

West Allegheny Edition

Allegheny West Magazine

Volume 18, Issue 106
April/May 2017

FREE Direct Mail Community Publication

West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame



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Wings Over Pittsburgh returns to 911th

Running for a cause



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U.S. Air Force pilots perform a stunt known as the
arrowhead loop in 2014 over Forth Worth, Texas. The
pilots are part of the Air Force's performance group
known as the Thunderbirds and will be giving a rare
demonstration at the 911th Airlift Wing in May. For
more, see page 38. PHOTO BY U.S. AIR FORCE



From the Publisher

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up our April/May West Allegheny edition of Allegheny West Magazine. As always, this edition has lots of interesting and useful information about the West Allegheny School District and surrounding communities.

Our feature this month concerns an upcoming airshow at the Pittsburgh International Air Reserve Station in Moon Township. This will be the seventh such show that's taken place at the base, but this May will be the first time it has been held there in six years. From 2000 to 2010, the show was almost an annual occurrence. In between then and now, however, the base has gone through some troubling times, including several attempts by the DoD to close it. More recently, however, there have been good signs that the DoD is changing course, including a decision to upgrade its fleet with newer aircraft. The return of the airshow appears to be yet another positive sign that the base, which injects \$30 million into the local economy each year, will be staying. Be sure to read more about the show, which will feature some of the most advanced military aircraft in the world, on page 38.

Then flip to page 20 and read about the newest inductees into the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame. This diverse group has made significant contributions to West Allegheny athletics in a range of sports and eras. We've compiled biographical information about each of them. Be sure to read more about them and then mark your calendars for the hall of fame banquet on the evening of May 20 at Celebrations, where each of the inductees will be honored. Tickets are available at the North Fayette and Findlay townships' parks and recreation offices, and at the Oakdale Borough Building.

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Next, on page 8, we're bringing you the first installment in a new column called Alumni Profile. In this column, we'll be profiling alumni of local schools. We've run these types of profiles before in this publication but after finding out about so many of these individuals going on to do interesting and extraordinary things, we thought it was time to give them their own section. Our first profile is of 1996 West Allegheny graduate Justin Kokoskie, who has positioned himself among some elite individuals working in college athletics. Know someone who you think we should profile? Let us know.

Be sure also to read about how one Imperial man is getting some added personal motivation for an upcoming race he'll be running in on page 6. Then on page 27, we bring you the latest West Allegheny School District official newsletter, WA Today. Finally, on page 42, we bring you all the latest area events.

Look for our next edition in June. Until then, I hope you will continue to reach out to us - your trusted community publication of 18 years now - with your story ideas, announcements, events and more.



Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor



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ABOUT THE COVER

The West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame inductees for 2017 are (clockwise from upper left): Rocky McGeary, the 2006-2007 boys' varsity basketball team, Christopher McGough, Pat Rheam and Augie Beyer (pictured with his wife, Cheryl). Read more on page 20. PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Running for a cause

STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY
PHOTO SUBMITTED

Imperial resident Jeff Holdrieth started running a few years ago for the same reason a lot of people do.

Once an active athlete in his younger years, the 54-year-old had gotten away from exercising and put on some weight while working a sales job that required lots of travel and encouraged bad eating habits. Feeling out of shape, and with the weather getting warm around Mother's Day, Holdrieth decided to go for a run on the Montour Trail. He started not far from his home in Imperial, where he's lived for 20 years, but didn't make it far.

"I ran about a half mile before I bent over and heaved," he says.

Undeterred, Holdrieth kept at it. He joined a running group through Pro Bike + Run in Robinson Township and recuperated with regular massages at Allegheny Muscle Therapy and Massage in Imperial. Since he started, he estimates he's lost about 40 pounds, and on March 26, he conquered an important milestone by finishing his first half marathon in under two hours with 8:58 splits.

Holdrieth ran the race in preparation for the half marathon course in the Pittsburgh Marathon, which takes place May 7. While he says he's excited about the fanfare and the crowds, his greatest motivation will be coming from his brother Phil, who passed way in 1991 after being diagnosed with AIDS. He was 31.

Jeff says Phil ran cross-country through high school. In his later years, Phil worked as an actor and model in New York City, appearing on commercials for Milky Way, Sears and Apple. He even secured a small role on "All My Children."

Jeff says he thinks his older brother would be proud to see him running in the race. Phil would also no doubt be proud that Jeff established a scholarship in Phil's name at his alma mater,



Imperial resident Jeff Holdrieth took this selfie shortly after finishing his first half marathon in March. He'll be running in the Pittsburgh Marathon in May to benefit a scholarship set up in his brother's memory.

the Miami University in Ohio. The Phil Holdrieth Scholarship Fund helps college students purchase textbooks.

"I contacted the school about setting up a scholarship fund and the school actually suggested a scholarship for textbooks," says Jeff. "They said that there is a very high demand for assistance with purchasing books."

To benefit the scholarship, Jeff has been securing sponsorships for his upcoming run in the Pittsburgh Marathon. His largest sponsor is his employer, Fielding Environmental, a Canadian-based hazardous waste recycler that recently opened its first U.S. operation in Freedom. Jeff runs the facility.

"Phil was a runner," says Jeff. "He would run in the Boston Marathon...It just makes it all the more special. I hope he looks down on me and would be very proud."

The Holdrieth family is no stranger to great feats of athleticism. Jeff's daughter Kaleigh was a nationally ranked equestrian. His other daughter Courtney was a captain on the 2006 state championship-winning West Allegheny varsity girls' volleyball team, which was inducted into the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame last year. She says she's proud of her father.

"It not only benefits him physically, but running has also helped him mentally and spiritually," Courtney says. "More importantly, running has provided him the opportunity to pay it forward to others who are in need. I think it's a wonderful way to pay tribute to my uncle."

Jeff is continuing to accept sponsorships for his upcoming run in the Pittsburgh Marathon. Anyone interested can send payment via Paypal at www.paypal.me/JeffHoldrieth.

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Kokoskie among area transplants at top of college basketball

STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY
PHOTOS BY UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



ABOVE: Justin Kokoskie, head athletic trainer for the University of Arizona basketball team, attends to injured Wildcat player Brandon Ashley. BELOW: Kokoskie (far right) celebrates winning the FIBA U19 World Championship with head basketball coaches Ed Cooley of Providence College, Sean Miller of the University of Arizona and Archie Miller, then of the University of Dayton.



West Allegheny sports teams had a number of big games in the mid-1990s, but the one that Justin Kokoskie remembers best wasn't even a regular season or post-season game.

Kokoskie, who graduated from WA in 1996, played on the varsity basketball, baseball and golf teams. Each offseason, he played in Montour's summer league and went up against a formidable Blackhawk team headed by legendary coach John Miller. One summer, Blackhawk pummeled WA in an exhibition game, running up the score to win by a margin of about 50 points. Kokoskie had the unenviable task of guarding Miller's son, Archie, who was a year younger than Kokoskie but still registered 46 points. Kokoskie estimates Archie scored 42 of those points directly on him - not that he was keeping count, or thinks much about it these two decades later.

"I remember telling Archie when I first met him [after high school] how I couldn't stand playing against them and how I thought they were so arrogant," says Kokoskie.

Now, as fate would have it, Kokoskie is good friends not only with Archie but also John and John's other son Sean, who Kokoskie works with at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Kokoskie is currently in his 16th year as the basketball team's head athletic trainer and also oversees 12 trainers responsible for keeping 500 athletes on the university's other 18 sports teams healthy. In addition to the basketball team, he also works directly with the golf team. His official title is associate director of medicine.

Former Arizona Wildcat Luke Walton - who is now head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers - has called Kokoskie the best athletic trainer he has ever worked with at any level. Other NBA-bound players Kokoskie has worked with include Channing Fry, T.J. McConnell and Jerryd Bayless.

Before Sean took over the men's basketball head coaching duties at Arizona in 2009, Kokoskie worked under hall of fame coach Lute Olson. After Olson retired, Kokoskie says that no one was more excited to hear Sean was coming to Arizona than him. Since then, the team has continued to be a perennial NCAA tournament

contender. This past season, Arizona reached the round of 16 in the tournament as a top seed after winning the Pac-12 conference.

Archie, meanwhile, was named coach of the year this past season after leading the University of Dayton Flyers to a 15-3 record and winning the Atlantic 10 conference. He has since accepted the head coaching position with Indiana University.

Despite their shared successes, Kokoskie says that neither he nor the Miller's have forgotten their hometown, and that's helped them forge a friendship.

"You miss the people, the overall family environment of growing up in Pittsburgh," says Kokoskie. "It's the food, the culture. You'll never forget that stuff. When Archie was in the Atlantic 10 tournament [at the PPG Paints Arena this past season], he texted me to joke he was going to order food for the team from Wings, Suds and Spuds and Uncle Sam's."

The Miller's aren't the only sports figures with Pittsburgh ties Kokoskie has gotten to know. He's also had the opportunity to spend time with Pittsburgh Pirates manager Clint Hurdle, who owns a house in Tucson, and former Pirates closer Mark Melancon, who played baseball for the Wildcats. McConnell hales from the Chartiers Valley area and Kokoskie is planning to make a trip home to attend his wedding this summer.

While devoid of professional sports teams, Tucson is not lacking in avid sports fans, and that places a pretty big spotlight on the university's athletics program. In some ways, it's not unlike Penn State, just with a population the size of Pittsburgh.

"Here there's one million people and it's a die-hard college basketball town," he says. "I do feel the pressure at times. [Winning is] not just important for the team and university, but important for the whole community. It's the pressures that come with the job."

While the sports are easy to get caught up in, Kokoskie says it's an interest in medicine that keeps trainers like himself going through the long sports seasons, like the seven months of basketball.

"The players will have this week off and then we'll be right back at it next week," he says just days after the team's loss to Xavier in the NCAA tournament.

Things will really heat up in July, just before the team travels to Barcelona, Spain in August to play in a pre-season tournament. For Kokoskie, it will be his second trip out of the country in three years on work. In 2015, he traveled with the U.S. Men's U19 National team to the FIBA U19 World Championship in Crete, Greece. That team, which was coached by Sean and featured what sounds now like an all-star college basketball team - with players like Jalen Brunson, Harry Giles, Jayson Tatum, Allonzo Trier and Josh Jackson - won a gold medal.

"Overseas, you're looking after their nutrition, health, everything," says Kokoskie. "It's a constant, day-to-day thing. The goal is to give them the best health care."

Kokoskie says several teachers at WA helped shape his career path, including his basketball coach Tony Castelluci and Findlay Township police officer Jeff O'Donnell, who coached him in both basketball and baseball. He credits Bill Welsh with planting the idea of going to Pitt in his head early on in fourth grade. That's where he earned his undergraduate degree in sports medicine and met his wife, Katie, who played Division I softball for the Panthers. The couple now has three children.

Kokoskie's sister, Alyssa, works in administration at West Allegheny and his parents, Frank and Cheryl, reside in Oakdale.

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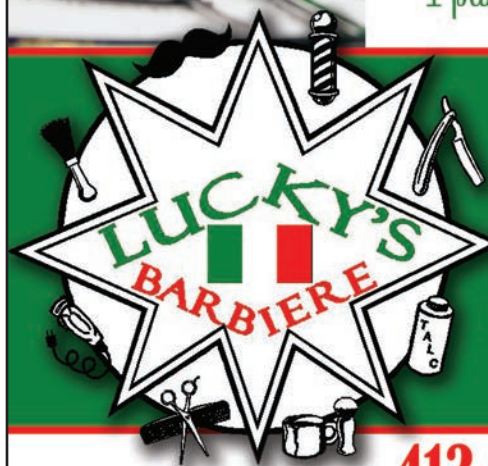
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Judy Dewey's Notary Messenger changes hands, but not name or mission

STORY AND PHOTOS
SUBMITTED BY
JUDY DEWEY'S
NOTARY MESSENGER

A West Allegheny graduate assumed the reins of a well-known area notary service in March. North Fayette resident Brian Kurtz, a well-versed businessman who most recently worked for 12 years as an executive in the manufacturing industry, now heads up Judy Dewey's Notary Messenger. The name of the business, which operates at 7900 Essex Plaza on Steubenville Pike, remains the same.

