

West Allegheny Edition

Allegheny West

Volume 21, Issue 122
October/November 2019

FREE Direct Mail Community Publication

Magazine

**Eagle Scout project
gets big reception**

**WA alumnus'
film wins best pilot**

**WA alumna choreographs
prestigious
summer stock show**

**Pens fans get
special delivery**

**Heading West
with Pat Jennette**

**Remember When?
The Nike missile program**

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West Allegheny
School District
Official Newsletter
Inside
Page 27

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Raye J. Budway, M.D.

Tara L. Grahovac, M.D.

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¹Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council

Raye J. Budway, M.D. specializes in breast surgery. She earned her medical degree at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. Dr. Budway completed her residency training in general surgery at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital and a fellowship in surgical critical care at UPMC. She previously served as the Site Program Director for the Allegheny General Hospital General Surgery Residency Program, and Director of the Surgical Breast Disease Program and Surgical Intensive Care at West Penn Hospital. She is board-certified in surgical critical care and general surgery. She is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and serves on the Fellowship's Commission on Cancer.

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**St. Clair Hospital
Breast Care Center**



Tara L. Grahovac, M.D. specializes in breast surgery. She earned her medical degree at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Grahovac completed her residency in general surgery at Allegheny General Hospital, and a fellowship in breast surgery at UPMC Magee Womens Hospital. She is board-certified by the American Board of Surgery and is certified as a trained clinical fellow in breast surgical oncology by a Society of Surgical Oncology-accredited program.



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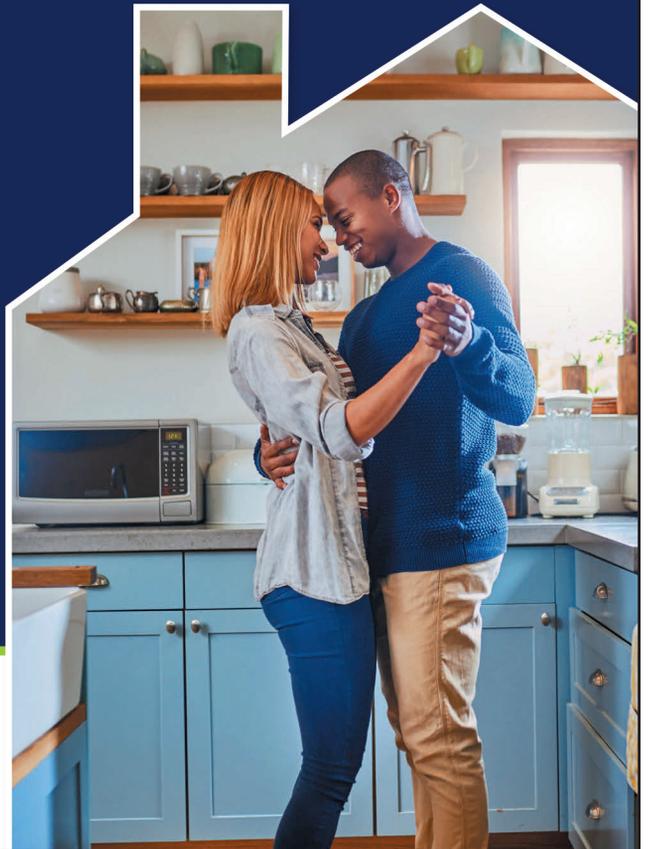
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and McDonald to connect communities, promote
people, heighten awareness about the richness of
the airport region, and build pride in the western
suburbs of Allegheny County.



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West Allegheny varsity quarterback Kameron Kruze high-fives Liam Blumling, 9U varsity left tackle, following a youth football camp this past July. This was the first youth camp held under new varsity head coach Chris Lucas. Read more on page 34. PHOTO BY ASHLEY FAYE

From the Publisher

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up our October West Allegheny edition of Allegheny West Magazine. I hope you're having a great start to the school year and enjoying the fall season.

In our last edition in August, we ran the first installment in a new series of columns by our publisher emeritus, Pat Jennette. After retiring in 2014, Pat and her husband, John, hit the road with the goal of visiting every one of this country's national parks. Now a seasoned traveler, Pat is inviting readers of Allegheny West Magazine to join her on a new adventure in 2020. This trip, arranged through Collette, will be heading west to visit some of this nation's most spectacular natural sites. On page 36 of this edition, Pat writes about the second leg of the trip, which will take visitors to Bryce Canyon National Park, Salt Lake City and Jackson Hole. We'll be hosting a free information session on this trip on Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. at the Robinson Township Public Library. If you are interested, and missed our last information session, be sure to mark your calendar.

In August, local Eagle Scout candidate Kenny Krisovenski got a big reception from elected officials for his work on a war memorial in Findlay Township. Read more on page 7. Then on page 27, be sure to catch up on the latest good news coming out of West Allegheny School District, including the district's Day of Caring initiatives, each school's new principal and some new Twitter hashtags. West Allegheny also has a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist and the district was recently recognized for its visual arts programs.

Before the Pittsburgh Penguins' preseason got underway in September, some local season ticket holders received their tickets via a very special delivery. Read more about those lucky families on page 20. Then on pages 18 and 19, read about two West Allegheny alumni who are distinguishing themselves in the entertainment industry.

On page 42 in this month's retrospective Remember When column, we look back on the Nike missile program, which played a critical role to the country's national security during the Cold War. This area was home to a number of Nike missile installations. Then, on page 46, our columnist Erma Dodd writes about another West Allegheny alumna and her adventures on the other side of the world.

If you or someone you know is in need of home repairs but unable to tackle them, then consider filling out the application for next year's West Allegheny Workcamp on page 45. They may get a very special visit from this faith-based initiative.

Finally, be sure to check out local, upcoming events in this month's On the Horizon section (including Halloween happenings) starting on page 45. Look for our next edition in the beginning of December, when we'll be bringing you our special holiday guide with holiday-related happenings around the area. Until then, I hope you enjoy the rest of the fall season.

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor



Contents



Eagle Scout candidate Kenny Krisovenski poses for a picture next to the war memorial outside of the Findlay Township Police Department on Aug. 17. Krisovenski removed these plaques from the old memorial and had them refurbished before they were installed on this new one. Read more on page 17. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY



State Rep. Valerie Gaydos talks with members of Scout Troop 248, Pack 843 and Pack 848 at Killbuck Lodge, home of Troop 248. Gaydos discussed her role in state government and answered questions from scouts, who worked toward earning their Arrow of Light badge by meeting with the elected official. Gaydos is hosting a Senior Citizens Wellness Program on Oct. 18 at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport. For more, see page 13. Troop 248 is also hosting its annual haunted cabin fundraiser in late October. For more on that, see our On the Horizon section, starting on page 40. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY



Ret. Army First Sgt. George Millerschoen talks with attendees at a Veterans Breakfast Club meeting in Moon Township about the Army's Nike missile program during the Cold War. For more, see page 42. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

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Eagle Scout - 17
project gets big reception

WA alum's film wins best pilot - 18

WA alumna choreographs - 19
prestigious summer stock show

Pens fans get special delivery - 20

WA Today - 27

Heading West with Pat Jennette - 36

Remember When? - 42

The Nike Missile program

West Allegheny - 45

Workcamp Application

Columns

Locally Sourced - 8

Legislative Update - 13

Chamber Link - 16

Around Your Town - 17

Your Schools - 22

WACL Programs - 35

On the Horizon - 38

Penned by Erma - 46

ABOUT THE COVER

A birdhouse sits among the golden rod in the Margaret Lawrence Simon Dogwood Meadow at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

Heritage Valley multispecialty group welcomes endocrinologist, Hira Ali, M.D.

Heritage Valley Multispecialty Group Endocrinology welcomed Hira Ali, M.D., to its practice locations in Edgeworth and Center Township.

Ali is board certified in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism by the American Board of Internal Medicine. She completed her endocrinology fellowship at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, division of endocrinology, in Pittsburgh, where she also completed her residency in internal medicine.

Ali is a member of the Endocrine Society, the American Diabetes Association and the American College of Physicians. She is accepting new patients at the Heritage Valley Endocrinology practice locations in Edgeworth, 100 Hazel Lane, Sewickley and Center Township, 79 Wagner Road, Suite 201. She is a member of the Heritage Valley Sewickley and Heritage Valley Beaver Medical Staffs. To schedule an appointment, call (724) 773-8981.



Stay Well Aware

Stay Well Aware with Heritage Valley

Mammo Mondays and Flu Shot Fridays in Robinson Township!

Heritage Valley Health System has initiated its Stay Well Aware campaign to increase awareness and highlight access to important health screenings and services. As part of the campaign, Heritage Valley Robinson Township now offers walk-in screening mammographies on Mondays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Stop in any Monday to the Heritage Valley Diagnostic Imaging in Robinson Township for a screening mammogram. No appointment is necessary.

Additionally, Heritage Valley is holding Flu Shot Fridays at all Heritage Valley ConvenientCare walk-in clinics, including Heritage Valley Robinson Township. Flu Shot Fridays feature regular dose flu shots for \$15 every Friday in September through December. No appointment is necessary and most insurances cover the cost of the influenza vaccine. Flu shots are offered all other days at Heritage Valley ConvenientCare for \$28 or high dose for \$49. Heritage Valley's ConvenientCare clinics are open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. They are staffed by certified registered nurse practitioners and supervised by Heritage Valley physicians.

For more information about Heritage Valley Health System, visit HeritageValley.org.

Unique Boutique returns Nov. 9

Unique Boutique, the area's premier shopping event featuring the work of local artisans and boutique fashion, returns this year on Nov. 9. Unique Boutique will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Edgeworth Club at 511 East Drive in Sewickley. Heritage Valley Health System, proud sponsor of this tradition, is pleased to announce that the proceeds from this year's event will be utilized to replace the fetal monitor carts at the Patricia S. Snyder Maternal Child Health Department Center at Heritage Valley Sewickley Hospital.

For details, including information about this year's featured artisans, see page 8.

19th Annual

Unique Boutique

~

Saturday, November 9, 2019
Edgeworth Club, 511 East Drive, Sewickley
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

50 Artisans & Vendors:
 Adult/Children Clothing,
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Unique Boutique returns for 19th year Nov. 9

Over the past 18 years, Unique Boutique has drawn talented artists, emerging new small business vendors, a number of popular returning vendors and holiday shoppers searching for one-of-a-kind gifts.

This year promises to be no different. Shoppers will once again be able to purchase memorable gifts from area artisans and vendors, including boutique clothing, stylish jewelry, ceramics, home decor and delectable treats. As in years past, Unique Boutique will once again take place at the Edgeworth Club from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9. Proceeds from this year's event will be utilized to replace the fetal monitor carts at the Patricia S. Snyder Maternal Child Health Department Center at Heritage Valley Sewickley Hospital.

Admission with a buffet lunch prepared by Chef Rudek is \$35 per person. Shoppers can sample the Edgeworth Club's fare from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations are preferred and can be made at heritagevalley.org. Admission without lunch is \$15 per person. For parking convenience, a courtesy shuttle will be available to shoppers every 30 minutes from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. from the Heritage Valley Sewickley Hospital garage located at Fitch Circle at 720 Blackburn Road. For more, call (412) 749-7050 or email foundation@hvhs.org. This year's featured vendors are:

bel monili

bel monili has been creating unique, one-of-a-kind jewelry designs since 2010. Their designs focus on up-cycling mid-century costume jewelry (think vintage beaded clip-on earrings, enameled flower brooches, and lots of rhinestones) and pairing them with new findings and beads to create heirloom-quality pieces.

bel monili also offers a finely curated selection of women's clothing and accessories in sizes small through 3X, giving every woman an opportunity to have easy, comfortable, feminine style every day. bel monili will be offering its full collection at Unique Boutique.



Spirit of Sicily

Linda Incardona has been an artist since her childhood and worked in numerous media. Her academic background is in studio, social work and art therapy. In 2004, Incardona traveled to Sicily to trace her ancestors and discovered the amazing majolica ceramics all across the island. Using a similar technique as the one used to make those pieces, hers are close to the originals. Her hand-painted designs echo the Italian majolica. She commemorates her father's family in every piece she paints.



John Tarallo - Steel City Salt Company

Steel City Salt Company is a family business that was started in 2014 by avid cook, pizzaiolo and spice guru John Tarallo and his wife, Candy. From the very beginning, John and Candy sought out unique salts from

around the world and eventually started making their own salt infusions, rubs and blends. In the summer of 2014, with just a four-foot table in the Strip District and a handful of unique salts, Steel City Salt

Company became a reality. While vending every weekend in the Strip and supplying local restaurants and boutique shops, the business grew. Their selections now include fresh ground spices, Himalayan products and custom blends.





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Candles Uncorked by Susan Cowher

Candles Uncorked offers hand-poured candles made entirely from soy wax that are held in recycled wine bottles. Susan Cowher, the artist behind Candles Uncorked, also makes snuffers, candleholders, tea light covers and holders, lanterns, hurricanes, and vase and wine charms. Creating the candles involves a seven-step, bottle recycling process that entails cleaning, removing labels and cutting. Occasionally, labels are left intact to enhance the beauty of the candle and cut angles create unique designs. All of the bottles are sanded and polished to a smooth finish. The candles are highly aromatic and either wine- or seasonal-scented. Gift sets are packaged in wooden crates and hand-crafted from reclaimed lumber.

My Little Flower Designs

Luanne Haak, the artist behind My Little Flower Designs, creates beautiful pieces of functional resin art like serving trays, charcuterie boards and essential oil boxes. She also loves to adorn walls with her unique pieces, including geode-style art, fluid pours and beach scenes. No two pieces are ever alike. As well, she paints "pop of color" pup portraits!

