

West Allegheny Edition

Allegheny West

Magazine

Volume 18, Issue 104
October/November 2016

FREE Direct Mail Community Publication

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honeybees

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talks about his local roots
.....

Olympic medalist
visits Clearview
.....

New group
explores local history
.....

West Allegheny Workcamp
helps homeowners in need

AND:

Local 4-H equestrians
to compete at state level
.....

LifeSpan senior center
serves up fun, food and more
.....

The Mall at Robinson
celebrates 15 years
.....

Remember When?
Scott Station



WA
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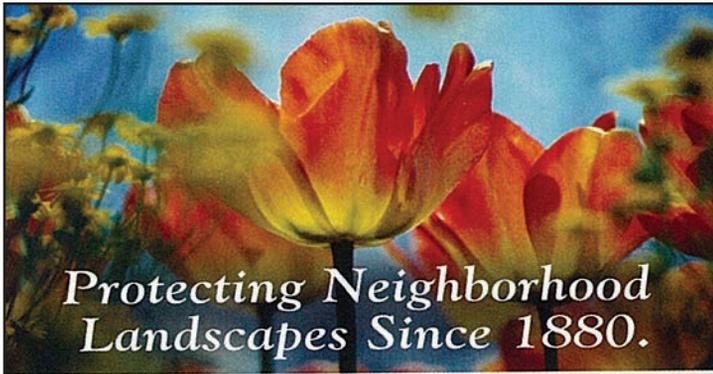
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Members of the North Fayette Police Department pose for a picture with Mary Lou Baselj, her daughter, Lauren Boshel, and grandson, Carter, at the Frank A. Baselj Memorial Firing Range off Donaldson Road. On Aug. 6, the range was dedicated to the former North Fayette police captain. Baselj served the township from 1973 through 2002 and passed away in 2007. Under the direction of West Allegheny art teacher Mike Short, AP art students Amber Clemens, Alyssa Placha, Jenna Josey, Mara Ojeda, Emily Nolan and Erin Smith painted the range's mural. Officers pictured here are (back row) Lonnie Lamb, Cpl. Harold Pollinger, Sgt. Mike Hayes, police chief Mark O'Donnell, Sgt. Dave Sandora, Cpl. Mark Kern, Steve Psomas, (front row) Lt. Mike Hamm and Lt. John Walls.

During a dedication ceremony, O'Donnell characterized Baselj as a family man who mentored young officers but also wouldn't hesitate to show them tough love. Judge Anthony Saveikis recalled Baselj's sense of humor with an amusing anecdote about Baselj's relationship with a certain area barber, while Baselj's widow, Mary Lou, recalled how Frank treated everyone - even those he arrested - with respect.

The dedication took place following numerous range upgrades made possible by \$15,000 in grants through the NRA. Those upgrades include a new shed, lights, workbenches and scaffolding constructed by Jim Hrapczak of the township maintenance crew.

According to North Fayette police officer Mark Kern, the range has been in high demand by a number of area police departments, as usable ranges continue to become more scarce. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up our October edition of Allegheny West Magazine. This month, we're bringing you a range of different stories about the West Allegheny and surrounding communities.

To kick off this issue, Sonja Reis writes about a new historical society that recently formed on page 6. On page 8, read about some local students who have qualified for a statewide equestrian competition. Then on page 8, Jill Bordo checks out the new LifeSpan senior center in Imperial.

On page 12, our publisher emeritus Pat Jennette brings you a story about The Mall at Robinson as it celebrates its 15th anniversary. Then on page 14, we look back at the West Allegheny Workcamp and how complete strangers from out of town helped local homeowners in need over the summer.

On page 16, we interview Olympic medalist and Hopewell Township native Christa Harmotto Dietzen. Then on page 16, we look back on the history of a past area landmark, Scott Station.

Be sure to read through the newest official West Allegheny School District Newsletter, WA Today, starting on page 27. Learn about how the district is utilizing standardized testing data and the district's efforts to prepare students for life after high school in this month's superintendent's message from Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert.

Allegheny West Magazine-West Allegheny Edition is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December, six issues a year, Hughey Publications, LLC, P. O. Box 220, McDonald, PA 15057. Mailed and distributed free to residents and businesses in Findlay, North Fayette, Oakdale, Sturgeon, a portion of McDonald, and adjacent areas. Extra copies available at municipal offices, schools, libraries, stores, advertisers, hotels, and businesses. Available by mail subscription for \$15 annually. Story ideas welcomed. Community events and announcements from non-profit groups must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publishing date. Announcements are limited to 30 words and must include a contact phone number. Reproduction of any artwork, photographs, or copy prepared by Allegheny West Magazine is strictly prohibited without written consent of Hughey Publications, LLC. Copyright 1999-2016 Allegheny West Magazine. All rights reserved. Views and opinions expressed by contributors and/or advertisers are the responsibility of the contributors and not those of the publisher of Allegheny West Magazine.

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ABOUT THE COVER

A honeybee from a hive managed by Clinton resident Hank Brinzer collects pollen from a springtime flower. Brinzer is one of the beekeepers profiled in this month's feature, starting on page 30. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY



On page 30, we interview some local beekeepers and look at why honeybees have become something of a rarity these days. Then on page 44, our columnist Erma Dodd interviews Charles Esten of "Nasville" fame and examines his local roots.

Be sure to check out all the upcoming area events and programs on page 40 and read some local news submitted to us by area residents on page 23.

Have something you'd like us to publish? Send it to: info@awmagazine.com.

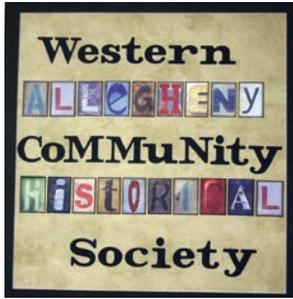
Keep in mind that we've posted academic and athletic calendars on our website to help you adjust to the school year. Be sure to bookmark them on your phone or mobile device so you can stay in the loop all year long.

Look for our next edition in December.

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor



New group piecing together history of Findlay, North Fayette and Oakdale



By all accounts, the whimsically embroidered quilt currently in the collection of the newly formed Western Allegheny Community Historical Society was created in the 1920s by Oakdale native and child psychologist Margaret B. McFarland, her sisters and members of their church.

The blue and white quilt - with each square initialed by its creator and embroidered with a different animal - was recently donated to the group by former Oakdale resident Helen Mae Watters Longstreth of Spring Grove.

It's just one of the many items being brought to light after decades of storage in the cedar chests, attics and basements of those with ties to the communities of Findlay Township, North Fayette Township and Oakdale Borough.

Other artifacts in the historical society's collection include items from the Montour Railroad, White Swan Park and Clinton Elementary School, along with old pictures and newspapers.

Longstreth made her contribution knowing about McFarland's work as a child development teacher, as well as her professional and personal relationship with the late Fred Rogers of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" fame. For more than 30 years, McFarland consulted with the public television star weekly, and sometimes daily, about children, scripts, props and song lyrics for the show, according to University of Pittsburgh's PITT MED magazine.

Rogers and McFarland met at the Arsenal Family and Children's Center in Lawrenceville in the 1950s when Rogers was a theology student looking for counseling experience.

Through the University of Pittsburgh, McFarland had partnered in 1953 with pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock and psychosocial developmentalist Erik Erikson to form the center. She served as its co-founder and director until 1971. McFarland passed away at the age of 83 in 1988.

When pieced together with the many colorful and varied narratives about this region, McFarland's story and that of the quilt tell a tale of days gone by. The society hopes to create a similarly pieced together representation of the past with a display consisting of pictures and articles. It is actively seeking new members and planning a number of upcoming programs.

"There's so much history. The people who live here, have lived here for a long time," says Pam Perry, Western Allegheny Community Library trustee.

The group does not yet have a case to display the quilt and other recently acquired objects, but they are working on it. They've been promised space in the library for their prized memorabilia and a site to hold quarterly meetings. The two groups are working together on the undertaking and a future display case will join a history wall created last year to celebrate the library's 25th anniversary.

Volunteers who spent months working together to create the history wall decided the natural progression of things was to form a historical society, says Kathy Bartha, library trustee and a charter member of the newly formed historical society.

"[We're] letting it take a life of its own," she says.



Cheryl Rinehart, Pam Perry and Cathy Scott display a quilt recently donated to the Western Allegheny Community Historical Society. The quilt was made by people with ties to Oakdale native Margaret B. McFarland in the 1920s. The inset photo shows a detail of one square, which has the phrase "A Temperance Drink" knitted along the bottom of it.

Findlay's Jerry Andres will document the lives of two pioneer families - the Walker's and the Ewing's - during the society's inaugural meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12 at the library.

Andres, a local history enthusiast and president of the Pioneers West Historical Society, will present photographs, diaries, letters and other documents surrounding the two families, both of which settled in the area.

Pioneers West owns and maintains the Walker-Ewing Log House, a historic landmark from the 1700s located on Noblestown Road in nearby Collier Township.

Other proposed programs include workshops on family archives, textile care and presentations by Dan Prevade on Oakdale history and sustainable gardening, says Cheryl Rinehart, a historical society member from Findlay.

To join the historical society, email wahistoricalociety@gmail.com or inquire at the library, at 181 Bateman Road, Oakdale.



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Local 4-H equestrians to compete at state level

STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY
PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Katie Borgo, pictured above, qualified for a statewide equestrian competition after finishing atop the English pleasure small pony class at the Pennsylvania 4-H District 10 Horse Show in September. Jessica Collins (pictured top right) and Marissa Collins (pictured bottom right) also qualified for the competition. All three are members of the Clinton-based 4-H club Manely Horses.

Three members of a local 4-H club qualified to compete in a statewide equestrian competition in September. Katie Borgo, Jessica Collins and Marissa Collins competed against equestrians from seven counties, including Allegheny, Greene, Washington, Fayette, Indiana, Westmoreland and Armstrong at the Pennsylvania 4-H District 10 Horse Show and will now compete at the Pennsylvania State 4-H Horse Show finals in Harrisburg on Oct. 2-30. All three are members of the Clinton-based 4-H club Manely Horses and attend school at West Allegheny.

Jessica, a sophomore at the high school, qualified in the western horsemanship 12-14 category. Her sister, Marissa, an eighth-grader, qualified in the English pleasure large pony class. Borgo, a high school junior, qualified by finishing atop the English pleasure small pony class. During the pleasure competition, riders are judged based on their ability to control their horse's movements and on how well the horse responds to the rider's commands.

"It's difficult to do well," says Michelle Wilson, who heads up the 4-H club at her farm in Clinton. "Just about anyone can get on a horse and hold on. Getting on a horse and trying to get a horse to ride a certain way, it's difficult... They've gone from being a passenger on the horse to being a team."

In the showmanship competition, competitors lead their horses from the ground through a series of movements. That's not easy,

either, says Wilson.

"It sounds really easy but to do well is really difficult," says Wilson. "The horse has to watch you, stay out of your space, not run you over. It has to walk, stop, back up, pivot, just by watching how the handler moves their body."

Wilson says she's been working with the three West Allegheny students for about five years now. Jessica and Marissa have been to the state competition previously, but this year will mark Katie's first appearance at the competition. Underscoring that accomplishment is the fact that Katie had to switch horses halfway through the year.

In January, 4-H members start working with horses, and by June, each chooses a project horse, says Wilson. She says Katie's horse of two years suffered an injury and that the Clinton-based Youthtowne Riders Program provided her with a replacement horse.

Jean Borgo, Katie's mother, says that Katie has been riding since she was 5 and a member of the club since she was in sixth grade. She says Katie spends five days each week caring for and working with her horse. The same goes for Jessica and Marissa, says Wilson.

"Over the summer, I can't get rid of them," she says.

Manely Horses meets the first Tuesday of each month at Hebron Presbyterian Church in Clinton. Wilson says the group is open to riders of all levels.

For more information, call Wilson at (412) 559-0989.



Jessica Collins



Marissa Collins

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New LifeSpan senior center enjoying strong start

STORY BY JILL BORDO
PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY



Sis Roschart (at center), Janet Meyers, Gayle Muggar and Flo Hufnagel (pictured clockwise) enjoy lunch at the LifeSpan Imperial Resource Center.

Since opening its doors at Penn Lincoln Plaza in January, the LifeSpan Imperial Resource Center has become a hub of activity for local senior citizens.

The center has signed up 400 members in just nine months and continues to attract walk-in visitors as people learn about the programs and services offered there. LifeSpan is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every weekday.

Regional manager Betsy Challingsworth says that the center is attracting a nice balance of men and women. Some members visit multiple times a week while others come for specific events. The center has recently been serving an average of 50 people per day.

Memberships are \$10 per year for Allegheny County residents who are 60 years of age and older. The annual fee includes five complimentary lunches at the center. Challingsworth noted that the midday meal tends to attract the bulk of customers to the center between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

As Allegheny County requires healthy menu options, a registered dietician from the county's Area Agency on Aging is on staff to oversee LifeSpan meals. Main entrees range from pork loin with an apple glaze, to turkey teriyaki meatballs, to stuffed cabbage. Members must sign up for lunch by 11 a.m. the day before they partake in the meal and a \$1.50 donation is requested.

In addition to meals and weekly happenings, such as a card club, bingo, billiards, and a crochet and knitting club, the resource center has much to offer in the way of classes, trips and special presentations.

Challingsworth specified that one of her goals for the facility has been to offer four or five activities per day, with premium programs such as arts and humanities trips rounding out the clichéd bingo and bunco standard options.

Examples of fitness-related activities include line dancing, yoga, and a restoration and relaxation class sponsored by the Community College of Allegheny County. This free class teaches low impact techniques, such as breathing and stretching, to help keep stress levels low while improving mental and physical health.

Recent outings, which generally require a fee, have included lunch on the Gateway Clipper with an Elvis impersonator, an excursion to Saint Anthony Chapel in Troy Hill, and a chartered bus trip to both the Flight 93 National Memorial Site in Shanksville and the Quecreek mining site in Somerset. A four-day

trip to Ottawa is planned for mid-October.

Several of the special classes currently being offered are an interactive music class combining tunes from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, with dance, exercise and games, as well as a Spanish club with a fluent LifeSpan employee teaching the language.

After mentioning that a 91-year-old member is participating in the Spanish class, Challingsworth marveled that even more elderly senior citizens can "have sharp minds and still want to learn new skills."

A popular addition to the LifeSpan calendar has been a monthly lunch outing with over 40 participants visiting the Grand Concourse restaurant in August. Nearly 60 signed up for a trip to Lydia's in the Strip District in September.

The Armchair Adventures series encourages members to share their life experiences with others by talking, showing pictures or videos from interesting destinations they have visited, or sharing hobbies they have enjoyed. If the presentation involves stories of travel to another country, LifeSpan staff members will even cook food from that region to serve during the event.

Challingsworth stressed that all of the activities at the resource center "provide opportunities for people to do something other than sit at home." She said that the most rewarding aspect of her job has been meeting members and seeing how their daily situations have changed for the better. Two widowers who are now regular LifeSpan visitors told her that the center gave them a purpose and "saved their lives."

