

Allegheny West

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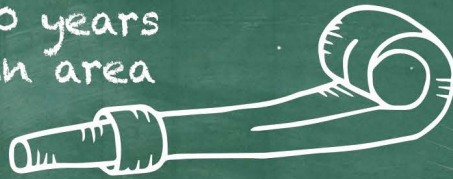
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Magazine



IKEA

celebrates
30 years
in area



with Pat Jennette



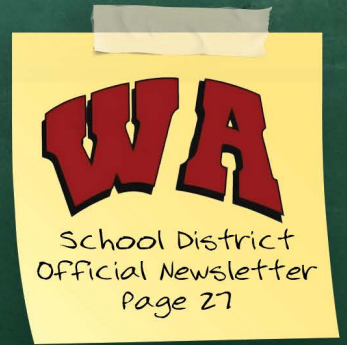
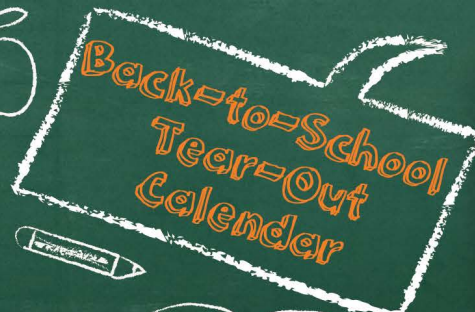
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application for home repairs



Christmas Light-Up
in need of volunteers



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From the Publisher

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up our special back-to-school August edition of Allegheny West Magazine! I hope you're having a great summer and are looking forward to all the fun and exciting things in store in the coming fall season.

In this special edition we're once again bringing you our tear-out academic calendars and varsity fall athletic schedules on the centerfold of this edition. Be sure to tear this calendar out and stick it to your refrigerator or bulletin board as we head into the fall season.

On page 45, we're also bringing our readers another useful piece of information that they'll want to tear out and keep. Next year's West Allegheny Workcamp is already in the works and, in order to help with the effort, we're once again printing the work camp's application for free home repairs in this publication. Homeowners who can't tackle their home repairs themselves, either due to physical or financial limitations, should consider filling out this application. Next summer, they may be visited by volunteers with this faith-based initiative who will be ready to help.

Then on page 38, check out our new column from our publisher emeritus, Pat Jennette. If you follow Pat on Facebook at Pat and John RVing Across America, then chances are you've stayed up to date with the couple's adventures these past five years. After retiring, she and her husband, John, who both ran this publication for 15 years, hit the road with the goal of visiting all of the nation's parks. They've even worked as recreation coordinators for some of those parks and are now certified ambassadors for an RV travel company. In August of 2020, Pat will be taking another trip out west to some of the most well-known national parks in the country and she wants readers of Allegheny West Magazine to join her. Read about the first few stops on the trip in this

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The West Allegheny Marching Pride performs in the fireman's parade during the Oakdale Hose Company's annual street fair in July. In addition to once again supplying halftime entertainment during each football game this fall season, the band will be hosting the Cavalcade of Bands competition on Oct. 5 at Joe P. DiMichela Stadium. For that and other important dates this fall, see our calendars on page 24. PHOTO BY JEAN BLEIL



month's column, which is the first of a three-part series. She'll be highlighting the rest of the stops in the next two installments.

As we approach the fall season, the annual Christmas Light-Up in Clinton will be getting underway. The effort is in need of volunteers to help. Jocelyn Grecko writes about what's needed and how readers can help on page 13.

Then on page 14, Garrett Roberts writes about the efforts of some movie theaters to accommodate children on the autism spectrum. While going to movies is something a lot of people take for granted, it's not always possible for these children. Some theaters are trying to change that.

On page 27, check out the latest news out of West Allegheny, including new leadership at some of the district's schools. Then on page 12, read about how IKEA thanked its shoppers on its 30th anniversary in the area. Read news from our readers starting on page 8 and get caught up on area events, including upcoming programming at the Western Allegheny Community Library, starting on page 42.

Look for our next edition in October, when fall will be in full swing. Until then, I hope you have a great end to summer and beginning of the new school year.

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor



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COVER DESIGN BY SARAH HUGHEY

Heritage Valley welcomes Cheng Lee, MD

Heritage Valley Multispecialty Group’s West Allegheny Healthcare practice announced the addition of Dr. Cheng Lee to the staff. Dr. Lee will join Dr. Todd McCaslin, Dr. Bradley Heiple and Sarah Turner, PA-C at the practice, which is located at 300 Penn Lincoln Drive in the Penn Lincoln Shopping Center in Imperial.

Before joining Heritage Valley Multispecialty Group, Dr. Lee practiced Family Medicine in the Uniontown area for more than a decade. He is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. Lee is accepting new patients. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call (724) 773-3001.



Dr. Cheng Lee

Ohio Valley Hospital 5K Race wrap-up



Participants in the 38th annual Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K get ready to take on the hilly course.

It was one of the most well-attended local races in recent memory, not to mention one of the best weather-wise, to boot. The 38th annual Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K had 260 runners and walkers pounding pavement on the hilly course, along with quite a few dogs, too!

This year’s race theme was “Just Keep Running” and run they did, by following Kennedy Township police chief Anthony Bruni’s pace car. A NorthWest EMS ambulance trailed behind for safety and to cheer on participants. Dozens of supporters and volunteers lined the streets and finish line, celebrating every passing participant decked out in their official race shirts. The shirts were made possible through generous sponsorships from Clearview Federal Credit Union, Rohrich Automotive Group and Heritage Valley Health System, which Ohio Valley Hospital recently joined.

The top three overall male finishers were Austin Schaltenbrand, who finished in first with a time of 19:50; Dr. Gary Sauer, who finished in second place by clocking in at 19:57; and Chase Schaltenbrand, who rounded out third place with a time of 21:12. The top three overall female finishers were Shannon McKenzie, who finished in first with a time of 21:16; Alysha Bartosh, who crossed the finish line in second place with a time of 21:55; and Melissa Erkel, who came in third with a time of 22:15.

Participants can visit the hospital’s website to find all the official finish times. Race results were timed by Miles of Smiles.

The race was capped off with an after party full of revitalizing snacks, community conversation, an awards ceremony and music by DJ Stormin’ Norman.

Visit www.ohiovalleyhospital.org for a blog on how to make the homemade energy bars you can ONLY get on race morning.

Stay tuned for next year’s race date for the 39th annual 5K!



The 38th annual Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K boasted 260 runners and walkers this past May. The top male and female finishers were Austin Schaltenbrand (left) with a time of 19:50 and Shannon McKenzie (right) with a time of 21:16.



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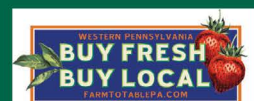
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St. Clair's Summer Swing raises over \$300k

The St. Clair Hospital Foundation on held its 22nd Annual Summer Swing fundraiser on July 19. The event is the foundation's largest annual fundraiser for St. Clair Hospital.

This year's theme was "Boots & BBQ" and the Nashville-themed event was hosted at St. Clair Country Club. More than \$300,000 was raised to support the future growth of St. Clair Hospital, including its new 280,000-square-foot, six-story outpatient center, now under construction adjacent to the hospital on the Mt. Lebanon/Scott Township border.



Dr. Christopher B. Howard, president of Robert Morris University, and his wife, Barbara, were among those attending this year's Summer Swing fundraiser.

Celebrations raises funds for Make-A-Wish

Celebrations in Imperial held an event May 19 that raised \$9,422.14 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The fundraiser benefited from numerous sponsorships and donations from community members, local businesses and regulars at the restaurant who also helped Celebrations assemble 60 gift baskets for a silent auction. With help from the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce, the event resulted in the sale of 262 tickets and attracted over 150 people.



Alex Scaff, David Bee and Mat Deveaney donate a check to Shannon E. O'Halloran and Shenell Pooran from the Make-A-Wish Foundation on behalf of Celebrations.

The idea for the fundraiser started in March, when David Bee of Imperial started growing his hair to donate to Wigs for Kids after his sister-in-law was diagnosed with brain cancer. Through Make-A-Wish, she was able to go behind the scenes at the Atlanta Aquarium, as she had long wanted to become a veterinarian technician. Earlier this year, she passed away at the age of 19.

Wanting to do more, Bee approached his good friend Alex Scaff, who co-owns Celebrations in Imperial, and restaurant manager Mat Deveaney with an idea to host a benefit to help Make-A-Wish grant more wishes. As it turned out, Scaff had two younger cousins who had also benefited from Make-A-Wish. One got to go to Disney World while the other visited Washington, D.C. They, too, have also since passed away.

According to Shannon E. O'Halloran, major gifts officer for Make-A-Wish of Great Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the amount raised helped cover the average wish cost of \$4,400, which is also the cost of a trip to Disney World, the foundation's most requested wish. The two people who benefited from Celebrations' donations didn't end up going to Disney World but did get wishes granted that were just as special. In June, Bee received a letter from Make-A-Wish detailing the wishes that their fundraiser helped benefit. Both recipients reside in the Pittsburgh area.

One of those recipients, identified as Maura, age 7, took her family on a trip to a resort in Florida. Maura is awaiting a bone marrow transplant to help treat a genetic disorder. The second recipient, named Akeem, age 18, got to go on a shopping spree for furniture and video games, which have been a welcome distraction for the teenager as he's battled a blood disorder.

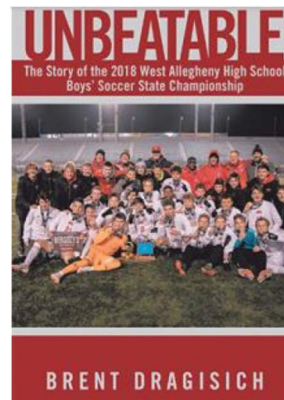
New book chronicles WA soccer team's championship run

Brent Dragisich, whose sons, Nathan (West Allegheny Class of 2019) and Johnny (West Allegheny Class of 2022), have played for the West Allegheny soccer team, recently published the book "Unbeatable," which takes readers through the team's recent state championship run.

The book focuses on the West Allegheny senior class and the memories and friendships that they developed while playing soccer together since the first grade. The team won the first boys' soccer state championship in school history this past fall.

"Unbeatable" is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and through the book's publisher, Xlibris Publishing. Proceeds benefit the West Allegheny Soccer Boosters.

On June 6, Nathan was also named the Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys High School Soccer Player of the Year and thus given the opportunity to donate \$1,000 to his charity of choice. Nathan ended his high school career as the all-time leader in goals (86) and assists (52). As well, he set a single-season scoring record (44 goals) this past season. Nathan will begin his college soccer career this fall at Duquesne University.



CCAC offering new tuition-free program in plastics manufacturing technology

Currently, plastics manufacturing is the fifth largest employment sector in Pennsylvania. To help fill the need for trained production technicians, CCAC West Hills Center is offering a one-year certificate program in plastics manufacturing technology. The program offers evening classes, with the first cohort beginning this fall, and a second cohort starting in January of 2020. Interested individuals are able to apply for a scholarship that covers 100 percent of the cost of tuition, fees, books and materials. The program is funded in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development's Manufacturing PA initiative.

For more information on the program, call Pam Grove, CCAC manufacturing grant coordinator, at (412) 788-7534 or email pgrove@ccac.edu. Applications will be accepted until Aug. 31 for the first cohort that starts in September of 2019 and until Dec. 20 for the second cohort that starts in January of 2020.



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Local organization completes project to improve area waterways

STORY AND PHOTO
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A passive water treatment system that has been under construction for 18 months along Mahoney Road began treating acid mine drainage emptying into Montour Run on July 11.

Moving forward, the system is expected to filter an estimated 72,000 pounds of acid and 7,000 pounds of aluminum out of the Montour Run watershed each year by treating water flowing from an abandoned coal mine near the intersection of Mahoney Road and Steubenville Pike. Pollution from the mine is caused by sulfur in the mine oxidizing and then coming into contact with ground water, which creates dissolved iron and sulfuric acid. The acid dissolves additional minerals, including aluminum, which is found in the clay strata underlying the Pittsburgh Number 8 coal seam. When the mine drainage containing dissolved aluminum mixes with more alkaline water, the aluminum precipitates out as a white substance, which has long given the stream its milky appearance.

The discharge, known as MKR3, has been identified as the single largest source of acidity and aluminum pollution in the Montour Run watershed. The Milk Run project will thus further improve the water quality of Montour Run, which is stocked by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. It is expected to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors of Findlay, North Fayette, Moon and Robinson townships, as well as Coraopolis.

The project was overseen by the Montour Run Watershed Association, which began planning work nearly two decades ago. It marks the organization's sixth project of its kind in the area. An

independent, nonprofit organization, the Montour Run Watershed Association's projects are largely funded by grants and in-kind donations. Its work is not mandated by the state, so if it did not exist, neither would its projects.

Construction on the project was completed by BioMost.

To learn more about the Montour Run Watershed Association's other area projects, visit www.mrwa.info or see the story about the organization on page 18 of the April 2018 edition of Allegheny West Magazine at awmagazine.com.



This series of ponds along Mahoney Road in North Fayette Township are now filtering acid mine drainage out of the Montour Run watershed.



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CONTENT
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Tina Wade Hair Designs celebrating 30 years

Tina's Hair Designs celebrated its 30th anniversary in June. In recognition of that milestone, co-owner Tina Chiodo writes the following:

The day we opened Tina's Hair Designs on June 13, 1989 is quite a day to look back on now. It was a day that would change the path of my life, and I was petrified. I knew it was going to be hard work and I knew that 90 percent of all small businesses fail within the first couple of years. Though I was scared for my future, I was also too far in to look back. I had to make it work. I had no choice.