Haute Collections

Haute Collections offers a custom shopping experience with a pop-up boutique offering cutting-edge retail clothing options. Haute Collections is highly committed to customer satisfaction and will go out of their way to make their customers happy.

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Mellon Foundation grant supporting new St. Clair outpatient center

A \$1 million grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation will help St. Clair Hospital construct its new, state-of-the-art Dunlap Family Outpatient Center on the hospital's main campus. The center will help the hospital meet growing patient demand and address national trends in health care.

The total projected cost of the outpatient center, including infrastructure, is \$142 million. To date, over \$28 million in grants and private support, including the \$1 million Richard King Mellon Foundation grant, has been raised to help bring the project to fruition. Tax-exempt bonds and retained earnings, which comprises most of the project funding, will meet remaining costs.

"The Richard King Mellon Foundation has a long and storied history of philanthropy that enhances the health and welfare of men, women and children throughout the region," says G. Alan Yeasted, M.D., senior vice president and chief medical officer emeritus at St. Clair Hospital. "St. Clair is honored and humbled to be recognized with a grant from such an august organization and we are committed to creating an outpatient center that will uphold the foundation's mission and legacy of improving quality of life and standards of healthcare throughout southwestern Pennsylvania."

Having outgrown its existing space, St. Clair's new outpatient center will separate its outpatient services from its inpatient services on its main campus. It will be the largest project in St. Clair's history and the first major building construction on the main campus since the 1970s. Benefits to patients will include reduced costs, quicker inpatient testing and an enhanced overall experience.

St. Columbkille Holy Name Society donates to food pantry for 25th year



Bill Long, president of Holy Name Society of St. Columbkille Catholic Church, hands Linda Stoner, co-director of the West Allegheny Food Pantry, a check for \$8,000. They are pictured with pantry co-director Tim Opfermann and fellow society members John Horvath and Dana Rymer. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

The Holy Name Society of St. Columbkille Catholic Church in Imperial donated \$8,000 to the West Allegheny Food Pantry on Sept. 25. The donation marked the 25th that the organization has donated to the food pantry using funds raised through its annual Rich Ivicic Memorial Golf Outing at Fort Cherry Golf Club. Over the years, the society has donated around \$130,000 to the food pantry.

"The Holy Name Society has been a supporter of the food bank for many years and we truly appreciate their thoughtfulness and generosity," said Linda Stoner, director of the pantry.

The Rich Ivicic Memorial Golf Outing takes place annually on the first Monday of August. Following the outing, golfers head back to the church's hall for a dinner. The outing from this past year attracted 108 golfers.

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month at St. Columbkille Church at 8 p.m.

Approximately 200 local families rely on the pantry's food distributions each month. For distribution times, call (724) 695-1305. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 527, Imperial, PA 15126.

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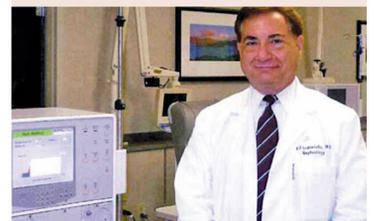
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Difference Makers awardees honored

Allegheny County Council members Tom Baker and Sam DeMarco recognized the recipients of this year's District 1 Difference Makers award at two town hall meetings in August. This was the second year for the award, which recognizes individuals who have made a difference in their communities, either through volunteer work, serving on boards, creating initiatives, being an active committee member or by other means.

Awardees were as follows:

Amy Cavicchia - Coraopolis Community Development Foundation

Kelly Cain - PALS, Autism Caring Center

Sandy Hershberger - West Hills Food Pantry

Doug Foster - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh

Chief Bruce Fromlak - West View Elementary Bigs in Blue

Deborah Krall - 171st Force Support Squadron Airman and Family Readiness Program

Jerry Lynn - Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Jeff Lutz - West Allegheny Workcamp, North Fayette Parks and Rec.

Frank Magnotta - MCA TV

Aaron Margo - Boy Scouts/Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh

Beth McIntyre - Northland Public Library

Darlene O'Laughlin - Adeline's Angels

Scott Pavlot - The HUB

Sally Power - Treasure House Fashions

Harry Psaros - PALS, North Fayette Parks and Rec., Autism Caring Center

John Schalcosky - Ross and West View Historical Societies

Glenn Smith - North Hills Community Outreach



Allegheny County councilman Tom Baker (left), councilman-at-large Sam DeMarco (right) and North Fayette supervisor RJ Mangan (second from right) recognize Harry Psaros (above) and Jeff Lutz (below).



Read and share stories from Allegheny West Magazine! Current and back issues can be read at AWMagazine.com. Copy the URL from individual pages and then share via email and on social media.



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BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE VALERIE GAYDOS

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It has been an honor to represent the people of the 44th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Since being sworn into office on Jan. 1, 2019, I have hit the ground running, working hard to fight for greater fiscal responsibility and accountability in our government.

During the 2019-2020 legislative session, I have been assigned to serve on four standing House committees: Commerce, Education, Health and Liquor Control. I have also been asked to serve as the chair of the Subcommittee on Economic Development. These committees oversee legislation and

help shape the language in bills that fall under their respective subject areas of responsibility.

Good communication is the key to ensuring that I serve as an effective voice in Harrisburg so I plan to host a number of events and activities where we can meet and you can voice your thoughts or concerns. As well, you may drop by my office or schedule a meeting by contacting me at the locations listed at right.

I encourage you to attend and I look forward to meeting you!



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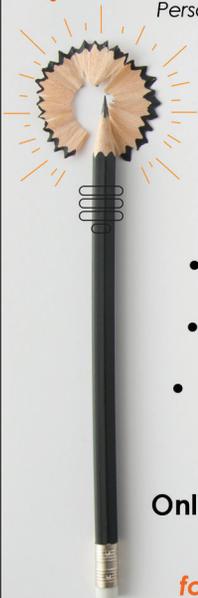
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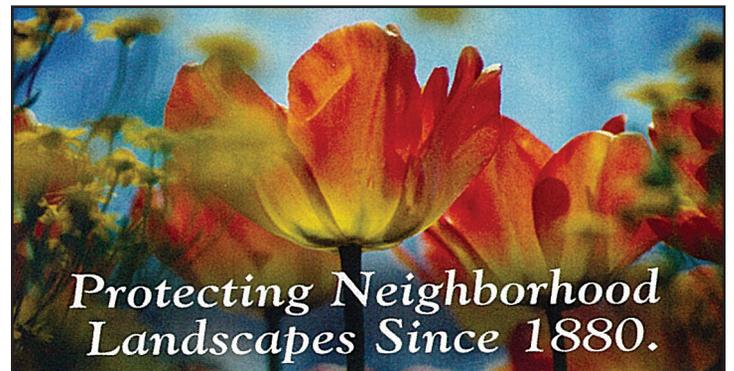
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Do not try to probate alone...

We've all heard the old adage, "Don't try this at home." The same holds true for administering an estate without the knowledge and guidance of a trained estate planning attorney.

During my many years of practicing in the estate administration field, I can tell you a number of stories about how someone's attempt to settle an estate on their own has caused more trouble than it was worth, even though they had the purest of intentions.



Why does someone choose to forego legal counsel when so much is at stake? Quite simply: cost. Attorneys aren't cheap. However, would you believe it if I told you that

an executor who chose to go it alone, and was merely attempting to see her father's wishes borne out, made a mistake that created a \$2,000 error? This executor didn't cause the oversight because she had ill will toward her siblings. She did it because she didn't know how to navigate the legal complexities of settling an estate. Normally, such a minor miscalculation wouldn't cause an issue if corrected and explained. However, due to the nature of the relationship she had with her sibling, who was one of the beneficiaries, litigation ensued. A \$2,000 blunder turned into a \$30,000 litigation nightmare.



An executor's job is to oversee the management of the estate until the assets are disposed of and the estate is closed. Another important note that executors must keep in mind is that, should they, for lack of a better phrase, "screw up" and don't quickly remedy the matter, they are personally responsible and liable. The process of settling an estate is long and detailed, typically lasting well over a year. With the help of an experienced attorney, you can reduce personal liability and hand over the responsibility of procedure to the attorney.

When death and money are involved it can sometimes bring out the worst in people. Don't allow your family to fracture because you are unwilling to admit and accept that you need help. An executor must account for distribution of assets to the probate court. He/she must file an inventory and receipts proving that they paid out the correct share of the estate to the correct creditors and beneficiary or beneficiaries. An attorney can prepare all of the legal documentation but the executor must sign off on the documents. If an executor is not fulfilling their legal obligations, the heirs, or an attorney representing the heirs, may petition the court to have the executor removed.

Please think twice before attempting to settle an estate on your own. In the long run, the attorney's fees ensure that the estate is settled timely and correctly, providing the executor and beneficiaries peace of mind which in turn allows them time to grieve during a difficult time.

Michele P. Conti is an estate planning and elder law attorney. Conti attended Allegheny College in Meadville, Oxford University and Duquesne University School of Law. She received her LL.M. in taxation from Villanova University. She can be reached at (724) 784-0239 or michele@contilawpgh.com.



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SUBMITTED BY MIA A. KOVACS,
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What's in a name?

Recently, I got married. Thank you for the congratulations and, yes, he is a lucky man! I decided to go the traditional route and change my last name from McFadden to his last name of Kovacs. The younger feminist version of myself protested but didn't win. Of course, this is something my older self will regret while standing in line at the Social Security office and the DMV. Then there are the other various accounts I hold that need to be updated, and not just with my last name but with his name as well. His name will either need to be placed on the title or added as the beneficiary. Just to top it off, there are the estate documents - such as wills, POAs and medical directives - that will all need to be created or updated.

However, marriage isn't the only life change that should prompt you to review your accounts' titling, beneficiary designations and estate documents. The birth or adoption of a child will change how you want your estate distributed and prompt the naming of a guardian for minor children. Changes to your career could prompt you to reexamine your life insurance coverage and retirement planning, both of which require beneficiary designations. The death of a loved one may create the need to appoint new beneficiary designations and update existing wills. A divorce, like a marriage, may require retitling bank and



investment accounts to ensure the person you want can or cannot access your accounts. Retitling will also ensure that the correct person can or cannot inherit your estate.

Finally, as you enter retirement you will want to review what you have been planning and make any necessary adjustments as you enter your new phase of life.

A financial planner coordinates these changes between your financial institutions, updating your account titling and beneficiaries. They can also connect you with estate planning attorneys who can draft your wills, POAs and medical directives. We then ensure that you review your plan every few years because, let's face it, most of us procrastinate. For instance, immediately after creating a list of accounts and documents I needed to update, I looked around for other things of importance to do first, such as laundry, going to happy hour or writing this article. No, really, now that this article is done, I fully intend to start on my list (wink, wink - no promise, I have to as a planner)!

By the way, just so my husband, Brian, knows, I was only joking. Yes, honey, I know I'm the lucky one!

Mia A. Kovacs, CFP®, is a vice president and a financial consultant with Bill Few Associates. She can be reached at (412) 630-6041 or at mkovacs@billfew.com.



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STORY AND PHOTO
BY DOUG HUGHEY

Local Eagle Scout project gets big reception from officials

As far as awards and accomplishments go in the Scouts of America, the Eagle Scout designation marks a topping out point - one that's earned by completing a significant community service project. Yet not many Eagle Scout projects get the kind of recognition that Kenny Krisovenski's did in August.

Krisovenski, a senior at West Allegheny High School who has also been a member of Boy Scout Troop 830 in Clinton since he was in sixth grade, spearheaded an effort to refurbish the plaques on a veterans' memorial for his Eagle Scout project. As the township was completing its new police station, Krisovenski got the blessing of the township to remove the six plaques that had been attached the old memorial in front of the Findlay Township Municipal Building. Krisovenski enlisted the help of Mike Boso of Matthews Company to help clean and polish the plaques, which were then reinstalled on a new half wall in front of the entrance to the police station. The plaques were rededicated during a special ceremony in August at the start of the township's Fair in the Woodlands festival.

The rededication was hardly in need of speakers, as just about every elected official representing the area showed up to give remarks and pay tribute, including Congressman Conor Lamb, state Sen. Pam Iovino, state Rep. Valerie Gaydos, and Findlay Township supervisors Ray Chappell, Tom Gallant and Janet Craig.

The six plaques commemorate veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism. As Lamb pointed out in his remarks, the way the plaques have been arranged leaves space for two future conflicts that he said are sure to eventually occur. Referring to the current political divide in America, Lamb, a former Marine, said it was important that the country be united when it comes time to face its enemies abroad.

For Iovino, who also served in the military, one of the plaques held particular significance.



Kenny Krisovenski (second from left) poses for a picture with John Crawford, commander of American Legion Post 335 in Imperial; state Sen. Pam Iovino; Rep. Conor Lamb; Findlay Township supervisor Janet Craig; state Rep. Valerie Gaydos; and Findlay Township supervisors Tom Gallant and Ray Chappell.

"My service was from 1980 to 2003 so the mid-grade and senior officers, and most importantly the CPOs and NCOs who really turned me into the officer I became, they were Vietnam veterans. So, I just want to say thank you, again," she said.

A number of other speakers also touched on how service to country and each other are more significant than the political and social differences that currently divide the country.

A number of speakers lauded Krisovenski for his efforts. Krisovenski, who had a grandfather in the Air Force during the Korean War, says of his motivation for taking on the project, "I just thought it would be nice to give back to the veterans." Findlay Township completed its new police station earlier this year by constructing an addition onto its municipal building. The new station has been designed to improve safety for both officers and the general public as the township continues to grow. The original memorial that the plaques were attached to sat in between the municipal building and Route 30. While visible from the road, the plaques were not as visible to pedestrians as they are now.

