

West Allegheny Edition

Allegheny West

Magazine

Volume 17, Issue 97
August/September 2015

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Rebuilding Killbuck Lodge

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gets
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by Master Peter Chase
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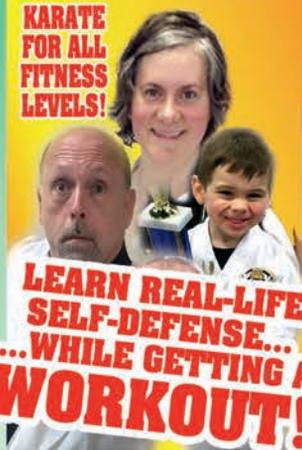


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Two West Allegheny middle school volleyball players, Emma Hamm and Kortney White, competed in the 2015 Girls' Junior National Championship in New Orleans June 26-29. The students played for the local Pittsburgh Renaissance 13 Black volleyball club team, which placed 11th out of 48 teams at the championship.

The Renaissance 13 Black team won the only Keystone Region National Volleyball Association bid in April at a tournament held in Lancaster. The bid was won while competing against teams in their age group across the KRVA. The team did not lose a single match at the KRVA tournament. The team also compiled a 44-6 record this season, winning six of the eight tournaments in which they participated.

Emma, at left, played the outside hitter position, while Kortney, at right, played all around.



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From the Publisher



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Dear Readers,

We sometimes find ourselves in some interesting situations while researching and writing stories for this publication. Last month, I crossed a new one off my list, when our writer Rebecca Ferraro and I found our way onto a live shoot of DIY Network's "Barnwood Builders." In July, cast members of the show helped reconstruct Killbuck Lodge in Oakdale. Walking onto the set, me with camera in hand and Rebecca with her notebook, I wasn't sure what to expect. I especially didn't want to irk a producer of a show that was doing something so noble for this local Scout troop.

That never came about, though. Instead, we were allowed to mill around, and we in turn did our best to dodge camera shots. Afterward, I apologized to a couple of the show's producers and told them I hoped we didn't get into any of their shots. They both said it wasn't a problem. One of them, Travis Tips, said even if we did he thought it showed local interest in the project.

Other locals close to the project who we spoke with reiterated a similar sentiment I walked away with that day. The show's cast and crew were down-to-earth, genuine people who freely interacted with Scouts and those close to the troop; and they did a great thing by assisting them. The project isn't over, of course. The lodge still needs a new roof and gutters, along with bathroom facilities and more. Many volunteers are working to help complete the project. Anyone interested in volunteering or donating or services should fill out a form posted at <http://www.friendsofkillbucklodge.org>. Monetary donations can be made at <http://www.gofundme.com/rr2t77g>.

Be sure to read Rebecca's article about the rebuilding on page 48. Then be sure to read our publisher emeritus' dedication to Sonny Janoski on page 13. In her article, Pat Jennette looks back on the life and legacy of this local legend who will be missed by many.

On page 30, be sure to read our first-ever college guide, with information from local experts on how to write a college essay, apply for financial aid, find the right nursing or technical school, and more. On page 10, read about how some local veterans are finally eligible for Agent Orange benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Chances are, you may know someone who is. Be sure to spread the word and help those working to do the same.

Also, be sure to flip to the middle of this magazine and tear out our 2015-2016 West Allegheny athletic and academic calendars. Post them on your fridge or bulletin board for a quick and handy reference throughout the rest of the year.

Thank you for picking up this edition of Allegheny West Magazine. I hope you enjoy it.

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor

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ABOUT THE COVER

Members of Boy Scout Troop 248 in Oakdale hoist the American Flag once again after it was taken down prior to rebuilding of their meeting space, Killbuck Lodge. Read about the rebuilding and the television show that helped make it happen on page 48.
PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

Local Scouts receive Bronze Award

Members of West Allegheny Junior Girl Scout Troop 50515 recently earned their Bronze Award by collecting “no time to pack items” for the Ronald McDonald House of Pittsburgh. To collect donations, the troop held a swim party for troops in the area and asked them to bring donations. The troop also had the opportunity to visit and tour the Ronald McDonald House.

The Bronze Award is the highest award Junior Girl Scouts can earn. All of the girls will be attending West Allegheny Middle School in the fall.

Junior Girl Scouts from Troop 50515 earned their Bronze Award by collecting donations for the Ronald McDonald House of Pittsburgh. They are (front row) Rachel Mamula, Julia Prologo, Erica Prologo, Caroline Bachowski, Grace Drinkhall, (back row) Sarah Metz, Siena Wilson, Audra Cook, Julianna Schuler, (not pictured) Ella Chandler, Mackenzie Evers and Sami Goldstrohm.



Imperial resident signs with Mercyhurst

Emily Quinn, graduate of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, signed a national letter of intent to play softball at Mercyhurst University. Quinn, a four-year member and key player on OLSH's softball team, plans to study elementary education.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart graduate and Imperial resident Emily Quinn signed a letter of intent to play softball at Mercyhurst University. She is pictured at left with OLSH President Terry O'Rourke Donoghue, principal Tim Plocinik, athletic director Michael McDonald, softball head coach Sam LoFaso, her mother, Cindy Quinn, her father and assistant softball coach, Dr. David Quinn, and her brother, Matt Quinn.



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North Fayette awarded grant for community and senior centers

In July, North Fayette Township was awarded a \$162,570 grant from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County to help fund two projects promoting healthy living in the township. Part of the money will help offset costs associated with construction of the township's new community center at Donaldson Park. The remainder will be used to remodel the former Game Day sports bar in Imperial into a senior center.

The grant was funded by the Commonwealth Financing Authority, with money allocated through the PA Gaming Economic Development and Tourism program. Township officials worked with state Rep. Mark Mustio to secure the funds. North Fayette Township Manager Bob Grimm says that \$102,570 of the grant will go toward offsetting costs for community center construction and help supplement funds already budgeted to outfit the center. North Fayette Supervisor Bob Doddato says that the township is hoping to install an indoor playground, a walking track and a fitness center.

"While teens are playing basketball, younger kids can play on the playground, or mom and dad can take a walk on the track," says Doddato.

The township's new \$6 million community center will also contain a basketball court, meeting rooms, a kitchen, lockers and more. Doddato says that the grant is intended to help improve the community's overall quality of life, and an aspect of that is healthy living. Last year, township officials worked with state Sen. Matt Smith to secure \$163,000 for the center through the Community Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program.

Plans for a new senior center come not long after the township gave zoning and building approval to developer Cloverleaf to build an assisted living facility on Steubenville Pike. The new senior center in Imperial will be run by the Pittsburgh-based nonprofit LifeSpan. Doddato says the center will serve as a meeting place for seniors and for senior programming. Grimm says it will be available to seniors across the West Hills area.

McDonald awards Marty Schottenheimer key to city

On June 11, McDonald Borough Council awarded McDonald native Martin "Marty" Schottenheimer with its key to the city. McDonald Mayor Terry Bennett, who spearheaded the idea to present the retired professional football player and coach with the award, says it recognizes the notoriety that Schottenheimer has given the borough.

Schottenheimer returned to McDonald to receive the award and attend a dinner with friends and his siblings, Kurt, Bill and Lisa. The three siblings grew up on Third Street in McDonald, in a house almost two blocks from West Lincoln Avenue. They attended Fort Cherry High School, where the three brothers played football. Marty also played basketball and was a member of the 1961 Class B state championship-winning team.

"He was always a good athlete," says former McDonald Mayor Tim Thomassay, who grew up a street over from the Schottenheimer's. "He was younger. We usually wouldn't let kids his age play with us; but we let him play. If you ask him where he started playing football he'll tell you my backyard."

After graduating from Fort Cherry in 1961, Marty attended the University of Pittsburgh, where he became an all-American linebacker. In 1965, he was drafted in the seventh round of the NFL draft by the Baltimore Colts and the seventh round of the American Football League draft by the Buffalo Bills.

After six seasons of playing professionally, Schottenheimer eventually went on to become the head coach of the Cleveland Browns for five seasons, the Washington Redskins for one season, the Kansas City Chiefs for 10 seasons and the San Diego Chargers for five seasons. For a time, Kurt coached under Marty in Kansas City. It was during that time, in 1994, that Bennett says he called Kurt to ask for help with replacing the Fort Cherry football team's outdated equipment.

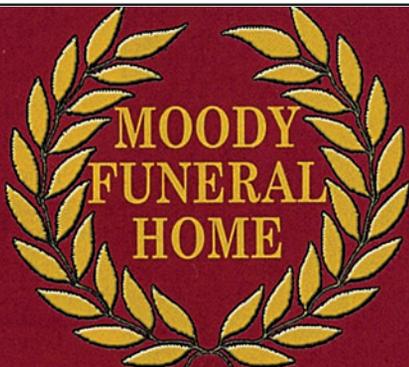
"I called Kurt and asked him what could he do, and the next thing you know there was a tractor-trailer pulling up with tackling dummies and a new sled," says Bennett.

Growing up, Bennett lived on the same street as the Schottenheimer's and became close friends with Kurt. Both went on to play Division I football in college.

Marty, who is now retired, is one of two McDonald natives to rise to a top coaching position with an NFL team. Current Cincinnati Bengals head coach Marvin Lewis also grew up in McDonald and attended Fort Cherry High School, where he quarterbacked the team.



Retired NFL head coach and McDonald native Martin Schottenheimer was awarded the key to the city by McDonald Borough Council on June 11. He is pictured here with McDonald Mayor Terry Bennett and Bennett's wife, Joann. PHOTO BY CHARLES HUGHEY



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Some 911th veterans now eligible for Agent Orange VA benefits

BY DOUG HUGHEY

When John Casey retired from the Air Force Reserve in 2000, he had no idea he'd ever been exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange.

Then he learned that the perimeter of a Thai Royal Air Force base where he had been stationed during the Vietnam War had been sprayed with it. Even more recently, he learned that he continued to be exposed to Agent Orange-related chemicals for about a decade after the war while serving and working stateside as a reservist on an Air Force base at Pittsburgh International Airport.

According to a report released in January by the Institute of Medicine, C-123 aircraft once used to spray Agent Orange in Southeast Asia were stationed at three Air Force Reserve bases following the war. One of those bases was the one where Casey worked and served. The report states that from 1972 until 1982, potentially thousands of reservists like Casey flew and worked on those C-123 aircraft, and that the planes carried trace amounts of toxic chemicals in concentrations higher than those considered safe by international exposure guidelines. The other two bases listed in the report are Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Ohio and Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts.

In June, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reversed course on a previously held position not to award benefits to veterans claiming they had been exposed to Agent Orange chemicals solely on those aircraft following the war. The VA has since established a phone number for those individuals seeking to file claims: (800) 749-8387. They can also file a claim online at www.ebenefits.va.gov.

Additionally, they should contact the H.J. Heinz Campus of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System to schedule an Agent Orange Registry health exam. A claim still must be filed to obtain benefits, but they can receive a diagnosis for conditions, along with a referral for treatment. According to Sheila Tunney, VA Pittsburgh Health System public affairs specialist, the exam is optional and free. She says it is not a disability exam or required for VA benefits, and also does not confirm Agent Orange exposure. Tunney says enrollment in the VA health care system is not necessary for the exam, that veterans can receive additional exams if new problems develop, and family members are not eligible for exams. To schedule an appointment, call (412) 822-1707.

For Casey and veterans like him, the report indicates the extent to which they may have been exposed to Agent Orange-related dioxins.

"I'm more concerned now about the total exposure," says Casey, who has been diagnosed with diabetes and Parkinson's disease, both of which the VA considers linked to Agent Orange exposure.

In 1971, Casey joined the Air Force Reserve and worked as a civilian air reserve technician with the 911th Airlift Wing at the Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station. Throughout the 1970s, Casey says he worked full time on planes and flew bi-weekly missions out of the base. A few years after he retired, Casey was diagnosed with diabetes. Even after the VA acknowledged that the perimeter of the base where he was stationed during the Vietnam War was sprayed with Agent Orange, he did not file a claim for benefits. He may have qualified; but Casey says he wasn't convinced his condition was connected to Agent Orange exposure until last year, when he was also diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

"I'd be writing my name and the pen would just fly off the

paper," he says.

Now, Casey has tremors and balance problems.

Retired 911th air reserve technician Bart Farzati says that other common conditions he's observed among former 911th personnel who worked on planes during the 1970s include prostate and lung cancer. The VA considers both conditions to be linked to Agent Orange exposure. Farzati says that throughout the 1970s, he worked on planes every day at the base. He says that of the 16 C-123 aircraft stationed there, five were "spray birds" once used to spray Agent Orange.

"We had 16 assigned aircraft the entire time," he says. "Of the 16 we had five that were coded UC-123. The UC was the designation for the 'spray birds.' Since I flew as a flight mechanic the entire time, and never throw anything away, I researched my flight records. I had almost 2,500 flight hours and every mission lists the tail number of the aircraft so I am confident that I flew all the aircraft. We also had loaners from time to time so I did fly eight UC-123s out of Pit."

Jacob Morgan, 911th chief of public affairs, says he can't confirm how many spray birds were stationed at the base. He says the base's records only date back to 1994. Records older than that are archived with the Air Force, he says.

Also missing from the base's records are flight rosters and other information that could help indicate just how much time any one individual spent on a UC-123. He says that former base personnel like Farzati who have kept their records would have a better idea than they would.

"Honestly, they have much better records than we do," he says.

Farzati says that the time spent in planes for some personnel would have been significant.

"It's not just two days a month and a weekend in the summer," he says. "To get in all your qualifications, all your flight landings, those guys get 48 extra drills per year. We had a lot of maintenance guys, they would get five days a week, and mandate a tour doing maintenance. Those trips were a week long. Trips to Panama were two weeks long."

In the summer, he says, the planes had a particularly strong odor.

"You would go out in the morning, and if it was a spray bird, flip the hatch up and let it air out all day," he says. "You were smelling whatever they sprayed. In the summer, they were pretty strong."

Farzati, who serves as the legislative chairman of Vietnam Veterans Association 862, says that he has been reaching out to former base personnel himself by making phone calls and talking at meetings. Some, he says, were unaware that they are now eligible to apply for Agent Orange benefits. Both Farzati and Morgan said they had heard the VA mailed notices, but Farzati says he has not received such a notice. He says affected units from the 911th would include the 758th Airlift Squadron, the 911th Maintenance Group and the 911th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Those groups were formerly known as the 911th Tactical Airlift Group, the 758th Tactical Airlift Squadron, the 911th Maintenance Squadron and the 33rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

"They need to go to the VA or find a service officer and apply for the Agent Orange Registry," he says. "They have to prove that they were assigned to these units during the years that the VA agreed to cover."



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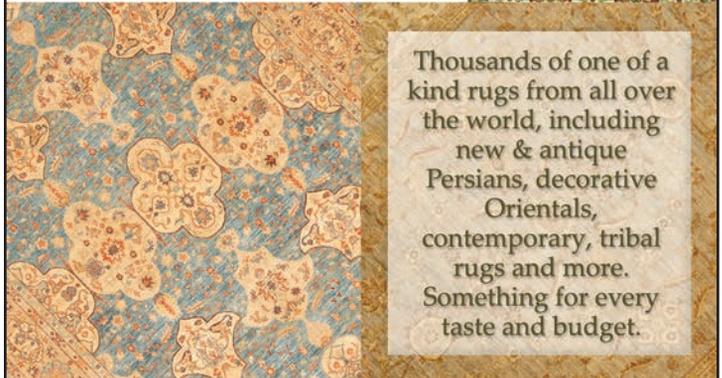
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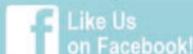
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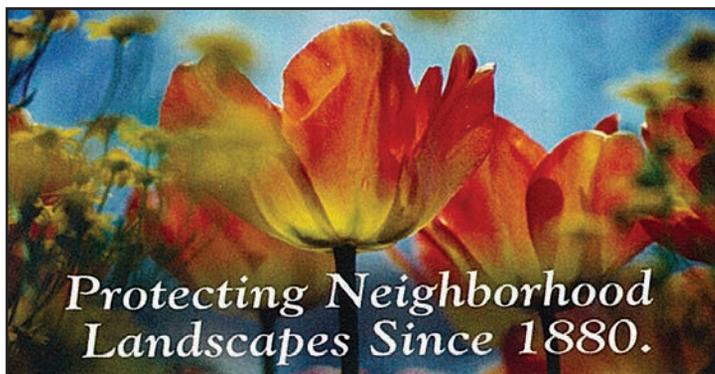
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One man’s vision continues as a legacy at Janoski’s Farm

The final resting place of the man who founded Janoski’s Farm in Clinton is at Hebron Hopewell Cemetery, on a hill overlooking the beloved farm that he painstakingly grew and nurtured since he was a young man in his early 20s. After a half century of creating a community centerpiece, Sonny Janoski passed away on June 6. He was laid to rest at the age of 78.

