

WEST ALLEGHENY EDITION

Allegheny West

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 91
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

Magazine

FREE DIRECT MAIL COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

Back 2 School
Pull-Out Calendar

K-9 Officers

&
Rocco's

Law

West Allegheny Workcamp
Brings Hope to Many +

Pittsburgh Botanic
Garden Opens!

Harvesting
the Sun

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WEST ALLEGHENY
SPORTS PREVIEW

WA

Official
West Allegheny
School Newsletter
Page 35

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Allegheny West Magazine - West Allegheny Edition, is an all positive, good news publication mailed free into the homes and businesses of the West Allegheny School District communities of Findlay, North Fayette, Oakdale, Sturgeon, 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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West Allegheny football offensive and defensive lineman Justin Baker (left) and quarterback Andrew Koester (right) lift weights during conditioning workouts

August 1. The back-to-back, WPIAL-winning team is looking to build on last year's success with a healthy roster of returning players. Read more in the West Allegheny Fall Sports Preview on page 24.

PHOTO BY G. PAUL DEBOR

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From the Publisher



Dear Readers,

It seems like only yesterday that it was the first day of summer, but already we're looking ahead to the fall months and back to school time. With that, though, comes fall sports, which was why we thought it a good time to do something we've been wanting to do for a few years now and give readers a preview of the upcoming season. On page 24, we take a look at a seven different fall sports at West Allegheny after talking with coaches and WA Athletic Director Dave McBain.

In this issue, we also profile Dwayne Bauknight, founder of Shared Acres in Clinton. Read about how Bauknight is transforming his sustainable farm into a solar energy grid, and instructing CCAC students about renewable energy, on page 46.

Read also about the official opening of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden on page 54. Straddling North Fayette and Collier townships, this massive natural attraction is now open to the public.

On page 30, read how the West Allegheny Work Camp project utilized teens from seven states to make a difference in the lives of people in our area.

A number of years ago, we profiled Findlay K-9 officer Neil Cridge. Eight years after becoming one of the first departments in the area to utilize a K-9 unit, we look at how the recent Rocco's Law legislation affects him and his police dog, Axel.

As always, we've packed these pages with as much information about your community as possible. I hope you enjoy it, and if you think we missed anything, please let us know.

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor

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serves local causes

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ABOUT THE COVER

Graphic design by Sarah Hughey.

Following delays, Imperial VFD station construction moving right along

Following delays due to poor weather and difficult ground conditions, construction on the new Imperial Volunteer Fire Department on Pine Road is moving along swiftly. By July 28, the outline of the structure had become evident, as the frame's steel beams had been erected, and the rafters and purlins put in place.

Imperial VFD President Bob Lambert says that delays were caused by frozen, and then soggy, ground conditions that made laying the foundation difficult. Significant and late snowfalls put off laying the structure's concrete blocks until mid-July. Once those were put in place, however, it took just a couple weeks to erect the structure's frame.

"Between the cold temperatures and the wet, it caused all kinds of delays. You can't dig into it when it's wet or frozen," says Lambert.

Both Lambert and Speedcraft Steel Buildings Inc. President Julie Hopper, whose company is erecting the steel for the project, said they expect the project to move along swiftly. Speedcraft is working with Airport Contractors on the project.

Once finished, the new structure will sport numerous upgrades from the VFD's current location. New 14-foot doors will be able to accommodate larger apparatuses, and its location off Pine Street will allow fire trucks to make wider turns. Currently, the department is hindered by its location on a narrow street next

to a three-way intersection.

The new 10,400-square-foot building will also provide firemen with about one-third more space, along with energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems. The new building sits about one-third of a mile from its current location. The project is being funded by the Imperial VFD via loans and community support through various fundraising efforts.



Clearview finalizes merger with Tri-State

Clearview Federal Credit Union has merged with Tri-State Federal Credit Union in an agreement that was finalized June 1. As a result, all of Tri-State's nearly 5,500 members became members of Clearview, which reported assets valued at over \$878 million as of June 30.

Clearview will maintain Tri-State's two branches in southwestern Pennsylvania and one in Ohio, bringing the credit union's total number of branches to 20. Tri-State branches will

continue to be staffed by the same employees who have served their members for years.

"I'm pleased to officially welcome all the Tri-State members and employees to our credit union family," said Clearview President and CEO Mark Brennan. "This has been a solid partnership between two credit unions with similar philosophies, and we look forward to serving more members in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region."

Ohio Valley Hospital utilizing robotic-assisted surgery

Dr David Catalane, Dr. Paul Willis and other surgeons at Ohio Valley Hospital are now using state-of-the-art robotic-assisted surgery for a variety of surgical procedures, including gallbladder, hernia and gynecological procedures.

The da Vinci robotic surgical system provides surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including high-definition 3D vision and a magnified view.

"It offers better visualization for the surgeon performing the operation, which adds to better patient safety," said Dr. Willis, who, along with his partner Dr. Catalane, has performed several robotic surgeries. "When you can see in 3D and have crystal clear vision of what's going on, it makes for a better operation."

While referred to as robotic surgery, the da Vinci cannot act on its own. The surgery is performed entirely by a doctor. The surgeon controls the da Vinci system from a console within the operating room, which translates his or her hand movements into smaller, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside the

body.

Potential benefits of da Vinci surgery include minimal scarring and pain, low blood loss, faster recovery, a shorter hospital stay and high patient satisfaction.

Another tool in the arsenal - one that only Ohio Valley Hospital is using in the Pittsburgh region - is Firefly fluorescence imaging. The tool, which has already helped Dr. Catalane and Dr. Willis's patients, provides surgeons with real-time identification of key anatomical landmarks, including bile ducts. A green dye is injected into the bloodstream, and, when illuminated by a laser, the dye glows, showing the path of the blood vessels.

"When performing the surgery, because we were using the Firefly technology, we are able to visualize the bile ducts better," explained Dr. Catalane. "It's great to be on the forefront of using this technology, as it enables us to take better care of our patients."

For more information about robotic-assisted surgery at Ohio Valley Hospital, call (412) 777-6209.

Robotic-assisted surgery ... *close to home.*



Surgeons at Ohio Valley Hospital are now using state-of-the-art robotic-assisted surgery for a variety of procedures including:

- General Surgery
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- Minimal pain
- Low blood loss
- Faster recovery
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PTI holding open house September 27

Pittsburgh Technical Institute will be holding an open house September 27 at 10:30 a.m. Guests can meet PTI faculty, staff and students during hands-on sessions in classrooms and labs. They can also tour the campus, visit on-campus housing, and find out about financial aid. RSVP at www.pti.edu/openhouse.

Family with local roots wins big on national television show

Saving for college can be a challenge for any family with young children. For West Allegheny alumna Andrea Leigh VonHalle (Czyzewicz), class of 1996, that task will be a bit easier thanks to the good fortune of a national television show.

Andrea and her husband, Tony, together with their two-and-a-half-year-old son, Dylan, were selected through auditions to participate in one of eight weeks of the second season of ABC-TV's "Bet on Your Baby." The one-hour show aired locally June 21 on WTAE-TV.

Four parents and their young children participated in the segment. Andrea and Tony remained as the finalists. After winning an initial \$5,000 in the first challenge, they won another \$25,000 in the final challenge, bringing their college savings for Dylan to \$30,000.

The Von Halles live in Los Angeles, where Andrea works as a personal fitness trainer and Tony as an actor.

Andrea is the daughter of John and Pat Jennette of Imperial, and Bill and Patty (Coates) Czyzewicz of Moon Township.

