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Allegheny West

Magazine

Volume 1, Number 2
Winter 2019

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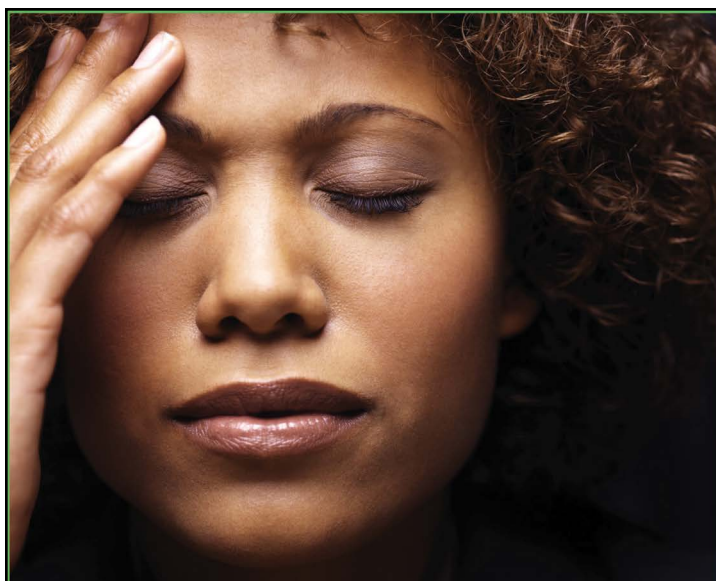
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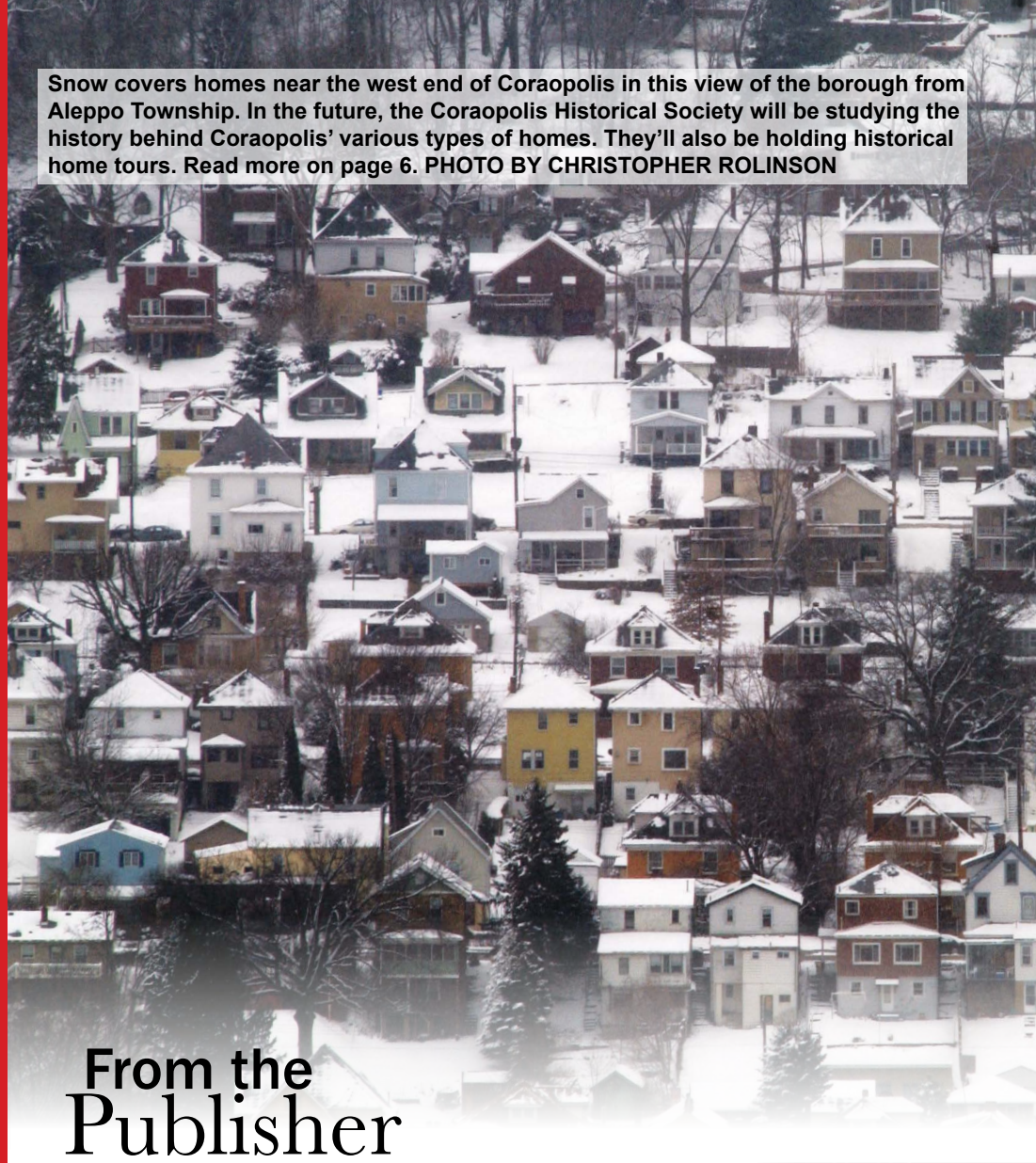
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Allegheny West Magazine - Cornell Edition, is an all positive, good news publication mailed free into the homes and businesses of the Cornell School District communities of Coraopolis and Neville Island to connect communities, promote people, heighten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



Snow covers homes near the west end of Coraopolis in this view of the borough from Aleppo Township. In the future, the Coraopolis Historical Society will be studying the history behind Coraopolis' various types of homes. They'll also be holding historical home tours. Read more on page 6. PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER ROLINSON



From the Publisher

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up our second-ever Cornell edition of Allegheny West Magazine. Hopefully, you caught our previous Cornell edition this past October. I'm grateful to those in the area who have been reaching out to us with suggestions and ideas. I'm hopeful that kind of enthusiasm continues.

When this publication was started 20 years ago, it was done so with the goal of connecting communities across western Allegheny County. As such, we occasionally will run a story that profiles a certain locally grown industry that touches on several of the areas that we cover, which also includes the Moon Area School District, the West Allegheny School District and Montour School District. As such, in this edition, we're taking a look at seven different wineries in our coverage areas. We're also listing some satellite wineries that produce wine elsewhere in the state but are selling their wine locally. We're bringing you a bit of background on each winery so you'll know what to expect if you decide to visit them. Much like the individuals behind the various breweries popping up in the area, many of these entrepreneurs came from a variety of walks of life before they entered into wine making. Now, their efforts are adding a unique flavor to the area and raising awareness of locally made products. Read more, starting on page 24.

Starting on page 13, be sure to read the latest Cornell School District newsletter. This month, read about several new efforts that the district is undertaking to improve school

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{Contents}

Coraopolis Memorial - 6
Library gets new director

Christe sworn in as - 6
historical society president

Coraopolis Presbyterian - 7
Church pays homage with
refurbished bell

Curbing the problem of - 8
human trafficking

Cornell Today - 13

Local Winery Guide - 24

Columns

Around Your Town - 6

Legislative Update - 8

Your Schools - 10

On the Horizon - 12

Chamber Link - 23

ABOUT THE COVER

Fresh snow covers the courtyard outside of Coraopolis Presbyterian Church in downtown Coraopolis. The church recently unveiled a bell on its grounds that pays homage to another former area church. Read more on page 7.
PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

safety and some professional development initiatives teachers are pursuing in order to improve their classrooms. We're also bringing you guidance updates for the elementary school and high school. On page 22, check out a listing of spring sport schedules.

On page 6, we're bringing you some news from Coraopolis Borough. The library has a director and the historical society has a new president. Coraopolis Presbyterian Church also recently installed a new bell. Read the story behind each of these news items on pages six and seven.

Peruse upcoming area happenings in our On the Horizon section on page 30 and, if you know of an event or local happening that you think we should list, please reach out to us.

Look for our next edition in June, when the weather will be much warmer and we'll be bringing you our annual Summer Fun Guide.



Doug Hughey,
Publisher/Editor



Coraopolis Memorial Library gets new director

STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY
PHOTO SUBMITTED

For years, Mary Hampe of Coraopolis has been telling family members that, one day, when she was finished with her teaching career, she was going to work at the Coraopolis Memorial Library.

Last year, she made good on that promise when she accepted a part-time position as the children's librarian. Then, at the start of this year, Hampe was hired as the library's new director. She takes over the job from Jessica Watson, who first hired her.



Mary Hampe

A lifelong Coraopolis resident, Hampe says she never expected to land what amounts to her dream job so fast, but she says she's glad she did. She says she's excited to be taking on a position in an area that appears to be experiencing an upswing, with new businesses and young people increasingly getting involved in the community.

She says she and the rest of her staff, in particular administrative assistant Mary LaRocca and library clerk Sarah Ismail, will be looking for ways to get people back into the library.

Many locals would likely know Hampe, not only because she's lived in Coraopolis Borough her entire life, but also because she taught many of their children. For 18 years, she taught and worked at various schools in the area, including Cornell, Moon Area, St. Joseph's and, most recently, Saint Killian's Parish School in Cranberry Township. There, she was the school's librarian and technology teacher. She held a similar position at St. Joseph's before it closed.

"It's nice to know the community," she says. "I taught a lot of their children."

During her teaching career, Hampe largely taught elementary students and so, she says, she's looking to bolster the library's offerings of children's programs in an effort to promote childhood literacy. As such, she says the library will again be holding its annual summer reading program and looking for ways to engage children through various events. Shortly after Hampe was hired in October, the library hosted a Halloween event with crafts that attracted about 80 children. A subsequent Christmas event attracted about 50 children. At the time of this writing, the library is also planning an entire week's worth of Valentine's Day-themed events with crafts, a film and more.

As well, Hampe says she's taking on an outreach program at Cornell by reading to children at the school and participating in the Children's Choice Book Awards. The library also hosts regular children's events such as story time, Lego playtime and more.

Not all of the library's programs are aimed at children, however. A new program started by LaRocca invites adults into the library each month to view a travel-themed film on the library's new media center and then discuss it. The library also hosts a regular knitting group, book discussion groups and a film screening group.

For a list of upcoming events, see page 30. Stay up to date on the library's full gamut of programming at coraopolislibrary.org.

Christe sworn in as new historical society president

STORY AND PHOTO BY
JILL BORDO

When Stacey Christe, the newly elected president of the Coraopolis Historical Society, talks with local residents, she usually gets the same question: "What can you tell me about the history of my house?"

Christe says researching local homes is going to be one of the historical society's priorities. Not only will the group be studying the borough's grand, Victorian-era homes on Coraopolis' main streets but also the area's manufactured homes built by companies such as Sears and Roebuck. Christe and her husband, Wil, are the owners of a McKown and Beattie house, which is another of the homes they will be investigating. McKown and Beattie Lumber and Building Supply Company was located at 865 Fourth Avenue in Coraopolis from 1904 until 1989.

Christe was sworn in as president of the Coraopolis Historical Society on Jan. 2. She replaces former town mayor Joe DiVito. Though new to an elected office, Christe has been an asset to those interested in the bygone days of Coraopolis ever since she moved to the area in 2012.

A native of Erie, Christe began studying her home town as a way to become grounded and learn about the place in which she and Wil chose to put down roots. She studied English and history at Edinboro University. She then honed her skills as a researcher during the 20 years she worked as a paralegal. Christe is also passionate about genealogy and has spent the last 10 years researching her own family tree as well as the bloodlines of 12 to 15 friends.