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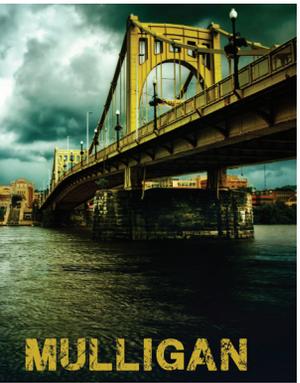
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WA alum's film wins best pilot



Patrick Cannon



When 2007 West Allegheny graduate Patrick Cannon left Imperial for the Big Apple, little did he know that a major success 12 years later would be attributed to his hometown beginnings.

In August, the television pilot he spent three years writing and filmed in the area, "Mulligan," won first place for best television pilot at The Academy and the BAFTA Qualifying Rhode Island International Film Festival. The honor follows on the heels of the show making its world premiere at the Film

Independent's LA Film Festival last year.

Says Cannon, "Mulligan was just something that I was playing around with on my computer. I have an embarrassing amount of unfinished scripts but at the time I thought I had written a solid first draft of the pilot and began to share it with collaborators and friends."

His hunch was right. Cannon's script was discovered by another Pittsburgh local, Steve Parys, whose resume includes work on "Silence of the Lambs" and some other notable movies and television shows. Parys was attracted to Cannon's script for not only its story, but also its total focus on Pittsburgh. He's directing the episodes.

The pilot follows the story of a former golf prodigy who has been released from prison after serving time for two DUIs and assaulting a police officer. The lead character, Jack O'Mally, is played by Cannon himself. Using Scally's Golf Center in Moon Township as the base location, "Mulligan" follows O'Mally's return to the community where he was disgraced and attempts to redeem himself. He goes back to work at his brother's driving range and miniature golf course, navigating the emotional transition that weaves his past life with his new one.

More than 30 area actors and actresses were involved in the show, with scenes not only filmed in Moon Township but also North Fayette Township, McKees Rocks, downtown Pittsburgh and Mt. Washington. Cannon said that he even tapped some of his childhood friends to be in it.

"Scally's Golf Center in Moon was a godsend," he says. "They are some of the kindest, most generous folks around. So many companies helped make the pilot a reality. Barto's in Coraopolis, Commonwealth Press, and Iron City Beer were also amazing to us."

Some other scenes were filmed in the North Side. Locally, many of the shots were filmed in his old neighborhood in Walden Woods, including several at his parent's home which he says was the site for four different scenes in the show.

He's quick to thank the North Fayette Police Department, too.

"Chief O'Donnell and the NFPD were instrumental to several key shots and their vehicles brought a much-appreciated authenticity," he says.

The show has a mysterious yet comedic twist to it, wrapping its storyline around Pittsburgh and bringing out the character of the city and its people.

A subplot of the show is a focus on the drug epidemic that has affected not only Pittsburgh, but also the country. Cannon noted in earlier interviews with Allegheny West Magazine that he felt compelled to include this theme in the story, in order to address the epidemic.

Cannon says his involvement in some of West Allegheny's musicals and plays also helped shape not only his current career but also the project.

"That's really where all of this started," he says. "I remember guys like Eddie Wiernik and Mike McConnell having a huge influence on me. They were athletes who confidently pursued the arts."

His writing has evolved over time, too.

"I've always loved film/movies, and after over a decade of working exclusively in the theater, I found a lot of my writing was evolving into screenplays versus plays/poetry," he says.

Cannon currently splits his time between New York City and Pittsburgh. "Mulligan" is the culmination of his time spent here as a candidate for a master of fine arts he

recently completed in screenwriting and playwriting at Point Park University.

Since leaving his hometown, Cannon has racked up quite a litany of theater and film successes. After graduating from Columbia College in Chicago with a degree in musical theater, he worked throughout the country with a variety of theater companies, most notably Drury Lane Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Garage Rep, Strange Tree Group, Cape May Stage, Mountain Playhouse, Totem Pole Playhouse and The Barnstormers. Here in Pittsburgh, he's worked with numerous companies, including Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Pittsburgh Playhouse and Pittsburgh Public Theater. He's been a writer, producer and actor.

Cannon's fan base includes many airport area residents who follow him and his career. Among them is Oakdale resident Lynn Ann DeBor, a West Allegheny teacher, who notes, "I am always thrilled to see Patrick's name pop up in the cast of a show in Pittsburgh. His performances continue to show his passion for his art. The best is that he never fails to take time after shows to chat. His gratitude for where he's been, where he is and where he's going is obvious."

Retired West Allegheny principal Kathy Sites adds, "While at West Allegheny Middle School, Patrick was a student leader who was looked up to by his peers. His love of theater arts was evident even then. He used his personality, charm and humor to enhance his skills."

Cannon said he's hopeful to premiere "Mulligan" in Pittsburgh this winter. The pilot episode will subsequently be available on Amazon Prime.

He also hopes someday to have the opportunity to come back and talk to students at West Allegheny about his career and experiences.

A return to Pittsburgh is also in the works for an as-yet-unnamed show that he will be performing in come 2020.

For more on "Mulligan," visit www.mulliganseries.com or see the Facebook page [Facebook.com/mulligan](https://www.facebook.com/mulligan).

For more about Cannon, visit www.patrickcannonpgh.com.

STORY BY PAT JENNETTE
PHOTO SUBMITTED

WA alumna choreographs prestigious summer stock show

After honing her talents in West Allegheny High School's first five musicals, Andrea Leigh (Czyzewicz) von Halle (Class of 1996) moved to New York City and went to work performing in national Broadway tours. A chance meeting with an actor led to marriage, a move to California and the births of her two sons. She now operates a Pilates and personal fitness training business in the Los Angeles area while performing dance parts for Nickelodeon and voice work for several radio stations.

This past summer, von Halle received a call from one of her former Broadway directors, BT McNicholl, who invited her to return to choreograph a reprisal of "Cabaret" for the prestigious Ogunquit Playhouse in Ogunquit, Maine. The Ogunquit is among the most prestigious summer stock theaters nationwide, with an 86-year performance history that places it on the National Historic Register.

Von Halle was no stranger to the Ogunquit. She performed in the 2006 production of "Cabaret" there. Additionally, she served as choreographer and assistant choreographer on numerous productions of the show over the years, including the John Engeman Theatre, Maltz Jupiter Theatre and on the National Tour.

Von Halle also served as assistant choreographer for "Cabaret" in 2006 for the Folies Bergere in Paris.

The show opened to a sold-out house at Ogunquit in July and kept that momentum going until it closed a month later. Its success captured the attention of critics and landed an impressive review in the Aug. 1 issue of The Wall Street Journal.

Prior to settling in California, von Halle performed in national tours of "Phantom of the Opera," "Brigadoon," "Oklahoma!" and "Cabaret." She's also performed at the Westchester Broadway Theatre, Foothills Theatre, and for the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Buffalo City Ballet, Boston Ballet and Hartford Ballet.

When not performing or raising her sons, she trains for and competes in marathons around the country.

Von Halle resides in Burbank, California with her husband, Tony von Halle, and sons Dylan, 8, and Cameron, 4.



Andrea Leigh vonHalle, choreographer, with BT McNicholl, director, at opening night of "Cabaret" at the Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine this summer.



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STORY BY JILL BORDO
PHOTO SUBMITTED

Local Pens ticket holders receive a special delivery

The Pittsburgh Penguins organization kicked off the 2019-2020 hockey season in early September with its annual weeklong fan promotion series, The Season Begins with You. One day that week, Penguins players once again delivered tickets to some randomly drawn season ticket holders. Among the lucky fans this year were some West Allegheny residents.

The organization started the tradition in 2007.

On Sept. 9, two families in the Westbury neighborhood in Findlay Township got their season tickets delivered by newly signed winger Brandon Tanev. The 27-year-old previously played for the Winnipeg Jets before arriving in Pittsburgh just the week prior. The Bogaski family from Rodgers Drive and the Peponidis family from Lindenwood Drive were both notified several days prior that their names had been pulled and that they would be receiving a visit from an unnamed member of the team the following Monday. Both families happily rearranged work schedules, did some extra housecleaning and fall decorating, and invited a few friends and family members to join them for the festivities.

At the request of the Penguins organization, both families refrained from spreading the word too widely or turning the visit into a party.

Tanev, accompanied by a cameraman, photographer and Penguins staff member, spent 20 to 30 minutes at each of the Westbury homes. He posed for pictures, signed memorabilia and conversed easily, just as if he were a neighbor or long-time acquaintance.

“He was very engaging,” said Gina Bogaski, who was amused and thrilled that Tanev took a cell phone video of the Bogaski “fan-cave” basement.

She said Tanev was amazed by the amount of Penguins memorabilia and décor displayed in their game room.

Tanev also spent several minutes discussing golf with Bogaski’s husband, Rick. However, when Gina, a self-proclaimed Pens fanatic, pressed Tanev on which line he would be playing on for the Penguins, he laughed and said the organization was still figuring things out for the season.

At the Peponidis house, Tanev revealed that his family is from Toronto and that his mother is happy that he’s now closer to home following the trade. George Peponidis, whose son Gus played for the Burlington Cougars Select Tournament team, immediately quipped that their home was 296.2 miles to the town of Burlington, which is just south of Toronto. When Tanev asked Gus what it was like playing in Winnipeg, he responded, “What do you think it would be like in Winnipeg?!”

George also asked the new winger to salute their section, 117, when he gets his first goal.

According to Jill Shipley, director of fan development and special events for the Penguins, 14 members of the team delivered tickets that day, with each visiting three locations, including some of their corporate sponsors. Prior to his stops in Westbury, Tanev visited the Dick’s Sporting Goods headquarters in Findlay Township. Shipley said that a random list of season ticket holders was pulled over the summer with new “owners” being just as likely as longtime ticket holders to have their names drawn for a home delivery.

“This is a way for players to connect with the fans,” remarked Shipley of the 12-year tradition, adding that the players relish the opportunity to go into the homes of fans instead of the fans always coming to their arena home.

The Peponidis family has held Penguins season tickets for over 20 years while the Bogaskis are entering their 38th season as ticket holders. Rick Bogaski purchased the tickets before he and Gina were married.

“We never thought it would happen to us,” remarked George Peponidis of the visit.

Angie Peponidis believes that newly acquired players such as Tanev are excited to come to the city of Pittsburgh with its storied hockey history and incredible fan base.

Tanev, who will make his home in Wexford, confirmed that excitement as he spoke of exploring the neighborhoods of his beautiful new town during his first week here. The Penguins winger experienced his best of four seasons in 2018-19 with 14 goals and 29 points.



Pittsburgh Penguins winger Brandon Tanev (at center) showed up at the Bogaski household to deliver the family’s season tickets in September. Pictured here in the family’s game room amidst their Penguins memorabilia are Mikayla, Andy, Gina and Rick.

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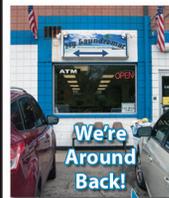
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Robinson Township Christian School

Community garden provides hands-on lessons to students

Just over a year ago, Providence Presbyterian Church in Robinson Township sponsored the creation of a new community garden situated on church property next to Robinson Township Christian School.

Dan Juravich, a master gardener and church member, played a major role in mapping out the garden. Working alongside school principal Bryan Campbell, Juravich's intent was to give students of all ages the opportunity to participate in and experience the rewards of gardening. Since then, Robinson Township Christian School's home economics class has helped with the planting of peas in the spring. Many other students have also helped with planting, harvesting, and watering throughout the school year and over the summer months. Currently, there are nine raised beds and the garden is enclosed to shelter it from local wildlife.

The community garden has produced fresh and delicious lettuce, beans, squash, tomatoes, kale, and a variety of herbs that were donated to Providence congregation members on Sunday mornings during the harvest season. In the wake of the positive community response, plans have been put in place to increase the vegetable bed count and add greenhouse capabilities. There are even plans to integrate a vegetable monitoring system by the RTCS robotics program.

"Unlike lectures or worksheets, the garden provides an experiential, hands-on learning environment where kids have a chance to experience the fresh smell of different herbs and can pop a baby tomato in their mouth right off the vine," says Campbell.

He appreciates that garden work is a real-world activity that encourages kids to explore and increase their sense of health and wellness in a way that is both fun and engaging.

Campbell also emphasizes that gardens are great for the environment. "Food grown locally puts the soil to good use!"

Campbell also believes that during a time when kids' lives are more sedentary than ever, a community garden stands out as a low-tech and innovative way to improve the health outcomes of youth.



School principal Bryan Campbell works in the community garden.

Students perform in Piano Day Pittsburgh

On Aug. 25, 10th-graders Sarah Heiple and Sonya Campbell performed at Heinz Hall Garden as part of Piano Day Pittsburgh 2019. Piano Day took place at four venues in downtown Pittsburgh. It served to showcase a love of piano, build community, and provide an opportunity to hear and experience some of Pittsburgh's many talented pianists. Students were selected to perform based on

their classical repertoire. The two played a Brahms duet together and Sonya also performed Brahms' "Rhapsody No. 2 Op. 79" and Debussy's "Arabesque No. 1."

Sarah and Sonya are students of Katie Phelps Piano Studio and contribute their gifts regularly to Robinson Township Christian School choirs and concerts throughout the school year.



Sarah Heiple and Sonya Campbell perform during Piano Day Pittsburgh.



Offering new families 25% tuition discount for Grades 1-12 during first year enrolled.

Now Enrolling!

3 & 4 year old Pre-school Through 12th Grade
Offering Full and Half-Day Kindergarten

Call to Schedule a Personal Tour!



Affordable Excellence with the Compassion of Christ.

