

West Allegheny Edition

# Allegheny West

Volume 15, Issue 90  
June/July 2014

Magazine

FREE Direct Mail Community Publication

Memorial Day  
Dedications

Hungry for Volunteers,  
Meals on Wheels Delivers

North Fayette Magistrate  
Awarded for Pilot Program

Readying for a  
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**WA**

West Allegheny  
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Official Newsletter  
Inside  
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@AlleghenyWest



**A close-up look at the shifter on Bill Steele's newest bike creation, the Blue Baller. In February, the bike earned the Oakdale native and business owner his third Bike of the Year award at the *Easyriders* Grand National Invitational Finals. Steele is the first to have ever won the award three times. Read more about it on page 18.**

Allegheny West Magazine - West Allegheny Edition is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December, six issues a year, Hughey Publications, LLC, P. O. Box 165, Imperial PA 15126. Mailed and distributed free to residents and businesses in Findlay, North Fayette, Oakdale, Sturgeon, a portion of McDonald, and adjacent areas. Extra copies available at municipal offices, schools, libraries, stores, advertisers, hotels, and businesses. Available by mail subscription for \$12 annually. Story ideas welcomed. Community events and announcements from non-profit groups must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publishing date. Announcements are limited to 30 words and must include a contact phone number. Reproduction of any artwork, photographs, or copy prepared by Allegheny West Magazine is strictly prohibited without written consent of Hughey Publications, LLC. Copyright 1999-2014 Allegheny West Magazine. All rights reserved. Views and opinions expressed by contributors and/or advertisers are the responsibility of the contributors and not those of the publisher of Allegheny West Magazine.

## From the Publisher



Dear Readers,

As I write this, we are preparing to publish our seventh issue of *Allegheny West Magazine* since this publication changed ownership in January. We've been working hard to get as much interesting news and community input into each edition, and to carry on the work that Pat Jennette, our publisher emeritus, started. She believed this publication belongs to the community, and we've been working hard to stay true to that mission.

Recently, I was out taking photographs for one of this issue's stories when an individual I was photographing said: "When I look at your magazine, I'm proud of our community."

The truth is that this individual, and a lot of the other folks featured in this issue, don't go out looking for recognition for the ways they serve others. They take it upon themselves to do so. That can certainly be said of the volunteers and individuals working for Meals on Wheels. We feature the organization in this edition on page 44. During a recent visit to the organization's South West headquarters in Saint John Lutheran Church in Carnegie - which serves our community - plenty of individuals embody that selflessness I just described. There, they work at a furious pace, collecting donations from numerous businesses in the region and then preparing meals for delivery. They need to reach more people who can use their services, and they could also use a new van to pick up donations, if you happen to know anyone.

As always, we also have plenty of insightful stories about the work our schools are doing in our communities in this edition. We're thankful that we can share some of what our educators and students are accomplishing every day. On page 54, you can read our coverage of President Barack Obama's visit to CCAC, and about how educators at local trade schools are preparing workforces for the future. Catch up on all the good things students and educators at West Allegheny School District have been achieving these last couple of months, starting on page 27.

In this issue, we also cover a local magistrate, and his work to pilot a unique new program to help victims of domestic violence. Read about it on page 40. Also, read how the community has continued to rally around a local disabled girl and her family on page 22. Don't miss our events section, with information on fun family happenings this summer, including McSummerfest, North Fayette's Community Days, and Findlay's Fair in the Woodlands, on page 56. See the complete schedule for McSummerfest on page 20, and be sure to register for the McRun 5K on June 29. Also, check out the upcoming schedule for Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway as the racing season heats up on page 26.

In our inaugural issue, I asked you, our readers, to submit your stories and ideas. You have not disappointed. As we move onto our tenth edition in July, I hope we will continue to hear from you.

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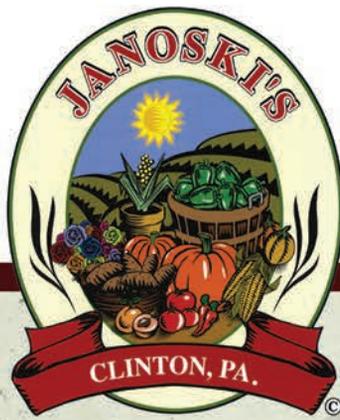
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## ABOUT THE COVER

Flags over the Oakdale Memorial Day ceremonies.  
PHOTO BY G. PAUL DEBOR.



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## Pittsburgh Botanic Garden Celebrates Latest Milestone

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PAT JENNETTE

Most people wouldn't get excited about a pond once so badly contaminated with metals and particulates from acid mine drainage that it was rendered uninhabitable by wildlife. On May 22, though, the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden celebrated a project that brought such a pond back to life, and the governor's office was on hand to recognize them for achieving that goal.

At an outdoor celebration in the heart of the garden property, guests sat on top of an enclosed limestone bed that serves a key function by draining contaminants from the pond. Water flows down a streambed into the Asian Woodlands area before entering the pond. It is the first of three such ponds that are to be rehabilitated on the 460-acre property.

Companies and environmental specialists overseeing the project received accolades from local, regional, and state officials. Volunteers and board members of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, donors, media, and other invitees were also on hand. Together, they joined in applauding the achievement as awards and proclamations were presented to the garden staff and board by numerous officials.



**ABOVE:** Pittsburgh Botanic Garden president Greg Nace receives the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award from Governor Tom Corbett's office.

**BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT:** Bob Grimm, North Fayette Township manager; Greg Nace, president, Pittsburgh Botanic Garden; Tom Baker, Allegheny County Councilman; Rich Fitzgerald, Chief Executive, Allegheny County Council; State Senator Matt Smith; Michael Finnerty, Allegheny County Councilman; Jim Morosetti, North Fayette Township chairman.



Guests were then invited to stand on the bridge that crosses the Asian pond to observe how the drainage process removes contaminants once per week, using a system powered by solar energy.

According to PBG literature, a passive water treatment system consisting of a drainable limestone bed was installed in 2013. The system filters polluted water flowing through a pipeline from an abandoned coal mine into the pond at a rate of ten gallons per minute. Within two days of the installation, the pond water, which at pH 2.9 had an acidity similar to that of vinegar, was improved to a more neutral and life-sustaining pH of 7.1.

Plans for the limestone bed were developed in conjunction with Hedin Environmental and MTR Landscape Architects. Polluted mine water filters through an underground 10,000 cubic foot concrete tank filled with 450 tons of crushed limestone gravel donated by Carmeuse Lime and Stone Company. Acidity is neutralized by the limestone, which removes metal contaminants in the filtration process. The tank is drained weekly by means of a solar-powered, computer-controlled gate valve. That directs the metal-laced effluent into a settling pond, where it is contained.

As attendees dwindled and the pond area resumed its quiet place in the forest, several guests witnessed a snake entwining a frog in its jaws along the pond shore. The enthusiasm of such a simple act of nature feeling at home in its environment was celebration



**ABOVE:** Guests witnessed the passive treatment system operate, which relies on a drainable limestone bed to neutralize acidity and remove metal contaminants before clean water is released into the pond.

enough for a pond that can now welcome its natural inhabitants back into its waters.

Fish, frogs, lotus flowers and iris will be introduced in the coming months. Before long, the pond will be transformed into the centerpiece of a Japanese Garden, which is a key feature of the Asian Forest in the Woodlands of the World Garden.

The atmosphere on the sunny, breezy day matched the celebratory mood, as the garden is anticipating its official opening date for the public August 1.

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## Local Web Site Service Celebrates Fifteenth Year with Rebranding

Fifteen years ago, Dave Sinkavich started learning how to build a website for his amateur hockey team. As commerce increasingly shifted toward the internet, and even the smallest of businesses found it essential to have a website, he began acquiring clients. Today, his business, Imperial-based DDS Web Design, boasts nearly 100 clients. Many of them are local.

On June 19, DDS, which Dave and his wife, Denise, run out of a small home office, will celebrate its fifteenth year with a rebranding announcement at a networking event at the SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The event is expected to draw 100 to 150 local business owners and professionals. Food and a cash bar will be available, and a drawing will take place for a free website for a year. The couple says it's their way of thanking their customers and the community for helping them grow over the years.

As part of the rebranding, DDS will begin offering a service dubbed DDS Web Design Platinum Business Solutions Package, a kind of one-stop shop for small businesses.

"People tend to go to Dave for everything," says Denise. "Those businesses don't have time to go out and look."

The new package deal, which DDS offers for a one-time fee of \$199, directs clients to over a dozen professionals offering free consultations on a range of unique services, from accounting and legal help to videography and graphic design. The couple says the package is built on a model of helping small businesses get the services they need.

Dave and Denise say that the key to their business, which has



doubled over the past four years, has been to continue to work hand-in-hand with clients toward a results-driven approach well after the design phase. As a small business, they've also kept their overhead low. Much of their referrals come through word-of-mouth, and are the result of a solid reputation built on reliability and trust. That's not always the case with web developers, in an industry rife with con artists. The couple says they've had a number of clients come to them with nightmare stories, some who spent thousands on a website and got nothing in return.

DDS offers a range of services, including Web site design, hosting, maintenance, and search engine optimization as part of their packages. Sponsorships are still available for the June 19 event. For more information, register at [www.ddswebdesign.com/sponsorship.html](http://www.ddswebdesign.com/sponsorship.html).

## Paragon Opens New Model Home

Custom homebuilder Paragon Homes recently opened a model house at the new Deerfield Ridge community in South Fayette. The model provides prospective buyers with a potential finish or starting-off point for a house in a community that is anything but cookie-cutter. Deerfield's pastoral, suburban community features custom homes on roomy plots that homeowners get to have a hand in designing. Families can use one of Paragon's newly designed or award-winning floor plans, bring their own plans to the table, or work with Paragon's architects to modify or design a new house from scratch. Starting at \$405,000, homes come with features that many builders consider upgrades.

For more information, visit [www.ParagonHomesCustomBuilder.com](http://www.ParagonHomesCustomBuilder.com).

**RIGHT:** Deerfield homes, from \$405,000, start with what other builders consider upgrades. Paragon's new model features 2,833 square feet plus a finished walk-out basement, four bedrooms, four full and one partial bath, three-car garage, and an exceptionally large backyard that is more than 80 feet deep.



# WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS

UPMC is pleased to welcome West Hills Family Practice-UPMC. Christopher Rhody, DO, and Elizabeta Kovkarova-Naumovski, MD, are accepting new patients at their office in Pittsburgh.



**Christopher Rhody, DO**  
*Family Medicine*

Dr. Rhody earned his Doctorate of Osteopathy from Kirksville College of Osteopathy Medicine. He completed his internship at Genesys Regional Medical Center and a residency at Saginaw Cooperative Hospital in Michigan. He is board-certified by the National Osteopathic Board of Medical Examiners and the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. Rhody served in the U.S. Army as Task Force Surgeon among other capacities. He is a member of the American Association of Family Practitioners.



**Elizabeta Kovkarova-Naumovski, MD**  
*Family Medicine*

Dr. Kovkarova-Naumovski earned her medical degree from The Saints Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje in Macedonia. She completed UPMC St. Margaret's Family Medicine Residency and Fellowship Programs and also completed an internal medicine residency with pulmonary fellowship while in Skopje, Macedonia. She is board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Practice, and the Allegheny County Medical Society.

**To schedule an appointment at West Hills Family Practice-UPMC,  
or for more information, call 412-788-2582.**

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## West Allegheny Inline Hockey Varsity Team Completes Undefeated Season, Wins Gold

The varsity West Allegheny Inline Hockey (WAIH) team concluded their 2013/2014 season with both an undefeated record (19-0-1) and a league championship. The team posted a regular season record of 15-0-1 before defeating Butler in a best out of three semi-final series. In the championship round, West Allegheny knocked off Seneca Valley two games to none, thereby winning a gold medal.

The varsity team was comprised of 10th, 11th, and 12th grade players from the North Fayette community, many of whom have played for WAIH for six to seven years. The team combined a high-powered offense and solid defensive corps with league-leading goaltending and a team-first approach throughout the entire season and playoffs.

Along with the varsity team's success, one of WAIH's middle school teams also posted strong results during the regular season and finished third in their tier. Once the playoffs began, the middle school team defeated North Hills in the first round before beating Norwin in an exciting, hard-fought, three-game, semi-final series. The team eventually fell to Hampton in the championship round,



**ABOVE:** West Allegheny Inline Hockey Varsity Team members; **Front row:** Nate Flenner (goalie); **Second row:** Head Coach Terry Powell, Asst Coach Derrick Smith, Jake Gazella, David Waxter, Robby Monks, Shane Bunyan, Dylan Nauman, Asst Coach Bob Monks, Roman Lauff, Asst Coach Mark Lauff; **Back row:** Travis King, JD Gazella, Nick Hayes, Jack McCallister, Logan Powell.

earning a silver medal. Tim Opferman and Alan Tomazich acted as co-head coaches. The team was comprised of sixth and seventh grade players from the West Allegheny School District. Five were first-year players.

WAIH participates in the Pennsylvania Inline Roller Hockey League, which currently has more than 130 teams playing in the elementary, middle school, junior varsity and varsity age groups. WAIH had 80 players across seven teams competing in the PIRHL this past season.

## New Imperial Weirton Medical Office Hosts Children's Fair and Ribbon Cutting

WMC Primary Care in Imperial held its first WMC Cares Children's Fair on May 31. The event was held in front of WMC's new offices in the parking lot WMC Primary Care shares with

Shop 'n Save.

The event, organized by Dr. Elizabeth Massella, pediatrics and adolescent medicine, and Dr. Kelly DeVoogd, obstetrics/gynecology, offered free screenings for kids, children's activities from the Children's Museum, a balloon artist, and giveaways. Kids and their parents were treated to snacks and refreshments, as a way for WMC Primary Care to say "thank you" for inviting the practice into the neighborhood.

WMC Primary Care also celebrated its grand opening and an open house with the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce May 30 with a ribbon cutting at the new office (left).

Drs. Massella and DeVoogd are accepting new patients and some same-day appointments are available. Also seeing new patients at the sprawling new location are Dr. Charles Capito, orthopedic surgery; Dr. Ruby Arora, internal medicine; and Dr. Carol Slomski, breast surgery. To make an appointment, call (724) 218-1931 or (724) 218-1894.



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

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

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## Slovenian Trade Mission Visits Imperial SNPJ Lodge

A trade mission of Slovenian companies visiting parts of Ohio and Pennsylvania ended their trip with a luncheon hosted by the SNPJ National Headquarters at the SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial on May 16. There, they met with board members and executives from the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce and SNPJ society, as well as local civic leaders.

Present were representatives and CEOs from over a dozen Slovenian companies, ranging from engineering and law firms to furniture and software designers. Though a number of the businesses

expressed interest in new markets, the visit also comes amid a deal between a Cecil and Slovenian company to open an LED manufacturing plant in the area.

The potential deal, between Grah Lighting and Cecil-based Millcraft Investments, could create hundreds of jobs in the Pittsburgh area. The evening before the trade mission

visited Imperial, says SNPJ National President Joseph C. Evanish, Millcraft addressed the trade mission at the opening of a new consulate office in Pittsburgh, thereby demonstrating the potential for opportunities between the two countries.

"I think it put a lot of American companies at ease," says Evanish.

That same event was also attended by Rep. Tim Murphy, Rep. Mike Doyle, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and

Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, who has been lobbying for the deal between Grah and Millcraft since he was a city councilman.

At the SNPJ luncheon, PAACC, SNPJ, business and civic leaders all called for greater economic cooperation while describing their respective economic landscapes. PAACC President Bernadette Puzzuole reached out to visitors by giving an introduction to the region's industries and the PAACC's mission of business advocacy in the region.

"If you're coming in, we want to make ourselves available to you," she said.

Evanish pointed out that SNPJ is currently celebrating its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What started out as an organization to preserve Slovenian culture and heritage, and provide benefits to emigrating Slovenians, now functions as a national nonprofit life insurance fraternal benefit society.

"While we were here to welcome a Slovenian migration 110 years ago, we are now happy to welcome a business migration," Evanish said, addressing the group.

According to a letter from Slovenian Ambassador Dr. Bozo Cerar contained in materials handed out at the luncheon, the trade mission was the product of collaboration between AmCham Slovenia and the public agency Spirit Slovenia.



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## West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame Inducts Class of 2014

On May 17, the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame held its third annual banquet at the Cornerstone at Tonidale in honor of its newest class of 2014. The Hall of Fame inducted six new members, five based on their athletic achievements, and another for his contributions to WA athletics.

Bryan Cornell was inducted based on his achievements in the sports of football and baseball, while at both WA and Duquesne University. Mike Johnson was inducted based on his wrestling accomplishments at WA and Delaware Valley College. Both still coach at WA.

Scott Patterson was inducted for his accomplishments in the sport of baseball at WA, West Virginia University, and at the professional level. Maj. Michal Polidor was inducted for his goalkeeping on the WA and United States Air Force Academy's hockey teams. Robert Darrell Wilson was inducted based on his wrestling achievements at WA in the 1950s.

Richard Glovier, this magazine's former sports columnist, was inducted posthumously for his journalistic contributions to WA sports over the course of four decades. His son, Doug, and wife, Mary Lou, accepted Glovier's award on his behalf. Glovier passed away on September 9, 2013 at the age of 83.

For a complete list of each inductee's achievements, see pages 18-19 in the 2014 April/May edition of *Allegheny West Magazine* on awmagazine.com under the archives tab.

Inductees to the WA Hall of Fame are nominated by the public, and chosen by the board based on their completed applications and individual achievements at the secondary, post-secondary, and in some cases professional levels. Profits from the Hall of Fame's annual banquet benefit PALS, a North Fayette Township-sponsored organization providing recreational opportunities for special needs children. The board is currently accepting nominations for its 2015 class. For more, email [rbrozovich@north-fayette.com](mailto:rbrozovich@north-fayette.com).

