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# Allegheny West

Volume 19, Issue 114  
June/July 2018

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# M Magazine



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# Allegheny West Magazine

P. O. Box 220, McDonald, PA 15057  
Phone: 724.673.3161  
E-Mail: info@awmagazine.com  
www.awmagazine.com

## PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

Doug Hughey  
WRITERS  
Jill Bordo  
Jocelyn Grecko  
Pat Jennette

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Sarah Hughey  
WEBMASTER  
www.ddswebdesign.com  
CONTRIBUTORS

Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce,  
Findlay Township, North Fayette Township  
Oakdale Borough, McDonald Borough, West  
Allegheny School District, Western Allegheny  
Community Library, Erma Dodd,  
Barb Kleyman, Jesse Forquer

## FOUNDING PUBLISHER

Pat Jennette

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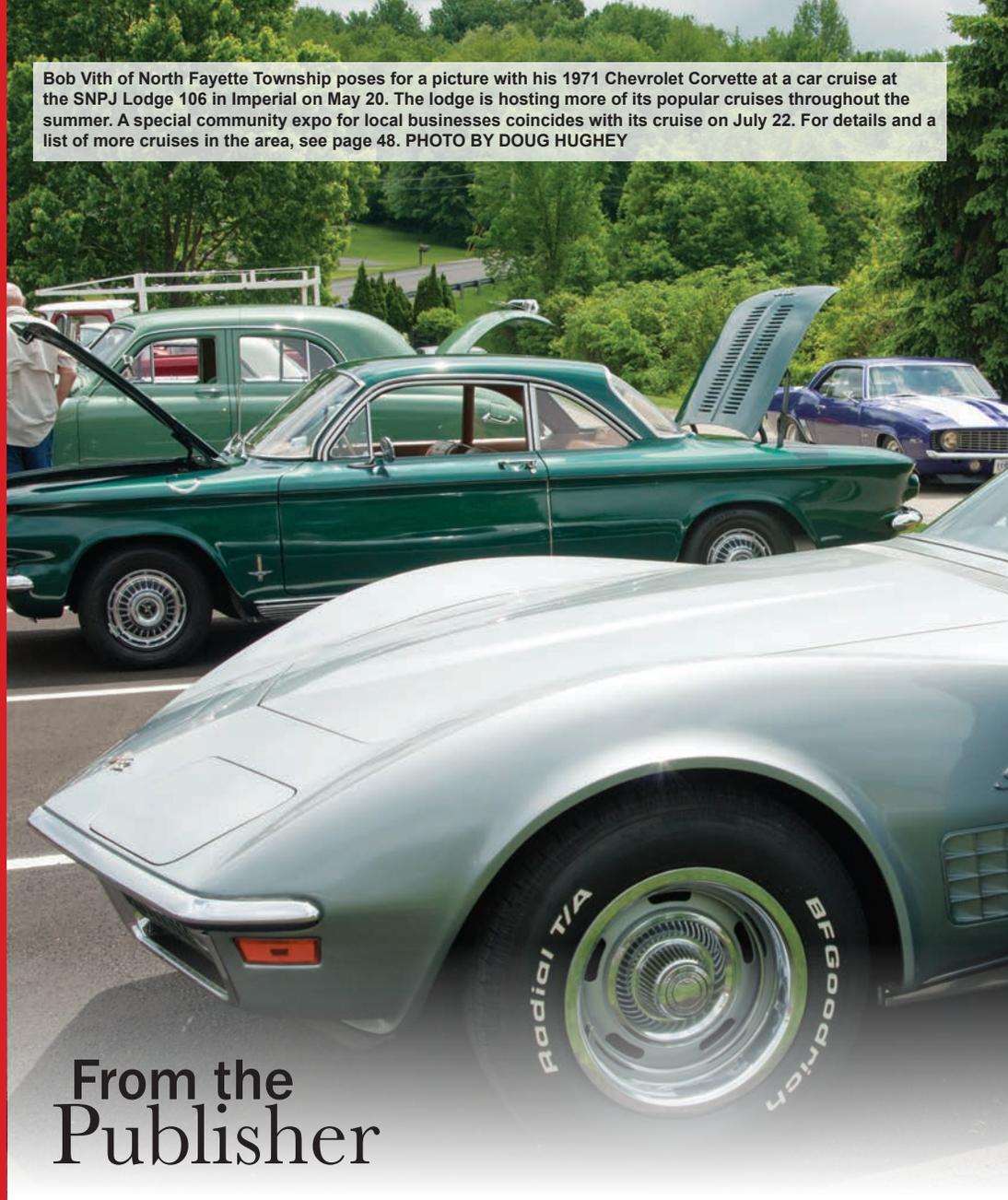
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and McDonald to connect communities, promote  
people, heighten awareness about the richness of  
the airport region, and build pride in the western  
suburbs of Allegheny County.



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Bob Vith of North Fayette Township poses for a picture with his 1971 Chevrolet Corvette at a car cruise at the SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial on May 20. The lodge is hosting more of its popular cruises throughout the summer. A special community expo for local businesses coincides with its cruise on July 22. For details and a list of more cruises in the area, see page 48. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY



## From the Publisher

Dear Readers,

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

This month, starting on page 38, we're bringing you our 2018 Summer Fun Guide. Just as we've done the past few years, we're bringing you a comprehensive listing of area fairs, festivals, cookouts and concerts that will be taking place in our coverage areas over the next few months. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and keep this edition handy throughout the rest of the summer.

On page 27, catch up on the latest happenings at West Allegheny School District in this month's official school newsletter, WA Today. Then read news from our readers in this month's Locally Sourced section, starting on page six.

This month as well, our writer Jill Bordo covers a recent event held in honor of those who lost their lives during the Aetna Chemical plant explosion over 100 years ago. This tragic accident, which occurred close to Oakdale, claimed hundreds of lives during World War I. Those who paid the ultimate price are now rightly considered casualties of the war effort. Read more about the accident, including the incredible bravery of those who rushed to help, on page 16.

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If you picked up April's West Allegheny edition of Allegheny West Magazine, you may have read our biographies of this year's West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. A banquet held in honor of those individuals took place in May. Read our coverage of the event, starting on page 18.

Be sure to check out upcoming West Allegheny Community Library programs on page 21 and the latest happenings at the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce, starting on page 22. If you're looking for more things to do around the area this summer, peruse our On the Horizon section, which starts on page 52.

Look for our next edition in August, when we'll be bringing you our back-to-school pull-out calendars with important academic dates and sports schedules. Between then and now, I hope you have a great summer.

Doug Hughey,  
Publisher and Editor



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### ABOUT THE COVER

Allie and Mya Konieczny of McDonald display rainbow sprinkle- and cookie monster-flavored ice cream cones outside of M.A.'s Ice Cream in McDonald. Mya, a West Allegheny alumna, and Allie, a current WA student, run the shop, which is known for its monster-sized cones, with their parents in the summer. Stop in for a cone and check out our Summer Fun Guide, starting on page 38, for more fun summer-related things to do around the area. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

## Local Girl Scout Troop earns Bronze Award

The Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania honored local Troop 53537 with the Girl Scout Bronze Award earlier this year. The award is the highest achievement awarded to junior Girl Scouts and recognizes scouts who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable Take Action projects that address important community needs. All of the members of Troop 53537 are West Allegheny seventh-graders. They are Sophia Morton, Sarah Rankin, Delaney Evers, Kate Miller, Kristina Fatigati, Makynlee Martin, Megan Russo and Madison Hill.

The troop began its Take Action plan in October 2017 and completed it in February 2018. Their work benefitted the needs of the local animal shelter Animal Friends on Camp Horne Road. The troop's efforts resulted in the donation of 13 bags of supplies and \$673. Via the Kind Kids program, \$225 of that amount was used to name three animals that arrive at Animal Friends without a name and to provide for their care. Another \$106 was used to purchase food for the Chow Wagon program to benefit food bank clients who have pets. The remaining \$342 was used to purchase gifts in the Animal Friends retail store to benefit pets living at Animal Friends.

To raise funds, troop members arranged a Christmas caroling night in the Seabright housing development in McDonald, where they raised over \$300. Donation boxes were also posted at Fox's Pizza in Moon Township, the Imperial Shop N Save, Western Allegheny Community Library and West Allegheny Middle School.

The troop was supported in their Bronze Award effort by Mary Ann Russo, Diane Fatigati, Animal Friends education coordinator Dana Schultz and West Allegheny Middle School principal Dr. Frank Hernandez.



Members of Girl Scout Troop 53537 are pictured here with Animal Friends education coordinator Dana Schultz and supplies they donated to the animal shelter.

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# Ohio Valley Hospital's Primary Care Team is Expanding: New Physicians and Locations!



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## WA senior completes first solo flight through area aviation program

West Allegheny senior Tyler Gallant took a huge step toward fulfilling his dream of becoming a pilot when he flew his first solo flight in a Cessna 172 on April 21.

After flying three loops around Beaver County Airport with his instructor Matt Engel, Gallant performed three takeoffs and landings by himself. His next step will be a "stage check" with the head instructor and to earn his private pilot's license. He will then have to achieve his instrument ratings and eventually familiarize himself with Jeppesen maps.

Gallant is one of several West Allegheny students who have been training to become pilots through the Beaver County Aviation Program, which is offered through Beaver County Community College. The college began offering the program to high school juniors and seniors last year. Upon graduation, students can then continue their aviation studies at the college's main campus. Students who enroll in the program in both their junior and senior years can earn enough credits to complete a year of college.

As more commercial pilots reach their mandatory retirement age, the demand for pilots is expected to increase. That demand is also the result of a lull in hiring that followed the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. It has been estimated that U.S. companies will be looking to hire 20,000 pilots in the next 10 years.

A Findlay Township resident, both of Gallant's parents - as well as his uncles and aunts - are longtime employees of U.S. Airways, which is now American Airlines.



Tyler Gallant is pictured with his flight instructor Matt Engel at the Beaver County Airport.

## WA grad heading to City Year

Graduating West Allegheny senior Avia Rettmann won't be heading to college this fall.

Instead, she'll be getting an altogether different kind of education when she heads to Washington, D.C. to participate in the highly competitive AmeriCorps City Year program. Rettmann will be placed in an at-risk school and assigned to work in the role of a mentor and teacher assistant throughout the school year.



Avia Rettmann

To prepare for the challenge, Rettmann has spent the past four years volunteering with the Carnegie Science Center in its Animal Habitat area. She also assisted with summer programs at the Sewickley Sweetwater Center for the Arts and has been a four-year member of the marching band's drum line.

While participating in City Year, Rettmann will not only be expected to navigate work in the classroom but also to live independently. Living accommodations are not provided by AmeriCorps.

Rettman is not the only member of her family to be accepted into the City Year program. Her older sister, Schalehn, was also selected and served in a school in Washington, D.C. as well.

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## Black Dog moves into Hankey House

Black Dog Wine Company has a new home.

The locally owned and operated boutique winery moved into the historic Hankey House mansion at 7425 Steubenville Pike in North Fayette Township at the beginning of June. The company is now welcoming guests to its beautiful new location daily, Tuesdays through Sundays. Black Dog is also planning on hosting several special events throughout the summer, with live music and more. Check their website at [blackdogwinecompany.com](http://blackdogwinecompany.com) for hours and dates.

Black Dog is an award-winning winery that is owned and operated by West Allegheny graduates Mark and Amy Rozum. The winery previously operated its tasting room out of Half Crown Hill Orchard on North Branch Road.

The Hankey House, meanwhile, is an historic, century-old farmhouse mansion that was once home to the Hankey family, which operated the Hankey Baking Company. The first floor features a spacious entryway and enclosed, wraparound porch that looks out on the mansion's grounds. It also has an authentic rathskeller that was built by John Hankey, who was of German descent, in the early 20th century.



Black Dog Wine Company is now operating out of the historic Hankey House along Steubenville Pike.

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## Local chiropractic office offering new treatments for sports injuries



Dr. Josh Slomkowski, who operates Hometown Spine and Sport Chiropractic, is pictured with administrative assistants Nancy McKinney, Barb Parsons and Karrie Spencer.

Hometown Spine and Sport Chiropractic at 7350 Steubenville Pike is implementing some new and innovative equipment to treat spinal and sports-related injuries. These treatments encompass a unique mix of chiropractic, soft tissue massage and rehabilitative exercises, with an emphasis on myofascial release technique.

“We have seen amazing results with myofascial release for a wide variety of conditions, from headaches to shoulder or elbow tendonitis injuries,” says Dr. Josh Slomkowski, who heads the practice. “This specific technique allows us to fix acute and chronic injuries without pain medications, injections or surgeries. In addition, we not only focus on the site of where the pain is located but also assess other regions in the body to find the trigger or pain generator for the injury.”

Known for their diverse therapy options for treating injuries, Hometown Spine and Sport also recently added two new therapeutic options for injuries: vasocompression therapy and deluxe massage chair therapy.

Vasocompression therapy is a groundbreaking approach to keeping athletes healthy. It involves wearing a sleeve that covers the entire limb and connects to a machine that provides sequential and controlled contractions followed by a relaxation phase. The function is similar to how a blood pressure cuff works. Vasocompression restricts blood flow temporarily then provides a quick rush of blood flow to the muscles to deliver an abundance

Hometown Spine and Sport Chiropractic is now utilizing a vasocompression therapy system that helps treat inflammation associated with injuries.



of fresh oxygen from the blood. Sessions last for 15-minute intervals and help with muscle recovery, fatigue resistance and inflammation/swelling by helping to pump away lactic acid that can build up in the muscles. Vasocompression can help people with knee inflammation, sprained ankles, muscular strains/sprains, soreness following exercise, rotator cuff disorders and elbow tendonitis.

In addition to vasocompression therapy, Hometown Spine and Sport offers a session in an FDA-regulated deluxe massage chair. The session allows athletes and non-athletes to experience a full body massage in 10-, 20- or 30-minute intervals. The deluxe massage chair reclines to a flat position and provides lumbar decompression therapy, which can help people suffering from lower back pain, sciatica, stenosis, muscle spasming or disc herniations.

Hometown Spine and Sport, which is celebrating their two-year anniversary, offers a free, 15-minute, in-person consultation with the doctor. The practice can help patients suffering from aches and pains, as well as aid in preventing future injuries. The practice is located minutes from Robinson Town Centre, just off the Route 22/30 Oakdale Exit. Call (412) 490-1700 to set up an appointment. Slomkowski is also a certified medical examiner with the Department of Transportation to administer commercial driver license (CDL) exams. Hometown Spine & Sport conducts all exams on site at a competitive rate. Call for details.



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## Pool & Spa Outlet receives top honors

Pool & Spa Outlet received both the Top East Coast Sales and Quest For Excellence Awards at the Marquis Spas Dealer Conference in Salem, Oregon on Feb. 19. With its newest location at 2002 Montour Church Road across from the Quality Inn Pittsburgh Airport (formerly the Tonidale Hotel), the family-owned and operated business is celebrating 30 years of making backyard dreams a reality for local families.

Vice President Freddie Cerminara attributes the company's record-breaking year to the quality and value that Marquis Spas offers, combined with the dedication of the Pool & Spa Outlet staff to make sure their customers are matched with the correct hot tub to meet their needs as well as their budget.

"Every customer has a unique need for a spa and it's our job to make sure that we exceed their expectations" says Cerminara. "Some people simply require a spa for relaxation and family time, while others require intense hydrotherapy for physical conditions such as arthritis, back or neck injuries or skin conditions such as eczema or psoriasis. Our diverse line-up of Marquis Spas offers a solution to all of those needs."

Targeted HOT ZONE therapy for the neck, shoulders, back and hips provides an exceptional therapy experience. With over 15 spa models on display at the North Fayette showroom, Pool & Spa Outlet offers the area's largest selection of top-quality hot tubs in all colors, sizes and price ranges.

The Aquatic Training Vessel (ATV) line of swim spas by Marquis Spas features four models ranging in size from 14 feet to 17 feet in length. The spas offer the capability to swim and exercise year-round with an adjustable current suitable for users

of all abilities and ages. Because aquatic therapy puts less pressure on the joints and muscles, it is the perfect solution for low impact yet high result workouts on a daily basis.

Pool & Spa Outlet also offers pools to fit all yard sizes and budgets, including custom fiberglass inground swimming pools and aboveground pools. As well, Pool & Spa Outlet offers the area's largest selection of pool equipment, chemicals and accessories to help keep pools and spas operating at maximum efficiency with minimum effort. In addition, Pool & Spa Outlet offers free computerized water analysis every day.

Pool & Spa Outlet is proud to offer the Thanks For Serving Program, which provides discounts for all active and former military personnel and first responders.

"It's our chance to give back to those who sacrifice so much on a daily basis," says Cerminara.

Pool & Spa Outlet also has locations in Peters Township and Castle Shannon. For more, visit [www.pool-spaoutlet.com](http://www.pool-spaoutlet.com).



Pool & Spa Outlet is an award-winning Marquis Spas dealer offering a range of spas to meet its customers' therapeutic and recreational needs. The company has also designed thousands of backyard escapes like the one pictured below.





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## More than 230 participants turn out to “Run This Town” at 37th annual 5K

Before lacing up your lucky athletic sneakers to take off on a 5K course, you have to consider all of the variables. What will the weather be like? Should you layer your outfit? Is your footwear broken in enough to be comfortable, without having too many miles on the tread? And, in the case of the Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K, did you train properly to prepare for all of those hills?

This year’s 37th annual race on May 12 was one for the books. More than 230 participants came out to the hospital’s campus to run or walk the hilly course under sunny, blue skies and warm temperatures. Dozens of volunteers, family members and friends stood along the course with signs and cowbells, cheering them on as participants pounded pavement in the spring heat.

