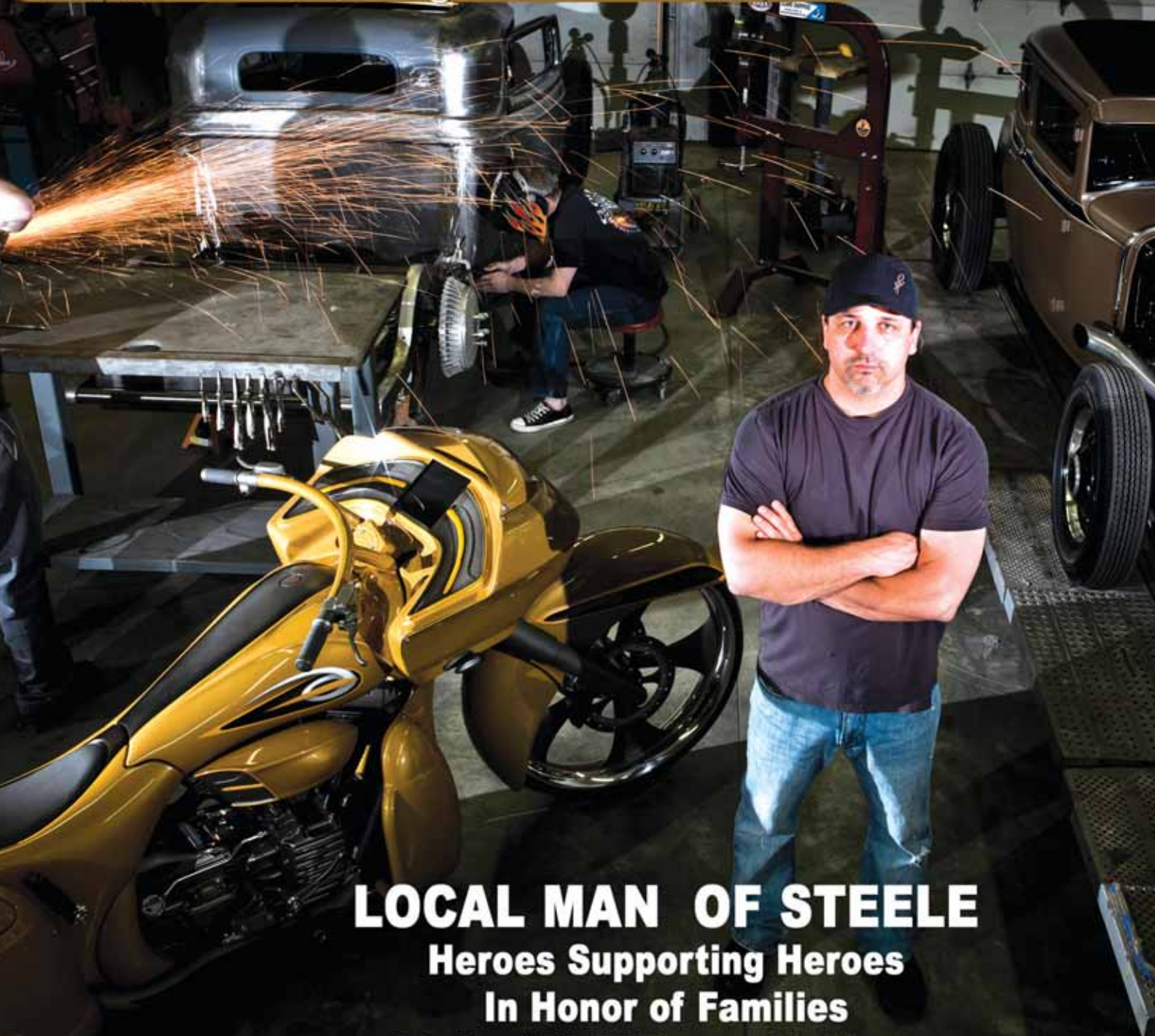


Allegheny West Magazine

Volume 14, No. 84
June/July 2013

WEST ALLEGHENY
EDITION

FREE Direct Mail
Community Publication



LOCAL MAN OF STEELE
Heroes Supporting Heroes
In Honor of Families
Student Fluid Power Challenge
Celebrating Local Wines!

WA

West Allegheny
School District
Official Newsletter
Inside
Page 19

One of 3 Editions Serving 14 Airport Area Communities
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STURGEON, McDONALD AND WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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From the PUBLISHER & EDITORS

Losses, a Relay, and Hope



Many of us have a story to tell about someone we know, or someone we loved, who died of cancer. This winter was no exception for me. Within a three-month period, I lost several friends and colleagues to this terrible disease. Linda, Ken, and Kathe all had some form of cancer that took their precious lives.

Much longer ago, both my grandmother and my step-grandfather died of cancer.

Yes, we all have a story. And with each of those stories, how quickly we are reminded of how short and precious life truly is.

So it was with much joy that I visited the first Relay For Life of the American Cancer Society held at the West Allegheny High School's Joe DeMichela Stadium on May 18. Hundreds of local residents, teams of students and teachers, families and friends, each set up "residence" along the perimeter of the field where a member of each team was always walking during the overnight event.

There was much to enjoy -- raffles, games, music, sports, food, and more. Teams were dressed in matching t-shirts they made, and some

decorated their "booths" in unique themes and colors.

The mood was buoyant, and smiles abounded. Underneath it all, however, I am sure that each individual had a story about someone they knew or loved who was taken by this insidious disease.

The weather remained optimum for all who spent nearly 24 hours (yes, they camped in tents right on the football field), and the event raised a whopping \$37,500.

The monies will go toward further research to hopefully find some cure for this disease before another generation experiences its ravages.

Read more and see many pictures on pages 58-59.

And, perhaps some hope is here. Heritage Valley Health System has announced its partnership with Cancer Prevention Study-3 to invite residents like you and me to take part in a study to determine our risks for cancer. Read more about it on page 66.

With the generosity of so many who take part in annual Relays for Life around our region and the nation, and the persistent determination of the researchers to find answers, hopefully someday our future generations will ask, "What is cancer?"



Pat Jennette, Publisher & Editor

Continuing to be Inspired

We here at *Allegheny West Magazine* have been running a number of stories lately about people who dared to pursue their dreams. In the last issue, we ran stories about track owner Red Miley and singing sensation Kiersten Kelly, whose incredible vocal and guitar talents have hardly been hindered by the fact that she was born with one arm. We've posted both of those stories on our website and to our Twitter account at @AlleghenyWest.

This time around the subject of our cover story is Bill Steele, who has quietly been earning a national reputation for building world-class custom bikes and hot rods out of his collision shop in Oakdale. When we heard about Bill's accomplishments a couple of months ago, it was news to us, and we figured it probably would be to a number of our readers as well. As it turns out, Bill's work has been featured on the covers of numerous prominent magazines dedicated to the art of building custom wheeled creations. Now, he's even inspiring young, would-be future custom builders and top talent from area technical schools. Bill built his business out of the modest garage where his father once ran a trucking business, hauling coal and steel. Bill has built his business into a thriving and internationally renown enterprise. I hope that you enjoy learning about him as much as we did.



Doug Hughey, Assistant Editor

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Allegheny West Magazine

"GOOD NEWS ALWAYS, MAILED & DELIVERED FREE, EVERY TIME"

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

West Allegheny Edition

VOL. 14, NO. 84, ISSUE 6

JUNE/JULY 2013

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ABOUT THE COVER

Bill Steele, owner of Steele's Auto Body in Oakdale, has made a national and international mark for his creative automotive expertise. Read his story on page 62.

PHOTO BY JOHN JACKSON

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO PPG FOR THE USE OF THIS COVER PHOTO



MORE INFO

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HEADLINE FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES IN 1916 REGARDING THE AETNA CHEMICAL EXPLOSION IN OAKDALE: "200 DIE AS TNT PLANT IS WIPED OUT BY EXPLOSION; Fiery Blast Hurls Buildings in Air Before Workers Can Reach the Open, Large Area Near Pittsburgh Devastated as Roar Follows Roar, with Deadly Fumes. Blast After Blast Follows."

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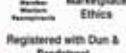
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Jennette Communications Group also publishes the Montour Edition of Allegheny West Magazine and the Moon Edition of Allegheny West Magazine.

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WEST ALLEGHENY INLINE HOCKEY 2013 - 2014 SEASON SIGN-UPS



West Allegheny Inline currently offers teams in 4 age groups*:

Elementary – Grades 2-5

Middle School – Grades 6-8

Junior Varsity and Varsity – Grades 9-12

*Based on 2013/2014 school year

Sign-up form & add'l info:

www.wainlinehockey.com

LAST DAY FOR SIGN-UPS: JUNE 29, 2013

➤ **Season:**

- Player practices begin – August/September
- Games begin – October
- Season ends – February / March
- All teams play 18 regular season games + season ending tournament

Questions:

Contact Mark @ 412.334.2640

Fireworks!

Sports & Rec Complex

WED, JULY 3

7:30 PM

FINDLAY TWP

Join us at the complex - Route 30, Imperial! (rain date: Friday, July 5). Enjoy DJ Dan Sheetz. Findlay Athletic Association will sell refreshments. FREE giveaways. Fireworks by Pyrotechnico.

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NO PARKING ALONG ROUTE 30. Monark Bus will run a shuttle from the Findlay Twp. Activity Center at 310 Main Street in Imperial. Pick up times at the Activity Center: 7:45, 8:15 and 9:15 pm. Parking available in upper and lower levels; overflow parking at Valley Presbyterian Church. (the bus will come by the church lot and pick you up).

FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Bring your lawn chair to the Amphitheater in Clinton Park for three Tuesday evenings of great music! The concerts and light refreshments are FREE. All concerts are at 7 pm.

JUNE 18 (Raindate June 19) – “RIVERCITY SWING”
Jazzin Up the American Songbook sponsored by Armstrong Telephone Company

JULY 9 (Raindate July 10) – “BRITTANY ANN”
Up and coming folk singer from Easton, PA and is a recent graduate of Temple University.

JULY 16 (Raindate July 17) – Blues in the Park
with “THE CLIFFHANGERS” - Good Time Classic Rhythm & Blues with local musicians and former W.A. Middle School teachers Dan Hanczar and Cliff Howell (and friends).

Concerts!

Clinton Park

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

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On the Horizon



Ongoing

Imperial Volunteer Fire Department Super Bingo,

first Monday monthly, **July 1, August 5, September 9, October 7, November 11, and December 2**, Findlay Township Activity Center, 310 Main Street in Imperial. Doors open 5:30 p.m., kitchen opens 6 p.m., bingo starts 7 p.m. Throw away cards are used; bring a bingo dauber.

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

Findlay Republican Committee Meeting, first Tuesday monthly, 7 p.m., Findlay Township Municipal Building, Clinton, guest speakers monthly, (412) 860-4331.

Stroke Group, second and fourth Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Stephens Church, Sewickley, coffee/tea, bring lunch, Louise, (412) 741-7771.

June 6-30

West Hills Art League, exhibition of works, the Gallery at PTI, 1111 McKee Road, Oakdale, PA 15071, (412) 809-5305.

June 11-August 6

McDonald Borough Summer Tennis Program, Harry Collins Courts at Heritage Park, children ages 5-17 lessons



held Tuesdays/Thursdays, adult lessons Monday evenings, eight weeks/16 lessons, \$40 children, eight weeks/eight lessons \$60 adults, (724) 926-4617.

June 12-14

St. Philip Catholic Church Festival, 50 West Crafton Avenue, Pittsburgh, **6-11 p.m.**, church benefit, (412) 922-0327.

June 14

Imperial VFD Annual Parade and Street Fair, Main Street, Imperial, **7 p.m.**, (724) 695-8845., www.imperialvfd.org.

June 17

The Early Learning Institute Summer Camp, June 17-21, June 24-28, July 22-26, July 29-August 2, August 5-9, age 2-5, 90 Grant Street, Kennedy Township, **8:30-11 a.m., 12-2:30 p.m., or 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**, \$90/week half day, \$160/week full day, (412) 331-3560, e-mail: kristinau@telipa.org.

June 29-July 6

McSummerfest, nightly, Heritage Park, McDonald, see page 11 for schedule.

July 2

Tasteful Tuesdays, The Mall at Robinson, first Tuesday monthly, **11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**, this month's performance is Terrence Vaughn: Soul, Blues, Funk, Rock, www.shoprobinsonmall.com.

July 4

Fish-for-Free Day, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will hold a Fish-for-Free Day, which allows anyone (resident or non-resident) to legally fish without a fishing license on all of Pennsylvania's waterways. All other fishing regulations still apply.

LEFT: "Bakery Treats," by Kim Stewart, is among the photos on display at PTI through June 30 by members of the West Hills Art League.

Golf Outings Coming Up

9th Annual TC House Golf Outing, June 21, Quicksilver Golf Club, to benefit the establishment of a group home for young adults with disabilities, (412) 736-5783, www.tchouse.org.

Montour Boys Basketball Golf Outing, June 29, Quicksilver Golf Club, shotgun start at 1 p.m., Daren Tielsch, (412) 780-6844.

Collier Township Firefighters Association 7th Annual Golf Fundraising Event, July 1, The Club at Nevillewood, registration 8 a.m., breakfast 8:30 a.m., shotgun start 10 a.m., benefits Collier Township Firefighters Association, richredlinger@gmail.com, www.ctffa.com, (412) 200-2460.

Herb and Harold Heinlein Golf Outing, July 21, Ponderosa Golf Course, two-person scramble, \$200 per team, Don, (412) 216-4200.

15th Annual Gerry Dulac Charity Golf Classic, July 29, Sewickley Heights Golf Club, 18-hole scramble, Q&A with golf writer Gerry Dulac of Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 10 a.m. registration, 11 a.m. shotgun start, benefits Robinson Township Parks and local charities, register at www.parkwaywestrotary.com.

July 20

Janoski's Farm Harvest Wine Festival, 3-8 p.m., 1714 SR 30, Clinton, sponsored by Janoski's, co-sponsored by Volant Mill Winery and *Allegheny West Magazine*, six wineries, \$25 in advance, \$30 at gate, admission includes farm fresh meal, wine sampling, entertainment, food sampling from vendors, tractor and car display, and more, rain or shine, (724) 899-3438, ext. 6, www.janoskis.com or www.volantmillwinery.com

July 21-28

Oakdale Hose Company Carnival & Parade, Friday, July 27, 7 p.m., (724) 693-9740.

July 31-August 3

Holy Trinity Summer Festival, nightly, see page 51 for details.

August 2

North Fayette Township Annual Parade along Steubenville Pike, (412) 788-4888, www.north-fayette.com.

August 3

North Fayette Township Annual Fair, Donaldson Park, **1-11 p.m.**, (412) 788-4888, www.north-fayette.com.

August 16-17

Findlay Township Fair in the Woodlands, Clinton Park, Clinton, (724) 695-0500, Friday, **6-10 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m.**, www.findlaytwp.org.

September 21

West Allegheny Class of '78 Reunion, J & D Cellars Winery, Eighty Four, (owned by a classmate), "Like" on Facebook: West Allegheny "78" Reunion Planner; looking for classmates: Larry Zitco, Barbara Flaherty, Don King, Denise Turner, Jerry Fullum, Matt Jones, Amy Campbell, James Boone, Rich Kaminski, Joe Formosa, Bill Charles, Dena Jackson, John Zook, Rich Wenta, John Weber, Ed Carnahan, Lee Coulter, Randy Dobrowsky, Becky Grimm, Ruth Jones, Chris McLaughlin, Mark Mercer, Irene Nelson, Mike Scott, Sally Shrum and Debbie Witherow, e-mail Sam Scarfone at sam.scarfone@hswa-pa.org.

"On the Horizon" provides space for nonprofit organizations and groups to post upcoming events and programs. Send announcements by e-mail to: alleghenywestmagazine@comcast.net. Please follow format as indicated above. Items will be edited to fit.

Vacation Bible School

Ascension Lutheran Church - Robinson, "Everywhere Fun Fair, Where God's World Comes Together," August 5-9, 6-8 p.m. Details and registration at www.ascensionlutheranchurcofpa.com, or (412) 859-3711.

Church of the Living Christ - Two-day VBS, Thursday and Friday, July 18 and 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., (724) 695-7188.

Clinton and Hebron UP Churches - Joint venture: "Everywhere Fun Fair, Where God's World Comes Together," July 8-12, 9 a.m.-noon, 3 year olds-grade 5 (must be potty trained), no fee, Clinton UP at (724) 695-7993 or Hebron at (724) 899-2276.

Clinton Wesleyan Church - "Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God," June 24-28, 9 a.m.-noon ages 3 years through completed grade 6, youth welcome as helpers, free, (724) 695-7076, e-mail: pastorchapman@verizon.net.

Crossroads Church - North Fayette campus, Kingdom Rock, July 8-12, 6-9 p.m., 4 years old on or before July 8, and going into grade 6 in the fall, spaces limited for 4-year-olds and not yet going into kindergarten, free, register on line at www.crossroadsumc.org, (412) 494.9999, e-mail: nfvbs@crossroadsumc.org.

KenMawr UP Church - 1760

Pine Hollow Road, McKees Rocks, (Kennedy Township), "Kingdom Rock," July 28-August 2, 6-8:45 p.m., ages 4 through grade 8, free, to register, (412) 331-2863, www.Kenmawrchurch.org.

McDonald Presbyterian Church - "Kingdom Rock," July 29-August 2, 9:30 a.m.-noon, ages 4 and up, e-mail: heather@mcdonaldpres.org.

Montours Presbyterian Church - "SonRise National Park," June 10-14, 6-8:30 p.m., kindergarten-grade 5, free, (412) 787-1050, www.montourchurch.org.

Oakdale U.P. Church - "MARKETPLACE - W.D.J.D.4U - What Did Jesus Do For You?," June 24-27, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., children completing grades K-5, free, (724) 255-5270, e-mail: andrewnbrady@yahoo.com.