I knew I had the support of my fiancé, my parents, family, friends and some awesome clients, but what I didn't know was just how many people would walk through our doors and impact my life, my husband's life, my coworkers' lives, my children's lives, and our customers' lives.

I also didn't know I would have the privilege and honor of opening my heart to so many wonderful employees. Some have been part our family since day one. Others haven't even hit their six-month mark yet. These beautiful, strong, independent, inspirational women have become part of our family. They have been like sisters and daughters, and some have even given me advice a mother would give. There aren't words that could capture the love in my heart for these women. I thank them from the very bottom of my heart.

Thank you, also, to our clients. You have opened your hearts to me on your biggest, best and worst days. Thank you for letting me cut your children's hair for the first time and letting me style your parents' hair for the very last time. Thank you for opening up to me when you needed a friend to talk to, a shoulder to lean on, an open ear. Not all days at Tina's have been our best days. We have experienced some earth-shattering losses and, from all of us, thank you for having our backs and protecting our hearts.

Throughout this journey, one thing I have always known is that without my husband and co-owner, Anthony, we would be

nothing. He has built and rebuilt sinks, chairs and rooms, all while making sacrifices that have allowed me to follow my dreams.

I must also thank my children for their support and understanding, as well as my brother, Frank Wade, without whose business expertise and support we would not be here today. When I was a young girl he gave me the tools to build strong business plan and lay the groundwork to the beginnings of something spectacular.

A lifetime has passed between June 13, 1989 and today. One thing remains the same, however. I am driven, passionate and beyond thankful for every moment that I have been Tina of Tina's Hair Designs. Thank you, again, to every member of our extended family for being you and helping us become what we are today.

I look forward to all the years to come.

Love,
Tina



Tina Chiodo is pictured with her husband, Anthony.

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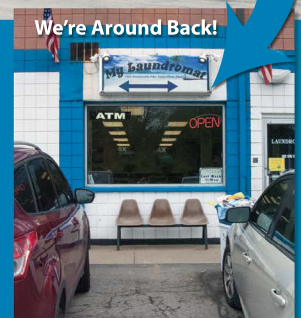
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IKEA celebrates 30 years in area

STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY

On July 19, 1989, just weeks after the first episode of “Seinfeld” aired and Tim Burton’s “Batman” broke a box office record, the furniture company IKEA opened its newest store in Robinson Township.

At the time, the Swedish-owned retailer was still relatively new to the U.S. market, after opening its first store in the country just four years earlier. Since then, though, the company’s loyal customers,

ubiquitous catalogues and giant blue-and-yellow buildings have made it an iconic fixture in American culture. The store now operates 40 stores across the U.S. and, in many cases, those stores have been propped up not only by a strong local market but also traffic willing to drive hours to shop at the closest store.

IKEA’S Robinson Township location has been no different. As this past July 19 approached, the store planned a huge 30th anniversary celebration to thank its own customers from both near and far who have contributed to its longevity in the area. Those plans included not only festivities for shoppers, but also a generous donation to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania.



ABOVE: IKEA communication and events specialist Rachel Kulin watches as a young visitor to the Robinson store spins a prize wheel. **BELOW:** Shoppers make a craft in the restaurant. **PHOTOS SUBMITTED**



The fun kicked off on Friday, July 19 with a 1980s dance party that took attendees right back to the era when the store opened. Throughout the rest of the weekend, the store gave away thousands of dollars in gift cards and free merchandise to shoppers who were greeted in the lobby of the store with a prize wheel. Throughout the rest of the store, they could create a craft with the store’s interior designers and partake in free snacks and seminars.

One shopper who gave her name as Amy drove almost two hours for the fun. Though she said she was in town with some friends for the Hootie and the Blowfish concert that Saturday evening, she said of the IKEA stop, “Honestly, this is a bigger deal for us than the concert.”

Others who showed up over the weekend, like retired West Allegheny schoolteacher Karen Meyers of Robinson, have been shopping at the store since it opened.

“The turnout was incredible,” says Rachel Kulin, an IKEA communication and events specialist. “We had a line out the door Saturday morning. It was amazing.”

She estimates the store attracted well over 13,000 people over the weekend, its largest turnout for such an event to date.

At the same time, in the run-up to the celebration, IKEA pitched in to help the Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania by furnishing its new offices in the Terminal Building in Pittsburgh’s Southside.

“When we learned that IKEA was willing to donate the furniture for our new offices, we had no words to express our gratitude for this extremely meaningful and very generous gift, which directly benefits our club’s kids,” says Eileen Stewart, corporate and community engagement manager with Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania.



IKEA’s donation to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania helped furnish its new offices. PHOTO SUBMITTED



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STORY BY JOCELYN GRECKO
PHOTOS BY SARAH KIZINA

Clinton's Christmas Light-Up Celebration in need of volunteers to make "light" work of upcoming preparations

Christmas in July has come and gone. For some, the summer "holiday" marks a celebration, but for others, it's a reminder of what's to come in the months ahead. For local residents Patty and Lloyd Faux, it means it's almost time to kick off the planning phases of Clinton's annual Christmas Light-Up Celebration.

Now heading into its 26th year, the Light-Up Celebration has become a time-honored tradition in the community. Those from near and far travel to see the light displays during the Christmas season. While the display always delivers festive displays, the Fauxes explain what isn't always guaranteed are the volunteers they need to help make the event possible.

The Fauxes explain that the light-up is an all-volunteer effort and has remained that way over the years. Whether it's stringing lights on hundreds of trees or signing up for a shift as an evening greeter, the light-up wouldn't be quite as grand - or even exist at all - if it were not for the volunteers who make it happen. Several of the volunteers who have helped over the years have either passed away or are unable to help as much they have in years past. That's why Patty and Lloyd are calling on new volunteers to help "light the way" to ensure this Christmas tradition continues.

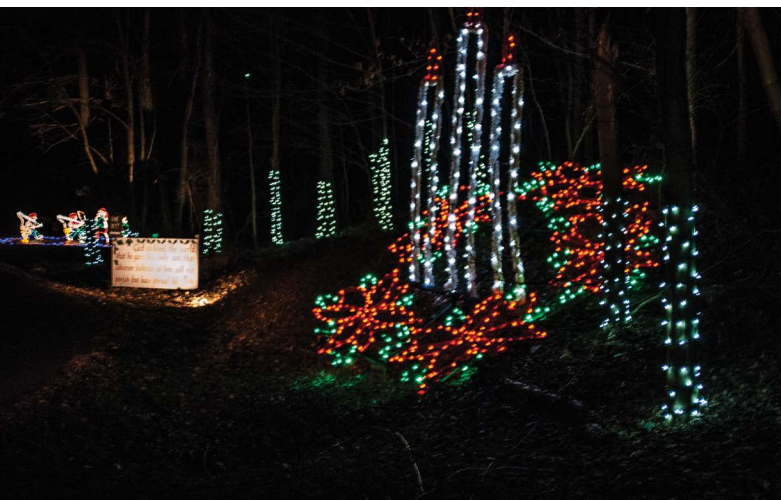
The Light-Up Celebration began in 1993 when the Fauxes visualized Clinton Park as the perfect setting for a light display to help celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas. They, along with several other retired community members, organized it and proceeds from the cost of admittance have annually gone back into the community to help those in need. Since its inception, the light-up has injected nearly \$400,000 into the community to help meet a variety of needs.

"We have nine steady volunteers who have worked with us each year," Patty explains "but we need more to help make sure the light-up continues."

Beginning in October and running into November, volunteers are needed at Clinton Park to begin stringing lights and setting up displays. The deadline for everything to be finished is one week before Thanksgiving. Anyone who knows Pittsburgh weather knows this might mean working in either warm or snowy conditions. That's why many hands make light work.

"We are thankful to those who have helped over the years," the Fauxes say, "but we also need some new support. Our volunteers are aging, and additional help is needed. Without the help, we're not sure how we will carry on this tradition."

Christmas decorations light up Clinton Park for the Christmas Light-Up.



Help is needed in the following areas:

- Weed whacking before set-up
- Tree limb removal before set-up
- Light bulb inspections
- Light display set up
- Greeters

Hopes are that several other community members, organizations, schools, churches and individuals will come together to help carry on the tradition.

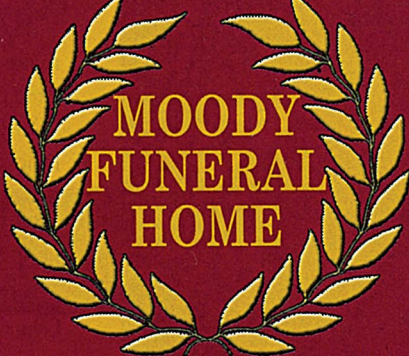
Light-Up Celebration preparation meetings will be held Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 21 at 10 a.m. in the Findlay Township Municipal Building. For more information, call (724) 899-3602. Those who like



working outdoors and would like to be part of an effort that gives back to the community are ideal candidates. High school student service hours are available. Organizations, such as churches, scout troops and others are welcome as well.



TOP: Patty and Lloyd Faux are pictured next to the sign welcoming visitors to the Christmas Light-Up that they organize in Clinton Park. LEFT: Volunteers set up a display for the light-up.



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How theaters are working to make sure everyone can go to the movies

For children with sensory processing disorders, movie theaters can be an overwhelming experience. While for friends and classmates the experience can be something of an adventure, for these kids, the environment can be very intense or even scary.

Rather than deprive these children of the experience, area theaters are trying to make movie theaters a place that everyone can enjoy.

“For typical people, we take things in through our senses all the time,” said Susan Parker, an early childhood and special education professor at Robert Morris University. “Some people have difficulty with their sensory processing system, so certain things like fluorescent lights and fans can be a big distraction for them.”

While other entertainment options can be hard to control, movie theaters can more easily manipulate their environment. Unlike a loud concert or amusement park, the amount of sensory details can be subdued and mellowed in an enclosed space.

This process, known as a low sensory screening, includes multiple changes to the typical theater environment. By making the process less intense, those sensitive to loud noises and changes in light can feel safe during the event.

“A low sensory environment usually has the lights turned up or down, depending on the audience,” said Parker. “Sounds are made quieter or they will provide noise cancelling headphones. Those are the two big changes that they will make for movies.”

The experience can also serve as a vital learning environment,

allowing those with special needs to interact with employees in a safe and stress-free way.

“Some parents and agencies like to use this event as a teachable moment for their person with autism or special needs,” said Carolina Thor, executive director of the Tull Family Theater. “They can gain the social experience and learn the process of paying for and purchasing tickets; selecting and ordering concessions; and personally interacting with the team members at the register.”

The Tull Family Theater, located in the heart of Sewickley, started their public low sensory screenings in 2018. Observing the need to accommodate this audience, the nonprofit worked to provide an alternative viewing event that was more accommodating to those with special needs.

“In some cases, the patrons are visibly excited, celebratory and laughing,” said Thor. “For others, though, it’s a more quiet pleasure, perhaps a smile and holding the hand of the parent. The mystique of seeing a movie house, with the anticipation of the film filling that giant screen, and the feeling of watching it happen, bigger than life, with others, strikes a universal chord.”

For parents like Sue Ferrand, a Collier Township resident, these screenings are able to provide an easier way for her 12-year-old daughter Ivy to enjoy going to the movies.

“Ivy was diagnosed with brain cancer when she was 4,” said Ferrand. “She has been diagnosed with sensory processing disorder and some other things that nobody knows how to treat at this point.”



The Tull Family Theater in Sewickley is one of several area theaters that are providing special screenings for those with autism.
PHOTO BY GARRET ROBERTS



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STORY BY GARRET ROBERTS

Ivy is sensitive to loud noises. To combat the intensity of these sounds, she wears headphones, which make it easier for her to process sounds.

Even with the headphones, though, going to a movie theater can be a challenge for the Ferrand family.

“For her, going to the movies can be difficult with how loud the sound system can be,” said Ferrand. “Having things not be so dark, as she gets a little freaked out, can be a big help. Different types of materials, even in the seating, cause her to take a blanket to sit on so she can feel comfortable.”

This type of sensory sensitivity is also common for people who have autism. According to the 2014 Pennsylvania Autism Census, there are over 4,800 individuals with autism in Allegheny County. Of this group, 47 percent are children between the ages of 5 and 12.

Finding a way to spend time with the family can be hard for those raising children with special needs, but theaters are seeking ways to make this goal easier to achieve. Locations such as Cinemark and AMC theaters are also offering special sensory programming on certain nights, which allows families to enjoy special programming together. However, the scope of these programs is somewhat limited. While a number of theaters in Allegheny County provide these options, not every community is able to offer these special accommodations. Thus, just getting to these events isn't always possible for families. As a result, they must sometimes travel further to attend special screenings.

“From conversations with parents, we've come to learn that the special needs and autistic communities often do not feel included,” said Thor. “Parents have shared that sensory friendly screenings are not typically offered near to them, so cinema has not been accessible. That's why they are so eager to take advantage of these opportunities for their children.”

For parents like Ferrand, finding out when these special screenings occur also isn't easy.

“It's really hard to find some of these things unless you're really looking because they are not advertised all that well or frequently,” said Ferrand. “Some places do, but I have only seen it maybe once or twice.”

Raising a child with special needs is hard and requires a lot of careful planning. As the numbers of those diagnosed with special needs continues to rise, the best way for businesses to help is to be aware of these needs and to help their communities in any way possible. From holiday photo opportunities to skating, events with accommodations for those with sensory needs can make children feel included.

“It needs to be readily available for people,” said Ferrand. “For someone like me who has a lot of issues and not a lot of time, it needs to be available to me so we can go, ‘OK, my kid wants to do this or this, so this is the day we can go do it.’ Just making it available is something that means a lot for parents.”