It was a special year for the 5K, as Ohio Valley Hospital’s president and CEO, David W. Scott, FACHE, plans on retiring before the 2019 race. He first became involved with the outing 32 years ago and has been instrumental in ensuring that the race became - and remained - successful. From its start in the early 1980s through the mid-1990s, the race was a 10K run/walk/bike event held in July. In order to grow the race to include more participants from all over western Pennsylvania, while still keeping it neighborhood-friendly, he revamped the race into a May 5K. Today, with a DJ playing as participants start the race, to a full continental breakfast and awards ceremony afterwards, many participants consider this local race and all of its ‘perks’ to be one of their favorites. They can thank Scott for that.

Of course, as a fellow runner, he also enjoys actually running the race. This year, in addition to a plaque honoring his time spent with the race, Scott picked up a third place medal for the time he ran in his age group.

OVH’s president and CEO wasn’t the only race winner, of course. The first overall winner of the 37th annual Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K was Montour graduate Bailey Rotellini, finishing with an impressive time of 18:54. Placing as the second overall male finisher, Doug



**ABOVE:** More than 230 runners and walkers get ready to take on the hilly 5K course in the 37th annual Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K. **BELOW:** The top overall winner of the race was Montour alumnus Bailey Rotellini, who finished with a time of 18:54. **BOTTOM:** The first overall female finisher was Alysha Bartosh, who crossed the finish line at 21:29.

Basinski came in at 19:51. The third overall male finisher, Heath Piper, came in at 20:02. The first overall female finisher, Alysha Bartosh, came in at 21:29. The second overall female finisher, Shannon McKenzie, finished at 22:22. The third overall female finisher, Katie Johnston, finished at 23:47.

Several community groups put together teams to take part in the race, including Focus on Renewal in McKees Rocks. The Rehabilitation Services department at Ohio Valley Hospital also has a team every year. This year’s race shirt was in honor of Lori Hiney Johnston, a beloved staff member and fellow 5K runner who passed away last year.

Sponsorships from Clearview Federal Credit Union and Canon paid for race and volunteer shirts. Rosedale Technical College sponsored the DJ. Other companies made food donations and local businesses filled race packets. This year’s race offered a special musical treat in the form of Jenna Weaver, a classically-trained opera singer performing “The Star Spangled Banner” to much applause. DJ David Hopperfield also came out to run in the race, and he brought the Froggy van along for the ride.

Next year’s race is likely to take place on the second Saturday in May once again. Even if he won’t be volunteering, Scott promises to come back and run. He’ll start preparing for those hills in January of 2019, right around the time registration opens for the 38th annual Ohio Valley Hospital and Kennedy Township 5K.



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Copy the URL from individual pages and then share via email and on social media.**

## Heritage Valley Health System and Ohio Valley Hospital sign letter of intent

The boards of directors of Ohio Valley Hospital and Heritage Valley Health System have signed a letter of intent for Ohio Valley Hospital to join the Heritage Valley Health System. The two not-for-profit healthcare institutions know and respect one another, with each sharing the common mission of bringing cost-effective, high-quality care to their respective communities. By joining together, the organizations can further enhance this mission and best meet the healthcare needs of the region.

Over the past eight months, the board of directors of Ohio Valley Hospital has pursued a disciplined process that considered a range of strategic options and partners. Ultimately, the board of directors unanimously chose Heritage Valley Health System.

“We are affiliating with an organization that we highly respect and trust,” said David W. Scott, president and CEO of Ohio Valley Hospital. “When the decision was made by our board of directors to affiliate, Heritage Valley was the clear choice.”

The alignment will enable Ohio Valley Hospital to enhance its medical staff, expand clinical services and fund future capital projects. Ohio Valley Hospital, like many independent community

hospitals, has been challenged over past years by increasing operating costs and decreasing reimbursement.

“Our priority has always been, and will continue to be, to provide quality healthcare for our community members here at Ohio Valley Hospital,” said Scott. “Affiliating with Heritage Valley Health System will allow us to do just that.”

“Heritage Valley is very pleased and honored to be selected as Ohio Valley Hospital’s preferred partner,” said Norm Mitry, president and CEO of Heritage Valley Health System. “Our board of directors unanimously supported the affiliation, and identical to Ohio Valley Hospital’s board, remains committed to high quality, locally accessible community healthcare.”

Ohio Valley Hospital and Heritage Valley Health System have now entered into a due diligence period and will work toward a definitive agreement, which is expected to be executed in the fall of 2018 with regulatory approvals to be sought thereafter.

For more, visit [ohiovalleyhospital.org/about-us/who-we-are/affiliation/](http://ohiovalleyhospital.org/about-us/who-we-are/affiliation/).

## Heritage Valley’s Cheers! event a success



Pictured left to right are Andrew Stockey, WTAE Action News anchor and event emcee; Linda Sebastian; Kerri Evans; Alex Sebastian, event host and owner of the Wooden Angel Restaurant; and Norm Mitry, president and CEO of Heritage Valley Health System at Heritage Valley Health System’s “Cheers!” event.

Heritage Valley Health System’s 14th biennial Wine and Culinary Event, Cheers!, held on Saturday, May 19 at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott, attracted its largest crowd ever, with more than 675 people in attendance. Alex and Linda Sebastian, owners of the Wooden Angel Restaurant in Beaver, hosted the event, which featured 44 restaurants and wine, spirits and beer vendors.

Andrew Stockey, news anchor and sports director at WTAE-TV Action News, emceed the event, and Norm Mitry, president and CEO of Heritage Valley Health System, thanked those in attendance for supporting the health system’s mission to improve the health and well-being of all people in the communities Heritage serves.

Thanks to the support from attendees and dozens of sponsors, including presenting sponsor UPMC Health Plan and premier sponsor Highmark, the event raised more than \$185,000 for the Heritage Valley Health System Foundation.

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# North Fayette Township announces important curbside recycling changes due to Waste Management and China's mandates

Waste Management developed the Recycle Often. Recycle Right® program as an education and outreach plan to meet new import policies mandated by China as part of China's Operation Blue Sky initiative. China has been enforcing a ban on these materials through a screening and inspection process at its ports and set limits that only 0.5 percent of contamination would be allowed beginning March of this year. With China receiving 25 percent of recyclables from around the world, and 50 percent of all plastic and paper recycling - according to statistics through 2017 - these new policies have affected recycling worldwide.

Due to China's import restrictions, Waste Management has implemented changes at its recycling plant as part of Recycle Often. Recycle Right® and now North Fayette is no longer able to pick up any items with a Triangle No. 6 or plastic bags of any type as part of curbside recycling. This means no thin plastics or plastic bags with or without a recycling triangle (no grocery bags, garbage bags, newspaper bags, plastic bread bags, plastic wrap, etc.) and no food containers made of Styrofoam (egg cartons, fast food containers, packing filler, etc.). The recycling plant will continue to take other plastic items that have a recycling triangle with Plastics No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7. If there isn't a recycling triangle on the plastic, it can't be recycled.



**NO PLASTIC BAGS**

North Fayette Township will be assessed surcharges if any of the above, non-acceptable items are in its recycling, in addition to any items that would contaminate the rest of the recycling products at the plant. These contaminants include food waste; food soiled items such as cheese in pizza boxes, peanut butter in jars, etc.; sharp or dangerous materials such as needles or electronics; items that could get tangled in Waste Management's equipment like rubber hoses and wires; or bulky items such as propane tanks or any construction debris.



**NO PLASTIC TRIANGLE No. 6**

Additional surcharges will be incurred by the township if its recycling truckload has tires, pallets, blocks, bricks, yard waste (grass, leaves or branches), electronics, car parts or any other non-recyclable item.



From this point forward, the recycling plant will only be accepting: **clean** glass bottles and jars; **clean** metal cans (steel, tin, & aluminum) such as soda, vegetable, fruit & tuna cans, but **no** aluminum pans or other metals; **clean** paper (brown paper bags, office paper, newspaper, magazines and junk mail); **clean** paperboard such as cereal boxes; **clean** cardboard beverage containers rinsed out with lids removed (juice or milk cartons); **clean** flattened cardboard; and **clean** plastics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7. Any other items or dirty items would result in the Township being assessed surcharges.



There are many other ways to recycle or dispose of the items Waste Management's recycling plant doesn't take:

- Plastic grocery bags can be returned to the store. Most stores have a container near the entrance to drop bags off.
- To dispose of construction materials, Lowe's and Home Depot have construction bags that can be purchased with a phone number listed on the bag to call for pickup when full. There are also construction dumpsters available for larger jobs; check the Yellow Pages or online for options.
- Hypodermic needles can be placed in a container with a lid, then placed in a garbage bag and put out with weekly trash.
- Electronics can be brought to the township office Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Some car parts have a core charge and can be returned to where the item was purchased.
- Tires can be taken to most tire installation companies for a fee.
- Yard waste can be picked up in biodegradable paper bags from April through November.

North Fayette Township is asking for cooperation in this matter. If these surcharges become a regular occurrence, a sanitation rate increase may be needed to recoup the additional recycling costs. Feel free to visit our website at [www.north-fayette.com](http://www.north-fayette.com) for more details or call the township office at 412-788-4888. More details on Waste Management's Recycle Often. Recycle Right® program can be found at [www.recycleoftenrecycleright.com](http://www.recycleoftenrecycleright.com).

## New plaque recalls heroes of the Aetna plant explosion

One hundred years after an Oakdale disaster that has often been compared in magnitude to the Johnstown flood, nearly 75 people gathered in Oakdale in May to recall the incident.

Two separate blasts, which killed approximately 200 people, occurred midday on May 18 at an Aetna Chemical Company facility about a half-mile south of Oakdale in South Fayette Township. A subsidiary of New York-based Aetna Explosives, Aetna Chemical acquired government contracts in 1915 to produce explosives for the war effort. During the height of World War I in 1918, the Oakdale facility produced three-quarters of the explosives purchased by France for use in the war.

The Aetna plant had, for several years, been a source of major concern for residents of Oakdale due to the dangerous production of TriNitroToluene, or TNT.

Their fears were realized in 1916 when an explosion at the facility killed five men.

As a smaller Aetna plant was also located in Noblestown, Oakdale residents described the location of their town as “between two hells.” Though meetings were held to try to close the Aetna facility, America’s entrance into World War I quickly eliminated that possibility.

The ceremony in May was held to honor those “citizen soldiers” of the war killed in the 1918 blast. Proceedings included a military gun salute and the playing of “Taps.” It was asked in the invocation that eternal life be given to all those who lost their lives that day. Those who died included Aetna employees, Oakdale residents and Red Cross medics who rushed to the site in an attempt to help victims. The ceremony began along the Panhandle Trail just off Union Avenue near a recently erected memorial plaque. Rain forced attendees to move indoors to the Oakdale Community Center.

The service was organized by Ernie Thomas, a British-born retiree with an interest in local history. Thomas was assisted with a presentation by Dan Prevade, a West Allegheny High School social studies teacher. A native of Oakdale, Prevade has made it his mission since his college years to keep the tragedy present in the minds of both his students and the region’s residents. His published journal titled “Horror & Heroism - the Aetna Chemical Explosion” may be viewed online and at the Western Allegheny Community Library.

Thomas, who spearheaded a fundraising effort for the memorial plaque, has no connection to Oakdale but stumbled upon the story of the Aetna disaster by accident. As a student in a photography class, he heard that the long-abandoned site of the explosion was “a cool place to take pictures.”

As he learned details of the incident, Thomas began to ask others from the Pittsburgh area about it. He was surprised and disturbed to find that many locals had never heard about the Aetna explosion. Through research and phone calls, Thomas eventually connected with Prevade, who

says he recalls the day two years ago when he answered his phone and heard Thomas say in his British accent that “there should be a sign!”

Thomas campaigned for funds for a memorial plaque and raised \$1,500, the majority of it donated by Industrial Scientific and the West Allegheny Foundation, along with several smaller businesses. The sign was erected last year by Oakdale’s Public Works Department and is adapted from Prevade’s journal. The stories of the three people chosen for the marker represent the various backgrounds of those involved that day.

James Keenan was a well-known 66-year-old Oakdale resident and employee at the Aetna plant. Though not at work that Saturday, Keenan was on the town’s main street when the blast occurred and hopped aboard a passing rescue truck with the intent of helping whomever he could.

Keenan was killed by one of the subsequent blasts that rocked the facility. Photos of Keenan and his personal items - such as his pocketknife - were used to identify his remains and are on the memorial plaque.

A replica of the Western Union telegram that informed 16-year-old Kirven Lawhon’s parents of his death is also on the marker. Lawhon had left his home in Florida to find work in a northern plant. He had quit his job at Aetna the previous day and was planning to leave town within hours to join his brother at a safer job in Akron, Ohio.

Lawhon was packing his belongings at the boarding house in which he lived - a Victorian structure still standing on Hastings Avenue - when he heard the blast. He ran to the plant to assist his fellow workers and suffered shrapnel wounds to the stomach in a subsequent explosion. Lawhon died soon afterward at Mercy Hospital.

Marlyn Ashelman’s story is part of a coincidence on May 18, 1918 that may have saved lives in Oakdale. Due to a Red Cross parade being held that day in downtown Pittsburgh, hundreds of Red Cross nurses from all over the country were within 15 miles of Oakdale. The parade was held to increase donations to the war effort and honor 1,000 soldiers shipping off to France that day.

As newsboys called out details of the Aetna disaster, many nurses abandoned the city parade and boarded trains to Oakdale. A 21-year-old graduate nurse, Ashelman was with Dr. Lee Milford of St. John’s hospital when she heard of the explosion.



Dan Prevade is pictured with a new historical plaque that was recently installed along the Panhandle Trail in Oakdale. The plaque recalls a 1918 explosion at an Aetna Chemical Company plant outside of Oakdale that killed hundreds of people during World War I. Prevade has written a journal about the explosion.



A ceremony along the Panhandle Trail was held in May in remembrance of an explosion at an Aetna Chemical plant near Oakdale that killed hundreds during World War I.

The two were on site at the Aetna plant when the second explosion occurred. Ashelman's right leg was severed and Milford, who had used all of his bandages on previous victims, had to tie his raincoat as a tourniquet on Ashelman's leg. Ashelman received notoriety in local newspapers for her selflessness. She survived, but never again practiced as a nurse.

Within a day of the explosion, Oakdale's population swelled from 2,000 to 50,000, as would-be helpers and curious onlookers arrived in town. The Marshall Livery and Undertaking business set up a makeshift morgue in the area behind where Thomas-Little Funeral Service currently operates.

The explosion, which lifted the roof of the main building from its foundation entirely, was so severe that authorities could only identify 93 victims. The other 107 were completely incinerated in the blast. Since all of the company records were destroyed, and many employees were immigrants with no family members in the area, it was impossible to account for all of those killed.

Investigators determined that the explosion was accidental, the result of the use of baking soda as a neutralizer for the explosive substances. Though Aetna had been ordered to cease using baking soda many months prior to the incident, the company was never held accountable.

Back pay was quickly issued to the families of survivors and several small claims were filed with the Workmen's Compensation Board. Largely, however, the families of those killed or injured in the explosion received no reparations.

During the memorial ceremony, several in attendance identified themselves as descendants of Aetna explosion victims and spoke the names of their relatives. Doris Kennedy Pichi of Oakdale mentioned her grandfather, Charles Conn, who died in the blast. Pichi's mother was 13 years old and one of six children when the incident occurred. Pichi said that her grandmother worked a multitude of household jobs, from hanging wallpaper to making quilts, to support her family following her husband's death.

The magnitude of the incident is described by Previde in his journal: "Oakdale had been transformed from a quiet village to a town ravaged by grief and despair. Similar to Johnstown after the deadly flood of 1889, the events of those days defined many of the residents and Oakdale itself as tales of heroism and sacrifice passed from one generation to the next."


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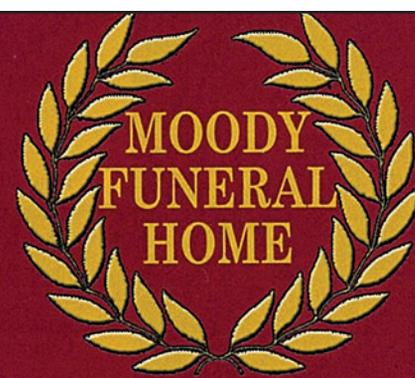
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For more information about bunions and their treatment, visit the American Podiatric Medical Association Web site at: [www.apma.org](http://www.apma.org).

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## West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame inducts seventh class

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY

The West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame hosted its 2018 inductees at a banquet held at the SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial on May 19. Over 160 local sports figures and supporters came out to recognize the five individuals and two teams who were inducted for making significant contributions to West Allegheny athletics.

A number of this year's inductees were also responsible for firsts in school history. Among them was Dr. David Quinn, who in 1978 set a single season scoring record as a member of the basketball team. A standout player in high school, Quinn, however, was inducted into the hall of fame as a contributor for his work as a coach and founder of a youth basketball program at West Allegheny. Speaking about that program, Quinn said in his acceptance speech that, at the time, West Allegheny's successes were too far and few between.

"West A basketball had a few good years of success but very few," said Quinn. "This program needed a youth feeder program and that was my number one objective. I knew it would take seven to eight years of development before you saw success at the varsity level because basketball is such a skill-driven sport."

In 2007, the school's basketball team did experience success, overcoming a 16th seed placement in the WPIAL tournament to capture the championship. Quinn was an assistant coach on the team, which was inducted into the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame last year. Many of the team's players had started out playing in Quinn's program. Quinn recalled that one of those players, Derrick Zeroski, was in third grade when he started playing in the program. The year prior to helping his team catch fire and win that team championship, Zeroski broke Quinn's scoring record, which Quinn set before the inception of the three-point line. Quinn said that fact has been a point of much joking between himself and Zeroski, but he also applauded Zeroski for becoming such a fine player.

