Cornell continued a long family legacy of sports excellence while a student at West Allegheny.

Cornell was also recognized for his athletic accomplishments while attending Duquesne University. He was a member of the 1995 ECAC Bowl championship team. He was also a four-year starter with the Duquesne baseball team, and named to Don Hansen's First Team All America team his junior and senior years. He was also named an ESPN Defensive Player of the Year Runner-Up.



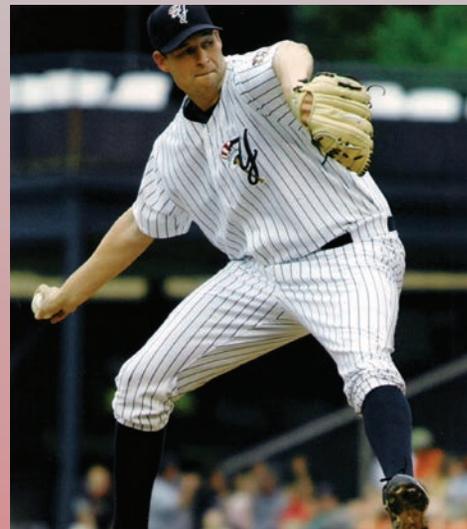
Mike Johnson

Mike Johnson has been recognized for his wrestling accomplishments at West Allegheny and Delaware Valley College.

While attending West Allegheny, Johnson's wrestling record totaled 130 wins and 12 defeats. As a result of his success, Johnson was named three-time section champion and two-time WPIAL champion. He finished third in the PIAA championship, and was the 1990 Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic winner.

Johnson was also recognized for his athletic accomplishments while attending Delaware Valley College. His college wrestling record totaled 48 wins and 11 losses, capturing the MAC championship and eastern regional championship four times. He also earned NCAA All-America honors twice.

As he looks back on his prolific wrestling career, Johnson is most proud that he has been able to effectively apply his vast wrestling background and experiences as the head coach of West Allegheny Wrestling to his young athletes.



Scott Patterson

Scott Patterson has been recognized for his baseball accomplishments while playing for West Allegheny, West Virginia University, and at the professional level.

While attending high school, Patterson earned season pitching records for strikeouts (second), E.R.A. (sixth) and innings pitched (fourth). In addition, Scott held pitching career records for wins (fourth), strikeouts (fourth), ERA (second) and innings pitched (fifth). Patterson also earned season hitting records for doubles (second), hits (37th), homeruns (third), walks (eighth), RBI's (11th), and batting average (11th). His career records also include hits (13th), doubles (eighth), homeruns (sixth), RBI's (11th) and batting average (.465).

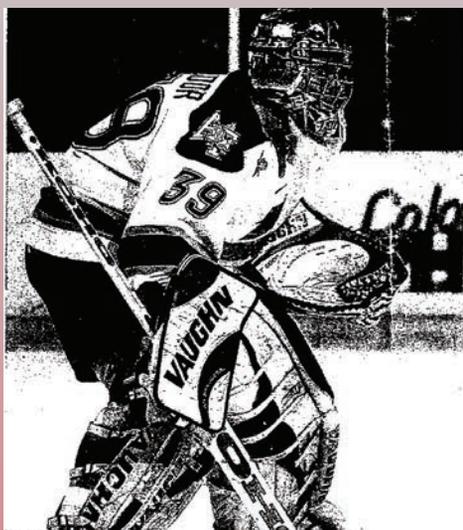
After assembling an impressive interscholastic career, Patterson continued into professional baseball, signing a contract with the New York Yankees. He played at all minor league levels, and eventually pitched at Yankee Stadium. His professional career has also included playing baseball for Team U.S.A. in the World Cup and Pan Am Games.

Despite his many baseball accomplishments, Patterson is most proud of the fact that he was named to the dean's list for his academic accomplishments while a student at WVU. He says he is proud that he was able to achieve success in the classroom, just as he did on the pitcher's mound.

all of Fame Class of 2014

The following inductees were chosen based on their achievements at the secondary, post-secondary, and professional levels. All inductees are nominated via written letters from the public. Inductees must have at least two letters of recommendation. To nominate an individual, email a letter to

rbrozovich@north-fayette.com, or mail to:
West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame
C/O North Fayette Township Parks & Recreation
400 North Branch Road
Oakdale, PA 15071

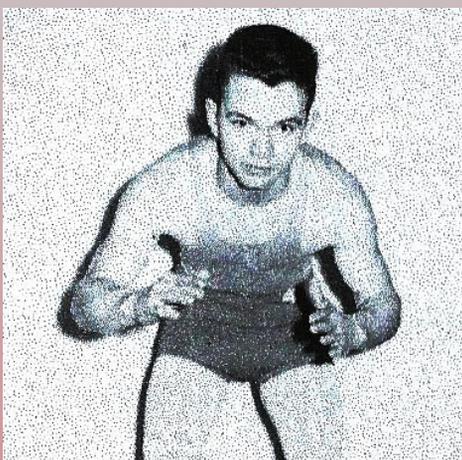


Capt. Michal Polidor

Capt. Michal Polidor was a highly successful goalkeeper for the West Allegheny Hockey team, the valedictorian of his graduating class, and a standout athlete at the United States Air Force Academy.

After playing junior hockey for the Boston Bulldogs for one year after high school, Capt. Polidor became a four-year letter winner in ice hockey, and was named an N.C.A.A. Academic All American while attending the Air Force Academy. During his three years as a college starter, he also earned third place in career history record for goals-against, fourth place career record in saves, and fifth place with 96 career games played for the academy.

Since graduating from the academy, Capt. Polidor has logged more than 1,500 flying hours, including 420 combat flying hours in the B-2, F-15E, T-38 and T-37 flying crafts. In January of 2008, and August of 2009, Capt. Polidor was deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, where he flew an F-15E aircraft in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During his short career, Capt. Polidor was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Metal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal and Combat Readiness Medal. He is presently stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base in Montana, where he serves as an instructor pilot of the B-2 Stealth Bomber.



Robert Darrell Wilson

Robert Darrell Wilson has been recognized for his wrestling accomplishments while attending West Allegheny.

Though local residents may recall that Wilson had an outstanding four-year wrestling career, his existing official school records only document three of those years. According to those incomplete records, Wilson totaled 54 wins and 7 losses. Though he competed at 103 lbs. his freshman year in 1955, and moved up to only 112 lbs. his sophomore, junior and senior years, his success on the wrestling mats earned him the uncontested title of "Mr. Wrestler, 1959."

While recalling his wrestling experiences, Wilson said that wrestling at that time was considered a "total team effort." He related that his team was less interested in individual accomplishments than the success of the entire team.

However, he emphasized that the goal was not always easy for team members to achieve, as they were forced to practice in the girl's locker room, and could only practice for one-and-one-half hours, as most every team member had to work after school. This sometimes meant they had to "thumb" their way to work.

After graduation, Wilson served in the Army as a crew chief on an L-20 utility plane, and returned home to eventually become a life-long West Allegheny area resident. Today, Darrell and his wife, Jan, live an exciting life, as they actively travel, camp, ride air balloons and even ski dive.



Richard H. "Dick" Glovier

Dick Glovier was never considered a successful high school athlete, or coached a winning high school team. Instead, he was respected within the community for his invaluable promotion and chronicling of West Allegheny sports programs over the course of 40 years.

Glovier, who passed away last year, is especially remembered for his many news articles promoting the importance of school athletics, and the success of the individual athletes who participated in West Allegheny programs, at a time when few paid attention to them. Glovier took great satisfaction and personal pride in reporting the successes of West Allegheny sports programs in local publications, including *The Town and Boro News*, the *Record-Outlook* and *Record-Enterprise*, the *Beaver County Times*, the *Allegheny Times*, and since 2000, *Allegheny West Magazine*. His faith and undying support to consistently promote the importance of West Allegheny's athletic programs helped keep them relevant in the public eye until their success ultimately made them an integral part of the present day school community.

Glovier passed away on September 9, 2013 at the age of 83.

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West Allegheny Celebrates Read Across America

The West Allegheny Education Association celebrated Read Across America from February 24 through March 1. Teachers and students in the West Allegheny School District participated in this national celebration, which emphasizes the importance of reading in the lives of children. A host of fun and educational activities, including games, puzzles, and artwork, based on the works of Dr. Seuss were infused throughout the week.

Seussville week included students and staff dressing in Dr. Seuss attire, with each day representing a different Dr. Seuss book. The Food Services Department served green eggs and ham during the week. In addition, the elementary school librarians sponsored the Drop Everything And Read (DEAR)



State Senator Matt Smith and Major Jovil Freeman read to students at Wilson Elementary School.

program each day, and West Allegheny School Board members, State Senator Matt Smith, and other guests visited classrooms and read to students. Lynn Huebner also presented her Seuss-like poems at the three elementary schools.



Festivities concluded on March 1, with a children's program of arts, crafts, face painting, cookies, and Dr. Seuss stories at The Mall at Robinson.

Mariann Bertocchi and Christina Pratt served as WAEA Read Across America co-chairs. The Read Across America celebration was a collaborative effort between the West Allegheny Education Association (WAEA), the West Allegheny School District, and the West Allegheny Education Support Professionals Association (WAESPA).

New Members Inducted Into National Honor Society

On February 4, West Allegheny High School inducted 49 new members into the National Honor Society. To be eligible for membership, juniors and seniors must have maintained at least a 3.75 QPA, and must be taking or have completed three advanced standing courses in each of the five major academic disciplines: English, foreign languages, mathematics, science and social studies. Lynn Birnie and Carol Bookmiller are the faculty sponsors.

NHS inductees James Volk, Raven Wahl and Lydia Will participate in the traditional candle lighting ceremony.



New inductees: (first row) Maggie Kelly, Paul Hughes, Bailey Foy, Eric Evans, Matthew Ferruzza, Patrick Harmon, Matthew Starkman, Nicholas Venturini, Ryan Terabasso; (second row) Cameron Kehm, Sloane Kozyak, Rachel Lawrence, Elizabeth Sible, Sara Bodnar, Emily Kiss, Katie DeBiasio, Alexa Boni, Jennifer Forse, Danna Heh, Collin Wurst; (third row) Katherine Karas, Grace Rosus, Kiera Acitelli, Taylor Newman, Emily Bower, Emily Hoge, Marla Kirkpatrick, Lydia Will, Tara Savisky, Jenna Reilly, James Volk; (fourth row) Dakota Lamb, India Price, Kristine Behme, Amanda McGeary, Raven Wahl, Blake Abel, McKenzie Johnsen, Lauren Costa, Jenna Bandi, Rachel Buck, Tanner Sansonetti, Tyler Sciulli. Inductees absent from photo include: Lacie Gary, Brooke Gregord, Madison Gregord, Tyler Scanlon, Christian Stout and Casey Tokarski.

Middle School Geography Bee Names Champion

The middle school once again hosted the annual geography bee, sponsored by the National Geographic Society, from January 7 through 9. The competition came down to the deciding question, “The Donets Basin is an industrial area shared by Russia and which neighboring country to the west?” Eighth grader Billy Robertson’s correct answer of “Ukraine” made him the winner of the competition.

All middle school students competed in the initial rounds until only 10 students remained, and those students received *National Geographic* t-shirts and ribbons. Social studies teachers Nancy Watkins and Valerie Meehan organized this year’s contest.

As the District winner, Robertson received a trophy and will now take a written test to determine if he will move on to the State Championships in April. Should Robertson win at the



The top 10 finishers of the annual geography bee include (front left to right) Josh Holder, Sean Collins, Tanner Simko, Logan Malatak and Aaron Silvis; (back left to right) Dominic Patitucci (runner-up), Kyle Jamieson, Billy Robertson, Brandon Raglow and Ryan Main. state level, he would qualify for the National Championship competition, which will be held in Washington, D.C. in May. The national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship and a trip.



Second place winners of the Carnegie Science Center Science Bowl include (left to right) Marissa Collins, Sara Sawford, Zachary Stayduhar and Rain Greene.

West Allegheny Students Take Second Place at Carnegie Science Bowl

A team of Wilson Elementary School students consisting of Marissa Collins, Rain Greene, Sara Sawford, and Zachary Stayduhar took second place at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Carnegie Science Bowl on January 16. The competition consisted of four interactive events that included LEGO Pit Stop, 2 Wheeler Quest, Airplane Launch and Weigh In. The team competed in the fourth and fifth grade division against 13 other school districts in Allegheny County.

Teams from Donaldson and McKee Elementary Schools also competed in the competition. Horizons teachers Robert Dowd, Tom Hamm and Beth Koraido were team coaches as well as judges for the competition.

Middle School Spelling Bee Winners Announced

Seventh grader Paige Scholz claimed first place at the 2014 West Allegheny Middle School Spelling Bee held on February 4. Second place resulted in a tie between eighth grader Mike Bagnell and seventh grader Shannon Clontz. Following a school-wide written spelling test, the field was narrowed to the top 48 students, who then competed in the live elimination rounds of the bee.

Scholz will represent West Allegheny at the Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, UPMC. Seventh grade English teachers Katie Troup and Anita Berich organized this year’s bee, and Leda Niccolai was the spelling bee reader.



Winners of the 2014 middle school Spelling Bee are Paige Scholz (center) and second place finishers Mike Bagnell and Shannon Clontz.

Superintendent's Message

Some shirt pocket notes...

This winter was a doozy!

The winter of 2013-14 "was a doozy," as Ned Ryerson, from the 1993 movie classic Groundhog Day, declared. Record snowfalls and frigid temperatures wreaked havoc on road crews, emergency personnel, and yes, school superintendents, who were at the mercy of hit and miss weather forecasts, freezing fuel lines and power outages. Nevertheless, we made it. We are just a few weeks away from experiencing nature's life cycle as trees, plants, grasses and flowers burst into the vivid colors of spring. We will be energized as the warm sunshine lifts us out of our winter doldrums, transporting us into a time of great anticipation...Pirate baseball!

I would like to extend my appreciation to our custodial maintenance staff, our bus drivers and transportation department, the municipal road crews, and the local police/emergency personnel for their efforts to maintain our safety and welfare during the winter of 2013-14. The revised school calendar can be found on the West Allegheny website at www.westasd.org, and is in accordance with state regulations, which define days and hours that are required to maximize school subsidy payments.

West Allegheny's test scores are impressive

It is noteworthy that four of our five West Allegheny schools scored over 93 out of a possible 100 points on the Pennsylvania School Profile, a measurement rubric that details student achievement and academic growth. The District's overall score was 93.6. We are proud of our students' success, but realize that there is still work to be done. We aspire to be among the best in the state, and are all committed to improving our skills so that we may in turn affect heightened academic achievement in our students.