Kim Rollinson, LifeSpan Center Services operations director, said that the organization is honored to provide residents with services.

Local LifeSpan staff members have also been in contact with activity directors at Findlay, North Fayette and Moon townships so as not to compete with events being held in those areas.

Those interested in becoming members or learning more about the LifeSpan Imperial Resource Center are encouraged to stop by for information or to call (724) 218-1669. For a list of programs with times, see page 41.

LifeSpan, Inc. also provides care management, family caregiver support, and home-delivered meals for seniors in Allegheny County. For more information on those services, call the main office at (412) 464-1300.



Virginia McElhaney (pictured above) gets ready to knit with a knitting club at the LifeSpan Imperial Resource Center while Angeline Vergnaud (pictured below) teaches Spanish to LifeSpan members Jeff Allison, Frances Kelley and Arlene Rockwell.



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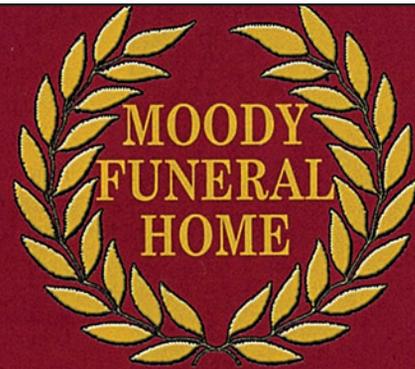
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Earth-friendly and community connected, The Mall at Robinson celebrates 15th anniversary

Sustainability and community connections are two key qualities that have characterized The Mall at Robinson as a retail center ever since it opened in 2001. As The Mall at Robinson celebrates its 15th anniversary, these two baseline beliefs have forged a strong organization that has made it a staple in the airport west shopping corridor and an institution that has become much more than just a shopping destination. Community members regularly congregate at its busy café to socialize and are invited to walk its vast walkways to stay active year round. Mall Walkers, a Heritage Valley Health System program, rewards registered walkers for reaching milestones from 250 miles to 10,000 miles. Through partnerships with various nonprofits and initiatives aimed at reducing environmental impact, the mall has demonstrated a commitment to the community where it operates.

Festivities held on Oct. 15 highlighted the mall's "15" theme. Shema Krinsky, mall marketing manager, said the mall has been carrying out its "15" theme throughout the year with monthly social media giveaways, including FitBits donated by UPMC.

Adds Krinsky, "We want to thank our community for shopping with us. Our customers have many choices when it comes to shopping, and this celebration is one way we can thank them for choosing The Mall at Robinson."

Beginnings

At one time, the landscape where The Mall at Robinson is located was a largely wooded area, popular with hunters and hikers. The 200-plus acres were transformed into an 872,000-square-foot shopping mecca when the mall opened in October of 2001. Additional retail and restaurant sites have since opened around its perimeter. Robinson Town Centre, the original retail center in the corridor, has since gained The Pointe at North Fayette across I-376 and Settler's Ridge in Robinson Township as neighbors. Today, the mall anchors this major regional retail and dining destination, where customers come from points as far west as Ohio and West Virginia, as far south as Maryland, and as far north as New York to shop, dine and work.

Nurturing community connections

In addition to the Mall Walkers program, which is open to walkers daily from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., Monday through Saturday, and from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Sundays, the mall also hosts a quarterly Kids Zone program for ages 2 through 12.

Another program, Toddler Tuesdays, includes character meet and greets, storytelling and craft nights. Check for upcoming programs



The Mall at Robinson is pictured here behind Robinson Town Centre from aboard a passenger airliner flying into Pittsburgh International Airport.

at www.shoprobinsonmall.com/events.

In addition, the mall hosts annual Earth Day initiatives and works with the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society, which credits the partnership with the adoption of more than 1,000 animals. The mall also hosts regular events to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation, The Bradley Center, veterans, the American Heart Association, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, The Education Partnership, The Salvation Army, Operation Troop Appreciation, Susan G. Komen for the Cure Pittsburgh, Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, CANstruction and more.

Proud of sustainability

The Mall at Robinson and Forest City, its parent company, are committed to sustainability, and numerous components make up those environmental sustainability efforts, says mall manager Beth Edwards. Among them is a recent initiative to install new solar energy panels above the food court. The panels power four electric car-charging stations in the front of the food court parking lot. There is no cost for mall guests to utilize the stations, which were donated by Wesco and Eaton.

Over the past eight years, the mall reduced its kilowatt hours by 43 percent. This was achieved by utilizing an energy management system to program its lights and HVAC units. The mall also installed more than 10,000 LED holiday lights and lower wattage light bulbs throughout the center, and changed ballasts.

Between 2008 and 2013, the mall reduced its water usage by 54 percent by installing low-flow faucets, reducing irrigation usage and programming its watering schedules. Waterless no-flush urinals were also installed in the men's restrooms, saving 1.5 million gallons of water annually.

In partnership with Pennsylvania Resources Council, The Mall at Robinson has hosted recycling events, during which 3,382 residents have recycled 127 tons of e-waste, 1,750 pounds of paper, 2,567 pounds of batteries, 543 CFLs, 1,100 tires, 283 appliances, 700 cubic feet of polystyrene, 183 propane tanks, 36 gallons of oil and 4,500 pounds of items for Construction Junction to repurpose.

As a result of these efforts, the mall was recognized this year as a Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge winner by Sustainable Pittsburgh, a local organization that promotes economic prosperity, social equity and environmental quality. The mall reduced energy usage by seven percent and water usage by 11 percent for the designated period.

Edwards says that communication with tenants and employees

has been an integral part of that process.

“We continue to communicate our needs to our vendors, many times changing the way they do business. By educating and sharing information about the benefits of sustainable practices, people are better able to understand how these efforts will impact their day-to-day lives,” says Edwards.

She says mall associates have helped by making sure doors are closed, lights are turned off in electrical/telephone rooms, and advising maintenance if lighting schedules are not operating as they should.

Notes Krinsky, “We have been successful partnering with local agencies like Pennsylvania Resource Council to host events like the recycled craft competition for elementary schools and our Hard 2 Recycle annual recycling drive. The Boy Scouts built blue bird and bat boxes for the property which our team installed.”

The future

Going forward, both Edwards and Krinsky echo their continued appreciation for the many partnerships the mall has established in the community over the years.

Always looking for ways to make the mall experience more customer friendly, this year will mark the third time in its history that its holiday landscape inside will change.

“You finally get to play under the Christmas tree,” chuckles Krinsky.

She explains that a new holiday decor experience will greet families visiting their original Saint Nick, who has been a staple at the center since it opened in 2001. On Nov. 11, “Underneath the Christmas Tree” will be unveiled and will include numerous interactive pieces to engage young ones while they wait.

The mall is also launching a new same-day reservation system to visit Santa, so as to provide a more enjoyable experience for the 10,000-plus visitors who come to see Santa each year.

“As the mall enters its 16th year in 2017, we are looking forward to new opportunities with a potential change in mall ownership. The mall is a constantly changing landscape, yet always anchored by its continued efforts to reduce our footprint on the environment and staying connected to our loyal shoppers and community,” says Edwards.

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Local work camp helps area homeowners in need

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY DOUG HUGHEY

During the first week of August, around 150 adults and teenagers from places like Chicago, Maryland and even Tokyo fanned out across the western suburbs of Allegheny County. They painted houses, fixed decks, built steps and landscaped for people who they had never met, and who were unable to handle the work themselves.

The work was done free of charge and organized by West Allegheny Workcamp, which operates under the nonprofit umbrella of Heroes Supporting Heroes. It was the second such work camp coordinated by the organization, which worked with Group Mission Trips to source volunteers. Through Group Mission Trips, volunteers pick from a list of work camps across the country. Many came with members of their church.

For John Prohl of Downers Grove, Illinois, this marked his 20th such work camp. Prohl was one of about 50 volunteers from a Lutheran church in the Chicago suburb to attend the camp. Prohl says that work camps have taken him to a dozen different states, as well as Ontario, Canada. Part of a crew painting a house in Moon Township, Prohl joked that his work had now also taken him to the Moon. At the work site, Prohl and a group of five teenagers painted much of the interior and the entire exterior of a house.

Abby Tarvin, also of Downers Grove, was part of a crew working on a secluded house off Cliff Mine Road in Coraopolis. This past work camp marked her first, as she helped build a set of steps alongside a retaining wall, fix a drop ceiling, paint and clean. Among those working alongside her was Billy Bower of Frederick, Maryland, who said the work camp was his third. He said work camps are a family tradition. Asked why they chose to spend their summer the way they did, the two teenagers said the experience proved personally rewarding. They said it also helped them meet like-minded individuals from other parts of the country and world. Bower called the work camp a “highlight” of his summer.

In downtown Coraopolis, a crew working on Jeanine McCaslin’s home included a 14-year-old girl from Tokyo, Japan named Rinon Satanoka. Because groups coming to the work camp were split up so volunteers would be working with people they hadn’t met previously, Rinon’s crew spent the week communicating with her through a smart phone with the Google Translate app. Speaking through the app, Rinon said she came with 11 others to the camp. McCaslin said she was impressed when Rinon removed a shrub from her backyard by herself, through what seemed to be pure determination.



These West Allegheny Work Camp volunteers were among the 150 or so people who helped repair dozens of homes in western Allegheny County in August. ABOVE: Billy Bower of Frederick, Maryland and Abby Tarvin of Downers Grove, Illinois stand next to a set of steps they helped build. BELOW: Rinon Satanoka of Tokyo, Japan stains the steps of a porch in Coraopolis. BELOW RIGHT: Margaret Forbush helps Spencer York and Mike Early install spindles on a set of steps they helped build off a porch in McDonald. OPPOSITE PAGE: Tyler Matsunaga of Chicago rolls paint onto a porch in Coraopolis.



home that had requested work to be done. Many requests were made through an application printed over the course of several months in Allegheny West Magazine. One such home was that of a widow in McDonald whose front steps had sunk. Asked not to be named, the homeowner said that her husband had at one time attempted to fix the steps, but that they had continued to sink.

“I was just afraid that someone was going to get hurt,” she says.

After seeing the application in Allegheny West Magazine, she contacted the work camp. She said she was unsure of

Having recently undergone shoulder surgery, McCaslin said a lot of the work the crew performed on the house where she’s lived for the past 25 years consisted of the kinds of things she’d been meaning to do for years. Some, she says, she wouldn’t have been able to manage by herself. Volunteers stained her back and front porches, replaced rotted decking, and painted and sealed her windowsills.

“They have really stepped up to the plate and done more for me than we’ve been able to do ourselves,” she says.

Each evening, volunteers returned to West Allegheny Middle School. As in 2014 during the first West Allegheny Work Camp, the district once again hosted volunteers throughout the week. A fee paid by work camp volunteers helped cover costs associated with food, lodging and even materials for work sites.

Howard Sataoino of Hartford, Connecticut said he felt spoiled staying at the school, which was both spacious and clean. In the past, he says, he’s “roughed it” on work camps in rural parts of Appalachia. “This has been the best facility-wise because of the sponsor group,” he says. “[West Allegheny Work Camp president] Don Steward has a lot of experience with work camps.”

Sataoino said they had also received lots of support from the community, including from local veterans’ groups, scouts and even volunteers offering massages at the end of the day.

Leading up to the work camp, Steward and work camp organizers evaluated each





whether the work camp would take on her project. Come late July, though, volunteers were showing up early each morning to build a deck and new set of steps over top of her existing steps. Volunteers also removed a shrub encroaching on her steps.

One of the volunteers, Margaret Forbush, said she came into the work camp with little construction knowledge, but left with plenty. "I didn't know how to do anything at the beginning, then I was putting in spindles and learning how to tape and mud," she says, referring to hanging drywall.

The crew patched part of a ceiling in the home.

"They've been great," says the homeowner. "I have truly been blessed by these people being here. What they've done for me, I never could have done. I can't thank them enough."

Aside from the work, she said she also just appreciated them being around her house.

"I'm going to miss them," she says.

Steward says that because this work camp was scheduled later in the year than most, their turnout in terms of volunteers was less than what they had hoped. In 2014, the work camp attracted over 400 volunteers. Steward says that, as a result, they were unable to take on as many projects as they would have liked to this year.

He says, though, that Heroes Supporting Heroes is already planning another work camp in 2018, with the hopes that they'll be able to get those projects done, and more.

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

For more on West Allegheny Work Camp and Heroes Supporting Heroes, visit www.HeroesSupportingHeroes.org. For Group Mission Trips, visit groupmissiontrips.com.



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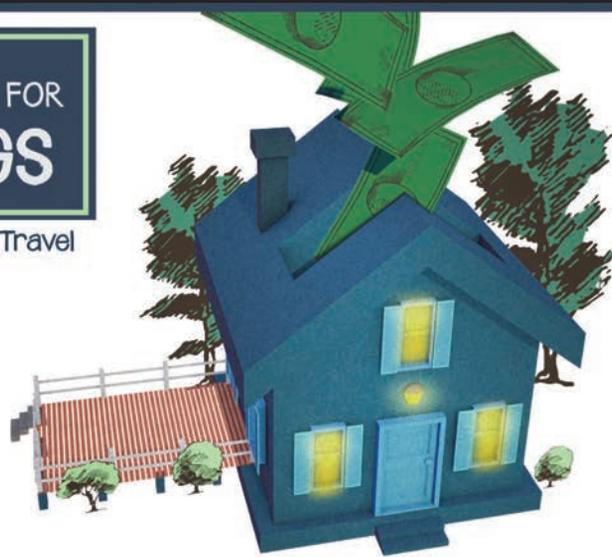
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Olympic medalist with local roots visits Clearview



Olympic volleyball medalist Christa Harmotto Dietzen signs autographs at Clearview Federal Credit Union's offices in Moon Township on Sept. 8. PHOTO BY RIC EVANS PHOTOGRAPHY

Ask two-time Olympic volleyball medalist Christa Harmotto Dietzen what the common thread is that's made all of the volleyball teams she's ever played on so successful, and she'll say the caliber of her various coaches and teammates.

The one person she won't credit - despite winning championships at the high school, college and national levels, with different coaches and players along the way - is herself.

Such was Dietzen's response during a visit to Clearview Federal Credit Union's offices in Moon Township on Sept. 8. After winning bronze with the U.S. Olympic women's volleyball team in Rio, Brazil over the summer, Dietzen returned to her hometown for a photograph session and meet-and-greet with credit union staff and members.

The day also included some time with Moon Area girls volleyball players. Dietzen, a Hopewell Township native, explained that she's been a member with Clearview since age 3, when her father, Robert, an air traffic controller with U.S. Airways, opened an account for her to deposit some birthday money. She's been a member ever since.

Dietzen's volleyball journey started at Hopewell High School, where, as a sixth grade basketball player, she was recruited to play volleyball by coach Terry Borkovic.

"When we were in sixth grade - volleyball doesn't begin until seventh grade - we always joke that he recruited all the basketball players to come try out for volleyball," says Dietzen about Borkovic.