Founded in June of 1997 by local resident Judy Dewey, the business has grown exponentially year over year. Judy Dewey's Notary is a Pennsylvania online messenger that offers a range of online motor vehicle services, including title transfers, license plates, registration renewals and notary services. It also offers property and casualty insurance. The business is able to fulfill requests immediately for most services, as opposed to the multiple weeks it takes to fulfill these services through the mail. It is currently one of only a few services in Allegheny County offering online motor vehicle transactions. In addition to motor vehicle registrations, the business also handles ATV and boat transactions.



Brian Kurtz (pictured above at right) recently took over Judy Dewey's Notary Messenger in the Essex Plaza (pictured below) in Imperial. The business was started 20 years ago by Judy Dewey (pictured above left). Its name, mission and services remain the same.



Dewey founded the business after working for state Rep. Huck Gamble in Oakdale, where she gained the necessary knowledge. In 2014, Dewey became an online messenger for PennDot and began issuing camera cards, restorations and fulfilling other motor vehicle registration needs.

While its online services have allowed it to differentiate itself from other similar businesses, Dewey feels just as much that its success has relied on the way she treats her clients. Dewey says her mother taught her to treat others how she wanted to be treated.

"I believe that has been the key to success of Judy Dewey's Notary Messenger," she says.

Dewey says she plans to retire but will remain with the business throughout much of the year. She says she feels comfortable handing over the business to Kurtz.

"Brian is very knowledgeable and in tune with our customer needs," she says. "He will continue to provide the quality and service to which customers have become accustomed."

Judy Dewey Notary Messenger can be reached at (724) 695-1899 or by email at deweynotary@gmail.com. Their fax number is (724) 695-8415. Visit them online at www.judydeweysnotary.com.

In March, the business expanded its operating hours. It is now open six days a week, Monday through Saturday. On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, they are open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Tuesday and Saturday, they are open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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STORY SUBMITTED BY
BAKD CORKS AND BREWS
PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY

Bakd Corks and Brews now serving up drinks, custom pizzas and more

For the past year, Bakd Pizza in the Robinson Court plaza off Route 60 has been serving up fast and delicious custom pizzas in a casual setting.

Earlier this year, Bakd got a serious upgrade when owners Robert and Crystal Keenan consolidated the business with an upscale Italian restaurant that they were also operating just a mile away. In so doing, the Keenan's transferred the restaurant's liquor license and beefed up its menu of artisanal pizzas and family-inspired recipes, including appetizers, hoagies, pasta, seafood and entrées.

"There's a little something for everyone," says Robert.

Bakd is also pouring 20 beers on tap, two house wines and 60 beers in the can and bottle - along with 30 different bottled wines, most from boutique wineries that aren't sold at Fine Wine and Good Spirits.

"It's something that I really wanted to do for awhile," says Robert about Bakd's new concept.

The restaurant, now called Bakd Corks and Brews, doesn't skimp on creativity or guilty pleasures. Among its creations is the Burke BBQ, a pizza layered with grilled chicken, cheddar cheese, barbeque sauce, bacon, gorgonzola and grilled sweet onions, finished with a ranch drizzle. Another pizza, The Stoner, combines traditional Italian ingredients such as sweet bell peppers, fresh basil, meatballs and sausage balls.

Bakd is also continuing to offer pizza deliveries, but with a twist, thanks to its new liquor license. Along with pizzas, customers can now order six-packs of beer and bottles of wine. It's even possible to order a single can of beer with a pizza.

To make ordering easier, Bakd has not only set up an online ordering system on their website at bakdpizza.com but also created an app for mobile devices.



The Stoner is just one of Bakd Corks and Brews' many pizza creations, all of which can be enjoyed with a small-batch wine, signature cocktail or tasty microbrew.

Amid a sea of chain restaurants surrounding it, Bakd is family-owned and independently operated. Several of its pizzas are named after family members, including some after the couple's children. Because Bakd is independent, the Keenan's can be picky about their ingredients, and that helps to make great pizza, says Robert.

"Pizza is an ingredient-derivative food item," he says. "If you have great ingredients, it makes for a great pizza."

He says they use only organic, fresh ingredients and source locally when possible. For those with gluten allergies, Bakd offers pizzas made with gluten-free flour.

In addition to its robust offering of beers and wines, Bakd also pours custom and traditional cocktails from its fully stocked bar. A happy hour with drink and appetizer specials takes place Monday through Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Call Bakd at (412) 788-BAKD and follow them on Facebook, Google Plus, Instagram and Twitter.



Robert and Crystal Keenan are serving up artisanal pizzas, boutique wines, microbrews and more at Bakd Corks and Brews in the Robinson Court Plaza in Robinson Township.







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Robert Schiff of North Fayette Township has always enjoyed helping people fix up their homes, whether it's by making improvements that can add value to a home or repairing the minor problems that tend to occur over time.

Through his business, Schiff Maintenance and Contracting, Schiff has completed numerous projects for area homeowners, from bathroom remodels to new decks and more.

"I take great pride in my work and what we do," says Schiff. "I think of each project as if it's my own home and do my best to make other peoples' dreams into a reality."

He says there are no jobs too big or too small. During the initial consultation, Schiff meets with clients to discuss the scope of the project and assess expectations, time frame and budget. During construction, he adheres to a philosophy that he's not happy until his client is. Above all, he wants each project to bring his clients a sense of happiness and satisfaction.

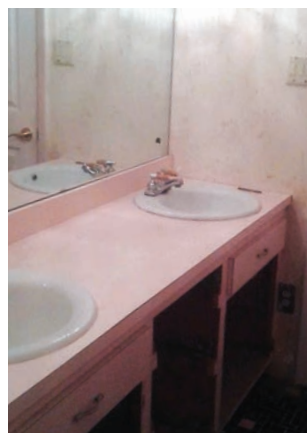
"When we complete the job, we want you to be proud to invite friends and family over to enjoy everything we have done for you for years to come," he says.

Schiff Maintenance and Contracting is also sensitive to the fact that most people have to remain in their homes during construction. As a result, Schiff is cautious to protect personal belongings by sealing off doorways and cleaning up daily.

Popular spring maintenance and construction projects include pressure washing and painting, or roofing and siding. Schiff can handle those projects and others to help homeowners take full advantage of the outdoors as the weather warms.

Schiff Maintenance and Contracting is fully insured and licensed. They can be reached at (412) 805-8602.

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ABOVE: A bathroom before (left) and after (right) a remodel by Schiff Maintenance and Contracting.



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C&R, call them at (412) 302-1341. Find them online at www.crpgh.com.



SUBMITTED BY C&R LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

Tips for a healthy lawn

Want a healthy lawn? Here are some tips from C&R Landscape Development's president, Rob Cronin:

- The most important thing to be aware of when taking care of your lawn is timing. The best time to plant grass is in the spring while the best time for plants and shrubbery is in the fall, as the cooler weather allows the plants' roots to grow.
- To keep your plants free of weeds, it's important to apply pre-emergent, which prevents weeds from growing.
- Are you a do-it-yourselfer? You can purchase bulk materials such as mulch, topsoil and compost from C&R at its garden center in Imperial at 667 U.S. Route 30. Be on the lookout for plants and other products coming to C&R's garden center by following them on Facebook: C&R Landscape Development.

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New effort offering temporary housing for homeless veterans and others in need

West Allegheny is a school district made up of towns, neighborhoods and townships, but it is defined by the people who live there, support each other, look out for each other, and seek common goals for their children and themselves. Perhaps one of the greatest examples of this community effort is the West Allegheny Food Pantry, which is maintained under the oversight of the West Allegheny Ministerial Association. WAMA is comprised of leaders of local congregations and nonprofit organizations. It is focused not only on helping people meet their physical needs, but also their spiritual and emotional needs as well.

In 2001, WAMA and the local community came together under the guidance of Hosanna Industries to see that a beloved family had a safe place to live. An intense labor of love manifested itself in construction of the Bouchon House on Walnut Street in North Fayette Township. The Bouchon family no longer



Walnut House
TEMPORARY HOUSING • URGENT LOVE

occupies the house, but a plan has been put in place to make sure that it continues to be a home for those in need. The house now has a new trustee: Heroes Supporting Heroes, the same nonprofit organization that organizes the West Allegheny Work Camp. HSH has teamed up with leaders from WAMA and the VFW 7714 to create what is now called the Walnut House.

Walnut House's mission and vision moving forward will be to provide temporary housing for a veteran, family or individual in urgent need. The effort will utilize the same home that the Bouchon's occupied for over 15 years. Its goal will be to support its residents with an inter-organizational team of volunteers who will provide spiritual, emotional, physical and communal resources that help people move from housing insecurity to sustainable living.

Residents of this house will be cared for by a team of volunteers who meet regularly with Walnut House residents to help them plan for future stable living. This team will discuss with them ways that the surrounding community can help move them toward these goals. Since every need and situation is different, volunteers of Walnut House will seek to help based on all current resources available.

Walnut House will house one person or family at a time and help them as thoroughly and completely as possible. Once they are ready to move on, leaders of Walnut House will invite another person or family to stay and develop a new personalized approach for them. Goals include, but are not limited to, helping to provide food, clothing, transportation, career planning and placement in a permanent residence.

Walnut House volunteers will be working toward a common goal of making sure each resident is treated just as they would want to be treated were they in a similar situation. The house already has its first veteran resident and a team of individuals has begun the process of taking steps to help that veteran find a path toward sustainable living.

WAMA, HSH and VFW 7714, under the leadership of Rev. Ben Robbins, have worked together to bring Walnut House to fruition. The three nonprofit organizations have raised over \$15,000 to make the project a reality. In order to make sure Walnut House can continue for years to come, support from the local community, either in the form of monetary or in-kind donations, is needed. The project needs cooks, carpenters, mechanics, professionals, property owners, friends and neighbors who are willing to give of their time and talents.

The West Allegheny community is a community united, and one that, together, can help provide temporary housing and urgent love to those who need it most.

To volunteer or donate to this project, please contact Rev. Laura Strauss or HSH at Walnut.House@HeroesSupportingHeroes.org.

Two Ways to Help Keep North Fayette Clean!

Be a
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Help pick up trash throughout North Fayette!
Saturday, April 22, 2017: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Meet at Findlay Activity Center @ 9 a.m.
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Contact Darlene Hildebrand, 724-307-3725

Spring Cleaning?
Bring Us your Junk!

On April 22, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., North Fayette Township is offering even more ways to help keep our community clean!

"Residents Only" are permitted to drop off trash, recycling, cardboard, e-waste (sorry no TVs), and bulk items to the township (main lot) for free!

This is a great opportunity to dispose of any large item that you would normally have to buy a \$15 bulk garbage tag for.

(North Fayette residents only. Please bring proof of residency.)
All Township guidelines apply. See our website for specific details: www.north-fayette.com/DocumentCenter/View/482

New RMU events center to open in 2019

Robert Morris University will break ground in July on the UPMC Events Center, a 140,000-square foot complex for the Colonials NCAA Division I basketball and volleyball teams, which will play in Peoples Court. The UPMC Events Center is the main part of a \$50 million project that also includes a student recreation and fitness center on RMU's Moon Township campus.

The project will be funded largely through individual donations and corporate sponsorships, including sponsorships from UPMC, Peoples, Eat'n Park Hospitality Group, PJ Dick and PNC. The project also has received a grant through the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

In addition to the 4,000-plus-seat Peoples Court, a practice court, locker rooms, a strength and conditioning center, offices for athletics, concessions, and a souvenir shop, the UPMC Events Center will feature 11,000 square feet of conference and meeting space for campus events and outside organizations. Plans call for the center to open in January of 2019.

"With a new venue of this quality and size, RMU cements its status as a university on the rise," said RMU President Chris Howard. "Not only is it a significant regional asset, it's a facility worthy of the success of our athletics programs and reflective of our status as a nationally ranked university. This is a great day for the Colonial nation."