Quinn was not the only individual inducted as a contributor in this year's class. Also inducted in that category was longtime photographer Paul DeBor, who volunteered countless hours to photograph a multitude of athletic and extracurricular events at West Allegheny. In a speech read by his son, Jonathan, Paul said that his goal had always been to capture humanity through photography. Paul first learned how to take photographs while serving in Vietnam.

For many, including those who nominated Paul, his most significant contributions were not photographing star athletes but rather those who did not often catch much limelight. In his own remarks, cross country and track coach Jim Hamilton, speaking about the 1996/1997 girls track teams, said he was taken aback when, during his own high school career, Paul photographed him. Hamilton later went on to run for the University of Pittsburgh and coach a number of very successful West Allegheny cross country and track teams. He was inducted into the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012.

"I was like, 'Oh my, I got a cross country picture, I can't believe that,'" Hamilton said.

Like other inductees, Jim Yanek recorded his own firsts while at West Allegheny. Yanek was the first wrestler in school history to win 100 matches. He was also the first wrestler to compete on the team as a freshman and the school's first four-year letterman in wrestling. As well, he was the first three-time section champion and the first West Allegheny wrestler to finish a season undefeated.

In a largely light-hearted speech, Yanek, talking while seated in a wheelchair, got the crowd laughing while emphasizing the importance of family and friends. Yanek, who has been confined to a wheelchair since suffering a debilitating injury at a worksite shortly after graduating, thanked his past coaches and those who have stuck by him through his ordeal. Among those important people he talked about was his wife, Shelly, who Yanek started out his speech referring to while choking back tears.

"The real hall of famer is my wife," said Yanek. "We've been married 25 years this year. For 22 of them I've been in a wheelchair. She's a real rock."

Despite his injury, Yanek has continued to be a patron of the school's wrestling program and mentor to young wrestlers.

One of the finest athletes to ever graduate from West Allegheny was also inducted with this class. As master of ceremonies Bill Gamble pointed out during his own remarks, the full gamut of accolades bestowed on Dorin Dickerson by the media during his high school career were almost too numerous to list in his allotted time. Dickerson, an all-purpose player at West Allegheny, was named an all-star by

**Master of ceremonies Bill Gamble is pictured with West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame inductees (from top) Dr. David Quinn; Dorin Dickerson; Jim Yanek and his wife, Shelly; and Paul DeBor.**



many newspapers prior to his senior year, during which he rushed for 1,429 yards, scored 30 touchdowns and caught 22 receptions for 423 yards and six touchdowns. His combined 36 touchdowns that season led the entire WPIAL and he was effectively named the best player in western Pennsylvania by the Pittsburgh Athletic Association.

Dickerson went on to play for the University of Pittsburgh, where he became the first player in Pitt history to earn All-American honors at the tight end position. The two ends to earn that honor prior to him - Mike Ditka and Joe Walton - earned it before the inception of the tight end position.

In an energetic speech, Dickerson said he was first inspired to play football for West Allegheny after seeing his neighbor, Jim Capozzoli, wearing a West Allegheny jersey on his way to school in the Walden Woods housing development.

"I was five years old and said, 'I want to be like that, I want to wear that red and grey someday,'" Dickerson said.

Dickerson also mentioned several other former West Allegheny players as having influenced him, among them fellow hall of fame inductees Tyler Palko, Matt Majocka and Ben Herbert.

"These guys were the reason I wanted to wear red and gray on my sleeve," he said.

He also thanked his coaches, including Bob Palko, who was in attendance, for "loving every single one of your players" and "teaching me the skills to become a successful human being."

Dickerson gave some insight into his own mentality that has helped him along the way, saying that it was important to face adversity head on and be willing to work harder than the competition. Dickerson recalled running sprints on the bleachers at the high school campus at 1 a.m. when he was 14 because "...I knew I was getting an edge on every other kid who was sleeping."

Dickerson went on to play in the NFL and is now a host on the Pittsburgh sports talk radio station 96.3 FM The Fan.

One of most dominant teams in school history was also inducted in this class, not for their performance in just one season but across two seasons. In 1996 and 1997, the West Allegheny girls track team won back-to-back WPIAL titles, making it the first team in school history to do so.

"In four years, this track team lost just three times, post season included," said track coach Bob Rose in remarks.

Rose said the team sent ripples through the WPIAL and state, earning far-reaching respect.

"Opponents already knew they were beaten before they even stepped onto the track against you," Rose continued. "It was written all over their faces and it was even in the comments of the opposing coaches. Quite simply, all of you were going to do whatever you had to do to win and you always put your own individual achievements aside for team goals."

Combined, those teams earned 17 WPIAL event medals and 12 different athletes secured nine PIAA event qualifications. They also secured three PIAA medals and set a WPIAL record in the 4 x 800 meter relay.

Former coach Mike Quinn said that the team represented a golden era of West Allegheny athletics that began forming in the previous decade. Hamilton, meanwhile, said he felt that this induction class represented the best to date.

This was the seventh class inducted into the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame. The hall of fame is currently accepting applications for its class of 2019. To nominate a team or individual, fill out the online form at [awmagazine.com](http://awmagazine.com).

Master of ceremonies Bill Gamble is pictured with members of the 1996/1997 girls track team and coaches Mike Quinn, Bob Rose and Jim Hamilton. Pictured are former team members Angie Bellaire Ciammaichella, Kelly Cole Whitsel, Kristin Coates Maritz, Nicki DeMark, Alison Oblinger Cokus, Heather Conn Athanas and Vicki Hatton Bozic.



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## Women's shooting event remains popular

The McDonald Sportsmen's Association, a 400-member group now in its 80th year of operation, strives to offer diverse programs and classes that educate varying groups of people through experienced instruction.

One example of those efforts is its Women's Day shoot, a popular and free program that has received the most positive reviews of any class offered by the club.

The fifth annual female shooting day was held this past Mother's Day on May 12. The day featured a catered lunch and a program consisting of five stations supervised by National Rifle Association range safety officers and certified instructors.

All of the firearms, ammunition, targets, and eye and ear protection were provided by the McDonald Sportsmen's Association.

As in previous years, registration for the class quickly reached maximum capacity. A record 75 women between the ages of 21 and 70 signed up and 66 participated.

Dayne Crowley, the club's director of education, said that the number of women who wanted to repeat the class after the first two years was so prevalent that the organization began limiting attendance to first-timers in its third year. However, women who had taken the course in past years have volunteered to return and guide participants around club grounds during the event, improving safety and organization.

Crowley estimated that nearly 200 women have been trained in five years, adding that one-third of those attendees had never shot a gun beforehand and that about 80 percent of them experienced a new shooting discipline by participating.

Of the 400 members who belong to the club, fewer than 20 are female.

The program structure this year divided women into five groups of 15 with no separation by experience level. Crowley said he always attempts to keep friends and family members who registered together in the same group.

Though the atmosphere was relaxed, a safety officer was assigned to each shooting range, as well as one instructor per individual who provided individualized training during the course of the event.

The five stations through which participants rotated included the fundamentals and safe handling of .22 caliber Ruger pistols that participants shot at targets. They also learned how to shoot .22 caliber bolt-action rifles and how to fire 12-gauge shotguns at airborne clay targets. As well, participants could ask questions about various types of firearms at a gun room set up with tables. Crowley said attendees gravitated the most toward the Ruger pistol shooting station due to the talented pistol instructors and the novelty of the Ruger pistol. The gun, with its large grip and high

level of accuracy, is a favorite among competitive target shooters.

Crowley said attendees also tend to enjoy shooting the rifles because of the accuracy that the scopes allow them to achieve.



**ABOVE:** A participant in the annual Women's Day shoot at the McDonald Sportsmen's Association fires a .22 caliber rifle using a bench rest. **BELOW:** Firearms instructor Katelyn Cerciello demonstrates the use of a shotgun to attendees at the event. Cerciello, a Fort Cherry High School student, is ranked atop a statewide high school league for clay shooting.



He said shooting shotguns at moving targets was more intimidating for the group but that they appreciated the 20-year-old female certified instructor at that station.

"They love her," stated Crowley, adding that "they learn that the recoil is not that bad and they can hit the target!"

Instructors also included high school sophomore Katelyn Cerciello from New Stanton who competes with Fort Cherry's trap team. The 16-year-old is the top-ranked female in the state's high school clay target league.

The gun room was also a preferred station because it allowed women who may be considering the purchase of a firearm to handle many different types of guns and ask questions about them to experts in the field. The station was similar to various "try it before you buy it" events offered by many firearms stores and gun shows.

The speaker for this year's event was Jody Salerno, a local female competitive shooter and an instructor for the popular self defense program A Girl and A Gun.

Crowley stated that the majority of the female attendees have expressed gratitude for helping them become comfortable with firearms. Though gun ownership continues to be a divisive topic in America, firearm purchases among women have increased by several percentage points in the last decade, most of them for handguns.

The association is located on nearly 200 acres off of Route 980 between McDonald and Midway. Its footprint and membership statistics are among the largest of the remaining gun clubs in western Pennsylvania, but like those other clubs, its membership is also currently at capacity. Crowley said that many participants of the women's day event said they'd had difficulty finding a range where they could practice shooting. Though several new indoor ranges have opened in the area in recent years, there are few larger outdoor gun clubs like the McDonald Sportsmen's Association. Safety requirements have become more stringent as new roads and buildings are developed and constructed on remaining open land.

In that regard, the McDonald Sportsmen's Association is no exception. The club recently sold roughly 70 acres of its property to the Turnpike Commission for construction of Interstate 579 and, as such, was forced to close its walking archery range. Crowley, though, says the association plans to continue all of its other operations and programs for the foreseeable future.

The sportsmen's association will be hosting public events throughout the year. For a schedule, see page 46.

# LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS



## DISCOVER SUMMER LEARNING @ THE LIBRARY!

School is finally out and we are so excited for Summer Learning at the library! Our theme for 2018 is Community, and we are grateful to serve such a diverse, vibrant and growing community. Join us as we discover, play, make, read, and explore our community and our world! Throughout the months of June and July, we have over 160 programs and events scheduled for children ages 3-18 and their families. In addition to our regular Wednesday storytimes, we are bringing back some of our most popular camps from last year, including printmaking, messy art, and woodworking. New to our program list are cooking camps and a preschool robots program. For older students, our lineup includes cool workshops in poetry and jewelry making. There's something for everyone at the library!

## STOP BY AND SEE OUR NEW SPACE!

Have you seen our new space? Stop by the newly expanded Youth Service area and check out all that's new for YOU! There's an all-new School Age area and Middle Grade has its own room, plus the Teen Space is bigger and better than ever. The relocated play area features a special child-sized entrance, and it's all central to the new Youth Services desk, conveniently located for asking questions or even checking out your books. There's a place for EVERYONE at the library!

## PLAY, READ, MAKE, EXPLORE, DISCOVER.

We are once again keeping track of how we spend our time this summer. Stop by and toss in a token in one of our special activity trackers each time you do something awesome and educational in your community. With so much to read, play, discover, explore, and make, we hope to see you at the library this summer!

## HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT AN EXPERIENCE YET?

Thanks to partnerships with the Mattress Factory and Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens, we have been lending special experience passes for free admission to these local attractions. And now, for Summer 2018 we are adding five new passes to our lineup!

- Heinz History Center (plus Western PA Sports Museum, Fort Pitt Museum, & Meadowcroft Rock Shelter)
- Old Economy Village
- Mt. Pleasant Historical Society
- Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum
- West Overton Village & Museum

Please Note: Experience passes are available on a first come, first serve basis & check out for ONE week, NO renewals. Call the library or check the online catalog for availability & enjoy your adventures in the library – and beyond!

## FIRST AID FOR DOGS & CATS

Saturday, June 16, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Presented by Community College of Allegheny County

Learn what to do for some of the most common pet emergencies including bleeding injuries, poisoning, heat & cold injuries, splint preparations, and choking. Participants will learn how to perform rescue breathing and CPR on their pets, how to put together a pet first aid kit, and when to seek professional help. \$40 registration fee includes one adult and one child under 12 years of age. Please do not bring pets to class.

## WINE & CHOCOLATE PAIRING

Wednesday, June 27, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Presented by the Winery at Wilcox & My Favorite Sweet Shoppe

Join us for the perfect evening for you and yoursweetheart, or make it a girls' night out! We will be hosting The Winery at Wilcox and My Favorite Sweet Shoppe to learn about and taste some great wine and chocolate pairings. \$15 per person.

For more information on all programs & events, visit [www.WesternAlleghenyLibrary.org](http://www.WesternAlleghenyLibrary.org) or call 724-695-8150.

# 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. OR

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.

### Little's Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. OR

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

### Play K

Mondays, 12:00 p.m.

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Sunday: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.



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## KML Carpenters donate welcome sign to PAACC

Late last year, the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated the completion of a \$600,000 remodel project when it reopened its Moon Township offices.

Along with a new floor plan, flooring, windows and boardrooms, the space featured a new entryway with large windows and a spacious lobby. What it lacked was some sort of signage to let people know they were indeed at the chamber offices when they walked through the door. The large, blank wall behind the reception desk could be seen all the way from the parking lot outside the offices.

In April, Keystone Mountain Lakes Regional Council of Carpenters representative Mike Welsh, who is also a PAACC board member, stepped in to help solve that problem. Along with KML instructor Wayne Babjack, their team designed, created and installed a beautiful new welcome sign behind the reception desk. Babjack instructs students in the cabinet and display apprenticeship program at KML's training center in Collier Township.

Babjack says it wasn't the first time the center had donated a sign to an organization as part of a community service project.

"We have things that we do that are routine projects but we always look for something like this to educate," he says, "that you would do on a real job in the real world. We're trying to prepare these students to go out and be our future, so we want to give them the training that will prepare them for this stuff."

For this project, Babjack worked with the chamber to come up with a design that emulated their branded material. He then handed the project off to fourth year apprentice Tim Fitzgerald, who turned around the sign in a couple of days.

"I knew he as a good worker and I needed it to get done," says Babjack. "I was very proud of how it came out."

Babjack says Fitzgerald created the sign using materials that union carpenters get certified to use to fabricate countertops, furniture and cabinets. Workers who train in the track Babjack teaches go on to work on major commercial construction projects like hotels and hospitals.

He says projects like these allow students to utilize materials in ways that they may not necessarily do otherwise. For this particular project, Babjack says Fitzgerald used a CNC machine to cut intricate designs out of acrylic and aluminum laminate. Those elements were then attached to a birch background.

PAACC president and CEO Chris Heck couldn't say enough about the generosity, expert craftsmanship and talent all put into the effort.

"This truly is a reflection of our local community, our members and the local carpenters union all coming together to help showcase our new facility," says Heck. "The new welcome sign brings a whole new look to our lobby and is an inviting attribute to the chamber."



Keystone Mountain Lakes Regional Council of Carpenters instructor Wayne Babjack (at center) worked with a fourth year carpentry apprentice studying under him to construct the sign pictured in the background. Babjack is pictured with Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce office manager Peg Eger, president and CEO Chris Heck, membership director Doug Keeter, and member services manager Susan Hovanec. PHOTO BY ALLISON FRANZ



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## Pittsburgh Technical College PTC hosts Combat Bots competition

STORY AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Springdale High School students Alex Shaginaw and Matt Schlessman show off their trophy with instructor John McDermott after winning the Battle Bots competition at Pittsburgh Technical College.

The combatants enter the five-foot by five-foot pit, take their positions on opposite sides and anxiously wait for the starting command from the pit judge: “Three, two, one, go!”

In less than three minutes, one combatant’s design and dreams flip into failure while another lives to fight in the next round.

It’s the eighth annual Combat Bots, which was hosted by Pittsburgh Technical College in May. More than 160 students from 10 participating high schools competed for the traveling trophy that was won last year by a team from Springdale High School.

All year long, technical education students built four-pound robots from scratch in preparation for this year’s double elimination competition. Students worked with an instructor and often stayed after school.

“Last year it was troubling trying to find a design that we felt could win,” said Austin Toney, a senior at Springdale High School. “It was my first year. My partner had done it the year before. Surprisingly, we pulled off victory.”

Toney shared what happened after last year’s event.

“We tried to improve our design. We put more holes in the body and in the top plate to make it lighter, then added a stronger motor. We put more weight in the weapon which is two beater bars.”

Between rounds, teams huddled with their instructors to repair bots that had advanced or discussed the pitfalls they encountered in elimination.

“We do this for the students,” said Kenneth Grimm, robotics instructor from Fox Chapel High School. “It is all about them and learning.”

He continued, “While preparing for competition, the students learn wiring and electronics, use engineering skills, become more familiar with machining and manufacturing, and better understand assembly processes.”

Students also use Inventor for their CAD designs and must depend on their troubleshooting and decision making skills in the heat of competition. As teams complete one round and prepare for the next, repairs are necessary.

“Some of that is happening right here in the Gallery,” explained Vince Gratteri, director of PTC’s high school relations team. “But, the soldering goes on in room 509.”

At the tables, there are intense conversations and urgent attempts to fix weapons. Combatants test and adjust their robots, making last minute fixes and changes.

“This is teamwork and troubleshooting in hyperdrive,” said Gratteri.

In the end, Arsenal, the team from Springdale High School, repeated as champions by besting a robot from Fox Chapel. As

such, students from Springdale will get to display the traveling trophy until the 2019 Combat Bot competition.

Alex Shaginaw, the team’s designer, modeled this year’s winning combat bot after Tombstone from the TV show “Battle Bots.”

“I am so happy,” he said as students from other teams offered their congratulations.

Team driver Matt Schlessman echoed his feelings.

“I am happy, excited,” he said before explaining his driving strategy. “My plan was to hit him with a swing, then dive bomb face to face.”

In the end it was a judges’ decision that determined the outcome. John McDermott, Springdale technical education instructor, exclaimed, “Back to back baby! I am so proud of our students.”

McDermott said the team started out by using CAD drawings so they knew the parts would fit and then built their robot from the chassis up.