Construction begins at Wilson

Construction bids for the Wilson Elementary School renovation will be finalized this month. Actual construction is expected to begin sometime in April. First phases will include the District administration office addition, interior renovation of the existing building where classrooms have been vacated, the new library, and the school administration office. Seven classrooms from Wilson will be relocated to Donaldson Elementary School for the 2014-15 school year to facilitate the completion of renovations to the existing building by the start of the 2015-16 school year. Details of the relocation will be provided to parents this summer after student/teacher rosters have been finalized.

The design phase for the McKee Elementary School renovation has begun. Renovation of McKee is expected to begin in June of 2015 with completion expected by August of 2016. The school calendars for the next two years will reflect post-Labor Day student start dates to accommodate construction.

District searches for next superintendent

The search for my successor is underway. Details, requirements, and expectations are posted on the District website. Rest assured that I will work with our Board to identify an educational leader who possesses the expertise, experience, and resolve to not only sustain West Allegheny's proud tradition of excellence, but to move the District forward in a progressive manner. The District hopes to appoint a new superintendent in June.

Diane Ravitch speaks out on the privatization of schools

A few months ago, I read the book "Reign of Error: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools." The author, Diane Ravitch, served in the administrations of both presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Ravitch is a former United States Assistant Secretary of Education and member of the National Assessment Governing Board. She is the author of numerous books, and has been recognized as one of the nation's top advocates for public schools. I would highly recommend reading this book. Ravitch unabashedly cites extensive research and documentation to refute those who tout the charter school movement as the answer to meaningful and successful educational reform, zeroing in on the likes of Joel Klein, Bill Gates, Wendy Kopp, and Michelle Rhee, just to name a few. She offers statistical evidence to demonstrate that test scores and graduation rates in America are at all time highs, while dropout rates have shown significant declines. She also proposes that education reform must be founded, not only inside the schools, but through the creation of social systems that lay the foundation for school success, such as prenatal care for pregnant mothers and early childhood education. Ravitch also claims that high-stakes testing has become counterproductive to improving student learning, diverting time and money away from real learning, conceptual understanding, and applied problem solving. While I cannot say that I am in total agreement with every proposition Ravitch's asserts, her arguments, along with the substantive evidence she provides to justify her beliefs, are eye-opening and quite compelling.

It is time to elect a governor

Pennsylvania will be electing a governor in November of this year with the primary election slated for May 20. I encourage you to review each candidate's record as well as respective campaign platform at <http://www.eplc.org/2014-gubernatorial-candidate-plans-for-education-and-arts-culture-in-pa/>, particularly as the platform pertains to education in our state. Make no mistake, whoever is elected will have an impact on our children's educational opportunities and expectations, as well as how programs and requirements are funded.

Dr. John S. DiSanti
Superintendent



Student representatives Emily Hall and Paige Wesley answer questions about the yearbook, newspaper, multimedia, digital image graphics and graphic design department.

Eighth Grade Students Gain Valuable Insight into High School Opportunities

On February 6, West Allegheny eighth grade students were given the opportunity to attend a high school academic fair held in the middle school lobby. Students from the high school, representing a variety of elective and academic areas, hosted 18 tables displaying textbooks, projects and other content specific materials relative to their designated topic. The eighth grade students visited each of the displays to learn more about the academic and elective courses available to them at the high school. The high school students also provided information pertaining to their represented area for the students to share with their parents and answered general questions about the high school.

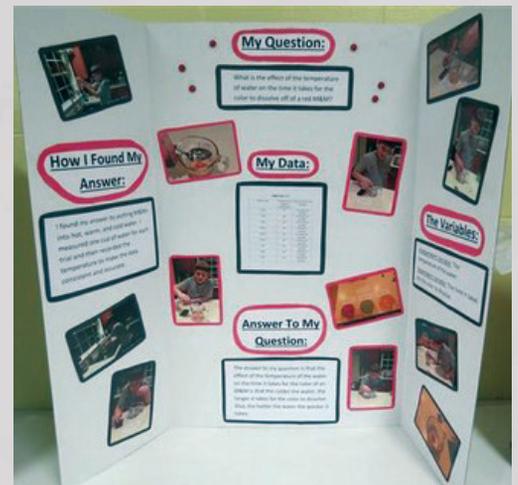
Jeff Kiser, eighth grade counselor, and Susan Kriznik, career and transition coordinator, organized this event to provide all eighth grade students with the opportunity to learn about the courses that are available to them and are required of them once they transition to the high school.

Scientific Method Tested at McKee Science Fair

Students in Ginny Belko's fifth grade class at McKee Elementary School participated in a science fair during the third quarter that challenged their knowledge and creativity. The project was initiated by choosing a topic of interest and identifying a testable question. Students then applied the scientific method, conducted the experiment, identified variables and constants then recorded the data. Experiments ranged from testing what type of bread molds the fastest to which paper towel is the most absorbent. Final projects were presented with visual displays to the class, followed by student questions.

"I was so impressed at the level and depth of understanding of the students in the audience," stated Belko.

Students wrote about the experiments on their blogs and their presentations were recorded for parents to view. This project exemplifies the District's emphasis on questioning, student engagement, and rigor of the highest level, which encourages analyzing, evaluating and creating.



McKee students display their experiments.



Seniors Jordan Grogan (left) and Joe Falcioni (right) program the educational Finch robots.

West Allegheny Students Featured on WQED's Pittsburgh Innovators Website

West Allegheny High School programming classes were featured on the WQED Pittsburgh Innovators website for BirdBrain Technologies. The company provides innovative, educational tools designed to teach students computer science. West Allegheny was selected by BirdBrain founder Tom Lauwers to be one of the first schools nationally to help develop high school curriculum through Carnegie Mellon University using Finch robots.

Under the direction of West Allegheny teacher Pamela Volakis, high school programming classes have interacted with the multifunctional Finch robots, which teach the students to work with over a dozen programming languages and environments.

To view the video, visit <http://wqed.org/tv/pittsburghinnovators/innovator-profile/birdbrain-technologies>.

Staff Members Recognized for Years of Service

The District held its 13th annual employee recognition dinner on February 26 at The Cornerstone at Tonidale. Following a welcome by superintendent Dr. John S. DiSanti, and an invocation by Dr. William Englert, Jr., School Board President Debbie Mirich served as the emcee.

Staff members were recognized for their 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th and 30th years at West Allegheny, and were featured in a slide presentation. Those in attendance with 25 years or more were honored by their principals with personal comments, and included Joann Biscan and Tom Snyder.

All school district employees, both instructional and non-instructional, are eligible for this dinner based on their years of service.

List of Honorees

Employee recognition attendees honored at dinner.

TEN YEARS

Bonnie DeBiasio
Mary Ann DeCarlo
Kathleen Hanczar
Vimala Hari
Jennifer Jones
Mary Jo Kisow
Kathleen Krull
Michele Maggi
Claire March
Scott Meehan
Valerie Meehan
Tina Seybold
Lynanne Shaffer
Kristen Tracy
Katherine Troup
Nancy Watkins
Kathleen Wilkinson



FIFTEEN YEARS

Joyce Anderson
Toni Baldanzi
Renee Bollman
Erin Clay
Shelley Crannell
Tami Derrick
Barbara Gedman
Steven Groba
Julie Hahka

FIFTEEN YEARS

Darren Humbert
Jacqueline King
Amy Krek
Tiffany Mangan
Robert Mayo
Roger Reynolds
Curt Russell
Rebecca Sabin
Coleen Scott

FIFTEEN YEARS

Christopher Shattuck
Joan Snyder

TWENTY YEARS

Lisa Barr
Dorothy Brown
Anthony Castelluci, Jr.
Doris Catalano
Elizabeth D'Amico

TWENTY YEARS

Mary Damratoski
Robert DeMario
Carol DeWitt
Shawn Dugan
Karen Fedin
Bernadette Goodwin
Chris Ann Heron
Deborah Ireland
Martin Lestander

TWENTY YEARS

Angela Powell
Amy Rocchio
Pamela Volakis

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Joann Biscan
Jennifer Hart

THIRTY YEARS

Munaii Franjione
Nancy Sale
Thomas Snyder



West Allegheny Virtual Academy Offers Flexibility and Depth

Since 2011, the West Allegheny School District has offered its students their own cyber school, the West Allegheny Virtual Academy (WAVA). The WAVA online course offerings are aligned to the West Allegheny curricula and provide students (K-12) with an alternative learning environment. There are currently 26 students enrolled in the academy, ranging from first to 12th grades.

Of the 26 students enrolled, 20 are considered full-time, taking all of their courses online. The six remaining students are considered hybrid students, taking some courses at the brick-and-mortar building and some online. Many high school students choose the hybrid model because of the flexibility for work schedules, medical issues and other situations that take time out of their normal school day hours. Students can create an adaptable schedule, giving them the ability to work on their courses 24 hours a day.

WAVA offers a wide range of dynamic, elective courses that high school students may take for credit. This includes advanced placement courses, gaming and computer programming courses, health science courses and even art. In addition, students may enroll in courses that they are interested in that may not be offered at the brick-and-mortar classes, such as Latin, Chinese, AP environmental science and audio engineering. It is also

useful for students who have scheduling conflicts and cannot fit all of the courses they need into their schedule.

Enrollment is based on an agreement between the school district, the student and the student's family. Students enrolled in the WAVA program are able to complete their school work at home online, yet still participate in extra-curricular activities that are sponsored by the District. Also, students who complete all of the requirements and credits will be awarded a West Allegheny High School diploma and are eligible to participate in commencement exercises. Last year, the WAVA program graduated five seniors, all of whom attended college or a trade school.

The WAVA program is in partnership with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. All teachers are certified and deemed "highly qualified" by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, as is required of all public school teachers. Since the implementation of the WAVA, the District has been able to save over \$250,000 that might have gone to charter cyber schools had the student left West Allegheny.

Enrollment is open to all West Allegheny residents. For more information or to enroll a student, please contact Mrs. Toni L. Baldanzi, supervisor of ancillary programs, at (724) 695-5209 or at tbaldanzi@westasd.org.

Article submitted by Toni Baldanzi.

High School Teacher Earns National Board Certification

High school teacher Michael Shaffer recently earned National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, making him one of a select group of teachers to merit this distinction. National Board Certification is a demanding process of advancing teaching skills through performance-based evaluations. Shaffer earned this certification in Career and Technical Education/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood.

West Allegheny Superintendent Dr. John S. DiSanti said, "The National Board Certification process is quite rigorous. Attaining certification requires a personal and professional commitment. Mr. Shaffer has demonstrated that he recognizes the importance of continuous professional development and I commend him for this accomplishment."

Shaffer completed the voluntary program in three years, in which time he compiled an extensive portfolio that showcased student work, class projects, video documentation of classroom teaching, and assessments of course knowledge.

"My certification experience was an eye opener," said Shaffer. "I learned so much about

myself as a teacher, my students in the classroom, and the ways I interact and work within the community. I am currently finishing my master's degree, and when I started the experience I thought the training and what I gained at the end would be similar. Through the National Board Certification program I gained a greater insight into my teaching and it refocused the fundamentals in my classroom. At times the process seemed overwhelming; however the end result was not just a certification or a title but also a personally rewarding experience, from which both my students and I can benefit."

Shaffer has served as a media arts teacher at West Allegheny since 2005 and is the head coach of the West Allegheny High School Speech and Debate Team. He earned his undergraduate dual degrees in both communication education and English education from Robert Morris University.

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



Media arts teacher, Michael Shaffer.



Members of the high school Show Choir present a check to Geri Herman from the West Allegheny Food Pantry.

Show Choir Uses Talents to Benefit Others

The West Allegheny High School Show Choir used their musical talents to raise \$3,000 for the West Allegheny Food Pantry. The show choir performed at over 20 venues, including community events, and caroled throughout the community.

A check was presented to Geri Herman, coordinator of the food pantry, when she spoke to the students about the importance of helping neighbors in need. Fundraising efforts were organized by show choir director Earl Wiechelt.

Cultural Diversity Celebrated by Sixth Grade Shark Team

The sixth grade Shark team embraced multiculturalism when they celebrated Diversity Day on February 4. Throughout the initiative, students rotated through three stations that highlighted a variety of academic activities centered on language arts, mathematics, and social studies, with a focus on contributions made by various ethnic groups. Students also learned about dining etiquette from around the world and sampled an array of ethnic fare during an international food festival.

Diversity Day was organized by Shark team teachers Valerie Meehan, Mickey Damratoski, Rachel Adair, Tom Burke, Bill Marx and Lisa Panucci.



Sixth graders sample ethnic foods prepared by Shark Team teachers and students.



Traditional French dishes were prepared by juniors Liz Sible, Cassidy Lalley, Rachel Lawrence and Emily Kiss during the Mardi Gras celebration.

Students Experience French-American Culture In Celebration of Mardi Gras

French students at West Allegheny High School learned about French culture in America by celebrating Mardi Gras in their classrooms on February 27. Students used their creativity to fabricate brightly colored masks to wear during the festival. To enhance the experience, students actively participated in the celebration by preparing traditional Cajun (Louisiana) dishes such as shrimp and chicken gumbo, jambalaya, Cajun roast potatoes, King's cake, festive rice, Creole cake, pralines, Cajun vegetables and Muffalettas. By sampling these treats, students experienced first-hand the blending of local products and the spicy flavors brought to the region by Africans. The event was coordinated by Shelley Crannell, high school French teacher.

Southeast Festival Warms McKee Students

Fourth grade students from McKee Elementary School were likely wishing they lived in the southeastern part of the United States when they studied and celebrated the region during their Southeast Festival on February 27. With frigid temperatures outside, it was warm inside the classrooms, as students were served foods indigenous to the region. Students created colorful masks in recognition of Mardi Gras and constructed 3-D maps with clay and various art materials. They also studied the endangered manatee in Florida, and created adaptations that would help it survive its current environment. In art and music, students studied the art of North Carolina artist Romare Bearden, and explored the blues and jazz music of the Southeast.

This celebration concluded a month-long study of the southeast region and was organized by fourth grade teachers Tammy Chiccarello, Susie Dorman, Jan Schade, and Deb Stockhausen, along with a helpful group of parent volunteers. Art teacher Claire March and music teacher Terisa Sharlow collaborated with the fourth grade team.

Fourth grader Braden Bates works on his three-dimensional map of the Southeast region.



High school team celebrates the win.

High School Lays Claim to the West Allegheny Foundation Teacher's Cup

On the evening of February 28, the annual Teacher's Cup competition demonstrated the truly generous yet competitive spirit of the District's teachers and staff as they came together to support the West Allegheny Foundation fundraiser. As the event continues to grow, this year's contest drew the largest crowd in the event's eight-year history.