That strategy worked out pretty well, both for Borkovic and Dietzen, who went on to break a school record for blocks her junior year and lead the team to back-to-back state titles both that season in 2003 and in 2004. Her senior year, she was named an all-American and Pennsylvania State Gatorade Player of the Year. She was also invited to play on the 2004 USA Women's Junior National Team and helped it win a NORCECA Women's Junior Continental Championship.

A top-15 recruit out of high school, Dietzen went on to play volleyball for Penn State University. Her junior and senior seasons, the team won back-to-back NCAA titles. Dietzen, meanwhile, won numerous individual honors, including from ESPN The Magazine and Volleyball Magazine. In 2007, she was named Big Ten Player of the Year, and in 2008, the College Sports Information Directors of America named her their Academic All-American of the Year. Dietzen studied elementary education at Penn State.

In 2009, Dietzen joined the U.S. national team, and every year since has helped her teams win bronze, silver or gold at the FIVB World Grand Prix and NORCECA Volleyball Championship. In 2012, she won a silver medal with the women's volleyball team at the Olympics in London, and at these past Olympics, she led the team that won bronze as its captain.

Part of the challenge of this past summer's Olympics, says Dietzen, was bringing together a group of players who had spent the past four years competing against each other for a spot on the 12-player roster. Some of those players had been her teammates at Penn State.

"It was tough leading up to the games because some of my best friends were getting their hearts broken [because] they couldn't be a part of the final 12," says Dietzen. "It is tough to build that team camaraderie because you're competing every day in the gym but we were able to do that, we were able to build that trust. Ultimately, everybody was for one and another's best interest and not just out for themselves."

After winning championships at just about every other level of the sport, Dietzen says winning bronze wasn't quite what she or the team had set out to accomplish. She also says, though, that it's hardly a blemish on the work the team put into it.

"Of course it wasn't gold, but the color of the medal doesn't define the experience or our team in general," she says. "You can't put a value on four years of experience, and challenges, and everything we went through as a team."

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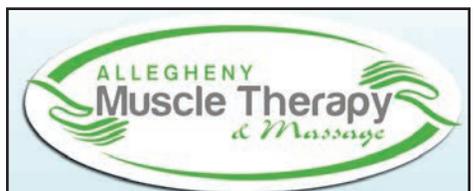
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STORY SUBMITTED BY INDUSTRY PUBLIC HOUSE
PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY

Industry Public House brings a contemporary spin on classic cocktails and grub to The Pointe

Late last year, Lawrenceville-based Industry Public House opened its second-ever restaurant in the former Don Pablo's location in The Pointe at North Fayette. Remodeled in classic American style with subway tile, tin roof sheets, distressed wood and rod iron fixtures, the building's new décor recalled the Prohibition era, even though Industry's drink menu certainly did not.

With 60 beers on tap, 100 types of whiskey, artisanal cocktails and a menu consisting of American comfort food with unexpected twists, the restaurant brought with it many of the same elements that had made it successful amidst a foodie renaissance taking place on its home turf.

"As a whole, we fancy ourselves a gastropub," says Industry manager Adam Garcia, referring to a term first coined by the British that means an establishment serving high-end spirits and food. "We're essentially a burger and sandwich place, but we try to elevate those a little with local, fresh ingredients and provisions."

For instance, Industry's menu has five chef-created burger options, but also lets diners customize their own burger with ingredients like wild boar bacon and pork belly, or dress up fries with homemade pot roast, truffle oil or gorgonzola. The pot roast is a menu item as well, as is chili fortified with Hop Farm Brewing Company's coffee porter. For its ribs and pulled pork, Industry makes a barbecue sauce with cider from Arsenal Cider House. Both companies are, like Industry, based out of Lawrenceville, and Industry pours selections from both on tap.

On the shelf, Industry stocks spirits that are also local, including ones from Wigle Whiskey and Maggie's Farm Rum Distillery. Both distillers are based in the Strip District.

Just like with its food menu offerings, Industry's cocktail list puts a contemporary spin on traditional classics. Its signature Smokestack drink, for instance, contains your choice of whiskey, which is then fortified with a bit of maple syrup, a dash of bitters, and infused with smoke from a selection of flavored wood chips. Using a strainer, Industry's bartenders char the chips right at the



ABOVE: Bartender Steve Leipchak smokes wood chips for Industry's signature cocktail, the Smokestack.

BELOW: With two large newly remodeled levels, Industry can easily accommodate large parties.



bar and let the smoke infuse into the drink.

On Sunday mornings, Industry breaks out a special brunch cocktail menu, with its own bloody Mary, a coconut drink made with Maggie's Farm rum, and food offerings like corned beef hash and biscuits with sausage gravy.

Garcia says their bartenders have a big hand in crafting drink recipes. During quarterly meetings, bartenders pitch new ideas to revamp their cocktail menu. That other restaurants have attempted to emulate their original cocktails hasn't bothered them, says Garcia. Rather, he calls it the best kind of flattery.

Industry is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. With two levels, a patio, open mezzanine and deck, Industry's North Fayette location can comfortably accommodate parties of 100 or more, including company and wedding parties. Email agarcia@industrypgh.com for more information. Call them at (412) 490-9080. Visit them online at industrypgh.com.



ABOVE: The Farmed Out Burgher, topped with a fried egg, wild boar bacon, white cheddar and Arsenal barbecue sauce, served with fresh cut fries.

BOTTOM: These are just some of the offerings on tap at Industry. At any one time, the gastropub is pouring 60 brews.



Scott Station

For many families, a gathering of 50 to 60 aunts, uncles and cousins is considered a successful family reunion. However, for the Scott family, originally of Moon Township, that would be a modest gathering.

In July, the family hosted a shindig that brought together 127 family members from locations across the globe. The event lasted the entire weekend and included activities at both the Haw Thicket and Scratchwell Scott farms on Oakdale Road, as well as a Pirates game attended by 97 members of the clan.

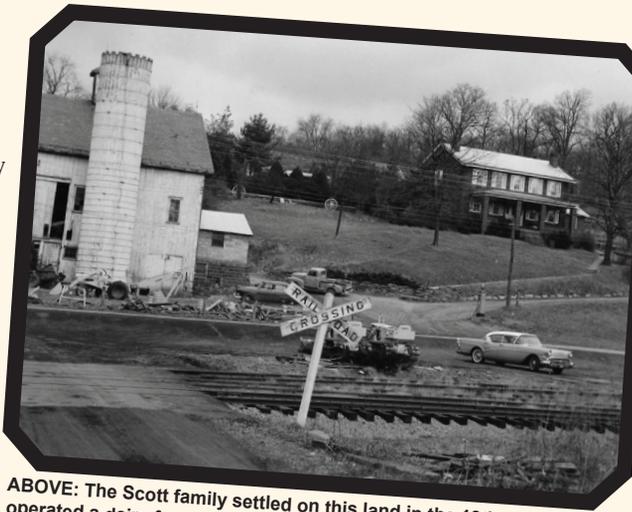
Cathy Scott, wife of family member Jeff and owner of Haw Thicket, was the chief event organizer, along with Pam Scott Barroso and Debbie Scott. Cathy anticipated about 30 attendees for the baseball game but had to reorder tickets numerous times to keep up with the incoming responses. Other organized activities at the farms were a beekeeping demonstration, pool time and hay rides.

The last Scott family reunion was held 25 years ago in 1991. Older family members were anxious for another gathering and began discussing the idea at a wedding last October. An official, printed invitation was sent in January.

The family lineage began with Joseph Scott, a Scotch-Irish immigrant born in 1731 who served in the Revolutionary War. He was one of the original pioneers of the Moon Township area.

Joseph and his wife, Jane Morris Scott, acquired 400 acres of land along the current Montour Run Road through the Virginia Land Grant in 1786. The land encompassed the area of the Wade Heating and Cooling business and the FedEx property above it, as well as acreage that extended to Robinson Town Centre on the opposite side of the road. By 1800, according to local historical records, Joseph Scott "had become one of the two most prosperous farmers in Moon."

John Scott, owner of the bicentennial Scratchwell farm and one of the family historians, reported that his ancestor first fought with the British in the French and Indian War, but later switched his allegiance to the colonials to fight the British. John also mentioned that Joseph became a justice of the peace and was once pulled out of bed in the middle of the night and marched to Philadelphia for



ABOVE: The Scott family settled on this land in the 18th century and operated a dairy farm there until the mid-1960s. The farm was rented out to other farmers through the mid-1980s. It became known as Scott Station because of a stop there on the Montour Railroad. PHOTO COURTESY ALLEGHENY COUNTY

refusing to arrest his neighbors for not paying taxes on whiskey. This occurred during the Whiskey Rebellion.

The Scott family endured numerous threats by Native Americans in the late 1770s and early 1780s, including the burning of their original log cabin by an Indian raiding party. To escape harm, these early ancestors often took refuge in a small, nearby fort, which was located where Montours Church now stands.

Joseph Scott Jr., son of Joseph, was born in 1796 and responsible for building the large red brick house in 1849 that was inhabited by descendants until the property was

sold to developers in 2000. The structure was built with bricks made onsite with clay dug from one of the fields.

The Scott family operated a labor-intensive dairy farm there for nearly 200 years. As the Montour Railroad traversed the property, a stop on the farm became known as Scott Station. The trains not only carried passengers and milk to the city from the Scott Farm, but also delivered Case machinery products to the farm during its later years of operation. The Scott Farm acted as a kind of early "franchise" for Case, with family members assembling farm equipment that was delivered there and selling it. When other area farmers visited Scott Station to pick up feed, they could also purchase Case machinery.

John Scott, son of Joseph Jr., was born in 1841. He fought in the Civil War and fathered 10 children with his wife, Arabella Speer. Attendees of the Scott family reunion in July each wore a nametag in one of 10 colors. Each hue represented a generation descended from John and Arabella.

The dining room at Haw Thicket became a temporary museum for the recent reunion, with numerous photo displays and Scott memorabilia contributed by family members for all to view.

Several items of particular interest were Joseph's cane and Arabella's diary from 1875.

Donna Schimmel Wright traveled to the reunion from Michigan and brought not only the diary, but also love letters from her grandfather to her grandmother, Laura - one of John and Arabella's 10 children.

Laura Ethel Scott was born at Scott Station in 1889. She was one of only two girls among Arabella's 10 children.

BELOW: Scott family members pose for a picture during a reunion in July. PHOTO BY PETER GLENN, EDITED BY SCOTT BOLAM



She chose to remain at the farm as caretaker until all of her brothers either married or moved away from Scott Station. As she did not marry until the age of 38, the love letters from her future husband were numerous and poignant.



ABOVE: Arabella Scott's 10 children are pictured here. PHOTO COURTESY SCOTT FAMILY ARCHIVES

The letters were found in a writing desk, which Laura inherited from her mother and eventually passed down to her granddaughter, Donna. Also in the desk was Arabella's diary, written in legible cursive and ink that

is still easy to decipher. An entry from 1875 reads, "Today we carried Papa in

dead from the fields."

Donna plans to have the diary transcribed and eventually hand it down to her one-year-old great-niece, whose name is also Arabella.

Thomas Walter Scott of Ithaca, New York attended the family reunion along with his son, Terry, who traveled to Pittsburgh from London. Born at Scott Station in 1929, Tom recalled milking the farm's dairy cows by hand, as machines were not purchased until



ABOVE: Descendents of John and Arabella Scott wear colored name tags to identify the generations to which they belong. PHOTO BY JILL BORDO after he left for college in the late 1940s.

A descendant of John R. Scott - another one of Arabella's 10 children - Tom and his brothers' families were among the last of the group to reside at Scott Station. According to Tom, the family "worked hard, ate well, and was close and caring." He mentioned the cooperative efforts of neighboring farms to complete more difficult tasks, such as threshing.

Though born and raised in Ithaca, Terry returned to Scott Station as an adult in the late 1970s to work for Case. At that time, it was still a thriving operation.

After purchasing property from the Scott family in 2000, GlaxoSmithKline erected a fenced garden plot with a memorial plaque to commemorate the history of the property. The square of land is thought to be the center point of the original land grant and adjacent to the site of the log cabin built by Joseph Scott.



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Change - it's our challenge in all walks of life. As a business owner, the challenge of handling change can be good, bad or ugly. Preparation can make a significant difference in how we respond to change, and in the case of the new overtime regulatory change, we have been given good information ahead of time.



We know that previously exempt employees may soon qualify for overtime pay that is at least one-and-a-half times their hourly rate for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week. What we may not know is why the change was made or how businesses can prepare.

So, WHY does this change exist? The Obama administration and the Department of Labor have been focused on supporting workers' rights through administration to agencies, including: the FLSA, FMLA, USERRA, OSHA, WARN and ERISA. Specifically, the federal government updated FLSA - the Fair Labor Standards Act - overtime regulations to extend overtime pay eligibility to more workers.

WHAT is the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938? In 1938, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act, establishing minimum wage and overtime compensation rules. The act requires companies to pay employees a minimum wage for the first 40 hours per workweek and overtime payments for all hours over 40 of no less than one-and-a-half times an employee's hourly rate. Not all employees must be paid overtime. The Fair Labor Standards Act contains rules making some workers exempt from overtime pay requirements, including executive, administrative, professional information technology and outside sales employees.

HOW can you prepare to be compliant with the impending changes? As a business owner or senior executive, you will need to review employee classifications and wage practices with your human resources team and legal advisors so you can be well-informed of any changes you need to make to comply with the new overtime regulations taking effect Dec. 1.

Here are some key points you'll need to examine:

1. What type of workers do you typically employ?
2. How do you ensure your team members are tracking their time correctly?
3. Are your employees regularly working more than 40 hours a week?
4. If your employees become eligible for overtime pay, are you ready to bear that financial burden?

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A tale of two tests: six popular myths about the SAT and ACT

Colleges and universities look at a variety of information when making decisions regarding admissions, including criteria such as GPAs, ACT/SAT scores, class ranking, rigor of academic courses and extracurricular activities, to name a few.

A major component of my daily life is discussing ACT and SAT exams - the similarities and the differences. When parents and students come to us, they have a lot of questions. They also have a lot of misinformation regarding the two standardized tests.

Here are some of the more popular myths and questions I hear regarding the tests:

1. Some colleges only accept ACT or SAT. *False.* All colleges and universities accept either test.

2. One test is harder/better than the other. *False.* Harder and better are a matter of opinion. It really depends on the test taker's skills and preferences.

3. Juniors do not need to worry about the ACT or SAT until the spring. *False.* You can begin worrying at any time. Both tests are given throughout the school year. Scores are good for five years on both tests. Looking at when the best time is and which test to take does matter. For example, if you are aiming to take the SATs in May, do you also have AP tests that week to study for, or is prom the same weekend? If you are hoping to take the ACT in June, does it conflict with a baseball tournament?

4. If students have strong grades, they do not need to prepare. *False.* Unfortunately, we see many students who expect to score higher on the ACT and SAT based on their GPAs. However, how questions are asked on these tests is not always the same as they are asked in school. For example, every math question is a word problem on both tests. Being familiar with the structure, timing and content of the tests is part of the preparation.