Sonny and JoAnn married in 1962. At an age when many young couples are still figuring out how to get established and begin a family, Sonny saw an opportunity to take his family’s small garden business to the next level. He inherited 70 acres of land in Clinton, built a home for himself and his family, and opened his first greenhouse.

Janoski’s Farm and Greenhouse has been in the vegetable farming business since the 1890s. Sonny’s grandparents emigrated to America from Warsaw, Poland and set down roots on Bower Hill Road in Mt. Lebanon. They started a vegetable farm and raised cows, pigs and chickens on property they purchased that now is the site of St. Clair Hospital. His parents, Anna and Michael, subsequently took over the farm after they married in 1920. Sonny was the youngest of seven children. He became the third generation of his family to maintain and grow the farm.

JoAnn recalls, “I worked for another farm, and met Sonny at the farmer’s market when I was 16. We were both selling our farm products at the North Side Farmer’s Market.”

She remembers Sonny’s father, Michael, and his mother, Anna, looking at a farm for sale in Clinton when development in Mt. Lebanon began encroaching on their land. Anna purchased the 70-acre tract after Michael passed away in 1958.

With continual encroachment in the city, Sonny and JoAnn made the move to the country after they married. They rented a house on an adjacent farm that is now Shared Acres, and farmed the property his father had purchased. They opened a small farm market and planted a variety of vegetables to sell. With the help of local schoolboys, they harvested the produce, packaging it in an old barn that sat on the land, and sold it at a farm market. Three times a week, they traveled to a farmer’s market on the Northside to sell their wares. Family and friends would often come and help.

Because the market didn’t bring in enough to sustain them, Sonny found jobs as a cab or truck driver in the winter. He also worked for Petrolane, a propane gas company.

In 1966, they built their home, which today sits in the midst of their established market and greenhouses, and began a family. Deborah was born first, then Daniel, followed by Michael and Diane.

JoAnn laughs, “He would often remind me, ‘You are lucky you can walk to work.’”

Always the one to have constant ideas and thoughts, JoAnn said that Sonny was a voracious purveyor of ideas and knowledge.

“He was always thinking; he would make me tired sometimes,” she laughs, recalling how he would never stop dreaming.

One of the more notable ideas he had was his quest to purchase a rotary mower. That resulted in his purchase of the McCoy Orchard on Route 51. The 11-acre tract was an apple farm, and the first of several that Sonny purchased to add to his farming business. He eventually bought the 50-acre Stewart Powell Farm and the 100-acre Marburger Farm. The current farm was formed from the former Zimmerman and Lewis Farms.

“He would rent farms, then eventually buy them,” JoAnn recalled.

“He read a lot, absorbed a lot, reach out to others in the field, and was always interested in newer and better ways of doing things,” JoAnn said.

By 1972, the first greenhouse was built.

In 2000, Sonny incorporated as Janoski Farms, Inc. Fast forward



ABOVE: Sonny Janoski.
RIGHT: Young Francis (Sonny) Janoski and his brother, Mike (Junior), on the farm.



to 2015, and the farm boasts more than 200 contiguous acres and another 150-plus acres elsewhere. It also has 35 greenhouses, a farm market, gift shop and restaurant. Most recently, two large pavilions were constructed adjacent to a lovely lake at the back of the property, setting the stage for seasonal events and party rentals.

His daughter-in-law Patty Janoski says, “Even as his health was failing, he still had a vision. He wanted to build the pavilions by the lake (one of four lakes on the property) and even had thoughts of making the area there into a little town of its own.”

“He loved everything about the farm, he lived for growing his vegetables and was so proud of it,” Patty said.

Of the slogan the farm often uses, “It’s all good,” Patty explained, “[Sonny] worried sometimes when things weren’t going well, or the weather wasn’t good for the crops, and he would tell



ABOVE: Sonny takes a ride in his signature red truck with his dogs.
BELOW: This barn was the only standing building on the original 70-acre farm when Sonny and JoAnn moved there. They used it to store and sort produce for a vegetable stand on the property and for selling at farmer's markets.
RIGHT: JoAnn and Sonny in a photo taken in December of 2008.

his friend Bob Ott about it, so Bob would remind Sonny, 'It's all good.' It became part of what we would say around the farm when he wouldn't stop thinking about things."

"You would never know what he would come up with, his mind was always going 24/7," Patty noted, adding this about her husband, Michael, "he has as many thoughts as his dad did."

Michael is the sole surviving son to carry on the farm. The family lost their son Daniel in 2011 due to health complications.

JoAnn noted, "A lot of responsibility will fall on Michael."

Going forward, Michael and Patty will oversee operations and

carry forward his legacy, with the help of Sonny's grandson Jeremy and his wife, Rachael, grandsons Thomas and Steven, and Daniel's son, Daniel Jr., as well as granddaughter, Brittany. In addition, about 50 employees



work at the farm, not counting those who are employed at the restaurant. Formerly the Sundance Restaurant, it became Janoski's Country Restaurant after Sonny purchased it.

JoAnn said working at the farm, among family, friends and customers, has been good therapy for her since Sonny's passing. She continues to be active in the business, overseeing daily sales and attending a farmer's market three nights a week, among other things.

Said Joann, "Sonny was a worker. He was diligent and always thinking ahead. His fun would often be to visit other farms and farm markets to check out the competition. Driving around the farm in his red pickup truck, Sonny would check on the crops, check in with the workers, make sure everything was going well for the crops at hand."

In the wintertime, when the farm was not as busy, the family would take a vacation to Florida. Even then, Sonny was on the lookout for farms and farming ideas.

For this visionary with a 10th-grade education, Sonny Janoski has left a legacy, not only to his family, but also to his community.

At a time when farms are fading, and the tradition of family-owned and operated businesses are becoming fewer, Sonny, with

the support of his wife, JoAnn, saw a vision to create something bigger than themselves.

In addition to his wife, son Mike, and daughter-in-law Patty, he is survived by two daughters, Deborah Seibel of Clinton and Diane Swimkosky of Robinson Township, as well as 13 grandchildren and a great-grandson.



Bringin' Bob Back! Lift-A-Thon Sunday, August 23

**WILL YOU HELP US
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 FRIEND AND FELLOW
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 ROBERT F. LEONARD, JR.,
 BY PARTICIPATING IN
 OUR FIRST LIFT-A-THON?**



On April 18, 2015, Bob Leonard, Jr., an Army veteran who served two tours in Iraq, was involved in a terrible motorcycle accident when his motorcycle collided with a pick-up truck. He is a loving and adoring father of two beautiful children. He is a great friend who would never hesitate to help another, and would go out of his way to do so. This is truly his time of need and we are hoping we can all come together to give him the support and love he has so unselfishly given to others.

Due to a most likely extensive recovery, Bob will be unable to work for an undetermined amount of time. Money raised will help him and his young family pay for medical and unexpected expenses.

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PROVIDED BY DR. KEVIN HARTUNG

Capable hands take over trusted chiropractic center treating back and neck pain

Last year, Dr. Kevin Hartung became the new chiropractor and clinic director at Robinson-based Family Chiropractic Center, which has been serving the West Hills community for over 30 years. During that time, Family Chiropractic Center has provided high quality chiropractic care to thousands of friends and neighbors. Just as the practice has done in the past, Hartung says it is his personal goal to find patients' underlying causes of pain and help them feel better as quickly as possible.

"I was inspired to pursue a career in chiropractic at a young age," he says, "after an ATV accident left me unable to participate in the life I loved. I knew something had to change.

"After seeking help from various doctors, I finally found something that made sense! I first heard about chiropractic through a trusted friend and neighbor. He talked about how the body can heal itself if just given the chance. Through chiropractic, I found relief and was able to resume the life I wanted!"

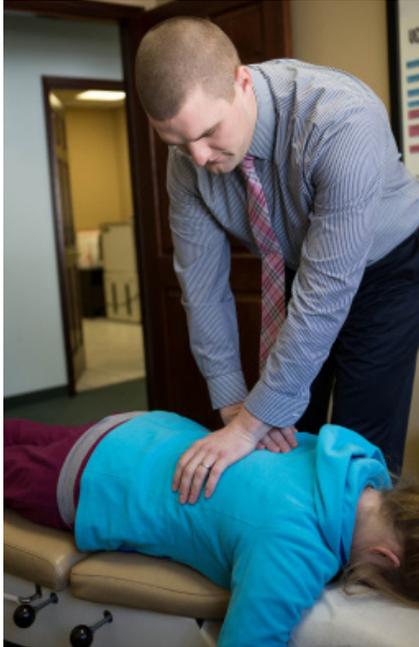
Hartung is a graduate of South Side Beaver High School. He completed his

undergraduate degree in biology at Gannon University and then earned a doctorate in chiropractic from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. After practicing for a time in Iowa, he moved back to the Pittsburgh area to practice in his hometown.

During that time, he not only perfected his clinical skills, but developed a true love for chiropractic.

"My goal from day one with every patient I meet is to not only get them symptom free, but also to safely and effectively correct the underlying cause of their symptoms," he says. "It's important to understand that the problems people experience are not just symptoms written on a page. These symptoms are often life altering. They can eventually lead to an inability to take part in the smaller activities that make life worthwhile."

Whatever the ailment, Hartung is fully committed to helping patients get well. Now is the perfect time to find out if chiropractic care can help. To schedule a complimentary consultation, call (412) 787-3320.



Plush Salon brings touch of New York City to Tonidale

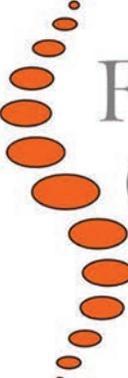
Under the definition of "plush" in The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus, there are plenty of words that could just as easily be used to describe Plush Salon in Tonidale: luscious, Babylonian, lavish, luxuriant, opulent, palatial, silken and sumptuous.

Decorated with glitzy chandeliers and sporting a HydroMassage bed, Plush isn't just a typical salon.

"From the minute you walk through the door you know you're going to be pampered," says owner Julie Buck. "We were definitely going for the feeling of a New York City salon."

Buck says she has long wanted to open a high-end salon that pampers women. An alumna of West Allegheny and Parkway West Career and Technology Center, Buck comes from a family of small business owners. She studied business herself prior to opening the salon last September near the Tonidale Exit off Route 22/30. To make her vision a reality, she's teamed up with four stylists, a makeup artist and an aesthetician.

When guests walk through the door at Plush, they're offered a beverage and then get to lay back and relax while having their hair washed. Plush also uses top quality skin and hair care products, including a vegan Hylunia skin care line that's paraben-free and contains all natural ingredients.



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Kevin S. Hartung, D.C.



“Everyone loves the Novalash eyelash extensions that give you full lashes,” says Buck. “There’s no need to wear mascara.”

Plush offers men’s and women’s cuts, hair color, Brazilian blow outs, facials, waxing, fully body waxing, makeup, and updo hairstyles for weddings, proms and special occasions.

For those who feel uncomfortable with a hands-on massage, or want a quick, 20-minute one, they can lay down and enjoy a warm private massage on the only HydroMassage bed in the area; no removing of clothing required.

Check out Plush’s specials at www.plushsalon.us, or call (412) 275-3442.

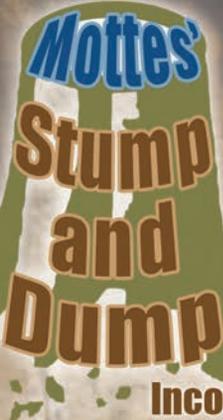
Veteran and longtime state trooper starts retirement stump removal service

After 25 years with the Pennsylvania State Police and 29 as a military reservist, McDonald resident Tim Motte retired in January. He subsequently purchased a stump grinder, a tractor-like piece of equipment used to remove difficult tree stumps, and has started a stump removal and tree debris clearing service. The small outfit currently consists of himself, his wife, Dana, and his son-in-law, Jordan.

It might not be the retirement most people daydream about; but for Motte, a longtime avid gardener who also enjoys the outdoors, it’s a dream come true. He provides free estimates and stresses that no job is too small. He does not cut down trees, but rather cleans up what tree removal services leave behind once they’re finished. Many of those services do not remove stumps, and insurance oftentimes does not cover stump removal.

A husband and father of three daughters, Motte retired following two deployments to Iraq. Stateside, he worked with a special task force started by Gov. Tom Corbett to root out illegal weapons. He joined the reserves out of high school, and the Pennsylvania State Police after graduating from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor’s in criminology.

Mottes’ Stump and Dump can be reached at (724) 231-6191 and mottestumpandump@gmail.com. Be sure to follow them on Facebook.



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It's Back to School season and the Library is here to help!

Get your mind in gear with Required Reading Book Battles, be on the lookout for the Book Bus, and don't forget the library offers students up to five pages of free printing for homework assignments. In addition, each school in the district has a designated card for student in-library computer access. Ask at the front desk for details.

All Ages Programs:

Community Garage Sale
Aug. 29, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Outside the Lines
Sept. 13-19

The Library is getting "Outside the Lines." Look for special pop-up programs and events throughout the community!

Youth Programs:

Required Reading Book Battles

Students: finished with your West Allegheny Summer Required Reading? Come to the library and battle it out in a Jeopardy-style Battle of the Books featuring the main required reading book for each grade, along with a potpourri of the alternate titles.

Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Fourth grade - **Aug. 6**

Fifth grade - **Aug. 13**

Sixth grade - **Aug. 20**

Seventh grade - **Aug. 27**

The Book Bus

Look for the Book Bus as it comes to a neighborhood near you. Check the library website for the current schedule.

Reader's Theater (grades K-5)
Sept. 8, 4:15 p.m.

Informational meeting for children and caregivers.

Paws for Reading, (grades K-5)
Sept. 19, Oct. 17 and Nov. 21, 2-3 p.m.

Children's Programs

Check website for dates and times.

PJ Family Storytime

Designed for children and toddlers through kindergarten but open to all who want to attend. Program includes stories, songs and movement activities followed by a craft. Children wear their favorite PJ's to this evening storytime.

Baby Storytime

A 20-minute storytime introduces little ones, ages birth-24 months, to books and reading with engaging stories, songs and activities. Interactive storytimes help parents learn how to foster early literacy skills. Afterward, join for a baby playgroup to socialize with parents/caregivers and let the little ones play.

Toddler Storytime and Playgroup

A special 30-minute interactive storytime for little ones aged 18 months to 3 years old with parent/caregiver. Includes stories, songs, rhymes and more! Stay for playgroup, a great opportunity to socialize with other parents/caregivers while the little ones play.

Preschool Storytime

Weekly 45-minute storytime designed for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers. Share books, songs, games, activities and a craft.

Adult Programs:

Microsoft Office Series:

Part 1: Word, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Part 2: PowerPoint, Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m.

Part 3: Publisher, Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Part 4: Excel, Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m.

eBooks Evening, Sept. 3, 6 p.m.

Hoopla, Oct. 1, 6 p.m.

Free streaming movies and Music

YA @ Heart, third Tuesdays, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, 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.

Beginning Computer Class for Seniors, Nov. 5, 2 p.m.

Marriage Enrichment Workshop, Thursdays starting Sept. 10, 6:30-8 p.m. Six-week workshop; \$20 per couple.

Better Choices, Better Health, Tuesdays starting Sept. 22, 12-4 p.m. Are you an adult with an ongoing health condition? This workshop will give you the support you need. Space is limited; registration required.

Overcome the Fear of Public Speaking, Sept. 23, 6-7:30 p.m.

VENA Health & Wellness, Sept. 30, 5-7 p.m.

Do you experience leg swelling, itching, aching, heaviness, restlessness, pain, and/or varicose veins? If so, come to this screening event.

Coffee with a Cop, Sept. 24, 11:30 a.m. North Fayette Township wants you to pull up a chair, grab a cup of coffee and get to know your local police officers. Ask questions or share concerns.

Lego Club for Adults, every other Tuesday starting Sept. 22, 6-7 p.m.

BINGO @ the Library, Sept. 17, 11:30 a.m.