Robinson Township Christian School

77 Phillips Lane, Robinson Township, PA 15136

(412) 787-5919 • www.rtcs.org

Community College of Allegheny County

West Hills campus to host trades fairs Oct. 23 and Nov. 26

The Community College of Allegheny County will be hosting two trades fairs in the coming weeks at its West Hills Campus in Oakdale at 1000 McKee Road.

The first, Manufacturing Day, will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. on Oct. 23. Attendees will have an opportunity to take guided facility tours, participate in hands-on mechatronics and welding demonstrations, learn about educational opportunities that offer an edge in the competitive labor market, engage college and business leaders in a discussion about manufacturing careers, and network with local employers.

In addition, CCAC's Workforce Development Division will hold interactive demonstrations that will allow representatives from local industries to see first-hand how the division can provide advanced training opportunities for companies and employees. To RSVP,

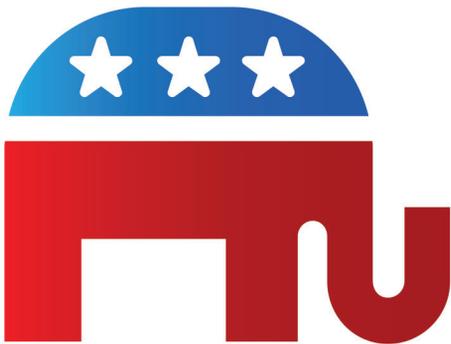
contact Laurel Westrom at lwestrom@ccac.edu or call (412) 788-7511.

On Nov. 26, CCAC will then host its Skilled Trades and Services Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will get to participate in hands-on student contest and live trades demonstrations throughout the day. Center tours for groups of five or more will run from 9 to 11 a.m. Lunch and refreshments will be served, and a complimentary giveaway provided to individuals and groups that RSVP by Nov. 1. The day will also feature a panel discussion featuring women in the skilled trades. Panelists will share their stories, answer questions and offer tips and tools for young men and women who are looking for a career in a STEM field and/or the skilled trades.

To RSVP, or get more information, contact Rhena McCaskill at rmccaskill@ccac.edu or call (412) 369-3600.



**VOTE
REPUBLICAN**



**Republican Committee
of Findlay Township**

Meetings on first Tuesday
of every month at 7 p.m.
Findlay Township
Municipal Building
1271 US-30, Clinton, 15026
FindlayGOP@gmail.com
www.FindlayGOP.com

**Superior Court:
*Megan King
Christylee Peck***

Vote for Retention:

**PA Superior Court
*Judge Judy Olson***

**PA Commonwealth Court
*Kevin Brobson
Patricia McCullough***

Archangel Gabriel Catholic School

Archangel Gabriel opens for first day of school

Archangel Gabriel Catholic School officially opened its doors to 500 students in pre-K through eighth grade Aug. 26. The school is the product of a merger between Holy Trinity Catholic School in Robinson Township and St. Malachy Catholic School in Kennedy Township. Prior to the merger, the two schools had established a 60-year legacy in the area.

“We are inspired, energized and blessed with an extremely dedicated group of parents who have been instrumental over the summer serving on implementation and plan action committees to ensure needs were met with everything from signage to student meet and greets,” says Christine Assetta, Ed. D., president and co-principal of the school. “Our teachers have also worked diligently throughout the summer to address student learning needs that embrace both our Catholic faith and scholastic outcomes.”

Archangel Gabriel Catholic School serves children attending the Holy Trinity, St.

Malachy and St. John of God parishes, as well as those residing in the surrounding communities. Its mission is to embrace each child as a unique creation of God and to meet their social, spiritual, intellectual and social needs. The school offers numerous athletic and extracurricular activities, and has decided upon orange and royal blue as its new school colors. The school mascot is a Knight.

“I am extremely proud of each student who both sits in the classroom, open to learn and grow, and is actively involved in extracurricular activities. Our new school brings with it the best of two extremely successful and accomplished schools in the community and I know amazing things are on the horizon for Archangel Gabriel,” says Cathy Miltzer M.S. Ed., co-principal. “Because we are able to utilize the Kennedy location for pre-K and the Robinson site for K-8, we can reach more students while consistently instilling love and value into each individual.”

STORY SUBMITTED
PHOTOS BY HARRY GIGLIO,
HARRY GIGLIO PHOTOGRAPHY



Students started school this year at Archangel Gabriel Catholic School, which is the product of a merger between Holy Trinity and St. Malachy Catholic schools.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**SERVE AS A JUDGE, INSPECTOR
OR CLERK OF ELECTION
ON ELECTION DAY**

**ELECTION OFFICERS EARN FROM \$115-\$140 FOR THE DAY.
NEW ELECTION OFFICERS RECEIVE PAID TRAINING.**



SIGN UP AT ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US/ELECTIONS

NORTH PARK & SOUTH PARK ICE RINKS

TINY TOTS ICE SKATING: AGES 3-6

November 12-December 3

\$30 for county residents,

\$38 for non-residents

DEVELOPMENTAL HOCKEY LEAGUES: AGES 4-12

STARTING NOVEMBER 16 & 17

FALL SESSION: \$175 for county residents,
\$219 for non-residents

FALL & WINTER SESSIONS: \$275 for county residents,
\$344 for non-residents

ICE SKATING LESSONS: AGES 5+

November 12-December 5

\$20 for county residents,

\$25 for non-residents



FOR DETAILS, VISIT ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US/YOUTHSPORTS

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

Senior named National Merit semifinalist

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School senior Matthew Tanczos has been named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Tanczos is one of approximately 16,000 students



Matthew Tanczos

from across the U.S. to receive the honor. To advance to the finalist level of the competition, Tanczos will need to fulfill several requirements. The National Merit Corporation expects over 90 percent of the semifinalists to attain finalist standing and about half of those to win a National Merit Scholarship along with a merit scholar title.

Tanczos is president of OLSH's chapter of the National Honor Society. An OLSH student ambassador, he also serves as a writing tutor in the OLSH Writing & Learning Center. He has been an alternate captain on the OLSH-Bishop Canevin co-op hockey team for two years. During last year's OLSH Honors Convocation, Tanczos was honored with awards for AP calculus AB, AP biology and AP world history. He is also currently working on his private pilot license. Tanczos is the son of David and Laura Tanczos, a member of Our Lady of Grace Parish, and resides in Collier Township.

Over \$29,000 in financial incentive awards go to AP students and teachers

For the second year, the OLSH community gathered in the Angela Activities Center gymnasium building to celebrate the successes of the school's AP Advantage Program. The program is affiliated with the University of Notre Dame's AP Teacher Investment Program and allows OLSH students to take AP classes online through Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth. Now in its second full year, the program has grown significantly, surpassing the goals set for participation and success. In just four years, the number of AP exams taken at OLSH has increased 311 percent.

This year, OLSH students earned qualifying scores (3, 4 or 5) on 75 percent of AP tests taken, including achieving 16 top scores of 5. Last year, 63.6 percent of tests taken earned qualifying scores. The success of the program isn't only connected to the scores earned on tests taken. Students are also being encouraged to enroll in AP courses based on a scored AP potential. Taking AP courses significantly increases the potential for success in college, due to the rigor of the coursework. Additionally, new AP courses have been added to the OLSH course catalog. Students at OLSH have the opportunity to choose from 12 AP courses taught on site, including AP biology, AP calculus AB, AP calculus BC, AP computer science A, AP computer science principles, AP English language and composition, AP English literature and composition, AP environmental science, AP US government and politics, and AP world: 1200-present. This year, AP studio art has been added to the curriculum.

OLSH is the only school outside of the state of Indiana to be "adopted" by the University of Notre Dame to participate in its AP Teacher Investment Program. The program provides training and resources to teachers of AP courses, specifically in the STEM and English subject areas. OLSH teachers attend an AP Summer Institute, as well as specialized professional development days at Notre Dame, and Notre Dame faculty visit OLSH to provide support to AP teachers a few times throughout the year. OLSH teachers have access to resources to support the AP curriculum and, each spring, the school holds mock exams in each AP course to help prepare students for the actual exams in May.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FUTURE!

Register online at
www.olsch.org/openhouse/
or by calling (412) 262-3300

Join us for
OLSH
OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 3
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
or

Thursday, November 7
6:00-8:00 pm

Enjoy a personal student-led tour and discover how you can take charge of your future at OLSH!

HALLOWEEN EVENTS



PRE-PARADE PIZZA PARTY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 12-1:30 PM

Enjoy pizza from 12-12:45 PM
at the Findlay Township Activity Center!
Entertainment starts 12:45 PM.
After the show, head out for
a parade at 1:30 PM.
\$2 per person

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!
LIMITED SEATING!**

Call (724) 695-0500 to make reservations.



HOLIDAY CANVAS PAINTING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 11 AM - 2 PM • FINDLAY TOWNSHIP ACTIVITY CENTER • UPPER LEVEL

Looking for some great gifts for the holidays?
Join Laura Burns for a family-friendly painting project done on 8"x10" canvases. Choice of 10 pre-drawn designs (see examples at right)!
Additional canvases available day of event.

Registration preferred.

Limited walk-ins available.

Make selection before registering.



ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1:30 PM

Meet at the Findlay Township Activity Center in Imperial and march to the Imperial Fire Hall across Main Street for treats. Ghosts and goblins of all ages welcome! Prize drawings per age group for those in costume only!

In the event of inclement weather, stays at the Activity Center for drawings. Those not attending the Pizza Party can still participate. Tickets available at door.



TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 6 - 8 PM

TOWNSHIP of FINDLAY



KIDS HOLIDAY COOKIE AND CRAFT TIME

Wednesday, December 11
6 PM - 8 PM

Findlay Township
Activity Center • Upper Level

Let us share the holiday season together! Make special holiday crafts and decorate cookies for Santa. An evening of magic and memory making.
Call to register:
724-695-0500
Seating limited
Grades K-8 w/
cargiver
\$5/child

Fall Family Fun

Freaky Friday October 18, 2019

COSTUME PARADE & CRAFTS
10 AM-11:30 AM*

*Parade begins at promptly 10:30 AM

CREEPY CRAFTS
6 PM-8:30 PM

Create some festive crafts for your haunted house

Free for all participants!



Color Crawl HALLOWEEN EDITION October 19, 2019 10 AM

Run or walk 2 miles while being doused in vibrant **color!**

Register online by October 18
www.twpusc.org/crc/registration

Scary Swim

October 18, 2019 6 PM-8 PM

All ages will enjoy a plunge in our (not too scary) decorated indoor pool.

Limited space available, so sign up early!

\$8 per participant (Free for C&RC Members)

www.twpusc.org/crc/registration



FALL FEST

November 1, 2019
11 AM- 4 PM

Food Trucks and Vendors
Live Entertainment
Indoor & Outdoor Activities
Petting Zoo
Baking Contest
Hay Wagon
...and so much more

FREE Event Admission!

Community & Recreation Center at Boyce Mayview Park
1551 Mayview Road Upper St. Clair, PA 15241 | 412-221-1099





TODAY

OCTOBER,
2019
Vol. 42,
No. 1

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

Second Annual Day of Community Caring demonstrates generous spirit

In its second year, the District's Annual Day of Community Caring expanded its reach and impact. Over 120 staff, administrators and school board members volunteered their time on August 17 to help neighbors in need by canvassing more than 3,800 homes in order to collect donated items. As well, donations were collected along the Findlay Fair in the Woodlands parade route, where the Community Book Bus served as a mobile collection site. The community's generosity was overwhelming as buses were filled with nonperishable food items for the West Allegheny Food Pantry along with new clothing and personal items for the WA & Co. closets, which serve students at the middle and high schools.

The District was grateful to once again partner with Crossroads, Monark Student Transportation, Niagara Water, and the Findlay, North Fayette and Oakdale police departments to make the event a huge success.



TOP LEFT: Administrators, board members and partners gather before taking the Community Book Bus along the Fair in the Woodlands parade route.

TOP RIGHT: District families go above and beyond to support staff and their efforts.

MIDDLE LEFT: High school staff collect generous donations left by community members.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Thousands of donated items are unloaded and organized by a team of volunteers at the West Allegheny Food Pantry.

LEFT: Team McKee, led by principal Melissa Wagner, is greeted by students in Oakdale while canvassing.

RIGHT: Donaldson principal Dr. Erin Dierker and her staff work to fill their bus with donations.



#WeAreWestA

New teachers welcomed during induction program



West Allegheny Education Association President Mike Vattimo, Superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert and School Board President Debbi Mirich (all pictured in foreground) shared insights with new teachers during the August induction program. The new teachers in attendance were: Kelly Mancuso, Destiny Day, Erica Conoscuito, Ashley Mays, Christa Lezanic, Olivia Pasquino, Kristen Orndoff, Matt McBurney, Julie Pflug, Jim Muraco, Chelsea Feudale, Victoria DiCenso and Patrick Kelly.

The District hosted a comprehensive induction program August 6 and 7 for 13 new full-time and long-term substitute teachers. Led by assistant to the superintendent Dr. Shana Nelson, teachers learned about West Allegheny's tradition of excellence by studying the District's Framework for Excellence and instructional expectations. Aspects of their professional learning included sessions on building relationships with students, ALICE crisis training and a review of curriculum and resources.

Retirees

West Allegheny School District sincerely thanks the following staff members for their years of service and dedication to students:



Ginny Belco
John Byerly
Sandra Lewis
Cheryl Little
Mary Lococo
Denise Medwick
Roger Reynolds
Jan Schade
Linda Thompson

#WeAreTeacherProud

New principals get the scoop at ice cream socials

District administration hosted Meet the New Principal Ice Cream Socials for the three principals taking on new roles this year. Families had the opportunity to meet Dr. Frank Hernandez, the new high school principal, and Patricia Nolan, the new middle school principal, on August 5. Another social was held for Dr. Erin Dierker, the new Donaldson Elementary principal, on August 6.