This year's event lineup included dodge ball, dress-up relay, stack the cups, goofy goggles basketball, and a spirited game of musical plates. Though the competition was fierce, the high school came out on top to claim the cup, with Donaldson Elementary taking the spirit award.

Since its inception, the West Allegheny Foundation has distributed over \$200,000 in the form of scholarships and community and teacher grants.

West Allegheny Becomes First in Nation to Adopt Innovative Brain Scan Technology for Athletes

West Allegheny School District received a \$10,000 grant from the Highmark Foundation to assist in purchasing the InfraScanner 2000™, a portable, noninvasive technology that aids in the detection of intracranial bleeding due to head trauma, concussions and traumatic brain injuries. West Allegheny is the first district in the nation with this technology, which has the ability to detect brain bleeds within minutes, allowing early detection for athletes.

The InfraScanner 2000™ uses near-infrared (NIR) technology to assist with a more accurate and expedited assessment that will help determine if the athlete/student needs a CT scan or additional intervention. This technology was initially developed for the U.S. Marine Corps to detect issues on the battlefield and has been tested by the military since 2008.

West Allegheny Athletic Director Dave McBain, school/team physician Dr. Russ Adams, school nurses and athletic personnel received hands-on training with the device.



Dave McBain reads the results of his test scan on Dr. Russ Adams.



Eighth Grade Students Use Creative Angle to Learn Math Lessons

Eighth grade students in Dana Burrows' algebra classes took a creative approach to finding the slope-intercept form when they used wall tiles to graph their equations. By applying colorful tape to the hallway walls, the students were able to measure, record and evaluate their lessons on virtual, life-size graphs.

Wall tiles serve as graph paper for algebra students.



Potato Olympian Michael Phelps

Potato Olympics Get Students All Whipped Up about Math

McKee Elementary students in Debbie Stockhausen's fourth grade math classes took a unique approach to learning when they hosted a Potato Olympics on February 28. Teams of students chose and researched a state from the Southeast region. They then selected a prominent person from that state to represent them as an Olympic athlete, in the form of a potato. Students measured, weighed and painted potatoes in the likeness of their athlete. The event culminated in the creation of an original Olympic competition, which required the application of mathematics to win.



Scott Bilovus (left) helps Dylan Murray measure the distance the Olympic potato traveled.

Findlay First Responders Appreciate Students' Thoughtful Gesture

Members of the Wilson Elementary student council showed their appreciation for Findlay Township first responders by hosting a luncheon on February 21 at the Findlay Municipal Building. Policemen, firemen, paramedics and dispatchers were invited as a thank you for their continued work with the school and helping to keep the community safe. Students also presented a slide show with photos of the first responders accompanied by the song "There is a Hero in You." First responders reciprocated by taking the students on tours of the facility and the new ambulance, while police Officer Cridge introduced them to Axel, the Findlay K-9 officer.

Students assisting with the lunch included: Colin Funkhouser, Sadie Peterson, Emma Bohley, Nathan Spokart, Madison Jobe, Cole Egan, Alex Hennon, Taylor Eannace, Alexa Misselwitz, Owen Osborn, Devin Forrester, Alyssa Andelmo, Zachary DeRicco, Kayle Pritchett, Jillian Wallace, David Bracken, Ryan Fingers, Julia Stalling, Brayden Krek and Angela Costa. Wilson student council advisors are Nancy Sale and Laurie Cole.



Fifth grader Ryan Fingers serves Findlay first responders (above), while students David Bracken, Devin Forrester, Colin Funkhouser and Kayle Pritchett receive a guided tour of the ambulance (below).



Students Karly Krisovenski, Sarah Hughes, Lexi Hill, Erin Smith, Sarah Steward and Pryclynn Campbell delivered much needed supplies to the Light of Life Mission.

Compassion Project Benefits Many Community Members

For the second year, students in Jessica Denk's 10th grade honor's English classes completed a Compassion Project inspired by Mitch Albom's book "Tuesdays with Morrie." The students were asked to create community service projects that would benefit at least three individuals in their community. The results were far-reaching. Students donated handmade items, including scarves, blankets, baked goods and more to local nursing homes, hospitals and shelters. Other students spent time with residents at local nursing homes playing bingo, creating crafts, and spreading holiday cheer. Some established drives to donate supplies and gifts to local families and groups. Still other students collected monetary donations for the local food bank, churches and Animal Friends. There were numerous additional random acts of kindness from students and the feedback from the community was overwhelming. Those touched by the outreach were sincerely appreciative of the students' generosity.

Souperbowl Food Drive Benefits Food Pantry

Sixth grade students from the middle school Sharks and Superstars teams hosted their annual "Souperbowl" food drive to help replenish shelves at the West Allegheny Food Pantry. Held on January 31, just in time for the Super Bowl, the collection resulted in donations of over 1,000 canned goods and non-perishable items. Participating students earned chances to win prizes and admittance to the movie "Remember the Titans." The drive was organized by sixth grade teachers Nancy Lane, Valerie Meehan and Nancy Watkins.



Sixth grade students (left to right) Hannah Chamberlain, Alexis Ligouri, Johnna Lefebvre, J.J. Abbott, Max Petrone, Bria Allen, Mara Campbell and Brett Smith help box donations.



Seniors recruited to play collegiate sports include: (front, left to right) Brittany Zeigler and Maddy Smith, (back) Zach Salek, Zach Graziani, Tory Delmonico and Jacob Johnson.

West Allegheny Seniors Recruited for Collegiate Sports

The West Allegheny Athletic Department hosted a National Letter of Intent/College Commitment Day ceremony on February 12 for six senior athletes who were awarded scholarships. In football, Tory Delmonico committed to play for the United States Naval Academy and Jacob Johnson for Georgetown University. With soccer scholarships, Zach Graziani committed to Robert Morris University and Maddy Smith to Slippery Rock University. Brittany Zeigler signed to play softball for Point Park University, and Zach Salek signed to run cross country and track for St. Francis University. Family members, school officials and coaches joined the students.



WPIAL team champions include: (front row left to right) Casey Tokarski, Megan Wurst, Jenna Josey, Amber Clemens, Julia Snodgrass and Brooke Gregord; (back row) Coach Bob Miller, Kiera Acitelli, Hannah Charlton, Jessica Wasek, Jenelle Slodki, Kaylee Musiol, coach Megan Kaulius, Nicole Kadlecik and coach Melissa Kehl.

Girls' Swim Team Brings Home WPIAL Title

The West Allegheny girls' swim team clinched their third WPIAL title in four years with their win at the University of Pittsburgh on February 28. According to head coach Bob Miller, this feat may have surprised many, but not the team or coaches who knew if they stepped up their performances they would come out on top. "It took a total team effort to win the team championship," stated Miller. "We were very pleased with so many big swims and efforts. No super stars - just a team of stars."

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Parkway West Career and Technology Center

Parkway West CTC Students Earn College Credits

Earlier this year, Parkway West Career and Technology Center established dual enrollment programs with two post-secondary schools: the Community College of Allegheny County and Rosedale Technical Institute.

PWCTC students who qualify for the program are able to complete post-secondary courses, tuition free, at either school prior to graduation.

CCAC Vice President of Workforce Development Alicia Booker stated that PWCTC's high number of Public Safety and Health Assistant students prompted the college to offer courses in Medical Terminology and Introduction to Psychology as part of its initiation into the dual enrollment program.

"We've tried to chip away at the core courses," noted PWCTC Executive Director Dr. Darby Copeland.

Students enrolled in these classes will do just that; earn credits toward a college degree.

RTI has offered PWCTC students in the automotive programs the opportunity to take classes in the Diesel Technology and Gas Engine programs. RTI President and Director Dennis Wilke said that PWCTC students have done extremely well while working under the expertise of instructor Dave Sladky. He said that an added benefit of the program is that outside of the classroom, students are able to interact with post-secondary students.

Among the 21 students participating in the dual enrollment program with RTI is Montour senior Jacob Onoffrey, who is a student in the Auto Body Repair Program at PWCTC. The Diesel Technology Program allows Jacob to pursue his intellectual curiosity about automotive electrical systems.

"[Someone will tell me], put this piece here," explains Jacob, "but I want to know why it goes there, and this opportunity is helping me learn that."

Additionally, Jacob works at an auto body shop in McKees Rocks, and, at times, his job involves outfitting cars with aftermarket parts.

In the near future, PWCTC hopes to begin sending HVAC students to RTI for additional training and education in their field.

There are a total of 41 students in the dual enrollment program; 20 attend CCAC two days a week, while 21 attend RTI three days a week. As the dual enrollment program progresses, PWCTC will be adding more post-secondary schools to the program, as the high school students and colleges benefit greatly from the experiences shared. PWCTC students gain both valuable knowledge through college level courses and the confidence they need to be successful in a post-secondary setting.

The schools are working together to enhance and integrate classes so as to make the transition to post-secondary schools as seamless as possible.

"The courses help prepare students for post-secondary education in high-demand fields," says Dr. Copeland. "Not only does it build the confidence they need to succeed at the next level, but also lends help to students by saving them thousands of dollars in tuition."

Pittsburgh Technical Institute

PTI's Summer Camp Lets Students Sample Careers

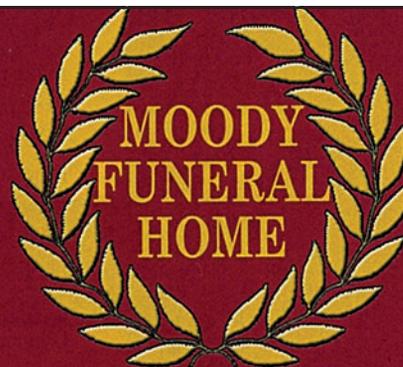
Each summer, PTI hosts camps on its North Fayette campus for high school seniors and recent graduates. Camps such as Camp Patisserie, Camp Energy, Camp Design, Camp CSI, Camp Med, Camp Trades and Camp Technology present specific careers by immersing interested students in the technologies and skills fundamentals to the field through classroom projects and lab time. In the past, participants have investigated a mock crime scene, drawn blood from a mannequin arm, created an interactive e-advertising campaign, and built a Battle Bot for competition.

At PTI's summer camps, students learn alongside peers who share their interests and passions while meeting new friends and experiencing PTI's campus and student activities through a three-day residential experience.

PTI Visions and Voices Art Show Winners to be Announced

To recognize the extraordinary talents of high school students in Pennsylvania and surrounding states, and to provide these exceptional individuals a gallery venue to exhibit their work, PTI introduced Visions and Voices more than ten years ago. Since its inception, the show has grown in size and scope, permitting more students the chance to showcase their artwork, photography, filmmaking, drafting and interactive design. In 2011, PTI added scholarship opportunities for Visions and Voices participants.

PTI faculty and outside professionals judge show entries and determine award recipients in seven categories: Fine Art 2D, Fine Art 3D, Photography, Graphic Design, Drafting, Multimedia-Video and Multimedia-Web/Interactive. Top entries in each of these categories will be announced at a closing reception on April 12, with the winners receiving partial tuition PTI scholarships. The closing reception is free and open to the public, go to www.pti.edu for details.



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April 9 - 2014 PAACC Education Series Seminar "Grow Your Business With Email And Social Media 8 AM at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel

April 24 - After Hours "LIVE!" Networking Event featuring live music by the Kelly Burgos & Doug Wilkin Duo, 5:30 - 8:30 PM at the DoubleTree by Hilton Green Tree

May 2 - 2014 PAACC Education Series Seminar "Stress-less Prospecting," 8 AM at Courtyard by Marriott Pittsburgh Settlers Ridge

May 16 - Meet Your Energy Neighbors Series 7:30 AM at the Embassy Suites

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Ribbon Cuttings and Milestones

February 19 - Walnut Grill / Collier Township



On February 19, Walnut Grill in Collier Township enjoyed their official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Chamber Ambassadors.

February 12 - Atlantic Aviation - 25 years



Atlantic Aviation enjoyed their 25-year Milestone Ceremony with Chamber Ambassadors on February 12.

March 5 - Bahama Breeze - 10 years



Bahama Breeze was joined by Chamber Ambassadors for their 10-year Milestone Ceremony on March 5.

February 20 - The Willows - 10 years



Chamber Ambassadors joined The Willows for their 10-year Milestone Ceremony on February 20.

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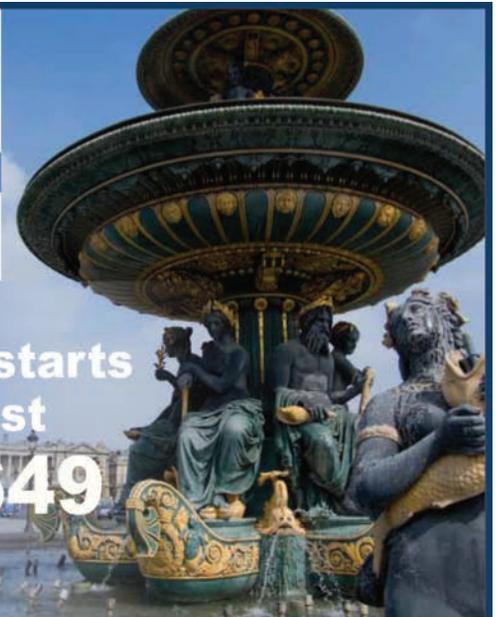
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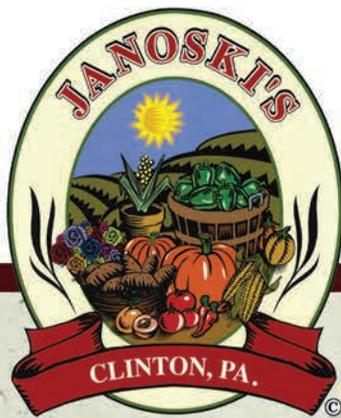
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**2nd
Annual**

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www.volantmillwinery.com

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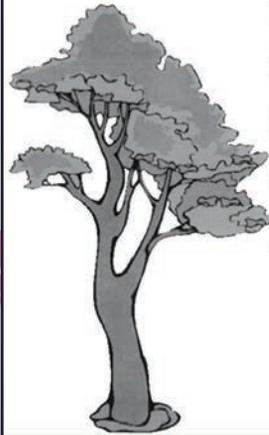
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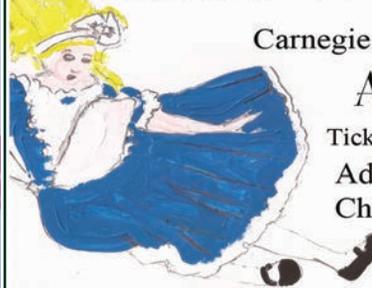
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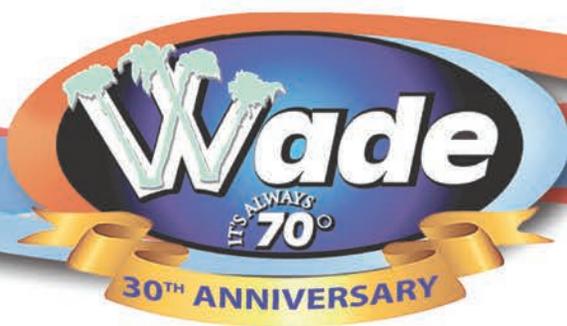
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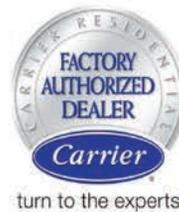


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Construction Update

The 1870s barn renovation is underway. Demolition of the downstairs interior walls added by the County are gone and the entire area has been opened up. This floor will house the reception area and a conference room. The roof is off the cinderblock addition and the walls were lowered to prepare for the new second floor. That area will house a bridal suite and restrooms adjacent to the large event space.