Pop des Fleurs Workshops, Saturdays, Aug. 8 and 22, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Wednesdays, Sept. 2 and 9, 5-7 p.m. Pop des Fleurs is an outdoor art installation of colorful wintertime flower gardens made with fiber materials using a variety of techniques. All ages are welcome to participate in this wonderful community art project.

The Cookbook Club, first Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Bookworms, second Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Coupon Exchange, third Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Stop by the library or check out the WACL website for full program information and to sign up today!

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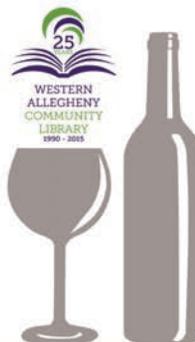


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Choosing quality childcare

One of the most important decisions parents face in the early years of raising children is choosing quality childcare. This can be an overwhelming experience, especially for parents of newborns. One way to select a childcare center is to look at its accreditations. While all childcare centers in Pennsylvania are required to be licensed by the Department of Public Welfare, there are additional accreditations that centers can pursue and maintain.

For instance, NAEYC Accreditation is a national accreditation that centers can apply to obtain. Centers also pay a fee to be evaluated for the accreditation.

Another example is the Keystone STARS Program, a state accreditation that awards centers with grant funding for their successes. The STARS program awards centers with a STAR rating from 1 through 4, with a STAR 4 rating being the highest.

Learning about accreditations and additional services that childcare centers offer helps narrow the search for quality childcare fitting each parent's needs. Also ask about the educational background and qualifications of the center's staff. A quality center should include a staff comprised of at least 50 percent of qualified teachers who have already earned or are currently pursuing an educational degree. The staff's experience in early childcare

should be evident.

A center's staff should also be age-diversified, as differentiating ages can bring different and unique teaching experiences and contributions to the center.

Also consider the center's educational program. Does it offer an established curriculum aligning with PA Early Learning Standards? Is the curriculum implemented daily, and at what age does curriculum-based learning begin?

Third, consider whether the center maintains and implements high safety standards, health regulations and procedures. What policies has the center put in place to maintain these procedures?

Finally, ask if the center possesses any additional accreditations or services that make it stand out from others.

Choosing a childcare center can be a difficult task. Researching, comparing and evaluating all of the key factors that create a

quality childcare facility can help, and instill confidence in a decision.

Melissa Merritt is the owner of Helping Hands Childcare. She has owned the business for 16 years and has 23 years of experience in early childcare. She holds a bachelor of science in education and a master of science in instructional leadership. Reach her at (724) 695-9200.



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PROVIDED BY GARY KLOBCHAR, JR.

Is this the year you stop procrastinating about your Financial Plan?

Some things to think about as you get started.

Look at your expenses and your debt. Take a look at your core living expenses (such as a mortgage payment, car payment, etc.). Can any core expenses be reduced? Investing aside, you position yourself to gain ground financially when income rises, debt diminishes and expenses decrease or stay (relatively) the same.

Maybe you should pay your debt first, maybe not. Some debt is “good” debt. A debt is “good” if it brings you income. Credit cards are generally considered “bad” debts.

If you’ll be carrying a debt for a while, put it to a test. Weigh the interest rate on that specific debt against your potential income growth rate and your potential investment returns over the term of the debt.

Of course, paying off debts, paying down balances and restricting new debt all work toward improving your FICO score, another tool you can use in pursuit of financial freedom (we’re talking “good” debts).

Implement or refine an investment strategy. You’re not going to retire solely on the elective deferrals from your paycheck; you’re going to retire (hopefully) on the interest that those accumulated assets earn over time, plus the power of compounding.



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If you want to build more wealth this year or in the near future, don’t neglect the risk management strategy that could be instrumental in helping you retain it. Your after-tax return matters. Risk management should be part of your overall financial picture.

Request professional guidance for the wealth you are (or could be) growing. A good financial professional should help to educate you about the principles of wealth building. You can draw on that professional knowledge and guidance this year – and for years to come.

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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Pre-School Curriculum



FOOT FACTS

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

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

Got the Bunion Blues?



Oakdale Foot & Ankle Center

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Coming Up . . .

August 13 - Women's Interest Network Panel & Luncheon - Topic: Career Transitions: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Airport

August 21 - Breakfast with Congressman Murphy; 7:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites

August 28 - Breakfast Briefing - Topic: What's Happening In Our Schools?; 7:30 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Green Tree

September 3 - PAACC Education Series Seminar "Sharpen Your Leadership Skills"; 8 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Pittsburgh Airport Settlers Ridge

September 11 - Legislative Breakfast; 7:30 a.m. at Montour Heights Country Club

September 17 - BizBlast @ Noon; 11:30 a.m. at Olivia's Banquet Room

For a complete events list, details and registration, visit paacc.com or call 412.264.6270.

RIBBON CUTTINGS

June 29 - MedExpress Urgent Care - Robinson

On June 29, MedExpress Urgent Care in Robinson was joined by Chamber Ambassadors for an official ribbon cutting ceremony.



July 10 - Minuteman Press

Minuteman Press was joined by Chamber Ambassadors on July 10 to celebrate their expansion into larger space and additional promotional product offerings.



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April 7-20, 2016

Starting at just \$5,589, this 14-day adventure includes roundtrip air, hotel, sightseeing, 16 meals & more!

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- Porch repair/construction
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- Weatherization
- Wheelchair Ramp repair/construction
- Mobile Home skirting

Application must be received by **31 March 2016** to be considered!

Both labor and materials are free to qualifying households. To learn how your home *might be included*, please complete & sign this confidential application and return via email, fax or USPS to:

eMail: WAW@HeroesSupportingHeroes.org | Message/FAX #: 412.235.1737

Heroes Supporting Heroes, ATTN: WAW Application, P.O. Box 787, Imperial PA 15126.0787

Your name: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Physical address: _____

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

Is your home within a 30-minute drive from **West Allegheny Middle School** Yes No

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

Describe the work you would like to have done: _____

Mailing address (if different from above): _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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SUBMITTED BY NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIP

North Fayette offering safe place for Internet transactions

In the growing world of buying and selling items online, concerns have arisen about how safe it is to buy or sell over the Internet. The majority of online sales come from buyers and sellers who are trustworthy and well-intentioned. Being that some are not, North Fayette Township and the North Fayette Police Department have created a Transaction Safe Place at the North Fayette Municipal Building. The township is offering the space to residents to use to meet prospective sellers/buyers for online transactions. Not only will this give the seller/buyer ease of mind while completing the transaction, but also help ensure that it is completed safely. The North Fayette Municipal Complex houses the North Fayette Township Police Department, which will act as a deterrent toward individuals trying to make an illegal transaction.

Here are some additional safety tips for buying and selling online, principally on the classified website Craigslist:

- Never give out real contact information
- Shop local when possible
- Never give out personal or financial information
- Avoid using money wiring services for Craigslist transactions
- Never buy something without seeing it in person
- Always meet the buyer or seller in public, and bring a friend
- Be especially careful when buying/selling high value items
- Remove geotags from pictures before posting

For more, visit <http://www.north-fayette.com/news/117-news-2>

Community policing model back in schools

In 1829, Sir Thomas Peel, who is credited with developing modern policing in London, implemented foot patrol as a way for his department to deter crime and get to know neighborhood residents.

This fall, the North Fayette Police Department will begin using this concept at township schools. West Allegheny students and faculty are already familiar with school resource officers who visit schools on a daily basis. The township is taking this proactive approach one step further by giving students the opportunity to get to know more township police officers.

The Park and Walk program will enable township officers to visit each school, where students will get to know and feel comfortable interacting with them, thereby fostering continued relationships with the community. More time in the schools will also help officers become familiar with staff and the physical layout of buildings and grounds, which could prove vital in a time of crisis.

Traffic enforcement to increase as school opens

As the North Fayette Police Department continues to support PA Buckle Up and the Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Education Project, the township reminds all drivers to be mindful that the start of the school year means increased traffic before and after the school day. The North Fayette Police Department will encourage teen seatbelt use by aggressively enforcing violations. Officers will also be more visible at the West Allegheny High School area and school bus stops.

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** Youth Savings accounts are for members under the age of 18. To receive the \$25 Welcome Gift, the new membership and youth savings accounts must remain open for at least 90 days. The \$25 bonus will then be deposited to the new Youth Savings account and reported to the IRS. Offer good through August 31, 2015.

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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.



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Findlay hires four new police officers



Judge Anthony Saveikis (pictured third from right) swore four new Findlay Township police officers into duty July 15. They were joined by Findlay Township police Captain Mark Joyce (pictured at far left). The officers are (starting second from left) Sean Truver, Antonio Mascilli, Russell Andree and Michael Johnson.

Findlay Township supervisors hired what may be the township's largest class of police officers July 8. Officers Michael Johnson, Russell Andree, Sean Truver and Antonio Mascilli will fill positions vacated by Aaron Scrivo, Sgt. Donald Sedlacek and Marc Muffi.

At a swearing-in ceremony conducted by Judge Anthony Saveikis on July 15, Findlay Township police Captain Mark Joyce said he couldn't be sure if it was the largest in the township's history, but that it is to this point in his tenure.

Johnson of Clinton and Andree of Houston were both hired as full-time officers. Truver of Upper St. Clair and Mascilli of Turtle Creek were both hired as part-time officers.

"I'm very excited to have this large class of Findlay Township police officers," Saveikis said, "and mark the professional careers of these officers in a department that has always been tops in professionalism and service."

Two of the department's vacancies were created by the retirements of longtime department members. Sedlacek retired on June 10 after 25 years with the department. During that time, he served as a school resource officer at Wilson Elementary School, heading up a DARE and women's self-defense class. He also attended the FBI National Academy and served as the FBINA Western Pennsylvania chapter president. Sedlacek will be taking on a teaching position at the Community College of Beaver County starting this fall.

Muffi retired after 31 years of service, during which time he also taught programs at Wilson and trained as a Motor Vehicle Accident Reconstructionist. Considered a professional in the field, he testified in numerous civil and criminal cases. Muffi received a number of commendations and was recognized by the Variety Club in 1985 for

his part in a local homicide investigation.

Scrivo, after being promoted to full time in January of 2012, resigned to enroll in a training program with the Auburn Police Department near Seattle, Washington, where he will be closer to his family.

Johnson joins the department as an already well-known figure in the West Allegheny community. A 1990 WA graduate, he holds a bachelor's in business administration from Delaware Valley

College. In May of 2014, Johnson was inducted into the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame for his numerous wrestling accomplishments, both in high school and college, and his long coaching career. After coaching for 10 years at Chartiers Valley, he is now a wrestling coach of eight years at WA.

Andree comes to the department after serving eight years in the U.S. Army, during which time he completed a tour of duty in Iraq. He holds an associate's degree in criminal justice from the Community College of Allegheny County.

Truver graduated from Upper St. Clair, where he played football, lacrosse and basketball. He holds a bachelor's from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in criminology. He is also currently an officer with the Leetsdale Police Department.

Mascilli comes to the department with a background in emergency medical service and volunteer firefighting. He graduated from Westmoreland Community College and is also a part-time police officer with the Turtle Creek and East McKeesport police departments.

Johnson, Andree and Truver all graduated from the Allegheny County Police Academy. Mascilli graduated from the Westmoreland County Community College Police Academy.



Sgt. Donald Sedlacek (ABOVE) and Marc Muffi (BELOW) both retired from the Findlay Township Police Department over the summer following long careers with the department.



WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOLS 2015-16 CALENDAR

www.westasd.org

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

AUGUST 19, 7 PM
 SEPTEMBER 16, 7 PM
 OCTOBER 21, 7 PM
 NOVEMBER 18, 7 PM

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

AUGUST 12, 7 PM
 SEPTEMBER 9, 7 PM
 OCTOBER 14, 7 PM
 NOVEMBER 11, 7 PM
 DEC. 9, 7 PM

PICTURE DAYS

AUGUST 9,
 MCKEE ELEMENTARY
 SEPTEMBER 23,
 WILSON ELEMENTARY

AUGUST

20 - KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION,
 8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM
 21 - HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE PICKUP,
 9 AM-1 PM, 2-6 PM
 25-28 - TEACHER IN-SERVICE
 27 - PARKWAY WEST CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY
 CENTER FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

SEPTEMBER

2 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
 7 - LABOR DAY, NO SCHOOL
 12 - ACT
 21 - JOSH AND GAB ASSEMBLY, WILSON AND
 MCKEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

OCTOBER

12 - HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS,
 TEACHER IN-SERVICE
 30 - HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS,
 TEACHER CLERICAL

NOVEMBER

2 - PARKWAY WEST CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY
 CENTER OPEN HOUSE
 3 - NO SCHOOL FOR PARKWAY WEST CAREER
 AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER
 26-30 - NO SCHOOL, THANKSGIVING BREAK

DECEMBER

1 - SCHOOL RESUMES
 7 - WILSON ELEMENTARY HOLIDAY SING, 6-8 PM
 7-11 - WILSON ELEMENTARY HOLIDAY SHOP
 24-JANUARY 1 - NO SCHOOL, WINTER BREAK

JANUARY

1 - NO SCHOOL, WINTER BREAK
 1 - CLASSES RESUME
 15 - HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS,
 TEACHER CLERICAL DAY

FEBRUARY

5 - HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS
 26 - HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS,
 TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY

MARCH

22 - ARTS ALIVE AT WILSON ELEMENTARY
 SCHOOL, 6-8:30 PM
 18 - HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS,
 TEACHER CLERICAL DAY

24-28 - SPRING BREAK
 29 - SCHOOL RESUMES

APRIL

7 - ARTS ALIVE AT MCKEE ELEMENTARY
 22 - HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS,
 TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY
 29 - NO SCHOOL GRADES 9-12,
 SENIOR PROJECT DAY

MAY

27 - HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS,
 TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY
 30 - MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL

JUNE

8 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS*
 10 - COMMENCEMENT*

Boys Varsity Football

8/22 - @ Mount Lebanon - Scrimmage - 10 AM
 8/28 - @ Belle Vernon - Scrimmage - 6 PM
 9/4 - vs. New Castle* - Senior Night - 7 PM
 9/11 - @ Chartiers Valley* - 7 PM
 9/18 - vs. Hopewell* - Youth Night - 7 PM
 9/25 - @ Ambridge* - 7 PM
 10/2 - vs. Montour* - Homecoming - 7 PM
 10/9 - @ Blackhawk* - Northwestern Elem. Field - 7:30 PM
 10/16 - @ Woodland Hills* - 7:30 PM
 10/23 - vs. Moon*
 - Purple Heart Game - Wounded Warrior Project - 7 PM
 10/30 - vs. Central Valley* - 7 PM

Girls Varsity Volleyball

8/22 - vs. Pine-Richland -
 Tri-Scrimmage w/ P-R/Obama - 10 AM
 8/29 - @ Ambridge - Multi-team scrimmage - 9 AM
 9/5 - @ Butler Varsity Tournament - 8:30AM
 9/8 - @ Moon* - 6 PM
 9/10 - vs. Mount Lebanon* - 6 PM
 9/14 - vs. Seneca Valley - 6 PM
 9/17 - @ Bethel Park* - 6 PM
 9/19 - MAC Championships
 - Hopewell High School - 8:30 AM
 9/22 - @ McKeesport* - 6 PM
 9/24 - vs. Baldwin* - 6 PM
 9/26 - @ South Fayette - Varsity Tournament - 8 AM
 9/29 - vs. Chartiers Valley* - 6 PM
 10/1 - vs. Moon* - Dig Pink Night - 6 PM
 10/6 - @ Mount Lebanon* - 6 PM
 10/8 - @ Central Valley - 6 PM
 10/13 - vs. Bethel Park* - 6 PM
 10/15 - vs. McKeesport* - Senior Night - 6 PM
 10/20 - @ Baldwin* - 6 PM
 10/22 - @ Chartiers Valley* - 6 PM

Co-Ed Varsity Cross Country

8/24 - @ Freedom Area High School -
 Open Scrimmage - Brush Creek - TBA
 9/1 - @ Quad-Scrimmage - Mingo Creek Park - 4:30 PM
 9/5 - @ Gateway Senior High School -
 Gateway Invitational - Boyce Park - 9:00 AM
 9/8 - @ Tri-Meet - Brady's Run Park - 4:00 PM
 9/12 - @ Red, White & Blue - Schenley Park - 8:30 AM
 9/15 - @ New Castle High School* - w/ Blackhawk - 3:30 PM
 9/22 - @ Ambridge HS* - Ambridge Junior High - TBA
 9/29 - Tri-meet w/ Moon-Montour* - 3:45 PM
 10/6 - Tri-meet w/Hopewell-Cent. Valley* - 3:45 PM
 10/15 - MAC Championship - Brush Creek - 3 PM
 10/22 - Tri-State Invitational - California U. of PA - TBA
 10/29 - WPIAL Finals - Girls Cooper's Lake -
 Slippery Rock - 2:15 PM
 10/29 - WPIAL Finals - Boys Cooper's Lake -
 Slippery Rock - 3:45 PM
 11/7 - PIAA Finals - Hershey Course - 10 AM

Varsity Golf (Boys)

8/24 - vs. Upper St. Clair* - Quicksilver - 3 pm
 8/27 - vs. Peters Township* - Quicksilver - 2 pm
 8/31 - @ Canon McMillan* - Lindenwood - 3 pm
 9/4 - vs. Trinity* - Quicksilver - 3 pm
 9/9 - @ Chartiers Valley* - Nevillewood - 3:30 pm
 9/16 - vs. Canon McMillan* - Quicksilver - 3 pm
 9/17 - @ Upper St. Clair* - Upper St. Clair CC - 2:45 pm
 9/21 - Section 7 Individ. Qualifier - Lindenwood - 9 am
 9/22 - @ Trinity* - Lone Pine CC - 3 pm
 9/23 - MAC Championships - Fox Run Golf Course - 9 am
 9/24 - vs. Chartiers Valley* - Quicksilver - 3 pm
 10/1 - @ Peters Township* - Rolling Hills - 3 pm
 10/8 - AAA Individ. Finals - TBA

ABSENTEE CALL-OFF NUMBERS:

HIGH SCHOOL: 724-695-1545
 MIDDLE SCHOOL: 724-695-1583
 DONALDSON: 724-213-1013
 MCKEE: 724-695-5264
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RED = HOME
 GREY = AWAY
 BLUE = SPECIAL EVENT

* - INDICATES A LEAGUE EVENT

** ALL ATHLETIC EVENT DATES
 ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

GO INDIANS!

