

West Allegheny Edition

Allegheny West

Volume 20, Issue 115
August/September 2018

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Magazine

WA softball and baseball players earn honors

WA alum releases opera album



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Inside
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From the Publisher

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up our August West Allegheny edition of Allegheny West Magazine.

In our previous June edition we brought you our annual Summer Fun Guide. In this edition, we're bringing you our 2018 West Allegheny back-to-school calendars, starting on page 23. Time certainly does fly.

These calendars are printed on the centerfold to make it easy to tear out and stick to a bulletin board or refrigerator. We've listed important academic dates for the entire 2018-2019 school year along with sports schedules for fall and some winter sports. The winter sport schedules we've included are the ones that were available to us at the time that this magazine was published. We'll also be posting these on our website for easy access on a mobile device.

As well, we're bringing you plenty of interesting news about the West Allegheny community in this edition. On page 15, read about the 11 WA softball and baseball players who recently received a number of honors, including as all-section and all-state selections. The softball team made school history yet again this year by repeating as WPIAL champions and reaching the state championship. The baseball team also went deep into the PIAA playoffs by reaching the semi-final game.

On page 28, read about WA alumnus Eric Rieger, who recently released his debut opera album. Rieger was a standout talent during his high school career and has traveled around the world in his studies. Catch up on his travels and accomplishments in this month's Alumni Profile.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Children, including a group of Boy Scouts, watch the fireman's parade in Oakdale on July 27 during the Oakdale Hose Company Street Carnival.



Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions sprint cars race around the half-mile dirt track at Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway during qualifying heats on July 22. The series is owned by retired NASCAR star Tony Stewart who, for the second consecutive year, jumped into the action at PPMS and raced in the number 14 car. Last year, Stewart won the race, but this year it was Aaron Reutzel from Clute, Texas who took first place. He is pictured second from left driving the number 87 car. The sprint cars, which can reach upwards of 150 miles per hour, will return to PPMS on Sept. 15. For more upcoming races at PPMS, see page 46 or visit ppms.com for a complete schedule.
PHOTO BY STEVE SKARUPA

Be sure to read about the new farm market expansion at Janoski's on page 16, and then, if you haven't been out to see it yet, be sure to do so. Before you go, tear out their coupon on page 43. Then on page 32, read about the newly remodeled natatorium at West Allegheny High School in this month's superintendent's message from Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert.

On page 18, read our profile of McDonald Borough's new police chief and on page 17 read about a new marketing plan being undertaken by Washington County to draw more out-of-town tourism to the Panhandle and Montour trails.

Finally, on page 20, read about the latest West Allegheny Workcamp and then catch up on upcoming events in this month's On the Horizon section, starting on page 44.

Look for our next edition in October. In the meantime, I hope you have a great end of summer and a positive start to the school year.

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor



SPARC reconditions vehicle for local hero

On June 19, Steubenville Pike Auto, working through its nonprofit Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity program - and in cooperation with the local nonprofit Heroes Supporting Heroes - put a twist on its biannual used vehicle giveaway.

Instead of donating a vehicle, as the business has done four times now over the past couple of years, Steubenville Pike Auto instead reconditioned a vehicle for a local hero named John Crawford. Initially, Steubenville Pike Auto's president, Jason Pottle, was approached by HSH and asked whether SPARC would be able to supply the local veteran and volunteer fire fighter with a used truck to replace his existing truck.

"In talking with Mr. Crawford, I came to realize that he really liked the truck he had," said Pottle. "It was a unique configuration with an extended cab and short bed, but it had become unsafe due to extensive rust damage and expensive mechanical issues. When I suggested that we recondition his existing truck, Mr. Crawford was very pleased!"

As a result, Steubenville Pike Auto set out to repair Crawford's Chevy S-10 pickup truck. Repairs and replacements were made to numerous mechanical parts of the vehicle, including window regulators, fuel lines and universal joints. The motor was also given a tune-up. The most notable change, however, was the replacement of the truck bed. The old bed was so rusted it was nearly ready to fall off, so it was removed and replaced.

Rust issues throughout the rest of the truck were also addressed, and the truck and bed were painted. When the truck was presented to Crawford, all who had seen it before and after couldn't believe that it was the same vehicle.

"Mr. Crawford is a giver," said Pottle. "He is an Army veteran, a volunteer fireman and a longtime volunteer with Heroes Supporting Heroes. Steubenville Pike Auto is thrilled to have been asked to be a part of giving back to a man who continues to give to his community and country."

Steubenville Pike Auto will be giving away another vehicle to a deserving individual or family in December. Nominations will be accepted starting in November. To nominate, click on the SPARC logo at www.steubenvillepike.com.

For more about HSH, visit heroessupportingheroes.org. The organization provides support to military veterans, their loved ones and area senior citizens.



Steubenville Pike Auto donated their services to extensively recondition the body of this Chevy S-10 for local veteran and volunteer firefighter John Crawford (pictured third from left). He's pictured with Heroes Supporting Heroes president John Lee; Russ Pottle; Steubenville Pike Auto president Jason Pottle; his wife, Linda Pottle; and their son. The truck is pictured below before reconditioning (top) and following (bottom.)



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Eagle Scout project produces new flag retirement boxes

Roman Swasey, a prospective Eagle Scout with Troop 830 in Clinton, revealed one of several new flag retirement boxes he constructed during a ceremony June 14 on Flag Day at VFW Post 7714 in Imperial.

Swasey took on the project after the VFW approached the troop with a request to construct a flag retirement box. After meeting with the VFW over the last few months, Swasey developed a plan to build and install five such boxes across the area. The boxes have been placed at VFW Post 7714, West Allegheny Community Library, the Findlay Township police station, the Findlay Township Activity Center and the Boy Scout Troop 830 scout house in Clinton near Clinton United Presbyterian Church. Residents may feel free to deposit old flags at the boxes with the understanding that the flags will be disposed of according to the U.S. flag code. The code states that a flag that is no longer a fitting emblem for display should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

The project was made possible thanks to donations from Allegheny Muscle Therapy and Massage, Lowe's, Heroes Supporting Heroes and Findlay Township. By completing the project, Swasey continues the troop's tradition of improving the community in which it operates. Other examples of recent projects taken on by the troop include landscaping at the new Imperial VFD, restoration of West Allegheny Food Pantry equipment, restoration of the Santiago Honor Roll in Santiago, trail improvements at Raccoon Creek State Park, donating headphones pre-loaded with music for patients suffering from dementia and landscaping at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.



Roman Swasey stands next to one of five flag retirement boxes he constructed for his Eagle Scout project.

WA soccer player named to all-America team

STORY AND PHOTO SUBMITTED

West Allegheny senior Nathan Dragisich was recently named to the Elite Clubs National League All-America Team. The ECNL is comprised of over 70 clubs and 1,700 players nationwide. Dragisich was one of 30 players recognized with the prestigious honor.

Dragisich, who was named the 2017 WPIAL Soccer Player of the Year, has verbally committed to play soccer at Duquesne University. He has a 3.8 GPA and plans to major in business at Duquesne University.

This past summer, he was chosen by the Riverhounds Academy to train with the Pittsburgh Riverhounds professional team as part of their Pathway Program. It was the first time the professional team had selected academy players for this distinguished honor. Dragisich participated with the professional team over a three-week summer training program.



Nathan Dragisich

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St. Clair to undergo \$142 million expansion

St. Clair Hospital announced in July that it is beginning a \$142 million expansion project at its main campus in Mt. Lebanon. At the center of the project is a new 280,000-square-foot comprehensive outpatient center, which is expected to open in the fall of 2020. The expansion will entail the employment of 150 additional health care professionals. A groundbreaking is scheduled for later this year.

The investment represents the largest expansion at the hospital's main campus in four decades and is in response to a 130 percent growth in St. Clair's outpatient volume since 2006.

"As a leading health care organization, we are dedicated to providing state-of-the-art medical care in our region," says John T. Sullivan, M.D., MBA, senior vice president and chief medical officer at St. Clair Hospital. "Advancements in medical science have dramatically changed how medical care will be delivered in the future, and we are addressing that evolution by creating a facility in which next generation treatments can be provided in a convenient, easy-to-access, patient-focused setting. The new outpatient center will prove to be a transformative experience for patients by consolidating high-quality clinical and support services under one roof."

Sullivan says the new six-story building will offer comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic outpatient services, including: laboratory; medical imaging; cardi diagnostics; physical and occupational therapy; an infusion center; outpatient surgery with 10 operating rooms, two procedure rooms, and 51 pre- and post-surgical rooms; a spacious endoscopy suite with six exam rooms; other multidisciplinary clinical programs; conference space; multiple seating options; a café serving chef-prepared offerings; underground parking; and a commercial pharmacy.

"All of these clinical services and amenities will be complemented by the addition's modern architectural features, including a two-story atrium that will flood the building with natural light," Sullivan says.

The new outpatient center will be constructed on property that spans Mt. Lebanon and Scott Township on N. Wren Drive. It will be connected to the existing hospital. The project also includes the construction of a new employee parking garage and central power plant that will modernize the campus' infrastructure.

For added public safety, the project includes realigning N. Wren Drive to better connect with Bower Hill Road and Firwood Drive, as well as the installation of new traffic signals and sidewalks.

The expansion will also increase the hospital's already significant contribution to the economic vitality of the southwestern Pennsylvania region. An impact study conducted by the Allegheny Conference's Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh estimates the project will add 1,632

direct, indirect and induced jobs to the region, and contribute approximately \$262.4 million in direct revenue and \$145 million in value-added services to the region's economy.

Funding for St. Clair's \$142 million building project is being supported by philanthropy, government grants, tax exempt bonds and hospital funds.

"This truly represents 'groundbreaking growth' for St. Clair Hospital," says James M. Collins, president and chief executive officer at St. Clair Hospital. "St. Clair is already a national leader in patient safety, quality, patient satisfaction and value. With this addition, St. Clair will have forward-looking facilities commensurate with its growth and the rapid changes in how health care will be delivered in the future."



An artist's rendering shows the new St. Clair Hospital outpatient center. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. CLAIR HOSPITAL

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WACL celebrating five years in new location

It's already been five years since the old Western Allegheny Community Library moved from its cramped space on Steubenville Pike to its new location on Bateman Road.



Since then, the library has gone through plenty of changes, including developments, additions and renovations, all while working with its ample space in the former AMCOM building. The renovation began with the library's largest room in the rear of the building, which was completely remodeled from bare floors and a garage door to a fully functional community space. The space has been carpeted, painted and wired, both for electricity and WiFi. It is available for rent to outside nonprofit groups and even private parties. Events held there thus far include consignment sales, graduation parties, blood drives and even cheerleading practice.

In 2018, through a Keystone grant, the library undertook its largest project to date when it expanded its children and teen rooms into a larger, more open Youth Services area. This resulted in the addition of almost 1,000 square feet of space for youth and families. It also allowed for greater accessibility for wheelchairs and strollers.

The expansion included a larger teen room, a new school-age space and a redesigned family play area for children age 6 and under with their caregivers. A nursing mother's nook will soon be added as well.

The centrally located Youth Services desk is available for checkout and return of materials, as well as reference and signing up for programs. A self-checkout station was also added by the front desk for grab-and-go convenience.

The Community Room moved to its new location near the café, where a wall of windows makes it more open and a projector screen makes it perfect for presentations. The library also added a conference room after numerous requests for such a space. It is available in the evenings, both for library programs and area groups. With this room, the library is now renting four spaces in varying sizes which, taken together, can accommodate from 10 to over 100 guests. These new spaces are a work in progress, with exciting additions coming in 2019.

Improvements to the library did not stop with the inside. The outside has also seen expansion and improvement through The Backyard project. This outdoor area boasts paved pathways, comfortable seating and garden beds that members have used to grow vegetables. Dedicated areas were created for birdhouses and a rain garden. A new pollinator garden is also currently in the works. With the addition of The Backyard, the library has become truly beautified, both inside and out.

Via the use of a new app and online collections, the library is also now a 24/7 resource.

With all these changes in place and its new services, visitation at the library has more than doubled from 36,000 people to 74,000 people annually. Across the board, program attendance, computer usage and library checkouts have all shown a significant increase.

For those who haven't been to the library in awhile, September is the perfect time. All month long, WACL will be celebrating "Love Your Library" month. During that time, all donations made to the library will be matched by the Jack Buncher Foundation. Plus, the library's annual wine tasting event, Fall for your Library, will take place Sept. 22. Tickets can be purchased at westernalleghenylibrary.org.

For more, visit the website or stop by 181 Bateman Road. For a list of upcoming programs, see page 42.



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STORY SUBMITTED
PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY

Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing to partner with California University

STORY SUBMITTED



OPPOSITE PAGE: The Backyard space at the Western Allegheny Community Library provides an alternative space for meeting, relaxing and activities.
ABOVE: The expanded teen room houses extensive titles for teens and young adults.
BELOW: A redesigned family play area offers play spaces and activities for children 6 and under, with their caregivers.



For nearly 120 years, the Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing has proudly claimed a reputation of excellence in nursing education. Founded in 1901 as a diploma-nursing program, its community roots are deeply ingrained in the western suburbs of Pittsburgh. As part of the school's efforts to provide the best learning experience possible for every student, OVHSON has decided to partner with California University of Pennsylvania.