The Wedding Garden Wall awaits only its handmade wooden doors.



We are happy to share photos of the just-finished cedar shake roof on the log cabin.

The new roof is the first project in the rehabilitation of the fine old house once owned by Isaac Walker, veteran of the Revolutionary War and the Whiskey Rebellion.

An Award Winning Garden

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden has been selected to receive a 2014 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. The PA Department of Environmental Protection award recognizes Pennsylvania's most innovative and creative environmental problem-solvers.

Lend a Helping Hand!

Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m. - noon
Spring Cleanup

Sat. April 12, 1 p.m.

AMD Tour: Learn how Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is working on remediation of the acid mine drainage on our property.

Tues. April 15, 7-8 p.m.

Synergy in a Homegrown Garden; A guide to planning your own garden. Growing various herbs, spices, vegetables, and medicinal plants will show you the wonders of nature! We will discuss heirloom varieties for their benefits in unique flavor and shape. Heirlooms just have more style than conventional!

Sat. April 19 and Sun. April 27, 8 a.m.

Early Bird Walk; Bob Mulvihill has a 30 plus year career as an ornithologist in western Pennsylvania. Join us as he introduces us to the fascination and beautiful world of birds.

Visit the Garden! Please register via the website:
www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org

Good Friday Service
April 18th, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Services
April 20th
9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



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Preschool 4 year-old full day program

8:30am - 2:00pm (M/W/F)

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Monday-Friday 2:30 - 6:00pm

Call us today for
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Open House March 23rd
10:30am

Registration is now open for the
2014-2015 school year

Library News

VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will be available to complete PA State and Federal Tax forms for those qualifying residents. Appointments **REQUIRED, NO WALK-INS**. Go to the library web page for dates, times and additional information.

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2014 Writer's

Contest! Also thank you to everyone who entered! We were blown away with some fantastic stories! Check them out on the Library's Homepage.

Adult Winner: Heather Blake, "I Am Become Death"

Teen Winner: Miala Palaima, "DNA"

Tween Winner: Andrew Allen, "The Blue Ruby"

Look on the homepage for the list of Honorable Mentions.

Money Smart Week Programs

Look for special programs the week of **April 6-12**.

Contact: Heather Blake, (724) 695-8150, blakeh@einetnetwork.net. Register online.

All Ages

Chess Club, Wednesdays, April 16, 30, 6-7 p.m., chess club is for players of all ages and skill levels. Chess boards provided. Register online.

The Clay Café, Mother & Child, Sunday, April 27, 2-2:30 p.m., The Clay Cafe of Sewickley, will be here to help us celebrate Mothers Day. Bud vases will be painted here at the library, then taken back to The Clay Cafe, where they will be fired and will be ready for pick up at the library within 12 days. Fee: \$10 each Bud Vase, register online.

Adults and Older Teens

Coupon Exchange, Tuesdays, April 8, 22; May 13, 27 6 p.m., Grab your coupons (even those that have expired) and join us at the library where we will clip, swap, and sort.

Yoga, Saturday, April 12, 9:15 a.m. and March 8, 10 a.m.,

Family Yoga, Saturday, April 12, 10:30 a.m., Kristen from Yoga H'om will host an hour-long session. \$5 fee, register online.

Anime/Manga Club, Tuesday, April 22, May 27, 6 p.m.

Explore this format of art and pop culture.

Dreams, Thursday, April 24, 6-7 p.m., Adults, the wisdom gained in dreams can bless all aspects of your life. Everyone has their own personal window to heaven through dreams. Let us help show you how to gaze through it. Contact: Donna Hospodar (724) 573-1586. Register online.

The Cookbook Club, Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m., this month's choice is Giada de Laurentiis' "Giada's Feel Good Food: My Healthy Recipes and Secrets." Be sure to register you and your recipe, in order for us to keep track of who is making what and also to keep members from choosing the same dish. Registration required, register online.

Author Visit: David A. George, Sunday, May 18,

2-3:30 p.m., Asperger syndrome is often considered a high functioning form of autism. It can lead to difficulty interacting socially, repeat behaviors, and clumsiness. Join David A. George, author of "Be Unique Be You & LIVE!", and learn about his life with Asperger's.

Yarnies, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m., Calling all yarners! Do you like to crochet or knit? Come join our Yarnies! All skill levels welcome for conversation as you work on whatever project you bring.

Kids and Teens

Peep Contest, March 1-April 18: Create a scene from your favorite book or movie using marshmallow peeps! This is open to those in 12th grade and under. Submit dioramas to the children's room of the library before or up to April 18. For contest guidelines and great ideas for a diorama, go online to the library's website.

TEEN ART GALLERY, Now accepting teen art submissions for display in the Teen Department. Check out the website for more information.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 15, 6 p.m., Grades 7-12, would you like to make a difference in your community? Join the TAB! Help organize library events, and have fun! Upcoming meetings will be to work on summer events. Register online.

Read Along with BookFLIX, Mondays in April, 4:15 p.m., Ages K-third grade, Watch the story! Read the Book! We will be reading a fiction and non-fiction book along with a video from the Scholastic BookFlix program. Following the interactive storytime, we will have fun activities relating to the topic of the week. Register online.

Pre-School Storytime, Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, 2 p.m., ages three-five. A 45-minute, interactive storytime designed for children ages three to five years old. Children will hear a story, sing songs, and make a simple craft to take home. Weekly attendance is encouraged. (Sessions within the same week are the same.) Register online.

Books & Babies, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., ages birth - 24 months. Storytime that introduces children ages birth - 24 months to books and reading with engaging stories, songs and activities. This 20-minute interactive storytime helps parents/caregivers learn how to foster early literacy skills to prepare children for learning to read. Register online.

Baby Playgroup, Wednesdays, 9:50 a.m., Ages birth - 24 months, Bring your little one to storytime at **9:30 a.m.** and then stay for an extra half hour to socialize with other parents/caregivers while the little ones play.

Toddler Tales, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., ages two-three years, A very special 30-minute storytime for those aged two-three years with their parent/caregiver. Join us as we sing songs, learn rhymes, and read stories. Register online.

Toddler Playgroup, Wednesdays, 11 a.m., ages two-three years, Bring your toddler to storytime at **10:30 a.m.** and then stay for an extra half hour to socialize with other parents/caregivers and let the little ones play.

Lego Club, Wednesday, April 16, 4 p.m., Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. There will be building challenges and free play. Please DO NOT bring Legos from home, grades K-five.

Music and Movement, Thursday, April 17, 10:30 a.m., ages 3-5, You and your little one will learn delightful songs, dances and musical activities to enhance developmental concepts such as keeping a steady beat, timing coordination, listening, literacy and motor language skills. Register online.

PJ Storytime, Thursdays, 7 p.m., Wear your pajamas to this nighttime storytime! We will share stories, songs, and activities. Register online.

Outreach, At 3:30 p.m., library visits the YMCA afterschool program:

Wednesdays, April 23 and May 21 - Wilson Elementary
Thursdays, April 24 and May 22 - McKee Elementary



HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 9 am-8 pm
Friday: 9 am-4 pm
Saturday: 9 am-4 pm
Sunday: 1-5 pm*
*September-June

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SPRING COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.–Noon

Meet at Findlay Township Activity Center
310 Main Street/Imperial / LOWER LEVEL

Findlay and North Fayette Townships are joining together once again to organize a community clean-up day. Come out and donate a few short hours to help make our community a place we can be proud of.

We encourage any youth groups or high school students to come out and accumulate some community service hours. If you would like to volunteer, please call Darlene at the township office.

Bags, gloves and vests will be provided. If possible, volunteers need to provide their own transportation to and from their clean-up site.



COMPUTER & APPLIANCE RECYCLING

The Township will host this recycling event on
June 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

at the Findlay Township Municipal Building, 1271 SR 30, Clinton.

The following items will be accepted for FREE!

Central Processing Units (CPU'S), Laptop Computers, Keyboards, Mouses, Computer Monitors,
Radio Equipment, Telephone equipment,

Cell Phones, Desktop model copiers, Scanners,

Non-freon containing household appliances (washer, dryers, microwaves etc.), Lead acid automobile batteries,

Televisions (any size) LIMIT OF ONE TELEVISION PER VEHICLE.

Call Cynde at the Township office (724-695-0500 x 247) for additional information.

Findlay Spring Cleaning Events!

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP "SHRED IT" DAY

Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m.–Noon

Findlay Township Municipal Building Parking Lot / 1271 SR 30 / Clinton

Do you have too many documents to shred at home or do not have access to a shredder? If so, come to the Findlay Township Municipal Building and get rid of them for FREE. SHRED-IT, professional shredding company, will be here to take your sensitive documents and dispose of them in a safe and quick manner onsite.

Please note: This is for homes not businesses.

COMMUNITY TIRE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.-Noon
Findlay Township Public Works
1058 Road (off of SR 30 at light in Clinton)

Do you have old tires that you need to get rid of? Well, here is your chance to do so. The Independence Conservancy in conjunction with Findlay Township will be holding its annual tire collection. Last year's effort collected over 400 tires from residents and non-residents. This non-profit foundation has been restoring and protecting our local land and water since 1999. All of the tires are sheared, and rims are hauled away for recycling.

Donations for tire disposal:
\$2 per passenger car or light truck tire - rim size: 12", 13", 14", 15", 16", 16.5" & 17"
Additional \$2 for any of the above that are on a rim
\$20 per tractor trailer - 19" to 22" - No rims.
\$20 per farm tractor rear tire - No rims.

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Let's Re-educate Your Muscles!

Is a massage a luxury or a necessity? Many think that getting a massage is about lotions, candles, soft music, and getting whisked away to relaxation. Contrary to popular belief, massages can do so much more. Massage can re-educate muscles, especially after an injury, fall, or car accident.

Muscle re-education is muscle treatment following an injury, or a weakened state resulting from lack of use, so that the muscle is able to function normally again. This is crucial for proper rehabilitation, as muscles store memory of the initial trauma and will not heal on their own. The entire body works as one unit, and when one muscle is weakened, it puts more pressure on other parts of the body. Muscles will not heal, but compensate instead.

A massage can restore muscle mass, prevent disuse atrophy (muscle weakening from inactivity), enhance mind-body connection to re-educate, relax spasms, increase range of motion, and increase blood flow. The use of pain medication alone cannot cure all of these symptoms, but massage helps to restore the health of muscles and prevent new

injuries or issues occurring later.

Massage therapy relaxes muscle tissue to reduce painful contractions and spasms. Massage can also reduce nerve compression from muscles contracting and compressing the nerves around them. Once these muscles are relaxed, more nutrients can be restored, and the muscle can operate more efficiently. When combining massage therapy with chiropractic care, the healing rate of muscles can be accelerated. The two fields help maximize muscle re-education.

Is a massage relaxing? Yes. However, relaxation during a massage is also an involuntary nervous system response to massage techniques and touch. The difference is that when used properly with stretching and trigger points, treatment can reach the part of the muscle that needs to be corrected.



To find a new solution to chronic pain, call Allegheny Muscle Therapy and Massage at (724) 695-5300. We create a custom massage session that is specific to each patient's needs and begins to re-educate muscles.

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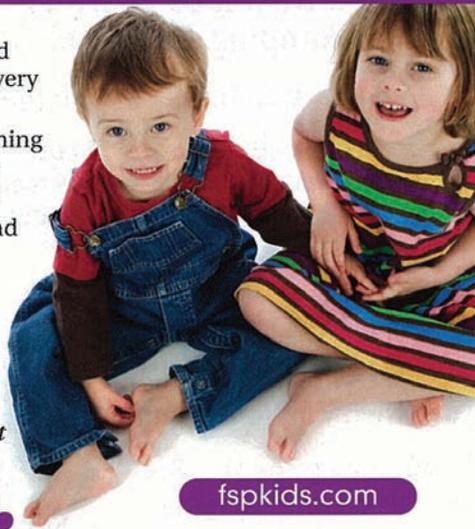
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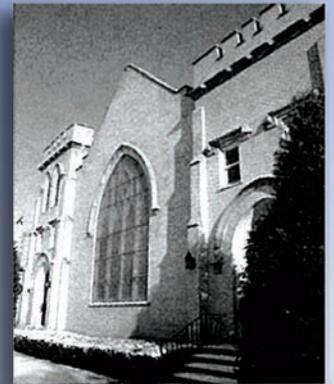
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Global Entry Kiosks Arrive at Customs for Paris Nonstop Flight

U.S. Customs and Border Protection will install two permanent Global Entry kiosks at Pittsburgh International Airport this spring. The Global Entry kiosks will allow expedited clearance for pre-approved, low risk, international travelers entering the United States. Arriving passengers will be able to process their entry into the United States through the kiosks, rather than waiting in line for a Customs and Border Protection officer. Passengers will be able to clear the primary inspection process in less than a minute at the kiosk, saving valuable time.

The two new kiosks will be installed before Delta Air Lines' Paris flight resumes on April 27. The kiosks will also be used for arriving passengers from the Caribbean, including existing flights from Punta Cana, Dominican Republic and Cancun, Mexico. Pittsburgh International Airport recently hosted a Global Entry enrollment event, where enrollment interviews were conducted for nearly 1,000 applicants.



