

West Allegheny Edition

Allegheny West

Magazine

Volume 16, Issue 95
April/May 2015

FREE Direct Mail Community Publication

**Local police officers awarded
for community efforts**

**West Allegheny Athletic
Hall of Fame Class of 2015
announced!**

**The nostalgic art of car
restoration**

**Local WWII veteran receives
France's highest honor**

**Late author's book explores
Imperial's early days**

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West Allegheny eighth-grader Bradley Ryniawec skates with his traveling hockey team, the Youngstown Phantoms. Bradley helped the Ohio-based U14 hockey team reach a national tournament in March after they defeated the Toledo Cherokees by a score of 9-1 to win the Mid-Am District Ohio State Championship. At the USA Hockey Tier II National Championship, held March 26-30 in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Phantoms won their first game, 3-2. They lost their second, 1-5, but won their third game, 4-2, to advance to the elite eight. There, they faced off against the New Jersey Red Bank Generals, the sixth-ranked U14 hockey team in the country. The Phantoms lost, 0-6, to close out their season.

Bradley, who is an Oakdale resident, is the only WA student on the traveling team. He played for a WA developmental team for two years but has been involved with travel hockey teams since age 7. This year marks his second year with the Phantoms. He plays forward.

In addition to qualifying to play at the national tournament, Bradley's team also competed in the International Silver Stick tournament in Port Huron, Michigan in January. There, the Phantoms faced off against some of the top U14 hockey teams in the U.S. and Canada. The team also won the PAHL league Bantam AA regular season banner, finishing first in their division.



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,

Nostalgia is a funny thing. It's a yearning for what's come and gone, a way of looking back at the past through the rosy-colored goggles of memory. To whom does that not appeal?

With that thinking in mind, we came up with our feature article this month, which starts on page 46. In it, our writer Rebecca Ferraro profiles a few local car restoration enthusiasts. Not that the weather at the time of this writing would suggest it, but spring is here, and that means car enthusiasts are gearing up for summer car cruises.

It takes a lot to make car restoration a hobby. Not only does it require an investment of time, money, or both, but also an exacting attention to detail to create what is essentially an anachronism. These folks aren't restoring cars because they need a vehicle to get to work. They're doing it because it's art, and because it recalls another time and place. Rebecca was curious to learn more about some of these enthusiasts and what makes them tick, so she interviewed a few. I hope you enjoy her article.

That's not our only nostalgic piece in this issue, however. Our publisher emeritus Pat Jennette has read the late Toby Cunningham's newest book about Imperial and tells us all about it on page 12. This marks Toby's second book about the town where he grew up in the early 20th century, as told through his most recent autobiography.

Nostalgia also runs deep in our rundown of the 2015 West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. We've included some biographical sketches of each of these individuals, whom we'll be honoring at the hall of fame's fourth annual banquet May 16. Did you know West Allegheny's first baseball coach was with the team 36 years, and before that ran track against two-time Olympic gold medalist James "Jesse" Owens? Did you know another West Allegheny graduate who helped the school win its first WPIAL football championship is now one of the top strength and conditioning trainers in the country at a top Division I school? Read about these individuals and others on page 22.

Be sure to flip to page 6 and read about how some of our local police officers are going above and beyond the call of duty to help their communities. Also be sure to read West Allegheny School District Superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert's message on page 33, and find out about a couple of new initiatives the school is undertaking to reinforce early education this summer. On page 48, be sure to check out all our local upcoming nonprofit events, and on page 26, get a jump on spring chores by taking some suggestions from local businesses.

As always, I thank you for reading, and hope you will continue to reach out to us, your community magazine, to relate your stories, announcements, events and more.

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor

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ABOUT THE COVER

North Fayette resident Don McKissick owns this 1965 Ford Ranchero that he's restoring. McKissick is one of a number of local classic car restoration enthusiasts gearing up for spring car cruises in the area. Read more about them on page 46.

North Fayette Police officers honored with awards

Police officers are often thought of as municipal servants whose sole function is to ensure civilians follow traffic laws and the community remains safe. Plenty of official duties come with wearing the badge, including investigating crimes. Police officers are thus trained and tested to help society in a number of ways.

Sometimes, though, officers can use their position to help serve the community by means that aren't part of their official role. Compassion for the community in which they work and live isn't necessarily taught at the academy, but rather learned over time.

Over the past two months, two North Fayette police officers were recognized for their efforts to create a safer community. In February, Sgt. Chad Slovick was honored by the Montour Valley VFW Post 7714 with its Outstanding Law Enforcement Award. In March, Allegheny County Council honored Sgt. Michael Hayes for earning national awards from the National Rifle Association's Refuse To Be A Victim program.

The Outstanding Law Enforcement Award recognizes a police officer for going above and beyond the call of duty to help a veteran. While accepting the award at the Feb. 24 North Fayette

"They're the heroes," he said, "Anything we can do for them is an honor for us."

He explained that he approached Lee with the hope that HSH could help get the veteran back on his feet. His outreach hits at the heart of what Lee's group is all about: heroes supporting heroes by



Members of Allegheny County Council (top row) are joined by North Fayette Supervisor Bob Doddato, North Fayette Police Chief Mark O'Donnell, North Fayette Police Sgt. Michael Hayes, and councilman Tom Baker to recognize Hayes' efforts to work with the public March 10. PHOTO SUBMITTED

providing the opportunities necessary for those veterans and their families who are in need.

Reaching out to others and going the extra mile is inherent to the North Fayette Police Department. The sense of giving back and helping educate others is something that Hayes has mastered. Through his Refuse To Be A Victim classes, Hayes has helped to ensure the safety of those in his community. The program Hayes utilizes was developed by the NRA and has been implemented by hundreds of federal, state, and local law enforcement officials to help prevent crime and educate the public on personal safety. Hayes was recognized by Allegheny County Council for four safety seminars he taught in 2014. The seminars, which he has been teaching since 2009, also have been used to educate fellow officers. Hayes' hard work and dedication to the program helped him earn the NRA's honor of Top Law Enforcement Instructor of 2014.

While protecting the community comes with Hayes' daily responsibilities, he also points out the importance of educating the public to promote a safe environment.

"People think it's a seminar where they are going to hear me tell them not to pick up hitchhikers," he said. "Well, no kidding, but it's a neat seminar that gives a lot of tips that you would never think of."

Recognizing Hayes' efforts, county councilman Tom Baker sponsored a proclamation in Hayes' and the North Fayette Police Department's honor March 10.

"Sgt. Hayes' efforts to empower families in North Fayette and his dedication to keeping our community safe are admirable," said Baker.

Hayes and Slovick have served the North Fayette community for 20 and 18 years respectively. Both are husbands, fathers, and protectors of their community. They have earned additional titles and accolades because of the important differences they make.

For more on HSH, visit www.HeroesSupportingHeroes.org. For more information on Refuse To Be A Victim, or to enroll in a class, email NFPDMH@north-fayette.com or call (412) 787-8900.



North Fayette Police Sgt. Chad Slovick accepts an Outstanding Law Enforcement award from Air Force Master Sgt. John Lee, who serves as VFW Post 7714 commander and president of Heroes Supporting Heroes, at a North Fayette supervisor's meeting Feb. 24. PHOTO BY SHERI LEE

supervisor's meeting, it was obvious that Slovick had been humbled by the honor, awarded to him for doing what he felt was simply his job.

Slovick earned the honor after he came across a military veteran in the community who was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

"It was heartbreaking to see the veteran and his family going through a difficult time," he explained.

Without a job and while facing a severe disability, not only was the veteran suffering, but so was his family of six, including four children.

Slovick used his community resources to help get the veteran back on track. According to Air Force Reservist Master Sgt. John Lee, who also serves as VFW Post 7714 commander and president of Heroes Supporting Heroes, Slovick genuinely wanted to help the veteran.

"His work has been awesome," explained Lee, whose organization seeks to help veterans and the families of deployed military members.

Recognizing his efforts, the VFW honored with the award. Slovick says it was important for him to lend a helping hand and make a difference in someone's life.

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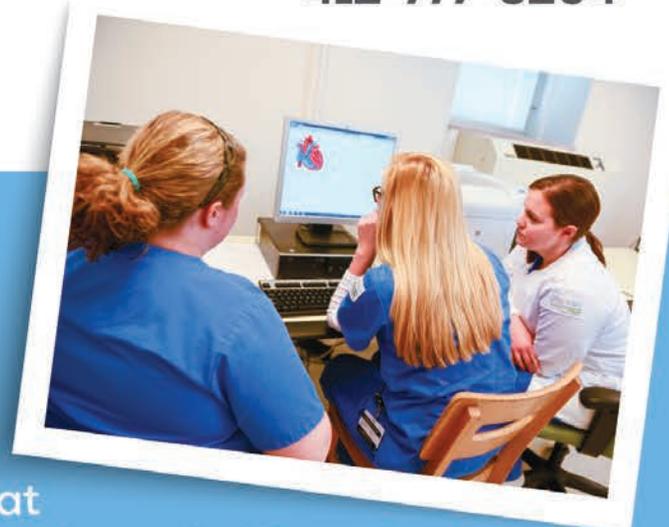
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Tina's Hair Designs celebrates 25 years

Stylists at Tina's Hair Designs of Oakdale celebrated the salon's 25th year in business in February. The salon, originally founded by Tina Chiodo, has been held together by a tight-knit group of hair stylists who, Chiodo says, have grown to think of each other as family. Some of the salon's 18 stylists have been with the business since its inception.

Tina's Hair Designs is now owned and operated by a motivated duet of Chiodo and her husband, Anthony. The couple have dedicated countless hours over the past decades to assure their salon continues to strive at its peak.

Tina is a West Allegheny and Parkway West Technical School

graduate. Anthony graduated from Pittsburgh Beauty Academy. In addition to holding their stylists to the highest standards, Tina is also a hair color educator for Kaaral Color. The salon specializes in color highlights, balayage, Brazilian straightening, keratin treatments, Olaplex damaged hair treatments, hair extensions and shellac manicures and pedicures.

The salon also sells T's, its own full brand of hair care products.

Tina says education is a priority for her and Anthony, and that they mandate their stylists continue their education both in and out of the salon. She says they are always willing to train young stylists and help them grow in their profession.

Heroes Supporting Heroes teaming with Crossroads on community service project

A local organization founded on helping veterans and the families of deployed military personnel is teaming up with a local church to lend a hand to those who could use help sprucing up their homes this spring.

On May 9, members of Heroes Supporting Heroes and Crossroads United Methodist Church will be heading out to work on about 20 to 30 properties in the western Allegheny County suburbs. James Roberts, executive pastor of ministries at Crossroads, says the properties stretch from Clinton to the South Hills, and that the work could include interior and exterior painting, roof and deck repairs, landscaping, cleaning gutters, repairing drywall and more.

They'll also be working on a couple of farms, including one in North Fayette that hosts a community-sustained agriculture program. The farm's owner, Ernie Lee, says that his CSA operates, in part, with the mission of donating produce to the West Allegheny Food Bank and educating the public.

For over ten years, Crossroads hosted an initiative similar to the one planned for May 9 for its teen members called Focus. The new project, dubbed Community Focus, will incorporate adults, including skilled laborers and non-congregational volunteers from the community.

"It's always been high school kids with a couple adults," says Jeff Lutz, a North Fayette-based contractor and Crossroads board member who has headed up the Focus program in the past. "This one is going to be the biggest yet."

Lutz says the church is hoping to attract 500 to 600 volunteers.

Last year, Lutz and Crossroads member Don Steward, who has also helped head up the Focus program, teamed up with HSH on a similar but larger initiative dubbed West Allegheny Work Camp. Not unlike Community Focus, the goal of WAW was to help repair homes for those in need, using out-of-state teen volunteers on a mission-style trip. Via WAW, over 440 volunteers repaired over 70 homes in the West Allegheny community.

Roberts says that in years past, Focus was limited to non-construction-type work, but there was a desire to incorporate

skilled labor. Teaming up with HSH, he says, gives them that opportunity.

Over the past couple of years, HSH has been working with area contractors and skilled laborers to help military families, veterans and seniors with everything from leaky roofs to car repairs.

Roberts says the church also will be donating the funds for materials, which are being paid for by donations from Crossroads members.

"During Christmas, we challenged our congregation to give a gift of the same amount that they would spend on their families," says Roberts.

The goal, he says, was to raise \$50,000, but the church ended up raising \$135,000.

"We were shocked by the generosity," he says.

Roberts says the money is being split between the church's mission work in Mozambique, Community Focus and local needs.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Community Focus is encouraged to call Crossroads at (412) 494-9733.



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Local World War II veteran awarded France's highest honor

McDonald resident and World War II veteran Clarence Brockman received France's Legion of Honor at a ceremony hosted at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. on March 4. The honor is the highest decoration awarded by the French government, and recognizes Brockman's participation in the liberation of France during World War II.

According to Brockman's daughter, Barbara, Clarence was Consul General of France, Olivier Serol Almeras, is pictured here with Clarence Brockman, a McDonald resident and World War II veteran. They are joined by Dean Dominique, author of "One Hell of a War: Patton's 317th Infantry Regiment in World War II." Brockman was awarded France's highest military award, the Legion of Honor, during a ceremony at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. on March 4.



a member of the 317th HQ Regiment Infantry Company that stormed Utah Beach on August 2, 1944. She says her father fought at locations throughout France, including at Nancy and on a crossing at the Moselle River, where his actions to help maintain an allied position earned him one of two Bronze Star awards he earned during the war.

She says the process to receive the medal took three applications and seven years. Thus, when a snowstorm whipped up the day of the presentation, they were not to be thwarted, even though the round trip took 17 hours. Barbara, as well as her brother, James, and his wife, Lynn, accompanied Clarence to the presentation. She says 20 World War II veterans received medals at the ceremony, and that a handful of others not in attendance were also honored.

On March 19, Clarence was also recognized at a Washington County commissioner's meeting, where he received a plaque for serving with distinction during World War II as a resident of Washington County. On March 22, local officials, including Rep. Tim Murphy, District Judge Anthony Saveikis, McDonald Mayor Terry Bennett, state Sen. Camera Bartolotta, McDonald Police Chief Mark Dorsey and state Rep. Jason Ortitay joined Clarence for a reception at Hart's Restaurant and Lounge in McDonald. Barbara says her father and Saveikis are close friends, and that the magistrate has a shadow box that her father made for him.

Clarence was presented the medal, established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, by Olivier Serol Almeras, the consul general of France. As part of the award, Clarence was also named a chevalier, or knight, of France.

SPRING COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Saturday, April 18th
9 a.m. to Noon

Findlay and North Fayette townships are joining together once again to organize a community clean-up day.

Come out and donate a few short hours to help make our community a place of which we can be proud.

We encourage any youth groups or high school students to come out and accumulate some community service hours.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Darlene at the township office.

Oakdale Borough will also be having a cleanup that day.

If you are interested in volunteering, call Kelly at 724-693-9740.

Bags, gloves and vests will be provided.

If possible, volunteers need to provide their own transportation to and from their clean-up site.

Meet at Findlay Township Activity Center, 310 Main Street, Imperial, LOWER LEVEL

COMMUNITY TIRE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Saturday, April 25th
9 a.m. to Noon

Do you need to get rid of some old tires?

Well, here is your chance.

The Independence Conservancy, in conjunction with Findlay Township, will be hold its annual tire collection April 25.

Last year's effort collected over 800 tires from residents and non-residents.

This non-profit foundation has been restoring and protecting our local land and water since 1999.

All of the tires are sheared, and rims are hauled away for recycling.