The show can be viewed on ABC.com, "Bet on Your Baby," episode four.

West Allegheny Food Pantry news

From June 22-28, youth groups from seven states descended on the West Allegheny community to help repair homes in the area as part of the first-ever West Allegheny Work Camp. They also donated over 2,000 items to the West Allegheny Food Pantry to help feed approximately 200 families that rely on its services.

The food pantry will be at the Findlay Fair in the Woodlands August 15-16, where it will be giving away a raffle basket.

The pantry now has a brand new website thanks to Maggie Kelly, a senior at West Allegheny High School. Kelly created the website on her own, and was one of a number of West Allegheny students who submitted entries for the website under the direction of teacher Chris Lucas. Visit www.westalleghenyfoodpantry.com for information and updates.

The pantry thanks the community for its continued support through donations of time, money, and non-perishable food items.



ABOVE: Andrea and Tony Von Halle with their son, Dylan. On June 21, the family appeared on ABC-TV's "Bet on Your Baby."



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1-7 pm Registration of Crafts, Needlework, Flowers, Vegetables, Fruits, Canned Goods, Hay & Grain, Antique Farm Equipment

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

2-5 pm Baked Goods Registration
5:30-6:45 pm Registration for Semi-Great Race/Fun Walk in the Oriole Pavilion
6 pm Opening Ceremonies
6:15-7 pm "Clewless" (local youth band)
7 pm START OF SEMI-GREAT RACE/FUN WALK
7:15 pm Seed Spitting Contest (Ages 8-18)
7:30 pm Bake Sale in Falcon Pavilion
7:45 pm Hula Hoop Contest (Ages 5-16)
8:15 pm Presentation of Race Awards
8:30-10 pm "Ruff Creek" (Country)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

10:30 am PARADE / ROUTE 30
11:30 am - 12 pm Imperial Dragon Tang Soo Do Karate School
12-12:30 pm West Allegheny Little Indians Cheerleaders
12:30-1:30 pm "Bob the Ventriloquist"
1:30 pm Needle in the Haystack (ages 2-6)
1:30-2 pm Jonathan Cordle's "School of Rock"
2-2:30 pm White Viper Martial Arts
2:30-3:30 pm Reptile Show (Iceman)
3-5 pm Pedal Pull (Ages 3 to Adult)
5-6 pm "Jack and the Tady Bears" (Polka)
6:15-6:45 pm Youth Pie Eating Contest (ages 8-12 and 13-16)
7-7:30 pm Adult Pie Eating Contest (ages 17 and up)
8:15-10 pm "Occasional Reign" (Dance Band)
10:15 pm FIREWORKS - (Ballfield)

FOR MORE INFO: (724) 695-0500

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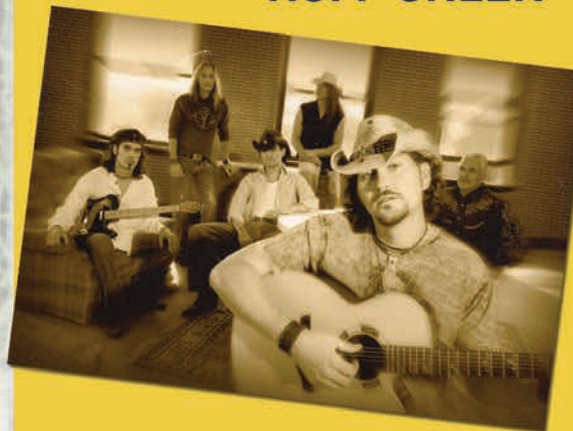
Pony Rides, Dunk Tank

EXHIBIT PICKUP

Saturday, August 16, 8-9 pm
Sunday, August 17, 12-2 pm

FEATURED PERFORMERS:

"RUFF CREEK"



"OCCASIONAL REIGN"



Playing for the president

BY ERMA DODD

It was all over the news: “Local Musicians Meet President Barack Obama.” WTAE, Good Morning America and The Huffington Post all aired the story.

On April 14, Sean Conner, 24, heard Obama was coming to speak at the Community College of Allegheny County that Wednesday. CCAC sits just across the road from the home of Conner and his three friends and band mates, Brett White, 25, Kevin Stripp, 23, and Eric DiFiore, 24. It did not take long for Conner’s mind to kick into high gear and for him to propose that their band play for the President.

“Crazy” was what the others thought of Conner’s idea. He however convinced them it was worth a shot.

A plan quickly came together and the band members decided to each take the day off work. Conner and his girlfriend, Caitlin Corcoran, went shopping for supplies to make a sign that read “Welcome Mr. President!” They hung it above their garage and decided to play their original song “Lumberjack” as the president approached.

Corcoran videotaped the band performing as the president’s motorcade traveled en route to CCAC. With the driveway as their stage and the sun as their spotlight, Comfort Tech’s music traveled up McKee Road and toward the college. White, in the excitement of the moment, confessed to a few wrong notes on his bass guitar. With Conner on guitar and vocals, Stripp on drums and DiFiore on guitar, the four agreed at the time that playing for the motorcade had been an incredible experience.

A few minutes after setting down their instruments, unmarked cars accompanied by police arrived in the band’s driveway. A flurry of nerves came over the them. They wondered if they were in trouble or could be receiving a citation.

All fears vanished, however, when a member of Obama’s press team, escorted by Secret Service agents, told them that the President wanted to meet “the band.” They were to be escorted to the college. Once there, Conner remembers hearing the familiar voice of the president before they saw him, asking, “Where’s Comfort Tech?”

Then came the moment they had only dreamed of - a private meet-and-greet with Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. Obama spent a few minutes with them, doing most of the talking, while the band answered questions about their music. Obama asked if they played blues. Conner responded, “We’ve got the blues in us.” Rock’n roll, blues, country, jazz and gospel; the band explained its wide variety of influences.

A “Kodak” moment followed, as White stood next to Obama, arm in arm for a group photo.

“I will remember this day forever,” White said. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime event.”

Conner said, “It was definitely the best day off from work I’ve ever taken.”

The band says they were impressed with Obama’s kindness and enthusiasm after taking time out of his day to meet with them. For

that, they say they are forever grateful.

“Politics aside,” Conner said, “we had met the leader of the free world.”

Both Conner and White described it as “surreal.”

They say Obama asked for a copy of their CD, which is now available for download on comforttech.bandcamp.com and features 10 of the band’s 30-plus original songs. After the band sent a copy of the White House, they received a reply.

“It was pretty wild receiving a letter with the White House’s return address, and inside the envelope was the official picture of the us with Obama and Biden,” Conner said.

After graduating from West Allegheny, college and military took some band members out of area. While in college, Conner and White played in a gospel band at the Crossroads Church’s East Liberty campus. About two years ago, the band formed when Conner returned to the area after living in New York City.

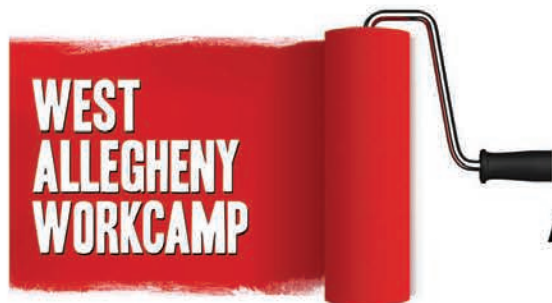


ABOVE: Brett White, Eric DiFiore, Kevin Stripp and Sean Conner of the band Comfort Tech play for President Barack Obama’s motorcade April 14. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Their band’s name came from their practice space - the Pittsburgh Comfort Tech garage - where three out of four band members work. For gigs, they transport their equipment via a Pittsburgh Comfort Tech van, which they say now conveniently has their band’s name on it.