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Now there is one less line at the airport! It is the exit lane of the airport parking lot. You can sign up and get a small electronic tag for your car to pay electronically for parking at Pittsburgh International Airport. If you have an E-Z Pass, it can be registered and used to pay electronically for your parking. You can even use a different credit card than the one you use for driving on toll roads to pay for parking. Go Fast Pass will email you an electronic receipt after each parking lot exit. You will never wait in line, because several exit lanes are available for the Go Fast Pass. Each time you park at the airport, your tag will record your entry time and charge your credit card for your parking fee upon exit. Apply online at GoFastPass.com. For E-Z Pass users: just bring your completed application and E-Z Pass into the parking offices located to the left of the airport parking toll plaza (24 hours a day) and get registered on the spot.

New Air Service

Southwest Airlines has added new, daily nonstop flights to Nashville International Airport from Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT). Other new flights in 2013 include Houston Hobby and West Palm Beach on Southwest Airlines, and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, Saturday-only nonstop service on Delta Air Lines from Pittsburgh.

Additionally, American Airlines has upgraded its aircraft on its Pittsburgh-Chicago route and launched new daily nonstop flights from Pittsburgh to Los Angeles.



Q the Music

Music filled the air at Pittsburgh International Airport as the Allegheny County Airport Authority and WQED Multimedia announced a new partnership to re-launch and enhance the music at Pittsburgh International Airport and promote the region's finest assets: the classical music scene in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Q the Music: Pittsburgh Classical Network was recently launched at the airport. The programming is provided digitally by WQED Multimedia from its Oakland studios to both Pittsburgh International Airport and Port Authority's T subway stations. The music is all classical, and all local!

"This new network will help to improve the passenger experience at Pittsburgh International Airport. Classical music has a soothing influence for our passengers and research shows that it can reduce stress," stated David Minnotte, Chairman, Allegheny County Airport Authority.

"The music heard throughout the airport and the subway speaks to our vibrant cultural life as a city and region and showcases it to millions of travelers each year. We are proud that it is produced at Classical QED 89.3 and will be heard at the airport and in the subway through Q the Music: Pittsburgh Classical Network," said Deborah Acklin, President and Chief Executive Officer of WQED Multimedia.

One traveler recently commented: "How wonderful it always is to get off of a crowded airplane and arrive in the Pittsburgh airport with classical music playing. It is so civilized and relaxing. Please continue it!" Pittsburgh is fortunate to have a locally owned-and-operated, 24-hour classical music station that can provide the finest

recordings of southwestern Pennsylvania musicians, including the world-renowned Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and university orchestras such as Duquesne and Carnegie Mellon.



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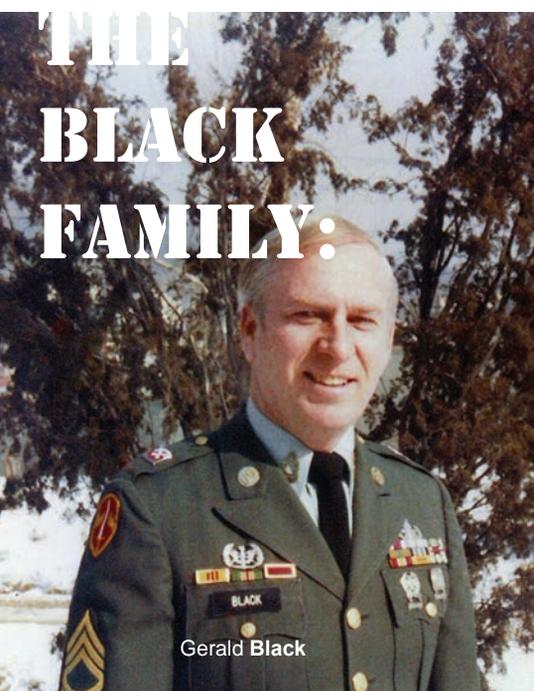
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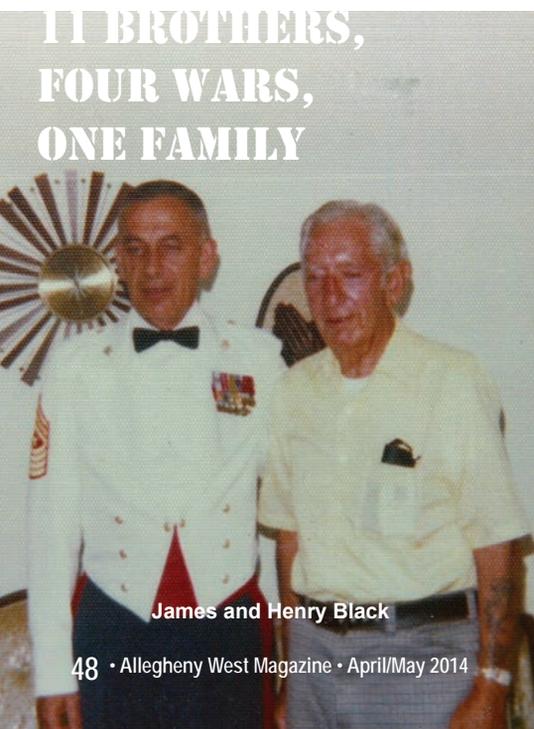




James Sr. and Hazel Black



Gerald Black



James and Henry Black

THE BLACK FAMILY:

11 BROTHERS, FOUR WARS, ONE FAMILY

On May 7, 1915, a German U-20 submarine fired a torpedo into the bow of the British ocean liner RMS Lusitania off the coast of Ireland. The ship, which was carrying goods, including munitions, and 1,959 passengers from New York to Liverpool, sank in under 20 minutes. Among the 1,195 people aboard who lost their lives were 128 Americans.

The sinking of the Lusitania tested America's position of noninvolvement in the war raging across Europe. From afar, America had avoided the costs of war while its industries profited from supplying the British war effort. Anti-German sentiment prompted by the Lusitania sinking, however, coupled with continued attacks on merchant vessels, led President Woodrow Wilson to push the U.S. to declare war on Germany in 1917. The following year, the U.S. sent a hastily assembled army to France, and with it a Clinton native named James Black.

Prior to the war, Black had served in the U.S. Navy. From June through July of 1918, he found himself countering a major ground offensive by German troops in northern France with the American Expeditionary Force.

Alongside French forces, Black fought in the battle of Belleau Wood, the Second Battle of the Marne, and at Cheateau-Thierry. He and allied forces faced both mustard gas and intense gun battles, as well as close-range bayonet fighting. At one point, Black was bayoneted in the stomach and went missing in action. He later turned up in a French hospital, where he recovered from his injuries.

Returning stateside, Black rejoined his wife, Hazel, who he had married in 1916. The couple settled in Imperial, where they raised 13 children, 11 of them boys. As the events and aftermath of WWI precipitated American involvement in continued conflicts in Europe and in Eastern and Southeast Asia, the Black brothers participated in every single one. Like their father, every single brother enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces, and of the six who engaged directly in overseas combat, all came home. Between them and their father, they served in four wars, accounting for 136 years of active duty in the Army, Navy and Marines.

★★★

By the time Jani Persin-Lampus found herself in the same room in Imperial with all 11 of her uncles in 1975, most had scattered across the country. Some had gone on from military service to become successful salesmen and businessmen. Others had remained in the military, with one on the cusp of being named to the highest rank among enlisted Marines. What brought them all back

was the passing of their mother.

"I just remember these very strong and noble men," says Jani.

She says she can't remember the brothers ever talking openly about their war experiences, echoing a sentiment expressed by a number of family members.

"It was just something understood among the brothers," she says.

By the time all the siblings returned home for that rare reunion, every single brother had enlisted and served in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. Two had been wounded in Vietnam, another in Korea, and another in WWII. War, though, hadn't been an easy thing to talk about, particularly in the midst and aftermath of the late 1960's anti-war movement.

"You just didn't even mention that you were Vietnam," says Ray, the second youngest and one of the last remaining brothers. "For ten years I didn't talk about the war."

Ray was drafted for his first tour in Vietnam three years after graduating from West Allegheny, where he played football and baseball and wrestled. He enlisted for a second tour to serve alongside four of his brothers. Two of them, Henry and Albert, were at that time climbing the ranks within the Marine Corps. Both had also served in Korea.

Any could have opted out from serving in Vietnam because of a rule that no more than one brother from any family had to serve at one time. Instead, Ray, along with his brothers Henry, Albert, Ken and Gerald, served at least eight tours of duty in Vietnam, earning at least three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson sent Hazel and James a personal letter commending them for the service of their five sons.

In an article in *The Redstone Rocket*, a military publication, journalist Ed Peters quotes Gerald as saying that it was hard to describe why the brothers volunteered to go to Vietnam. As for Gerald, Peters quotes him as saying, "I volunteered because they were there."

For Ray, the impetus had as much to do with the example his brothers set.

"My brothers were my heroes," he says. "I get chills when I say that."

★★★

Eighteen years after James returned from France, he and Hazel found themselves raising five children at the height of the Great Depression. For a time, James had supported the family with a good paying job as a railroad conductor. By the mid 1930's, though, he was inventing ways to make money. That included farming vegetables to



The Black Family in 1975:
Back row: Albert, Ken.
Middle row: Janet, James Sr., Virginia,
 James Jr., E.J., Gerald.
Front row: Joe, Ron, Jack, Henry, Bobby.

sell in Pittsburgh and hauling coal foraged from slag heaps. In the book “Uncommon Men,” which profiles 11 sergeants major of the Marine Corps, author John C. Chapman relates Henry’s accounts of growing up in the Depression-era household, and skipping school to pick coal to sell for money.

Janet Fairbanks, one of the two girls in the family, recalls a modest but by no means desperate existence.

“Everyone worked,” she says. “We were well fed and taken care of. We didn’t know we were poor. And no matter what, our mother always made sure there were meals on Sunday.”

Like many families, the Blacks at times struggled through the Depression era, but by the 1940’s they owned a restaurant in Imperial along Route 30 named the B&B Waffle Shop. They later sold the building to the Nazarene Church. As with the family’s other ventures, the siblings pitched in and worked. One of the brothers, Albert, met a young waitress there named Lucy, who he would marry after returning from serving in WWII.

★★★

As the U.S. was once again being drawn into war in Europe, Jim, the oldest son, became the first to enlist and serve in the Signal Corps. Frank, the second oldest son,

followed soon after, enlisting in the Merchant Marines. Elmer, the Black’s third oldest, enlisted and was stationed on a PT boat in the South Pacific, until a bullet ricocheted off his machine gun, lodging itself in his cheek. He would later receive a Purple Heart and a medical discharge.

Elmer’s widow, Marian, says that she recalls her late husband saying that they had been intercepting ammo drops from Japanese airplanes, which had been trying without success to target the smaller boats with their guns. When the boat came under a spray of fire, either from ashore or the air, it crippled the boat and killed its captain. Marian says her late husband recalled U.S. soldiers back ashore initially mistaking him for dead and loading him onto a truck of corpses.

“His buddies saw that and said, ‘get him off of there, he’s alive,’” she says. “They took him to a hut and patched him up. A couple days later they found out the bullet was still in his jaw. By that time he had lockjaw.”

It was a condition he would suffer the rest of his life.

Albert, the fourth oldest son, enlisted in the Navy. After two years, he transferred to the Marines. When Albert returned home wearing his Marine uniform, it caught the eye of his younger brother, Henry.

Previously, Henry had tried to follow

his brothers by enlisting during the war, at the age of 16. Still a student at Findlay High School, he’d failed to get his parents’ permission. A few months after Albert’s visit, Henry enlisted in the Marines at the age of 19. He would eventually become the seventh sergeant major of the Marine Corps in U.S. history.

“He was very smart in high school. His attitude about everything was, do the best you can,” says his sister Virginia Persin. “He went in saying that he would be sergeant major of the Marine Corps.”

★★★

Two years after Henry joined the Marines, the Korean People’s Army invaded South Korea. Henry, along with brothers Albert and Ken, were among the U.S. forces sent to intercede.

Initially assigned to taxi around a battalion supply officer, according to Chapin, Henry demanded a switch to the front lines with a rifle company. While on patrol, his unit came under intense fire at Majon-ni. A 21-year-old corporal at the time, Henry earned his first Bronze Star for evacuating wounded Marines under heavy fire, and against the urging of a battalion surgeon, returning to rescue more.

Not long after, Henry earned a Silver Star while defending a Direct Air Support Center at Hagaru-ri. As Chinese (Cont. on pg. 50)



Jack Black



James Black, Sr.



Elmer "EJ" Black



James Black, Jr.



Frank Black



Al Black

forces closed in, Henry made ammo trips back through advancing enemy lines. His Silver Star citation, according to Chapin, notes an "absolute disregard for his own personal safety."

Hagaru-ri had played an important role as UN Forces pushed north through the snowy mountains around the Chosin Reservoir. As Chinese forces entered the conflict, however, UN Forces found themselves overwhelmed and forced to retreat in a long, drawn-out breakout. Albert's 7th Marine Regiment played a critical role securing the breakout route, but came under heavy fire. On December 7, Albert was wounded by a bullet that shattered his collarbone. He was subsequently rescued, but lost part of his collarbone.

★★★

Much like during WWII, the Korean War depleted the workforce manning Pittsburgh's steel industry, which proved to be of vital importance to America's national security and war efforts. During this time, Janet found work at the J&L Steel Company plant, driving a tractor and pulling tin coils off shears. Her mother, similarly, had worked at one point during wartime as a welder. She says she worked for a year and a half at the job, alongside many area women.

"When the men were away, we took over the jobs, and when they returned, we gave them up," she says.

During the peacetime following the Korean War, Albert and Henry continued to rise through the Marine Corps ranks. At the same time, another of the brothers, Jack, enlisted in the Marines and was stationed on an aircraft carrier in the Coral Sea. After dropping out of high school in the ninth grade, Jack had tried to enlist before he was of age, not unlike Henry. His widow, Beverly, says that recruiters knew the family and knew Henry, however, and turned him away. Once he was of age, Jack did enlist, and served for four years. Afterward, he went back to high school at Aliquippa, completing all four years and earning his degree. He went on to complete two years of college at Penn State University.

By the time the U.S. began drafting soldiers to send to Vietnam, the Black's next youngest

son, Gerald, was working at the J&L Steel Plant in Pittsburgh. Ray describes Gerald as intelligent and artistic. He had been offered a scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh, but instead worked to help support the family. He was drafted, and during basic training volunteered for another year. At the end of that term he went back to work at J&L, but reenlisted again after six months. He served with an explosive ordnance disposal detachment.

"He was a booby trap expert," says Ray.

He was also awarded a Purple Heart.