Beginning with the class starting in August of 2018 and graduating in May of 2020, students will receive all of their science courses and general education credit requirements within the technologically advanced platform of California University of Pennsylvania's virtual lab. This will enable OVHSON to implement more simulation and laboratory activities to assist each student in their application of learning. Rather than going off-campus, all of the hands-on nursing practical course training will take place at Ohio Valley Hospital, in their state-of-the-art simulation laboratory, as well as with actual hospital patients.

"California University has coordinated the presentation of content in their courses to align with our nursing content, they have scheduled courses to coincide with our semesters as we needed, and they have opened their library resources - both brick and mortar and online - to all the Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing students," said Valerie Gaydosh, the OVHSON director. "We are so excited with the opportunities this affiliation with Cal U offers us."

"We are delighted to partner with the Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing," said Dr. Robin Weaver, coordinator for California University of Pennsylvania's online RN-to-BSN program and an assistant professor in the university's Nursing Department. "Cal U has decades of experience in educating nurses throughout their careers. We welcome the opportunity to help OVHSON students reach their full potential as they prepare to enter this vital profession."

The partnership will provide a quality education resulting in a registered nurse diploma after 20 months. Students will then be able to seamlessly transition to California University of Pennsylvania's bachelor of science in nursing program.



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CycleBar sets the bar for indoor cycling

Inside a dark, cool room at CycleBar Robinson in Robinson Town Centre, the music and lights pulsate as cyclists ease into a workout with some light pedaling on their spin bikes.

At front and center, underneath a dramatic spotlight, cycling instructor Lacey gets the class going with some instruction and encouragement. Over the next 45 minutes, she'll take her cyclists on a ride that'll have them pushing their limits using a combination of energetic music, dramatic lighting, coaching and teamwork in a setting that feels more like a dance club than a gym. Among the cyclists, there will be high-fives and clapping, along with some friendly competition, thanks to a system that shows their performances on two 80-inch mounted televisions.

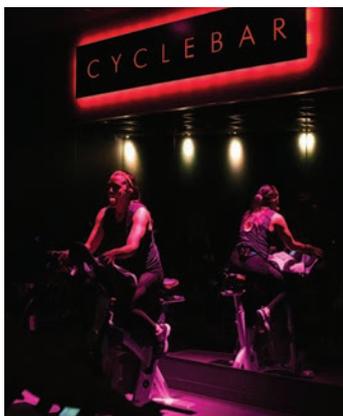
As CycleBar co-owner Shauna Kruse points out, this isn't exactly the indoor cycling class of yesteryear. Last year, Kruse opened Cycle Bar Robinson with her husband, Dan, and another husband-wife team, Jonathan and Tracy Bernard.

An admitted "fitness nut," Shauna says they were drawn to the concept as the fitness industry was evolving.

"There was a pretty major disruption going on at that time in fitness where the idea of paying hundreds of dollars for a gym membership that you never used, and a lot of times the level of service wasn't the best, was really just getting turned on its head," says Shauna. "People were tired of doing that. They wanted to pay for a class model that they actually got to use at a gym that was stellar, insanely clean, and had amazing customer service. The days of a spin studio in a janitor's closet on 20-year-old bikes was gone."

Rather, CycleBar Robinson's bikes are state-of-the-art, capable of recording a workout by monitoring a combination of watts and speed. At the end of each class, cyclists are emailed a summary of their workout so they can track their progress. During the classes, the bikes can also broadcast those stats to enable individual and team challenges.

Unlike traditional gyms, CycleBar Robinson doesn't ask their members to sign contracts. Instead, customers pay for the classes they want and can even make up classes if they have to cancel. To keep riders



ABOVE: With dramatic lighting and vibrant music, CycleBar Robinson feels more like a club than a gym. Here, instructor Lacey gets her class started.

BELOW: Instructors and riders celebrate following a workout. Community atmosphere is a big part of what keeps CycleBar Robinson's members coming back.



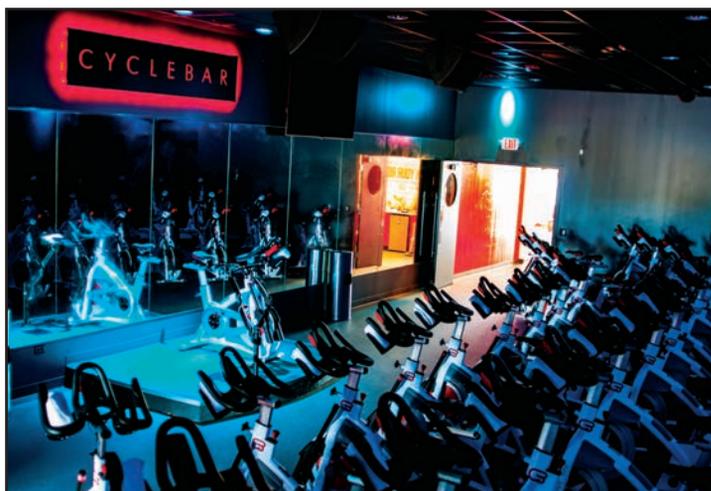
for classes online.

Throughout the week, there is also a regular ride to benefit a charity.

For more, visit robinson.cyclebar.com or stop in at 1320 Park Manor Boulevard.



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STORY SUBMITTED
PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY

Affordable housing is back

Much has changed with regard to modular and manufactured home construction since Dan Hall started developing property across North Fayette Township in the late 1960s.

Back then, when Dan and his father, John, were developing the land where Virginia Hills and Walden Woods now sit, modular homes were largely limited because of the rigors they underwent during transportation. Walls were mainly comprised of paneling while materials like drywall and tile were out of the question.



Tyler, Sandy and Daniel Hall stand in front of one of three modular home models the family has constructed at High Tech Housing on Steubenville Pike.

Today, though, thanks to advancements in building techniques and materials, there isn't much manufacturers can't do with modular homes that they can do with traditional homes. Modular homes can have vaulted ceilings, dream kitchens, crown moulding and hardwood flooring. They come move-in ready and can even be pre-painted if buyers wish. They're also extremely energy-efficient, making them perfect for first time home buying, downsizing or a second home. Single floor models in particular are now extremely popular with the Baby Boomer generation. As well, the homes are still affordable, with most models ranging from around \$50,000 to \$250,000.

A couple of years ago, Hall was so encouraged by the progress modular home construction had made that he decided to re-open his modular home business, High Tech Housing, just in time for its 50th anniversary. Dan, along with his wife, Sandy, and son, Tyler, have set up an office and several model homes at 7876 Steubenville Pike, Imperial. Tours are available during the week by



These photos taken inside the modular home models at High Tech Housing show some of the fashionable options available in today's manufactured homes.

appointment and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They are even displaying a new tiny house.

High Tech Housing can install a range of homes, including ranches, Cape Cods, and two-story homes, in as little as two months. Once High Tech knows what their clients want, they can assemble their virtual home in cyberspace and lead prospective homebuyers on a virtual tour of their new home. The company has also been named the official western Pennsylvania representative for Clayton Homes, which was acquired by Warren Buffet's real estate company, Berkshire-Hathaway, in 2003.

Because the modular home construction process is now so streamlined, High Tech can provide prospective homebuyers with instant quotes. As well, Hall is offering free site estimates. The company can construct homes either with or without basements, and modular homebuyers can qualify for FHA loans and all conventional mortgages, which wasn't always the case.

"We're extremely proud of the homes we build," says Dan.

With this launch, Tyler and Sandy will be working with homebuyers to customize their future homes. Dan points out that Tyler's inception into the business marks the third generation of Halls to address southwestern Pennsylvania's housing needs. The Hall family has developed thousands of North Fayette home sites in Virginia Hills, Redwood Estates, Walden Woods, Timberglen, Settlers Place, Jeffrey Town, Point West and The Preserves.

For more information, call Dan, Tyler or Sandy at (724) 695-3900. Visit their website at www.hightechhousinginc.com or stop by on the weekend.

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West Allegheny Workcamp returns for third year

Four years ago, Cathy Leonard of North Fayette Township retired from her job as a custodian at Wilson Elementary School.

Now, she lives in a house owned by her family near Santiago. It's the same house where she was born and raised. Because she suffers from COPD, upkeep on the family home isn't easy. For some time now, she's wanted to paint the house but hasn't been able. Then she saw an application for free home repairs through West Allegheny Workcamp in Allegheny West Magazine. She filled it out and was visited by a representative from the local nonprofit Heroes Supporting Heroes. She says she expected him to say that they could paint her porch. She was shocked when he said they could paint the entire house.

"The house, you didn't see it before, it was bad," she said in late July as six volunteers were putting a second coat of paint on the exterior.

Over the course of a week in July and August, those volunteers also painted two interior rooms at Leonard's home.

Before those volunteers showed up on Leonard's doorstep, she had never met them, and they hardly knew each other, either. They had spent the previous night together at West Allegheny Middle School with about 220 other people who had also signed up for the work camp through the faith-based organization Group Mission Trips. They hailed from across the country and from as far away as Tokyo, Japan. Most were teenagers. Not only had they given up a week of their summer to help someone they'd never met, but they'd also come up with about \$460 apiece for the privilege of doing so.

That last part in particular is something most homeowners who get assistance through West Allegheny Workcamp just can't wrap their minds around, says Jeff Lutz. A North Fayette Township resident, Lutz helped spearhead an effort to bring the work camp to the area five years ago after attending multiple work camps himself. He says his own reason for volunteering with the camps is simple.

"The feeling you get doing this, you don't get it any other way," he says.

Lutz teamed up with fellow North Fayette Township resident and work camp veteran Don Steward to form the organization West Allegheny Workcamp. In 2014, the organization brought the first Group Mission Trip work camp to the area. The second came to the area four years ago. This past work camp marked the organization's third.

Lutz says that for each of those work camps they managed to pull together \$50,000, which largely helps pay for materials so they can provide repairs free of charge. Those dollars have come

primarily from local donors.

Group Mission Trips, meanwhile, supplies the volunteers and staff at no charge to local sponsor organizations. For this past work camp, the organization supplied about 18 staff members, including



West Allegheny Workcamp volunteers Bailey Chatterton of Illinois and Andrew Sammons of Connecticut paint an area residence (above) while Jessica Thoreson of Illinois helps build a ramp in another local community (below).



one director and others who do everything from keep track of tools to monitor work sites. Lutz, who runs a local construction company of his own, says the outfit runs a pretty tight ship. "They've been doing this since 1990," he says, "so they've worked out a lot of the kinks." Kevra Finkelstein of Boca Raton, Florida, who was this year's work camp director, says that each summer Group Mission Trips runs about 30 work camps across the country. She says that, among the staff at each camp, there are about four college-aged individuals who have received previous training and travel to different camps to help run them.

Lutz says at the beginning of each camp, volunteers are broken up into groups, with at least one adult placed in each. Many volunteers come as part of a youth group from a church and are purposefully placed with strangers. Initially, says Kea Runyan of Rushville, Illinois, that's the hardest part of the trip - but it also ends up being one of the most rewarding.

Runyan was placed with a group of about a dozen teens tasked with building a 51-foot ramp for a senior in the Oak Ridge Heights community. It was just one of about 30 work sites that operated in the West Allegheny and Bulger communities throughout the week.

Jessica Thoreson, a teen from Illinois, says she likes the aspect

of working with complete strangers on such a difficult but meaningful task.

"That's something I really appreciate on these trips," she says. "You're doing hard stuff with people you've never met, or communicated with, and don't know. Your relationship building skills are really tested."

Just like with the previous two work camps, each night throughout the week volunteers returned to the middle school and took part in a nightly program. They talked about the things they were grateful for and what they'd learned from their experiences. They even put on performances. Throughout the week, they slept, showered and ate at the school. As in years past, the organization again paid the district to use its facilities, including its cafeteria. Runyan, who says she's been on numerous work camp trips, says the facilities were some of the nicest she's experienced.

On its final day on Friday, the camp hosted homeowners for a special fiesta night.

New initiative aims to draw tourism to Panhandle, Montour trails

The Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency announced in June that it is undertaking a new marketing plan intended to draw tourism to the Montour and Panhandle trails.

At a press event held June 28 at the McDonald Trail Station in McDonald, Chase McClain, director of sport and recreation marketing for the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, said the effort consists of a combination of new signage, print advertising and online marketing. He said the county is now working with PennDOT to install road signs along highways that will direct traffic to trail heads and that the county will be placing signage alongside trails. The latter will inform cyclists of upcoming towns, services and amenities.

Additionally, McClain says the agency has secured a spot on visitpa.com through 2019 that will feature the trails and has put in a bid to host the 2021 Pennsylvania Greenways Trail Summit. The biannual summit draws over 200 trail builders from across the state and would provide valuable exposure to the trails, he says. Efforts are being aimed at drawing tourists from a 200-mile radius.

McClain says that, while the agency's efforts are largely directed at bringing Washington County portions of the trails "up to speed," the work is not only meant to benefit Washington communities.

"It's so much larger than that," McClain says. "Anything we do with the trails impacts bordering counties as well."