It was second nature to Christe to collect online information about the past of her new town. However, she took things a step farther when she began bidding on eBay for artifacts and collectibles related to Coraopolis.

In addition to historical books about the town, Christe purchased many postcards that depict Coraopolis in its heyday during the first half of the 20th century. Using the postcards as points of reference, she began taking long walks around the area to compare the past with the present.

Christe discovered that the existing telephone poles are in the same spots as those in the postcards and that counting the poles created "an insanely accurate" method of matching current buildings to those photographed in the past.

In October of 2015, Christe founded the Coraopolis History Archive, a website containing a digital repository of historical information. One aspect of the site allows visitors to take "then and now" walking tours using the old postcards. The archive also recently became the historical society's official website.

Another area of fascination for Christe that led to a working partnership was the Coraopolis railroad connection. The sound



Stacey Christe

STORY AND PHOTO BY
DOUG HUGHEY

of the trains passing eased her homesickness for her former lake town and made her feel connected to her new river town.

In early 2016, Christie became the preservationist for the Coraopolis train station project. She both created and maintained a website that detailed the team's efforts and progress. She is currently conducting in-depth research on the history and architecture of the station.

Once Christie's collection of eBay artifacts became too large for her home she donated them to the Coraopolis Historical Society and began to work more closely with the group. When DiVito decided to step down as president last fall, Christie was an obvious choice for his replacement.

The historical society has operated out of a space in the basement of Coraopolis Memorial Library at 601 School Street since late 2014. The "museum" area is currently open to the public 1-3 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, 6-8 p.m. every Thursday, and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. the second Saturday of every month.

Christie is grateful for the years of commitment to the society by DiVito and retiring officers Donna and Tom Buchman. She stated that the group has "meticulously catalogued and showcased" the collections of historical items in an "organized, climate-controlled environment."

New historical society officers Dana Watkins, Pamela Braden and Teresa Kay Reilly are currently assisting Christie with a Coraopolis historic homes tour, an expanded walking tour and scheduled speaker events, including one that will showcase the archive of photographs taken by Pam's late father, Dr. Frank Braden, a longtime local physician and resident.

Other goals of the group are to increase the historical society's engagement through recruitment and new partnerships; to expand the collections of local church records and histories, yearbooks and oral history projects; and to increase the digital resource program with one area of focus being online digitized maps. One change that has already been implemented is the group's ability to add new members.

In addition to her fulltime job as a fundraiser for TrueSense Marketing, Christie divides her time between three projects for her adopted town. Along with her historical society responsibilities and the train station project, Christie is working with Coraopolis business owners, particularly Ray Kinneman of Emma Jean's Attic, to promote local shops and restaurants.

Christie spent a month walking around the town taking photos of every operating business - a number nearing 200 - to create an up-to-date directory. She said that the majority of the existing publications and printed directories contained businesses that were closed. Kinneman and Christie have organized several pop-up markets and street festivals that they have promoted on social media.

Christie said that "the town is grateful that developers like Birch Holdings and Rice Brothers have taken an interest in Coraopolis and are investing in building improvements that retain historic character."

Christie believes that Coraopolis is on the verge of a full-fledged revitalization and that newcomers to the area, as well as former residents who have moved away, are interested in its past and its future.

"I'm in it for the long haul," stated Christie of her new position and her love of Coraopolis.

Coraopolis Presbyterian pays homage with bell

A couple of years ago, Coraopolis Presbyterian Church got 11 new congregation members and, along with them, a church bell.

That bell had long hung in a steeple at Moon Run Presbyterian Church in Robinson Township.

Longtime Moon Run Presbyterian Church member Janet Barton says she believes it may very well have hung there since the church was constructed in the early 19th century.

A few years ago, the church sold the building to a developer that has since converted it into an apartment complex. The majority of the contents of the building, Barton says, were donated to other area churches. She says that was one of the most difficult parts of dissolving the church that she'd been a member of since 1957.

"It was very sad," she says. "It was very hard to break the church up and get rid of all the items because of all the history that went with it."

A piece of her former church, though, followed Barton and 10 other former members from Moon Run to Coraopolis Presbyterian Church, which received Moon Run's bell as a gift. For the past two years, the church has been working to restore the old bell.

"We've put well over 90 hours into it," says Rev. Tom Petrosky, the pastor at Coraopolis Presbyterian Church. "There's been some cleaning, sand blasting, some welding on the support system."

He says the bell, which was minted in 1892, was functioning when it was pulled out of the church in Moon Run.

Earlier this year, the restored bell was installed in the parking lot outside of Coraopolis Presbyterian Church, where those coming to worship can easily get up close and even ring it if they want.

For Barton and the 10 other former members of Moon Run Presbyterian, it's a bittersweet piece of history from a church that some belonged to for decades. Barton says that, in the years leading up to its closing, Moon Run Presbyterian's membership had been dwindling.

Of the churches she visited, Barton says Coraopolis Presbyterian was the best fit.

"It was the only one that felt most at home for me," she says.



This refurbished bell, which was recently installed outside of Coraopolis Presbyterian Church, once hung in the steeple at Moon Run Presbyterian Church in Robinson Township. It's now found a new home, along with 11 members from Moon Run.

Curbing the problem of human trafficking

It is difficult to imagine that our area has a problem as horrific as human trafficking, yet, during my time in office, I've come to discover that we do.

Many people in this area may be aware of the problem of human trafficking but may think of it as occurring primarily in places like New York, Las Vegas, Los Angeles or abroad. Yet human trafficking does also occur in Pennsylvania. One reason for this is the state's major highways, which make Pennsylvania an easy "pass-through" and destination for human cargo. It is both heartbreaking and outrageous to think that children and adults are being traded, bought, sold and smuggled in this modern-day slave trade.

Recently, I visited a new business, Firebox Art Studios, in Carnegie. My attention was called to a unique item, a plain metal bracelet with a number stamped on it. The owner of the studio carries artistic items that are created by women. In this case, the bracelet was created by a woman who had been a victim of human trafficking. When purchasing bracelets like this, the studio gives you a small card with the jewelry that contains information to allow you to contact the woman who made the piece and learn her story.

While it may be easy to just bury our heads in the sand and pretend this problem does not exist here, it does, and it happens every day. More and more victims are also, sadly, coming from right here in the Commonwealth, with others being brought here to "work."

As of June 30, 2018, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center reported hundreds of calls to its hotline, with well over 100 cases of human trafficking being reported. Of those reported cases:

- 106 were related to sex trafficking;
- 14 were related to labor trafficking;
- Four were related to both sex and labor trafficking; and
- Three were related to a non-specified type of trafficking.

Fifteen of the reported cases involved men while 105 involved women. Additionally, 74 of the cases centered on adult victims, with 41 minor victims. More shocking is that the cases involved more U.S. citizens than foreign nationals. This clearly points to the fact that this is, indeed, happening here in America, including in Pennsylvania.

It is time to put the brakes on this issue, as it is up to us to protect each other. We must not just go after the perpetrators of human trafficking but also look for ways to address the problems that lead some of these young girls and women into the tangled web of traffickers, including poverty and drug addiction.

As a legislator, it's important for me that we work in a bipartisan manner to identify opportunities for legislation that improves

short- and long-term victim support programs, allocate funding to develop new training and procedures for law enforcement, and empower victims of human trafficking to come forward so they can enjoy the freedoms all Pennsylvanians rightly deserve.

During the last legislative session, several bills were introduced to aid victims of human trafficking yet these bills failed to move to the House for a full vote. Included was H.B. 1389, which would have offered human trafficking awareness education. The General Assembly did enact Act 130, which does several things for children victims of sex trafficking, including:

- Providing special relief to restore a victim's dignity;
- Autonomy and safe harbor for sexually exploited children;
- Establishing the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund and imposing penalties; and
- Providing for dependency in lieu of delinquency.

While these are steps toward the goal of stopping the human cargo chain here in the Commonwealth, more work needs to happen, as these crimes are not stopping. Nor are the number of victims declining.

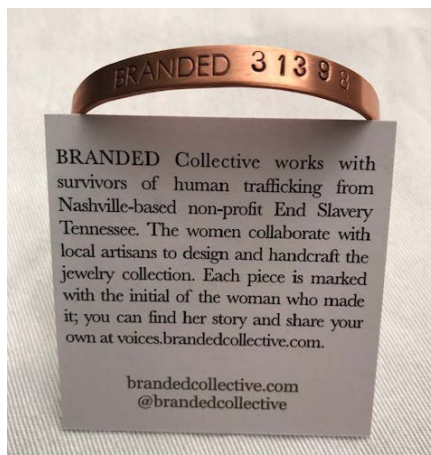
I am eager to work with my colleagues on addressing this issue in the New Year and I would suggest that there is one step that we can all take to alleviate this problem. That step is to promote the hotline mentioned above so that victims have an opportunity to reach out and hopefully get out of their horrid situation. Please pass along the hotline's number if you think someone you have met or know may be a victim: 1-888-373-7888

In addition to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center's 24-hour hotline, victims can also text the word HELP to the number 233733. Texting to the aforementioned number will put victims in

touch with a specialist who can connect them with services in their immediate area or aid them in their escape.

I am proud of the people in our district who are trying to bring attention to this issue. Together, we can, and we will, put an end to human trafficking here in Pennsylvania.

State Rep. Anita Kulik, D-Allegheny County, represents the 45th Legislative District.



Firebox Art Studios in Carnegie sells bracelets like this one, which was made by a survivor of human trafficking.
PHOTO SUBMITTED

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A New Year and a new opportunity to help a new generation

More than ever, so many of us are focused on making things work for a group of individuals - whether it's family, our work team, volunteer organizations, our church or a combination. It requires a level of juggling, decision-making and prioritization that can be a real challenge. For most people I know, it has become a normal (and healthy) part of life to have regular check-ins with ourselves to improve our awareness and ensure that we are selecting the right things as priorities.

My reflection on decision-making is a result of observing family and friends throughout the fourth quarter and challenging myself to prioritize better. Though I'm passionate about many things, I have learned that there are but a few things that last. So, in this new year, I challenge myself to continue to refine my awareness of those things and all that matters most to me. High on my list is the desire to help others at home and in the workplace.

A recent sermon at church brought another priority to mind. In the sermon, a 10-year-old child was complaining about his math homework. He could not understand why he needed to learn multiplication and division. A few years later, his engagement in a challenging school project brought him to the realization that he wants to pursue a medical career. Upon discovering his passion, he quickly understood why he needed that math. What a gift we can give by helping others find their passion!

I hope that the goal to help others is a priority for you and your network as well. From where I sit in the employment industry, I see a critical need that presents a good opportunity for all of us: helping our student population get real-life work experience.

It is a fact that students are not getting enough work-study opportunities and we need better partnerships between schools and businesses.

Pennsylvania requires all school districts to have a K-12 School Counseling Plan as part of Chapter 339. Resources are defined at: www.education.pa.gov/K-12/PACareerStandards/Resources/Pages/339CounselingPlan.aspx.

In a tight labor market with increasing job vacancies, employers face a growing skills gap. Too many young Americans graduate with degrees and skills that don't match the needs of employers.

An effective solution is to provide students with real-life work experience before graduation. Having high school students learn early on about the most sought-after educational disciplines, workplace culture and how their educational experience translates into the real world helps ensure that students graduate with the skills and education employers need.

Express Employment Professionals partners with local entities to provide early education and work-study opportunities for high school students to help raise a workforce prepared to fill the shortage of skilled workers.