Since meeting Obama, the band has played live on the WDVE Morning Show, booked a gig at a popular New York City music venue, and were a featured band at the Oakdale firemen’s street fair.

“All the publicity was secondary to meeting our president,” Conner said. “He is the coolest guy in the world. Basically our lives are music. We work our day jobs, but our ‘living’ is music, so it was pretty amazing that we got to share that with President Obama.”



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Because of your support, we raised \$48,000 and engaged the efforts of 440 teen and adult volunteers to repair 70+ local homes.

Findlay celebrates Independence Day with pavilion ribbon cutting

Findlay Township held a ceremonial ribbon cutting to open its newly built pavilion July 3 as part of its annual Independence Day celebration at the Recreation and Sports Complex.

Throughout the day, residents got an up-close look at the new pavilion, which is currently the largest in the area. At 30 by 84 feet, the \$419,000 structure features numerous amenities and enough space to seat 165 people. It also houses a full kitchen with stainless steel appliances, a gas range and stove, bathrooms, lights, running water and a grill.

Project managers Gary Klingman and John O'Neal oversaw construction of the pavilion, kitchen facilities and restrooms. CBF Contracting was the general contractor, and Valley Electric completed the electrical work. Newman Plumbing was responsible for all of the plumbing. Public works employees erected the structure, paved the walkways and expanded the parking lot.

The new pavilion is available for rent through October 31. The cost to residents is \$175 with the kitchen and \$100 without. For nonresidents, the cost is \$250 with the kitchen and \$150 without. A \$100 refundable security deposit is required. To reserve the pavilion, go online at www.findlay.pa.us.

ABOVE RIGHT: Findlay Township Supervisor Ray Chappell, vice chairperson Janet Craig and manager Gary Klingman perform a ribbon cutting in front of Findlay's new pavilion at the Recreation and Sports Complex July 3.



West Allegheny alumna applying hometown lessons to big-time politics

BY JOCELYN GRECKO
PHOTO SUBMITTED

In the last few presidential elections, the swing state of Pennsylvania has played a pivotal role in determining the country's next president. In a state that tends to attract the attention of the country while indicating the pulse of it, the state has also shown that values matter when it comes to big picture politics. West Allegheny native Ashlee Rich Stephenson has taken that notion a step further by taking her western Pennsylvania roots to the nation's capital as a partner with the national Republican political consulting firm New Strategies Group.

Ashlee, a 2001 graduate of West Allegheny High School, explained that she has always felt professionally driven to work in the field of campaign politics.

"I specifically remember the 2000 recall," she explained. "Politics has always been a part of my life."

Whether watching as her father ran for a local school board seat years ago, or serving on a much larger stage as polling director for Mayor Rudy Giuliani's presidential campaign, Rich finds passion and purpose in helping others achieve their political aspirations.

She has since turned that passion into a career, and has additional stints under her belt at the Republican National Committee and with the leading GOP polling firm The Tarrance Group. Today, she serves as general consultant with New Strategies Group, working with candidates running for political office across the country. Their client roster includes Gov. Mary Fallin of Oklahoma and Iowa's promising U.S. Senate nominee Joni Ernst, among others.



"This is absolutely my passion," she said.

Rich sees sharing her passion with others as a chance to make a difference.

"We are dedicated to helping people who are going to make the country better," she explained.

Political campaigns are undoubtedly challenging, but Rich finds it rewarding as she works with candidates hoping to win tough seats and send republicans both to Washington, D.C and state government. In addition, Ashlee was most recently recognized by *Campaigns and Elections Magazine* as a member of their 2014 Class of Rising Stars.

Political campaigns test the talent, character, and experience of all those involved. Rich has demonstrated that regardless of the outcome, she is able to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

"Sometimes the best person in the race doesn't win," she said, reflecting on losses she has experienced."

She adds, though, that "hard work eventually always pays off."

She credits much of her professional success to her roots, including her time spent in the West Allegheny community.

"I always keep two things in mind," she explained, "loyalty and hard work...these are values that were instilled in me a long time ago. They come from my West Allegheny roots, and I believe they are values that take us a long way in life."

The Pittsburgh Pro Performance Centre'

Fall Schedule 2014-15

Classes Start August 11th

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MONDAYS			
	DANCE		GYM
4:30-5:30	* Intermediate Ballet/Contemporary with Chelsea (Ages 10 & Up)	4:30-5:30	Elite Team Practice (Per Coaches Request)
5:30-6:15	Intermediate Tap with Chelsea (Ages 10 & Up)	5:30-6:30	Beginner Gymnastics (Ages 6-11)
6:15-7:15	Intermediate Jazz/Hip Hop with Chelsea (Ages 10 & Up)	6:30-7:30	Intermediate Gymnastics (Ages 6-11)
		7:30-8:30	Advanced Gymnastics (Must have back tucks)
TUESDAYS			
4:30-5:15	Lyrical/Contemporary with Laura (Ages 8-12)	4:30-8:00	All-Star Cheerleading (Per Try Out)
5:15-6:15	Jazz/Hip Hop with Laura (Ages 8-12)		
6:15-7:15	Competitive Jazz with Laura (Ages 8-12) (By Auditions Only)		
7:15-8:45	Advanced Ballet/Contemporary/Jazz with Jocelyn (Ages 12 & Up)	7:30-8:30	Recreational Cheerleading
WEDNESDAYS			
5:00-5:45	Ballet/Tap with Rachael (Ages 3-4)	4:45-5:45	Intermediate Gymnastics (Ages 9 & Up)
5:45-6:30	Advanced Tap with Chelsea (Ages 11 & Up)	5:45-6:30	Pre-School Gymnastics (Ages 3-5)
6:30-7:30	Advanced Competitive Hip Hop with Chelsea (Ages 12 & Up)	6:30-7:30	Beginner Gymnastics (Ages 6-11)
		7:15-8:15	Elite Pre-Team Practice (Per Coaches Request)
THURSDAYS			
4:30-5:30	Ballet/Tap with Darcie (Ages 5-7)	4:30-6:00	Elite Pre-Team Gymnastics (Per Coaches Request)
5:30-6:30	Jazz/Hip Hop with Darcie (Ages 5-7)	6:00-8:00	Elite Team Practice (Per Coaches Request)
6:30	Ballet Co. with Darcie (By Auditions Only)	7:00-8:00	Advanced Gymnastics (Must have back tucks)
SATURDAYS			
10:00-11:30	Ballet Co with Darcie (By Auditions Only)	10:00-11:00	Inter/Adv Gym (Ages 8 & Up) Must have a backhand spring
11:30-12:30	Ballet Co/Contemporary	11:00-1:00	Elite Pre-Team Gymnastics (Per Coaches Request)
12:30-1:15	Intermediate Tap with Darcie (Ages 8 & Up)	11:00-2:00	Elite Team Practice (Per Coaches Request)
1:15-2:15	Intermediate Ballet with Darcie (Ages 8 & Up)		

Raccoon Woman's Club celebrates 60 years



The Raccoon Woman's Club celebrated its 60-year anniversary June 12 with a luncheon at Peter's Pub in Bridgeville. The group was first organized in 1954 by 11 women in the community, with Zoe Lewis as its first president. Lewis was born in November of 1889, and was the mother-in-law to more recent member Pat Lewis. The group now consists of 26 women.