ROCK Summer Day Camp - June 24-August 2, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (extended hrs), children completing grades K-5, \$95/week (\$80 if already a ROCK member), \$20 extended hours, \$10 deposit/week to hold spot, Kevin Hancock, (412) 523-5449, e-mail: rockdaycamp_oakdale@yahoo.com, registration day: June 21, 7-9 p.m. at The ROCK Youth & Family Center, (former Good Shepherd UP Church in Oakdale).

St. Columbkille, Imperial - "Kingdom Rock," August 5-9, 9 a.m.-noon, grades K-6, cost of t-shirt is \$5, deadline: July 22, (724) 695-2146, registration form at www.saintcolumbkilleparish.org.



Raccoon Creek Park Happenings

Youth Beginning Archery

Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

For youths ages 9-15, learn how to correctly and safely shoot bows and arrows. Certified NADA instructors will teach the basic skills and proper shooting techniques needed to safely enjoy the sport of archery. Pre-registration required, call (724) 899-3611 by June 12. Cost is \$5, payable at the program.

Flags of the United States

Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 16

Meet at the Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center along U.S. Route 30 this weekend after Flag Day to celebrate and learn about the many flags of the United States of America. Come anytime between **10 a.m. and 4 p.m.** for a short program to learn about the flags and the roles these flags played in history. Representatives will demonstrate flag folding and cover other important guidelines when handling and displaying the flag. Free program.

Strawberry Moon Night Hike

Saturday, June 22, 9-10:30 p.m.

Meet at the Old Main Picnic Area on Raccoon Park Road (between boat rental and roadside East Picnic area). Venture along the dark trails lit by the Strawberry Moon to hear and maybe see some of the nightlife in the park. Topics such as fireflies and tree frogs will be covered while walking the trails. Bring a flashlight; free program.

Art Club of Raccoon Creek

Sunday, June 30, 2-5 p.m.

Meet at Doak Field; call (724) 899-3611 for directions. The Art Club of Raccoon Creek invites anyone from beginner to skilled artist to practice their artistic talents while enjoying the outdoors at Raccoon Creek State Park. Any media is welcome. Except for November and December, the club meets the last Sunday of each month from 2-5 p.m. Individuals and families welcome; small groups please call ahead. For questions, contact the park by e-mail at paadams@pa.gov or call (724) 899-3611. Free program.

To learn more about upcoming programs and events, visit www.friendsofraccoon.org (under Park Events), www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar (select Facility Raccoon Creek State Park), or www.facebook.com/RaccoonCreekStatePark (under Event Tab).

Programs are sponsored by Raccoon Creek State Park, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. For further information, call (724) 899-3611. If needing an accommodation to participate in a park activity due to a disability, call (724) 899-2200.

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On the Horizon

Findlay Activities Coming Up

SUMMER KID'S CREATIVE COOKING - This program is for kindergarten through grade 5, **Tuesday, July 16**, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., \$8, Findlay Township Activity Center, Main Street, Imperial, pre-register at least two days before class to attend. NO WALK-INS.

CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER DISCOVERY DAY PROGRAMS - Instructors from the Carnegie Science Center will present programs to excite and challenge kids. Monday classes are for students entering pre-school and kindergarten. Wednesday classes are for students entering grades 1-5. Class size is limited; must register, \$5 per child and payable the day of the program, lower level of the Findlay Activity Center, Main Street, Imperial.

PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN:

Mondays, 11 a.m.-noon

June 17: Bubble Science – Explore the nature of bubbles and amazing bubble blowers.

July 8: Creepy Crawlly – Investigate insect parts and behavior through song & dance.

July 15: Sea Life – Learn about sea creatures, shells and hermit crabs.

August 5: Duplo Math – Practice sorting & pattern making and more math skills with duplo blocks.

GRADES 1-5:

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-noon

July 17: Lift Off - Get the scoop on Bernoulli's principle used to lift objects.

July 31: Chemistry in a Bag - Conduct experiments that produce exciting temperature changing results.

FINDLAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT IN THE PARK

Activities will include relay races, beach ball volleyball, limbo and more. Start the evening with a picnic-style dinner in the Oriole Pavilion. End the evening with a family scavenger hunt on the park fairgrounds and sing-along music at the amphitheater. Reservations are required no later than July 29 to attend. Event details: **Friday, August 2**, Oriole Pavilion and Little Clinton ballfield at Clinton Park, 6-9 p.m., \$5/person, children five and under free.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER'S TRAINING CLASS

This newly revised one-day class, sponsored by the American Red Cross, is for students ages 11-13. Participants will learn basic childcare, how to handle emergencies and how to keep themselves and the children in their care safe, bedtime and discipline issues, communicating with parents, and finding and interviewing for babysitting jobs. Each student will receive a certificate upon completion of class. (Wear comfortable clothing; bring a sweater or jacket as the center is air conditioned; bring a bag lunch and drink). Pre-registration is required. Event details: **Wednesday, June 12**, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, Main Street, Imperial; ages 11-15, \$76.50, payable to Findlay Township.

MARADA GOLF COURSE "FAMILY GOLF PACKAGE"

This program is only open to parents with their children. Families must play together in the same group, and children must be 17 or under. A son or daughter golfing with Mom OR Dad can golf for free. Any additional children can golf for only \$10. Regular green fees and golf cart apply to parents. Marada is located off the Clinton exit on 376 West, adjacent to the Marathon gas station. For tee times, call (724) 899-2600 or visit www.golfnow.com.

Oakdale Activities Coming Up

On **Friday, June 21 at 7 p.m.**, a concert will be held in the Oakdale business district featuring the West Hills Symphony and the local band, Kardaz.

The 4th of July parade, hosted by The ROCK, in conjunction with Oakdale Borough, will be **Wednesday, July 4** at 10 a.m. Prizes will be awarded. The day's events include Children's Bike Parade, Pet Parade, Quilt Show, Cook Out, Raffles, and Lunch Box Auction. Free hotdogs will be given to child participants in the parade.

For municipal activities/programs, contact the Findlay Township Recreation Department, (724) 695-0500, ext. 246 or e-mail: dlarson@findlaytownship.com, North Fayette Township Recreation Department at (412) 788-4888 or (724) 695-3118 or e-mail: rbrozovich@north-fayette.com, or Oakdale Borough, (724) 693-9740

North Fayette Activities Coming Up

The first of a series of **free summer concerts** is on Father's Day, **June 16** at 6 p.m. Performing at the amphitheatre stage at Donaldson Park that evening will be the Hopewell Community Big Band.

P.A.L.S.' annual swim party is **Friday, July 19** at 7 p.m. at the Hankey Farms pool.

Community Days this year starts with the annual parade on **Friday, August 2** in the evening and continues on **Saturday, August 3** from 1 to 11 p.m. Scheduled to perform are the Hillbilly Way, Tom Watt, the Buffett Man, the West Hills Symphonic Band, and Silent Partner. Activities include skydivers, guns and hoses water battle, inflatables from Windswept Entertainment, pony rides, petting zoo, clowns, food vendors, local organizations, kids games, and fireworks by Zambelli Fireworks. Some of this year's Community Days sponsors include Comcast, *Allegheny West Magazine*, Wojanis Hydraulic Supply, Wharton-Herrick Funeral Home, Piper Jaffrey, Huntington Bank, Peoples Gas, PTI, GTN Law Firm, Penn Lincoln, Ferrelgas, and Monark Transportation.

A limited number of **picnic pavilions are available for rental** for the 2013 season. Residents only must provide valid proof of residency and should have alternate dates. Fees for the pavilions are \$75 for the township park and \$50 for Donaldson Park. All pavilion rentals require a \$50 security deposit.

Hankey Farms Pool programs include North Fayette Police free family swims **July 8** and **August 12**, Community Days Free Swim on **August 3**, teen night on **June 14**, Adult and Senior Swim on **June 20**, Hawaiian Day on **July 13**, and members night on **July 28**. The summer movie party is on Friday, **June 28** at 7 p.m. This year's movie is "Madagascar 3" and the program is free.

Monday through Friday is **Water Walking** from 11 a.m. to noon while the **Silver Sneakers splash program** is every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11 a.m. to noon. The library will offer **crafts** on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. during June and July.

Summer Swim lessons begin on **Monday, June 24** for a two-week session.

Registration for **summer Learning Center preschool camps** is ongoing, with six different sessions available for ages 4 and 5.

The **summer playground program** began on June 7 and continues through Friday, August 16. The program operates from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

New this year is a **Summer Performing arts program**. This is a singing, acting, and dancing camp. Sessions are available for children in grades one through six. Camp themes are "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music."

Tennis lessons begin on **Tuesday, June 11** for children ages 4 to 17. **Coach Cornell's annual baseball camp** is **June 24 to 27** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Donaldson Park fields.

Parks and Recreation will celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month with a **community picnic** on **Sunday, July 16**, noon to 4 p.m. and will include a car cruise, hotdogs, playground games sponsored by the summer playground staff, Chinese auction and 50/50 (proceeds benefitting P.A.L.S.), and music by the Dixie Spirit Dixieland Band.

The senior citizens go to the **Pirates game** on **Sunday, June 30** when the Pirates play the Brewers at 1:35 p.m. Tickets and transportation are \$31. The seniors will **bowl at Latitude 40** on **Mondays, June 10, July 8, and August 12**, starting at 1 p.m.

21st Annual McSummerfest 2013

June 29 - July 6 Heritage Park, McDonald PA



McDonald, PA

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SATURDAY JUNE 29 **McSUMMERFEST**
PARADE, 5 pm

IRON SKILLET-Southern Rock
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MONDAY JULY 1

JOHNNY MILLER
BAND
Americana
Alternative
Country



SUNDAY JUNE 30

COMMUNITY DAY
5K Race, Classic Car
Show, Firemen's Challenge
Starts 9 a.m.

TUESDAY JULY 2

HEDGG BAND



WEDNESDAY JULY 3

GIRLZ IN BLACK HATS
Modern Country



THURSDAY JULY 4

ZERO FAME
Alternative Rock/Classical



FRIDAY, JULY 5

N202R BAND - 70s, 80s & 90s Hits
FIREWORKS by ZAMBELLI!



SATURDAY JULY 6

RUFF CREEK
Country

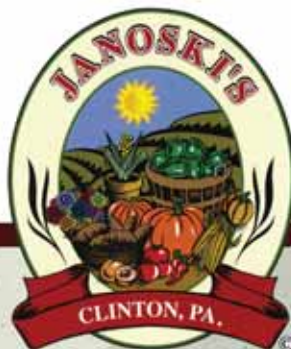


THESE EVENTS ARE HOSTED BY: McDonald Volunteer Fire Department

FOR MORE INFO:
www.mcdonaldfire.com (724) 926-9190



Celebrating Local Wines!



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West**
Magazine

**1st
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**On the Farm
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By the Lake**

Janoski's Farm Harvest Wine Festival

Featuring Wineries:

Deer Creek
Greenhouse
Kavic ~ Starr Hill
Volant ~ Wilcox

Sponsored by Janoski Farms
Co-Sponsored by
Volant Mill Winery and Allegheny West Magazine

Saturday, July 20, 2013

3 - 8 p.m.

Rain or Shine
(no refunds)

ADMISSION INCLUDES:

Wine glass
for sampling,
farm fresh foods, dessert,
great entertainment,
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IN ADVANCE:

\$25

AT THE GATE:

\$30



No one under
21 admitted
Valid I.D. required
at the gate



INFO: www.janoskis.com, www.volantmillwinery.com, www.alleghenywestmagazine.com
Janoski's Farm is located at 1714 SR 30, Clinton, PA 15026, in western Allegheny County





Celebrating Local Wines!



Deer Creek Winery

Come to the main Deer Creek Winery where it all began. Located on a road less traveled and deep set in the pastoral landscape of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, Deer Creek Winery's main location is a destination stop you don't want to miss.

Our visitors are given a unique experience the moment they walk through our doors when they are welcomed by Deer Creek's best friend, Vino, our beautiful golden retriever mascot. The experience continues with free tastings of our young Pennsylvania wines of many fruit, sweet, and dry varieties, including our signature wine, Deer Creek Raspberry. Our visitors are also welcome to enjoy a conversation over delicious tapas offerings around our outdoor campfire and a glass of your favorite Deer Creek wine.

We want everyone who visits to share the unique experience that is Deer Creek Winery, and to leave with a happy palate and a smile on their face.

Each of Deer Creek Winery's locations offers their own personality and a specialized grove to add to the whole Deer Creek experience. While visiting the northern countryside, we invite you to stop by our Seneca location and check out their beautiful store. Elegant and inviting, our Seneca Cozy Grove has it all. There you are welcome to sample our wines, savor your favorite



by the glass, and enjoy our menu of fine tapas eats and our signature delectables.

For your convenience, we have several winery stores located throughout western Pennsylvania.

Enjoy a specialty latte or a wine milkshake inside the Coffee Grove at the Clearview Mall in Butler, or travel further south and try our specialty oils and vinegars at the Olive Grove in Ross Park Mall.

You will find the Biscotti Grove at all of our fine locations, including Beaver Valley Mall and at The Mall at Robinson. And of course, our main location and birthplace of our signature Raspberry wines has Vino's Raspberry Grove.

Also, we offer wine ice cream and sorbets at all of our locations!

For more information, visit www.deercreekwine.com or call (814) 354-7392. If you're headed to Main, add our address to your GPS favorite destinations: 3333 Soap Fat Road, Shippensburg, PA. We look forward to seeing you!



3333 Soap Fat Road Shippensburg PA 16254 814.354.7392 DeerCreekWine.com
Six Locations: Ross Park Mall, The Mall at Robinson, Beaver Valley Mall, Butler Clearview Mall,
Seneca, and our main winery in Shippensburg

Kavic Winery

Immigrant grandparents from both sides of the family were involved with winemaking while yet in Europe. When our grandparents arrived in the United States from Italy and Serbia at the turn of the 20th century, they brought their winemaking skills and love of wine making with them.

The Great Depression was a difficult time for the United States. There was little work as the mills closed. Many struggled just to survive. Our grandparents were no exception. Wine and wine making that provided joy and pleasure during good times helped our families stay together and survive.

Today this same spirit of sharing, love of family, and self-sacrifice governs every facet of wine making at the Kavic Winery. The owners, Michael and Patricia Kavic, are intimately involved in all aspects of wine production.

Patricia's brother, Patrick J. Fleck, is Director of Operations at the winery and has been involved with every phase of winery production since a license was granted for the facility in 2007.

In addition, Patrick is a co-owner and the guiding force of the Deep Valley Vineyard located in Oakdale, just 15 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh.

Under Patrick's direct supervision, a two-acre block of land at the Deep Valley site is being prepared for planting this summer with the cold-hardy, hybrid grape, Marquette, which was developed at the University of Minnesota. Although Patrick is confident of success, it will be three years before the vines mature sufficiently to produce viable grapes.

Currently, all grapes used for wine making at the winery are locally grown using local labor and local product from area vineyards. The entire process is Pittsburgh made and Pittsburgh proud.

Spend a few moments and sample our wines. We are certain you will find something you like and that you will return.

Riesling: A Versatile Wine

Riesling is one of the better wines for food pairing because of its balance of intense acidity, minerality and fruit. Most would agree that it would be difficult to find a more accommodating wine for a broad range of food than this delightful white wine varietal.

A high acid content allows Riesling to handle hearty sauces and high-end meats while innate fruit flavors lend charm for tackling highly spiced foods.

Our semi-sweet Riesling pairs well with almost all Asian (Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, and Indian) cuisine along with other diverse menus, specifically barbecue and Southwestern style dishes.

Try Riesling with barbecued ribs and chicken, corned beef, crab or cured meats. You won't be disappointed. In addition, this light, pleasant wine goes well with egg dishes, guacamole, ham, curries, onion rings, pork (especially pulled pork), and hot dogs.

We Welcome Your Visit

*Open Saturdays 12 - 5 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed All Major Holidays*

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PITTSBURGH MADE AND PITTSBURGH PROUD



Volant Mill Winery

Nestled within the farmlands of western Pennsylvania sits the Janoski family farm and greenhouse. Inside the market, along with home-grown produce and fresh-from-the-oven baked goods, you will find yet another local treasure: Volant Mill Winery. The relationship between nutritious local food and delicious regional wine goes back thousands of years and we are pleased to announce that it is still going strong!

Named for the historic mill in Volant, (a small town 60 miles north of Pittsburgh) the winery has four retail locations: Volant, Grove City, Cranberry/Mars, and Janoski's. Their locally produced wine may be sampled and purchased at each location. The store within Janoski's farm market opened in 2010 and has been a hit with Clinton's residents, who are well aware of the important role small businesses play in the area's economy. Of course, geopolitical matters aside, the wine itself is the main attraction!

While the selection of dry wines (including the soon-to-be-released Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc) appeals to long-time aficionados, even those who don't

think of themselves as "wine drinkers" may be surprised by the refreshing, pleasantly fruity flavor for which Pennsylvania wines are best known.

Volant's perennial bestseller, Volant Red, is a rich, sweet table wine that goes well with just about anything. The Apple is crisp and sweet, like autumn's first harvest; try it as a pork marinade or in your barbecue sauce! The Blackberry harkens back to those sunny summer days when you plucked sun-ripened fruit right from the bush. And the newest release, Cocoa Vino, is a sweet red wine blended with cocoa, a delectable dessert all on its own. Peach wine is in the works, which should be available late this summer!

Still not sure? Stop in for a free sample! Or, better yet, plan to attend Janoski's Farm Harvest Wine Festival! On Saturday, July 20, five other area wineries will join Volant Mill and the Janoski family in a celebration of summer! Admission (\$25 in advance or \$30 at the door) includes a wine glass for sampling, farm fresh food, dessert, entertainment, and more! See www.VolantMillWinery.com or www.Janoskis.com for details!