The agency is acting on recommendations made by JMS Advisors, which worked with the Montour Trail Council, the McDonald Area Redevelopment Authority, the Washington County Planning Commission, the county's department of parks and recreation, trail volunteers and the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency to draft a marketing report. That report states that, while the trails continue to be popular among locals, drawing out-of-town traffic "remains a challenge" due to the lack of necessary signage, public amenities and "trail towns" friendly to cyclists.

The report also suggests targeting out-of-town visitors who would likely stay overnight and cites the Great Allegheny Passage as a good case study as to why. Referring to a survey conducted by Progress Fund on the Great Allegheny Passage, the report states that about 900,000 people travel along the 500-mile passage that connects Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. each year. Along the way, those travelers spend

a combined \$50 million. Much of that figure is driven by overnight visitors, who spend an average of \$124 per day as compared to passers-through who spend just \$18 per day.

The Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency may also be looking to tap into some of that revenue directly. In his presentation, McClain said that the agency may be looking to promote a "Washington, PA to Washington, D.C." trip in the future.

In McDonald, efforts have already been underway to draw business from trail traffic. Earlier this year, Progress Fund founder Dave Kahley and two representatives visited the town to meet with McDonald Area Redevelopment Association members. The nonprofit, which helps secure loans for businesses near natural attractions, produced a subsequent nine-page report with suggestions to direct trail traffic to McDonald businesses.

Since then, MARA has been acting on a number of those recommendations, including urging businesses in town to get bike racks and support advertising initiatives. Recently, MARA also secured grants to help pay for two new signs near the intersection of the Panhandle Trail and South McDonald Street that will advertise amenities and services offered in town. MARA Action Committee chairman Tim Thomassy says that Washington County grants are helping to pay for the bulk of the cost of the signage as well as new brochures for the McDonald Trail Station's history center and the Panhandle Trail. In remarks at the June 28 press event, Thomassy, who also served on the Trail Marketing Committee alongside Kahley, said that McDonald has a lot to offer cyclists.

"We like to think of ourselves as...the crossroads for the two trails," he said. "We're the largest town along the way [in Washington County] and we have most of the amenities any visitor would want."

Among those amenities is the bike shop Tandem Connection, which opened its McDonald location a stone's throw from the Panhandle Trail late last year. The location is the second for Dave and Lori Poe, who also operate another location in Hendersonville along the Montour Trail. The Poes have said that part of what prompted them to open their location in McDonald is the Panhandle Trail's newly paved surface. Paving of the entire 17.5-mile Washington County section of the trail finished up last year and that has helped draw increased trail traffic, including more road cyclists.



Tim Thomassy, chairman of the McDonald Area Redevelopment Association Action Committee, speaks during a press event organized by the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency to announce a new trail marketing initiative, which includes posting signs like the one in the background along roads and highways.



Mike Janoski cuts a ceremonial ribbon to open a huge new addition to Janoski's Farm market (pictured below) in Clinton on June 23.



Janoski's celebrates farm market expansion



Janoski's Farm in Clinton celebrated the opening of a 6,000 square-foot expansion at the end of June.

The expansion is the market's largest to date and more than doubles its existing footprint. The addition also opened just in time for Janoski's busiest time of the year, when the farm starts selling its crop of fresh sweet corn, tomatoes, peaches and more.

Speaking at a ribbon cutting held June 23 to celebrate, Patty Janoski said that foot traffic during its annual busy time in the summer prompted the family to expand.

"After picking corn each day and bringing it to the farm market, my husband, Mike,

would take some time to look out into the store and realized that customers needed more room to enjoy shopping," Patty said.

She said construction on the building finished this past fall and that both family and employees contributed in many ways in order to get it ready in time. Not only will it give shoppers more room to move about, but the addition will also allow Janoski's to continue to expand its offerings of locally sourced and small batch products like candies, jams, jarred vegetables and local honey. As well, Janoski's recently began selling its own brand of tomato sauce and jarred vegetables using produce grown on the farm.



Just outside the new addition, Janoski's is also planning to open a greenhouse and may use the loft space overlooking the market to sell antiques.

JoAnn Janoski, whose late husband, Sonny, founded the market, said that it opened just in time.

"Once corn and tomatoes are in, things are just crazy in here," she says.

JoAnn says that Sonny would have been proud to see the market expand yet again.

A Clinton staple, Janoski's has long been a destination for produce shoppers and has continuously expanded over the years. It has grown and diversified to the point that it now encompasses a greenhouse, farm market, garden center, bakery, restaurant and gift shop. It also hosts an annual wine festival, gardening seminars and other community events throughout the year.

Like those other expansions, this most recent one hasn't made Janoski's feel any less like a small farm market. Large barn doors open into the new addition and pictures of the farm, including one of Sonny on a tractor, decorate the walls. The family has also placed two restored classic vehicles atop displays. In addition to a restored 1929 Model A Ford Huckster truck, Janoski's has put on display a 1937 Farmall F14 tractor that Patty's son Thomas restored in 2010 for his senior project at South Side Beaver High School.

Last year, the Jansoki family joined the Allegheny Land Preservation program, which awards existing farms with a payment representing the difference between the value of the farm and what the land would be worth to developers. In exchange, the program places an easement on the farm that ensures it will never be developed. Those funds helped the Janoski family fund this most recent addition.

Shortly after signing that agreement, Mike said the family had done so with the intention of preserving the farm for future generations.



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STORY BY PAT JENNETTE
PHOTO SUBMITTED

McDonald names new police chief

Dennis Ahlborn has always wanted to be a police officer, even when he was a high school student.

His dream to be part of law enforcement and help make a community a better place took a huge leap this month. As of Aug. 1, Ahlborn, who was a sergeant with the McDonald Borough Police Department, became the department's new police chief.

After graduating from South Side High School in 1994, he immediately enrolled in the Community College of Beaver County. While there, he earned dual associate degrees in both criminal justice and police pre-service technologies. He then went on to graduate from the Beaver County Police Academy in 1997.

Ahlborn's first positions were with the Chatham College Police Department and the Hanover Township Police Department. He was hired by McDonald Borough's department in 2001 on a part-time basis. He continued to juggle two positions until joining the McDonald department on a full-time basis in 2007. A year later, he was named sergeant.

The Oakdale resident said that being part of law enforcement in a community presents many interesting, and sometimes dangerous, situations. He says, "Being a police officer, I get to interact with a wide range of different people, which I have enjoyed. The not so positive have been cases where you have to investigate a crime where you have a child as a victim."

He continues, "Since my time on the department, I have been involved in bank robbery investigations and a homicide investigation, drug delivery and home invasion investigations."

Always the learner, Ahlborn has added several roles to his position as sergeant over the past decade. Besides overseeing the day-to-day activities of the department, he's also the Right to Know officer, a certified weigh master for enforcement of overweight vehicles, a certified child safety seat installer technician, and a taser instructor.

As the new chief, he hopes to see education continue for all members of his team. He says, "The goal for me is to make sure that the department is continuously moving forward and not falling behind with what is being offered for law enforcement. I also want to make sure that the department has good training."

From a growth standpoint, Ahlborn sees an upward trend for the department, which just hired one of its part-time officers, Ryan Drohn, as McDonald's fourth full-time officer. Another one of its part-time officers will be promoted to full time in August.



Dennis Ahlborn

Ahlborn worked closely with now-retired chief Mark Dorsey, who dedicated 40 years to the department. Ahlborn said his former boss, with whom he worked daily, has been a great asset to the department and the community.

He notes, "He has overseen this police department for many years and made it what it is today. Chief Dorsey has always strived to make [the] McDonald Police Department a professional and respected department. Since Chief Dorsey has been with this department, there have been many part-time officers that

have started their police careers here and, due to his training focus and his eye for detail that he instilled in those officers, most have moved on to full-time positions with other departments."

Under Dorsey's guidance, the department expanded its service area. Besides McDonald, its 15 officers provide public safety and law enforcement services to Burgettstown, Midway, West Middletown and Independence Township. For the past 22 years, the McDonald Police Department has also served Robinson Township in Washington County.

Just prior to Dorsey's retirement, state Rep. Jason Oritay presented Dorsey with a proclamation honoring his service. Said Oritay during the presentation, "I congratulate McDonald Police Chief Mark E. Dorsey on his retirement after 32 years as chief and



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STORY AND PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

Western YMCA closes but continues outreach programs

41 years in law enforcement. Thank you, Chief Dorsey, for all your hard work and dedication to our community.”

Says Dorsey, “Dennis has an extreme challenge ahead of him considering current law enforcement trends, not to mention the local challenges. Today’s environment has been detrimental for police morale and recruitment is difficult. Budgets are tight and we’ve had to do more with less.”

As for his own experiences, he notes, “I’ve had a good long run and have been blessed to be in a position to help many people over the years. I’ve been spinning a lot of plates for many years and I know I’m now ready for a change. With myriad expectations of this position by the public and the ever increasing demands, I wish Dennis the very best and much success in his new position.”

Dorsey, 62, will continue working as the zoning and code enforcement officer in Robinson Township and as the code enforcement officer in Independence Township, both in Washington County. He says he looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Debbie, and his family. Travel is also on his list.

When not working in his capacity as the new police chief, Ahlborn and his wife, Laura, keep quite busy with Cub Scouts, sports and occasional camping trips with their three sons: Zayden, 7, Greyson, 6, and Brayden, 5. Oakdale residents since 2003, they also juggle Laura’s work duties as part of their busy schedule. She’s the assistant secretary for Oakdale Borough.

Ahlborn adds, “I’m looking forward to taking over as chief of police. I want to ensure that this department maintains the good relationships with the communities we serve and the other surrounding police departments.”

Damage caused by recent flooding led to a decision by the Greater Pittsburgh YMCA to close the Western Area YMCA on Montour Run Road in July, the organization said in a press release.

The press release states that repairing the damages caused by flooding and correcting the problems that caused it would have required an investment of \$1.2 million by the

nonprofit, which declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy in May. The organization writes that the closure is part of its reorganization plan that it submitted to the court, which also entails closing its Penn Hills and Wilmerding locations at the end of August.

In the meantime, the Western Area YMCA is continuing to operate its Summer Day Camp until Aug. 31. Pam Haley, communications director for the Greater Pittsburgh YMCA, says it will also continue offering several outreach programs to area residents served by the Western Area YMCA. Those include before and afterschool programs in the Montour School District, an afterschool program in the West Allegheny School District, and an afterschool program in the Carlynton School District.

“We will also be looking to confirm a new location for the summer camp program in the area for the 2019 summer,” Haley writes in an email.

As well, Haley says the YMCA will be continuing its Silver Sneakers classes off-site at the Willows senior living facility in Kennedy Township.

According to the Greater Pittsburgh YMCA website, members who paid membership dues following July 1 are to be reimbursed and any others whose dues are processed mid-month were not charged. It also says that the organization is working to find buyers for its properties and to relocate its employees.

According to the press release, the Western Area YMCA had about 1,040 active members and nine full-time employees, along with 65 part-time employees.



The Western Area YMCA closed in July. The sign here reads “Members, Vounteers & Staff Thank you for Everything.”



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WA softball and baseball players earn honors

June 7 was a good day for the West Allegheny softball and baseball teams. By the end of it, both were just two wins away from state titles.

That afternoon, the softball team rolled over Albert Gallatin in the PIAA quarterfinals to advance to the semi-final game. Then the baseball team won its quarterfinal match against Red Land to advance to the semi-finals as well.

The following Tuesday, on June 12, the baseball team gave up just one hit in its semi-final match against Marple Newtown, but still lost to the eventual state champions. The softball team went a step further, knocking off Thomas Jefferson to play Lampeter-Strasburg in the championship, but fell short to finish as the state runner-up.

As it was, neither team finished quite where they wanted but both achieved plenty in their playoff runs. A combined 11 players were also recently named to all-section or all-state teams, or given other significant media honors. Many of those were announced in July.

On the softball team, seniors Taylor Goldstrophm and Ashley Seamon were both named to the all-state 5A team by the PIAA Coach's Association. Both players also earned all-section honors from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, alongside Taylor Cummings, Mackenzie Partyka, Savannah Lewis and freshman Meagan Pollinger.

As well, sophomore Britney Wilson earned second team all-state honors and the Post-Gazette named her to its all-area team. Goldstrophm was also named player of the year by the Beaver County Times.

On the baseball team, Shea Downing, Austin Hendrick and Seth Rosen all earned 5A baseball all-section nods from the Post-Gazette. As well, USA Today named Hendrick to its all-USA team. Hendrick, who is among the top prospects in the country, has already committed to play for Mississippi State University.

Junior catcher Logan Malatak earned second team all-section honors but was also hurt for a portion of the year.

Mindi McFate, who has coached the softball team for the better part of the past 15 years, describes these past few years as an "absolute joy." During that time, seniors from this past season congealed into a history-making team. In 2016, the team reached the WPIAL championship and the PIAA quarter-finals for the first time in the program's history. In 2017, the team became the first to win a WPIAL championship and reach the PIAA semi-finals. This past season, they repeated as WPIAL champions. That and their semi-final win were, again, both firsts in the program's history.

More importantly, the team's players showed championship-caliber character, says McFate, by repeatedly coming back from late deficits in big games and always supporting each other.