The UPMC Events Center will bring the airport corridor an attractive new venue for public speakers, conventions, expos, concerts, graduation ceremonies and other family entertainment options. It also will host the university's annual convocation and commencement ceremonies, which have outgrown their current location.



This artist's rendering shows the UPMC Events Center, which will open in 2019 on the Robert Morris University campus.

All three teams that will play at Peoples Court - men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball - have won the Northeast Conference title and advanced to the NCAA tournament within the last two years.

"RMU is a special place for a lot of folks in this region, including many alumni who attended the old downtown campus without ever setting foot on this beautiful campus in Moon," said Morgan O'Brien, president and CEO of Peoples and a member of the RMU Board of Trustees.

The university's plans call for the UPMC Events Center to replace the Charles L. Sewall Center, a venue more than 30 years old. Sewall Center will close at the end of June, and new construction will begin in its location. While construction is underway, the men's basketball team plans to play its home games at PPG Paints Arena in downtown Pittsburgh.

RMU has already begun construction on a two-story student recreation and fitness center at the campus' North Athletic Complex. The center will be completed by the start of the fall of 2017 semester, adding two indoor intramural basketball courts, a fully equipped weight room and cardio room, two additional rooms for Pilates and other exercise training, plus men's and women's locker rooms, all for general student use.

Until the UPMC Events Center opens, the women's basketball and volleyball teams will play home games in the student recreation and fitness center.

Plans announced also include replacing the Sewall Center track with a new track in the golf dome at Island Sports Center. The Neville Island facility is home to the Colonials NCAA Division I track and field, ice hockey and rowing teams.

North Fayette Township is now accepting applications for lifeguards at the Hankey Farms Pool.

Applicants must be 15 years of age and have lifeguard/CPR certification.

Applications can be obtained at the North Fayette Township Community Center or Township Building.

For information please contact Shaun Leslie at 724-307-3725 or sleslie@north-fayette.com.

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OVH's Annual Diabetes Day improves community health and awareness



Dr. Richard Bowers (above) from Sewickley Eye Group gives a lecture to attendees at Ohio Valley Hospital's ninth annual Diabetes Day on March 28. The event included a vendor fair (below) and a cooking demonstration from OVH Director of Nutrition Services Tom DeGori (at right).

Diabetics come in all shapes and sizes. Because there are many risk factors that can cause diabetes, Ohio Valley Hospital annually holds a Diabetes Day event to raise awareness about the widespread disease. The free event is open to the community.

This year, more than 160 community members attended the hospital's ninth annual Diabetes Day on March 28, which is also the date recognized nationally as American Diabetes Association Alert Day®. Taking place at the hospital, the event typically



attracts diabetics and those with pre-diabetes, as well as those interested in health and wellness.

OVH Dietitian and Diabetes Educator Susan Zikos believes

the event greatly benefits the community.

"Diabetes Alert Day brings us together to spread knowledge of diabetes and its consequences. We show people how to mitigate those consequences by making healthy lifestyle choices, including healthy eating, taking medications, exercise and regular medical care. The more you know, the better your life can be."

Visitors to OVH's free Diabetes Day event received a passport to a healthy lifestyle. By attending various lectures and vendor tables during the day, they could fill up their passport and receive a chance to win various raffles, as well as a grand prize sponsored by Ohio Valley Hospital. This year, the grand prize winner took home an air fryer.

Attendees took advantage of free health screenings, including bone density scans, blood pressure tests, glucose tests and an A1c test. OVH staff, physicians and other local vendors offered a variety of health talks, as well as cooking demonstrations followed by delicious taste testing of a chicken enchilada bake, white turkey chili and Hawaiian pudding.

Vendors' tables included diabetic supplies, services, samples, information packets and giveaways. Vendors' services included diabetes research, exercise, insulin products, nutrition and wound care.

Anyone who has diabetes, is at risk for diabetes or is just interested in learning about better ways to eat healthy is welcome to attend Diabetes Day. Diabetes Alert Day is always the fourth Tuesday of March. For more information, visit www.ohiovalleyhospital.org or call Susan Zikos at (412) 777-6205.



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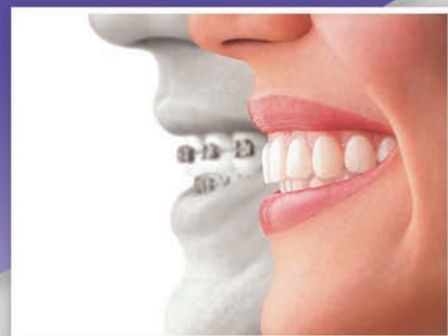
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Animal Friends visits Helping Hands

STORY AND PHOTO SUBMITTED BY
HELPING HANDS CHILDCARE

On Jan. 17, Helping Hands Childcare in Imperial enjoyed a presentation from Animal Friends. Dana Schultz, Animal Friends education coordinator, brought her therapy dog, Molly, to teach a lesson about dog safety and responsible pet care to children. The center's students and their parents collected donations for the shelter's animals and Chow Wagon program, including dog and cat food, treats, and toys.

Helping Hands appreciated the time Dana and Molly took to come to the center, as their children loved the program.



Dana Schultz (at left) of Animal Friends brought a therapy dog to visit children at Helping Hands Childcare who collected donations for the shelter's animals.

Clearview recognizes outstanding volunteer with \$2,500 donation

STORY AND PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CLEARVIEW FCU



Lexi Campbell was named the winner of Clearview's Joseph C. Cirelli Community Service Award. Campbell, who runs Camp Cranium, is pictured second from left with Clearview Chairman of the Board of Directors Robert Farrell, Clearview President and CEO Mark Brennan and Clearview's former president and CEO Joseph C. Cirelli, after whom the award is named.

Clearview Federal Credit Union named Alexis Campbell as the winner of its ninth annual Joseph C. Cirelli Community Service Award on Jan. 30. Campbell, who was nominated by her mother-in-law, is the founder and director of Camp Cranium, a weeklong overnight summer camp for children aged 6 through 18 who have experienced a traumatic or acquired brain injury.

Lexi began volunteering at medical camps when she was 18 and came to realize that camps can reach children with medical issues in a way that no other resources can. Because there were no camps of this kind offered in her local community, Campbell decided to start her own camp in 2007. She says her camp is the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania.

Camp Cranium's goal is to reinforce independence and improve self-esteem. During the weeklong summer camp, children who have suffered a traumatic brain injury or stroke have the unique opportunity to meet other children with similar conditions in a safe, supportive and fun environment. Over the past nine years, the camp has grown from hosting 24 campers to hosting approximately 60 campers and 90 volunteers.

In honor of Campbell's hard work, Clearview presented a \$2,500 donation to Camp Cranium. The dollars will be used by Camp Cranium to redevelop the organization's website and offer online chat sessions. This will help form a well-established online presence and improve communication with parents of children with brain injuries, as well as other community providers.

"Our board of directors decided that the money from the Joseph C. Cirelli Community Service Award is being put toward our new website because we do feel that although that one week of camp each year is amazing and helps them get through the rest of the year, we want to be able to provide services to them throughout the entire year, and this is the first step," Campbell said.

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West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017

The West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame Board of Directors has announced its inductees for the class of 2017. Inductees will be honored at the sixth annual hall of fame induction ceremony May 20 at Celebrations in Imperial. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of eight. Sponsorships are also available. Funds raised help financially support West Allegheny athletic programs. Tickets can be purchased at the North Fayette Township and Findlay Township parks and recreation offices, and at the Oakdale Borough Municipal Building.

The following inductees were chosen based on their contributions to West Allegheny athletics and in some cases their success at the post-secondary level. All inductees are nominated via written letters from the public. Nominees must have at least two letters of recommendation to be considered for induction. To nominate an athlete, coach/administrator, patron/contributor or team, fill out a nomination form at www.awmagazine.com.

August “Augie” Beyer Athlete

August “Augie” Beyer was selected for induction into the hall of fame both for his individual athletic achievements and his contributions to the West Allegheny swim program when it was still in its infancy.



Augie Beyer is pictured with his wife, Caryl.

At West Allegheny, Beyer set numerous school records and was the first swimmer in school history to advance to regional and state competition. Two years prior to the formation of the official WA swim team, he was among the first members of the West Allegheny Aqua Club, which would later become a feeder for the school's swim program. At Grove City College, he continued his tradition of success and earned All-American honors.

Beyer, who graduated from WA in 1979, was such a skilled swimmer that he began practicing with the high school swim team while he was still an eighth-grader at the middle school. During his high school career, Beyer set numerous school records. According to his coach Jeff Marshall, Beyer at one point held just about every school record in swimming.

Beyer was also the first swimmer in school history to qualify to compete in the WPIAL and PIAA championships. He reached the former three times and the latter twice. Beyer's two best events were the 100 butterfly and the 200 IM. He held school records in both for over 30 years. Marshall stated that Beyer also competed in most every event during a swim meet and usually won each of them.

After graduating from WA, Beyer swam for Grove City for four years on the varsity team. He qualified each of his four years of college to compete in the NCAA tournament and ultimately earned All-American honors in the NCAA Division III program.

“Augie was always the hardest worker in practice,” writes Marshall in his nomination letter. “He encouraged other swimmers and was willing to teach technique to anyone, including his coach.”

Beyer's high school teammate William Glas, who was inducted into the hall of fame in 2015, writes in his nomination letter, “Augie was an integral part of the start of our entire WA swimming program. He was WA swimming and we together

formed a great beginning and foundation for the entire WA swimming program.”

When mentioned that Marshall said he often competed in many events during a swim meet, Beyer laughingly recalled a time when the team won a “swim off” against Montour to earn WA's first WPIAL section championship. Marshall needed Beyer to win two difficult events that were closely scheduled together. As a result, he says Marshall instructed another swimmer on the team to lose a middle 200 freestyle event by intentionally swimming one of the slowest races on record to give Beyer as much time as possible to rest between events. As planned, Beyer won each of the other events to help WA seal the championship.

Beyer and his wife, Caryl, retired recently to Bradford, where they enjoy all the wonderful outdoor opportunities in that part of Pennsylvania.

Pat Rheam - Coach

Pat Rheam's induction into the hall of fame recognizes the success various West Allegheny high school wrestling teams and individuals achieved under his leadership. From 1981 through 1991, seven of Rheam's teams qualified for the WPIAL team tournament. Three of them reached the



Pat Rheam (at center) is pictured with wrestling coaches Mike Smith (at left) and Dennis Cook (at right, seated) in the early 1980s.

WPIAL semi-finals and two finished as runners-up. Three of his teams also finished their regular seasons undefeated in section competition. He finished his career at WA with four section titles and an overall record of 118-18.

In addition, many of Rheam's individual wrestlers became WPIAL and/or PIAA medal winners, including WA's first PIAA state finalist, Rocky McGeary, and first WPIAL champion, Justin Watters. As a result, Rheam may be considered one of the most successful wrestling coaches in WA school history.

When asked why Rheam was so successful, current WA head wrestling coach Ron Tarquinio stated, “Pat's service to the district and his success as a coach and mentor makes him very deserving of this award.” Mike Johnson, another former WA wrestler and

current Findlay Township police officer, relates in his nomination letter, "Coach Rheam was an excellent leader and motivator for our wrestling program. He always pushed us to be the best that we could be on the mat and in life. Coach Rheam always spoke the truth after a performance instead of making up excuses. He was undoubtedly one of the most influential people I had as a coach."

Tarquinio was inducted into the hall of fame in 2015. Johnson was inducted in 2014. While reflecting on his WA head-coaching career, Rheam stated, "The team successes were never about me! At that particular time at West Allegheny, I was fortunate with coach Mike Smith to work with an outstanding group of young men."

Rheam recalled that his athletes were so dedicated to wrestling that they got upset when they couldn't practice on Sundays. Practice on that day of the week was against school policy. Some of those same dedicated athletes now coach WA wrestling and football teams. Rheam often attends their practices and tournaments. He said, "I can tell you that I am very proud of what our wrestlers accomplished in the program, but I am most proud about how successful they have become as responsible adults in their family lives."