DESIGNED BY ALLEGHENY WEST MAGAZINE - AWMAGAZINE.COM

Girls Varsity Tennis

- 8/22 - @ Hopewell - Hopewell Jr. High - Scrimmage - 10 AM
- 8/25 - vs. Canon-McMillan* - 3:30 PM
- 8/26 - vs. Ellis School* - 3:30 PM
- 8/28 - vs. Mount Lebanon* - 3:30 PM
- 8/31 - @ Upper St. Clair* - 3:30 PM
- 9/2 - vs. Montour - 3:30 PM
- 9/8 - @ Trinity* - Trinity MS Tennis Cts - 3:30 PM
- 9/10 - vs. Chartiers Valley* - 3:30 PM
- 9/15 - Section 4 Singles* - Bethel Park HS - 1 PM
- 9/16 - Section 4 Singles* - Bethel Park HS - 2 PM
- 9/17 - @ Seneca Valley - 3:30 PM
- 9/23 - @ Ringgold* - Varsity only - 3:30 PM
- 9/24 - MAC Championship - Brady's Run Park - 8:30 AM
- 9/28 - @ Peters Township* - Peters Twp. Tennis Ctr. - 3:30 PM
- 9/29 - Section 4 Doubles* - Bethel Park HS - 1 PM
- 9/30 - @ Section 4 Doubles* - Bethel Park HS - 1 PM
- 10/1 - vs. Bethel Park* - 3:30 PM
- 10/5 - @ Mars* - 3:30 PM
- 10/6 - vs. Central Valley - Senior Rec. - 3:30 PM
- 10/7 - @ Moon - 3:30 PM

Girls Varsity Soccer

- 8/26 - vs. Bethel Park - Scrimmage - 6 PM
- 9/1 - @ Beaver - Scrimmage - 6 PM
- 9/5 - @ South Fayette Tournament - 12 PM
- 9/6 - @ South Fayette Tournament - TBA
- 9/9 - @ Mount Lebanon - 6:15 PM
- 9/12 - @ Canon-McMillan - JV First - 2 PM
- 9/14 - vs. Chartiers Valley* - 6 PM
- 9/16 - @ Brashear H.S.* - Cuyper Stadium - 5 PM
- 9/19 - vs. Moon* - Varsity first - 12:30 PM
- 9/21 - @ Peters Township* - 6:30 PM
- 9/23 - vs. Trinity* - 6 PM
- 9/26 - vs. Young* - Varsity first - 1 PM
- 9/30 - vs. Canon-McMillan* - 6 PM
- 10/3 - @ Chartiers Valley* - 2 PM
- 10/5 - vs. Brashear* - SENIOR NIGHT - 6 PM
- 10/7 - @ Moon* - 6 PM
- 10/10 - @ Quaker Valley - JV First - 9:30 AM
- 10/12 - vs. Peters Township* - 6 PM
- 10/14 - @ Trinity* - 6 PM
- 10/17 - vs. Hopewell - Varsity First - 12:30 PM

Girls Varsity Basketball

- 11/28 - @ Tfi-Scrimmage w/ @V/DLSH - DLSH HS - 10 AM
- 12/1 - @ Beaver Area - Scrimmage - 5 PM
- 12/4 - @ South Side Area Tipoff - 3:30 PM
- 12/5 - @ South Side Area Tipoff - TBA
- 12/7 - @ Montour - 6 PM
- 12/10 - vs. Bethel Park* - 6 PM
- 12/14 - @ Canon-McMillan* - 6 PM
- 12/17 - vs. Baldwin* - 6 PM
- 12/21 - @ Upper St. Clair* - 6 PM
- 12/29 - @ LGKG Holiday Classic - Riverside HS - 5 PM
- 12/30 - @ LGKG Holiday Classic - Varsity only - Riverside HS - 6 PM
- 1/4 - vs. Peters Township* - 6 PM
- 1/7 - @ Mount Lebanon* - 6:00 PM
- 1/9 - vs. Woodland Hills - 12 PM
- 1/11 - vs. Moon* - 6 PM
- 1/14 - @ Bethel Park* - 6 PM
- 1/16 - vs. Keystone Oaks - 12 PM
- 1/18 - vs. Canon-McMillan* - 6 PM
- 1/21 - @ Baldwin* - 6 PM
- 1/25 - vs. Upper St. Clair* - 6 PM
- 1/26 - @ North Hills - North Hills Jr. High - 6 PM
- 1/28 - @ Peters Township* - 6 PM
- 2/1 - vs. Mount Lebanon* - 6 PM
- 2/4 - @ Moon* - 6 PM

Varsity Soccer (Boys)

- 8/24 - @ Central Valley - 6:30 pm
- 9/1 - vs. Beaver - 6 pm
- 9/5 - vs. Shady Side Academy - 1 pm
- 9/8 - vs. Quaker Valley* - 6 pm
- 9/10 - @ Keystone Oaks* - 6 pm
- 9/12 - vs. Freeport - 4:30 pm
- 9/15 - vs. Montour - 6 pm
- 9/17 - vs. Sewickley Academy - 6 pm
- 9/19 - @ Steel Valley* - 6 pm
- 9/22 - vs. Obama - 6 pm
- 9/24 - @ South Fayette* - 6 pm
- 9/26 - @ Quaker Valley* - TBA
- 9/29 - vs. Keystone Oaks* - 6 pm
- 10/1 - @ Montour* - 6 pm
- 10/3 - vs. Moon* - 2 pm
- 10/8 - vs. Steel Valley* - 6 pm
- 10/10 - @ Brashear - 1 pm
- 10/13 - @ Obama* - TBA
- 10/15 - vs. South Fayette* - Senior Night - 6 pm
- 10/20 - @ Seneca Valley - 6 pm

Varsity Basketball (Boys)

- 11/21 - vs. Shady Side Academy - 11 am
- 12/1 - @ Hopewell - 6 pm
- Moon Tipoff Tournament (Moon Area High School)
- 12/4 - vs. Moon - 6 pm
- 12/5 - vs. Seneca Valley - 3:30 pm
- 12/8 - vs. Central Valley - 6 pm
- 12/11 - vs. McGuffey* - 6 pm
- 12/15 - @ Keystone Oaks* - 6 pm
- 12/18 - vs. South Park* - 6 pm
- 12/19 - @ Quaker Valley Holiday Festival (Aliquippa HS) - TBA
- 12/22 - @ South Fayette* - 6 pm
- 12/28-12/30 - Pete Sauer Memorial Tournament (Shady Side Academy) - TBA
- 1/5 - vs. Trinity* - 6 pm
- 1/8 - @ Shaler - 6 pm
- 1/12 - @ Montour* - 6 pm
- 1/15 - @ McGuffey* - 6 pm
- 1/19 - vs. Keystone Oaks - 6 pm
- 1/22 - @ South Park* - 6 pm
- 1/23 - @ Our Lady Of The Sacred Heart - 12 pm
- 1/26 - vs. South Fayette* - 6 pm
- 1/29 - @ Trinity* - 6 pm
- 2/3 - @ Blackhawk - 6:30 pm

Wrestling

- 11/21 - Multi-team scrimmage (Fox Chapel HS) - 10 am
- 11/28 - Multi-team scrimmage (Chartiers Valley HS) 9 am
- 12/4 - Char-Houston Tournament (Chartiers Houston HS) - 4:30 pm
- 12/5 - Char-Houston Tournament (Chartiers Houston HS) - 10 am
- 12/9 - vs. Montour* - 7 pm
- 12/16 - @ Ambridge* - 7 pm
- 12/29 - Conestoga Valley Invitational - TBA
- 1/6 - vs. Blackhawk* - 7 pm
- 1/8 - MAC Championship (Hopewell HS) - 4:15 pm
- 1/9 - MAC Championship (Hopewell HS) - 10 am
- 1/14 - vs. Peters Township - 7 pm
- 1/20 - @ Hopewell* (Hopewell Jr. Hi. gym "A") - 7 pm
- 1/22 - Allegheny County Wrestling Champ. (Fox Chapel HS) - 10:15 am
- 1/23 - Allegheny County Wrestling Champ. (Fox Chapel HS) - 9 am
- 1/27 - Team Section Championships (TBA) - 6 pm
- 2/10 - @ Upper St. Clair - 7:30 pm
- 2/27 - Section 4 Championships - TBA
- 3/3 - PIAA/WPIAL Indiv. Finals (Penn Hills HS) - 5:30 pm
- 3/4 - PIAA/WPIAL Indiv. Finals (Penn Hills HS) - 5:30 pm
- 3/5 - PIAA/WPIAL Indiv. Finals (Penn Hills HS) - 10 am



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- 10/22 - vs. Peters Township - 6 pm
- 10/29 - WA Christmas Invite - Diving - 6 pm
- 10/30 - WA Christmas Invite - Swimming - 11 am
- 1/7 - @ Hampton* - 4 pm/6 pm
- 1/14 - vs. Seneca Valley* - 6 pm
- 1/16 - @ Central York - York Invite - 10 am
- 1/21 - @ North Hills* - 6 pm
- 1/28 - @ Shaler* (no diving; Scott Elem. pool) - 6 pm
- 2/4 - vs. Pine-Richland* - 6 pm
- 2/11 - vs. North Allegheny* - 6 pm
- 2/12 - MAC Diving Championship (Moon Area HS) - 2 pm
- 2/13 - MAC Swimming Championship (Moon Area HS) 10 am
- 2/18 - @ Moon* - 6 pm
- 2/26 - WPIAL Boys Diving (Moon Area HS) - TBA
- 2/27 - WPIAL Girls Diving (North Allegheny HS) - TBA
- 3/1-3/4 - WPIAL Finals (Univ. of Pittsburgh) - TBA
- 3/16-3/19 - PIAA Finals (Bucknell University) - TBA



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WRITING A COLLEGE ESSAY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PAINFUL

BY BARRY DUERR

If you took a poll that asked most high school seniors if they would rather (a) clean their room, (b) spend a morning at their orthodontist, (c) take out the trash every day for a year, or (d), write an essay for their college application, you can be fairly certain that a majority would choose (a), (b), and/or (c). In fact, most would rather do just about anything rather than write their college application essay.

This is true for several reasons, one of which is that many high school students are not asked to write much in high school, and therefore feel neither comfortable doing it nor confident in their ability. Secondly, they understand that their college application essay is pretty darn important if they want to be offered admission to their first-choice college. My findings are based on extensive scientific evidence, which include speaking with my three college-aged children and several of their friends.

It does not have to be that way, though. Writing does not need to be a task that one dreads; and the college application essay does not need to be something that causes one pain, suffering and anxiety. Yes, it is important, maybe even crucial, but you can get through it, do it well, and use it to get into the college of your choice.

Here are a few suggestions to get you through the process.

• **KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO DO.**

All of the colleges to which you are applying will have different essay topics. Read them carefully and respond appropriately. Some may provide specific prompts. Others may be more open ended. Some may provide word limits; others may not. At the University of Pittsburgh, for example, we have three, short answer questions instead of a traditional essay. You can see the questions and get a head start on drafting your responses at www.oafa.pitt.edu. Some colleges may even say that the essay is optional. If they tell you that, my suggestion is to do the essay anyway. It will demonstrate that you are willing to go above and beyond the minimum.

• **APPROACH IT AS YOU WOULD A WRITING ASSIGNMENT FOR YOUR HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH CLASS:** brainstorm, outline, rough draft, revise, second draft, revise, third draft. Ask someone to proofread. Write a final draft. Writing is a process. Very few are able to go from idea to final draft in one step.

• **BE YOURSELF.** Be creative and original, but not controversial. Think of me reading essays from 9

a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. I want to read essays that stand out, make me think, laugh, cry and reflect. Be passionate about your subject.

• **CREATIVITY AND ORIGINALITY ARE IMPORTANT, BUT SO ARE THE TECHNICAL THINGS.** Spelling, grammar, punctuation, verb tense and capitalization are all important. Your proofreader should be someone who can pick up on all of these things. Spellcheck is wonderful, but it may not catch all of you're errors (did you catch that one?).

These next few suggestions may seem obvious, but many students still ignore them.

• **FIRST**, if you are using the same essay for multiple colleges - which is okay, so long as the topic is appropriate and relevant - remember to use the correct college name in your essay.

• **SECOND**, type your essays using a print size that does not require people in admissions departments like myself to use a microscope. Use a standard font like Times New Roman with black ink.

• **THIRD**, remember to include your name and some other identifier, such as your date of birth or high school, especially if you are submitting your essay separately.

Finally, consider submitting something that I would refer to as a personal statement. Remember, you want your application to stand out from the thousands of others that the admissions committee is reviewing. Your essay is one way to do that; a personal statement is another.

In my 27 years in college admissions, I have received student samples of original poetry and excerpts from plays that they have written. I have received artwork, such as photos of sculptures and recordings of musical performances ranging from classical to heavy metal. I have watched DVDs of dance recitals and original film productions. I have read articles published in local weekly newspapers and on blogs.

Your college essay is certainly important, but it should not be as stressful as you might think. Different colleges are going to look at your essay differently. For some, it may be a very critical part of the admissions decision. For others, that may not be the case. Whatever the case, you still want to do your best work and showcase yourself as positively as you can. Suggestions here provide a good place to begin.

Barry Duerr is the associate director of admissions at the University of Pittsburgh. He can be reached at duerrb@pitt.edu.

IS SPECIALIZED CAREER TRAINING THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOUR FUTURE?

Are you the type of person who likes working with your hands? Do you want to go to a school where your education is focused on your specific field of interest without the added “fluff” courses? Would you prefer to earn an affordable, quality education in half the time and advance into your career faster?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then specialized career training from a trade school may be the right fit for you and your future.

Trade schools, which are also referred to as technical or vocational schools, offer a “fast-track” postsecondary education path with specialized career training for in-demand careers. Typically, these schools have smaller class sizes and offer hands-on courses. Some of the jobs a vocational degree can lead to include technician positions (automotive, diesel, HVAC), electricians, welders, pharmacy technicians, cosmetologists, graphic designers, machinists and dental hygienists.

Trade schools are an option often overlooked as a postsecondary education path and stereotypically viewed as a second-rate path; something for those not intelligent enough to go to college. However, this isn’t the case, and demand for skilled workers is higher than ever.

Here are some things to consider when discussing postsecondary education choices:

LENGTH OF PROGRAM:

While a traditional bachelor’s degree program requires on average four (or more) years to complete, technical and trade colleges take approximately two years or less depending on the school and the program. The reason for this is that trade schools have developed curricula that focus on developing a particular skillset and knowledge base for a specific career rather than on general studies.