5. Only students who have a strong science background should take the ACT. *False.* Believe it or not, the science section is more reading comprehension than hardcore science. The skills being tested are reading charts and graphs, and interpreting scientific data, not specific knowledge of, say, chemistry.

6. Math on the new SAT is easier. *False.* Or maybe I should say, possibly false. Yes, the new SAT is geared more toward Algebra I and Algebra II, and the ACT has more geometry and trigonometry. While the SAT provides geometry formulas, the ACT does not. The SAT, however, now has 20 questions which students are not allowed to use a calculator to answer. There are also 13 questions for which no multiple choice options are given.

Considering all of the information above, which test is best? Our advice is to take both and make an informed decision. Students tend to have a real opinion as to which test they prefer.

When you take either the ACT or SAT practice tests at Huntington, we meet with you to discuss the results, whether or not the achieved score is within the range for admissions to your list of preferred colleges, and any other questions you may have. Feel free to set up a consultation prior to scheduling a practice test and we can talk in more detail.

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



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Coming Up . . .

Oct. 19 - BizBlast@Noon
@ PNC Bank - Robison from
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Oct. 21 - Sally Haas Breakfast on Entrepreneurship
@ DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Airport from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 3 - PILOT "Consumer Trends" Breakfast
@ Olivia's Banquet Facility from
7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

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Info Meeting

October 24, 2016
6 PM Chamber Office
850 Beaver Grade Road, Suite 101

Class of 1956 holds 60th reunion

For the past 60 years, the West Allegheny graduating class of 1956 has held a reunion every five years without skipping a beat. This year was no different, as the class held its 60th reunion at the Cornerstone on Aug. 27. In all, 22 members of the class attended.



Members of West Allegheny's class of 1956 in attendance at a reunion Aug. 27 were (with both married and maiden names listed): (back row) Ken Hughes, Walter Linn, John Miklaucic, Richard Lukasiewicz, Pat Allison, Tim Coon, Doris Meacci Cole, Carol Moore Loy, Darla Cunningham Thomas, Carolyn Glover Shuster, Freda Hamm Vogelsberger, Sue Thomson Dellapina, (first row) Don Senovich, Janice Weidner Senovich, Janice Ziegler Kress, Nila Worrell McCullough, Norita Franchek Kubatka, Dianne Clark Thomson, Kathy Bartos Cain, Gloria McLaughlin Falkman, Nancy Cain Weidner and Betty Long Kletzli. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

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West Allegheny Foundation announces

SUBMITTED BY
WEST ALLEGHENY
FOUNDATION

new officers, upcoming plans

On Sept. 13, the West Allegheny Foundation met to reorganize and restructure to fulfill its mission statement. The following officers were elected: president, Jonathan DeBor; vice president, Jerry Kehm; treasurer, Tracy Pflug; and secretary, Samantha Savage.

In the coming months, the West Allegheny Foundation will be distributing 2016 teacher grants, facilitating the return of the teachers' cup and hosting a 5K run in the spring. The purpose of the West Allegheny Foundation is to secure non-traditional funding and provide financial support for specified educational and/or community initiatives that are designed to enhance the quality of life for area residents.

The West Allegheny Foundation thanks all members past and present, including longtime president John Bates, for their service and welcomes new members to join the organization.

For more information, follow the West Allegheny Foundation on Facebook and look for the re-launch of its website at: www.wafoundation.net.

Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity to donate car in December, asking for nominations

SUBMITTED BY
STEUBENVILLE PIKE AUTO

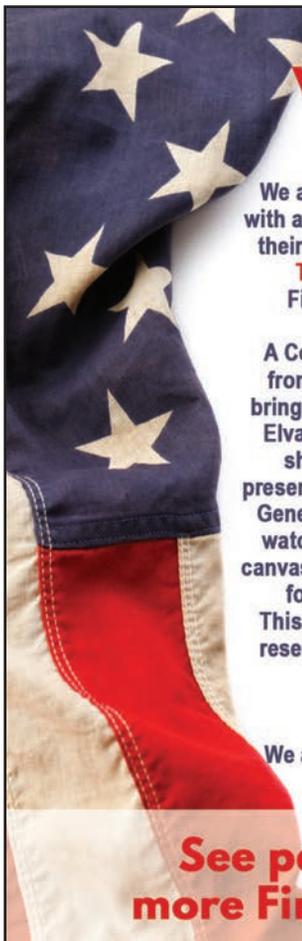
On Dec. 7, Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity will give away a refurbished, pre-owned vehicle to a local individual or family in need. Giving back is a key value at Steubenville Pike Auto, and after many great years in business, they are continuing to share their blessings through the charity. The donated vehicle is one that Steubenville Pike Auto has serviced by installing new tires and brakes, replacing fluids, updating the Pennsylvania state inspection and emissions test, and detailing to like-new condition. This will be the second car that the charity has donated this year.

Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity will be accepting nominations for an individual or family deserving of this opportunity Nov. 1-28. The ideal nominee is somebody who thinks of others before themselves, is in need of a vehicle and resides in the local area. The winner will be announced Dec. 7. As with the previous car donation, which took place in May, Heroes Supporting Heroes will once again be covering Pennsylvania state transfer fees.

Nominations can be mailed to: Steubenville Pike Auto, ATTN: SPARC, 6112 Steubenville Pike, Robinson Township, PA 15136. Email nominations to SPARC@steubenvillepike.com or click on the link at steubenvillepikeauto.com beginning Nov. 1. An independent group of trusted community members will review nominations. The recipient must have a current Pennsylvania driver's license and be able to obtain vehicle insurance.

Nominations must include the name, address, phone number and email of both the nominee and nominating person, along with a statement explaining why the individual or family nominated needs and deserves a vehicle.

Steubenville Pike Auto Charity looks forward to seeing the nominees and Steubenville Pike Auto is available for all of your vehicle needs. To set up an appointment, call (412) 787-9800.



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

We are honoring our veterans this year with a very special event. All veterans and their families are welcome to join us on **Thursday, November 10th** at the Findlay Township Activity Center, 310 Main Street in Imperial.

A Continental Breakfast will be served from **9-10 a.m.** After breakfast, we are bringing you a special patriotic program. Elva Hurst, from Lancaster, PA, will be sharing her "chalk talk" through a presentation entitled "Memories of a Great Generation." You will be amazed as you watch her bring the story to life on her canvas. Upon completion, lights are added for a truly captivating experience.

This is a free event but you **MUST** have reservations, as seating will be limited. Please call (724) 695-0500 extension 240 or 246 to make a reservation.

We anticipate a crowd, so call soon to make sure you get a seat.

See page 42 for more Findlay events!

AARP SAFE DRIVING CLASSES

8 HOUR AND 4 HOUR REFRESHER

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR CAR INSURANCE WITH THE AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM.

The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest classroom refresher course designed for **motorists 55 and older**. This eight-hour course is taught in two, four-hour sessions over two days. The course helps refine existing driving skills and develop safe, defensive driving techniques.

THERE ARE NO DRIVING TESTS INVOLVED.

Upon completion of the course, participants are **eligible to receive a state mandated, multi-year discount on their auto insurance premiums.** Contact your insurance carrier for information on the discount. Not all companies give the same discount. **Husbands and wives must both attend class to qualify for a discount.**

Class size is limited. Pre-registration is a must. Call Darlene or Stephanie at 724-695-0500 x 246 or x 240 to reserve a spot.

8-Hour Course

Thursday, November 3rd & Friday, November 4th
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Findlay Township Municipal Building Meeting Room / SR30 / Clinton

AARP Members - \$15
Non-members - \$20
Findlay Residents pay 1/2 price
Checks payable to AARP

4-HOUR REFRESHER COURSE

Tuesday, November 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

If you have taken the 8-hour class in the last 3 years and need a new certification for insurance, call now to sign up for this class. Please bring proof of attending a previous class. If you have your certificate, bring it with you along with your driver's license. If you do not have a copy, call your insurance company and they can provide you with a copy or send you a letter stating that you took the course. Cost and location are the same as for the 8-hour course.

STORY AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CROSS CONNECTIONS CHURCH

Cross Connections holds sixth annual block party



Cross Connections Alliance Church in McDonald hosted its sixth community block party in August.

Cross Connections Alliance Church in McDonald hosted its Sixth Annual Back to School Giveaway on Aug. 13. In years past, the church had held the block party outside, but this year, due to inclement weather, moved it indoors. During the festive party, the church distributed 105 free backpacks

loaded with school supplies to local community members. The church also served 150 lunches at no cost to attendees.

Many local businesses donated gift certificates that were raffled off and the party also got a visit from the Washington Wild Thing. In addition, WORD-FM personality Kenny Woods once again joined the event, supplying free gifts and spinning the WORD-FM Prize Wheel.

All in all, it was a wonderful day as the Cross Connections family worked toward its mission of being a blessing in the community. The church has a 113-year history of ministry in McDonald.

STORY AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

Unique Boutique returns for 16th year

Custom jewelry, delicious food, boutique clothing and charming gifts from talented regional artisans will once again be available at Unique Boutique, an event sponsored by the Heritage Valley Sewickley Foundation, on Nov. 12. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Edgeworth Club in Sewickley. Reservations are also available for lunch. All proceeds benefit the Heritage Valley BreastCare Program, a comprehensive, integrated breast health care program offered through Heritage Valley Health System. For tickets, pricing and parking information, see pages 20 and 40. Here are this year's featured vendors:

Sophia Michele Boutique

Last fall, Jennifer Lee Hoover received a sewing machine from a family member. After losing a full-time job, she started making clothes for her children and her passion for creating dresses, tops and fleece shawls has since grown into a small business.

Sophia Michele Boutique



Bobbie Fox, Inc.

Bobbie Fox, Inc.

In a world of emails and text messages, the importance of a handwritten note is priceless. That's why Bobbie Fox Fratangelo appreciates the simple, old-fashioned gift of a card. She has created a stationery line for all occasions, as well as the "just because" thought.



Sasha Handcrafted Neckware

Sasha Handcrafted Neckware

Sasha Handcrafted Neckware was born in 2009 out of a need founder Sara McClelland had for a necklace for a wedding. McClelland made a soft chiffon statement necklace from a vision in her mind and has been hooked on the product development process ever since. She experiments with unconventional materials to make her necklaces.



A. Marsden Artwork

Araina Marsden holds a Master of Fine Arts in ceramics and woodworking. She recently opened her own studio and teaches at the Community College of Allegheny County. A. Marsden Artwork, her ceramics business, is growing through shows, events and custom orders. Her Alaskan heritage inspires many of her designs. Marsden's specialties are wheel thrown, hand carved and functional ceramics.



A. Marsden Artwork

Neck-tees by Michelle



Michelle Lynch got her start making unique scarves from t-shirts for her co-workers, family and friends. Now she runs a business selling the hand-made scarves and detachable bows to go with them.

WEST ALLEGHENY YOUTH BASKETBALL

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E-mail questions to: waboysbb@gmail.com

STORY AND PHOTO SUBMITTED BY PITTSBURGH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

PTC students say "Allo" to Google's Pittsburgh office



Pittsburgh Technical College information technology students and faculty pose for a picture outside Google's offices in Pittsburgh following a visit to the facility Sept. 14.

Google is a global company that, despite starting small, now has 70 offices in 40 counties and 40,000 employees who are the inspiration behind the digital tools many of us use, from Gmail accounts to the Google Allo smart messaging app.

Aside from "googlers," as Google employees call themselves, few outside individuals are lucky enough to venture inside Google's offices. PTC students and faculty had that experience when they visited Google's Pittsburgh office on Penn Avenue on Sept. 14.

Thanks to John J. Scarpino, D.Sc., academic chair of PTC's School of Information Technology, students and faculty received permission for a field trip. Scarpino said the visit had to be approved by Google's headquarters in Mountain View, California and that PTC students got to experience the Google work environment. Students and faculty also met with developers, development leads, IT technicians and recruiters. As well, they experienced the free-flowing workspace for which Google has become known.

"The environment was unique and the attitude of their employees was nothing like I have ever seen at other companies," Mel Tomeo, a PTC computer programming instructor, shared. "The employees are allowed to bring their dog or cat to work, walk around without shoes or socks on. Every desk has a Nerf gun that the employees can use for Nerf gun wars at different times of the day."

Sophia Savickas, a PTC information technology student studying network security and computer forensics, said she, too, found the Google offices enticing.

"After seeing them I understand why Google is considered one of the best IT places to work," she said. "It was especially neat that the Google Pittsburgh offices are themed to Pittsburgh. The fifth floor was all Kennywood themed with a staircase replica of the Thunderbolt."

Photos inside were not permitted, but questions and conversations with Google insiders were encouraged. Katy Gibson, a PTC computer programming student, said the googlers were extremely knowledgeable, kind and excited to be there.

"When we asked questions that they could not answer because they related to projects that they couldn't reveal to the public yet, you could tell that they wanted to say something," said Gibson. "They were excited about the project and disappointed they couldn't share. People who are excited about the job they have and the work they do make me want to work with them."

Scarpino said students had candid, open conversations about technology needs and changes, IT career challenges, technical focuses and approaches in communication, teamwork and technical development activities. A recruiter talked with students via video conference from Google's Austin, Texas office and provided additional insights.

"This event truly assisted and opened the doors for PTC students to experience a top-level IT company located right here in the Pittsburgh market," said Scarpino. "They received a great bit of face time and environment interaction. This energized our students to apply to internship and full-time opportunities with Google."



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School year kicks off with teacher in-service days



ABOVE: Teachers completed a number of team-building exercises during in-service days at the start of the school year. Here, Team Donaldson scrambles to complete a memory challenge during Survivor West A.

The 2016-2017 school year kicked off August 22 with a series of teacher in-service days filled with professional development, training and a spirited version of Survivor West A. In addition to content-specific topics that ranged from newly implemented technology to curriculum mapping, all staff took part in comprehensive school safety training led by District resource officer Mike Hayes and Lieutenant Mike Hamm, both of the North Fayette Police Department. Following an extensive safety presentation, active preparedness training drills were conducted with strategies designed to help keep students and staff safe in times of emergency.

The gathering of staff at in-service days also provided an ideal opportunity for superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert to launch hashtag themes that will spotlight District accomplishments throughout this school year. They focus on: #WeAreStudentStrong, #WeAreTeacherProud, #WeAreInnovators&Designers and #WeAreWestA. The theme of #WeAreTeacherProud was already incorporated into a back-to-school video that featured the staff's commitment to students and ongoing learning displayed during in-service day trainings. The video may be viewed by visiting the District Facebook page or website at www.westasd.org.

BELOW: School resource officer Mike Hayes of the North Fayette Police Department leads preparedness drills as a main focus of teacher in-service training.



ABOVE: Elementary teachers collaborate on curriculum and best practices.