Another Express solution is Job Genius, a free, video-based program created by Express to successfully prepare students to enter the workforce. The program also serves as a tool to connect educators with the needs of businesses. With parent and facilitator guides for teachers, Job Genius explores everything from job market forecasts, post-secondary education requirements and

resume creation, to career pathing, interviewing, money management, and the soft skills employers are looking for but do not find in a startling 27 percent of applicants. Express' Pittsburgh West office will help high school teachers facilitate this program, which can be customized for the classroom or other groups looking to help students prepare for future work.

"Job vacancies continue to outnumber

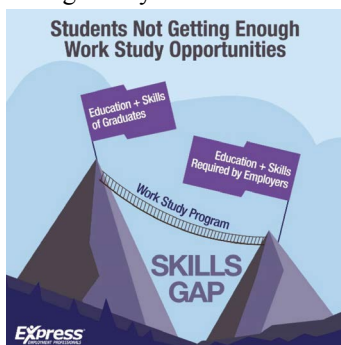
available workers," said Bill Stoller, Express CEO. "That means we need to continue drawing more people into the workforce, with an especially strong focus on helping those of limited means recognize and seize the opportunities that are out there. Businesses, educators and community leaders need to work together to remove as many barriers to jobs as possible."

It is necessary and right for every level of the community- businesses, schools, churches and volunteer organizations - to provide opportunities

for students to experience real-life work and hands-on activity that sets them up to make good life and career decisions. This can be achieved through job shadowing, internships, externships or sharing information about an open job. Also, sharing about our work life helps parents and educators understand the expectations and prepare our future workforce with the skills and education required.

I look forward to focusing on my key priority to help as many people as possible in 2019. If I can help you, please reach out to me at deb.gray@expresspros.com.

Deb Gray is the owner of Express Pittsburgh West. With offices in Robinson Township and Monaca, Express Pittsburgh West serves the western region of Allegheny County as well as all of Beaver County. Local businesses and job seekers are encouraged to stop by, visit expresspros.com/wpittsburghpa/ or call (412) 494-2000.



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New community choir forms at RTCS



The newly formed community choir, directed by Lindsay Shaffer (pictured below) performs in a concert in December.

Fifty years - that's the age gap between the oldest and youngest members of a brand new community choir that recently started at Robinson Township Christian School.

"Choir members range from current and former students, to parents, friends of the school, current teachers, former teachers, and even just some volunteers," said the choir's director,

Lindsay Shaffer, who has taught music at RTCS since 2013.

The idea of a community choir came to her when she noticed how many "RTCS family" were musically inclined. Now, adult vocalists have a chance to be on stage and the high school choir benefits as well.

"It gives them a chance to perform more difficult and varied repertoire, while introducing them to members of our greater community who are great role

models and friends," Shaffer said.

After the choir's first performance Dec. 14, Shaffer, who has almost completed her master's degree in conducting, was excited about the choir's success, especially in the Latin and German selections. However, she was most thrilled about the experience of watching such a varied group become a cohesive choir:

"Together, we explored diverse musical themes and styles and grew in our musicianship, all the while blessing our audience as we give glory to God," she says.



The choir, which plans on performing twice a year, will put on its next concert in May.

Shaffer is the high school choir director at RTCS as well as the director of a nine-person ensemble called New Song, which tours the U.S. and Canada each summer. A certified K-12 music teacher, Shaffer strives to teach students about their world and how to both live in and contribute to it by experiencing, enjoying and sharing music while developing personal skills and talents.

RTCS to perform

"Seasons of Love: A Musical Journey"

Robinson Township Christian School is proud to present the premiere of "Seasons of Love: A Musical Journey" on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m., March 1 at 7 p.m. and March 2 at 2 p.m.

The show follows four friends as they pursue their dream of starring in a musical and discover that chaos will ensue unless a "director" guides them and they can work together. Many familiar songs are woven throughout the story.

Tickets go on sale at the beginning of February. Call (412) 787-5919. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students (including college students) and \$5 for senior citizens.

The RTCS drama department's vision is that the school's students will develop their talents as actors, singers and dancers in an environment that encourages growth. The school's intention is that this will act as a continuation of the acquired wisdom, knowledge and compassion for others that students are already learning at RTCS.



RTCS drama students prepare for their 2018 show.



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STORY AND PHOTO
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Area veterinarian now helping pet owners through end-of-life decisions

During Dr. Mark Ferris' 32-year career as a veterinarian, he helped hundreds of pet owners and their pets with a variety of needs. Many pets he treated throughout their entire lives.

As those pets neared the end of their lives, however, part of Dr. Ferris' job involved helping pet owners make tough decisions. It was a process that he felt demanded the right amount of empathy and compassion, but one that wasn't always best suited to the veterinarian's office.

"It's just something that we, as veterinarians, have not really figured out how to get right," he says.

For Dr. Ferris, part of the problem was the veterinarian's office itself. With its cold, steel examination tables and sterile setting, it's not at all the kind of place where a pet owner wants to say "goodbye" to their beloved companion. In addition to the lack of privacy for the grieving family, there is also the unfortunate aspect in most cases of having to schedule an appointment to accommodate the doctor's schedule rather than what is best for the client and their pet.

For pet owners with aging pets, just transporting their pet to the office can also prove to be a struggle and an unbearable anxiety for the pet.

Some owners may not even know if their pet is nearing the end of its life or if it's suffering from a treatable condition.

In 2016, after 20 years of ownership, Dr. Ferris sold his practice in Burgettstown (Hilltop Animal Hospital) and transitioned into a different aspect of veterinary medicine. While working part time at Five Points Veterinary Clinic in Hopewell, he began a new service dedicated exclusively to assisting pet owners with end of life decisions in their own homes. Peaceful Goodbyes provides owners the option of saying goodbye to their loved ones at the time and place of their choosing.

As a pet's health and quality of life decline due to age or illness, pet owners often struggle with whether it is even time to say goodbye. Thus, Dr. Ferris will, if requested, visit with the family prior to a scheduled euthanasia to meet the pet, assess the patient, and try to answer the many questions concerning their loved one's failing health. There is no fee or obligation when a client requests this introductory visit.

Though not an emergency service, Dr. Ferris does his best to accommodate the family's needs. There are no time constraints with a typical house call and owners are given as much time as needed during the process to say their goodbyes. He will typically bring a veterinary technician with him and, after the pet has passed, provide cremation options if requested. When private cremation is preferred, he will personally transport the pet to the crematorium and, a few days later, return the cremains to the family in a beautiful wooden urn with engraved nameplate as well as a clay paw print keepsake.

The feedback Dr. Ferris has received from clients has been overwhelmingly positive. An entire section on his website contains moving testimonials. One reads as follows:

"[Our cat] Fox was telling us it was time, and it was to our immense relief that Dr. Ferris agreed to visit our home to gently and mercifully ease this cherished family member into his last moments. No jostling Fox's aching body into a carrier for a last, bumpy ride to an unfamiliar and sterile clinic; instead, Fox peacefully - and gratefully, we're convinced - spent the final hours of his life at home, unstressed and surrounded by all that was familiar."

More testimonials can be read at: peacefulgoodbyes.com/testimonial.html.

In the spring of 2019, Dr. Ferris says he will begin offering in-home examinations, vaccines and routine bloodwork for pets that are fearful and anxious about car rides and visiting the veterinarian's office. For now, though, he's applying his expertise, along with his skills of compassion and empathy, to help pet owners through the euthanasia process.

Dr. Ferris is currently making house calls throughout western Allegheny County and other parts of the tri-state region, including Washington County, Beaver County, and parts of Ohio and West Virginia.

For more information, visit peacefulgoodbyes.com or text/call (412) 671-3773. Dr. Ferris can also be reached via email at mferris61@verizon.net.



Dr. Mark Ferris



Helping pet owners say goodbye to their beloved pet in a relaxed and stress-free environment.

Offering free in-home consultations by Dr. Mark Ferris, a veterinarian with 32 years of experience.

- No transportation of pet needed
- Accommodating to schedules
- Private process
- Alleviates stress on pet
- Aid to senior pet owners



412.671.3773

mferris61@verizon.net
www.peacefulgoodbyes.com
[f /peacefulgoodbyes](https://www.facebook.com/peacefulgoodbyes)

Happenings Around the Area

West Hills Symphonic Band Concert, March 3, 3 p.m., Montour High School, Winter's Wonders, music by Sibelius, Artie Shaw, Charles Aznavour, Edith Piaf, J.P. Sousa, Cole Porter, free, whsb.org.

Death Cafe, March 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Faith Community Church, discussion about death and dying, see info at bottom right.

Diabetes Day, March 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Ohio Valley Hospital, see page at right.

Burst Your Bubble, March 23, 7:30-9:30 p.m., The Parkway Theater in McKees Rocks, trivia game pits teams of at least five against each other in a combination of trivia and silly - albeit fun - challenges to help players get over the mid-week hump, Mrdan333@gmail.com.

Montours Soup and Salad Dinner, March 30, 4-6 p.m., homemade soups, salad, desserts, beverages, Mancini's bread, adults \$9, children \$5, under 4 free, (412) 787-1050, www.montourchurch.org.

Toast of the Rox, March 31, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Kennedy Township Fire Hall, French toast breakfast featuring Mancini's Bakery and Jenny Lee Swirl Bread from 5 Generation Bakers, benefits Greater McKees Rocks Area Rotary charities, \$8, for tickets call Ashley Strouse: (412) 771-6781.

Fourth Annual Craft/Vendor Show, April 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Imperial VFD, 111 Pine Street in Imperial, 60+ vendors, shop for Mother's Day, www.imperialvfd.org.

Lifespan Senior Resource Center

Yarn Donations, Yarnies crochet club in need of yarn donations, Betsy: (724) 218-1669.

Montreal & Quebec, Canada Trip, April 28-May 4, six breakfasts, four dinners, guided tour of: Montreal, Old Montreal, Quebec City and Old Quebec, Notre Dame Basilica; visit: St. Joseph's Oratory/Shrine, St. Anne De Beaupre Shrine, Montreal Casino, Albert Gilles Copper Art Museum, Montmorency Falls, more; \$100.00 deposit, must have valid passport, trip leaves from Bethel Park Center, \$840.00 per person/double occupancy, (412) 831-7111.

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, May 11, 9 a.m., Stage AE on the North Shore, Mike Dunn: (412) 464-1300

Memberships, \$10/year, visit any site to renew or sign up.

Jacob Ferree DAR Chapter

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

Awards Tea, March 2, 1 p.m., Montour Heights Country Club, RSVP by Feb 27.

Chapter Meeting, April 6, 11 a.m., with SW District Director Ann Harder, RSVP by April 3.

Annual Business Meeting, May 4, 11 a.m., Union Presbyterian Church Chapter Social/Potluck, **RSVP by May 1**.

Chapter Meeting, June 8, 11 a.m., with PA State Regent Cyndy Sweeney, **RSVP by June 5**.

Local Networking Groups

Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce, see page 23.

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

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

Moon Toastmasters, Thursdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m., Aetna Corporation, 2222 Ewing Road, **arrive by 5:10 p.m.** with a valid driver's license to check-in at the lobby, www.moon.toastmastersclubs.org.

Coraopolis Memorial Public Library

Dates subject to change/cancellation. Visit coraopolislibrary.org or call (412) 264-3502 for more.

Story Time, Tuesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. Toddlers through age 5.

Tea & Travel, first Saturdays, 2-4 p.m. Enjoy some tea while watching a travel-themed film and then discuss. For adults and children with guardian.

Viewing Pleasure Film Group, second and third Saturdays, 5:15-8 p.m. See website for scheduled films. Adults only.