COST OF EDUCATION:

The longer you are in postsecondary education, the higher your tuition bill will be after graduation. On average, a four-year institution can cost around three times the tuition of a trade school.

JOB OUTLOOK:

According to a recent report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for young adults is 14.2 percent, which is close to

double the overall unemployment rate of 7.9 percent. Ironically, the BLS also reported that the number of job openings is 5.4 million, with a majority of these jobs being in industries that require vocational education. While students with bachelor’s degrees struggle to find jobs, students with vocational degrees are quickly moving into the workforce.

No matter the path you choose, higher education is an essential step to your future. Understand your education options and do what makes you happy.

Rosedale Technical College is a local, nonprofit higher education institution offering specialized career training in areas that fuel this region’s economy. To learn more about training options available at Rosedale’s West Hills campus, call them at (412) 521-6200 or visit www.RosedaleTech.org.

COLLEGE FAIRS

College fairs are a great way to peruse numerous colleges all in one place. This fall, hundreds of colleges, universities, technical schools and U.S. Armed Forces representatives will be visiting the area via college fairs. A number of local high schools, guidance counselor associations and colleges are sponsoring these fairs, where prospective students and their parents can learn more about academic programs, admissions requirements, financial aid, athletic programs, student activities and more. Pick up literature and learn what it’s like to be a student on campus. Arrange a tour and speak one-on-one with an admissions representative. This is a good first step to the college selection process. Fairs are free and open to everyone. Here are some coming up in the area:

MOON AREA HIGH
SCHOOL COLLEGE FAIR,
ROBERT MORRIS
UNIVERSITY,
SEPT. 24, 6-8 P.M.

PENN STATE
UNIVERSITY
BEAVER CAMPUS,
SEPT. 29,
6:30-8:30 P.M.

NORTHERN AREA
COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION
COLLEGE NIGHT,
LA ROCHE COLLEGE,
OCT. 5, 6-8 P.M.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE FAIR,
DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY,
OCT. 11,
1-3 P.M.

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MESSAGE TO 2016 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

PTI is now accepting early admissions applications for classes starting July and October in 2016. Early admissions applicants from the graduating class of 2016 are eligible to receive an automatic \$500 Early Admissions Grant if these steps are completed by Nov. 20, 2015: application for admission, transcript release form, tuition deposit, and, if applicable, background check form.

Additionally, early admissions applicants can qualify for the chance to win one of three \$3,000 Early Admissions Scholarships to be announced Dec. 18, 2015 by answering "Why it's important to me to continue my education after high school." To learn more, visit www.pti.edu/earlyadmissions. Responses must be received by Nov. 20, 2015.

MESSAGE TO 2015 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

If you postponed the decision to continue your education, and the decision you made in 2015 hasn't worked out the way you planned, you can still be in a college classroom this fall. PTI's fall session starts Oct. 13, 2015. With more than 30 associate degree and certificate programs and schedules that range from daytime to evening to 100 percent fully online, there are plenty of choices for everyone.

Campus tours are available daily Monday through Friday and many Saturdays. To schedule a visit, go to www.pti.edu/visit.

LATEST NEWS FROM PTI

The American Academy of Culinary Arts at PTI announces an award-winning chef in training. Amanda Shoup, AACA student, won the Pittsburgh competition to advance to regionals in the 2015 Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseurs competition sponsored by La Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, an international gastronomic society founded in Paris in 1950. AACA's Shoup brought home a bronze medal.

The therapeutic massage practitioner program in PTI's School of Healthcare announces its most recent licensure pass rate. PTI massage graduates achieved an 85.7 percent pass rate for all first-time licensure test-takers for the Jan. 1 through May 15 period. This surpasses the state and national pass rates for the same time period, which are 67.5 percent and 69.7 percent respectively, according to the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards.

The School of Nursing announces its first class of traditional associate in science, nursing graduates. More than 300 family members and friends attended a pinning ceremony honoring 17 ASN graduates plus 24 practical nursing graduates and 7 LPN to ASN graduates.

These PTI After Dark evening programs start Oct. 13: information technology – network administration, computer aided drafting, both architectural drafting and mechanical drafting, electronics engineering technology, oil and gas electronics, and medical coding. To learn more, visit www.pti.edu/afterdark.

Information Provided by Pittsburgh Technical Institute.

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The financial aid process can be confusing, especially if you've never applied to college. Getting familiar with these terms will help you navigate the process:

• **FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID**

(FAFSA) – FAFSA is the form used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine your Expected Family Contribution. This figure is based on financial information such as income, assets and other household information. The FAFSA is the application used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine eligibility for federal, state and college-sponsored aid. This would include grants, educational loans and work-study programs.

• **EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)**

– This is the amount that your family is expected to provide toward a student's education. The federal government determines your EFC using a standard formula after you file the FAFSA.

• **COST OF ATTENDANCE** – Cost of attendance is made up of direct costs and indirect costs.

Direct costs are the charges that a college will bill you each semester that you are enrolled. These include tuition, fees, and room and board (if you live in a residence hall).

Indirect costs are expenses that you will incur in addition to direct costs, including books and supplies, transportation costs, personal expenses and a living allowance.

• **FINANCIAL NEED** – This is the difference between the cost of attendance and your EFC, which is subtracted from the cost of attendance. The result is your financial need. Your EFC will stay the same regardless of the school you attend.

• **TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID** –

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS – These are funds provided for your education that do not need to be repaid. Scholarships and grants can be merit-based or need-based, and can come from a variety of sources.

LOANS – Loans provide funds for your education now but need to be paid back in the future. These can come from private sources, such as banks, or state and federal programs.

WORK-STUDY – Work-study is a needs-based program that allows students to earn money to use toward their personal or educational expenses.

This information provided by Terrance R. Kizina, director of freshman admissions, La Roche College, terrance.kizina@laroche.edu or 412-536-1275.

MAKING SENSE OF THE WAYS TO BE ADMITTED TO COLLEGE

Each year, students begin the process of searching, applying to, visiting and eventually selecting a college or university where they will spend their next four years as a student. Sometimes, the language used in the admissions profession can be confusing and not easily understood. Most colleges and universities accept students in one or two ways.

Here are five ways that students can be admitted to an institution. Sometimes, schools will use more than one method to admit students. An example would be a school that might operate by admitting students under both the early decision and regular decision model. As you begin your college selection process, look at when the application and required documents are due, and when you will be notified.

EARLY DECISION (ED) – Under this program, students apply early - usually by Nov. 1 or Nov. 15, depending on the college - and receive their admissions decisions by Dec.

15. In return for this early decision, the student, parents and school counselor sign a pledge that says the student will attend that college if they are accepted. The student agrees to withdraw all other applications and not accept any other offers of admission. This program is binding.

EARLY ACTION (EA) – This program is a hybrid of Early Decision. Students may apply early under these early action programs and receive an early admissions decision. However, the student is under no obligation to accept the offer of admission and can wait until May 1 to select which college to attend.

REGULAR DECISION – This is the normal process by which students apply by published deadlines, with the promise of receiving an admissions decision no later than April 1 of their senior year. Some colleges will give admissions decisions well prior to April 1, but the student is under no obligation to make a decision about whether to attend until the common response date of May 1.

ROLLING ADMISSION – This is a policy used by many colleges to admit students. Under rolling admission, candidates are invited to submit their applications to the college or university anytime within a large window of time and are normally notified of the admissions decision within several weeks. Students typically have until May 1 to make their decision.

OPEN ADMISSION – This generally means that the admission process at a college is unselective and non-competitive. The only criterion for admission is that the student has a high school diploma or GED.

HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHAT A COLLEGE WILL COST?

To make an early estimate of your total annual cost of attending a college or university, you will find on each school's website a **NET PRICE CALCULATOR**. The calculator is designed to estimate costs and eligibility for financial aid based on information that you enter about yourself and your family. As you begin the college search process, and determine what schools are right for you, always work with the financial aid offices at those schools to be aware of their specific financial aid deadlines and any other requirements they may have for the financial aid process.

THE CAREER PATH TO NURSING:

CHOOSING A SCHOOL THAT'S THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU!

Summer is almost over, and everyone is in back-to-school mode! Area high school juniors and seniors are looking ahead to future post-secondary education, deciding which course track is the best road for them. With a growing need for nurses across the country, many may be considering a career as a Registered Nurse, or R.N.

Hospital-based R.N. diploma programs generally run for 21 months, and many of those work in tandem with colleges to provide students with a dual associate's degree and R.N. diploma. Programs like these also make it easy to transition to an R.N.-to-B.S.N. program, and earn a bachelor's while working as a registered nurse.

SO WHAT SHOULD PROSPECTIVE NURSING SCHOOL APPLICANTS LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING A NURSING SCHOOL, AND WHO MAKES THE BEST CANDIDATE?

When you're looking for a school that's the right fit for your needs, consider the following:

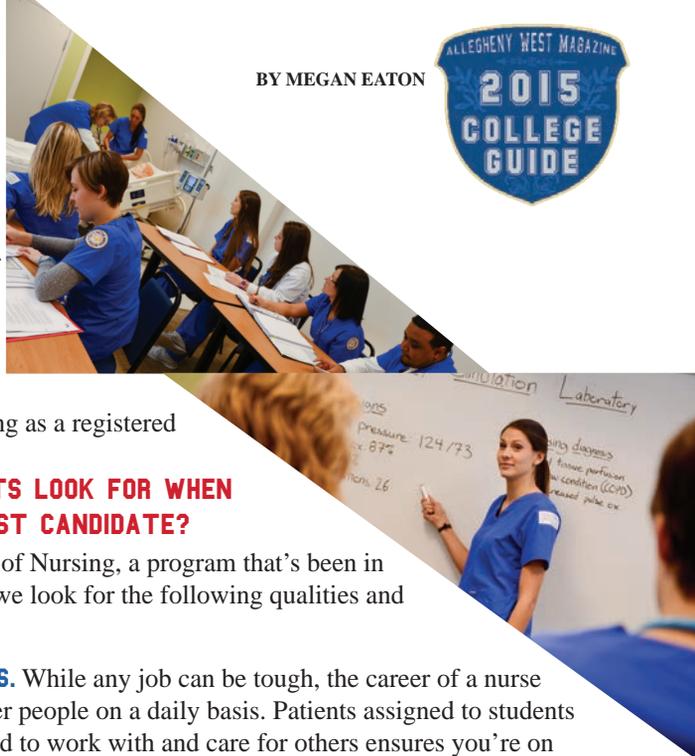
- 1) PROGRAM LENGTH AND CURRICULUM STRUCTURE.** Make sure a program gives you time to digest information and put it to good use, but also lets you get out in the working world.
- 2) FACULTY EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION.** Smaller class sizes mean more hands-on experience.
- 3) CLINICAL SITE LOCATION.** Make sure you will have the opportunity for a hands-on experience at a quality clinical location.
- 4) COST OF ATTENDANCE.** School can be expensive, and you want to make sure you've picked an affordable option.
- 5) TRANSFER OF CREDITS.** Make sure your credits can transfer from a R.N. to B.S.N. program.

At Ohio Valley Hospital's School of Nursing, a program that's been in existence for more than 110 years, we look for the following qualities and abilities in a prospective student:

- 1) A DESIRE TO CARE FOR OTHERS.** While any job can be tough, the career of a nurse involves interacting with many other people on a daily basis. Patients assigned to students rely on them to feel better. That need to work with and care for others ensures you're on the right career path.
- 2) DEDICATION.** A 21-month program means you're going to school year-round, which involves a lot of studying and hands-on training. That kind of commitment takes dedication. Ohio Valley only accepts 50 students per year. As a result, OVH wants to make sure each student is committed to the program.
- 3) COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL, INTRODUCTORY-LEVEL ALGEBRA, CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY.** Completing suggested prerequisite course work, including anatomy, physiology and microbiology, while not required, helps students stay ahead.
- 4) SCORE WELL ON THE ENTRANCE EXAM.** At OVH's School of Nursing, prospective students who score above a certain percentage may be eligible for a **FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP!**

Megan Eaton is the director of marketing and communications at Ohio Valley Hospital. To reach the OVH School of Nursing, call (412) 777-6204 or visit <http://ohiovalleyhospital.org/schools/school-of-nursing/>

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PHOTO BY DAVID ASCHKENAS

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Class of 2015 celebrates with new commencement traditions

For the class of 2015, June 5 was a night to remember, as graduates were celebrated and new traditions were embraced. Family, friends, teachers and administrators were on hand to recognize their accomplishments and wish them continued success.

Senior class officers led graduates into the gymnasium, where colors were presented by the West Allegheny Marine Corps JROTC. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the senior address was given by distinguished honors recipients Emily Bower and Dakota Lamb. School board president Debbie Mirich presented the welcoming notes. Senior class officers were president Dakota Lamb, vice president Tyler Scanlon, secretary Clay Rehm and treasurer Christian Stout.

The keynote address took an inspired turn when presenters Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, superintendent, and Daniel Smith, high school lead principal, introduced a video tribute from high school staff that shared department-themed life lessons and well wishes with the 219 graduates. The video also included photos provided by graduates highlighting their senior year. The video, which was compiled and produced by teachers Leah Vestal and Mike Shaffer, can be found on the District's Facebook page and website at www.westasd.org. The night's activities were captured in time by athletic director David McBain when he snapped the first-ever commencement selfie of the entire class with the superintendent and principal.

Recognized with distinguished honors as the top 10 percent of the class, with a 4.0 or higher GPA and graduating summa cum laude, were: Kiera Acitelli, Daniel Aromando, Jenna Bandi, Sara Bodnar, Emily Bower, Rachel Buck, Lauren Costa, Katie DeBiasio, Eric Evans, Matthew Ferruzza, Jennifer Forse, McKenzie Johnsen, Dakota Lamb, Amanda McGeary, Eric Nguyen, Tyler Scanlon, Tyler Sciulli, Elizabeth Sible, Matthew Starkman, Christian Stout, Raven Wahl and Collin Wurst.

The evening's music was provided by the Senior Chorus, under the direction of Earl Wiechelt, Jr., high school music teacher, and the West Allegheny Brass Ensemble, under the direction of Steven Groba, middle school music teacher. Senior Devon Brown was the piano accompanist.



ABOVE: Selfie stick in hand, athletic director Dave McBain (center) snaps the first-ever graduation class selfie with lead principal Daniel Smith and superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert.



ABOVE: Graduates prepare for the ceremony.

RIGHT: Art teachers Leah Shuck and Mike Short were among the teachers who participated in a celebration video sharing life lessons with graduates. Here, they channel the spirit of soft-spoken artist Bob Ross.



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West Allegheny School District

Superintendent's Message

Submitted by Karen Ruhl,
Community Relations Coordinator

At this time last year, I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert as she was embarking on her new role as superintendent. We discussed her impressions and vision for the District and shared her insights in WA Today. After a productive year of collaborative work, it seemed appropriate to revisit some of those topics, as well as delve into a few new ones.

Q: So, last year I asked you to share your first impressions of the District. How did those impressions hold up and what are your second impressions?

A: My initial impressions have only been re-affirmed throughout our first year together. I spoke a year ago about the tremendous pride the community has for the District, the quality of people in the District and community, and lastly, the collective desire to propel the District forward. These impressions have continued to be reinforced. In addition, I have been struck by the dedication, hard work and commitment of our staff. Our teachers and principals have embraced new scheduling structures, curriculum and learning to obtain better outcomes for all our students. Our amazing community came together and raised over \$17,000 to support the Book Bus, stocking it with nearly 800 books. This free educational program for families will promote kindergarten readiness. Collectively, the District, with feedback from student and parent advisory groups, as well as teacher leadership teams, have set the stage for propelling the District to new heights of excellence. This comes through creating a culture where every West Allegheny student will graduate on a 21st century career pathway and/or two- to four-year college pathway.

Q: It has been a year filled with notable highlights; of what WA accomplishment(s) are you most proud?

A: The culture; the shifting culture is more focused on every student being college and/or career ready by the time we hand them a diploma. With that comes the underlying belief that effort creates ability. In other words, smart isn't something you are, it is something you become. Effort and hard work create ability and success. Our work to prepare students for a career pathway and/or college started with changing expectations from some students to ALL students. We have and will continue to debunk the myth that a student pursuing a 21st century career needs a less demanding academic program of studies than the student going to college. On the contrary, our career-oriented students need just as much academic preparedness as our students who plan to go to college. To this end, I am proud of all that we have accomplished together because of the impact it will have on all of our students' futures.