**BELOW:** Scott Patterson, Doug and Mary Lou Glovier, Bryan Cornell, Mike Johnson, Robert Darrell Wilson, Maj. Michal Polidor. **PHOTO BY EMILY DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY**



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## Countdown Begins to Community Blitz Repair Project

Hundreds of residents from area churches, schools, and businesses are busy preparing for the area's first-ever, large scale community service project. Called West Allegheny Workcamp, this monumental effort in the making for over a year will welcome over 400 volunteer teens and adults from around the nation during the week of June 22-28 through the organization Group Mission Trips. During that week, volunteers will simultaneously repair, paint, and/or clean over 70 homes for those in need across the area.

West Allegheny Workcamp, a project of Heroes Supporting Heroes - a nonprofit organization of volunteers providing support for military and their families as well as senior citizens and others in need - will kick off on June 22, when youths and adults arrive at West Allegheny Middle School. They will stay there for the week. Work will begin on Monday morning, on June 23, when the teams fan out across neighborhoods.

Leading up to that week, the West Allegheny Workcamp project team will be busy collecting supplies for projects in their respective locations. They will be organizing and storing ladders shared by local residents while hanging banners listing sponsors and finalizing meals, snacks, and other details. This preplanning will set the stage for the arrival of GMT, a national effort coordinating numerous such events across the country for youths and adults who wish to be part of mission-based projects serving others.



**ABOVE:** John Lee, president of Heroes Supporting Heroes, accepts a donation from Findlay Township supervisors Janet Craig, left, Tom Gallant, and Ray Chappell.

**BELOW:** A donation towards Heroes Supporting Heroes was presented to John Lee by North Fayette Township manager Bob Grimm, left.



Don Steward, who has been involved in GMT for some time, and volunteers his time each summer at sites across the country, is facilitating the local effort. He is supported by co-coordinator Jeff Lutz, HSH president John Lee, and the planning team of Jim Bruni, Tom Bayly, Susie Dorman, Cliff Elicker, Pat Jennette, and Jan Leopold. The committee is supported by hundreds of volunteers and businesses donating their time, talents, and resources, through hospitality, site reviews, supplies and equipment, monetary donations, financial accounting, communications, and a myriad of other needs.

Steward said that the project team is still in need of dependable ladders, between six and 30 feet.

Steward also said that the project team has been superbly blessed by an outpouring of support, including donations totaling \$48,000, which will be used to help purchase supplies. Remaining funds will be reverted to Heroes Supporting Heroes, allowing homes that were not able to be repaired to receive support afterward.

Both West Allegheny Workcamp and Heroes Supporting Heroes have Facebook pages. Workcamp also has a website where readers can learn more, at [www.westaworkcamp.org](http://www.westaworkcamp.org).

For more information, call (412) 235-1737, or e-mail: [info@westaworkcamp.org](mailto:info@westaworkcamp.org).

## Allegheny West Magazine Publisher Emeritus Honored with Senatorial Citation

On May 21, State Sen. Matt Smith presented *Allegheny West Magazine* founding publisher Pat Jennette with a senatorial citation in recognition of her service to the communities she covered over the course of 15 years.

Jennette launched her publication in 1999 as a side business to her company Jennette Communications Group, which provides marketing and publication services to schools and businesses. Over the years, the magazine grew to three editions serving 14 communities, and became a trusted community resource. Sen. Smith commended Jennette for her service to those communities in the western Allegheny County suburbs. Sen. Smith's declaration reads in part: "During her career, Mrs. Jennette strove to adhere to the highest standards of service and has earned the respect and admiration of her many friends and colleagues."

The citation also states that the state is "...pleased to recognize those individuals who, through laudable tenure of service, contribute in a meaningful way toward the well-being of their communities and the Commonwealth..."

The citation also states that the state is "...pleased to recognize those individuals who, through laudable tenure of service, contribute in a meaningful way toward the well-being of their communities and the Commonwealth..."

In January, ownership of *Allegheny West Magazine* transferred to Jennette's assistant editor of nearly two years, Doug Hughey.

**LEFT:** State Sen. Matt Smith (second from left) presents Pat Jennette with a senatorial citation recognizing her service to communities in western Allegheny County. They are joined by Jennette's husband, John (far right) and current *Allegheny West Magazine* publisher and owner, Doug Hughey.



## Local Business Owner Wins Third National Custom Bike Award

In February, Bill Steele, owner of Steele Auto Body in Oakdale, won his third Bike of the Year award at the *Easyriders* Grand National Invitational Finals in Columbus, Ohio. That made him the first to have ever won the award three times. As in those previous years in 2007 and 2009, Steele's newest bike, the Blue Baller, will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Easyriders*.

A graduate of West Allegheny and Parkway West Career and Technology Center, Bill has built a small collision shop he opened in 1994 in the heart of Oakdale into a thriving business. A spinoff of that business, Steele Kustoms, specializes in custom built hot rods and motorcycles. Those customs have earned numerous awards over the years, garnering Bill and his shop international fame. Last June, *Allegheny West Magazine* featured Bill in a story, which can be found at awmagazine.com under the archives tab.

Bill calls the Blue Baller a retro throwback to bikes of the 1970s, one that's an almost complete departure from the earth tone aesthetic he cultivated using a series of matte paints he pioneered. The bike took five months to build, but 18 months to collect all the right parts, he says. With in-house help from Josh Harden, and graphic arts work from Pittsburgh Paint and Glass trainer Jeremy Seanor, Bill's newest creation recalls the pinstripes and flames of yesteryear with a shiny

aluminum flake reminiscent of the disco days.

Rebuilt on a broken-down shovel pan, additional throwback elements include a chromed-out springer front shock and a trailer fender. With no front brake, and no rear suspension, Bill says the bike is as simplistic as it is complicated to ride, making one both appreciate and respect the machine.

**BELOW:** Bill Steele, along with his son, Bill Jr., pose with Bill Sr.'s newest bike creation, the Blue Baller, and his third Bike of the Year award.



## Former School Board Member Receives PSEA Friends of Education Award

On May 8, the Western Region of the Pennsylvania State Education Association awarded former West Allegheny School Board member John Scott with its Friends of Education award at a recognition dinner. Scott was nominated by the West Allegheny Education Association, and introduced by teacher Michael Quinn. After a 20-year stint of sitting on the WASD Board, Scott did not run for reelection this past term.

Though the award was given to Scott, as Quinn pointed

out in his introduction, it also acknowledges a long legacy of contributions to the WA education community by Scott's ancestors. That legacy includes Scott's father, Warren, his grandfather, Charles, and his uncle, Ray McCandless. All served as WA Board members, and some as past board presidents.

In addition, John's great-grandfather George McCandless, and great-great grandfathers Philip McCandless and Alexander Campbell, also served the district as board members in the 1800s.

George McCandless, along with John's other great-grandfather, also named John, helped organize the Imperial Academy as the first school to formally educate local secondary students during the 1800s.

As a result, virtually every room in every elementary building, junior high school building, middle school, and three different high school buildings were constructed under the leadership of a Scott family member.

As the Friend of Education certificate awarded to John states, "We honor and thank the Scott family for their decades of dedication to the students, staff and community of West Allegheny."

**LEFT:** Debbie Turici, Paul and Debbie Mirich, Jennifer Scott, Renee Treonze, Debbie Scott, Mike Quinn, John Scott, Mike Vottimo, Jerry Wessel, Dr. Charles Hughey, Tracy Pustover.



## Dan Hanczar's New Album Appreciates Summer in Multiple Genres

In between teaching for 37 years at West Allegheny Middle School, raising a family, and all the other things life before 60 entails, Dan Hanczar still managed to create a lot of original music. Much of it he came up with on his downtime, during road trips and summer vacations with his family.

Pulling from some 40 years' worth of summertime-themed music, Hanczar released his second album in as many years on June 7. Entitled "Summer," the album reveals a wide swath of musical tastes, not unlike his previous album, "Be Thankful," which he released in late 2012.

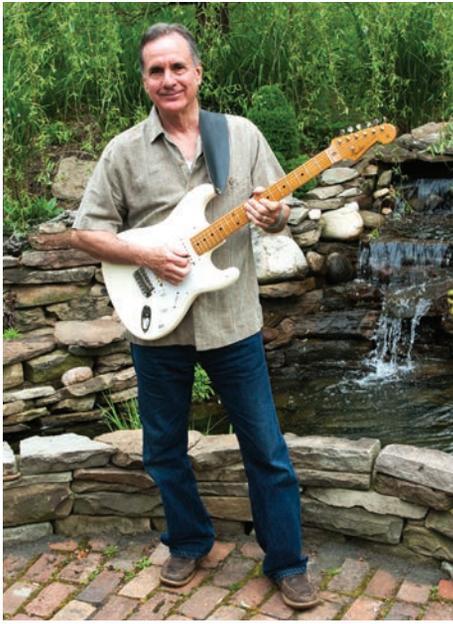
"It takes you through a lot of different feels," Hanczar says. "Some are laid back acoustic, others are straight-up rock'n roll."

The album starts with a driving surfer rock number entitled "Body Surf & Rock n' Roll," and then settles down into a piece with a Latin beat backed with cellos and congas called "Forces of Nature." That transitions nicely into a soft, jazzy tune with flugelhorn called "Childhood Daydream." A reggae number with flute backing entitled "Nassau" follows.

"I can't settle into one genre," he says.

Just like with "Be Thankful," plenty of tracks on this album are autobiographical. "Bahama Wedding" he wrote and performed for his daughter's wedding last year. A track with a country twang entitled "Chester, South Carolina" recalls an impromptu road trip from 40 years back.

Track nine, "Touching Bases," which Hanczar says might be his



favorite, takes a funk detour with horns and a dance beat while recalling special places from his childhood. On that track and others, Hanczar says a healthy group of musicians helped turned tunes he started working out on his own into album-worthy tracks. Many are returning contributors from "Be Thankful."

"You have a basic structure of a song, but then you bring in these great musicians and they take it to a whole other level," he says.

Hanczar says the album represents about 18 months of work. He started on it almost as soon as he put out his last album, in between making deliveries for Meals on Wheels, babysitting his grandkids, and playing gigs.

"My family says I'm the busiest retired person they know," he says.

For his previous album, Hanczar did all the postproduction work in a home studio. For "Summer" he enlisted the help of Henry

Yoder at Refuge Studio in Bellevue. Housed in a former church, the studio runs a musical mentoring program for teens called TAGGED.

"They're doing a lot of cool stuff with young kids," says Hanczar.

From July through September, Hanczar will perform at area fairs and events, including at North Fayette's Community Days and at Findlay Township's Fair in the Woodlands. For a complete list, see page 45. Check out danhanczar.com for more.

"Summer" is available on iTunes, CD Baby and Amazon.

## Project Sends Care Packages to Local Soldiers Serving Abroad

BY JOCELYN GRECKO

Inspired by a family friend, Clinton resident Ann DiStefano has organized A Peace of Home, a community outreach project that delivers care packages to men and women in the Western Allegheny communities serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

DiStefano's friend, 23-year-old local resident Staff Sgt. Brandon M. Forrester, currently serves in the Army. From an early age, Forrester knew he wanted to serve his country, and by age 17, had already discussed his goals and intentions with his family and Army recruiters. Over the past six years, Forrester has served on multiple tours overseas and assumed various roles and responsibilities in the Army. Moving from Ft. Knox to Ft. Rucker, Ft. Riley, Camp Taji in Iraq, and Ft. Wainwright in Alaska, Forrester has traveled the globe and risen through the Army's ranks. He has received several awards and recognitions for his service.

In August of 2013, Forrester committed to another tour overseas, this time in Afghanistan. His story impacted and inspired DiStefano, whose son is considering enlisting in the military, to start A Peace of Home.

"Their service makes you think about everything they go through... not just the soldiers, but their families at home, too," said DiStefano. "We sleep in a warm bed and have all the necessities with family close by. But they do without, for all of us."

She thought the least she could do would be to collect items for care packages to send to servicemen and servicewomen just like Brandon.

A Peace of Home will rely on the generosity and support of local residents. The following donations are needed: toiletries, sunblock, lotion, gum, hard candy, non-perishable items, chunky soup, dried fruit, crackers, coffee, twin size bed sheets, and more.

Donations can be made at the following locations between now and July 15: Shop 'n Save (Imperial), DJ's Quick Stop (Clinton), Marbulls Restaurant (New Brighton), and Sil's Market (Oakdale). Donations will also be accepted throughout the summer at the following events: Buffalo Hollow Outdoor Stage and Campground (Petersburg, Ohio) with the Wounded Warrior Project (July 11-13), Janoski's Farms Farm City Days (July 26 and 27 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.), Findlay Township Fair in the Woodlands (August 15-16). Cash donations can be made at youcaring.com or any First Commonwealth Bank.

Those interested in submitting the name of a local serviceman or woman they would like to receive "A Peace of Home" care package can contact carepacks\_2014@yahoo.com or annmdist33@yahoo.com. All submissions are welcome and must be received by July 15.

# McSummerfest

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual McSummerfest 2014 At Heritage Park • McDonald, Pa June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 5<sup>th</sup>

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### Monday, June 30th

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### Tuesday, July 1st

**The Holidays**  
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### Wednesday, July 2nd

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### Thursday, July 3rd

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### Saturday, July 5th

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## McDonald to Open Time Capsule on 125th Anniversary

The last time anyone saw McDonald's time capsule in 1989, "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" was in theaters, Mikhail Gorbachev was the Soviet President of Russia, and Mario Lemieux had yet to win a Stanley Cup.

Over the years, a trove of letters, mementos and other materials addressed from McDonald residents has sat buried near the town's main intersection on North McDonald Street in a stainless steel container.

On June 29, as McDonald celebrates its 125th anniversary alongside the 22nd Annual McSummerfest, the capsule will be unearthed and brought to Heritage Park, where it will be opened at 7 p.m. Those who believe there may be something in the capsule for them are encouraged to pick up materials at McDonald Heritage Library from June 30-July 3. They can do so from 5-8 p.m. daily, and also from 1-3 p.m. on July 2.

Since 1989, Ken Carr, along with Gary McGinnis, have been charged with watching over the time capsule. Before them, it was Carr's father, Thomas, along with Emerson Loffert who watched over it. Over the next 25 years that responsibility will fall to Sarah Carr and Shannon McGinnis. Like those before them, they will get



**ABOVE:** Thomas Carr with the McDonald time capsule he had built in 1964, amidst McDonald's Diamond Jubilee Celebration. It was originally interred that year.

to write a prediction about what McDonald will look like come 2039, when the capsule will be opened again.

McDonald residents are invited to place items in the capsule, but are advised to use good quality paper and black and white photographs. They are also asked to include the address and name to whom the information is addressed, and current postage. Electronic media, such as CD's and flash drives, will not be accepted. All items must fit into a #10 business sized envelope.

Thomas, a metallurgist who worked in Crucible Steel's spring division, had the capsule built. It was first interred in 1964, amidst

**BELOW:** The time capsule is hoisted out of its resting place on July 22, 1989. Included in the capsule were letters, a McDonald documentary entitled "View of the Valley," and even clothes.



and historical comments at 6 p.m. A scavenger hunt will take place throughout the day, and a refreshment stand will open at 4 p.m.

a large celebration surrounding McDonald's 75th Diamond Jubilee anniversary. Upwards of 10,000 people attended some of the festivities, among them composer and McDonald native Jay Livingston.

McDonald has plenty of activities planned leading up to the time capsule opening for this coming 125th celebration as well. The day kicks off at 9 a.m. with the 5K McDonald McRun race, followed by a pet parade at 1 p.m., Veterans recognition at 5 p.m., and a choral performance

## Imperial Stage Prodigy Nabs More Awards



Thirteen-year-old Shane Treloar of Imperial was awarded the title of Mr. Broadway Access of Pittsburgh in April at the Broadway Access Competition. He was also named best male vocalist for his rendition of "Something's Coming" from "West Side Story."

Treloar's tap duet with Briana Patterson in "Begin the Beguine" also won the platinum award and earned him first place overall.

At Joe Lanteri's Onstage NY Competition in April, Shane was named Mr. Onstage NY, earning him an invite to appear at Onstage NY's National Convention in Orlando, Florida this summer. He will perform onstage for the opening number.

Shane is a student of Karen Prunzik's Broadway Dance Studio and Performing Arts School, where he has studied dance, voice and acting for the past five years. He is the son of Kimberly and Robert Treloar of Imperial.

**LEFT:** Shane Treloar with his instructor, Karen Prunzik.

## Friends and Family Rally Around Local Disabled Girl



Ten years ago, Doug and Kim Ruperto made a decision not to give up on their daughter Jill after a car accident left her with about 20 percent brain stem function. It was a decision that would change their lives, and rally a community around them.

On May 22, Doug and Kim, along with their sons Scott and Doug Jr., his wife, Mandy, their nephew A.J., and his wife, Jessie, celebrated Jill's thirtieth birthday at Donaldson Park in North Fayette. They were joined by about 200 friends and family members, many of whom have been supporting the Rupertos over the past decade as the family has cared for Jill in her parents' home. Some help out directly. Others are known to perform random acts of kindness. That community support has been there since the beginning. Following Jill's accident, the West Allegheny community gathered to hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser that drew a level of support that's stayed with the couple ever since.

Kim says they've always just looked to the next challenge ahead, and taken it one step at a time. Right away, they had to go through the legal process of getting Jill declared as disabled so as to keep her covered under the family's private insurance, as well as under

Medicare/Medicaid. The family cleared that major legal hurdle eight years ago, and have since made all of Jill's medical and financial decisions.

With a combination of private insurance money and state waivers, Doug and Kim have been able to set up a bedroom with equipment befitting a hospital. Each day, with the help of two nurses, the couple checks off about two pages' worth of items.

By covering Jill's day-to-day needs at home, the family spends less time in hospitals, though bouts of pneumonia, kidney stones, and other ailments affecting Jill, as well as her regular checkups, require frequent return visits. Kim says they've learned to decipher Jill's body language, which sometimes lets them know when she requires medical treatment.