**Read and share stories from
Allegheny West Magazine at awmagazine.com**

Calming spaces for those on the autism spectrum

Theaters aren't the only public spaces making accommodations for people on the autism spectrum. Many schools, including several area ones, have outfitted special rooms to serve as calming places for children with autism. As well, recently, Pittsburgh International Airport opened Presley's Place, a sensory-friendly space in Concourse A. The 1,500-square-foot space contains calming features like bubble tubes, comfortable furniture, a transition foyer and even part of a plane cockpit. The soundproof space is intended to serve both children and adults. The idea for it came from airport employee Jason Rudge, who has a 4-year-old son with autism.

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Pittsburgh International Airport recently opened this new space in Concourse A.



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The five common pitfalls of an outdated estate plan

I often find myself reassuring a client who feels guilty and embarrassed for not updating their plan when a major life event occurs. However, I find it more common for someone to have never created an estate plan in the first place.

Do you remember the last time you reviewed your estate plan? Was it after you were married? Or after the birth of our first child? Maybe it was 30 years ago when your children were young? Or was it prior to your second marriage?



Part of your estate plan involves determining your fiduciary. However, when I ask most people “Who is your fiduciary?” they tend to respond with a blank stare. A fiduciary is someone or entity who you have appointed to legally control your assets should you become unable to do so. Legally, they have to act in your best interest when acting as your power of attorney, executor and trustee. Keep in mind, their role can be removed if a court feels that they are taking advantage of the situation. However, you have to ask yourself, is the person you named capable of acting in this capacity? Just because you’ve named your child doesn’t mean that they are the savviest when it comes to money.

Here are some other questions to ask yourself if you’ve named your child as your fiduciary: Are they age appropriate? Are you still in touch with them? Are they still alive and in good health?

The second pitfall is that, if you haven’t updated your documents since your child(ren) was small, they may now be grown, but that doesn’t mean that they may no longer require a guardian. They may now also require a trustee to hold and invest their inheritance if they aren’t as mature as you’d like them to be. Perhaps they have a history of drug and alcohol addiction, gambling, bankruptcy, or poor marriage choices. These are triggering factors to naming a trustee to hold their share in trust until they meet the conditions of having their inheritance released to them.

Another pitfall to consider: are your documents up-to-date with the current law changes? Are your documents HIPAA compliant? The financial power of attorney law change is the most recent,

with an effective date of Jan, 1, 2015. If you have not had a professional review your documents and revised them, you may be in for a rude awakening in the future.

Another big issue for most clients is whether they’ve accumulated more wealth since originally drafting their estate plan. The more money you have, the greater impact not having an appropriate plan will cause. Not everyone should have a basic will.

A revocable living trust holds the job of avoiding probate for those assets that normally would pass through probate upon your passing, the reason being it avoids the average time of one year and the cost associated with opening an estate.

Lastly, what state do you hold residency? Many of my older clients relocated or have become snow birds. Does your plan conform to the laws of your true state of residency?

BY MICHELE P. CONTI



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. MCFADDEN,
CFP®, BILL FEW ASSOCIATES

Have you used any of these excuses for not speaking with a financial planner?

When I tell people that I am a financial planner, I can feel their anxiety. You would have thought I had put them under a hot lamp and started demanding they remunerate all their financial shortcomings, even as I'm just making chit chat at the local neighborhood BBQ. Yet a lot of people feel compelled to explain to me upon introduction why they don't have a financial plan.

"We really need to do some financial planning, but..." they tell me, or, "We put money in our 401(k). I'm pretty sure it's enough..."



Ah... procrastination. No judgment, no shame. Procrastination is common. It's a survival instinct. We avoid things that cause us pain or, in the case of financial planning, anxiety. Money makes people anxious. It means so much more than the paper it's printed on and the idea that somehow we already screwed it up by not saving enough, or don't have the resources to start saving today, makes us push off financial planning until tomorrow when, hopefully, we can stomach looking at our financial position.

Let me ease some of your fears when it comes to financial planning. I promise it does not have to be painful and can significantly improve your current and future outlook. You can start planning at any age. Though earlier is better, never is certainly worse.

These are some of the most common reasons I hear, by age group, for not contacting a financial planner. These questions are food for thought. Don't worry if you don't know all the answers. Instead of getting overwhelmed and pushing planning off for another day, consider finding yourself a certified financial planner such as myself and starting the conversation.

• Often heard from the mouths of babes: "I don't have anything, so there is nothing to plan."

Incorrect! What I wouldn't give to go back in time and help some of my current retirees. I see so many missed opportunities. Most companies have a retirement plan available. Are you contributing? How much are you contributing? Are you

contributing to the pre-tax portion or the Roth portion? How are you invested? If your company does not have a plan, have you set up your own plan such as an IRA, a Roth IRA or a solo 401(k)? Do you have debt? Can we plan to pay off this debt by adjusting the monthly payment or consolidating into a lower interest rate? Do you have a budget?



Mia A. McFadden

It's scary to sit down and look at where we are spending our money, but there are ways to trick ourselves into good budgeting behavior. Set yourself up early on with a plan that will allow you to accumulate assets in the long term. This is why many financial planners are happy to help younger clientele!

• Often heard from workers in their prime years: "I have a plan, it's through my employer. They have great benefits."

This is not a financial plan. You are assuming that whatever you are due to receive in retirement will be enough. Do you know what is enough? Do you know the exact dollar amount you need annually in retirement and how much you need to save to achieve that number? Have you thought about inflation? Are your company plan assets invested to provide you with a decent return? Is that rate of return enough to not only keep up with inflation but also grow significantly beyond inflation? Will your retirement benefits last if you live beyond 90? A financial plan can provide concrete answers to these questions. With those answers, you can then plan how to achieve your goals.

• Often heard from retirees: "It's too late. What I've saved is what I'm stuck living on and I no longer need a plan."

You do still need a plan. Do you know how much of your savings you can spend each year without running out? Are you invested correctly for this time of your life? Even in retirement, you have to achieve a certain amount of growth since this phase of life could last 15 to 30 years. At the same time, as you take out income, you need to have funds in short-term buckets where market fluctuations won't have too much of an effect. Are you distributing income from accounts in a tax-efficient manner? Have you created estate documents such as wills, powers of attorney or health care directives? Do you have the proper beneficiaries listed on life insurance and retirement accounts?

Then there is the fear of cost. This fear is generally felt whether you are young or old. You do not sit down with a financial planner and, at the end of the initial conversation, get presented with a bill. It does not happen. A good financial planner will explain all of the costs associated with their services to you. If you do not feel comfortable paying those costs, walk away.

So, contact a certified financial planner and make a plan. It can't, and won't, hurt. I have accepted that I may never be the hit of the neighborhood BBQ with my particular brand of knowledge, but I can help you achieve your goals!

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

How to die penniless

A careful approach to retirement can lead to years of enjoyment and financial security. Or you can go down a more reckless path. Here are some of the top ways to run out of money during your golden years:

- **Withdrawing too much of your money at once during retirement.** What percentage qualifies as too much varies from person to person (many advisors suggest no more than four percent to five percent of your total assets per year), but the key is to take a balanced, well thought out approach to your withdrawals. While retirement can be an exciting time, it can also get out of hand. New retirees may find the sudden boost of free time turns into a giant spending spree. It may take some self-control to pick between a home renovation or an amazing vacation, but spacing out big expenditures can make your savings last much longer.

- **Not thinking carefully about the decision when to take Social Security.** Many people are so eager to receive money back from the Social Security system that they sign up for payments at the earliest age possible.

This could work for many people, but others would benefit from delaying Social Security and receiving a larger monthly payment. If you are in good health and there is longevity in your family, the odds may be in your favor to wait.

- **Stopping to save and invest in retirement.** There is no law requiring you to spend all of your income in retirement. You may find you actually enjoy continuing to make new investments and watching your pool of assets increase. Those continued savings can add up to a lot of money and provide a nice added cushion.

- **Paying for other people's expenses.** It's nice to take one's family out to celebrate special occasions, which are probably one of the best and most memorable parts of life. However, is buying the grandkids take-out every Monday and Thursday as essential? There's a line between being generous and financing unnecessary expenses. Consider if your gifts are helpful or indulgent.



SUBMITTED BY BRAD COLVIN AND AMY RILEY,
FINANCIAL ADVISORS, HEFREN-TILLOTSON

- **Not considering adjustments to your spending following bad investment results.**

If your investments dip in value due to a stock market downturn, it may significantly extend the longevity of your savings if you lower the amount you take out. When markets plunge and paper losses mount, consider reducing your withdrawals and let things build back up again. Conversely, when your portfolio zooms up in value, it may be a great time to take out extra and go on that dream vacation.

Taking a thoughtful approach to your retirement finances can significantly increase the likelihood of meeting your life's goals, reduce your financial stress and create an inheritance for the next generation. It may take more time to plan and require more discipline than a seat-of-your-pants approach, but it can leave you much better off over your lifetime.

Unsure if you are on track for retirement? Amy and Brad can be contacted for a no-obligation review. Call them at (412) 633-1741 or email Amy.Riley@hefren.com.

Learn more about their seminars in Moon at www.hefren.com/seminars.



Brad Colvin



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It's "All About the People"

I was recently on vacation at our family cottage in Pymatuning. We have been vacationing there for over 50 years and have many traditions. We enjoy outdoor activities, but sometimes the weather challenges us to do something else. You can always "feed the fish" at the spillway, and we've done this many times, rain or shine. We also have alternative activities when we truly get rained out. When my nieces and nephews were younger, it was a little easier to plan crafts and we played board games. However, we often fall back to a movie evening, an attempt at silence and a little more personal space. This tradition continues as we recently revisited the "Toy Story" movies to refresh our memories before seeing the latest release.

As a business leader focused on employment solutions, I see many parallels between the toys, business and the business challenges that exist today.

I know leaders who are working to improve workplace culture know that, in a tight labor market, personal relationships are still the most effective retention and recruiting source.

Let's revisit the theme of the first "Toy Story" movie and, I challenge you - business leaders, workers and others - to be open minded as you reconnect with the toys and their personalities. I challenge you to look in the mirror and ask yourself if you are doing everything you can to invest in your personal relationships and your most important asset: your people.

• **What is the allure of "Toy Story?"** As adults, it's the fun of revisiting our past and reminiscing about the toys - a flashback to simpler times when playing with Mr. Potato Head or Slinky the Dog could make your day. I personally loved the Etch A Sketch and have given every one of my nieces and nephews one. I still have one in my living room that sits with the coffee table books.

• **Think about the parallel between "Toy Story" and business life.** Each toy character in the movie has a unique personality and idiosyncrasies. There's Rex, a dinosaur with security and strength issues, and Bo Peep, a doll who defies outdated female stereotypes. Woody, the long-term leader, gets support from Hamm and the toy soldiers, who jump right into a surveillance activity to help the group of toys as they stress and worry about Andy's new birthday toys replacing them.

The toys collectively unite to overcome their fears of Buzz Lightyear replacing them. They band together to confront Syd and the outside risks that rattled their comfortable life with Andy. Keep in mind, they were already on edge due to the impending move to a new home and fear of being left behind or culled from the toy box. Even leaderless, they were able to see the value of bonding. They recognized a common goal and worked together to get the lost toys, Woody and Buzz, back into the toy box for Andy's move to his new home. These toys creatively used "out of the box" thinking to be all together again. Despite their differences and individual personalities, they overcame the transportation issue!

I challenge you to see the personality similarities between Andy's toys and your work team, and to ask yourself:

- Do you listen lovingly?
- Do you talk in a timely manner to learn from each team member?
- Do you customize your communication while being consistent?

- Do you care compassionately?
- Do you approach each unknown situation with an open mind?
- Do you help your work team become comfortable with being uncomfortable?
- Do you approach all BARRIERS with creative solutions?

Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at Robert Morris University for our third in the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce educational series: "It's All About the People: Barriers the Workplace Faces and What You Can Do About It." The theme is "Engagement: leaders stepping up to ensure the workers you have are valued and stay." The session runs from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and includes:

1. Best Practices in the Workplace
2. Real Life Communication Examples: Showing and Sharing - it is Everyone's Responsibility to Maintain and Grow Within the Defined Company Culture.
3. A Panel: Leaders Discuss Positive Solutions to Negative Barriers.
4. HR Policies: Ways to Avoid Seeing Policy as a Barrier to Hiring and Retention.

For this final series session, we are offering a summer sale of two attendees for \$100 (one attendee \$59). Register online at paacc.com or simply contact the PAACC office at (412) 264-6270.

Deb Gray is the owner of the award-winning Pittsburgh West office of global staffing franchise, Express Employment Professionals. Hers is one of the largest and fastest-growing of Express' Greater Pittsburgh offices and has put 6,800+ job seekers to work in a variety of fields, including administrative, professional, engineering, skilled trades, and skilled labor. In addition to providing recruitment service and workforce solutions for job seekers and businesses throughout the Pittsburgh Airport Corridor and Beaver County, Express also provides the ExpressJobs app and online tools and resources such as JobGenius, ExpressLearn, eskills, and America Employed. To learn more, visit expresspros.com/wpittsburghpa/ or call (412) 494-2000.



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These common mistakes can sink a student's ACT and SAT scores

Despite much talk over the past decade about how the college admissions process is evolving, SAT and ACT test scores remain the gold standard when it comes to evaluating college applications. The scores may not only determine where a student goes to school, but also how much scholarship money a student receives.