Mystery Book Club, second Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m. See website for books to be discussed. Adults only.

Tara's Book Club, last Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. See website for books to be discussed. Adults only.

We'd like to hear from you!

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

Follow Allegheny West Magazine!



Look the next Cornell edition of Allegheny West Magazine in June!

JOIN US FOR A DEATH CAFÉ

Come for coffee, tea and cake as we talk about death and dying. The discussion will be open-ended and will allow attendees to share opinions and thoughts about death.

Conversations should be healthy and allow for an acceptance of one's own mortality.

Date: Sat. March 16, 2019. **Time:** 6:30 to 8:30 PM
Location: Faith Community Christian Church
100 Church Drive, Moon Twp., PA 15108

RSVP: 412-459-0033 or E-mail: Tom Bracken
at pastor- tom@comcast.net

www.cornellsd.org

Catalyst STEAM Grant update

Since September, students and teachers at Cornell have been hard at work developing a plan to re-design the courtyard adjacent to the student entrance into a learning space.

The district was awarded a \$16,400 grant for this project from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and has actively partnered with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Entertainment Technology Center at Carnegie Mellon University, the Heinz History Center and, most recently, the Neville Island Historical Society. Students have been working with professionals to design the space in a way that tells the story of the region's complex environmental history while providing opportunities for students to learn about current ecosystems. Some of the highlights for the proposed site include a greenhouse and some historical artifacts that will be repurposed as student seating.

Students are actively developing plans for the space and working with professionals to ensure that the project is successful. Students have been researching and experimenting with ways to monitor outside environmental factors such as moisture, precipitation, temperature and wind speed. During a recent visit from the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society, students got their hands dirty while taking soil samples from the area with the goal of determining whether the soil can be used to safely grow vegetables for human consumption. The samples were sent to Penn State University to be evaluated and the district is looking forward to seeing the results.

Students are also scheduled to meet with a landscape architect and visit a greenhouse in the near future.

Three Rivers Educational Technology Conference

Each fall, more than 600 innovative-minded educators from over 100 regional school districts participate in the Three Rivers Educational Technology Conference. More than 50 sessions are offered throughout the day that are designed and delivered by educators. The theme this year was "Technology and the Future of Work." The conference was keynoteed by Michael T. Moe, co-founder and CEO of one of Silicon Valley's most well-known investment firms, GSV Capital.

Educators from Cornell have actively participated in the conference for more than a decade but this year was something special. Though TRETTC was held at Baldwin High School, Cornell teachers felt quite at home because Cornell led more sessions than any other school district at the conference. This would come as no surprise to many educators in the region because Cornell is recognized in education circles as a progressive school district that has been implementing new strategies and techniques for years. In fact, when the selection committee realized there were no submissions related to the use of one of the hottest trends in coding, Micro:bits, Cornell was asked to fill the void. Cornell was one of the early adopters in the region of Micro:bits coding kits and provided one to each eighth-grader this year to help students learn more about coding and computer science.

Dynamic Learning Project coach Rachel McVeagh led an interactive session on Google's MyMaps, a tool that allows students and teachers to customize and collaborate on maps. Secondary social studies teacher Amy Palo presented on Breakout EDU, a kit used to develop learning games similar to the popular breakout rooms. Palo has been using Breakout EDU kits in her classroom since she was awarded two kits as part of a Donor's Choose project. Sixth grade teacher Alyson Rinaldi and elementary computer science teacher Kristen Bardelli shared the Sphero robot design challenge they developed last year for their classes. Students in Rinaldi's classroom built mazes out of cardboard and tape, then gave the dimensions to students in Bardelli's class to program robots to complete the maze. Finally, high school computer science teacher Susan Dunning led a poster session on her digital diaries project and demonstrated in a second session how she incorporates Micro:bits into her computer science classes.

Kris Hupp, who is the director of technology and instruction at Cornell as well as a long-time TRETTC planning committee member, reflected on the day this way: "TRETTC this year was a great opportunity for our small district to showcase how dedicated and innovative Cornell's teachers are."



#WeAreCornell

Alumna donates American flag to Cornell

Late last spring, the Cornell School District received special correspondence from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania.

The correspondence notified the district that the department president would like to present an American flag to Cornell. Each year, it is customary for the department president to present three beautiful American flags to recipients of their choice at a special ceremony presentation in Gettysburg.

The department president who contacted Cornell is Kelly Lepak, who is a Cornell High School alumna. Lepak, formerly known as Kelly Etters, graduated from Cornell in 1987. She also had a special request, that retired Cornell superintendent Donna Belas attend on behalf of the district. Belas was more than willing to attend and received a donated flag at a ceremony in late June.

Lepak also attended a Cornell School Board meeting in September where the flag was displayed and thanks were offered to her for thinking of her alma mater. Two special books were donated to the Cornell library in Lepak's name as a small gesture of gratitude.

Lepak, who also has a daughter named Gabriella who graduated from Cornell, was given a special tour of the school by Belas so that she could see many of the upgrades that have happened over the years.

It was very special to welcome Lepak back to Cornell and her generosity was very much appreciated. Her work with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary is truly inspiring, and Cornell is very proud to display the flag at the many events that occur during the school year.



Aaron Thomas, Cornell School District's superintendent, is pictured with Cornell alumna and immediate past Pennsylvania VFW Auxiliary president Kelly Lepak.

Superintendent's Message

Cornell Families and Community Members:

What a great first half of the school year!

Each spring as the school year concludes, I reflect back on all of the wonderful work that has been completed by students and staff. Yet, each following school year, we seem to do even more. This year is shaping up to be the same; another exceptional, yet challenging year where students are pushed to grow academically, emotionally and socially. Teachers, too, are being pushed to grow professionally with their instructional practice.

With this message, I am delighted to be able to present the second edition of Cornell Today in Allegheny West Magazine. Our first edition was a great success and highlighted many of the wonderful happenings in the district along with the outstanding work of many dedicated faculty and students. This edition does the same. I am happy that we are able to highlight the many partnerships that the Cornell School District has been able to establish and expand on over the years.

Among those partnerships is one with the Coraopolis Youth Creations organization, which is an exceptional community partner and supporter that we are happy to highlight. NEP Group has likewise been a valuable partner and we see great potential in the future for career and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programming. We are also hard at work with our latest STEAM grant project, which entails transforming an outdoor space into a learning opportunity for our students. We have been able to work with a number of groups with that project and we look forward to the continued work through the winter and spring months.

Cornell Elementary also participated in a program for the first time called Operation Warm, and a special "thank you" goes out to Cornell Elementary Principal Jeffrey Carter for coordinating that event. Operation Warm brought together volunteers from FedEx to help distribute winter coats to all Cornell Elementary students. This was a wonderful kick-off to the holiday season and I am always blown away by the generosity of our community and school staff during this special time of the year.

Our annual Angel Tree program was another unbelievable success and something that Cornell will continue in future years. Thank you to those individuals who coordinate this special project. It isn't an individual effort but a collective effort that impacts us all!

While school safety has always been a priority for the district, there has been a heightened urgency in school safety resources and procedures over the past 12 months. I am happy to report on a number of school safety grants that the district has received. Thanks to one of those grants, we are currently finalizing the hiring process of our first-ever school resource officer and will be communicating more information about that hire in the coming weeks. Look for a spotlight on our new SRO in our next district publication.

We will also be doing some facility upgrades to add an extra layer of security to our entrances. Once that work is complete we will be communicating with families any revisions to our procedures as far as entering the school building.

Lastly, our continued work with The Collins Writing Program and the establishment of a computer science program has been transformative at Cornell. Collins Writing strategies continue to engage students and give their teachers opportunities to push them to be not only better writers but also better learners.

As well, our computer science program has been a great addition to the Cornell curriculum and we are looking forward to expanding on our offerings. This is a learning opportunity that all students should experience, especially with the predicted career opportunities that lay ahead in the future.

I hope you enjoy reading some of our spotlight stories and I am looking forward to an outstanding second semester of the school year. Be sure to check for regular updates on our website at: www.cornellsd.org.

*Dr. Aaron Thomas,
Superintendent*



School safety update

School safety has been a major topic of discussion at the federal, state and local levels. Spearheaded by the tragic events that occurred last February at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, as well as other violent incidents at schools across the country, many new pieces of legislation have been introduced and passed supporting enhanced school safety measures. Additional grant monies have also been made available to help support particular safe school initiatives.

The Cornell School District has applied for, and been awarded, two grant funding opportunities that administrators believe will be of great value to the district. The first grant, in the amount of \$60,000, will be used to establish a school resource officer. The school resource officer will oversee the safety and security of the district, and will take on additional responsibilities to help students and families who may need additional supports. The school resource officer will plan and coordinate school safety procedures and drills. As well, the officer will be involved in day-to-day issues, should they arise. The school resource officer should be viewed as just that, another key resource for the district to support students and provide a safety presence that all students, families and staff members appreciate. All Cornell staff members have been trained on the ALiCE (Alert, Lockdown, inform, Counter, Evacuate) program, and the newly hired school resource officer will help support future training.

A second grant that was awarded for full funding was a \$25,000 school safety and security equipment grant. The grant money will be used for specific facility upgrades that will help enhance student and faculty safety measures. The district has thus far performed a number of facility upgrades, including to its entrance door and its security cameras both inside and outside the school buildings. The district has also modified and revised certain procedures. Due to unfortunate events in recent years, school districts now must take necessary precautions like these to maximize the safety of students and staff. These two initiatives will do just that.

Moving forward, school safety will continue to be a major focus at Cornell as the district works to ensure that students are educated in the safest and most supportive environment possible.

New school safety resource available

In 2018, the General Assembly passed Act 44, which mandates the establishment and use of additional resources to enhance school safety. One such resource was the creation of an anonymous reporting system that every school entity in Pennsylvania can utilize. This anonymous reporting system, entitled Safe2Say Something, can be used to report any number of safety concerns related to students and the reports will be triaged by analysts in the Office of the Attorney General Crisis Center. The crisis center sends all submissions to school administration and law enforcement for intervention. Trained faculty and administrative staff members will serve on Cornell School District's Safe2Say Something team. Additional training and information for faculty and staff, as well as students, will occur during the winter months.



The Safe2Say Something platform began accepting tips in mid-January. Individuals can submit tips through the Safe2Say Something app, which is available for Apple and Android devices, as well as through the Safe2Say Something website, www.saysomething.net, or via phone. Information concerning the Safe2Say Something program can also be found on the district's website. This additional resource is another channel that an individual can use to report a concern, but the Cornell administration also encourages stakeholders to use the proven channels that have already been established.

Anyone with a concern relating to a child is encouraged to contact the district directly and immediately. Cornell continues to work with all students and families to promote awareness and confidence in reporting concerns directly to a trusted adult. Another channel is to report safety concerns directly to the Coraopolis Police and Ohio Township Police departments. The Cornell School District has a wonderful working relationship with both police departments and communication is continually occurring between the school and police.

Student and school safety is a top priority for all involved, and the resources listed above are a solid and secure way to ensure that all issues and concerns are reported in the correct manner so that they can be investigated and addressed.

Collins Writing Program implementation continues

Cornell has spent a considerable amount of time and resources over the previous school years implementing a district-wide writing program across grade and content levels.

This program, called The Collins Writing Program, has had a tremendous impact on teacher practice and student outcomes. Dr. John Collins, the developer of the program, has visited Cornell on a number of occasions over the past few school years to work with teachers on the program he created. Collins has given whole group presentations to the entire faculty, conducted classroom "walk-throughs" with administrators, led demonstration lessons for teachers, and also worked with specific teachers in small group settings.