In addition to coaching at WA, Rheam also taught for over 31 years in the district and was nominated for the Shining Star Humanitarian Teacher Award.

Rheam and his wife, Kathleen, live in North Strabane Township. They are proud of their own three adult children and grateful for the opportunity to babysit their two grandchildren weekly.

Rocky McGeary - Athlete

Rocky McGeary's induction into the hall of fame recognizes not only his achievements as a high school wrestler, but also his contributions to West Allegheny youth sports programs.

During McGeary's junior season in 1988 at WA, he finished third in the WPIAL and sixth in the PIAA. His senior year, McGeary was the WPIAL champion and became the first wrestling state finalist in school history when he finished second in the state. In January of this year, he was named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette All-Time Team as a co-MVP alongside Troy Reaghard and Ron Tarquinio, who is now the head wrestling coach at WA. Tarquinio writes in his nomination letter that, "Rocky's accomplishments make him one of the most successful high school wrestlers in West Allegheny history."

In addition to his qualifications as an outstanding WA wrestler, McGeary's selection recognizes his many contributions to WA youth sports programs. McGeary is known for the many hours he devotes to helping young athletes achieve success and mature into young men. As Tarquinio states in his nomination letter, "In addition to Rocky's success on the mat, he has played a vital role in the development of wrestlers and football players for West Allegheny's youth programs. His hard work, dedication and passion to these programs make Rocky an inspirational coach and an asset to our school district."

When asked what made him a successful wrestler, McGeary's response was not all that different from that of his former high school wrestling coach Pat Rheam, who is also being inducted into the hall of fame in this class.

"It was never about me," says McGeary. "It was always about the team!"

Not surprisingly, when McGeary was asked what made him a successful youth coach, his responded, "Kids don't care about what you know until you show them how much you care!" Thus, as he experienced as an athlete, McGeary repeatedly reminds his young athletes, and especially their parents, that it's never about who the star is or who gets the most playing time. It's always about the team.

After high school, McGeary went on to wrestle at Bloomsburg College and then Delaware Valley College before a knee injury ended his collegiate athletic career. He and his wife, Amy, now live in North Fayette Township with their four children: Amanda, Samantha, Rocky Jr. and Ty.



Rocky McGeary is pictured with his two sons, Rocky Jr. and Ty.

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Christopher McGough

Patron/Contributor

Christopher McGough was selected for induction into the hall of fame based on his tireless dedication to West Allegheny athletics. "Coach McGough" is considered a mainstay of the district's sports programs, especially the football program. In fact, as assistant football coach Mark Davis states in his nomination letter, "When I think of West Allegheny football, I cannot help but think about Chris!"

For the past 16 years, McGough has excelled in his responsibilities with various teams as a ball boy, honorary captain, kicking tee manager, motivational speaker and assistant to the head coach. When fulfilling each of those responsibilities, McGough has always had a positive influence on everyone associated with the program. As Davis further writes, "Chris has taught not only players, but also the coaches, trainers, ball boys/girls, and parents the values of tolerance, acceptance, patience, kindness and compassion."

Bill Rossi, WA football booster president, adds in his own nomination letter, "Most casual fans admire that the athletic department includes Chris in the program and [that] allows him to participate in some fashion. What they don't realize immediately is that we should be the ones thanking Chris for being a part of our district!"

McGough has also made a profound influence on the West Allegheny school community. As Davis adds, "His ability to positively shape our community is as deserving of this award as anyone! I am humbled and cannot help feeling emotional about the number of lives that Chris has impacted!"

Rossi concludes, "In his own way, he educates our students on some of life's biggest lessons... What's even more impressive is that Chris does this with ease, by simply being himself!"

Steve McGough, Chris' father, stated that head football coach Bob Palko was instrumental in helping Chris become so involved in the school community. Through Palko's guidance, Chris has adopted the community as much as the community has adopted him. Due to that well-established relationship, wherever Chris travels to participate in events - such as the Special Olympics - his reputation precedes him as an admired and highly respected representative of West Allegheny School District.

Chris' parents, Steve and Linda, live in North Fayette Township. Chris resides at the T.C. House in Findlay Township. His sister, Julie, also lives in Findlay Township.



Christopher McGough

West Allegheny Boys' Varsity Basketball Team 2006-2007

The 2006-2007 boys' varsity basketball team was selected for induction into the hall of fame not only for winning the AAA WPIAL championship in 2007, but also for the way they won that championship.



The 2006-2007 boys' varsity basketball team celebrates winning the WPIAL championship over Chartiers Valley on March 2, 2007 at Duquesne University's Palumbo Center.

As Debbie Morelli, mother of player Nick Morelli, states in her nomination letter, "In my opinion, the team accomplished more than any other boys' basketball team in the history of West Allegheny High School..."

The team ended its regular season with an average 6-6-0 record in its section after winning its final two games of the season, including one against section rival Montour High School to secure a WPIAL tournament berth. In a play-in game, WA defeated Keystone Oaks High School to enter as a bottom-ranked 16th seed. In the first round, the team handed top-ranked Greensburg Salem a stunning upset before going on to defeat Montour again in the quarterfinals. The team subsequently defeated Ambridge High School in the semifinals to earn the right to play in the WPIAL championship game against Chartiers Valley High School. It was the first time a WA basketball team had reached the title game.

Chartiers Valley was a perennial WPIAL playoff team but WA pulled off the win at Duquesne University's Palumbo Center in double overtime. The team was the first and only WA basketball team in school history to win a WPIAL championship.

Though they subsequently lost to Warren High School in the first round of the PIAA playoffs, they were the first team in a boys' or girls' basketball classification to be seeded so low and still become WPIAL champions. As John Murphy, father of player Shawn Murphy, states in his nomination letter: "Not only did they believe in one another, they also made the entire WPIAL community believe in them as they made the most memorable run in school and WPIAL history."

Due primarily to their "never quit" efforts, the 2006-2007 boys' varsity team won the respect and admiration of the entire WA school community. The school district sold over 550 student tickets for the championship game and needed eight fan buses to transport all the WA fans to the game. As Judy Murphy, Shawn's mother, reflects in her nomination letter, "They not only came together as a team, but brought an entire community and school together to give them something that they will never forget."

Debbie Morelli notes in her nomination letter, "It's been a privilege to watch these boys grow up and become men, and to be a part of this memorable event that they provided in 2007."

However, possibly the most memorable quote comes from senior guard Emilio Nardi, who reportedly said at the time, "If we lost, they would never remember us, but now they can never forget us!"

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Owner Patrick Konieczny and his wife, Kristen, live in McDonald, North Fayette Township, with their two daughters, Mya and Allie. Patrick is a graduate of Thiel College and Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. He serves the community through numerous local organizations.

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Upcoming Events

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 City Mission
 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

April 27th | **New Member Mixer**
 Walnut Grill - Bridgeville
 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

May 23rd | **Breakfast Briefing**
 Embassy Suites by Hilton Pgh. Airport
 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

May 25th | **BizBlast@Noon**
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 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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PTC hosts Chaine Des Rotisseurs competition



George Pry, executive vice president of Pittsburgh Technical College; Harold Small, bailli délégué des Etats-Unis, Chaine des Rotisseurs; Jill Kummer, bailli de Pittsburgh, Chaine des Rotisseurs; Norman P. Hart, chef director, American Academy of Culinary Arts at PTC; and R. Scott Domowicz, academic chair, School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts, officially toast the designation of AACA's facility as an official Chaine Kitchen.

The Academy of Culinary Arts at Pittsburgh Technical College hosted the Chaine des Rotisseurs, the oldest food and wine society in the world, for a competition, commendation and camaraderie March 25.

The day included the regional Jeune Commis Competition, with five young culinary chefs creating three-course meals over the course of three hours from a mystery basket filled with whole arctic char, sea scallops, whole leg of lamb, fresh ginger, roasted peanuts, leeks and portabella mushrooms. Each competitor was assisted by an AACA culinary student. The day also included the Chaine's inaugural Professional Pastry Competition, which featured two professional chefs competing to create showpiece pastries.

Judges, both professional and gastronomes from the Chaine des Rotisseurs, critiqued competitors' efforts on their kitchen skills, food presentation and taste.

The Chaine des Rotisseurs also dedicated the AACA at PTC as a designated Chaine Kitchen. The academy is just one of five in the country to receive the designation, which indicates that the AACA is a Chaine partner in teaching and training young culinary professionals.

During an evening gala at the Duquesne Club, Amanda Flesch, AACA chef instructor, and Scott Domowicz, academic chair, School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts, were both inducted into the Chaine des Rotisseurs. They join AACA Chef Director Norman Hart, CEC, CCE, AAC - and Pastry Chef Andrea Carros-Schrenk, CEPC, CCE - both of whom are already members of the Chaine.

"We are honored to host the prestigious Chaine des Rotisseurs at the American Academy of Culinary Arts," said Hart. "The Chaine's presence on Pittsburgh Technical College's campus as well as the designation of our kitchens validate the caliber of education our student chefs receive."



Chef Amanda Flesch (pictured above) instructor at the American Academy of Culinary Arts at Pittsburgh Technical College, and R. Scott Domowicz (pictured below), academic chair, School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts at PTC, are inducted into Chaine des Rotisseurs. Both are pictured with Harold Small, bailli délégué des Etats-Unis, Chaine des Rotisseurs.



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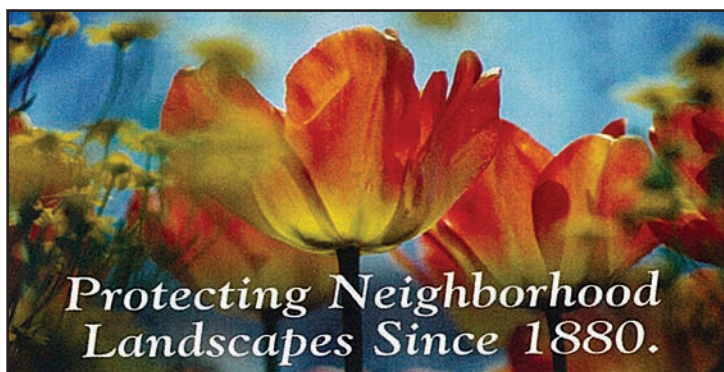
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WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WA TODAY

APRIL,
2017
VOL. 39,
No. 4

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF FINDLAY AND NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIPS AND OAKDALE BOROUGH

High school art students gain unprecedented recognition

The West Allegheny visual arts department was well represented at the Pittsburgh Arts Region of the Scholastic Art Awards Ceremony at La Roche College on February 19. Three West Allegheny students received special honors and 42 WA students were recognized with gold keys, silver keys and honorable mentions.

Senior Moira Gibson was recognized as a prestigious American Visionary Nominee for her illustration "21 Pilots." Gibson's entry was one of only five chosen among thousands submitted from the Pittsburgh region. Gibson's work will now advance to the national level.

Sophomore Elizabeth Vollmer received national recognition for her illustration "Way Back When." In addition to earning a gold key, Vollmer qualified for a national competition and will be recognized at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 8.

Junior Miala Palaima was recognized with the illustration special recognition award for her work, entitled "Photogenic."

Regional award winners were selected by a panel of distinguished judges, including artists, art educators and art professionals. Leah Shuck, Mike Short and Mike Shaffer are the high school visual arts teachers.



Teachers Leah Shuck (left) and Mike Short (right) join their students at the Scholastics Art Awards Ceremony at La Roche College.



West Allegheny student Moira Gibson (second from left), was named an American Visionary Nominee at the Scholastics Art Awards Ceremony.