Here are some of the more common mistakes we've seen that tend to impact a student's score, along with some strategies we provide on how to avoid them:

Mistake #1 - Not taking full-length practice tests

Far too many students wade into the tests having limited experience taking them. We recommend students take the entire formal practice test - and not just parts of it on their own - at least twice. Doing so will give the student valuable experience taking the lengthy tests, which require about three hours to complete.

Mistake #2 - Answering test questions in order or randomly guessing

Difficulty does not determine how questions are ordered or scored, so first find and answer the easier questions. Then, for the more difficult questions, narrow the field of choices by crossing off incorrect answers directly in the booklet. Eliminate careless mistakes by circling selected answers in the booklet before filling in the bubble on the answer sheet.

Mistake #3 - Not spending enough time studying to achieve a high score

Ideally, students should start exam preparation in the summer in between their sophomore and junior years. Most students will start to see scores increase after a minimum of 10 hours of tutoring. Open Minds Studios recommends two to four hours of tutoring each week and one to two hours of homework for each tutoring session.

Mistake #4 - Taking the SAT/ACT a second time without studying

The practice test provides valuable feedback that can be used to help a student work toward achieving a better score, but only if that information is evaluated correctly. The student needs to use that feedback and put in additional work in between tests to improve. A tutor can help students improve in their weak areas and develop strategies that work to a student's strengths.

Mistake #5 - Forgetting the math formulas

Even though some math formulas are provided on the tests, memorizing them improves mastery and reduces answer time. Flashcards can help the student memorize formulas. Students should also practice using the formulas by completing as many sample SAT and/or ACT math problems as possible.

Mistake #6 - Taking the test only once

Many colleges and universities allow for a "superscore" that takes the top score from each section of several SAT/ACT exam sittings to create a maximum score. If your school of choice has this policy, take the test multiple times.

Mistake #7 - Taking the test with no game plan

Each student should develop a game plan and review that plan prior to test day. Here is a sample:

Bob's Success Strategy for ACT

- Science - 35 minutes for six passages
- Do 4-5 passages, about 6-8 minutes/passage
- Understand what the question is asking
- Are you using correct chart/table?
- Cross off incorrect answer choices
- Leave time to use your guess column on passages that you are not doing
- Draw on charts and graphs
- Circle titles, labels on charts and legends

Self-study can be an effective method to prepare for the SAT or ACT. However, many students derive great benefit from preparing with a tutor who can share tips and techniques unique to each test, help create a game plan, assign appropriate homework assignments, and instruct on the hardest concepts tested on the exam. On tests where only a few points can mean the difference between where a student ends up going to school and how much scholarship money the college offers, ACT/SAT prep is a valuable investment in a student's future.

Open Minds Studios is a locally owned and operated tutoring center that offers individualized instruction for all ages and abilities in subjects including math, reading, writing, science and study, test-taking and organizational skills. Test prep includes ACT/SAT, Keystone and others. Open Minds Studios is located at 5992 Steubenville Pike, Suite 103, near Peace, Love and Little Donuts in the Pike Place plaza. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 3-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Hourly rates are affordable and there is a sibling discount. Call (412) 600-1125.



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SUBMITTED BY ABBY JACKSON, ROBINSON
TOWNSHIP CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Why learn a dead language?

It's a common question that I hear often and have even asked many times myself: "Why learn a 'dead language' such as Latin?"

The practical application of learning Latin, the language spoken in ancient Rome, is something that eludes children and adults alike. I've asked the same question myself many times. After decades of searching for the answer, however, I've found many! Here are just three of my favorite reasons to study Latin:

1) Over 60 percent of English is derived from Latin and students who study Latin are not only increasing their Latin vocabulary, but exponentially upgrading their understanding of the English words they use today. For example, when students learn that "mater" is the Latin word for "mother," they also learn the meaning of English words such as maternal, maternity, matriarch, etc. This understanding becomes increasingly applicable as students read more advanced literature and prepare to take standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT.

2) Unlike English, which is a language full of exceptions, Latin is fairly straightforward. Latin words and sentence structure follow strict rules. Exceptions are few and far between. When learning Latin, a student must develop critical and analytical skills to translate the one language into the other without losing the essence of the sentence. When we translate between Latin and English, we need to fully grasp the grammar of each language. This gives students the tools they need to succeed in areas such as writing and public speaking because they understand the power of sentence structure. Because of Latin's more formulaic design, it also strengthens skills in more quantitative subjects like math, logic and science.

3) Studying Latin gives students a headstart in areas such as medicine, law, music, art and literature. It is a crash course in ancient politics, science, literature, religion and philosophy. A little bonus (literally meaning "good" in Latin) about studying Latin is

that Roman influence affects almost every aspect of modern culture. Students learning to read Latin are reading from the works of Caesar, Cicero, Vergil and Augustine. While you may not recognize all of those names, you interact with their ideas and influence on a daily basis. The men who shaped Roman history have consequently shaped American history. Our own legal system is taken from the ancient governments of Rome and Greece!



Abby Jackson

A dead language such as Latin gives students a stationary target to observe the inner workings of language and language acquisition. Its influence is far reaching and builds a great foundation for students to succeed beyond the classroom. It can enrich, encourage and enlighten every area of your life. After all, Latin isn't dead - it's immortal!

This information is provided by Abby Jackson, classical studies and Latin teacher at Robinson Township Christian School, pre-K through 12th grade. Jackson graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a major in classics and a minor in philosophy.

For more information about Latin or classical education at Robinson Township Christian School, call (412) 787-5919 or email info@rtconline.org. Robinson Township Christian School is now offering a part-time (a la carte) course program for homeschool students in grades seven through 12. Call or email for a personal tour or for more information.



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on
page 42!**

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WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019-2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

2019

Aug. 14-16 Teacher In-Service
Clerical Days
Aug. 21 First Day School for Students
Sept. 2 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
Oct. 14 NO SCHOOL -
Teacher Inservice Day
Oct. 24 End of First Quarter
Oct. 25 1/2 Day Dismissal -
PM Clerical Day
Oct. 31 Report Cards Issued
Nov. 7 1/2 Day Dismissal -
Teacher Conferences
Nov. 8 NO SCHOOL -
Teacher Conferences
Nov. 27 1/2 Day Dismissal -
PM Clerical Day
Nov. 28- NO SCHOOL -
Dec. 2 Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 3 NO SCHOOL -
Jan. 1 Winter Break

TEST DATES

SAT

To register, go to
www.collegeboard.org.

Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline*
Oct. 5	Sept. 6	Sept. 24
Nov. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 22
Dec. 7	Nov. 8	Nov. 26
March 14	Feb. 14	March 3
May 2	April 3	April 21
June 6	May 8	May 27

*(Online only)

2020

Jan. 14 End of Second Quarter
Jan. 20 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
Jan. 21 Report Cards Issued
Feb. 17 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
March 20 1/2 Day Dismissal -
Teacher Clerical / End Third Quarter
March 27 1/2 Day Dismissal / Report Cards Issued
April 8 1/2 Day Dismissal - Teacher Clerical Day
April 9-13 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
May 25 NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
May 29 1/2 Day Dismissal -
Commencement - Last Day - Students**
June 1 Clerical Day
June 4 Report Cards Issued
*All dates subject to change.

Homecoming

Dance: Sept. 21

Prom: May 2

Joe P. DiMichela Stadium
Oct. 5, 6 p.m.

CAVALCADE OF BANDS

High School Academics and Activity Fair

Sept. 19, 6-8 p.m.

High School Art Show

April 29-May 1

Fall Play @ High School:

Oct. 12 and 19, 7 p.m.
Oct. 13, 1 p.m.

Open Houses

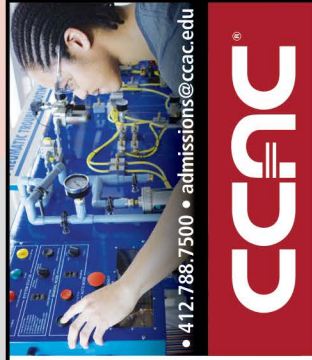
High School: Sept. 19, 6 p.m.
Wilson: Sept. 25, 5:30 p.m.
McKee: Sept. 26, 5:30 p.m.
Middle School: Oct. 2, 6 p.m.
Donaldson: Oct. 3, 5:30 p.m.

Spring Musical:

March 20 and 21, 7 p.m.
March 22, 2 p.m.

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ACT

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Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline*
Oct. 26	Sept. 20	Oct. 4
Dec. 14	Nov. 8	Nov. 22
Feb. 8	Jan. 10	Jan. 17
April 4	Feb. 28	March 13
June 13	May 8	May 22
July 18	June 19	June 26

*(late fees apply)



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FALL

Home: Red
Away: Grey

GOLF

- 8/21 - vs Montour (Quicksilver GC) - 3 PM
8/23 - @ Blackhawk (Blackhawk GC) - 3 PM
8/26 - vs Beaver Area (Quicksilver GC) - 3 PM
8/27 - @ Ambridge (Fox Run GC) - 3 PM
8/29 - vs Moon Area (Quicksilver GC) - 3 PM
9/4 - @ New Castle (Sylvan Heights GC) - 2 PM
9/10 - @ Montour (Chartiers CC) - 3:45 PM
9/11 - vs Blackhawk (Quicksilver GC) - 3 PM
9/12 - @ Beaver Area (Seven Oaks GC) - 3 PM
9/16 - @ Blackhawk (Blackhawk GC) -
Section 5 Qualifier
9/17 - Girls Sectional Indiv. Qualifier
9/18 - MAC Champ. (Fox Run GC) - 9 AM
9/18 - vs Ambridge (Quicksilver GC) - 3 PM
9/19 - @ Moon Area (Montour CC) - 3 PM
9/23 - @ Upper St. Clair (St. Clair CC) - 2:45 PM
9/25 - vs New Castle (Quicksilver GC) - 3 PM
10/2 - vs Bethel Park (Quicksilver GC) - 3 PM

VOLLEYBALL

- 8/31 - Mt. Lebanon Tourn. - 9 AM
9/3 - @ Chartiers Valley - 6 PM
9/5 - vs South Fayette - 6 PM
9/7 - Moon Area Invit. - 8:30 AM
9/10 - vs West Mifflin - 6 PM
9/12 - @ Obama - 6 PM
9/14 - MAC Champ. (Moon Area)
9/17 - vs Trinity - 6 PM
9/19 - @ Quaker Valley - 6 PM
9/24 - vs Montour - 6 PM
9/26 - vs Chartiers Valley -
Senior Night - 6 PM
9/28 - South Fayette Tourn. - 8:30 AM
10/1 - @ South Fayette - 6 PM
10/3 - @ West Mifflin - 6 PM
10/7 - @ South Park - 6 PM
10/8 - vs Obama - Dig Pink Night - 6 PM
10/10 - @ Trinity - 6 PM
10/14 - vs Peters Township - 6 PM
10/15 - vs Quaker Valley - 6 PM
10/17 - @ Montour - 6 PM

FOOTBALL

- 8/30 - vs Chartiers Valley -
Senior Night - 7 PM
9/6 - @ Bethel Park - 7 PM
9/13 - @ Peters Township - 7 PM
9/20 - vs Upper St. Clair -
Homecoming - 7 PM
9/27 - @ Woodland Hills - 7 PM
10/4 - vs Baldwin -
Donaldson Night - 7 PM
10/11 - vs Hampton High School -
McKee Night - 7 PM
10/18 - @ North Allegheny - 7 PM
10/25 - vs Moon Area -
Wilson Night - 7 PM

CO-ED CROSS COUNTRY

- 8/31 - Gateway Invit. (Boyce Park) - 9 AM
9/7 - Red, White and Blue Invit.
(Schenley Park) - 9 AM
9/10 - @ New Castle w/ Beaver
9/17 - @ Central Valley w/ Montour
9/21 - Spartan HS XC Challenge
(Settlers Cabin) - 8:30 AM
9/24 - vs Ambridge/Blackhawk - 3:45 PM
10/1 - @ Hopewell w/ Moon
(Hopewell Community Park) - 3:30 PM
10/9 - MAC Champ. (Brush Creek) - 3 PM
10/17 - Cal. Univ. Invit. - 1 PM
10/24 - WPIAL Finals (Cal. U. of PA) - 2:15 PM
11/2 - PIAA Champ. (Hershey) - 11 AM

GIRLS TENNIS

- 8/19 - vs Hopewell - 3:30 PM
8/21 - vs Chartiers Valley - 3:30 PM
8/24 - Moon Area Tourn. - 2 PM
8/26 - @ Trinity - 3:30 PM
8/28 - vs South Fayette - 3:30 PM
8/29 - vs Seneca Valley - 3:30 PM
9/5 - @ Upper St. Clair - 3:30 PM
9/9 - @ Peters Township
(Peters Twp. Tennis Ctr.) - 3:30 PM
9/11-12 - Section 4 Singles
9/13 - @ MAC Champ.
(Beaver Area) - 8:30 AM
9/16 - vs Canon-McMillan - 3:30 PM
9/18 - vs Ambridge - 3:30 PM
9/19 - vs Hopewell - 3:30 PM
9/23 - vs Mt. Lebanon - 3:30 PM
9/25-26 - Section 4 Doubles
9/30 - @ Montour (Clever Park) - 3:30 PM
10/1 - vs Central Valley - 3:30 PM
10/2 - vs Hampton - 3:30 PM

BOYS SOCCER

- 8/30-31 - East-West Soccer Tourn.
9/1 - Plum Kickoff Tourn.
9/3 - @ Quaker Valley - 6 PM
9/5 - vs Beaver Area - 6:15 PM
9/7 - @ South Fayette - 1 PM
9/10 - @ Moon Area - 6 PM
9/12 - vs Obama - 6:15 PM
9/14 - @ Montour - 10 AM
9/17 - vs Blackhawk - 6:15 PM
9/19 - vs Ambridge - 6:15 PM
9/21 - vs Mt. Lebanon - 10 AM
9/24 - @ Beaver Area - 5:30 PM
9/26 - vs Moon Area - 6:15 PM
10/1 - @ Obama
(Schenley Park) - 3:30 PM
10/3 - vs Montour - 6:15 PM
10/8 - @ Blackhawk - 6 PM
10/10 - @ Ambridge - 6 PM

GIRLS SOCCER

- 8/31 - vs Moon Area - 11 AM
9/4 - @ Central Valley - 6 PM
9/7 - vs Chartiers Valley - 12:30 PM
9/9 - @ Blackhawk - 6 PM
9/11 - vs South Fayette - 6:15 PM
9/14 - @ Avonworth - 10 AM
9/16 - @ Ambridge - 6 PM
9/18 - vs Hopewell - 6:15 PM
9/23 - vs Montour - 6:15 PM
9/25 - vs Central Valley - 6:15 PM
9/28 - @ Oakland Catholic
(Highmark Stadium) - 11 AM
9/30 - @ Chartiers Valley - 6 PM
10/2 - vs Blackhawk - 6:15 PM
10/5 - @ South Fayette - 12 PM
10/7 - vs Ambridge - 6:15 PM
10/14 - @ Montour - 6 PM

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Upcoming Chamber Events!