“We designed the weapon and the drive system,” he said. “We would break it, fix it, break it, fix it, all in preparation for today.”

McDermott said that. “This is all about using tools in different ways to stay up with technology.”



ABOVE: Bots battle it out at the Battle Bots competition at Pittsburgh Technical College. BELOW: High school students work on their bot during the competition.



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JUNE,  
2018  
VOL. 40,  
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INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF FINDLAY AND NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIPS AND OAKDALE BOROUGH

## Senior celebration creates memories to last a lifetime

For the second year, West Allegheny hosted a District-wide Senior Celebration and Declaration Day that saluted graduates before their big day. On May 18, the high school gymnasium was overflowing with students, staff and administration, as each senior enthusiastically stood and declared their post-secondary intentions, whether it be to attend a two- or four-year institution, enroll in technical school, join the military, or enter the workforce.

A new tradition was forged at this year's celebration when a recently created WA totem pole, affectionately known as Indian Pride, was bequeathed from the senior class officers to the junior class and all classes to follow. The colorful and artistic pole is symbolic of West Allegheny's tradition of excellence in academics, arts and athletics, with individual panels that will be added yearly to reflect the character and personality of each graduating class.

After leaving the gymnasium through a boisterous tunnel of staff armed with confetti cannons, seniors visited the middle school and their former teachers. They then boarded buses led by police escorts to their respective elementary schools. Upon arrival, they were greeted by cheering students and staff as they roamed the school halls and reconnected with teachers. Seniors were even given name tags with their fifth grade photos that transported them back to their younger years.

The exciting day ended at the high school with a picnic in the gymnasium that included games and letters submitted by family, friends and educators wishing them well. All in all, it was a tremendous day for the class of 2018.



**RIGHT:** Seniors declare their post-secondary plans.

**BELOW:** Senior class officers pass the Indian Pride totem pole to juniors.



**ABOVE:** Confetti cannons rain down on seniors as they are celebrated in the staff tunnel.

**BELOW:** Former Wilson students recreate an iconic fifth grade photo.



# #WeAreStudentStrong

## District hires two new team members

The District is excited to announce the hiring of two new team members who will help advance the District's strong tradition of academic excellence and commitment to providing safe and supportive school cultures. Melissa Wagner will become the new principal of McKee Elementary School and Cpl. Mark Kern will become the District's second school resource officer.

Joining the school administrative team on July 1, Wagner brings to the McKee Elementary School principal position over 25 years of elementary education experience. Wagner has dedicated her professional career to elementary education, first serving as an elementary teacher for nine years then as a curriculum coach for five years. Most recently, she was the elementary principal for eight years at Minadeo PreK-5 School in Pittsburgh.

In her principal role, Wagner was instrumental in advancing student engagement and academic rigor through curriculum and enrichment programs. She also worked collaboratively with her staff to design and implement a school-wide positive behavior intervention program. Wagner worked closely with both students and families to ensure the nurturing of the whole child. She earned her master's degree and principal certification from Duquesne University, her reading specialist certification from the University of Pittsburgh and her Bachelor of Arts degree in education with an early childhood and special education focus from Carlow College.

"The interview team was extremely impressed with Ms. Wagner's extensive knowledge of and experience with school-wide positive behavior intervention programs and her ability to build positive and supportive school cultures for staff, students and parents," said Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, superintendent of West Allegheny School District. "Her extensive experience working with special education students, as well as her collaborative and inclusive leadership style, will be an incredible complement to our amazing staff at McKee."



The District recently welcomed Melissa Wagner and Cpl. Mark Kern as its newest hires.

"I am so excited to join the West Allegheny School District team and ready to serve the young students, staff and families at McKee Elementary," said Wagner. "The McKee staff have an outstanding reputation; I am honored to become a member of their school team. I know, together, we will be able to grow the McKee school community to even higher levels of achievement through strong learning cultures for students and teachers."

Kern comes to the team as an officer with the North Fayette Township Police Department, where he holds the rank of corporal. In August, he will join Sgt. Mike Hayes as the second school resource officer enhancing the District's ongoing commitment to providing safe and supportive schools for students and staff. Kern is a certified law enforcement firearms instructor, a trainer for Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT), and has trained local police officers in tactics regarding law enforcement response to critical incidents. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Pennsylvania State University and received his Act 120 certification from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Criminal Justice Training Center.

"We are extremely excited for officer Kern to join our safety and security team. His extensive law enforcement training and experience will complement and enhance the District's comprehensive safety and emergency operations plan focused on Preventive C.A.R.E Measures (Connections and Culture, Awareness, Relationships, and Extra support) and Emergency S.M.A.R.T Measures (Security, Monitor, ALICE, Responsiveness, and Training)," said Lippert. "The West Allegheny School District is very fortunate to have incredibly productive relationships with the North Fayette, Findlay, and Oakdale police departments. We are grateful to North Fayette Township for their financial commitment to 50 percent cost-share the salaries of our two school resource officers."

## Teachers earn recognition for commitment to students

The District was proud to have several distinguished teachers nominated for the Golden Apple and Be There Educator Awards this spring.

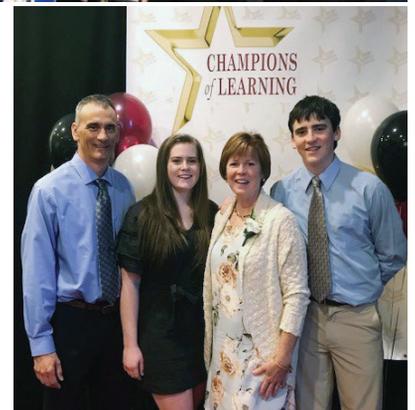
Six teachers were nominated by their school administrators for the 2018 Golden Apple Awards and were recognized at the Golden Apple Gala on May 17. Lisa Monzo, Chris Lucas and Dan Marshall were selected from the high school. Jess Henry, Sharon Lepri and Gabrielle Monti were nominated from the middle school. The Golden Apple Awards are sponsored by the Prevention Network, in recognition of those educators who go above and beyond to ensure the success of students.

High school learning support teacher Krissy Bennett was named a finalist for the 2018 Be There Educator Award. She was one of eight finalists chosen from southwestern Pennsylvania. This award celebrates adults who go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of children and youth in Allegheny County by providing them with what they need to thrive. The Be There finalists have supported youth in their community by teaching, mentoring, motivating and inspiring them. They've also given generously of their time and talents, surpassing what is required or expected. Bennett was celebrated at the Champions of Learning Gala on April 7.



Golden Apple Award nominees Jess Henry, Sharon Lepri, Gabrielle Monti, Lisa Monzo, Chris Lucas and Dan Marshall receive recognition at the annual gala.

Krissy Bennett and her family attend the Champions of Learning Gala.



# Superintendent's Message

The West Allegheny School District 2018-19 final budget approval is anticipated at the June 20 Board of School Directors meeting, when we will recommend **no tax increase for the 10th consecutive year**. This recommendation reflects our deep commitment to being fiscally prudent while providing our students with a world-class education, access to award-winning arts education and athletic programs, and enhanced security within safe and supportive school cultures. The District's last millage increase was .5 mills in the 2008-2009 school year. West Allegheny has the ninth lowest millage rate in Allegheny County at 18.51 mills and remains one of only seven Districts out of 42 that has not raised taxes between the 2013/14 and 2017/18 school years. The budget includes revenues of \$63,276,232, a 2.2% increase from the 2017-18 final budget, and expenditures of \$64,387,251, marking a 2.9% increase.

Aligned to Priority 3 in our Framework for Excellence - Family Engagement, Financial Responsibility and Operational Efficiency with a goal of safety and emergency preparedness - the 2018-19 budget includes money allocated to support enhancements to the District's safety and emergency operation plan. Specifically, the budget includes the addition of a second school resource officer, ongoing security camera upgrades, and additional safety enhancements in the amount of approximately \$145,000. Also aligned to Priority 3, the 2018-19 budget includes a commitment of over \$907,000 to support technology infrastructure upgrades and new Chromebooks at the elementary and high schools. Kindergarten students will enjoy new iPads, with one iPad per every two students. Students in grades one through five will have access to new Chromebooks, with one Chromebook per every two students. The investment in new elementary devices totals approximately \$110,000, in addition to the \$71,000 spent in 2017-18. At the high school, 21 new laptop carts are being purchased, thereby providing 630 new devices at a cost of \$225,000. As well, 70 new computers valued at \$104,500 will be rolled out to support the gaming academy, music lab and media arts. The middle school will benefit from six new Chromebook carts as well.

Aligned to Priority 1 - Academic Rigor, Equity and Excellence for all students, with a goal of all graduates being career- and college-ready with a viable post-secondary plan - the budget includes expenditures of nearly \$775,000 to directly enhance academic options for our students. These enhancements encompass Parkway Career and Technology Center tuition for ninth- through 12th-graders. It also includes District-paid exam fees of almost \$78,000, accounting for over 830 Advanced Placement course enrollments and approximately \$25,000 in tuition fees to support the inaugural year of the new CCAC Early College in High School Cybersecurity and Multimedia Game Simulation certificate programs. Also in support of Priority 1 with

a goal of academic preparedness, the budget includes expenditures to continue academic program enhancements and curriculum adoptions in the amount of approximately \$235,000 for a new social studies curriculum in grades six through 11, supplemental instructional technology programs, early literacy programming, and continued annual licensing for creativity, innovation and design courses.

Aligned to Priority 2 - High Quality Instruction in Every Classroom, Every Day within a Safe and Supportive School Culture - the 2018-19 budget allocates approximately \$162,000 to support continued professional learning and growth opportunities to optimize having highly effective teachers. As well, the budget includes continued investment in year three of the Rachel's Challenge anti-bullying program in order to foster the goal of maintaining supportive school cultures.

Also of note, we continue to take advantage of cost saving measures, including the District's energy conservation program, which saves \$200,000 annually. Since its inception in 2014-15, the program has saved the District \$1.3 million. A new copier and print management solution will provide the District with new copiers and printers, saving the District \$138,000 annually over the prior service contract. These measures, along with previous cost savings and an early retirement incentive program, will yield more than \$4 million over a five-year period.

Combined, these savings will support the increasing employee salary and benefit cost of \$1,215,566 over the 2017-18 budget, including a 5.71 percent increase in retirement contribution costs. Retirement costs since 2010-11 have increased \$3.7 million. The 2018-19 budget includes a total of \$7.5 million in loan repayments stemming from capital project improvements and two recent major building renovation projects. This amount increased \$107,579 from 2017-18 as a result of the \$6 million high school athletic complex renovation project.

Be assured that we remain mindful of our fiscal responsibility to taxpayers, as the 2018-19 budget marks the 10th year of not raising taxes while also avoiding employee furloughs and programmatic cuts. West Allegheny has not raised taxes for a decade while, at the same time, dramatically advancing and accelerating academic programming at all levels, adding innovative post-secondary career and college preparatory programs, expanding access to career and technical education, renovating two elementary schools and other major capital project improvements, enhancing safety and security measures, and absorbing escalating employee costs.



*Dr. Jerrí Lynn Lippert, Superintendent*

## High school choir earns second on the road

The high school choir was off on an adventure the weekend of May 4 when they traveled to Cedar Point for the annual Music in the Parks festival. In addition to claiming second place in the competition, the group also earned an “excellent” rating. As part of the trip, the choir made a stop at Baldwin Wallace University, where professor Bryan Bowser gave students a tour of the campus and an opportunity to sit in on a rehearsal with the women’s choir. Meagan Bruno serves as the high school choir director.

The high school choir takes a break from their tour of Baldwin Wallace University during their Music in the Parks weekend.



## Music education program receives national recognition



The District was honored to earn the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. This designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. The Best Communities designation is based on funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.

West Allegheny was one of 583 districts in the country - 82 in Pennsylvania and 16 in the region - to receive this honor. In the process, the District joins such districts as Avonworth, Fox Chapel, Moon Area, Mt. Lebanon, North Allegheny, North Hills, Quaker Valley, Shaler and Upper St. Clair.

# #WeAreWestA

## “Drowsy Chaperone” earns seven Gene Kelly Award nominations

West Allegheny’s tradition of excellence was on full display this spring when the cast, crew and directors of “The Drowsy Chaperone” were nominated for seven Gene Kelly Awards. West Allegheny was one of three schools nominated for best musical from among eight schools in budget category III. Additional nominations included:

*Best Actress - Sydney Campbell (from all 29 schools)*

*Best Scenic Design (budget category III)*

*Best Costume Design (budget category III)*

*Best Lighting Design (budget category III)*

*Best Crew/Technical Execution (from all 29 schools)*

*Best Execution of Direction (from all 29 schools)*

The Pittsburgh CLO’s 28th Annual Gene Kelly Awards were held at the Benedum Center on May 26 when the cast brought the house down with the night’s opening number. Though “The Drowsy Chaperone” did not come away with awards, the performers thoroughly enjoyed performing on the big stage and showcasing the incredible talents that earned them seven nominations and praise from the school community.



The cast and crew of “The Drowsy Chaperone” earned seven Gene Kelly Award nominations.

## SADD club welcomes motivational speaker

The high school Students Against Destructive Decisions club, in collaboration with North Fayette Youth Programs, hosted an assembly April 27 for students in grades 10 through 12 with youth motivational speaker Cara Filler. Filler shared tips on safe driving, as well as the dangers of engaging in risky behaviors such as texting and driving, speeding and driving under the influence. Her program aims to inspire students to stand up for themselves and their friends, as well as to make better overall life decisions. Kateri Meinert and Sgt. Mike Hayes serve as the club's sponsors.

Motivational speaker Cara Filler (second from left, front row) gathers with SADD members and sponsors following her impactful presentation.



# #WeAreTeacherProud

## Peer 2 Peer

### Empowerment group recognized for outreach efforts

The West Allegheny Peer 2 Peer Empowerment group competed at the Jefferson Awards Students in Action Banner Level End of Year Presentation on April 6. The competition consisted of two components, a written survey and an oral presentation. For the oral presentation, students used the analogy of a cake and the necessary ingredients to represent the various facets of the service projects they are involved in at West



Connor Stout draws a comparison to baking cake in order to illustrate how their outreach efforts came together.

Allegheny. Students shared personal stories and discussed various efforts meant to raise awareness about teen dating violence, erase the stigma of mental health and to spread kindness. They also provided insight into their school culture and community. For their efforts, the students won a Silver Banner in the competition.

As part of the day's events, students participated in a LEAD 360 service project where they filled buckets with art supplies and toys for the Buckets of Love project, which benefits children in western Pennsylvania.

Jodi Klebic from the Jefferson Awards presented the Silver Banner to the Peer 2 Peer group and their sponsors - Kennan Grabner and Sgt. Mike Hayes - at the May school board meeting.



The Peer 2 Peer Empowerment group proudly earns Silver Banner for their presentation.

## WA students take a stand

The District was well represented at the annual Stand Together recognition event held at Heinz History Center on May 10. Students presented their first year's work, which was aimed at raising awareness of mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Their goal was also to eliminate the associated stigma. The event was held during National Mental Health Awareness Month.



Stand Together students present their work at the Heinz History Center.

## Parkway students inducted into NTHS

Four of West Allegheny's Parkway West Career and Technology Center students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at a ceremony held April 16. The new inductees were Mariah Bagdon, Will Cinna, Daniel Gibson and Hailee Kaulfers. They join existing members Lane Hallam, Michael Lynch, Amanda Rubis and Brianna Watters.

New National Technical Honor Society inductees are recognized at a ceremony.



# #WeAreInnovators&Designers

## Eighth-graders present career interest projects



The middle school gymnasium is filled with students presenting their career interest projects.

For the first time this year, all eighth grade students completed a thorough exploration of potential career interests and high demand job trends as part of the District's K-12 career awareness focus. On May 10, their hard work culminated in presentations that included both a visual and oral component. Parents, teachers, administrators and school board members attended the much-anticipated event in the gymnasium when students shared the results of their research. Using tri-fold presentation boards, each student identified their top potential career choice as well as a second career option

that has been identified as a high priority occupation by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. They also prepared a four-year career plan of studies and a brief "elevator speech" to share with visitors that outlines their vision for career attainment. Students impressed visitors with their in-depth knowledge and the presentation skills they acquired through completion of the project.

Eighth-grader Angela Chromack-Brown presents her career project to superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert.



## Middle school celebrates School to Watch designation

After earning a Don Eichhorn School to Watch designation in the fall, middle school students, staff and administrators were presented with their official banner at a celebratory assembly May 18. Representatives from the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform were on hand to recognize principal Dr. Frank Hernandez, assistant principal Megan Huchko and the middle school team for their commitment to academic excellence, responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, and commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels. West Allegheny was one of only three middle schools in the state to earn this distinction in 2017, which will extend from 2018 to 2021.

During the ceremony, school leaders celebrated and recognized their entire staff and the students for all of their collaborative work toward this honor. The middle school show choir and percussion band added to the festive atmosphere. Superintendent Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, assistant superintendent Dr. Chris Shattuck and school board member Tracy Pustover celebrated the middle school for upholding West Allegheny's tradition of excellence and the tenets that are the foundation of a School to Watch. The District then hosted an ice cream social to thank all involved.

Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert presents a School to Watch banner to Dr. Frank Hernandez and Megan Huchko, who are pictured with Tracy Pustover and Dr. Christopher Shattuck.



## Eighth grade girls shine at GOLD program

The middle school continued the much-anticipated tradition of hosting the GOLD program for eighth grade girls with this year's overnight event held on April 20. The program is designed with a focus on female empowerment and included both new and time-tested activities that encompassed healthy relationships, positive body image and mental health.

A recent addition to the program was the focus on careers. Guest speakers were invited to talk about their own career path and the challenges they faced along the way. This year's speakers were:

- Dr. Tracy Hoge, a mental health professional who currently works at UPMC, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.