A luncheon meeting is held once a month at a member's home, a local restaurant or church. Through the club, members have supported the community in various ways. They regularly sponsor two clients from the Allegheny Valley School, participate in the Findlay Township light-up celebration, and help families in their times of need.

Each club member chooses another to be their secret pal, and the two exchange cards and gifts throughout the year. Current members of the club are: Constance Purdy (president), Bobbi Halm (vice president), Nancy Ankrom (secretary), Jean Whipkey (treasurer), Ingrid Augustine, Judy Bolind, Elsie Boustead, Anna Lou Burgess, Rose Gallie, Kathy Hughes, JoAnn Janoski, Patty Janoski, Carole Koerbel, Mert Kotun, Emmalu Kovak, Margaret McMichael, Flo Metz, Jinny Pfeiffer, Sandy Russell, Diane Schultz, Ginny Strouss, Phyllis Sueher, Carol Toogood, Caroline Traud and Mabel Wilson.

Those attending the 60-year celebration (pictured above) included 26 current members, past members and guests.

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The Mall at Robinson unveils electric car charging stations

The Mall at Robinson continued to follow up on its commitment to sustainability by unveiling four electric car-charging stations in front of its food court July 24. Joining mall general manager Beth Edwards for an official ribbon cutting were Root Sports Pittsburgh television sportscaster Paul Steigerwald, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Pennsylvania state Rep. Nick Kotik, and several other regional officials (pictured right).

The new stations, which are free to guests, are offset by the power of new solar energy panels installed above the mall's food court entrance. The Mall at Robinson partnered with Green Roads Energy, LLC and Day & Night Solar to install the panels. The car chargers were donated by Wesco and Eaton.

"This collaboration helps us continue our sustainable journey and further reduce our carbon footprint," said Edwards. "Equally important, we are able to educate our shoppers about the impact of choices, such as choosing a hybrid vehicle and utilizing solar energy."

According to Edwards, the mall made a serious and binding commitment to sustainability shortly after opening by embracing a comprehensive sustainable development strategy. Over the last nine years, the mall has saved timber resources equal to 21,893 mature trees, 4,732 cubic yards of landfill airspace, 596,397

gallons of oil, 9,014,600 gallons of water and enough electric power to supply more than 466 homes for an entire year.

Shoppers who use the chargers 10 times will have a chance at winning a \$25 gift card. Guests can snap a picture of their car charging and post it on The Mall at Robinson's Facebook page with the tag #ParktoPrize @MallatRobinson, or check in at Guest Services.



Horse rescue foundation brightens day for disabled residents

On July 19, Sharon and Ed Allison of the Promises Never Broken Foundation visited a Citizen Care facility in Oakdale with their miniature pony Clyde. Many residents at the facility are bound to wheelchairs and have suffered the loss of sight or speech. During the visit, dubbed the Kentucky Derby celebration, residents got to interact with Clyde. One was so moved by the experience that they were brought to tears.

Clyde was rescued by PNB, which is run by the Allisons on Hendzel's Stony Hill Farm in North Fayette Township. Sharon and Ed rescue horses whose owners are no longer able to care for them. PNB is currently home to nine horses. Two more are expected to arrive in the near future. Clyde was recently adopted, but then sadly returned when the adoptive family was unable to

keep him.

In addition to interacting with residents, children of employees of the facility got to ride Clyde, and everyone enjoyed a cake with Clyde's picture on it.

On September 6, PNB will hold a benefit at Beaver Creek State Park. Attendees are encouraged to bring their horses and to enjoy riding the trails. The event will include a spaghetti dinner, Chinese auction, deejay, karaoke, children's games and more. The event is open to the public. Questions can be directed to Sharon Allison at (724) 554-8913.

For more on PNB, see the *Allegheny West Magazine* feature in the February 2012 edition.

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Little Mudders event benefits Make-A-Wish

On July 13, Ernie and Jan Leopold welcomed the second annual Little Mudders Celebration - a fun and muddy obstacle run for children ages two through 11 - to their property outside of Imperial. The event, organized by Imperial resident Jena Turner, attracted over 50 children to race for a good cause on the Leopold's 14-acre property. While making the most of the partly rainy, partly sunny, muddy and humid July day, the Little Mudders raised \$300 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Little Mudders was inspired by the well-known obstacle course for adults, Tough Mudder.

"We thought this would be something fun for the kids," said Jena.

The original Tough Mudder obstacle course runs for typically 10 to 12 miles and tests the strength and endurance of participants. Little Mudders is a chance for the children to compete and have fun.

"We really wanted this event to be all about kids," Jena explained of the event her family organized for the second consecutive year. "It's a family affair."

The Leopold family and their friends took time to build the half-mile course with 16 different obstacles across the property.

"My aunts organized the snacks, and my brother-in-law is the emcee. We put a lot of work into this. Everyone chipped in," Jena said.

Ernie said that six players on the West Allegheny football team also helped kids throughout the course. In all, 25 individuals volunteered for the event.

Jena and her family hope that they can build upon the success of their two Little Mudders races to sponsor a community-wide event in the future. Last year, the donations they raised benefitted Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

"Right now, we have just opened the event up to family and friends due to space and liability," Jena said, "but we're hoping to expand in the future... This event is all about the kids. They come out and have fun, and we can also make a difference."



ABOVE: Participants in the second annual Little Mudders race have fun in the mud. The race event was open to kids ages two through 11. During the day, members of the West Allegheny football team (right center) donated their time. Proceeds benefitted the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

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

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

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North Fayette VFD awarded rescue air bags by Firehouse Subs

On June 3, the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation awarded \$78,200 in equipment to five regional fire and police departments, among them the North Fayette VFD.

The equipment, which ranged from CPR manikins and defibrillators to an ATV, will help first responders at various departments in emergency and potentially life-threatening situations. Money to purchase equipment was provided through a grant program using funds raised by the Firehouse Subs restaurant

chain. The company raises money by offering every customer the option to round up their purchase to the next full dollar. The difference is donated to the foundation, as are proceeds from \$2 sales of the restaurant's used, five-gallon pickle buckets.

Currently, three Firehouse Subs locations operate in the Pittsburgh area. One operates in Cranberry Township, where a presentation was held June 3. Another operates in McMurray. A third, owned and operated by West Allegheny alumnus Brendan Martin and his wife, Erika, is located at The Pointe in North Fayette near Jared's and Walmart. In addition to providing emergency equipment to first responders, the chain has differentiated itself from other sub restaurants by utilizing a unique steaming method to cook the meats and cheeses for its subs.

For its part, the North Fayette VFD received 15 new rescue air bags and a controller kit valued at more than \$18,900. The portable air bags replace four old ones on the department's rescue truck while adding five new ones. Just inches thick, the bags are capable of lifting multiple tons each when expanded. They give firefighters the ability to quickly clear significant weight with little clearance when a jack or other piece of equipment is not available. North Fayette VFD Chief Gary Hamilton says they are often used to displace heavy objects and free a trapped person. Unlike grants the department has received in the past, this one was not a matching grant, meaning the department did not have to match the amount of the donation with their own funds.

"Having something like this just dropped on your front step is huge," says Hamilton. "These bags are very versatile and can help us save lives."



ABOVE: North Fayette VFD Chief Gary Hamilton (left) with Erika and Brendan Martin, and Forest Grove VFD Chief Andy Lizanich. Both departments received equipment from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation June 3. The Forest Grove VFD, which is part of a Swift Water Rescue Team, received a rapid deployment watercraft (pictured in background).

Clearview announces seventh annual community service award

Clearview Federal Credit Union is again offering its Joseph C. Cirelli Community Service Award. The \$2,500 award will honor an individual who provides outstanding volunteer service to their community. The award is named in honor of Cirelli, a former president and CEO of Clearview who served for 35 years.