"They're good role models and they treat each other well," says McFate. "To me, that's even more enjoyable than winning. They're great kids who have laid the foundation for what we want this program to be about."

It's no coincidence that, as the softball team repeatedly made history these past few years, it was with Seamon on the mound as the team's starting pitcher. She finishes her high school career with a 63-6 record as a starter. In 150 innings this past season, she



The West Allegheny softball team poses for a picture after the PIAA state championship game with their runner-up medals.

recorded 53 strikeouts and gave up just 48 earned runs. This was the second consecutive year she earned all-state honors.

McFate points out that, while not as dominant as some all-state selections, Seamon was outstanding at creating contact and playing to her defense's strengths.

"She caused a lot of ground balls and pop flies," says McFate. "She limited walks and the defense played well behind her. She's also one of the most competitive kids I ever coached. She wants to be in that tough situation. She wants to be on the mound."

McFate says Goldstrophm, meanwhile, developed these past few years from a "timid sophomore" into one of the team's top offensive weapons.

"She went from batting ninth as a junior to being our leadoff hitter and batting over .500," she says. "The progress she made and athleticism she has, it was neat to be a part of that."

Goldstrophm recorded a .510 batting average this past season, with four home runs and 23 RBIs. She was only bested in batting average by Wilson, who recorded a .565 average as the team's designated hitter.

Goldstrophm says she was pleasantly surprised by being named to the all-state team.

"It was nice to get the recognition," she says, "but I just play for my team, so I wasn't expecting it."

While the softball team will be losing a core group of seniors, most of the baseball team's all-section selections will be returning. The exception is Rosen, who went 6-0 this past season as a starter and who coach Bryan Cornell says would have gotten the nod for that championship game.

"We're losing just a bulldog-type kid," says Cornell. "We told him and Connor Bartley, two kids who never had a lot of varsity innings coming into the year...that if they don't pitch well at the beginning of the season I don't like our chances of being successful."

Bartley was also undefeated this past season.

Downing, meanwhile, earned all-section honors after just his first season as a starter on the varsity team. In the past, the first baseman had played third base but was moved at the start of the season. Cornell says he was happy not only with his play on defense but also on offense. Downing finished the year with a .407 batting average in 19 games.

"He was a guy at the plate who, in any big situation, he would

have a double in a ton of games,” says Cornell. “He always stood out as the guy having a big hit who would get the win.”

Hendrick, meanwhile, comes off his sophomore season with a 1.438 ERA. In 24.1 innings pitched, he gave up just five earned runs and had 28 strikeouts. He also recorded a .438 batting average in 48 at-bats with 16 RBIs and two homeruns. He finished the season by pitching a one-hitter in that quarterfinal game.

“What can you say about Austin? He’s a once in a lifetime talent,” says Cornell.

Hendrick also has two more years in his high school career. During that time, Cornell says they’re going to be looking to be smart with their key player who seems to thrive in big games.

Next season, both teams will be looking to return to the playoffs. If the baseball team can return to the quarterfinals, it will be their third consecutive year of doing so. They also reached the quarterfinal game in 2017 and won it this year despite losing 12 seniors. Four years ago, the team won the WPIAL championship.

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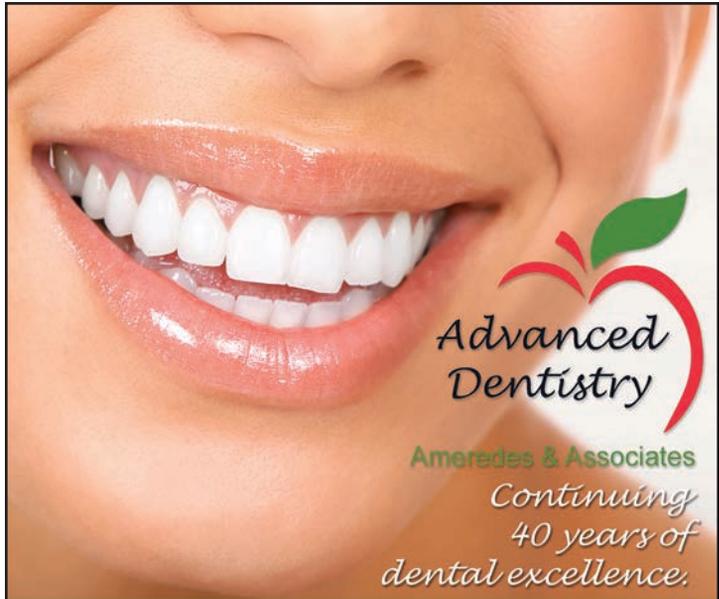


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Saturday, September 8th

FEATURING



Amanda Hertweck

@ 4 P.M.



Totally 80's Band

@ 6 P.M.



8th Street Rox

@ 8 P.M.

We are back for the fourth year with this popular event!

This year we are mixing it up and having a variety of great music and local artists. Smokin Jack's Barbeque will be on hand cooking up pulled pork, ribs, chicken, sausage and more. Also, there will be fresh corn on the cob and pies to enjoy.

The Imperial VFD will be on hand selling beer and other beverages. Grab a plate of food and a beverage, then sit down to listen to a great lineup of music.

This is a free event, but all food and beverages will be available to purchase.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle.

4 PM – *Amanda Hertweck* – bringing us her blend of Soul, R & B and Rock.

6 PM – *Totally 80's Band* – experience this High Energy, awesome band as they take us on a musical journey. If you have never seen them, here is your chance! Totally 80's Band plays monthly at Jergels, packing the popular music venue.

8 PM – *8th Street Rox* – Come out and see these seasoned musicians play their blues-based, dance and rock 'n' roll music. You will be singing along...

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WVA

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018-2019 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

2019

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Office: 724.695.7368

Middle School
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Office: 724.695.8979

Donaldson Elementary
Call Off: 724.213.1013
Office: 724-213-1010

Wilson Elementary
Call Off: 724.695.1548
Office: 724.695.3300

TEST DATES

Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline*
Oct. 6	Sept. 7	Sept. 26
Nov. 3	Oct. 5	Oct. 24
Dec. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 20
March 9	Feb. 8	Feb. 27
May 4	April 5	April 24
June 1	May 3	May 22

SAI
To register, go to
www.collegeboard.org.

*(Online only)

ACT

To register, go to
www.act.org.

Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline*
Oct. 27	Sept. 27	Sept.29-Oct.14
Dec. 8	Nov. 2	Nov. 3-19
Feb. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12-18
April 13	March 8	March 9-25
June 8	May 3	May 4-20
July 13	June 14	June 15-24

*(late fees apply)

*All dates subject to change.

- Jan. 1 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
 - Jan. 21 NO SCHOOL - 1/2 Clerical - 1/2 Teacher Inservice
 - Feb. 18 NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-service Day
 - March 22 1/2 Day Dismissal - PM Clerical Day
 - March 29 1/2 Day Dismissal - PM Teacher Conference Day
 - April 15-19 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
 - April 22 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Clerical Day
 - May 27 NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
 - May 31 1/2 Day Dismissal - Commencement - Last Day - Students*
 - June 3-5 Teacher Inservice / Clerical Days
- * - Dependent upon snow make-up days (April 22 and June 3 & 4, if needed).
** - Half-day dismissal times: Secondary - 11:25 a.m. Elementary - 12:20 p.m.

Spring Musical:
March 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 7:00 p.m.
March 24 at 2:00 p.m.

PROM
May 4

Kennywood
June 13

Nine-week end dates: Oct. 26, Jan. 15, March 20, May 31
Report Card Issue Dates: Oct. 31, Jan. 23, March 26, June 6



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Office: 724.695.8979

Donaldson Elementary

Call Off: 724.213.1013

Office: 724-213-1010

Wilson Elementary

Call Off: 724.695.1548

Office: 724.695.3300

TEST DATES

To register, go to
www.collegeboard.org.

Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline*
Oct. 6	Sept. 7	Sept. 26
Nov. 3	Oct. 5	Oct. 24
Dec. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 20
March 9	Feb. 8	Feb. 27
May 4	April 5	April 24
June 1	May 3	May 22

*(Online only)

SAT

To register, go to
www.act.org.

Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline*
Oct. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29-Oct. 14
Dec. 8	Nov. 2	Nov. 3-19
Feb. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12-18
April 13	March 8	March 9-25
June 8	May 3	May 4-20
July 13	June 14	June 15-24

*(late fees apply)

* Varsity Sports Only.

** All Athletic Event Dates Subject to Change.

High School Academics and Activity Fair

Sept. 18, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

** - Half-day dismissal times:

Secondary - 11:25 a.m.

Elementary - 12:20 p.m.

First Day School for Students

Sept. 3 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

Oct. 8 NO SCHOOL -

Teacher Inservice Day

Oct. 26 1/2 Day Dismissal -

PM Clerical Day

Nov. 1 1/2 Day Dismissal -

1/2 Teacher Conference Day

Nov. 2 NO SCHOOL -

Teacher Conference Day

Nov. 21 1/2 Day Dismissal -

PM Clerical Day

Nov. 22-26 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 21 1/2 Day Dismissal -

PM Clerical Day

Dec. 24-31 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

*All dates subject to change.

Open Houses

Wilson: Sept. 24-25, 6:30 p.m.

McKee: Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m.

Donaldson: Sept. 27, 5:30 p.m.

Middle School: Oct. 4, 6 p.m.

Fall Play @ High School:

October 20 and 27 at 7:00 p.m.

October 21 at 2:00 p.m.

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BOYS GOLF

- 8/20 - @ Upper Saint Clair - Upper St. Clair CC - 2:45 PM
 - 8/23 - @ Montour - Chartiers CC - 3:30 PM
 - 8/24 - vs Blackhawk - 3 PM
 - 8/28 - @ Beaver Area - Seven Oaks GC - 3 PM
 - 8/29 - vs Ambridge Area - Quicksilver GC - 3 PM
 - 8/31 - @ Moon Area - Montour Heights CC - 3 PM
 - 9/5 - vs New Castle - 3 PM
 - 9/10 - vs Montour - 3 PM
 - 9/12 - @ Blackhawk - Blackhawk GC - 3 PM
 - 9/14 - vs Beaver Area - 3 PM
 - 9/17 - Section 5 Qualifier - TBA
 - 9/19 - Girls Indiv. Qualifiers - TBA
 - MAC Champ. - Fox Run Golf Course - 9 AM
 - TBA - @ Ambridge Area - Shadow Lakes CC - 2:30 PM
 - 9/21 - vs Moon Area - Quicksilver Golf Course - 3 PM
 - 9/24 - @ Bethel Park - Scenic Valley GC - 2:30 PM
 - 9/25 - Boys Indiv. Semi-Finals - TBA
 - 9/26 - @ New Castle - Sylvan Heights GC - 3 PM
 - 10/2 - WPIAL Indiv. Finals - Oakmont Country Club
- Home course is Quicksilver GC

GIRLS SOCCER

- 9/1 - @ Moon Area - TBA
- 9/5 - vs Central Valley - 6:15 PM
- 9/8 - @ Chartiers Valley - TBA
- 9/10 - vs Blackhawk - 6:15 PM
- 9/12 - @ South Fayette - 6 PM
- 9/15 - vs OLSH - 10 AM
- 9/17 - vs Ambridge Area - 6:15 PM
- 9/19 - @ Hopewell - 6 PM
- 9/22 - vs Oakland Catholic - 3:45 PM
- 9/24 - @ Montour - 6 PM
- 9/26 - @ Central Valley - 6 PM
- 10/1 - vs Chartiers Valley - 6:15 PM
- 10/3 - @ Blackhawk - 6 PM
- 10/6 - vs South Fayette - 12:45 PM
- 10/8 - @ Ambridge Area - 6 PM
- 10/11 - vs Ellwood City - 6:15 PM
- 10/15 - vs Montour - 6:15 PM

FOOTBALL

- 8/31 - @ Chartiers Valley - 7 PM
- 9/7 - vs Bethel Park - 7 PM - Senior Night
- 9/14 - vs Peters Township - 7 PM - Military/First Responders Night
- 9/21 - @ Upper Saint Clair - 7:30 PM - Friday Night Rivals Game
- 9/28 - vs Woodland Hills - 7 PM - Homecoming
- 10/5 - @ Baldwin - 7 PM
- 10/12 - @ Hampton - 7 PM
- 10/19 - vs North Allegheny - 7 PM - Youth Night
- 10/26 - @ Moon Area - 7 PM

VOLLEYBALL

- 9/14 - vs. Chartiers valley - 6 PM
- 9/16 - @ South Fayette - 6 PM
- 9/18 - Moon Invit. - TBA
- 9/11 - @ West Mifflin - 6 PM
- 9/13 - vs Obama - 6 PM
- 9/15 - MAC Championship - Ambridge HS - TBA
- 9/18 - @ Trinity - 6 PM
- 9/20 - vs Quaker Valley - 6 PM
- 9/22 - South Fayette Tourn. - TBA
- 9/25 - @ Montour - 6 PM
- 9/27 - @ Chartiers Valley - 6 PM
- 10/2 - vs South Fayette - 6 PM
- 10/4 - vs West Millin - 6 PM
- 10/9 - @ Obama - TBA
- 10/11 - vs Trinity - Dig Pink Night - 6 PM
- 10/15 - @ Peters Township - 6 PM
- 10/16 - @ Quaker Valley - 6 PM
- 10/18 - vs Montour - 6 PM