Along with Gerald, Ray recalls getting to see all of his brothers in Vietnam, except for Ken, who was stationed near Saigon in the Mekong Delta. Members of the direct and extended family could say little about Ken's service record, other than he made a career out of the Army. Ray says he served for over 20 years, and was wounded at least twice. Prior to Vietnam, he and Janet say that Ken worked in Army intelligence in China, and nearly died when he was bit by a coral snake. Ray says that during Vietnam Ken served with the 25th Tropic Lightning Division, which played a critical role in Cambodia and defending Saigon during the Tet offensive.

Ray was drafted three years after graduating high school and stationed in Germany, France, and finally, Vietnam. He reenlisted, serving altogether two tours of duty over 26 months with the 39th Ranger Battalion and 51st ARVN. He was stationed in Hoi-An, Quamnam sector, at an outpost about 25 clicks south of Da'Nang.

As a sergeant PRC-15 radio operator, Ray served as squad leader. From their outpost, he advised South Vietnamese and called in air strikes. He remembers Viet Cong using their telephone pole as a guide-in for their mortars. One day, Ray and a convoy responded to a nearby USAID base that they had witnessed taking mortars. Finding dead marines and 50 dead Viet Cong, they evacuated both military and civilian personnel. Ray received a Bronze Star.

★★★

On May 29, 1975, just months after that reunion between all the Black siblings, the family again reunited in Washington,

D.C. At a Ceremony in front of the Marine Barracks, Clint Puckett, sixth sergeant major of the Marine Corps, passed the ceremonial Sword of Office to the seventh, SMMC Henry Black. Chapin writes that Henry's confrontational style within the ranks suggested his appointment had less to do with political maneuvering than his stellar professional achievement.

In a second tour of duty in Vietnam, Henry had been recommended for a Legion of Merit and awarded his second and third Bronze Stars. Stateside, he'd risen through the ranks, serving both as an instructor and recruiter. He would later be awarded a Legion of Merit.

Albert, meanwhile, had risen to the post of master gunnery sergeant during Vietnam, making him the technical expert in his field. He had also been awarded a second Purple Heart. He had retired in 1970, but gone back to work at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro as a court reporter. It was a job he would hold until retiring again in 1980. By that time, the Black's youngest son, Bobbie, had followed in the footsteps of his older brothers, becoming the fourth to enlist in the Marines.

The otherwise joyous occasion of witnessing Henry's inauguration was cut short, however, when Ron, the third youngest brother, collapsed during the ceremony. He passed away shortly thereafter at Washington Hospital from complications related to cancer.

Ron's widow, Patty Kerr, says she remembers a good-natured family man whose spirits, despite almost 10 cancer-related surgeries, never dampened. Ron had enlisted and served on a reconnaissance tugboat in intercostal waterways on the Potomac River. Patty says that during their honeymoon they went to Virginia, and she remembers taking a trip out on one of the boats.

"He was proud of his brothers," she says.

Immediate and extended members of this large family with Clinton roots echo that sentiment when asked about their husbands, fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers and uncles. As America's conflicts called for soldiers, the Black brothers answered, both for adventure and a better life, and because it was something they needed to do. 🇺🇸

NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIP CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

North Fayette Township is accepting resumes for the part time position of Customer Service Representative.

This new position will provide information to the general public or other governmental agencies by telephone or in person; answers inquiries or requests and resolves complaints and problems. Operates main switchboard for Township offices by answering incoming calls and routing to proper person or department. Accepts utility and other payments, provides and accepts applications for permits and programs.

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- One or more years of responsible related experience in direct customer service, reception and/or cash handling.
- Or any equivalent combination of education, experience, and training that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Preference will be given to North Fayette Township residents.

Please send resume to employment@north-fayette.com. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

News from Heritage Valley Health System

Heritage Valley Heart and Vascular Center Opens Acute Cardiac Care Center

Heritage Valley Heart & Vascular Center has opened an Acute Cardiac Care Center at its Beaver location. The Acute Cardiac Care Center enables patients to have immediate access to a cardiologist for symptoms such as shortness of breath, high or low blood pressure, slow or fast heart rate, or palpitations. The Center is open to patients established with a Heritage Valley physician.

"It is important in today's health care environment to offer our patients access to specialty care and hopefully reduce emergency room visits and admissions," said Richard Begg, MD, FACC, cardiologist at Heritage Valley Heart & Vascular Center. "Our goal for the Center is to provide quality acute cardiac services in an efficient and caring outpatient environment."

The Acute Cardiac Care Center is open 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (724) 728-3302. Walk-in patients are also welcome at the Center during hours of operation.

"The increased accessibility to cardiac services through the new Acute Cardiac Care Center is part of Heritage Valley's overarching strategy in the community," added Dr. Dan Brooks, Heritage Valley Health System Vice President for Community Health. "The Health System's increased focus on quality, cost and access have led to Heritage Valley's Medical Neighborhoods, ConvenientCare walk-in clinics, and expanded physician practice office hours. The Acute Cardiac Care Center is another piece in the puzzle."



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Easter Services

Palm Sunday
April 13
 Maundy Thursday
April 17
 Good Friday
April 18
 Easter Sunday
April 20

The Bible Chapel, located at PTI, Easter Sunday, **9 a.m.-10:45 a.m.**, childcare available for both services for newborn to 3 years, (724) 941-8990.

Clinton Wesleyan Church, Good Friday service, **7 p.m.**, Easter Sunday, **10:45 a.m.**, (724) 695-7076.

Coraopolis United Methodist Church, Good Friday, **7:30 p.m.**, Easter Sunday, **8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.**, (412) 264-3727.

Cross Connections Alliance Church, Good Friday service, **7:30 p.m.**, Easter Sunday services, **9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.**, (412) 926-2453.

First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights, Maundy Thursday, **7 p.m.**, service including the Lord's Supper, Easter Sunday services, **8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.**, (412) 921-6153.

Genesis Church - Doubletree Hotel, 8402 Univeristy Blvd., Moon Twp., Good Friday, **7 p.m.**, Community Good Friday Service; Easter Sunday, **10 a.m.**, Resurrection Sunday Service, (412) 264-8665.

Hebron Presbyterian Church, Maundy Thursday service, **7 p.m.**, Good Friday Service, **7 p.m.**, Easter Sunday, **11 a.m.**, (724) 899-2276.

McDonald Presbyterian Church, Easter Sunday, **10:45 a.m.**, free nursery during service, (724) 926-8561.

Montours Presbyterian Church, Lenten Services every Wednesday at **7 p.m.** in the chapel until **April 16**, Palm Sunday, **11 a.m.** with the passing of palms, Maundy Thursday, **7 p.m.** with communion, Good Friday, **7 p.m.** with the stripping of the church, Easter Sunday, **11 a.m.**, (412) 787-1050.

Noblestown United Methodist Church / McDonald United Methodist Church, Easter Sunrise Service, **8 a.m.** at McDonald UMC, traditional worship, **9:30 a.m.** at Noblestown UMC, **11 a.m.** at McDonald UMC, (724) 693-2755.

The Presbyterian Church of Coraopolis, Palm Sunday Worship Services: **April 12, 6 p.m.**, 30-minute contemporary service, Palm Sunday, **11 a.m.**, traditional worship followed by an Easter egg hunt, Maundy Thursday communion service, **7:30 p.m.**, Good Friday, Community Cross Walk, **noon-1 p.m.**, begins and ends at the Presbyterian Church of Coraopolis, carry three crosses through the streets of Coraopolis, Easter Worship Services: **April 19, 6 p.m.**, "30@6" brief 30-minute Easter worship service, Easter Sunday, **11 a.m.**, traditional service, (412) 264-0470.

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Palm Sunday, **9 a.m.**, Good Friday tenebre, **7 p.m.**, Resurrection of our Lord Easter Service, **9 a.m.**, (412) 788-4513.

St. Columbkille Roman Catholic Church, Holy Thursday, The Mass of the Lord's Supper, **7 p.m.**; Good Friday, Liturgy, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Eucharist, **2 p.m.**, Vigil at Tomb service **7 p.m.**; Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass, **8:30 p.m.**; Easter Sunday masses: **7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon**, (724) 695-7325.

Valley Presbyterian Church, Maundy Thursday, **7 p.m.**, Good Friday, **7 p.m.**, Easter Sunday, **10:30 a.m.**, childcare available on Easter, (724) 695-0300.

West Ridge Christian Community Church, Easter Sunday, **9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.**, special children's services will be followed by an Easter egg hunt and a visit from the Backyard Petting Zoo, (724) 695-7500.

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An Estate Planning Checklist

What to check (and double-check) before you leave this world.

Create a will if you don't have one. A valid will may save your heirs from some expensive headaches linked to probate and ambiguity. A solid will drafted with the guidance of an estate planning attorney may cost you more than the will-in-a-box, but may prove to be some of the best money you ever spend.

Complement your will with related documents. Depending on your estate planning needs, this could include some kind of trust (or multiple trusts), durable financial and medical powers of attorney, a living will and other items.

Review your beneficiary designations. Who is the beneficiary of your IRA? How about your 401(k)? How about your annuity or life insurance policy? If you're not sure, it's probably a good idea to go back and check the documents to verify (or change) who the designated beneficiary is.

Create asset and debt lists. You should provide your heirs with an asset and debt "map" they can follow should you pass away, so that they will be aware of the little details of your wealth.

Think about consolidating your "stray" IRAs and bank accounts. This could make one of your lists a little shorter. Consolidation means fewer account statements, less paperwork for your heirs and fewer administrative fees to bear.

Let your heirs know the causes and charities that mean the most to you. Write down the associations you belong to and the organizations you support.

Select a reliable executor. That person should have copies of your will, forms of power of attorney, any kind of healthcare proxy or living will, and any trusts you create. In fact, any of your loved ones referenced in these documents should also receive copies of them.

Talk to the professionals. Do-it-yourself estate planning is not recommended, especially if your estate is complex enough to trigger financial, legal and emotional issues among your heirs upon your passing.

Gary Klobchar, Jr. may be reached at (724) 544-2489 or by filling out and mailing in the bottom portion of the below advertisement to: 4104 Cork Bocktown Road, Clinton, PA 15026

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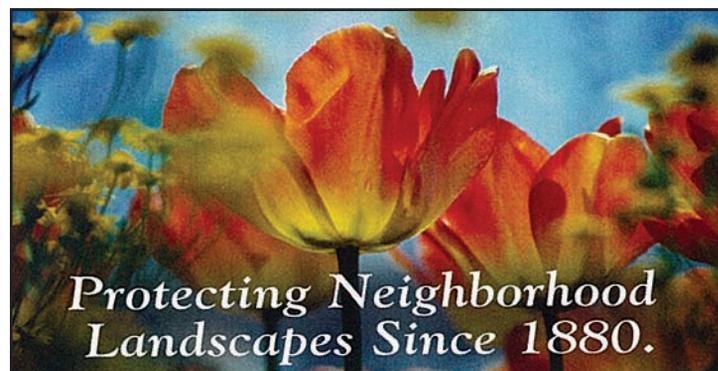
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Findlay Programs

Unless otherwise indicated, contact Darlene Larson for more information or to register, (724) 695-0500 x 246, dlarson@findlaytpw.org.

Water Aerobics

Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m., Wilson Elementary School, fun way to exercise with little impact on your muscle and skeletal systems, pre-register, payment due at first class, \$10 discount for attending both Monday and Wednesday classes, late joiner discount available, through May, Mondays, \$30/6 weeks, Wednesday, \$50/8 weeks.

"WALK Live" Classes in Findlay

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, Donna Kuzio opens doors to a better way of health and weight loss, \$5 per class, kuziofjr@gmail.com.

Adult Lap Swimming

Wednesdays through May, excludes April 16, 7:15-8:15 p.m., Wilson Elementary School Pool, adult lap swimming once a week this season, register at pool area, will continue as long as there is attendance, call if interested, \$2 per evening.

Garden Club

Meets third Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, Sue Peindl, (724) 350-9837.

Yoga for Beginners (and Beyond)

April 25 and 27, call for May dates, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, find out what benefit yoga can have on your whole body, \$5 per class, Master Julia Harvey of Imperial Tang Soo Do School, (724) 695-1976.

Seventeenth Annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 12, 11 a.m., Clinton Park, meet at Rainbow's End Playground parking lot, as many as 3,000 eggs may be hiding in the park, open to Findlay Township residents ages preschool through fifth grade, participants grouped according to age with prize eggs in each group, pre-school children receive goody bags from Easter Bunny, bring baskets to carry goodies.

AARP Safe Driver Class

April 30 and May 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Findlay Township Municipal Building Meeting Room, nation's first and largest classroom refresher course designed for motorists 55 and older, eight-hour course taught in two, four hour sessions over two days, refines existing driving skills and develops safe, defensive driving techniques, no tests involved, participants eligible to receive state mandated, multi-year discount on auto insurance premiums, husbands and wives must both attend to qualify for discount, class size limited, pre-registration required, (724) 695-0500 x 246, \$15 AARP members, non-members \$20.

Pavilion Rental 2014 Season

Findlay Township residents, businesses, and youth or adult groups: \$60 with \$25 refundable deposit, 2 separate checks; non-resident reservations, \$85 with \$25 refundable deposit, new pavilion tentatively available to rent in July, residents, \$100, \$175 with kitchen, non-residents \$150, \$250 with kitchen, \$100 refundable security deposit required, seats 150-165 with full kitchen facilities and nearby restroom, www.findlay.pa.us.

Time for Toddlers

April 14, 15, 28, 29, May 5, 6, 12, 13, June 2, 3, 16, 17, 10:15-11:15 a.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, bring children under four for an hour of movement, music, activities and snack, registration required, follows WA School District schedule for inclement weather, \$3 per session.

Scrapbooking Workshops

May 10, October 18, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, enjoy uninterrupted time while protecting your photos and memorabilia, bring tools and supplies, \$60 per event, includes lunch, dinner and beverages, registration and payment required, Michelle Koester, (724) 307-3333, michellekoestercm@comcast.net.

Minecraft Workshop

Findlay Township Activity Center, April 10 and May 1, 5-7 p.m., ages 8-12, \$30 per session, spend an evening overcoming survival and creative challenges in a Minecraft

world built by Hi-Tech Learning, learn how to collaborate, innovate, and problem solve while having a great time, students work together in one virtual world, does not teach students how to play.

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life: Pittsburgh West

May 9, 6 p.m. through May 10, 2 p.m., West Allegheny High School Stadium, donations to help raise funds for cancer research, treatment, and development, free to attend, to sign up, donate, or learn more, www.RelayForLife.org and search "Pittsburgh West."

35th Annual Parkway West Rotary Steak and Ale

May 28, 5-10 p.m., Parkway West Rotary Shelter in Clever Park, enjoy food, friendly conversation, games of chance with \$2,000 in prizes, steak, kielbasa, beer, tempting deserts and more, benefits Rotary charities, \$20, Marcy McKivitz, (412) 292-4140.