Now, if asked what I believe the top five most impactful things are, I would say:

- Full day kindergarten and consistent K-5 curriculum across all elementary schools.
- STEM grant for grades 6-12 that will dramatically support more WA students enrolling in AP courses and earning

qualifying scores, which are indicators of college preparedness and persistence through degree completion.

- A whole community focus on improving literacy, including the Book Bus, required summer reading and re-vamping the K-12 English Language Arts curriculum.
- Enriched academic programming modifications to the middle school and high school, as well as more rigorous graduation requirements.
- Our teachers' commitment to professional learning and modeling for our students a growth mindset from a student-centered, strength-based approach.

Q: What academic challenges face the District over the next five years?

A: One challenge is to make certain we optimize the structural changes we made this school year. What I mean by that is, you can modify how long students spend in math class or in kindergarten. However, if you don't change what happens within that structure to better support students learning, including both remediation and acceleration, students will not benefit. Increasing the time students spend in math class in middle school and high school is intended to help our students achieve higher levels of math courses prior to graduation and have more hands-on, minds-on learning to apply math concepts and skills. It is not intended to support more time spent on homework. Providing full-day kindergarten is intended to ensure that our youngest learners are supported to achieve the academic milestones to be ready for first grade and ultimately reading on or above grade level by third grade. As we move into the upcoming school year, we shift away from structural modifications to supporting effective implementation to fully leverage our outcomes and benefits for all students.

Another significant challenge will be to ensure that we have the appropriate perspective as a school community on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) grades 3-8 scores. On July 9, 2015, the State Board of Education raised the bar significantly for student achievement by approving new, more rigorous cut scores and performance-level descriptors for the PSSA in grades 3-8 for ELA and mathematics. The new academic standards (PA Core Standards adopted in 2013) and aligned PSSAs significantly raise the expectation of what students are required to know and demonstrate by the end of each academic year. The result is a much more difficult and challenging test. The state level results were recently released and, as you might expect, the first year of the new assessment has produced dramatic drops in proficiency levels across the state. This means less students are achieving the new academic expectations at each grade level. State scores are particularly lower in mathematics, with significant grade level drops; as much as 30 to 40 percentage points in middle grade math. The bar has intentionally been set high in order to better prepare our students to be college and career ready when they graduate and be successful in the 21st century work force.

When we receive our assessment scores for the District, tentatively scheduled for September 9 - as per the Pennsylvania

Department of Education - we fully expect our achievement on the state assessments to be lower than in previous years. It is imperative that lower assessment scores are not viewed as student failure. Assessment score decline is expected when the test gets harder. Our students are defined by much more than one test score. Our students have not changed; the assessment has, and it is now significantly harder. We will use the 2015 data to establish a new baseline for the District. We will also use the results to assess individual student mastery of essential content and skills, as well as the degree of our instructional program and curriculum alignment to the new standards.

It is also important to recognize that the District began last year aggressively aligning instructional practices and programs to the new PA Core Standards. Unfortunately, this progression takes more than a year. The process of aligning to the new state standards entails new resource adoptions across all ELA courses, K-12, and most math courses, K-12. Revised curriculum must be written around the new materials and teachers need professional development to prepare for the challenge. This is a multi-year process that is both money and time intensive. The District is on the right track, and although we anticipate a decline on the spring 2015 PSSAs, we expect to experience progressive improvement in the coming years. We are confident that the drop in scores will not impact our students' ability to be college and/or 21st century career ready by the time they graduate.

Q: What is something you are really excited about for the upcoming school year?

A: It is impossible to say only one thing. I am excited for so many things. I cannot wait for our teachers and students to come back. I look forward to resuming classroom visits, attending student academic events, watching athletic competitions and attending art activities.

Another exciting happening that we have not discussed much over the past year in WA Today is our commitment to improving technology reliability, access and functionality. We have already begun implementing major improvements to our network infrastructure, which will result in a 300 percent increase in wireless speed and 100 percent wireless access in our schools. We have also increased our Internet bandwidth speed by 45 percent. This increase in both wireless and broadband speed will be completed over the summers of 2015 and 2016. It will provide faster access to local network and web resources, ultimately providing our students with a state-of-the-art network infrastructure to enhance their technology experience.

Lastly, much emphasis has been placed over the past several years on introducing a STEAM focus in our high school. According to the National Commission on Math and Science

for 21st Century, 60 percent of new jobs will require skills possessed by only 20 percent of the current workforce. The U.S. will be short as many as three million highly skilled workers by 2018. With this in mind, we are proud to introduce a vision for STEAM integration in grades K-8 that will align with and support high school courses. Through partnerships with California University of Pennsylvania and the Carnegie Science Center, our elementary and middle school students will now have the opportunity to explore STEAM concepts at every grade level. This far-reaching program is designed to inspire our students to explore possible career opportunities within the fields of science, technology, engineering, the arts, mathematics and medicine.

At the elementary schools, students will experience a progressive STEAM curriculum through the introduction of

Code, Scratch, and Lego Robotics.

Students in each grade level will imagine, create, and explore computer science and computer programming concepts, which will help encourage and establish a healthy and valuable curiosity in STEAM technology.

Code Studio, grades K-2, will engage students in the basics of computer programming and computer science in fun and interactive ways. Scratch, grade 3, will have students programming their own interactive stories, games and animations, while sharing their creations in an online

community. Fourth- and fifth-graders will be introduced to the field of robotics through Lego Mindstorms, through which they will learn the skill of computer programming, learn by doing, engage in real life applications and create a working prototype.

At the middle school, a Digital Fabrication Lab will now be available. Equipped with 3-D printers, laser engravers, CNC routers and CADD design software, the "Fab Lab" will provide creative and innovative opportunities for all students, allowing them to explore the fundamentals of engineering while inspiring them to become creative thinkers, collaborative learners and problem solvers. Additionally, two new courses, Innovation Design 101 and 102, will be introduced to students in grades 6 and 8. These two courses replace Family and Consumer Science, respectively. The innovation and design courses will allow students to explore entrepreneurship while designing their own business, as well as continue to expand on principles of computer programming and computer science. The new classes will effectively align with the existing middle school technology education course and with the high school engineering curriculum. This will create a STEAM learning pathway from the middle level through high school, and support post-secondary college and career readiness. Collectively, the K-8 STEAM courses will engage our students in a cycle of imagination, design, innovation, and collaboration that reinforces critical-thinking and problem-solving while reinforcing important math and science concepts and skills.

"Our teachers and principals have embraced new scheduling structures, curriculum and learning to obtain better outcomes for all our students."

District athletic and arts activity fees reduced

The school board recently voted to reduce high/middle school athletic and arts activity fees to make costs more family-friendly. In 2012, the school board introduced fees to offset the cost of transportation, equipment, supplies and other expenses directly associated with student athletics and arts activities. The administration, however, has since reevaluated the fee structure and proposed a set fee and reduction of the per-student cost. The school is also introducing a family cap of \$350.

The following fee structure has been approved by the West Allegheny Board of School Directors:

Group	Definition	Associated Fee
High School Arts or Other Activities (grades 9-12)	Any extracurricular activity or co-curricular activity deemed applicable	Cost per activity as listed: Non-revenue producing is \$75 Revenue producing is \$100 \$200 maximum per student/year \$350 family cap per year
High School Athletics (grades 9-12) <i>Includes Cheerleading and Marching Band</i>	Any student who uses a District-issued uniform or equipment and/or is transported by the District to the activity	Cost per activity as listed: \$200 maximum per student/year \$350 family cap per year
Junior High/Middle School Athletics (may include grades 7, 8, 9) <i>Includes Cheerleading</i>	Any student who uses a District-issued uniform or equipment and/or is transported by the District to the activity	Cost per activity as listed: All MS/JH sports are \$50 \$200 maximum per student/year \$350 family cap per year

Students who qualify for free and reduced lunches are NOT required to pay the athletic/arts activity fee. However, the activity form still must be completed and returned. A list of high/middle school athletics and arts activities is provided on the District website at www.westasd.org

District introduces half days in 2015-2016 school year

As previously announced, the District has introduced half days in the 2015-2016 calendar. In collaboration with teacher advisory groups, as well as school and district administrators, the half-day schedule will more effectively meet the needs of students, families and staff.

Specifically, the half-day schedule:

- Meets the West Allegheny board requirement of 184 student days.
- Efficiently supports student learning and ongoing staff professional learning.
- Provides added flexibility with four built-in snow days while meeting the Pennsylvania Department of Education requirement of 180 days.
- Supports the needs of both Wilson and McKee Elementary School renovation projects while providing the least disruptive use of student instructional time.

For students, the half-day schedule translates into shortened class times similar to the two-hour, weather-related delay schedule. Half-day release times for the middle and high schools will be 11:25 a.m. and for the elementary schools 12:20 p.m. Lunch and transportation will be provided on these days.

Please mark your calendar for student half days:

October 12	January 15	March 18
October 30	February 5	April 22
November 13	February 26	May 27

In the event of a weather-related, two-hour delay on scheduled half days, the half-day dismissal will be extended to regular dismissal time. An exception would be on February 5, which would become a non-student day if inclement weather warrants a two-hour delay. This would allow for previously scheduled parent-teacher conferences.

Thanks to retired staff

West Allegheny School District sincerely thanks the following retirees for their years of dedication to enriching the lives of our students:

JoAnn Biscan
Mary Buhman
Lorraine Burns
Doris Catalano
Lynn Huebner
Richard Ireland
Patricia Meanor
Munaii Franjione
Deborah Kazar
Mary Beth Kramer
Terry Petrick
Michael Quinn
Sheryl Pacella
Marilyn Swaoger
Pamela Volakis
Beth Voltz



We can't wait to welcome students back on the first day of school! Wednesday, September 2

District contracts with The Nutrition Group to provide food services

The District has contracted with The Nutrition Group to manage its food services beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. The Irwin-based company has been serving school meals for 40 years and is eager to introduce a number of exciting changes:

- Kitchens at all five school buildings will now be fully operational and serve freshly made meals daily. In the past, meals were served via a satellite system. The change in the way meals are prepared means students will enjoy a higher quality and greater variety of scratch-made and home-style lunches.

Take
Nutrition
Global



- New menu items and additional improvements in the food service program will be introduced throughout the entire school year. Monthly menus will feature an assortment of entrée selections with a variety of hot and cold choices, low-fat options, grab-and-go salads and wraps, and healthy snack and beverage choices.

- A fresh fruit and vegetable bar will be added at the middle and high schools, offering a daily variety of colorful and tasty choices for students.

- As part of The Nutrition Group's commitment to partnering with the District in educating students, an international themed meal will be offered each month. Ethnic dishes will correlate with language class studies and student groups. A guest chef will prepare and offer samples of ethnic cuisine from around the world during these unique taste-testing events.



- Exciting new special events will be featured at each school on a regular basis. These include holiday celebrations and a few surprises throughout the year.

- Innovative and interactive nutrition education programs will be introduced to all students, with serving lines adorned with messages about making healthy choices.

- Youth Advisory Councils will be established, giving students the chance to voice their opinion about what's happening in the cafeteria. They will have the opportunity to discuss what they do and don't like.

They will also have a hand in the direction of what types of foods they would like to see on the menu. Students will gain a greater understanding of how the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs work and how the foods they see on the serving lines fit into a healthy diet.

- Each month, a new edition of The Scoop on Nutrition newsletter will be available for parents and students. The publication contains information on healthy eating and lifestyle tips, a recipe, and a puzzle for students.

- The size and portions of meals will be in accordance with the USDA's recommended daily allowances, meaning that breakfast and lunch will each provide one-third of a child's nutrients. With the added choices and variety that The Nutrition Group will offer, students will have many options to choose from to make a complete meal.

Meal prices and on-line payments will remain the same. Free and Reduced applications will be included in start-up packets at the beginning of school.

Future plans for the food service program include implementing a grab-and-go breakfast and introducing a coffee café in the high school library.



Families benefit from Book Bus visits

The summer months have provided an ideal opportunity for the Book Bus to visit neighborhoods in order to bring literacy to young readers. Through a partnership with West Allegheny School District, the Western Allegheny Community Library and Monark Student Transportation Corporation, the colorful

Book Bus visitors check out their favorite books for summer reading.



and easily recognizable bus circulated books to children and educational resources to parents

during weekly stops at nine locations. Though the bus' primary programming audience is preschool-aged children, titles for children of all ages were available. A new fall Book Bus visitation schedule will soon be available on the District website at www.westasd.org.

A primary goal of the Book Bus program is to provide parents with opportunities and resources to become actively engaged in their child's education. To that end, ReadyRosie, an online resource, is now being offered to District families. This online resource emails daily activities for adults to do with their children. Activities are simple and only take about two minutes each day. ReadyRosie gives families tips and tools needed to engage their preschooler in day-to-day learning, whether it be in the home, car, grocery store, restaurant or public transportation - wherever real life happens.

Visit the library's website at www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org or ask a Book Bus volunteer for assistance with registering.



Kindergarten teacher publishes children's book

Donaldson kindergarten teacher Denise Cartisser pulled inspiration from her classroom experiences and even her class pet Spyro, the bearded dragon, to publish her next children's book titled "Dragons are Real." Cartisser incorporated educational lessons into her book by providing specific questions for parents to ask their children while reading. The book helps build literacy skills and book knowledge.



Denise Cartisser is pictured here with her classroom pet, Spyro, which takes main stage in her children's books.

"Dragons are Real" is available for Kindle on Amazon.com. A print version will be available in the fall. Cartisser's earlier books were titled "Spyro Starts With S" and "Spyro Goes to School," which features past students.

GRANT AWARDS

Project Zero

In collaboration with the Grable Foundation, Harvard University and Quaker Valley School District, West Allegheny Middle School received a grant for \$5,000 to conduct an afterschool club open to all students. The two programs ran for 12 weeks and included students from sixth, seventh and eighth grades. One of the programs consisted of a study of epic historic U.S. battles. The other program consisted of the creation of a blog focused on appreciation of nature and outdoor experiences, with activities such as geocaching, camping and fishing.

Both afterschool clubs reported successful first-year experiences for students and staff.

Full STEAM Ahead

Math teacher Colleen Barnes recently received a \$2,000 Unsung Heroes grant from Voya Financial to fund a Full STEAM Ahead Lab at the high school. The lab will allow students to conduct experiments and work through real-life applications of math concepts they are learning. By purchasing additional equipment and software, high school math teachers will have access to technology with the goal of engaging students in math as it applies to science, the arts and engineering. Teachers envision students at all levels working collaboratively on the same lab to enhance their diverse backgrounds.

The project is still in the running for additional funding awards.

High school gaming is serious business



Gaming students test an education app.

High school gaming courses aren't all fun and games, but don't tell students that. They're having a ball.

Through the Opportunity Education Foundation, and under the direction of teacher Chris Lucas, students recently put their gaming skills to the test. Students were able to apply and interview for Next-Generation Learning Design internships offered by the foundation. Both Alex Rule and Sydney Spath were among just 24 students in the region selected for the internships. The paid internship was held from July 13-31 and involved testing, improving and redesigning a new educational platform for mobile apps before it is piloted in schools this fall. The project-based program helped teens gain relevant life and learning skills.

On May 7, the foundation also visited Lucas' ninth-period class to watch students put their skills into action as students tested the educational app for functionality. The program allows users to work through academic material by completing quests independently. Their tests evaluated the overall design, ease of adding and removing quests from their personal plan, and the process of completing quest activities.

The gaming courses offered at the high school represent the District's commitment to providing STEAM-focused curriculum to enhance student engagement in 21st century skills.

Students selected for the summer internships were Sydney Spath and Alex Rule.



Facebook photo contest winner announced



Senior Abby Kidder snapped this photo of biology classmates Karly Krisovenski and Lauren Schaupp. The photo was chosen as the winner of the District's Facebook photo contest.

Senior Abby Kidder recently won the District's Facebook photo contest for her entry photo taken of high school classmates. Kidder's photo was selected from nearly 100 entries and is now featured as the cover photo on the District's Facebook page. Abby applied skills learned in her high school photography classes to achieve the ideal lighting, focus and exposure in her winning photo.

Creative writing students win contest



Creative writing teacher Rita Wilson proudly poses with winners of a short story contest held by the Western Allegheny Community Library. Students pictured are: Abigail Shipley, Julianne Spataro and Dana Sheppard.