BOYS SOCCER

- 9/1-2 - Plum Kickoff Tourn. - 5 PM/TBA
- 9/4 - vs Quaker Valley - 6:15 PM
- 9/6 - @ Beaver Area - 6 PM
- 9/8 - vs South Fayette - 11 AM
- 9/11 - vs Moon Area - 6:15 PM
- 9/13 - @ Obama - TBA
- 9/15 - vs Montour - 11:45 AM
- 9/18 - @ Blackhawk - 6 PM
- 9/20 - vs Ambridge Area - 6:15 PM
- 9/22 - vs Mt. Lebanon - 12:45 PM
- 9/25 - vs Beaver Area - 6:15 PM
- 9/27 - @ Moon Area - 7 PM
- 10/2 - vs Obama - 6:15 PM
- 10/4 - @ Montour - 6 PM
- 10/9 - vs Blackhawk - 6:15 PM
- 10/11 - @ Ambridge Area - 6 PM
- 10/13 - vs Sewickley Academy - 12:45 PM

CO-ED GROSS COUNTRY

- 9/1 - Gateway Invit. - Boyce Park - 9 AM
- 9/4 - Multiple Opponents - Brush Creek - 4 PM
- 9/11 - Tri-Meet - Beaver HS - 4 PM
- 9/15 - Spartan XC Challenge - Settlers Cabin Park - 8:30 AM
- 9/18 - Tri-Meet - WA XC Course - 3:45 PM
- 9/25 - Tri-Meet - Blackhawk HS - 4 PM
- 10/2 - Tri-Meet - WA XC Course - 3:45 PM
- 10/11 - MAC Champ. - Brush Creek - 3 PM
- 10/25 - WPIAL Champ. - California Univ. of PA - 2 PM
- 11/3 - PIAA Champ. - Hershey - 11 AM

GIRLS TENNIS

- 8/24 - @ Chartiers Valley - 3:30 PM
- 8/25 - Moon Area Tourn. - 2 PM
- 8/27 - vs Trinity - 3:30 PM
- 8/29 - @ South Fayette - Ft. Cherry - 3:30 PM
- 9/6 - vs Upper Saint Clair - 3:30 PM
- 9/10 - vs Peters Township - 3:30 PM
- 9/12-13 - Section 4 Doubles - TBA
- 9/17 - @ Canon-McMillan - 3:30 PM
- 9/24 - @ Mt. Lebanon - 3:30 PM
- 9/26-27 - Section 4 Doubles - TBA
- 10/1 - vs Montour HS - 3:30 PM - Senior Day
- 10/3 - vs Hampton - 3:30 PM

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** All Athletic Event Dates Subject to Change.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

- 2018**
- 12/7 - vs North Hills - 6 PM
 - 12/11 - vs Bethel Park - 6 PM
 - 12/14 - vs Canon-McMillan - 6 PM
 - 12/27 - WA Christmas Diving Invit.
 - 12/28 - WA Christmas Swim Invit.

- 2019**
- 1/3 - vs Allerdice - 6 PM
 - 1/7 - vs Mt. Lebanon - 6 PM
 - 1/10 - @ Obama - TBA
 - 1/12 - Central York Invit.
 - 1/17 - vs Brashear - 6 PM
 - 1/24 - vs Peters Township - 6 PM
 - 1/29 - vs Montour - 6 PM
 - 1/31 - @ Trinity - 6 PM
 - 2/7 - vs South Fayette - 6 PM
 - 2/8 - MAC Diving Champ. - Moon Area - 3 PM
 - 2/9 - MAC Swim Champ. - Moon Area - 10 AM
 - 2/14 - @ Moon Area - 6 PM
 - 2/22 - WPIAL AA Diving Finals - South Park High School
 - 2/23 - WPIAL AAA Diving Finals - North Allegheny High School
 - 2/27 - WPIAL Finals - Univ. of Pittsburgh
 - 3/13 - PIAA Champ. - Bucknell University

GIRLS BASKETBALL

- 2018**
- 12/7-8 - Ambridge Tourn. - TBA
 - 12/11 - @ North Hills - Jr. HS - 6 PM
 - 12/13 - @ Trinity - 6 PM
 - 12/15 - @ Peters Township - 12 PM
 - 12/17 - vs Thomas Jefferson - 6 PM
 - 12/20 - vs Moon Area - 6 PM
 - 12/27-28 - Hampton Christmas Tourn. - TBA

- 2019**
- 1/3 - @ Montour - 6 PM
 - 1/7 - vs Chartiers Valley - 6 PM
 - 1/10 - vs South Fayette - 6 PM
 - 1/14 - @ Lincoln Park - 6:30 PM
 - 1/17 - vs Trinity - 6 PM
 - 1/21 - @ Thomas Jefferson - 6 PM
 - 1/24 - @ Moon Area - 6 PM
 - 1/26 - Bethel Park Charity Classic - TBA
 - 1/28 - vs Montour - 6 PM
 - 1/31 - @ Chartiers Valley - 6 PM
 - 2/2 - vs Bethel Park - 12 PM
 - 2/4 - @ South Fayette - 6 PM
 - 2/7 - vs Lincoln Park - 6 PM

BOYS BASKETBALL

- 2018**
- 12/11 - vs Baldwin - 6 PM
 - 12/14 - vs Moon Area - 6 PM
 - 12/18 - @ Thomas Jefferson - 6 PM
 - 12/21 - vs Montour - 6 PM
 - 12/27-28 - WA Christmas Tourn.

- 2019**
- 1/4 - @ South Fayette - 6 PM
 - 1/5 - vs Keystone Oaks - 11 AM
 - 1/8 - vs West Mifflin - 6 PM
 - 1/11 - @ Trinity - 6 PM
 - 1/15 - vs Chartiers Valley - 6 PM
 - 1/18 - @ Moon Area - 6 PM
 - 1/22 - vs Thomas Jefferson - 6 PM
 - 1/25 - @ Montour - 6 PM
 - 1/29 - vs South Fayette - 6 PM
 - 2/1 - @ West Mifflin - 6 PM
 - 2/5 - vs Trinity - 6 PM
 - 2/8 - @ Chartiers Valley - 6 PM

WRESTLING

- 2018**
- 12/12 - @ Ambridge Area - 7 PM
 - 12/19 - vs Canon-McMillan - 7 PM
 - 12/27-28 - PowerAde Tourn. - Canon-McMillan HS

- 2019**
- 1/2 - @ New Castle - 7 PM
 - 1/9 - vs South Fayette - 7 PM
 - 1/18-19 - Top Gun Tourn. - Alliance High School
 - 2/12 - vs Peters Township - 7 PM

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Robinson Township Christian School

Hearing from the graduates

At most high school graduations, the audience listens to a guest speaker and the valedictorian. At Robinson Township Christian School's graduation this past spring, the audience heard from each and every student in the graduating class - eight in total. Each senior spoke from the heart and thanked their friends, teachers, families and God. The camaraderie between members of this graduating class was evident.

"It's no secret that this RTCS senior class is dear to my heart," show choir director and music teacher Lindsay Shaffer said.

Shaffer has worked closely with them over their high school years.

"They have challenged me with their talent and good questions," she said. "I watched them deliberately work to build better relationships with those in the class they didn't know as well as others. I overheard them mentoring and advising underclassmen. We had life chats and sang together. Thank you, seniors, for making the 2017-2018 school year the highlight of my teaching career thus far, and giving me the encouragement to press forward in this calling."

Each student will also be pressing forward in their own unique callings. Alaina Conly is headed to DePaul University in Chicago to enter their physician assistant program. Alyssa Gadsby is staying closer to home by attending Duquesne University to study physics with the goal of becoming a biomedical engineer. Daniel Heiple will head to Ohio and join the ROTC program at Cedarville University.

Adriana Garcia will be attending the University of Pittsburgh to study English literature and theatre arts. Caleb Lucas will enter Grace College in Indiana to study criminal justice with the ultimate goal of becoming a detective. Reuben Meyer will study information systems at Carnegie Mellon University. Jillian Stuart will also be in Pittsburgh, studying obstetric nursing at CCAC.

Finally, Roderick Thompson will begin his post-high school path at Regent University in Virginia as a political science major.

Though their paths are far-flung, they will be remembered well by their friends and teachers at RTCS.

"I hope my students learned as much from me as I did from them," said science teacher Heather Smith.

Alyssa Gadsby, Roderick Thompson, Reuben Meyer, Adrianna Garcia and Jillian Stuart celebrate graduating from Robinson Township Christian School.



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FOOT FACTS

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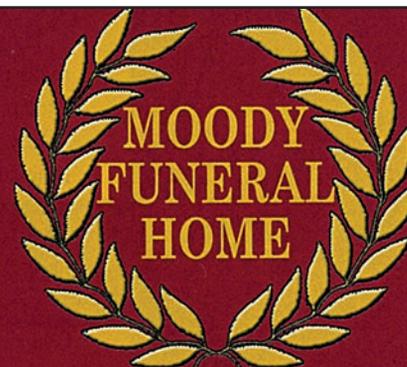
For more information about bunions and their treatment, visit the American Podiatric Medical Association Web site at: www.apma.org.

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WA's Rieger, now a renowned opera singer, releases debut album

Anyone who happened to witness Dr. Eric Rieger's performances during the early years of West Allegheny's musicals caught a glimpse of a talent that would eventually put Rieger on the international stage.

Rieger, who started his career performing in the musicals "Oklahoma" and "Brigadoon" in the mid-1990s at WA, is now a renowned American tenor known for his impeccable musical talents. Recently, he released his debut album, "Poet's Journey: Song Cycles of Benjamin Britten." The album is available on the Affetto Record Label and distributed by Naxos internationally. It's available as a physical CD, download, and as streaming content on Amazon, iTunes, Spotify, Apple Music, and many more.

"I had wanted to record a solo album representative of the art song repertoire I sang in recitals for a number of years," Rieger says.

For the uninitiated, an art song is a vocal music composition, usually written for one voice with piano accompaniment, and usually in the classical art music tradition. The term "art song" is used to refer to the collective genre of such songs.

He explains, "I decided to focus on song cycles of Benjamin Britten, a repertoire I had performed extensively with my renowned colleague and friend, J.J. Penna, on the piano. We were able to secure an excellent producer from the United Kingdom and an excellent record label to get the CD out."

To understand how a local young man took his singing talents from the school auditorium to international stages, one needs to know the passion and determination that goes into such a career.

After graduating from West Allegheny in 1995, Rieger pursued a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. It was there he met and married his wife, Aimee, who was studying violin performance. Rieger went on to get his master's degree in opera in the United Kingdom at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

The couple moved to Europe in 1999 and, for the next decade, lived and worked in Europe. While Rieger pursued his profession, so did she, as a violin teacher and performer.

He says that, during his studies in Scotland, he made his professional operatic debut in Cork, Ireland. He also gave concert performances at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, London. Rieger's performances soon took him to the Opernhaus Zurich in Switzerland, where he performed on the main stage for a two-year engagement.

"While at the Opernhaus, I performed with many of the world's most renowned opera singers," he recalls, adding, "I began

spending a lot of time in northern Italy, where I performed several leading roles at the Teatro Coccia in Novara as well as Treviso. Eventually, I was engaged as the principle lyric tenor at the opera company in Trier, Germany where I was featured in leading roles for a number of years."

While in Trier, their daughter, Liana, who is now 12, was born. Rieger gushes about his daughter as a proud dad does.

"She is actively involved in music, playing piano, violin, and singing enthusiastically. She is an avid reader and is very interested in writing. She also is involved in the sport of fencing," he adds.

As Rieger's operatic talents became well-known, he went on to work as a guest artist, performing with opera companies throughout Germany, Switzerland and Belgium. He notes that he did a lot of concert work throughout Europe, which led to performances in Luxembourg, at the Monteverdi Festival in Cremona, Italy, and at the Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Upon returning to the States in 2009, Rieger focused his energies on pursuing a career as a professor of voice. All the while, he continued with a busy performance career.

Four years ago, their son, Callum, was born in Princeton. While he also likes music and books, obviously imbued by his parents' and older sister's musical talents, Rieger says his son enjoys sports and learning to ride his bike.

In between raising a family, Rieger completed a doctor of musical arts from the Eastman School of Music while teaching at Nazareth College. Soon, he was teaching at colleges around the nation. They included appointments at Texas Tech University and Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, where he was also assistant

director of the renowned CoOPERative summer program for young professional singers. Most recently, he set down roots in Washington state, where he accepted an appointment as coordinator of vocal studies and director of opera at Western Washington University.

Aspiring music students around the country, however, are also beneficiaries of Rieger's training and talents. He gives master classes, workshops and guest lectures at colleges, universities and conferences all over the nation.

Audiences also continue to enjoy Rieger's operatic talents as he continues to perform in opera and concert venues. Among his more notable performances in recent years were his solo debuts at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia and Carnegie Hall in New York City.



Dr. Eric Rieger
PHOTO BY JEANNIE LOVETT BARRICK



In 2016, Rieger was the featured soloist on the Naxos International recording "James Whitbourn: Carolae" with the Grammy-nominated Westminster Williamson Voices.