Clearview will make a \$2,500 donation to a charity of the winner's choice, in recognition of their efforts. The award is only payable to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The winner of

the award need not be a member of Clearview, but they must be nominated by a member. Clearview members are also encouraged to nominate themselves to raise funds for their charity.

Applications must be received by Clearview by September 30 to be eligible for the award. For an application and more information, visit clearviewfcu.org, call 1 (800) 926-0003, or stop by any Clearview branch.

Cheryl Aaron Foundation golf outing raises over \$3,000

The Cheryl Aaron Foundation held its annual charity golf outing June 7 at Quicksilver Golf Club. Between golfers and sponsors, more than \$3,000 was raised for CAF, which seeks to raise awareness and money to research idiopathic gastroparesis.

CAF was formed by Lonnie Aaron in memory of his late wife, Cheryl, who passed away in 2012 from idiopathic gastroparesis. The medical condition is caused by a partially paralyzed stomach, and food remaining in the stomach for prolonged periods of time. Conditions can include malnutrition, fatigue, blood glucose fluctuations, bowel obstructions and bacterial infections.

The golf outing was one of several initiatives by CAF, which is seeking to raise awareness about the disease and \$20,000 for gastroparesis research. The organization has thus far donated \$17,000 to the Digestive Health Alliance.

"We now have many more advocates for those suffering from this disease," says Aaron. "This alone makes the day a success."

CAF's golf outing next year is already set, and will take place

May 30. To learn more about CAF, or to make a donation, visit www.cherylsfund.org.

BELOW: The winning foursome at the CAF Annual Charity Golf Outing was comprised of Dave Gazella, Brian Winkowski, Greg Gazella and Nick Sominski.



Through West Allegheny Foundation, local donations serve local causes



ABOVE: Current West Allegheny Foundation members include: (front row) Jonathan DeBor, J.R. Mangan, Barb Martincic, Scott Macher, Debbie Mirich, Keith Merlino, Rob Danzik, Jonathan Denk, (back row) John Bates, Richard Mamula, Andrew Oberg, Chris Maropis, Jerry Kehm and Patrick Konieczny. Additional members (not pictured) include: George Safin, Robert Heffern, Dan Placha, Joseph Pustover, John Stasko, John Stitch, Tom Bayly, Anthony Castelluci, Jeff Cupelli, Joe Fedyshyn, Pat Jennette, Lori Kocher, Barb Martincic, Bo Muraco, Jeff Main, Mark Perry, Michael Quinn, John Roland and Joni Roland.

Over the past few years, West Allegheny High School English teacher Jennifer Fox has been noticing a disturbing trend in her classroom. With the proliferation of academic resources on the Internet, there's also been an increasing temptation among students to plagiarize their work.

"It's not all students," says Fox, a 22-year veteran at the school district. "Some do though get maxed out due to many things, such as taking higher level courses, extracurricular activities and jobs. Sometimes, academic integrity just falls by the wayside."

While looking for a way to dissuade students from the temptation to copy and paste material into their own papers, Fox heard about and did some preliminary research on a website called Turnitin.com. For a subscription fee, students submit their papers to the site, which scans the text for any plagiarized material. It also checks for grammar and spelling. The site forces students to correct any errors and alter any plagiarized material before submitting their work. Throughout the process, teachers have access to each student's work.

In order to cover the \$2,650 subscription fee to the site, Fox wrote a proposal to the West Allegheny Foundation, which awarded the program a grant in August. It's just one of several grants the foundation awarded this year. Another includes money to purchase equipment for an alternative physical education class. A third will help a remedial reading class purchase a ferret as a therapy animal to help reluctant readers. Yet another grant awarded a donation to the Western Allegheny Community Library. A fifth was awarded to the Imperial-based TC House project - a home for adults with special needs.

As a result of the foundation, Turnitin.com will become a pilot program at West Allegheny High School this fall. Though the pilot will focus on English, history and science, the service will be available to all high school teachers. Fox says the program has a wide application, considering the importance of writing across multiple curriculums.

Because everything is done digitally, the school will also save paper. That's significant, since about 120 students pass through Fox's classroom and others every school day.

All told, this year the West Allegheny Foundation awarded well over \$7,000 to school district and community projects. Now in its 10th year, foundation president and North Fayette Police Sgt. John Bates estimates that the foundation has awarded over \$250,000 to community and school-related projects. That money also includes college scholarships, which are awarded to two graduating WA students each year.

To raise money, the foundation relies on a combination of private donations from individuals and businesses, an annual golf outing, and teachers voluntarily donating \$5 monthly out of their paychecks. It also raises money through its annual Teacher's Cup event, for which students and the public pay admission to watch teachers and aides duke it out in a series of fun competitions.

Bates, who is also the district's school resource officer, and has been the foundation's president since its start, says that they have never turned down a grant application that has met its application requirements.

"We've been fortunate enough to have the money in the fund [to award those grants]," he says.

Foundation member Patrick Konieczny says that Bates has played a critical role in the fundraising aspect of the foundation.

"His dedication to the kids is what drives him," says Konieczny about Bates. "Over the years, he's built a lot of respect in the community."

Bates took on the program after Pat Jennette, this magazine's founding publisher and the school's communications coordinator at the time, brought the idea to school administrators in the early 1990s. Teaming up with Jerry Wessel, the school's business administrator at the time, Jennette and Wessel continued to explore the idea and get others involved.

Since then, teachers have submitted dozens of grants to the foundation asking for money to help pilot new programs or build on existing ones. Grants have helped pay for GPS units to teach students about geocaching and tickets to attend musicals in Pittsburgh. In 2007, it provided over 3,000 feet of cable to wire the school's videography lab to the gymnasium and enable it to broadcast over the Internet. Another grant helped purchase nets to convert the middle school gym into an indoor tennis court.

Foundation money has helped fund a leadership seminar for eighth grade girls, purchase contemporary novels, and take students on a safari photo shoot at the zoo, just to name a few. At Donaldson Elementary School, it has helped fund special reading programs, among a number of other initiatives. School principal Patricia Nolan says the grants enable teachers to pilot programs that can potentially become part of their regular repertoire.

"Our teachers are very appreciative of what the foundation does," she says. "The work they do helps our students."

Fox sees the foundation's work in a similar light.

"The foundation has helped us when we had an idea and wanted to try a pilot program," says Fox, who has been a part of previous grants. "I am grateful that they've backed us up when we wanted to help students, and have shown us that support."

Konieczny says that one of the things he likes about the foundation is its ability to help teachers who are going above and beyond to explore ways to help students.

In addition to school-related projects, the foundation has also helped realize numerous local community projects. In 2009, the foundation contributed \$4,000 of the \$15,000 Frank Blaskowitz and Ann Anzaroot needed to plant the Liberty Tree Grove in Donaldson Park. Each tree was grown from a clipping of an historically significant tree and honors a different branch of the military. Aside from a local attraction, it's also become a teaching tool and the focus of three Eagle Scout projects.

"Without [the foundation's] grant, it might not have happened," says Blaskowitz.

Following Hurricane Ivan, the foundation purchased a new fence and flagpole for the Oakdale Youth League. It's also helped purchase a pinewood derby track for a local Boy Scout troop, and improved the batting cages and fence at Huck Field in Oakdale.

Foundation trustee John Stich says that those projects and others have helped give the foundation exposure in the community, and as more people have realized its benefits, more members are joining.