#WeAreTeacherProud

Superintendent's Message

We are currently in the midst of that time of year when the school district receives assessment data from last school year and begins to analyze and learn from it in order to guide instructional decision-making. Standardized assessments are one vital component that provides us with meaningful information on our instructional effectiveness and potential areas for improvement. By reviewing the assessment data, the District is able to adjust curricula and instruction to meet the needs of students and provide more focused professional learning opportunities for our teachers. We have utilized this data to make academic programming modifications, including the addition of full-day kindergarten, required summer reading, added time spent on math instruction, and the adoption of new instructional resources in K-12 mathematics and English language arts.

It is important to acknowledge the dedication of our teachers, as without their conscientiousness and expertise, noteworthy student performance attainment would not be possible.

Below is a summary of the 2015-2016 assessment data, including advanced placement, Keystone Exams and PSSA tests. When reviewing trends, it is evident that West Allegheny AP student performance reflects unprecedented improvement compared to previous years. We attribute our amazing results to the support of a National Math and Science Initiative Grant that awarded the District \$730,000 across three years to support improvement. The following is a list of highlights showcasing the exemplary performance of our students and teachers:

- The number of qualifying scores (3s, 4s and 5s) earned by students on math, science and English AP exams increased by **206 percent** (62 in 2015; 190 in 2016). The national year-to-year average increase is **seven percent**.
- Across all AP courses, we have experienced a **185 percent** increase in qualifying scores (91 in 2015; 259 in 2016).
- The number of qualifying scores earned by students on math and science AP exams increased by **544 percent** (16 in 2015; 103 in 2016).
- Our total number of students taking exams increased by 242 percent, from 180 in 2015 to 616 exams in 2016.

Keystone exams, which are end-of-course assessments designed to gauge proficiency in the subject areas of algebra, literature and biology also reveal meaningful trends that highlight improved student performance. Noteworthy achievement includes an overall increase in algebra proficiency, marked by 100 percent proficiency in seventh grade algebra and 79.5 percent proficiency in eighth grade algebra. Both testing points demonstrate approximately a 20 percent point gain from the previous year. Also worth mentioning is that in all three algebra courses there was a significant increase in the percentage of students scoring advanced. Lastly, out of five tested Keystone areas (algebra 7, algebra 8, algebra 9, biology and literature) our students demonstrated improved proficiency rates in three areas and maintained proficiency in two other areas.

Data points are also available for the annual PSSA. This test serves as a standards-based evaluation tool, providing students, parents and educators with a better understanding of student and school performance as it relates to the attainment of proficiency of academic standards in grades three through eight in mathematics, English language arts and science. As a District, we utilize data to design curriculum and instruction to ensure that students meet or exceed grade level standards. Notable performance includes West Allegheny outperforming the state in 11 out of 12 tested areas, with the exception of eighth grade mathematics. Compared to 2014-2015, in

2015-2016, we improved or maintained proficiency in nine out of 12 areas. We saw improvement in all six tested areas in our elementary grades, with our overall reading proficiency at 80 percent, compared to 60.3 percent across the state. That means eight out of ten students are reading at or above grade level. We are excited that the proficiency rate doubled in seventh grade mathematics from 2015 to 2016, earning West Allegheny distinction in Allegheny County.

As with any data, there are positive areas that serve to inform what we can be doing better. To that end, we have identified action plans to address growth areas in order to improve student performance, including:

1. Continued focus on improving overall proficiency rates in middle grade mathematics and ninth grade algebra.
2. Focus on improving biology and literature Keystone

OUR AP RESULTS DEMONSTRATE THE **HARD WORK AND PERSISTENCE** OF OUR STUDENTS WHO HAVE EARNED WEST ALLEGHENY THE FOLLOWING RANKINGS:

#1 IN THE STATE FOR PERCENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MATH AND SCIENCE EXAMS THAT EARNED A QUALIFYING SCORE OF A THREE, FOUR OR FIVE.

#1 IN THE STATE FOR PERCENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MATH AND SCIENCE EXAMS THAT EARNED A QUALIFYING SCORE BY FEMALE STUDENTS.

#2 IN THE STATE FOR PERCENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MATH, SCIENCE AND ENGLISH EXAMS THAT EARNED A QUALIFYING SCORE.

#2 IN THE STATE FOR RAW NUMBER INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MATH, SCIENCE AND ENGLISH EXAMS THAT EARNED A QUALIFYING SCORE.

Exam overall proficiency rates as they remained consistent from year to year.

3. Focus on bridging the critical transition between fifth and sixth grade as the cohort declined in proficiency rates in both English language arts and math.

4. Continue to share best instructional practices across all three elementary schools to continue to support greater proficiency rates.

5. Across all tested areas in grades three through eight, continue to improve proficiency rates and increase the number of students scoring advanced, while ensuring cohorts of students moving from grade to grade retain and/or improve proficiency.

Our goal as a district is to prepare students to be career and/or college ready as we implement a College and 21st Century Career Readiness Indicator

System, or CCRIS. Our CCRIS focuses on three critical dimensions that ensure students are ready and persist in a career and/or college without requiring remediation: academic preparedness, academic tenacity and career/college knowledge. While this objective is partly defined by student performance on the assessments noted above, there are other criteria that ensure every student is connected to a viable career and/or college pathway upon graduation. More so than standardized test scores, maintaining a 3.0 GPA or higher and taking rigorous coursework is far more predictive of post-secondary success than standardized test scores. Rigorous coursework applies to career and technical courses for our career-motivated students, as well as advanced placement courses for our college-oriented students. Taking and achieving industry credentials in career courses is equivalent to passing advanced placement exams. Both are predictive of readiness and persistence in the academic preparedness dimension, as is maintaining a 3.0 GPA.

Another critical dimension for career and college readiness is academic tenacity, which is best predicted by attendance patterns and the belief that, with effort, ability can and will improve. As such at West Allegheny, our goal is to have all of our students maintain at least 95 percent attendance, missing less than nine days and ideally striving for no more than five days absent in a school year. National research has found students begin to suffer academically with as few as two absences per month, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more school days, which equates to just 18 school days. Research indicates that 83 percent of students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are unable to read on level by third grade. As a result, students who cannot read on level in third grade are four times more

OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE ALL OF OUR STUDENTS MAINTAIN AT LEAST 95 PERCENT ATTENDANCE, MISSING LESS THAN NINE DAYS AND IDEALLY STRIVING FOR NO MORE THAN FIVE DAYS ABSENT IN A SCHOOL YEAR.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN HELPING TO ENSURE EVERY STUDENT IS PREPARED FOR A CAREER AND/OR COLLEGE.

likely to drop out than students who can, a key indicator of academic preparedness and persistence. By sixth grade, chronic absenteeism - missing 18 days or more in a school year - is a proven early warning sign for students at risk of dropping out of school. By ninth grade, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than eighth grade standardized test scores.

With respect to our academic preparedness indicator (3.0 GPA), our schools range from 60 percent to 93 percent across our five schools, with the percent of students achieving a GPA of a 3.0. Our academic tenacity indicator of 95 percent attendance ranges from a high of 68 percent to a low of 53 percent of students achieving 95 percent attendance. Although these indicators of career and/or college preparedness are not dismal, they require marked improvement if every student who graduates from West Allegheny is going to have a viable post-secondary pathway

where they are ready and persist in a career and/or college.

As such, collaboration with you, as parents/guardians, can help make every day count by boosting student attendance and, hence, achievement. Help us to place your child on the path to success with these attendance strategies:

- Make school a priority for your child/children since every absence can impact academic achievement. Talk to your child about the importance of their education.

Make daily routines for homework and waking up on time for school. Maintain communication with teachers and keep an eye on your child's academic progress.

- Carefully weigh sick days by talking with your health care provider to determine whether your child should stay home from school.

- Schedule wisely by knowing the school's calendar and arranging doctor and dentist appointments after school, on

weekends or during holiday breaks.

- Schedule family vacations during the summer months or during extended winter and spring breaks.
- Finally, help your child make up missed work when absent.

Research has consistently linked family involvement to higher student achievement, better attitudes toward school, lower dropout rates and increased attendance. As such, parents/guardians working in partnership with the school district is extremely important in helping to ensure every student is prepared for a career and/or college.



Dr. Jerrí Lynn Lippert,
Superintendent

#WeAreWestA

Book Bus makes summer parade appearances

The community Book Bus added a few extra stops this summer as it made appearances at both the North Fayette and Findlay Township parades. Utilized as an early literacy resource, the bus was accompanied by past and present West Allegheny administrators, school board members and Monark Student Transportation representatives.

The Book Bus continues to serve the community and will make regular outreach stops throughout the fall months. To view a comprehensive schedule of visits, please visit www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org.

Members of the West Allegheny school community prepare for the Findlay Township Parade with the Book Bus.



Substitutes needed

The West Allegheny School District is in need of substitutes for the following positions: teachers and nurses; support staff positions, including custodian; instructional paraprofessionals; clerical workers; and cafeteria workers.

To apply as a substitute teacher or nurse, visit the District website at www.westasd.org. Select Employment - Professional Openings. To apply as a substitute for a support staff position, please visit the District website and select Employment - Support Openings.

New principals receive warm West A Welcome

West Allegheny families welcomed new school principals Frank Hernandez and Rachel Gray during two meet-and-greet events hosted by administration over the summer. Both principals joined the school district earlier this year and are now in their first year as principals. Hernandez is the new principal at the middle school while Gray is the new principal at Wilson Elementary.

On Aug. 18, middle school families were invited to a retro movie night that featured the original "Star Wars: Episode IV A



ABOVE: New middle school principal Frank Hernandez welcomes families to a movie night on Aug. 18.

New Hope" movie. Originally slated as an outdoor movie, damp fields moved the event indoors, where popcorn was served as a complement to the main attraction.

Gray was welcomed by Wilson families at an old-fashioned ice cream social July 27. The food service department provided a selection of ice cream and tasty toppings while students were invited to play games and create sidewalk chalk messages welcoming their new principal.

Both events provided an opportunity for the new principals to interact with students and their parents.



RIGHT: New Wilson Elementary principal Rachel Gray greets families at an ice cream social July 27.

#WeAreInnovators&Designers

Wilson teacher earns doctorate degree

Wilson Elementary School English language arts teacher Kristin Kobert has completed the requirements for a doctorate degree in the Instructional Management and Leadership Program at Robert Morris



Kristin Kobert

University. The final step was the successful defense of her dissertation, titled “The Effects of a Gamified Professional Development Model Through the Use of Charlotte Danielson’s Framework For Teaching: A Case Study on Teacher Motivation, Engagement, Implementation Habits, and Perceptions.”

Kobert has been with the District since 2008.

Summer band camp

Sixty-nine band members from the fourth, fifth and sixth grades participated in a one-week summer camp in July, which culminated in an entertaining performance for families. Now in its 12th year, the camp was held at Wilson Elementary and ran from 9 a.m. to noon. Instructors were Darren Humbert, Mark Hoffman, Steve Groba, Jaime Mahramas, Al Cugini and Shelly LeFebvre. The following eighth grade and high school students also gave of their time to help with the camp: Grant Baurle, Justin Rippole, Claire Shemon, Stephanie Berhosky, Alex Berhosky, Brandon Raglow, Kress Oliver, Michael Cosnek, Angie Dale, Abbie Leslie, Katie Borgo and Shawn Holl.

A weeklong band camp over the summer ended with a performance for families.



#WeAreStudentStrong

German club travels abroad

Twenty-eight current and former German students traveled abroad in June, making stops in Frankfurt, Rothenburg, Munich and Heidelberg, Germany; Salzburg, Austria; and Lucerne, Switzerland. They visited landmarks such as Mt. Pilatus in the Swiss Alps and the Glockenspeil in Munich. The trip was chaperoned by teachers Katie Zanella, Liz Shannon and Mike Serventi.



ABOVE: The Glockenspeil serves as a backdrop for the travelers.

LEFT: German students pose for a photo atop Mt. Pilatus in the Swiss Alps during their trip abroad.

Olympic gold medalist shares inspiring messages with seventh grade



Polk, a member of the Olympic gold medal-winning rowing team, displays her medal to seventh-graders during a visit to the school.

Seventh-graders were treated to an inspiring visit from Amanda Polk, a member of the Olympic women’s rowing team September 13. Polk rows on the women’s coxed eight team, an event that American teams have dominated over the past several years. At this year’s Summer Olympics, the team won gold. Polk spent time with students sharing her message about never giving up on dreams and how one deals with failure can be a very powerful tool in life.

A native of the Pittsburgh area, Polk’s visit was made possible by her cousin, seventh-grader Kaitlyn Jagielski, who invited Polk to talk to her class. Following the talk, Polk signed autographs and graciously allowed students an up-close view of her gold medal.

Parent Information Notice

Services for Disabled Preschool Age Children

Act 212, the Early Intervention System Act, entitles all preschool age children with disabilities to appropriate early intervention services. Young children experiencing developmental delay or physical or mental disabilities are eligible for early entrance services. He or she is considered to have a developmental delay when difficulties exist in the areas of cognitive, communicative, physical social /emotional and self help development. Services for special needs children, below school age, who reside in suburban Allegheny County, are provided through two different systems linked by a transition process. Birth through age two programming is provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare funding and is coordinated by the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, Inc. Students who are three years old to entry age are serviced through the Pennsylvania Department of Education funding. This preschool program is presently coordinated by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Early Childhood and Family Support Services program, DART.

For more information, please contact the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, Inc. at 412-885-6000 or the Allegheny Intermediate Unit/DART Program at 412-394-5736.

You may find information regarding the appropriate developmental milestone descriptors for infants and toddlers at the Center of Disease Control (CDC) website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/ActEarly/default.htm>

Services for School Age Exceptional Students

The school district provides a free, appropriate public education to exceptional students according to state and federal mandates. To be eligible, the child must be of school-age, need specially designed instruction, and meet eligibility criteria for mentally gifted and/or one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities as set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act which was re-authorized in 1997 (IDEA -97) and the Chapter 14 Special Education Services and Programs State Regulations: Autism, Blindness/Visual Impairment, Deaf- Blindness, Deafness/Hearing Impairment, Emotional Disturbance, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disability, Orthopedic Impaired, Other Health Impaired, Specific Learning Disability, Speech and Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury.

Identified students are provided with a continuum of services designed to meet the individual needs of eligible students. These services may include supportive intervention in the regular class, supplemental intervention in the regular class or in a special education resource program, placement in a part-time or full-time special education class in a regular school or placement in a full-time special education class outside of the regular school. The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the parents and staff at the IEP team meeting and is based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age, and the intensity of the specified intervention. The school district also provides related services, such as transportation, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and counseling services that are required to enable the student to derive educational benefits.

Parents of public school students who suspect that their child is exceptional and in need of special education may request a multidisciplinary team evaluation of their child through a written request to the Building Principal or Director of Pupil Services. Please contact the Building Principal or Director of Pupil Services for the required form.

Screening and Evaluation

The West Allegheny School District employs the following procedures for locating, identifying, and evaluating specified needs of school age students requiring special programs and services.

Level 1: Review of group-based data

Level 2: Review of hearing, vision, motor, speech and language

Level 3: School Based Intervention Teams

The Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE)

The MDE is a process to gather information that will be used to find out if children really do need special education and if so, the types of services needed. Prior to an MDE, the District must obtain permission via the Permission to Evaluate form. Before an evaluation can occur, the form must be signed by the parent or legal guardian.