Donations for tire disposal:

\$2 per passenger car or light truck tire - rim size: 12", 13", 14", 15", 16", 16.5" & 17"

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\$20 per tractor trailer - 19" to 22," no rims

\$20 per farm tractor rear tire, no rims

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Saturday, June 6th
10 a.m. to Noon

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NO BUSINESS DOCUMENTS WILL BE TAKEN.

Findlay Township Municipal Building Parking Lot
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See other Findlay Community Events on page 50

Local funeral director named president of countywide professional organization

In January, local funeral director Patrick Konieczny was installed as president of the Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association. A 20-year member of its board, the one-year term marks his first as its president.



Konieczny owns and operates Thomas-Little Funeral Services, which has locations in Imperial, Oakdale, Midway and McDonald. He took over the business 10 years ago from William Slater II after serving as the business' manager for a decade.

According to a press release, the ACFDA is the largest countywide funeral directors' association in the state, and boasts more members than some similar statewide organizations. It provides referral services, grief seminars, member services, and information to consumers. The organization also helps to fund The Highmark Caring Place location in downtown Pittsburgh, which opened in 1997. According to its website, the center provides free programming to grieving adolescents and children, as well their families.

Konieczny says that the ACFDA advocates on behalf of both funeral directors and the general public. For example, he points out that the organization pushed to mandate that 100 percent of upfront funds be placed into irrevocable prearrangement trusts, thereby assuring families that funds will be available when the time arises.

The organization is just one of several that Konieczny supports. At the local level, he is a member of the West Allegheny Foundation, the McDonald Lions Club, the Oakdale F&AM Lodge #669 and the American Board of Funeral Service Education. He is a former member of the West Allegheny School Board and serves as superintendent of the Oakdale Cemetery Association. He is also a board member of the Southwest Funeral Directors Association in Washington County. He and his wife, Kristen, live in McDonald, North Fayette Township, with their daughters Mya and Allie. The family also operates M.A.'s Ice Cream Shop in downtown McDonald.

Konieczny is a graduate of Thiel College and the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science.

West Allegheny student among those recognized by DAR

The Jacob Ferree Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution held their annual American History Awards Tea at the Montour Heights Country Club on March 7.

Each year at the event, the DAR recognizes a select number of students throughout the region who have been chosen by their schools for their work in a number of categories. Those include essays, poems, short stories, creative expression and community service. Students also are chosen based on their GPA, participation in activities and community service. Among the winners chosen this year is West Allegheny High School senior Rachel Lawrence.

Lawrence and others recognized at the luncheon will compete at the DAR state level, and state winners will move on to a national competition.

Each exemplifies leadership, patriotism, service and dependability.

West Allegheny High School senior Rachel Lawrence (right) represented her school March 7 by receiving a DAR Good Citizens Award at the organization's annual American History Awards Tea. Also receiving the award were Austin Jepsy of Moon High School and Alexandra Pope of Montour High School.



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Late author's book, "A Special Delivery," reminisces about Imperial's days gone by

Imperial during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s was a coal mining town, where trains chugged along the Montour Trail and farms stood in place of housing developments. It was named after the Imperial Coal Company that planted its roots there.

For some, those days bring back fond memories of hard work and simple pleasures, among them Toby Cunningham, who completed his first book about the area in December of 2011. Cunningham's father, Harry, owned a lumberyard off Main Street alongside the Montour Railroad. Though he spent much of his life in Erie, in his later years Toby spent time returning to his hometown to record his memories.

Five months after publishing his first book about Imperial, "Twice Lived Life: A Mid Twentieth Century Childhood," Toby passed away at the age of 77. By that time, he had already been fully engaged in a second manuscript. That book, "A Special Delivery: Mid-Twentieth Century Memories," was not lost in archival files. It was recently published by John Edwards of Cambridge Springs Press, thanks to the efforts of Cunningham's children, Elisa Burden and John.

In the new book, Toby picks up where he left off with his first memoir, this time blending his childhood and adolescent years with his later ones as he reflects on the stages of his life. The rhythm of Toby's words and descriptions skillfully weaves memories from his earlier years with those of his later ones. Pieces of chapters drift in and out of past and present in an artistic blend that brings the reader into his mindset, his impressions, his values and his regrets.

The cadence of Toby's words as "spoken" by the book's characters, with the small-town doses of slang and Pittsburghese, gives personality and life to each individual playing a part in Toby's book. Throughout, he touches on the impact of World War II, and recalls times when young ones would sit on the knee of a family member and listen to stories of times gone by. Toby gently reminds the reader that war strengthened families, and that despite the hard physical labor that rang constant during that time, life was simple yet fulfilling.

Many who still live in the area, as well as their families, will smile fondly at Toby's references of such community figures as 600-pound plus Nookie and his greasy-spoon restaurant, or George Allison, with his commander-like approach to physical fitness at the old Findlay Junior High School. Toby also writes about Dr. A.D. Wilson and his wife, Peg. The couple would show up to shout support for the school's sports teams with the rest of the folks.

Through Toby's eyes, one reads about history as he saw it happen. He recalls the local sentiment as World War II began, how the Montour Creek ran orange with remnants of coal mining, and how rival schools Findlay and North Fayette merged, along with Oakdale, to form the West Allegheny School System in 1949. He recalls the many houses of different shapes and sizes in areas dubbed "Big Bug Hill" and "The Patch," which pointed toward the western part of Imperial, and Slabtown. The references provide a glimpse into the lifestyles of the farmers and miners who made their homes there. Some locals found jobs at "The Show," or Imperial Theater, or at Al Chernik's bowling alley and pool hall at the intersection of Route 30 and Santiago Road. He also mentions DiBella's confectionery store, the town's drugstore, and a slew of storefronts and grocers on Main Street.

At that time, Imperial's Main Street was a true thoroughfare, with the only sidewalk in town. It's where the post office and the Imperial Bank stood, and people could do most of their business there.

A college professor who taught biology for 36 years, Toby waxes fondly about his dogs and ruminates on young love during his adolescent years. In between those stories, Toby recalls his early adult years, as he married his childhood sweetheart, Louise, lost her to cancer, and married Jean. Toby also writes about his time as a young college student, when he went out west for a number of years on initiatives to study facets of science.

Toby writes about his shortcomings as well. He was an avid sports lover, but not an athlete. He loved cars, but never really learned about their inner workings. His clowning around during school days impacted on his grades, and he scrambled to make them up in the end.

Toby mentions many local names throughout with doses of laughter, sadness and fun. He recalls attending the 50th reunion of the West Allegheny Class of 1951, held at Club 22, which later became Celebrations. He quips about classmates such as Tom and Betsy Ergen, Huck Gamble, R. Kennedy Davis and his wife, Doris, as well as Bob McFarland.

In another chapter, Toby recollects about the town doctor, Dr. W.S. Broadhurst, who was also his maternal grandfather. These reminiscences are vivid and heart-warming. He tells the story of how his grandfather died of heart trouble, and reflects on what his grandfather meant to him. He writes about annual visits to Valley Cemetery, where many of his family members are laid to rest. Toby would visit every Memorial Day before the annual services to clean off family graves and plant flowers, stopping at other graves to remember people who were part of his past.

He also recalls attending Valley Presbyterian Church as a child. He sang in the choir, as was expected of a young boy, and involved himself in a Boy Scout troop that met in the church hall.

Toby's family lived on Elm Street, and he speaks fondly of family members such as Lou Drugmand, one of the town's dentists, and Lou's brother, Sonny, who Toby admired.

Later chapters of the 250-page book bring Toby back to Imperial several times to get updates on the place he once called home, or to contact people from his past. He notes changes in the town he once knew, and how its complexion became so different from what he remembered in his youth. He reminisces about simpler times gone by while taking a stroll along the Montour Trail, then reflects on the richness of the landscape, the birds, and the animals that take him back to his past.

In a forward, both Elisa and John offer a fine tribute to their father. Toby's memoirs will be treasured not only by his children and grandchildren, but by those who knew him, knew Imperial from earlier times, or know those he fondly remembers and writes about in his book.

Copies of "A Special Delivery" can be ordered directly from Toby's daughter, Elisa Burden, for \$15 apiece plus \$5 shipping. Combined shipping available for up to five books. Order by phone or email: (321) 917-5038, elcburden@gmail.com.

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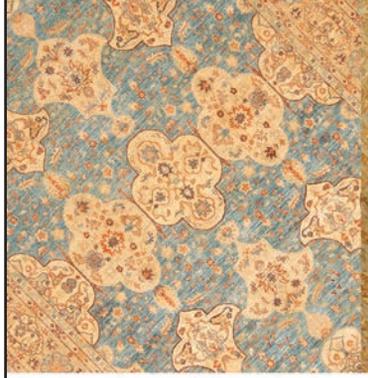



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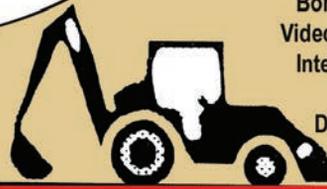
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Pittsburgh Technical Institute FAM Trips take PTI students to tourism hotspots

There's only so much a student can learn in a classroom. While that may be true for most disciplines, it's particularly so for students studying to work in tourism and hospitality-related industries. One day, their entire livelihoods will evolve around advising people on how to have fun, or helping companies plan out-of-town travel and meetings.

With that in mind, two Pittsburgh Technical Institute instructors set out 13 years ago to break down walls and broaden horizons by taking School of Hospitality students to unfamiliar tourist hotspots. Late last year, those instructors, Mark Bellemare and Mev Spain, completed their 14th consecutive year of taking students on a FAM trip, or familiarization trip. Instructor Steven Poindexter and student activities director Melissa Gnoth also accompanied students on this year's FAM trip, which traveled to San Antonio, Texas. There, students immersed themselves in the Tex Mex culture by visiting a rodeo, observing the Dia de los Muertos festival, eating at Riverwalk restaurants like Zocca Cuisine D'Italia, and shopping in downtown's La Villita Historic Arts Village.

"The familiarization they get helps them understand the product that much better," says Bellemare, PTI team leader, hospitality and business. "If I've been there, I can tell someone else what do to and where to eat. Students get that opportunity to immerse themselves and eat where the locals eat."

He jokes that they tell students if they catch them at an Applebee's, they're going home.

Early in the school year, students take the lead on selecting a destination and designing their own itineraries. Once on location, they have to navigate on their own.

"It's a great confidence builder," says Spain. "Students have

to work out bus routes, trolleys and water taxis to get from one point to another."

In the past, FAM trips visited San Diego, San Francisco, Atlanta and Charleston. During trips to Orlando, students have gone behind the scenes with Disney and Universal Studios staff. Internships that arise from those experiences can be extremely valuable, says Bellemare, particularly at a place like Disney. On a recent trip to San Antonio, students met Westin Hotel executives, and at least one internship has so far resulted.

Upon returning from a FAM trip, students set up booths dedicated to attractions they encountered and present a trade show to PTI instructors and the public.

"It's a three-point project," says Linda Allan, PTI public relations director. "There's building the trip, having the experience, and then putting on the trade show. It really is a very



ABOVE: PTI hospitality students Julianna Kerns, Lexi Fabbozzi and Timothy Oldweilder at the FAM trip trade show. Students coordinated all meeting and event planning aspects, from room design and signage to menu planning and guest relations.

BELOW LEFT: PTI hospitality students Shalaysia Ferguson and Janiyah Daniels present their Tex Mex Culture trade show booth. PHOTOS SUBMITTED.

large experience that develops a number of different skill sets."

Spain says that the most rewarding part in some ways comes at the end, when students sell their experiences to others.

"The best compliment is when someone says during the show that they want to go there," says Spain.

PTI's show will remain on display at The Mall at Robinson through April 30. Visit it to learn about the top five destinations chosen by PTI hospitality students in San Antonio.



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BY EIGHTH GRADE INSTRUCTOR ALAN BETTEN

Holy Trinity Catholic School Congressman Murphy visits Holy Trinity



Rep. Tim Murphy visited Holy Trinity Catholic School in Robinson Township on March 10. There, he read House Resolution 35, "Supporting the Contributions of Catholic Schools," to students, faculty and Ken Keene, the school's pastor.

House Resolution 35 officially designates the week of January 25-31, 2015 as Catholic Schools Week in Pennsylvania. The resolution recognizes Catholic schools for saving the state and local taxpayers more than \$2 billion, educating approximately 152,000 students each year, and recording a dropout rate of less than three percent, along with a postgraduate higher education rate of 90 percent.

During his address, Murphy mentioned his own Catholic upbringing, including graduating from Walsh Jesuit High School in Ohio. Murphy earned his Bachelor of Science from Wheeling Jesuit University. He belongs to St. Thomas More parish in Bethel Park and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. Murphy also supports House resolutions for Catholic schools and is an advocate for "school choice," or allowing taxpayer dollars to follow students whose families choose for them to pursue an education in a private or alternative setting.

The congressman took time afterward to talk with students, shake hands and encourage them to keep up their good work.

Students compete in national science bowl

The U.S Department of Energy's National Science Bowl is a nationwide academic competition testing students' knowledge in all areas of science and mathematics. Middle school student teams are comprised of four students and a teacher, who serves as an advisor and coach. Teams face off in a fast paced question and answer quiz format. Students are tested on a range of science disciplines, including biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy and math.

On Feb. 28, Holy Trinity School sent a team to compete in the Southwestern PA National Science Bowl at the Community College of Allegheny County South Campus. Coached by teacher Alan Betten, and advised by teacher Mary Rudock, a team made up of Rebecca Voss, Alex Martin-Rudock, Maggie Dulac and Abby Sitarik worked together to answer challenging science and math questions. As a result of their participation in the National Science Bowl, the Holy Trinity team received t-shirts, certificates and seven computers for the school.

Students Abby Sitarik, Rebecca Voss, Alex Martin-Rudock and Maggie Dulac represented Holy Trinity at the Southwestern PA Science Bowl on Feb. 28. PHOTO SUBMITTED



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For more information about bunions and their treatment, visit the American Podiatric Medical Association Web site at: www.apma.org.

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PITTSBURGH BOTANIC GARDEN

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden now open!

Spring is finally here, and with it comes the reopening of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, a glorious example of how reclaimed mining land can become a natural haven.

This will be the garden's first full season in operation, following the official opening last summer. The garden will be open year round. Current hours are 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Thursdays, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. the rest of the week. The garden is located at 799 Pinkerton Run Road in North Fayette (mailing address is Oakdale). Admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors/students, \$6 for children ages 3-18, and no charge for those under 3. Memberships are also available, and include reciprocal admission at member botanic gardens nationwide.

The garden's office staff moved into a farm house across from the Bayer Welcome Center as the fall season ended, bringing the project full circle.

There is a lot to see and do at the garden. Thus far, 60 of its 460 acres are complete. Three miles of hiking trails are open to the public, of which one mile is handicap accessible. Adjacent to the parking lot and farmhouse, the latter of which houses the admissions area, sits a refurbished portion of an 18th century homestead. A sheep shed constructed last year by West Allegheny student Daniel Shemon for his Boy Scout Eagle project will house several sheep. In addition to keeping the apple orchard grass trimmed, visitors can pet them. A chicken coop has been established within the fenced area, complete with chickens of different varieties.

After visiting the homestead area, visitors can cross over to the Bayer Welcome Center, which is housed in an 1870s barn that was refurbished last year. The center is surrounded by thousands of perennial flower bulbs, including a huge splash of daffodils and the Peirce Celebration Garden. The barn houses a children's classroom and the Ada and George Davidson Event and Culinary Center, consisting of a culinary kitchen, 130-seat event center, and outdoor patio for celebrations and meetings. A wedding is scheduled there for this spring, with others to follow throughout the year.