August 16th

Southwest Partnership for Mobility; An Update with Key Leaders

August 11th

It's All About the People - Part 3

September 20th

Legislative Breakfast

September 25th

Breakfast Briefing: Airport Authority's Innovation Campus Update

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Graduates celebrated during 2019 commencement ceremony



LEFT: The senior selfie tradition continued with speakers Kevin McKiernan, Dave McBain, Katie Zanella and Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert wishing the graduates well. MIDDLE: Graduate Juliana Dominick delivers the senior address. RIGHT: Members of the JROTC present the colors.

The evening of May 31 proved to be a memorable one for the Class of 2019, as they were celebrated by family, friends, staff, administrators and school board members during a commencement ceremony held to recognize the 268 graduates and their accomplishments.

Senior class officers Tanner Prevade, president; Robert Grimm, vice president; Loren Perry, secretary; and Meghan Gluzman, treasurer, led the graduates into the gymnasium, where the colors were presented by the West Allegheny Marine Corps JROTC. Following the singing of the National Anthem by graduate Shannon Clontz, school board president Debbie Mirich presented the welcoming notes. The senior address was given by distinguished honors recipient Juliana Dominick.

Teacher Katie Zanella and athletic director Dave McBain served as this year's distinguished faculty speakers. Both shared life lessons on what defines heroism. Superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert and high school principal Kevin McKiernan shared student achievements and celebrated the class with a video tribute from high school staff who offered humorous department-themed life lessons and well wishes. A video of the third annual Senior Celebration and Declaration Day highlighted the incredible memories from that day. For the second year, the Indian Pride totem pole was front and center on stage, displaying the newly added class of 2019 plaques.

The evening's music was provided by the senior chorus, under the direction of Terisa Sharlow, high school music teacher, and accompanied by the high school American Sign Language class led by teacher Jennifer Fox. The brass ensemble performed under the direction of Steven Groba, middle school music teacher. Nathan Presutti was the piano accompanist.



ABOVE: Superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert and principal Kevin McKiernan join senior class officers Tanner Prevade, Loren Perry, Meghan Gluzman and Robert Grimm before leading the procession into the ceremony.

BELOW: Toni Baldanzi, supervisor of ancillary services, proudly congratulates graduates Dalton Locy and Ryan Cringle.



#WeAreWestA

CLASS OF 2019

Summa Cum Laude

Casey Ann Bachowski+	James Harold Ervin*+	Marcus Alexander Maropis	Aaron Riley Silvis*+
Lauren Carolyn Bayer +	Alexis Nicole Fleet*+	Breanna Ashley McMurtrie*+	Courtney Marie Spicer
Victoria Frances Beuchat*	Jordan Renee Frasier+	Brittany Nicole Morrison+	Jacob Andrew Spinelli
Dylan Thomas Boyza*	Mitchell Thomas Gumbert+	Arielle Athena Moulinié*+	Liam Conley Sturgeon+
Gabriella Marie Brady+	Derek Jay Halbedl*+	Alicia Elizabeth Peng*+	Alexander William Tucker+
Dillon Clarke Calhoon	Mackenzie Rose Hammers	Loren Olivia Perry+	Riley Christopher Tucker+
Adam Ni Chang	Kellyanne Hernandez-Rivera	Christina Nicole Prologo*+	Camryn Carrie Renee Tudor+
Shannon Elizabeth Clontz*+	Bethani Marie Hrapczak+	Mackenzie Nicole Reed+	Madison Kathleen Twardy*+
Sean Patrick Collins*+	Haley Lyn Koziel*+	Renaë Michaelle Roscart*	Elizabeth Irina Vollmer*+
Jacob Aiden Costantino*+	Alexander John	Bradley John Ryniawec Jr	Sydney Michele Williams+
Tara Lin Coulter*+	Kwiatkowski*+	Paige Elizabeth Scholz	Braden Thomas Wurst*+
Madison Rae Cunningham*+	Hannah Susan Lindemuth*+	Justin Andrew Shaytar*+	Scott Peter Zanella II+
Juliana Nicole Dominick*+	Danielle Sage Longo*+	Stacia Ann Shaytar+	
Sydni Lois Ellis+	Anne Marie Therese Lusardi	Hayden Trevor Shipley*+	
	Logan Andrew Malatak*		*Distinguished Honors +National Honor Society

Magna Cum Laude

Abdulrahman Al-Lehyani	Nathan Edmund Dragisich	Lauren Christine Lalley	Ben William Schaupp
Ronald Alano	Grace Ida Faulk+	Kylie Jade Laughery+	Devon Alexander Schmitt
Jaden Daniel Beckett	Nathan Christopher Fidell	Madison Elizabeth Lisotto+	Maya Cen Snyder+
Evan Leon Blunkosky	Mackenzie Jo Gillie	Zachary John Logan	Vincent Paul Staub
Nathan Edward Brierton	Meghan Elizabeth Gluzman	Taylor Alexis Loyer	Chase Richard Steding
Skylar Madison Brown	Ethan Michael Gola	Richard Andrew Mamula	Morgan Alexandra Stewart+
Benjamin Emmett Chromack	Alyssa Jade Goldstrohm	Dniesha LaShae Marcus	Haylee Elizabeth Sturgeon
Jessica Marie Collins	Diana Lynn Hannan	Ty Joseph McGearry	Gustavo Makoto Sato Tin
Alondra Isabel Cosme Acevedo	Austin Keith Hemminger	Claire Constance Mercurio	Kaitlyn Marie Uram+
Michael Anthony Cosnek	Staci Renee Hoberek	Madison Marie Morgan	John William Walls+
Brandon James Dale	Trevor Lawrence King+	William Hamilton Muirhead	Paige Maureen Warhola
Vesta Jane Daniels	Rachel Ann Kiss	Brianna Alexis Ortiz	
Kimberly Marie Davis	Madison Taylor Krek	Janiya Ada Lee Ransom	
Hailey Rose DiGiandomenico	Eva Nicole LaGard	Lindsey Elizabeth Sabo+	+National Honor Society

Cum Laude

Khasanjon Abdurakhimov	Hunter Michael Driggers	Gregory Joseph Knebusch	Logan Scott Reed
Khusanjon Abdurakhimov	Jesslynn Marie Dunlap	Nathaniel James Lapin	Logan Dominick Rossi
Omeir Ahmed	Evan Zane Ferretti	Akira Alanis Littles	Logan James Scheider
Kellen Jon Almady	Emily Ann Fullard	Isabella Maria Maltony	Amanda Kelly Schlor
Sophia Lynn Antos	Dakota Kathryn Gerst	John Robert McArdle IV	Wyatt William Smith
Patience Khristina Ashaolu	Daniel John Gibson	Ian Robert McBain	Tyler Jon Stalling
Jacob Joseph Bahr	Robert Grant Grimm	Jacob Charles McCready	Devin Cole Svihla
Casey Maree Bence	Kyle Joseph Guilfoil	Isabella Catherine Zoila	Roman Gaetano Swasey
Alexander Ryan Berhosky	Gabriel David Haines	Merlino	Bakai Taiyrov
Kelli Lynn Blondsey	Darian Elizabeth Hallam	Zachary William Metz	Carly Ann Thompson
Sadie Eileen Brown	Samantha Rose Hanna	Tanner Morris	Jarrett Lane Tomazich
Sarah Katherine Collins	Julia Ann Hazel	James Thomas Newman	Jaide Le Travis
Anna May Cooper	Amaka Mélanie Joanis	Destiny Marie Peña	Elina Trefzger
Cathrynn Rose Crisanti	Madison Rose Johnson	Camron Marie Petroff	Austin Tanner Vahaly
Alexandra Rose Dellovade	Trévon Emanuel Jones	Tanner Matthew Prevade	Mateo Gaetan Vandamia
Vinh Cong Do	Logan John Keast	Kacey Marie Pistas	Eve Damara Vogt
Shea Patrick John Downing	Jared Robert Klaas	Abhilasha Raghuvanshi	Natasha Lynn Yarowenko
		Jonathan Matthew Rance	

Superintendent's Message

We are excited to start the year off with new leadership in three of our five schools. The high school and middle school benefit from having Dr. Hernandez and Mrs. Nolan, respectively, who bring years of experience and knowledge of our students and community to their new leadership appointments. Dr. Dierker, filling Mrs. Nolan's role at Donaldson, also has many years of service to West Allegheny. She brings with her sixteen years of experience to her new role. Dr. Dierker was also mentored by Mrs. Nolan and served on the Donaldson staff for many years.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with insight into our three school leaders. We hope you enjoy getting to know them a little better through their responses below:

Dr. Frank Hernandez, High School Principal

Q: What are you most looking forward to in this new role?

I am looking forward to continuing the relationships with students and families that I started at the middle school, and seeing our students grow as learners and young adults. I am also very excited to continue to get to know the class of 2020, as well as meeting the instructional staff and getting to work with them.

Q: At your new school, please list one thing you would like to . . . Start:

A principal's advisory committee with students that focuses on strengthening the culture of our building and connection between students and staff, and amongst students. We will also focus on addressing issues and concerns that the student body feels needs to be improved.

Stop: I am not looking to stop anything immediately; I want to get to know the students and staff and make collaborative decisions going forward.

Continue: I am excited to continue enhancing pep assemblies, all school pride building events, and Career and College Readiness teaming with staff.

Q: At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, what do you hope will be your top three points of pride?

#1 Strengthen relationships with all students and staff at WAHS through improving school spirit and creating a culture of community caring and compassion.

#2 Improve the number of college- and career-ready students according to national college and career readiness standards.

#3 Continue to develop a whole child approach with staff that leverages individual student strengths and builds on student needs in academics, arts and athletics.

Q: What in your past experience has prepared you for this new role?

My background as a high school educator. I started my career as a social studies teacher at Freedom High School. My first administrator experience was being an assistant principal there, and I was also the school's head football coach. Working with students to help them take their next step as young adults is a passion of mine, and I look forward to helping all West Allegheny High School students reach their college and career goals.

Q: Please share one thing about yourself that might surprise your students/families?

Athletics has played a huge role in shaping the person that I am today, and both athletics and arts programs were part of the focus of my dissertation. I believe sports and the arts play a key role in the successful educational programming of any school. Through them, students are able to develop leadership traits, learn how to work together as a team, follow the orders and directions of an

adult leader, focus on areas of growth, and be part of something that is larger than themselves. These are all skills that strengthen us as learners and prepare us for successful careers. Without participating in sports as a kid, I do not think I would have developed my full potential as an educator and leader.

Patricia Nolan, Middle School Principal

Q: What are you most looking forward to in this new role?

I am looking forward to working with the middle school age group and seeing the middle school from a new perspective! This will be a new challenge for me, but I am ready to take this on!! I got to know many of the students and families early on, through my work at Donaldson or in the community, and it will be really interesting and fun to get reacquainted with former students and families. Also, I am very excited about meeting and interacting with ALL of the students and families who make up the school community of the middle school!

Q: At your new school, please list one thing you would like to . . . Start:

We will be starting a school-wide theme at West Allegheny Middle School so that all members of the school community know what that focus is for the year and what our goals are at WAMS. Our theme will tie our vision for our school to our students, staff and families. Our school-wide theme will align with our school's core values of being safe, respectful and responsible. For more information about our school-wide theme for WAMS this year, check back right around the start of the school year!!

Stop: I am not certain what I would stop. I am looking forward to collaborating with the staff, students, and parents, and gathering information about how to further strengthen programs and practices that are currently in place. This would also include working with the staff and students to identify programs or practices and collaboratively decide how to alter, change, or hold in place what currently exists.

Continue: We will continue the strong work of the PBIS team and all of the positives that have been realized at the middle school over the last few years implementing the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Program. We will also continue to work together to build a strong school culture that is inclusive of all students and families. Academic excellence and high expectations will always remain as one of our top priorities!

Q: At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, what do you hope will be your top three points of pride?

#1 All students will reflect back on their school year as a positive experience at West Allegheny Middle School! Likewise, all students, staff, and parents will "feel" a positive school climate and culture when they enter and interact with all aspects of WAMS.

#2 All student academic achievement will be pushing upward to show positive growth and the successful implementation of PBIS Tier II interventions will ensure all of our students have the supports they need to experience success and grow as a learner and as a young adult.