The following students received awards ranging from gold and silver keys to honorable mentions:

Gold Key

Macy Cain
Paige Carrabbia
Tara Coulter
Haley Denes
Jeremy Ellis
Nicole Kadlecik
Carolyn Macek (2)
Marina Maropis
Miala Palaima
Gabrielle Prevade
Avia Rettmann
Mackenzie Spiegel
Jacqueline Vergnaud
Elizabeth Vollmer
Lacey Wilkinson

Silver Key

Alisha Beiber (2)
Mariah Blair
Chloee Borgialli
Cathrynn Crisanti
Moira Gibson
Eva Lagard
Dorissa Large
Marina Maropis
Miala Palaima
Kira Powell
Amanda Schlör
Claire Shemon
Eric Tokarski

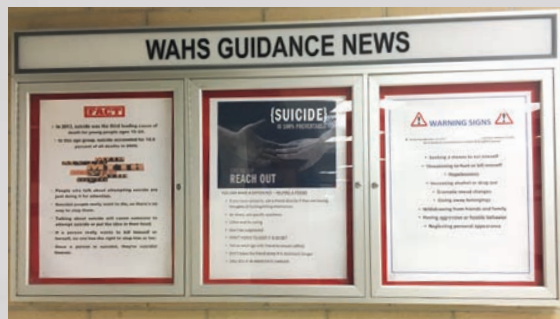
Honorable Mention

Alisha Beiber
Stephanie Berhosky
Chloee Borgialli
Ian Cain
Tara Coulter
Haley Denes
Jeremy Ellis (2)
Sydni Ellis
Francesca Fedorka
Alexis Fleet
Baleigh Hopkins
Nicole Kadlecik
Eva Lagard
Dorissa Large (2)
Kylie Laughery
Akira Littles
Carolyn Macek
Marina Maropis
Katie Martelli
Jordynn Miskow
Anna Parker
Mackenzie Reed
Hannah Salvucci
Claire Shemon
Victoria St. Claire
Ciara Terabasso
Justin Usenicnik
Lacey Wilkinson (4)



Elizabeth Vollmer (at left) proudly displays her award-winning work with teacher Leah Shuck.

High school team builds social/emotional wellness and mental health awareness



Educators at the high school hung these signs in order to help raise awareness about social, emotional and mental health issues affecting teens.

A team of three teachers, two school psychologists, a paraprofessional and a school administrator are collaborating to raise student awareness at the high school about several important social, emotional and mental health topics. Those topics include suicide prevention, social media safety, depression/anxiety, self-injurious behavior, self-esteem and dating violence.

The group has started their initiative by hanging signs on bulletin boards with facts, statistics and resources in two high-traffic areas of the building. Resource contact numbers and websites have also been made visible in restrooms and hallways throughout the school. The team has an ongoing goal of raising awareness regarding these important topics while also providing students with the appropriate resources and suggestions for seeking individual help or in order to help a peer.

Primary committee members include Andy Barry, Krissy Bennett, Betty D'Amico, Erica Cicero, Meredith Gillo, Kevin McKiernan and Katie Zanella.

Some important resources that may be useful include:



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WA Foundation brings back Teachers' Cup

After a one-year hiatus, the West Allegheny Foundation brought back the Teachers' Cup in March, to much fanfare and excitement. The highly anticipated event was held on March 3 and demonstrated the competitive but positive nature of school staff as they came together to support the foundation fundraiser.

After a hard fought battle the high school team came out on top to claim the coveted cup while Donaldson Elementary won the spirit award for their show of support and enthusiasm. Nearly 75 competitors took part in an event lineup that included goggle basketball, cup stacking, dress-up relay, hungry hippos and a spirited game of marshmallow toss. There was even an administrator challenge where District leaders faced off against faculty leaders.

The event was organized by the foundation, which raised over \$3,700 from the night's activities and has distributed over \$250,000 in the form of community and teacher grants over the years.



ABOVE: The high school team proudly claims the cup.
LEFT: Wilson teachers prepare for a marshmallow toss.
RIGHT: Donaldson principal Trish Nolan cheers on teacher Tiffany Mangan.



Superintendent's Message

Over the last decade, school districts nationwide have needed to rethink their definition of school safety. From random acts of violence to drug epidemics, schools now play a dramatically altered role in keeping students and staff safe. As a superintendent, there is nothing more paramount and fundamental. The District's Framework for Excellence incorporates this focus into priorities two and three respectively: ensuring safe and supportive teaching and learning environments as well as ensuring the effectiveness of the Crisis Safety Response and Emergency Operations Plan.

By closely partnering with our local law enforcement departments, we continue to fortify our crisis preparedness. We are extremely grateful and fortunate to work with the North Fayette Township, Findlay Township and Oakdale Borough police and fire departments, as their dedication to the safety of our students and staff remains a top priority. We sincerely appreciate their unwavering support, diligence and expertise.

To thoroughly prepare our schools for anticipated crisis situations, West Allegheny has taken several proactive steps. One major advancement is the introduction of Raptor, a new visitor management system that was made possible through a Pennsylvania Department of Education Safe Schools grant. The week of April 17 through 21, Raptor will be launched in all five West Allegheny schools and District offices. We recognize that part of keeping schools safe is knowing who is in our schools at all times, and Raptor will allow us to track visitors, contractors and volunteers. It will provide us with a safer, better-monitored school environment for our students and staff.

When entering a District school, visitors will now be asked to present a valid, state-issued ID, which will be scanned into the system. Upon reading the information, Raptor will check a national database to identify sexual offenders and a District database for individuals involved in Protection from Abuse - or PFA - orders. It is important to note that the Raptor system only scans the visitor's name, date of birth and photo, and that additional visitor data from the driver's license is not gathered - nor is the system connected to any other system such as the Department of Motor Vehicles. Therefore, any other information connected to the visitor's driver's license is not accessible to any system users. Once entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor with a photo, date and purpose of their visit. The process is expected to take approximately three minutes. For more about the visitor management system, visit the Raptor Technologies website at www.raptorware.com.

The introduction of the Raptor system will complement significant strides our crisis management team has made over the last two years. An ongoing focus has been educating and training students and staff on active intruder procedures, as well as enhancing our overall preparedness by:

- Training every staff member on Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate - or ALICE - protocols during back-to-school in-service days in August.
- Conducting announced and unannounced lockdown (shelter in place) drills at all schools several times throughout the year.
- Conducting evacuation preparations and drills.

- Establishing and training Unit Captains at each school and conducting table top drills.
- Improving building security measures that encompass captured vestibules and lockdown infrastructures.
- Implementing strategic communication procedures to reach those impacted.

The House of Representatives recently approved Bill 178, which requires school districts to conduct one security drill within 90 days of school commencing. This is a practice that West Allegheny has taken a few steps further in terms of frequency and specificity. By implementing these measures, and consistently practicing drills, law enforcement and District/school leaders are afforded a valuable opportunity to evaluate and reassess our crisis management procedures while making improvements where needed. To further enhance our preparedness, the District has plans to conduct UPMC's Stop the Bleed training, as well as first aid/critical care training for staff during the back-to-school in-service days this August of 2017.

Another area of concern is the growing opioid epidemic that is striking communities across the country. This epidemic compounds drug risks within our schools and, as such, has local law enforcement agencies and school districts on high alert. As a District, we continue to modify our processes through a

It has never been more important for our schools, law enforcement, families and communities to work together to be proactive and vigilant in our focus.

multi-pronged approach that begins with educating students. To supplement the District's long-standing DARE program, we have increased our focus by directly educating students. The Student Services Department, in conjunction with local law enforcement and school resource officer Sgt. Mike Hayes, conducted grade-specific assemblies for sophomores, juniors and seniors this school year. The assembly

included a guest speaker who shared her painful experiences of recovering from drug addiction and the viewing of the powerful video entitled "Chasing the Dragon." To keep drugs off our campuses and out of our schools, the District has also conducted more stringent and random drug searches, in accordance with the revised Canine Search Policy that was adopted in September of 2016. As well, the District has adopted a Naloxone Policy, which allows each school to purchase and maintain the drug Narcan - also known as naloxone - which is used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

The effort to educate extends to our parents as well. The Student Services Department recently partnered with the North Fayette Police Department to present a timely and impactful workshop on what parents need to know about the drugs our youth are using. Parents are urged to reach out to our Student Services Department, as they serve as an invaluable resource. Counselors continue to stay informed on issues through ongoing training that provides relevant and helpful information.

Parents are also our key partners and play a major role in keeping students and staff safe. We encourage parents to review the student handbook with their children and reinforce what is acceptable behavior, along with the consequences for what is not acceptable behavior. It is important to emphasize and reemphasize to students the importance of telling a school official if they are aware of any safety threats, inclusive of drug use, violence, social media threats, etc. Please, always be mindful of your child's social

Superintendent's Message, cont.

media usage and what they carry in their backpacks in an effort to avoid any contraband or weapons being brought to school that may compromise safety.

The 21st century definition of school safety not only encompasses these issues but also those of bullying, cyber-bullying, child predators, mental health and many others that continue to pose an evolving concern. As districts adapt, it has never been more important for our schools, law enforcement, families and communities to work together to be proactive and vigilant in our focus. We are committed to ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment and we appreciate your ongoing support and partnership.

.....
Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, Superintendent
.....

"Thoroughly Modern Millie" entertains audiences of all ages

West Allegheny Arts proudly performed five shows of the high school's spring musical theatre production "Thoroughly Modern Millie." Justin Fortunato returned as director of the family-friendly show,

assisted by Tom Snyder as executive producer, Bob Neumeyer as musical director, Mara Newbery Greer as choreographer and Meagan Bruno as producer. Gold card members were invited to a luncheon and the matinee performance of the show on March 19. The cast and ensemble members were:

Cast

Chloe Kehm, Brandon Raglow, Gabrielle Prevade, Shannon Clontz, Natalie Sciulli, Lindsey Sabo, Katie Borgo, Rachel King, Skylar Brown, Kaylie Wallace, Sydney Campbell, Jeremy Taranto, Daniel Shemon, Mike Bagnell, Carlos Norman, Steven Abbott, Max Oberg, Sunny Smith, Noah Wilson, Loren Perry, Matthew Zelesnik, Nathan Mavrich, Rachel Kiss, Jordan Smith, Mallory Mahen and Claire Shemon

Ensemble

Lauren Bayer, Meghan Bush, Cayla Chiodo, Sylvia Donahue, Emily Durkin, Carlie Holeva, Abbie Leslie, Carolyn Macek, Ava Meier, Nick Morrison, Dominic Patitucci, Sarah Sabo, Alayna Stephens, Morgan Stewart, Mackenzie Walters and Jennifer Zelesnik



High school art students support Empty Bowls fundraiser

Nineteen members of the high school art club came together in February to create over 30 bowls to donate to Just Harvest, a Pittsburgh-based charity that raises awareness and money to fight food insecurity in Allegheny County. The bowls were used at the 22nd Annual

Students and teacher Leah Shuck prepare one-of-a-kind bowls for an annual fundraiser.



Empty Bowls event on March 19 in Squirrel Hill. With the cost of a ticket, attendees received a locally made soup as well as a selected ceramic bowl to take home. Proceeds benefited Just Harvest and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Mr. West A tradition continued

The West Allegheny chapter of the National Honor Society sponsored the 15th annual Mr. West Allegheny pageant February 6. Seniors Michael Crawford, Matt Currey, Hunter Gatchell and Joe Sciulli participated, with Gatchell claiming the Mr. WA title and Currey winning Mr. Congeniality.



Hunter Gatchell reacts to winning Mr. West A.



Contestants competed in a number of categories, including casual wear, formal wear and talent. They also answered questions during the interview portion of the pageant. The event raised \$1,000 to benefit Extended Family, the

Mr. Congeniality goes to Matt Currey.

organization selected by the winner.

Lauren Barry and Lynn Birnie serve as the NHS chapter's faculty sponsors.





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Saunders honored by DAR



Sydney Saunders (right) receives an award presented by members of the Jacob Ferree chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Also winning the award was Christopher DeSalle of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School. Pictured at left is Amanda Hooper, Jacob Ferree Chapter regent, and Sue Strunk, Good Citizenship Award chairman.

Senior Sydney Saunders was honored with the Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award at the Jacob Ferree chapter's American History Tea on March 4. Saunders was nominated by high school staff to represent the District in an essay contest hosted by the local DAR chapter.

Senior represents District at SHASDA student forum

Senior Marina Maropis represented West Allegheny at the annual South Hills Area School District Association student forum March 16 at Upper St. Clair High School. She joined other regional students who were asked to share their academic experiences with SHASDA representatives, district administrators and school board members. Maropis serves as school board student representative.