Besides the bulbs in bloom, the garden's pond - bordered by irises and lilies - is also alive with fish that were added last October. Staff and volunteers have planted more than 18,000 bulbs, and more than 5,000 shrubs, trees and other perennials.

The garden's staff has been hard at work over the winter months planning a variety of activities. A sold-out REI Run 5K/10K Race in the garden will take place April 12 and the garden's annual plant sale is May 16. Plant orders for pickup need to be placed by April 15.

Visit the website for details.

This season there will be tours of the general grounds and specialty tours on birds and wildflowers. Children's activities will be offered, and a garden-to-table event is scheduled for September. For more information, call (412) 444-4464, or visit www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org.



Do You Know Who Your Beneficiaries Are? Why you should periodically review beneficiary designations.



Your choices may need to change with the times. When did you open your first IRA? When did you buy your life insurance policy? Are you still living in the same home and working at the same job as you did back then? Have your priorities changed a bit – perhaps more than a bit?

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. You can learn more about him and his company by visiting www.milestonesfinancialgroup.net

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Library News

DINE OUT TO DONATE AT MAD MEX.

Dine out and donate to the library

Looking for a fun and easy way to help the library while enjoying a night out? Look no further! Join the WACL for a delicious dinner at Mad Mex in Robinson on **April 28**. Guests will enjoy a buffet-style dinner of sizzling fajitas, appetizers and dessert, with choice of a 16-ounce Dos Equis or house margarita. Mad Mex is generously donating the entire meal, and 100 percent of the proceeds will help fund WACL programs serving the community. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Reserve online at www.westernalleghenylibrary.org, by stopping by the library, or calling (724) 695-8150.

WACL hosting Share Your History Days

Have any old photos of the local community or historical articles? Bring them to the library on Share Your History Days to scan and share. Stories and photos will become part of the library's permanent collection.

The library would like to establish a permanent display showcasing the local history of Findlay, North Fayette and Oakdale. Anyone who would like their stories and photos to be a part of the collection can bring pictures and memorabilia to the library on **April 18 or 19 from 2-4 p.m.** The library will scan items and return them. Anyone unable to attend the scheduled session can call the library and set up a private appointment. Learn more on the library's website at www.westernalleghenylibrary.org.

National Library Week

The WACL will be celebrating National Library Week **April 12-18**. This year's theme is "Unlimited Possibilities @ Your Library." The WACL will have prizes, raffles, giveaways and games all week. For a new program this year, Food for Fines, the WACL will be accepting canned goods for the West Allegheny Food Pantry in lieu of library fines. During that week only, .50¢ will be waived per non-perishable item, up to \$5.

Children's Programs

Baby Storytime & Playgroup, Wednesdays in April, 9:30 a.m.

Twenty-minute storytime introduces children ages birth through 24 months to books and reading with engaging stories, songs and activities. Half hour of baby playgroup to follow.

Toddler Storytime & Playgroup, Wednesdays in April, 10:30 a.m.

Share stories, songs, and rhymes, for children ages 18 months to 3 with caregivers. Toys will be out after storytime for open play.

PJ Storytime, Mondays in April, 6:30 p.m. Wear pajamas to this nighttime storytime! Share stories, songs and make a craft. For children up to third grade.

Pre-K Art & Science, April 13 and 27, 11 a.m., registration required.

Paws for Reading (grades K-3), April 18 and May 16, 2-3 p.m.

Come to the library and read with a registered therapy dog from Therapy Dogs International. Register for a 15-minute slot.

Lego Club, Wednesdays in April, 4 p.m. Come create with Legos at the library. There will be building challenges and free play. Please do not bring Legos from home.

Crazy 8's Club, April 13 and 20, 4:15 p.m. (grades K-2). A new kind of math club that includes building, running and jumping, making music and making a mess! Includes bouncy dice explosion, glow in the dark geometry, toilet paper Olympics, and more!

Chess Club, second and fourth Wednesdays, 6 p.m.

Fans of Fantasy Book Club, grades 4-7, April 23, 6 p.m.

Family Movie Night, "Paddington" (PG), April 29, 6 p.m.

Teen Programs

Teen Open Mic Night, April 17, 7-9 p.m. Join for a relaxed open performance hour for teens to share expressive art forms such as comedy skits, monologues, short stories, poetry readings, musical performances, dance routines, magic shows or anything else.

Teen Game Night, grades 6-12, April 16, 6 p.m.

Teen Murder Mystery Late Night, grades 6-12, May 1, 5-10 p.m.

Adult Programs

The Cookbook Club, first Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Stop at the circulation desk to pick up the cookbook of the month. Register and come hungry!

Coupon Exchange, third Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Grab coupons (even those that have expired) and come to the library to clip, swap and sort. Get tips and information.

YA @ Heart, third Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Young adult literature isn't just for teens anymore. Share in this new book club for adults only. Pick a book and watch part of the movie version.

Anime/Manga Club, fourth Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Lovers of Anime and Manga gather together to explore these formats, watching and discussing everything from the art form, cultural context, mythology, history and pop culture. Adults and older teens welcome.

Yarnies, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. All skill levels welcome for conversation while working on projects. Hooks, needles and yarn provided for those wishing to learn a new skill.

WAFEL meetings, first Mondays, 7 p.m. Join the Western Area Friends to Enhance the Library and play an active role by helping to plan and implement fundraising activities.

WAFEL Book Sale, May 14-16, during regular library hours.

The Bookworms, second Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Vendor and Craft Sale, April 15, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Share Your History Days, April 18-19, 2-4 p.m.

Free eStuff Free-for-ALL, April 18, 1 p.m.

Conquering Paper Clutter, April 21, 6:30 p.m., \$5.

Healthy Happy Hour, April 27, 6:30 p.m.

Wells Fargo Advisors: Planning for the Future, April 28, 10 a.m.-noon and 6-8 p.m.

For more, visit www.westernalleghenylibrary.org

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West Allegheny Hall of Fame announces

Class of 2015

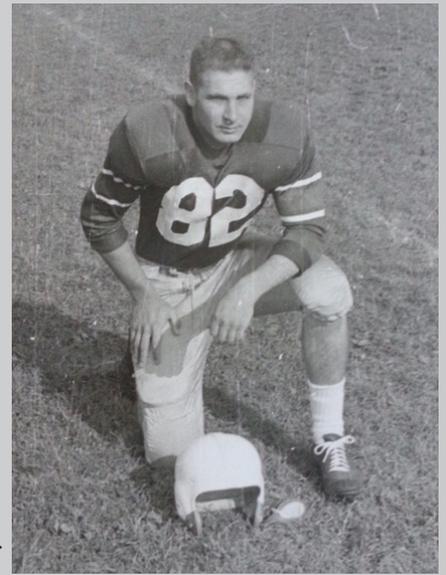
The

West Allegheny Hall of Fame Board of Directors has announced its inductees for the class of 2015. Inductees will be honored at the fourth annual hall of fame induction ceremony May 16 at The Cornerstone at Tonidale. Registration and a social hour will begin at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m. The \$40/person ticket price helps financially support the PALS Program, a North Fayette Township-sponsored organization providing recreational opportunities for special needs children. For tickets, call (724) 693-3118, or email North Fayette Parks and Recreation director Darlene Hildebrand at dhildebrand@north-fayette.com.

The following inductees were chosen based on their achievements at the secondary, post-secondary, and professional levels. All inductees are nominated via written letters from the public. Inductees must have at least two letters of recommendation. To nominate an individual, download a nomination form at www.awmagazine.com.

Robert McFarland, Sr. - Athlete

Bob McFarland was nominated for his athletic accomplishments in the sports of football, basketball and baseball at the high and college levels. As an athlete in 1950s, first at Oakdale High School and later as part of the newly formed West Allegheny Joint School District, he lettered in all three sports. In addition, McFarland earned a tryout with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

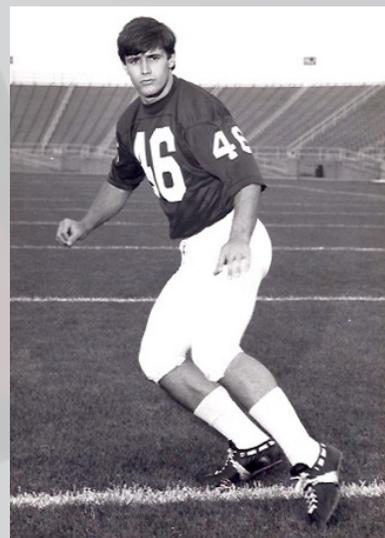


During his college athletic career at Indiana State Teacher's College, McFarland was a four-year letterman in football and a two-year letterman in baseball. He was named to the All-State Teachers College team and the all-state first team. Even more significantly, he was selected to the Little All-American Football team.

In 1954 he joined the Army, and while stationed in Germany joined an organized military football league. He found himself playing against a high level of talent, including players from some top U.S. college teams, but still managed to earn a spot on the all-world team. He also had a memorable career playing sandlot baseball in both the Robinson Federation league and the National Amateur Baseball Federation tournament.

When asked about memories from his storied athletic career, McFarland says the one that stands out is being cut from the football team when he was a high school freshman. As McFarland explains the experience, the Oakdale student body in 1948 went "on strike" in order to force the school board to fund a football team. McFarland tried out for the resultant team, only to be cut and have the coach make him a water boy. Devastated by the experience, he promised himself that he would never again be cut from a team. Though woefully undersized, he made the varsity squad as a sophomore.

McFarland and his wife are retired and live in South Carolina.



Though age restricts him from being actively involved in sports he loves, golf has become one of his favored pastimes.

Gary Hager - Athlete

Gary Hager was an outstanding athlete at West Allegheny and Penn State University. During his high school athletic career, Hager was a four-year starter on the baseball team, a two-year starter on the football

team, and a two-year player on the basketball team. He earned WPIAL recognition in baseball, as well as all-WPIAL honors and all-state recognition in football.

During his Penn State career, Hager played inside linebacker as a sophomore in the Cotton Bowl. He also played in the Sugar Bowl as a junior. His senior season, Penn State defeated LSU in the Orange Bowl to finish their season undefeated. Hager was also a catcher and designated hitter on the Penn State baseball team, until he stopped playing to focus on playing football.

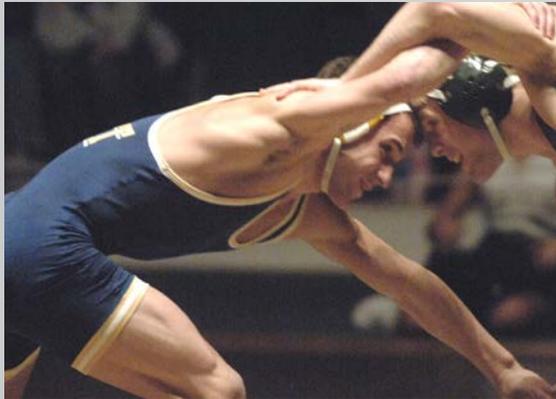
One of his fondest memories is returning a fumble 80 yards for a touchdown as time expired against a “cocky” University of Pittsburgh squad during his freshman season. Another was hitting a home run in his last at-bat as a college baseball player.

Although Hager has a hard time talking about himself, he believes that his high school coach Bob McFarland was the best he ever had, despite playing under Joe Paterno and Don Schula. He believes that his high school teams consisted of close groups of players who were always highly prepared for every game, and he gives full credit to McFarland.

Hager recently retired and lives with his wife in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he still participates in numerous sports activities including golf and bowling.

Ron Tarquinio - Athlete

Ron Tarquinio may be considered one of the finest wrestlers to ever come out of West Allegheny and the University of Pittsburgh.



During his high school career, Tarquinio recorded 150 wins and only 19 defeats. As a result, he was a WPIAL champion, a two-time PIAA medal winner, a four-time state qualifier, and a four-time cadet all-American in freestyle and Greco-Roman. He was also the 2001 junior national freestyle champion and a three-time section champion. Upon graduation from high school, Tarquinio received a full athletic scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh.

During his four years at Pitt, Tarquinio recorded 120 wins. He was a four-time NCAA qualifier, a three-time University Freestyle All-American, a 2004 EWL conference champion, an Eastern Wrestling League champion, and a bronze medal winner for Team USA in the 2005 Pan-American Games.

As Ron reflects back on his high school and college career, he gives credit to his various wrestling coaches. He also credits West Allegheny School District for giving him what he believes was an excellent academic background that helped him succeed in the classroom and allowed him time to focus on his demanding athletic career. Most importantly, Ron gives full credit to his parents for instilling in him the belief that he could achieve anything he wished through hard work and determination.

Tarquinio and his wife of four years live in Oakdale, and he

is presently a teacher and wrestling coach in the Trinity School District.

Ben Herbert - Athlete

Ben Herbert's athletic achievements began at West Allegheny, continued through college at the University of Wisconsin, and have presently landed him as an elite head strength and conditioning coach at the University of Arkansas.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAZORBACKS COMMUNICATIONS

In high school, Herbert was a captain of West Allegheny's first WPIAL-winning football team in 1997. He was selected to the All-Parkway Conference first team, all-state first team, was a member of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Fabulous 22, and a participant in the Pennsylvania Big 33 Classic in 1998.

After graduating high school, Herbert received a full athletic scholarship to the University of Wisconsin, where he became a four-year letterman and two-year defensive line starter. He holds the Wisconsin bowl record for most tackles for loss and sacks yardage. He tied the school's bowl record for sacks after he collected 2.0 sacks for 20 yards lost in the 2000 Rose Bowl victory over Stanford University.

Upon graduation, Herbert became Wisconsin's strength and conditioning intern, assistant coach, and eventually head strength and conditioning coach. While there, he helped develop 41 NFL draft picks, including six first round picks, two Heisman Trophy finalists, five national award winners, 28 all-Americans and 48 first team all-Big Ten selections. His football teams have participated in 14 major bowl appearances, including five Rose Bowls, and collected five Big Ten championship titles.

Since 2013, Herbert has been the head strength and conditioning coach at the University of Arkansas. In his present position, Herbert has helped develop eight NFL draft picks, one all-American and three all-SEC first team selections. As a result of his accomplishments, Herbert recently became the youngest member of the elite fraternity of Master Strength and Conditioning Coaches in the U.S. The MSCC title is the highest honor that can be achieved by a strength and conditioning professional.

When asked how he has achieved such success, Herbert points back to the end of his freshman year in high school, when he needed to retake algebra during summer school. As a result, he could not participate in summer workouts being conducted by newly hired head football coach Bob Palko. Herbert considered quitting football, but Palko took time to work with him individually at a later time each day. Herbert says that during those workouts, Palko challenged him repeatedly to be the best that he could be in the classroom, on the football field and in his life. Herbert characterizes that time with Palko as a turning point in his life.

Herbert currently lives with his wife, Kelly, and two sons, Charlie and Thomas, in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

William Glas - Athlete



William Glas is pictured, at right, with his swim coach, Jeff Marshall, after the West Allegheny swim team won its section in 1979.

William Glas recorded outstanding swimming records both in high school and college. At West Allegheny, Glas was considered to be a top swimmer in the WPIAL from his sophomore through his senior years, in both the 50 freestyle and the 100 backstroke. By the time he graduated, he had been team captain, a four-time WPIAL qualifier, a three-time PIAA qualifier, and set school records in the 50 freestyle, 100

backstroke, 200-medley relay and 400-free relay. While setting those records, Glas competed against swimmers from the largest to the smallest schools in local, regional and state competitions.