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Visit our other locations in Volant, Grove City, and Mars.
www.volantmillwinery.com



West Allegheny Youth Soccer Association

FALL 2013 REGISTRATION

Season runs September 7 through late October

DEADLINE: JUNE 30th

Registration for In-house players only
will be accepted until July 15 with a \$10 late fee.

Child must be 4 years old by 7/31/13

NO EXCEPTIONS

Visit www.leaguelineup.com/westasoccer for age chart, more information
and many changes

U5/U6 Boys & Girls coed	Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 pm	Saturday 10:00 – 11:00 am	Youthtowne	\$60.00
U8 Boys & Girls coed*	Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 pm	Saturday 11:00 – noon	Youthtowne	\$75.00
U10 Boys and Girls coed*	Monday 6:15 – 7:15 pm	Saturday 8:30-9:30 am	Argenta	\$75.00
*U8/U10 additional skills training by Youth Elite Soccer	Thursday 6:15 - 7:15 pm	6 sessions	Argenta	Included!
Travel (U11 and above)	TBD practice day and location	Sunday afternoon games	(U11/12) 2 additional skill sessions by YES	\$85.00

Ways to Register:

- Go to: www.pa-wallegheny.sportsaffinity.com (Register on-line and SAVE \$5.00)
- Print registration form and mail to P.O. Box
- Sat., June 15th at Panera Bread (By Walmart in North Fayette) from 9-11 am

Questions Call Heather Chappel (724) 693-2536 OR Michelle Abbott (724) 693-8073

www.leaguelineup.com/westasoccer

WA Families,

As many of you are aware, we are working hard to give your kids more soccer with quality training opportunities. As a board, we challenge ourselves each session to deliver your players maximum value for your dollars spent on the activity. Session fees are going up this fall. Last session, we purchased eight new goals and nets for the U10 group. This fall, we are going to start a goal replacement plan for the U5, U6 and U8 groups at Youthtowne. We have added 6 "skill training" days run by a professional training company (Youth Elite Soccer) for the u8 and u10 groups. That will be an additional day of soccer for those six weeks. We will also coordinate two "skill" sessions for our u12 travel groups as well. It is important to note that we don't do any fundraising. Careful consideration has been taken as we contemplated the fee increases this fall and we strongly believe that to continue to move the program forward and keep the kids interested in soccer, we must continue to deliver better playing experiences and offer more opportunities for the kids. I hope you agree!

Thanks and I will see you on the soccer field.

Doug Goldstrohm, President- WAYSA



Carpenters Do Good Deed for Botanic Garden



ABOVE: Kitty Vagley of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden and Seth Greenier of the South Hills and Zeus Construction show blueprints of the storybook house.

Before carpenters can join the Greater Pennsylvania Regional Council of Carpenters and go on to represent the highest qualities and standards required by the union, they first must complete a four-year apprenticeship program at the organization's training facility near Settlers Cabin Park.

This year, as some of the fourth-year carpentry apprentices were preparing to graduate and become journeymen, they took part in an event that both tested their skills and benefitted some good causes.

On May 7, while a number of those apprentices built lean-tos and octagonal picnic tables for area parks, four apprentices competed against each other by building one-fourth of a storybook house. Once completed, the four parts were assembled, and each apprentices' workmanship was graded.

That house has since been donated to the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, a massive project that aims to reclaim 460 acres of former strip mine and convert it into a thriving garden and park. Botanic Garden President Greg Nace and Director of Development Kitty Vagley were both on hand to watch the apprentices' work, as was Board Member Judy Wojanis, president of Wojanis Hydraulic Supply Company in North Fayette.

Kitty says plans are to install the house in the Book Worm Glen section of the garden's Eastern European Woodlands area. She says the garden is currently working on an attraction entitled "Mr. Roger's Garden of Make-Believe," and that the theme will be evident throughout.

Working on the house were Seth Greenier of the South Hills and Zeus Construction, Michael Howard of Irwin and Stevens Painton Corporation, Daniel Nill of West Mifflin and MBM Contracting, Inc., and Robinson resident Brian Kovacs, who works for DCK Worldwide. The house was built out of environmentally friendly, non-wolmanized wood encased in cedar shingles. Its roof was made largely out of materials produced from recycled paper.

News from the PITTSBURGH BOTANIC GARDEN

Tour the Gardens!
Sunday, June 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



For 16 years we have showcased beautiful gardens in the Pittsburgh area and enabled our tour patrons to explore a dozen beautiful gardens in one day. This year's tour features 12 private gardens in Edgewood and Oakmont.

The self-guided tour provides a guide book sent to you so you can plan your day in advance. The book includes directions to and descriptions of each garden. We will suggest an itinerary to help you make the most effective use of your day.

A guided bus tour reaches the first garden on the tour by 9 a.m. After a lunch stop at midday for a lovely luncheon, the bus tour continues until 5 p.m. A knowledgeable volunteer guide supplements the information provided in the guide book and leads the tour group through each garden.

Ticket prices for the self-guided Tour reflect the standard admission rates, while the prices for the bus tour include the cost of transportation and lunch at the elegant Longue Vue Club.

Contact the Botanic Garden office for tickets and details.

Peek & Preview Tours!

We are hosting public Peek & Preview Tours until our Opening Day (mid-2014). These one-hour tours will introduce visitors to the Woodland Gardens and its historic homestead front door.

Learn about the history of the area, our current work and our future plans!

Contact the Botanic Garden office for tour days and times.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers for our June 23 Town & Country Garden Tour. This event raises much-needed funds to advance the Botanic Garden and are not possible without many helping hands. Volunteers are also needed for a variety of activities ongoing at the garden site.

Conceived in 1988 and now in the development stages, Pittsburgh Botanic Garden will be a world class garden & one of a kind regional attraction.

For info or to volunteer, call (412) 444-4464.

SMILE - IT'S SUMMERTIME!

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Nine Students Place at FBLA State Leadership Conference

At the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania, April 15-17, one West Allegheny High School student took first place and qualified for the FBLA National Leadership Conference and eight students placed in the top 10.

West Allegheny's first place finisher, who qualified for nationals, was Joe Sible in economics. Taking third place in computer gaming was the team of Jerry O'Connell, Justin Josey and Mike Ujevich. Claiming fourth place finishes were Brian Bitar in the job interview category and Jordan Grogan, Joey Falcioni and Dakota Lamb in website design. Taking seventh place was Ian Gillie in desktop application programming. These top 10 finishers competed against approximately 3,600 students from across the state.

This is the fifth consecutive year the West Allegheny chapter of FBLA has had a member qualify to represent the state of Pennsylvania at the national conference, which will be held in Anaheim, California this summer. To qualify for the national conference, students must place either first or second at the state level.

West Allegheny students who also



FBLA members (front) Ian Gillie, Dakota Lamb, Joe Sible, Ibrahim Bitar and (back) Jordan Grogan, Justin Josey, Michael Ujevich, Jerome O'Connell, Joseph Falcioni place at state conference.

qualified for the state conference were Andrew Becker, Sarah Becker, Maya Black, Abby Kidder, Anthony Marucci,

Julianne Spataro and Dior Williams. Pam Volakis and Julie Dennis are the FBLA advisors.

Students Reflect on Importance of Black History



From the slave trade to Barack Obama, students in Ginny Belko's fifth grade class at McKee Elementary School studied black history throughout February in recognition of Black History Month. Each student chose a person, event or concept to research. Projects were then completed, presented and put on chronological display for students, teachers and parents to view.

Subjects spanned from the 1600s to present day and included such inspiring topics as Rosa Parks, Jesse Owens and the Civil Rights Movement.

"I feel that the more students learn, the more compassionate and understanding they will be," stated Belko.

Fifth grader Maci Priddy displays her Ella Fitzgerald project in honor of Black History Month.

Visit the school district Web site at www.westasd.org for updates regarding school information.

Superintendent's Message:

Understanding the Common Core Standards

Introduction by

Dr. John DiSanti, Superintendent

Over the last several weeks, much has been written about the Common Core. What is it? What does it mean for Pennsylvania schools? How will it affect teachers and students in our state and in particular West Allegheny? Dr. Christine Assetta, Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, is charged with overseeing the implementation of the Standards in West Allegheny. Given her experience and expertise in curriculum, I asked her to provide an overview on the Common Core and its implications for West Allegheny. I hope that her synopsis offers a more in-depth understanding of what the Common Core is and how districts across the country are implementing this initiative.

Over the past year, the West Allegheny School District has begun the process of revising the present District curricula to be aligned to the revised Pennsylvania Common Core Standards. The Pennsylvania Department of Education is mandating that all Pennsylvania school districts develop curricula with instructional objectives and learning activities aligned to Common Core expectations by the 2014-2015 academic year. The West Allegheny School District will meet this expectation by adhering to the timeline in the chart on the right.

With the introduction of the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards, parents and community members have raised questions regarding their use, origin, and implications for the West Allegheny School District. The purpose of this article is to address those questions in order to clarify their use and correct any misperceptions.

What are the Common Core Standards and What are their Origins?

Common Core Standards are statements of what students are expected to know and be able to do at specific grade levels. Standards focus on essential concepts, knowledge, and skills necessary for students to succeed and are designed to increase student achievement. In 2004, various states worked in collaboration to determine if common standards in math and English could be identified for states to consider using. The need for these statements evolved from the business community and higher education officials stating the need for more rigorous academic

standards to produce high school graduates ready to succeed in the workforce or college. Their perspective is based on the belief that the way students were taught in the past does not prepare them for the higher demands of careers and college in the twenty-first century.

What are the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards?

Each state has the autonomy to design Common Core Standards to meet the specific needs of their students. The Common Core Standards provide clear and consistent standards for all states to consider when developing their state-specific standards for math and English. As a result, the Pennsylvania Department of Education has designed the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards that include evidence-based, rigorous content and are

Kindergarten-Grade 2	2013-2014
Grades 3-5	Begin to implement 2013-2014; full implementation 2014-2015
Grades 6-8 Algebra I	2014-2015 2012-2013
Grades 9-12: Algebra I, English, Biology	2012-2013

aligned to college and career readiness. The Pennsylvania Common Core promotes a deeper level of understanding of key concepts in the areas of math and literacy.

In English language arts and literacy, Pennsylvania students continue to read and write. However, in addition to narrative stories and literature, they read more informational text that provides facts in areas including science and social studies. Students build background knowledge about the world through the text and learn to rely less on the teacher or activities. They also read more challenging texts and are asked more questions that require them to refer back to what they have read. There is a greater emphasis on building strong vocabulary as a tool to enhance comprehension. Additionally, writing is emphasized. Students continue to write narrative passages, but they also use evidence from text to inform and make an argument based on what they are reading.

In math, the instruction emphasis is on interrelated big ideas that connect the study of

mathematics to science, technology, and engineering. Teachers concentrate on the big ideas of concepts using complex and challenging math content. This enables the students to demonstrate their thinking and apply their knowledge in different ways. Students learn how to use math to analyze and respond to real-world issues and challenges as they will be expected to do in college and the workplace.

Common Core Myths and Facts

As a result of the implementation of the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards, several of the following misconceptions have surfaced. Following each myth is a clarification of the implications of the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards.

Myth - The Common Core Standards are based on a national curricula for schools.

Fact - The standards are not a curriculum. They are a set of goals and expectations for the necessary knowledge and skills that help students succeed. Local districts determine how the standards will be met through specific instructional objectives, activities, and resources.

Myth - The Common Core Standards include a required reading list.

Fact - A mandated reading list does not exist.

The Standards recommend a wide range of narrative and informational texts with the district holding the autonomy to select specific reading material.

Myth - The Common Core Standards will lead to Pennsylvania taking a national test.

Fact - No national test exists. Pennsylvania students are only required to take the PSSA exams in grades 3-8 and the Keystone Exams upon completion of algebra I, biology, and English.

Myth - The Common Core Standards lessen the rigor of Pennsylvania State Standards.

Fact - The Common Core Standards improve the rigor in schools. The curricula aligned to the standards address a much higher level as students are expected to perform beyond the basic knowledge level and engage in strategic and extended thinking.

Implications for the West Allegheny School District

As the West Allegheny School District transitions to the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards, parents will notice more rigorous expectations for students with an emphasis on conceptual understanding as opposed to the simple recall of facts. West Allegheny is committed to designing curricula that addresses

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE (cont.)

rigorous instruction and assessment. The District's goal is to prepare students to be able to apply, analyze, and evaluate in the areas of math and literacy so that they are prepared for college and the work place.

(NOTE: In mid-May, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett ordered a delay in the adoption of the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards that were

expected to be adopted in July, 2013. The legislature is examining concerns that have been raised and is asking the state Board of Education to consider minor revisions. A spokesperson for the governor expressed that the postponement will not result in major changes and that the Standards should be in place for the upcoming school year.)

Parents may contact me or the building principals with specific questions and

comments related to the West Allegheny transition to the Pennsylvania Common Core. Common Core resources are also available at <http://www.corestandards.org/> and <http://www.pdesas.org/Standard/CommonCore>.

Dr. Christine Assetta
**Assistant to the Superintendent
for Curriculum and Instruction**

WAMS Students Qualify for John Hopkins CTY Program

Over 100 West Allegheny Middle School students qualified for The John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) talent search by scoring in the 95th percentile or higher on standardized tests. This program, which was established in 1979, works with elite students in grades two through eight worldwide.

Students who qualified were invited to participate in the program and take an above grade level test in which their math and verbal/reading talents were assessed.

Students in the sixth grade took CTY's School and College Ability Test (SCAT). Students in the seventh and eighth grades were given the option of taking the SAT, ACT or an advanced version of the SCAT. All participating students were also encouraged to take the Spatial Test Battery (STB), which assesses spatial reasoning ability.

Students participating in this program are then eligible to receive the following benefits:

- Help in preparing students for future standardized tests
- Recognition from CTY and high scoring students are recognized at an awards ceremony
- Participation in CTY summer programs and online courses

For more information on this program, please contact Melissa MacNeil, program coordinator and West Allegheny Middle School guidance counselor, at 724-695-5231.

Solar House Projects Heat Up Students' Imaginations

The rubric for high school science teacher Jim Hamilton's solar house project was as detail-driven as the students' final submissions, and with good reason. The ultimate objective of the project was for students to design and build a solar model house that blended functionality with creativity.

In line with the honors physical science curriculum, students were to create a physical model that demonstrated the properties of conduction, convection and radiation. In addition, students were to apply their knowledge of the greenhouse effect, heat absorption, insulation and reflection to the efficiency of both the interior and exterior designs. Students were permitted to work alone or in groups and had 10 days to complete the project. The results were impressive, with a total of 30 structures designed, constructed and presented.

"We learned how to collect heat using insulation and that building houses is really hard," stated ninth grader Anastasia Kwiatkowski.



Kennedi Roney and Reanna Turner display their "solar condo" and Anastasia Kwiatkowski and Mia Spinelli display their entry titled "the barn."

High School Students Inducted into NTHS



Three West Allegheny High School students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) for their outstanding achievements at Parkway West Career and Technology Center (PWCTC). New members Jordan Atkinson and Amanda Markish are enrolled in the Cosmetology program and Damian Godfrey is enrolled in the Automotive Technology program. The ceremony was held on April 29 at Montour High School.

To be inducted into the NTHS, candidates must be nominated by an instructor, maintain an A average in their chosen program of study and a 3.0 in core academic subjects, not miss more than five days of course instruction, and be approved through an interview.

Tracy Marschik serves as the PWCTC student advisor.

NTHS inductees include Jordan Atkinson, Damian Godfrey and Amanda Markish.

Middle School Teachers Present Creative Yet Thrilling Approach to PSSA Testing

Spring is the time of year when PSSA tests generate anxiety for students and teachers alike. West Allegheny Middle School teachers eased that stress with a creative yet thrilling approach.

For the second year, middle school teacher Jessica Henry created a PSSA-themed video extolling the virtues of test preparation. With the help of middle school administration, teachers and students, this year's video was based on Michael Jackson's hit "Thriller" and contained rescripted verses that included, *"It's close to test time; the testing books arrive here every spring; you feel your pulse climb; but you don't have to worry 'bout a thing; you try to scream, but knowledge takes the sound before you make it; our strategies will cause your PSSA scores to rise; they're gonna climb."*

"The purpose of creating the video was to motivate our students for the PSSA tests in a creative, engaging, and unconventional way," states Henry. "Our students worked very hard this year and we wanted to encourage them to do their best."

Video planning and production took over six months and included rewriting lyrics, choreographing dance moves for both teachers and students, practicing, filming and editing. Eighth grader Austin Schoppe made a special appearance with his choreographed dance. The production even included a cameo appearance by superintendent Dr. John DiSanti.

All middle school students viewed the finished



Middle school teachers recreate Jackson's "Thriller" video.

piece prior to taking the PSSAs in hopes of reinforcing the helpful messages the video promoted.

NHS Holds "Mr. West Allegheny" Benefit Pageant

The West Allegheny Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) sponsored the eleventh annual "Mr. West Allegheny" pageant on Thursday, May 2, 2013. Seniors Alex Bartha, Mike Behme, Tommy Bruni, Josh Gigliotti, Mike Shields, Joey Sible, and Billy Steele participated, with Shields claiming the Mr. West Allegheny title and Bartha winning Mr. Congeniality.

Contestants competed in a number of categories, including sports/casual wear, formal wear, and talent and were required to answer questions during an interview. The event raised \$900 to benefit the Relay For Life, the charity selected by the winner.