Cruisin in the Woodlands

June 6, (rain date June 13), 5-9 p.m., 13th Annual Findlay Township Car Cruise, hosted by Pittsburgh Classics, Antiques, Rods, and Specialties, food for sale and 50/50 raffle, DJ and assorted vendors, (724) 695-0500 x 246 for cancel info.

As a neighborhood based and community focused complimentary submission of informational school news from community groups, nonprofit organizations
info@awma

FOOT FACTS

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

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

Got the Bunion Blues?



Oakdale Foot & Ankle Center

101 Dixie Drive Oakdale PA (412) 787-8380 Fax: (412) 787-1099

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For more information on the events listed below, refer to Findlay's Ad on page 41.

Spring Community Clean Up
April 26, 9 a.m.-noon, meet at Findlay Township Activity Center.

Community Tire Collection Program
April 26, 9 a.m.-noon.

Findlay Township "Shred It" Day
June 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Findlay Township Municipal Building parking lot.

Computer and Appliance Recycling
June 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Findlay Township Municipal Building.

Imperial VFD Happenings
 For information on any of the events listed below, please call the fire department at (724) 695-8845.

Imperial VFD Bingo
May 5 and June 2, doors open at 5:30 p.m., kitchen at 6 p.m. and bingo starts at 7 p.m. sharp, Findlay Township Activity Center, package of 12 cards and 5 specials, \$25, extra cards and specials available at door, quickies and jackpots sold on floor, throw away cards used, bring a dobber.

Ongoing

Women's Business Network
First and third Tuesdays of each month, 7:30 a.m., upstairs at Giant Eagle Market District, provides personal and professional resources to advance the presence of aspiring and successful businesswomen, Cheryl Lieb, (412) 341-7667.

Western PA Kidney Support Group
second Sunday monthly, 2:30-4:30 p.m., King's Restaurant, Imperial, (724) 796-1603.

No Veteran Dies Alone
 Volunteers needed for one-of-a-kind program that provides companionship and assistance to veterans entering the final stages of life, Alan Morris, (412) 822-1861, alan.morris@va.gov.

2013-2014 West Hills Symphonic Band Season
 now in its sixth season of residency at West Allegheny High School, Stewart Morgan Auditorium, free admission, **May 4, 3 p.m.**, "The Heart of Spring," www.whsb.org.

Through May 1 McDonald Heritage Public Library Annual Spring Auction
 Ticket prices 2/\$1, 12/\$5, many desirable products have been donated with more to come, drawings and bake sale on May 1, donate baked goods at the library the day before or that morning, (724) 926-8400.



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publication, Allegheny West Magazine encourages ads, as well as informational (non-promotional) news items, and churches. Please submit via e-mail to: gazine.com.

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1:00PM Shotgun Start @ Quicksilver Golf Club
Scramble Format

\$100 per Golfer
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For more information & to register simply go to:
www.cherylfund.com/fundraisers-1/golf
 or call 412.508.9072

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 Call (724) 695-3968.

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John 3:3

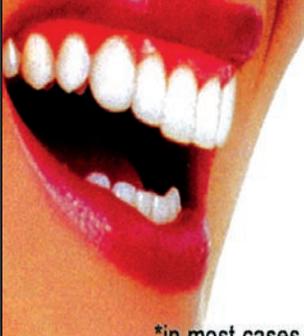
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**North Fayette
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For more information or to sign up for the senior citizen mailing list, contact North Fayette Parks and Recreation, (412) 788-4888 x 118, (724) 693-3118, rbrozovich@north-fayette.com.

Senior Programming
Silver Sneakers Splash
 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5 p.m.,
 Donaldson Elementary School, \$2,
 BlueCross/BlueShield members can use their cards.

Water Walking
 Monday through Thursday, 6-8 p.m., Donaldson Elementary School, \$2.

Pirates vs. Mets Game
 June 29, \$35, includes transportation.

"Play it Again Marvin"
 June 28, 8 p.m., at Heinz Hall.

Bingo
 Mondays, noon, community center.

Family Programming
Easter Egg Hunt
 April 12, 11 a.m., Donaldson Community Park, bring a basket, all ages, rain day April 13 at 1 p.m.

Family Swim
 Tuesdays at McKee Elementary,
 Thursdays at Wilson Elementary,
 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$4 adults, \$2 students.

**Games with
 West Allegheny
 Football Team**

Fridays at 6:30 p.m., the team plays games with P.A.L.S. program kids, community center.

**Amenities and
 Rentals**
**Township Picnic
 Pavilion Rentals**

residents bring proof of residency and alternate dates, \$75 Township Park, \$50 Donaldson Community Park, separate \$50 security deposit.

Hankey Farms Pool
 10% off early bird season passes available through April 30.

Community Center Rentals
 Gym and community room rentals available, call for available hours, starts at \$50 for two hours.

Learning Center at North Fayette
 Registration for fall now available, call (412) 737-4564.

Western Allegheny Friends to Enhance the Library Spring Book Sale
 May 15-17, during regular library hours, books sold at \$5 a bag except for newer books for \$3 apiece, \$1 DVDs and CDs, baskets, gift cards, chocolate chip cookies, benefits Western Allegheny Community Library summer reading program, volunteers welcome, set up on May 14, Lin, (412) 788-1599.

Join us for Easter Services:
MONTOURS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 3151 MONTOUR CHURCH RD. - RT. 22-30 EXIT
 412-787-1050
 www.montourschurch.org

Palm Sunday Services
 April 13 at 11:00 a.m.



Good Friday Service,
 April 18,
 7:00 p.m.



Maundy Thursday Service,
 Thursday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.
 with communion



Easter Service,
 Sunday, April 20
 at 11:00 a.m.
HE IS RISEN!!



West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

May 17, 5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. dinner, the Cornerstone at Tonidale, held to honor the athletic accomplishments of West Allegheny alumni at the secondary, post-secondary and professional levels, see pages 18-19 for inductees and info, supports P.A.L.S., \$35 individual, \$280 per table of 8, rbrozovich@north-fayette.com, (724) 693-3118.

Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall

300 Beechwood Avenue, Carnegie, PA 15106

Alice in Wonderland

April 11, 12, 8 p.m.; April 13, 2 p.m., Carnegie Performing Arts Center, Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall, tickets available at door, adults \$15, children/seniors \$12, (412) 279-8887.

Listen Locally: Chamber Music Series

April 28, 7:30 p.m., Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall, Matt Murchison Mutiny (euphonium, flute, piano, bass, drums), Lynne Cochran, Music Hall Director, (412) 276-3456 x 7.



Western Area YMCA

Be Healthy, Be Strong, Belong! Everyone is welcome at the Western Area YMCA. Stop by and check out what the Western Area Y has to offer. (195 Montour Run Road Coraopolis, 15108: 412-787-9622: www.westernarea-y.org)

Zumbini™

Monday evenings, 5:15-6 p.m., Wednesday afternoons, 1-1:45 p.m., Saturday mornings, 10:30-11:15 a.m. For children up to 5 years old, adults and their young children wiggle, sing, and learn for the ultimate bonding experience, enjoy cool Zumba® music packed with world rhythms and catchy, kid-friendly tunes created just for this program.

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Call to schedule an appointment. Add a healthy balance to your life with this Highmark program designed to help you drop 10 pounds or 10% of your body weight in 10 weeks.

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Insanity

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Ten & Under Tennis (Ages 4-10)

Tennis is a sport that gets kids moving, improves balance, agility and hand-eye coordination, and can teach self-confidence and self-assurance. Playing tennis, your child can make new friends in a safe, supportive environment. By getting your kids into the game you'll be opening a door to a lifetime of enjoyment!

Junior Tennis Clinics (Ages 11-17)

Junior clinics range from Level 1 through Level 4 and include specialty clinics, such as High School Boys Clinic, Middle School Beginner Clinic, and Junior Match Play. Check out the junior tennis programs in the new program guide on the website.

School Days Out

Pre-registration required, contact Andy Keaton, akeaton@ymcapgh.org. On days that school is closed, such as for breaks, teacher in-service, and snow days, a program will be provided at the Western Area YMCA on Montour Run Road from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (9 a.m.-6 p.m. if a closure is a snow day). The day will consist of fun activities, with games, sports, lunch, crafts, and some surprises.

Adult Tennis

Contact Mike Lucente at mlucente@ymcapgh.org. Ever think about trying tennis? Just want a great workout? Come and try Cardio Tennis. No experience required for this 60-minute party on the court! Combines upbeat music, fun tennis games, and fast feet drills to burn calories. Instructors keep you moving, smiling, and swinging.

Raccoon Creek State Park

Call (724) 899-3611 or email paadams@pa.gov to register. Unless otherwise noted, activities start at Wildflower Interpretive Center on U.S. Route 30.

Spring Flower Walk

Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m., spring has finally arrived and with it the long anticipated and spectacular spring wildflowers. Join park educators for a guided tour of these short-lived beauties.

Friends of Raccoon Creek Hiking Club

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., open to anyone interested in exploring Raccoon Creek State Park. The hike will begin at the Camp Trail Parking Lot on Cabin Road. Please dress appropriately and bring water, food, and rain gear if needed.

Raccoon Lake Night Paddle and Campout

Friday-Saturday, April 25, 7 p.m.-April 26, 9 a.m., pre-registrations on-line by April 21 required. No organized groups. Contact paadams@pa.gov for questions. Details will be sent once registered.

Friends of Raccoon Creek Art Club

Sunday, April 27, 2-5 p.m., from beginner to skilled artist. Please dress for nature walks and bring a notebook/sketch pad.

Bluebirds of Raccoon Creek

Sunday, May 18, 2-3:30 p.m., join Raccoon Creeks Bluebird Trails Coordinator Scott Parry for an informative program.

Frankfort Mineral Springs Tour

Saturday, May 24, 10-11:30 a.m., meet at the Mineral Springs parking lot on Route 18. The guided tour will look back at the people and events that shaped the history of this once famous area. Be prepared for rough uneven terrain that might be wet. Free program.

Ferns, Fronds and Fiddleheads

Monday, May 26, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., come and discover the fascinating ferns and other flowerless plants within the Wildflower Reserve. Free program.



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BY JOCELYN GRECKO

Founded in Friendship-

TC House Story & Groundbreaking

Born and raised in the West Allegheny community, Chris McGough has found his way into the hearts of its people. Whether it's his involvement in West Allegheny School District, serving on the altar at St. Columbkille Parish, or assisting the WA Indians' head football coach, Chris has always called this community "home." He, in turn, has inspired them to build a home for individuals like him living with Down syndrome.



LEFT: Chris McGough looks over the house plans with a group of contractors at Rosedale Tech.
BELOW: Rosedale Technical Institute President Dennis Wilke (far left) with the TC House Board of Directors, contractors, donors, and others following a strategy session. Rosedale has committed students to install HVAC and electrical throughout the house, while numerous additional contractors and individuals have dedicated their time, money and talents.
PHOTOS BY SARAH HUGHEY.



We Have a House to Build...

Tyler Palko remembers it like it was yesterday. While the then-rising football star wanted to help lead his team to victory, he was more concerned about how he could help make a difference in the lives of others, including his friend McGough, now a special needs, 25-year-old adult.

While some might view McGough's disability as a setback, he, his family, and friends have always seen the daily challenges presented to him as an opportunity to grow, learn, and be thankful for the wonderful relationships that have formed while learning to embrace differences and help one another. In McGough's 25 years, he has defied the odds and lives an active and productive life in inspiring fashion.

"As a parent, you always want your child to have the perfect life," said Steve, Chris' father.

He explained that when he and his wife, Linda, found out that Chris was diagnosed with Down syndrome, they feared how he would be treated because of it.

"But then, you stop and think, aren't we all different?" he said. Embracing their son, they worked to create the best possible environment for him to succeed. It just so happened that the best

possible environment happened to be right where they lived on Timberglen Drive, in the company of their neighbors, the Palko's. Steve recalled how Bob Palko was a gym teacher at Wilson Elementary School.

"[Bob] greatly helped build Chris' motor skills from an early age," said Steve.

As the years went by, wherever Bob and his son Tyler played football, Chris was always right alongside them.

Living with Down syndrome presents many challenges, among the most difficult are the fear of being treated differently and struggling to gain independence. Adults living with Down syndrome are often forced to live in group homes outside of their chosen or desired location - places where they might not feel comfortable or like an outsider.

Anyone who knows Chris knows he is anything but an outsider. He sports his red and grey West Allegheny colors with pride, always wears a warm smile on his face, and seizes opportunities to help others. It's not Chris' disability that makes him different; it's his ability to find hope and

happiness each day. He graduated from West Allegheny High School in 2007 and the St. Anthony's Program at Duquesne University. Today, he enjoys working as a valued member of the team at ACHIEVA, an organization that serves individuals with disabilities. One of the most special things about Chris is that he



ABOVE: JAD Contracting pours the concrete footers for the house.
PHOTO BY G. PAUL DEBOR.

inspired an organization dedicated to helping others.

In 2005, Tyler and a group of family friends formed TC House, a nonprofit organization with the mission to build a group home where individuals with Down syndrome can live independently in a family community, as a part of the community.

“Chris has taught me more than I could ever imagine – more than I could ever teach him,” Tyler said, explaining how he was inspired by Chris to form TC House. “TC House is a big byproduct of the West Allegheny community... Between golf outings and donations, it’s great to see everyone come together for the cause.”

Bob Pompeani, KDKA sports director and friend of the TC House, has been emceeing the event since its inception nine years ago.

“Everyone comes together to support a great cause,” he said. “Each year registration fills up quickly. The support is a testament to Tyler and Chris’ friendship... They still have a long way to go and we are looking forward to the outing again this year.”

On March 1, 2014, after years of planning, fundraisers, and donations, Tyler, the TC House Board of Directors, friends, family, and Findlay Township supervisors broke ground at the site of the house on Oakwood Lane in a new Maronda Home Development in Imperial.

Once completed and fully staffed, the house will be home to four individuals with Down syndrome. Working with ACHIEVA, the TC House’s Board of Directors will identify candidates for residence in the house. Chris is a candidate for residency.

The house’s construction is being overseen thanks to the generosity, time, and donations

of Mike Cain at Mascaro Construction, and Jeff Dezulovich at JAD Construction. Jennifer Lindemuth has also been a driving force, donating her time and talents overseeing the house’s interior design. The work needed to build and furnish the house also has been undertaken by members of the community, including Ray Tomnay, the project’s masonry sub-contractor, Rosedale Technical Institute, Rasmus Floors, and many others.