ABOVE: Former Donaldson principal Patricia Nolan passes the torch to Dr. Erin Dierker, who assumed the role in July.
 TOP RIGHT: High school principal Dr. Frank Hernandez welcomes families to the high school.
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Middle school families meet their new principal, Patricia Nolan.



Superintendent's Message

For the past five years, we have taken great pride in developing a unique hashtag that embodies our District theme for each specific school year. Our theme is displayed prominently on school and District communications, including on our website, social media and staff apparel. Last year's theme was #WACARES. This year, we are pleased to share our dual hashtags #WESTAndtogether and #WeSTANDtogether. This theme holds special meaning because of its origins. High school students in our We Stand Together organization inspired the hashtag and noted that in We Stand Together "WestA" is represented in the first five letters, thus representing West Allegheny standing together in support and unity. Students in our We Stand Together organization are committed to raising awareness and erasing the stigma around mental illness. We chose the WeStandTogether hashtag to signify the importance of West Allegheny standing together to support ALL of our students, staff and the community as a whole.

As we welcomed staff back in mid-August, we were excited to launch our #WESTAndtogether #WeSTANDtogether theme, aligned to the poignant quote: "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; **together, WE** can do great things." This theme espouses the staff's collective efforts, shared beliefs and commitments, and unity across every level of our District for the benefit of our students' successes. It represents every person in the District having value and impact on our students and on one another. It symbolizes interdependency across schools and grade levels to support and depend on one another for the betterment of student learning. Together, we collectively strengthen each other. Further, as we stand together as a K-12 system and align our beliefs, efforts and academic programming, our students will benefit tremendously as they matriculate through our schools, graduate and go on to future endeavors. Together, **WE** can do great things for our students, with every person being a valuable contributor to their success.

We celebrated our theme for the year with staff August 19 during in-service training. The day entailed staff participation in eight different mini-sessions intended to provide them with an understanding of major District-wide initiatives that impact various grade levels (K-5, 6-8 and 9-12). These key initiatives are complementary and work together to support student success across all levels of the District. To garner collective insights and perspectives, staff were grouped into teams of 30 educators representing various grade levels. The eight mini-sessions included the following topics, which were presented by district administrators:

High School Career-College Readiness Teaming (CCRT) – Cheryl McHone (high school assistant principal) and Melissa Wagner (McKee Elementary principal)

Early College in High School Academy (ECIHS) - Dr. Lippert (superintendent) and Mrs. Roche (high school academic principal)

West Allegheny Virtual Academy (WAVA) and West Allegheny Learning Center (WALC) - Toni Baldanzi (supervisor of ancillary programs) and Meredith Gillo (school psychologist)

Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS) - Megan Huchko (middle school assistant principal) and Rachel Gray (Wilson Elementary principal)

Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) - Dr. Nelson (assistant to the superintendent) and Dr. Dierker (Donaldson Elementary principal)

Inclusive Practices - Tammy Adams (assistant to the superintendent) and Erica Cicero (school psychologist)

K-12 Career Awareness and Exploration - Dr. Lippert (superintendent) and Dr. Hernandez (high school principal)

District Data Review - Dr. Shattuck (assistant superintendent) and Patricia Nolan (middle school principal)

Staff feedback was overwhelmingly positive and indicated they were appreciative of staff session groupings and the District's various initiatives, which intended to support all students. This was exemplified by the elementary staff expressing excitement about ECIHSA and WAVA/WALC opportunities, both of which are high school programs that support our students graduating with a viable post-secondary pathway, ready and prepared to persist. The day highlighted how all staff stand together to support our students' successes at various levels across the District.

Our theme was also celebrated in our community August 17 during our 2nd Annual Day of Community Caring. This year, over 120 staff, board members and administrators came together and canvassed more than 3,800 homes in support of our neighbors and students in need. In addition to collecting food items for community members who rely on the West Allegheny Food Pantry, volunteers also collected new undergarments, toiletries and towels for our newly launched West A & Co. Closets at the middle and high schools. As we embarked on our second year, we signified our theme of #WESTAndtogether #WeSTANDtogether: "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together, WE can do great things." We worked in partnership with Monark Student Transportation, Crossroads, North Fayette and Findlay Townships and Oakdale Borough on this initiative. The outreach provides a model of service for our students as we give back to the community while welcoming our students back to school and demonstrate just how much #WeSTANDtogether for their success and the well-being of the entire West Allegheny community.



TOP: Dr. Lippert shared the WeStandtogether theme with staff while taking the stage with students Nasira Morris and Rashena Dennis. **ABOVE:** Students joined administrators as they kicked off the school year with a celebratory performance to the music of Rachel Platten's "Stand by You."

Dr. Jerrí Lynn Lippert, Superintendent

District draws recognition as Outstanding Visual Arts Community

West Allegheny has been recognized for its ongoing commitment to visual arts education and received the endorsement of “Outstanding Visual Arts Community 2019” by the Pennsylvania Art Educators Association. West Allegheny was one of only two districts in Allegheny County and 58 in the state of Pennsylvania to receive the distinction.

According to the PAEA, districts receiving this endorsement demonstrated the importance of their visual arts programs with:

- **Rigorous and Inclusive Programs:** Arts programs demonstrate rigor using standards-based curriculum taught at every level by highly qualified and certified arts educators.
- **Highly Accessible Programs:** Art programs are offered to all students at every level of education with a sustainable budget for the visual arts.
- **Highly Visible Programs:** Schools and districts identify their programmatic accomplishments, curriculum for all levels, art staff, mission statements, and arts events using their school websites and social media.

West Allegheny will mark this honor with PAEA banners displayed at each school.



Superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert (left) congratulates art teachers Mike Short, Leah Shuck, Sharon Harn, Claire March and Brittney Counihan, along with Wilson Elementary principal Rachel Gray, for earning Outstanding Visual Arts Community 2019.

#WeAreInnovators&Designers

Paris and Madrid among art trip visits



Forty-one high school art students and their chaperones traveled to Paris and Madrid June 15-22. With art being the focus of the trip, stops included several museums and Monet’s garden, which served as inspiration for

the Impressionist artist’s Water Lilies works. The trip provided students the opportunity to experience culture come to life as they immersed themselves in the sights, foods, language and people.

TOP: Students gather for a group photo in front of the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid. LEFT: Chaperones enjoy a pristine day at the Eiffel Tower.

Senior named National Merit Scholarship semifinalist

Senior Jacob Jones has been named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. As one of only 16,000 high school students from across the nation, Jones has the opportunity to compete for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships totaling more than \$31 million. Jones is also in the running to become a National Merit Scholarship finalist and hopes to attend a military institution upon graduation.

District and high school administrators surprise Jacob Jones during JROTC to deliver his letter of recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



Senior learns citizenship through summer experience

Senior Lisa Bakhodirova made quite an impact when she attended the Keystone Girls State honors program at Shippensburg University in June. KGS is a non-partisan government and Civics program designed to teach the importance of responsible citizenship. The program empowers young women to make a difference in their community. At the end of the weeklong program, participants had the opportunity to campaign and run for office, draft and present legislation in the KGS House of Representatives and Senate, and to be actively involved in

the judiciary system, as modeled by the state of Pennsylvania. Bakhodirova served as a magistrate at Girls State and was nominated to be one of two KGS citizens to attend Girls Nation. The “senators” convened in Washington, D.C. to campaign and run for “national” offices, and draft and pass legislation in “Congress.” As part of Girls Nation, Bakhodirova and other state representatives also had an opportunity to meet with Vice President Mike Pence.



LEFT: Senior Lisa Bakhodirova (third from left) joins other seniors from Girls State who were selected to serve as magistrates. RIGHT: Vice President Mike Pence addresses Girls Nation participants.

#WeAreStudentStrong

Students receive warm welcome on first day

Students from all five District schools received a warm welcome on their first day back August 21. Staff members went above and beyond to create an atmosphere of excitement when the buses arrived.



Parent Information Notice

Services for Disabled Preschool Age Children

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

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

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

Services for School Age Exceptional Students

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

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

Parents of public school students who suspect that their child is exceptional and in need of special education may request a multidisciplinary team evaluation of their child through a written request to the Building Principal or Mrs. Tammy Adams, Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services. Please contact the Building Principal or Mrs. Adams for the required form.

Screening and Evaluation

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

Level 1: Review of group-based data

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

Level 3: School Based Intervention Teams

The Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE)

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

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

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

Individualized Education Plan

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

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

Parent Information Notice (cont.)

Notice of Recommended Educational Placement

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

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

Detailed information regarding special education procedures may be obtained by calling Mrs. Adams at 724-695-5221.

Services for Protected Handicapped Students

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

Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools

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

Parents of nonpublic school students who suspect that their child is exceptional and in need of special education may request a multidisciplinary team evaluation of their child through a written request to Mrs. Adams.

Public Notice on Student Records

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

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

Confidentiality of Student Records

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

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

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

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

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

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

New traditions started by new coaching staff

Under the new leadership of varsity football coach Chris Lucas and his team of coaches, West Allegheny hosted its first annual youth football camp July 22-24. In its first year under Lucas there were 74 campers from grades one through eight. With the help of team members, campers learned football skills as well as the six core values that the football program espouses: accountability, competitiveness, grit, brotherhood, loyalty and selflessness.

BELOW: Camp participants take the drills seriously as they look to hone their skills.



Peer volunteers support Extended School Year program

This summer's Extended School Year program offered through the Student Services Department was held July 8 through August 1 at Wilson Elementary. Forty-five students participated and 25 peers volunteered, many of whom have volunteered for several years and have proven invaluable to the program.

"These volunteers are empathetic, kind, supportive, nurturing, and patient," said Erica Cicero, District school psychologist. "It is a reciprocal relationship, as our students enrolled as well as our helpers, learn so much from one another throughout the summer. The peer helpers take on a leadership role, and the students respond so well to their guidance and direction."

The peer volunteers have noted that they enjoy helping teach students functional skills and ways to like school, while peers learned patience as students learned to master challenging skills. "I love seeing the kids happy when they come here in the summer and when they accomplish things," said sophomore Mallory McElhaney, peer volunteer for seven years, "something just clicks for them and it is fun to watch."



Brothers Connor and Nathan Dalgaard have served as peer volunteers for seven and five years, respectively. They joined 23 other volunteers to help with this year's Extended School Year program.



Follow West Allegheny Athletics
@WestASports

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Mrs. Debbie Mirich, President	Mr. George Bartha Mr. Edward Faux	Mr. Robert Ostrander Mr. Ronald Pasic
Mr. Mark Rosen, Vice President	Mrs. Tracy Kosis Mr. Chip McCarthy	Mrs. Tracy Pustover



ADMINISTRATION

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Dr. Christopher Shattuck, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Tammy Adams, Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services
Dr. Shana Nelson, Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning
Mr. George Safin, Business Manager
Dr. Frank Hernandez, High School Principal
Ms. Katharine McClelland, High School Academic Principal
Ms. Cheryl McHone, High School Assistant Principal

Mr. David McBain, Director of Athletics
Mrs. Patricia Nolan, Middle School Principal
Ms. Megan Huchko, Middle School Assistant Principal
Dr. Erin Dierker, Donaldson Elementary Principal
Mrs. Melissa Wagner, McKee Elementary Principal
Mrs. Rachel Gray, Wilson Elementary Principal
Mrs. Toni Baldanzi, Supervisor of Ancillary Programs
Mr. Kenneth Fibbi, Director of Facilities and Operations
Mrs. Karen Ruhl, Community Relations Coordinator

FOR WEEKLY
EVENTS,
SCHOOL CLOSINGS,
AND DELAYS.

VISIT
**WEST ALLEGHENY
ONLINE:**
WWW.WESTASD.ORG

All material has been prepared,
written or edited by
Karen Ruhl,
School Community
Relations Coordinator,
West Allegheny School District
(724) 695-5274



WESTERN ALLEGHENY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

“FALL” FOR FAMILY FUN!

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Thursday, October 31, 12:00—1:00 p.m.

Let's get spooky at the library! We will have games, crafts, and activities. Costumes are not required but they are encouraged!

FROZEN SCAVENGER HUNT

Sunday, November 10, 1:00—5:00 p.m.

Find all the hidden *Frozen* characters around the library and win a *Frozen 2* themed prize! No need to register; just drop in!

HOLIDAY PHOTO SHOOT

Saturday, November 16, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Get your Winter Photos done in time to share with Gramma! Michelle of MD Photography will be bringing a beautiful winter themed set. \$85 per session includes sitting fee and choice of two packages. Additional prints and Christmas cards are available (prices vary). Families will return the following day to select their prints and package, as well as order any add-ons.

SAVE THE DATE

W.A.F.E.L.'s Semi-Annual Book Sale

Thursday—Saturday, November 14—16

\$5 per bag (or individually priced)

- Fiction & Non-Fiction Books
- Adult, Teen, and Children's Materials
- Audio books on CD & Cassette
- Movies on DVD, VHS, & Blu-ray
- Music on CD & Cassette
- Puzzles, Games, Magazines, & More!
- Don't forget...the sale also includes raffle baskets and delicious baked goods!

Sponsored by W. A. F. E. L. = Western Area Friends to Enhance the Library

Interested in helping out? We are looking for volunteers to help set up, take down, and assist with the book sale. W.A.F.E.L. accepts year-round donations of gently used books and other materials. Your donations are tax-deductible and always greatly appreciated. This book sale raises funds to support library programming and services. Many thanks to those who donate materials and time to make this effort possible!