Senior NHS members Amanda Dezulovich, Katie Hutton, Samara Monaco, Katy Scruppi, Erica Schweinsberg, Carlee Stefanski and Eryne



Mike Shields sheds tears of joy as he is named Mr. West Allegheny while Alex Bartha expresses jubilation at taking the title of Mr. Congeniality. (PHOTOS COURTESY STUDIO TEN PHOTOGRAPHY)

Wiethorn coordinated the event. Dance choreographers were Allie Hamilton and Kristi Kubatka. Several teachers

served as judges and Suzanne Lambert, biology teacher, is the NHS faculty sponsor.



Students Display Math Proficiency



Math tournament winners, Angela Costa, Raashmitha Bayyana and Sean Seamon (far left), and Quinn Sterner (left), proudly display their medals.

Students from both the West Allegheny Middle School and elementary schools participated in the 24 Challenge® Championship tournaments held this spring.

The middle school team of Quinn Sterner, Trent Michaels, Cathrynn Crisanti and Aaron Silvis competed against 18 schools at Jefferson Hills on April 26. When the results were tallied, Sterner claimed a silver medal in the seventh and eighth grade category. The

middle school team was coached by math teacher Renee Treonze.

At the elementary school level, a tournament was held at Donaldson Elementary School on April 3. Raashmitha Bayyana from Donaldson claimed a gold medal, and Angela Costa from Wilson and Sean Seamon from McKee claimed silver medals. Students met weekly with Horizons teachers Beth Koraido, Robert Dowd, Tom Hamm and Melissa Pratt to learn game strategies and sharpen their math

skills in preparation for the final tournament.

Fourth grade students from all three elementary schools participated in the tournament and were recognized with a certificate and a 24 Challenge® bracelet. Additional participants included Rebecca Miller, Cerina Wichryk, Delainey Gray, Sophia Weber and Olivia Crisanti from

Donaldson, Hope Yoder, Sara Sawford and Tyler Howcroft from Wilson, and Kaley Joseph, Sohan Bolisetti, Oscar Feely and Renee Rozum from McKee.

The tournament-style competition is based on the 24® Game and requires players, without the use of paper, pencils or calculators, to derive the answer "24" using each of four given numbers only once and applying any combination of operations.

Donaldson Students Pay it Forward in True WA Fashion



Students from Jacqui King's fourth grade class welcome Gabbi and her family to the "souper" fundraiser.

The lesson of paying it forward was one Jacqui King's fourth grade class had been learning all year at Donaldson Elementary School. An anonymous donor, who approached the class and offered \$100 in seed money, challenged them to apply what they learned and pay it forward. In a simple twist of fate, an opportunity to learn the true meaning of the lesson presented itself in the story of Gabriella (Gabbi) Giovengo.

Suffering from a rare condition called bilateral atresia/microtia, Gabbi was born without ear canals or ears and was left with profound hearing loss and inevitable speech delays. Although Gabbi was approved for a surgery that would correct the malformation and enable her to hear, the family needed to raise over \$20,000 before the Idaho hospital would schedule the procedure.

As their pay it forward project,

students decided to host a "souper" and silent auction on March 21 to benefit the Ears for Gabbi Fund. The response from students, families and staff was overwhelming. Soups were prepared by teachers and their families, placemats and decorations were designed, and donated items from the community poured in to the classroom. One student and a family member entertained attendees by playing piano for the evening. One student even walked dogs in her neighborhood to contribute to the fundraising efforts.

Gabbi and her parents attended the dinner and after a few shy moments with the students she was invited to help and soon enjoyed being the center of their attention. A total of \$1,600 was raised during the event and presented to the family, whom have since reached their financial goal.

"Words can't do justice to what all of us experienced throughout the evening," noted King. "Several parents told me they were moved watching the love and support that their children were giving Gabbi."

The Giovengo family lives in the West Allegheny School District where Gabbi will attend Donaldson Elementary. This new chapter in Gabbi's life should be an easy transition as she has already met so many kind and caring friends who are anxious to welcome her back.

Teachers Recognized in Favorite Teacher Contest



"You always felt special in her class," wrote Clay in her acrostic poem honoring Sara Augustin.

"My teacher is really kind, every day she teaches me something new in my mind," wrote Duffey in her poem recognizing Kristin Burdick.

"I don't think anyone realizes how much she helped me understand reading," stated Musiol in her essay thanking Sherry Pacella.

Three West Allegheny elementary teachers received honorable mentions in the 2013 My Favorite Teacher Contest sponsored by Barnes & Noble. Nominated by students, Sara Augustin, third grade teacher at Donaldson Elementary was nominated by fourth grader Mya Clay, Sherry Pacella, fourth grade teacher at Wilson Elementary was nominated by eighth grader Kaylee Musiol, and Kristin Burdick, second grade teacher at McKee Elementary was nominated by second grader Riley Duffey.

All were recognized at a ceremony on April 16, at the Settlers Ridge Barnes & Noble store, where the students had an opportunity to read their essays and present certificates to their respective nominees.

Students Test Their Good Manners

For Wilson Elementary School students in Tania Garofoli and Nancy Sale's fifth grade classes, the lessons learned reach far beyond academics. After participating in a four-week etiquette course taught by Elizabeth Aquino of the Good Manners Group, they learned skills that will last a lifetime.

Underwritten by the West Allegheny Foundation, the program

covered topics that included respect for others, how to make proper introductions, the art of conversation, table manners, and the importance of correct oral and written communication skills. Many of these lessons were on display when the program culminated in a luncheon that tested the students' table manners and conversation skills.



Fifth grade students from Wilson Elementary display etiquette skills at a luncheon provided by parents.

MDA Fundraiser a Personal Quest for West Allegheny Student



Raising over \$400 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Muscle Walk was more than just a fundraising effort for one West Allegheny High School student. For Justin Schreiber, it was personal. Diagnosed with muscular dystrophy as a young child, Justin and his family have made it a tradition to participate in the annual walk. This year's walk was held on March 3 at the Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills Mall.

Justin partnered with the high school

Political Club and middle school students to raise the funds and sold boxes of candy hearts for Valentine's Day. Under his direction they created flyers, organized the sales, and collected the donated funds.

"When he first came to West Allegheny, Justin was very quiet, but this fundraiser proved how far he has come," stated Betty D'Amico, Justin's instructional paraprofessional.

Justin Schreiber and his sister Rachel proudly display their donation with Political Club officers Alec Palmer and Hannah Lutz.

Middle School Choral Students Selected for Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Concert

Five West Allegheny Middle School students were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Junior High District Chorus West concert on Saturday, April 13 at Upper St. Clair High School. They were among the more than 100 students chosen from western Allegheny County to participate in a two-day festival with guest conductor Dr. Richard Skirpan.

The West Allegheny Middle School choir is directed by Andrew Peters, middle school choral and high school technology teacher.



Middle school choral students Hannah Cook, Kaylie Wallace, Steven Abbott, Dannial Cardillo and Garrett Powell proudly display their certificate of participation.

Donaldson Elementary Students Go West When Studying U.S. Regions

Students in Jacqui King's fourth grade class at Donaldson Elementary School have undertaken a unique project this year while studying the U.S. regions and westward expansion. By emphasizing the importance of those risk-takers who helped shape our nation, students chose to take on the role of Native Americans, pioneers or Transcontinental Railroad workers.

Students then conducted research to garner information on how these groups demonstrated resourcefulness, perseverance and compromise.

By sharing the learned information with others in their chosen topic group, they individually designed projects that told their story. Native Americans created "skin-drawings," pioneers composed a diary of their journey, and railroad workers constructed a map showing both the

railroad and the completion at Promontory Point.

Through this exercise, students educated their classmates on what they had pieced together on their path of research and developed a means of teaching others.

As King works to fulfill her National Board portfolio, this unit is the focus of the "Developing a Community of Learners through Social Studies" component.

Wilson Elementary Kicks off "One School, One Book" with Help from One Terrific Pig

"Why did you do all this for me?" he asked. 'I don't deserve it. I've never done anything for you.' 'You have been my friend,' replied Charlotte. 'That in itself is a tremendous thing.' "

-- E.B. White, "Charlotte's Web"



When considering a favorite book from childhood, many would recall the wonderful lessons learned from E.B. White's "Charlotte's Web." As this year's selection for Wilson Elementary School's *One School, One Book* program, the entire school was given a copy of the award-winning novel with the fundamental purpose of building a community of readers.

One School, One Book provides the opportunity for all families to read the same book at the same time. Endorsed by the International Reading Association, the program also encourages families to read together over a four-week period and track their reading time.

To kick off the school-wide book club, students presented a skit based on the childhood classic with students playing the main characters. As the program progressed, themes from the book were incorporated into curriculum, book discussions, and weekly trivia questions with prizes.

One School, One Book is celebrated nationally and was introduced at Wilson by principal Dr. Kathy Sites three years ago.

Wilson Elementary students portray beloved *Charlotte's Web* characters: (front) Jacob Spiegel, (middle) Nicholas Reynolds, Wyatt Riley, Austin Legnine, Kiera Bruno, and (back) Dalton Peluso.

Pasta for Pennies Campaign Proves a Success for Key Club

The West Allegheny High School Key Club conducted a Pasta for Pennies campaign to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and raised over \$2,400. The campaign ran through March and was chaired by tenth grader Taylor Hottenfeller.

Ninth period classes competed for a pasta party provided by the Olive

Garden by collecting donations. The winning classroom was Diane Boustead's, raising a total of \$706. Steven Nicola's class placed second with a total of \$648 and received a pizza party.

Olive Garden's Pasta for Pennies is a national fundraising program in partnership with The Leukemia and Lymphoma

Society and more than three million student participants. Since 1994, the program has raised more than \$53 million to support the fight against blood-related cancers, help fund important life-saving initiatives and provide critical services to patients and their families.

Diane Boustead serves as the Key Club advisor.

Battle of the Books: Quite the Page Turners!



High school Battle of the Books teams compete in day-long competition. Members of the Literature Ladies include Kennedy Reed, Elise Fitsioris, Merrin Prevade and Anna Parker.



West Allegheny High School students participated in a day-long Battle of the Books competition with the support from a West Allegheny Foundation grant. The program spanned the school year and required students to read one book a month and attend monthly book club meetings where they earned points toward the final competition.

The team of Taylor Loucks, Taylor Newman, Sara Bodnar, Brooke Gregord and Alexis O'Shea took first place, the team of Ali Banas, Alicia Hower, Mackenzie Starr and Tara Palmer

took second, and the team of Amanda Cox and Cailan Overbay took third.

The event was organized by high school English teachers Stephanie Martinez, Jennifer Jones and Jessica Conforti.

West Allegheny elementary schools also hosted a Battle of the Books competition with a total of 30 teams participating. The teams of fourth and

fifth grade students read 10 books from a selected list and came together in the tournament to answer questions. The champions of the 2013 tournament were the "Literature Ladies" from McKee Elementary. Team members were Elise Fitsioris, Anna Parker, Merrin Prevade and Kennedy Reed with manager Mrs. Amy Reed.

The competition was organized by West Allegheny elementary school librarians.

Author Explores Themes of Nature and Adventure with Elementary Students



Children's nonfiction author Steve Swinburne visited the West Allegheny elementary schools on April 3, 4 and 5 and shared his love of nature with the students. A man of many interests, Swinburne presented his varied adventures through readings, photo galleries and music.

Swinburne also discussed the writing side of his adventures and focused on the importance of

research, journaling and drafts. Paired with his desire to inspire young authors, he encouraged students to use interesting details and strong leads when writing.

Swinburne concluded his visit with a lively and informative question and answer session.

The visits were hosted by the elementary school librarians Nancy Howell, Denise Medwick and Beth Schultz.

McKee students hear firsthand the many steps required to produce one of Swinburne's books.

Indian Highlights



There is a new WPIAL **track and field** champion in sophomore Lauren Costa, who won the 100-meter dash and followed up with a second place finish at the PIAA finals held at Shippensburg University on May 25. Costa also placed fifth in the 100-meter hurdles in the WPIAL finals qualifying her for the PIAA finals as well.

In other individual WPIAL news, Alexis O'Shea placed fourth in the 800-meter run and fifth in the 1600-meter run. In relay news, the team of Jen Forse, Linda Zysk, Sarah Davis and Lauren Costa placed fourth in the 400-meter relay, setting a new school record of 49.16 seconds. The team of Onshea Floyd, Adelle Collins, Lauren Costa and Alexis O'Shea placed sixth in the 1600-meter relay. All of these girls represented West Allegheny in the PIAA finals.

In **softball** news, the team advanced to the semifinal round of the AAA WPIAL

play-offs facing Greensburg Salem as well as a two-day rain delay. Although the team played hard and rallied to tie the game and send it into extra innings the game ended in a 3-2 loss. The Indians found themselves battling West Mifflin for the third place title in the consolation round where they came out on top with a 5-1 victory. This win qualified the Indians for the PIAA playoffs against Fort LeBeouf on June 3, at Penn State University – Behrend.

Baseball continued its run through the "AAA" bracket as they advanced to the semifinals and found themselves facing section foe, Hopewell. Despite a 4-0 loss to Hopewell, the team kept a positive attitude as they faced Keystone Oaks in the consolation game at Ross Field in Washington, falling short in a 1-0 contest and ending their season.

WPIAL champion Lauren Costa bolts out of the starting blocks.

Eighth Grade Students Motivated by *Race for the Cake*

West Allegheny Middle School teachers Jacqueline Schmidt and Marcella Selestow conducted a four-week PSSA preparation unit with the

eighth grade support resource reading students titled *Race for the Cake*. Throughout the program the reading students were enthusiastic and worked

diligently to earn points toward the final reward of an ice cream cake. The program culminated with the cake celebration held on March 21.

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Around Your Town

PTI PRESIDENT HONORED WITH PBT AWARD

Robinson Township resident Greg DeFeo, president of Pittsburgh Technical Institute in North Fayette Township, was honored as one of four individuals for the Pittsburgh Business Times' 2013 Diamond Awards in the Large Company category. The award recognizes top CEOs and presidents for outstanding business leadership, customer focus, and community service in the Pittsburgh region. Honorees were announced at an awards program at the Duquesne Club on April 18.

DeFeo considers his most notable achievements to be PTI's transition from a commuter college to a complete residential campus and PTI's reputation of excellence and connection with regional employers who turn to PTI for qualified graduates.



VALLEY CHURCH WELCOMES NEW PASTOR



Reverend Ben Robbins has joined Valley Church in Imperial as its new full-time pastor. Originally from Beaver County, he grew up in the small town of Industry. He received a bachelors degree in Business Administration at Westminster, where he met his wife, Reverend Sarah Robbins. They both attended Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. While in seminary, Reverend Robbins also received an MBA from the University of Louisville.

After graduating, they returned to the Pittsburgh area five years ago. For three years, Reverend Robbins was the Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Linway Presbyterian Church in North Versailles and formerly the pastor of Pigeon Creek Presbyterian Church in Eighty Four. For the past two years, Reverend Sarah has been the pastor of Dormont Presbyterian Church. They currently live in Squirrel Hill with their two basset hounds, Drew and Toby.

IN MEMORY

John R. "Jack" Bateman died suddenly on March 17. Jack was an Oakdale Borough council member and a member of CharWest Council of Governments for over 25 years. He was a member of American Legion Post #171 and Masonic Lodge #669. Jack left behind his wife, Cheryl Wilsher Bateman, and his children, John (Barbara) Bateman and Sherri (Robert) Bateman Vargo.

Hal McCartney, a 45-year resident of Oakdale, passed away on March 8. Hal was an Oakdale Borough council member for several years. He was steadfast in his participation in the 4th of July celebrations within the borough and could often be seen driving residents in his Lincoln Town Cars. He owned and operated Mac Steel Sales. He is survived by his wife, Beverly, and his children Tracy (Michael) Zurcher and Hal (Amy) McCartney. He was grandfather to Zachary and Gage Zurcher.

OFFICER MUFFI SWIMS THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

By the time readers get this issue, long-time Imperial resident and Findlay Township police Officer Marc Muffi will have swum in the Chesapeake Bay Swim after qualifying for the event yet again. The swim as of this writing is planned for June 9. To follow the swim, visit <http://www.bayswim.com>.

This is Officer Muffi's ninth year to swim in this event, which raises money for the March of Dimes. Officer Muffi trains all year long for the five-mile swim. Cross currents in the bay, combined with jellyfish, cold water, and shipping lines, are some of the unique challenges that face swimmers.

When not swimming, Officer Muffi heads the traffic function in Findlay Township. He was the founder of the D.A.R.E program in Findlay Township, and has been a Findlay Township police officer for 25 years.

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In Honor of Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Families

This magazine issue straddles two holidays -- Mother's Day and Father's Day. And so it seemed appropriate that we take a moment to celebrate the new life of another generation to make it five, to remember a dad who made an impact on both his family and his community, to share the story of how one father and son bond together as military reenactors, and to mark a milestone as one group of siblings grows up and begins their journey outward.

These families and individuals represent the many who make the West Allegheny neighborhoods their home. We received these submissions, story suggestions, and photos throughout the past months and decided to share them with our readers. They represent what makes the fabric of our community so special.



ABOVE: Five generations, counter-clockwise, great-great grandma Ethelreda Frederick Lyle, age 93; her daughter, great grandma JoAnn Frederick Janoski, age 71; her daughter, grandma Deborah Janoski Seibel, age 49; her daughter, Brittany Seibel McVay, age 27; and Brittany's son, Darren McVay, six months.

Janoski-Seibel's Five Generations

Anyone who has spent any significant amount of time in the West Allegheny area knows the Janoski Farm Market in Clinton. And, anyone who shops at the local Shop n' Save supermarket and buys eggs in the dairy case has seen the Seibel egg brand.

What many may not know is that these two families are intertwined in ways that go beyond poultry and produce.