When asked about his most memorable moments during his high school career, Glas recalls that West Allegheny swimmers and coaches were still in the process of building the program. His sophomore, junior and senior seasons, he was the only swimmer on the team to qualify to compete in PIAA competition, and thus traveled with his coach, Jeff Marshall, to events. To this day, he is still a fan of Steely Dan, because that was all that Marshall would play on the radio of his blue Volkswagon Rabbit as they traveled to state swim meets.

After graduation, Glas continued his outstanding swimming career at Allegheny College, where he was a three-time all-American and set school records in two individual events and two relays.

When asked about being inducted into the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame, Glas says that it is an honor. Not only is it a first for him, but also for the swimming program, since he is the first swimmer to be inducted into the hall of fame.

Glas is married with three children and lives in Sewickley. He continues his love of swimming by serving as a WPIAL and college-level swimming official. He has done so for the past 25 years. In addition, he serves as a member on numerous business and church boards.



Dr. Kevin Coates - Athlete

Dr. Kevin Coates was an outstanding football player and wrestler during his high school and college years. While a student at West Allegheny, he was a two-time Three Rivers Football Conference all-star and a football all-state third team selection his senior year. As a high school wrestler, Kevin's career included 97 wins and 27 defeats. He was a 1993 third place WPIAL

qualifier, and the 1994 WPIAL champion. He was also a PIAA runner-up and the designed hitter on the 1994 WPIAL-winning baseball team, which finished second in the state.

After high school, Coates attended Duquesne University, where he was a member of both the football and wrestling teams. He was a two-year starter at outside linebacker and twice helped his team secure a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship. In addition, Coates was a member of the wrestling team for two years. Most importantly, he was named to the GTE All-Academic Team before graduating from Duquesne University.

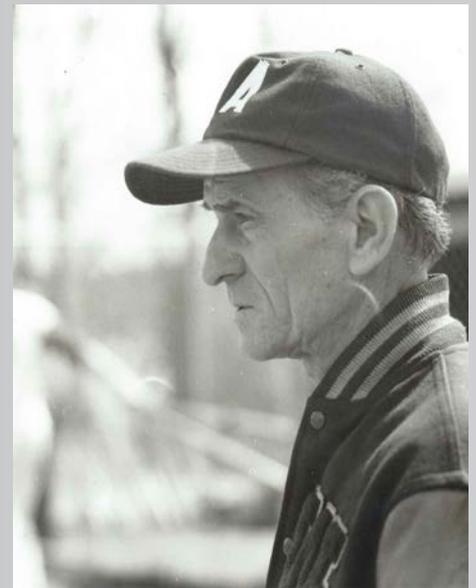
When asked about significant individuals who impacted him, Coates says without hesitation his parents, who taught him the importance of developing a strong work ethic. He says they also demonstrated their own commitment to him by attending every one of his events, even though his father worked multiple work shifts to support the family.

Coates also credits his high school German teacher, Catherine Zanella, for helping him to realize at an influential time in his high school career that his obvious high intelligence would be wasted if he did not apply his talent to the best of his abilities. His tremendous achievements both in athletics and his academic pursuits make apparent just how much Coates' parents and "Frau" Zanella helped him to reach his full potential.

Coates is married with three children and is an orthopedic surgeon living in Memphis, Tennessee.

Alex Kramer - Coach

Alex Kramer is remembered as one of the most respected and beloved educators to have coached at West Allegheny. Kramer was a highly successful coach in multiple sports from 1935 to 1976, at a time when the community could not financially support many organized sports programs.



Kramer was born and raised in Sturgeon. His father was a coal miner and the young Kramer saw sports as a means to escape a life of working in the mines. Fortunately, as a senior in 1930, Kramer won a state track championship and a Villanova University track coach witnessed his performance. Kramer received a scholarship to attend Villanova, where he became a track star, competing against the likes of eventual four-time Olympic medalist James "Jesse" Owens and setting school records.

In 1935, Kramer began a 41-year coaching career at West Allegheny. He was the school's first head baseball coach and won three section titles with the team. He held the position for 36 years. He also coached basketball for 20 years, was head football coach for 12 years, assistant football coach for five years, track coach for three years and soccer coach for three years. During that

time, Kramer often bought equipment with his own money and transported teams in his personal car because the school district had limited funds to support athletic programs. In addition, he often practiced and/or ran backward with his teams as he actively coached his athletes.

Kramer is remembered as an individual who helped unite the West Allegheny communities by instilling pride in the school's sports programs. He is often referred to locally as a founding teacher and coach of what would later be called the West Allegheny School District.

Kramer, his wife and six children lived in Noblestown. During his later years, he began an insurance agency in Oakdale that Kramer's two sons still own and operate today.



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Welcome Spring Guide

With spring on the horizon, it's time to start thinking about spring chores and things that need to be done before summer starts. Consider these top ideas from local businesses.

No new spring look is complete without the right hairstyle, and to get that, both men and women need a stylist they can trust. There's no need to go to different places, however. Drop into Pizer's Barbershop on Steubenville Pike, which recently added AJ's Studio under its roof (see their ad on page 29). Owned by Empire Beauty School graduate AJ Hudecki, the new salon offers a full line of styling services to women. Hudecki brings with her 15 years of experience and a passion for what she does. Now, while guys watch sports on the flat screen and get their sides trimmed, girls can get a color treatment and knock-out style just in time for prom and Mother's Day.

Come as a couple or bring the whole family to enjoy this full-service salon combining the charm of the old-school barbershop with a fun, relaxed, youthful atmosphere.

The difference between a backyard and an outdoor living area has everything to do with the landscaping and hardscaping. While landscaping takes care of the upkeep like cutting grass and maintaining mulch, hardscaping can transform a yard into an oasis with paver stones, outdoor lighting, retaining walls and more. Contact someone like Cargan LandSculpting who can do both and will consider all options when planning an outdoor living area for the spring and summer months.

The right windows can not only reduce heating bills, but also reduce cooling costs in the summer, which will become all too

evident soon enough. Roofs, siding and decks also get abused by winter weather, and the services of contractors specializing in exteriors will soon be in high demand. Call a contractor like Richard Felser Company before everyone else does to start tackling home exterior issues.

Yearly maintenance of air conditioning units and furnaces can not only prolong the life of these costly home appliances, but also can increase their efficiency and lower utility bills. A spring maintenance checklist should include items like replacing a furnace filter, recalibrating a thermostat, servicing outdoor coils, flushing a condensate drain and measuring refrigerant levels. Consider calling an expert like Wade Heating and Cooling (see their ad on page 30) to complete this important spring checklist. If replacing an air conditioner, know that Wade is giving away units installed between March 15 and June 15 if the temperature reaches 95 degrees July 4.

Whether a professional or do-it-yourselfer, the way to go when landscaping and hardscaping is to buy in bulk. Don't go running around looking for materials at different garden and hardware stores. Find a one-stop shop like Rock Mulch and More on Route 980 just outside of downtown McDonald (see their ad on page 28). The company offers high quality landscaping materials and aggregates, including limestone, river gravel, slag, sand, topsoil, mulch and compost, as well as paver systems and retaining walls. Not sure how much a job will require? Visit their website and use their online calculator at www.rockmulchandmore.com. They even deliver. Just call them at (724) 796-1558.

After all the spring chores are done, add a finishing touch to the home or wardrobe by stopping by Lincoln Avenue Arts in McDonald. They're celebrating spring from April 30 through May 3, and as always, are offering handmade creations crafted by local artisans. They offer artwork, stained glass, jewelry, clothing, accessories and much more to add a special something for spring. Purchases also support local artists. Their shop is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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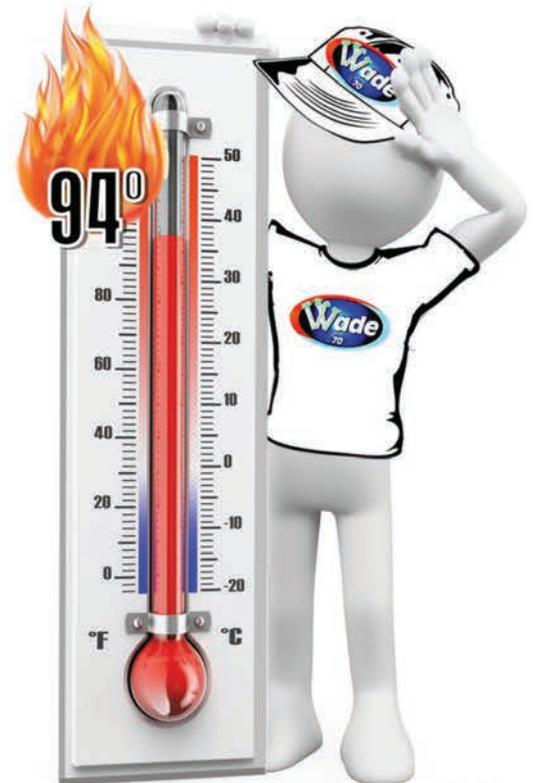
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*Ductless AC or Heat Pump = \$1500 for single zone;
\$500 for each additional zone.*

All refunds will be paid within 60 days of July 4, 2015.



High school students capture 22 Scholastic Art awards



Eighteen high school students received various awards from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. Not pictured are Claire Shemon and Lacey Wilkinson.

Eighteen West Allegheny students in grades nine through 12 won a total of 22 awards from the 2015 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program in the visual art and photography categories. Katie Borgo received a Gold Key and an Honorable Mention. Additional Gold Key recipients included Amber Clemens, Katie DeBiasio, Kaylee Fisher, Alison Mroczkowski and Carolyn Stout. Jordan Ingalls received both a Gold Key and two Honorable Mentions, while Angela Martelli received a Gold Key and one Honorable Mention. Silver Key recipients were Amy Nolte, Kristi Rozum and Lauryn Wertz. Receiving Honorable Mentions were Andrew Denes, Jeremy Ellis, Alex Nicholson, Connor Polosky, Amanda Rubis, Claire Shemon and Lacey Wilkinson.

High school art teachers Mike Short and Leah Shuck, along with video production and digital photography teacher Mike Shaffer, coordinated participation by students in the visual arts, photography, digital art, film, animation and poetry categories. Awardees were recognized at a ceremony February 22 at La Roche College.

Artwork selected for the Gold Key Award is forwarded to a national level of judging. The work of award winners will be displayed in Washington, D.C.



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Acitelli named National Merit finalist

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has named Kiera Acitelli as a finalist in its 60th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. She received a Certificate of Merit and will compete with 15,000 eligible finalists for a select number of 2015 scholarship awards. The National Merit Scholarship Program honors individual students who demonstrate exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

When Acitelli was named a semi-finalist in the fall, she became one of less than one percent of high school seniors nationwide who had scored highest on the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in their respective states. About 1.5 million students from more than 22,000 high schools entered the competition last year.

Keira Acitelli received a Certificate of Merit from the National Merit Scholarship Program, placing her among less than one percent of high school seniors nationwide.



Donaldson Elementary teacher earns National Board Certification

Donaldson Elementary School teacher Jacqui King recently earned National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Earning National Board Certification is demanding, and is designed to advance teaching skills. Advancement is measured using performance-based evaluations. King earned her certification in middle child generalist for middle grade students ages 7 to 12.

King completed the voluntary certification in three years. As part of the process, King compiled four portfolios. One focuses on professional development around instruction and her role as a leader in her building and district, as well as in the region and country. The portfolio also highlights the importance and value of establishing connections with parents and the community.

King's other three portfolios are content-specific and required analyzing student work, planning for specific and individualized instruction to meet the needs of all learners, and making learning accessible. Additionally, lessons needed to be standard-specific and representative of highly effective

instruction. King's content portfolios are titled "Writing: Thinking Through the Process, Integrating Mathematics with Science," and "Building a Community of Learners Through Social Studies." The last two required non-edited video documentation of one lesson with a detailed explanation of the goals and analysis of its effectiveness.

"I learned so much during this journey," said King. "It was necessary to do a lot of research about effective practices across several different disciplines, and through that research, I discovered so many resources and strategies that could actively engage students physically, emotionally and mentally. One of the most profound discoveries for me is that it is about continually trying to improve and grow both as an educator and as a learner myself."

King has served as an elementary teacher at West Allegheny since 1999. For more information about the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and National Board Certification, visit www.nbpts.org.



Jacqui King

Shaffer named Diamond Coach for speech and debate record

High school teacher and head speech and debate coach Mike Shaffer has been named a Diamond Coach by the National Speech and Debate Association. The award recognizes a professional career that combines excellence and longevity. The association provides diamond awards based on coach points received. Coaches receive one-tenth the points earned by their students and one-tenth the points earned as a student member of the association. After a minimum of five years as a National Speech and Debate Association member, a coach who attains 1,500 points is awarded their first Diamond Award. Shaffer will receive special recognition at the National Speech and Debate Tournament in Dallas in June.

Speech and debate team members advance to state and national levels

Members of the speech and debate team have advanced to the national and state levels. Qualifying for Catholic Forensics League Nationals were Cameron Kehm in dramatic interpretation and Morghann Simon in poetry and prose. Kaitlyn Kariman qualified in poetry and prose as an alternate. The national competition will be held in May in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

At the national qualifiers for the National Forensic League, Kehm placed first in dramatic interpretation, qualifying him to compete at nationals in Dallas in June. Janghyen Cho placed sixth in extemporaneous speaking and Taylor Schmac placed sixth in humorous interpretation.

At state qualifiers, the team placed third overall. Individually Kehm took first and Reilly Zimmerman took third in dramatic interpretation. Morghann Simon placed first and Matt Currey placed fifth in prose. Emily Bower placed third and Taylor Schmac placed fourth in humorous interpretation. Janghyen Cho placed fourth in extemporaneous speaking. Catherine Wheatley placed third and Kariman fifth in poetry. The state competition will be held at Susquehanna University.

Kehm is the first West Allegheny student to qualify for national competition to become the champion of the Pittsburgh district. He is also the first West Allegheny student to triple win in qualifiers.

BY THE NUMBERS:

As a team, WA's speech and debate team currently ranks 122nd out of 7,891 in the nation. WA's team ranks second in the state, second in the region, and is first in its district.

Superintendent's Message

As the school year progresses, the administrative team is excited to bring West Allegheny two pivotal programs that support our commitment to promoting early literacy. Both full-day kindergarten and the community Book Bus are moving forward and gearing up for the start of next school year and summer, respectively.

Our proposal to offer full-day kindergarten at all three elementary schools starting in the 2015-2016 school year was unanimously approved at the February 18 school board meeting. The comprehensive plan was the result of a feasibility study conducted by the District administrative team over the past six months. The study addresses fiscal impact, enrollment projections and facility issues related to offering a full-day program. As a result of McKee students not having to relocate to Donaldson during upcoming renovations, the study confirmed that all three elementary schools have adequate classroom space to accommodate up to four classes in every grade level, with Donaldson having excess capacity. The study also showed that across our elementary schools, we have classrooms to accommodate an increase in student enrollment. The fiscal impact of offering full-day kindergarten was offset by early retirements and analysis of scheduling and staffing efficiency using an attrition model.