Evaluations are conducted by a certified school psychologist. Additional information is provided by the parents, classroom teacher, and other pertinent individuals who work with the student. All of this information is compiled into an Evaluation Report (ER). This report will recommend whether a child has one or more disabilities or mental giftedness. It also recommends whether or not the child requires special education and the type of program and services that the child needs. The ER may recommend that a child is not exceptional and therefore does not need special education services. If this is recommended, the report will list changes that may be made in the regular classroom to make the child more successful. All members of the MDT, including the parents, are entitled to review the ER.

Reevaluations for students, who are eligible for special education services, are compiled every three years or two years for students with intellectual disabilities or when requested by one or more members of the IEP team (please see information on Individualized Education Plan).

Individualized Education Plan

Children who are regarded to be exceptional by the MDT team are entitled to receive special education services. The document that specifically addresses these services is called an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Required members of the IEP team include: the child's parents; at least one of your child's regular education teachers; at least one special education teacher; a representative from the school district who: (1) is qualified to provide or supervise special education programs, (2) knows about the general curriculum, (3) knows what resources the Local Education Agency (LEA) can offer; someone who can interpret the evaluation results and who may already be a member of the team, at your request or that of the school; other people who know your child well or who have worked with your child; your child (at age 14 when planning will be done for life after graduation or any time before that age when you want your child to be present); or a representative from a vocational-technical school if a vocational- technical school is being considered for your child.

The IEP will review all of the evaluation material and will determine how your child is performing in school. The IEP team will write annual goals that can be measured and which meet the needs of your child. IEPs for eligible students are developed on an annual basis, or sooner, if requested by one or more members of the IEP team.

Parent Information Notice (cont.)

Notice of Recommended Educational Placement

Once the IEP has been developed with the IEP team; you will receive a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP). The NOREP explains the placement or class recommended for your child and explains your rights. You must approve the NOREP in writing for your child's first special education placement if you want it to go into effect. You will receive a NOREP with each completed IEP and you have 10 calendar days to return the NOREP. In circumstances when this form is NOT completed parental consent is NOT required, the school will proceed after 10 calendar days.

West Allegheny School District offers a continuum of educational services designed to meet the needs of eligible students including varying degrees of gifted, learning, and speech and language support. In addition, related services such as transportation, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision support, and deaf and hearing support are available to those students that qualify.

Detailed information regarding special education procedures may be obtained by calling the Special Education Department at 724-695-5221.

Services for Protected Handicapped Students

There are instances in which students are identified as handicapped or disabled, but may not qualify for Special Education services. If it is determined necessary, the school district will provide these students, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to ensure equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school programs and extracurricular activities. To qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. Services and protections for protected handicapped students are different from those applicable to all eligible students enrolled in special education programs. These services are outlined in a Chapter 15 Service Agreement. Questions regarding Chapter 15 should be directed to the Director of Pupil Services at 724-695-5221.

Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools

Public special education is accessible to resident students attending nonpublic schools by permitting the nonpublic school student to enroll on a part-time, dual enrollment basis in a special education program operated in a public school. The student must have a multidisciplinary team evaluation completed and an Individual Education Plan must be developed with the public school; parents must sign a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement.

Parents of nonpublic school students who suspect that their child is exceptional and in need of special education may request a multidisciplinary team evaluation of their child through a written request to the district Director of Pupil Services.

Public Notice on Student Records

The Education Records Plan for Exceptional Students is a state approved plan for the local school districts within the Allegheny Intermediate Unit which defines all procedures for collection, maintenance, and dissemination of educational records belonging to exceptional students. Education records are needed to provide appropriate educational programs, but at the same time it is necessary to protect the rights of privacy and confidentiality of students and parents.

Official student education records are kept where a student attends a district operated class. Copies of the District Education Records Plan may be obtained from your building principal.

Confidentiality of Student Records

The privacy rights of parents and students are mandated by federal legislation known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), state regulations (Chapter 14 - Special Education Services and Programs, Chapter 12 - Student Rights and Responsibilities), and district policy.

The different categories of information maintained by the school district are as follows: educational and health records, personally identifiable information and directory information. With the exception of the receiving school district, educational and health records, personally identifiable information cannot be disclosed or released without parental consent or adult student's (a student who is eighteen years of age or older, married or attending an institution of post secondary education) consent.

Information known as directory information can be released without consent. Directory information means information which would be considered not harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. This information includes the following: student's name, address, date and place of birth, courses taken, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

A written, parental or adult student request is required for the disclosure of educational and health records and personally identifiable information. The consent must specify the records that may be disclosed and the purpose of the disclosure; and identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made. A written record of the disclosure must be maintained by the school district.

Parent or adult students have the right to inspect and review the students' educational records within thirty (30) days of the date the district receives a written request for access. Parents of eligible students should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the specific records they wish to inspect. Parents or adult students can seek to amend the student's educational record that is believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. The parent or eligible student in writing must clearly identify the parts of the record to be changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student will be notified of the decision and advise the individual of his/her right to a hearing regarding the requested amendment.

Parents or adult students have the right to file complaints concerning alleged failures of the district to comply with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Such complaints should be directed to the Health, Educational and Welfare Office, Washington, D. C. With regard to parents who do not understand English, the School District will attempt to inform them of their rights in their native language. Further information regarding the Policy of the Collection, Maintenance and Dissemination of Records is available through the principal's office.

Butterfly project takes flight at Donaldson

Donaldson students visiting Denise Stitch and Sue McKissick's classroom kicked off the school year by caring for approximately 75 monarch butterflies in a display that provided incredible observation and learning opportunities for the entire school. From caterpillar to butterfly, students were responsible for set-up, cleaning and feeding. Once the butterflies were ready, students released them for their migration to Mexico.

This is the seventh year for the butterfly project and it continues to be a student favorite as they become engaged through butterfly care and release.



ABOVE: Second-grader JJ Miller prepares to release one of nearly 75 monarch butterflies his class helped raise.

BELOW: A monarch butterfly display allowed Donaldson students to observe the caterpillar stage of its life cycle.



Lord Stanley's Cup surprises Wilson students

Little did Wilson students know that when they arrived at school on the morning of September 16, that a huge surprise was waiting for them. As they entered the gym, the Stanley Cup was on display, and their shocked faces told all.

Wilson students and staff were given the opportunity of a lifetime, thanks to school nurse Linda Hart and her husband, Kevin, who works for the Pittsburgh Penguins organization. Kevin also spoke with students about the Stanley Cup's history and even allowed them to touch it.

The Penguins won the cup earlier this year by defeating the San Jose Sharks in the NHL Stanley Cup finals. As is custom, members of the organization take turns throughout the offseason borrowing the cup.



Kevin Hart of the Pittsburgh Penguins gives Wilson students an up-close history lesson on the Stanley Cup.

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All material has been prepared, written, or edited by
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Using the sharp end of a pry bar, Greg Gilbert pops the top off of a square wooden box, revealing upwards of 60,000 honeybees hard at work inside of it.

All around him, hundreds of thousands of honeybees from about 50 hives in this apiary - or "yard" as he calls it - on the Beccari Farm just outside of Oakdale dart back and forth in a scene he likens to an airport. After waving a smoker filled with smoldering pine needles and a corn cob over the hive, he grasps a wooden frame set sideways in the box with his two index fingers. Careful not to squish any bees, he lifts it out of the box and examines the comb, which is covered with hundreds of bees, shiny pools of nectar and dark caps of honey.

Gilbert wears a brimmed hat with netting that covers his face and head, but not gloves. He says they make his hands sweat. Instead, he wafts some smoke over them, explaining that the scent blocks a pheromone that bees give off when they're alarmed.

"I can go through this yard and maybe get stung two or three or four times," he says. "Sometimes hives will get a little defensive."

This hive was one of those hives. He even scrawled "defensive" on the side of the box to remind himself.

"They're not testy today," says Gilbert, "probably because there's a honey flow on... They're just more purposeful. They have more important things to worry about than you, pretty much. They're on task."

On this particular warm September afternoon, that task is to harvest as much honey as possible in the remaining weeks before the first frost.

"Right now they're working goldenrod and asters and Japanese knotweed," says Gilbert. "Right now we're in the middle of what's called the fall honey flow... We're lucky in Pennsylvania, we have two honey flows. Some states only have one."

Unlike spring honey, the type of honey these bees are producing now is dark brown, almost coffee-colored, with a taste resembling sassafras and butterscotch. Studies on dark honey have shown it to contain upwards of eight times the concentration of antioxidants found in spring honey, which has a light golden hue. That type also has a bright, floral flavor, being made up of nectar from spring flowers, including dandelion, clover, autumn olive, and trees like tulip, poplar, and maple.

A chiropractor by trade, Gilbert began beekeeping seven years ago after he met another area beekeeper named Gill Buzza at a Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers Association meeting. Gilbert mentored under Buzza and now Gilbert splits his time between working as a chiropractor and looking after roughly 105 hives across Oakdale, Clinton, Hickory and Primrose.

He's also started mentoring beekeepers himself. He and Buzza work the yard on the Beccari Farm together and are the latest in

a line of about five beekeepers to do so, says Gilbert. At least one beekeeper has their ashes scattered there and some of the yard's equipment is older than him.

So far this year, the two have recovered 1,000 pounds of honey from the Beccari Farm's hives. Gilbert sells his at Beccari's Farm Market in Presto and at the McDonald Trail Station Farmers' Market on Saturdays. He also raises queen bees and sells them to other beekeepers.

For Gilbert, though, the appeal goes well beyond the monetary rewards. It's why he can work hives for upwards of eight hours in a single day and still have the energy for more.

"I'm hooked on it," he says. "I tell people I was hooked from the first smell, the first time I stood over a beehive and just smelled... To me it's a perfect fit, of nature, science, outdoors, the art form of it, the tradition of it, just appeals to me on a variety of different levels. It's just very fulfilling."

Beekeeping also benefits the local ecology, bolstering a population of pollinators that has fallen off dramatically over the past half century. From 1947 and 2005, domesticated honeybee populations in the U.S. fell by almost 60 percent. In Europe, honeybee populations fell off by 25 percent between 1985 and 2005. From 2007 to 2008, the U.S. lost almost 40 percent of its domesticated honeybee colonies, an increase of 11.4 percent over the previous year. In 2015, 42 percent of bee colonies in the U.S. collapsed.

Researchers have taken those statistics to mean that feral colonies could be suffering a similar fate and federal officials are beginning to take steps to add some bee species to the federal endangered and threatened species list. In September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed adding the rusty patched bumble bee to the list and just a week later, seven types of Hawaiian bee species were added, making them the first bee species to be included.

Considering that honeybees are part of an insect population responsible for pollinating upwards of 75 percent of the world's crops, some researchers have questioned whether a "pollinator crisis" could be on the horizon. Why bee colonies are disappearing remains a point of much conjecture, though researchers are increasingly pointing toward a number of threats working in conjunction.

Several of the threats to honeybees cited by researchers are ones that Gilbert and Buzza stay on top of with their own hives. Among them are parasitic *Vorroa* destructor mites, which carry pathogens that can be lethal to a hive. Gilbert says some honey producers use pesticides to fight the mites, but that he and Buzza prefer formic acid. It's the same stuff that black ants use as a defense mechanism. The formic acid kills mites but does minimal damage to bees and volatilizes quickly, leaving little or no residue in the comb or honey, he says.

Combating other threats identified by researchers in recent years is less straightforward. Those include loss of habitat and food sources due to urban development. Herbicides used by farmers can also kill plants honeybees use to gather pollen.

Yet another threat identified by researchers in recent years are neonicotinoids, a class of systemic pesticides. In 2013, member countries of the European Union voted to restrict the use of some neonicotinoids for two years after a study by the European Food Safety Authority concluded that neonicotinoids pose a significant risk to honeybees. Today, neonicotinoids are the most widely used class of pesticide in the world, including in the U.S., where the EPA continues to evaluate their impact.

Unlike traditional pesticides, neonicotinoids cannot only be sprayed on crops but can also be used to treat seeds and soil. They are designed to be absorbed into plant tissue and persist in the environment.

Toxic to bees in large doses, researchers have said that neonicotinoids and other pesticides can also have a sub-lethal effect in smaller, non-lethal doses, making bees more susceptible to disease, additional pesticides and other threats.

The USDA, in limited testing, has also found neonicotinoids in fruits and vegetables, though what effect they can have on humans remains unknown. Studies by the European Food Safety Authority, however, have suggested that two types of neonicotinoids, imidacloprid and acetamiprid, may impair the developing human nervous system, adversely affecting learning and memory.

Another type of pesticide that could pose a significant threat to honeybees in the coming months and years are pesticides aimed at killing mosquitoes. In August, after four people were diagnosed with Zika in Dorchester County, South Carolina, millions of honeybees were killed by the pesticide naled. According to CNN, officials followed state and manufacturer guidelines for spraying naled, but failed to inform beekeepers so they could protect their hives.

For beekeepers like Gilbert, he says there's only so much one person can do.

"Yeah, it's a concern, but it's almost like, you feel helpless and it's like, 'What can I do?'" he says. "All I can do is encourage people to

plant pollinator-friendly things around their house, give the bees a wide range of forage, be conscious of their use of herbicides and pesticides around their garden. There's a price to be paid for it, not only for bees but for people."

While the controversy over the use of neonicotinoids and other pesticides and herbicides continues to swirl, it has spurred action among some members of the public. Such was the case with Clinton resident Hank Brinzer, who became a beekeeper three years ago after hearing about the plight of the bee. Brinzer mentored under Gilbert and started out with one hive. Now he has 12 hives, five of which he keeps in his backyard and the rest on local farms.

Brinzer says he told his neighbors about his intentions before placing the hives. Not only did they not mind, he says, but some planted flowers and other pollinator-friendly plants. A farmer next to him even let him place a hive in a field of buckwheat he'd planted. Buckwheat is supposed to make really good dark honey, says Brinzer.

Another way Brinzer and beekeepers like him protect bees is by collecting swarms. Shortly after Brinzer started keeping his own bees, he asked the Findlay Township Police Department to call him if anyone complained about swarming bees. One call came from Wilson Elementary School, after a swarm showed up on the McAdow-McAdams Log House, which sits not far from the school. Brinzer recovered a swarm of about 4,000 bees there, sweeping them into a box while standing 20 feet in the air on a ladder.

Brinzer says it's a misconception that swarming bees are aggressive, or that any bee is outwardly aggressive, really. He says that when bees swarm, they're actually much more docile because they don't have a home to protect.

"Everyone has a misconception about bees, that they'll hurt you," he says. "But the only way a bee will sting you is if you threaten her life or home. Other than that, she will not bother you."

BELOW: Clinton resident Hank Brinzer holds the top of a box he made for one of his hives.



ABOVE: Greg Gilbert holds a wooden frame containing a honeycomb swarming with honeybees.