Ethelreda Frederick Lyle had ten children. Her second oldest, JoAnn Janoski, met her husband, Sonny Janoski, at the farmer's market on the Northside. Sonny's parents, Michael and Anna, had a farm in Mt. Lebanon. JoAnn also came from a farming family. When JoAnn and Sonny married in 1962, they moved the farm market to Clinton. Over time, the farm market grew to include 35 greenhouses, a retail farm market, farm bakery, garden center, gift shop, country restaurant, and over 200 acres of vegetable production. And their family grew, too. The couple had four children. Following in her mother's footsteps, JoAnn's oldest daughter, Deborah, met a local farm boy, Timothy Seibel, when she was 16. They married several years later and had three children -- Jeremy, 29; Brittany, 27; and Victoria, 23. Tim shares his work time at both the Seibel family farm and Amerigas Propane Company. The Seibels raise 20,000 chickens that produce their eggs. The eggs are sold in restaurants and stores all across western Pennsylvania. Deborah operates her own gardening business for a variety of area residents.

Deborah's daughter also met and married a local man. In 2011, Brittany married Ben McVay, a resident from the Oakdale area. The couple's son, Darren, was born in October 2012. Brittany also works at the Janoski's Farm. Until she had Darren, she worked at the Seibel's farm as well.

With the exception of great grandma Ethelreda, who lives in Allison Park, the rest of the family lives within a half mile of each other in Clinton.

It's truly a family affair, and one that, pardon the pun, keeps growing.

Rejoice with your family in the beautiful land of life!

~Albert Einstein

Father and Son reenactors: Miles and Zach Stephens

The 150th anniversary of Gettysburg will engage father and son Miles and Zach Stephens of Findlay Township in a way that has been familiar to them for a long time.

As Civil War reenactors, they will gather with many others who cherish remembering the nation's history by reenacting the battles of Gettysburg July fourth through seventh.

Miles and Zach will spend much of their free time between now and October traveling to encampments and reenactments around the country.

Zach explains that Civil War reenactments are held all over the country, but tend to be focused in the area where most of the historical battles occurred.

"Together my dad, Miles, and I have traveled as far as nine hours for reenactment locations. They range in size from 10-20 individuals camping and displaying life as a soldier to the mega-events, such as 150th in Gettysburg, which will have 15,000+ battling on the field. All equipment used is 100% authentic, from the weapons to the wool clothing that is nice in the fall and steaming hot in the summer. We use period tents to sleep in and only one night has my father or I ever stayed in a hotel due to weather conditions in the 23 years of attending them," Zach adds.

He said that they have reenacted in all kinds of weather, from freezing to over 100 degrees, and even once had a confirmed tornado come too close for comfort.

Reenactors are structured into groups, much like the regular military. It all starts when a group of people get together, usually from the same area, to portray a single company that fought in the Civil War. Miles and Zach belong to Company F of the 142nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Their group has about 40 active members.

He explains that companies join together to form larger groups known as divisions.

"Anyone can join, although usually you must be 16 to carry a rifle during events, as safety is always first," Zach explains.

Civil War reenactments do not just have soldiers, but whole families recreating family life during the war.

How do reenactors get all of their authentic equipment? Zach said there are enough reenactments/reenactors around which have formed "a whole slew of individuals call 'sutlers,' whose income is going from event to event selling everything from wooden toothbrushes to the \$600 replica firearm."



ABOVE: Father-son team Miles and Zach Stephens are Civil War reenactors.

Zach and Miles enjoy interacting with the public and answering questions, calling it the perfect kids' playground -- trees, streams, farm buildings, horses, camp fires, and great food. Zach added that on some of the weekend trips they see gorgeous places across the countryside.

Reenactors do not get paid, but they do get recognition sometimes.

Zach says, "There is a good chance, if you hang around long enough, you will be in a movie, TV show, or documentary. My dad and I have had shots of facetime as well."

More than anything, Zach notes, "Reenacting is something as a father and son pair my dad and I have been doing since I can remember. Many of the people in my reenacting group have become like family, as they have known me longer than I have known myself. We have attended weddings and other non-reenacting related functions because of the relationships we have built."

A Daughter's Story of a Dad's Small Business Success: Lloyd Kirk

Lloyd H. Kirk was born on July 6, 1916, the son of Henry and Laura Kirk. He was the founder and owner of Kirk's Auto Body shop, located in Noblestown. He started the business with his best friend, Duane Allen, prior to going off to serve in World War



ABOVE: The Kirk family, front, Lloyd Kirk and Wilma Kirk; back, Carole (Ron) Soubie, Terri (John) Watson, Dale Kirk, and Kathi (Jim) Martin, who passed away on May 9, 2013.

II, then returned home and back to the business. Kirk's Auto Body was known as one of the longest existing businesses in the area.

At first there was not enough business, so he supplemented his income by driving a school bus. He persevered and steadily increased his business. The business lasted until he was 88 years

old, when he suffered a stroke. The day Lloyd got sick, his daughter, Terry Watson recalls, "we had to call three customers to cancel their appointments."

She said, "He loved his job - there were many nights you could ride by and still see his lights on down there past 10 p.m. after opening up at 7 a.m."

Kirk's Auto Body shop was also a meeting place for some of the neighbors - they enjoyed watching him work while they stood around and got caught up on the gossip around town.

Terry fondly remembers her father's work ethic. She said that his business kept growing and when it did, he would hire temporary help, noting that he still did not want to get too big.

"He liked the small man business. He always gave his customers a very professional job; one he was proud of doing for them," she added.

There were times people asked for favors and he would do it for them and not get paid. He didn't complain. He felt that it was part of the payback for their continued loyalty to him.

The amazing thing, Terry noted, is that he ran this successful business for over 60 years without a telephone, cell phone, or computer.

"Can you even imagine that nowadays?" she said.

Lloyd's wife Wilma, (who survives him - she'll be 94 soon) was his personal secretary. She kept his books for him and took phone calls at their residence. She would jump in the car and drive to the shop to deliver any urgent messages to him. They were married for 68 years.

Being raised in such a family, with good work ethics and loyalty to customers, has been the pleasure of his children - Dale Kirk, the late Kathi Martin, Carole Soubie, and Terri Watson.

A Family of Siblings Grows Up: The Wilsons



ABOVE: Noah, Abbie, Rachel, and Emma. PHOTO BY FRANK VILSACK

What started as a holiday photo shoot of the four Wilson siblings, then ranging in age from four to 11, became the cover for the December, 2002 issue of *Allegheny West Magazine*. It

quickly became one of the most popular covers

over time. Over the years, residents would ask about those "adorable little redheads" that were on the cover. Randy and Michelle Wilson of Clinton are the proud parents of those four siblings, whom are now all grown. Left to right, meet Noah, now age 14 and a freshman at West Allegheny next year. Then there's Abbie, age 15, who will be a sophomore at West Allegheny. Next is Rachel, age 19, now a nursing student at CCAC, and then there is Emma, 16, who will be a senior at West Allegheny.

Most would agree that these redheads are still as photogenic as ever, even 11 years later.

Around Your Town

PRE-SCHOOLERS VISIT THE LIBRARY



LEFT: Children from Resurrection Lutheran Pre-School visited the Western Allegheny Community Library during a recent day trip. They learned how the library works and participated in craft projects.
PHOTOS SUBMITTED



"BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING SALE" DONATIONS NEEDED

Findlay Township and the West Allegheny Food Pantry have partnered to bring a "Back to School Clothing Sale" to Imperial August 21 and 22. Beginning July 8 through August 16, drop off clothes donations for youth ages 3-18 during business hours to one of the following locations: West Allegheny Eye Care - 236 West Allegheny Road, Imperial or Findlay Township Municipal Building - 1277 SR 30, Clinton. Donate "like new," designer, brand name clothes that children have outgrown.

Donations can also be dropped off at the Findlay Township Activity Center, 310 Main Street, Imperial on Monday, August 19 between 6 and 8 p.m., or Tuesday, August 20 between 9 and 11 a.m.

Please mark bags or boxes with the note, "BACK TO SCHOOL SALE."

Details and times of the event are also posted on the Findlay Township website, www.findlaytwp.org. Sale proceeds benefit the West Allegheny Food Pantry. For more information: e-mail Cindy Quinn at quinnmom@verizon.net.

OPPORTUNITY TO HOST A FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT

Find out more about how to impact a young life by sharing your home and American culture. A local coordinator for ETC (a nonprofit program) will be at the Western Allegheny Community Library on June 12 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with information. Or, call Crystal at (412) 496-7391.

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BAYER HOSTS VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY; LOCAL YOUTH RECEIVES BIKE DUE TO GENEROSITY OF AREA BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

On April 19, Bayer Corporation hosted Variety the Children's Charity for the organization's "My Bike" adaptive bike presentation program. Over a hundred families from Allegheny and surrounding counties, all with children with disabilities preventing them from riding a bike, attended the program and were given adaptive bikes.

Speaking to a large audience at Freddie's Café on the Bayer campus, Variety CEO Charlie LaVallee credited Governor Tom Corbett and a number of Pennsylvania representatives in attendance, including Congressman Tim Murphy and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, for helping to bring the program to communities surrounding Pittsburgh. He also thanked Bayer MaterialScience President Jerry MacCleary for hosting the event.

"We are today enjoying joy, freedom, and belonging," Charlie told the audience, a sentiment echoed by the governor moments later.

Governor Corbett described the importance of riding a bike as, "the ability to feel as if they are connected to the rest of the world," saying that was, "worth the price of these bikes."

Congressman Murphy related his own experiences of working at Children's Hospital with disabled children whose families asked him, "What can we do now?"

According to a press release from Variety, the charity last year distributed 92 bikes in the Pittsburgh area using nearly \$500,000



raised by communities in southwestern Pennsylvania. The number of bikes distributed this year brings that total to 264 adaptive bikes, with children receiving those bikes residing in 82 different school districts. In its 10-county coverage area, Variety has identified 290 children who are eligible for the program. The top three diagnoses of children receiving bikes have been cerebral palsy, autism, and Down syndrome.


Among those in attendance at the event at Bayer were Nathan and Margarite Christy, whose five-year-old son Sebastian suffers from cerebral palsy. The family lives in McDonald, in the West Allegheny community. Nathan and Margarite adopted Sebastian and another boy, Samuel, both of whom have been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. The couple also has an adopted daughter named Lily.

Margarite says a physical therapist at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind in Oakland, where Sebastian attends school, recommended the program and processed all the paperwork for them. Each bike is tailored to a child's specific needs.

"There were a lot of different measurements they needed for the bike," says Margarite. "The physical therapist made all the recommendations."

They say Sebastian is very active at school, plays t-ball, and excels at organized athletics. In a neighborhood where about a dozen kids live on their street, they say he is enjoying his bike immensely.

"Before he would kind of follow on foot and couldn't really keep up," says Margarite. "Now, it's like he's one of the guys."



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Remembering History: The Oakdale Chemical Explosion

Former resident Dan Prevade held the first in a series of Hometown History programs in Oakdale last month. He shared information and artifacts from the Aetna Chemical Explosion of 1916.

A teacher in the West Allegheny School District, Dan spoke to about 100 people who came out to the presentation last month.

Afterward, the group followed as Dan took them to several sites in the area that were relevant to the explosion.

Ralph Keenan and his wife, pictured, right, were in attendance, explained Jonathan DeBor, an Oakdale council member. Jonathan attended the presentation and took photos, which he shared for this story. He said Ralph was a very valuable source of information for Dan, as Ralph's grandfather was killed in the explosion.

"Even though Ralph was not alive at the time, his father kept many reference items about it," Jonathan explained.

Ralph has also been a major contributor to the Oakdale History Room.

Outside, below, Dan showed where the railroad tracks were located, which is where people were loaded for transport to the city hospitals. A monument marking the tragedy is located at Oakdale Cemetery, right outside of town, below.



Raccoon Creek State Park Installs Unique Floating Wetlands



On May 7, Raccoon Creek State Park installed two artificial floating wetland islands just east of the beach on Raccoon Lake. The wetland islands are a unique and innovative water-quality tool and will be used in Raccoon Creek's main lake to reduce nutrients from agricultural influences in its watershed received from Traverse Creek inputs. Raccoon Creek State Park is the third state park to install floating wetland islands.

These floating islands are comprised of a recycled plastic matrix and float on top of the water. The islands are planted with native wetland plants including iris, sedges, rushes, pickerelweed,

swamp milkweed, and arrow arum and provide habitat for birds and animals. Under the surface, as the plants grow, their roots extend through the matrix and into the water. The roots and the microbes that develop around them effectively remove nutrients from the water.

Because lake water nutrients are taken up in the plant material over the growing season, the Bureau of State Parks plans to harvest the plant growth over the winter when sufficient ice forms on the lake.

Heritage Public Library in McDonald

June 11

Book Discussion Group, meets the second Tuesday of each month. June's title is, "An Invisible Thread," by Laura Schroff.

June 12

Heritage Public Library board meeting, 6:30 p.m., meets second Wednesday of each month. Currently looking for new board members

June 19

Tween Book Club, 6-7 p.m., meets third Wednesday of each month. This month's title is "Holes," by Louis Sachar. Stop by the library for more information.

"Friends Meeting," 6:30 p.m.

June 20

Summer Blood Drive, 1-6 p.m., also having a bake sale. Stop in for more details.

June 21

Summer Reading Program, 10:30-12 p.m. This year's theme is "Dig Into Reading." The program will explore dinosaurs, bugs, Native Americans, Ancient Egyptians, and introduce a live raptor. Sponsorships are available for \$50. The Summer Reading will expand this year from six to nine weeks. Among the guests during the summer will be Bedillion Honey Farms from Burgettstown, the Audubon Society (with a live raptor), and Meadowcroft Village to talk about Native Americans.

June 27

LEGO Club, meets the last Thursday of every month. June's theme is "summertime." Dues are \$5 for the full year. To date, 25 pounds of LEGOs have been made available for members to make their creations.

August 31

Civil War Reenactment, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In conjunction with McDonald Parks & Recreation, the library co-hosts the 9th Pennsylvania Reserves at Heritage Park all day to take us back in time.



LEFT: Jen Swearman is the new director at Heritage Public Library in McDonald. She holds Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

Heritage Library
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Around Your Town

AWM STAFF MEMBER GRADUATES FROM HARVARD



Sarah Kizina Hughey, a freelance photographer and graphic designer with *Allegheny West Magazine*, graduated last month with a masters from Harvard Extension School's Museum Studies program.

An alumna of Montour High School, she earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh in studio arts. Sarah is married to Doug Hughey, assistant editor of *Allegheny West Magazine*. Currently,

Sarah works as a docent at Meadowcroft Village in addition to her work with the magazine.

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Heroes Supporting Heroes



ABOVE: Volunteers from the 911th Airlift Wing in Moon pose with a ramp they built for James Lucic, a WWII veteran. Left to right: MSgt. John Lee, TSgt. Ryan Hertrich, SrA. Jeremy Noel, TSgt. John McNaul, James Lucic, TSgt. Paul Thomas, A1C. Lanier Parker, MSgt. Frank Monacelli, TSgt. Todd Thomas, SSgt. David Magnusen, and TSgt. Patrick Beeler

When Air Force Master Sergeant John Lee was deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 with the 911th Civil Engineering Corps based in Moon, his wife, Sheri, had plenty of people offering to help with whatever they could during John's seven-month deployment.

Sheri knew, however, that there was only so much others could do, and that there was only so much she would think to ask of them. A certain pride that goes with being a member of a military family, and an unsaid agreement that keeps families from sharing their day-to-day struggles with deployed loved ones, often means that they end up going it alone.

"There's an understanding that families don't want to heap all their troubles on you and add any more stress to a stressful situation," says John, who, before joining the Air Force, served with the Marine Corps for six years.

As a Marine, John served in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and in four tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom. After John returned home from his most recent deployment, it took about another full year before he, Sheri, and their two young children, Caleb and Lily, felt as though they were really back to life as normal, says Sheri. The experience got them wondering what other families must go through, and what, if anything, they could do for them.

With that in mind, last August John and some of the 26 Civil Engineering Corps members he'd been deployed with formed a volunteer organization they dubbed Heroes Supporting Heroes. In Afghanistan, the Corps had been tasked with rebuilding Afghani infrastructure while the U.S. worked to prop up the government against extremist Taliban forces. Their work ranged from repairing airstrips and building temporary army bases to constructing schools and police stations, some while under fire amidst a war with nebulous front lines. John and his fellow airmen didn't see why they couldn't apply those same civil engineering skills to help military families with loved ones on active duty.

In September, HSH started by sending letters to the households of 911th military personnel who were about to be deployed, with offers to help with services ranging from snow removal and cleaning out gutters to car and appliance maintenance. A month later, they got their first phone call, from the spouse of a deployed airman whose water heater had broken.

HSH passed around a hat and raised a couple hundred dollars. Knowing it was hardly enough to buy a new water heater, they approached Lowes store manager Allen Lerch at The Pointe in North Fayette. When they told Allen about their organization, he sold them a water heater for what they had at a 70% discount, and expressed a willingness to help HSH in the future.

That same month, amidst a slow recovering economy, HSH was contacted with another request. A fellow airman had returned from a tour of duty and couldn't find work. Because HSH had already contacted the national Veterans of Foreign Wars organization, they were able to petition help from Commander Bill Miller at VFW Post 7714 in Imperial. The post donated \$1,300 to help the airman pay rent and bills, while HSH sought out a job lead.

Since then, HSH has cleaned out gutters and cut grass. They recently built a wheelchair-accessible ramp for a World War II veteran with about \$700 worth of lumber donated, once again, by Lowes at The Pointe. HSH has also contacted Sears, which offered to discount appliances. Plans are to have Sunrise Accounting in Imperial do taxes. John is currently completing paperwork needed to apply for nonprofit 501(c)(3) status.

Among those who have expressed interest in the organization are State Representative Mark Mustio and Findlay Township Supervisor Tom Gallant. Earlier this year, Tom suggested that HSH reach out to senior citizens, and in May, the organization started doing just that.