After each professional development session, teacher feedback is sought. No professional development session at Cornell has been rated higher.

Collins returned to Cornell earlier this fall to continue his work and, this time, he concentrated on the secondary staff. An associate of Collins', Bill Atwood, also visited Cornell to work with math teachers on implementing writing in math lessons and other instructional practices that teachers can use to enhance their practice.

Atwood, who is originally from neighboring Sewickley, was extremely well received by Cornell's math teachers. The district is working hard to bring him back in March to continue his work.

The Collins Writing Program has been a very effective program for Cornell teachers, giving them additional resources and instructional practices that they can use in their classrooms. Teachers meet monthly as a team to discuss student assignments and assessments, as well as to highlight student work.

The professional learning culture at Cornell continues to expand and The Collins Writing Program is one reason why.

Cornell educators earn Google certification

Over the past two years, several teachers at Cornell School District have become Google Certified Educators.

This dedicated group decided that they wanted to learn how to best utilize GSuite tools in the classroom. GSuite is a package of Google applications that includes Docs, Slides, Sheets, Drive, Forms, Classroom and Sites, to name a few. Each application has a different core function. For example, Google Forms helps teachers and students gather information from people through surveys, quizzes and polls. Google Sites allows users to create and publish their own websites.

Initially, two teachers attended training at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Since that time, the district has been offering its own training and teachers have committed to participate during their prep time for a period of several weeks.

The training has proven to be a good opportunity for teachers to share what has been working in their classrooms and to learn from each other. At the conclusion of training, each teacher was able to successfully complete a three-hour performance-based exam.

Valid for 3 years, the certificate indicates that these teachers know the fundamentals of the tech tools as well as how to implement them effectively in their classrooms with their students. Teaching skills like collaboration and communication are emphasized in the program.

This group of teachers can

use GSuite applications in their classrooms with ease and, for many, doing so has become a regular part of their classes.

With teacher guidance, students do everything from creating collaborative presentation slides to building online portfolios of their work.



A number of Cornell educators recently completed training in GSuite training to become Google Certified Teachers. They are Kristen Bardelli, Miriam Klein, Larry DiSilvestro, Megan Fuga, Andy Erwin, Jen Kosek, Morgan Harouse, Amy Palo, Julie Roncone and Rachel McVeagh. Not pictured is Larry DiSilvestro.

Senior project highlight

Recently, Cornell High School seniors Sydney Grannis and Maya Goins involved the entire high school in their senior project. Here's what Sydney had to say about her work with the Caring Place, Highmark's place for grieving children, adolescents and their families:

Starting my senior project, I could not decide what I wanted to do or who to work with. I went to the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Program and I met with the Caring Place. I was thinking about how I could work with the Caring Place since they helped me so much and I wanted to give back. Losing a loved one is the hardest thing anyone can go through, but that experience at a young age is even harder. My experience has put me in a place where I understand what people are going through, and the Caring Place helped me learn coping mechanisms so I could get back on track with school. I wanted to reach out and help others.

We decided to get involved with Children's Grief Awareness Day, which was Nov. 15. Working with Highmark Caring Place, I have never felt so involved with sharing something personal to me. Fellow student Maya Goins and I held a school-wide assembly to talk about an important topic: grief and how teens can learn to cope. We shared our stories about losing a loved one and our journey through the grief process. We told everyone that blue is the color for hope and blue butterflies were one of the Caring Place's symbols. We encouraged everyone to participate on the 15th of November.

To celebrate, we had shirts made that said "Children's Grief Awareness Day November 15th, 2018." They were sold to teachers and students for \$10 to raise money for The Caring Place. We also went from homeroom to homeroom and gave out butterflies for any student or teacher to write the name of someone they're grieving for. The response was overwhelming, and we put them together into a giant mural that is hanging by the high school exit. The big day was full of positive social media posts with #CGAD, #HOPE, and pictures with the butterfly mural and I am proud of the hard

work we put in, and the response from Cornell's student body. We could not believe how the students in grades 10-12 reacted. The response was perfect in every way possible. I'm thankful that I got to share this with my classmates so that we could send the message out that people do grieve, and we are all here for each other.



Sydney Grannis is pictured in front of a caring wall she helped create at Cornell for her senior project.

Cornell faculty and staff are very proud of Sydney and Maya. They were blown away by their willingness and work with this project. The reaction by all students and staff was truly inspirational and that is one of the goals of the Senior Passion Projects. Those coping with grief and trauma can visit the website for Highmark's Caring Place at: <https://www.highmarkcaringplace.com>.

GUIDANCE UPDATES

The high school guidance office is always, no matter the time of the year, a heavy traffic area due to the many responsibilities and communications that come out of the office. Cornell School District wanted to provide some important information that all high school families can find useful.

An important goal Cornell High School is focusing on in the second half of the year is continuing to help students plan for their “next step” toward a career. Students are receiving the Career Education Standards through many classes at each grade level. Seniors began putting their post-secondary plans into action through work on their senior projects, individual senior interviews with teachers, and individual meetings with the counselor. Career goals, test taking, school research, financial aid and application procedures are a few of the topics the guidance office covers. Most seniors have applied to colleges and many have already been accepted for next fall.

Guardians who have any questions or who want to schedule a follow-up appointment for their child can contact Gina Walter at gwalter@cornellsd.org, or (412) 264-5010, ext. 106.

Below are some suggestions for what students can be doing to plan for their future beyond high school:

• Freshman and Sophomore Years:

- Get involved in sports and clubs
- Maintain a record of academic and extracurricular activities and achievements, volunteer work, and jobs for a future resume

• Junior Year:

- Research post-secondary options and determine areas of interest to pursue after high school
- Begin attending college fairs and researching different college admission requirements
- Check in with the counselor to share research and ask questions
- Aim to earn the best grades possible
- Stay involved in clubs and activities
- Sign up to take the SAT or ACT

• Senior Year:

- Follow-up with a counselor to discuss post-secondary plans
- Set up tours of colleges of interest
- Process applications and remember deadlines!
- Request letters of recommendation
- Register with NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse if planning on playing sports in college
- Apply for Financial Aid (FAFSA form: www.fafsa.ed.gov)

CALLING ALL ATHLETES

Students who plan to play college sports must learn the requirements and guidelines of the NCAA. This information can be found at www.eligibilitycenter.org. On this website, students can learn which high school courses they need to be eligible to play college sports and how to register. They can also learn about different athletic scholarships that are available. Registration should be done the summer after a student’s junior year. Fee waivers are available. Those who think they might qualify should contact the guidance office.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

Please encourage students to review the scholarship listings on the guidance website found at www.cornellsd.org. First, select High School then Guidance and, finally, Scholarship Information. The website is constantly updated with the latest scholarships available.

SAT	
Test Date	Registration Deadline
May 4	April 5
June 1	May 3
ACT	
Test Date	Registration Deadline
April 13	March 8
June 9	May 3
July 13	June 14

SAT/ACT TESTING INFORMATION

Cornell encourages all juniors and seniors to sign up to take the SATs. Colleges require either SAT or ACT scores for admissions. Testing dates can be found and registration completed for the SAT at www.collegeboard.org and the ACT at www.act.org. There are fee waivers available for both tests for students that are eligible.

Check with Gina Walter on eligibility. Above are the remaining SAT and ACT dates.

Important Dates Coming Up!

April 15-May 3 - PSSA Testing

May 8 - AP English Exam

May 10 - AP US History Exam

May 13-24 - Spring Keystone Exams

May 31 - Graduation

Parkway West CTC update

Parkway West Career and Technology Center (PWCTC) is a public high school serving students in grades nine through 12 at Cornell and 11 other school districts in western Allegheny County. PWCTC provides education and training that allows students to be college and career ready in 15 different career pathways. These pathways include: auto body technology, automotive technology, building construction technology, cosmetology, culinary arts, diesel technology, digital multimedia, electrical systems technology, health assistant, HVAC/R, information technology essentials, public safety technology, sports medicine and rehabilitation therapy technology, veterinary assistant technology, and welding technology.

PWCTC students who complete their program requirements have the opportunity to earn industry credentials that will allow them to enter directly into the workforce after high school or pursue further training at a post-secondary institution. PWCTC students enter into this post-graduation stage with four years of free career education. This sets PWCTC students at a clear career and post-secondary advantage over other students as they graduate equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in their area of study due to the extensive training they received while attending the school.

With continual technological advances in society, PWCTC is constantly striving to improve its program delivery through upgrades to the equipment and technology used to train and prepare students to become members of tomorrow's workforce. The demand for skilled workers has dramatically increased over the past 10 years. By 2026, the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics predicts a marked increase in the need for health care, construction, automotive and information technology professionals. The free four-year training that students receive at PWCTC allows them to fill this labor need. Those students who choose to pursue a post-secondary degree after graduation will also be at a distinct financial advantage, as many of the pre-requisite course requirements they will take during their first year of post-secondary education will have already been met due to their training at PWCTC.

The following Cornell students attending Parkway West Career and Technology Center who made the first quarter director's list are: Jaidah Evans, Corey Pulford, Isis Allen, Sophia Almendarez, Tiffany Crowe, William Jefferson, Jai'Lyr Smith and Destiny Lawson-Robles (not pictured).



Parkway West CTC Invites You to our Annual OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, March 5th



15 Career Majors

Auto Body Repair/ Automotive Technology/ Building Construction Technology/ Cosmetology/ Culinary Arts/ Diesel Technology/ Digital Multimedia/ Electrical Systems Technology/ Health Assistant/ HVAC/R/ Information Technology Essentials/ Public Safety Technology/ SMARTT/ Veterinary Assistant/ Welding Technology



Hours: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

7101 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, 15071

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Natasha Johnston
7101 Steubenville Pike
Oakdale, PA 15071
johnston@parkwaywest.org

Tuesday, June 18th & Wednesday, June 19th

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cornell High School students visit NEP

Early this school year, Cornell announced that it was entering into a promising partnership with NEP Group, an international broadcast technology company that provides engineering and technical production services for broadcasters and key content producers at major events around the world. NEP is headquartered in Pittsburgh and is looking to establish partnerships in the secondary education setting.

Currently, NEP has a number of partnerships with higher education institutions across the U.S. They are looking to expand and establish new partnerships with the goal of increasing community engagement, as well as increasing student career awareness in the fields that NEP currently employs.

This fall, 17 Cornell High School students, along with teacher Patricia Dahmen; director of technology and innovative instruction, Dr. Kris Hupp; and superintendent, Dr. Aaron Thomas visited NEP headquarters. There, they spent the day touring the facilities and speaking with representatives from different NEP departments. A highlight of the visit involved a walk-through of the production trucks that were in for upgrades and repairs. Students were able to walk through World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) production trucks and learn more about the company, which is one of the larger clients that NEP has. Students also learned about the labor that is required to build one of these production trucks along with the equipment that goes into not only the

production trucks themselves but also the travel packs used to produce international shows. Students also walked through the trucks that will be used to broadcast the Super Bowl and were able to ask quite a number of questions to NEP personnel who they met along the way.

Overall, it was an unbelievable learning experience for students who attended the visit. NEP treated students extremely well by granting them an all-access experience along with snacks and lunch.

Cornell is looking forward to continuing this partnership and discussions are underway regarding what additional activities NEP and Cornell can collaborate on in the near future.

The Tech Squad

Cornell High School has created a group of energetic and passionate students called The Tech Squad.

This group of students, all of whom are in eighth through 12th grade, work very closely with their sponsor, technology integration coach Rachel McVeagh. The overall mission of the Tech Squad is to improve their individual technology skills by helping others with technology and recognizing their teachers for incorporating technology into their lessons in meaningful ways.