On the Beccari Farm, bees regularly swarm to a pear tree near the apiary, drawn by the scent of queens that have settled on it in the past. When a late season swarm appeared on the tree recently, Gilbert was able to brush his bare hand against it and even work his hand into the heart of the swarm without suffering a single sting. The bees, stacked two-deep on his hand, put their hindquarters in the air and fanned, giving off a pheromone that summoned other bees to follow.

Both Brinzer and Gilbert encourage anyone who encounters a swarm and is concerned about it to get in touch with a local beekeeper, who will gladly collect it. For beekeepers, adding feral swarms to their apiary adds diversity to the overall gene pool.

"From a genetic profile or breeding profile, it's nice to have wild hives, if they are indeed wild," says Gilbert. "You could always get a swarm from another beekeeper down the road. But if you can find hives that are coming out of trees that are untreated, un-medicated, it's good have some of that wild genetic stock."

As to why bees swarm, Brinzer says there could be any number of reasons. Sometimes, it's because the hive has gotten overcrowded. Other times, the hive is replacing its queen, which can prompt an old queen to leave and take tens of thousands of followers with her.

Brinzer says a hive will replace a queen when her production starts falling off from the 1,000 or so eggs a healthy queen can lay in a single day. That reproduction is essential, given that the hive will go through thousands of bees in a single season. Worker bees literally work themselves to death over the



ABOVE AND BELOW: Honeybees in Hank Brinzer's backyard collect pollen from flowers. **BACKGROUND:** Greg Gilbert walks through an apiary outside of Oakdale. **BOTTOM:** Greg Gilbert allows a swarm of bees to collect on his fingers.



RIGHT: Hyeholde executive chef Brent Peyton stands in the restaurant's vegetable garden, which benefits from two beehives kept on the property. One hive can be seen in the background. **INSET:** These photos show the difference between lighter honey harvested by the restaurant in the spring and darker honey harvested in the fall.



spring and summer, yet produce just one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in their lifetime.

Honeybees never fly farther than three miles from their hive and will visit 50 to 100 flowers in a single trip. The pollen they consume gives them the energy to gather and deposit nectar in the comb. Once that nectar is dried down to less than 20 percent water, it's capped as finished honey. The end product repels moisture, and with it, bacteria, so it needs no form of preservation. It's the only food consumed by humans that does not need preservation, and the only food produced by an insect that's also consumed by humans. Because it's so good at repelling bacteria, some honeys are even used as antiseptics.

Demand for local honey is strong, both for niche products and in its raw form. The local startup KingView Mead has created a program called Mead for Bees, by which it donates 10 percent of all sales to purchase beekeeping equipment and supplies that it raffles off to beekeepers. Brinzer was one of their recipients.

In Moon Township, the Hyeholde Restaurant maintains two hives next to its vegetable garden, and uses honey from them in everything from mead it gives out as samples, to desserts, to meat marinades, to salad dressings.

Off North Branch Road in North Fayette Township, Half Crown Hill Orchard keeps both honeybees and blue orchard mason bees. The bees pollinate the orchard's apple blossoms and the orchard also sells its honey in its farm market.

At grocery stores and farmers' markets, raw honey is also commonly available from local producers.

"You definitely want to try to support local honey because it's untreated and unfiltered most of the time," says Gilbert. "Most of the [processed] honey in stores is altered. To give it shelf life they'll heat it so it doesn't crystalize, which kills a lot of the enzymes."

Raw honey also contains pollen granules that are filtered out in processed honey. Though it has not been scientifically proven, the granules are believed to help seasonal allergy sufferers acclimate to what's ailing them.

Another benefit to buying local honey is that those dollars are likely supporting beekeepers who are passionate about their honeybees. It's that passion that

beekeepers pass on to one another through the mentoring process, and it may be what helps save honeybee populations for future generations.

For those who haven't gotten into beekeeping yet, Gilbert has just one question: "So when are you going to get a hive?"



Hank Brinzer opens the top of one of his newer hives. As the hive grows, he'll add additional boxes.

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Jesse Forquer, jjforquer@comcast.net.

Greater Pittsburgh Football Officials Association, seeking new officials for youth, scholastic, college and semi-pro levels, Mike Conlon, (412) 398-6545.

Boy Scout Troop 248 Haunted Cabin, Oct. 26-29, 7-9 p.m., Killbuck Lodge, spooky Halloween attractions: covered bridge, creek critters, maze, torture chamber, spinning vortex of doom, fun house, graveyard, more, \$5/person, \$3/person group rate, benefits Boy Scout Troop 248, (724) 693-0549.

West Allegheny Youth Basketball Registration, grades 3-6 (travel) tryouts Oct. 17-18, \$200, in-house (K-8) registration deadline Dec. 10, \$75, www.wabasketball.com.

Senior Citizen Wellness Expo 2016, hosted by state Rep. Mark Mustio and state Sen. Guy Reschenthaler, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sheraton Pittsburgh in Moon Township, flu shots and pneumonia shots provided by Rite Aid, Apprise provides a presentation to help seniors with insurance choices and questions, 1-2 p.m.

2016 Pittsburgh Amyloidosis Research Benefit, Oct. 28, 5:30 p.m., Montour Heights Country Club, strolling appetizers, dinner, live music, cash bar, silent auction, benefits AF Research Grant Program, \$175, \$1,400 for tables of eight, sponsorships available, purchase tickets at www.amyloidosis.org, 1 (877) 269-5643.

Parkway West Education Foundation First Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser, Nov. 4, 6-9 p.m., Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, Johnston@parkwaywest.org.

Shoebox for Veterans, starts Nov. 11, fill a Shoebox for a veteran and mark male or female, drop-off at Oakdale Municipal Building 8 a.m.-4 p.m., body wash, deodorant, shaving cream/razors, denture adhesive/cleaner, mouthwash (no alcohol), hats/gloves/socks, sweats/shirts/pants/hoodies, t-shirts, underwear/shoes (Velcro), snacks (granola/pretzels), games for two or more, art supplies, reading glasses, stamps, last day to donate Dec. 21, plastic shoebox preferred, (724) 693-9740.

Montours Presbyterian Church Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale, Oct. 22, 4-6 p.m., 3151 Montour Church Road, includes spaghetti with homemade meat sauce, tossed salad, Mancini's bread, dessert, beverage, \$8/adults, \$4/children 5-12, under 4 free, take-out available, (412) 787-1050.

Unique Boutique, Nov. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Edgeworth Club in Sewickley, one-of-a-kind gifts for holiday season, 50 artisans and vendors, clothing, gourmet food, home décor, jewelry/accessories, \$10/person, \$35 with lunch, lunch reservations required, benefits Heritage Valley BreastCare Program, see page 25 for featured vendors, buy online at www.heritagevalley.org, (412) 749-7050.

Holy Trinity Christmas Craft Show, Nov. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holy Trinity School Building, 100 crafters, lunch available, handicapped-accessible, tables available, (724) 695-3573.

Trap Neuter Return Seminar, Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Victorian Hall, 1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, Weirton, West Virginia, hosted by Animal Care and Welfare, seminar on trap neuter return as non-lethal method to manage stray and feral cats, free program, (304) 387-2508.

Holiday Craft Show, Nov. 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Bishop Canevin High School, 150 crafters selling hand-made gifts, lunch, gift auction, raffles, "Crafts with Katie," parking, free shuttle, benefits school, (412) 922-7400 x 224.

Wilson PTA Designer Purse Bingo, Nov. 13, doors open 12 p.m., bingo starts 1 p.m., Findlay Activity Center, \$25 in advance, \$30 at door, includes 10 games, specials, 50/50, Chinese auction, concessions, ages 18+, benefits students of Wilson Elementary, jenresio@gmail.com, www.wawilsonpta.org.

Teal to Heal Concert, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m., Crossroads Church, featuring new Christmas music by Dan Hanczar Orchestra, silent auction, artwork, baked goods, benefits Julie Hanczar as she continues to recover, (724) 693-8241, hanczar@verizon.net.

LuLaRoe Extravaganza, Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Embassy Suites in Moon Township, large multi-consultant pop-up with 30+ LLR stations, select jewelry, accessory vendors, benefits Toys for Tots, SVL922@hotmail.com.

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Embassy Suites in Moon Township, fun filled day of shopping from 100+ crafters and vendors, win a "Loaded Christmas Tree" with goodies, free admission, benefits Toys for Tots, SVL922@hotmail.com.

Christmas Concert, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., The Rock, with the Trinity Jazz Orchestra and Dan Hanczar Orchestra performing songs from their new Christmas album, (724) 693-8241, hanczar@verizon.net.

West Hills Symphonic Band, concerts take place at West Allegheny High School.

Autumn's Full Embrace, Oct. 16, 3 p.m., music of Aaron Copeland, John Williams, Igor Stravinsky, Camille Saint-Saens, Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man," Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's "Variations on a Theme by Glinka," Bill Lewis (oboe soloist).

Our Gift Uplifts, the beloved music of Christmas, Dec. 11, 3 p.m.

DAR Jacob Ferree Chapter Programs

To RSVP for regular meetings, contact Ruth Pickett at (724) 538-4623 or email rpickett12351@embarqmail.com.

Service Social, Nov. 5, Union Presbyterian Church, 11 a.m., free event, join for Operation Troop Appreciation with Monica Orluk.

Christmas Musical Program, Dec. 10, Montour Heights Country Club, 11 a.m., \$25, Christmas luncheon set to the festive sounds of the season, reserve by Dec. 3.

Farmers' Markets

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

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

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SNPJ Club

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

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

Tady Brothers Dance, **Oct. 23, starts 2 p.m.**, polka dance featuring the Tady Brothers, Jack and Dick

Adult Halloween Party, **Oct. 28**, come in costume for some great prizes, in the clubroom.

Children's Halloween Party, **Oct. 30, 1-3 p.m.**, in the Imperial Room.

Christmas Polka Dance, **Dec. 4, 2-6 p.m.**, featuring Dick Tady and DTO, in the Imperial Room.

Children's Christmas Party, **Dec. 11, 1-3 p.m.**, food, games, music, visit from Ol' Saint Nick, in the Imperial Room.

Adult Christmas Party, **Dec. 17**, food and prizes, in the Imperial Room.

New Year's Eve Party, **Dec. 31, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.**, entertainment by the Party of 5, extensive buffet, party favors, pork and sauerkraut at midnight, ages 21+, reservations required, block of rooms being secured for party-goers, inquire when making reservations, \$35/person, purchase in club room.

LifeSpan Senior Resource Center

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., 540 Penn Lincoln Drive, Imperial (724) 218-1669, www.lifespanpa.org.

Salad bar, **Mondays and Wednesdays**, side \$2, lunch salad \$4.

CCAC Free Classes, through **November**, Chair Exercise, **Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m.**, Restoration and Relaxation, **Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m.**

Halloween Big Bingo, **Oct. 31, 12-2 p.m.**, \$10/person, includes lunch, snacks, cash prizes, door prize, registration required.

Miracles of Pittsburgh, **Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 2 p.m.**, interactive musical event, combines music from the 1950s-1970s, dance, exercise, games, free, call to register.

Fine art, **Nov. 21, Dec. 5, 2 p.m.**, see a Romibo Robot assist an art instructor to create artwork, free, call to register.

Lunch served, **11:30 a.m.**, make reservations day prior by **11 a.m.**

Weekly events: Wii bowling, lending library, senior computer area, WiFi Café, billiards, line dancing, card club, crochet/knitting club, Bunco, Spanish class, visit website for monthly menu and center activities.

HealthSouth Support Groups

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

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

Amputee Support Group, call for dates, **4-5:15 p.m.**, free refreshments provided.



FREAKY FRIDAY

October 21, 2016

10 AM Costume Parade - FREE for all ages!

6-8 PM Spooky Crafts & Scary Swim

Crafts are FREE for all participants. Scary Swim is \$10 per person (age 2 and up). All activities are family-friendly.

COLOR CRAWL SPARKLE EDITION

October 29, 2016

Run or walk 2 miles through Boyce Mayview Park while being doused in colored powder & sparkles! Open to all ages and fitness levels. Please call for registration details.



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Findlay Parks and Recreation

Register for any of the following by calling Findlay Township Parks and Recreation at (724) 695-0500 x 246 or email dlarson@findlaytwp.org, unless otherwise indicated. Programs take place at the Findlay Township Activity Center located at 310 Main Street in Imperial unless otherwise indicated.

Yoga, Fridays except Nov. 11 and 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$5/class, call Julia for more information, (724) 695-1976.

Senior Yoga and Qi Gong, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.- 12:15 p.m., stretches and flow will be performed from a chair or seated on the ground, some standing, for all participants, great for older adults, (724) 695-1976, Info@idtsd.net, free.

Walk 15™, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7 p.m., Donna Kuzio opens the doors to a better way of health and weight loss through indoor walk classes, \$5/class, kuziofr@gmail.com to register or call Findlay Township Recreation Department.

Create a Canvas Workshops, adult classes, **second Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m.**, \$30, children's classes (ages 6+), **second Saturdays, \$20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**, create a monthly painting with friends, BYOB (adults) and snacks encouraged, paint supplies and instruction provided, cac.eatdrinkpaint@gmail.com, (724) 454-0615, register online: www.createacanvaspgh.com.

Time for Toddlers, Mondays: Oct. 17, 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 5, Jan. 9, 23; Tuesdays: Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 15, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, 24, 10:15-11:15 a.m., one hour of movement, music, activities, adult must stay with child, registration required, follows WA school cancellation schedule, \$3/session.

Scrapbooking Workshop, Oct. 15, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., enjoy uninterrupted time dedicated to safely protecting your photos and memorabilia, bring tools and supplies, registration required, Michelle Koester, (724) 307-3333, michellekoestercm@comcast.net, \$60, includes lunch, dinner, beverages.

Computer and Appliance Recycling, Oct. 22, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., televisions accepted at no charge (one per vehicle), \$15 appliances with Freon, no florescent bulbs or television tubes, recycling items accepted only during hours of event.

Conquer the Dark! A Low Light Photography Seminar, Oct. 25, 6:30-8:30, learn low light techniques that will help you capture sunrises, sunsets, cityscapes and Christmas lights, for novice and intermediate DSLR photographers, \$30.

Creative Cooking with the Kids, Oct. 26, 5 p.m., class will teach you and your child how to bond in the kitchen while making incredibly easy and tasty Halloween delights, **register by Oct. 24**, ages 4-12, \$5/person, \$10/child and adult.

Halloween Parade and Pre-Party, Oct. 29, Activity Center, pizza party **12-12:45 p.m.**, entertainment **1-1:30 p.m.** with O'Ryan the O'Mazing Juggler, parade **1:30 p.m.**, starts at Activity Center and ends at Imperial Fire Hall for treats, prize drawings, all ages, registration required for pizza party.

Trick or Treat, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 830 Pancake Breakfast, Nov. 5, Activity Center, **7:30 a.m.-12 p.m.**, \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and children 5-12, under 5 free, takeouts available, Chinese auction, donations accepted for WA Food Pantry.