If there's one thing the Rupertos have never done, it's stop moving or confronting the next challenge. In the Ruperto household, not even Jill is allowed to stay in bed. Instead, she's secured into a harness that allows her to stand.

"We don't just stay in bed all day," says Kim.

## 2014 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual McRun

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**\$30 - Family - Fun 1 Mile Run/Walk**

## CONSOL and PAACC to Collaborate on STEM Scholarships

Consol Energy Inc. and the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to offer scholarships to area high school seniors interested in pursuing post-secondary degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math. The PAACC will award three, \$5,000 scholarships to seniors graduating in the next school year from West Allegheny, Moon and Montour. Recipients will be announced in the spring of 2015.

To be considered, applicants must have a 3.0 GPA and be accepted to a school offering a degree in a STEM-related field. They must also submit a personal essay on an energy-related topic by answering one of two prompts: "How energy development has affected my life," or, "The impact of energy development on my future."

On May 28, CONSOL presented the PAACC with a \$15,000 check to fund the scholarships (right). The check was presented following a field hearing on higher education hosted by State Rep. Jim Christiana and with State Rep. Mark Mustio sitting on the panel.

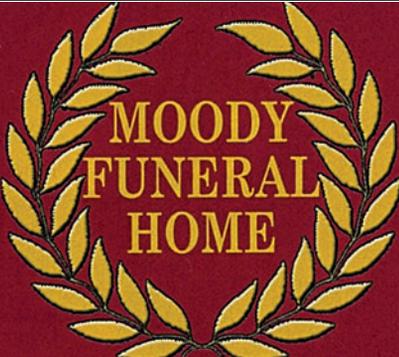


## Senior Project Supports Food Pantry's Mission

The results are in, and West Allegheny senior Rachel Smith's senior project, Run Down Hunger, has raised \$2,370 for the West Allegheny Food Pantry. On April 12, runners and walkers from across the area participated in the race Smith organized, which followed the Panhandle Trail. Smith (left) presented a check raised from entry fees to the food pantry.

Coming up, the food pantry will be at Janoski's Farm City Days from July 26-27. Bring a non-perishable item and receive a "freebie" from Janoski's.

Also, look for the pantry's booth at the Findlay Fair from August 15-16. Participants will be handing out info about the pantry and visitors will get a chance to win a fantastic raffle basket.



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## West Allegheny Rugby Club Captures State Title

PHOTO BY BILL STOUT

For a long time now, West Allegheny assistant football coach and seventh grade math teacher Mark Davis has been wanting to get a high school rugby team started. This past spring, he finally did, under the organization PA Rugby, with 25 students from WA.

What Davis couldn't have predicted from his players was how they would like the sport, or perform at it. Most were football players, alumni from WA's recent WPIAL-winning team. Still, even with all that football experience at hand, many of the premises of rugby are very different. That required a unique approach to coaching.

"We really just kept practices relaxed," says Davis. "We wanted to give the players something new to learn, but then the kids really took to it."

So did the parents.

"They really fell in love with it," he says, even before they understood all the rules.

To help coach the team, Davis enlisted help from district residents Jim Quasey and Tony Orsini. Quasey had played rugby at Ohio State University and for the Pittsburgh Rugby Club.

Orsini had played at Pitt-Johnstown and for the Westmoreland Rugby Club. He also enlisted the help of WA graduate Lauren Rosso, who while attending Penn State University, had helped lead her team to two national rugby championships. Davis himself had played at Hiram College.

Led by eight seniors, the WA Rugby Club rolled over opponents, winning all seven of their regular and post-season matches by an average of 41 points. On May 18, the team closed out a perfect season by defeating Narbeth in a state championship match in Mechanicsburg, thereby capturing a Division 2 Club Championship.



"Rugby is one of the ultimate team sports," says Davis. "Our team did not rely on one or two key players. Winning the championship was truly a team effort. Fifteen players are on the field during matches."

All 25 players competed in the championship match. They included: J.T. Bayly, Jed Buck, Zach Brandy, Dustin Peluso, Nick Daigle, Matt Grebosky, Jake Johnson, Paul Ferrara, Sean Orsini, Christian Stout, Justin Keast, Alec Londino, Connor Davis, Jordan Crawford, Zach Kadlecik, Connor Browning, Nick Loniero, Alex Wahl, Justin Baker, Ronnie Schubert, Terence Stephens, Derek Clontz, Sam Hammers, Tom Burke and Matt Holmes.

### FOOT FACTS

Bunions are among the most common type of foot ailment today's podiatrist treats, especially in women. Studies show that women are anywhere from two to nine times more likely to develop a bunion than men! While your high heels and peep toes are partially to blame, your foot type (passed down through your family) is the true culprit. Here's the good news! Today's podiatrist is the true expert when it comes to diagnosing and treating bunions.

For more information about bunions and their treatment, visit the American Podiatric Medical Association Web site at: [www.apma.org](http://www.apma.org).

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## WA Baseball Wins Third WPIAL Title in Eight Years

PHOTO BY EMILY DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

The West Allegheny Baseball team accomplished what no other team had in 69 innings when short stop Tyler Amedure hit a double up the first base line, driving in Nic Daigle in the third inning during the WPIAL AAA championship against Blackhawk May 29. That ended Blackhawk starting pitcher Brendan McKay's consecutive scoreless inning streak. It also set the stage for WA to win their third WPIAL title under head coach Bryan Cornell.

The previous two times WA faced McKay they gave up no-hitters. The first, a pitchers' duel last season between McKay and Amedure pitching in relief, went into the ninth. That game was decided by a single run. The second, on April 9, ended in a 10-0 blowout. After that game, WA lost a tough 9-1 match to Montour at home. That loss left the team's playoff hopes in a precarious position, and players and coaches looking for answers halfway through the season.

"Our season really could have gone either way at that point," says Cornell.

He recalls that players and coaches stuck around for an extra hour in right field that night, and that it turned out to be a turning point.

"It was kind of like a therapy session," says Cornell.

WA bounced back against Ambridge, only to drop a 3-0 game to Central Valley. The team followed that up with a win against Keystone Oaks, only to lose to Montour for the second time.

From there, WA hit their stride, winning seven straight to put themselves in contention to face off for the WPIAL championship.

"The second half of the season, the players really bought in," says Cornell. "I was definitely happy with how the kids responded."

Going into the WPIAL championship, the team broke out the tape, a tool new to the team this year, which helped them learn McKay's pitch repertoire.

"That first game we were watching 90-mph fastballs go by, then we were swinging at curve balls in the dirt," says Cornell.



Coaches and players worked to reverse that trend. They even had some of their left-handed pitchers throw practice from 45 feet out, which gave the illusion of a 90-mph fastball. That preparation materialized on the field, as WA's batters put McKay's fastballs into play. Mike Cummings and Jake Cunningham joined Amedure to drive in runs and do what no other team had up to that point in a long time.

"The kids believed in what we told them and executed it to perfection," says Cornell.

WA's Colin Claus pitched well, working the outside corner of the plate with his fastball until giving up three runs in the fourth. Amedure was sent in to relieve. He only gave up one hit the rest of the game, helping to secure a 5-3 victory. The final groundout of the game, hit to freshman Nick Ross - who replaced Amedure - and thrown to another freshman, Chasen Claus, illustrates the team's youth and depth. Next year, it will sport 12 seniors.

"Having that win come in a game that looked insurmountable on paper, and with this team's determination, skills and tenacity to win the title and end a national streak in the process, was awesome," says WA Athletic Director Dave McBain. "That game will be remembered and talked about for years."

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<b>Sun. June 29</b> Super Sprint Sunday featuring 410 Outlaw Winged Sprints, SLM, RLM, LMS, HS, YG	<b>Sat. July 5</b> AE Autograph FREE OH/WV Youth \$2 off OH/WV Adults with ID. Figure 8! + 3/4 LM, Twin State Club Night!	<b>Sat. July 12</b> 410 Outlaw Winged Sprints plus Tri State Championship Sweeney Chevrolet/Pace Performance GM 602 Engine Giveaway RUSH Tour Sizzler! RSM, SLM, LMS, HS, YG
<b>Sat. July 26</b> Pajama Prize Night, best pajama prizes, male and female, adult and youth! RLM, LMS, HS, YG + RSM + 3/4 LM	<b>Sun. July 27</b> Herb Scott Memorial, NDRL NE LM Series & NDRL Modifieds, additional divisions TBA.	<b>Sat. Aug. 2</b> Colussy Chevy Jook George Christmas in August Classic! RLM Sizzler, Figure 8! SLM, LMS, HS, YG
<b>Sat. Aug. 16</b> Red MileY Rumble NDRL Northeast Late Model Series! + NDRL Modifieds, additional divisions TBA.	<b>Sat. Aug. 23</b> FREE Beaver County Youth Night \$2 off adults with ID. FREE Barnyard Petting Zoo, Plus Pony rides! AE + 3/4 LM.	<b>Sat. Aug. 30</b> 410 Outlaw Winged Sprints! SLM, RLM, LMS, HS, YG + RSM
		<b>Sat. Sept. 6</b> Washington County Night! FREE Youth, \$2 off adults Night with ID. AE, Figure 8! AAA Kids Bike Racing! + 3/4 M

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## West Allegheny Wins Best Musical and Best Actor at Gene Kelly Awards

West Allegheny High School claimed the coveted Gene Kelly Award for best musical (budget III) and senior Ryan Borgo won best actor for his performance in the school's production of "Catch Me If You Can." The musical was nominated in seven categories, including best musical, best actor (Ryan Borgo and Tom Currey), best choreography, best ensemble, best lighting design, and best scenic design. The Pittsburgh CLO's 24th Annual Gene Kelly Awards were held on May 24 at the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts.



The cast of "Catch Me If You Can" won The Gene Kelly Awards for best musical and best actor on May 24.

"The Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater were launched in 1991 as a means to recognize and encourage student achievement and to focus the attention of the community and school districts on the importance of musical theater and arts education. Patterned after Broadway's Tony® Awards, this event celebrates the power of the Arts to significantly improve all areas of education," as noted on the Pittsburgh CLO website.

"Catch Me If You Can" is based on the 2011 Tony-nominated musical and 2002 movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio. The musical tells the true story of Frank W. Abagnale, Jr., a teenager who runs away from home in search of a glamorous life.

Justin Fortunato served as the show's director, assisted

by Bob Neumeyer as musical director and Rudy Hazen as choreographer. Tom Snyder, arts coordinator at West Allegheny, was the executive producer, assisted by Meagan Bruno as producer.

"Mr. Fortunato and his staff have done an outstanding job in developing and nurturing the talents of our students. Justin's experience and expertise as a seasoned actor and director have introduced a new level of professionalism to our productions," said superintendent, Dr. John S. DiSanti. "I am delighted that our students have been recognized for their artistic excellence and hope that this accomplishment will serve as a foundation for the program's future success."

## Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert Appointed New Superintendent

Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert has been appointed superintendent of the West Allegheny School District. The Board of School Directors unanimously elected, by those members present, Dr. Lippert to a four-year contract.

Dr. Lippert currently serves as the Chief Academic Officer for Pittsburgh Public Schools, a position which she has held for five years. Prior to serving in this capacity, she was executive director of curriculum, instruction, and professional development, principal, and assistant principal, all with the Pittsburgh school system. Dr. Lippert began her career as a high school health and physical education teacher in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District. Dr. Lippert has a proven track record

of leading strategic educational reform, particularly in the areas of curriculum, instructional improvement, technology integration, professional development, and teacher and principal evaluation. She has earned a positive reputation for her work ethic, passion for high student achievement and collaborative leadership style.

"I am excited with the Board's decision to appoint Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert as our new superintendent," stated Debbie Mirich, school board president. "Dr. Lippert's previous experience with the Pittsburgh



(cont. on page 26)

# New Superintendent, cont.

Public Schools, along with her extensive knowledge of public education, is only part of the reason our Board came to a unanimous decision. During several intensive interviews, it was easy to recognize the confidence, enthusiasm, passion and vision that Dr. Lippert possesses as an educational leader. I believe she will continue to build on the successes and accomplishments

that Dr. DiSanti has brought to our District. I look forward to working with her as she joins our West Allegheny family.”

Dr. Lippert earned a bachelor’s degree in physical therapy from Duquesne University, and bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in education from the University of Pittsburgh.

## Administrative Changes Slated for 2014-2015 School Year

The 2014-2015 school year will see administrative changes within the West Allegheny School District that include retirements, a promotion and new hire.

From the District office, Dr. William Englert, Jr. has announced his retirement effective this summer. Since 2005, Dr. Englert has served as the assistant to the superintendent for personnel and student support services, responsible for recruiting, selecting and training quality employees, assisting administrators with personnel matters, and establishing personnel policy and procedures. His responsibilities have also encompassed developing, implementing and coordinating crisis intervention, school safety, security and emergency management. In addition, Dr. Englert has served as liaison for parents and guardians on issues of student behavior and discipline.

Dr. John S. DiSanti, superintendent of West Allegheny School District, said, “It has been a tremendous privilege to have had Dr. Englert as an assistant for the last eight years. He truly is a person of honor and integrity. His steady, patient, encouraging, and collaborative leadership style has had a calming influence on those difficult and challenging issues that are an everyday part of managing any organization. Bill proved to be particularly skilled in mediating student and personnel conflict. That’s because he always treats everyone with dignity and respect. His leaving will certainly be a loss to West A. On behalf of the District, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Englert and wish him the very best.”

In addition, Wilson Elementary School principal Dr. Kathleen Sites recently announced her retirement after 23 years with the District. High school assistant principal Christopher Shattuck has been named as her successor.

Dr. Sites has been with the District since 1991, when she was hired as a special education emotional support teacher at McKee Elementary School. During her tenure at West Allegheny, she has served as an instructional advisor and assistant principal at the middle school and was appointed principal of Wilson Elementary in 2001. The retirement of Dr. Sites will be effective July 31.

“Dr. Sites has had a long and distinguished career,” noted Dr. DiSanti. “Her no-nonsense leadership approach, passion for excellence, and advocacy for children will leave a positive and lasting legacy on students, staff, and the West Allegheny



Dr. William Englert, Jr.



Dr. Kathleen Sites



Christopher Shattuck



Katharine McClelland

community.”

Mr. Shattuck joined the District as a full-time teacher in 2000. In 2007, he was promoted to the dean of students at the high school before becoming assistant principal in 2008. Mr. Shattuck is a West Allegheny alumnus and is currently working toward his superintendent certification from the University of Pittsburgh.

“Mr. Shattuck possesses all of the prerequisite skills to be an outstanding principal. His work ethic, interpersonal relations, and instructional leadership make him most deserving of this administrative promotion,” added Dr. DiSanti.

Filling the position vacated by Mr. Shattuck, Katharine McClelland has been named assistant high school principal. Ms. McClelland has been a mathematics teacher and curriculum coach for the Elizabeth Forward School District since 2007. She also teaches math for the Community College of Allegheny County. Prior to her work at Elizabeth Forward, she was a teacher in the Woodland Hills School District. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Ms. McClelland has held several instructional leadership roles and has noteworthy experience in curriculum writing, technology integration, data analysis and online course delivery. Ms. McClelland is also nationally board certified.

“Ms. McClelland was one of several outstanding applicants that we interviewed,” said Dr. DiSanti. “While Katharine demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of effective instructional pedagogy, curriculum alignment, and technology integration, we were most impressed with her energy and passion to ensure that every student is successful.”

### Additional Retirements

West Allegheny would like to thank the following retirees for their years of dedicated service to the District:

Dorothy Brown, Teacher	Judy Kubatka, Aide
Ellen Campbell, Teacher	Nancy Lane, Teacher
Laurie Cole, Teacher	Deborah Lutz, Aide
Mary Damratoski, Teacher	Walt Schollaert, Jr., Custodian
Karen Fedin, Teacher	Karen Tracy, Teacher
Bernadette Fitzharris, Aide	Bonnie Trucco, Teacher
Barbara Gedman, Custodian	Debra Turici, Teacher
Nancy Howell, Teacher	Sandra Walsh, Aide

# Superintendent's Message

## ...a Fond Farewell

This will be the final time that I have the opportunity to communicate with you through my superintendent's message in our school district's newsletter. As you are aware, I am retiring at the end of June. I wanted you to know that I have really enjoyed being superintendent of the West Allegheny School District for the last nine and a half years. I can't believe that it has been that long. It seems like just yesterday when I moved my family to North Fayette after living in Hershey for eight years.

My three children were in the 10th, eighth, and fifth grades then. Since that time, all have become proud graduates of West Allegheny. My wife, Judy, and I have found the community to be a great place to raise a family. We have made many friends, as have our children. We love calling West Allegheny home.

When the board of school directors interviewed me for the superintendent's position in 2004, I promised that I would do everything I could to build on the accomplishments of my predecessors. I also vowed to foster a collaborative spirit among stakeholders to move the district forward. Looking back, I believe that together we have made great strides.

Over the past few weeks, I have been part of selection committees that have interviewed several candidates for administrative and teaching positions, including individuals who want to become the next superintendent of West Allegheny. One of the questions that we always pose to candidates is, "Tell us what you know about our District and why you would choose to leave where you are to be part of our school system."

The responses to this question certainly made me aware of just how far our District has come over the past several years. West Allegheny has emerged as a leader in innovation and high performance, and people have noticed. Allow me to share some of the prospective candidates' responses: "I can see that academic achievement is a priority;" "your test scores are impressive;" "I heard that Donaldson Elementary School has been nominated as a National Blue Ribbon School;" "the number of different programs that you offer proves that you are really committed to meeting the needs of all students;" "you have courses that most schools could only dream of like your pre-engineering and biomedical programs;" "I can't believe that you have a gaming and entertainment academy and an online cyber school;" "I was fascinated by your Technology Opportunity Proposal (TOP) grants for teachers that tie teacher training, competency, and effective pedagogical practices to technology acquisition;" "you have 14 AP courses. Even your

middle school has a pre-AP program;" "the SMALLab at the middle school is amazing;" "I see that your musical was nominated for seven Gene Kelly awards;" "the music and arts programs are so strong;" "your athletic program has a terrific reputation;" "the District values and respects diversity;" "it's been a while since I have visited. You have really made improvements to your facilities;" "I read that you are going to modernize two of your oldest buildings;" "in reading about your District, it is hard to believe how well you

have managed your budget given all of the cuts in funding by the state. The District is in excellent financial condition;" "I want to be a part of something special;" "this is a place where I want to make a difference. I want to move my family here."