Mike and Jennifer explained that while the organization raised substantial funds for construction, seizing on opportunities to receive donations has been helpful, and in turn created instructional opportunities. Rosedale Technical Institute donated students and staff to install electrical and HVAC throughout the house.

“They’re going to get a lot of hands-on training, and it will give us a lot of help along the way,” said Jennifer.

“When people can learn from this and provide, it’s a win-win for everybody,” explained Mike.



ABOVE: Findlay supervisors Janet Craig, Tom Gallant and Ray Chappel with TC House board members and supporters at the groundbreaking on March 1, 2014.

BELOW RIGHT: Jeff Dezulovich of JAD Contracting reviews the foundation corners with surveyor Jim Sperdute.

BELOW LEFT: Masonry Contactor Ray Tomnay, along with Mike Tomnay and Tim Glunt (right) laying cinder block. PHOTOS BY G. PAUL DEBOR.

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LEVEL
DOOR



With the momentum in their favor post groundbreaking, the team explained that they still have a long way to go before finishing the house this coming fall. They will continue to rely on donations, time, and generosity from the community to make the house a reality.

Once complete, the house could become a prototype for future group homes.

Although the structural foundation for the TC House may have just been laid, the friendships that created its impetus formed years ago. The team hopes to have the house move-in ready by Thanksgiving. Its residents will then have all that much more for which to be thankful.

To learn more about the TC House, please visit the website: www.TCHouse.org. The annual fundraiser for the project, the 10th Annual TC House Golf Outing, will take place on June 27 at The Club at Shadow Lakes. *Allegheny West Magazine* will continue to share house construction updates.

Our Advertisers

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 Allegheny West Eye Care, p. 40, 724.695.3371, www.alleghenywesteyecare.com
 The Bible Chapel, p. 10, robinson.biblechapel.org
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 Business Legal, p. 20, 724.693.0588, www.businesslegal.net
 Carnegie Performing Arts Center, p. 16, 412.279.8887, www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com
 Carousel Kennels, p. 16, 724.683.0794, www.carouselkennel.com
 Cargan Landscaping, p. 35, 724.218.1387, www.carganlandsculpting.com
 Cemeteryscape, p. 38, 412.279.0542, www.cemeteryscape.net
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 Clinton Wesleyan Church, p. 54, 724.695.7076, www.clintonwesleyan.org
 Covenant Family Church, p. 56, www.covenantfamily.cc
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 North Fayette Township, Summer Camp Counselor/Lifeguard, p. 11, Building Custodian, p.8, Customer Service Representative, p. 51, 412.788.4888, www.north-fayette.com
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 Weirton Medical Center- Cardiology, p. 2, 304.797.6325, www.weirtonmedical.com
 Weirton Medical Center- Imperial Primary Care, p. 3, 724.414.5020, www.weirtonmedical.com
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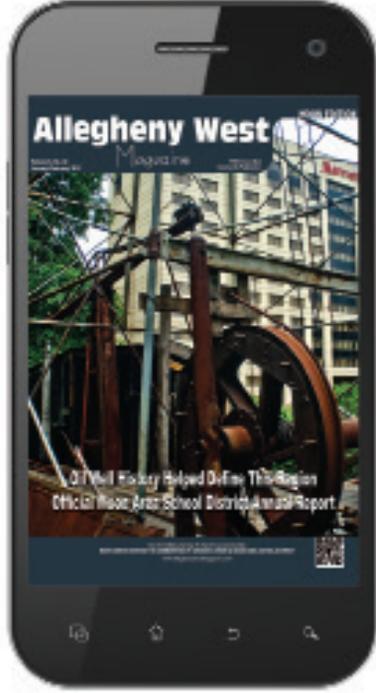
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**"She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbor:
'Winter is dead'."**

**~A.A. Milne,
When We Were Very Young**

Community Connections

MUNICIPALITIES

Findlay Township
1271 Route 30, Clinton, PA 15026
(724) 695-0500, www.findlay.pa.us

North Fayette Township
400 North Branch Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 788-4888, www.north-fayette.com

Oakdale Borough
6115 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-9740, www.oakdaleborough.com

McDonald Borough
151 School Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-8711, www.mcdonaldboro.com

PUBLIC & PRIVATE SCHOOLS K-12

West Allegheny School District
600 Donaldson Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 695-3422, www.westasd.org

Parkway West Career & Technology Center
7101 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 923-1772, www.parkwaywest.org

This list includes only those public and private schools located within the municipalities served by the West Allegheny Edition of Allegheny West Magazine

CHURCHES

Church of The Living Christ
220 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-7188, www.cotlc.com

Church of the Nazarene
(moved to Florence) 1080 Steubenville Pike, Burgettstown, PA 15021
(724) 947-9223, www.nazarene.org

Clinton UP Church
25 Wilson Road, Clinton, PA 15026
(724) 695-7993

Clinton Wesleyan Church
1022 Clinton Road, Clinton, PA 15026
(724) 695-7076

Covenant Family Church
P. O. Box 15533, Pittsburgh, PA 15244
(724) 263-7147, www.covenantfamily.cc
(meets at Courtyard Pgh. Airport)

Cross Connections Alliance Church
201 Valley Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-2453, www.crossconnectionsac.org

Crossroads Methodist Church
1000 Crossroads Drive, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 494-9999, www.crossroadsumc.org

First Baptist Church
141 N. McDonald Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-4216

Hebron Presbyterian Church
1767 Route 30, Clinton, PA 15026
(725) 899-2276

Independent Bible Presbyterian Church
112 Dempe Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-3355

Montours Presbyterian Church
3151 Montour Church Road, Oakdale, PA 15071,
(412) 787-1050, www.montourchurch.org

Noblestown United Methodist Church
7313 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-2755

Noblestown United Presbyterian Church
7427 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-8250

Oakdale United Presbyterian Church
62 Hastings Avenue, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-8950

Rivers of Living Waters Church
7120 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 787-1888, www.rolwc.tripod.com

Resurrection Lutheran Church
7600 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 788-4513

St. Columbkille Church
103 Church Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-7325, www.saintcolumbkilleparish.org

St. Patrick's Church
7322 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-9260, www.saint-patrick-parish.com

The Church of Jesus Christ
57 Moore Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 899-3935

The Bible Chapel
@ Pittsburgh Technical Institute
(724) 941-8990, ext. 124
www.robinson.biblechapel.org

Valley Presbyterian Church
237 Main Street, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-0300, www.valleychurchweb.com

West Ridge Christian Community Church
100 Gorwood Drive, Coraopolis, PA 15108
(724) 695-7500, www.wrccc.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

AI-Anon, West A area, (412) 683-4279

American Legion Post 171 Oakdale,
(724) 693-8759

American Legion Post 335 Imperial,
(724) 695-0491

Boy Scouts-Grtr. Pgh. Council-Frontier,
(412) 325-7971 or 7995

Faith in Action, (724) 921-0027

Findlay Athletic Assn., (412) 874-9348

Girl Scouts WPA, (724) 774-3553

Heritage Public Library-McDonald, (724) 926-8400

Kiwanis Club of the Pittsburgh Airport Area,
PAAKiwanis@gmail.com

Lions Club Imperial, (724) 513-7616

Masonic Lodge #669, (724) 693-8274

McDonald Area Redevelop. Assn., (724) 926-4617

Meals on Wheels-W.A., (724) 695-0634

Montour Run Watershed Assn., www.mrwa.info

Montour Trail Council, (412) 257-3011

Montour Valley Grange, (724) 695-0481

Mothers of Preschoolers-
Crossroads, (412) 494-9999

Mothers of Preschoolers-Hebron, (724) 899-2276

North Fayette Athletic Assn., (412) 580-0655

North Fayette Garden Club, (724) 693-8413

Oakdale Youth League, (724) 693-8951

Rotary - Parkway West, (412) 787-5280

Senior Citizen Groups:
- **Findlay Township,** (724) 695-0500
- **North Fayette Township,** (724) 693-3118
- **St. Columbkille,** (724) 695-7325
SNPI Lodge 106, (724) 695-1411

Sturgeon Athletic Association, (724) 926-2150

The ROCK Community Center, (724) 693-2777

VFW Ladies Auxiliary, (412) 788-4674

VFW Post #7070 Oakdale, (412) 427-9195

VFW Post #7714 Imperial, (724) 695-8866

West Allegheny Food Pantry & Thrift Shop, (724) 695-1305

West Allegheny Foundation, inquiries@wafoundation.org

West Allegheny Friends to Enhance the Library (WAFEL), (724) 695-8150

West Allegheny Ministerium, (724) 693-8950

West Allegheny Booster & PTA Groups,
www.westasd.org

Western Allegheny Community Library,
(724) 695-8150

West Allegheny Aqua Club, (412) 608-4583

West Allegheny Arts Advocacy, TBA

West Allegheny Inline Hockey, (412) 334-2640

West Allegheny Youth Assn., www.westayouth.net

West Allegheny Youth Soccer Assn., (724) 693-8073

West Allegheny Youth Wrestling, (724) 695-8132

“Bad moods fade away, that is, if you let them.” - Abraham Twerski



BY ERMA DODD
NORTH FAYETTE
TOWNSHIP
RESIDENT

Call the Police

A 10-year-old boy is told by his mother, “When daddy comes home, if he starts fighting with me, go to our neighbor’s home and call the police.”

It happened often. His daddy had an alcohol problem. After an evening of drinking, daddy would come home and assault the mother of his four children.

As expected, as soon as dad came home, the abuse began. His 10-year-old son, Mitch, ran outside in his stocking feet, into the cold rain. He reached the neighbor, and called the police. He waited and watched as police arrived. Then he watched as the police left, taking his dad with them.

From that time on, his father did not come back to live with the family.

Mitch was going through an experience that no young person should.

Police came into his life. They came to save a family that night.

Mitch* is not sure if that night is the reason he has chosen to become a policeman.

He knows that in certain circumstances, when he is called on a domestic dispute, depending on the seriousness of the situation, and if children are involved, Officer Mitch will experience memories of his childhood.

On those calls, as he approaches the home of the dispute, his feet will feel cold and wet; no matter what the weather.

If the occasion feels right, he will share his story with the abused wife and mom. He assures her that she does not have to feel stuck, that she doesn’t have to stay only to be abused again and again.

His passion to help families prompted him to train and serve as a Crisis Intervention Team Officer. The goal of the CIT** is to promote safety by educating law enforcement and promoting awareness about mental illness, drug or alcohol abuse, and practice skills designed to de-escalate certain behaviors.

Local police can call on the re:solve Crisis Network*** when an intervention is needed. They have been called to our community to assess situations, and help families get the help they need.

The scared, young 10-year-old, years later, is passing it forward. Along with other police officers, Mitch has become a protector, a rescuer; bringing hope to a seemingly hopeless situation, and sometimes feeling cold, wet feet.

*Using the anonymous name Mitch.

**www.cit.memphis.edu

***re:solve Crisis Network

Teaching Can Be Challenging

Teaching a junior high Sunday school class became a challenge one springtime Sunday morning. The teens just would not settle down. Hard as she tried, their teacher could not get them interested in the morning lesson.

Finally, their teacher gave up. She closed the lesson book. She was done, and told the teens, “OK, I’m done.”

Then one teen spoke up. The others were misbehaving so badly, the teacher did not even notice one sitting quietly.

The teen said, “Teach me. Teach me. I want to learn.”

So much emphasis was on those who were out of line that the one who wanted to learn was almost passed over.

Class resumed, and while one taught, one learned. The one teen may not remember that day or lesson. However, the teacher will never forget.

The lesson that one lone student taught the adult that day came in two, never-forgotten words: “Teach me.”

Big Brother

Proud grandfather Ted Hansford shows a picture of his four-year-old granddaughter.

Beaming, he tells her story. She did not want to go to preschool. First day she wanted out. Her teacher, Carol, explained that there was no one to take her home. She said, “I’ll run home.” The teacher suggested her big brother come to school with her. He was in afternoon kindergarten. So each morning for the first month he went to preschool with his little sister Leah, until Leah began to like it, then love it.

At the end of May, at preschool graduation, it was Leah’s big day. She was all excited.

After the ceremony and celebration, she looked up at her mom and asked, “Now what am I gonna do?”

An Invitation to Meet Natalie Ruschell

Natalie was introduced on this page in the last issue of *Allegheny West Magazine*. She and her seeing-eye dog were pictured. She became blind when she was 27, just months before her graduation from law school.

Natalie will speak on Sunday, May 5 at 7 p.m. at Montours Church on Montour Church Road in Oakdale. Refreshments will follow, and time to meet Natalie; free will offering, come as you are.

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This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

 Sat. April 5 Afternoon Practice Gates 1PM. Practice 2PM-5PM.	Thurs. April 10 NDRL PENNational \$10,000 to win!! NDRL Mods	Sat. April 12 ACTION EVENT + 3/4 LM
Sat. April 19 Ugly Sweater Night Prize for Ugliest! Picked by the fans! AE	Sat. April 26 Social Media Night Social Media FAN specials! Check in, share and win! AE, + 3/4 LM	Sat. May 3 Spring Hoedown Sportsman Showdown! Plus Hoosier Hurling Contest... throw it through the Hoosier and win! AE
Sat. May 10 PPMS T-Shirt Night Wear your PPMS shirt from any year! AE, RLM Spring Sizzler, + 3/4 LM	Sat. May 17 Allegheny County Night FREE Youth, \$2 off Allegheny County Residents with Photo ID. PCTP Night! AE	Sat. May 24 Earnhardt Dress Up Night, Prize for best Dale, JR, Theresa! AE, SLM, RLM, LMS, HS, YG, + RSM, + 3/4 LM
Sat. May 24 Earnhardt Dress Up Night, Prize for best Dale, JR, Theresa! AE, SLM, RLM, LMS, HS, YG, + RSM, + 3/4 LM	Sat. May 31 Ed Laboon 20 LMS Showdown! PENN OHIO PRO STOCK Championship Series SLM, RLM, HS, YG + 3/4 LM	Fri. June 6 Monster Truck appearances throughout the area. (Check ppms.com for locations)
Sat. June 7 Diehl of Robinson 3rd Annual Monster Mania Monster Truck Show! Figure 8 Racing	Sun. June 8 RUSH Pro Late Tour Sizzler Series Steel City 100! LMS, HS, YG	Sat. June 14 PPMS Golf Open closest to the pin contest, bring your wedge! AE, Plus RSM, + 3/4 LM
Sat. June 21 Big Band B.O.S.S. Night! Buckeye Outlaw 410 Sprint Series plus SLM, RLM, LMS, HS, YG	Great Marketing Opportunities are available at PPMS for companies & their employees!	

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