"Over the past year or so, there's definitely been an uptick in membership," says Stich.

He says there's also been growing support among teachers who are opting to support the organization.

Foundation vice president Jerry Kehm says he's hoping that the organization's good deeds and a general sense of responsibility will continue to attract donors and members.

"We do it because we want to help the kids, and because we want to give back to the community," says Kehm. "But that's what you do."

As for Bates, Kehm says he's the one that "makes it all tick," but Bates says it's just as much a group effort.

"We have over 25 members working as a team toward a common goal," he says. •

To learn more about the West Allegheny Foundation, visit www.wafoundation.net, or call Sgt. John Bates at (724) 695-5258.

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August 22 - Breakfast Briefing with Congressman Tim Murphy; 7:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel

September 2 - Danube River Cruise Informational Meeting (Complimentary) 6 p.m. at the PAACC Office

September 19 - Legislative Breakfast 7:30 a.m. at Montour Heights Country Club

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Milestones

June 18 - Keystone Rehabilitation Services - 10 years



Keystone Rehabilitation Services celebrated their 10-year Milestone with Chamber Ambassadors on June 18.

June 27 - COMCAST - 45 years



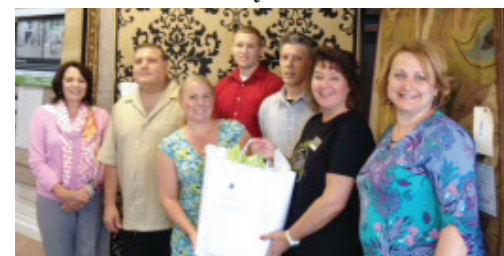
COMCAST enjoyed a 45-year Milestone Anniversary Ceremony with Chamber Ambassadors on June 27.

June 30 - Moon Township - 15 years



On June 30, Moon Township was joined by Chamber Ambassadors to celebrate their 15-year Milestone Anniversary.

July 10 - Rusmur Floors/Carpet One - 25 years



Rusmur Floors/Carpet One celebrated their 25-year Milestone with Chamber Ambassadors on July 10.

Ribbon Cuttings



June 19 - DDS Web Design

DDS Web Design enjoyed their official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Chamber Ambassadors on June 19.

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Football hunts for three-peat while managing expectations

Last season, the West Allegheny football team handed head coach Bob Palko his seventh WPIAL title after defeating section favorite Central Valley in a frigid game at Heinz Field. The win capped off an undefeated regular season and defended the school's WPIAL championship.

Coming into this year, the team doesn't look all that different roster-wise. It returns quarterback Andrew Koester, who emerged throughout the season to throw for 1,651 yards last year, and leading rusher Chayse Dillon, who ran for 1,203 yards. The team also returns all of its starting defensive linemen - including Matt Holmes, Averi Rose, Connor Browning and Jordan Yuhas - some for a third year.

The team also returns Sean Orsini and Armonde Dellovade at inside

The football team celebrates their second straight WPIAL win over Central Valley at Heinz Field last year. Expectations are high for a three-peat, after returning a number of key versatile players.

PHOTO BY EMILY DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY



While admittedly a proponent of the run, Palko says it's been rewarding to witness the development of Koester, who has verbally committed to St. Francis University, and who the team increasingly relied on behind center last season.

"The emergence of Andrew has been awesome to see," says Palko, "and not just his game play but his approach to games and teamwork and getting teammates involved."

The team's biggest challenge this year will likely again be Central Valley, though it has also been scheduled to play nonconference AAAA powerhouse Woodland Hills. West Allegheny could also end up playing Gateway, a recent AAAA departure, should they again reach the playoffs.

Palko says that any team they play, though, will be gunning for an opponent that's a defending two-time WPIAL champion. So far, he says he likes how his players are handling the expectations.

"They're not enamored by anyone we play," he says, "but they're not overconfident, either."

Following tough loss in state championship, boys' soccer looks to dominate again

Boys' soccer coach Kevin Amos has been on the losing side of some tough losses in his 11 years at West Allegheny. He once lost a game 13-0.

Over time, though, he's played a big part in turning around a fledgling program that in 2009 reached the state semi-finals, and this past year captured the team's first WPIAL AA soccer championship in school history. The way that season ended, though, in a 1-0 loss in the first overtime in the state championship match against Holy Ghost Preparatory School, might just have been the toughest of his coaching career.

Throughout the entire season, goalie Spencer Wolfe didn't give up a goal, until he collided with a player from Holy Ghost Prep during that match in overtime. With Wolfe knocked to the ground, that left the goal

West Allegheny

linebacker. The duo are coming off a season in which they combined for 116 tackles. Both will also again be playing big parts on the offense, says offensive coordinator Dan Marshall, giving the team some new, two tight end set looks. That will help support the power run game and set up the play action pass. Marshall says that Dellovade will be switching spots with sophomore Matt Holmes, who started as a freshman. Orsini, the team's all-conference tackle from last year, will also be working at tight end, along with 6'5", 235-pound Rose, who has Palko excited to see what he can do this year.

"He's just loaded with potential," says Palko about Rose. "This offseason he didn't miss a workout. He came in as a freshman and looked really good. Then last year something clicked."

The team's biggest loss may have been outside linebacker Tory Delmonico, who also rushed for 801 yards, along with the bulk of its secondary. Marshall says he's looking to Dillon to make up for that rushing yardage, as well as to Terence Stephens and Whitney White, both of whom broke some nice runs last year.

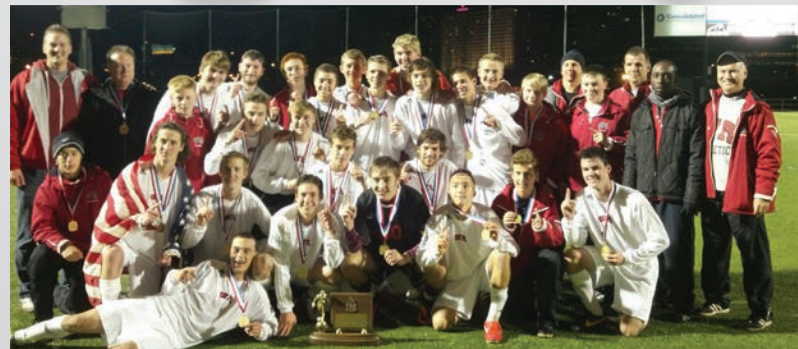
Despite the team's loss of two starting cornerbacks and two out of three safeties, defensive coordinator Bryan Cornell says he still likes where the defense stands.

"Anytime we can build a defense around two inside linebackers, I like our chances," he says.

He also has Dillon returning at outside linebacker to split duties with the offense.

"Chayse is an extremely good athlete who can do it all," says Cornell. "He's continued to get big and physical. When you have a kid who is explosive like that, it gives you an edge on both sides of the ball."

Speed, he says, was a big part of the defense's success last year.



The boys' soccer team celebrates their first WPIAL Class AA win in school history. After a dominant undefeated season, the team goes into this season with its offense intact, but with a host of less experienced players in the backfield.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

wide open for the winning shot.

"I hate to even talk about it," says Amos. "It was a tough call on the field, and tough to lose that way. But we should have closed that game out a couple of times."

Despite the tough loss, the team had six players named to the All-WPIAL AA team and recorded the first undefeated regular season in school history.

"Now, each year, we expect to go to section championships and state finals," says Amos.

For the team to do so this season, it will have to rely on an entirely new defense, after graduating Wolfe, All-WPIAL player Zack Graziani and Levi Bergsi. Amos expects to replace them with seniors Pat Harmon,

Ryan Terabasso, Brandon Lalama and Michael Roberts. In goal, the team will be relying on 6'5" Tyler Eritz.