John says he'd like to see HSH eventually develop into a hub and spoke arrangement that mirrors the military's own system of a central base with outposts. He'd like to have people identify needs in their own communities, report those back to HSH, which would assign volunteers to each task. As HSH continues to work on projects with trained carpenters and electricians, he envisions mentoring opportunities for Boy Scouts and youth groups. In exchange, he'd like to see people pay whatever they can, even if it's just a couple dollars to cover gas.

John says they have about 40 volunteers from the 911th, many of whom have been donating time after having their hours cut as a result of the recent sequestration. Now a program analyst for the federal government's Office of Personnel Management, John was also once the owner of a tree removal service.

To learn more, contact John Lee, (412) 952-7098, or e-mail: HDJLEE@gmail.com.

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

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

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Belly Dancing Shimmies into the Western Suburbs

Belly Dancing came to the West Hills for the first time this spring, and it will return in the fall! Drive down Steubenville Pike in Imperial and one might have heard the jingle of coin skirts shaking to Egyptian music and laughter as women of all ages, shapes, and sizes move to the music that ranges from a powerful tribal beat to a flowing ancient beat. At Just Dance Conservatory, these women are led by Susan Goelz in smooth movements while having a great deal of fun!

Everyone can take part in belly dancing because of the very limited impact on the joints. Yet, it is still a challenging workout. It is not about being the thinnest or the fittest. It is about enjoying oneself and the pleasure of moving.

"As a professional dancer and fitness professional teaching many class formats, I thought taking belly dancing would be a snap. I quickly found out that was not the case. It takes the concentration of yoga, and the ability to isolate muscles you didn't know could move by themselves," says Marianne King, owner of Fitness for Life. She teamed up with Just Dance Conservatory to offer unique fitness programs in a comfortable supportive atmosphere.

Marianne states, "Here, women can appreciate where their bodies are, build relationships, and connect with other women while enjoying the movement."

Julie Podolinsky, a participant in class, comments, "Great class! Lots of fun! It's amazing how differently you have to move your body from what you are accustomed and trained to do."

When the class resumes in the fall, Susan Goelz hopes to instill the love of movement in her participants while getting them to dress up a



bit with their coin skirts and be a bit feminine. She also educates class participants on many areas of ancient and Middle Eastern dance. But don't mistake enjoyment of the movement for seduction. That is not what learning ancient dances are all about. It is about getting together and learning the amazing ways one's body moves, while learning different styles of shimmying, hip stabs, and snakelike movements with isolated arm and leg progressions for a fantastic workout.

In Turkey, when there are no men around, women just whip off their head scarves, tie them to their waists and start dancing. It is not provocative at all but, rather, is about dancing and having fun together.

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your house and senate

State Sen. Matt Smith introduced legislation that would require schools to maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors, commonly known as EpiPens, kept in a secure location, to be used by designated personnel to treat an anaphylactic reaction.

Pennsylvania schools have been encouraged in the past to keep on hand a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors. An epinephrine injector sends adrenaline into the victim's system to slow down the allergic reaction, providing emergency personnel time to treat victims – often saving their lives. Because children exposed to a potential food allergy need immediate medical attention, requiring epinephrine injectors to be kept at school will save children's lives.

State Rep. Mark Mustio announced that the House voted unanimously last month in support of a measure to launch a detailed study of the potential impacts of merging the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. House Resolution 129 calls on the non-partisan Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to study the financial feasibility, impact, costs, and savings that may be realized by combining the agencies. It also calls on the LBFC to explore a range of options with regard to how to structure the state's wildlife agency to best manage the wildlife and aquatic resources of the Commonwealth. A similar study was conducted 10 years ago, and it showed a merger was feasible and would save money. Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation with separate agencies managing its fish and wildlife resources.

State Sen. Matt Smith also introduced legislation to allow window tinting for individuals who have certain medical conditions.

Senate Bill 961 would specifically allow people with Oculocutaneous Albinism to have sun-screening and similar materials on their vehicles.

Many people with the affliction experience severe sensitivity to light, low vision, or impaired vision. They must often take precautions to avoid severe sunburn and skin damage by wearing hats, protective clothing, and sunscreen lotion. This can make riding in automobiles difficult, as most regular windows allow in amounts of sunlight that can be harmful to individuals with Oculocutaneous Albinism and similar conditions.

Under the legislation, an individual suffering from this disorder could receive a medical exemption that would allow them to use sun-screening devices or darker levels of window tint, not to exceed 15 percent reflectivity. The medical exemption would have to be certified by a physician or optometrist and approved by PennDOT.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is now offering license plates for members and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who have served with a U.S. Military Airborne Unit or as a World War II Merchant Mariner.

More information about obtaining these or any other special license plate is available at www.RepMustio.com.

State Sen. Matt Smith issued a statement in response to the Supreme Court's unanimous

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decision to uphold the revised redistricting map.

Under the new plan, the 37th Senatorial District will lose the boroughs of Avalon and Ben Avon and gain the boroughs of McDonald (Allegheny County portion), Rosslyn Farms, Pennsbury Village, and Thornburg as well as Robinson Township.

He said, "I will continue to serve all residents of the 37th Senatorial District and look forward to working on behalf of all the citizens of the new district as well as the region.

"The redistricting process has been fraught with confusion for constituents who may be unsure about who represents them. I will continue to communicate new information about the district and help all the residents of the region through this process."

Senator Smith was elected in November 2012.

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MR. WRESTLER, 1959

Who was Mister Wrestler, as pictured in the 1959 West Allegheny yearbook? It wasn't Jim Henderson. He was Mister Basketball. It wasn't Bill Burns. He was Mister Football. And it wasn't Denny Anderson, who graduated a year earlier.

It wasn't Harry Sherbondy, either, although he was a highly rated wrestler on the Indians team that year. Harry went on to later succeed WA Hall of Fame coach Ed Sarachine as the Indians head wrestling coach.

Mister Wrestler 1959 had a 13-1-1 regular season record his senior year, and finished his four-year varsity career with a stunning, 54-7 overall record. Back in those days, a wrestling schedule consisted of maybe 12 to 15 team meets. Today, it is possible for a wrestler to compete in 30 or more matches in a season.

In 1959, WA had eight wrestlers make it to the WPIAL section 1 championship meet. Four of them were seeded number one in their weight class. They were Jim Moore, Wally Sturgeon, Bob Bogart, and Mister Wrestler, 1959.

Harry Sherbondy was seeded second at the eight-team sectional meet. Mister Wrestler 1959 made it to the semi-finals before losing to become the first WA wrestler ever to get that far at the sectionals.

Mister Wrestler 1959 wasn't the biggest guy on the Indians team. He competed at 103 lbs. his freshman year in 1955, and moved up to wrestle at 112 lbs. his sophomore, junior, and senior years. Though he wrestled in the lower weight classes, in the history of West Allegheny sports, he was a giant.

Mister Wrestler 1959 was Imperial's own born and raised Darrell Wilson. He's 72 years old now, but his demeanor and physical presence give the impression that he could still hit the mats at or near his former weight class.

Darrell has fond memories of his youth growing up in Imperial. He started working at an early age doing odd jobs at the old Penn Lincoln Drive-in theatre and Kovach's gas station and garage in Imperial. He also cut grass and did chores at a local farm near the airport. That left little time for wrestling practice, but his passion for the sport and his athletic ability carried him to unprecedented heights on the mats.

"I remember back then we had to gather up the mats from a makeshift supply room and set them up in the gym before every practice or meet, then pick them up and return them to storage at the end of the day," said Darrell.

Darrell also remembers kids from what is now the South Side Beaver School District attending WA, but often there was no transportation available to the wrestlers for practice or meets at the old WA high school. They thumbed their way down Route 30 - hitchhiked, if you will - and were greeted with open arms as teammates by the rest of the guys. A decade later, South Side Beaver went on to become a powerhouse in WPIAL class AA wrestling.

After high school, Darrell served in the Army as a crew chief on an L-20 utility plane. Following his stint in the service, he returned home to ply his trade, and has resided there ever since.

In 2003, at age 62, Darrell retired from his job as an aircraft mechanic for US Airways. He and his wife, Jan, live in Imperial Pointe, just over the hill from where he once played out the role of Mister Wrestler, 1959.



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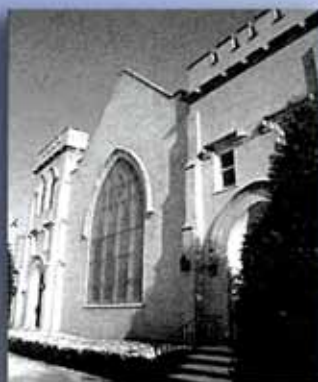
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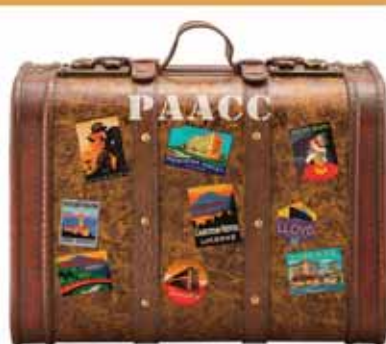
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Students Learn About Engineering via Fluid Power Competition

On Tuesday, May 7, the atmosphere inside the Carpenters Training Center in Collier Township that overlooks the Parkway West was intense. Twenty teams of four students from a dozen middle schools across the region were focused on one thing: building a pneumatic/hydraulic lifter on a rotating platform from balsa wood, then using water and a syringe to move blocks from one end of the platform to the other within two minutes.

The students, including teams from Moon, Montour, and West Allegheny, were so intent on completing their tasks before the stated deadline that they were oblivious to the adults, media, and judges who milled around the room to see how each team's design was as different from the next.

Wojanis Hydraulic Supply Company in North Fayette sponsored the Fluid Power Competition.

The company is owned by Judy Wojanis and associates. She said this is the third year in a row that the small, 20-employee company sponsored the region's Challenge. It is part of the NFPA (National Fluid Power Association) Fluid Power Challenge, a national competition that encourages middle school students to solve engineering problems using fluid power.

The NFPA Challenge educates students while allowing them to demonstrate their skills and gain hands-on experience.

Wojanis Hydraulic Supply Company along with industry sponsors paid for all of the materials involved in the event. Each team of students was given a set of materials and a toolkit. They attended a workshop day earlier in the year with their sponsoring teacher to learn the details of the competition and how to use their kits and materials.

Patrick Spring, marketing specialist for Wojanis, explained that the workshop day served as an introduction to fluid power and provided the students with hands-on experience building lifters.

He said, "After Workshop Day, the students went back to school in their teams of four to design and, working under the supervision of their sponsoring teacher, to practice building a fluid power mechanism from their design. They must then refer to that design and their portfolio to build their mechanism during the timed competition. Although all of the

students' supplies are the same, each individual team must come up with their own unique device to solve the problem using their creativity and fluid power knowledge."

On Challenge Day May 7, each team brought only their design sketches or portfolios and their toolkit. They then set about the task of building their machine and preparing it for the timed competition. Trophies were awarded for the best portfolio, teamwork, design, and overall winner. Moon Area Middle School won the trophy for Best Teamwork.

Christine Simcic, of Wojanis Hydraulic Supply Company, said that the teams are judged on their portfolios, designs, teamwork, and overall effort. All of the judges have an engineering background. Throughout the morning's timed competition, the judges visited each team and asked them to share briefly their design and the thought process that went into their final project. The interview process is one of the portions that make up the total number of points for each team.

It was noted that there were many more girls in this year's competition than ever before. Some of the school's teams were, in fact, comprised entirely of girls.

Moon Area Middle School student Emma Daugherty said she is contemplating an architectural career, and this was a good way to learn more about it.

One of her other teammates, Brianna Geyer, believes that girls work better together.

Judy Wojanis said, "We are very happy to be part of this effort. Our goal is to create a healthy environment to introduce and educate young students about fluid power. This competition helps these youths use creativity to solve a problem, too."

Besides the Pennsylvania Challenge, the NFPA's Educational and Technical Foundation oversaw Challenge competitions in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Minnesota this year, explained Carrie Tatman-Schwartz from NFPA. She was on site during Challenge Day to visit.

Tatman-Schwartz said that the competition provides not only an active and engaging way for students to learn about fluid power, but a hands-on learning environment where math and science are fun.



"Of all the students that I've seen in other Challenge competitions, this is probably the most intense group," she said.

To date, she said that more than 2,000 students have competed in Power Challenge since it was launched in 2008 in Canada.

Judy noted that the competition has grown larger with each passing year. Originally, she said, it was held at Pittsburgh Public School's Allderdice High School located in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood. "It has grown so quickly, we had to find another location for it this year," she said, "and that's a good thing, because students are becoming aware of other opportunities for careers in their future, and this is a great way to introduce them to another option – fluid power."

OPPOSITE PAGE: A West Allegheny team shows its nearly finished project, ready for competition.

THIS PAGE: Starting top left, Moon Area Middle School team members measure their project on the competition board; helping each other assemble the project; a Montour team about ready to show what they've done; students explain their project to the judges; two students see how it takes teamwork to complete the task.

Athletic News Around Town

WA Athletic Hall of Fame Honorees Recognized



ABOVE: Five individuals were inducted into the second annual West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame during the celebration dinner in April. They are, left to right, Admiral James J. Quinn, Captain Christine Taranto, Pam Rippole, accepting for her late husband, Guy Rippole, Michael Craig, and Tyler Palko. The annual event benefits North Fayette's P.A.L.S. program. PHOTO BY SARAH KIZINA HUGHEY



ABOVE: Imperial Dragon Tang Soo Do School in Imperial participated in a competition on April 13 at Beaver Fall Area School. More than 280 students participated in this event. Studio Master Homschek received an award for instructor of the year, along with one student who received the award for Youth Grand Champion, Katie Borgo, a seventh grader at West Allegheny Middle School.



LEFT: Pittsburgh Three Rivers (P3R) Volleyball Club's 14-Under Hot Metal team captured the state championship and the gold medal at the Keystone Region Volleyball Association (KRVA) Championship in Harrisburg on May 5. West Allegheny eighth graders on the team include Victoria Costa, Julia Falcioni, Allison Koester, and Morgan Ziolkowski. Pictured, seated, Allison Koester, Julia Falcioni, Megan Manion; standing, Assistant Coach Jessica Pattyn, Morgan Ziolkowski, Sarah Neky, Victoria Costa, Molly Bohner, Bethany Cowden, Janie Rodavich, and Head Coach Curt Russell.



ABOVE: In the winter indoor soccer session, the West Allegheny Wildcats U8 Girls Soccer Team finished undefeated with a record of 9-0-1. Pictured, seated, Delaney Evers, Kayla Hay, Natalie Damon, Corinna Wineland; standing: Sophia Morton, Ella Sekelik, Kayla Howard, Jessie Scott, Ally Shansky, and Kristina Fatigati.

PHOTOS
SUBMITTED



ABOVE: The West Allegheny U12 boys soccer team recently completed an undefeated season at the Southpointe Iceplex indoor soccer league. The boys compiled a 20-0 record and defeated the Moon Tigers 5-2 to win the championship game. Front, Justin Shaytar, John Rink, Braden Wurst, Gavin Chappel, Nathan Dragisich, and Caleb Miller; back, Coach Doug Wurst, Fletcher Amos, Gabe Haines, Benny Farelli, Antonio Fiordilino, Evan Blunkosky, and Coach Mario Fiordilino. Not pictured are Jake Costantino and Johnny Walls.

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Wednesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m.
Do you pin all those reusable t-shirt crafts? Now is your chance to actually make them! So grab some t-shirts you don't mind cutting up and come to this program.

Busy Mom

Thursday, June 20, 10:30 a.m.
Between cramped work schedules, running to dance classes, making soccer practice on time, cooking and cleaning, today's mom has to be Super Woman! Being organized can help you be the superhero that you have to be while easing stress and friction for everyone. Sandra Lane of Organization Lane, LLC will teach you a few simple tricks and techniques to conquer the organizational troubles facing today's moms and families while your little one attends story time with Caitlyn, our Assistant Youth Services Librarian.

Technology Petting Zoo

Sunday, June 23, 2-4 p.m.
Do you want to invest in a gadget for yourself or a loved one, but aren't sure exactly what gadget meets your needs? This can help you make an educated decision. Join the Geek Squad of Best Buy in North Fayette Township at the library to learn more about the latest gadgets and devices.

Pinterest Playground

Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m.
It's Christmas in July! Stop in at the library to make those holiday crafts that there is never time to make during the holidays.

Anime/Manga Club

Fourth Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m.
This club is for patrons to gather and share their love of anime and manga. We will discuss the popular media manga, or Japanese print comics, and anime, Japanese animation. Together, we will explore these formats and discuss these art forms' cultural context, mythology, history, and emergence in popular culture.

Cookbook Club

Second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
Do you love browsing through cookbooks and trying new recipes? Whether you're a seasoned chef, just learning to cook, or are interested in trying (tasting) new things, come join the Cookbook Club. Stop at the Circulation Desk and pick up the current cookbook and pick a recipe that piques your interest (or taste buds). Participants must register you and your recipe in order to keep track of who is making what and also to keep members from choosing the same dish.

Wise Walk

Fridays, 9 a.m., at the Mall at Robinson

TEEN PROGRAMS

The Water Games

Wednesday, June 19, 2-3 p.m.
Come prepared to get wet! Teams will compete against each other to win The Water Games. Prize awarded to the winning team.

Titanic Party

Thursday, July 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Did you love the movie? Well, come to the Titanic party and enjoy crafts and activities about the famous ship, including wacky trivia and a scavenger hunt!

Pinterest Party

Wednesday, July 17, 1-3 p.m.
Are you pinning? Come to the Pinterest party and make some great projects found on Pinterest. Enjoy some delicious treats made on Pinterest as well.

Explosion Box

Wednesday, July 24, 2-3 p.m.
Learn how to create a box that opens into a unique scrapbook. Perfect for remembering a vacation or summer fun with friends!