Marina Maropis

High school students produce PSAs to address teen issues

High school students recently produced two public service announcements that address teen issues.

The first was created to educate viewers on the dangers of opioid use and was entered into a nationwide, peer-to-peer video competition sponsored by the DEA. Students from Mike Shaffer's visual arts classes helped create the finished piece, which was recently previewed at a regional SADD meeting. School resource officer Sgt. Mike Hayes serves as the District sponsor and accompanied students. The challenge is part of a joint, nationwide education initiative called Operation Prevention that educates students about the science behind addiction and its impact on the brain and body.

High school students in Jennifer Cook's relationships and parenting class wrote, directed and produced a teen dating violence PSA in recognition of Teen Dating Violence Month in February. Students wanted to spread the message to the school and community after learning about dating and domestic violence in class.

Both PSAs may be viewed on the West Allegheny School District Facebook page.

Pirate ship was a labor of love

It was all hands on deck in Amy Rocchio's family and consumer science classes when high school students Erik Vadella, Brionna Jordan, Allison Koester, Dez Franklin and Katrina Dudukovich volunteered to build a pirate ship for their preschool classes to explore. Students designed the ship, ordered materials, and worked during their free periods and after school to have the ship completed for preschoolers when they came to class. The young students haven't stopped playing with it since.



ABOVE: High school students display their finished project.



RIGHT: Preschool students use their imagination as they take over the pirate ship.

#WeAreWestA

FOR clubs continue to build school culture

The middle and high school FOR clubs are continuing to build a positive school culture through a number of programs and outreach opportunities. For Valentine's Day, the clubs teamed up with the Safe and Supportive Schools committee to create and post inspirational messages on the lockers of every student in grades six through 12. Students were surprised by the kind messages upon their arrival at school.

In March, middle school students and staff from the FOR club hosted Mix It Up Day when students sat with peers they typically don't sit with at lunch in an effort for students to get to know each other better.

Students eat lunch with classmates during Mix It Up Day.



Up Day when students sat with peers they typically don't sit with at lunch in an effort for students to get to know each other better.

Students were provided with table assignments, discussion starters and a Wall of

Intolerance game. FOR club

members partnered with student services to create a festive atmosphere by decorating the cafeteria and designing positive message placemats.

"I like how we got to meet new people that we usually don't get to talk to," said eighth-grader Ty Dechant.



FOR club members display their positive messages before posting them on student lockers.

#WeAreInnovators&Designers

Seventh-graders turn engineers for a day

In celebration of National Engineers Week, which took place February 19 through 25, classes of seventh grade students participated in a day of academic activities focused on engineering. The Scholastic Outreach Program through ALCOSAN provided students with a hands-on challenge to create a tower using only newspaper and masking tape. Students worked diligently in groups to construct a tower that met three criteria, including being able to support a golf ball. The program

Seventh-graders take on an engineering challenge during National Engineers Week.



allowed groups to purchase additional newspaper and tape at a cost to show the economic component of engineering and design. The program was organized by science teachers Rik Mason and Becky Sabin.

Middle school students and staff give back

It was a week of giving for middle school students and staff March 20 through 24 as they came together to benefit others. The week began with a Change War to Change the World sponsored by student government. Participants were encouraged to donate their spare change to one of nine selected nonprofit organizations, with the winning organization receiving the total amount collected. Nonprofit choices were Animal Friends, ASPCA, Children's Hospital, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Heroes Supporting Heroes, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Support Our Troops, and Down Syndrome Association of Pittsburgh. Students and staff were very generous as the Change War intensified, with Children's Hospital claiming the most donations and a total of \$613 raised.

Students and staff also supported World Down Syndrome Day on March 21 when they pledged \$1 to walk or run 3.21 miles around the track. A total of \$677 was raised and donated to the National Down Syndrome Society.

Both students and staff walk to support World Down Syndrome Day.



Annual talent show is pure magic

The highly anticipated middle school talent show was once again a huge hit this year as it showcased the talents of both students and staff. This year's theme was "24k Magic in the Air" and featured 23 incredible acts with a public performance January 26 and a student and staff performance January 27. The show closed with a special performance by the WAMS Rubber Band, a rock group made up of teachers. The event was coordinated by middle school teacher Dana McCaskey, along with a host of staff and student volunteers.



ABOVE: Members of the Rubber Band rock the stage during the middle school's annual talent show in January.



RIGHT: Sydney Bombich tap dances to Boombox.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Abby Elliott and Jaelyn Hunt take to the stage with their performance of "Closer."



#WeAreWestA

Middle school spelling bee winner claims trophy two years in a row

The middle school held its annual spelling bee February 1. Eighth-grader Rain Greene was named champion for the second year in a row. She will represent WAMS at the Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee this spring. Second place went to eighth-grader Kevin Becker and third place went to eighth-grader Gabby Martelli.

This year's bee was sponsored by ELA teachers Katherine Troup and Anita Berich, with help from judges Jeff Kiser and Leda Niccolai.



Gabby Martelli, Rain Greene and Kevin Becker took top spots in the middle school's annual spelling bee.

Mark Your Calendar

West Allegheny High School Art Show "The Scenic Route"

April 20 - 6-9 p.m.
April 21 - 8 a.m.-3 p.m., 6-9 p.m.
April 22 - 12-2 p.m.

West Allegheny Middle School Art Show

May 17 - 4-7 p.m.
May 18 - 4-7 p.m.

Elementary students and staff turn 100



February 2 wasn't a typical day at the elementary schools. Students' hair turned gray and staff members used canes to walk to their classes as they all turned 100 days old. It proved to be a day of fun and learning as they dressed as centenarians and participated in several activities denoting the 100th day of school milestone. Activities included counting, sorting, building, painting and flipping coins in increments of 100.

LEFT: Kristen Kobert's class at Wilson dresses for the 100-day occasion.

BELOW LEFT: McKee staff get in on the 100-day fun.

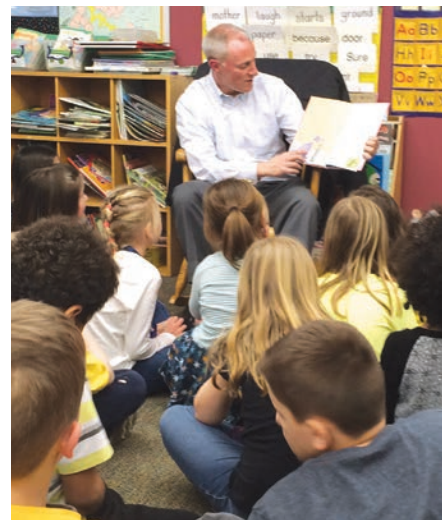
BELOW RIGHT: Donaldson students in Sara Augustin's class receive their 100-day certificates.



District celebrates Read Across America, Dr. Seuss style

Celebrating Read Across America has become a highly anticipated tradition in the District, which annually recognizes the program with a weeklong schedule of activities. The week of February 27 kicked off at the elementary schools with daily Dr. Seuss themes and guest readers that included school board members and administrators. The elementary school librarians sponsored the Drop Everything And Read program each day while students enjoyed a favored activity of eating green eggs and ham during lunch. The week concluded on March 4 at The Mall at Robinson with arts, crafts, face painting, cookies and Dr. Seuss stories.

The Read Across America celebration was a collaborative effort between the WAEA, the West Allegheny School District and the West Allegheny Education Support Professionals Association.



ABOVE LEFT: Read Across America co-chair Kristina Tissue leads crafts at The Mall at Robinson.

ABOVE RIGHT: School board member and Wilson elementary parent Chip McCarthy reads Dr. Seuss to his daughters' classes.

LEFT: Donaldson students celebrated Wear Your Slippers to School Day in honor of Dr. Seuss' "Foot Book."



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Donaldson forms Avid Readers club



Dr. Erin Dierker takes a selfie with the Avid Book Reader's Club.

Donaldson teacher Dr. Erin Dierker launched a third grade Avid Reader's Book Club in January that invites interested students to meet at lunch and discuss various books, characters and authors. Over 30 students came together to discuss their first book, "Stuart Little," and its author, E.B.White.

Wilson team takes third place at Science Bowl

On January 24, a team of West Allegheny Horizons students participated in the Carnegie Science Center's Science Bowl sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Nearly 65 teams of gifted and talented fourth- and fifth-graders competed in interactive engineering and design challenges that included creating a barge out of a sheet of aluminum and a scavenger hunt. The Wilson team of Mia Foster, Josie Mercier and Eden Schotting earned third place overall.



Wilson students Josie Mercier, Eden Schotting and Mia Foster display third place certificates they received after participating in the Carnegie Science Center's Science Bowl.

#WeAreStudentStrong

Wilson Student Council makes donation to Findlay K-9 Fund

Wilson student council welcomed Findlay Township police officer Neil Cridge and the police department's new K-9 officer Scooby on March 21. Students presented the unit with a donation of \$432 and a gift of dog treats. Students raised the funds through a lollipop sale.

Cridge shared with students Scooby's many skills and explained how the police department might utilize him in their day-to-day responsibilities. Students were also reminded how to be safe around animals and the proper way to approach an unknown dog.

Student council advisors Tania Garofoli and Nancy Sale arranged the fundraiser and visit.

Wilson Student Council enjoys a visit from police officer Neil Cridge and the department's K-9, Scooby.



Share the Love bags emphasize meaning of Random Acts of Kindness Week

McKee fourth grade students, teachers and parents celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Week in February by creating Share the Love bags during their Valentine's Day party. Toiletries, hand warmers and food items were donated and collected in the bags along with special personalized notes from the students. Over 200 bags were packed with care and delivered to a local shelter.



ABOVE: Personalized notes expressed positive messages on Share the Love bags, which students (below) created.



Ten student athletes sign letters of intent

The West Allegheny Athletic Department hosted its annual National Letter of Intent signing event February 1 for students who have committed to playing collegiate sports. District and high school administrators joined athletes, parents and coaches for the exciting day.



The following senior athletes signed letters to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level:

Brooke Wilson - Softball
California University of PA
Ciara Terabasso - Soccer
Rutgers University
Brittany Hurey - Soccer
Edinboro University
Adam Dolan - Soccer
Waynesburg University

Chasen Claus - Baseball
Alderson-Broaddus University
Steve Twardy - Baseball
California University of PA
Michael Kocher - Swimming
Edinboro University
Kieran Firment - Football
Colorado State University

Matt Holmes - Football
Robert Morris University
DJ Opsatnik - Football
Alderson-Broaddus University



The District wishes all senior athletes the best of luck.

#WeAreWestA

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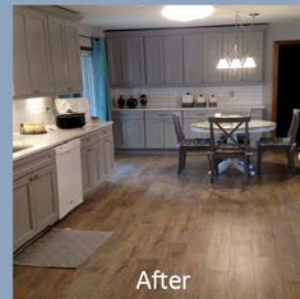
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Wings Over Pittsburgh returns to 911th

Following a six-year absence, the popular display of military aeronautic skill will again take place in May

U.S. Air Force pilots fly F-16 aircraft in formation over Salinas, California. The group, known as the Thunderbirds, only perform a couple of times each year, but will be flying a rare demonstration during the Wings Over Pittsburgh Open House on May 13 and 14 at the Pittsburgh International Air Reserve Station in Moon Township. PHOTO BY U.S. AIR FORCE

Aeronautic aficionados and military enthusiasts will be thrilled to hear that, after a six-year absence, the 911th Airlift Wing at the Pittsburgh International Air Reserve Station in Moon Township will again be hosting its Wings Over Pittsburgh Open House airshow this spring.

Last held in 2011, Wings Over Pittsburgh is slated to take place May 13 and 14. Maj. Charlie Baker, a C-130 instructor pilot and director of this year's open house, says that the event will feature some of the most technologically advanced military aircraft in the world, renown stunt pilots and the U.S. Air Force's premier act, the Thunderbirds.

The show will be just one of a handful that the Air Force will be putting on across the country. Attendees will not only get to witness dramatic flight demonstrations but also be able to get up close to aircraft and even meet the active duty, guard and reserve pilots from each branch of the military flying them.