What became very apparent to me during the interview process is that West Allegheny has become a school district that is attracting the best and brightest of educators. The high volume and quality of applicants have made the selection process more difficult. That is a good problem to have. While the reputation of a school district is the primary reason people move to a community, other factors are also critical when folks are making a decision on where to live. Safety and security, municipal services, recreational opportunities, tax rates, and proximity to a city that provides first-class educational, cultural, medical, and entertainment opportunities are all factors that people take into consideration. As the

superintendent of schools and a resident of our community, I have had the pleasure of working closely with our local and county government officials, police, fire, EMT departments, and other municipal service leaders. I can say that because of the dedicated efforts of these people, the school district is not the only entity that has improved. If you look at what we had 10 years ago, and what we have today, you can readily see progress evidenced by a higher level of services and new opportunities for residents. We should all recognize these individuals for their determination to make Findlay, North Fayette, and Oakdale a better place to live and work.

Finally, I want to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all of the members of my West Allegheny School District family. To board members, the administrative team, teachers, and support staff, thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your commitment to excellence and your dedication to our students. Thanks to all of our families and students for your support. It truly has been an honor and a privilege to serve you.

**"We love calling West Allegheny home."**

**"West Allegheny has become a school district that is attracting the best and brightest of educators."**

*Dr. John S. DiSanti*  
Superintendent

## Nine West Allegheny Students Place at FBLA State Leadership Conference



FBLA members included (front) Dakota Lamb, Jerome O'Connell, Joe Falcioni (back) Jarrett Bordo, Andrew Becker (accepting for Michael Ujevich, not present), Antonio Moreno, Justin Josey, Will Page (not pictured) and Jordan Grogan.

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference was held April 6 through 9 in Hershey, where two West Allegheny students qualified for nationals and seven students placed in the top 10.

West Allegheny's third place finishers, who qualified for nationals in the programming category, were Jarrett Bordo and Jerome O'Connell. Claiming fourth place finishes in the public service announcement category were Joe Falcioni, Jordan Grogan and Dakota Lamb. Taking sixth place in game programming was Justin Josey. Sixth place in business financial plan went to Michael Ujevich, Antonio Moreno and Will Page.

Pam Volakis and Julie Dennis are the FBLA advisors.

## West Allegheny Named a Finalist for 2014 Design, Art and Technology Awards

West Allegheny School District was named a finalist for the 2014 Design, Art and Technology Awards, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Technology Council. The entry, titled West Allegheny's Entertainment Technology Academy, detailed the District's innovative approach to learning through a new game design curriculum with a state-of-the-art classroom transformation and project-based teaching.

Through collaboration with Zulama, and in association with Carnegie Mellon University, the new curriculum hooks students by tapping into a topic they are passionate about: game design. The activities and assignments are hands-on and correlate

to Common Core Standards. The newly renovated, state-of-the-art learning center will provide a creative, engaging, and technology-rich atmosphere. West Allegheny High School is one of the first in the nation to offer this curriculum.

West Allegheny's education entry was on display at the Interactive Exhibition and Creative Technologies Summit at the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust in Pittsburgh from May 7-8. The summit celebrated the year's best and brightest creative technologies in such categories as education, community, design, art and technology, entertainment and games, software and apps, and student communications.

## Three Seniors Named Outstanding Young Citizens

Three West Allegheny seniors were recognized as recipients of the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review's* Outstanding Young Citizens award, and were honored at a banquet on April 10. Those recognized were Joe Falcioni, Aubrey Leasure, and Vishmayaa Saravanan, all of whom were nominated by high school faculty. From the 50 regional students selected, the *Tribune Review* then announced 10 students as most outstanding, and Saravanan was chosen and awarded a medal.

Recognition was based on student dedication to academics, leadership, community service and involvement in extracurricular activities.

"We have the utmost confidence that these students will go on to do amazing things and hold rewarding and impressive careers," stated Ralph Martin, president and CEO of Trib Total Media.

Also nominated from West Allegheny were Heather Amper, Jordan Grogan, Jennie Kriznik, Alec Palmer, Jocelyn Perry, India Price, Catherine Roberts and Carmen Swasey.



Seniors Aubrey Leasure, Vishmayaa Saravanan and Joe Falcioni are recognized as Outstanding Young Citizens.

## High School Students Record Beatles Tunes With a Little Help from Their Friends

High school students in Andrew Peters' music technology classes recently recorded Beatles songs as part of an ongoing class project. Throughout the lesson, students recorded their own instrumentals and vocals. They later mastered the tracks to create a tribute to the band and embrace the timeless messages of the songs.

The class, now in its fourth year, is offered to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students interested in exploring the world of music technology through recording while creating music with software programs such as GarageBand, Logic and Reason.



Music technology students Abbie Wilson, Jess Ligas, Nathan Richard, Keegan Treloar, Alex Wahl and Chey Morse provide back-up for "Come Together" recording project.

## Borgo Places at State Choral Festival

Senior Ryan Borgo claimed second chair at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) State Choral Festival held March 26 through 29 in Hershey. The top three students qualify for the All Eastern Conference.

Borgo was first selected for the PMEA District 1 Senior High School Choral Festival held in January at Shaler Area High School. Based on his performance, Borgo earned fifth chair and an opportunity to perform at the PMEA Regional Choral Festival in February at Blackhawk High School.

West Allegheny music teacher Meagan Bruno has been rehearsing with Borgo to prepare him for the festivals.



Senior Ryan Borgo claims second chair at state choral festival.

## Four West Allegheny Middle School Students Selected for PMEA Choral Festival

Four West Allegheny students were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Junior High District 1 Choral Festival on May 3. Joseph Clutter, Rachel Kiss, Mackenzie Walters and William Wiechelt joined over 150 regional students to perform in a concert held at Chartiers Houston High School.

**PMEA Choral Festival participants included Mackenzie Walters, Rachel Kiss, Joseph Clutter and William Wiechelt.**



## Page Penguins Prepared for Battle



**ABOVE:** The winning team of Taylor Coulter, Alexa Rebovich, Rebecca Miller, Katie Bleil and Anjali Vishwakarma accept their medals with Donaldson librarian Beth Schultz.

West Allegheny elementary schools hosted their annual Battle of the Books competition with a total of 37 teams participating. The teams made up of fourth and fifth grade students read 10 books from a selected list and came together in the tournament to answer questions. The champions of the 2014 tournament were the Page Penguins from Donaldson Elementary. Team members included Katie Bleil, Taylor Coulter, Rebecca Miller, Alexa Rebovich and Anjali Vishwakarma with manager Mrs. Tracey Coulter.

The competition was organized by West Allegheny elementary school librarians.

## Eighth Grader Claims Silver at County Challenge 24 Competition

West Allegheny Middle School eighth grader Quinn Sterner competed in the final medal round of the Allegheny County Challenge 24 competition and won a silver medal in the seventh and eighth grade division. Also representing the District were seventh graders Alex Berhosky, Cathrynn Crisanti, Kimmy Davis and sixth grader Cole Lanni. The annual competition was held at Jefferson Hills School on April 23.

Students qualified for the county-level competition by winning the West Allegheny Middle School Challenge 24 competition. The rules of Challenge 24 prohibit the use of paper, pencils or calculators. Participants are required to derive the answer 24 using each of four given numbers only once and applying any combination of operations. The Challenge 24 Club at WAMS is coordinated by seventh grade math teacher Renee Treonze, who accompanied the students to the event.

**BELOW:** Kimmy Davis, Cathrynn Crisanti, Quinn Sterner, Alex Berhosky and Cole Lanni compete in county math challenge.

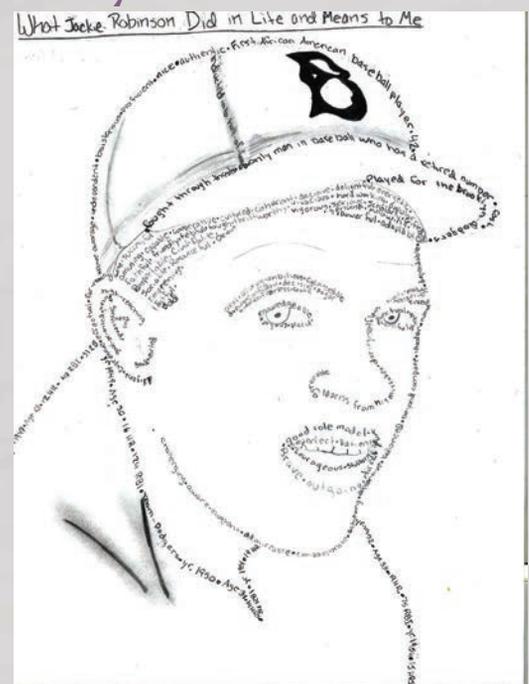


## Eighth Grader Knocks Pirates Contest Entry Out of the Park



Eighth grader Kaitlyn Carnot took second place in the Jackie Robinson Art, Essay and Poetry Contest sponsored by the Pittsburgh Pirates. There were 3,100 student entries and 18 winners. Carnot and her family were invited to PNC Park to participate in Jackie Robinson Day on April 18. She was recognized on the field in a pre-game ceremony followed by a banquet for the honorees.

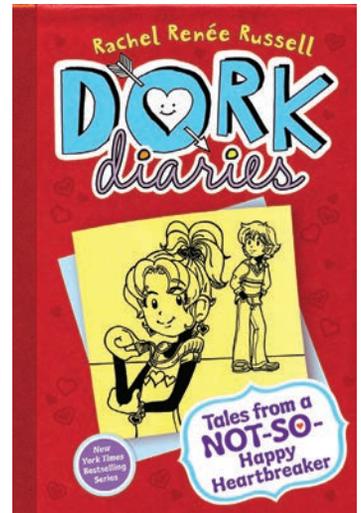
**Kaitlyn Carnot receives recognition from Pittsburgh Pirates' President Frank Coonelly for her Jackie Robinson artwork entry. Photo used with permission of the Pittsburgh Pirates.**



## “Dork Diaries” Author Visits Donaldson



Fourth grader Ella Chandler (right) asks questions of Erin, Nikki, and Rachel Renee Russell with moderator Eryn Morgan.



West Allegheny School District welcomed Rachel Renee Russell, *New York Times* best-selling author of the tween series “The Dork Diaries,” to Donaldson Elementary School on March 17. Russell has written seven books in the series, with inspiration and artistic contributions from her daughters Nikki and Erin Russell, who joined their mother during the visit.

Through a joint venture with Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, the visit was video conferenced with other regional schools. Donaldson students in grades three through five had the opportunity to meet Russell and participate in a question and answer session moderated by PA&L’s Eryn Morgan. Following the conference, two students were selected to be “dorkified” in a caricature drawn by Nikki Russell.

The event was coordinated by Donaldson librarian Beth Schultz.

## History Brought to Life by Holocaust Survivor

For several years, Holocaust survivor Sam Weinreb has been sharing his life story with the sixth grade students and staff of West Allegheny. On May 20, the soft-spoken gentleman returned to tell this year’s class about his family disappearing, his imprisonment in Auschwitz, and his harrowing escape.

He also spoke of his journey to America following World War II and his reunion with a childhood friend who he later married. Students listened attentively, as they recently completed a unit on the Holocaust in which they learned about the fate of the Jewish people under Nazi rule. Following his talk, Weinreb participated in a thoughtful question and answer session with the students. Sixth grade reading teacher Gabrielle Monti arranged Weinreb’s visit through the Holocaust Center of Greater Pittsburgh. **Students Megan Stutzman, Ava Meier, Delaney Upton, Alex Morrison, Eric Diffendal, and Zach Defabbo, joined by superintendent Dr. John S. DiSanti, presented Mr. Weinreb with gift cards, flowers for his wife, and a donation to the Holocaust Center in Pittsburgh.**



## After School Programs Offer Student Enrichment

With titles such as robotics, ninja training academy and creative dramatics, it is no surprise that after school programs are growing in popularity at Donaldson and McKee elementary schools. Donaldson Discovers and McKee After 3 are initiatives that invite students to stay after school to pursue a topic of interest outside of traditional classes.



McKee students Zachary Nemeč, Mitchell Bertella and Jacob Nemeč learn to build bridge structures as part of the Super Science course presented by the Western Allegheny Library.

These enrichment programs offer healthy, creative and educational sessions that compliment the school curriculum.

The programs are offered to students on a first-come, first-serve basis, and typically have a small fee associated with them. Parents and staff volunteer to help with the programs, which are presented by such organizations as the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, The National Aviary, Sweetwater Center for the Arts, the Western Allegheny Library, and many more.

## Donaldson Students Give Back with Snacks

Members of Donaldson Elementary School's student council presented cards and 25 snack bags to North Fayette Township Public Works employees to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the community. Director of Public Works Patrick Felton accepted the gifts and noted the department's appreciation of the random act of kindness.

Members of Donaldson's student council include: (first row) Robby Bleil, Jake Polosky, Tommy St. Claire, Tyler Morgan, Ambria Slutiak and Ethan Taranto; (second row) Meadow Robertson, Paige Sinclair, Alex Morton, Lindsay Danzik, Mackenzie Taranto, Gianna Giacomino, Trish Nolan (principal); (third row) Keri Quasey, Morgan Shansky, Ethan McClain, Patrick Felton, missing from the photo was Mason Palaima.



## Wilson Elementary Unifies to Take on Bullying



For the third year, Wilson Elementary School participated in the Million T-shirt March Against Bullying on May 6 as they joined schools across the country to send a powerful message. Students in kindergarten-plus through fifth grade walked with their classmates, teachers and staff around the school to build awareness of the issues and results associated with bullying. Wearing their anti-bullying t-shirts, the students carried banners and signs displaying thoughtful messages. The event was organized by school counselor Kathy Taylor.

## Mr. West Allegheny Named at Benefit Pageant

The West Allegheny Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) sponsored the twelfth annual "Mr. West Allegheny" pageant on May 1. Seniors Jeff Biers, Tom Currey, Ray Haim, Josh Kolarac, Elijah Kutzavitch, Mirce Opacic and Mike Ross participated with Ross claiming the Mr. WA title and Kutzavitch winning Mr. Congeniality.

Contestants competed in a number of categories, including sports/casual wear, formal wear, and talent and were required to answer questions during an interview. The event raised \$2,480 to benefit Autism Speaks, the charity selected by the winner.

Senior NHS members Jennie Kriznik, Elizabeth Murn, Jocelyn Perry, Catherine Roberts and Vishmayaa Saravanan coordinated the event. Several teachers served as judges. Lynn Birnie and Carol Bookmiller serve as the NHS faculty sponsors.



**RIGHT:** Front Row (Left to right), Ray Haim, Josh Kolarac, Tom Currey, Mirce Opacic, Back Row (Left to right), Elijah Kutzavitch, Jeff Biers, Mike Ross.

# Middle School Celebrates World Autism Awareness Day

On April 2, West Allegheny Middle School students donned blue in support of the seventh annual World Autism Awareness Day. Lisa Panucci is the student government advisor and served as the coordinator of the event.



# McKee Elementary Raises Funds for Project Hope

McKee Elementary students raised nearly \$1,600 for Project Hope, an organization that creates care packages for mothers with babies in the intensive care unit at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. Students contributed \$1 to wear pajamas to school and chew gum during the school day. The project was organized by McKee student council and advisor Mary Beth Hill.

# Dynamic Living Classes Leave Their Mark

High school students in Jennifer Cook's dynamic living I classes participated in a unique project this spring. In lieu of a unit test, students were assigned a bookmark project that would reflect lessons learned in the child development unit. Students were to create bookmarks for families that would share the knowledge they had gained on the topic. Student-selected

themes included the importance and benefits of reading to and tips for reading with children, as well as steps that encourage childhood reading. More than 200 bookmarks were created and donated to the Western Allegheny Community Library, where they were distributed to the community.



# Palko Named Positive High School Coach of the Year



Football coach Bob Palko was named Positive High School Coach of the year and honored at a ceremony on May 3 at the Senator John Heinz History Center and Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum. The awards were sponsored by C Harper and recognize coaches who have demonstrate an optimistic attitude, encouragement and heart.

“Bob’s greatest contribution is made off the field in the West Allegheny School District and the community as a whole,” said Dave McBain, West Allegheny athletic director. “He is a student-athlete advocate whose players continue to be successful on and off the field and are an annual staple in West A’s community service.”

## West Allegheny Students Excel at Safe Driving Competition

Congratulations to senior Katelyn Garland, who took first place in the driving portion of the Allegheny County Safe Driving Competition held at Pittsburgh Technical Institute on April 3. Seniors Emily Garvin and Dustin Peluso also represented West Allegheny and received recognition for their

performances.

The event was coordinated by the high school club Students Against Destructive Decisions. High school teachers Carol Bookmiller and Steve Nicola are the SADD sponsors.

### WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2013-14

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Dr. William Englert, Jr., Assistant to the Superintendent for Personnel and Student Support Services	Ms. Megan Huchko, Middle School Assistant Principal
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Mrs. Elaine Fitzgerald, Pupil Services Coordinator	Mrs. Patricia Nolan, Donaldson Elementary Principal
Mr. Daniel Smith, High School Principal	Mr. Thomas Orr, McKee Elementary Principal
Mr. Chris Shattuck, High School Assistant Principal	Dr. Kathleen Sites, Wilson Elementary Principal

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



# West Allegheny Youth Soccer Association

## Fall 2014 REGISTRATION

Season runs September 6th through late October

**DEADLINE: June 30th**

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

**Child must be 4 years old by 7/31/14**

**NO EXCEPTIONS**

Visit [www.leaguelineup.com/westasoccer](http://www.leaguelineup.com/westasoccer) for age chart, more information and many changes

U5/U6 Boys & Girls coed	Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 pm	Saturday 10:00 – 11:00 am	Youthtowne	\$60.00
U8 Boys & Girls coed*	Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 pm	Saturday 11:00 – noon	Youthtowne	\$75.00
U10 Boys and Girls coed*	Monday 6:15 – 7:15 pm	Saturday 8:30-9:30 am	Argenta / Donaldson	\$75.00
*U8/U10 additional skills training by Youth Elite Soccer	Thursday 6:15 - 7:15 pm	5 sessions	Argenta	Included!
Travel (U11 and above)	TBD practice day and location	Sunday afternoon games	(U11/12) 2 additional skill sessions by YES	\$85.00

## Ways to Register:

- Go to: [www.pa-wallegheny.sportsaffinity.com](http://www.pa-wallegheny.sportsaffinity.com)  
(Register on-line and SAVE \$5.00)
- Print registration form and mail to P.O. Box  
- Sat., June 21,  
at King's Family Restaurant, Imperial, from 10 am - 12 pm

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

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COMCAST
- 40 Years**  
UPS Supply Chain Solutions
- 25 Years**  
Rusmur Floors/Carpet One
- 20 Years**  
Trans Service Insurance Agency Inc.
- 15 Years**  
Moon Township
- 10 Years**  
Guardman Furniture Pro of Western PA  
Office Depot, Inc.  
SHRED-IT, Pittsburgh
- 5 Years**  
Duquesne University Career Services Center  
The Growth Coach

## New Members

- Carriage Park Apartments
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- Evil Lizard
- Humaneering International, Inc.
- Holy Family Institute
- McCormick Real Estate
- National Armory
- Rumfish Grille
- Simple Fitness, LLC
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WPS, Inc.

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- Susan Hovanec - Mbrshp. Svcs. Manager
- Peg Eger - Office Manager
- Kelly Burgos - Communications Specialist

## Milestones

**April 29**  
"FASTER, LLC" - 5 years



FASTER, LLC was joined by Chamber Ambassadors on April 29 to celebrate their 5-year Milestone Anniversary.

**April 30 - "Moon Plaza/First City Company" - 35 Years**



Moon Plaza/First City Company celebrated their 35-year Milestone Anniversary with Chamber Ambassadors on April 30.

**May 6**  
"Buca di Beppo" - 10 years



Buca di Beppo enjoyed their 10-year Milestone Anniversary with Chamber Ambassadors on May 6.

## Ribbon Cuttings

**May 9 - "Zi Zi Lane" - Opening of their new store in Moon Township**



Zi Zi Lane celebrated its official Ribbon Cutting with Chamber Ambassadors on May 9.

## Coming Up . . .

- June 13** - "Understanding Your Customers" Education Seminar, 8-10 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Pittsburgh Settlers Ridge
- June 20** - "Meet Your Energy Neighbors" Breakfast Event, 7:30-10 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Airport
- June 21** - "I Have A Great Idea" Business Workshop, 10 a.m.-12 noon at the PAACC office in Moon Township
- June 26** - "After Hours LIVE!" Business Networking Event Featuring Live Music by Kelly Burgos & Doug Wilkin, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Walnut Grill (Bridgeville)



## "I Have A GREAT Idea" Business Workshop

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12 p.m. **Registration Required | \$20 Per Registrant**

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Classes held Thursdays 6 - 9 pm from July 24 - Aug. 14  
(four Thursdays) at the PAACC office in Moon Township.  
Course fee \$80. To register, call 412.264.6270 or visit [www.paacc.com](http://www.paacc.com).

# Magistrate Awarded for Pilot Program Helping Domestic Violence Victims

On a Monday morning at the magistrate's office in North Fayette, the lobby fills up early. Most of the defendants present are charged with offenses not uncommon to this court, including shoplifting, disorderly conduct, and possession of small amounts of narcotics. In a modest adjacent courtroom, they're moved efficiently through the legal process, as lawyers and a prosecutor present their cases before an upbeat and energetic Judge Anthony Saveikis.

Another type of case usually heard on Monday mornings, though not on this one, are domestic violence cases. That's when family court in North Fayette is scheduled, and when victims sometimes find themselves confronting their abusers in the courtroom. On those mornings, Saveikis says, "We have to figure out if it's a couple who got the cops called on them after drinking too much one Saturday night, or if it's something else."

He says the court's top priority is to find ways to reunite families. To do that, the court needs to find out what went wrong and how to fix it. That entails hearing from victims, and oftentimes children. Getting domestic violence victims to feel comfortable enough so that they can tell their side of the story in front of strangers in what can potentially feel like a threatening situation is where Penny comes into the picture.

Sitting at the feet of Taylor Voss, a legal advocate with the organization Crisis Center North, Penny looks around the room with large, brown eyes. Penny, a border collie and spaniel mix, wears a purple vest with the words "Please pet me" sewn onto it.

"Just look at those eyes, how can you not pet her?" Voss says.

Voss started coming to the courtroom with Penny about a year ago as part of a pilot program through CCN, which works to help victims of domestic violence escape abusive situations. The organization provides short-term financial support and housing to victims, as well as counseling services. It helps women who have been kept out of the workforce by their abusers become financially self-sufficient, and even go back to school. It also helps support them during the legal process.

CCN Executive Director Grace Coleman, who also happens to be Penny's owner, says she got the idea to have one of their legal advocates take Penny into courtrooms after an experience with a

child victim of domestic violence. Coleman let the boy take Penny to counseling, and the boy's counselor said they got through more in one hour than they had in months.

"Studies have shown that even just looking at a dog lowers blood pressure and stress hormones," says Coleman. "Anything that helps lower stress in that kind of situation is helpful."

She says that, in the courtroom, Penny helps put victims at ease while communicating with her handler. Recently, Penny was in a courtroom when a defendant started moving too close to a victim. Penny responded by inserting herself between the two.

"That's a biological reaction," says Coleman. "Her sense of smell is about 100,000 times more sensitive than mine. She's very sensitive to emotions and situations."

Since the program piloted in North Fayette, it has found its way into another courtroom in Coraopolis. It has also garnered support from Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala, who nominated Penny for *Pittsburgh Magazine's* 40 Under 40 list. Penny now travels across the country to visit other organizations with missions similar to CCN's.

For its pilot program, Coleman says CCN needed a court willing to work with them, preferably somewhere in the suburbs where courtrooms tend to be smaller and more confined. That court ended up being Saveikis'. There, Penny became the first service dog to work in a courtroom in such a capacity in Allegheny County, and the first shelter dog to do so in the state.

On May 16, CCN awarded Saveikis with its Northern Star Award in the systems category for his support of the pilot program. In a letter, CCN notes the court's "...advocacy programming, highlighting the importance of the sense of safety... for victims in a court setting, leading to a more comprehensive and consistent testimony."

Coleman says that they would like to open the program to more courtrooms if they can find more judges willing to work with them the way Saveikis has.

"Judge Saveikis has been a tremendous supporter of the program," she says. "He was willing to listen and experiment with us."



**ABOVE:** CCN Legal Advocate Taylor Voss and Judge Anthony Saveikis with Penny at CCN's Cocktails and Cuisine Event at The Woodlands on May 16. Saveikis was awarded with CCN's Northern Star Award at the event.

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(Must pay the day of class)

**\$56 Per class per month (Dance)**

**\$15 Per Class (Gym)**

(Must pay the day of class)

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MONDAYS				WEDNESDAYS			
4:30-5:30	DANCE Intermediate Ballet with Darcie (Ages 9 & Up)	4:30-5:30	GYM Elite Team Practice (Per Coaches Request)	4:30-5:30	Ballet/Tap with Rachael (Ages 3-5)	4:30-5:30	Intermediate Gymnastics (Ages 9 & Up)
5:30-6:15	Intermediate Tap with Darcie (Ages 9 & Up)	5:30-6:30	Beginner Gymnastics (Ages 6-11)	5:30-6:30	Ballet/Tap with Katie (Ages 6-8)	5:30-6:15	Pre-School Gymnastics (Ages 3-5)
6:15-7:15	Intermediate Lyrical with Darcie (Ages 9 & Up)	6:30-7:30	Intermediate Gymnastics (Ages 6-11)	6:30-7:15	Jazz/Hip Hop with Katie (Ages 6-8)	6:15-7:15	Beginner Gymnastics (Ages 6-11)
		7:30-8:30	Advanced Gymnastics (Must have back tucks)			7:00-8:00	Elite Pre-Team Practice (Per Coaches Request)
TUESDAYS				THURSDAYS			
4:30-5:15	Lyrical/Contemporary with Laura (Ages 9 & Up)	4:30-8:00	All-Star Cheerleading (Per Try Out)	4:30-5:30	Advanced Tap with Chelsea (Ages 11 & Up)	4:30-6:00	Elite Pre-Team Gymnastics (Per Coaches Request)
5:15-6:15	Jazz/Hip Hop with Laura (Ages 9 & Up)			5:30-6:30	Advanced Competitive Hip Hop with Chelsea (Ages 13 & Up)	6:00-8:00	Elite Team Practice (Per Coaches Request)
6:15-7:00	Competitive Jr. Jazz with Laura (By Auditions Only)			6:30	Ballet Co. with Darcie (By Auditions Only)	7:00-8:00	Advanced Gymnastics (Must have back tucks)
7:00-8:30	Advanced Ballet/Contemporary/Jazz with Jocelyn (Ages 13 & Up)			SATURDAYS			
		10:00-11:30	Ballet Co with Darcie (By Auditions Only)	10:00-11:00	Inter/Adv Gym (Ages 8 & Up) Must have a backhand spring		
		11:30-12:30	Ballet Co/Contemporary	11:00-1:00	Elite Pre-Team Gymnastics (Per Coaches Request)		
				11:00-2:00	Elite Team Practice (Per Coaches Request)		

# INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2014

(Raindate, Sunday, July 6th)

Findlay Township is excited to announce that the Independence Day Celebration is back for a third year. It will be held at the Recreation and Sports Complex located on Route 30 in Imperial. DJ Dan Sheetz will kick off the celebration with music at 7:30 p.m. and the Findlay Athletic Association will be on hand selling refreshments. Come early to get your "Give Aways" (free stuff!!) Fireworks by "Pyrotechnico" will go off at dark (approximately 9:30-9:45 p.m.)

TO DATE, this celebration has been made possible by the generous donations of the following sponsors:

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COME OUT AND  
ENJOY THE FUN!!

THERE WILL BE NO PARKING ALONG ROUTE 30 Monark Bus Company will be running a shuttle to the Recreation & Sports Complex from the Findlay Township Activity Center at 310 Main Street in Imperial.

Tentative schedule for the Monark shuttle will pick up at the Activity Center at the following times: 7:45, 8:15, and 9:00 p.m.

Please check the township website at a later date for final shuttle schedule. There is parking on the upper and lower levels of the Activity Center and overflow parking will be at Valley Presbyterian Church (the bus will come by the church lot and pick you up).

**CENTRAL BLOOD BANK - FINDLAY TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE**  
Wednesday, July 16th, 2-7 p.m., Findlay Activity Center in Imperial

The blood bank always needs help replenishing their blood supply, especially in the summer months. July is when the need is highest and supply is lowest. Hospitals often have to cancel surgeries due to the lack of blood. We are holding a community blood drive to try to help out with the cause. It only takes about an hour of your time and you do not have to be a Findlay resident to donate.

We recommend that you have an appointment by calling the township at extension 246 or 240 OR by logging onto [www.centralbloodbank.org](http://www.centralbloodbank.org) and search code C649.

## Free Summer Concert Series

Tuesday Concerts in the Park are back for 2014!! Pack up your lawn chairs and come out to the beautiful Amphitheater in Clinton Park for three evenings of great music! The Concerts and light refreshments are FREE of charge. Please come and join us for a relaxing evening in the park!! All concerts are at 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, July 8th "DAN HANCZAR'S SUMMER JAM"

Local musician and retired WA teacher Dan Hanczar just released his new CD entitled "Summer:" containing songs about the summertime and the ocean. This band consists of top notch jazz, blues and rock musicians from our area. Come out and enjoy some new original songs as well as some of your old favorites.

### Tuesday, July 15th WEST HILLS "TOOT-ONIC" GERMAN BAND

Polkas, waltzes, marches, and even Alpine Folk Music are played by members of the West Hills Symphonic Band. Performing authentic German tunes that will having you swaying and singing in your seat.

### Tuesday, July 29th "Hedgg Band"

Sponsored by Armstrong Telephone Co

A group of local musicians that play a mix of songs from the 50's to today's modern music.

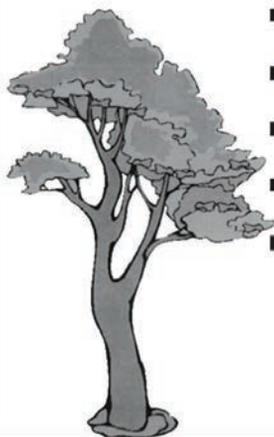
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## Strawberries

Strawberries are the unofficial ambassadors of summer, and the key ingredient in early summertime favorites such as homemade strawberry ice cream, strawberry shortcake, and strawberry jam. Full of flavor, these colorful berries are relatively easy to grow.

Strawberries are distinguished first by their growth habits and can be placed in one of three categories: June bearing, ever-bearing, and/or day neutral. June-bearing plants provide strawberries for approximately two weeks in mid to late June and early July. Ever-bearing strawberries produce in June and again in late summer or early fall. Day neutral strawberry plants produce all season long. Within each of these categories, there are several different varieties of plants that are often distinguished by their sugar content, size, and shape. Choosing a mixture of varieties for your garden enables cross-varietal pollination and increases fruit yields.

Strawberries are sun-loving plants and should be planted in fertile, well-drained soil in a large space that receives six to eight hours of full sunlight per day. The ideal soil pH for increased strawberry production is 6.0, but the plants will tolerate a soil pH ranging from 5.5 to 7.5. When planting,



be careful to place the crown of the plant even with the soil line before firming the soil around the base of the plant. Finish by watering and fertilizing the plants.

As the plants grow, they will produce daughter plants that run, spread, root, and establish themselves. Unfortunately, along with the growth, you may see a variety of pests and other problems. Pests attracted to strawberry plants include the tarnished plant bug, the leaf roller, strawberry leaf beetle, crown borer, white grubs, spittlebugs, weevil, Japanese beetles, aphids, spider mites, and slugs. Plants are also susceptible to fruit rot, leaf spot, leaf blight, downy mildew, red stele root rot, leaf scorch, and gray mold. To help ensure healthier plants, consider planting companion plants, such as spinach and mint, with your strawberries. Consult your local extension office for advice if you are unable to identify or resolve issues with your plants.

The North Fayette Garden Club meets at 1 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month at The Oakdale Community Center, unless otherwise noted. For additional information regarding club membership, call Colleen Stripp at (724) 693-0123.



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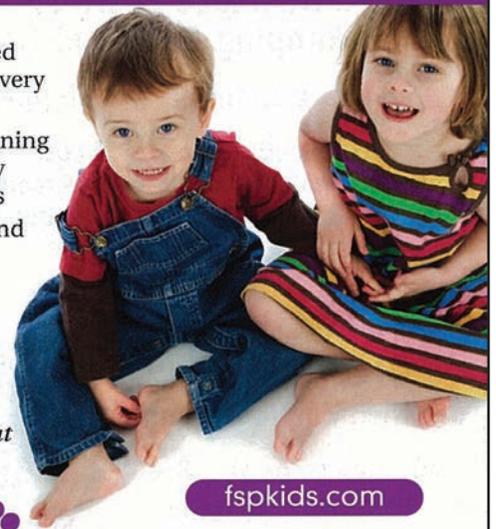
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# Hungry for Volunteers, Meals on Wheels Delivers

Imagine being in your home alone, perhaps widowed or disabled. You are unable to drive to a restaurant or to a grocery store. Due to disability or illness, you are unable to cook for yourself. Days can be lonely and long for those in such circumstances. Meals on Wheels can help.

Patty Davidson, development director for the nonprofit agency, Lutheran Service Society, says that her organization oversees many of the area Meals on Wheels programs, including the West Hills Meals on Wheels.

Just recently, however, they were forced to cut services to the Meals on Wheels program serving the West Allegheny communities when its board did not renew its contract with the Allegheny County Department of Aging. St. John Evangelical Church in Carnegie has taken over with an expanding service area that includes the communities served by the West Allegheny area. The expanded branch also has a new name: South West Meals on Wheels.

With this change, local Meals on Wheels branches need volunteers and clients. They also welcome funding to support the basic operations of securing food and preparing meals.

According to the Meals on Wheels national web site, the Meals on Wheels Association of America is the oldest and largest membership organization supporting the national network of more than 5,000 Senior Nutrition Programs that operate in all 50 states and U.S. territories. The tireless work of these programs - supported by a dedicated army of two million volunteers - delivers a nutritious meal, a warm smile and a safety check that helps keep 2.5 million seniors healthy, safe and living independently in their own homes each year.

Nearly one in six seniors do not know where their next meal is coming from each day. In fact, the Meals on Wheels Association of America Foundation conducted a study which revealed that in the United States, over five million seniors, (11.4% of all seniors), were marginally food insecure.

In the airport communities, Meals on Wheels groups provide personal home delivery of nutritious meals to the homebound who are elderly or ill, and at a fraction of the cost of going out to eat or preparing a meal from scratch. On average, clients pay \$25 a week for two meals delivered each weekday, a hot meal for lunch, and a cold, bagged meal for dinner.

The meals represent more than one-third of the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) of calories for seniors, and generally, a day's worth of food is served each weekday between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. At many sites, frozen meals are available to cover the weekends and holidays.

Besides the small fee paid by each client, donations cover the remaining costs. Sponsorships may be available for those unable to contribute toward the cost of their meal. Neighbors, family members, and friends can also donate toward the delivery of meals for friends or loved ones during their time of need. Donations can be made for a week at a time, or for any duration.