- Satya Venneti, co-founder of Telling.ai - an AI startup that analyzes voice to create human profiles and is a STEM advocate.

- Valerie Christofel, who worked as a hair and makeup artist in New York City and Los Angeles for 15 years. She decided to become a firefighter and an EMT when she moved back to Pittsburgh.

- Dara Kittle Ferchak, a senior vice president with Primerica financial services.

- Dr. Cynthia DaCosta Groff, a board-certified anesthesiologist in private practice at Jefferson Regional Medical Center.

The event wrapped up in the morning with relaxing yoga sessions and a healthy breakfast.

Dana McCaskey organized the event with the help of several female staff members and high school students.



Career guest speakers receive gifts of appreciation.



Girls participate in healthy relationship discussions.

## Students selected to perform at Elementary Band Fest

West Allegheny was well represented at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association's annual Elementary Band Festival on May 11 and 12 at South Fayette High School. The following students were selected to perform with students from across the region:

Zach Lebak - Percussion - Wilson  
Isabelle Kulus - Trombone - Wilson  
Owen Kent - Alto Sax - McKee  
Jenna Nolan - Baritone - McKee  
Cadence Durnell - Flute - Donaldson  
Eden Schotting - Trumpet - Middle School  
Mia Foster - Clarinet - Middle School

Students attend the PMEA Elementary Band Festival.



# #WeAreStudentStrong

## Middle school show choir hits all the right notes

The West Allegheny Middle School Show Choir participated in the High Notes Festival at Carnegie Mellon University on May 12 and earned a rating of "superior" for their performance. As part of the day's events, schools also had the opportunity to spend the remainder of the day at Kennywood Park. Meagan Bruno is the show choir director.

The middle school show choir displays their High Notes trophy.



## The Proofreading PopTarts experience sweet taste of victory at Battle of the Books

Thirty-five teams battled it out at the ninth Annual West Allegheny Battle of the Books competition April 5. Teams were made up of fourth- and fifth-graders who were to read a total of eight books. After competitive rounds of questions, McKee Elementary's The Proofreading PopTarts came out on top. The team was made up of Aidan Fellows, Addison Tokos, Logan McFall, Anna Yerkey and Daniel DePascale. The runners-up from



The Proofreading PopTarts are excited to display their medals.

Donaldson were the Book Buds, which consisted of Avery Williamson, Emerson Mirich, Andrea Halun-Ramirez, Sarah Nicholson and Marissa Palaima. From Wilson, the Royale Readers, which was made up of team members Liam Kilbourn, Kayden Tuite, John Taylor and Joshua Mitko, also finished as runners-up.

Elementary librarians Beth Schultz, Denise Medwick and Kathy Denniston organized the battle.



The Book Buds (left) and the Royale Readers (right) finish as runners-up.

## Animal Friends recipient of Wilson student council generosity

Wilson Elementary Student Council visited Animal Friends on May 15 to deliver a \$2,190 donation to the shelter's Kind Kids program. As a result of their generous donation, students were invited to name 29 of the shelter animals. The students raised the money through a variety of school activities during the school year. Teacher sponsors are Nancy Sale and Tania Garofoli.

Students deliver pet food and supplies to Animal Friends.



# #WeAreWestA

## Field Day brings elementary schools together

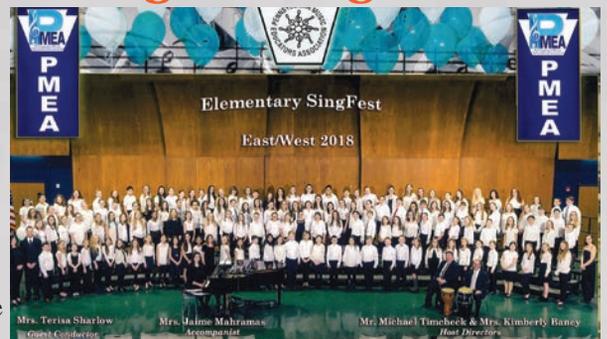


All three elementary schools were represented on the field during Field Day.

A new tradition was started this year as Donaldson, McKee and Wilson elementary schools came together at the high school stadium for their annual Field Day celebration. Students in grades three through five were provided the unique opportunity to meet and interact with other District students through fun and engaging athletic challenges. Family and friends were invited to watch the day's events from the stands where they could easily view several different events.

## West Allegheny takes center stage at Singfest

The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association held its annual Elementary Singfest on March 23 at Pine-Richland School District. Performing students were: Chris Pons, Garrett Jenkins, Grace Roberts, Carson McKinney, Megan Esposito, Allison Presutti, Karalyn Nolan, Addison Elliott, Grace Staub and Michael Ruiz. West



Students came together from across the region to perform at the Elementary Singfest.



Allegheny's Terisa Sharlow was the guest conductor with accompanist Jaime Mahramas. Percussionists were Mark Hoffman and Darren Humbert.

Terisa Sharlow serves as guest conductor.

## Donaldson students raise donations for community organizations

Donaldson student council has been busy this year with service learning projects that benefit the community. They first traveled to Animal Friends on May 8 to deliver pet food donations to support the shelter's Chow Wagon program and to make a \$600 donation to their Kind Kids program.

On May 10, students presented a \$1,000 donation to

Students enjoy a visit from a resident while visiting Animal Friends.



Air Force Chief Master Sgt. John Lee is pictured with North Fayette police officers Chief Mark O'Donnell, Cpt. Todd Heufelder and the department's K-9, Nevo. They accepted donations raised by Donaldson student council.

the North Fayette Township K9 fund and a \$1,000 donation to Heroes Supporting Heroes. North Fayette police officers Cpl. Todd Heufelder, chief Mark O'Donnell and K-9 Nevo, along with other North Fayette employees, were on hand to receive the donations. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Lee accepted the donation for Heroes Supporting Heroes.

Tiffany Mangan serves as the student council advisor.



# #WeAreTeacherProud

## Butterfly release teaches diverse lessons

Hundreds of butterflies were released by elementary students this spring as a culmination of their science unit on life cycles. Students helped raise the butterflies from the caterpillar stage so they could not only learn about the science of their life cycles



McKee students react in awe as their butterflies take flight.

but also how to care for the butterflies. As well, students got to experience the beauty and symbolism of releasing them.



Wilson students prepare to release their butterflies.



### Important Summer Building Schedules

Please be advised that all West Allegheny School Buildings and Facilities will be closed on the following Fridays:

June 8 & 15,

July 13, 20, & 27,

August 3

and daily:

June 22 through July 8



The district has adopted a four-day summer work week as an energy and cost-saving measure.

Daily building hours will be extended Mondays through Thursdays from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Athletes and coach recognized for accomplishments on and off the field



Athletes Savannah Lewis, Megan Pollinger, Ashley Seamon, Taylor Goldstrohm, Taylor Cummings, Mackenzie Partyka, Seth Rosen, Shea Downing and Austin Hendrick display their first team all-section awards.

West Allegheny softball and baseball players were selected to first all-section teams and recognized at the Big 56 luncheon May 21. Those honored for softball were Savannah Lewis, Megan Pollinger, Ashley Seamon, Taylor Goldstrohm, Taylor Cummings and Mackenzie Partyka. Baseball players recognized were Seth Rosen, Shea Downing and Austin Hendrick. Britney Wilson and Logan Malatak were selected to the second team all section and Mindi McFate was selected as coach of the year in softball.

On May 15, Seamon was named a 2018 Scholar Athlete at the WPIAL award ceremony for her accomplishments on the field and in the classroom.

Ashley Seamon receives the Scholar Athlete award.



## Spring athletes excel in the post season

West Allegheny was well represented in post-season play this spring with softball, track and baseball teams earning



The girls softball team celebrates winning the WPIAL championship.

places in the WPIAL level of competition. After winning their section for the fourth year in a row and recording an undefeated 12-0 season, the softball team advanced through the 5A WPIAL rounds to claim a 4-2 win in the championship game on May 31.



Laura Croco, Maddie Salek, Livy Younger, Jess Fatigati and Gianna Giacomino travel to Shippensburg for the PIAA meet.

This marks the team's second title in two years. At the time of this writing, they are preparing to play Albert Gallatin in the second round of the state playoffs.

At the state level in track and field, Maddie Salek

claimed an impressive third place finish in the 800-meter run after qualifying with a first place finish at the WPIAL meet. The 4x400-meter relay team of Livy Younger, Maddie Salek, Laura Croco, Jess Fatigati and Gianna Giacomino (alternate) also qualified for states after crushing the school record at the WPIAL competition.

The boys baseball team was back in the post-season hunt after defeating Chartiers Valley 9-1 in the 5A quarterfinal. After a WPIAL semi-final loss to North Hills, they moved on to defeat Erie Cathedral Preparatory in the first round of the PIAA playoffs and, at the time of this writing, will next take on Red Land.

# #WeAreWestA



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School District

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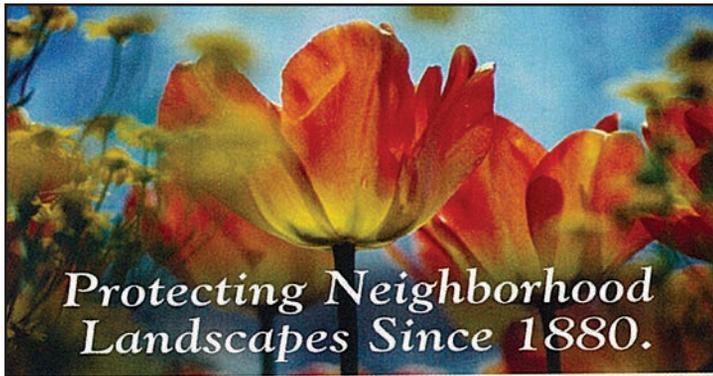
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Dr. Frank Hernandez, Middle School Principal  
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Mr. Thomas Orr, McKee Elementary Principal  
Mrs. Rachel Gray, Wilson Elementary Principal  
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FOR WEEKLY EVENTS, SCHOOL CLOSINGS, AND DELAYS.  
VISIT WEST ALLEGHENY ONLINE:

WWW.WESTASD.ORG

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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# Summer Fun Guide

The lowdown on fun summer happenings in and around the area.

McSummerfest in McDonald draws a nice crowd with rides, live music, carnival games and fireworks. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

## McDonald Lions Club Rib Cookout

Order some ribs to take out from this annual cookout fundraiser and you'll be supporting a Lions Club charity. Lions Club volunteers will be

cooking out at the McDonald Trail Station in McDonald on **June 23, July 28 and Aug. 25. They start selling at 9 a.m.** and sell until all are sold. One-pound boats are \$9. Call Caryll to pre-order at (724) 926-9541.

## Oakdale Independence Day Celebration, July 4

Come out to this **July 4** celebration being organized by The Rock Youth and Family Center and you'll get to enjoy a children's bike parade along with a pet parade in downtown Oakdale. A cookout follows where a parade winner will be announced. There will also be an auction and quilt raffle. **The parade lines up at the Panhandle Trail at 9:30 a.m. and starts at 10 a.m.**

## McSummerfest, June 30-July 7

Twenty-five years ago, the McDonald VFD made the decision to revamp its annual street fair fundraiser. Each year since then, this regional attraction has somehow managed to get bigger, with upwards of 20,000 people visiting throughout the week. As the department celebrates its 125th year this year it's bringing back the same amusement rides, carnival games, nightly live bands and food vendors that have turned McSummerfest into a regional attraction. As is customary, it will also be hosting a fireworks show on a night other than July 4. This year, **fireworks will be on July 3.** The department will also again be pulling in a big portion

of its annual operating budget by selling fried Oreos, fried Twinkies, fry buckets, beer and more. Be sure to bring a chair and grab a good spot in front of the stage or, on **July 3**, the hillside to watch the fireworks. **McSummerfest kicks off nightly at 6 p.m.** See page 43 for a complete band schedule and more information.

## Janoski's Wine Festival, July 21

For the past five years, local wineries have turned out to make the Janoski's Wine Festival in Clinton a premier event. Each year, this open-air wine tasting features over a half dozen local wineries pouring around 100 varietals ranging from Riesling-style chocolate sweet wines to robust merlots.

Janoski's also serves a farm-to-fork buffet for the event. For \$39 (or \$49 at the gate) attendees get a souvenir wine glass for tastings, unlimited access to a home-cooked food buffet, unlimited wine tastings and a chance to win a basket donated by the wineries. Once you find a wine you like, buy a bottle, grab a spot on the deck by the pond and enjoy some live music.

Have a special event you'd like to host during the festival? Event organizers are offering private tent rentals. Email [info@janoskis.com](mailto:info@janoskis.com) for details.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at Janoski's Farm and on [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) by searching Janoski's Wine Festival 2018. This adult-only event takes place rain or shine and is sponsored by Janoski's. Visit the Facebook page Janoski's Wine Festival or search [#harvestwinepgh](https://twitter.com/harvestwinepgh) on Twitter for updates.

## Ingram Days Celebration, July 21-22

Head to Ingram Park on **July 21 and 22 from 5-11 p.m.** for this annual celebration. Enjoy a variety of food, games, crafters, vendors and performances. There will be free face painting and airbrush tattoos from **5-7 p.m.** and a balloon artist from **6-8 p.m.** both nights. The Shiners perform Saturday night beginning around **7:30 p.m.** Billy the Kid & The deck at Janoski's Farm and Greenhouse in Clinton makes for a perfect spot for sipping wine at the Janoski's Harvest Wine Festival. PHOTO BY PAT JENNETTE

The Regulators perform Sunday night. A stunning fireworks display at **9:30 p.m.** caps off the evening. Check out [www.facebook.com/IngramDays](http://www.facebook.com/IngramDays) for more.

## Oakdale Hose Company Street Carnival, July 21, 23-28

Head to downtown Oakdale for this annual celebration and enjoy carnival games, live music, great food and more. **A parade takes place July 27 at 7 p.m. and an impressive car show will be held July 24.** Stay up to date at [www.oakdaleborough.com](http://www.oakdaleborough.com).

## Crafton-Ingram Rotary Rib and Chicken Fest, Aug. 2

Come to this annual cookout event in Crafton Park from **4-7 p.m.** and choose between baby back ribs or a chicken dinner. In addition to great food, count on raffles, auctions and door prizes. Dinners include all the fixings. A llama plop rounds out the fun. Proceeds support Rotary charities. For questions, call (412) 922-8824.

## Holy Trinity Festival, Aug. 2-4

Head to Holy Trinity Catholic Church **Aug. 2-4** and enjoy some family fun at the Holy Trinity Festival. There will be rides, games, bingo, a casino, a huge white elephant sale and food trucks. This festival marks its 40th. Visit [holyltrinityelementary.org](http://holyltrinityelementary.org) for more. **See page 49 for times.** For questions, call (412) 787-2656.

## Kennedy Township Community Days, Aug. 8-11

Details are still in the works for this year's Kennedy Township Community Days, which annually takes place over the course of several evenings at Fairhaven Park. **A fireman's parade is scheduled for Aug. 11 and there will be a West Hills Symphonic Band Concert at 7 p.m. on Aug. 9.** If this year's event is anything like years past, there will also be rides and lots of vendors. Stay tuned to [www.kennedytwp.com](http://www.kennedytwp.com).



## Moon Township Rotary Corn Roast, Aug. 14

This annual cookout takes place in Moon Park and helps the Moon Township Rotary Club raise money for its charities. Count on live music, possibly in the vein of polka, beer and cookout fare. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the event. Times are yet to be announced but will likely be in the evening. Call (724) 695-1134 with questions.

## Sample wines at the historic Hankey House

Want to sample local, award winning wines in a beautiful and historic farmhouse mansion? Sure you do. So swing by the Hankey House **Tuesdays through Sundays** this summer and pick up some vintages from locally and owned and operated Black Dog Wine Company. They're even planning on hosting special events with live music. Check their website at [blackdogwinecompany.com](http://blackdogwinecompany.com) for hours, dates and event information.



## Moon Township's July 4 Celebration, July 2-4

Moon Township Parks and Recreation makes an annual tradition of spreading out its July 4 celebration over the course of three days. This year, **festivities kick off July 2** with a wild animal demonstration and a battle of the bands that starts at **5 p.m.** The following day is the township's evening Glow 5K (see 5Ks listing). **The celebration on July 4 starts up at 5 p.m.** For more, call (412) 262-1703 or email [bbrozovich@moontwp.us](mailto:bbrozovich@moontwp.us).

## North Fayette Township Community Days, Aug. 4

This fair takes place in picturesque Donaldson Park and kicks off with a 5K in the morning (see 5Ks for race info). Expect live music throughout the day, plenty of fair food vendors, a beer tent, inflatables, pony rides, a petting zoo, dunk tank, clowns, games and a Zambelli fireworks show to close out the day. There's also a **kickoff parade scheduled for Aug. 3** and a **car cruise Aug. 5** (see cruises for details). Organizations wishing to participate should contact the North Fayette Parks and Recreation Department at (412) 788-4888. See page 49 for a complete schedule.

## Findlay Township Fair in the Woodlands, Aug. 17-18

Findlay Township's annual township fair still has many of the same trappings from when it was an agricultural fair. Prizes are awarded for best livestock, vegetables, baked goods, sewing and more. There's also a pie eating contest, hula-hoop contest, petting zoo, bounce castle and miniature train rides. Live entertainment is scheduled throughout the day and a fireworks show closes out the festivities. A **hilly 5K kicks off the fun the evening of Aug. 17** (check 5Ks listing) and a **parade follows the next morning at 10:30 a.m.** Come hungry, as there will be plenty of food vendors. Everything, except the parade, takes place under the comfortable and shady tree canopy of the woodlands. For more, call (724) 695-0500 x 246 or visit [www.findlaytwp.org/184/Parks-Recreation](http://www.findlaytwp.org/184/Parks-Recreation).