By offering full-day kindergarten, incoming students will benefit from over 590 additional hours in school focused on developing academic, social and emotional learning, all of which are critical to first grade readiness. With increasing academic expectations, our full-day program will better prepare our youngest learners to achieve important early milestones. One critical milestone for every student is having the ability to read at or above grade level by third grade. Reading by third grade is the most important predictor of future success, including graduation from high school and college, as well as career attainment. Our teachers are looking forward to having additional time and smaller numbers of students better focused on providing support for the development and success of our kindergarten students. For parents who are interested in registering their child for kindergarten, there is a registration link on our District website at www.westasd.org



We have partnered with the Western Allegheny Community Library and Monark Student Transportation Corp. to launch a community Book Bus. We are ecstatic about the partnership and anticipate tremendous benefit to our community as a result. This child-friendly, mobile vehicle will serve as an extended outreach program to foster early literacy and kindergarten readiness. The vision of the Book Bus is to expand access to books and educational resources beyond the walls of our schools and community library, thereby promoting literacy amongst our youngest learners and their families. From birth through kindergarten, young children acquire basic literacy skills through experiences with language and printed materials. Unfortunately, not all children have access to these materials prior to entering kindergarten. The Book Bus and its outreach programs have the capacity to significantly impact the literacy journey for our youngest readers and promote community literacy in general. We are confident the Book Bus will yield educational dividends for years to come as it serves to improve kindergarten readiness.

We have established a steering committee for the Book Bus, which includes myself, assistant to the superintendent for curriculum, Dr. Chris Assessta, retired Wilson principal Dr. Kathleen Sites, board president Debbie Mirich, board member Tracy Pustover, library director Marianne Sforza, library head of youth services Amanda Kirby, library board vice president Pam Perry, and Monark president Mark D. Schmitt. Together, we have been planning the unveiling of the Book Bus since early fall. The committee meets frequently and has plans in place for funding, vehicle design and maintenance, as well as educational programming, community visitation schedules, staffing

and volunteering for the Book Bus.

As committed partners in the Book Bus, each has a critical role in making the vision a success. The District will be providing educational programming and resources that meet pre-kindergarten and kindergarten academic expectations. Educational resources will provide parents with early learning activities. The District will also provide Book Bus volunteers who will guest read, assist in book circulation, and provide outreach services to our youngest learners and their families. This provides us an opportunity to build relationships with families while promoting literacy learning in the community. Central office staff, principals, librarians, teachers, support staff and board members have all expressed interest in being volunteers on the Book Bus. The District will be designating drivers for the Book Bus for specific District activities and events.

In addition to taking ownership of the Book Bus, the library will hire and support an early literacy outreach specialist to facilitate, organize and run the program, including maintaining the neighborhood visitation schedule. The library will build and maintain the Book Bus library collection inclusive of books from birth through late adolescence, conduct all circulation functions, and will be responsible for coordinating the program. The library is also providing volunteers to support the Book Bus as it travels to communities across the District. The library's history of early literacy efforts and its role in providing outreach programs to the West Allegheny community make it a natural choice for this partnership.

Further, Monark made the District's vision of the Book Bus a reality by donating the vehicle. In collaboration with the District and community library, Monark is designing the Book Bus' child-centered and inviting interior and exterior. In addition to the actual bus, Monark is supporting all costs to redesign the bus to make it a state-of-the-art mobile library. Upon completion, the bus will accommodate custom-designed shelving for over 1,500 books, as well as storage and child-friendly reading areas. The professionally designed graphics will provide an appealing and age-appropriate exterior to the Book Bus that will make it easily recognizable as it visits community neighborhoods. An official unveiling is slated for late May. Monark will also provide, at no cost, ongoing maintenance for the Book Bus.

The partnership has already received overwhelming community interest, as well as generous financial and in-kind support from Findlay Township, North Fayette Township, Oakdale Borough, West Allegheny Education Association, West Allegheny Foundation, Kehm Oil Company and Clinton Lights, as well as from the Donaldson, McKee and Wilson Elementary School PTAs.

We are currently working on developing a multi-year funding plan and appreciate any financial support. As such, the partnership welcomes monetary contributions to assist with ongoing operational costs in lieu of book donations. Checks may be made payable to West Allegheny School District, memo Book Bus, and sent to District Administration, P.O. Box 55, Imperial, PA 15126.

Coupled together, full-day kindergarten and the Book Bus have tremendous potential to dramatically impact our goal of improving early literacy and learning for all students. Both are aligned to the District's Priority 1: Academic Rigor, Excellence and Equity for all Students, which we believe is pivotal to achieving our goal of all students reading on or above grade level by third grade. We believe that by working together with parents and families, community members, and committed partners, we can nurture and inspire every West Allegheny student to achieve tremendous success.



Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert,
Superintendent

Greenhouse grant to provide many lessons

The high school has been selected to receive a 2014 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant in the amount of \$4,000 to purchase a greenhouse. The grant was secured through the efforts of biology teacher Amy Schweinsberg, who plans to have the structure erected on the high school campus to allow for year-round learning. The greenhouse will be used to start vegetable plants for the community garden located at Wilson Elementary School. It will be overseen by the Environment Club, although the hope is to incorporate the outdoor classroom into instruction as well.

Middle school family and consumer science classes receive \$500 popcorn grant

The middle school was recently awarded a \$500 grant as part of an honorable mention for its entry in the Popcorn Pep Club Contest, sponsored by the Popcorn Board. Family and consumer science teacher Claire Bertinet coordinated and created a video submission spotlighting her students' creative popcorn recipes.

Funds will be used to purchase new classroom technology. By purchasing a television, Bertinet can present lessons, demonstrate skills and display items.

McKee teacher receives Reflex Educator Grant

McKee math resource teacher Tom Hamm was awarded \$1,625 through the ExploreLearning Reflex Educator Grant program. Hamm will receive professional development to support utilization of the Reflex program for the remainder of this school year and next.

ExploreLearning Reflex is a research-based system that enables students of all abilities in grades two through eight to develop instant, effortless recall of math facts by utilizing differentiation, engagement and data.

Middle school team reclaims Teachers' Cup

This year's Teachers' Cup competition proved to be a demonstration of grit and humor as the District's teachers and staff came together to support the West Allegheny Foundation fundraiser. With over 75 competitors, this year's contest drew the most participants in the event's nine-year history. The event lineup included dodge ball, dress-up relay, hungry hippos and a spirited game of musical plates. Although the competition was close, teachers representing West Allegheny Middle School came out on top and claimed the cup, with teachers representing Wilson taking the spirit award.



The middle school team celebrates winning the Teachers' Cup.



Wilson claimed the Spirit Award at this year's Teachers' Cup.

The night's events were organized by the WA Foundation, which has distributed over \$250,000 in the form of community and teacher grants.

Mr. West Allegheny named at Benefit Pageant



The West Allegheny National Honor Society crowned its newest Mr. WA and Mr. Congeniality on February 10 with a little help from their friends.

The West Allegheny chapter of the National Honor Society sponsored its 13th annual Mr. West Allegheny pageant February 10. Seniors Brandon Lalama, Dylan Lindemuth, Kyle McCracken, Clay Rehm and Brandon Rossi participated, with Lindemuth claiming the Mr. WA title and Rehm winning Mr. Congeniality.

Contestants competed in a number of categories, including casual wear, formal wear and talent. Each answered questions during an interview portion of the pageant. The event raised \$1,555 to benefit the West Allegheny Food Pantry, the charity selected by the winner.

Senior NHS members Jenna Bandi, Alexa Boni, Rachel Buck, Lauren Costa, Jenny Forse, McKenzie Johnsen and Tara Savisky coordinated the event. Teachers Kennan Killeen, Matt Kropf, Ron Neurohr, Bob Palko and Amy Rocchio served as judges. Lauren Barry and Lynn Birnie serve as the NHS faculty sponsors.

Senior project benefits Jameson's Army

As part of her senior project, Taylor Hottenfeller hosted and organized a Sadie Hawkins dance at the high school January 31 that raised \$3,195 for the local charity Jameson's Army.

Jameson's Army is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funding for children and families affected by congenital heart defects in the Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania area. The organization works with Children's Hospital, Children's Institute and the Lemeux Group. Jameson's Army was formed in honor of Jameson McKain, who was born with a heart condition known as hypo plastic left heart syndrome. After six open heart surgeries and a heart transplant, Jameson is now doing well. To learn more about Jameson's Army, visit www.jamesonsarmy.org.

Senior Taylor Hottenfeller presents a check to Jameson and Danielle McKain.



Senior advances to states in SkillsUSA

West Allegheny senior Amanda Markish advanced to the state round of the SkillsUSA competition through Parkway West Career and Technology Center after placing first at the district level. The SkillsUSA Championships is a showcase of the best career and technical students.

Markish holds officer positions in both SkillsUSA and National Technical Honor Society.



WA Café serves up real life skills

Students in the high school Life Skills program are becoming young entrepreneurs as they create and manage a morning WA Café catering to teachers.

To get the project started, students conducted research by compiling and distributing a questionnaire asking teachers if they would be interested in participating. Once interest was determined, students asked teachers for menu suggestions. When school resumed in September, students put their research into action and the café was opened for business.

Every morning during first period, students prep for the opening of the café. They set up their stations and teachers email them their orders. Students are responsible for preparing coffee and breakfast foods needed to complete each order, which is delivered to the teacher. Students are also responsible for the business side of the café. They monitor teacher accounts with spreadsheets and use a cash box for those who pay daily. Once all deliveries are made, students wash and dry dishes, balance each individual account, send out an email to individuals who have a low account balance, put away a money tray and take inventory for the rest of the week.

Under the guidance of teachers Tony Castelluci, Sandy Pittinaro, Marilyn Swaoger and Mary Buhman, the WA Café provides a unique and far-reaching opportunity for Life Skills students to experience realistic, everyday situations.

Lessons learned include money exchange, making change and account balancing, social communication by interacting with teachers, and writing emails and daily work skills.

WA Café participants Carrie MacMillan and Austin Petrocelli prepare and serve breakfast foods to fulfill teacher orders.



Middle school student receives Joan Jarrett Outstanding Middle Level Student Award



Connor Stout (center) won the Joan Jarrett Outstanding Middle Level Student Award. He is pictured here with his nominating middle school teachers.

Seventh-grader Conner Stout recently received the Joan Jarrett Middle Level Student Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education. Stout was one of only six students from across the state to receive the distinction.

Nominated by his teachers, Stout was considered for the award based on his exceptional leadership abilities, good citizenship, and positive contributions to his school and community. In their nomination letter, Stout's teachers wrote of him: "He is one of the most compassionate students we have encountered in our tenure as teachers at West Allegheny Middle School; character of this caliber is rare at his age."

PAMLE will make a \$100 donation to Stout's charity of choice in his name.

Seventh grader named Patriot's Pen Essay winner



Middle school Academic League advances to second round playoffs

After competing in three regular season rounds, a team of 23 middle school students competed against Ingomar Middle School in the first round of the National Academic League playoffs. Despite very tight competition, the West Allegheny team held on to an early lead and won 46-45. Moving on to the second championship round, West Allegheny faced long-time rival Marshall Middle School. Despite falling to Marshall, the students put in a great effort.

Individually, Aaron Silvis finished the season with the highest score in the league and Arielle Moulinie finished with the second highest score. Team captains are Aaron Silvis, Haley Kozel, and Sydni Ellis. Faculty coaches are Jeff Kiser, Marcella Selestow and Jacob Minsinger.

The NAL motivates and recognizes students for their knowledge of topics such as science, English, literature, spelling, fine arts, math, logic, history and current events. First quarter rounds consist of individual competition in which each player gets their own question. Second quarter rounds consist of a team effort, with five players working together on each question. Third quarter rounds include a dramatic presentation on a topic of the day. Fourth quarter rounds are a free-for-all wherein one team races against the other to answer.

Faculty coach Jeff Kiser leads questions during the first round of the National Academic League playoffs against Ingomar Middle School.



Seventh-grader Jamie Sheppard was named the winner of the 2015 Patriot's Pen Essay contest and recognized by VFW Post 7070 in Oakdale for her achievement.

This year's theme was "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans." The contest was open to sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who submitted an essay no longer than 400 words. Entries were judged on theme knowledge, as well as development and clarity of ideas.

VFW Post 7070 Senior Vice Commander Robert Mizwa poses for a photo with seventh-grader Jamie Sheppard, who was recognized for winning the post's Patriot's Pen Essay contest.

New spelling bee winner named



The middle school's five spelling bee finalists were Brandon Raglow, McKenna Howell, Logan Scheider, Keilanni Hernandez-Rivera and Noah Scheider.

This year's annual middle school spelling bee February 4 featured the school's top five spellers battling it out through multiple rounds before a winner emerged. With the correct spelling of the word gyrate, eighth-grade student Logan Scheider claimed victory. Finalists included Keilanni Hernandez-Rivera, McKenna Howell, Brandon Raglow and Noah Scheider.

Following a school-wide written spelling test, the field was narrowed to the top 54 students, who then competed in live elimination rounds. Scheider represented West Allegheny at the Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee at Robert Morris University's Charles L. Sewall Center. Seventh grade English language arts teachers Katie Troup and Anita Berich organized this year's bee. Leda Niccolai served as the spelling bee reader.

Five middle school students advance to regional history bee



Five middle school students will be competing in a regional history bee in April. Students' scores on an exam qualified them for the competition.

Pictured are history bee regional qualifiers Gabe Haines, Connor Stout, Josh Holder, Nick Faulk and Aaron Silvis, with advisor Jeff Kiser.



Silvis qualifies for state geography bee

Eighth-grader Aaron Silvis has qualified as a semifinalist for the National Geographic Society's 2015 Pennsylvania National Geographic State Bee. The bee is the second level in the competition, which is now in its 27th year. Students who win a school-wide bee between fourth and eighth grade students are eligible to compete in the statewide competition.



Aaron Silvis

School champions also take a qualifying test, which they submit to the National Geographic Society. The organization has invited up to 100 top-scoring students in each state, including the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents schools and U.S. territories, to compete in the state bees.

Talent Show spotlights middle school students and staff

Students and staff from the middle school took the stage during the 2015 talent show, which was themed "Celebrating the Past,

Present and Future of Pop Culture." Held January 29 and 30, the show boasted nearly 30 performances ranging from music and dance to poetry reading and a retro teacher act. The show closed with a special performance by the WAMS Rubber Band, a rock group made up of teachers. The event was coordinated by middle school teacher Dana McCaskey and a host of staff and student volunteers.



ABOVE: Joey Clutter takes the stage with his rendition of Solfaggio.



ABOVE: Janelle Amadio and Julia Mitchell dance to Wildlife.

RIGHT: The WAMS Rubber Band rocks to close out the show.



Celebrating Read Across America

The West Allegheny Education Association celebrated Read Across America from March 2-6. Teachers and students across the District participated in the celebration, created by the National Education Association, which emphasizes the importance of reading in the lives of children. A host of Dr. Seuss-themed educational activities were infused throughout the week. Students even enjoyed green eggs and ham and received commemorative items.

Each day, elementary school librarians sponsored the Drop Everything And Read program. School board members, administrators, and other guests also visited classrooms and read to students. In addition, Lynn Huebner presented her "Seuss-like" poems at the District's three elementary schools. Festivities concluded on March 7, with over 300 children participating in a celebration of arts, crafts, face painting, cookies, and Dr. Seuss stories at The Mall at Robinson.



Mariann Bertocchi and Christina Pratt served as WAEA Read Across America co-chairs. The Read Across America celebration was a collaborative effort between the West Allegheny Education Association, the District and the West Allegheny Education Support Professionals Association.

School board president Debbie Mirich joins her granddaughter Emerson during Read Across America Week.



Superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert reads to McKee students.