Don't forget to check the full calendar of events for more exciting teen programs.

CHILDREN PROGRAMS

Science in the Summer with the Carnegie Science Center

June 10-17
This summer, the Western Allegheny Community Library is excited to present Science in the Summer, sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, and the Carnegie Science Center. The topic is "Genetics - All About You." Throughout the course of four hands-on sessions, children will learn about the genes that make each one of us unique.

Be sure to check the online calendar of events for a full schedule of children, tween, and teen summer reading programs.

Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday: 1-5 p.m.*
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West Allegheny Work Camp is Coming Next June

During the week of next June 22-28, 2014, the West Allegheny community will be a sea of volunteers who will spread out across the neighborhoods to help those who need it, such as the elderly, the disabled, and those facing low-income difficulties. Read more about West Allegheny Work Camp, below. Then share or complete the application, right, with those who need it.

In the last issue of *Allegheny West Magazine*, a story appeared announcing that a Workcamp is coming to the community the week of June 22-28, 2014.

A local team has been formed to serve as the cosponsor for the camp. It's a week dedicated to bringing together 400-450 youth and adult participants locally and around the country who spend their time in the community engaging in simple acts of kindness through a variety of projects.

Participants pay for their own travel to/from camp as well as pay a registration fee, which covers the cost of food, lodging, programming, insurance, and a portion of the project materials. All participants are matched with a small crew that typically consists of one adult and five youths. Youth groups are split up to work with participants from other groups providing them with the opportunity to make new friends from across the nation.

For example, they build wheelchair ramps, mend porches, paint, and perform other simple, yet meaningful, home as well as community repairs. They give freely of their hard work and time. Depending on the number of participants, they are able to complete work on approximately 65-70 projects that are selected by local cosponsors.

This is where the community's help is needed. Do you know someone who is unable to complete a small project around his or her home because of their health or other extenuating circumstances? Perhaps someone who is recently widowed has lost the handyman around the home? Or maybe someone you know has lost a job, has limited income, and has a need for some small but immediate repairs on their home?

Please share the application on the next page with anyone you feel has such a need in the West Allegheny community. Or, complete the application and send it in yourself, identifying those who may have a need.

Group Workcamps® began in response to an incredible need. In July of 1976, more than 12 inches of rain fell in three hours near Loveland,

Colorado, flooding the Big Thompson River. The river raged, destroying houses, washing away roads, and killing over 140 people. It was a tragic day for the people of the area.

In response, the staff of *Group Magazine* put out a call for help. Church youth groups were asked to come and rebuild local homes and the lives of those affected. Over 300 youths and their adult leaders showed up ready to serve the residents of the Big Thompson Canyon. As they began to help local residents, it was the spiritual growth - the boost in faith of the campers - that made the biggest impact on everyone involved.

The idea to bring the project to the West Allegheny community was hatched by Jeff Lutz and Don Steward of Crossroads Church. Jeff said he had been thinking about it for a long time, and saw the church's annual weekend community blitz, Focus, expanding into something more.

West Allegheny Workcamp has established a web site where more information is available at <http://sites.google.com/site/westaworkcamp/>. To ensure these home repairs are at no cost to qualified residents and to provide the other needs of such a camp, a heady goal is ahead of them. Jeff said they need to engage community volunteers to raise about \$40,000. The West Allegheny Ministerial Association (WAMA), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, has embraced the idea and has agreed to serve as the fiscal sponsor, so that donations to the Workcamp through WAMA will be tax-deductible.

A lot of work needs to be done between now and next June 2014. Jeff and Don are both ready for the challenge, eager to involve others across the community who have similar enthusiasm, and confident that the generosity and spirit of the West Allegheny community will rise to the occasion.

Anyone with a desire to work on a team, to help raise funds, or to coordinate a part of West Allegheny Workcamp, is welcome to contact Don Steward by e-mail, dlsteward@westaworkcamp.org.



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22 – 28 June 2014

APPLICATION



Workcamps are intensive one-week trips that help people grow in Christian faith through service. Youth and their Adult Leaders, from around the country, will spend one week in our community performing hands-on home-repair projects for elderly, low-income, and disabled families. The work at each home will be done by 5 young people, and at least one adult leader, representing many Christian denominations. Eligible repair projects may include:

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- Step repair
- Exterior painting
- Interior painting
- Weatherization
- Wheelchair ramp repair/construction
- Mobile home skirting
- Roofing (roof overs only)

Both labor and materials are free to qualifying households. To learn how your home *might be included*, please complete this confidential application and return via email, fax or USPS to:

West Allegheny Workcamp
P.O. Box 787
Imperial PA 15126.0787
FAX #: 412.235.1737 | Info@westaworkcamp.org

Your name: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Your address: _____

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

Is your home within a 30-minute drive from **West Allegheny Middle School** ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

Describe the work you would like to have done: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

New in Town

Ann's Spa and Nails



Dreams are coming true for Ann Nguyen, owner of Ann's Spa and Nails in North Fayette. Since December 2012, her the nail salon has been serving its customers at the Pointe at North Fayette.

The friendly, relaxing, and clean environment offers a full line of nail care, tanning, and waxing services. The salon also offers eyelash extensions. "I have been doing this for 15 years," said Ann. After serving customers in the area for over 10 years, Ann said she finally decided to open a place of her own. "This was my great American dream!" The salon is staffed with seven nail technicians. Ann explained that she employs many friends she has met over the years.

"This is a great environment for our customers," said Ann's long-time friend and co-worker, Lien Trainer. "There are familiar faces, mothers and daughters, neighbors, and people reminiscing about old memories here," she said. The salon also hosts bridal parties and recently had a special Mother's Day celebration.

Ann's Spa and Nails is currently running specials on their deluxe pedicures, airbrush tans, and eyelash extensions.

"We are here for our clients, whether they are walk-ins or long-time customers," said Ann. "I love what I do and I love getting to know the people we serve."

In the mood to pamper yourself? Need a set of acrylics or a gel manicure? Looking for that summer glow? Stop by Ann's Spa and Nails for your salon needs. Your visit promises to be a professional and enjoyable experience.

Ann's Spa and Nails is located at 475 Home Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15275 in the Pointe at North Fayette (next to Buffalo Wild Wings.)



ABOVE: Ann Nguyen and Lien Trainer.

Macaroni Kid

Mother's Day and Father's Day will soon be upon us. What better way to celebrate than with a lasting memory! We found one of our seasonal favorites to share with you!

LAYERED FAMILY HANDPRINTS

Supplies:
cardstock in your favorite colors
scissors
glue stick
photo frame

Directions:
Simply trace each family member's hand. Cut it out and mount it within a picture frame from largest to smallest.

It's as simple as 1, 2, 3! You'll have a lasting memory that looks GREAT! Try different color combinations that match your decor. Check out our monthly publications for MORE great tips and ideas!

Celebrates Parents

a unique gift to celebrate mom & dad



Are you a Macaroni Kid reader?
Macaroni Kid is West Pittsburgh's most comprehensive calendar listing of local family friendly events! It's FREE! Join the other 4K+ West Pittsburgh Parents Reading!

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Around Your Town

SINGING FOR JULIE



Last month, six area church musical groups came together to sing at the Teal II Heal concert held at Crossroads Church in North Fayette. The room was a sea of turquoise, Julie's favorite color, and the signature color that has marked each fundraising event.

The participating churches were Crossroads, Carnegie Presbyterian, Oakdale UP, McDonald UP, Valley Presbyterian, and West Alexander Presbyterian.

It was the second such concert to help Julie Hanczar and her family with medical bills resulting from her accident two years ago. The first concert was held in June, 2011 at Oakdale United Presbyterian Church.

Many thanks to the hundreds of people who came to sing, participate, buy auction items and baked goods, or make a donation.

Julie continues to make slow, yet measurable progress.

For more information, visit her Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/julie.hanczar>.



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Responsibilities include weekly choir rehearsals, leading musical portions of worship on Sunday mornings and playing for special services throughout the church year, including the seasons of Advent, Lent and others.

Resumes welcome at the address above or inquiries by phone at (412) 787-1050.



ABOVE: Daisy Scout Troop #52237 from West Allegheny collected about 500 books for the West Allegheny Food Pantry's summer reading program. PHOTO SUBMITTED

West Allegheny Hosts First Relay for Life



The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Pittsburgh West surpassed its goal by raising \$37,500 on May 18-19 to help save lives, help local cancer patients, and support efforts to eliminate cancer-related suffering and death.

The Relay For Life honored 35 survivors during the Survivors Lap, and one member from each of the 15 teams walked or ran during the 24-hour event. The teams set up booths and tents to sell baskets, food items and games. The 200 participants kept energy levels strong throughout the event.

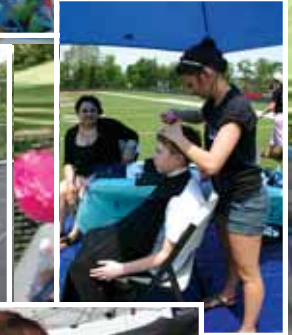
At dusk, 350 luminaria surrounded the track at West Allegheny High School Stadium in honor of those living with cancer and in memory of those who have lost the battle to the disease.

"We appreciate all of the support we have received from the Pittsburgh West communities," said Sue Kriznik. "The teams worked so hard to raise the money, and we are especially grateful to the families and friends who participated in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life, as well as the sponsors, who made this event possible," she added.

Relay For Life is a 24-hour event that brings together teams from local businesses, schools, churches, and families for fun, food, music, entertainment, and a night under the stars, while team members take turns walking or running on a track. Relay For Life begins with a Cancer Survivors Lap and a reception to celebrate life. The funds raised from this event will support the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives and create more birthdays by helping people stay well and get well, by finding cures and fighting back.

For information Relay For Life or about cancer, call toll-free anytime 1-800-227-2345 or visit the American Cancer Society Web site at cancer.org.





Your Schools

Parkway West CTC

Health Assistants Pass with Flying Colors; Earn College Credits

All 12 Health Assistant II seniors from Parkway West Career & Technology Center (PWCTC) passed with an advanced on their NOCTI exams this school year. NOCTI exams for career and technical students are much like PSSAs, and include a performance component in addition to the written test.

As a result of passing with an advanced designation, each student received three college credits applicable toward approximately 80 postsecondary sites offering Nursing Assisting programs that are affiliated with the SOAR (Students Occupationally and Academically Ready) program. According to Pennsylvania's Department of Education web site, "SOAR programs lead students into career pathways that align the secondary courses to a postsecondary program to complete a degree or certificate."

In addition, "these programs prepare students for 'High Priority Occupations' which include career categories that are in high demand by employers, have higher skill needs, and are most likely to provide family sustaining wages."

For the last five years, the Health Assistant students who are required to take the NOCTI exams prior to graduating from PWCTC have scored very high, with a 98% average of advanced standing, said their instructor, Mrs. Palma Darenkamp.

In the written component, students have to be able to answer 198 multiple choice questions related to medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, nurse aide skills, and general medical knowledge. In the performance component, students need to perform accurate vital signs, make an occupied bed, get a patient out of bed, know how to properly use a wheelchair, know the procedural methods for infection control, and know how to properly give a bed bath.

Graduates of the Health Assistant program have become Radiologic Technologists (\$54,300*), RNs (\$64,600*), LPNs (\$40,300*), and Occupational Therapy Assistants (\$47,400*). One graduate is currently in her second year of Pre-Med.

*Annual salaries are quoted via the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), and are national averages. More information from the BLS/OOH site may be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/oooh/>

Senator Matt Smith Visits PWCTC; Discusses Opportunities for Students to Earn CCAC Credits in Advance



ABOVE: Jake Magdich, a HVAC/R senior from West Allegheny, is the sole recipient of a \$500 'tools' scholarship sponsored by Ideal Industries, Inc. to use towards his education at Rosedale Technical Institute (RTI) this fall. Jake will begin his post-secondary education at Rosedale Technical Institute this fall. Pictured is Eric Davidson, Senior Area Sales Manager of Ideal Industries, Inc., Jake Magdich, HVAC/R senior from West Allegheny, and Larry Walter, PWCTC HVAC/R Instructor.

Free Summer Camps for Students

Camps will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 18 and 19. They are free to any current seventh and eighth grade student from the 12 sending school districts: Carlynton, Chartiers Valley, Cornell, Keystone Oaks, Montour, Moon Area, Mt. Lebanon, Quaker Valley, South Fayette, Sto-Rox, Upper St. Clair, and West Allegheny School Districts. Students will choose two programs to attend out of seven offered. Programs are subject to enrollment. Transportation is the responsibility of the student; however, the school will provide lunch for both days. There is also a dress code requirement for each of the programs and submission of an application is required. There is no application fee nor a charge to attend. Contact the school at (412) 923-1772.

State Senator Matt Smith visited Parkway West Career & Technology Center in May. He was met by PWCTC Board President, Joyce Snell; Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) President, Dr. Alex Johnston; Vice President of CCAC's Workforce Development Division, Alicia Booker; PWCTC Executive Director, Dr. Darby Copeland; and PWCTC Supervisor, Brock Snedeker. The attendees discussed the CCAC and PWCTC partnership providing for future PWCTC students to earn CCAC credits prior to graduating at no cost. This agreement will allow those who take advantage of the partnership to save some college dollars in a time when college costs seem to be on the rise.

LEFT: State Senator Matt Smith; PWCTC Executive Director, Dr. Darby Copeland; and PWCTC Supervisor Brock Snedeker.

Pittsburgh Technical Institute

Associate in Science in Nursing Degree Program Offered Beginning in July

Pittsburgh Technical Institute (PTI) announced approval from the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) to offer an Associate in Science in Nursing program beginning in July 2013.

The seven-quarter program is designed to enroll students into a cohort model, an advantage of PTI's program, which streamlines course availability and guarantees that ASN students will take nursing courses

RSVP for Open House on June 29; New Programs Begin July 18

PTI will host an open house on Saturday, June 29 for interested students and their families. To RSVP, visit www.pti.edu/openhouse.

The school is starting several new programs this summer, with classes set to begin on July 18. The new programs are: Oil and Gas Electronics, Culinary Arts Certificate and Associate Degree, Nursing Associate in Science Degree.

Construction on Track

Construction on the new Culinary Arts Center and Energy Technology Center is moving along at PTI's campus in North Fayette on McKee Road.

The center will provide the setting for the school's newest program offerings for students.

from the first day of class. "We assure our students that if they work hard to progress, they will be able to complete the program in less than two years," said Lynette Jack, Academic Chair, PTI School of Nursing.

PTI's 21-month ASN program curriculum was developed to meet competencies established by the National League of Nursing and prepares students to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam upon graduation for licensure as a Registered Nurse.



ABOVE: The landscape on PTI's campus in North Fayette is taking on a different look as the Energy Technology center begins to take shape.

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local man of Steele



For almost as long as there have been means of mass production, there have been movements dedicated to putting the human fingerprint back onto mass-produced things. That struggle against conformity has manifested itself most recently as a contemporary preoccupation with customizing consumer products from Nike shoes to the one status symbol that American culture recognizes above all others: cars.

For Bill Steele, his obsession with the latter took root somewhere in between watching a guy paint his father's semi in Oakdale as a kid, and spending twelve hours a day, seven days a week painting military vehicles the same exact sand color for Operation Desert Storm. The hourly wages and overtime from that private government contract, which he landed at the 911th Airlift Wing in Moon in 1993, were enough to help him turn the same garage in Oakdale that his father ran a trucking business out of into a body shop. While the prospect of paying the bills and owning his own business remained first and foremost among his priorities, lurking in there somewhere too was the desire to make just enough money to build his own custom hot rods.

Over the next 20 years, Bill made enough money to build not just that one hot rod, but plenty of others. His custom bikes and cars have since won national honors. He is the only custom builder to have won the *Easyriders* Bike of the Year award twice, and first to have won the

ABOVE: Bill Steele, middle, with his crew, from left to right, DJ Hardle, Derek D'Amore, Phil Williams, and Josh Harden.



ABOVE: Josh Harden of Steele Kustoms works on a custom chopper; one of three projects Bill has going at the moment; including a 1949 Chevy truck behind Josh that's getting updated into a slick hot rod.

Grand Master award for motorcycles at Detroit's Autorama, a national touring car show. He's done that twice, as well, and had a custom hot rod tour with Autorama as its featured car.

Bill attributes much of his success to custom paint jobs, and currently PPG Automotive Refinish is preparing to market a line of paints that he concocted and pioneered with his custom builds. He says he's always relied exclusively on PPG paints, both for his custom projects and in his thriving collision shop in Oakdale, where he insists on inspecting every car, from Hondas to Porphes, before they roll out onto the street.

Soft-spoken, and preferring a black baseball cap and t-shirt with jeans, Bill is a fixture at his collision shop. Sometimes, he goes as far as having his guys fix the nicks and dings in a paint job that aren't even near where they were working, just because they bother him.

"It's almost like a parent with a child," he says, admitting that might sound a little strange, "but I want their cars to be ok and the customer to be happy."

A graduate of Parkway West Career and Technology Center who attended West Allegheny, Bill still cherry picks top talent from this alma mater to work on those cars. Among them is Phil Williams, another WA and Parkway West CTC graduate. He paints full time. Pat Cardillo works on frames and does structural work with DJ Hardle, who also preps cars for painting. Derek D'Amore, a senior from WA still finishing up at Parkway West CTC, does a little bit of everything. Last year, he finished tenth in the nation in Collision Repair Technology in the national SkillsUSA competition, which he qualified for after taking the top honors in a state-wide competition.

Josh Harden, a Cranberry native who graduated from WyoTech in Blairsville, is the only one who works exclusively on custom projects. But when a customer came in not long ago with a GT3 R – Porsche's \$170,000 street version of a racecar – it was a hands-on, collaborative moment for the entire crew as they jumped at fixing the car's state-of-the-art carbon body.