## Robinson Township's 16th Annual Autumn Festival, Sept. 15

Robinson Township's Autumn Festival again rounds out the fair season on **Sept. 15** at the Burkett Sports and Recreation Complex. **Festivities kick off at 12:30 p.m. and go until 9:30 p.m.** Count on live bands throughout the day, including Occasional Reign, rock band Big Atlantic and Charles Johnson on acoustic guitar. There will also be performances by local youth dance groups and amusements like a rock wall, arcade games, radio-controlled racers and more. As well, it wouldn't be a festival without the food vendors. Applications for vendors start after July. Check [www.townshipofrobinson.com](http://www.townshipofrobinson.com) for more.

Check our Website for Upcoming Special Events and a Live Entertainment Schedule!

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# Farmers' Markets



## Moon Township Farmers' Market, Wednesdays through September, 3-6 p.m., Moon Township Municipal Building, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, baked goods, hot prepared foods, beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea, plants, flowers, antiques, arts, crafts, www.moontwp.com/farmersmarket.html.

The Holy Trinity Farmers' Market offers live music, cooking demonstrations, fresh produce, food trucks and more. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

**Holy Trinity Farmers' Market, Mondays through Oct. 1, 3-7 p.m.,** closed Monday of Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend, fresh produce, food trucks, live music, cooking demonstrations, www.holytrinityrobinson.org.



**St. James Farmers' Market,** St. James Catholic Church in Sewickley, 200 Walnut St., Saturdays through November, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., vegetables, organic farm products, meats, honey, pierogies, pasta, more, (412) 741-6650, www.saintjames-church.com.

**The Original Farmers' Market,** starts 5:30 p.m.; open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through September; open Mondays and Fridays, October-November; Bridgeville area; take left on Route 50 off Bridgeville I-79 South Exit; www.theoriginalfarmersmarket.net.

Fresh produce is among some of the many offerings at the Moon Township Farmers' Market. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

**McDonald Trail Station Farmers' Market, Saturdays, July 7-mid-September, 9 a.m.-**

noon, McDonald Trail Station parking lot in McDonald, 161 South McDonald St., fresh local vegetables, fruits, local honey, home-made baked goods, jams, jellies, fresh farm eggs, preordering of locally raised and butchered beef, specialty animal treats, local crafts, www.mcdonaldtrailstation.com, (724) 926-4617.



## Take a self-guided brewery tour



If you're a fan of fresh craft brews then hopefully you picked up a copy of our February West Allegheny edition and saw our special section dedicated to local breweries. If not, you can still read it at awmagazine.com by clicking on the archives tab. For a quick reference, though, we've gone ahead listed those breweries we profiled below. Be sure to check them out as the weather gets warm for their seasonal brews. Each offers something unique but all are relatively new, having opened within the past five years.

Since grub is never a bad idea with a brew, we're also listing food options. Check out their websites or call for more information.

### Helicon Brewing

102 Union Avenue, Oakdale (along the Panhandle trail)

Open Tuesday-Sunday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

heliconbrewing.com

Grub: Food Trucks on the weekends (see website for schedule) and restaurants nearby.

### Coal Tipple Brewery

1905 Steubenville Pike,

Bulger

Open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday-Saturday

9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

www.

coaltipplebrewery.com/brewery

Grub: Nearby restaurants.



Chris Brunetti, owner of Helicon Brewing in Oakdale, holds up a fresh beer from his brewery. Stop in for a seasonal selection and to try out a collection of pinball machines. PHOTO BY JILL BORDO

### Cobblehaus Brewing Company

1021 Fifth Ave., Coraopolis

Open Wednesday-Thursday 5-10 p.m., Friday 3-11 p.m., Saturday noon-11 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m.

Grub: Nearby restaurants and delivery available. See website for food truck schedule.

### Insurrection AleWorks

1635 E Railroad Street, Heidelberg

Open Wednesday and Thursday 4-11 p.m., Friday-Saturday 12 p.m.-12 a.m., Sunday 12-8 p.m.

Grub: Full, in-house menu.

### Abjuration Brewing

644 Broadway Ave., McKees Rocks (In the Parkway Theater)

Open Thursday 5-10 p.m., Friday 5 p.m.-12 a.m.,

Saturday 1 p.m.-12 a.m.

Nearby restaurants





Just looking for the fireworks? Many of these are listed throughout this guide, along with contact information, but here's the shortcut and a few additional dates. Show up early for festivities and to grab a good spot.

**Findlay Township Independence Day Fireworks, July 3 (rain date July 6),**

festivities start 7 p.m., food, DJ, face painting, fireworks at 9:45 p.m., shuttles from Clinton Municipal Building and Imperial Activity Center, (724) 695-0500 x 246, www.findlaytp.org/184/Parks-Recreation.

**McSummerfest, July 3,** Heritage Park, McDonald.



Fireworks cap off the evening of July 3 at McSummerfest in McDonald. PHOTO BY STEVE SKARUPA PHOTOGRAPHY www.steveskarupaphotography.com

Get more cookout grub at Findlay's Food Truck Thursdays

Want more cookout fare? Head out to the Findlay Township Municipal Building on the last Thursday of each month through Oct. 25 between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. There, you'll find food trucks serving up their fare in the parking lot. When the weather's nice, the township puts out tables and benches. When the weather's nasty, take-out is still available. Call (724) 695-0500 x 246 with questions. See page 52 for the a schedule.

**Robinson Township July 4 Fireworks, July 4,** Burkett Sports & Recreation Complex, festivities start at dusk.

**Moon Township July 4 Fireworks, July 4,** Moon Park.

**Ingram Days, July 22, 9:30 p.m.,** Ingram Park.

**North Fayette Community Days, Aug. 4,** Donaldson Park.

**Findlay Township Fair in the Woodlands, Aug. 18,** Clinton Park.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2018**

Findlay Township is excited to announce that the Independence Day Celebration is back for its seventh year! Tuesday, July 3 (Raindate: Friday, July 6) Recreation and Sports Complex on Route 30 in Imperial DJ Don Sheets kicks off the celebration with music at 7:30 p.m. Food and refreshments by Bubbas Dawgs, Speedies Pizza and Kona Ice. Bring chairs and blankets. Come early to get free stuff! Fireworks by Pyrotechnico at dark (approximately 9:45 p.m.). In order to prepare for this event, all facilities at the complex, including the Dog Park, will close at 4 PM. FOR SAFETY PURPOSES OF THOSE ATTENDING, NO SPARKLERS, PRIVATE FIREWORKS OR DRONES ARE PERMITTED!!! To date, this celebration has been made possible by the generous donations of the following sponsors:

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**Range Resources**

**Fireworks Shuttle**  
\*\* Monark Bus Company will be running a shuttle to the Recreation & Sports Complex from the Findlay Township Activity Center at 310 Main Street in Imperial and the Findlay Township Municipal Building on Route 30 in Clinton. The shuttles will run every half hour from 6:30-9:15 p.m. Pick up at the Activity Center is on the upper level (additional parking on the lower level and Valley Presbyterian Church) and in Clinton, in the parking lot behind the Municipal Building. Due to the success of the event, please consider riding the shuttle as The Rec and Sports Complex fills up quickly! Handicap parking can only be guaranteed until 8 PM.

**Family Fun Color Run in Clinton Park July 29, Rain or Shine**  
6-6:45 p.m. registration, 7 p.m. start, all ages.

Come and join us for this FUN FAMILY EVENT. Grab your kids, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces - in fact, just bring the whole family - for a ONE MILE FUN COLOR WALK/RUN in Clinton Park. Participants will walk (or run) the mile loop around Clinton Park while getting blasted with colors all along the way. At the end, participants will receive their own packet of color to throw for a GROUP BLAST!! Water and healthy snacks will be available in the pavilion after the walk/run. The cornstarch-based color powder is non-toxic and safe for both people and the environment. WEAR OLD CLOTHES AND SHOES. Bring a cover for your car (just to be safe). IF POSSIBLE, WEAR A WHITE T-SHIRT FOR BEST COLOR RESULTS!!

Pre-register by July 14 and get sunglasses for the event. Call Darlene or Stephanie at the recreation department: 724-695-0500x246 or 240. After July 14, sunglasses given on a first come, first serve basis, while supplies last. Register at Oriole Pavilion. Payment and waiver due at that time. Download waiver from website. Checks payable to Findlay Township. Participants under 18 must have parent or guardian's signature. \$10, 3 and under free. Spectators welcome.

THERE WILL BE NO PARKING ALONG ROUTE 30\*\* COME OUT AND ENJOY THE FUN!!



## Free concerts

Most of the fairs and festivals listed in this guide feature live music. Here are some additional free concert dates scheduled throughout the area.

### North Fayette Township Concerts

North Fayette Township is once again hosting a concert series at its beautiful outdoor amphitheater in Donaldson Park this summer. Concerts are free and food vendors will be on hand. **Shows start at 7:30 p.m.** Be sure to bring a blanket or chair to set up on the hillside. See the schedule at right for bands and dates.

### Findlay Township Concerts

Findlay Township's stage in the woodlands section of Clinton Park makes for just about the perfect concert venue. Currently, the township has three concert dates scheduled, with bands still to be announced for **June 26 and July 17. On Sept. 28**, the township hosts its annual Rhythm, Ribs and Barbeque event. **Festivities start at 4 p.m.** and feature Amanda Hertweck with her combination of soul, rhythm and blues, and rock. Then, at **6 p.m.**, The Totally 80s Band takes the stage. There will also be a closing act at **8 p.m.** Count on food, beer, wine, corn on the cob and fresh baked pies.

### Robin Hill Lunchtime Concert Series

Head out on your lunch break or take the kids to one of these free concerts at Robin Hill Park in Moon Township. Be sure to tote along a lawn chair or bring a blanket. Hot dogs, drinks and snacks will be available for purchase. **Concerts start at noon and go until 1 p.m.**

**June 20** - Steel Pan Dan (Caribbean Steel Drums)

**July 18** - Doo-Wop

**Aug. 15** - Dick Tady Orchestra

**Sept. 19** - Dixieland (New Orleans)

### More Moon Concerts

These concerts take place at Moon Park Amphitheater and, unless otherwise noted, **start at 7:30 p.m.**

**June 15** - West Hills Symphonic Band

**June 22** - Finally Free (Classic Rock)

**June 29** - Nationality Night - Kevin Solecky (accordionist), Slovin Irish Dancers and Gipsy Strings - **7 p.m.**

**July 2** - Battle of the Bands - **starts 5 p.m.**

**July 8** - Pittsburgh Youth Symphony - **7 p.m.**

**July 13** - Dark Side of Moon Park - Pink Noise (Pink Floyd tribute band)

**Sept. 16** - Polka Fest - time TBD

**Sept. 22** - BBQ with a Side of Blues - time TBD

## Enjoy a plain air classical band concert

The West Hills Symphonic Band is made up of local musicians of all ages who play because they love music. In addition to the concert date listed above, they'll also be playing several additional plain air events around the area. Count on hearing some familiar, and maybe some not-so-familiar, scores and adaptations. Times are yet to be determined for most. Stay up to date at [whsb.org](http://whsb.org).

**June 15** - Moon Park Amphitheater - 7:30 p.m.

**July 12** - Crafton Park - 7 p.m.

**July 29** - Mellon Park, Bach, Beethoven and Brunch - 10:30 a.m.

**Aug. 9** - Kennedy Township Park - 7 p.m.

**Aug. 19** - Collier Township Community Park - TBA

North Fayette Township & Integrity Financial Advisors present

The 2018 Donaldson Park Summer Concert Series

FEATURING

Dave Iglar - June 21  
Township Road- July 5  
Hewlett Anderson - July 12  
Scott and Rosanna - July 19

CONCERT TIMES 7:30PM

Free Admission!  
Family-friendly!  
Food Vendors!  
Awesome Music!

DONALDSON COMMUNITY PARK  
550 Donaldson Road, Dekate PA 15071  
724-307-3725  
[www.north-fayette.com](http://www.north-fayette.com)

## Let's Go To The Movies!

Bring the kids and enjoy one of these outdoor movies at the Moon Park Amphitheater. Showings start at dusk.

**July 20** - "Harry and the Hendersons" (preceded by Wild World of Animals program)

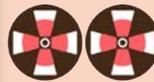
**July 27** - "Spiderman Homecoming"

**Aug. 3** - "My Little Pony Movie"

**Aug. 10** - "Coco"

**Aug. 17** - "Wonder"

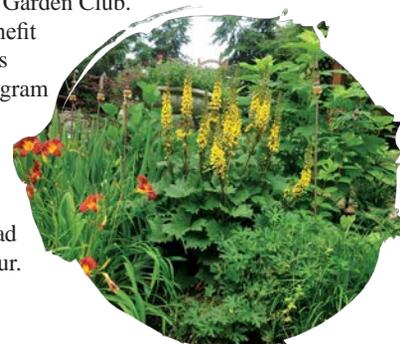
**Aug. 31** - "Ghostbusters"



### Tour Moon Township gardens

Like gardening? Want to get some ideas from a handful of local gardens to use in your own garden? Then sign up for the Moon Township Garden Tour, which takes place **July 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** This self-guided tour features a unique mix of local gardens selected by the Moon Township Garden Club.

Proceeds benefit the club's various charitable efforts. A map and program will be available for pickup the day of the tour at Robin Hill. A registration form is posted at [moontownshipgardenclub.com](http://moontownshipgardenclub.com). Tickets are \$10 if purchased ahead of time and \$15 the day of the tour.



# McSummerfest

26th Annual McSummerfest 2018

At Heritage Park - McDonald, PA

June 30<sup>th</sup> - July 7<sup>th</sup>

Closed Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>

FREE Entertainment - FREE Admission - FREE Parking

One Price Ride Night  
Every Night 6-11 pm  
All Entertainment begins at 7:30pm

Rides By  
Tropical  
Amusements

Sponsored by:

Chevron

Coors

Coca Cola Refreshments

Fort Cherry Ambulance

Green's Taxi Service

Gene Povero Enterprises

Washington County Tourism

Red Fox Winery & Lounge

Body Systems Fitness

Colonial Gas

Colonial Beer & Soft Drinks

Coors Heating & Air Conditioning

Daddy's Car Wash

Express Employment Professionals

First Commonwealth Bank

First Energy Foundation

Golden Triangle Construction

Harrington's

Hart's Restaurant & Lounge

Harrington Band

H&M Block

Knapper Press

Kristy's Kiddie Cars

McDonald Belgium Club

McDonald BP Gas Station

McDonald & Bangertman NAPA

McDonald Giant Eagle

McDonald Pharmacy

McMaton, Karanath & Associates

Midway Construction

Nation Funeral Home

Northeast Savings Bank

Oliviero - Balch

Paula's Personal Care Home

PE Winery

Pro Am Safety

Rambour Chiropractic

Range Resources

Reeds

Republic Services

S.P.S.I.

Subway - McDonald

Superior Podge & Steel

Terry & Company Salon

Thomas-Little Funeral Service

Unitz Heating & Air Conditioning

V. Lynn Cochran, D.M.D.

Watts & Wind Farm/Washington Feed

Zambelli International

Coors

Washington  
County Tourism

Chevron



ENERGY  
Washington County

Great  
Family  
Fun!

Saturday, June 30th

McSummerfest Parade at 5pm

Ruff Creek

Monday, July 2nd

Street Level

Tuesday, July 3rd

Fireworks at Dusk  
Hedgg Band & Willow Creek

Wednesday, July 4th

Bobby Thompson  
& The Groove

Thursday, July 5th

US Kids

Friday, July 6th

Timothy Earl Band

Saturday, July 7th

Tongue -N- Cheek

McDonald Volunteer Fire Department • McDonald, PA

FOR MORE INFORMATION 724-926-9190 • [www.McDonaldfire.com](http://www.McDonaldfire.com)



Want to play a sport, brush up on your skills or just get in a regular workout over the summer? Check out these area resources, some of which offer fitness classes and sports leagues for all ages.

**Youth Volleyball Camp, July 23-26**, Moon Area High School, **9 a.m.-2 p.m.**, grades four through rising nine, co-ed, individual instruction for elementary and middle school players, all skill levels, strength and conditioning training, exhibition games, awards, bring lunch, **register by July 6**, [sims1008@comcast.net](mailto:sims1008@comcast.net), (724) 759-0095.

**North Fayette Township Parks and Recreation**, sports leagues for all ages, fitness classes, most take place at North Fayette Township Community Center in Donaldson Park, memberships available, for residents and non-residents, visit [www.north-fayette.com/199/Recreation](http://www.north-fayette.com/199/Recreation) for more.

**Moon Township Parks and Recreation**, fitness classes for teens and adults (including seniors), adult summer kickball league, for residents and non-residents, [www.moonparks.org/index.asp](http://www.moonparks.org/index.asp).



## Golf Outings

Get out on the course, play some golf and network while enjoying the weather at one of these outings. Best part is, you'll be benefitting a good cause.

**Bob Pompeani Charity Golf Classic, June 18**, Chartiers Country Club, \$1 million shot, fire pit of cheer, themed baskets, benefits Partners for Quality, (412) 446-0702, [pqf.org](http://pqf.org).

**St. Columbkille Parish Holy Name Society Golf Outing, Aug. 6**, Ft. Cherry Golf Course, [www.saintcolumbkilleparish.org/](http://www.saintcolumbkilleparish.org/).

**20th Annual Gerry Dulac Charity Golf Classic, July 16**, Sewickley Heights Golf Club, **11 a.m. shotgun start**, scramble format, celebrity appearances, car hole in one, skill prizes on course, awards dinner, live auctions,

**Golf FORE the Troops, Aug. 13**, Montour Heights Country Club, supports post-9/11 veterans with housing, utility and other life emergencies, [defendersoffreedompa.us](http://defendersoffreedompa.us).