For more information on all programs & events, visit www.WesternAlleghenyLibrary.org or call 724-695-8150.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Please check our website for specific dates & to register for all programs.

ADULT

Bookworms

1st Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.

We Be Book'N Book Club

3rd Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.

Anime & Manga Club

4th Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.

TEEN

Adulting 101

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Middle Grade Maker Lab

Thursdays, 5:00 p.m.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Baby Circle Time

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Littles Storytime

Tuesday & Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

Play K

Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. OR
Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

Sensory Storytime

Mondays, 10:00 a.m.

LEGO Club

Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m.

Location:

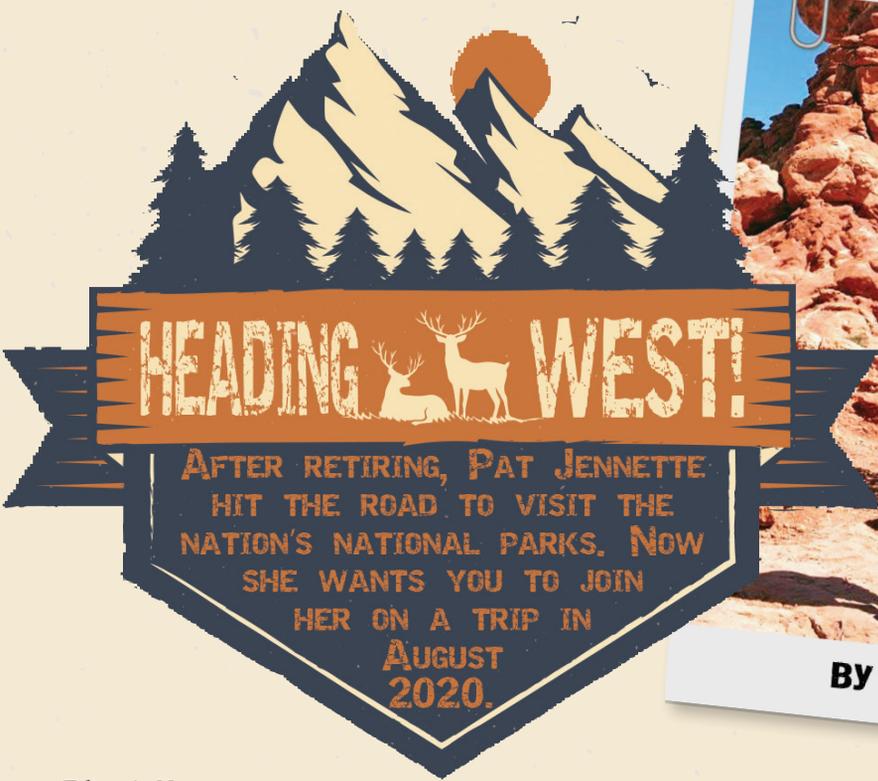
181 Bateman Road
Oakdale, PA 15071

Library Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.



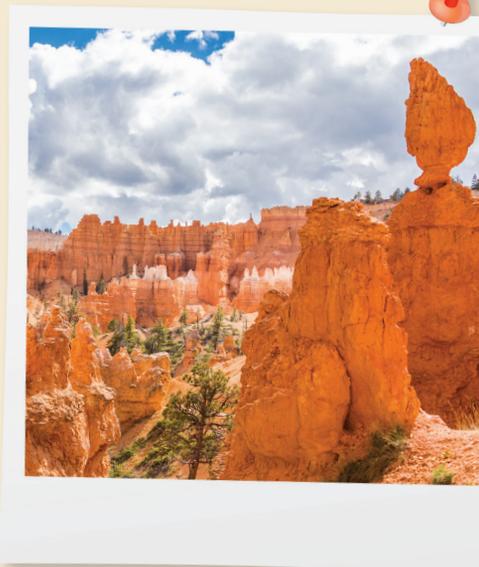
WESTERN
ALLEGHENY
COMMUNITY
LIBRARY



By Pat Jennette

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Bryce Canyon National Park is just an hour and a half from the previous stop on the trip, Zion. Years ago, our family took a whirlwind tour of nine national parks in the West over a three-week period. Included in that trip was a stop at Bryce. Imagine our amazement when we gazed from the overlook down onto layers and layers and rows upon rows of towering stone in every color of red imaginable rising from the ground and reaching up into a deep blue sky. Wrapped among them are walking paths and hiking routes. These rock formations are fondly referred to as “hoodoos” and Bryce is



Editor's Note:

Allegheny West Magazine is teaming up with Collette to offer a unique opportunity to readers. Next August, Collette will be leading a trip to some of the country's premier national parks out west with this magazine's publisher emeritus, Pat Jennette. Now a seasoned traveler, Pat has made it her mission since she retired in 2013 to visit all of the country's national parks. In our last edition, Pat wrote about the first five stops on the trip. This column picks up where the second left off:

**National Parks of America Tour
with Pat Jennette
Five Parks in the American West
Aug. 8-20, 2020**

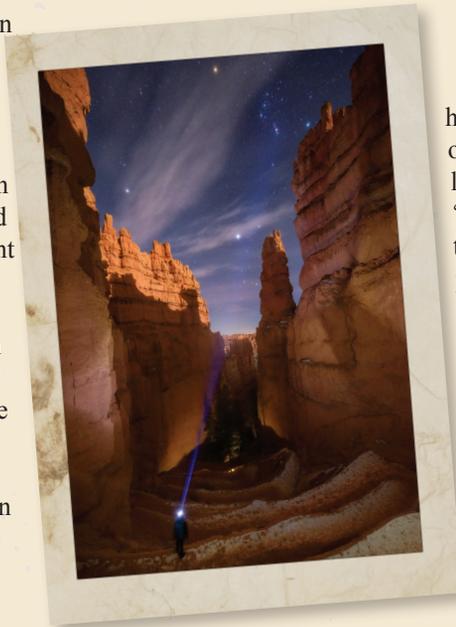
Free Information Session:
Jan. 14, 6 PM
Robinson Township Public Library
1000 Church Hill Rd, 15205
gateway.gocollette.com/link/985315
travel@awmagazine.com

In my last article, I outlined the first segment of the upcoming tour I'll be taking part in next August. The first of the stops on the trip will include Scottsdale, Sedona, Lake Powell, and Grand Canyon and Zion National Parks. The tour starts on Aug. 8 in Scottsdale, Arizona and ends on Aug. 20 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

FIND YOUR PARK

RIGHT: Bryce Canyon National Park is known for the rock formations known as “hoodoos.” BELOW: Stargazing is a must during a visit to Bryce.

Imagine taking the opportunity to see so much of our beautiful country on a tour completely planned by someone else, including transportation, meals and lodging. Having been on a Collette tour several years ago when we traveled to Australia and Fiji, I can attest to how convenient it was to have everything planned out and to have each day organized and led by experienced guides. If you missed the first information session about this trip, we're hosting another Jan. 14 at the Robinson Township Library at 6 p.m. We hope you'll join us!



home to the largest collection of such formations in the world. Bryce's landscape is further enhanced by a web of “fins” and natural bridges that weave among these towering red spires. Unique to the park is the bristlecone pine, the oldest trees in the world. Some of them are as old as 5,000 years old!

During our trip there, the most magical moments were when we gazed out onto the landscape in the evening under a deep dark sky of stars. The sky enveloped the landscape, creating a scene of theatrical proportions that was beyond imagination.



Utah's Great Salt Lake.

SALT LAKE CITY

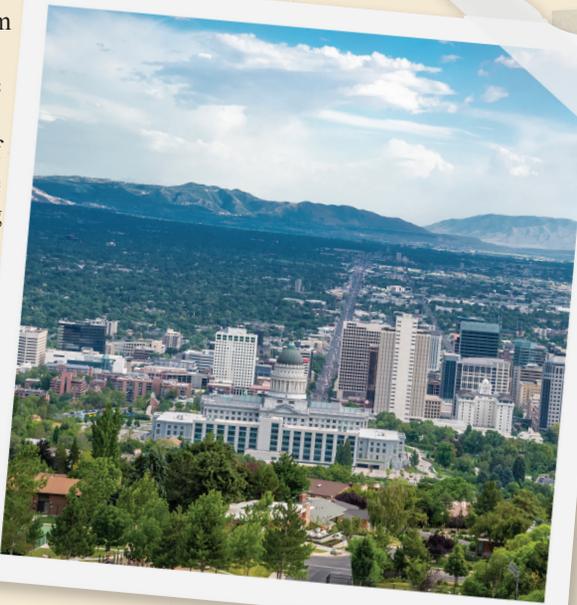
When we stayed in Salt Lake City, we had the good fortune to hear a recording of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir during a rehearsal, accompanied by the famous organ of the same name. However, visitors can hear them rehearse live once a week, usually on Thursday evenings, and it's free to the public. Our visit there also included stops at Temple Square and the Tabernacle.

On this trip, we'll tour Salt Lake City, including the Great Salt Lake, the state capitol and the residential district. You'll also see the six-spired granite Salt Lake Temple and the domed Tabernacle. The latter is home to the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the great Tabernacle organ.

With two nights in Salt Lake City, there will be flexible time to visit sites on your own. A 75-minute walking tour is available, with opportunities to stop at various locations. These include the 10-acre Temple Square; the Family History Library, featuring the world's largest genealogical library; Assembly Hall, an historic chapel designed with biblical symbolism; the LDS Conference Center, the largest theater-style auditorium in the world; and the historic Hotel Utah, which is one of the finest in the West from long ago.

If you'd like to see more without going far, just stay near Temple Square. This three-block area features historic stops, dining, gardens and museums.

In fact, Utah's own travel website notes that many of the city's highlights are easily accessible within the Temple Square area.



ABOVE: Salt Lake City sits on the salt flats of the Great Salt Lake and is home to the Mormon Church, known for its choir. The city offers many restaurants, gardens and museums to visit.

JACKSON HOLE

This town has a distinct cowboy vibe coupled with an endless array of outdoor adventures. Jackson Hole is the "go to" spot for travelers and outdoor enthusiasts. It's situated on the border of Idaho under the towering Grand Tetons Mountain Range.

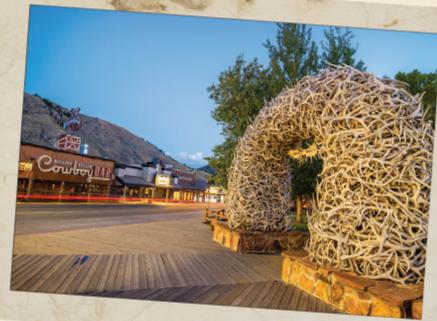
When we stopped in Jackson Hole, we discovered a town with a western atmosphere in full force. Anchored by the famous Million Dollar Cowboy Bar (it's been featured in several movies) and flanked by arches made from hundreds of elk antlers, the town is immediately welcoming to visitors. Old-time stagecoaches wait to transport you throughout town. Watch the nightly, free shootout reenactments, or shop and dine at the Square, where dozens of storefronts on the boardwalk offer plenty for the visitor to indulge or engage in for a day or evening.

We parked and walked the Square when we were there, then treated ourselves to what was noted at that time as the best pizza in Jackson Hole.

Those who enjoy the outdoors will find dozens of companies to help you plan an adventure. Hiking, kayaking, canoeing, rafting and horseback riding opportunities are plentiful. Go on a guided tour, rent a motorcycle or a bicycle, or take a chairlift ride in a gondola to view the valley below.

The day ends with an authentic chuck wagon dinner and cowboy entertainment!

BELOW: The John Moulton Barn below the Teton Range.



Jackson Hole is known for the town square flanked with arches made from elk antlers and the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar.



Pat Jennette is founder and now publisher emeritus of Allegheny West Magazine. A former North Fayette Township resident, she and her husband became full-time RVers upon retiring with the goal to visit every national park. They are members/supporters of the National Park Foundation, National Parks Travelers Club, and the National Parks Conservation Association. Pat has presented programs on the national parks at local libraries and at RV parks around the United States. Their goal is to visit all 61 national parks, which are part of the 419 total national park sites that cover all 50 states as well as American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These include national monuments, seashores, historic sites and others.

West Allegheny Class of 1958 Meetings, second Thursdays, 9 a.m., Eat'n Park Robinson Township, (724) 747-1773.

Western PA Kidney Support Group, second Sundays, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Eat'n Park Robinson, (724) 796-1603, RSVP.

Boo's, Booze and Brews, Oct. 17, 5-9 p.m., Clever Park in Robinson, local distillers and brewers, \$25, benefits Parkway West Rotary, www.parkwaywestrotary.com.

Senior Citizens Wellness Program, Oct. 18, 10 a.m., Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport, free health screenings, flu and pneumonia vaccines, exhibitors, light lunch provided, presented by state Rep. Valerie Gaydos, call to register, (412) 262-3780.

Montours Presbyterian Church Spaghetti Dinner, Oct. 19, 4-6 p.m., Montours Presbyterian Church, take-out available, bake sale, Chinese auction, adults \$9, ages 5-12 \$5, under 4 free, (412) 787-1050, montourchurch.org.

Harvest of Health Wellness Expo, Oct. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Pittsburgh Airport Marriott, food and product samples, health screening, fitness/cooking demonstrations, local vendors and farmers, ask-a-doctor, ask-a-chef, ask-a-dietician, free event, hosted by Heritage Valley Health System, see page 2, heritagevalley.org/pages/harvest-of-health.

Designer Purse Bingo, Oct. 20, bingo starts 2 p.m., doors open 1 p.m., VFW Post 7714 (7971 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale), includes 15 regular bingos, lunch, soft drinks, water, coffee, door prizes, benefits local disabled and homeless veterans, \$25 advance, \$30 at door, (724) 695-8866 or visit the post.