Students meet during their lunch period and participate in a wide range of purposeful activities. These activities include such things as 3-D printing snowflakes to give to teachers as holiday

gifts, designing the club's logo, and working with Google Forms and Google Sheets to collect and manage particular information.

Now in its second year, the Tech Squad began when Cornell High School was selected to be part of the Dynamic Learning Project, an initiative of Google and Digital Promise. The initiative is intended to provide long-term individualized coaching to teachers, empowering them to make the most of technology with their students. Members of the Tech Squad, along with McVeagh and high school principal Doug Szokoly, were able to visit the Google offices in downtown Pittsburgh. This was their second trip to Google and Tech Squad members were able to participate in a tour

of the building and engage with Google staffers in a discussion organized by the Pittsburgh World Affairs Council.

Cornell students didn't surprise anyone with their interesting questions and each Tech Squad member took something of value away from the discussion and overall experience. During the winter months, the Tech Squad will be looking to expand by offering membership to current seventh grade students. The Tech Squad is looking forward to welcoming new members to the group, as well as to the projects that the second half of the year will bring.

Please visit the Tech Squad student-created website at: bit.ly/cornelltechsquad

#WeAreCornell

FIND CORNELL
SCHOOL DISTRICT ON



Go to: www.cornellsd.org for the latest district news

CORAOPOLIS YOUTH CREATIONS

TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING COMMUNITY



ABOUT CORAOPOLIS YOUTH CREATIONS

Coraopolis Youth Creations is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that serves Coraopolis, Neville Island and surrounding communities. Since 2012, the organization has worked to strengthen families and communities through youth enrichment which includes social, cultural, educational and physical programming.

GET INVOLVED

The Community Youth Center is a safe gathering space for the under-served community of Coraopolis. The Center launched in November 2016, and we have been working diligently to provide a variety of youth programs, classes, family activities and events tailored to community needs.

DONATE

- On our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CoryYouth
- Through United Way - Contributor Choice #13943857
- Or via check made out to Coraopolis Youth Creations and mailed to: 1022 5th Ave, Coraopolis, PA 15108

VOLUNTEER

- Special Events
- After-school Programs
- Community Engagement Opportunities

IMPORTANT DATES

January 25 – Friend Friday Open House
May 11 – Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community
August 10 – 15th Annual Back 2 School Bash



First Lego League team launches

The Cornell Raider Robotics First Lego League team, comprised of Cornell Elementary fourth- and fifth-graders, had a successful inaugural season. This year's First Lego League theme was "Into Orbit" and Cornell students didn't disappoint with their efforts or end products.

First Lego League is a program created to get students excited about problem solving, science and technology. The Cornell Raider Robotics team worked to solve missions based on real life scientific problems. The team met after school to work on different activities and obstacles in preparation for individual challenges.

There are several components to each First Lego League season, including design, programming and research. During the robotics portion, the team designed and programed an EV3 robot to fulfill pre-designed space-themed missions. During the project portion, the team was challenged to identify a problem a human would experience during long duration space exploration. Students had to complete research on the problem and devise an innovative solution.

During the Core Values portion of the competition, Cornell team members were asked by judges to explain what made them a successful team. They were then asked to creatively solve a problem in less than five minutes while working collaboratively as a team. It was inspiring to watch the Cornell team work together to solve complex problems both creatively and collaboratively.

The Cornell Raider Robotics team competed in five scrimmages and an end-of-season championship competition. Though the season has now ended, they will continue to meet once per week after school for the remainder of the school year. This will allow the team to continue to explore their designs and codes with the EV3 robot. It will also allow for numerous extending learning opportunities for students.

Cornell administration would also like to thank reading specialist Cristy Meinert, who was the First Lego League sponsor at Cornell in its inaugural season. Meinert worked hard to bring this program to Cornell. She also coordinated the competitions and practices after school.



Cornell Elementary students have continued career education and exploration activities through the months of January and February. To date, students in kindergarten, second, fifth and sixth grades have completed career exploration lessons. Students in second, fifth and sixth grades also completed activities in Career Cruising, a web-based career exploration program. They have started building electronic portfolios within their own Career Cruising profiles and learned about their own personal and academic interests, along with how these interests and skills apply to real world careers.

In the upcoming months, students in first, third and fourth grades will partake in similar lessons in order to begin to build their own career portfolios. Students will learn about their interests, skills and how school helps prepare students for successful post-secondary careers.

Classrooms in fourth and fifth grade will also partake in the SNAP (Stop Now And Plan) classroom activities. SNAP is an award-winning, evidence-based program that teaches students how to make safe choices and decisions when confronted with bullying or conflict in school or the community. Each participating class will work through an interactive curriculum that includes role plays, videos, cooperative group activities and classroom discussions.

SNAP lessons will continue through the remainder of the school year. The lessons have shown to be a great program and resource for Cornell Elementary students.

CALENDAR

Feb. 15 - Early dismissal (12 p.m. Secondary; 1:10 p.m. Elementary)

Feb. 18 - Presidents Day (No school for students)

March 8-10 - High School Play

March 15 - In-Service (No school for students)

April 18-22 - Spring Break

April 24-26 - English Language Arts PSSA Testing Window

May 1-2 - Math PSSA Testing

May 6 - Science PSSA Testing

May 27 - Memorial Day (No school for students)

May 31 - Graduation

June 4 - Last student day

High School Student?
Look on page 17 for
important dates you need
to know before graduation.

Spring Sports

Softball

March 13 - Quaker Valley
 March 18 - Springdale
 March 22 - Northgate
 March 26 - Avella
 March 29 - Brentwood (Away)
 April 2 - Union (Away)
 April 4 - Rochester
 April 8 - Quigley (Away)
 April 10 - Bishop Canevin
 April 12 - Sewickley Academy (Away)
 April 15 - Beaver Falls
 April 17 - Union
 April 18 - Quaker Valley (Away)
 April 23 - Rochester (Away)
 April 25 - Quigley
 April 29 - Bishop Canevin (Away)
 May 1 - Sewickley Academy
 May 7 - Western Beaver (Away)



Varsity Baseball

March 13 - Quaker Valley (Away)
 March 19 - Western Beaver (Away)
 March 22 - Carrick (Away)
 March 26 - Northgate (Away)
 March 29 - Ft. Cherry (Away)
 April 3 - Rochester (Away)
 April 5 - Quigley
 April 8 - Carlynton (Away)
 April 10 - Aliquippa (Away)
 April 12 - Union
 April 15 - Bishop Canevin (Away)
 April 17 - Eden
 April 23 - Rochester
 April 24 - Springdale
 April 25 - Quigley (Away)
 May 1 - Aliquippa
 May 3 - Union (Away)
 May 6 - Bishop Canevin
 May 8 - Eden (Away)

Varsity Track (Co-ed)

March 14 - Moon (Away)
 April 4 - Quaker Valley (Away)
 April 11 - New Brighton (Away)
 April 17 - Hopewell (Away)
 April 24 -
 MAC
 Meeting
 (Mars School District)
 April 27 - South
 Fayette
 Invitational



Middle School Track and Field

March 20 - Beaver (Away)
 April 2 - Burgettstown (Away)
 April 10 - Brentwood (Away)
 April 16 - Carlynton (Away)
 April 23 - Burgettstown
 (Away)
 May 2 - Quaker Valley
 (Away)
 May 8 - Quaker Valley
 Invitational
 May 9 - Moon Invitational

Middle School Swimming

April 2 - Moon
 April 4 - Northgate
 April 11 - Carlynton (Away)
 April 16 - Hopewell (Away)
 April 23 - Moon
 April 25 - Southwest Conference Relays
 April 30 - Blackhawk
 May 2 - West Allegheny (Away)
 May 7 - Montour (Away)
 May 9 - South Fayette



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 1099 Maple Street
 Coraopolis, PA 15108
www.cornellsd.org

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2019 ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Sally Haas Memorial Scholarship Winners

Each year, the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce (PAACC) awards scholarships to deserving students in our region in honor of the late Sally Haas, who served as President/CEO of our Chamber for 14 years before her unexpected passing in 2012. This year, the Chamber awarded two scholarships. One is a general scholarship and the other is for a student who is a member of a military family in the Airport area. It is our pleasure to announce the winners of these scholarships.



Congratulations, Mackenzie Pifko of Montour School District for having a GPA of 3.0 or greater and for your involvement in the community. Mackenzie we wish you the best as you continue your education with a focus in Early Childhood Education and Special Education.



Also, congratulations to Alondra Cosme Acevedo of West Allegheny School District for having a GPA of 3.0 or greater and for your involvement in the community. Alondra's father served with the 316th Army Expeditionary Sustainment Command. She is the winner of our Sally Haas Memorial Military Scholarship. Alondra, we wish you the best as you continue your education with a focus in Political Science.



Thank you to all the students who applied for these scholarships and best of luck on your continued education.

Plan Your Next Getaway! No membership required!

Your dream vacation is a call away from becoming a reality. The PAACC provides a number of opportunities to the general public for discounted, all-inclusive travel. From the treasures of the states to the riveting landscapes abroad, you are limitless in where you can go. And that is why the PAACC is "Connected to the World."



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For more information or to reserve your seat for this trip,
Please contact Michelle Kreutzer at 412-203-0257 or mkreutzer@paacc.com

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies



**Kelly Burgos Creative Services -
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Hilltop Paving Sealer Division

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Personal Safety Alliance

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Inc.

February 2019 Milestone Anniversaries

65 Years

Copeland, R.D. Ltd.

45 Years

R.L. Swearer Company, Inc.

15 Years

Bahama Breeze

10 Years

Boisvert Enterprises, LLC

5 Years

Price Industries

Upcoming 2019 Events!

BizBlast @ Noon

Thursday, February 14th - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

New Member Orientation

Friday, February 15 - 9-10:30 a.m.

New Member Mixer

Thursday, March 7 - 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**For more information about
our events, please visit
paacc.com/events.**

Wineries

CONTINUE TO OPEN IN WESTERN COMMUNITIES

Dionysus, the Greek god of winemaking, is smiling down on the Allegheny West readership area.

In less than 10 years, numerous wineries have popped up in the surrounding communities, with more than half of them opening in the last two years.

From the availability of large event spaces, to proximity to bike and walking trails, to the debut of the first vineyard in Allegheny County, each one has a unique draw in addition to their wine production.

Black Dog Wine Co.

Black Dog Wine Company in Hankey Farms is housed in the largest, most historic building of all of the wineries profiled, and is the only one with multiple locations.

Mark Rozum had been making wine at home for years, but became more serious about it when he lost his job as a software engineer in 2015. He says he used the time to “go pro” and acquired the licensing and equipment to turn winemaking into a business.

Rozum sold his products at local markets and festivals and the wines were well-received. Though he had returned to a full-time job, the challenge of keeping up with inventory demand for Black Dog eventually led Rozum to give that up.

Along with his wife, Amy, Rozum owns three locations. Their North Fayette operation is the largest, with the other two locations in Grove City and Penn Hills. A fourth location is in the works for early 2019.

The winery’s flagship location operates out of the historic Hankey House farmhouse mansion along Steubenville Pike. Black

7425 STEUBENVILLE PIKE, N. FAYETTE

HOURS:

SUNDAY: 12-6 P.M.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY: 12-7 P.M.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY: 12-10 P.M.

LIVE MUSIC AND SPECIAL EVENTS

SCHEDULE AT:

WWW.BLACKDOGWINECOMPANY.COM

Dog moved into the 19th century home last June and has already hosted numerous private and public events there, including regular live music events. A large caterer’s kitchen, spacious rooms and an L-shaped, light-filled sun porch that can seat 50 have made the winery a desirable party venue.