Donaldson Student Council raises funds for North Fayette K-9 unit

Donaldson Elementary Student Council collected \$1,400 for the North Fayette K-9 fund through a variety of fundraisers. On February 18, Student Council members presented a check to police chief Mark O'Donnell and Cpl. Todd Heufelder when the officers brought the department's canine, Nevo, to visit the school. Teacher Tiffany Mangan serves as the Student Council advisor.



Donaldson Student Council members present a check to North Fayette Police chief Mark O'Donnell and Cpl. Todd Heufelder on February 18 to be used for the department's K-9 unit.

Kindergarten readiness guidelines provided by District

With the introduction of full-day kindergarten at all three elementary schools, the District has compiled kindergarten readiness guidelines to support parents in preparing students for the classroom transition. Details regarding kindergarten readiness, as well as registration and orientation guidelines, may be found on the District's website at www.westasd.org.

Black history explored at Donaldson

Students in Jacqui King's fourth grade class at Donaldson Elementary School learned the importance and meaning behind Black History Month in February by completing biography projects that they presented to their class.

As outlined in the project rubric, students were to research an historic figure who influenced U.S. culture and made a difference for all African Americans. Students used both library and online resources to complete PowerPoint presentations that they shared with their class. Through the presentations, students informed their fellow students about the contribution of an individual, as well as interesting facts about them. The project required students to apply technical skills from previous computer lessons, including transitions, changing the slide background and limiting their number of words/slides.

Through the project, the class learned about 20 important



Francis Wichryk shares his research on Nelson Mandela by making a presentation to his class.

historic figures. Some were current, like President Barack Obama and First Lady Michele Obama. Others included Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela, Matthew Henson, co-discoverer of the North Pole, and Wilma Rudolph, an Olympic champion who overcame polio to win Olympic gold. Students learned about Ruby Bridges, a brave 6-year-old who was the first to attend an all-white school in Alabama. Ruby did so during government-enforced desegregation, nearly 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

Students also learned about Frederick Douglass, who was born a slave but later became an advisor to presidents. In addition, the class watched video clips of great performers

like Louis Armstrong and Ray Charles.

The project required careful reading and analysis of informational text, as well as creativity in developing presentations.

McKee After 3 program returns



McKee students enjoy the school's afterschool program, McKee After 3, which returned this year.

McKee Elementary School welcomed back its McKee After 3 afterschool program this year. A total of 240 students participated in and enjoyed classes that included such favorites as Lego superheroes, ninja training academy, Disney princess theater, crazy "chemworks," robots versus humans, and engineering recycled racers. Class offerings were grade-specific and the program ran through March.

Wilson students attend Snow Ball

Students, parents and teachers at Wilson Elementary School enjoyed a "Frozen"-themed evening at their aptly named Snow Ball. The event, themed around the Disney movie "Frozen," included a Chinese auction, crafts, activities, music, food and even guest appearances from the movie's list of very popular characters.

Wilson students meet some of their favorite characters at the school's Snow Ball event.



Record number of seniors recruited for collegiate sports



Seniors were joined by family members, school officials and coaches February 4 for National Letter of Intent day. A record 17 seniors signed with various schools and will be going on to compete at the post-secondary level.

The West Allegheny Athletic Department hosted its National Letter of Intent/College Commitment Day ceremony February 4. A record 17 senior athletes were awarded scholarships. In football, Armand Dellovade signed to play for Youngstown State University and Chayse Dillon for Duquesne University. Andrew Koester and Sean Orsini signed to play for St. Francis University, while Averi Rose signed to play for California University of Pennsylvania.

In softball, Brooke Bagnell and Marla Kirkpatrick signed to play for Carlow University, and Danna Heh for Edinboro University.

In boys' soccer, Mike Cummings signed to play for California University of Pennsylvania and Collin Wurst for St. Francis University.

In baseball, Tyler Amedure signed to play for Alderson Broaddus University and Colin Claus for Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Tyler Eritz signed with California University of Pennsylvania.

In volleyball, Tara Savisky signed to play for Flagler College.

In track and cross country, Alexis O'Shea signed to run for Temple University.

In wrestling, Nate Hall signed to compete for University of Pittsburgh.

In swimming, Casey Tokarski signed to compete for Edinboro University.

Winter Sports Wrap-up:

The high school witnessed several shifts to its many winter programs this school year. Both the boys and girls varsity basketball teams played under new head coaches. Girls swimming moved to AAA, while girls basketball played in AAAA for the first time ever.

In the extended season, the boys basketball team exited after a 50-44 first round playoff loss to Southmoreland. Reaching the playoffs though marked a significant achievement for first year head coach Dan Marshall.

The girls basketball team meanwhile welcomed seasoned veteran head coach Reggie Wells, Sr. to the program.

Wells immediately left his mark on the program by helping players make significant gains in their overall play and achieve a positive experience for the year.

Both boys and girls swimming and diving were again competitive in their seasons, as the boys took a number of individuals and relays to the WPIAL and PIAA finals, where medals were won.

Wrestling stormed out on the mat and represented extremely well in section play, as well as in tournaments and WPIAL finals. One wrestler moved on to state competition, finishing seventh overall.

The indoor track team sent two runners to championships at Penn State, despite limited competition due to weather.

The bowling team was competitive in its section and witnessed one bowler from the boys team reaching the western finals.

Congratulations to all the school's winter teams for a great season.

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014-15

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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

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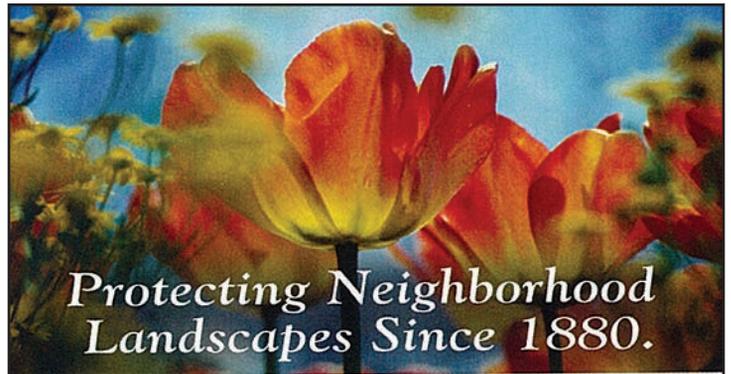
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News from Heritage Valley Health System

Physical rehab services expand in West Allegheny

The warmer temperatures and the longer daylight hours entice many people to venture out of the house and become more physically active. Sometimes, unfortunately, activity can lead to injury and the need for physical rehabilitation. The expanded services and remodeled site at Heritage Valley Rehab can help those in need of physical therapy, in a location that is close to home.

COMMON CONDITIONS TREATED WITH PHYSICAL THERAPY

- Arthritis
- Bursitis
- Chronic or Acute Musculoskeletal Pain
- Foot or Ankle Pain
- Functional Rehabilitation
- Gait Retraining
- Hip Pain
- Knee Pain
- Low Back Pain
- Motor Vehicle Injuries
- Neck Pain
- Osteoporosis
- Post-Operative/Post-Illness Rehab
- Shoulder Pain
- Sports Injuries
- Strains/Sprains
- Tendonitis
- Work Injuries

Heritage Valley Rehab, located in the building in front of the Penn Lincoln Center in Imperial for more than 10 years, moved into the main strip of the center in late 2014. The move resulted in a 2,000 square-foot increase in overall space, effectively doubling the treatment area. Additionally, the site now offers a larger gym with cardio and gym equipment available for the rehabilitation.

“The expansion truly benefits the patients we see in the West Allegheny area,” said Eric Ringer, director of rehabilitation services at Heritage Valley Health System. “Beyond the space, perhaps our best asset is the highly qualified staff we have at West Allegheny. They are dedicated to that location and are able to develop great relationships and become engaged with clients.”

Alan Blizzard, PT, is the primary physical therapist at Heritage Valley Rehab’s West Allegheny location. In addition to being a licensed physical therapist, he has extensive experience in athletic training, working specifically with student athletes of all ages. Prior to joining Heritage Valley, he worked for 18 years at the Alaska Spine Institute in Anchorage. While sports and spine rehabilitation are his specialties, Blizzard is trained and has experience in the rehabilitation of a wide range of conditions.

“We offer comprehensive outpatient services and are able help a wide range of clients with their physical therapy needs,” said Blizzard. “From student athletes to those recovering from surgery, our therapy team becomes part of the client’s care, collaborating with physicians and athletic trainers to ensure our clients reach their rehabilitation goals.”

Additional rehab staff include a physical therapy assistant/athletic trainer. The West Allegheny location is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Fridays. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (724) 773-3065. Heritage Valley Rehab has outpatient facilities in Beaver, Chippewa, Edgeworth, Hopewell, and Moon Township. To reach one of those locations, go to www.heritagevalley.org/rehab.

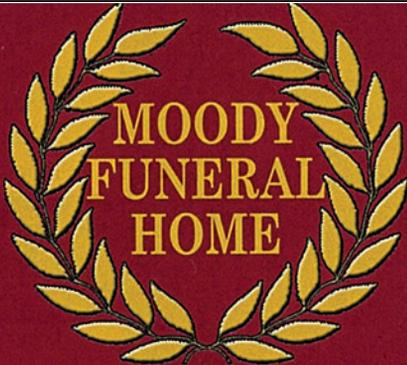
Heritage Valley Rehab is part of a wider range of health care services being offered as Heritage Valley’s newest medical neighborhood, Heritage Valley West Allegheny. Primary care, a ConvenientCare walk-in clinic, lab, diagnostic imaging, MRI and behavior health services are also offered at this location. For more information about the Heritage Valley West Allegheny Medical Neighborhood, go to www.heritagevalley.org/WestAllegheny.

Our Mission:

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Coming Up . . .

APRIL 16 - BizBlast @ Noon networking lunch, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at FASTER, LLC
APRIL 24 - Meet Your Energy Neighbors Breakfast Series Event, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Airport
APRIL 30 - PAACC 2015 Education Series Seminar on Social Media, 8 - 10 a.m. at Courtyard by Marriott Pittsburgh Airport Settlers Ridge
For event details, updates and registration, call 412.264.6270 or visit paacc.com.

Member Milestones

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RIBBON CUTTINGS

February 12 - Tootsie's Diner



Tootsie's Diner was joined by Chamber ambassadors for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on February 12.

March 4 - 3 Sisters Spa Salon



3 Sisters Spa Salon was joined by Chamber ambassadors on March 4 for their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

February 28 - Our Diner



On February 28, Our Diner enjoyed a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Chamber ambassadors.

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The first ultra-low cost carrier to serve Pittsburgh International Airport, Allegiant Air, recently announced new seasonal nonstop flights to Myrtle Beach beginning June 5. Earlier this month, the carrier added new nonstop to Tampa/St. Pete-Clearwater, FL; Miami/Punta Gorda and Jacksonville, FL.

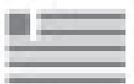
In February, all-inclusive travel company Vacation Express announced expanded service to the Caribbean with flights to Cancun, Mexico; Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; and Tropicana, Grand Bahama. Flights to Cancun began Feb. 15, and flights to Punta Cana and Tropicana begin March 14 and August 7.

These new flights are welcome additions to a steady established market at PIT that make it easier and more affordable than ever to reach the best beaches, golf courses and local attractions in the U.S. and abroad including:

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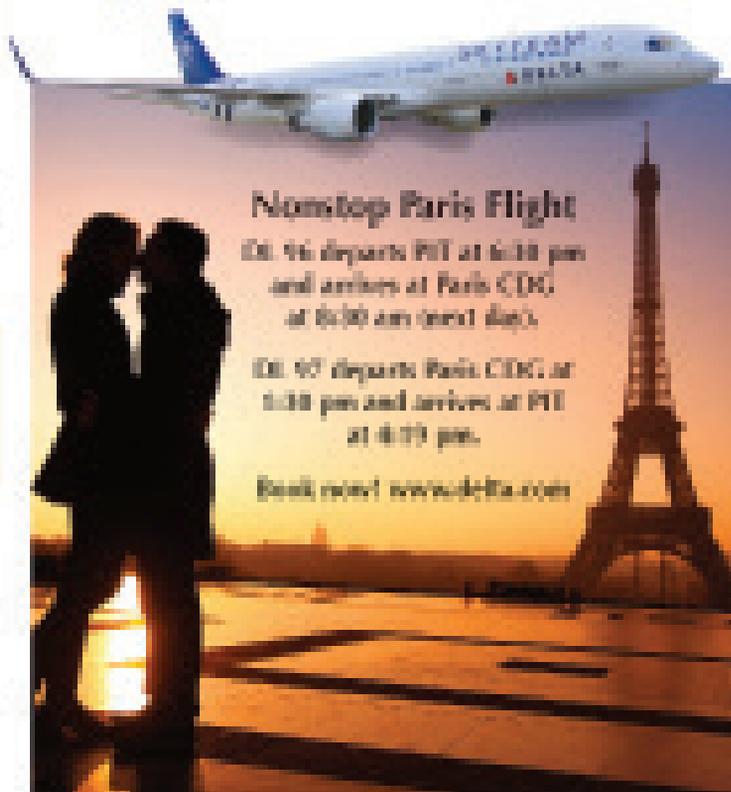
Delta will begin offering nonstop service to Paris five times weekly starting May 18, and expanded daily service during peak summer travel months June 15 through September 6. The flight will return to five times per week September 7 through October 24.

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STORY BY REBECCA L. FERRARO
PHOTOS BY SARAH HUGHEY

The nostalgic art of car restoration

Anyone who has ever driven a classic car has experienced the none too subtle rumble of the engine as it comes alive after pumping the gas pedal a few times. There's the luxurious front seats and gearshift on the steering wheel, along with the juxtaposing sensation of invincibility and fear that comes with driving a three-ton vehicle.

Anyone who has ever driven a classic car, or seen one, can appreciate its sheer beauty, with its classic lines, chrome, and whitewall tires as it rolls down the road with the top down on a sunny day. Car cruise season is coming, and with it, area residents are rolling, shining, and tinkering to get their vehicles ready.

Bill Steele, owner of Oakdale's Steele Autobody, is currently in the process of working on a 1970 Porsche 911 S for a client. Though the shop deals largely with collision work, he also does restorations and customization. Steele deals specifically with trim moldings, seals, removing old paint, paint finishing, body work, welding, priming and the like.

"In a nutshell, we don't do the interior, engine, transmission, or suspension. We just do the paint. This car is going through the full restoration but we're only doing one part of this: the paint and the body," Steele says in reference to the Porsche.

The car's owner and his son are sending the car to what Steele refers to as the "guru" of each part of the process. The car will end up having a high price value, in part because it's so rare.

"They found the best people that they could. I've done like 30 of these cars restoration-wise over the years. I have a real good reputation for Porsches in this area. Paint and body-wise, I get a lot of business," he says.

Steele's favorite restorations, however, fall under the customization category. He refers to them as "resto-rods." A 1930 Ford Model A he customized won the 2009 Goodguys Hot Rod of the Year award, and his custom bikes have won him the Easyriders Bike of the Year award three times. Currently, he's working on a 1932 Ford. It will have a classic exterior appearance but the engine will be completely revamped.

"You're restoring an old car but you're making something new of it," Steele says. "That's why it's a resto-rod. It's a car Henry Ford never made. It looks like something from 1932 but it's all redone. I'm dreaming of getting it done."

Steele, who recently chaired the World of Wheels car show at the Pittsburgh Convention Center, says he likes to take his custom cars to shows for the first year or so. Then he utilizes them strictly for the purpose of driving around in the summertime.

•••

Don McKissick of North Fayette prefers old cars to newer ones, and he prefers to work on them himself. He's been working on cars as a hobby since he was young.