Among the area businesses donating food to the program are Bednar Farm Market, Costco, Giant Eagle, Panera Bread, Portman Farms, Trader Joe's and The Fresh Market. Manchester Farms donates and delivers milk.

After all meals are prepared and delivered, any leftover food is given to food banks or to The Salvation Army.

Guidelines have been established to evaluate whether or not the program is suitable for meeting an individual's needs. To enroll in the

program, an individual must demonstrate the inability to plan, shop, and prepare nutritious, well-balanced meals. Individuals who are recovering from surgeries or accidents are also welcome, even if they only need the service for a short time.

Each of the local Meals on Wheels groups serves a unique set of communities. At each location, a paid cook prepares the meals. Requests to accommodate special diets, particularly the needs of elderly due to health circumstances, are always taken into consideration, in particular those with modified diet requirements, such as diabetic or low sodium.

Barb Hess, who oversees the West Hills Meals on Wheels team, notes that there is a steady need for help overall.

"We have clients who need meals delivered, and a dwindling number of volunteers available to deliver," she explains.

The same situation is also affecting deliveries in the West Allegheny area. Sue

Wise and Lena Cool volunteer for their area's program. They are constantly seeking residents who can lend a hand for a day or a week or so.

It doesn't take a whole lot to be a volunteer, just a compassion to help others, a vehicle, and a couple of hours on the days of commitment.

Teams of volunteers load up their cars with the meals and drive to client's homes to make deliveries. Interaction between volunteers assures the client's well-being, not only from a nutrition standpoint, but also to provide some social interaction via a friendly smile. Volunteers provide vital interaction with the elderly and homebound,

acting as eyes and ears for them throughout the week. Many times, volunteers have saved clients from extended hospitalization or even death due to this daily visit, explains the Lutheran Service Society on its web site.

That's not the only thing volunteers do, however. They help in the kitchen, order food, train new volunteers, plan the driving schedules for volunteers, and help with any other tasks required to make sure the kitchen and deliveries run efficiently.

Volunteer commitments vary. Volunteers can schedule days that work best for them, and a day's commitment generally takes two to three hours to complete deliveries on a route. Volunteers are welcome for any length of time they are able to give, even if it is just one day a month or one day a week. Volunteers use their own vehicles and pay for their own gas.

All volunteers complete an application, auto safety certification, confidentiality agreement, and sign a job description. A copy of the volunteer's driver's license is kept on file.

With the change in sponsorship for the South West Meals on Wheels, monetary and food donations are especially welcomed. To make a monetary donation, go to [gofundme.com/SouthWestMealsOnWheels](http://gofundme.com/SouthWestMealsOnWheels). Fruits and vegetables grown and nurtured in personal or area gardens are welcomed for meal preparation, as are healthy packaged snacks.

**South West Meals on Wheels; Contact:** Teri Mascellino and Bob Colabianchi; **Phone:** (412) 279-5670; **Servicing:** Beechview, Bridgeville, Carnegie, Cecil, Clinton, Collier Township, Crafton, Crafton Heights, Dormont, Green Tree, Heidelberg, Imperial, Ingram, Mt. Lebanon, Noble Towers Hi-Rise, Oakdale, Oakwood, Pennsbury, Ridgmont, Robinson Twp., Scott Twp., South Fayette Twp., Thornberg, Thornberry, Upper St. Clair and Westwood.



**ABOVE:** Donna and Jeff Marshall with Vicki Donne outside the Tonidale Marathon gas station and convenience store, as they prepare to make deliveries. A small storefront at the convenience store serves as a meeting place to divvy up meals picked up in Carnegie.

**BELOW:** South West Meals on Wheels Program Managers Candy Mageras, Teri Mascellino and Bob Colabianchi prepare meals for delivery throughout the region, including to the West Allegheny community.





Please note: the Library will be CLOSED Sundays in the summer and will resume Sunday hours after Labor Day.

## Summer Reading 2014!

Register between **June 13** and **July 31**, keep a weekly log of your summer reading, earn tickets to win great prizes including gift baskets, gift cards and the grand prize - an iPad Mini for the top child and teen reader and a Kindle eReader for the top adult!

**Summer Reading Kickoff Party, Friday June 13, 5:30-8 p.m.**

**Children's Summer Reading: "Fizz Boom Read," ages birth - grade five**, Read with your kids or have them read independently - any books they want. Keep track and earn tickets to win free books! **Teen Summer Reading: "Spark a Reaction," grades 6-12**, earn tickets for your weekly reading log, attending programs and volunteering. **Adult Summer Reading: "Literary Elements,"** read any genre, in any format, record in your reading log to receive tickets. The more you read, the better your chance at winning! **Save the Date: End of Summer Party, Thursday, July 31**, Details to come; please check website.

## All Ages

**Chess Club, Alternate Wednesdays, 6 p.m., June 11, June 25, July 9, July 23.** Chess club is for players of all ages and skill levels. Chess boards provided. Register online.

**Family and Friends Game Night, Alternate Wednesdays at 6 p.m., June 18, July 2, July 16, July 30.** We will have assorted card and board games available. All ages welcome.

**Family Drive-In Movie, Fridays at 1 p.m. No program July 4.** Come to the library and watch a movie the whole family can enjoy. Bring your lawn chairs and a blanket, we will provide popcorn and drinks. The movie will be shown in our "Garage" and we will even have "cars" for the little ones to decorate and sit in.

**Family Yoga, Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., June 14, July 26, August 23.** Enjoy 45 minutes of yoga games and songs, breathing techniques, relaxing visualizations, and fun, fun, fun yoga movements for all ages and abilities. This is taught by Kristen from Yoga H'om.

**Annual Library Night at PNC Park, July 22, 7:05 p.m.,** order by **June 20.**

## Adults and Older Teens

**Coupon Exchange, second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 6 p.m.** Grab your coupons (even those that have expired) and join us at the library where we will clip, swap, and sort.

**Anime/Manga Club, fourth Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m.** Explore this format of art and pop culture.

**Uplift with Dreams, Wednesday, June 18, 6 p.m.** The wisdom gained in dreams can bless all aspects of your life. Join us in an evening of discussion.

**The Cookbook Club, first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.** Stop in at the circulation desk and pick up your cookbook of the month. Be sure to register you and your recipe, in order for us to keep track of who is making what and also to keep members from choosing the same dish. Registration required, register online.

**The Bookworms, first Wednesday of the month, 1 p.m.** Join the Bookworms to discuss the current book choice, which is available for pick up at the library.

**Yarnies, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m.** Calling all yarners! Do you like to crochet or knit? Come join our Yarnies! All skill levels welcome for conversation as you work on whatever project you bring.

**Pinterest Playground, June 11, 18, 28 and July 15, check web site for times and projects.** Join us for one or all of these Pinterest-inspired programs. We will gather and recreate crafts based on Pinterest finds.

## Kids and Teens

**Middle Grade Monday, Mondays, 2 p.m.** Various programs for middle grade students.

**K-Club, Mondays, 10 a.m.** Designed for children entering kindergarten in the fall. Various programs.

**Middle Grade Create!, Tuesdays, 11 a.m.** Creative craft programs for middle grade students.

**K-3 Adventures Series, Thursdays, 2 p.m.** Various programs for kindergarten through third graders.

**Teen TV Series Competition, Wednesdays, 1 p.m., Teen Movie Club, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m., Teen Yoga, Saturday, June 14, July 26, August 23, 9:15 a.m., Create! Tuesdays, 1 p.m.**

**Books & Babies, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.,** ages birth - 24 months. Storytime that introduces children ages birth - 24 months to books and reading with engaging stories, songs and activities. This 20-minute interactive storytime helps parents/caregivers learn how to foster early literacy skills to prepare children for learning to read. Baby playgroup follows storytime. Register online.

**Toddler Tales, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.,** ages two-three years. A very special, 30-minute storytime for toddlers with their parent/caregiver. Join us as we sing songs, learn rhymes, and read stories. Toddler playgroup follows storytime. Register online.

**Rolling & Strolling, Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Clinton Park, June 17-July 29.** Bring your baby, stroller and walking shoes and meet us at the park for a 30-minute walk and then stay for the story.

**Stories in the Park, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Clinton Park, June 18-July 29.** Storytime and craft outside!

**Forest Stories, Fridays at 10 a.m. June 20-August 1,** no storytime **July 4.** Join us for Forest Stories at the all-new Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. We will share stories and make a craft. The event is held outside under a tent, but will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

**Lego Club, Wednesday, April 16, 4 p.m., Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.,** grades K-5. There will be building challenges and free play. Please DO NOT bring Legos from home, grades K-five.

**Music and Movement, July 3, 31, 10:30 a.m.,** ages 3-5. You and your little one will learn delightful songs, dances and musical activities to enhance developmental concepts such as keeping a steady beat, timing coordination, listening, literacy and motor language skills. Register online.

**PJ Storytime, Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.** Wear your pajamas to this nighttime storytime! We will share stories, songs, and activities. Register online.

**Paws for Reading: Saturday, June 28, 10-11:30 a.m.** Grades K - 3. Come to the library and read with a registered therapy dog from TDI (Therapy Dogs International). You may bring a favorite book or choose from our basket of easy readers. Please call the library at (724) 695-8150 or stop in to sign up for your 15-minute time slot.



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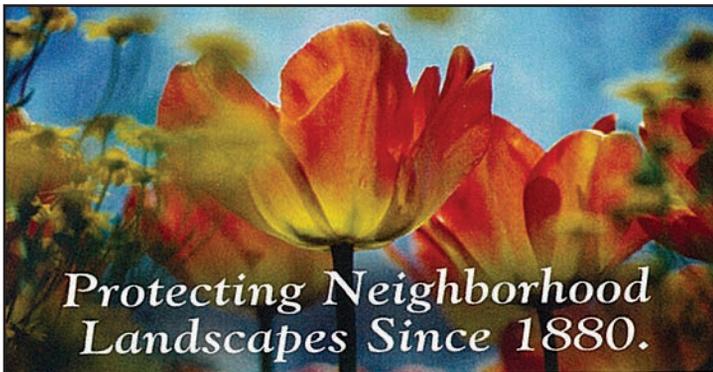
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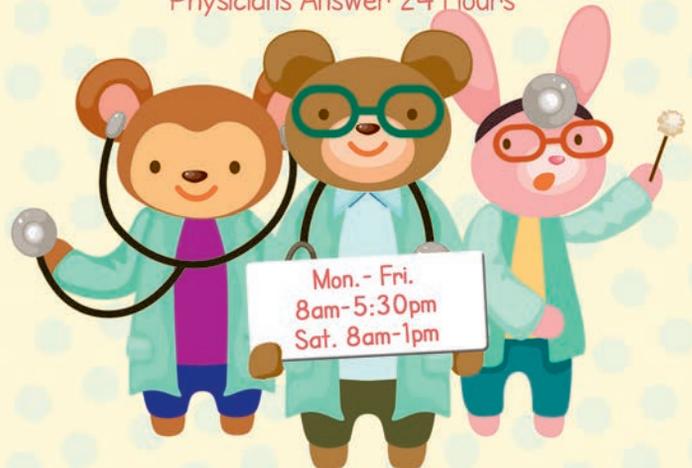
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# DEDICATIONS

## Boy Scout Troop Rededicates Santiago Honor Roll

On May 24, Boy Scout Troop 830 from Clinton held a rededication ceremony at the Santiago Honor Roll on Santiago Road.

Over the past year, the Troop has been working to refurbish the honor roll, which had been vandalized and fallen into disrepair. The project was organized by Alan Yoder, a West Allegheny student who will be going into his senior year this fall. Yoder organized and executed the project as part of his requirement to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout.

"It was horrible," says Linda Hogg, who showed up for the rededication, about the honor roll's former state. "People shouldn't do that to a monument."

She says for twelve years she walked past it on her way to catch her bus. She says that what the scouts did was "wonderful."

In addition to graffiti blemishing the back of the honor roll, Yoder and his Troop also found that the flagpole had disappeared, as had the capstones on either end. Yoder says they found one of the capstones, with the letters "San," in the woods behind the monument. Scouts

used both a power washer and wire brushes to remove graffiti. Enlisting the help of masons who dedicated their time, the Troop was able to get the stone edifice repaired. Once the weather improved, Scouts began landscaping.

For the honor roll itself, Yoder secured a donation in the form of granite stones with names etched into them. The brass plates previously bearing those names had disappeared, which left Yoder with the challenge of having to reassemble them. He says he did so using a list from the VFW and with help from the local community.

In a speech during the rededication, Yoder, whose grandfathers are both veterans, thanked the community by saying, "...so many sent in donations, provided materials and volunteered your time and labor."

He says that many of those who contributed wished to remain anonymous.

The rededication was also attended by Sen. Matt Smith, who commended Yoder and the Troop for their work, and North Fayette Supervisor Jim Morosetti.

**RIGHT:** The Santiago Honor Roll Memorial before Troop 830 began work.

**BELOW:** Boy Scout Troop 830 on the day of the rededication.  
**PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY**



## Oakdale Honors One of Its Own American Heroes

As in years past, Oakdale and its surrounding communities came together on Memorial Day to pay tribute to the nation's fallen heroes. This year was a special year for the Oakdale community, though, as it posthumously honored Oakdale resident Bill Beaumont, who passed away on April 21.

The morning started with Beaumont's son, Dan, leading the parade with members of the Oakdale VFW 7070 Post and American Legion Post 171. The parade started at the Oakdale Fire Hall and ended at the Oakdale Honor Roll, where memorial services were held.

The crowd, estimated to be one of the largest to ever attend a Memorial Day service in Oakdale, listened intently to the many speakers honoring area fallen heroes. Before the final tribute and playing of the National Anthem by the West Allegheny High School and Middle School Band, Ron "Huck" Gamble, President of the Oakdale Borough Council, paid a moving tribute to Bill. His wife, Bernie, served as an honoree, with 20 members of the Beaumont family in attendance.

Bill attended Oakdale High School and graduated in 1949. He joined the U.S. Army and served in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division, 38th Regiment. He was captured by North Korean forces, but escaped. After returning to his company, he volunteered to go back into battle. Bill was wounded and again captured, this time by Chinese forces, which had just entered the war. He again made his way back to his company, but due his injuries, was flown back to the U.S. He spent several months in Army hospitals.

Beaumont was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Korean War Medal, South Korean President's Citation, American President's Citation, Prisoner of War Medal (twice), the Purple Heart, and many others.

Following the tribute to Bill, his wife and family members laid a memorial wreath at the Oakdale Honor Roll in honor of the nation's fallen war heroes.

It was a day that the community will long remember, honoring not only a true American hero, but a true gentleman, loving husband, father and grandfather.

**STORY BY BILL GAMBLE  
PHOTO BY PAUL DEBOR**





## Imperial Remembers Those Who Served

More than 200 people attended the Community Memorial Day Service hosted by Valley Presbyterian Church in Imperial at Valley Cemetery. Officer of the Day John Lee, of VFW Post 7714, led the firing squad for the post, and was assisted by the post's color guard and members of the local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

The West Allegheny High School and Middle School bands performed the Star Spangled Banner and patriotic tunes. Pastor Ben Robbins of Valley Presbyterian led the opening and closing prayers. Jerry Work, a Valley Church member and military veteran, spoke about the importance of patriotism and honor.

William G. Miller, VFW Post 7714 commander, read the roll call of area veterans who passed away this year and are interred in Hopewell-Hebron Cemetery, Clinton United Presbyterian Church Cemetery, St. Columbkille Roman Catholic Church Cemetery, Resurrection Cemetery, the Arlington National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, and Valley Cemetery.

Following the firing salute and playing of Taps by the bands, attendees were treated to complimentary food and refreshments by members of Valley Presbyterian Church.



**LEFT:** Dan Beaumont served as flag bearer at Oakdale's Memorial Day service, as his late father, Bill, was honored.

**ABOVE:** The VFW Post 7714 Color Guard at a service hosted by Valley Presbyterian Church in Imperial.

**RIGHT:** Imperial VFD members look on during the Memorial Day service at Valley Cemetery.  
**PHOTOS BY PAT JENNETTE**



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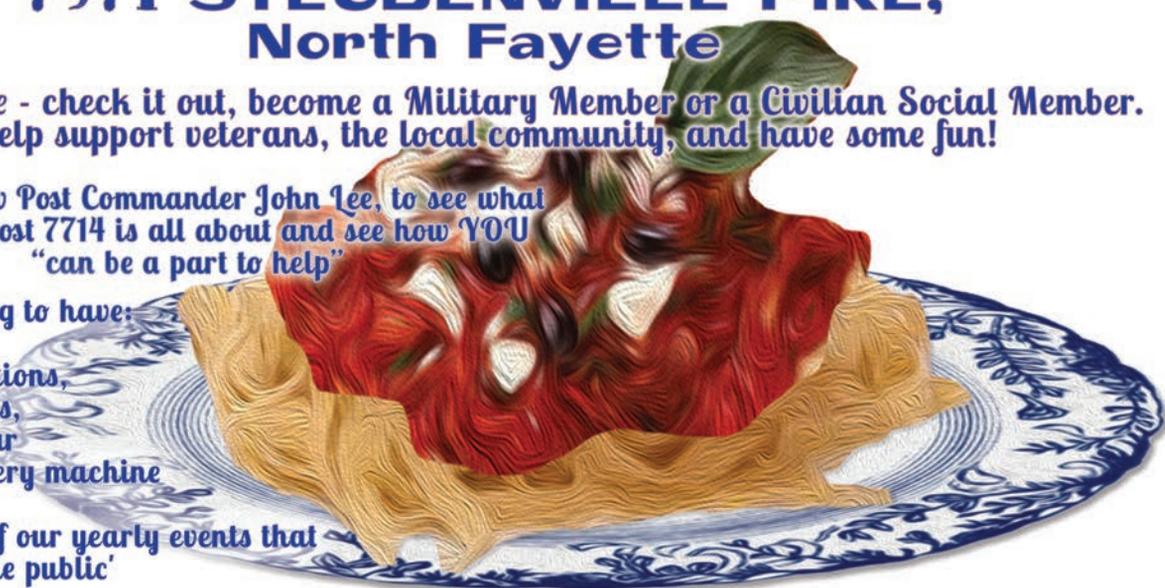
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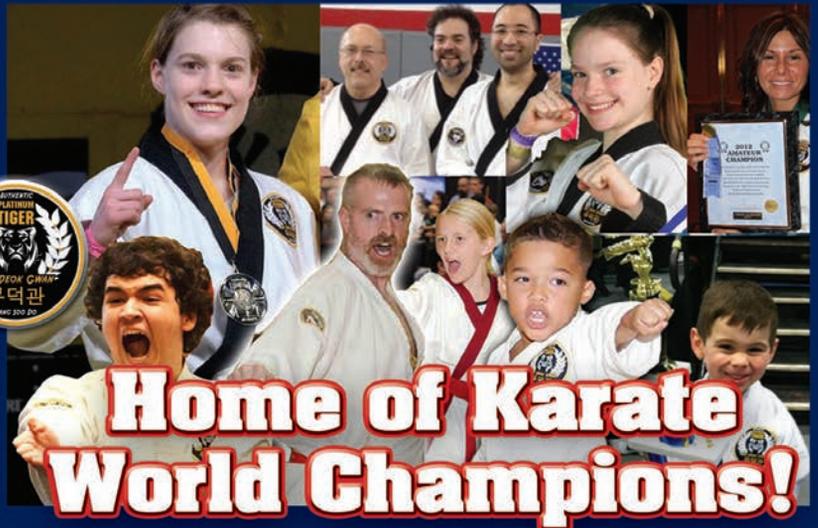
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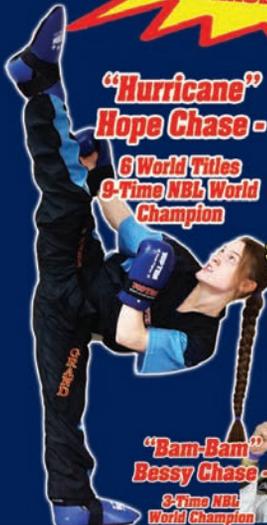
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While your beneficiary choices may seem obvious and rock-solid when you initially make them, time has a way of altering things. In a stretch of five or ten years, some major changes can occur in your life – and they may warrant changes in your beneficiary decisions. In fact, you might want to review them annually.