A Robinson Township native, Baker says that there's been a lot of interest expressed by people about the show during its absence. Master Sgt. Mark Winklosky, the public affairs chief of operations for the 911th, says that, from 2000 through 2011,

the base hosted the show six times. This one will mark its seventh and the base is expecting upwards of 300,000 people to attend throughout the weekend.

Baker says the shows are a great recruiting tool that he himself attended while growing up in the area.

"It really does light that fire and brings that aviation bug alive in you," says Baker.

He says that the show will include demos of two fifth-generation fighter jets, the F-22 Raptor and the Air Force's latest fighter, the F-35 Lightning II. He says the F-35 will be part of a static display only, meaning that it won't be flying. Attendees, though, will be able to get up close to it and meet an active duty pilot who flies the aircraft.

The F-22, however, will be flying a demo and showing off just why it gives the Air Force the upper hand, both on the ground and in the air, in just about any theater across the globe.

"It does things a fourth-generation fighter just can't do," says Baker.

He means things like tear out over the crowd in a straight line at about 690 miles per hour then vector its thrusters to turn on a dime. Though capable of reaching 1,200 miles per hour, Baker says at that altitude the pilot will be staying subsonic. Otherwise, it will break windows.

The aircraft is also capable of creating g-forces that, frankly, exceed the survivability of a human being but can also outmaneuver just about any other aircraft in the world.

In addition to those fighter jets, the U.S. Navy's F-18 Super Hornet Tac Demo will be making an appearance and showing off the unique capabilities of its aircraft.

"These maneuvers are things our frontline guys use," says Baker. "It's cool for kids to watch, it's a great recruiting tool, but if you listen to the narrator, the F-18 can go straight from strafing and maneuver to be back on the run-in in such a short amount of time. If you're a bad guy on the ground and there are two Super Hornets overhead, you can basically be coming under fire non-stop for a long period of time, which is good for the ground forces the Super Hornets would be supporting."

The F-18 can also slow to a crawl and almost hover, which is essential at sea. As with all the demonstrations, Baker says active duty pilots will be flying the aircraft.

"We don't hire show ponies or anything," says Baker. "The abilities these guys display are inherent to every military aviator."

The highlight of the show, however, may

very well be the Air Force's Thunderbirds, a group of six F-16s whose pilots get to show off the choreographed precision aerobatics that every fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force learns. Flying specially painted planes with a Thunderbird emblem on their underbelly, they make for a spectacular sight.

"They're real loud and they're real fast, and the crowd loves them," says Winklosky. "If you haven't seen them, I'm sure you've heard them. They definitely keep your attention."

Winklosky says their appearances are rare, as they only make a couple each year.

"They put so much thought into how they position their formation. Basically, it's very high intensity," says Baker, who went through pilot training with pilots who now fly with the Thunderbirds. "It's a very powerful statement. We often say that the U.S. Air Force is the best and most powerful air force the world has seen and it's true. We have some incredible airmen."

The day's flight demonstrations won't just be limited to military aircraft. World-renown stunt pilot Sean Tucker is also scheduled to make an appearance. Tucker flies a heavily modified bi-plane known as the Oracle Challenger III that is capable of producing 400 horsepower and performing tight rolls, flips, inversions and more.

"His propeller is so efficient, it's like a spinning wing," says Baker. "He can pull up at such a slow speed and use that 400 horsepower and propeller so he's almost hanging there in midair."

To picture that better, think of a bi-wing doing its best helicopter impersonation.

The show will also include a demonstration by the Geico Skytypers, a group of six World War II-era planes performing aerobatics and writing messages in the sky, and Younkin Airshows - one of the more unusual acts on the air show circuit today.

In previous years, the open house was held in September, a typically perfect weather month in Pittsburgh. Baker says they moved the date to in part fit the schedule of the Thunderbirds. He admits to checking "Farmer's Almanac" in hopes of finding an exact date with an agreeable weather prediction.

For the theme of this year's open house,

the 911th looked to the community. After reviewing many suggestions, Wing Commander Col. Jeffrey Van Dootting chose "Forging the Future," which combines Pittsburgh's steel town identity with the bright future of the 911th.

Winklosky says that the aeronautic event not only fulfills numerous training endeavors for the 911th, but also offers a fantastic opportunity for recruitment. As well, he says the open house provides a chance for taxpayers to see how their dollars are being spent.



A C-130 aircraft stationed at the 911th Airlift Wing flies over Pittsburgh during a training exercise in November. The aircraft, which will likely be replaced by updated C-17s in the coming years, will be used to perform a paratrooper drop at the Wings Over Pittsburgh airshow in May. PHOTO BY U.S. AIR FORCE

Baker says that many of the participating pilots and maintenance crews are natives of the area and return to perform in the show for that reason.

"That's a unique opportunity for people in the area," he says. "You get to come out and talk to an active duty B-52 Stratofortress crewmember who went to school in the area. How cool is that if you're a high school student looking ahead to a career and you get to meet this guy who's flown missions out of Guam...to think that someone may be from the same high school you went to and you get to hear his story and how he got to where he is today."

Baker says the open house is also a "terrific joint effort by local military bases," meaning the 171st Air Refueling Wing, the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and the Naval Operations Support Center.

In addition to the groups mentioned, four of the 911th's current C-130 aircraft will fly in formation and be performing a paratrooper air drop. The C-130s are often used to airdrop troops and equipment into hostile areas. According to Baker, the base "gets some really good feedback from people on the airdrop. They love having

Army jumpers drop right down in front of them."

The show will start with another airdrop demonstration, by the Canadian SkyHawks, which is attached to the Canadian Armed Forces parachute team. The team will be doing their jump with an American flag.

Because such a large number of visitors are expected to attend the show, Winklosky asks that people think about what to bring. No weapons or drug paraphernalia are permitted. If possible, attendees should carry items that they need in clear plastic bags.

For more information about the open house, visit www.pittsburgh.afrc.af.mil.

The spring timing of the open house coincides with the start of an extremely busy period and changing era for the 911th. Following years of speculation that the base may close, the 911th was recently approved for additional funding from the Department of Defense, which will transform the base's mission from tactical airlift to strategic airlift. Recent passage

of the National Defense Authorization Act is a promising sign that the 911th will soon begin construction on infrastructure designed to house a fleet of C-17 aircraft that will replace its aging C-130s.

According to Vice Wing Commander Col. Douglas Strawbridge, the 911th will acquire eight C-17s over the next four years. That will require an additional 300 to 400 full-time military and civilian personnel and traditional reservists.

Strawbridge stated that the much larger C-17s, which are capable of aerial refueling and have a global flight range, are inter-theater. That means the planes are able to fly time-sensitive materials to and from the U.S. and locations overseas. The intra-theater C-130s, on the other hand, move materials within a designated area.

An additional benefit to the base's acquisition of C-17s, said Strawbridge, is that "young folks coming off of active duty who don't want to give up military flying" will have the opportunity to pilot the new aircraft and thereby fill base personnel positions.

Baker commented that as the "fiscal landscape has required us to do more with less, we are blessed to have the DoD pick us as a C-17 site." •

LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

VENDOR & CRAFT SALE

Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Come and do some spring shopping with your tax return! Just in time for Tax Day, we're hosting our Semi-Annual Vendor & Craft Sale, featuring a variety of vendors and crafts.

ONE COLLEGE, ONE COMMUNITY

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m.

The library will be working in partnership with CCAC West Hills on a community read program called One College, One Community. We will be hosting a book discussion at the library and inviting book clubs, groups, students and individuals to join us in reading and discussing the National Book Award winning title, *"Between the World and Me"* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Copies of the book are available at the library.

WACL's COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 29, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

The WACL will once again be hosting a semi-annual community garage sale, featuring a wide variety of household goods, tools, books, clothes, furniture – you name it! If you would like to sell your items at this event, please register at the front desk or by call the library to reserve one or more tables. *No artillery or weapons of any kind will be permitted to be sold at this event.*

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Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m.

Learn how to extreme coupon and save thousands of dollars! Cost is \$15 and includes a \$10 shopping spree and other savings. Presented by Extreme Couponer Patricia Healy.

MICROSOFT OFFICE: EXCEL

Monday, April 24, 6:30 p.m.

Do you need help managing your money, creating a budget or balancing your checkbook? Come to this Microsoft Excel class and get the skills needed to get started.

HOW TO BUY A HOUSE

Monday, April 24, 6:30 p.m.

Amanda Barbano from Northwood Realty will discuss the often daunting task of buying a house. Whether it's your first time out or you've done it before, Amanda has the answers to all your questions.

MONEY MANAGEMENT APP ATTACK!

Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.

App Attack is an introduction to a variety of apps designed to save you money, including RetailMeNot, Walmart Savings Catcher and more. Bring your tablet, smartphone or other mobile device and start raking in the cash today!

SECRETS OF SAVING MONEY ON TUITION

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m.

In this presentation, Michael R. Bogdan of INNOVA Financial Concepts covers the inner workings of FAFSA, tuition discount programs, tax savings, non-loan student aid and leveraging assets. The sooner you start planning, the better the outcome!

MONEY PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Thursday, April 27, 10:30 a.m.

This special edition of Preschool Story Time is all about money and counting!

ONGOING PROGRAMS

ADULT

"Who Done It?" Book Club

First Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Bookworms

First Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Forever Fiction

Third Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Anime & Manga Club

Fourth Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Pinterest Playground

Fourth Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Cookbook Club

Thursday, April 20, 6:30 p.m.

TEEN

Teen D&D

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Geek Club

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Baby Circle Time

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Toddler Story Time

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Story Time

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

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Western PA Kidney Support Group, meets second Mondays. 2:30-4:30 p.m., call for location, Mike, (724) 796-1603.

"Aladdin," Carnegie Performing Arts Center, April 21, 22, 23, Friday and Saturday performances at 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m., Andrew Carnegie Music Hall in Carnegie, adults \$15, students and seniors \$12, (412) 279-8887, carnegieperformingartscenter.com.

Sturgeon VFD Craft Fair, May 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 526 Main St. in Sturgeon, 50 tables, full kitchen, Chinese auction, raffle, tablet and phone screen repairs, benefits Sturgeon VFD.

Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K, May 13, 8 a.m., start at front of Ohio Valley Hospital, top overall runner prizes, DJ, timing services, after-party with continental breakfast, dog-friendly course, Megan Hinds, meaton@ohiovalleyhospital.org, (412) 777-6365.

Wings Over Pittsburgh, May 13-14, Pittsburgh International Air Reserve Station, see story on page 38, pittsburgh.afrc.af.mil.

West Allegheny Youth Tennis Clinic, May 17, 18, 5:30-7 p.m., West Allegheny High School tennis courts, co-ed, grades 3-8, explore the game of tennis or improve your game, complimentary t-shirt, certificate of participation upon completion, download registration form on Community Bulletin Board at www.westasd.org, email to: ccampbell127@gmail.com, **registration deadline May 1.**

Second Annual Imperial VFD Summer Craft/Vendor Show, May 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 35+ crafters and vendors, 50/50, food, refreshments, Chinese auction, www.facebook.com/events/389231338134686.

Blood Drive, May 27, Oakdale Masonic Lodge, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., for appointments call Gerry Heyl, (412) 335-0333.

Hopewell-Hebron Community Memorial Day Service, May 29, noon, Hopewell-Hebron Cemetery, directed by American Legion Wesoloski-Hays Post 335, assisted by VFW Post 7714, (724) 899-3736.

Armstrong Healing Heroes Bike Run, June 10, noon, starts and ends at The Mousetrap, stops at Hookstown American Legion, Hopewell VFW, McDonald VFW, cars and trucks welcome to follow, Chinese auction, live music by Snarfunkle Band and Beaver River Band with Bobby Eaton, food, 50/50, \$20 bike/car, \$10 passenger, helps provide service dogs to disabled veterans, (724) 255-9880.

McDonald Borough Summer Tennis Program, Tuesdays and Thursdays, June-August, Heritage Park tennis courts, ages 5+, four age divisions, high school prep class, adult classes, private lessons available, 16 lessons over eight weeks, all experience levels, residents and non-residents, **register by June 1**, for more and to register download form at www.mcdonaldtrailstation.com, (724) 926-4617.