Because Rieger so very much enjoyed performing recitals of art song with different leading concert series and on numerous college campuses around the U.S., he had wanted to record a solo album representative of the art song repertoire he sang in those recitals for a number of years. Thus, "Poet's Journey: Song Cycles of Benjamin Britten" became a reality.

Rieger's resume includes his professional activities with a litany of conductors, prestigious opera companies and major roles that have brought him acclaim both at home and abroad. His repertoire spans from the Baroque to the 20th century - and yet, he remains humble, noting that he's "still the same old guy."

When not involved in his numerous career passions, he derives great fulfillment from being a husband and father. He hasn't forgotten his local roots, either.

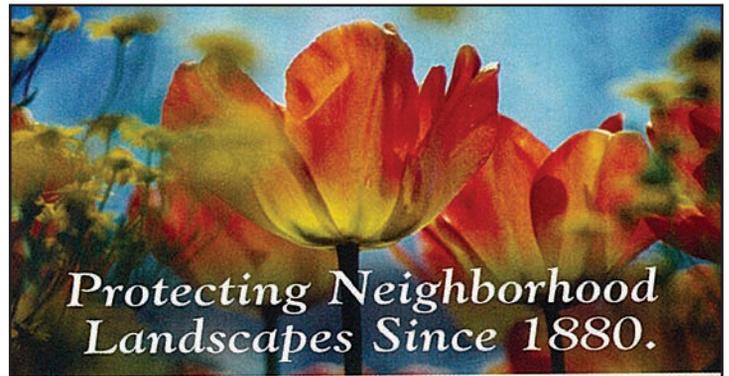
"I love my Pittsburgh sports teams," he says, "and have educated my family to love them as well. I enjoy spending time with my family and exploring."

This from a man who has seen the world and so much more.

When not pursuing his professional passions or making music as a family, they explore by hiking, biking and kayaking.

While Rieger may be the same old guy, he also has a litany of talents that makes one proud to say he's a West Allegheny graduate.

To learn more about Rieger, follow him on Facebook or visit his website, www.ericrieger.org.



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Commencement ceremony celebrates class of 2018

West Allegheny was proud to celebrate the class of 2018 at its commencement ceremony June 1. Administration, school board members, family and friends were in attendance to congratulate the 255 graduates and wish them well in their future pursuits.

Senior class president Tim Tan, vice president Kolbe Stout, secretary Zachary Books and treasurer Melina Opacic led graduates into the gymnasium, where the colors were presented by the West Allegheny Marine Corps JROTC. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, school board president Debbie Mirich welcomed graduates and guests. The senior address was given by distinguished honors recipient Melina Opacic. This year's faculty speakers were retiring teachers Rita Wilson and Robert Palko, who shared words of wisdom and encouragement with graduates.

The keynote address was presented by Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, superintendent, and Kevin McKiernan, high school lead principal. Together, they welcomed guests, congratulated graduates and presented a video spotlight of the District's second annual Senior Celebration and Declaration Day. They were also excited to present a video tribute from high school staff who shared department-themed life lessons and well wishes. Both videos may be found on the District's Facebook page.

The ceremony was streamed live and archived, allowing viewers from around the globe to be part of the evening's celebration.

Music was provided by the senior chorus, under the direction of Meagan Bruno, and the West Allegheny brass ensemble, under the direction of ensemble director Steven Groba. Nathan Presutti (class of 2022), was the accompanist.



ABOVE: The class of 2018 was featured in this year's commencement selfie with Kevin McKiernan, Robert Palko, Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert and Rita Wilson.

LEFT: Melina Opacic delivers the senior address to her classmates and guests.

BELOW LEFT: JROTC members proudly present the colors.

BELOW: Friends gather before proceeding into commencement.

BOTTOM: Art students gather in front of their collaborative artwork, which was dedicated to the school.



#WeAreStudentStrong

Class of 2018

Summa Cum Laude

Anden Matthew Acitelli*+
Michael James Bagnell*+
Dana Madison Bodnar*
Graham George Bordo+
Tori Jai Brennen*+
Colin Charles Britt+
Noah Alexander Brosovic+
Lucia Lily Bruschi*+
Michael Chun Lang Chen+
Paige Elizabeth Colicchie*+
Hannah Marie Cook*+
Alexa Renee Crider*+
Taylor Jo Cummings+
Kaylah Hazel Doss*+
Jacob Duane Eger+
Brandon John Ferruzza*+
Trenton Thomas Heh
Veronica Jane Heyl*+
Christina Young Jeter+
Sierra Alexandra Lamb+
Melina Sophia Lynn+
Mallory Grace Mahen+
Aidan Joseph Meier*+
Kaitlin Ruth Mielnicki*+
Amy Louise Nolte*+
Anna Nicole Nordmann*+
Melina R Opacic*+
Jessica Lou Packer+
Zachary Lee Painter+
Miala Lee Palaima*+
Dominic John Patitucci*+
William Allen Robertson II*+
Rachel Marie Schade*+
Ashley Nicole Seamon*+
Lily Grace Seibel*
Olivia Ann Shipley+
Nicholas Jacob Staub+
Quincy Robert Sterner*+
Kolbe William Stout+
Morgan Rae Swasey+
Tim Tan*+
Daniel Christopher Tome*+
Chancellor Guy Wahl+
Mackenzie Catherine Walters*+
Megan Ye*+
Jennifer Renee Zelesnik+
Gage Cameron Zurcher+

*Distinguished Honors
+ National Honor Society

Magna Cum Laude

Katelyn Rose Amedure
Evan Carl Armstrong
Alexis Leeann Barbour
Conner Lawrence Bartley+
Noah William Bauer
Michael James Behr
Mariah Anne Blair
Jacob Tyler Bolger
Kaitlin Louise Borgo
Abigail Sara Brown
Eric James Campbell+
Sydney Taylor Campbell
Megan Nicole Capo
Joel Teater Casey
Brandon Nicholas Cooper
Curtis Douglas Cowher
Nathan Joseph Cronin
Katelin Ann Cutri
Mackenzie Elizabeth Danzik
Jacob Merritt Davis
Mikayla Kathryn Day
Matthew William Shane
Donahue
Brock Paulssen Downing
Montana Leroy Feely
Noah Simmons Flenner
Taylor Nicole Goldstroh
Nathaniel Joseph Graziani
Ryan Jeffrey Guilfoil
Joshua Robert Halbedl
Hailey Lynn Hamilton+
Madison Leigh Henry
Victoria Jean Hensler
Destiny Brooke Hodges
Rachel Noel Hoge
Courtney Marie Hurey
Anna Christina Kohl
Jared Michael Konop
Savannah Rachel Kosis
Morgan Elizabeth Kutzavitch
Michael Chad Lynch
Carolyn Faith Macek+
Olivia Marie Marsh
Kylie Elizabeth Martin
Alyssa Nicole Matthews
Avery Rose Naleppa
Madelyn Victoria Norris+
Mackenzie Renae Partyka
McKenna Rose Pasic
Seth Michael Pittner
Zachary Bryan Porter
Kaitlin Nichole Richards
Justin Guy Rippole
Seth Michael Rosen
Megan Catherine Routch
Madeline Irene Salek

Gregory Robert Schriener
Christopher Edan Schubert
Logan Anthony Tomcik
Jacqueline Carolina Vergnaud
Matthew William Weber
William Wallace Weber
Lauren Ann Whitaker
William Earl Wiechelt
Aysha Ruby Williams
John Joseph Wojtowicz
Stewart Andrew Yarowenko
Olivia Rose Younger
Rachel Elizabeth Zeigler
Rachel Marie Zelesnik
Shalby Rose Zysk+

Cum Laude

Steven Michael Abbott
Tatum McKenna Amos
Joseph Robert Artinger
Mariah Nicole Bagdon
Madison Isabella Beck
Stephanie Lauren Berhosky
Jeree Iyanna Best
Isaac William Bower
Evan Edwin Bradley
Gabrielle Emaly Joy Campbell
Katelyn Marie Carnot
Daniel Leland Clements II
Amanda Renee Coghe
Rachael Jordan Couch
Victoria Leigh Crawford
Shay Marie Cryblskey-Horton
Julia Renae Custer
Anthony Charles Dellovade
Tadejah Daisylee Dinkins
Francesca Maria Fedorka
Kaylee Morgan Fisher
Michael David Flesse
Tyler Casey Gallant
Alexandra Marie Giletto
Mya Ashlynn Gonzalez
Stephen James Grebosky
Taylor Ashley Greer
Lane Matthew Hallam
Jian Haston
Henry Russell Hays
Carlie Nicolle Holeva
Victoria Renee Juzwick
Troy Andrew Kopec
Ava Nicole Krapanza
Abbey Hope Layden
Abigail Love Leslie
Lily Angela Lutkus
Ryan Christopher Main
Bryce Richard Manley

Kaitlin Rose Martelli
Spencer Richard Mason
Haley Leann McGuane
Evan Patrick Moore
Spencer Jake Naleppa
Patricia Haley Neal
Grant John Nicholson
Alex Nixon
Maximus William Oberg
Cole McLean Ourada
Caleb John Parrish
Nicole Renee Patterson
Austin Thomas Petrocelli
Aubrey Anna Prohaska
Avia Eilleen Rettmann
Dylan Michael Rossman
Amanda Elaine Rubis
Victoria Josephine Sadauskas
Kaylee Marie Santiago
Tanner Anthony Simko
Jeremy Allen Taranto
Kaleb Anthony Thompson
Lucas Daniel Vignone
Alexis Iris Vogt
Roman Michael Votour
Brianna Elizabeth Watters
Jillian Nicole Weber
Lauryn Marie Wertz
Michael Ryan Whitaker
Robert Brian Zysk



We are excited
to welcome
back our
students on
Tuesday,
August 21!
See you then!

Superintendent's Message

We are excitedly counting down the days until we welcome students back to school on Tuesday, August 21. I hope that every family in the District has been enjoying their summer and shared many memorable and relaxing moments. As we look to prepare all of our schools for our students' arrival, I want to share a few updates.

Upon the return of our high school students, they will be welcomed by the newly completed athletic complex expansion and renovation. This project includes an expanded eight-lane competition pool, locker rooms, auxiliary gymnasium and fitness center. It will provide multiple opportunities for our physical education department and extra curricular athletics and activities. Additionally, the newly constructed JROTC classroom will be the featured academic space.

This highly anticipated renovation project began in June of 2017.

The project had wide support from across the District for its enhanced academic, athletic and community uses. The West Allegheny swim team and community-based Aqua Club will both have access to a newly expanded pool.

The renovated pool boasts a new ultraviolet water purification system to eliminate chloramines from the pool water, which will improve air and water quality. A new ventilation system will provide fresh air directly across the swimming pool surface

and pool deck benches to increase respiratory comfort. The two additional swim lanes and expanded pool deck area will accommodate more swimmers for practices and competitive events. Previous swim meets were often limited by the capacity of the facility. In addition to creating more space for swimmers, there is additional seating to accommodate nearly 300 spectators. Also, the area has its own concession area to serve anticipated crowds. The renovation also included the addition of a four-stop elevator, which will provide ADA handicap access to the swimming deck, and a newly constructed stadium press box.

The new addition not only provides improved locker room amenities for our student athletes, but also for our families as well. Two family restrooms are now provided on the ground level of the facility for privacy and to accommodate little ones with built-in changing tables.



Updates to the renovated natatorium at the high school include new seating, a high efficiency HVAC system, an ultraviolet water purification system, improved locker rooms and more.

The growing JROTC program at West Allegheny continues to serve as an inspiring and motivational program at the high school. It has introduced many students to the discipline and rigor of military service and has steadily grown over the past several years. In keeping with that growth, the newly created 1,600 square foot space will provide two academic areas for the program, with the flexibility to transform the space for military training. Relocation of the program to the new addition will improve ease of access to the physical training locations, decreasing student transition times and allowing increased academic time.

The new auxiliary gymnasium will provide 4,000 square feet of additional space for the physical education department to train and work with our students. It also includes a dedicated, small group academic center that will allow teachers and coaches the ability to review rules and safety procedures. They can even show instructional videos or recordings to analyze athletic performances. The new space is large enough to house two full-size competition wrestling rings. This will improve practices for the West Allegheny wrestling team and youth wrestling.

The addition and pool renovations are designed for energy efficiency and are outfitted with computer controlled LED lighting systems to provide the most efficient lighting possible. It has also been outfitted with a high efficiency HVAC system. The systems have been integrated into the District's direct digital controls and are actively monitored for appropriate settings during occupied and unoccupied situations.

On behalf of the West Allegheny School Board of Directors, the District administration, faculty and staff, I want to say thank you to all district families for supporting our schools and your students as we return for the 2018-2019 school year. We look forward to welcoming our students back on August 21. We are excited to begin the new school year and introduce how much #WACARES.

Dr. Jerrí Lynn Lippert, Superintendent

#WeAreWestA

District hires high school assistant principal

The District is excited to announce the hiring of Cheryl McHone to fill the position of high school assistant principal, as unanimously approved by the board of school directors at the June 20 legislative meeting.