#3 West Allegheny Middle School will have transitioned students so they are prepared for the challenge of high school and we will have even stronger programs and supports in place to receive our new students from the elementary schools. We will embody the concept of being a bridge from elementary to high school!

Q: What in your past experience has prepared you for this new role?

My experience as an elementary principal working 16 years at Donaldson and as an assistant elementary principal at McKee and Wilson for the six years prior has prepared me to lead the work of a high functioning school by tapping into a school's greatest resource - its people. I believe that I make connections with all members of the school community to move the work of the school in a positive, encouraging and motivating direction. The perspective I bring as a resident of the community and as a parent of three of my own kids who have experienced an education at West Allegheny School District also helps me to recognize the strengths our district has and some of areas where we are still trying to grow stronger. I focus on the positives in all students and look at the whole child when making decisions that impact them.

Q: Please share one thing about yourself that might surprise your students/families?

Last year at this time, I could not have imagined that it was my final year at Donaldson or that I would be opening West Allegheny Middle School, as the principal, this current school year! It just goes to show that you can never predict the future and that we all have to do what we ask our kids to do every day - Keep Learning and Growing and CHALLENGING YOURSELF!! You can always find something new to learn! I look forward to what I will learn this year about all of our WA students, staff and families. Please reach out to me and introduce, or reintroduce, yourself when we next meet! I can't wait!

**Dr. Erin Dierker,
Donaldson Elementary Principal**

Q: What are you most looking forward to in this new role?

Donaldson's potential is limitless! I am excited to see how we will continue to grow our instructional practices as a staff and provide the best possible education for all of our students! We are extremely lucky to have a strong family and community support system to help accomplish our goals!

Q: At your new school, please list one thing you would like to . . .

Start: As a staff, we will increase

our communication and collaboration around student achievement and work together to create and implement a plan for student success.

Stop: We need to work SMARTER, not HARDER. I would like us to increase collaboration across content areas and grade levels and increase family and community involvement to achieve our goals!

Continue: We will continue to increase attendance by encouraging our students with attendance challenges and creating a supportive environment where they enjoy learning!

Q: At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, what do you hope will be your top three points of pride?

#1 Increased student and staff attendance.

#2 Increased opportunities for family and community involvement.

#3 Continued academic growth for ALL students.

Q: What in your past experience has prepared you for this new role?

I am fortunate that I have worn many hats during my career at West Allegheny to allow me to grow as an instructional leader. My experience as an ESL teacher/liaison and an ELA coach has prepared me to collaborate with administration and teachers to grow our instructional practices. My role as an ELA coach and ELA curriculum writer has increased my knowledge of content across grade levels, effective instructional practices, and the new programs our district is implementing to increase student achievement. With this experience and the teamwork of our strong Donaldson staff, I look forward to watching the continued success of our students.

Q: Please share one thing about yourself that might surprise your students/families?

I was not a student who put forth a tremendous amount of effort in school. I relied solely on my innate ability to get me through elementary and middle school. It was not until high school and college that I realized my true potential. This personal experience that I had with education helps me connect with students who struggle with academics or to grasp the importance of education. I want all students to know that they are capable of great things and, with a little hard work, they can achieve anything!

High school proudly earns U.S. News & World Report 2019 Best High Schools designation

Of more than 17,000 high schools across the nation, West Allegheny earned the U.S. News and World Report 2019 Best High Schools distinction. This elite status is awarded annually to the top 40 percent of schools nationwide. West Allegheny ranks 3,775th. Schools were ranked on several determining factors, including graduation rate, AP exams taken, AP exams passed, college readiness, state assessments, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth and graduation rates.

"Over the past five years, we have worked to increase the rigor and relevance of our curriculum and teachers' practice to help our students be more successful," said assistant high school principal Katharine McClelland Roche. "It is great to see the hard work that our staff and students have put in getting recognized on a national level."

"We are extremely excited about the U.S. News and World Report recognition," added superintendent, Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert. "Our high school teachers and administrative team have worked incredibly hard over the past several years pushing their growth for the benefit of our students. We stay firmly committed to every WA student having a viable post-secondary pathway upon graduation ensuring all graduates are career and college ready. Our high school staff is to be commended for their unwavering commitment to our students' success and dedication to ensuring persistence in their post-secondary endeavors."



Dr. Erin Dierker named Donaldson Elementary School Principal



District and school administrators welcome Donaldson principal Dr. Erin Dierker (front row, fourth from left) to the team.

Donaldson Elementary School recently welcomed Dr. Erin Dierker as its new principal. Dierker succeeds former principal Patricia Nolan, who has been promoted to principal of West Allegheny Middle School. Dierker most recently served as the District's elementary English Language Arts coach, a role in which she supported staff and student growth. Prior, she served as a Donaldson Elementary English Language Arts teacher and as the head of the District's English as a Second Language program after joining West Allegheny full time in 2005. Dierker has been instrumental in shaping the District's ESL program, as well as the District's K-5 English Language Arts curriculum and assessment system. Dierker earned her K-12 principal certificate from Waynesburg University, her doctorate degree in instructional management and leadership from Robert Morris University, her master's degree in education from Pennsylvania State University, and her bachelor's degree from Edinboro University.

"We are extremely excited to promote Dr. Dierker to follow her mentor Mrs. Nolan as principal of Donaldson," stated Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, superintendent. "She brings a current teacher perspective to the West Allegheny administrative team that will enhance the work of the District. Her knowledge of Donaldson Elementary School and the West Allegheny community was a significant asset as Mrs. Nolan transitions to the middle school after leading Donaldson for 16 years. Dr. Dierker's knowledge of the District's Framework for Excellence and academic programming make her transition extremely coherent, supporting the amazing work and accomplishments of the Donaldson staff. Throughout the interview process, Dr. Dierker was knowledgeable, humble and complementary of Donaldson's accomplishments to date. Further, she provided a clear vision to continue the successes of the school while working collaboratively with the staff and families, a model that has proven very successful over the last 16 years."

"West Allegheny School District has been my home for 16 years," said Dr. Dierker, "and I could not imagine starting my next professional venture anywhere else. I cannot thank the school board and the administration enough for this opportunity and their continued support throughout my career. I am excited to work closely with our Donaldson teachers, families and community to continue our success and provide a high quality education to every student, every day! Together, I know we can accomplish more amazing things!"

Incoming senior sets sights on US Naval Academy during summer seminar

Incoming senior Jacob Jones had the unique opportunity to attend the U.S. Naval Academy Summer Seminar at Annapolis, Maryland from June 8 through 13. The summer seminar introduces students to life at the academy and provided a strong academic focus. Some of the topics presented included aerospace flight-testing, microcomputer design, naval architecture, mechanical and ocean engineering, ethics, and character development. Jones will be applying for an appointment to attend the academy after graduation with the goal of becoming a pilot.



Jacob Jones (second from left) joins fellow seminar participants in fitness and team building exercises.

Dancers take to the stage

Under the leadership of teacher Dana McCaskey, the high school hosted its first annual dance showcase May 22. The evening event for families and friends was a culmination of McCaskey's yearlong dance class that was introduced at the high school beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. Students were excited and proud to showcase their talents, including diverse styles of dance. The West Allegheny Foundation helped fund the first year.

"I'm so proud of what our students accomplished in such a short amount of time," said McCaskey. "The kids were so proud of themselves afterwards, and that is really the best part!"

Students prepare for the first annual dance showcase.



Graduate wins art competition

Recent graduate Akira Littles was named a winner in the 2019 Sargent Art competition in the high school category. Her senior artwork was selected out of art student submissions from across the nation. Littles and the West Allegheny art department will receive \$100 and \$300 worth of art supplies, respectively.



Akira Littles' artwork was named a winner in the national Sargent Art competition.

Speech & Debate members earns high marks

As the school year came to a close, the Speech & Debate team had a great deal to be proud of as three members earned high marks for their achievements on and off the stage. Seniors Sean Collins, Casey Bachowski and Riley Tucker were nominated for and won Academic All American awards, which recognize high school students who have earned the degree of Superior Distinction (750 points); completed at least five semesters of high school; demonstrated outstanding character and leadership; and earned a GPA of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent). Students also must have received an ACT score of 27 or higher, or a New SAT score of 1300 or higher.



#WeAreInnovators&Designers



TRUE U engages freshmen to support high school transition

In collaboration with administration, staff and Varsity iLead, the TRUE U Freshman Transition Experience was launched at the high school this spring to support incoming ninth-graders. The student-led program engaged incoming freshmen in activities centered around trust, relationships, unity, excellence and time management. The themes were aligned to feedback received from upperclassmen and were connected to skills that would positively impact high school success.



Members of Varsity iLead welcome incoming freshmen to the high school for team building activities.

#WeAreWestA

Middle school PBIS team recognized at state conference

The Indian Pride Program, a positive behavior support program at the middle school, was recognized in Hershey on May 14 for earning Pennsylvania Tier I Fidelity status. The program earned a perfect 100 out of 100 on the state evaluation. Program elements include teaching, reinforcing and recognizing safe, responsible, and respectful behavior in the hallways, cafeteria, assemblies, and classrooms. The goal of the Indian Pride program is to support students and staff in pursuit of the school's motto of "pride in myself, pride in my school."



In attendance to receive an award recognizing the Indian Pride Program were team members Krista Dapper, Jeff Kiser, Valerie Meehan, Renee Treonze, Dr. Frank Hernandez, Sharon Lepri, and Jess Henry. Team members missing from the photo were Megan Huchko, Jon Denk, and Todd Rasbach.

Vocal talents on display at High Note Festival

The middle school show choir performed at the annual High Note Festival on May 17 and earned a superior rating for their performance. Hosted by Kennywood Park and held at Carnegie Mellon University, the festival spotlights the talents of middle school choirs from around the region.



Members of the middle school show choir proudly display their trophy for earning a superior rating.

Art comes to life for middle school students

Students in Sharon Harn's middle school art classes experienced a busy spring as they witnessed art coming to life through two unique opportunities. On May 17, advanced art students participated in a live video conference with internationally recognized artist Wyland. Community member Rich Levitt helped coordinate the conference with the artist, who is celebrated for his conservationism through colorful works of sea life. Students enjoyed asking Wyland questions about his artwork and foundation.



ABOVE: Students thoroughly enjoy videoconferencing with artist Wyland. RIGHT: Walls and furniture are covered in preparation for the installation.



Students also experienced firsthand the creativity that stems from a blank canvas when they modeled an installation by artist Yayoi Kusama. Lining conference room walls and furniture with white paper, students and staff from the middle school were invited to apply colorful shapes to watch the installation grow into a finished compilation piece. Following the artist's intention, the process of adding to the work was meant to connect all through art.

With the help of students and staff, over 5,000 colorful shapes help create the collaborative installation.



Donaldson students act out history lesson

Students in Michelle Bateman and Beth Koraido's second grade classrooms at Donaldson Elementary presented a play titled "A New Nation" on May 21 and May 23, respectively. The play encompassed the early years of the United States, when the framers of the Constitution worked diligently to ensure not only a democratic republic, but also the personal freedoms guaranteed under it. Along with other classes, parents and relatives were invited to attend the performances.



ABOVE: Performers from Michelle Bateman's class were: (front row) Ethan Motte, Axel Velazquez, Shane Graham, and Luke Miller; (middle row) Nicco Fredericks, Eli Burroughs, Wes Johnson, Andrew Melbert, Luca Scrima, Grayson Snider, Kaison Deisher and Finn Stoker; and (back row) Oliva Finney, Hayden Martin, Emma McElhaney, Natalia Halun-Ramirez, Faith Markle, Kani Osmonov, Victoria Florez, Alexa Branvold, Brianne Lewis, and Bella Alexander.



ABOVE: Performers from Beth Koraido's class were: (front row) Wyatt Solaya, Luka Fayad, Luke Miller, Logan Turko, Enzo Watson, Jonathan Newton, and Leighton Locante; (middle row) Packer James, Jakson Budzik, and Daniel Jerome; and (back row) Fiona Holmes, Paige Suhon, Ady Reick, Kinsley Welsch, Maggie Nelis, Aubree Embleton, Vanessa Walker, Maya Haag, Camryn Bruno, and Addison Burkhart.

#WeAreStudentStrong

Girls On The Run programs finish strong

The Girls On The Run programs at both McKee and Wilson Elementary Schools wrapped up the school year with community impact projects that demonstrated caring and commitment.

At McKee, the girls chose to support the South Hills Pet Rescue and Resort by collecting newspapers, old sheets, towels, blankets, dog food and multi-purpose cleaners. Overwhelmed by the community response, the girls wrote thank you notes to all who generously donated.

At Wilson, the girls chose to support Children's Hospital for their community impact project. The girls sponsored a toy drive in conjunction with a pajama day. Those who made a monetary donation or brought in an unused toy could wear their pajamas to school. All proceeds benefited patients at Children's Hospital.

Girls On The Run is a national program that inspires girls to be joyful, healthy and confident through a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running.



ABOVE: Wilson's pajama day proved a success, as the Girls On The Run participants collected monetary donations and new toys for Children's Hospital. **BELOW:** McKee Girls On The Run participants proudly loaded all of their collected donations for the South Hills Pet Rescue and Resort.



Young musicians don't lose a beat over the summer

The West Allegheny music department hosted a band camp over the summer for enthusiastic students from across the District who had completed grades four, five and six. A total of 50 students attended the camp at Wilson Elementary from July 15 to 18 and a concert was held on the last day for family and friends.

Instructors included: Darren Humbert, Mark Hoffman, Steve Groba, Ashley Tomaceski, Al Cugini, Deborah Heyl and high school students Ashton Kilbourn, Juliana Schumer, Connie Romano, Connor Bolton, Sean Emmett, Katie Bleil, Nathan Presutti, Luke Roberts and Cassie Wolfe.