**How your choices affect your loved ones.** The beneficiary of your IRA, annuity, 401(k) or life insurance policy may be your spouse, your child, maybe another loved one or maybe even an institution. Many people do not realize that beneficiary designations take priority over bequests made in a will or living trust. Naming a beneficiary helps to keep assets out of probate when you pass away.

You may have even chosen the “smartest financial mind” in your family as your beneficiary, thinking that he or she has the knowledge to carry out your financial wishes in the event of your death. But what if this person passes away before you do? What if you change your mind about the way you want your assets distributed, and are unable to communicate your intentions in time? And what if he or she inherits tax problems as a result of receiving your assets?



**Are your beneficiary designations up to date?** Don't assume. Don't guess. Make sure your assets are set to transfer to the people or institutions you prefer. If you're not certain you understand all the possible ramifications of your selections, you may want to reach out to a qualified Financial Professional for guidance.

Gary Klobchar, Jr. may be reached via telephone at 724-544-2489 or by email at [gary.klobchar@milestonesfg.com](mailto:gary.klobchar@milestonesfg.com). You can learn more about him and his company by visiting [www.milestonesfinancialgroup.net](http://www.milestonesfinancialgroup.net)

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## The president and educators are pushing to prepare local workforces for what some are calling a renaissance in high tech manufacturing.

For much of the past six months, Silvia Elsayed has been wondering if a federal grant funding a manufacturing program she's been helping run at CCAC's West Hills campus would get renewed.

The program, known as mechatronics, trains individuals regardless of their background or experience to fill high-tech jobs in manufacturing. Since Elsayed came to CCAC West Hills in 2010, the school has put 167 individuals through the program's introductory courses, which provide fundamental training on how to operate and maintain sophisticated, low voltage machinery in a range of industrial settings. The courses are funded by a Department of Labor grant. They are free to individuals, and have helped place workers in regional jobs with competitive pay.

On April 16, Elsayed and her coworkers got what could amount to an affirmation of their efforts, straight from President Barack Obama. In a speech delivered in CCAC's automotive center, surrounded by lifts, engine parts and machinery, Obama touted CCAC's mechatronics program and pledged a half billion dollars to continue funding ones just like it across the country.

"We want to replicate your model across the country," the president told an invite-only crowd made up of a number of CCAC instructors, students and faculty. "You're doing something right that's making a difference in people's lives and we want to spread the word."

The visit marked a rare appearance by both the president and vice president together outside of Washington, D.C., and as some are predicting a manufacturing renaissance in the U.S. Two years ago, the Boston Consulting Group, which Vice President Joe Biden may have alluded to in his remarks at CCAC, released a

report predicting that rising Chinese wages and consumer demand, coupled with a comparatively weak dollar, will cause many companies to start relocating manufacturing back to the U.S.

However, high-tech manufacturers are already experiencing the pains associated with drawing from a small labor pool of properly trained workers in the U.S. In a report released just weeks after the president's visit to CCAC, BCG estimates that returning companies could create anywhere from 2.5 to five million jobs over the next five years. Though BCG estimates training an additional 80,000 to 100,000 more workers needed to meet demand is plausible, it also predicts a longer-term shortfall. By 2020, the report says, as more workers retire, the U.S. could face a much more significant need for machinists, welders, industrial-machinery operators and other skilled manufacturing professionals.

At CCAC, Elsayed and instructors there have been confronting a similar gap in regional manufacturing knowledge. She says that employers here are confronting a skills gap caused by an aging workforce and not enough young people coming in to take over those jobs.

"Companies are always telling us that it's so hard to find people with all these skills," she says, meaning the ability to fix and maintain sophisticated equipment like that used in today's modern factories.

At CCAC, the average age of individuals enrolling in mechatronics courses is 40. Some come in looking to make a career change. Others want more training in their field. A portion of the students currently attending are doing so under an arrangement where their company pays half and the Allegheny

Conference on Community Development covers the remainder of the course fees.

Few students, however - about 10 percent, Elsayed estimates - are coming into the program out of high school looking for a career, despite high job demand from employers willing to pay well.

Richard Wittebort, a guidance counselor at Parkway West Career and Technology Center, says that his school just began implementing an electrical systems course with a mechatronics component this school year. Students in the class begin learning how to work on low voltage programmable logic controller units, not unlike those students are taught to operate and maintain in mechatronics courses. Some students will continue on into the manufacturing course of study, he says. Others will become residential electricians.

Wittebort and PWCTC Special Populations Coordinator Cindy Hughes say that, for many younger trade students, the application of mechatronics skills remains murky. They say that, for them, it hovers somewhere between white and blue collar, and sounds not only unglamorous but intimidating.

In comparison, many of the more popular career tracks, including healthcare, criminal justice, first responders, automotive and beautician courses, are more familiar. Some have benefitted from portrayals in popular culture. Fewer students, however, have much familiarity with the inside of a factory.

"What mechatronics needs is a television show," says Hughes.

If what some are predicting about a manufacturing renaissance is true, simple economics might prove just as effective as popular culture, particularly if it's supported by another economic engine that is creating significant demand for trade skills in the region.

Rosedale Technical Institute President Dennis Wilke says that his school is currently undergoing one of two major expansions in its 65-year history, as oil and gas companies continue to develop the Marcellus Shale. He says the school's all-time highest enrollment occurred in the mid 1970s, as Pittsburgh's steel mills were closing and workers were looking to retrain for new jobs. This fall, however, he expects enrollment to be at its highest in 40 years, due in large part to the school's diesel technician program, and demand for those technicians among subcontractors working in the oil and gas industry.

Wilke says RTI's diesel technician program currently boasts a 95 percent placement rate, and cites Bureau of Labor Statistics figures showing that many diesel mechanics earn more than the average worker in Pennsylvania.

At Pittsburgh Technical Institute, enrollment in its electronics program has more than doubled since the school began offering an oil and gas concentration last year. In November, the school opened a \$3.5 million Energy Technology Center and began offering classes in welding technology, HVAC technology and gas and oil electronics specifically geared toward the industry.

The programs are attracting a much younger demographic than CCAC's mechatronics courses. The average age of enrolled students is 23. Currently, 215 students are enrolled in the school's trades technology and electronics program, and by April of 2015, PTI expects to graduate 156. Another 200 students will enroll this fall.

PTI Director of Career Services Josephine Smith says job demand is high and companies are offering internships that pay well for technicians. She says they are getting increased

demand for graduates with mechatronics skills. That demand is coming both from companies looking for field technicians and manufacturers supporting the oil and gas industry. A relationship like that could help defeat skepticism about manufacturing jobs in a region that's experienced widespread unemployment as a result of them leaving.

"Around here, you know better than most, how in recent decades the economy hasn't always worked for middle class families," Obama said. "You saw outsourcing. There was a time when finding a good job in manufacturing wasn't all that hard."

Elsayed says she's detected a similar, post-steel mindset in the region.

"People here don't see longevity in factory jobs," she says.

To Wilke, trade schools in general are also facing an unfair stigma, despite statistics showing associate degree holders are continuing to gain on Bachelor of Arts degree holders in terms of earnings. According to a 2011 report entitled "Pathways to Prosperity" published by Harvard University, 27 percent of associate degree holders are earning more than the average wage of those with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

"We need to get over this idea that trade school is something that you do when you don't go to college," says Wilke.

For Elsayed, one of the best parts of her job is hearing the success stories, many of which started with attracting adult students back into the classroom.

A recent one involves an auto mechanic who was fixing cars out of his garage before taking CCAC's mechatronics course. Now he's working for a midstream company in the oil and gas industry.

Another involves a student who landed a position paying \$50,000 per year. It allowed him to leave his former job at a grocery store.

Yet another involves Tim Wright, who Obama mentioned on national television. CCAC's mechatronics 1 course allowed Wright to move up in his company to a better position that paid more and gave him better hours. He, along with a number of students, are continuing on to take upper-level mechatronics courses. Elsayed says companies where students have found employment include Eastman Chemical Resins Inc., Kasto Saws and Steel Storage, The Techs, and Washington Penn Plastic Co., Inc., just to name a few. The school is also currently working with Eaton Corporation to train some of its workers.

Currently, Elsayed says that CCAC has about 200 students enrolled at various levels of its mechatronics program, which tops out with a robotics course that the school added last year. CCAC is working with PWCTC and Beattie Career Center, which teaches agile robotics and advanced manufacturing courses, to attract more students right out of high school. Classes are near capacity, but not full. Their grant runs through September 30, and they should know if it will be renewed by the fall. The program is currently being funded by a Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training - or TAACT 1 - grant through the Department of the Labor.

That, and other grants, helped pay for the \$2 million worth of equipment in CCAC's mechatronics lab. If a renaissance in high-tech manufacturing does occur, it will help change the way people look at factory-related work. For that to happen, it will have to start in classrooms at trade schools just like the one at CCAC.

**June 18-20**

**St. Philip Parish Festival, dinners served from 4-7 p.m., \$9** Wednesday stuffed chicken night, \$12 Thursday German night, \$9 Friday Olive Garden pasta or lasagna night, festival food vendors, bounce house, trackless train ride, balloon typhoon, live entertainment, bake sale, flea market, Chinese auction, prizes, win Coach or Vera Bradley purses at pick-a-ticket game.

**June 21**

**Heroes Supporting Heroes Bike Ride, 8:30 a.m. registration, ride begins at 10 a.m., 911th Air Force Reserve, Moon, to National Cemetery of the Alleghenies for brief ceremony, ending at Crossroads Church, North Fayette, for music and refreshments, \$25/rider, \$15/passenger, includes yellow armband and refreshments, benefits Heroes Supporting Heroes: supporting stable and safe housing for military members and their families, senior citizens, and others in need, www.heroessupportingheroes.org.**

**June 21**

**VFW Post 7714 Spaghetti Dinner and Open House, 3-8 p.m., 7971 Steubenville Pike, learn about VFW Post 7714, help veterans and community by becoming a military or civilian social member, meet new Post Commander John Lee, 50/50, Chinese auctions, raffles, new PA Lottery machine, open to general public, (724) 695-8866.**

**June 21**

**Free Shredding Event, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Moon Township Administration Office parking lot, bring boxes of unwanted documents that may contain personal information for secure destruction, shredding done on site, hosted by Rep. Mark Mustio and State Sen. Matt Smith, free event.**

**June 24-25**

**Summer Career Camp at Parkway West Career and Technology Center, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., for current seventh and eighth graders, (no sixth graders just entering into seventh grade), learn how to earn college credits and gain hands-on career experience before graduation, www.ParkwayWest.org.**

**July 11-13**

**Christmas in July Second Annual Wounded Warriors Benefit, Buffalo Hollow Outdoor Stage and Camp Ground in Petersburg, Ohio, weekend-long event featuring live music, bocce, bike games, corn hole, camping, Sunday car cruise with motorcycle show and blues, benefits Wounded Warrior Project and local veterans, \$25 pre-sale includes t-shirt and weekend entry, \$15 daily entry fee, \$15 RV fee, no hookups, (724) 312-8593, www.patriotchristmasinJuly.com.**

**July 19**

**Second Annual Harvest Wine Festival, 3-8 p.m., Janoski's Farm, 1714 SR 30, Clinton, PA 15026, \$40 in advance, \$45 at the gate, rain or shine, eight wineries, endless food buffet, live music, over-21 event, order tickets online at Eventbrite or purchase at Janoski's, (724) 899-3438.**

**Through July 30**

**Expressions of Hope Art Show & Sale, lower level near Macy's at The Mall at Robinson, Pittsburgh Technical Institute and The Bradley Center team up with the mall to exhibit jewelry, art, sculpture, more by children attending the center, supports center's mission to provide residential treatment services to boys and girls ages 6-18 experiencing emotional and developmental health problems.**

**July 30-August 2**

**Holy Trinity 60th Anniversary Festival, 6-11 p.m. nightly, ethnic and carnival food, bingo casino, basket auction, cash raffle, games, rides, kids' corner, face painting, sand art, Steel City Gamerz trailer, white elephant sale, free parking and shuttle service, live entertainment: Wednesday: Ray Ryan New Orleans Riverside Band; Thursday: Mansfield 5; Friday: The Buffetman; Saturday: Holy Trinity School Alumni Night, all profits benefit school, (412) 787-2656.**

## Findlay Programs

Unless otherwise indicated, contact Darlene Larson for more information or to register, (724) 695-0500 x 246, dl Larson@findlaytwp.org.

**"WALK Live" Classes in Findlay**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, Donna Kuzio opens doors to a better way of health and weight loss, \$5 per class, kuziofjr@gmail.com.**

**Garden Club**

**Meets third Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at Activity Center or other location, future projects include Honor Roll in Imperial, community garden at Valley Church, fairy garden workshop, Sue Peindl, (724) 350-9837.**

**Central Blood Bank Community Blood Drive**

**July 16, 2-7 p.m., Activity Center in Imperial, July is when the need for blood is highest but supplies are lowest and hospitals often have to cancel surgeries due to the lack of blood, also open to nonresidents, appointments recommended, call township or logon to www.centralbloodbank.org and search code C649.**

**Independence Day Fireworks**

**July 3, see page 42 for details.**

**Free Summer Concert Series**

**July 8, 15, 29, see page 42 for details.**

**Pavilion Rental 2014 Season**

Findlay Township residents, businesses, and youth or adult groups: \$60 with \$25 refundable deposit, 2 separate checks; non-resident reservations, \$85 with \$25 refundable deposit, new pavilion tentatively available to rent in July, residents, \$100, \$175 with kitchen, non-residents \$150, \$250 with kitchen, \$100 refundable security deposit required, seats 150-165 with full kitchen facilities and nearby restroom, www.findlay.pa.us.

**Time for Toddlers**

**Mondays, June 2, 16, July 14, 15, August 4, 25, Tuesdays, June 3, 17, July 15, 29, August 5, 26, 10:15-11:15 a.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, bring children under four for an hour of movement, music, activities and snack, registration required, \$3 per session.**

**Summer Lunchtime Creative Cooking Class**

**July 24, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, lunchtime version of popular after school cooking program, register at least two days before class, grades K-5, \$8 per class, class size limited.**

**Look for a listing of Vacation Bible School Programs on page 61!**



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### Night at Painting with a Twist

**July 11, 7-9 p.m.**, have fun on a Friday night at Painting with a Twist in Robinson Township, create a beautiful flower painting, no artistic talent needed, 21 and older, bring a bottle of wine and snacks, relax with a drink and paint away, \$35, to register logon to [www.paintingwithatwist.com/pittsburgh-west](http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/pittsburgh-west) with passcode 334578, make reservations by July 1, space limited, call Darlene to register by phone.

### Minecraft Summer Camps

Two camps held **July 7-11: 3D Design and Print**, ages 8-12, **9 a.m.-noon**, learn essentials of 3D design by creating challenging and creative models, \$175, **Game Design**, ages 9-13, **1-4 p.m.**, utilize special software to design complex games that can be played on any mobile device, \$150.

### Carnegie Science Center Science on the Road Program

Returns **week of Fourth of July** with 18-foot inflatable classroom with planetarium, registration required, class size limited, Findlay Township Activity Center.

### One World, One Sky, Big Bird's Adventure

**July 1, 11-11:45 a.m.**, Findlay Township Activity Center, Elmo and friend Hu Hu Zhu from the Chinese co-production of Sesame Street go on an exciting trip to discover the sun, moon, and stars, ages pre-school through second grade, \$8 per child.

### Planets

**July 1, 1-1:45 p.m.**, Findlay Township Activity Center, explores differences between stars and planets, how to recognize a planet in the night sky, and planetary motion, grades third-fifth, \$8 per child.