McHone comes to West Allegheny from Tennessee, where she served as both a primary and secondary school administrator

with the Washington County School District. In her new assistant principal role, McHone will draw on her extensive experience to foster positive school culture and student affairs, implement intervention efforts related to student behavior and attendance, and enhance academic instruction through classroom observations and development of professional learning opportunities for teachers. McHone joined the District on July 1.

“Returning to Pennsylvania to serve as an instructional leader has been a dream of mine for many years,” said McHone. “I am so honored and excited to be living out that dream as I join the West Allegheny High School community.”

“We are extremely pleased to add Ms. McHone to our administrative team and school staff at the high school,” said Kevin McKiernan, high school principal. “Her building level leadership experience supporting and growing individual students,

as well as being an instructional leader, will quickly add to our capacity to reach our goal of connecting every student with a viable career and/or college pathway, while being prepared to persist without remediation.”

McHone is currently working toward a doctorate in educational leadership and holds a master’s in special education, as

well as a bachelor’s in interdisciplinary studies, all from East Tennessee State University. She also holds an educational specialist degree in curriculum and instruction from Lincoln Memorial University.

“We are excited to welcome Ms. McHone to West Allegheny,” stated Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, superintendent. “Her administrative experience, paired with her high school special education and mathematics teaching experience as a Level 5

Tennessee teacher, will be a significant complement to the high school administrative team and staff. We were impressed with her career accomplishments to date and experience in restorative practices, data analysis and ability to shape and form strong relationships. When talking with her supervisor, it was noted that Ms. McHone always sees the potential, never the limits. She will add tremendous value to the West Allegheny School District.”



School and District administrators welcome Cheryl McHone (left, center) as new high school assistant principal.

#WeAreTeacherProud

Retirees

West Allegheny School District would like to sincerely thank the following staff members for their years of service and dedication to our students:

Joyce Anderson	Barb Martincic
Dr. Christine Assetta	Donna McCrory
Chuck Battelle	Bonnie Nightingale
Kathryn Battelle	Linda Nolfi
Beth Bauer	Jean Opfermann
Carol Bookmiller	Robert Palko
Major David Botizan	Carol Rozum
Shelley Crannell	Nancy Sale
Elaine Fitzgerald	Eric Shephard
Mike Kennedy	Rita Wilson

Schools earn grants aimed at student health, wellness and attendance

Wilson Elementary, Donaldson Elementary and the middle school have been awarded mini-grants designed to improve health and wellness, as well as student attendance.

Both Donaldson and Wilson Elementary Schools have been selected to receive Highmark Foundation wellness grants to promote healthy eating and physical activity. Wilson’s grant for \$2,700 will be allocated to incorporating 10 minutes of daily physical activity through the Take 10 Program. Donaldson’s grant for \$650 will go toward health and wellness initiatives for students throughout the upcoming school year.

The middle school has been selected to receive a \$1,500 United Way Be There Mini-Grant for attendance initiatives to reduce chronic absence during the 2018-2019 school year. All five West Allegheny schools were recently recognized by the United Way for reducing their chronic absence rates to below five percent, with three of the five schools reducing this rate to below three percent.

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Trip to Germany and Switzerland leaves students with fond memories

It was a trip to remember for 17 German students and five chaperones as they spent 11 days this summer touring Germany and Switzerland. They made stops in Berlin, Dresden, Rothenburg and Munich in Germany, as well as Strasbourg and Lucerne in Switzerland. German teacher Katie Zanella led the group to landmark stops that included Neuschwanstein Castle, the Glockenspiel and the Dachau concentration camp memorial. The world travelers also had the unique opportunities to watch the Germany vs. South Korea World Cup game at the Brandenburg Gate and ride the Alpine Slide down Mt. Pilatus in Switzerland. Students immersed themselves in the region's culture and enjoyed a variety of German foods. They spoke to locals at every opportunity.

German students and their chaperones visit the Glockenspiel in Munich.



#WeAreStudentStrong

Students inspire through art



Senior art students take a break from painting to display their incredible work at the Imperial VFD station.

Seniors in Mike Short's art classes took to their ladders and lifts again this year to leave their mark on the Imperial VFD station. Students created a second inspiring mural next to the one they painted last year to honor fire fighters. The mural was first created digitally and then transferred through projection onto the wall.

Finishing touches are added to the mural.



JROTC students travel to Virginia for STEM cyber camp

Seven West Allegheny JROTC students had the unique opportunity to attend a STEM cyber camp at Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal, Virginia from July 8-14. With a general introduction to cyber security and STEM, students attended sessions on how to minimize exposure to cyberattacks, engineer and build a VEX robot for competition, build an underwater robot with lights and a camera, learn about the parts of an airplane, and fly a fixed-wing aircraft through simulation.

Students also visited the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Participating students were Zachary Jurges, Evan Bordo, Logan Wischmann, Ashton Corello, Jake Jones, Sydney Lebec and Beth Zygłowicz.

ABOVE: Beth Zygłowicz receives her certificate.

BELOW LEFT: Sydney Lebec and her classmates are recognized at the camp graduation ceremony.

BELOW RIGHT: Logan Wischmann, Zachary Jurges, Ashton Corsello, Jake Jones and Evan Bordo take a break between cyber security sessions.



#WeAreInnovators&Designers

New activity period introduces art activism

For the first time this past school year, high school students had the opportunity to enroll in activity periods, during which they could explore their interests and passions.

Students taking part in the Art Activism activity period created quilt squares to donate to Quilt-for-a-Cure, sponsored by the Ford Motor Company. The



Teachers and art students proudly display their handmade quilt squares.

effort was in support of cancer patients through the St. Clair Hospital Cancer Center, which invited West Allegheny to participate.

Keystone Boys State conference provides unique opportunity for high school student

High school student Robert Grim represented West Allegheny at the Pennsylvania American Legion Keystone Boys State conference at Shippensburg University from June 17-23. This unique, weeklong educational program focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governing bodies and elected public officials. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of its respective state government and to develop leadership and pride in American citizenship. Participants visited Harrisburg, where they met with Gov. Tom Wolf and Sen. Guy Reschenthaler.

"The week at Boys State really was a week of a lifetime," said Grim. "I came in only focusing on the politics and government portion but came out being one of the heads of the media program and having a blast creating a newspaper for the state!"

Robert Grim (front row, far right) joins Keystone Boys State representatives at the state capitol for a photo with Gov. Tom Wolf.



Students excel at real world gaming simulation



Cosmic Control team members introduce themselves to a panel of judges.

In its second year, the Real World Projects course at the high school continued to live up to its name. As a culmination of a yearlong project of study, four teams of students experienced the unique opportunity to present their games and associated marketing plan to a panel of real world judges.

The course was open to students who completed the Zulama gaming foundations and prerequisite skills courses and who wanted to apply their gaming skills to this project-based opportunity. Students were broken up into teams and tasked with designing and producing their own original online gaming app, creating a company to support the final product, building a marketing plan and website for promotion and sales of the app, and assigning project roles to each team member.

A panel of judges then visited the high school, where they had the difficult responsibility of selecting which teams created the best game and gave the best presentation. It was a close decision between the teams that created the games JustinTime and Doom TV for best game, but JustinTime edged out the first place title. Judges chose the team that created Cosmic Control for best presentation, noting that they would be most likely to invest in the company as it had the most potential to succeed in the real world.

The judges provided invaluable feedback to students that will be applicable in a variety of collegiate and corporate settings.

"The West Allegheny game development students demonstrated a professionalism, creativity, and passion that is inspiring," said Doug North Cook, faculty in charge of immersive media at Chatham University. "Their projects show a strong work ethic and a creative drive that will serve them well in college and beyond."

Rebecca Elinich, professor of multimedia communications at CCAC, added, "I think this type of activity is extremely important for students at the start of their careers since it provides experience of the process, how to interact with potential clients, and team-based workflow that are crucial skills to have going into this industry. Additionally, providing students the freedom to take risks in a classroom environment is a fantastic learning opportunity so they learn to handle critique, and praise, early on in a professional environment. It was my pleasure to be part of this learning experience for the students at West Allegheny!"

Speech and debate team continues to reach milestones



Sydney Campbell, Lucia Bruschi, Casey Bachowski, Riley Tucker, Abhilasha Raghuvanshi and Rachel Schade travel to compete in the speech and debate state tournament.

The speech and debate team kicked off the 2017-2018 school year by receiving the Society de'300 (300 Club) distinction through the National Speech and Debate Association, a recognition awarded to less than 10 percent of participating schools nationwide. The year proved successful for the team and several students who were recognized at the regional, state and national levels.

As a team, West Allegheny placed first in the PHSSL Regional Drama Competition and fourth in the PHSSL State Drama Competition. Individually, Casey Bachowski, Lucia Bruschi, Sydney Campbell, Abhilasha Raghuvanshi, Rachel Schade and Riley Tucker qualified to participate in the PHSSL State Tournament. Bruschi claimed first place in public speaking at the tournament, earning her the distinction of being the first state champion in West Allegheny history. Campbell qualified for the National Speech and Debate Tournament. Bruschi and Bachowski qualified as national alternates.

Based on their outstanding performances, Bruschi, Bachowski, Campbell and Rachel Shade were ranked among the top 150 students in the state and earned Academic All American distinction by the National Speech and Debate Association.

The West Allegheny Speech and Debate team has set the bar high for future competitors as they look to continue their incredible run on the state and national stage.

Middle school Indian Pride program featured at national conference

Middle school assistant principal Megan Huchko and sixth grade social studies teacher Valerie Meehan traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Schools to Watch Conference from June 27-30. They presented a breakout session on the middle school's Indian Pride program and accepted the National Schools to Watch award at an awards ceremony. They also had the opportunity to visit Congressman Conor Lamb's office on Capitol Hill to advocate for middle level education.

Valerie Meehan and Megan Huchko traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive the National Schools to Watch award on behalf of the middle school.



Geometry students visit Dobil Laboratories

Students in Dana McCaskey's geometry classes experienced a unique opportunity on May 11 when Dobil Laboratories welcomed them to their office. Dobil is a Pittsburgh-based company that designs audio-visual solutions for classrooms, conference rooms, boardrooms and arenas. Students rotated through sessions titled sound/audio, light

Students apply their geometry skills at Dobil Laboratories.



properties/video, elements of design/blueprints and mock interview. The trip was an opportunity to demonstrate real world math applications, high-demand careers and professionalism. As a culmination of the visit, the company hosted a competition around assigned math tasks. Winners were treated to a high-tech round of the videogame Fortnite, which was piped throughout the entire company on large, high definition monitors for their classmates to see.

Seventh-graders explore career options at Parkway West Career & Technology Center

As part of the middle school's comprehensive career education and awareness program, seventh grade students took a field trip to Parkway West Career and Technology Center on May 30. PWCTC instructors introduced students to career interests that focus on cosmetology, automotive technology, welding technology, digital multimedia, sports medicine, electrical systems, building construction, information technology, public safety, autobody, health assistant, veterinary assistant and culinary arts.

The visit is traditionally offered to students in their eighth grade year, but in an effort to further expand students' career education, this opportunity is now offered to seventh-graders as well.

TOP RIGHT: Students learn firsthand about the skills needed to become an electrician.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The veterinary assistant program is popular with students.



#WeAreWestA

#WeAreInnovators&Designers

Spring filled with celebrations of the arts

As has been the tradition at West Allegheny, spring was again the ideal time to celebrate art and showcase some amazing student artwork that represented a culmination of their yearlong study.

The 45th Annual High School Art Show, which was held April 26-28, showcased the remarkable talents of Art 1-4, AP Art, and media arts students studying under teachers Leah Shuck, Mike Short and Mike Shaffer.

This year's show was titled The Art Tour '18. It featured senior art installations along with two- and three-dimensional work created by underclassmen.



Senior installations showcase a compilation of four years' worth of work.

It was also well attended by family and friends.

The Middle School Art Show was held May 14 and 15. With several hundred works on display, the showcase of student talent drew a large crowd.

All three elementary schools also hosted their annual Arts Alive celebrations, which showcased the District's youngest talents. It was also well attended by family and friends.



ABOVE LEFT: Eighth-grader Emily Derosky shows her talent for stippling. ABOVE RIGHT: Vincent Van Gogh-themed art was on display at the middle school. BELOW: The High School Art Show displays hundreds of student works.



Bottle bios teach lessons through creativity

All fourth grade students at Donaldson Elementary used their imaginations to create a bottle biography representative of a chosen famous individual. Students were first tasked with finding a minimum of two resources for their research on which to base their written biography. Bottles were then used to create a likeness of their notable person. The project was made possible through a grant from the WA Foundation, which allowed the classrooms to purchase enough biographies for all students.

The fourth grades then hosted a night at the museum, where families were invited to view students' creations and read their essays.



LEFT: Students proudly display their incredible bottle bios of famous individuals (pictured at right) for families.

#WeAreTeacherProud

#WeAreStudentStrong

West Allegheny Foundation grant funds etiquette course at Wilson

For the fifth consecutive year, fifth grade students at Wilson Elementary experienced a unique course in etiquette and learned skills that will last them a lifetime. The program covered such topics as 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 in a brunch that allowed students to practice table manners and conversation skills. Fifth grade teachers are Nancy Sale, Tania Garofoli, Brittney Kuhn and Julie Dennis.