Youth Volleyball Camp, July 17-20, 9 a.m.-noon/2 p.m., times vary by day, Moon Area High School, grades 4-8 and ninth-graders who did not play last year, all skill levels, daily awards, led by Moon Area volleyball coaches, \$100, **register by June 2**, sims1008@comcast.net, (724) 759-0095.

LifeSpan Senior Resource Center

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

Call to register for the following classes taught by CCAC at the center:

Senior Aerobics, April 21, 28, 10 a.m.

Exploring Family History Class, April 21, 28, 12 p.m.

Tai Chi, Thursdays, 10 a.m., through May 11.

Spring Bingo, April 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., \$10, includes light appetizers, hot meatloaf sandwich lunch, seven regular games at \$10, two specials at \$20, coverall \$100, 50/50, call to register: (724) 218-1669.

Senior Food Box Program, boxes contain vegetables, fruit, juice, meat, non-meat protein, carbohydrate, cereal or rolled oats, UHT-shelf stable one-percent milk, instant milk, cheese, call the center to register, photo ID and a proof of current gross income required.

Oakdale Events

For more information, call (724) 693-9740.

Easter Egg Hunt at The Rock, April 15, hunt starts 11 a.m., noon luncheon with prizes and Chinese auction, preschool through fifth grade.

Earth Day Community Clean Up, April 22, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., meet in the gazebo area, volunteers provided with garbage bags, vests, gloves, cold water, help keep Oakdale beautiful.

Western Area YMCA

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

Certified personal trainers available to help you meet your wellness goals. For more, contact Jill Cersosimo, director of healthy living at the Western Area YMCA at jcersosimo@ymcapgh.org, 412.489.3231.

Volunteers needed to help out with youth baseball and soccer.

Summer Day Camp, June 5- Sept. 1, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., ages 3-16, traditional day camp, specialty camps, teen adventure, preschool camps, spaces limited, sign up today!

Youth Summer Sports Camps, tennis, soccer, baseball, lacrosse, sign up now.

Indoor Tennis Programs, adult and junior, available now.



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North Fayette Parks and Rec.

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.

New program, events and leagues are starting at the North Fayette Community Center at Donaldson Park 580 Donaldson Road, Oakdale. Visit the Recreation Page on www.north-fayette.com to see current programs. Call for more information.

Adult/Senior Programs

Basketball League, Monday evenings, sfox@north-fayette.com.

Volleyball, Thursday evenings, email sfox@north-fayette.com.

Softball League, Sundays, begins April 23, sfox@north-fayette.com.

Variety of Fitness Classes, Monday-Saturday, check www.north-fayette.com for schedule.

Kettlebell Class, Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

Pound/Zumba, Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Pickle Ball, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m., Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free with membership

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

Water Aerobics, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6 p.m., \$2 or Medical insurance card, ages 18+.

Senior Luncheon, May 10, doors open 11:30 a.m., \$5, entertainment follows, call to RSVP.

Senior Trip to Pirates Game, July 21, Pirates vs. Brewers, 12:35 p.m. game, \$30, includes ticket, \$10 concession stand card, bus transportation, register at community center.

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

Youth Programs

PALS, Providing Assistance Love and Support, call for upcoming events.

Afterschool Programming, 3:30-5:30 p.m., K-8 programs designed to provide a safe environment for children to come after school, transportation provided from schools to community center when school is in session.

Pitch, Hit and Run, April 22, 11 a.m.

T-Ball, begins April 25, Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m., ages 3-5.

Developmental Volleyball, Wednesdays, April 19-May 24, ages 9-12 and 12-15.

Summer Camp, registration now open.



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 their guests, April 20, May 4, 18, June 1, 15, July 6, early bird games start 6:30 p.m., regular games 7 p.m., play until 9 p.m., kitchen open.

Seems Like Old Times Dance, open to the public, April 23, May 28, 7-10 p.m., kitchen opens 5 p.m., \$10 buffet, \$10 admission at door, the Wally Merriman Group performs this ballroom-style in celebration of America's "greatest generation."

Polka Classics with Ron Likovic Band, open to public, April 30, 2 p.m., polka dance in the Imperial Room, Polkas Classics and Ron Likovic bands, \$8, kitchen open.

SNPJ Lodge 106 Car Cruise, open to the public, May 21, July 16, noon, entertainment by American Pie, food, drinks, 50/50, level paved parking, door prizes, air-conditioned clubroom, bikes welcome, dash plaques for first 50 cars.

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CONTACT: Kevin Hancock ~ 724-825-3101

Email: rockdaycamp_oakdale@yahoo.com

ROCK Youth & Family Center ~ 150 W State St. Oakdale

On the Horizon

Findlay Parks and Rec.

Register for any of the following programs by calling Findlay Township Parks and Recreation at (724) 695-0500 x 246 or email dlarson@findlaytpw.org, unless otherwise indicated. Checks payable to Findlay Township unless otherwise indicated.

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

Spring Community Clean-Up, April 22, 9 a.m.-noon, meet at Activity Center, joint cleanup day with North Fayette, community service hours available, call to volunteer; bags, gloves and vests provided; volunteers needed to provide transportation.

Community Tire Collection Program, April 22, 9 a.m.-noon, Findlay Township Public Works, 1058 Clinton Road, passenger car and light truck tires up to 19" off-rim \$3 each/\$5 each on-rim, farm tractor tires up to 75 pounds \$20 each no rims, tractor/trailer \$20 each no rims.

Semi-Super Morning Bingo, April 28, May 19, June 30, doors open 9 a.m., bingo starts 10 a.m., \$10/packet, includes three cards for each regular game and one triple card for each special, additional packets \$5, coverall jackpots \$1, dobbers available for purchase, may cancel due to weather, call.

Discover Adventure Travel Club Series, May 4, 7 p.m., Discover Alaska, get all the information you need to plan the vacation of a lifetime, registration required.

Scrapbooking Workshop, May 6, 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.

Home Alone Safety Class, May 7, 6:30 p.m., for parents and children, see page 47 for more.

Fishing Derby, May 27, 7-11 a.m., Leopold Lake, ages 15 and under, biggest catch prizes by age, free event, bring: rod, reel, bait; adult supervision mandatory, ages 9 and under.

Cruisin' in the Woodlands, June 3, 5-9 p.m., Clinton Park, hosted by: Pittsburgh Classics, Antiques, Rods & Specialties; food, DJ, 50/50, rain date June 10, dash plaques for first 100 participating cars.

Findlay Township "Shred It" Day, June 10, 10 a.m.-noon, hosted by Findlay and state Rep. Mark Mustio, shred sensitive documents and dispose of in a safe and quick manner, no businesses, Findlay Township Municipal Building Parking Lot (1271 SR 30).

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Class, June 20, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., see page 47 for more.

Trips

Ohio Wine Trail, May 13, see page 47 for more.

Best of Branson, Oct. 22-27, see page 47 for more.

Mind and Body Series

Backyard Healing, April 26, 6-7:30 p.m., informative workshop about the healing herbs in your own backyard, free, donations welcome, www.EarthKeepersApothecary.com for more, register by April 21.

Mandala Workshop, May 4, 6:30-9 p.m., learn to draw and paint a mandala, explore the process of art as meditation and how the mandala can be used as a meditative tool, increase concentration and promote balance, supplies included, all skill levels, templates and blank pages available, \$25.


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

Senior Yoga and Qi Gong, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., gentle stretches while seated and standing, mixed levels, great for seniors, (724) 695-1976, info@idtsd.net, \$3/class, free for senior citizens.

AARP Safe Driving Classes, Findlay Township Municipal Building Meeting Room, first and largest classroom refresher course designed for motorists 55 and older, eight-hour course taught in two four-hour sessions over two days, refine existing driving skills and develop safe driving techniques, participants eligible to receive a state-mandated multi-year discount on their auto insurance premiums, husbands and wives must attend for discount, AARP Members \$15, non-members \$20, Findlay residents pay half price, checks payable to AARP, class size limited, registration required, four-hour course for those who have taken the eight-hour class in past three years, bring proof of attending previous class, cost and location same as eight-hour course.

Four-hour refresher course, April 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Eight-hour course, April 26, 27, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.




Community Memorial Day Service
Hopewell-Hebron Cemetery
Monday, May 29th at 12 p.m.
Under the Direction of
American Legion Wesoloski-Hays Post 335
Assisted by VFW Post 7714
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Jim and Peggy Rozzo (seated) of North Fayette Township are pictured with their two granddaughters, Sierra and Chelsea, their daughter, Trinitty Asherson, and her husband, D'Shaun Asherson, in 2010. A year after this photo was taken in 2010, the Asherson's moved to Australia to start a ministry. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Upon arrival, Trinitty called her mom, who assumed she was talking to her family in Australia. Then came a knock at the door. The Asherson's were in her front yard! Soon, more family arrived to celebrate!



Over the months, more surprises kept appearing as the grandparents continued finding hidden love notes left behind by their granddaughters.

Thanks to the Internet, they can stay in touch. Each Saturday evening at 9 p.m., they listen to a Christian radio station being broadcast at 10 a.m. Sunday, Australia time. For two years now, Chelsea and Sierra have worked on the show. They plan, do research and present interesting talks, as well as play Christian music. Their dad works with them and, together, they entertain for four hours every Sunday.

Skype also makes the distance easier for the grandparents, especially during significant events like Sierra's 16th birthday. Her wish to go skydiving came true! The entire experience was captured on video and shared over Skype, which allowed the Asherson children to hear Peggy's response, "I want to do that, too!" and see Jim respond by shaking his head.

For more on Asherson Ministries, visit www.asherson.org.

Nearly 30 years ago, Joanne Teets hosted a good news Bible youth club in her home in Hankey Farms. Then and there, a seed for the gospel was planted in the heart of fourth-grader Vikki Rozzo, who now goes by the name Trinitty Asherson.

After graduating from West Allegheny High School in 1985, Asherson served in the military while attending Edinboro University. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts and joined Cornerstone Television Network in Monroeville as an assistant director for live broadcasts. There, she met her future husband, D'Shaun Asherson, who was born in Sri Lanka. Schooled in Africa, D'Shaun had graduated with a bachelor's in engineering from Grove City College. After they married, the couple moved to Hankey Farms, minutes from the home of Trinitty's parents, Jim and Peggy Rozzo.

Trinitty settled into homeschooling their two daughters, Sierra and Chelsea, while D'Shaun progressed into senior management roles in Pittsburgh. They attended Allegheny Center Alliance Church on Pittsburgh's North Side, where, as a family, they led a Saturday evening children's church service for many years.

The Asherson's eventually moved to Imperial Pointe and used their first home as a ministry rental for struggling families. They frequently visited D'Shaun's family in Australia.

In 2011, D'Shaun and Trinitty heard God's calling to establish a full-time ministry in Australia. Getting confirmation from church elders and Trinitty's parents, they sold everything and, within six months, moved to establish D'Shaun Asherson Ministries in Melbourne.

Because Jim and Peggy dread the 22-hour flight to Australia, the Asherson's now travel halfway around the world back home to visit family. Hankey Farms is their new vacation destination.

Last summer, though, the Asherson's kept their vacation plans a secret as Trinitty organized a surprise 50th wedding anniversary party for her parents.

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A young child with curly hair is peeking over a white barrier. The child is wearing an orange shirt and blue shorts. A green 'S' sign is visible on the barrier.

This one-day class sponsored by The American Red Cross is for students ages 11-15 years of age. You will learn how to be the best babysitter on the block. Gain confidence and learn how to make smart decisions to stay safe. You can then impress parents with the certificate you will earn for completing the class. The class is fast-paced, with hands-on activities, exciting video, role plays and lively discussions. Participants will learn basic childcare, how to handle emergencies and how to keep themselves and children in their care safe. Learn how to handle bedtime and discipline issues and communicate with parents, as well as how to find and interview for babysitting jobs. Make sure to wear comfortable clothing and bring a sweater or jacket as the center is air conditioned.

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