"It was really important we had a few pairs of eyes on it," says Bill.

He explains that while for him customizing has been a growing pursuit, the collision shop has remained his bread and butter, and he's never lost site of that. For him, it's a car lover's dream come true, one that's been made possible by his occupation.

It's also a dream that was nearly cut short at age thirteen. A one-time avid BMX bike racer, Bill was competing at races across the region, and on his way to one in Uniontown with his parents when a freak car accident took his father's life, and nearly his own. Bill and his mother survived, only to watch Bill's dad pass away.

"A couple years after the devastation of watching my father pass, I started concentrating on cars and a career," he says.

Bill finished technical school and landed a job at a shop in Castle Shannon, and then at another garage in McDonald. When he heard through a friend about a military contract to paint vehicles for Operation Desert Storm, he applied for and won it.

Over the next three months, Bill worked nonstop through holidays and weekends, and used the money to outfit his father's garage, which he'd bought from his mother, into an auto body shop. He renovated the space above it into an apartment, and in 1994 got busy repairing collisions. He learned the requisite business, money management, and customer service skills on the fly, and at night started doing custom work as an outlet. Burnt out from working on cars all day, he turned to motorcycles.

"They have two wheels and a smaller engine and don't take nearly as long to build," he says, "but I still ended up putting all kinds of extra time into them."

His first was a wrecked 1994 Harley Davidson that he pulled apart, in a way just so see how it went back together.

Disassembling the bike, he painted the swing arm and frame, in addition to the tank and other traditionally decorated elements. Not long after, he found another wrecked Harley, this time a softail. He had a new custom frame built, and finished it with an orange pearl paint job and graphics. It turned heads instantly.

He started a side business, Steele Kustoms, and began flipping

about 10 of his rare and creative two-wheeled creations each year. Meanwhile, Steele Auto Body, Inc. was earning its own reputation, and outgrowing its space. In 1995, Bill took out a loan and expanded into a larger garage he built next door. A detailing and tire shop, Our Cars Auto Detailing, now operates out of Bill's dad's old shop, and is often the last stop for custom paint jobs before they roll out onto the street. Two such custom paint jobs went to North Fayette Township, in the form of their two first ever D.A.R.E. cars.

With the shop paying the bills and providing a solid return, Bill allocated money into more ambitious projects, focusing on engineering and tight designs. That systematic, thought-out approach culminated in customs earning him his first magazine cover and awards from regional shows. In 2005, he finished a red and black bike that utilized a revolutionary front suspension system. The bike earned him the first ever Grand Master award from International Show Car Association, and an induction into the Autorama Hall of Fame. For a time, it went on loan to the University of Miami in Oxford, Ohio, which displayed it as part of an art exhibit entitled, "Chopped! Art of the Custom Motorcycle."

That same year, Bill got invited on ESPN2's *The \$100,000 Bike Build-Off* for a televised, custom bike-building contest. He came away with the Fascinator, a stretched-out, burnt orange creation that earned him his first *Easyriders* Bike of the Year award. He sold it to millionaire racehorse breeder Chad Hart.

After that, Bill found a 1951 Panhead that he restored and painted using a subdued, red patina matte paint with washes of black to make it look like it had just rolled out of the 1950s. Chad called Bill again after seeing the bike on the cover of *Cycle Source Magazine*, and convinced Bill to trade him back the Fascinator for it.



"Chad had said, 'I was born in '51, and I had a bike just like that, but it wasn't as nice as yours'," says Bill. "I thought about it, and figured I'd built the Fascinator on television, and it had been in all these ads for Velle tires, placed fifth in the AMD World Tour, been on the cover of *Easyriders* and I had so many other good times with that bike."

He says he was excited to get it back. It's one his few famous custom creations he still owns, but not the only one. A few years after building the Fascinator, he finally got around to scratch building that hot rod. He'd customized plenty of others along the way, and continued playing with matte earth tones to varying effects. He'd painted trucks with a brown patina to look like fading paint, and a couple of old cars to make them look dinged

TOP TO BOTTOM: Some of Bill's numerous trophies; the front end of Bill's first scratch-built hot rod, Downtown Brown; Bill with two of his famous creations, the Grand Master and the Fascinator.



up and worn. He'd even turned to an unlikely inspiration in the home section at stores like Macy's and home interior magazines.

"I'll go in and look around at bed spread colors and wall colors in the displays," he says. "I'll get ideas about color trends and where they're going."

So far, it's paid off. A yellow road glide aptly named the Honey Bagger that was recently featured on the June cover of *Baggers Magazine* got him invited to a national Harley Davidson show. Showing off a technique of repurposing auto body parts, he constructed the Honey Bagger's saddlebags from the rear fenders of a 1941 Mercury sedan. Another creation, The F2, an espresso-colored bike with matte silver wheels and a flash of green won him his second *Easyriders Bike* of the Year award.

For that very first, scratch-built hot rod, he mixed up a custom matte leather brown to finish a chopped-up and stretched-out 1930 Ford Model A. He happened upon the cab when he met the owner of an Illinois-based custom shop, and had them build a new, stretched-out custom chassis. The collaborative project, which Josh had a hand in creating, won Bill an unexpected Goodguys Hot Rod of the Year award at the 2009 Hot Rod Nationals. It was featured on the covers of the hot rod magazines *Goodguys Goodtimes Gazette*, *Streetrodder*, *Hot Rod*, and the Norwegian hot rod magazine *amcar*. Bill says it also went on tour with Autorama as a featured car. Bill dubbed it "Downtown Brown." He still owns it, and is still wondering what *amcar* had to say about it, since he doesn't know Norwegian.

At his garage in the bend of Noblestown Road where Bill has quietly gathered awards, his collision shop bustles, and Josh is busy building several bikes while updating a burnt orange, 1949 Chevy truck into a hot rod for a customer. At times, Bill's son, Billy, who will soon be starting college at the University of Cincinnati for Pharmacy, also lends a hand. A WA senior, Billy was co-captain of last season's WPIAL-winning football team, which he played on with Derrick. Bill's daughter, Kelly, another WA alum and former drum major, is now earning her master's degree in theology at Duke.

In 2011, Bill started chairing the annual Pittsburgh World of Wheels Custom Car Show. As part of the show last year, he hosted a competition between students from technical schools across the Pittsburgh region. He gave each team a Studebaker-style metal pedal car that they had to engineer into a new design. The end results included everything from ones with working taillights to others that were cut down the middle and stretched out for a new look. The cars were auctioned off, and the money donated to their respective schools.

"They were awesome," says Bill. "I couldn't have been more proud."


He says he's looking forward to chairing again next year with help from Marcia Hrapczak, his longtime friend and now girlfriend, and holding the same pedal car competition. Bill says the competition has since become part of ISCA's touring show, which travels across the country.

To see more of Bill's work, check out www.steelekustoms.com and follow them on Facebook at Steele Kustoms / Steele Auto Body. Also see www.steeleautobodyinc.com for information on Steele Auto Body, Inc.

TOP TO BOTTOM: Josh works on the updated engine of the 1949 Chevy hot rod; Phil mixes up PPG water-soluble paints in the collision shop; showing off the Honey Bagger's matte, chrome-colored wheels.



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Municipal Roundup

NEW RECREATION PROJECTS PLANNED IN FINDLAY

Plans are underway for the construction of a new, 24 by 83-foot pavilion at the Sports and Recreation Complex on Route 30. The pavilion will include a full-service kitchen attachment with restroom facilities on the soccer level of the complex. Construction could begin this fall. The pavilion would be the largest one available in the township, with the capability of seating up to 250 people.

Over time, other amenities will be added to the pavilion and surrounding area as funds permit.

A meeting was held with Duquesne Light, Baker Engineers, and Valley Electric to discuss the relocation of the main electrical panels and transformer at the complex to make way for a parking expansion as part of the project.

At the Elm Street Park ballfield, upgrading of the infield has been done. A complete regrading and replenishing of new infield material, along with the establishment of an eight-inch pitcher's mound, completes the township's initiative to upgrade all of its existing fields. Over the last few years, the fields at Big and Little Clinton, Aten Road, and Old Ridge were upgraded.

NORTH FAYETTE HONORED AS 2013 BANNER COMMUNITY

North Fayette Township has been named a 2013 Banner Community by the Allegheny League of Municipalities for providing effective, efficient, and accountable services to its residents and businesses.

"The Banner Community Program recognizes municipalities that implement best practices in all aspects of their operations and that govern in an inclusive, collaborative manner," says Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, who is also chairman of the Allegheny League of Municipalities. "These are cities, boroughs, and townships that understand fiscal accountability, customer service, and civic responsibility."

The Allegheny County Medical Society (ACMS) Foundation awarded Daniel H. Brooks, M.D. with its prestigious Richard E. Deitrick Humanity in Medicine Award. The Richard E. Deitrick Humanity in Medicine Award honors a physician who has improved the lives of patients by caring for them with integrity, honesty, and respect to their human dignity, and serves as a role model for other physicians.



What if you could prevent even one family member from hearing the words, 'You have cancer?' The American Cancer Society is seeking cancer fighters in the Heritage Valley Health System service area and Greater Pittsburgh region who are interested in joining Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3), a historic nationwide study to help researchers better understand the genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors that cause or prevent cancer.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Americans to participate in lifesaving cancer research," said Sharon Stalter, Health Initiatives Representative, American Cancer Society Pittsburgh office. "We are excited to offer an opportunity for residents to make an appointment and enroll in the study at their convenience now through June."



Men and women who are willing to commit to the study must be between the ages of 30 and 65 and never have been diagnosed with cancer. The study will enroll a diverse population of 300,000 people across the United States. To enroll, individuals provide a waist measurement, give a small blood sample, and complete a comprehensive survey online or at the enrollment site. Over the course of the study, participants will be asked to fill out follow-up surveys every few years.

For more information about CPS-3 or to schedule your appointment, visit www.greaterpittsburghcps3.org or call toll-free 1-888-604-5888, or locally, (412) 919-1100.



Heritage Valley Health System and the Community College of Beaver County (CCBC) recently announced that the Heritage Valley Sewickley School of Nursing will be transitioning its students into the existing Associate's Degree program at CCBC starting in August. The school, which opened in 1916 on the Heritage Valley Sewickley hospital campus and is now located in Moon Township, has graduated more than 2,200 nurses.

The transition extends Heritage Valley Health System's longtime working relationship with Community College of Beaver County. In 2007, Heritage Valley Health System successfully consolidated its radiology school into CCBC's Radiologic Technology program.

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John 3:3

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(724) 693-9740
www.oakdaleborough.com

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McDonald, PA 15057
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www.mcdonaldboro.com

PUBLIC & PRIVATE SCHOOLS K-12

West Allegheny School District

600 Donaldson Road
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(724) 695-3422
www.westasd.org

Parkway West Career & Technology Center

7101 Steubenville Pike
Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 923-1772
www.parkwaywest.org
This list includes only those public and private schools located within the municipalities served by the West Allegheny Edition of Allegheny West Magazine

CHURCHES

Church of The Living Christ

220 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-7188, www.cotlc.com

Church of the Nazarene

(moved to Clinton)
(724) 947-9223, www.nazarene.org

Clinton UP Church

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

Clinton Wesleyan Church

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

Covenant Family Church

P. O. Box 15533, Pittsburgh, PA 15244
(724) 263-7147, www.covfamchurch.org
(meets at Springhill Suites)

Crossroads Methodist Church

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

First Baptist Church

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

Hebron Presbyterian Church

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

Independent Bible Presbyterian Church

112 Dempe Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-3355

Montours Presbyterian Church

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

Noblestown United Methodist Church

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

Noblestown United Presbyterian Church

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

Oakdale United Presbyterian Church

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

Rivers of Living Waters Church

7120 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 787-1888, www.rolwc.tripod.com

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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

St. Columbkille Church

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

St. Patrick's Church

7322 Noblestown Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-9260, www.saint-patrick-parish.com

The Church of Jesus Christ

57 Moore Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 899-3935

The Bible Chapel

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(724) 941-8990, ext. 124
www.robinson.biblechapel.org

Valley Presbyterian Church

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

West Ridge Christian Community Church

100 Gorwood Drive, Coraopolis, PA 15108
(724) 695-7500, www.wrccc.org

EMERGENCIES: Dial 911

Al-A-Non, West A area, TBA

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

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

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

Faith in Action, (724) 921-0027

Findlay Athletic Assn., (412) 874-9348

Girl Scouts WPA, (724) 774-3553

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

Kiwanis Club #1571, (724) 899-3695

Lions Club Imperial, (724) 513-7616

Masonic Lodge #669, (724) 693-8274

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

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

Montour Run Watershed Assn., www.mrwva.info

Montour Trail Council, (412) 257-3011

Montour Valley Grange, (724) 695-0481

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

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

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

North Fayette Garden Club, (724) 693-8413

Oakdale Youth League, (724) 693-8951

Rotary - Parkway West, (412) 787-5280

Senior Citizen Groups:

- **Findlay Township,** (724) 695-0500

- **North Fayette Township,** (724) 693-3118

- **St. Columbkille,** (724) 695-7325

SNPJ Lodge 106, (724) 695-1411

Sturgeon Athletic Association, (724) 926-2150

The ROCK Community Center, (724) 693-2777

VFW Ladies Auxiliary, (412) 788-4674

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

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

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

West Allegheny Foundation, inquiries@wafoundation.org

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

West Allegheny Ministerium, (724) 693-8950

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

Western Allegheny Community Library, (724) 695-8150

West Allegheny Aqua Club, (412) 608-4583

West Allegheny Arts Advocacy, TBA

West Allegheny Inline Hockey, (412) 334-2640

West Allegheny Youth Assn., www.westayouth.net

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

West Allegheny Youth Wrestling, (724) 695-8132

Perspective



By
Erma Dodd
North Fayette Township
resident

It is through giving that we receive.

"X" in the box, or no "X" in the box? That is the question every driver faces when the driver's license renewal application must be filled out and sent in to the state.

X

Grandfather Ed Cairns, 70, was having the best day he'd had in a long time. It was March 4, his grandson Bobby's fourteenth birthday. "Pappy," though going blind and attached to oxygen, was making fried shrimp, one of Bobby's favorite dinners, while "Gram" and Bobby's sister, Maci, 7, made homemade fries.

The birthday cake was special, too, because Pap made sure it read "Pumpkin," the nickname he had given his grandson.

Birthday dinner was over; the house was quiet. Ed told his wife, Patty, that he was not feeling well. He was going to lay down.

Married 47 years, Ed and Patty Lee are the parents of Eddy, Jumbo, and Barbara. Ed and Patty enjoyed going to Tionesta, to "Ed's place," with their Shih Tzu, Sara, and playing dominoes.

"Camp was their home away from home. It was where Ed was happiest," daughter Barb Kress says. "Fishing together at Pap's camp in the mountains is something he loved sharing with all his grandchildren and family."

Their grandchildren are Bobby and Maci Kress, Katie, Shane, Addie, Austin, and Bella Cairns.

Ed also loved hunting with son Eddy at camp. He loved watching his son, Jumbo, when he wrestled and played football. During football season, not a week went by without Ed calling during a Steeler

game: "Did you see that play?"

Ed depended a lot on son-in-law Bob. He enjoyed watching Nascar with him, and expressing how Tony Stewart was the best driver.

Ed's grandson's birthday was almost over. Ed told Patty to call the ambulance. This time, it was different. Ed would not let her ride in the ambulance as she had many times prior. He kissed her and said, "Goodbye, I love you." Patty told him one more time, "I love you, too. See you at the hospital."

But she knew in her heart that this was the end of his suffering.

The Cairns family all rushed to the hospital, even though the paramedics said, "take your time."

Before the ambulance had left Oakdale, Pappy Ed had already left his earthly body to begin life in eternity.

Yet his body still had purpose. Ed still had deeds to do.

Ed had put his "X" in the box.

Ed's family returned home to Patty's. Before midnight, CORE (Center for Organ Recovery and Education) contacted his family.

The call, on speakerphone, was both bitter and sweet; bittersweet. Because it was an emotional time, it was hard to answer the many questions CORE had to ask. At the same time, it was uplifting to know that some of Ed would live on and in another person.

So, what does happen once the deceased's spirit has left the body? Our local funeral director is 100% sure the body does not feel pain or have feeling; 100% sure.

A team from CORE will arrive at the hospital. A CORE recovery coordinator accompanies CORE's transplant surgeons to an operating room, where the surgical recovery of organs and tissue takes place. Dignity and respect are maintained for the donor at all times.

The coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the organs are properly prepared for

transportation to the hospital, where the transplant will be performed.

Ever ready, Chuck Christopher, West Allegheny class of 1959, and his wife, Ruth, are organ transporters. The call comes in, they "hit the road," and take turns driving non-stop until they arrive at the designated hospital with the life-saving organ(s).

Unlike organs, which must be transplanted immediately, donated bone, tendon, and fascia may be transplanted up to five years after the donation. The tissue can restore movement to someone's legs, arms, and knees, enabling people to run, jump, walk, or simply climb a set of steps again.

Donated skin can help burn victims, or be used for research and make medical advancements possible.

The chosen funeral director then transports the body to the funeral home. The surgery will not interfere with a family's wishes for funeral arrangements

CORE wrote to the family that Ed's right eye was sent to an eye specialist. His cornea has been transplanted.

"The recipient will not know Ed, but will think of him each time they see a new day and continue their life of independence," CORE wrote.

"All seven grandchildren are very proud that 'Pappy' chose to be a donor," says Barb.

Eddy has made the decision his brother, Jumbo, and sister, Barb, have also made. He, like his Dad, now has an "X" in the donor box.

I am a donor, giving to someone in need, My final gift, my final deed.

More than 8,000 individuals in Pennsylvania are awaiting a life-saving transplant. For more information, visit: www.donatelifepa.org.

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