West Hills Symphonic Band Concert, Oct. 20, 3 p.m., South Fayette High School, "Autumn Winds," music by Morton Gould, Rimsky-Korsakov, Bartok, John Williams, Artie Shaw, Sousa, more, free concert, (412) 788-4713.

Scout Troop 248 Haunted Cabin, Oct. 23-26, 7-9 p.m., 248 Clinton Avenue in Oakdale, \$5/person, groups: \$3/person, benefits Scout Troop 248, (724) 693-0549.

Monster Bash Costume Party, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m., Edgeworth Club in Sewickley, live music by No Bad JuJu, heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, silent auctions, raffles, costume prizes, auction, benefits Christopher's Kitchen, \$75/person, christopherskitchen.org.

Valley Church Spaghetti Dinner, Oct. 26, 4-7 p.m., dine in and carry out, \$10 adults, \$6 children and seniors, benefits West Allegheny Food Pantry and the Valley Church Deacon Fund, (724) 695-0300.

Unique Boutique, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Edgeworth Club in Sewickley, 50 artisans and vendors, clothing, gourmet food, home décor, jewelry/accessories, \$15 admission, \$35 admission and lunch, benefits Maternal Child Health at Heritage Valley Health System, (412) 749-7050, foundation@hvhs.org, see page 8.

Holy Trinity Parish Craft Show, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 5718 Steubenville Pike in Robinson, 100+ craft tables, lunch, 50/50, Chinese auction, takes place in school cafeteria, adequate parking, free admission, (412) 337-3190.

Lifespan Oglebay Festival of Lights Trip, Nov. 12, overnight package includes lodging at Wilson Lodge, Festival of Lights dinner show, Carriage House Glass Museum, Mansion Museum, Winter Fantasy at the Good Zoo, breakfast buffet daily, transportation, baggage handling, souvenir, \$50 deposit due at sign-up, call for pricing, (724) 281-1669.

Kinsey Vintage Market, Nov. 22, 5-8 p.m., \$12, Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., \$5, old Kinsey Electric warehouse, 7237 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, 50 antique and artisan dealers, hand-poured candles, repurposed jewelry, seasonal floral pieces, winery, homemade mason jar lemonade, food trucks, moonshine, chocolate, www.kinseyevents.com/vintage-market.

Echo Valley Bluegrass Concert, Nov. 22, 7 p.m., McDonald Presbyterian Church Trinity Center, 119 Station Street, \$8 adults, under 18 free, purchase online or at door, www.mcdonaldpres.org.

Findlay Parks and Rec.

Register for any of the following programs by calling Findlay Township Parks and Recreation at (724) 695-0500 x 240 or by emailing sstrain@findlaytwp.org, unless otherwise indicated. Programs take place at the Findlay Township Community Center unless otherwise indicated.

Halloween

For more information, see page 26.

Pre-parade Pizza Party, Oct. 27, 12-1:30 p.m.

Halloween Parade, Oct. 27, 1:30 p.m.

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

Time for Toddlers, Mondays: Oct. 21, Nov. 4, 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 13, Tuesdays: Oct. 22, Nov. 5, 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, 10:15-11:15 a.m., ages 4 and under, one hour of movement, music, activities, snack, adult must stay with child, registration required, \$5/session and child, follows WA cancellation schedule, cole2585@hotmail.com.

Yoga for Beginners and Beyond, Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$5/class, (724) 695-1976.

Senior Yoga and Qi Gong, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., (724) 695-1976, Info@idtsd.net.

Walk 15, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7 p.m., \$6/class, kuziofjr@gmail.com.

Crochet for a Cause, Oct. 24, Jan. 23, 6:30-8 p.m., help create chemo and preemie caps for patients at area hospitals.

Semi-Super Morning Bingo, Fridays, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, Jan. 31, doors open 9 a.m., bingo begins 10 a.m., \$10/packet, additional packets \$5, jackpot sold separately.

Computer and Appliance Recycling, Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., computers, monitors, printers, scanners, laptops, non-Freon appliances (microwaves, washer, dryers, etc.), lead acid automobile batteries, cell phones, telephones, keyboards, mice, and radio equipment, one television per vehicle, \$20 appliances with Freon, recycling items only accepted during event, (724) 695-0500 x 247.

Boy Scout Troop 830 Pancake Breakfast, Nov. 2, 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m., adults \$6, senior citizens and children ages 5-12 \$5, under 5 free, take-out available, Chinese auction, food pantry donations accepted.

Veteran's Day Lunch, Nov. 7, 11 a.m., details TBA, registration required.

AARP Driver Safety Program, Findlay Township Municipal Building, eight-hour course, Nov. 13-14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., four-hour refresher course, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., AARP members \$15, non-members \$20, Findlay residents pay half, registration required.

Holiday Canvas Painting, Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., see page 26.

Kids Holiday Cookie and Craft Time, Dec. 11, 6-8 p.m., grades K-8, see page 26.

SNPJ Lodge 106 Programs

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

Public Events

Toys for Tots, drop-off during regular business hours in the clubroom or lobby of the SNPJ Home Office, for Marine Corp. Reserves Toys for Tots Program, new and unwrapped toys.

Cool Change Concert, Oct. 19, 7-11 p.m., clubroom, kitchen will be open.

Euchre Tournament, every other Sunday starting Oct. 27, 2 p.m., clubroom \$10 entry fee, food buffet available.

American Red Cross CPR/AED Class, Nov. 6, \$64/person, call or email to register.

Silver Sky Duo Concert, Nov. 27, 8-11 p.m., clubroom.

Tady's Christmas Polka Dance, Dec. 1, 2-6 p.m., Imperial Room.

For Members and their Guest

Shari's Free Jukebox Night, first Tuesdays, clubroom, see bartender Shari and enjoy an evening of free Jukebox

Bar Bingo, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., clubroom, kitchen will be open.

Adult Halloween Party, Oct. 26, 7 p.m., "Let's Make A Deal" party, come in costume, prizes.

Adult Christmas Party, Dec. 21, 4-11 p.m., with music by Brother Rick and the Doo-Wop All Stars and Shades of Time Trio, food, prizes, more.

PITTSBURGH'S Affordable Family Fun
 170 Kelso Road,
 Imperial, PA 15126
 Noblestown Exit of Rt. 22
412-279-RACE (7223)

PENNSYLVANIA MOTOR SPEEDWAY

THANKS FOR COMING OUT THIS YEAR!

See you in 2020!

Special thanks to these fine companies for a Great 2019 Season!

Allegany West, BAZELL, Coca-Cola, Colussy, System Coach World, Milev, DIEHL AUTOMOTIVE, M O N, ZUFALL COMMUNICATIONS, KUMMIT, TOWNSHIP AUTOMOTIVE, etc.

Every Saturday Night April through September
 Log on to www.ppms.com
 for more schedules and special offers!

Dr. Lindsay Jodon, Dr. Judy DiSanti & Dr. Lisa MacPhail

- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Same-day Crowns
- Sleep Apnea/Snoring Devices
- Porcelain Veneers
- Lumineers | Six-month Smiles
- Teeth Whitening
- Tooth-colored Fillings
- Implant Crowns | Dentures
- Cleanings/Exams



"CREATING HEALTHY, BEAUTIFUL SMILES" | 412-264-6229
 1009 Beaver Grade Road, Suite 300, Moon Twp. PA | www.coraopolisdentist.com

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, October 26, 2019

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Dine In \$10 Adults Carry Out \$6 Children Under 10 & Seniors

Tickets can be purchased through church office or at the door

Valley Church
 237 Main Street
 Imperial, PA 15126
 (724) 695-0300
 *Facility is ADA accessible.

Proceeds Benefit the West Allegheny Food Pantry and the Valley Church Deacon Fund

Unique Boutique

Presented by: Heritage Valley Health System Foundation
 Benefits: Maternal Child Health - Fetal Monitor Carts

Saturday, November 9, 2019
Edgeworth Club, 511 East Drive, Sewickley

50 Artisans & Vendors, Clothing, Gourmet Food, Home Decor, Jewelry/Accessories

10:00 am to 4:00 pm (Shopping)

\$15 Admission or \$35 Admission & Lunch

Courtesy Shuttle Service Available

RSVP: Call 412.749.7050 or email foundation@hvhs.org



North Fayette Parks and Rec.

Programs take place at the North Fayette Community Center at Donaldson Park, unless otherwise noted. Visit www.north-fayette.com or call (724) 307-3725 for more information or to register.

Fall Festival, Oct. 19, 5-7 p.m., trunk or treat, costume contest, crafts, face painting, balloon artist, more.

Christmas Tree Lighting, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m.

Adults and Seniors

Insanity, Mondays, 9 a.m.

Body Sculpt, Mondays, 6 p.m.

Total Body Strength, Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Body Weight Plus, Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Yoga, Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.

PiYo, Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays, 9 a.m.

Abs and Glutes, Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Tai Chi Ch'uan, Saturdays, 9 a.m.

Adult Volleyball League, Tuesdays, sfox@north-fayette.com.

Adult Co-Ed Recreational and Competitive Softball League, sfox@north-fayette.com.

Pickle Ball, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8-10 a.m., Fridays, 9-11 a.m., 5-7 p.m.

Senior Luncheons, second Wednesdays, noon, email dhildebrand@north-fayette.com to receive monthly senior newsletter.

Youth

Youth Outdoor Flag Football, ages 4-14, through Oct. 27.

Super Kids Floor Hockey, ages 3-5, Oct. 28-Dec. 2.

Youth Floor Hockey, ages 6-8, Oct. 28-Dec. 2.

Developmental Volleyball League, ages 9-15, Wednesdays, Oct. 23-Jan. 29.

Indoor Flag Football, ages 6-14, Saturdays, Nov. 9-March 21.

Youth Indoor Soccer League, ages 6-9, begins January 2020.

Youth Indoor Hockey League, ages 6-9, begins January 2020.

Preschool, ages 2-4, email kromano@north-fayette.com for details.

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PALS, recreational activities for individuals with special needs, email dhildebrand@north-fayette.com for upcoming events.

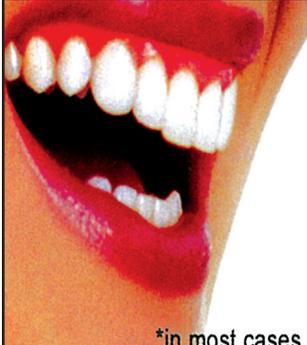
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2019 Holiday Guide

The nukes next door

During the Cold War, nuclear weapons stockpiled in the area were part of this country's last line of defense against an attack by the Soviet Union. Most people never even knew they were here.

In the 1950s, the trees just south of the farmhouse where Kay Schurr and Pat Trello lived in Moon Township weren't as tall as they are today.

Back then, the sisters, whose last names were at that time McGinnis, could stand in front of their family's home and look out over a U.S. Army base that sat less than 1,000 feet from their front steps. From there, they could watch military personnel going about their daily routines.

About once a month, the sisters and the rest of their family were also treated to a rather dramatic sight - one they could watch unfold right from the comfort of their front yard.

"[The Army] would run drills there maybe once a month or so," Schurr recalled. "The sirens would all go off and they would slide the tops off these big magazines that were buried in the ground. Then these huge Nike missiles would rise out of the ground. All the soldiers would run around and bark orders, and after awhile [the missiles] would go back in the ground."

Schurr said she never worried much about those missiles. For one thing, she said her father, who along with his brother, Luther, had sold part of the family farm to the Army to construct the base, assured her that the drills were just tests. In fact, she said she got a kick out of the whole thing.

"It was quite a lot of fun to watch," she said. "Being small like we were, young teens, we didn't really realize how dangerous it could have been if those had all fired off."

In that event, the situation certainly would have been dire. In all likelihood, it would have meant that the U.S. was facing an imminent attack by nuclear-armed Soviet bombers that had managed to slip past Air Force interceptors. Launching the missiles would have thus represented a last-ditch effort to thwart an impending nuclear attack.

"They were the last line of defense, period," was the way ret. Army First Sgt. George Millerschoen put it during a Veterans Breakfast Club meeting in Moon Township earlier this year.

In the early 1970s, Millerschoen was stationed at another missile battery in Finleyville not unlike the one that operated adjacent to the McGinnis family farm.

"If they're firing our missiles here, we're being attacked by bombers now," he told the group. "If these things are activated, there are bombers coming over the ice caps from the Soviet Union and they're dropping bombs on our major metropolitan area."

During the early years of the Cold War, as the Army was warning the public of the potential of a nuclear attack from the Soviet Union, it was also rolling out various means to protect against such an attack. At first, the Army installed 90 mm anti-aircraft guns around the country's major industrial and metropolitan centers. By the early 1950s, however, the Army was also widely deploying a missile system capable of taking down



A Nike Hercules missile is pictured during a launch. PHOTO COURTESY U.S. ARMY

jet-powered bombers. Initially, the Army armed those missiles with high explosive warheads, but by the late 1950s the Army was also secretly arming some of its missiles with a much more devastating weapon: a nuclear bomb. That information remained classified until well after the missiles were decommissioned in 1974. At the time, only Army personnel with the proper clearances even knew that nuclear weapons were being stockpiled at the batteries. Among those personnel was Millerschoen, who says that a number of those missiles would have had a telltale static probe sticking out from their nose indicating that they were armed with a nuclear warhead. According to people interviewed for this article, the number of nuclear warheads stockpiled at any one battery would have likely ranged from nine to a dozen

or more. One of those sites sat adjacent to the McGinnis family farm.