Summer band campers perform for family and friends.

#WACARES Wilson Spotlight

By Principal Rachel Gray

The #WACARES theme was evident at Wilson Elementary as we kicked off the 2018-2019 school year. Staff and parent volunteers readied the building and grounds to welcome students back to a friendly and comfortable space.

Not only was #WACARES on display in our hallways and classrooms, the spirit of giving and giving back was throughout our school. In August, before school started, Wilson staff participated in the first annual Day of Caring by visiting Wilson neighborhoods to collect non-perishable food items for the local food bank.

This spirit of giving back continued to be evident throughout the year. Wilson students could often be found showing just how much #WACARES by participating in activities that provided a service to the community. Music teacher Laura Jack provided opportunities for students in fifth grade to go caroling at local nursing facilities during the holidays. Fifth grade teachers and Student Council sponsors Tania Garofoli and Brittney Kuhn provided guidance to help our Student Council raise funds and supplies for Animal Friends. Thanks to the generous nature of our Wilson students and families, the Student Council was able to present Animal Friends with the largest donation given by any school during the 2018-2019 school year! Other examples of student and staff working together for our school and community were evident at the First Responders Luncheon, which was held in December. Students created thank

you cards to show appreciation for our first responders. Our school community also recognized our bus drivers with a thank you and small token of appreciation for the work they do to make sure that all of our students get to school and back home safely each day.

As well, #WACARES was well-defined in the school through the work of the PBIS model and other programs during the school year. Students showed that they cared for their classmates and their school by consistently demonstrating safe, respectful and responsible actions. Students' efforts were recognized each time our 200 board was filled. Students were able to earn time to play board games or have a special treat. #WACARES was also demonstrated through our attendance challenges this year. Kathy Taylor, school counselor, coordinated several monthly challenges to encourage great student attendance. In February, a buddy breakfast was held as a way to recognize the importance of developing positive attendance habits.

The Wilson PTA even got in on the #WACARES spirit by helping to develop monthly treats and surprises for the staff. Thanks to the efforts of the PTA, staff members were treated to special lunches, delivery of k-cups and teas to the staff lounge, and great WA and Wilson school keepsakes.

At Wilson Elementary, we are proud to celebrate #WACARES and to demonstrate just how each family and community member is truly special.



ABOVE: Students demonstrate how much #WACARES for their bus drivers.

BELOW: Students and staff alike enjoy the buddy breakfast.



#WeAreTeacherProud

Math 24 adds up to fun

On May 29, students from the math classes of Beth Koraido and Michelle Bateman participated in a Math 24 Tournament. Math 24 is a program designed to increase the automaticity of math facts. Prior to the competition, all students had the opportunity to qualify for a tournament slot by competing in quarter-final rounds in the classroom tournament. The top six students from both math classes qualified to participate in the semi-final round of the tournament. All 12 students received certificates, ribbons and a Math 24 bracelet and bookmark. Culminating in the final round, Daniel Jerome claimed the gold medal and Jakson Budzik and Hayden Martin took home silver medals.



LEFT: Semi-final round students pictured (back row left to right): Shane Graham, Grayson Snider, Hayden Martin, Eli Burroughs, Kaison Deisher, Finn Stoker, and Kano Osmonov. (front row left to right): Jakson Budzik, Jonathan Newton, Kinsley Welsch, Maggie Nelis, Daniel Jerome, Maya Haag, and Paige Suhon.

RIGHT: Students who qualified for the final round were: (back row) Hayden Martin, silver medalist; Daniel Jerome, gold medalist; and Jakson Budzik, silver medalist; and (front row) Maggie Nelis; Finn Stoker; and Jonathan Newton.



Softball team invited to PNC Park

As WPIAL champions, the girls softball team was invited as guests to the July 3 Pittsburgh Pirates' game at PNC Park. The players were invited along with other championship softball teams from the WPIAL region.



The girls softball team gathers for a photo outside of PNC Park.

West Allegheny welcomes back Steeler Youth Camp

Nearly 200 boys and girls attended this year's Steelers Youth Football Camp hosted at West Allegheny on July 18 and 19. Past and present Steelers players and coaches worked with the young participants, who braved temperatures in the 90s to learn from the best. West Allegheny was well represented with several District students participating in the camp.



RIGHT: Former Steeler Arthur Moats runs line drills with youth players. BELOW: District administrators joined West Allegheny students for a camp photo.



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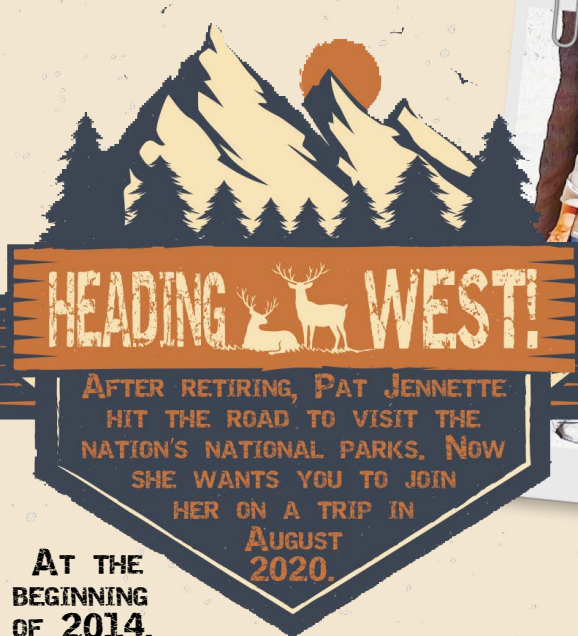
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AT THE BEGINNING OF 2014,

my husband, John, and I started the next chapter in our lives. We sold Allegheny West Magazine, the publication that we started in 1999, to current owner and publisher Doug Hughey. Having long enjoyed trips in our recreational vehicle, we eventually sold our house and hit the road full-time. We're now trained as certified ambassadors for an RV travel company and currently awaiting our first assignment.

For some time now, we've been pursuing our goal to visit all 61 national parks, which are part of 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.

When we began our journey, it was mind boggling. What do we do first? When is it best to go? Do we need to make reservations? Over time, we became more familiar with these national park gems and learned how and when to see them.

Currently, we're planning another trip to some of our favorite national parks out west in August of 2020 and we're inviting readers of Allegheny West Magazine to join us! This trip, which is being arranged through Collette Vacations and Allegheny West Magazine, includes stops to the Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce and Yellowstone, as well as Sedona, Lake Powell and Jackson Hole. We have been fortunate to have seen all but one of these great places. **The tour starts on Aug. 8 in Scottsdale, Arizona and ends on Aug. 20 in Rapid City, South Dakota. We'll be hosting an information session about the trip on Oct. 1 at the Robinson Township Public Library at 5:30 p.m.** We hope you'll join us!

In the next few issues of Allegheny West Magazine, I'll be highlighting some of the stops on the trip and relating some of our own experiences at these stops. Hopefully, this series of articles will give you an insight into our country's beautiful national parks and you'll consider joining us next year.



BY Pat Jennette

SCOTTSDALE

With family living in the area surrounding Scottsdale, this is a frequent stop for us. The Collette tour begins under the shadows of the beautiful McDowell Mountains in Old Town. A free shuttle will be available from the airport to our hotel, whether you come on the first day of the trip or decide to come early to enjoy the town. With a cowboy vibe and lots of eateries and shopping, you'll find enough to keep busy in Old Town. There are museums, wine tastings, breweries and hundreds of shops to occupy your time. Our favorite place to eat in Old Town is the Original Tortilla Factory. Just a short distance away is Taliesin West, conceived and built by the famous Frank Lloyd Wright. Taliesin West is a UNESCO World Heritage site and National Historic Landmark. It is also the home of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation and the School of Architecture at Taliesin. It's on our bucket list for our next visit.

SEDONA

Get ready to enjoy colorful vistas at every turn. Red rocks shimmer in the sun, their shadows casting shades of burnt orange and amber at sunset. We have been to Sedona twice but neither time has been long enough. On this tour, we'll be visiting Tlaquepaque (pronounced tuh-lah-keh-pah-keh) Arts and Crafts Village, named for a colorful old Mexican city. This living arts village showcases resident artisans of many genres who create on site. Their art is often available for sale. Built from the ground up to replicate the look and feel of authentic old Mexico, its visionary, Abe Miller, took care to preserve the grove of sycamore trees and merged new and old into what has become a major focal point in town. Explore shops, visit the gardens, and enjoy a meal under the beautiful red rock landscape that surrounds you. Be sure

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to spot magical rock formations such as Bell Rock and the Chapel of the Holy Cross among the rock formations (we'll never forget the glorious view from its windows looking out onto the awe-inspiring landscape).

LAKE POWELL

One can only imagine what it took to create a dam so strong that it holds the entire Lake Powell at bay. That's the power of the Glen Canyon Dam. It's the largest manmade reservoir by maximum water capacity behind Lake Mead (where we've enjoyed RVing), clocking in at 24 million-acre feet of water when full. It's a popular water lovers' vacation destination, with beautiful blue waters that flow in, out and around the colorful canyon.

After enjoying a sunset dinner overlooking the lake, we'll wake up from our stay at Lake Powell Resort for a breakfast cruise on the lake. From there, a tour of the Carl Hayden Visitors Center with a view reaching to the end of Lake Powell will conclude the morning.





GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Our travels last season ended with our sixth visit to Grand Canyon National Park, which is celebrating its centennial as a national park this year. The Grand Canyon is 277 river miles long, up to 18 miles wide and one mile deep.

The tour will take us through the Marble Canyon on our way to the Grand Canyon. Here, you'll be able to take a seat to enjoy the canyon's majesty or go on a hike. We personally enjoy the Rim Trail, as the history of the canyon is displayed at key points along the way. We always take this walk, never tiring of the view. There are also museums that showcase Native American history and art, as well as the geology of the canyon. Among them are the Yavapai Geology Museum, Hopi House and Kolb Studio. The latter has strong Pittsburgh roots, the result of work undertaken by Pittsburgh's Kolb brothers that began back in 1902. (Read more about the Kolb brothers' legacy at the Canyon in the Pittsburgh Tribune Review's article

on March 3, 2019). For history or geology buffs, learn more by viewing exhibits or films at the visitors' centers. During our most recent visit, we took in the Desert View rim section and the Watchtower, where we climbed to the top to experience a 360-degree view of the canyon. We'll be dining right at the Grand Canyon that evening and will be treated to beautiful panoramic views.

Archeology, history and geology buffs will appreciate this stop to one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. The park is also home to five properties listed as National Historic Landmarks. Additionally, nine properties, one individual structure, eight districts and one archeological site are on the National Register of Historic Places.

ZION NATIONAL PARK

Last fall, we revisited Zion, which is also celebrating its centennial as a national park this year. It's known as one of the "Big 5" national parks of Utah, and the first to be named a national park in this state. Zion is 229 square miles, of which Zion Canyon is 15 miles long and 3,000 feet deep.

On our trip, we hiked to the base of the "Narrows," the end point of the shuttle through the park. We then enjoyed the Riverside Walk, which stops where towering stone walls more than 1,000 feet high gradually narrow to just 20 to 30 feet apart and the Virgin River runs through it. Our tour will include a stop at the Lower Emerald Falls, which we also took in on our last visit. This easy hike ends with a view of water cascading over the enormous sandstone walls. We'll then jump on the Zion tram and take in the view from the floor of the canyon.

We're currently scheduled to stay that night at the Majestic View Lodge (though that could change) in the quaint gateway town of Springdale, which is directly adjacent to the park's southern entrance. Time permitting, explore on foot or use the free shuttle to head back into the park. A highlight is historic Zion Lodge, circa 1927, which provides a great view of the Great White Throne, a 1,500-foot high rock face. The Zion Human History Museum has an exhibit of rarely seen items from the last century that are currently on display only for the centennial. The Zion Nature Center provides information on wildlife species within the park while the visitor center has an excellent film about the park that it shows on a rotating basis.



Pat Jennette is founder and now publisher emeritus of Allegheny West Magazine. A former North Fayette Township resident, she and her husband, John, 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 across the U.S.

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On the Horizon

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

The Rock Flea Market, Aug. 17, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Aug. 18, 1-3 p.m., pre-sale: Aug. 16, 6-8:30 p.m., \$5, 150 West State Street, Oakdale, benefits The Rock Youth and Family Center programs, see next page, (412) 526-4945.

Carnegie Performing Arts Center

Registration, Aug. 19-21, 5-9 p.m., 150 East Main Street, Carnegie, ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, hip hop, pre dance, children's drama, musical theater, piano lessons, performance opportunities, (412) 279-8887, carnegieperformingartscenter.com.

Clearview Shredding Event, Aug. 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Clearview Moon Township location, 8805 University Blvd., securely shred sensitive documents, household shredding only, four 50-pound boxes per household, free event.

Fall for Your Library, Sept. 14, 6-10 p.m., Celebrations, sample foods, wine and beer pairings, silent auction, raffles, games, live music, supports WACL, \$50, purchase at library or westernalleghenylibrary.org, see page 23.

Robinson Lions Club Cornhole Tournament

Fundraiser, Sept. 21, 1 p.m., noon check-in, 2 p.m. start, Lions Shelter, Burkett Recreation and Sports Complex, 5559 Steubenville Pike, 15136, prize money, DJ, 50/50, games, raffle baskets, all ages, food, beer, soft drinks, BYOB, benefits Lions Club charities, timrobinsonlions@yahoo.com.