Like Wolfe before him, Eritz has been working under assistant coach Luke Navickas, the team's dedicated keeper coach.

"It's been great having a dedicated keeper coach like Luke," says Amos.

As for the offense, it not only hasn't taken a step back, it should be taking a step forward, as the team returns starters Mike Cummings, Collin Wurst and Cooper Amos, Kevin's son. Last year, the "three headed monster," as Kevin calls them, accounted for 45 of the team's 78 goals, along with 28 assists.

For Kevin, he says he's just happy that the team is getting the respect and attention it has, as the team has continued to send players off to play in college. It also just had its first alumnus, Nick Kolarac, from the 2009 team, go pro by joining the Michigan Bucks.

Kevin says that while medals are nice, he enjoyed the frills from last year just as much.

"I just want another police escort," he says, referring to the escort they received after last season's WPIAL championship win.

Cross country girls welcome back one of the best in the state, while boys move on after roster losses

In the 22 years Jim Hamilton has been coaching the West Allegheny cross country team, the boys' team has won 16 section championships and recorded an overall record of 149-5 against section opponents. The girls' team has won 17 section championships and posted an overall record of 147-7. To date, both teams have won nine MAC championships.

Of those 22 seasons, there's only been one in which Hamilton did not have an individual or team compete in statewide cross country

critical roles on the team, says Hamilton, particularly in those four and five spots as they compete for points that could make the difference in capturing a section championship.

That'll also be key on the boys' roster, Hamilton says, which is rounded out by a group of young runners who will need to develop throughout the season. Last year, the boys' team had three runners finish in the top 50 in the state. Two, Zach Salek and RJ Freese, have since graduated. Zach White is the only one among them to return after finishing 24th overall in the state meet. To step up this year, Hamilton is also looking to John Artinger, whose previous season was hampered by an injury, and a group of young runners to develop and make up for those roster losses.

Volleyball looks to stay competitive after reaching first AAA WPIAL playoffs

When the volleyball team made the jump to AAA two years ago,

Seniors Audra Killen, Taylor Hottenfeller, Tara Savisky, Nicole Ostrander and Rachel Buck pose for a portrait. The team's five seniors will all be stepping into larger roles as they attempt to reach the WPIAL playoffs for the second year in a row.

PHOTO BY EMILY DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY



Sports Preview

competition. He still did, however, have runners competing at the state level in track.

As the team heads into this season, the girls will be acclimating to AAA competition, and also be going up against AAAA schools. Luckily, the team has a healthy number of returning runners, including senior Alexis O'Shea, last year's WPIAL AA champion who ended the season with a third overall finish in the PIAA state meet. Behind her is up-and-coming freshman Matti Salek, who, despite having yet to run a varsity race, has Hamilton excited about her potential.

Rounding out the top five are three team veterans: senior Rebecca Lawrence, junior Anastasia Kwiatkowski, and senior Danna Heh. All will play



Zach Salek, Zack White, Sam Costa, and RJ Freese during a race last season. After finishing 24th overall in the PIAA state meet last year, White looks to be the top returning member of the boys' team. PHOTO BY EMILY DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY



Alexis O'Shea prepares to start a race last year. After finishing third overall in the state in AA, O'Shea and her group of strong returning veterans will be tested against AAA and AAAA talent this year. PHOTO BY EMILY DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

head coach Brian Begor and his players found themselves going from competing atop their Class AA section to underdogs looking up at heavyweights like Bethel Park, Mt. Lebanon and Baldwin.

"It's a meat grinder," says Begor about the current conference. "We're definitely in one of the toughest sections in the state."

Adding to the challenge was the loss of a nucleus of players who had helped the team finish third in Class AA WPIAL competition the previous year, and hand them a state playoff berth.

"We went from a very experienced team playing in AA to an inexperienced team competing in AAA," says Begor.

Still, a season later, the team was right back where it had been, again finishing third in the WPIAL, this time in AAA competition.

"They were a gritty team," says West Allegheny Athletic Director Dave McBain. "They're competitive and play with a lot of heart and passion."

As an undersized team, Begor says that what they've lacked in height they've made up for with hustle.

"That's kind of been our MO," says Begor. "We're not winning unless we play way harder than them. Our margin for error is very narrow."

Despite graduating three seniors, this year's squad has a solid group of returning veterans, led by setter Tara Savisky.

"She's the best setter in the WPIAL," says Begor. "She's also as good a leader as she is a player."

Senior starters Audra Killen and Rachel Buck are also returning from last year's team, along with back row players Nicole Ostrander, Taylor Hottenfeller and Alyssa Placha, all of whom will be stepping into bigger roles. Lauren Long, a junior who would have held a starting job if not for an orthopedic injury, also returns to the team this season.

As for young players, Begor's looking to Allison Koester, who played in

big matches last year and figures to be filling a larger role this year.

Begor says he's looking for the team to develop chemistry early, which will be essential to keeping their energy going late into the season.

"When you're undersized, you need those intangibles," says Begor. "That's the exciting thing about coaching. It's all about how much these kids want to take the challenges on, and you get to watch them as they struggle and succeed."

Amid progress, girls' soccer braces for move to AAA

Ever since girls' soccer head coach Dave Tissue took over the team in 2011, it has seen steady improvement. Each season, the team has given up less goals and scored more as an increasing number of players have filled its roster.

Tissue contributes that improvement in part to a youth league that he and boys' head soccer coach Kevin Amos started over a decade ago, and



Girls' soccer head coach Dave Tissue watches as incoming freshman Courtney Hurey attempts to shake off a defender and go in for a score. The junior varsity team that Tissue started when he became head coach is helping acclimate younger players to varsity play. PHOTO BY G. PAUL DEBOR

the formation of a girls' junior varsity team. While the youth league has helped develop skills early, the junior varsity team has acclimated players to the varsity level.

"Previously we just had to throw them into the games with no experience," says Tissue.

Also helping the team the last few years has been its reclassification from AAA to AA. After finishing with a 7-9 record this past season, though, the team is preparing for a season in which it will again be reclassified as AAA. Luckily, a number of veterans are returning to confront the challenge, including last season's leading scorer, Stephanie Accorsi.

"She's just a natural forward," says Tissue about Accorsi. "She can score with either foot or her head."

Also returning is senior center Jenna Bandi, who Tissue describes as a quiet on-field leader, and Sarah Davis, who surprised the team last year by coming on the roster and scoring 10 goals.

"Her game is speed," says Tissue about Davis. "She's unbelievably fast."

Despite that experience up front, the team will be working with an inexperienced backfield while confronting injuries. In goal, the team will be relying on Lexi Hill, who is battling a hip injury. He says he may move Davis to the backfield to counter the speed of their opponents. Earlier this year, though, Davis broke her foot in a winter tournament. Another backfielder, senior Kendall Block, is battling a knee injury. One bright spot is that Tissue does have a healthy sophomore, Kristen Quasey, returning to the backfield after playing much of last season.

Still, Tissue likes the direction that the team has been headed, and is encouraged with the increasing number of players showing up to voluntary workouts and practices over the summer. At one time, it was just a few showing up, but now he's got about 15.

As a result of developing a soccer program, Tissue says they're seeing more players on the field instead of just bodies. While looking at the challenge ahead, he's cautiously optimistic.

"I think we might surprise some people," he says.