Three high school students from Rita Wilson's creative writing class entered the Western Allegheny Community Library Short Story Contest and won. Abigail Shipley took first place for her entry "Happy Birthday," and honorable mention winners were Dana Sheppard for "Alison" and Julianne Spataro for "Seasons of Changing." The students' stories were featured on the library's website.

Helping Hands volunteers reach out to others

Every summer for the last 12 years, students from Wilson Elementary School have volunteered their time to learn how to assist others during a two-day Helping Hands training session. This year, 14 incoming fourth-graders were recommended by a teacher, counselor or principal to participate.

A key goal of the program is for volunteers to work with special needs students throughout the school year, with summer training sessions focused on leadership, communication, team building and working with others. Thematic life lessons taught during student training sessions include “helping with” versus “doing for” and what it is like to be differently-abled.

Upon completion of training, Helping Hands volunteers utilize their skills by working with students involved in the Extended School Year program sponsored by the District. This fall, Helping Hands volunteers will begin working with special needs students in the context of social skills activities. If the schedule permits, they also will participate in physical education and swimming with life skills students.

School counselor Kathy Taylor facilitates the Helping Hands program with the assistance of school psychologist Erica Cicero, who led the summer training session.



Each year, Helping Hands volunteers donate their time to work with students in the Extended School Year program. This year's Helping Hands volunteers were: (front) Andrea Hamilton, Mia Mangieri, Nevina Waldorf, Juliana Carbone, Addyson Figley, Nathan Dalgaard, Haley Probert; (back) Blake Schwarz, Cody Mankowski, Michael Bohley, Addison Kosenina, and Luke Bovalina. Not pictured: Domenic Maritato and Trenton MacNeil.

West Allegheny well represented at Math 24 countywide competition

Eight students from Donaldson, McKee and the middle school competed in a countywide Math 24 Tournament at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit on May 28. Fourth-grader Brayden Lambert and seventh-grader Cole Lanni brought home silver medals while seventh-grader Vishaal Saravanan received a bronze table medal. Also competing at that level were Ella Sekelik, Kate Miller, Ethan DeBoth, Alex Morrison and Jamie Sheppard. Students reached the countywide competition by winning District-wide tournaments in the spring.



Math 24 county qualifiers were: (front) Vishaal Saravanan, Alex Morrison, Cole Lanni and Jamie Sheppard; (back) Brayden Lambert, Ella Sekelik, Kate Miller and Ethan DeBoth.

The Math 24 game requires students, when presented with four single- and/or double-digit numbers, to figure in three steps a combination of division, multiplication, addition and/or subtraction, for which the answer is “24.”

Teachers in charge of 24 club/tournaments at individual schools helped proctor the countywide tournament. Representing West Allegheny were Renee Treonze (middle school), Beth Koraido (Donaldson), and Tom Hamm (McKee).

Middle school Writer's Café showcases student talents



Sebastian Bonenfant shares his short story during the Writer's Café.

Sixth grade English language arts teachers hosted the first-ever Writer's Café, which showcased students' creative writing talents. Parents and administrators were invited to the event on June 3 to hear students present their works. A reception was held following the readings.

Organizing teachers were Rachel Adair, Bill Britton, Erin Clay, Gabrielle Monti and Melissa Riley.

High school student's passion for music benefits others through Manilow Music Project



Gage Zurcher

Over 300 donated instruments later, sophomore Gage Zurcher is still going strong. With a passion for music, Zurcher has made a commitment to giving back by emulating the Manilow Music Project, which collects and refurbishes older instruments to donate to school district programs in need.

Self-described as the biggest “Fanilow,” Zurcher became interested in Barry Manilow at a young age. He was later impressed by the Manilow Music Project when he was invited to meet the singer songwriter in Las Vegas. Zurcher made a commitment to support the nonprofit and he has used his own money, while partnering with local music stores, to provide this worthy service.

Zurcher is a member of various school bands, including the marching band.



Barry Manilow

West Allegheny Foundation grant funds etiquette course at Wilson



Wilson students put their etiquette skills into practice during their end-of-course luncheon.

For the second year, students in Tania Garofoli and Nancy Sale's fifth grade classes at Wilson Elementary learned skills that will last a lifetime, thanks to a unique course in etiquette. Underwritten by the West Allegheny Foundation, the program teaches topics that include respect for others, how to make proper introductions, the art of conversation, table manners, and the importance of correct oral and written communication skills. Many of these lessons were on display when the program culminated at a luncheon testing students' table manners and conversation skills.

Summer reading grant helps prevent the summer slide

Through a West Allegheny Foundation grant obtained by Ruth Bouwers and Beth Schultz, over 800 books were purchased for Donaldson students who struggle in reading. Students were permitted to borrow books from the school over the summer months. The pair carefully selected books that would be of high interest to students while providing a balance of informational text with stories.

Bouwers and Schultz also created an invitation to students and parents that outlined the program guidelines and welcomed students to stop in before the end of school to select their books. They also created a book log and blog to encourage and keep track of their summer reading. Parents who chose to receive emails were provided with literacy tips. Students also received biweekly email reminders to read.

Upon their return to school in September, participating students will turn in their books and log, as well as participate in a survey that benchmarks their reading levels.

Bouwers and Schultz hope to continue offering the program in an ongoing effort to prevent the “summer slide.”



Barnwood Builders host visits Wilson Log House

Marke Bowe, host of the popular television show "Barnwood Builders," visited the Wilson Log House in July. The show was in town taping the rebuilding of Killbuck Lodge in Oakdale. During his visit, Bowe offered suggestions for preserving the Wilson Log House to Wilson principal Chris Shattuck and retired principal Dr. Kathleen Sites. The show's cast of West Virginia craftsmen reclaim and restore barns and cabins across the country for their show, which airs on DIY Network.



"Barnwood Builders" host Mark Bowe visited the Wilson Log House while filming of a segment of the show, which focused on rebuilding the Boy Scout Troop 248 Lodge in Oakdale. He is pictured here with Nicole Magdich and Troop 248 Scouts Kyle Magdich (left) and Eric Diffendal.

Community garden provides fresh produce for local food pantries



ABOVE: Student volunteers plant seedlings at Wilson's community garden. RIGHT: Wilson principal Chris Shattuck and retired Wilson principal Dr. Kathleen Sites tend to vegetables that will be donated to local food banks.



Under the watchful eye of dedicated volunteers, the Wilson Log House community garden is thriving and has provided baskets full of fresh produce that will be donated to local food pantries. With the help of student volunteers and high school teacher Amy Schweinsberg, vegetables were planted prior to the end of school and tended to over the summer months. Despite an invasion by a few hungry deer, the rainy summer has provided an ideal environment for the plants to thrive.

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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

Rebuilding Killbuck Lodge



ABOVE: Members of Boy Scout Troop 248 pose for a picture with the cast and crew of "Barnwood Builders" following a rebuilding project in July.

On July 17, cast members from the DIY Network show "Barnwood Builders" put the last log into place on Killbuck Lodge, meeting place of Boy Scout Troop 248, in Oakdale. The project, which began in June with deconstruction of the original structure, is still ongoing. The cabin still needs a new roof, gutters and bathrooms, among other things; but after just two days of filming in July, the primary structure had been erected, thanks in no small part to the show. Filming ended with Scouts raising an American flag over the partially completed structure, and cast members presenting Scouts with a knife forged in Pittsburgh with a wooden handle made from original Killbuck Lodge logs.

The property on which Killbuck Lodge sits is owned by the not-for-profit Friends of Killbuck Lodge, which formed when American Legion Post 171 donated the property a decade ago. Friends of Killbuck Lodge purchased it from the post for \$1 with the intent of ensuring that it would be used for Scouting.

The cabin was originally built in the 1700s and located on the Robb Farm in Oakdale until 1932, when it was moved by horse drawn carriage to its current location.

Over time, the structure's logs have deteriorated, in part because the cabin

was reassembled with the notches in its logs facing up instead of down. Friends of Killbuck Lodge president Matt Cochran says that this caused the notches to hold water and rot from the ends to the middle.

For the past decade, Troop 248 Scouts have been fundraising to reconstruct the meeting space, in part by holding spaghetti dinners and pancake breakfasts. Those efforts got a leg up when "Barnwood Builders" producer Katie Rolnick saw an article about the Scouts working to rebuild the lodge in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. Rolnick took an interest in using the cabin as a story idea for the second season of the show and got in touch with Cochran.

"My jaw just dropped," said Cochran about when he received the phone call.

That news, in conjunction with a story by KDKA's Dave Crawley, led to generous in-kind and monetary donations from various sources. Michael Baker Corp. drafted blueprints for the project. Oakdale Rental donated equipment, as did Caterpillar Inc., which lent them a hoist to lift logs. New Dominion Trucking transported logs for the project, and Alex E. Paris built a new access road off Hastings Avenue.

Additional monetary funds came from a GoFundMe account at <http://www.gofundme.com/rr2t77g>, which is still

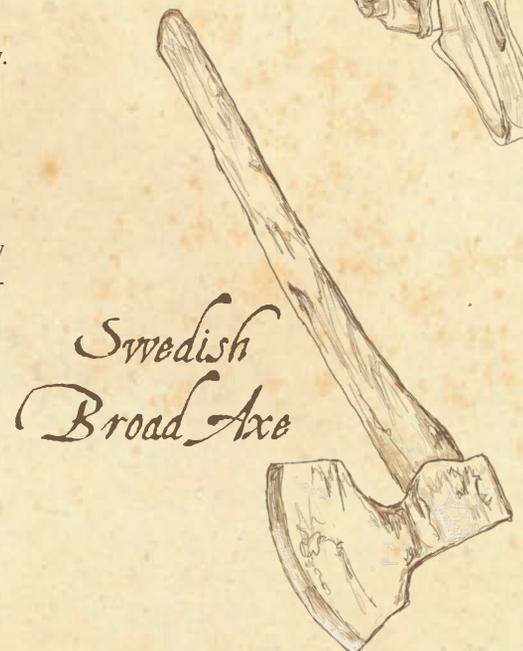
Tools of the Trade:



Commander



Chainsaw



Swedish Broad Axe

operating. So far, the site has raised \$5,045 of the \$75,000 needed to finish the project.

Plenty of volunteers chipped in as well, including the Friends of Killbuck Lodge, who split time between administrative duties and physical labor.

"My treasurer would be out swinging a pick axe during the day and working on spread sheets at night," says Cochran. "We had volunteers coming out of the woodwork. That was really eye opening for me."

Anyone interested in volunteering their time and skills can download a form at <http://www.friendsofkillbucklodge.org>.

In June, filming began with dismantling of the entire cabin, save for the chimney, which was left intact. Prior to the "Barnwood Builders" returning, Friends of Killbuck Lodge still needed to find a way to pour a six-foot deep, 32-yard wide concrete foundation. For that, they turned to Rich Mandus Concrete and friends, who donated the concrete work. The project hit a potential roadblock with July's rainy weather, however.

"We poured the concrete in between raindrops," Troop 248 Scoutmaster Tom Taylor said.

Killbuck Lodge sits across the street from Taylor's childhood home. Eleven generations of his family lived there. Taylor joined Troop 248 at age 11. He was assistant by age 18, and scoutmaster by the time he was 21. He held that position for 25 years, spending another 12 years as a committee chairman before returning to become a scoutmaster. Having invested so much in BSA, to have the new cabin on the same lot still facing his former home brings the experience full circle.

"These are good guys," Taylor said. "The town has really supported the Scouts in everything we've done."

Members of Boy Scout Troop 248 range in age from 11 to 18, with 55 members in all. In the past 85 years, the troop has produced 85 Eagle Scouts. Currently, eight to 10 members of the troop are eligible to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. While maintenance of the cabin is not currently an Eagle Scout project, it is not outside the realm of possibility. Since the mission of Killbuck Lodge is to maintain the property for Scout use, they anticipate doing service projects for the community by maintaining it.

During the two days of building, the surrounding streets were filled with trucks, tractors, and noise.

"The city of Oakdale has been so generous and supportive," story producer Katie Rolnick said. "We have never done anything exactly like this before. We are very excited any time we do anything with a whole community. It's wonderful to show up in a place and have everyone help out."

Rolnick anticipated success for this episode because of the core values shared by Scouts and builders: kindness, generosity, integrity and a true sense of caring.

"It's better than I could have imagined. It's been a pleasure to watch the guys work so hard for a group of deserving boys," Rolnick said. "The boys were very motivated to help. They have great energy and it motivates us. Getting to see them see their cabin for the first time...it's unlike

They also select one pro bono project each year.

"It doesn't get more American than Scouts in Pennsylvania," Bowe said. "We've got a group of guys the Scouts represent: honest, loyal, and hardworking. I'm living the life I want to live with the people I want to be living it with."

As did nearly everyone involved with the process, Travis Tips, cinematographer and producer, was inclined to mention the integrity of those involved, which will loan itself to this episode standing out from others.

"This is going to be one of the best episodes, in my opinion," Tips said. "What's going to make it special is the Boy Scouts. This cabin is important to them. For us to give them something iconic is

special to the builders because it's special to the Boy Scouts. There's a lot of heart in this episode."

Prior to reconstruction, Scouts worked with cast members to hammer, notch and label logs, which weigh about 1,200

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50



ABOVE: "Barnwood Builders" cast member Johnny Jett (at right) cuts a notch in a log so that it will fit around Killbuck Lodge's chimney. Also pictured are cast members Graham Ferguson and Tim Rose.

RIGHT: Scouts helped notch and label logs used to rebuild Killbuck Lodge at a staging area before they were hoisted and set in place. anything else."

Mark Bowe, who owns the Antique Cabins and Barns Company that the network follows for the show, said he has worked with his crew to restore over 400 buildings since 1996. All of those buildings were log and timber, exclusively.

"Everything we've ever done has been around since the 18th and 19th century," Bowe said. "We're a niche and we've got a skill set only the pioneers could replicate."

Bowe said the group looks at hundreds of projects each year, but only selects 20 to restore and repurpose. A recent project was a barn built by Abraham Lincoln's uncle.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

pounds apiece. The cabin was reconstructed using both existing logs and logs from a Westmoreland County cabin dating back to the 18th century. The Friends of Killbuck Lodge purchased the Westmoreland cabin in order to piece together logs and support reconstruction using relatively original materials. Scouts also worked with cast members to learn about chinking.

“What was so awesome was to see how helpful the Scouts were,” Tips said. “It was impressive to see boys this young jumping in and helping wherever they could. We’re documenting them being themselves.”

Ideally, the cabin will be completed by the fall, but it is still in need of skilled labor. The chimney needs to be extended an additional four feet, which will require help from a stonemason. The fireplace needs a liner and a blower,

which are crucial, since it will continue to be the only source of heat in the cabin. The structure will need to have a back door that is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act before they can obtain an occupancy permit. Roofing expenses, including metal framework, gutters, and fasteners, round out to roughly \$2,000, and the cabin requires chinking and electric in between the logs. It will also need custom windows, a loft and a front porch.

Friends of Killbuck Lodge are planning a separate building on the property for restroom facilities and the Oakdale borough is going to allow a tap into the sewer and water. Scouts are also planning to repair and repaint the Third Street Bridge for the first time in 20 years and lay down gravel to maintain the new access road.

“We’ve got a couple more months of work,” Taylor said. “I’ve got the gopher power but I need a skilled craftsman so I don’t have to do it twice.”

In the fall, the Scouts are looking forward to being a part of a log cabin festival that takes place in Western Pennsylvania.

“We will have some type of grand opening here like in the ‘30s,” Taylor said. “We still have the original bronze plaque.”

In addition to the plaque, original logs that could not be used during rebuilding will be repurposed into flooring and benches. Taylor wants to develop a brand to mark the property within the cabin. He envisions a cabin with a ’34 on one side and a ’15 on the other to commemorate the building years of the cabin. The ’34 would be upside down as a hat-tip to the notches on the cabin being upside down in the original structure. The 2015 building’s notches are facing the correct way.