McFall Fest, Oct. 12, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., McDonald Presbyterian Church, 119 Station Street in McDonald, homemade food, treasure chest resale shoppe, baked goods, pumpkins, mums, Chinese auction, craft and vendor sale, live music, children's fun area, benefits mission and ministry work, (724) 926.8561, www.mcdonaldpres.org.

Lifespan Trip to 55th Annual Fall Foliage

Festival, Oct. 12, departs 9 a.m. for Bedford, returns 8 p.m., 400 vendors, dinner at Slick's Ivy Stone included, Kathie, (724) 218-1669, \$85/person.

Lifespan Oglebay Overnight Trip, Nov. 12, includes overnight stay at Wilson Lodge, Festival of Lights dinner show, breakfast buffet, admission to zoo and museums, \$130 double occupancy, \$172 single, \$116 triple, \$109 quad, (724) 218-1669, \$50 deposit.

Jacob Ferree DAR Chapter

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

Chapter Meeting, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Water J. Brannon Community Center YMCA in Sewickley.

Annual Benefit Luncheon, Oct. 5, 10 a.m., Montour Heights Country Club, **RSVP by Oct. 2.**

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.

Fair in the Woodlands, Aug. 16, 6-10 p.m., Aug. 17, 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Clinton Community Park.

Outdoor Flea Market, Aug. 31, Clinton Community Park Parking Lot, \$5/space, call to reserve.

Rhythm, Ribs and Barbeque, Sept. 14, 4-8 p.m., Clinton Park Amphitheater, see next page.

Truck Touch, Sept. 28, Clinton Park lower lot (by Little Clinton Ballfield), **11 a.m.-2 p.m., no sirens 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,** see next page.

Fall Day Trip, Oct. 4, travel to the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad & Franklin Apple Festival, one-way scenic foliage rail ride on Titusville Railroad, visit to Franklin apple festival, call to register, \$70/person.

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

Walk 15, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7 p.m., cardio workout for all levels, \$5/class.

Crochet for a Cause, fourth Thursdays through October, 6:30-8 p.m., create items for local area hospitals and patient care centers.

Semi-Super Morning Bingo, Fridays, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, 9-10 a.m., \$10/packet, \$5 additional packets, jackpot sold separately.

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.

Beanbag Toss Tournament, Aug. 24, play starts 1 p.m., entry fee \$5/person.

Memorial Golf Tournament, Aug. 25, Black Hawk Golf Course, entry fee includes greens fees, prizes, entry form on website, open to members and their guests.

Bar Bingo, for members and their guests, Sept. 5, 19, special early-bird games start 6:30 p.m., regular games start 7 p.m., play until 9 p.m., kitchen open during.

Garage Sale, Sept. 14, table rentals available, call or e-mail snpj106@gmail.com.

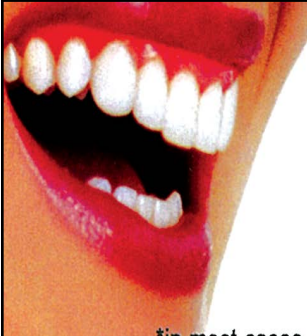
Black and Gold Car Cruise, Sept. 15, watch the Steelers beat up on the Seattle Seahawks, food, drinks, 50/50, level paved parking, door prizes, air-conditioned clubroom, bikes welcome, dash plaques for first 50 cars.

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"TRUCK TOUCH" 2019 LIBRARY BENEFIT EVENT

Saturday, September 28, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 (NO SIRENS TIME: 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.)
Clinton Park
 next to Little Clinton Ball field and Oriole Pavilion.
 Parking, as you enter the park, head left up the hill to the large lot.

Findlay Township is collaborating with the Western Allegheny Community Library to bring you this family event in Clinton Park.

A variety of vehicles, including fire engines, construction vehicles and much more will be on hand for kids to climb on and explore. The library will be selling food and drinks at the Oriole Pavilion. All proceeds benefit the Western Allegheny Community Library, Children's Library.

FREE event
Donations accepted at entrance

PLEASE NOTE: For safety reasons, this is a fair weather event only.

RHYTHM, RIBS AND BARBQUE

Saturday September 14th 4-8 P.M.

IN CLINTON PARK

CHECK OUT THE MUSIC LINE UP:

The JASON CRAIG BAND
 @ 4 P.M.

The HED G.G. Band
 @ 6 P.M.

Scott Blasey
 lead singer from The Clark's
 @ 8 P.M.

This year we are mixing it up and having a variety of great music and local artists. Smokin' Jack's Barbeque will be cooking up Ribs, Pulled Pork and other tasty treats. Speedies Pizza will be serving up their delicious pizzas and more. There will also be fresh corn on the cob and pies to enjoy. The IVFD will be selling beer and other beverages. Grab a plate of food and a beverage and listen to the great line up of music. This is a free event, but all food and beverages will be available to purchase. There will also be a 50/50 raffle.

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.

PALS 9th Annual Golf Outing, Sept. 7, Quicksilver Golf Club, dhildebrand@north-fayette.com.

Food and Brew Fest, Sept. 28, check website or Facebook for more details.

Fall Festival, Oct. 19, check the website or Facebook for more details.

Fitness

Adults

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

Yoga, Saturdays, 8 a.m., Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Insanity, Mondays, 9 a.m.

Body Sculpt, Mondays, 6 p.m.

Total Body Strength, Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

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

Bodyweight Plus, Saturdays, 10 a.m.

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

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

Pickle Ball, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Fridays, 5-7 p.m., revised schedule coming in September.

Water Walking, resumes September.

Water Aerobics, resumes September.

Fitness Center and Walking Track, available to members during open hours

Senior Luncheons, second Wednesdays, noon, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, dhildebrand@north-fayette.com.

Youth

Super Kids Floor Hockey, ages 3-5, through Aug. 26.

Youth Team Handball, ages 6-11, through Aug. 27.

Summer Lacrosse, ages 6-11, through Aug. 29.

Youth Outdoor Flag Football, ages 4-14, Aug. 18-Oct. 27.

Youth Tennis Lessons, ages 6-13, Aug. 17-Sept. 28, WA High School courts.

Mommy and Me, ages 0-4, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Sept. 3-Oct. 9.

Instructional Volleyball League, ages 9-15, Wednesdays, Sept. 4-Oct. 9.

Super Kids Basketball, ages 4-6, Thursdays, Sept. 5-Oct. 10.

Youth Basketball, ages 7-12, Sept. 5-Oct. 10.

Super Kids T-Ball Indoor/Outdoor, ages 3-5, Mondays, Sept. 9-Oct. 14.

Indoor Flag Football, ages 6-14, Saturdays, Nov. 2-March 14.

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

Afterschool Programming, Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Aug. 21 start for K-8, provides a safe environment for children to come after school, transportation provided from schools to community center when school is in session, registration details on website, nkreutzman@north-fayette.com.

PALS, recreational activities for individuals with special needs, dhildebrand@north-fayette.com to be added to email list and for upcoming events.

Western Allegheny Community Library Programs

For more, visit westernallegHENYlibrary.org or call (724) 695-8150.

Love Your Library Matching Gift Campaign

Thanks to the Jack Buncher Foundation, every donation made to Western Allegheny Community Library throughout the month of September will be matched - up to \$500 per donor. With an entire month to "Love Your Library," there are lots of ways to get involved and double the impact of your support!

Fall for Your Library, Sept. 14, 6-10 p.m., see page 23.

Alert 360 Self-Defense, Sept. 7, 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., learn practical hand-to-hand combat and situational awareness, taught by former Army Special Forces Operator, ages 18+, \$25/person, two-day class.

Artisan Bread Made Easy, Sept. 17, 6-8 p.m., learn dough preparation, scoring, finishing techniques, hands-on baking, enjoy wine & cheese, take-home dough and recipe, \$75/person.

Kid's Closet Connection Sale, Sept. 19-22, buy and sell gently used baby to teen items, clothing, baby furniture, toys, books, "Shop for a Cause" presale supports library.

Fall Family Photo Shoot, Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 20-minute session with backdrop and props, includes unlimited downloads, proceeds benefit library, with Michelle Dunn, \$85.

Messages from Spirit, Sept. 22, 2-3 p.m., psychic medium Jennifer Rowan connects people with their departed loved ones, angels, spirit guides, \$30/person, details online.

Something Old, Something New

Consignment Sale, Sept. 26-29, gently worn women's and men's clothing, department-store quality, basket raffles, \$5 admission, see website for hours, benefits Autism Caring Center and WACL.

Truck Touch, Sept. 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Clinton Park, see page 41.

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

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Oct. 5 31ST ANNUAL PITTSBURGH 100 BILL HENDREN MEMORIAL SIZZLER SERIES EVENT

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- Exterior Painting
- Interior Painting
- Mobile Home Skirting
- Porch construction or repair
- Step construction or repair
- Weatherization
- Wheelchair Ramp construction or repair

Work that will NOT be considered: Concrete, Drywall, Electrical, HVAC, Landscaping, Masonry, Paving, Plumbing, Window/Door install/repair

Application must be signed & received by **29 February 2020** to be considered!

Both labor and materials are free to qualifying households. Applicants who have not participated in previous West Allegheny Workcamps will be given 1st priority. To learn how your home *might be included*, please complete & sign this confidential application and return to:

EMAIL: WAW@HeroesSupportingHeroes.org
FAX: 412.235.1737
USPS: **Heroes Supporting Heroes**
ATTN: West Allegheny Workcamp
7313 Noblestown Rd
Oakdale, PA 15017.1905

Your name: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Physical address: _____

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

Is your home within a 20-minute drive from **West Allegheny Middle School** Yes No

Are you US Military? (or if prior military, can you provide a copy of your DD 214?) Yes No

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

Describe the work you would like to have done: _____

Mailing address (if different from above): _____

City, State, ZIP: _____ (Continue on back if more space required above)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This beautiful world

What words could one use to describe 88-year-old Margaret Hiles Campbell? Some that come to mind are: happy, positive and loving. She married her husband, Charles, in 1954 and they were blessed with three sons: Charlie, who now runs Tonidale Auto Care; Scott, who is now retired; and Chris, who works for North Fayette Township. Margaret became a widow too soon, in 1990.

They were also blessed with two grandsons: David, a Westminster graduate, and Christopher, a busy 6 year old.

Margaret enjoyed cleaning homes for friends for years. Friends found her to be a little bit of a prankster. One friend had a hard time throwing things away, like worn out shoes. For awhile, the friend couldn't find one of their shoes. After a long time, Margaret confessed. Occasionally she had thrown the better shoe away. They laughed - mystery solved.

In the event of problems, she would say, "It will be okay."

Two years ago, after several falls that eventually resulted in her being confined to a wheelchair, Margaret moved into a rehabilitation center. She filled up the walls in her room with pictures and cards. Her sons erected a bird feeder just outside her window and kept it full to keep the birds, and their mother, happy.

On Christmas in 2018, some carolers and her friends from Montours Presbyterian Church surprised Margaret. She was resting in bed. Everyone gave her a hug. For a half an hour the carolers sang. Margaret, who was a soprano in the church's choir, asked Chris Harris to sing his solo, "Oh Holy Night." Harris sang and all were emotional. It would be her last Christmas.

Before she passed away, Margaret penned a touching masterpiece from her wheelchair, a letter she requested that her grandson David read at her funeral service. It speaks volumes from her heart and bears reading again. It is simple and inspiring:

THINGS I LEARNED DURING MY LIFE.

I have now lived almost 88 years in this beautiful world and I found out I was still learning new things every single day. A few of them actually changed my life. What I want to share are some of the best things I learned. Here they are!

- Having more money doesn't make you happier. The real satisfaction in your work comes from the people you help and the good you do in it.
- You can't make someone else happy. You can, however, make yourself happy.
- You can't make other people be the way you want them to be. You can, though, become the person you want to be.
- Simple pleasures like reading a book, listening to music, taking a walk and petting a dog or cat can bring so much delight into your life.
- Little acts of kindness like giving a hug, sharing a smile



Margaret Campbell is pictured with her grandson Christopher.

or helping someone in need can fill your heart with love. Little acts of happiness like laughing, singing and dancing can fill your soul with joy.

- God doesn't always give us what we want. God does always give us what we need. We often don't know what we really want or really need.
- Watching a sunrise is the best way to begin a day. Watching a sunset is the best way to end a day.

- The only way to change the world is one heart, mind and soul at a time.
- The acts of love and goodness we share with others are the only things we take with us all through our life.
- We can choose so much love and joy each and every day of our lives. We can share it, too. Be thankful to God who fills your life with happiness. Praying to God will fill your life with meaning. Being one with God fills your life with light.
- The only way to be truly happy and successful in this life is to make yourself the best, most loving and most joyous person you can, then share that person with everyone.

What I learned most of all, however, is that God loves us all and wants us to be happy. This life is His gift to us. How we live it is our gift to Him, so we must live it beautifully.

God bless you all!

~ Margaret Campbell



Time to pray

Children are unpredictable and adorable, especially when they're thinking in full gear.

Children's chat at Montours Presbyterian Church begins with an invitation. Pastor Rev. Dr. Jim Evans says, "I invite the children to come up and sit with me."

Evans opens his message with a question, and the answers to it are cute and interesting.

Four-year-old Isaac McKean was talking as much as the pastor. Then it was time to pray. Evans folded his hands to pray but Isaac corrected him. Isaac showed him how to put his hands together: palms together, fingers pointing upwards. Isaac got Evans' hands ready for the prayer. With their hands corrected, Isaac was now ready to pray.

"Let's pray," Evans said.

Isaac closed his eyes but, before Evans could speak, Isaac began to pray: "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray, dear Lord..."

Unforgettable.



Pastor Rev. Dr. Jim Evans prays with Isaac McKean, 4, and another boy during children's chat at Montours Presbyterian Church.

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