**P.A.L.S. 8th Annual Golf Outing, Sept. 15, 7 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. shotgun start, 1 p.m. lunch**, contests, hole-in-one, prizes, auction, lunch, \$125/golfer, Quicksilver Golf Club, sponsorships available, [dhildebrand@north-fayette.com](mailto:dhildebrand@north-fayette.com).

prizes, sponsorships available, (724) 947-1234, supports Parkway West Rotary charities, [www.mkt.com/parkwaywestrotary](http://www.mkt.com/parkwaywestrotary).

## Swimming

### Robinson Township Community Pool, Clever Park



Robinson Township's community pool at Clever Park got quite the makeover while the weather was cold. It now features a zero depth entry and fixed water play features, which makes it not only ADA-compliant but also gives parents and small children a safe area to play. The pool slopes over 80 feet to meet the existing pool. There's also spray features, dumping buckets and stepped entry area with water jets for parents to sit and relax while watching the kids play.

For the older kids, there's a double barrel slide, diving board and two climbing walls in the deep end. There's also an upgraded bathroom.



Resident and non-resident passes can be purchased from the Clever Park pool offices or at the Robinson Township administrative offices.

- Settlers Cabin
- Park Wave Pool,
- Settlers Cabin
- Park
- Summer passes are now on sale for the wave pool at Settlers Cabin Park. This massive pool of course has its namesake waves, but also a large shallow area for younger children and families. There are discounts for families and seniors as well.
- For more, visit [alleghenycounty.us/parkpasses](http://alleghenycounty.us/parkpasses).

## 5K Races

Are you a runner? Looking for some motivation to reach your goal? Sign up for these area 5K races for a little friendly competition.

**Glow 5K Run & Walk, July 3, 9:15 p.m., pre-party 8 p.m.**, starts/finishes at Beaver Grade and Ewing intersection, after party follows, glow sticks, black light photo booth, great music, dancing, neon face painting, awards, [www.moonparks.org/5K](http://www.moonparks.org/5K).

**North Fayette Township Community Days 5K, Aug. 4**, Donaldson Park, awards, \$10 entry fee, **race starts 9 a.m.**, one-mile kids' run and family fun walk coincides, register at community center, (724) 307-3725.



The Findlay Township Semi-Great Race is a hilly course that starts off in the woodlands section of the park. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

**Findlay Township Semi-Great Race, Aug. 17**, starts and finishes at Findlay Township Community Park, **race starts 7 p.m.** in woodlands section, hilly course, \$10 entry fee, awards, two-mile fun walk coincides, [dlarson@findlaytwp.org](mailto:dlarson@findlaytwp.org), (724) 695-0500.

**Heitz of Heaven 5K, Aug. 25, starts 9 a.m.**, RMU Island Sports Center, level course along river, music, auction, food, drinks, \$25, benefits Heitz 61 Memorial Foundation, [runsignup.com/Race/PA/Pittsburgh/heitzofHeaven5KRunWalk](http://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Pittsburgh/heitzofHeaven5KRunWalk).

## Color Run

It doesn't really matter where you place in this one-mile fun run that ambles along a one-mile route in the woodlands section of Findlay Township Park. The point is to wear white and walk slow while getting doused with the maximum amount of colorful cornstarch-based powder. If you do go ahead and finish the race too quickly, don't worry, because a color blowout follows on the baseball field near the Oriole Pavilion. Spectators can watch from the bleachers but won't have nearly as much fun.

The fun takes place **July 29. Registration begins at 6 p.m.** at the Oriole Pavilion and the **run starts around 7 p.m.** See page 41 for registration information.



## Take a hike (or bike)!

Surveys have shown that, compared to state and national parks, people tend to use the parks and trails that are closest to their homes the most.

For people living in the airport area, that's no surprise, as there are plenty of such hiking and biking trail options. Thanks to several sections of the Montour Trail that were completed in the last few years, it's now possible to hike or bike a whopping 36 continuous miles from Coraopolis to Library or Bethel Park. Because the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stocks Montour Run with trout, there's also decent fishing, at least through the spring. Check out [montourtrail.org](http://montourtrail.org) for a map.

Prefer a paved surface instead of crushed limestone? Head to the Arrowhead section of the Montour Trail in Peters Township or visit the Panhandle Trail in Washington County. Starting in McDonald, the trail is paved all the way to the state line, making for a nice 17.3-mile ride. Free parking is available at the McDonald Trail Station. For more, visit [panhandletrail.org](http://panhandletrail.org) and [www.mcdonaldtrailstation.com](http://www.mcdonaldtrailstation.com).

Check out sights like this along forest trails blazed by the Hollow Oak Land Trust. PHOTO BY SARAH KIZINA



The Panhandle Trail is now paved from McDonald all the way to the state line. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

If you want to hike back in the woods, or get your mountain bike tires dirty, head to the Montour Woods and take on the Hollow Oak Land Trust trails. The trailhead is located off Hassam Road and trails range from easy to intermediate. The trails also connect with Moon Township trails that explore Moon Park. Visit [hollowoak.org](http://hollowoak.org) for more.

For trail maps of Moon Township's Robin Hill, Olson and Moon parks, visit [www.moonparks.org/trails/index.asp](http://www.moonparks.org/trails/index.asp).

Want to view some beautiful gardens while hiking? Check out the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden just outside of Oakdale. Visit [pittsburghbotanicgarden.org](http://pittsburghbotanicgarden.org) for more. Settlers Cabin Park and Raccoon Creek State Park also offer plenty of trails. Visit their websites for trail maps and more.

# Boyce Mayview Park Youth Triathlon

## Saturday, July 28, 2018

### 7:30am - 9:00am



COMMUNITY & RECREATION CENTER  
AT BOYCE MAYVIEW PARK

### Boys & Girls Ages 7-12

Ages 7, 8 & 9: Swim 75 yards, bike 1 mile, run 0.5 mile  
Ages 10, 11 & 12: Swim 125 yards, bike 2 miles, run 1 mile

Fee(s): \$33.50 per athlete (Until June 1)  
\$38.50 per athlete (June 2 - July 25)

Please visit our website for event details:  
[www.twpusc.org/crc/special\\_events](http://www.twpusc.org/crc/special_events)

### Need help training?

We offer a 4-week course that will cover each component of the race: running, biking, swimming, and a mini triathlon.

Tuesdays 1:30-2:30pm, July 3-24  
\$25 C&RC Members / \$30 Non-Members



Community & Recreation Center at Boyce Mayview Park

1551 Mayview Road, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241 • 412-221-1099 • [www.twpusc.org/crc/crc-home](http://www.twpusc.org/crc/crc-home)

## Get Outdoors

### Fly with the Greater Pittsburgh Aero Radio Control Society

Ever wanted to learn how to fly a model airplane? Then stop by the Kirkland Leroy Irvis Radio Control Model Airport at 80 Model Airport Road in Burgettstown **any Thursday at 5 p.m.** (so long as the weather is nice) and meet up with members of the Greater Pittsburgh Aero Radio Control Society. Since the mid-1970s, model airplane enthusiasts have been flying planes at the airstrip, which is situated in the middle of Hillman State Park. GPARCS members are happy to lend a hand to help prospective members get started in the hobby. The airstrip's remote location also means there aren't any overhead power lines or buildings to obstruct flight paths. Visit [www.gparcs.org](http://www.gparcs.org) for more.

### Parade your pet

Are you a pet lover? Then show off your four-legged companion at Robinson Township's pet parade, which takes place **June 16, 10 a.m.-noon** at Settlers Ridge. There will be awards for best pet/owner likeness, best costume and best sports enthusiast. This pet-friendly event will also have kid-friendly activities and Robinson Township Library will be hosting a kid's craft corner. The **parade kicks off at 10 a.m.** and a \$10 donation per pet supports pets in need. For tickets, visit [township-of-robinson.ticketleap.com](http://township-of-robinson.ticketleap.com) or email [jTallon@townshipofrobinson.com](mailto:jTallon@townshipofrobinson.com).



Part of the fun at Robinson Township's pet parade is the contest for best costume. PHOTO BY JANE TALLON

### Visiting Mother Nature

A Beginner's Guide to Off-the-Grid RVing

Brian M. Wargo

### Learn how to ditch the RV park

Do you like RVing or ever thought about buying an RV but aren't crazy about staying in an RV park? Then check out this new book by local author Brian Wargo of Robinson Township. "Visiting Mother Nature: A Beginner's Guide to Off-the-Grid RVing" is a 12-part book that takes prospective and current RV owners through the process of purchasing and outfitting an RV to go off the grid so they can camp in those remote locations usually only visited by tent campers. The book covers both the technical aspects and ethics of off-the-grid RVing.

Wargo knows plenty about the subject. The Freedom Area science teacher has visited hundreds of national parks with his wife and children. He's also a finalist for Pennsylvania teacher of the year honors.

The book is available in paperback and digital download on Amazon.com.

### Check out these programs at the McDonald Sportsmen's Association

Located on nearly 200 acres just outside of downtown McDonald, the McDonald Sportsmen's Association boasts numerous firing ranges, a pond for fishing, archery ranges and more. Usually, the club's amenities are only open to members, but it is open to the public on certain days throughout the summer and fall. Public events include groundhog and peeking groundhog competitive target shoots. There's also an educational trapping course in August and a regular monthly bullseye league competition. A fly tiers guild starts meeting in the fall. For upcoming public events, see below. Youth events are free for anyone 18 and under. The club's YouthFest program on **June 23** includes a .22 pistol and rifle shoot, an archery shoot, and fishing. Participants also shoot muzzleloaders and are served lunch, complimentary of the club.

For more, check out [mcdonaldsportsmen.com](http://mcdonaldsportsmen.com) or call (724) 796-2271.

**Bulls Eye League, second Fridays, 7-9 p.m.**

**Fly Tiers Guild, third thursdays, September-April, 7-9 p.m.**

**Youthfest, June 23.**

**Gun Bash, Aug. 18.**



**Bench Rest Rifle, Aug 5, Oct. 7, registration 7-8 a.m.**

**Groundhog Shoot, June 24, July 29, Aug. 19, Sept. 23, registration 7-8 a.m.**

**Peeking Groundhog Shoot, July 1, Sept. 2, registration 7-8 a.m.**

**Trapper Safety Class, Aug. 25, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

## KICK OFF YOUR DANCE TRAINING!



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Classes in all genres, for all ages! Come dance with us this Summer!  
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VISIT: [WWW.THOMASDANCE.COM](http://WWW.THOMASDANCE.COM)

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WATERFALLS

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN**



Designed and Built by K Morris Landscape Design

Photo Credit: Steve Skarupa

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**Janoski's Farm  
WINE FESTIVAL &  
FARM TO FORK BUFFET**

**Saturday, July 21, 2018**

**3 - 8 pm**

**\$39 per person**

**\$49 at Gate**

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at Eventbrite:**

[janoskiwinefestival2018.eventbrite.com](http://janoskiwinefestival2018.eventbrite.com)

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at Janoski's Farm Market**

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By the Lake**

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**[www.janoskis.com](http://www.janoskis.com)**

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in western Allegheny County

**Adult Only Event ~ 21+ only admitted ~ Valid I.D. required at gate  
Carry-In Food/Alcohol or Pets Not Permitted**

A portion of proceeds  
benefits Beaver County  
Humane Society



## Show off your ride at these cruises, or just show up to drool

Whether you restore classic cars, tune imports or just like gawking at custom rides, these car cruises are for you. Awards entitle winners to bragging rights but the real fun is getting up close to these great cars and talking with customizers. Cruises are free to spectators. Many benefit good causes.



SNPJ Car Cruises feature a level lot, a variety of cars and an air conditioned club room. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

### SNPJ Lodge 106 Car Cruises

The SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial is once again hosting its monthly car cruises this summer. Cars range from high-end sports cars to rebuilt classic muscle cars and everything in between. It's also popular with car clubs and bikes are welcome. The lot is level and paved. The club even opens its air-conditioned club and bar room for cruises. There's also live music and dash plaques for the first 50 cars.

Be sure to stop by **July 22**, when the club will be partnering with the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce to host a community expo for local businesses. The expo is free for businesses and gives them a chance to show off their goods and services to the public. Call Lodge 106 Secretary Shelly Botwright at (412) 498-3557 to reserve a table. A \$25 deposit is required that will be refunded during the event. Donated goods and services will be auctioned off during the cruise.

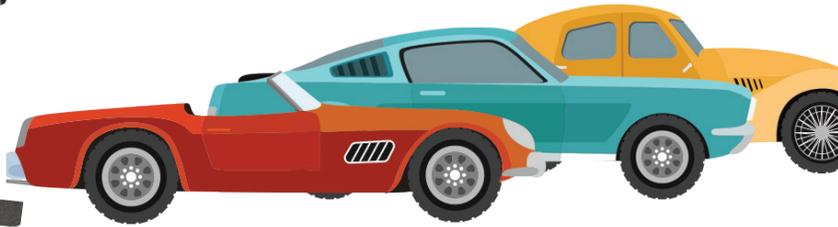
Have any other questions? Call (724) 695-1411 or visit [www.snjimperialpa.com](http://www.snjimperialpa.com). Here's a complete schedule:

**July 22**, The GRID Band

**Aug. 26**, Elvis Lives: A Tribute to the King, Smokin' Jacks BBQ

**Sept. 16**, Black and Gold Car Cruise, details TBA.

**Paradise Island Bowl, 5 p.m., Tuesdays**, Paradise Island Bowling on Neville Island, oldies music, (412) 537-7447.



## Take in a race at Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway

Racers have been entertaining families at Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway in Imperial since the late 1970s. Once located in Heidelberg, the track moved to the area after its former site was sold and destined to become a shopping mall. The Miley family started operating the track in the mid-1980s and continues to do so today. PPMS, meanwhile, continues to be a destination for racecar drivers and enthusiasts. Races on the half-mile, oval dirt track regularly give families some affordable fun on **Saturday nights through Oct. 6**. Check out upcoming race dates on page 31 and visit [ppms.com](http://ppms.com) for a complete schedule.

Super late models race around the dirt track at Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY



**PITTSBURGH'S Affordable Family Fun**

170 Kelso Road, Imperial, PA 15126, Noblestown Exit of Rt. 22

**PENNSYLVANIA MOTOR SPEEDWAY** 724-695-3363 or 0393

June 16	"Outlaw" Winged 410 Sprints, Diehl Automotive Summer Sizzler, and more
June 23	Monster Mania 2018 Monster Truck Show
June 24	Monster Mania 2018 Monster Truck Show
June 30	Herb Scott Memorial featuring the Hoosier Super Late Models, plus more
July 7	"Modified Madness" featuring Elite Modified Series, Vintage Modifieds, RUSH Sportsman Modifieds, and more
July 14	Red Miley Rumble featuring the Ultimate Super Late Model Series, plus more
July 21	Tony Stewart's Artic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions Sprint Cars presented by Falcon's Moon Township Automotive
July 28	B.O.S.S. "Outlaw" 140 Winged Sprints
Aug. 4	Action Event featuring Diehl Automotive RUSH Late Model Dirt Series
Aug. 11	KIDS FEST PITTSBURGH 2018 and Jook George Steel City Classic
Aug. 18	Penn Ohio Pro Stock Championship Series "Wee" Willie White Memorial
Aug. 25	Celussy Chevrolet Night featuring Ohio Sprint Car Series
Regular Race Night • Special Event	

**Every Saturday/Night April through September**

**Log on to [www.ppms.com](http://www.ppms.com) for more schedules and special offers!**

## Wheels, Wings and Wishes

This car show and fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation was started three years ago by locals who thought it would be nice to take "Wish Kids" on a spin in a show car. Each year since it's gotten bigger, to the point that the event attracted 700 attendees last year, including 18 Wish Kids. It also raised \$13,600 for the foundation.

This year, the event is moving to Moon Township Park for the first time, giving it more than ample room and access to the park's amphitheater. Plans are to have multiple live bands throughout the day on **June 24 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.** A suggested donation of \$5 per car is requested. Email [Wheelswingswishes@gmail.com](mailto:Wheelswingswishes@gmail.com) for more.

**Oakdale VFD Mega Cruise, July 24, 6-10 p.m.**, downtown Oakdale, coincides with hose company fair, live music, food, drinks, carnival games, [arlenesnatchko@comcast.net](mailto:arlenesnatchko@comcast.net).

**North Fayette Township Car Cruise, Aug. 5, 12-4 p.m.**, Donaldson Park, benefits police department, [sleslie@north-fayette.com](mailto:sleslie@north-fayette.com).

**Rosedale Technical College's Third Annual Car Show, Aug. 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**, 215 Beecham Drive, free to attend and register, family-friendly event, [www.rosedaletech.org/car-show/](http://www.rosedaletech.org/car-show/).

**Moon VFD Car Cruise, Aug. 26, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.**, Moon Park, bikes welcome, food, beverages, live entertainment, benefits VFD, [leebilby@mtvfc](mailto:leebilby@mtvfc).

**Robinson's Fourth Annual Car Cruise, Oct. 6, noon-4 p.m.**, Robinson Town Centre, \$5/car, benefits Robinson Township parks, oldies by DJ Dan, first 150 cars receive dash plaques, first 200 cars guaranteed a space, register day of event.