"My dad used to work on his own vehicles," he says. "He was injured once and we had a 1964 Volkswagen that needed a muffler. He said, 'You're going to put the muffler on,' and walked me through. It saved us a lot of money. Call me cheap, call me frugal. I'll give anything a try the first time."

McKissick says the easiest way to learn about cars is by working on them yourself. The old cars are simpler under the hood and more aesthetically pleasing on the outside.

"You can see this 100 yards away and know what it is," he says, referring to his 1965 Ford Ranchero. "You look out there on the road and everybody's got a silver, grey, white, black, you see them and you can't tell if it's a Chevy, Ford, or what."

The Ranchero - half car, half pickup - is based on the Falcon body style of the 1960s. McKissick's has required a considerable amount of work, including disc brakes, tires, and a rebuilt steering pump. The only thing that hasn't required a lot of work is the body and paintwork. Those were pretty much pristine when he bought it. Regardless, he drives it regularly on sunny Sunday afternoons with his wife, Sue.

"I pretty much enjoy driving the car more than I enjoy sitting in a chair at a car show," he says. "If I had the money and the space, I'd have a lot of cars."

McKissick has two other project cars. One, a 1978 Ford F-150 Ranger with a homemade flatbed, six-speed standard transmission and original engine, has a beautiful turquoise paint job not commonly found on modern-day trucks. He's adjusting the engine and doing some minor bodywork to repair rust.

His other project he keeps tucked into the recesses of his garage. It's a mutt of a vehicle, comprised of pieces of old Fords, Mustangs and Chevys.

"My '36 Ford," he says. "I've had it almost as long as I've been





alive. This may end up being a retirement project.”

The two-door touring sedan originated in Nebraska. McKissick finds the cars, and the parts, in magazines and on websites like eBay and Craigslist. He keeps parts in the “organized chaos” of his garage, neatly labeled in boxes with finds like an original 1936 grille or taillight.

“I think if you don’t know anything about cars but are willing to learn, buy something drive-able so you can have fun with it and fix it up,” he says. “You learn along the way.”

•••

Findlay Township Police officer Mike Zacios keeps a myriad of classic cars tucked away in multiple garages at his home. He got into restoration as a teenager through his father and has been acquiring vehicles ever since.

One of the larger cars in Zacios’ collection is a 1970 Cadillac Fleetwood factory limo. At 22 feet and 8 inches in length, the luxury vehicle weighs a massive 5,800 pounds. He’s also restored a 1966 Cadillac Calais and a 1970 Cadillac hearse. At 23 feet long, the hearse was in service through the early 1990s. Complete with casket and Zacios nameplates in the windows, it’s something that would incite envy in the Addams family or Herman Munster.

“People either love it or hate it,” Zacios says about taking it to car shows. “There’s no in between. It’s either ‘that’s a beautiful car’ or ‘who the hell would want one of those?’ It’s respectable for people to have a dignified end.”

As a police officer, Zacios takes pride in restoring old police cars. He has a 1990 Chevy Caprice that was in use in the area for about a decade. It has a 350 cubic inch motor, the largest available at the time. It was a police package car, meaning it was set up for heavy duty cooling, brakes, and suspension, so whenever it was in pursuit it could outlast regular factory cars. Big and navy blue, it’s akin to driving a couch, and Zacios puts the light bar and stripes on for parades. He’ll even bring his wife, Gina, and daughter, Aubrie, along for the ride.

“If I left this as a police car I couldn’t take it to the grocery store. You kind of feel odd about it,” Zacios says. “I like that I have the option. It’s a tribute to the history of law enforcement. I try to save these.”

He also restored a 1972 Plymouth Fury Michigan State Police cruiser. The car has a 440 cubic inch V8, an old-school oscillating police light and not much else.

“No wonder the policemen from this era were stern and cranky. It’s because they were sitting in this plain Jane car all day,” he

says.

He wrote to the Michigan State Police and got special permission to restore the car to its original state. He now takes it to car shows, where it has won awards.

Another way Zacios pays homage to his career, and his popular culture fandom, is by restoring the same model of cars used in the television show “Hawaii Five-0.” He has a 1974 Mercury Marquis Brougham and a 1968 Mercury Park Lane Brougham, both of which actor Jack Lord drove in the show. At car shows, Zacios displays Hawaiian license plates and “Hawaii Five-0” memorabilia, including a board game, plaque and even artwork painted by Lord himself. The 1968 version, a bit sportier and more attractive, has been restored from about five different cars to its factory settings, with a 428 Cobra jet motor cranking out 410 horsepower.

“It’s pretty potent. It’s the same one they put in the Mustangs,” Zacios says. “I like restoring cars back to original. It takes a lot of work and skill to see things more custom but I’m partial to the original.”

The 1974 version is Zacios’ pride. He duplicated everything he could from the show, including a “No Smoking” sign Lord put in his car, a police radio - albeit a nonfunctioning one - and a license plate with same numbers as those used on Lord’s Mercurys during the show’s entire 12-year run: F6-3958. He worked to make it as authentic as possible, and keeps in touch with the original owner from British Columbia.

“It’s just a nice part of the history of the car,” he said.

One of Zacios’ newest acquisitions, a 1958 Plymouth Fury, evokes its own kind of nostalgia. Most people might know it best as the car Stephen King and John Carpenter brought to life in the horror classic “Christine.” Zacios’ version doesn’t come to life and chase him around, though. At the moment it’s missing its starter. “She” is brilliant red, just like in the film, and quintessentially 1950s, with top rear view mirrors, fenders, fins, wide whitewall tires and even a “futuristic” push-button transmission. An ancestor to muscle cars, “she” appeals to car fanatics and horror fans alike. The car is one of what Zacios calls his “dream cars,” the other being the 1968 Mercury.

Like McKissick, he finds his vehicles and parts through the Internet, catalogues, and even word of mouth.

Will Christine continue her chase any time soon?

“I have no time limit,” he said. “I have some really nice friends. I have the manuals but it definitely takes help from people. It’s been a good hobby.”

TOP, FROM LEFT: The tailfin of Mike Zacios’ 1970 Cadillac DeVille convertible; Don McKissick with his 1965 Ford Ranchero and 1978 Ford F-150 Ranger; detail of McKissick’s Ranchero; Bill Steele’s award-winning Downtown Brown hot rod; the tailfin of Zacios’ 1958 Plymouth Fury; Zacios with his wife, Gina, and daughter, Aubrie, in front of his two “Hawaii Five-0” Mercurys.

BOTTOM, FROM LEFT: Zacios’ cars; McKissick’s Ford F-150 Ranger; Steele at his shop in Oakdale; Zacios with his 1990 Chevy Caprice marked for a parade (photo by Gina Zacios); hood detail of Zacios’s 1972 Plymouth Fury Michigan State Police cruiser.



Ongoing

How to Promote Your Business through Networking, Wednesdays,

7:15 a.m., Eat'n Park on Rt. 60, with the Greater Pittsburgh Business Connection, a referral group of business professionals, (412) 364-6446 x 302, www.gpbc-pgh.org.

Greater Pittsburgh Football Officials Association Seeking New Officials, GPFOA

has officials working at the youth, scholastic, college and semi-pro levels. New applicants will learn the rules and mechanics associated with serving as an official so as to assist them in obtaining PIAA certification, certified officials who have obtained PIAA certification and are not already affiliated with another chapter are encouraged to join, GPFOA President Mike Conlon, (412) 398-6545.

Women's Business Network, Robinson Township Area Chapter,

Meets first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. at Panera Bread meeting room in North Fayette, advances the presence of aspiring and successful businesswomen by providing personal and professional resources, meeting agendas include self marketing, business presentation by an individual member, table topic discussion and networking, Barb Dull, (412) 608-3616.

McDonald Heritage Public Library Annual Spring Auction,

through May 7, 2/\$1, 12/\$5, chances to win: two tickets to The Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh or National Aviary, Reese Winery wine and cheese basket, basket of

cooking items, Pittsburgh Pirates charm bracelet, Just Ducky Tour for one adult and one child, more, drawing and bake sale **May 7**, (724) 926-8400, sponsored by Friends of McDonald Heritage Public Library, Mary Lou Karas, (724) 926-2861.

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, Deborah Goral, deborah.goral@va.gov

April 17-19 Carnegie Performing Arts Center presents The Little Princess,

Andrew Carnegie Music Hall in Carnegie, **April 17, 8 p.m., April 18, 8 p.m., April 19, 2 p.m.**, with Oakdale resident Katia Hilty, classic tale about the fabulously wealthy Sara Crewe, heiress to diamond mines, who loses everything and becomes a servant at the institution of Miss Minchin's Seminary for Young Ladies, \$15 adults, \$12 students and seniors, group rates available for Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cubs, Boy Scouts, seniors and church groups, (412) 279-8887, www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com.

April 18 Impact Christian Church Spring Children's Clothing Swap,

Rhema Christian School, 9 a.m.-noon, donate new or gently used spring and summer children's clothes, shoes, toys, baby items, maternity clothes, etc., items distributed free to public on day of event, "Bring what you can, take what you need!", extra items donated to local charity, www.impactpittsburgh.com.

April 18 Fourth Annual Cooking For a Cure, 6-10 p.m.,

Sewickley Heights Golf Club, Pacific Rim cuisine and California wine tasting, \$75, \$115 premier wine tasting, speaker Bonny Diver, breast cancer survivor and founder of Hair Peace Charities nonprofit, presented by Quaker Valley Relay For Life, American Cancer Society, Barbara Cooley Thaw, bcthaw@aol.com, (412) 849-3850.

April 26 Scots Homecoming Service, 11 a.m.-noon,

Hebron Presbyterian Church, Scotland native Andrew Purves returns to speak at the church where he served as pastor from 1979-1983 for a celebration of Presbyterian Scottish heritage, wearing of tartan colors appropriate, featuring bagpiper George Balderose, pitch-in luncheon to follow, (724) 899-2276, hebronchurch@zoominternet.net.

May 9 and 16 The First Tee Beaver Falls Chapter registration, 1-3 p.m.,

McDonald's restaurant in Chippewa Township, not-for-profit organization impacts lives of young people through the game of golf, clinics taught at Black Hawk Golf Course driving range and three-hole course built exclusively for The First Tee, open to ages 4-17, \$35 per child per session, www.blackhawkgolfcourse.com, www.thefirstteebeaverfalls.org.

May 19 Election Day Spaghetti Dinner, 4-7 p.m.,

Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oakdale, includes spaghetti, meatballs, tossed salad, rolls, cold drinks, coffee, tea, take out available, homemade desserts available for purchase, adults \$8, children under 12 \$4, (412) 788-4513, rlc10380@verizon.net.

Jacob Farree Chapter DAR Events

Contact Bonnie Kappert for reservations at (412) 771-7526 or kbandcompany@msn.com.

Historical Preservation Luncheon, June 6,

Montour Heights Country Club, 11 a.m., \$20 lunch, learn about historical preservation, topic and speaker TBA, reserve by **May 29**.

Chapter Business Meeting and Social, May 2,

Sewickley United Methodist Church, 11 a.m. chapter officers and committee chairs report on chapter activities, officers and chairs must submit yearly reports in writing to regent on or before **May 2**, all invited to bring their favorite dish, reserve by **April 25**.



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SNPJ Club

Events take place at the SNPJ Lodge 106 Club, (724) 695-1411, snpjimperialpa.com, imperialroomsnpj.com. Memberships available to the public at clubroom door.

Bar Bingo, members and guests, **second and fourth Thursdays**, sign the weekly book and play an evening of Bar Bingo in the clubroom, early bird games start **6:30 p.m.**, regular games **7 p.m.**, play until **9 p.m.**, kitchen open.

Seems Like Old Times Dance, **April 26, 7-10 p.m.**, Imperial Room, kitchen opens **4 p.m.**, \$10 buffet, \$5 admission, enjoy the Wally Merriman Trio for a ballroom-style dance celebrating the music of America's greatest generation.

Special Super Sunday Dance, **May 3, 2-7 p.m.**, entertainment by Dick Tady and D.T.O., Jack's Tady Bears, Jack's Guys and Dolls, jam session, musicians welcome, food and refreshments, \$10 donation at door.

SNPJ Lodge 106 Car Cruise, **May 31, June 14, July 5, noon**, entertainment provided by George Suhon and Silver Sky in May, The Messengers in June, Elvis Lives in July, food, drinks, 50/50, level paved parking, door prizes, air-conditioned clubroom, bikes welcome, dash plaques for first 50 cars.

SNPJ Lodge 106 Day at the Pirates, **June 13, game starts 4:05 p.m.** against Philadelphia Phillies, \$60, purchase tickets from clubroom bartender or Carol McNees, includes ticket to the game and transportation, \$30 deposit, remainder due by June 7.

Recommend a new SNPJ Lodge 106 Member, refer a member so they can enjoy all the benefits of being a life insurance or annuity member of SNPJ Lodge 106 today.

Golf Outings

Holy Trinity Youth Ministry Golf Outing, Seven Oaks Country Club, **April 26, noon** registration, **1:30 p.m.** start, \$100, 18 holes, lunch, dinner buffet, return privileges, \$25 dinner only, benefits community outreach and Holy Trinity Youth Ministry Program mission trip, htymgolfouting.wix.com/home, htymgolfouting@gmail.com, (412) 432-9381.

14th Annual Crafton-Ingram Rotary Charity Golf Outing, **April 24, 10:30 a.m.**, shotgun start, Ft. Cherry Golf Club, scramble, \$75 per golfer, \$300 team cash prizes, skill prizes, raffles, breakfast, lunch snack, steak dinner, more, tee and prize sponsorships available, Craig, (412) 608-2202, cjshade214@gmail.com.

Cheryl Aaron Foundation Annual Charity Golf Outing, **May 30**, The Club at Shadow Lakes, **1:30 p.m.** shotgun start, \$100 per person, includes greens fees, cart, lunch, dinner, beer, beverages, prizes, benefits gastroparesis research, www.cherylsfund.org.

41st Annual Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, **June 5**, Quicksilver Golf Club, **7 a.m.** registration, **7:15 a.m.** driving range and pro clinic, **8:30 a.m.** shotgun start, scramble format, **1:30 p.m.** cash bar, **2:30 p.m.** lunch, prizes, auctions, \$199 includes green fees, cart, lockers, prizes, hor d'oeuvres, lunch, \$45 lunch only, sponsorships available, benefits PAACC's mission of advancing economic vitality in the region, (412) 264-6270.

Montour Valley VFW Post 7714 Annual Golf Outing, **June 13, 1 p.m.**, Rolling Green Golf Course, \$85 per person, benefits local veterans and the families of veterans, sponsorships available, Nancy, (412) 496-1475.

Raccoon Creek State Park

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.

American Woodcock Walk, **April 17, 7-8:30 p.m.** Join a park educator to learn more about the American woodcock and see its unique courtship display. Outdoor program, please dress for the weather. Free program, meet at the park office along Route 18.

Spring Wildflower Walk, **Saturdays, April 18, 2-4 p.m.**; **April 25, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.**; **May 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.** Spring has finally arrived and with it long anticipated and spectacular spring wildflowers. Join a park educator for a guided tour of these short-lived beauties along a one-mile hike within the Wildflower Reserve. Be prepared for wet trails and moderate hiking. Free program.

Raccoon Lake Campout and Nature Paddle, **April 24, 7 p.m.**, **April 25, 9 a.m.** Kayak or canoe required, along with necessary camping equipment. Registration is required and details will be sent once registered. To register, contact Patrick Adams at paadams@pa.gov. Limited enrollment, free program.