Even more interesting is the cozy, wood-paneled rathskeller, a basement pub believed to have been used as a speakeasy during Prohibition. Designed by John Hankey, a German descendant and former owner of the Hankey Baking Company, the room features raised plaster friezes that convey the history of bread making.

A private speakeasy party held last fall at Black Dog sold out almost immediately. Three weekends of parties leading up to Halloween sold out as well. Rozum hired a local ghost hunter known for several television shows to lead a “Spirits with the Spirits” event. Guests, with drinks in hand, wandered around the mansion hoping to connect with ghosts.



Rozum acquires all of his grapes from the Erie area, as well as fruits and pumpkins from local farms such as Janoski’s, Trax and Soergel’s. He has increased his production from 700 cases in 2016 to 3,000 cases in 2018, which amounts to 36,000 bottles. All of the wine is made on-site.

Rozum said that he doesn’t intend to produce more than 5,000 cases so that Black Dog’s high product standards can be maintained. The winery employs 17 people, most of them part-time, at its three venues.

Black Dog offers a range of wines, from dry reds to sweet whites. Beer drinkers can also choose from several varieties of Pennsylvania craft beers.

Rozum says he’s proud of the accolades he has already received



ABOVE: Last year, Black Dog took up residence in the Hankey House and now operates its flagship location out of the historic residence along Steubenville Pike in North Fayette Township. ABOVE RIGHT: The wood-paneled rathskeller in the Hankey House is believed to have once been a Prohibition-era speakeasy. Today, Black Dog utilizes the space for special events.

as a new commercial wine maker. He commented that most of his wines have won at least a silver medal at national wine competitions in places such as Denver, San Francisco and the Finger Lakes area of New York.

In 2017, Rozum attended the Denver International Wine Competition and received a double gold medal for his “Keelboat” wine, a dry red made from DeChaunac grapes. He says that, in a room full of California cabernets and Washington rieslings, attendees commented to him that they didn’t even

know wines were made in Pennsylvania. More exciting, and what Rozum calls “one of the coolest experiences of my life,” was winning the award for best sweet wine in Pennsylvania for 2018 for his “Trophy Wife” product.

With Black Dog’s location on a main road as well as the bus line, Rozum would like to see the formation of an organized wine trail that would incorporate some 15 wineries that are within a 20-mile radius of Pittsburgh.

Black Dog Wine Company is operated by Mark and Amy Rozum of North Fayette Township.



Michael Stephen Kavic Winery

Michael Stephen Kavic Winery, owned by Michael and Patricia Kavic, was the first official winery and tasting room to open in the western suburbs of Pittsburgh. Both Michael and Patricia had been making wine at home since childhood. It was a skill they learned from their immigrant grandparents who came from Italy and Serbia.

While on a trip to Italy in 2005, Patricia saw an article in USA Today about the rise of urban wineries in the U.S. The Kavics owned a building on Campbells Run Road that was built by Patricia’s father as a medical office for Michael’s surgery practice. When Michael was recruited by a hospital in Ohio, the couple moved their family to Youngstown and the building sat empty for years.

After reading the urban winery article, Patricia said she knew how they could put the building to use. Michael was a bit more skeptical. At that time, other than a few in California, wineries that were not located in vineyards were fairly uncommon.

Along with Patricia’s brother, Patrick Fleck, who now acts as the winery’s operations manager, and his wife, Amy, the couple transformed the medical building into a small but cozy four-room winery complete with a “library” for conducting wine education. Kavic Winery opened to the public in 2009.

1013 CAMPBELLS RUN ROAD,
CARNEGIE
HOURS:
SATURDAY: 12-5 P.M.
SUNDAY: 12-4 P.M.
WWW.KAVICWINERY.NET

Now, Michael and Patricia return from Ohio each weekend to run the operation. They use only Pennsylvania-grown grapes for their wines. The winery’s semi-sweet, full-bodied “Lafayette” is one of their most popular reds, while the Blaufrankisch, called the “pinot noir of Eastern Europe,” won them their first award almost immediately after they opened.

In the next phase of the winery’s development, the Kavics will



Michael Kavic (left) and Patrick Fleck (right) are pictured at their North Fayette vineyard.

serve as local pioneers in 2019 by harvesting grapes from their own vineyard, which has been designated the first commercial vineyard in Allegheny County.

The first vines were planted five years ago in the lower of two vineyards on the Fleck and Kavic family property in North Fayette.

Incidentally, vines were

planted around the goalpost constructed over a decade ago for Pat and Amy’s son, Aaron, a kicker for championship football teams at West Allegheny High School and Duquesne University.

In addition to the engineering principles he used to lay out and plant the vineyards, Pat Fleck’s assistance with construction and operational design at the facility has been paramount to the winery’s success, according to Patricia and Michael.

“None of this could have happened without Pat,” said Patricia.

The Kavics researched and chose a disease-resistant and cold-hardy grape developed in Minnesota for their first endeavor. The Marquette, a red hybrid grape typically compared to zinfandel and cabernet, will be the only one ready for harvest next year.

The second vineyard will produce vidal blanc grapes. Most commonly used for ice wines, the Kavics intend to use it for a pleasant, semi-sweet white wine.

With state-of-the-art harvesting equipment from Italy and a “perfectly neutral” soil test result from the Penn State agricultural department, the Kavics are prepared for their new business venture. Michael even spent time working in the vineyards at Presque Isle to learn as much as possible about the process.

The Kavics were surprised last August by how quickly their grapes reached optimal sugar levels, a development which unfortunately resulted in a harvest missed by one week. However, the experience prompted Patricia to state that “I am confident that we will have a very good harvest this year.”



Four Twelve Project

Kevin and Josianne Romasco have been making wine at their home in Moon Township for over five years. Up to this point, they've primarily sold their products at local markets and festivals. They've built their reputation through word of mouth, including on social media.

The young couple specializes in dry reds and believes in a back-to-basics, old-school methodology. Though they have no official tasting room at their residence, they always let visiting buyers sample wines there and are happy to make home deliveries to customers.

Josianne says they've experienced much success selling wines with higher price points than many of their area competitors because locals appreciate the handcrafted quality of their wines.

Examples include a \$35 cabernet and a pricier "experimental" wine that they aged in a bourbon whiskey barrel. The latter product is described by Josianne as a "samoa cookie on the nose with a caramel finish." An entire barrel of a unique Chilean Carmenere sold out within six months of its release.

The couple plan to increase their list of wines aged in whiskey barrels to meet demand for this "crossover" experiment, a practice not commonly done in this area.

"The method allows us to offer the same cabernet two different ways, appealing to both wine and whiskey enthusiasts," said Josianne.

"You won't get a red wine headache from our wine," she said, adding that the Romascos add no sulfates to their products and "won't skimp" on any part of a fairly costly process.

Depending on what they are making, they purchase grapes from various regions, including California and Chile.

The couple has been mentored in wine making by Duane Rieder, owner of Engine House 25 Wines in Lawrenceville, where Josianne works as a tasting manager.

With the success of their wines, the recent availability of some prime real estate in Moon Township, and a friendship with established restaurateurs, the Romascos decided to forge ahead with a new winery concept.

As of this writing, Four Twelve Project, a winery and dinery at 988 Brodhead Road, is scheduled to open in February. A newly renovated farm fusion style restaurant, complete with a hibachi kitchen and bar area serving the Romasco's wines, will be housed on the spacious upstairs level.

By summer, the lower level will open as a 21-and-over speakeasy with a separate entrance near the large rear parking lot.

The Romascos both hold regular jobs. Kevin is the principal at a cyber school in Midland and the couple has four children aged 10 years and younger. They are passionate, however, not only about locally produced wine and food, but also about showing their children what goes into running a business.

The couple co-owns Four Twelve Project with Josh and April Egal, current owners of The Smokestack Cigar Lounge in Moon. The new winery and dinery will feature beef and chicken dishes made with meat from Zelienople, prepared with new spices, and presented in fun and surprising ways.

988 BRODHEAD RD.
MOON TWP.
HOURS (ONCE OPEN):
TUESDAY-THURSDAY,
11 AM-10 PM.
SATURDAY,
11 AM-MIDNIGHT
SUNDAY, 11 AM-8 PM.



Four Twelve Project will be opening soon as a winery and dinery in Moon Township.

PK Winery

Conveniently located on the 116 E. LINCOLN AVENUE, McDONALD.
main street in the center of
McDonald's business district,
PK Winery opened to the
public in May of 2017.

HOURS:
THURS-SATURDAY: 3:30-8 P.M.
SATURDAY: NOON-8 P.M.
SUNDAY: NOON-5 P.M.

Owners Mike and Tammy Pollard purchased the licensing and inventory of the former Reese winery on 4th Street in 2016 and began operating out of a satellite location near Giant Eagle. Prior to that, Tammy had been helping the Reeses sell their wines at local festivals.

The Pollards soon outgrew their small, original space and were thrilled when the current storefront location became available.

Regular customers developed quickly at PK, all of whom, Tammy says, have been extremely welcoming.

"One of the main comments I get from people," she said "is that everyone made them feel so comfortable," oftentimes by sharing space at their tables with strangers.

Proximity to the Panhandle Trail and McDonald Trail Station have benefited the winery. This past summer, Tammy placed a PK sandwich board sign advertising wine snow cones near the South McDonald Street intersection of the trail and enticed many customers to take a break from their walk or bike ride.

The couple bought their first winemaking kit in 2006 and quickly became hooked on the process. As the sole employees of PK, they have produced 38 different wines using grapes from California and Chile. Popular offerings include the Station Street Pinot Noir and the Harley Girl Chardonnay, a non-typical white with a smooth, oak finish.

Tammy commented that the greatest challenge has been getting into a scheduled routine so they are able to keep up with inventory. She and Mike nearly doubled their supply in one year, producing 2,200 gallons of wine in 2018.

PK Winery offers live music at least once a month and sells a variety of small-scale merchandise, much of it made by local artists. Glass charms are crafted by an artist in Midway, t-shirts and cups come from a resident of Hickory, and earrings are made by someone who lives above the winery.

The Pollards have partnered with several other McDonald businesses, including the Nose 2 Tail Cat

Rescue across the street and the new Valentour's Family Restaurant, which sells PK wines. The couple donates any tips they receive to local charities.



Mike and Tammy Pollard operate PK Winery in McDonald.

Raccoon Creek Winery

Chris and Dawn Kramer didn't have to think too long about jumping into the local winery scene, as they already had an established greenhouse business in a spacious new facility located on a main thoroughfare in Burgettstown.

Chris credits Dawn with the idea of selling wine as a way to supplement the greenhouse business during the off-season. The Kramers launched Raccoon Creek Winery in 2009, focusing on fruit and berry wines.

The "country store" type building next to the greenhouse offered a number of craft and gift items, and the racks of multi-colored wine bottles filled it out nicely. Always a proponent of "try before you buy," the Kramers had a tasting counter for customers for several years after opening.

When Dawn's next brainchild, the Coal Tipple Brewery, launched in 2016, the Kramers added a full-fledged tasting room

1905 STEUBENVILLE PIKE,
BURGETTSTOWN
HOURS:
MONDAY-THURSDAY, 9 AM-5 PM,
SATURDAY, 9 AM-9 PM,
SUNDAY, 10 AM-5 PM.



Dawn and Chris Kramer (above) at their Burgettstown Winery, Raccoon Creek (right).

for all of their beverage offerings. The brewery opening has resulted in a significant increase in wine sales.