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\*100% of profits benefit Holy Trinity Catholic School

## North Fayette Township Community Days

# ★ 2018 ★

### Friday, August 3 - Sunday, August 5

**Friday, August 3, 2018**  
Kickoff Parade - Steubenville Pike at Logan Road to former Hankey Farms Pool Parking Lot.....**6:30pm**

**Saturday, August 4, 2018 - Amphitheater  
Parking Lot at Donaldson Community Park**  
5K Race Registration - North Fayette Community Center.....**7:30am**  
5K Race - North Fayette Community Center.....**9am**  
Kids 1 Mile Run and 1 Mile Family Fun Walk - North Fayette Community Center.....**9:05am**  
Entertainment provided by DJ Dan  
.....**1pm - 2:30pm & 4pm - 5pm**  
Petting Zoo, Delicious Food, Vendor Booths & Games, and Kids' Play Area/Inflatables (Must purchase \$5.00 Wristbands for Kids' Play Area/Inflatables).....**2pm - 9:45pm**  
Tuika's Polynesian Island Magic (Two Musicians, Two Dancers, Fire Dance, and a Coconut Husking Demonstration) at the Amphitheater...**2:30pm-4pm**  
Family Fun Zone Entertainment -  
Face Painting, Airbrush Tattoos, and Balloon Artist  
.....**3:30pm-6:30pm**  
Barnyard Petting Zoo and Pony Rides at the Dog Park.....**5pm - 7pm**  
Dave Iglar Band at the Amphitheater.....**5pm-7pm**  
North Fayette Police Department Demonstration with K-9 Nevo at the Brindle Baseball Field ....**7pm**  
Township Roads Band at the Amphitheater  
.....**8pm - 10pm**  
Fireworks by Zambelli. ....**10pm**

**Sunday, August 5, 2018**  
Car Cruise at Donaldson Park.....**12pm - 4pm**  
*Featuring DJ Dan, 50/50 raffle, People's Choice 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies, Dash Plaques for the first 100 participants, and food available for purchase from Smokin' Jack's.*

**Proceeds benefit the  
North Fayette Township Police Programs.**

★★★ 2018 Community Day Sponsors ★★★

Thomas-Little Funeral Service, Inc. Espresso Employment Professionals Duerr Packaging Co., Inc.  
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**Events hosted by the North Fayette Township  
Parks and Recreation Board**



Want to keep the kids busy this summer? Check out these camps, which offer a range of times, venues and activities.

### Rock Summer Day Camp

The Rock Youth and Family Center in downtown Oakdale will be hosting a summer camp for children in grades one through five from **June 18 through Aug. 10**. There are also some limited spots for children entering kindergarten. Registration is available for any of those weeks. Campers will get to participate in games, science projects, cooking, crafts, reading projects, Bible lessons a talent show and more.

**Hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** and extended hours are available from **7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.** for an additional \$25 per family. Full-time rates (three to five days) are \$110 per week and part-time rates (one or two days) are \$55 per week. Discounts are available for members. Call Kevin Hancock at (412) 523-5449 or email rockdaycamp\_oakdale@yahoo.com to register.

### North Fayette Summer Camps

North Fayette Township is offering two different camps this summer. One of those camps is an all-day summer camp for grades one through eight that includes structured

playtime at the North Fayette's beautiful new community center in Donaldson Park. There are also field trips, swimming days and other excursions. As well, a Kit Camp is being offered for 4- and 5-year-olds on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m.-noon**. For more, visit [www.north-fayette.com](http://www.north-fayette.com) or call (724) 307-3725.

### Carnegie Science Center On the Road

Findlay Township will once again host the Carnegie Science Center's Science on the Road programs in July and August. These hour-long programs engage attendees in STEM disciplines through hands-on discovery. Grade levels range from K to six and courses range from bubble science to robotics. See page 53 for a complete course listing and registration information.

### YMCA summer day camps

The YMCA offers a number of day camps throughout the summer with themes like superhero carnival, Hawaiian hoopla, gold mine, mythical creatures and more. Camps provide a safe and enriching environment that encourages campers to participate in healthy and developmentally appropriate activities. Stop into the Western Area YMCA or call (412) 787-9622 for more. Space is limited.

### Evening camps at The Landing

Earlier this year, Impact Christian Church opened the doors to its new community center, The Landing, to the public. Formerly the Airport Ice Arena, Impact renovated the space into a multi-use center with an indoor tennis field, basketball court, meeting space and more.

This summer, Impact is offering several evening camps throughout the **week of June 25**, including baseball/softball, basketball, dance/cheer, photography/multimedia, golf, karate, soccer and even woodworking. The camp is open to grades one through six and takes place **6-8:30 p.m.** Register at: [impactpittsburgh.com/get-involved/](http://impactpittsburgh.com/get-involved/).

### CCAC Youth Camps

CCAC is offering a number of different camps for grades one through 12 at their West Hills campus in **July**. For the most part, camps are either in the morning or afternoon and geared toward different age groups. Camps for the youngsters range from coding, to art, to Spanish, to science. For students in middle school, courses include a math clinic, an interior design course and a self-defense class. For teens, CCAC is offering classes on creative writing, career exploration and SAT preparation, among others. For a full list, visit [shopcommunityed.ccac.edu/Courses/Youth\\_Programs.aspx](http://shopcommunityed.ccac.edu/Courses/Youth_Programs.aspx). For questions, call Rachel Sweet-Boring, CCAC program coordinator, at (412) 788-7535.

# YOUTH SPORTS & CAMPS AT SETTLERS CABIN PARK



Soccer: Ages 2-8



T-Ball: Ages 2-5



Dek Hockey Clinics: Ages 4-12



Dek Hockey Camp: Ages 6-12



Swimming: Ages 4+



Basketball: Ages - 10-17

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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](http://www.north-fayette.com) or call (724) 307-3725 for more information or to register.

**Senior Picnic**, June 16, noon, call to RSVP.

**Community Days**, Aug. 4, Donaldson Park, see page 49 for details.

**Summer Concert Series**, 7:30 p.m., see page 42 for schedule, Donaldson Park Amphitheater.

**Family Cornhole Tournament**, coming in July, for parents with children ages 9-17.

## Sports and Fitness (Adult)

**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.

**INSANITY**, 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, contact [sfox@north-fayette.com](mailto:sfox@north-fayette.com).

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

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

**Water Walking/Water Aerobics**, resume in fall.

## Sports and Fitness (Youth)

**Youth Volleyball Camp**, ages 9-16, Aug. 6-9.

**Developmental Volleyball League**, ages 9-15, through Aug. 15.

**Youth Wiffleball**, ages 6-11, through July 19.

**Tennis Lessons**, ages 5-17, through July 26.

## P.A.L.S.

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

## Camps

Register by Monday prior. Email [nkreutzman@north-fayette.com](mailto:nkreutzman@north-fayette.com). See page 50 for more.

**Summer Camp**, grades one through eight, through Aug. 17.

**Kits Camp**, ages 4-5, through Aug. 10.

## 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@findlaytpw.org](mailto:dlarson@findlaytpw.org), unless otherwise indicated. Programs take place at the Findlay Township Community Center unless otherwise indicated.

**Yoga for Beginners (and Beyond)**, Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$5/class, (724) 695-1976.

**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@dtstd.net](mailto:info@dtstd.net).

**Food Truck Thursdays**, last Thursdays, Findlay Township Municipal Lot, schedule: **June 28** - Evil Swine BBQ, Bubbas Dawgs, Kona Ice; **July 26** - South Side BBQ, Las Chicas, Sugar and Spice; **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.

**Semi-Super Morning Bingos**, June 29, Sept. 28, doors open 9 a.m., bingo starts 10 a.m., \$10/packet, additional packets \$5, \$1 overall jackpots, daubers available to purchase, regular games pay \$20, specials \$50, jackpot is 100% of what is sold.

**Ice Cream for All**, July 13, 6-8 p.m., Pavilion at the Recreation & Sports Complex, enjoy an ice cream social with a variety of toppings during National Ice Cream Month, free face painting, registration required, \$2/person, ages 3 and under free.

**Color Run**, July 29, 7 p.m., see page 41.

**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](mailto:michellekoestercm@comcast.net), \$60, includes lunch, dinner, beverages.

**Farm to Table Dinner**, ages 21+, Aug. 1, 6:30 p.m., chef James Strain prepares a four-course meal with fresh produce and fruit from local farms, BYOB, space limited, menu (with pairing suggestions): Appetizer - Chevre (Goat) Cheese Bruschetta w/Roasted Tomatoes and Onion - pair with Sauvignon Blanc or Malbec; Salad - Fresh Field Greens, Grape Tomatoes, Red Onion, Bacon, Gorgonzola (bleu) Cheese & Balsamic Vinegar - pair with chilled rose or sauvignon blanc; Entrée - Chicken & Mushrooms with Marsala Cream, Rosemary Red Skin Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetable - pair with room temperature pinot noir or chilled chardonnay; Dessert - English Trifle - pair with chilled sweet Riesling, Moscato d'Asti or Prosecco; \$30/person, reservations and payment due July 25.



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## Findlay Parks and Rec. Carnegie Science Center Science on the Road Programs

Registration required. Payment due day of class.

### Robotics, Engineering, Technology - STEM

**by the Hour**, grades K-2, **July 17, 10-11 a.m.**, lower level, discover binary code by making a bookmark, communicate with "fellow" robots to get the job done, \$10/child.

**Robots vs. Humans**, grades 3-6, **July 17, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**, master binary code, perform tasks without using your fingers, program a robotic car, \$10/child.

**Preschool Bubble Science**, ages 3-6, **July 31, 11 a.m.-noon**, lower level, explore science with amazing bubbles and bubble blowers, \$5/child.

**Mobile Fab Lab**, grades 3+, **Aug. 2, 10 a.m.-noon**, upper level, Fab Lab instructors lead groups through digital design using 2D or 3D software, make a glider using the 3D printer, use laser and vinyl cutters, more, \$35/child.

### Kids' Cooking Programs

**Summer Lunchtime Kids Cooking Class**, grades K-5, **July 25, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**, lunchtime version of popular afterschool cooking program, register two days prior, payment taken at the class, \$8/class.

**Little Sprouts Cooking Class**, ages 3-5, **July 25, 10-11 a.m.**, hands-on activities get children involved in preparing healthy snacks, registration required, \$6/child.

Check out the **Summer Fun Guide** starting on page 38 for more events happening this summer!



## Montours Presbyterian Church

A Place To Feel Welcomed



3151 Montour Church Rd., Oakdale  
412-787-1050 [www.montourchurch.org](http://www.montourchurch.org)

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

**West Allegheny Class of 1958 Reunion**, Aug. 4, The Cornerstone at Tonidale, bogart1@raex.com, **RSVP by July 5.**

**WA Class of 1968 Reunion**, Sept. 8, SNPJ Lodge 106, Susanheartist@comcast.net, nhartz4201@gmail.com, **RSVP by July 1**, Facebook: West Allegheny Class of '68.

**Oakdale Hose Company Street Carnival**, July 21, 23-28, see page 20.

## Western Area YMCA

195 Montour Run Road, (412) 787-9622, [www.westernarea-y.org](http://www.westernarea-y.org)

**Child Care**, registration for 2018-2019 school year now open, for Montour and West Allegheny school districts, now hiring.

**Summer Day Camp**, registration open.

**Healthy Living**, helps with your summer wellness goals, personal and small group training, teen/tween speed and agility summer programs, Jill Cersosimo, [jcersosimo@ymcapgh.org](mailto:jcersosimo@ymcapgh.org), (412) 489.3231.

**Youth Sports**, call for details, also seeking coaches and volunteers to work with children.

## 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](http://snpjimperialpa.com), [imperialroomsnpj.com](http://imperialroomsnpj.com).

**Bar Bingo**, for members and their guests, **June 21, July 5, 19, Aug. 2, 16**, 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**, see page 48.

**Community Expo**, July 22, starts at noon, exhibitions by local businesses, coincides with cruise, booths available, call for more.

## PA Driver Education Training

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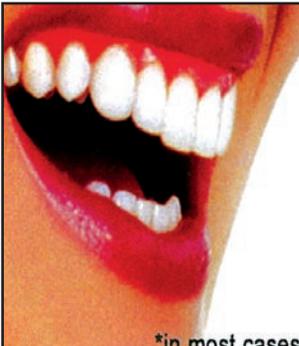
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## Dreams do come true

When Joanne Christy Banal Staley was 47, she decided to go back to school. She was married with six children and thought, "I am 47, in four years I will be 51. I will be 51 and the nurse I have always wanted to be, or I will be a 'paper girl' like I am now," and had been for 15 years.

Opportunity knocked when she saw that Shadyside School of Nursing was offering evening and weekend classes for a four-year certificate in nursing program.

Up to that point, delivering newspapers had been a family occupation. Staley's son, Michael, and daughter, Vanassa, had also both worked delivering newspapers. They delivered the Pittsburgh Press in their hometown of Beechview. Mom, of course, was right alongside.

The Press went on strike in 1992 for eight months. Once the strike was over in January of 1993, big changes were coming. It was decided that no more kids would be delivering papers - they wanted adults. They knocked on Joanne's door and offered her the job. Initially she turned them down but then decided she would give it a try.

Two months later, the blizzard of 1993 hit. Joanne will never forget March 13 of that year.

"I struggled to get the newspapers [in the West End], in the blizzard," she says. "I made it home. My kids and I walked through the freezing wind and snow. We delivered our papers around Beechview."

In 1999, her family and her delivery route moved to Kennedy Township. It turned into a job that worked well with her husband, Mark's, schedule. Joanne started at 2 a.m., picked up the papers to deliver and began delivering five newspapers: the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, USA Today and the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. A lobster-shaped mailbox became a land mark for Joanne. It meant she was halfway done. She would return home just as Mark was ready to leave for his job at 5:30 a.m. A cup of coffee and her mom "route" began.

Through four pregnancies, Joanne delivered papers until her babies were delivered.

"Training someone to take my route for one month was not easy," she says. "One customer wants the paper on the table on the porch, another on a chair."

Customers called to complain that their "paper was in the wrong place."

It was quite a schedule that Joanne the "paper girl" kept, until she fulfilled her dream. In 2012 she began her nursing career and worked for five years at Shadyside Hospital. Now 57, she is a nurse at Ohio Valley Hospital, which is a little closer to home. She says she "loves it." That is quite evident by how well she cares for patients and interacts with the family members of patients.

Her youngest child is 13 and the oldest is 35.

"I had many people look down their nose at my being a 'paper girl,'" says Joanne. "I told myself 'Hold your head up and be proud that you are able to contribute to your family and still be able to be there for family for everything.' It was satisfying knowing any job worth doing is worth doing it to the best of your ability."

Surprisingly, Joanne says that "delivering papers was harder than nursing," but nowhere near as fulfilling.

It's never too late.



Joanne Christy Banal Staley

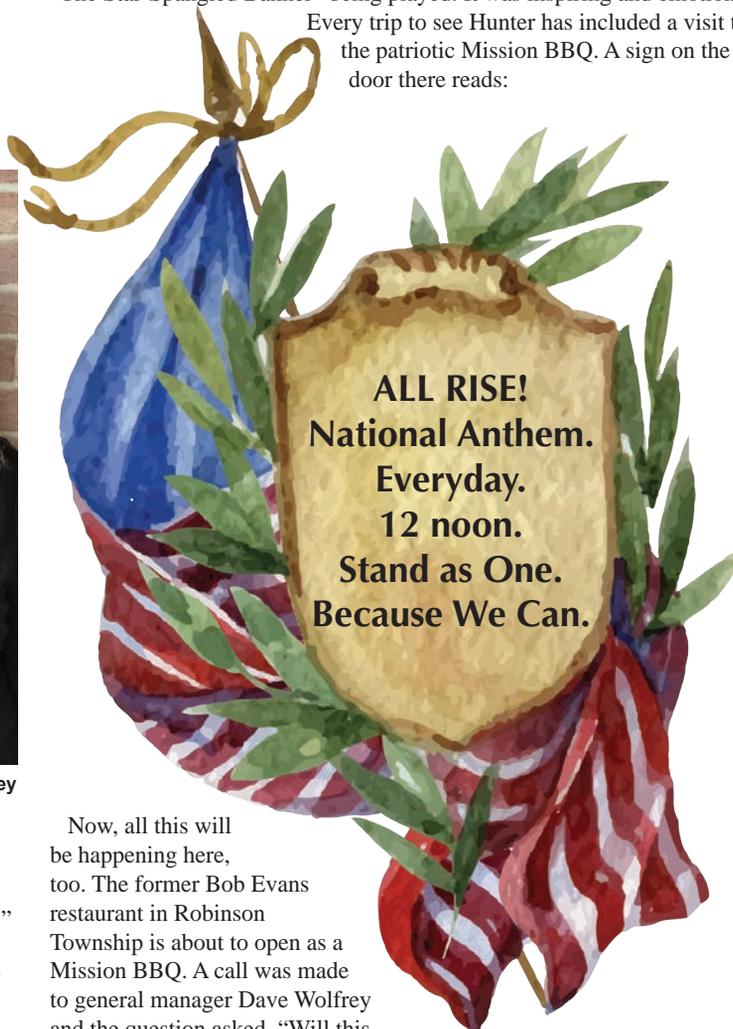
## Because we can

Hunter Evans, a member of the West Allegheny graduating class of 2016, has completed his sophomore year at the University of Richmond.

His father, Rev. Dr. Jim Evans, mother, Denise, and sister, Elisa, have made many road trips to Richmond. "Surprised" is how they described their first experience when they visited the Mission BBQ near the university campus. The sign on the restaurant door had gone unnoticed.

At noon, the televisions were turned off, the staff in the kitchen stopped and everyone in the restaurant stood, hands on hearts, while they sang or listened to the "The Star-Spangled Banner" being played. It was inspiring and emotional.

Every trip to see Hunter has included a visit to the patriotic Mission BBQ. A sign on the door there reads:



Now, all this will be happening here, too. The former Bob Evans restaurant in Robinson Township is about to open as a Mission BBQ. A call was made to general manager Dave Wolfrey and the question asked, "Will this Mission BBQ stop everything and stand for the national anthem?"

"Absolutely!" Dave answered. "Each and every day. It is the greatest two minutes of our day."

Dave and his family live in the Hawthorne housing development in North Fayette Township. They have felt so warmly welcomed and already feel at home.

At noon on June 25, an active member of the military will be outside the restaurant and will sing the national anthem. Ribbons will be cut and Mission BBQ doors will open. It is all about America and those who serve: military, police, fire fighters and first responders.

The Evans family will be there.



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