To understand just how it came to be that large stockpiles of nuclear weapons ended up in the middle of sleepy suburban communities like western Allegheny County, one has to go back to the final months of World War II. It was then, according to the book "What We Have We Shall Defend," which was published by the Army Corps of Engineers about two of the area's Nike missile installations, that the "U.S. Military realized that conventional anti-aircraft artillery could not deal with the fast, high-flying and maneuverable jet aircraft and rockets being introduced by the Germans." To confront this threat, in 1945 the Army contracted with Western Electric to begin development of a defensive missile system. The program was dubbed Nike, after the Greek god of war, and when its first iteration - the Ajax - was rolled out in 1954, it was the first missile system of its kind in the world. It utilized a series of radar systems that guided the missile and tracked its target. The missile was capable of reaching 2.3 Mach, or 1,679 miles per hour, and had a flight range of about 30 miles.

By 1953, the Army was stockpiling Ajax missiles at batteries across the country, including around Pittsburgh, which the Army identified as a potential target for attack due to its steel production. The city was also in a strategic position to protect other high value industries in Ohio and ports in Philadelphia and Baltimore. In all, Pittsburgh initially had 12 batteries armed with 90 mm anti-aircraft guns built in a circle around it. Each battery was labeled with a "PI," as was the practice of using the first letters of the cities where the batteries were located to identify them. To store Ajax missiles, batteries were outfitted with underground bunkers, or magazines, that had large rectangular doors that would open down into the ground. An elevator would then lift the missiles to ground level, where soldiers could wheel them into firing position. Batteries were manned by either National Guardsmen or regular Army units. The batteries in this area were located in Moon Township, South Fayette Township, West View and Collier Township.



Each missile battery was comprised of both a launch site and a command site. The latter would have been responsible for firing the missiles. Command posts had to have a direct line of sight to their launch site and were one to three miles away from the launch site. The one for the Moon Township launch site was located in Robinson Township, approximately one mile away as the crow flies, off of Leona Lane. From that vantage point, Army personnel could look out across the Montour Run ravine and see the launch site in the neighboring township. Today, the lot where that command site was located is utilized by the township for storage.

Though the Nike Ajax was a state-of-the-art weapon at its inception, the Army realized even as it was rolling it out that the missiles were limited in their ability to counter large squadrons of bombers and supersonic jets. Thus, Western Electric's development arm, Bell Labs, developed another, much more powerful missile. That missile, named the Hercules, was powered by four Ajax boosters that could produce upwards of 220,000 pounds of thrust. The boosters could launch the missile to the speed of sound by the time it was 40 feet - which was also its height - off the ground. With an unclassified range of 90 miles, it could fly three times farther than the Ajax and, more importantly, carry the heavier load required of a nuclear warhead.

The Hercules was designed to launch 100,000 feet into the atmosphere and then drop down onto its target. Rather than target individual planes, Hercules missiles armed with nuclear warheads could instead take out entire squadrons. Any planes caught within its blast radius would have been vaporized. Planes further out would have been crushed by the shockwave or knocked out of the air. Even planes outside of that shockwave would have been exposed to a powerful electromagnetic pulse that occurs during an atmospheric nuclear explosion. That pulse would have fried any unshielded electronics and caused affected planes to crash.

Just launching the missiles would have even caused some localized collateral damage. As the missiles broke the sound barrier, they created a powerful shockwave that was capable of shattering windows and even causing structural damage to nearby buildings. Faced with a nuclear attack, however, damaged property would have been the least of anyone's concerns.

Though the Hercules had an unclassified range of 90 miles, Millerschoen says Army personnel were aware that the missiles could fly upwards of 200 miles. Thus, in the event of an attack, he says Army personnel in this area would have been aiming to intercept enemy aircraft just as the planes were crossing the Canadian border, somewhere around the northern end of Lake Erie. From launch to detonation, the missile's flight time would have taken all of 40 seconds.

Ret. Col. Andy Sakmar, who was a captain in the National Guard when he became a headquarters battery commander in the area, says that, despite never firing a single missile, personnel at the batteries remained in a constant state of readiness.

"During the Cold War, what do you do? You wait and become more proficient through practice," he said. "That would be an everyday function."

He said personnel would engage in constant drills that simulated firing a real missile. At the start of each firing drill, an officer would determine whether to ready a missile armed with a high explosive or nuclear warhead. Soldiers at the launch site would then have just 20 minutes or less to prepare the missile to fire.

In between drills, soldiers at the launch sites could count among their duties the rather tedious task of inspecting each of the screws holding the missiles' panels in place. Soldiers at the command posts, meanwhile, tracked flights coming in and out of Pittsburgh and plotted missile trajectories. Ret. Sgt. First Class Joe Cirra of South Fayette, who worked as a radar operator at several batteries, recalled how his duties also included patrolling the base, shoveling snow and cleaning floors. He said soldiers worked odd hours, sometimes for days on end, and could be called in at a moment's notice. He said, though, that soldiers never forgot the gravity of their responsibilities.

"We knew we were guarding our people and knew the seriousness of the situation," said Cirra.

During the first half of his 42 years in the National Guard, Cirra witnessed the transformation of the area's air defenses, as 90 mm guns were replaced by Ajax missiles and then Hercules missiles. In 1971, he was transferred to battery PI-71 after the Army closed its battery in West View. With the increased firepower and flight range of the Hercules, the Army no longer needed so many missiles or batteries and, by that time, the Army was only operating four batteries around Pittsburgh. The closing of the West View battery brought that number down to three.

Just 11 years prior, in 1960, that battery and the five others still operating around Pittsburgh had all come under the control of the new Army Air-Defense Command Post PI-70 DC. Located in Collier Township just outside of Oakdale, the 118-acre site contained a radar tower and a state-of-the-art, two-story anti-aircraft operations room known as the blue room, where personnel could control missiles launched from any of Pittsburgh's missile batteries. According to "What We Have We Shall Defend," the building, which was constructed to withstand a nuclear blast, contained a massive computer system along with canvas cots, seven 13,000-gallon water tanks, food for 130 personnel for 30 days and a radioactive wash-down area. In 1961, it was integrated into the Air Force's SAGE system, "a nationwide air defense network maintained by the Air Force," that was also utilized by the FAA, according to the book. The base also had a commissary, a base exchange clothing shop, a barbershop and a barracks. The base, which was in operation for just 14 years, was the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania.

As the arms race between the Soviet Union and the U.S. progressed, the Department of Defense increasingly became more concerned about the threat of intercontinental ballistic missiles as opposed to bombers. That would eventually spell the end of the Nike missile program and its batteries across the U.S. The third iteration of the program, the Zeus, was never deployed. By 1974, all sites, including the air defense base in Oakdale, were shuttered and the missiles decommissioned. Sakmar, who was transferred the year prior, says he heard about the Army's decision while watching the news on television. He says some of the personnel under his command went on to become helicopter mechanics, which were in particular need at the time due to America's involvement in Vietnam. Plenty of others, though, simply found themselves without a job and a skill set that had become obsolete just as the country was heading into a recession. Sakmar says some soldiers later lamented how, despite years of preparing for a mission that had once been paramount to national security, the public never even knew they existed.

Remember When?

Today, the property on which PI-71's launch site in Moon Township was located has yet to be developed. Weeds and trees grow over top of the old magazines, which have been filled with dirt. The site has become popular with mountain bikers who have blazed trails around the area.

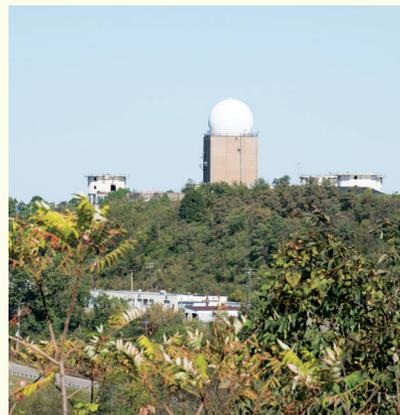
The other defunct launch site in the area, PI-62, sits adjacent to the South Fayette School District campus and is utilized as a storage lot. Many of the buildings at the Oakdale headquarters, meanwhile, are now part of Collier Township Community Park. In 2014, the township remodeled two of the buildings into its community center. The base's commissary and base exchange continued operating for decades until the new commissary in Moon Township opened.

Plans are also in the works to remodel the building that housed the base's blue room into a brewery. The only part of the base that continues to function in any official capacity is the base's radar tower, which is still utilized by the FAA. The rest of the property has been deeded to the National Park Service, meaning it will likely forever be used as a park. Some remaining buildings and a historic plaque placed outside the community center are the only reminders of the critical role that the Nike missiles and the local military personnel who operated them played to national defense during the Cold War.

Local Nike sites today



ABOVE: This photo, taken of the remnants of Nike missile battery PI-71 in Moon Township, shows where the battery's magazines, which held its missiles, were located. Remnants of two of the magazines are buried below the grassy area on the other side of the concrete seen in the foreground. A third sits just beyond the next stretch of concrete. All three magazines were located within the launch site's exclusionary zone, which was accessible only to personnel with the proper clearances and patrolled by unleashed guard dogs. It's believed the magazines in this photo could have at one time collectively held upwards of nine or more nuclear missiles. RIGHT: This radar tower in Collier Township, once part of the Oakdale air defense base, is still utilized by the FAA.



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Climbing mountains

"Joy fills hearts, that promote peace..."
~ Proverbs 12:20

What do Mt. Kilimanjaro and the West Allegheny community have in common? The answer is Jocelyn Perry. The 2014 West Allegheny graduate and Boston University graduate is now a Peace Corps volunteer and teacher in Tanzania.

She writes, "Over our last school break, for eight days this September, I got to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro! It is the tallest mountain on the African continent and the tallest free standing mountain in the world."

Jocelyn and nine other Peace Corps friends and one new friend were accompanied by a crew of 31. Six of them were guides, 23 were porters and two were chefs. The tour company was Kili Champs. Jocelyn writes, "We absolutely could not have done it without them."

"We took the Lemosho Route, which is longer, so we had more time to adjust to the altitude. Kili isn't a very steep mountain, the thing that makes it tough to climb is the lack of oxygen when you get further and further up!

"We had a few days where we actually climbed up and then came back down to sleep at a lower camp. The first six days we were going up and coming down and then back up again," she writes.

The higher they went, the colder it got, to the point that they were sleeping in ski jackets

"On the sixth day, we got to our base camp. We went to sleep at five pm and then woke up at midnight. The summit was our goal. So we did the last six hours in the dark."

The team reached their summit at sunrise on the seventh day. Jocelyn writes, "It was really, really beautiful. It was like seeing the sunrise when you are above the clouds. Made it feel like we were on top of the world. It was crazy beautiful!"

While exciting and rewarding, it was also hard to breathe at that altitude. The team stayed on top as long as they could. Jocelyn, now exhausted and suffering from a headache, was "kind of wanting to head back down."

On the seventh and eighth days, the team hiked a total of eight easier hours to return down the mountain. Jocelyn's new goal was a hot shower and clean clothes.

Jocelyn joined the Peace Corps in July of 2018. When she moved to Tanzania, she had no idea she would be climbing Africa's tallest mountain. After three months of training and learning Swahili, the language of her students, she began teaching a course similar to ninth grade math.

"I have met some really awesome people, both Tanzanians and other volunteers," she writes.

Tanzania is developing rapidly. In larger towns, one can enjoy Pizza Hut, KFC and Subway. Jocelyn is waiting for a McDonald's. Washing machines do exist in larger towns, but she is in a rural area and hand washes her clothing. They have many of the animals



Jocelyn Perry and the rest of the her group celebrate after reaching the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. She's pictured below with her sister on a safari and with one of her students in the bottom photo.

that we do here, just with lots more monkeys. There are also elephants, zebras, lions, hippos and, Jocelyn's favorite, giraffes, in the national parks. She has yet to see a camel.

"People very impressively do carry water on their heads in buckets. They walk long distances to get water. Thankfully in my village of Arusha, water is pretty plentiful," she writes.

Via her phone, she's able to keep in close touch with her family. In

June of this year, Jocelyn's mother, Pam, dad, Mark, and sister, Loren, flew down and spent 12 days with her. Jocelyn was an excellent tour guide. Together, they enjoyed two safaris in national parks, a hotel on a coffee plantation and time on a white sandy beach on the beautiful island of Zanzibar. Three days were spent at Jocelyn's home, where they enjoyed meeting other Peace Corps members, village friends and students.

"Beautiful country, wonderful people," is how Pam describes it. "My daughter is safe and happy. What more could a parent ask for?"

She even picked up some interesting Swahili sayings like "Mungu ni mwema kila wakati," which means "God is good all the time;" "Ninakupenda," which means "I love you;" and Asante sana, which means "Thank you very much."

"Jina langu ni Jocelyn" means "My name is Jocelyn."

"I wanted to do Peace Corps because I am very interested in development work and I saw this was a great way to enter into that field," she writes. "I also love traveling and was excited about the opportunity to get to live in another country for two years and get paid (kind of). Now, I really feel confident I could live in any country in the world and make it work."

She says she does miss "yoga sessions and chocolate chip ice cream. Oh, and my friends and family, of course!"



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Three hospitals, eight Medical Neighborhoods, nine ConvenientCare walk-in clinics, satellites offering physical rehabilitation, behavioral health, wound care and other outpatient services as well as access to many primary and specialty care physicians.

High-Quality Care

State-of-the-art facilities, diagnostic and medical equipment and an expanded group of expert physicians performing innovative procedures.

Community Commitment

Delivering care with a focus on customer experience and a dedication to community health at all Health System locations, including Senior Living at the Willows, and at community outreach events.

Educational Opportunity

Education of future health care providers through Family Medicine Residency, Podiatric Surgery Residency, School of Nursing and School of Radiography.

Learn more about our strengths at HeritageValley.org or OhioValleyHospital.org.



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