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

Second grade play acts out history lesson



Second-graders performed a patriotic play for families, friends and other classes.

Students in Beth Koraido's second grade class at Donaldson presented a play titled "A New Nation" for families, friends and other classes May 23. The play encompassed the early years of the United States, when the framers of the Constitution worked diligently to ensure not only a democratic republic, but that personal freedoms were also guaranteed.

WA

McKee celebrates kindergarteners at end-of-year program



McKee kindergarten classes come together to celebrate the year.

Kindergarten teachers at McKee Elementary wanted to send their students off with a celebration, so they held their annual kindergarten program on May 29. Students entertained a huge crowd of family and friends with their songs, poems and well wishes. A reception for family and friends was held in the cafeteria following the program.



Students excitedly greet family and friends.

#WeAreWestA

Girls on the Run program encourages healthy lifestyles

West Allegheny was well represented at the Girls on the Run race on May 20 at Hartwood Acres. All three elementary schools and the middle school had teams participating in the race, which was a culmination of a weeks-long program that encourages pre-teen girls to develop healthy lifestyles and self-images.

These West Allegheny students recently ran in the Girls on the Run race.



West Allegheny welcomes Steelers Youth Camp

The District was pleased to continue the tradition of welcoming players, coaches and young athletes to the annual Steelers Youth Camp, which this year was held on July 19 and 20. Football hopefuls and their families come from across the region to learn from the best and the District is proud to host the event.

BELOW: Athletes take to the field to learn drills and skills. **RIGHT:** Former Steelers quarterback Charlie Batch is a camp favorite as he works with young athletes.



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FOR WEEKLY EVENTS, SCHOOL CLOSINGS, AND DELAYS.

VISIT WEST ALLEGHENY ONLINE:

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

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Aug. 25, 8:30 AM-3 PM

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LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER IS "LOVE YOUR LIBRARY" MONTH

A library brings value to the community. It teaches, inspires, opens doors, and creates community. This September "Love Your Library" returns, a county-wide campaign developed by the Allegheny County Library Association and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, encouraging residents to show their library love by investing in their libraries. Thanks to the generous support of the Jack Buncher Foundation, donations made to Western Allegheny Community Library will be MATCHED! Fall for Your Library, Truck Touch, and other events in September will count toward the match. See our website or stop by the library for details and show your support all month long!

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To benefit the Western Allegheny Community Library:

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SEPT 22 2018

6 -10 PM

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Tickets: \$50

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So, you're not a wine drinker? This year, we will have beer from Helicon Brewery in Oakdale!

ONGOING PROGRAMS

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

ADULT

Bookworms

1st Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.

We Be Book'N Book Club

3rd Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.

Anime & Manga Club

4th Mondays, 6:00 p.m.

TEEN

Teen Anime Club

Mondays, 4:30 p.m.

Teen D&D

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Teen Maker Lab

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Baby Circle Time

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Little's Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Sensory Storytime

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

Play K

Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m.

Location:

181 Bateman Road
Oakdale, PA 15071

Library Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.



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

Car Wash, Aug. 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Advance Auto Parts in Imperial, benefits WA girls tennis team.

Seventh Annual Ukrainian Food Festival, Sept. 7-8, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Parish of Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, homemade Ukrainian foods and pastries, ethnic entertainment on Saturday, take-out available, credit cards accepted, (412) 527-5359.

Fall for Your Library, Sept. 22, 6-10 p.m., Celebrations, delicious food, wine pairings, Helicon beer, silent auction, raffle, games, benefits WACL, \$50, purchase at www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org.

Green Gardens, Clean Water, Oct. 2, 4-6 p.m., Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, learn how to help improve area stream quality by properly caring for property and gardens, registration required, (724) 695-3101.

McFall Fest, Oct. 13, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., McDonald Presbyterian Church, family fun, homemade food, Treasure Chest Resale Shoppe, baked goods, pumpkins and mums, Chinese Auction, craft and vendor sale, live music, children's fun area, supports mission and ministry work, www.mcdonaldpres.org or (724) 926-8561.

5K Charity McRun, Oct. 14, see page 19.

SNPJ Club

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

Bar Bingo, for members and their guests, Aug. 16, Sept. 6, 20, special early bird games start 6:30 p.m., regular games start 7 p.m., play until 9 p.m., kitchen open during.

SNPJ Lodge 106 Car Cruises, paved parking, air-conditioned club room, plaques for first 50 cars, bikes welcome, Aug. 26, Elvis Lives: a Tribute to the King, Smokin' Jacks BBQ, drinks, 50/50, Sept. 16, Black and Gold Car Cruise.

Oakdale Events

VFD Fall Festival, Sept. 29-30, downtown Oakdale, kettle corn, face painting, vendors call: (724) 350-6795.

Family Movie Night, Oct. 6, downtown Oakdale, details TBA, (724) 693-9740.

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North Fayette Parks and Rec.

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

Food & Brew Fest, Oct. 13, noon-6 p.m., Donaldson Park.

Fall Festival, Oct. 20, 5-7 p.m., fall family fun with trunk-or-treat, pumpkin patch, crafts, children's costume contest, more!

Vendor Show, Oct. 19-20, email dhildebrand@north-fayette.com to participate, more details on website.

Senior Luncheons, second Wednesdays, resume Sept. 12, call or email to receive monthly senior newsletter.

Sports and Fitness (Adult)

Tai Chi Ch'uan, Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m., begins Sept. 4.

Yoga, Sundays, 12:15-1:15 p.m., Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

20/20/20, Mondays, 6-7 p.m.

Boot Camp, Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10-11 a.m.

Power and Punch, Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.

PiYo, Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m., Fridays, 9-10 a.m.

Cardio Sculpt/HIIT, Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Adult Co-Ed Softball, recreational and competitive leagues, begins Aug. 26, contact sfox@north-fayette.com.

Adult Volleyball League, begins Sept. 11, sfox@north-fayette.com.

Pickle Ball, begins Aug. 21, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 a.m., Fridays, 9-11 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Water Walking, Monday-Thursday, 6-8 p.m., Donaldson Elementary, resumes Sept. 5.

Water Aerobics, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6 p.m., Donaldson Elementary, resumes Sept. 4.

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

Youth

Flag Football, ages 4-14, co-ed, Sundays, Aug. 19-Nov. 4.

Super Kids Fall T-Ball, ages 3-5, Mondays, Sept. 10-Oct. 15.

Team Handball, ages 6-11, Mondays, Sept. 10-Oct. 15.

Super Kids Basketball, ages 3-5, Thursdays, Sept. 6-Oct. 11.

Youth Basketball, ages 6-11, Thursdays, Sept. 6-Oct. 11.

Instructional Volleyball, ages 9-15, Wednesdays, Sept. 5-Oct. 10.

P.A.L.S.

Providing Assistance Love & Support, recreational activities for individuals with special needs, email dhildebrand@north-fayette.com to be added to email list for upcoming events.



Findlay Parks and Rec.

Register for any of the following programs by calling Findlay Township Parks and Recreation at (724) 695-0500 x 246 or by emailing dlarson@findlaytp.org, unless otherwise indicated. Programs take place at the Findlay Township Community Center unless otherwise indicated.

Senior Yoga and Qi Gong, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-

12:15 p.m., gentle stretches while seated, mixed levels for all participants, great for older adults, (724) 695-1976, info@idtsd.net.

Food Truck Thursdays, last Thursdays, Findlay Township Municipal Lot, schedule: **Aug. 30** - Wok of Life, Meat Here, Sugar and Spice; **Sept. 27** - Oh My Grill, Evil Swine BBQ, TBA; **Oct. 25** - Wok of Life, Meat Here, TBA.

Yoga for Beginners (and Beyond), Fridays,

6:30-7:30 p.m., \$5/class, (724) 695-1976.

Outdoor Flea Market, Sept. 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Clinton

Community Park Parking Lot, see page 22.

Rhythm, Ribs and BBQ, Sept. 8, 4-8 p.m., Clinton Park, live entertainment, BBQ, beer, see page 22 for schedule and more.

"Shred It" Day, Sept. 15, Findlay Township Municipal Building Parking Lot, 9 a.m.-noon, shred sensitive documents, private homes only, no businesses, remove rubber bands/paper clips/etc., no cardboard or plastic bags, hosted by state Rep. Mark Mustio.

Semi-Super Morning Bingos, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, doors

open 9 a.m., bingo starts 10 a.m., \$10/packet, additional packets \$5, \$1 coverall jackpots, daubers available to purchase, regular games pay \$20, specials \$50, jackpot is 100% of what is sold.

Truck Touch, Sept. 29, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Clinton Park,

see page 42.

Scrapbooking Workshop, Sept. 29, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., enjoy

uninterrupted time dedicated to safely protecting photos and memorabilia, bring tools and supplies, registration and payment required, Michelle Koester, (724) 307-3333, michellekoestercm@comcast.net, \$60, includes lunch, dinner, beverages.

Honey Party, Oct. 6, 1-2:30 p.m., kids help Beefuddled Farms

harvest honey and enjoy on top of ice cream, register by Sept. 18, \$10/person, ages 2 and under free.

We'd like to hear from you!

As a neighborhood based and community focused publication, Allegheny West Magazine encourages complimentary submissions 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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Chapter Meeting - Constitution Week, Sept. 8,

11 a.m., speaker TBA, RSVP by Sept. 3.

Chapter Benefit, Oct. 20, 11 a.m., Montour Heights Country

Club, RSVP by Oct. 15.



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Anniversary

Nancy and Tom of North Fayette Township celebrated 58 years of marriage in 2016.

As Tom was looking forward to celebrating their big 60th anniversary, he suffered a stroke during surgery that ended his earthly life.

On the day of their 60th anniversary, Nancy and their daughter went to the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Tom served in the Air Force from 1952 to 1956. As they were headed toward Tom's gravesite, another funeral was being held. Once again, they heard the trumpet playing "Taps" and the 21-gun salute. Wife and daughter held one another and wept.

Later that day, Nancy was looking in her purse for her lipstick. Where was it? She actually had to empty most of the stuff from her purse and, there it was, a feather.

Hunting was a passion for Tom. When returning home from hunting, or just from taking a walk in the woods, he would be happy to bring home feathers of all sizes. Nancy wondered, "Where will we put these feathers?" They already had years and years of feathers in their sunroom. Feathers are stuck behind picture frames, window frames and doorframes - anywhere a feather can be stuck.

The feather seemed to bring a message: "Happy 60th Anniversary, Mrs. Zimmerman."

Nancy likes to think of her feather as "a God thing."



Tom's feathers are pictured stuck in a doorframe.

If you could be anyone...

"If you could be anyone, who would you want to be?"

It was an interesting question that five notable television talk show hosts were asking one another. West Allegheny teacher Bill Britton did not hesitate. His answer was his son, Maddox, who was playing during his third birthday. It begs the question, though: if Bill were Maddox, would Bill also be Maddox's dad?

One of the reasons Bill chose to become a schoolteacher is, "Cause I don't wanna grow up," he says.

Bill enjoys teaching his students at West Allegheny Middle School. Then Bill's mom, Janet, quickly answered, "I would want George to become me."

George is her husband and Bill's dad.

"I want him to see what all I do all day long. Every day," she says.

George had another "wanna be" on his list.

"I would want to be Donald Trump," he says, "before he was in the race and became President. Just rich."

When our local police officers were asked the question, some knew immediately. Others would think a minute or two. Mostly,



Maddox Britton

they all say, "I just want to be me."

Dr. Rev. Jim Evans would like to be his father, who passed away when Jim was just six months old.

"I would like to know and be that close to my father," he says.

Carol Lowden says she'd like to be David, who went from favored son, to slave, to king. He slew a giant with a slingshot, as written in the Psalms.

"Thomas Jefferson, his role in public education," says John Scott, farmer and former school board director.

"Henry Ford, he was brilliant," says avid classic car enthusiast Bob Kepka.

His wife, Linda, chose Thomas Edison, saying "what a brain."

Another person asked said General Eisenhower - interestingly general, not President.

"Me," says Toppo McKean, who is now 60 and has Down syndrome.

Nine out of ten questioned have answered similarly: "Me, I just want to be me."

Many answered "my grandmother." People want to be the people they love, like "Aunt Sophie" or "my mother-in-law" because they made such a difference in their lives.

Not one person answered, "Santa Claus."

It's a fun question with fun answers and beats talking about the weather.

STORY BY ERMA DODD
PHOTOS SUBMITTED



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Aug. 25	Colussy Chevrolet Night featuring Ohio Sprint Car Series
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Sept. 8	Action Event feat. Diehl Automotive Summer Sizzler and more
Sept. 15	"Outlaw" Winged 410 Sprints, Rush Sportsman Modified Series
Sept. 22	MODISAURES X feat. Rush Sportsman Mod.
Sept. 29	Action Event feat. RUSH Sportsman Mod.
Oct. 5	Qualifying Events for 30th Annual Pittsburgher 100
Oct. 6	30th Annual Pittsburgher 100

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September 15-October 27
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*Showcases graduates from 2017 classes. Data includes those who were available for work and were offered and/or received career search assistance from 1/1/2017-4/30/2018. Includes full-time, part-time, or freelance positions. Visit PTCollege.edu/employmentstats to learn more. Pittsburgh Technical College admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

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