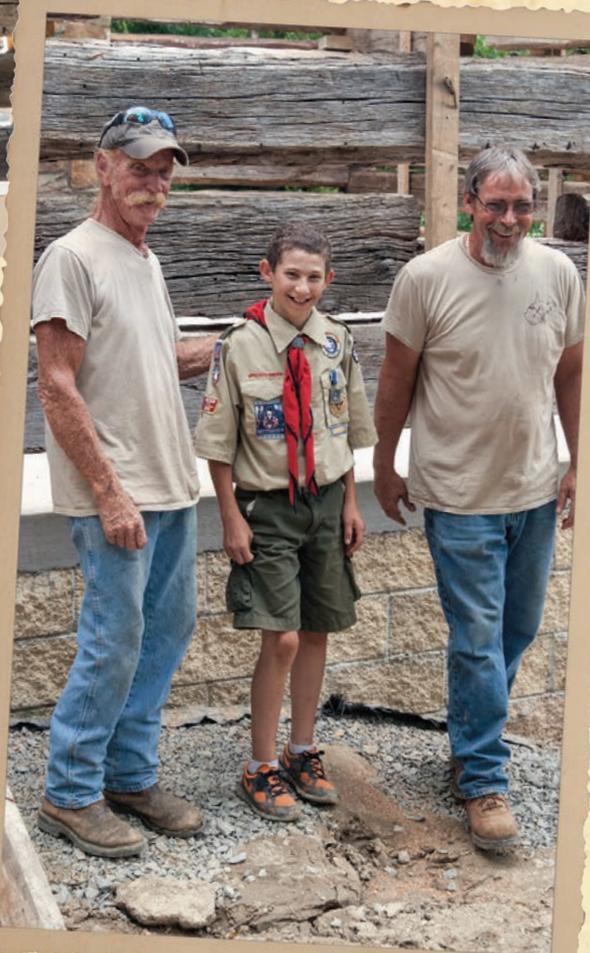
The episode of “Barnwood Builders” featuring the rebuilding of Killbuck Lodge will air on the DIY Network this fall, during season two, episode seven. •



ABOVE: “Barnwood Builders” story producer Katie Rolnick and producer/cinematographer Travis Tips, usually working behind the camera, unwind after filming. The two were responsible for bringing the show to Oakdale and helping Boy Scout Troop 248 rebuild their lodge.

LEFT: Friends of Killbuck Lodge president Matt Cochran works with “Barnwood Builders” cast member Sherman Thompson to measure the chimney’s mantle so a log can be cut to fit around it.

BELOW: “Barnwood Builders” cast members Johnny Jett and Sherman Thompson pose for a picture with Boy Scout Troop 248 member Anthony Snyder following filming.



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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, GPFPA 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, GPFPA 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.

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

Flea Market/Bake Sale Fundraiser, Aug. 15, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Noblestown United Presbyterian Church, 7427 Noblestown Road in Oakdale, (724) 693-8250.

Rock the Quarry 2015, Aug. 28-29, on the Panhandle Trail in Collier Township, 10 bands, food, fun, Bill Ali Band Friday, Gone South Saturday, www.panhandletrail.org.

Craft/Vendor Party, Sept. 12, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Columbkille in Imperial, shop a variety of local crafters and home party vendors, over 30 tables of gift items and products, get Christmas shopping done early, free admission, food and refreshments available.

Nutcracker Auditions, Sept. 26, Andrew Carnegie Music Hall, for two weekends of performances in winter, ages 5-12 1 p.m., 13 through adults 2 p.m., (412) 279-8887 or access the web site at www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com

Second Annual McFall Fest, Oct. 10, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., McDonald Presbyterian Church, old-fashioned fun with children's area, lots of food, treasure chest resale shop, Chinese auction, pumpkin and mum sale, crafters and vendors, supports McDonald Presbyterian Church mission projects, (724) 356-3135

Heritage Public Library
52 Fourth St. in McDonald (724) 926-8400
heritagelibrary@comcast.net
www.washlibs.org/heritage

Steeler tickets raffle, the Friends of Heritage Library are raffling off two Steeler tickets to the Cleveland Browns game on Nov. 15, \$3 apiece or two for \$5, purchase at the library, drawing held Oct 31.

"Fit Club" Tuesday Night Exercise Group, Tuesday nights in the community room, adults only, 7-8 p.m., \$2 per session per person.

Heritage Library Book Discussion Group, second Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. in the community room, no registration required

Heritage Public Library Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 12th, 6:30-8 p.m. in the community room, open to the public.

Jacob Ferree Chapter DAR Events

Constitution Luncheon, Sept. 15, Montour Heights Country Club, 11 a.m., \$20 lunch, register by Sept. 7, Bonnie Kappert, (412) 771-7526, kkandcompany@msn.com.

Jacob Ferree Chapter DAR Annual Benefit, Oct. 10, location TBA, 10:30 a.m., annual benefit and luncheon with a vast array of baskets for auction, decadent baked goods, delicious lunch, entertainment, save the date and bring friends, Julia Vogel (412-931-4309), RSVP date TBA.

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.

SNPJ Lodge 106 Black and Gold Car Cruise, Sept. 13, last SNPJ Lodge 106 car cruise of the season, polkas and variety music by DJ Kevin, food, drinks, 50/50, level paved parking, door prizes, air-conditioned clubroom, bikes welcome, dash plaques for first 50 cars.

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 Events

For more information or to register for an event, call (412) 788-4888 or email swalls@north-fayette.com, unless otherwise noted. Events are free to North Fayette residents.

Live Well Wednesdays, promote healthy living and a business, weekly opportunity for townships to promote community wellness and for businesses and organizations to offer wellness incentives to the public, visit www.north-fayette.com and follow link at bottom of homepage "Live Well North Fayette" to become a Live Well partner.

Live Well Community Day, Aug. 20, 4-8 p.m., Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, demonstrations of tai chi, yoga, bonsai tree, live music, garden tours.

Refuse To Be A Victim® seminar, Sept. 12, Oct. 10 and 24, Nov. 21, 9 a.m., Pittsburgh Technical Institute, ladies' self-defense and firearms crime prevention seminar, pre-registration required, class sizes limited, instructor Sgt. Michael Hayes, (412) 787-8900 or nfpdmh@north-fayette.com.

New Resident Meeting, Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m., North Fayette Municipal Building.

Coffee with a Cop, Sept. 24, 11:30a.m., WACL, grab a cup of coffee and get to know local police officers, ask questions and share concerns, free, informal and informative atmosphere.

Clean Water is Everybody's Business, Sept. 24, 6-8 p.m., Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, learn about local impacts on the watershed in North Fayette and Findlay Township and how to protect local water resources, pre-registration required, Findlay residents call (724) 695-0500 to register.

Fall Festival, Oct. 17, 5-7 p.m., costume party at 5 p.m., family fun, trunk or treat, pumpkin patch, hayrides, bonfire, more.

North Fayette Parks and Recreation

For more information or to register for a program, contact Darlene Hildebrand at (724) 307-3725 or at dhildebrand@north-fayette.com, unless otherwise noted.

Future Stars Flag Football, Sundays beginning Aug. 23, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Donaldson Community Park, ages 4-12, teaches children the basic skills and rules of football, following a couple weeks of skill drills that parents help out with participant's skill levels assessed and divided into teams of equal ability to play, \$45, coach Jeff Upton, (724) 747-8064.

Future Stars Basketball, Saturdays, Nov. 7-Jan. 30, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., North Fayette Community Center, sign-ups begin mid-September, check north-fayette.com for registration form.

After School Program, ages K-8, begins Sept. 2, 3:30-5:30 p.m., runs through conclusion of school year, variety of programs available that change throughout the year, homework help available 3-3:30 p.m. for middle school students three days per week, nkreutzman@north-fayette.com. The Learning Center at North Fayette, classes begin after Labor Day, North Fayette Community Center, structured preschool classes guided by a qualified teacher and teaching aide, enrolling now, 3- and 4-year-old programs, to register contact Darlene.

Ongoing aerobics classes, North Fayette Community Center, **Piyo, Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m., Saturdays, 10-11 a.m., P90X Live, Saturdays, 9-10 a.m.**

Findlay Township Events

For more information or to register for an event, contact Darlene Larson at (724) 695-0500 or dlarson@findlaytwp.org, unless otherwise noted.

Walk Live, Tuesdays, indoor walking program on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m., starts back up Sept. 15, \$5 a class, Donna, kuziofjr@gmail.com, or call recreation department.

Yoga, Activity Center, Friday and Sunday evenings, call Julia for schedule, (724) 695-1976 for information.

Water Aerobics, Wilson Elementary School, Mondays and Wednesdays, starts back up in September, registration required.

Time for Toddlers, Mondays: Aug. 24, Sept. 14 and 28; Tuesdays: Aug. 25, Sept. 15 and 29, 10:15-11:15 a.m., hour of movement, music, activities and snack, great opportunity to meet other families and toddlers, adult must stay with child, registration required, \$3 per session

Outdoor Parking Lot Flea Market, Sept. 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Clinton Park parking lot, parking spots \$5 apiece, fee payable day of event, set up a table, sell out of a trunk, lay out a blanket, boxes, etc.

Rib and Barbeque Jam, Sept. 13, Clinton Park, enjoy blues music and great food at an awesome outdoor event on a Sunday with no Steeler game, food by Smokin Jack's Barbeque, pulled pork, ribs, chicken, sausage, more, old-fashioned hot dogs, hamburgers, Philly cheese steak, french fries, Imperial VFD to sell beer and beverages, free admission, food and beverages available to purchase, music lineup:

2 p.m. - The Dave Iglar Band
4 p.m. - BluSoul
6 p.m. - The Billy Price Band

Truck Touch 2015 Library Benefit Event, Sept. 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., no horn time **11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**, Clinton Park, Findlay has partnered with the Western Allegheny Community Library to bring a one-of-a-kind family event to Clinton Park, vehicles from school buses to fire engines will be on hand for kids to climb on and explore, additional fun activities, food and drink to purchase, see library and township websites for more, free event, donations benefit WACL.

Fall Cruisin' in the Woodlands, Sept. 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., rain date **Sept. 20**, food, DJ, 50/50 drawing, dash plaques to first 100 cars, best of show awarded, \$5 donation collected at gate to support local Christmas charities.

First Steps in Digital Photography, Oct. 5-26, Next Step in Digital Photography, Nov. 10-Dec. 1, Activity Center, **6:30-9 p.m.**, \$99, Sherry, (724) 695-7947, remalysh@gmail.com.

Pickleball, courts now open at Recreation and Sports Complex, cross between badminton, tennis and ping-pong, accessible to all ages and abilities, clinic on **Aug. 20, 10-noon**, future evening clinic planned, call township for details.



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Sounds like a MIRACLE

One hundred forty cows graze on Scott Farm fields along Oakdale Road and Routes 22 and 30. For a few moments in time, drivers passing the by farm experience a sense of awe and peace.

It was August 1, 2014 when farm owner John Scott was working on the farm's long, one-lane driveway. Time had come to widen and improve the drive for a large, heavy truck that hauls milk from the farm every other day.

Scott was driving a loader and had just dumped a load of dirt when, in John's words, "I did something stupid."

He backed up, and the seven-ton loader flipped over an embankment. Scott's whole life passed in front of him. He thought, "My life has just ended. Sixty-seven years is not a bad life span. My family will be okay and secure."

He does not remember the impact. The steering wheel was bent and there was an imprint of it on his chest. Next thing he knew he was thinking, "Hey, I'm still living."

Somehow, he turned his body and crawled out from under the machine, using his elbows and unexplainable strength. He looked at his feet and wiggled his toes. "I'm not paralyzed," was his next thought. Then the pain began to set in.

From Oakdale Road, a couple from McDonald witnessed the machine and its driver flip over the embankment. They drove right up the driveway. Next thing John knew, he heard a woman asking, "What do you need?" to which he answered, "An ambulance." She dialed 911 and her husband ran to the farmhouse, where he banged on the door and got John's wife, Debbie. The family still wants to know to this day who these good Samaritans were. They say their name may be something like, "Maximovich."

Incredibly, the accident happened on the day prior to the North Fayette Community Days celebration, as the township's fire trucks, ambulances, police and emergency teams were all lined up ready for a parade on Steubenville Pike, not a mile away. Within minutes, help had arrived. Shiny shoes appeared at eye level in a ditch alongside John.

"It's Chad," said Sgt. Chad Slovick of the North Fayette Police Department. "We are here to help you."

Slovick was joined by officer Mark Kern. At the time, John's son, John Jr., was returning home from delivering hay to a friend. Johnny, as the family calls him, is a trained EMT and volunteer fireman. He heard the 911 call over his radio: "Tractor rollover. Male pinned," followed by his address. It was an "oh-no" moment Johnny, who wondered, "Is it a sore arm or am I going to be an orphan?"

The man who had stopped to help hollered, "He's not stuck," and then Johnny heard his dad saying, "Hey, get this machine shut off."

John's oldest son, Bill, was in a field at the highest point of the farm. He did not hear his mom's first call, but saw cars lined along the road.

"[That] usually means cows are out and I needed to hurry in from the field." Bill says.

Almost to then barn, Bill heard his phone and Debbie told him, "Dad's been in accident." Upon arriving, his first words were, "How's my dad?" He joined his brother, who was working to get his dad into an ambulance. The lead paramedic, Rick Ward, recognized the extent of the injuries.

Medics, along with North Fayette and Oakdale firemen, got John onto a scoop stretcher. He was face down. An eight-foot by two-and-a-half-foot stokes basket was laid on John's back like a sandwich. North Fayette VFD Lieutenant Jay Lynn and six or seven strong men very carefully turned the sandwich

so John was face up. They made a ramp with their ladders and attached ropes to pull the basket full of John up the eight-foot embankment to an awaiting ambulance.

There was no time to lose; but it was also Friday evening and the middle of rush hour. NorthWest EMS though got John to an awaiting trauma team at Allegheny General Hospital in just 17 minutes. After viewing x-rays, the trauma surgeon told EMTs they'd only had a five percent chance of getting John to

the hospital alive. His injuries were internal; an open-book fracture of the pelvis. John's life depended on a couple of blood vessels remaining intact. That evening he was in surgery. Screws and bolts reassembled the pelvis. John is happy to say that, "Everything that could go right, went right."

John told his sons to stay home and take care of the farm. Fortunately, his brother Warren, was in from Maryland to help with the harvest.

Ten more surgeries followed. Doctors told Debbie that 25 percent of patients with injuries like John's do not make it through the first night. Several said told Debbie it had to be divine intervention. There was no earthly explanation for why he was still alive.

For two months, John remained heavily sedated and was not to move. One night, he started hallucinating and was convinced that he had to get out of there. That ended with him falling out of bed.

At times, it was so bad that John had thoughts of, "Is it worth it?" Then he would think of his cheering sections. Everyday his remarkable, steadfast wife brought in cards and notes, enough to fill a bushel basket. He was on many prayer chains, locally and in Washington County, where he serves as vice president of the Washington County Farm Bureau.

The West Allegheny football team dedicated a game ball to him. Every player signed it and the ball was delivered by longtime friend and retired WA administrator Chuck Fazekas.

Dr. Charles Hughey, who is 50 years John's best friend and a former WA superintendent, spent countless days with John at the



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hospital. One Sunday, Hughey went in about 7 a.m. He had tickets to a University of Pittsburgh football game. It was a critical day for John, though, so Chuck stayed by his friend's side instead. John served on the WA School Board for 20 years, and during that time the two became good friends.

As soon as John was given the okay to get out of bed his therapy team went to work. John actually thought he would just get up and walk, but quickly realized he was wrong. Returning home three months after accident, John needed a physical therapist, so he requested and was grateful to get Fred Lutz, Jr.

This past spring, 100 volunteers from Crossroads Methodist Church spent a day on the farm helping assemble new fencing as part of its Focus project. Church members painted, performed maintenance and planted 20 trees.

In July, AGH filmed a commercial on the farm. It's one of many that have filmed there over the years.

"We are the Hollywood here," says John.

The commercial was about a farmer from New Bethlehem whose life was saved after he was LifeFlighted to AGH with a head injury.

"He was another farmer doing something stupid" John says.

The farmers became friends as they talked during the filming. They had both dictated funeral arrangements to their wives while in the hospital. Neither wife wanted to hear it.

As for the loader, it is gone, sold; a decision made by John's sons. John says he could have fixed the machine. His sons say, "We would have cut that machine in two, it was not going to remain on our farm."

Farming is a dangerous occupation. John's father, Warren Sr., rolled a tractor. Several years later, John rolled the same tractor. A number of years ago, Bill was brutally attacked by a bull on the farm. It broke his ribs and left him there, probably thinking he was dead.

"Can't keep a farmer down," John say as he walks, cane in hand.

He and his toolbox, riding round on his Gator cart, are still on the job.

"Not gonna get better sitting in a chair," he says. "A second chance at life, I plan to get things ready for the next - eighth and ninth - generations."

He and his sons and family continue in the McCandless-Scott tradition, working on the farm, which was established in 1789. Always smiling and grateful, John says, "All of this is the reason I am living today."



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