### American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Class

**June 24, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**, Findlay Township Activity Center, ages 11-15, newly revised one-day class sponsored by American Red Cross teaches students childcare, how to handle emergencies, safety, bedtime and discipline issues, communicating with parents, finding and interviewing for babysitting jobs, students receive certificate upon completion, wear comfortable clothing and bring bagged lunch and drink, registration required, class size limited, \$80 payable to Findlay Township.

### Couples Day Out in Ohio

**August 9**, winery visits in Coshocton, Ohio area, Roscoe Village, dinner at Rainbow Hills Winery, sip wine and enjoy the scenery while letting someone else do the driving, call Darlene for info.

### Rolling and Strolling in the Park

**Tuesdays, June 17, 24, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 9:30 a.m.** strolling, **10:30 a.m. stories**, Clinton Park, meet in Rainbow's End parking lot, ages 5 and under with caregiver, free.

### Fair in the Woodlands,

**August 15-16**, see community fairs listing, page 59.

## We'd like to hear from you!

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

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Except a man be born  
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**John 3:3**

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Call (724) 899-3611 or email paadams@pa.gov to register. Unless otherwise noted, activities start at Wildflower Interpretive Center on U.S. Route 30.

**ATV Safety Class**, Saturday, June 28; Sunday, July 20, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Pennsylvania DCNR Safety Classes for ages eight-15 and the ATV Safety Institute Classes for ages six and up are now being scheduled. Contact the instructor, Robert Lioi at (412) 264-3163 for information and to register for the class. Please do not contact the Park for information.

**Flags of the United States**, Sunday, June 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Celebrate Flag Day weekend by learning about the many flags of the United States. Stop in for a short presentation. Free Program.

**Native Plant Gardening with Native Pollinators**, Sunday, June 22, 2 -3:30 p.m., Discover all the possibilities of using native plants in landscaping to attract and help butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators. This program will discuss how to grow native plants and select plants that benefit Pennsylvania pollinators.

**Primitive Skills Workshop**, Saturday-Sunday, June 28, 10 a.m. – June 29, 2 p.m. This annual weekend workshop focuses on primitive living. The weekend will be spent recreating and practicing survival skills. This is an overnight, hands-on workshop geared toward adults. Teenagers are permitted if accompanied by a parent. Individuals and families only, no groups. Online pre-registration required by June 15.

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**Imperial VFD Happenings**

For information on any of the events listed below, please call the fire department at (724) 695-8845.

**Fireman's Parade and Street Fair**

June 13, 7 p.m., starts at Agway and heads down Main Street to Imperial Station, games, beverages, food.

**Bingo**

July 7 and August 4, Findlay Township Activity Center, doors open 5:30 p.m., kitchen at 6 p.m., bingo starts 7 p.m. sharp, package of 12 cards and 5 specials \$25, extra cards and specials available at door, quickies and jackpots sold on floor, throwaway cards used, bring a dobber, super bingo held on the first Monday of each month with some exceptions.

**North Fayette Parks and Recreation**

For more information or to sign up for the senior citizen mailing list, contact North Fayette Parks and Recreation at (412) 788-4888 x 118, (724) 693-3118, rbrozovich@north-fayette.com, www.north-fayette.com. Follow on Facebook at North Fayette Parks and Recreation.

**Buy a Brick Program**

Bricks are \$100 and will be part of the new community center area, honors person of buyer's choice.

**North Fayette Community Days**

See fairs listing on next page.

**Summer Concert Series**

Amphitheater stage in Donaldson Park, June 15, 7 p.m., celebrate Father's Day with the Dixie Spirit Band, July 13, 7 p.m., Thursday Night Oldies Band.

**North Fayette Annual Parade**

August 1, route goes from Penn Lincoln Plaza to Hankey Farms pool, interested organizations contact parks and recreation department.

**P.A.L.S. Programs**

June 29, Pirates vs. Mets game, transportation provided, pre-registration required, July 12, P.A.L.S. annual swim party, 7 p.m., Hankey Farms Pool.

**Donaldson Park Car Cruise**

July 20, 12-4 p.m., benefits P.A.L.S. programming, free hot dogs, children's games, music, no fee to participate.

**Picnic Pavilions Rental**

Residents must provide proof of residency and should choose alternate dates, \$75 for township park, \$50 Donaldson Community Park, \$50 security deposit required.

**Hankey Farms Pool Programs**

July 7 and August 11, North Fayette Police free family swims, August 2, Community Days free swim, June 13, teen night, June 19, adult and senior swim, July 12, Hawaiian Day, July 27, members' night, June 20, 7 p.m., summer movie party, "Frozen," free event.

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**Water Walking**  
Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-noon.

**Silver Sneaker Splash Program**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday,  
11 a.m.-noon.

**Summer Swim Lessons**  
Begins **June 7 (Saturday only classes), June 16, and June 30** (note change on both 2-week sessions due to extended school year), available from infants (Saturday only) through beginners.

**Learning Center Preschool Camps**  
Registration ongoing with six different sessions, available for four and five-year-olds, programs run on the weeks of **June 9 and 23, July 14 and 21, and on August 11.**

**Summer Playground Program**  
Begins **June 12**, playground runs through **August 15**, operates **7 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Friday**, middle school program added this year.

**Sports Camps**  
West Allegheny Community Tennis, lessons begin **June 17** for children ages 4-17, Baseball Camp with Coach Bryan Cornell, **June 23-26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Donaldson Community Park fields.**

**Senior Programming**

**Senior Citizens Pirates Game, June 29**, versus New York Mets, game starts **1:35 p.m.**, tickets and transportation \$30.

**Latitude 40 Bowling,**  
June 9, July 14, August 11, starts 1 p.m.

**Pittsburgh Symphony's World Premier Event "Play it Again Marvin,"**  
June 28, 8 p.m., celebrating the music of the late Marvin Hamlisch, \$60, includes transportation.

## Ongoing

**Women's Business Network**  
First and third Tuesdays of each month, 7:30 a.m., upstairs at **Giant Eagle Market District**, provides personal and professional resources to advance the presence of aspiring and successful businesswomen, Cheryl Lieb, (412) 341-7667.

**How to Promote Your Business through Networking**  
Wednesdays, 7:15-8:30 a.m., Eat N' Park on Rt. 60, with the Greater Pittsburgh Business Connection, a referral group of business professionals, www.gpbcc-pgh.org, (412) 364-6446 x 302.

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

**No Veteran Dies Alone**  
Volunteers needed for one-of-a-kind program that provides companionship and assistance to veterans entering the final stages of life, Alan Morris, (412) 822-1861, alan.morris@va.gov.

## Community Fairs

**22nd Annual McSummerfest,** Heritage Park in McDonald, **June 28-July 5**, live entertainment nightly (see page 20 for bands), one-price rides every night, **6-11 p.m.**, fireworks **July 3**, 125th anniversary celebration **June 29**, time capsule opening, **7 p.m.**, McDonald McRun 5K, **9 a.m.** (see page 22 for details), pet parade **1 p.m.**, Veterans recognition **5 p.m.**, choral performance and historical comments, **6 p.m.**

**North Fayette Community Days,** Donaldson Park, **August 2, starts at 1 p.m.** with guns and hoses water battle, inflatables, pony rides, petting zoo, clowns, local organizations, kids' games and fireworks by Zambelli Fireworks, entertainment by the Dan Hanczar Band, Totally 80's and the West Hills Symphonic Band.

**Findlay Township 39th Annual Fair in the Woodlands,** Clinton Park, **August 15-16**, live entertainment nightly by Ruff Creek, Occasional Reign and JACK Tady Polka, 5K Semi-Great Race, parade, fireworks, bake sale, vendors, contests for needlework, crafts, flowers, vegetables, fruits, canned goods, hay and grain, antique farm equipment, register **August 14.**

## Farmers' Markets in the Community

**Agway, dates and times TBA,** 400 Main Street, Imperial, (724) 695-7388.

**Coraopolis Farm Market, Mondays, 3:30-6:30 p.m.,** Coraopolis Presbyterian Church lot, Fifth and Chestnut Streets, Coraopolis, (724) 774-8379.

**Moon Township, Wednesdays, 3-6 p.m.,** Municipal Building, 1000 Beaver Grade Road, Moon Township, (412) 262-1700.

**The Original Farmers Market, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 5:30-8 p.m.,** 151 Parks Road, McDonald, Route 50 East off I-79, www.theoriginalfarmersmarket.net.

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



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### McDonald Borough

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220 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126  
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(moved to Florence) 1080 Steubenville Pike, Burgettstown, PA 15021

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### Clinton Wesleyan Church

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### Covenant Family Church

P. O. Box 15533, Pittsburgh, PA 15244  
(724) 263-7147, www.covenantfamily.cc  
(meets at Courtyard Pgh. Airport)

### Cross Connections Alliance Church

201 Valley Street, McDonald, PA 15057  
(724) 926-2453, www.crossconnectionsac.org

### Crossroads Methodist Church

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

### First Baptist Church

141 N. McDonald Street, McDonald, PA 15057  
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### Hebron Presbyterian Church

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

### Independent Bible Presbyterian Church

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

### Montours Presbyterian Church

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

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600 Donaldson Road, Oakdale, PA 15071  
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### Noblestown United Presbyterian Church

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

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### The Church of Jesus Christ

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

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@ Pittsburgh Technical Institute  
(724) 941-8990, ext. 124

www.robinson.biblechapel.org

### Valley Presbyterian Church

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

### West Ridge Christian Community Church

100 Gorwood Drive, Coraopolis, PA 15108  
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## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

**Al-Anon, West A area,** (412) 683-4279

**American Legion Post 171 Oakdale,**  
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(724) 695-0491

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**Kiwanis Club of the Pittsburgh Airport Area,**  
PAAKiwanis@gmail.com

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

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**West Allegheny Inline Hockey,** (412) 334-2640

**West Allegheny Youth Assn.,** www.westayouth.net

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

**West Allegheny Youth Wrestling,** (724) 695-8132

# Vacation Bible School Programs

**Church of the Living Christ, July 10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., July 11, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., July 11, 6:30 p.m.,** Family Celebration Friday, free, Pastor Matt Shouse.

**Clinton Wesleyan Church, Weird Animals, June 16-20, 9 a.m.-noon,** ages three through those completing grade six, (724) 695-7076, pastorchapman@verizon.net, free.

**Crossroads Church, Weird Animals...Where God's Love is One-of-a-Kind, July 28-August 1, 6-9 p.m.,** kindergarten-sixth grade, some four-year-olds, Ginny Melhorn, (412) 494-9999, ginny@crossroadsumc.org.

**Independent Bible Presbyterian Church, A Journey through the Wilderness, July 21-July 25, 6-8 p.m.,** kindergarten-sixth grade, register at ibpc-mcdonald.com or call (724) 695-0808, see ad on page 48, free.

**Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church, Weird Animals VBS, July 21-25, 6-8:45 p.m.,** ages four-eighth grade, register online at www.kenmawrchurch.org, (412) 331-2863 x 15, free.

**McDonald Presbyterian Church, Weird Animals, July 28-August 1, 9:30 a.m.-noon,** ages four and up, Heather, (724) 926-8561, heather@mcdonaldpres.org, free.

**Oakdale United Presbyterian Church, S.O.S.: Savior of Our Souls, June 23-26, 9 a.m.-noon, Monday-Thursday,** sixth grade and up, volunteers can register four and five-year-olds in Judah Junior on days they volunteer, seeking help from teens seventh through twelfth grade, Patti Mazar, (724) 255-5270.

**The ROCK Youth & Family Center, June 23-August 1, 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.,** extended hours 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., sixth grade and up, \$85 members, \$85/week non-Rock members, \$100/week extended hours, \$25/week per family, Kami Hancock, (724) 825-3101, rockdaycamp\_oakdale@yahoo.com.

**Sharon Community Presbyterian Church, Weird Animals: Where Jesus' Love is One of a Kind, 6-8:30 p.m., June 22-26,** \$10 for first child, not to exceed \$25 per family, scholarships available, (412) 264-7400.

**St. Columbkille Parish, Weird Animals; Where Jesus' Love Is One-of-a-Kind, August 4-8, 8:30 a.m.-noon,** kindergarten-sixth grade, (724) 695-2146, registration forms at stcolumbkilleparish.org, stcolumbkilleireligioused@comcast.net, free will donation.

**Union Church, Summer Jam, June 16-20, 9 a.m.-noon,** option to stay until 2:30 p.m., ages three-kindergarten, entering first through sixth grade, \$15 per family, Lisa Berger, (412) 787-1818.

**Valley Presbyterian Church, God's Backyard Bible Camp (Under the Stars), June 16-19, 6-8:30 p.m.,** children and adults welcome, Rev. Ben Robbins, (724) 695-0300, www.valleychurchweb, pastor@valleychurchweb.com, free.

**West Ridge Church, Gotta Move! July 16-18, 6:30-8:30 p.m., July 19, 9 a.m.-noon,** ages 2-12, (724) 695-7500, register at westridge.cc/vbs.php.

## Purpose-Driven Life

### Both a book and a family's true story of a life driven with a purpose



BY ERMA DODD  
NORTH FAYETTE  
TOWNSHIP  
RESIDENT

Cyndi Zianni was nine months old when Barbara and Jack Zianni finally held her, their adopted baby daughter, in their arms. Michael, their biological son, was five, and became her big brother.

Cyndi grew up in Hankey Farms knowing that she was adopted, and chosen by her parents. As she grew, she came to know that she, too, wanted a family. She had a daughter, Chantel, but three years afterwards Cyndi became a single mother.

Four years ago, a jilted Derek Tuszynski met Cyndi. They found they loved the same music styles, and began to spend time together. That eventually led to marriage.

Chantel was then attending Moon Area High School. Her best friend was a foster child.

One evening, Chantel wanted to talk to her mom. She felt it would be a good idea, a good thing, for Cyndi and Derek to foster a child. They agreed, and began the process. They attended the required classes and were approved. They wanted to foster a teen. After months with no call, Derek and Cyndi amended their request. Their application was changed to foster ages up to 18 years old. That night, shortly after they had gone to sleep, the phone rang. Their life changed.

"Can you take three children?" the person on the other end asked.

Barely awake, Cyndi answered.

"We can take one, maybe two," she said.

The call back came: "Someone else will take two, which child do you want?"

Cyndi said, "Doesn't matter."

Caller said, "We are giving you the youngest child."

By now, it was about 2 a.m.

The 14-month-old little girl was handed over to Cyndi and Derek, wearing a diaper and wrapped in a hospital sheet, that same night at a hospital. That was it. Then they got another surprise. Their new child had a contagious condition. They had to go to a drug store for the necessary medication. The hospital found a drug store open on the other side of Pittsburgh.

Driving up to the scene at the drug store, police were all over the area. There had been a waterline break. The street was flooded. The drug store was about to close. Cyndi waded through water almost knee high and begged them to stay open. They did. She needed medication, diapers, bottles, etc.

Finally, the family arrived home. Their little girl was screaming, crying. It was 5:30 a.m. and Derek had to leave at 6:30 a.m. for a one-hour drive to work. He slept 30 minutes.

Love was instantaneous. Derek, who once had no children of his own, now did. Their little girl, Lori\*, was the youngest of four children. A neighbor had called the police to complain about the conditions in the house where she and three other children were living. There was no electricity and the water had been shut off. Police found horrible conditions; one mattress for six people, bathroom conditions beyond imaginable; filthy. All four children were taken by Children Youth and Family Services, along with Lori.

When Cyndi and Derek got Lori, she was not yet crawling.

"She would just lay there and coo," said Cyndi.

They learned she had been abused. Whereas good was happening, so, too, the nightmares were about to begin. Threatening phone calls began,

some threatening their lives.

CYF's main goal is to reunite the family. Parents are counseled and have to reach goals in order to get their children returned. Lori's parents failed to complete the necessary goals. After three years, Cyndi and Derek legally adopted their vibrant, friendly, happy little girl, who loves her daddy. Her big sister, Chantel, is her idol.

### Child Two: D.J.

A family member knew of a little boy who was likely to end up in foster care. The question was, "If he needs a home, will you take him in?"

Cyndi asked Derek, and Derek's big heart said, "yes."

The child's great grandmother was caring for him. She had been diagnosed with cancer. His mother was a heroin addict. In the middle of the night, the child's mother had come and taken her baby boy. A week later, high on drugs, she called a friend, who found that the baby was missing. His mom had gone to a crack house, gotten drugs, and left her son there. He had no clothes, food, or diapers. After a week, someone at the house called police. He said someone had left a baby and never returned.

CYF got the little boy, and took him to the closest hospital. He was very sick when he was given to Cyndi and Derek. Six weeks later, Cyndi spent two weeks at Children's Hospital with little D.J.\*, until he was strong enough to go back to his new home.

"He's so stinkin' cute, adorable," Cyndi says, smiling.

When little D.J.'s great grandmother went into a nursing home, Cyndi went to meet this caring, compassionate lady. Cyndi walked in and introduced herself. After a two-hour visit, the great grandmother knew her little boy was with a loving family. Three days later, D.J.'s great grandmother passed away peacefully.

D.J. was adopted at age two in May of 2013, a year to the day after his new sister, Lori, age four, was adopted.

### Child Three: Rae

Rae\* was delivered to Cyndi when she was two days old. Rae has three older brothers. All were taken from their parents. Their dad is in jail for child molestation. Children born to parents who already have children in foster care must surrender the baby to CYF. Rae was adopted this past February.

### Child Four: Grace

Another baby was to be born to Rae's mother. Cyndi and Derek agreed to foster with intent to adopt the coming child. Together, they brought Grace\* home from the hospital. The formal adoption is coming soon.

Cyndi and Derek's purpose comes with challenges. Cyndi feels overwhelmed at times. Derek's mom, a big supporter of the family, reminds Cyndi that she "does not have a big 'S' on her shirt. She is not Superwoman."

"There is a lotta love in our home," Cyndi says. "It is so worth it. Imagine where they would be."

Chantel tells her mom, "We are on our way to a big family."

A family founded on love; a chosen family.

\*The names of the foster children in this story have been altered. For more, visit [www.ermajournals.com](http://www.ermajournals.com).

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