The couple gets most of their fruit from local hobby farms - people who grow berries in their backyards. They buy apple juice from Brown's Orchard and honey from Bedillion Honey Farm, both in Hickory. Depending on what they are making, they buy juice from brokers in California, Oregon and Washington. They also currently sell products with juice from Australia, Argentina, Chile and South Africa.

Bestsellers include Black Raspberry Merlot and Peach Apricot Chardonnay. The two are always on hand at Raccoon Creek. The more labor intensive and harder to ferment Mojito D'alba is a lime wine infused with mint and produced only in small and occasional batches.

"When we have something different, word gets around and it sells out quickly," said Chris, adding that 100 bottles of the Mojito D'alba will only last a few weeks.

The Kramers currently produce about 100 gallons of wine per month. They have made roughly 40 varieties over the last decade, with sweet wines outselling dry by 10-to-one. However, Chris said that he is most proud when "a dry drinker likes something we make."



The Kramers have five to seven part-time employees and the help of several family members for their business ventures. The couple has been pleasantly surprised by the immediate success of both the winery and brewery, as well as by the number of home wine makers in the area who buy supplies from them.

YOUTH SPORTS & CAMPS AT ALLEGHENY COUNTY PARKS

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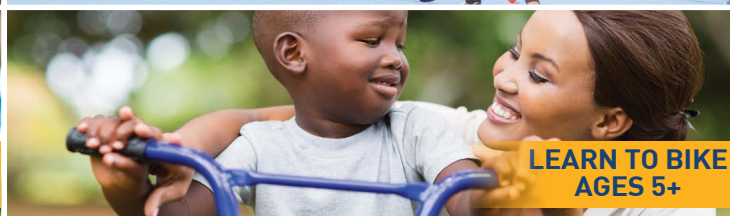
SOCCER
AGES 2-8



DEK HOCKEY
AGES 3-12



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D & O Wine Cellars

The most recently opened winery in the area is D&O Wine Cellars, located near one of central Crafton's main intersections. Owners Doug and Olesia Johnston celebrated their grand opening Aug. 11 and reported that they are "having a really good time and getting a great response from the community."

The couple began making wine at home in 2009 and acquired their license in 2017. After selling their products at local festivals and markets for a year, they began to search for a brick and mortar location.

The Johnstons initially looked for property in Carnegie and Robinson, but when the storefront site on East Crafton Avenue became available, they were immediately interested. They said they loved the large space, proximity to a main road and the one block walk to the well-known Italian restaurant Sarafino's.

As Sarafino's is a BYOB eatery, D&O has already established a partnership with the restaurant by accommodating customers who are waiting to be called for a table and wish to have wine with their meals, or allowing them to bring take-out food from

Sarafino's and other establishments to eat at the winery.

Doug and Olesia both hold full-time jobs and have no employees to assist them. They've kept their wine production for 2018 at about 1,700 gallons. However, they hope to double that amount this year with the help of their three grown children and 11-year-old daughter, Andrea, who Doug refers to as the "child executive officer."

The Johnstons buy the majority of their juice from the Lake Erie region. Their dry red wines are made with juice from Pennsylvania, California, Chile and Italy.

Ironically, their best-selling product last year has no grape juice in it, but rather is their version of hard lemonade. People love "Lemon Essence," said the Johnstons, who quickly went through 170 gallons of the fermented lemonade last year and will not replenish until spring.

Doug used his talent as a craftsman to renovate the large D & O space, finishing everything from the tile floor, to the industrial pipe shelving, to the long bar, which he built in a day. Paintings from local artist Miriam Scigliano adorn one wall of the winery and may be purchased there.

While D&O was still under construction last summer, the Johnstons were thrilled to be asked to participate in the Crafton holiday house tour in December. The winery was used as the "box office" for attendees of the event who had to stop there for their house tour map booklet.

The winery also sponsored a fundraiser on Dec. 21 to benefit the first annual "Crafton Celebrates" Christmas concert. The weeklong festival, which ended on Jan. 4, offered carnival attractions, fireworks and performances by local musicians.

Olesia commented that "it was nice to have so much community interest in us before we even opened."

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DOWINECELLARS.COM



Doug and Olesia Johnston with their youngest daughter, Andrea, opened D&O Wine Cellars this past August.

Red Fox Winery and Lounge

Though slightly out of the Allegheny West readership area and tucked out of sight on a country road in Hickory, Red Fox Winery and Lounge has a local connection and is quickly becoming a destination in the region.

Mike Lauderbaugh, a Cecil Township resident whose extended family lives in North Fayette, bought the former bar situated on 16 acres at an auction in October of 2016. The 43-year-old had just lost his job in the oil and gas industry after it experienced a downturn. Lauderbaugh used a buyout for his purchase, "retired" and began renovating the declining property.

In addition to upgrading the main facility, Lauderbaugh installed a small, manicured lake that greets visitors as they start up the long, winding driveway. Four cozy overnight cabins named for wines were also added.

Fast-forward a mere two years and Lauderbaugh's winery and banquet facility on beautifully landscaped grounds have gone gangbusters. The owner reported that Red Fox hosted 30 weddings in 2018 and has events booked into 2020.

Last year, Lauderbaugh produced nearly 2,300 gallons of wine on-site with grapes and juice from California, Chile, Italy and South Africa. He stated that he always has 10 to 14 different wines available, from sweet whites to dry reds. Pennsylvania-made beer and distilled spirits are also offered.

Lauderbaugh said that it is tough to keep up with the demand for Red Fox wines, particularly for weddings or large event weekends. The owner joked that "we'll have 200 people, most that have never been here before, drinking all of our wine."

Lauderbaugh manages the property with fiancé Tera Brownlee, who handles event coordination, including regularly scheduled musical entertainment. With a spacious indoor room and a large covered patio and deck in the back, the facility can accommodate a crowd.

"I didn't realize we'd be this blessed this quickly," said Lauderbaugh, adding "I can't believe what we're going through."

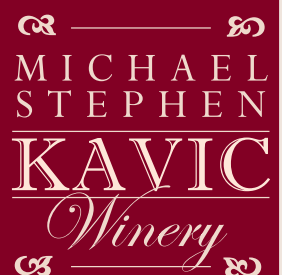
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Satellite Wineries

Several wineries located in northwestern Pennsylvania also have outlet stores or tasting rooms in the Allegheny West area that allow customers to sample and buy their wines.

ARROWHEAD WINE CELLARS sells its wines at several locations around the Pittsburgh region, the closest being at Janoski's in Clinton. Janoski's wine room manager Rachael Seibel says Arrowhead grows all of its own grapes and other fruit that the winery uses in its wine on an orchard in northeastern Pennsylvania. Arrowhead also makes its wine there. Janoski's sells the wines out of a dedicated special winery room in its newly remodeled and expanded farm market. Stop by and sample wines any time starting at 10 a.m. during the week and 11 a.m. on Sundays. Visit janoskis.com to see current closing times.

Janoski's carries around 30 different offerings from Arrowhead Wine Cellars. In addition to the sweeter wines usually offered by Pennsylvania wineries, choices also include dry, fuller body cabernet and merlot blends, as well as oaked and un-oaked chardonnays. On the sweeter side, Arrowhead offers a full complement of fruit wines, including several award-winning berry wines. They also sell specialty and seasonal varieties like port wine, a true vidal ice wine, several ciders and an ever-popular seasonal cranberry wine.

Seibel says that since opening the Arrowhead wine shop, it's become popular among guests who frequent Janoski's popular events like its annual Pumpkinland festival, and among its many visitors shopping for fresh produce. She says they've even had some bridal showers swing through.

For more, call (724) 899-3438 or visit janoskis.com.



Carol Daniels and Raechel Seibel man the counter in the Arrowhead wine room at Janoski's in Clinton.

THE WINERY AT WILCOX is located north of I-80 in the Allegheny National Forest and has been in operation since 1994. Originally the smallest of Pennsylvania's 40 wineries with an annual production of 1,100 gallons, Wilcox has become a leader in the state's wine industry. Wines may be sampled and bought at the outlet store at 1940 Settlers Ridge Center Drive in Robinson Township. Hours are noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

PRESQUE ISLE WINE CELLARS, one of Pennsylvania's longest operating wineries, opened an outlet store in Robinson Town Centre in mid-December. Located in the largest grape-growing region east of the Rocky Mountains, Presque Isle has sold equipment and supplies to amateur winemakers from its facility in northeast Pennsylvania since 1964. Founder Doug Moorhead was instrumental in developing the state's Limited Winery Act of 1968, legislation which permitted Pennsylvania wineries to sell their self-produced wines on their premises.

The business opened to the public as a winery in 1969, one of the first of two in the state since Prohibition. Call (814) 725-1314 for hours.

DEER CREEK WINERY is located in Shippensburg but the winery has five stores across the state, including one at The Mall at Robinson. According to their website, the winery opened in 2009 and specialized in raspberry wines. It now makes roughly two-dozen different wines. For more, including hours, visit www.deercreekwine.com.

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Ohio Valley and Heritage Valley complete affiliation

After receiving final regulatory approval, Ohio Valley Hospital and Heritage Valley Health System have officially joined together. The two not-for-profit healthcare institutions share the common mission of bringing high quality, cost-effective healthcare to their combined communities. By unifying the organizations, the enlarged health system can expand their footprint to further meet the healthcare needs of the region.

"We are looking forward to what the future holds for Ohio Valley Hospital by joining forces with an organization like Heritage Valley, that we highly respect and trust," said Mark Brennan, chair of the board of Ohio Valley Hospital.

Ohio Valley Hospital is now a subsidiary of Heritage Valley Health System. Both boards of directors have collaborated over the past year to develop an agreement that best meets the needs of the community and patients who are served by Ohio Valley Hospital.

The alignment is expected to enable Ohio Valley Hospital to enhance its medical staff, expand clinical services and fund future capital projects. Ohio Valley Hospital, like many independent community hospitals, has been challenged over past years by increasing operating costs and decreasing reimbursement.

"Our priority has always been, and will continue to be, to provide and increase quality healthcare for our community members," said Brennan. "Affiliating with Heritage Valley Health System will allow us to do just that."

"Heritage Valley is very pleased and honored to have Ohio Valley join our integrated healthcare organization," said Lynn George, PhD, chair of Heritage Valley Health System Board of Directors. "Our board unanimously supported the affiliation and identical to Ohio Valley Hospital's Board, remains committed to high quality, cost effective, locally accessible community healthcare."

Ohio Valley, Heritage Valley... a unique connection

The affiliation of Heritage Valley Health System and Ohio Valley Hospital represents a unique connection in health care that reaches well beyond the newly aligned three hospitals and expands the range of health care offered to western Allegheny County communities.

The Health System continues to offer the most utilized health care services at the Heritage Valley Medical Neighborhoods located in West Allegheny/Imperial and Robinson Township. Primary care, ConvenientCare Walk-in Clinic, diagnostic imaging, mobile MRI and CT and lab draw services are offered at both sites, with West Allegheny/Imperial offering physical therapy and behavioral health as well.

Beyond the Medical Neighborhood locations, primary care physicians continue to deliver high-quality care in Kennedy Township, West Allegheny, Robinson Township and Moon Township areas with the potential of specialty services added in the future. Also, as part of the affiliation, wound care and pain treatment services will remain in the community along with Senior Living at the Willows.

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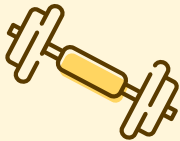
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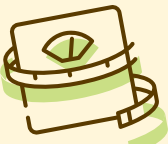
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