Earth Day Weekend Litter Cleanup in the Park, **April 25, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.** Come out and help make the park a more beautiful place. Safety vest and bags are provided. Anyone under 18 will need to have a parental consent form signed. For any questions, call the park. Free program. Meet at the park office along Route 18.

Spring Flower Origami, **April 26, 2-4 p.m.** Join a park ranger at the Wildflower Reserve for a beginners' program about the ancient Japanese art

of paper folding called origami. Children under 10 may need help folding flower models. Free program.

Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon, **May 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** Help the park save spring wildflowers from invasive garlic mustard. For this volunteer program, bring a pair of garden gloves, bug spray, and a bottle of water. Free program.

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk, **May 10, 2-3:30 p.m.** Come out on Mother's Day for a relaxing look at wildflowers along the trails of the Wildflower Reserve. Total distance for the walk is a little less than one mile. Free program.

Traverse Creek Hike, **May 23, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** This 4-5 mile hike can be physically challenging on hilly, wet, and sometimes rocky terrain. Dress appropriately for weather and wear proper hiking footwear. This free program requires registration. Details and location within park will be emailed once registered. To register, email Shane Miller at shanemille@pa.gov.

Fern Walk, **May 24, 2-4 p.m.** Come and discover fascinating ferns and other flowerless plants within the Wildflower Reserve. During the hike, learn about fern folklore, uses, and how to identify these flowerless plants. Free program.

Tai Chi with the Seasons, **last Saturday of each month starting May 30 (six classes), 10-11 a.m.** Fee for the session of six classes is \$115. Call the park for information and to register.

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Findlay Township

Events take place at the Findlay Township Activity Center unless otherwise noted. Call Darlene Larson at (724) 695-0500 x 246 for more information.

Garden Club

Meets **third Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.**, activity center or other location, past projects have included Imperial Honor Roll, community vegetable garden at Valley Church, bicycle planters at Fair in the Woodlands, upcoming holiday bus outing to Phipps Conservatory, Sue Peindl, (724) 350-9837.

Moms and Grandmas with Cameras

Workshop, April 23, 6:30-9:30 p.m., \$50, with Emily Davis of Emily Davis Photography, learn how to use that new camera correctly and with more creativity, then go for a fun ladies' night out, no more blurry or orange sports pictures, workshop includes wine, punch and snacks, BYOB, each participant receives a goody bag, register by **April 16**.

Water Aerobics, Wilson Elementary School, **6:15-7:15 p.m.**, **Monday** spring session, **April 20** and **27, May 4** and **11, Wednesday** spring session, **April 15** and **22, May 6** and **13**, low-impact aquatic exercise works the heart and lungs while toning muscles, registration required, payment due at first class, \$5 discount for attending both Monday and Wednesday classes, cancelled in event school cancels due to weather, \$35 / 7 sessions.

Pavilion Rentals for 2015 Season, open to Findlay Township residents, businesses, and youth or adult groups, \$60 with \$25 refundable deposit, two separate checks, **9-11 a.m.** at municipal building, online, non-resident reservations \$85 with \$25 refundable deposit, new pavilion at Recreation and Sports Complex: residents \$100, \$175 with kitchen, non-residents \$150, \$250 with kitchen, \$100 refundable security deposit required for all, seats 150-165 with full kitchen facilities and nearby restroom, www.findlay.pa.us.

AARP Safe Driving Classes, April 13 and 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Findlay Township Municipal Building Meeting Room, eight-hour course taught in two, four-hour sessions over two days, refine existing driving skills and develop safe, defensive driving techniques, no driving tests involved, upon completion participants eligible to receive state mandated multi-year discount on auto insurance premiums, \$15 AARP members, \$20 non-members, Findlay residents pay half, checks only and payable to AARP, four-hour refresher course, **April 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**, same location and cost, available to anyone who has completed eight-hour class in last three years with proof of attendance, bring certificate and driver's license, insurance company can provide a copy.

PiYo Exercise Class, Tuesdays through April 28, 7:15-8:15 p.m., April 25, 9-10 a.m., hybrid workout uses strength-building moves of yoga and muscle-sculpting reps of Pilates with a flow that helps increase flexibility and strength while shedding fat, burn calories by using every muscle in the body without touching a weight, low impact high quality workout, bring yoga mat and water bottle, registration required, \$5 per class.

"WALK Live" Classes Tuesdays and Thursdays through the end of May, 6-7 p.m., Donna Kuzio opens doors to a better way of health and weight loss, \$5 per class, kuziofjr@gmail.com.

Yoga for Beginners and Beyond

Fridays, March 6, 13, and Sundays, Feb. 15, 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m., yoga for all levels, benefits whole body with exercise, stretching and meditation, \$5 per class, Julia Harvey, (724) 695-1976.

Senior Yoga and Qi Gong

Thursdays, 9-10 a.m., chase away the winter chill with a mixed yoga and Qi gong class, mixed levels for all participants, great for older adults, (724) 695-1976 or info@idtsd.net, discounts for Findlay residents and members of the Findlay Senior Citizen Group, \$5/class, instructor Master Julia Harvey.

Spring

Community Clean-Up, Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center Findlay and North Fayette Townships are joining together once again to organize a community clean-up day. Come out and donate a few short hours to help make our community a place we can be proud of. To volunteer, please call Darlene at the township office. Oakdale

Borough will also be having a cleanup that day, volunteers call Kelly at (724) 693-9740. Bags, gloves and vests will be provided. Volunteers need to provide their own transportation to and from their clean-up site.

Community Tire Collection Program

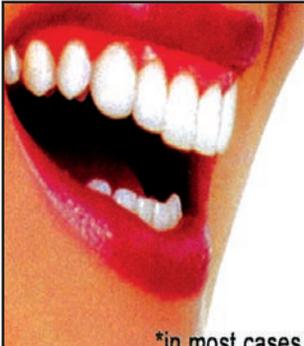
Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m., Findlay Township Public Works, Do you have old tires that you need to get rid of?? Well, here is your chance to do so. All of the tires are sheared, and rims are hauled away for recycling. Donations for tire disposal: \$2 per passenger car or light truck tire - rim size: 12", 13", 14", 15", 16", 16.5" & 17," Additional \$2 for any of the above that are on a rim; \$20 per tractor trailer - 19" to 22" no rims; \$20 per farm tractor rear tire no rims.

Findlay Township "SHRED IT" Day

Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Findlay Township Municipal Building Parking Lot, FREE paper shredding provided by Iron City Workplace Services, a professional shredding company, for private homes. NO BUSINESS DOCUMENTS WILL BE TAKEN.

Scrapbooking Workshop

Saturday, May 9, Findlay Township Activity Center, Attend a scrapbooking workshop to enjoy uninterrupted time to dedicate to safely protecting your photos and memorabilia. Please bring your own tools and supplies. \$60 each event includes lunch, dinner and beverages. Pre-registration and payment required by contacting Michelle Koester at 724-307-3333 or emailing michellekoestercm@comcast.net.



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Annual Fishing Derby

Saturday, May 23, 7-11 a.m., Leopold Lake on Route 30. Open to Findlay Township residents 15 years and younger. Prizes will be awarded for the biggest fish in each of four age categories: five and under; six to eight; nine-11 and 12-15. This event is FREE, however each participant must bring his or her own fishing rod, reel and bait. Adult supervision will be mandatory for all participants nine and under.

14th Annual Cruisin' in the Woodlands,

Friday, June 5 (raindate June 12) 5-9 p.m., Clinton Park. Attention Car Lovers!!! Come to this event, sponsored by Findlay Township and hosted by Pittsburgh C.A.R.S (classics, antiques, rods & specialties). There will be food for sale, a DJ and a 50/50 raffle. Free for spectators / \$5 per participating car to benefit the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Dash Plaques will be given out to the first 100 participating cars. Check the township website www.findlaytp.org or call (724) 695-0500 for cancelation.

Findlay Kids' Classes

Time for Toddlers, 10:15-11:15 a.m., April 13, 14, 27, 28, May 4, 5, 11, 12, June 1, 2, 15, 16, 29, 30, for children under the age of four, hour of movement, music, activities and snack, meet other families and toddlers, adult must stay with child, registration required, \$3, sessions cancelled if West Allegheny cancels due to inclement weather.

Tang Soo Do Karate School, call for class times and availability, (724) 695-1976, traditional Tang Soo Do program helps children develop self confidence, healthy life skills, respect for self and others, classes for youth, teen and adult students, Monday and Wednesday evenings, Little Dragons class, ages 3-6, special program for preschool children is designed to get them started on the path to positive development.

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.

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North Fayette Township
400 North Branch Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 788-4888, www.north-fayette.com

Oakdale Borough
6115 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-9740, www.oakdaleborough.com

McDonald Borough
151 School Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-8711, www.mcdonaldboro.com

PUBLIC & PRIVATE SCHOOLS K-12

West Allegheny School District
600 Donaldson Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
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Parkway West Career & Technology Center
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Church of The Living Christ
220 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-7188, www.cotlc.com

Church of the Nazarene
(moved to Florence) 1080 Steubenville Pike, Burgettstown, PA 15021
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Clinton UP Church
25 Wilson Road, Clinton, PA 15026
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Clinton Wesleyan Church
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Covenant Family Church
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(meets at Courtyard Pgh. Airport)

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

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(412) 494-9999, www.crossroadsumc.org

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(724) 926-4216

Hebron Presbyterian Church
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(725) 899-2276

Independent Bible Presbyterian Church
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(724) 926-3355

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

Mosaic Church
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(724) 695-3129, www.mosaicpgph.com

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

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

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

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(412) 787-1888, www.rlwcc.tripod.com

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(412) 788-4513

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(724) 695-7325, www.saintcolumbkilleparish.org

St. Patrick's Church
7322 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-9260, www.saint-patrick-parish.com

The Church of Jesus Christ
57 Moore Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 899-3935

The Bible Chapel
@ 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
(724) 695-7500, www.westridge.cc

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

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

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

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

Lions Club Imperial, (724) 513-7616

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

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Montour Run Watershed Assn., www.mrwa.info

Montour Trail Council, (412) 257-3011

Montour Valley Grange, (724) 695-0481

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

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

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

North Fayette Garden Club, (724) 693-8413

Oakdale Youth League, (724) 693-8951

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Senior Citizen Groups:

- Findlay Township, (724) 695-0500
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SNPJ Lodge 106, (724) 695-1411

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

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West Allegheny Foundation, inquiries@wafoundation.org

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

West Allegheny Ministerium, (724) 693-8950

West Allegheny Booster & PTA Groups, www.westasds.org

Western Allegheny Community Library, (724) 695-8150

West Allegheny Aqua Club, (412) 608-4583

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

The many hats of Larry Robak



Larry Robak wears many hats, literally. That is to say that he wears many hats, one at a time.

On St Patrick's Day, he wore a 12-inch green top hat stuffed with papers to make it stand tall on his head. His one-of-a-kind first Easter hat was an Easter basket. To convert it into a hat, he simply cut out the bottom of a wicker basket to make it fit atop his head (ouch). Another, softer hat he wears is a long-eared bunny basket with a cutout bottom.

For six years, Shop 'n Save Imperial customers have been spotting Larry's hats even before they spot gray-mustached, blue-eyed Larry. He helps at the checkout registers, gathering grocery carts from the parking lot and making deliveries to schools and homes.

Store manager Tony smiles when talking about Larry.

"One and only one Larry," says Tony. "He just delivered flowers. The customers love him. He even made a hat for our two-day sale days."

For 55 years, Larry has lived in McDonald. About 15 years ago, Larry began delivering prescriptions for pharmacies, or as he likes to call it, he "began running drugs" to senior retirement and nursing homes. One day, he decided to wear a hippopotamus hat.

"The seniors got a big thrill out of it," says Larry. "It puts a smile on their face."

Thus began his smile making.

Around Christmas, it is easy to find hats, like reindeer, a Christmas tree, and Larry's favorite, a chimney hat with Santa's up-side-down boots sticking out of the top. His winter hat is often a chipmunk with a red nose. Other holidays, he says, "It is harder to find [special] hats."

Co-worker Sue also smiles when she talks about Larry.

"Kids love Larry," she says.

One little girl, age 6, sees him and laughs and laughs.

Many have asked, "How many hats do you have?" to which Larry responds, "Never counted them."

"I always have two," he says.

There's the one he is wearing and the "one in my truck."

Whether driving his big red truck or his 1951 souped-up Ford hot rod, Larry is always sporting a hat.

"Only my kids and my girlfriend see my hair," he says.

Larry doesn't talk much, but smiles back a lot.

Police stories: Some make the news, others warm the heart

A woman's frantic call went out to 911: her husband had locked himself in their bathroom and was threatening to commit suicide.

The address given was in a mobile home court, but GPS directed police to the wrong home. Police began to ask questions of the neighbors. While doing so, officers noticed a little girl about 7 years old. Her clothes appeared unkempt. One neighbor indicated with his eyes which mobile home they should check. He could not say the name because it was the little girl's home.

He was right. The father of the child was distraught. He planned to end it all. A police officer named Linda began to talk with him through the closed bathroom door.

"I just met your little girl," she said. "She is so sweet. You know you do not have the right to take the life of this little girl's dad. She needs her daddy."

After some time passed, Linda heard the sound of metal hitting a sink. It was the little girl's dad dropping his knife. He surrendered to police.

Linda kept thinking of the little girl. She decided to go back and talk to her to make sure she was okay. The girl, though, was gone. No one was home.

Linda figured she would be at school, and she was. Now she was all cleaned up, hair kempt and pretty. The officer met her mother and, as they talked, she told Linda that her little girl loved bunnies.

Feeling that the little girl had been through a lot, and because the police were there and took her daddy away, Linda wanted the little girl to know that the police cared about her and wanted to be her friends.

Linda's daughter, Ginny, is about the same age as this little girl.

Linda said to her daughter, "Come on, let's go to Build-a-Bear."

That got Ginny excited. She already had a collection of Build-a-Bears. Then Linda explained, "We are gonna build a bear, but it will not be for you. It will be for a little girl who is sad right now."

So mother and daughter were on a mission. They chose a bunny instead of a bear. They chose the clothes and inside the bunny little Ginny placed a heart. She kissed the heart that would be in the bunny, the one that a sad little girl would hug and love.

The next day, both officers who had been called to the scene went to the girl's school to see her. They had decided to go the extra mile, because that's what police officers do.

Linda gifted the bunny to the little girl. She was shy and did not say anything, but took the bunny and walked away with her mother. As Linda watched her leaving, the little girl stopped. She opened the box, took the bunny out, and gave the bunny a big hug. She was smiling as she and her mother walked away, hand in hand.

Linda's heart felt warm, fulfilled, close to the little girl.

"I can be tough when I need to be tough," she says.



BY ERMA DODD
NORTH FAYETTE
TOWNSHIP
RESIDENT



ILLUSTRATION BY
JESSICA NEAL

An Old Friend Has A New Look

SOMETIMES THAT OLD SUIT you like so much just has to go. You're still the same, but your look has changed.

Like an old friend with a new suit, our look and name have changed, but our service is still old fashioned and very friendly. It's been that way since Ed Herrick began working for Mr. Wharton back in 1972. Since Ed bought the firm nineteen years ago, it's time for a name change.

Our new logo is representative of our desire to provide you with dignified strength and compassionate gentleness at a difficult time. It's reassuring to know that we are sensitive to your needs and will carry them out because we truly care about you.

You will be seeing this new look in our logo, signs, stationery and advertising.

Yes. We're still the same. It's just a new look for an old friend.



HERRICK
COMPASSIONATE FUNERAL SERVICE, PC

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