Christmas Light-Up in Clinton Park, walk through Nov. 17, 18, 5-10 p.m., open for cars **Nov. 19-Jan. 1, 5-10 p.m.**, \$10/car, benefits local charitable organizations, to volunteer or for special events nights, (724) 899-3602.

We'd like to hear from you!

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

North Fayette Parks and Recreation

For more information or to register for a program contact Darlene Hildebrand at (724) 307-3725 or at dhildebrand@north-fayette.com, unless otherwise noted. Programs take place at the North Fayette Community Center at Donaldson Park, unless otherwise noted.

After School Programming 2016-2017, 3-5:30 p.m., K-8 programs designed to provide a safe environment for children after school, information and paperwork available at north-fayette.com.

P.A.L.S., Fridays, Providing Assistance Love and Support, volunteer organization dedicated to developing and facilitating structured recreational opportunities for children with special needs, swimming Fridays through **Oct. 21, 6:30-8 p.m.**, call for more information.

Senior Luncheons, second Wednesdays, 12-2 p.m., \$5, entertainment follows, call for more information.

Senior Pickle Ball, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m., free with membership.

Senior Strut and Sculpt, Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m., free with membership.

Fall Festival, Oct. 22, Donaldson Park, **5-7 p.m.**, trunk or treat, costume parade **5 p.m.**, fall family fun, crafts, pumpkin patch, hayrides, bonfire, call to participate in trunk-or-treat.

Girls Developmental Volleyball League, Oct. 26-Feb. 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Youth Basketball League, Oct. 27-Feb. 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Super Kids Soccer, Nov. 15-Dec. 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Indoor Flag Football League, times TBA, dependent on enrollment, **Nov. 19-Feb. 25**.

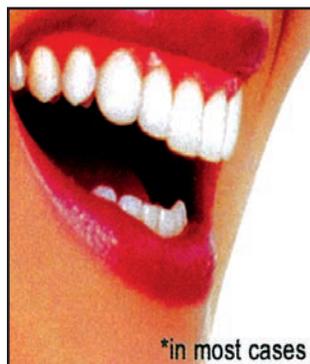
Christmas Tree Lighting, Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m., featuring West Allegheny choirs, refreshments, train rides, pictures with Santa, new festival of wreaths contest.

Floor Hockey League, times TBA, dependent on enrollment, **Jan. 7-March 25**.

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West Allegheny Community Library

The WACL is located at: 181 Bateman Road, Oakdale, 15071. For more information, visit www.WesternAlleghenyLibrary.org or call (724) 695-8150.

Ongoing Adult Programs

"Who Done It?" Book Club, first Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
Ornament of the Month Club, first Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Altered Book Club, second Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Bookworms, second Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
Forever Fiction, third Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
Brown Bag Movie Nights, third Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.
Anime & Manga Club, fourth Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
Pinterest Playgroup, fourth Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Ongoing Youth and Family Programs

Baby Circle Time, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.
Toddler Storytime, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Preschool Storytime, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. (no storytime Oct. 27)

WACL Community Garage Sale, Oct. 15, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sell some of your older items, clean house, make money and have fun! Come do some shopping and support your library!

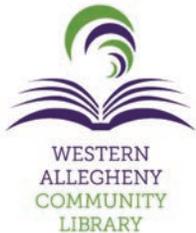
Self Publishing Workshop, Oct. 24, 6 p.m. This workshop will cover print-on-demand publishing via Amazon.com's CreateSpace and ePublishing via Kindle Direct. Author and WACL librarian H. L. Blake will demo this free, easy service and answer questions. .

Vendor Craft Sale, Nov. 4. A wide variety of vendors and crafts will be available. Do some holiday shopping and support your library.

Readers' Theater Performance, Nov. 2, 6 p.m. A full-cast performance with costumes and special effects featuring library kids. Benefits the WACL.

Ceramics Painting Backyard Fundraiser, Nov. 6, 2 p.m. Paint and decorate an assortment of holiday-themed and other ceramics. Benefits the backyard project. Costs per item vary.

Semi-annual Used Book Sale, Nov. 10-12, Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. \$5 per bag (or individually priced); fiction and nonfiction, adult, teen, children's; audio books (CD and cassette); movies (DVD, VHS, Blu-ray); music on CD and cassette; puzzles, games, magazines, raffle baskets, baked goods, sponsored by WAFEL.



WACL Hours:
Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Heritage Public Library

52 Fourth St., McDonald, heritagelibrary@comcast.net, (724) 926-8400

Friends Fall Auction, take a chance on baskets and items, benefits library.

Fall Story Time, Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m., registration required.

Gregory Juzwick Book Signing, Oct. 15, 1 p.m., local author discusses his book "Perilous Journey."

Friend's Group meeting, Oct. 19, 11 a.m.

Friend's Group Steeler Ticket Raffle, two tickets to the Steelers versus Browns game Jan. 1, benefits library, purchase tickets at library.

Your community businesses are the reason for the publication of Allegheny West Magazine. Please support these businesses. Their support allows us to mail this magazine, free, into the households of Findlay, North Fayette, Oakdale, Sturgeon, and portions of McDonald as a community service.

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Who is this famous television star Charles Esten Puskar III? His fans have come to know him as Deacon Claybourne from the ABC show “Nashville.” His stage name is Charles Esten.

In the western Allegheny County community, though, where Puskar has long been known as Chip, his roots run deep. His great grandparents settled in Imperial in 1912 after emigrating from Europe to work in the coal mines. Ludic and Mary Jane Puskar later ran a grocery store there and delivered groceries by horse and wagon. Their store was next door to the post office on Main Street.

Their third son of seven children was Charles, who, along with his wife, Marguerite, were Imperial’s postmasters from the 1950s through the 1970s. A star in her own right, Marguerite’s beauty earned her the titles Miss Pittsburgh, Miss Kennywood and, finally, Miss Pennsylvania.

Their first of their five children was named Charles Esten “Chuck” Puskar Jr. He was quite popular at school and in school plays. He sang in Stewart Morgan’s chorus, played football and graduated from West Allegheny in 1959. Chuck married Cynthia, his college sweetheart, and the two made their home in Greentree. Chuck became an insurance agent and later partnered with Steeler Ray Mansfield. Charles was their firstborn.

Charles “Chip” Esten Puskar III was born in 1965. His sister, Mary Catharine, came along a few years later.

“I was very young, when my dad asked me, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ A clown,” Chip says. “I didn’t know what it was, but at an early age I knew I wanted to make someone laugh.

“We had big family gatherings,” Chip says, “probably my first audiences. I enjoyed the feeling when something I said or did would literally make someone laugh out loud and change their mood. I was pretty much a showoff.”

Chip and his dad would visit his great aunt, Alice Puskar Bolind, who still lives blocks from her late father’s Imperial store. Forty years later, Chip continues to make visits to see her when he comes home to Pittsburgh. At age 103, she has a lot of history and stories to tell.

“She has that spark in her eyes and that beautiful Pittsburgh accent,” says Chip. “She lights up when we stop by and we light up when we are there.”

Chip was 9 when he moved with his mother and sister to Alexandria, Virginia, to be near his maternal grandparents. His own parents’ marriage had ended.

“My mom went back to work,” says Chip. “When I came home



Charles Esten Puskar III (at center) is pictured here with immediate and extended members of the Puskar family at the 20th Annual Steelers Alumni Golf Classic in July. Charles accepted the Ray Mansfield “Old Ranger” award at the outing on behalf of his father, Chuck. Family members in attendance included Charles’ siblings Cathy, Stacy, Simpson, Michael and Lidia. Also pictured are (not in this order) Sherry Puskar Fodse, Doug Fodse, Jimmy and Becky Fodse, Margie Fodse Campbell, Craig Fodse, Mary Alice Puskar and Mike Medlin, Jordan Medlin, Mary Michael and Rob Medlin, Bannen Medlin, and James and Teresa Bogatay.

from school, I hit the television. Those people, their performances, those stories making me laugh and making me feel something is probably the root of why I wanted to help others feel good. Shows like ‘I Love Lucy’ and ‘The Andy Griffith Show,’ I watched a lot of ‘M*A*S*H* and also the [‘The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson.’]

“My mother tells the story of when she came to see a presentation at my elementary school, for the bicentennial. I was 10.

She found out that I was being the MC. She imagined that her tiny son would be standing behind the podium and carefully reading off introductions from a paper. But when she got there, I came out with a microphone on a long cord, walking around the stage, holding the microphone like I was Johnny Carson. She thought ‘Where did this come from?’ She was surprised. She quickly realized it was the movies I was watching. I am very comfortable on a stage, always have been.”

That bicentennial year, Chip visited his postmaster grandmother and she gave him a brand new 1976 two-dollar bill. She had postmarked it for him.

Chip attended William and Mary College, the same college where his mom and dad met. It was an easy choice for Chip. Patty Hanson chose the same school. She came from Italy, where her military family was stationed. She explains, “God had a plan because that’s where I met Chip.”

They met while Chip and a band he was playing in were performing at a fundraiser at college.

“She was at that performance and she was at my performance last night,” he says. “It is wonderful to be on the ‘Nashville’ journey, with someone you love and with someone who has been there since the beginning of the journey when I was just playing in a college band... She has been there through all the hardest times and the best times.”

After college, Chip went to Los Angeles and had a successful stint on the game show “Sale of the Century.” He then landed the role of Buddy Holly in the musical “Buddy-The Buddy Holly Story” in London and appeared on “Who’s Line is It Anyway?”

Patty, meanwhile, was an assistant to Kevin Costner for five years in the 1990s.

“I got to see her operate on a very high level, taking care of all kinds of important work for him, on sets, prepare shoots,” Chip recalls. “I saw the unbelievable job she did for him. At that time I was a young actor and I thought, ‘Maybe someday I will be lucky enough to have an important job that she could be my assistant.’ Well, she’s my assistant, my boss, my best friend.”

Chip says she is essential to a music campaign he started running called Every Single Friday, wherein he puts out a single each Friday.

“I would have no shot at doing that without my wife and her help,” he says. “She helps with the organization of it, putting the music out, and the artwork for each of the singles.

“So where I am right now in ‘Nashville,’ and working on this show and beginning to make this music, so many pieces of my life are coming together. This time in my life, [the] greatest and most important and precious piece is my wife, she was [the] first piece as well, so it makes it a whole lot of fun that we are doing this side by side.”

Chip says the role of Deacon is everything he had hoped for, and more. Deacon, though, is not without his demons. He is a recovering alcoholic and the bandleader for the show’s country music star, Rayna James. Chip says, “A lot of people ask me what I have in common with Deacon. I have said it before and I will say it again, ‘There but for the grace of God go I.’ I have been blessed and very fortunate that I have not had the battles, some of the demons he had or had to go through some of the things that he has been through. And I have said that we have all been through some of our own difficulties.

“Something about our show that appeals to people, we address those hard times. There are some parts of the show, whether a truck flipping, or a diagnosis, an end of life issue, or an addiction, someone is battling. Some of these things seem like plot lines, and they are plot lines but we know they are more than that. These are peoples’ lives. We never forget for a second that, whatever you are portraying, someone is just going through it right now or has just gone through it or went through it awhile ago and it has stayed with them. So it gives you a responsibility to not treat any of the storyline or characters lightly. I think that comes across, I hope that comes across. I think that is one of the things that keeps people watching.

“We are all going through something. [With] ‘Nashville,’ what you tend to find is that there is always someone who comes alongside, in terms of being there for them, and I like that about the show a whole lot.”

The words to Chip’s first Every Single Friday song “Through the Blue” relates to those hard times. Chip says, “Always think the darkness does not last.” One of the lyrics goes, “You just do what you gotta do to get through the blue, might be a song you sing, or John 3:16.”

The next season of “Nashville” begins Jan. 5 on CMT and then will be on Hulu following the airdate.

Chip and Patty have raised three amazing children: Taylor, 20, Chase, 18, and Addie, 16. At a young age, Addie was diagnosed with leukemia. She is a survivor and her family is so grateful. Her dad says, “Those days when Addie was sick, a very hard time, it ended up bonding us closer together as sometimes tragedies do. Addie is happy and healthy, an avid soccer player.”

Patty writes, “This is our fourth year participating in the Light the Night Walk in Nashville, and Chip’s third year representing the Light the Night Walk as a national honorary chair. In that time, we have raised over \$656,290 in the past three years to help the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society accelerate cures for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. We still want to give a giant THANK YOU to ABC and ‘Who Wants to be a Millionaire?’ for the

opportunity to share our family’s story and help other families in the ongoing fight against blood cancers.”

In 2013, Chip appeared on the game show and won \$500,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. He was the first celebrity in the show’s history to reach the \$1 million question.

The goal of the Charles Esten Team Addie Light the Night this year is to raise \$100,000.

“The walk in Nashville takes place Oct. 21 and we are grateful to already have more than 200 walkers signed up here, many of whom are fans from around the country, and teammates of Addie’s various soccer teams and classmates and friends; a team of family walking in [Washington, D.C.], and a team of fans walking in Boston!”

To join, go to bit.ly/TeamAddie.

One might say Chip is a “chip off the old block.” On July 25, Chip participated in the 20th Annual Steelers Alumni Golf Classic, where he accepted the Ray Mansfield “Old Ranger” award on behalf of his late father, Chuck. The award is presented annually to a former Steeler or friend of the team who exhibits qualities of charity, community service and good fellowship, as exemplified by the late Ray Mansfield. A Steeler center for 12 seasons, Mansfield won two Superbowls with the team and was known affectionately as “The Old Ranger.” Mansfield was also Chuck Puskar’s business partner and friend since college. He was godfather to Chuck’s second son, Brian Patrick. After Brian’s tragic death due to sudden infant death syndrome, the two men combined forces through charities like the golf classic to raise important funds for the National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Foundation. Chuck and Jan went on to found the western Pennsylvania chapter of the organization and Chuck served on its national board.

Chuck and Jan’s son Michael and daughter, Stacy, know their brother Brian only through pictures and stories. They enjoy their big brother, Chip.

Faith is a foundation in the Puskar family.

“My faith is from my father and my mother,” Chip says. “My father shared so much of his love of music with me, his faith was probably his greatest gift to me.

“In ‘Nashville,’ with my wife, and healthy daughter and other two children off in school [it’s] just about the best situation I could be in; actor, singer, songwriter, and I work very hard with the stuff I love the most, I am grateful. I am grateful every single second of every single day.”

Lyrics to “Through the Blue”

Sometimes days are dark. Sometimes nights are long. Sometimes all that you can do is just keep hanging on, Staying strong until the gray is gone. Everybody seen a little, been through a little bit of hell. Lord knows I’ve felt the flames myself. Might be a song you sing, or John 3:16. Might be a long walk, or a phone call from a long, lost friend. Might be a steel horse ride, or just cry, cry, cry. You just do what you gotta do to get you through the blue. We all fight the fight. We all drag the chain, That ties us all, like a cannonball, to all the pain. Just find a way to ride out the rain. Everybody’s looking for, praying for a little bit of light. Whatever gets you through the long, dark, night

For a link to Chip’s latest songs, go to: bit.ly/EverySingleFriday.

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