Strong in veterans, tennis team looks to improve

Tennis coach Rita Wilson only lost one graduating player coming into this season. That's left her with a team of experienced returning juniors and seniors this year. Still, that one player she lost was Gabie Eaborn, her top player who has since gone on to play at Westminster College.

"She was clutch," says Wilson about Eaborn, who was her go-to in the top singles game for each match.

At Westminster, Eaborn has joined Sydney Sterner, who graduated from West Allegheny in 2013. Before Eaborn, Sterner was Wilson's top player for the 2012 season. It's been something of a trend for Wilson, watching her top player depart each year, but also having another ready to take over that top role.

In high school tennis, players match up in three singles and two doubles for each match, making for a total starting roster of seven. Wilson says most teams put their clear top prospect in the first singles game, but after that, it's all about strategy.

"There are even formulas written about it," says Wilson.

Going into this year, Wilson says her clear number one is Abby Walls, a junior who could give Wilson that go-to player she'd like to have for at least two years in a row. Behind her there's Carolyn Stout, who Wilson calls "a very consistent athlete." She started at doubles last year and also plays basketball.

Junior Cassidy Bordo also returns. Wilson says she's been working on her groundstroke, and that "she has a lot of potential."

Wilson says not all coaches start their second and third starters in the first doubles match, but it's a reasonable strategy. For that second singles match, Wilson says she looks for a scrappy player who covers the court well. That could be either Kaylee Musiol or Marina Maropis. The two split the third singles spot for much of last year's season.

Rounding out the top seven are seniors Arianna Collins and Sara Bodnar, as well as sophomore Sydney Saunders, who Wilson expects to crack the starting squad.

As in years past, the team will have their work cut out for them. After elevating into AAA competition in 2012, they now take on powerhouses like Peters Township, Mt. Lebanon and Upper St. Clair. Last year, they finished with a record of 5-9. With eight varsity players returning, and some strong junior varsity players looking to move up into varsity, Wilson is hoping to improve on that record.

Golf team optimistic despite stiff competition

The last few years haven't been the easiest for the West Allegheny golf team. Following the WPIAL's reallocation of the team into a new section that includes perennial favorites Upper St. Clair, Peters Township, and Cannon McMillan, it has struggled.

Last year, the team managed to win just two matches, but head coach Dave Botizan says he's cautiously optimistic. At the top of his reasons is returning junior Jonathan Gazella, who was a standout last year as a sophomore and has been having success in competition over the summer.

Senior veteran Dylan Lindemuth also returns for a third season, followed up by Jared Lanni, who has shown promise at the junior varsity level. Sean Weber, who also plays hockey for West Allegheny, returns after playing on the varsity team as a freshman last year.

Players who participate in other varsity sports isn't uncommon on the team, says Botizan. He says he thinks it's healthy that players experience multiple sports. The success of this team, however, will depend on how much time each player has been able to work on their game over the summer.

"I'm always optimistic," says Botizan, who not long ago coached Garret Browning to state championships in Browning's sophomore and senior years. "I have some kids who have been playing over the summer and I think they will improve our team this season." •

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Do Your Investments Match Your Risk Tolerance?

When was the last time you looked at the content of your portfolio?

When turbulence hits Wall Street, are you stressed out? If you have taken on too much risk in your portfolio – which can happen through intention or inattention – stock market volatility may make you anxious. So from time to time, it is a good idea to review how your assets are invested. Your asset allocation should correspond to your tolerance for risk, and if it doesn't, it should be adjusted.

A balanced portfolio may help you come out of stock market dips in better shape. Stocks aren't the only investment classes you can choose from, and you won't be alone if you decide to examine other investment options.

Treasuries and bonds become attractive to investors when Wall Street turns especially volatile. Certain forms of alternative investments gain attention as well, particularly those with low or no correlation to the equities markets. Bonds tend to maintain their strength when stocks perform poorly. Some cautious investors maintain a cash position in all stock market climates, even raging bull markets.

Downside risk can particularly sting investors who have devoted too much of their portfolios to momentum/expensive stocks. A stock with a price-earnings ratio above 20 may be particularly susceptible to downside risk.

Underdiversification risk can also prove to be an Achilles heel. Some portfolios contain just a few stocks – in the classic example, someone has invested too heavily in company stock and a few perceived “winners.” If a large chunk of the portfolio's assets are devoted to five or six stocks, the portfolio's value may be impacted if shares of even one of those companies plummet. This is why it is wise to own a variety of stocks across different sectors. The same principle applies to stock funds. If the S&P 500 corrects (that is, drops 10% or more in a short interval), the possibility grows that an aggressive growth mutual fund may dive.



Are you retired, or retiring? If you are, this is all the more reason to review and possibly even revise your portfolio. Frequently, people approach or enter retirement with portfolios that haven't been reviewed in years. The asset allocation that seemed wise ten years ago may be foolhardy today.

Many people in their fifties and sixties do need to accumulate more money for retirement; you may be one of them. That sentiment should not lead you to accept extreme risk in your portfolio. You'll likely want consistent income and growth in the absence of a salary, however, and therein lies the appeal of a balanced investment approach designed to manage risk while encouraging an adequate return.

Why not take a look into your portfolio? Ask a financial advisor to assist you. You may find that you have a mix of investments that matches your risk tolerance. Or, your portfolio may need minor or major adjustments. The right balance may help you insulate your assets to a greater degree when stock market turbulence occurs.

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

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Volunteers Repair 70+ Local Homes; Bring Hope to Many



PICTURED THIS PAGE AND NEXT: Scenes from the weeklong project that involved hundreds of local volunteers, and 440 teen/adult volunteers from seven states.



During the week of June 22-28, 440 teen and adult volunteers from seven states received a warm welcome at West Allegheny Middle School where they ate and slept in the evening. During the days, they fanned out across the community to repair homes in the West Allegheny and surrounding communities. All told, these volunteers gave more than 14,500 hours of labor to help more than 70 residents whose homes were in need of work. The repairs ranged from painting homes inside and out, building wheelchair ramps, and refurbishing decks, sidewalks, and stairs.

This was the first West Allegheny Workcamp, a project of Heroes Supporting Heroes, a faith-based community service organization founded by North Fayette resident John Lee. HSH provides stable and safe housing for military members and their families, senior citizens and others.

West Allegheny Workcamp was established nearly two years ago by Jeff Lutz and Don Steward, both North Fayette residents and members of Crossroads Church. They have both volunteered their time during the past summers to serve at workcamps around the country. The workcamps are conducted through Group Mission, a national organization that coordinates numerous mission projects each summer.

Jeff and Don saw the opportunity to bring the camp to the West Allegheny area. After two years of preparation by a core team and the Heroes Supporting Heroes board, West Allegheny Workcamp became reality. The project made a profound impact on all involved.

Not only did residents benefit by seeing youth in action helping others, the teen and adult volunteers learned how to give for the sole purpose of simply doing something good for others. It wasn't only the residents and volunteers who benefited. More than 200 community volunteers turned out to help. The West Allegheny football team welcomed the teens and adults when they arrived, serving as bellhops to carry their belongings to their makeshift sleeping areas in the school classrooms. Area churches stepped up to prepare meals and mid-day or evening treats, or to serve as hosts in the adult lounge area, where local massage therapists donated their time to give chair massages to weary workers when they returned from long days. The American Legion Auxiliary, Mothers of Preschoolers, Tina's Hair Design, and others stepped up to donate and serve snacks, as did teachers from McKee Elementary and Cub Scout Pack 848.

One resident said, "This gave me hope that the young people in this world do good things."

Another resident said, "Having these teens at my home brought me a joy I haven't experienced in a long, long time. They are welcome in my home anytime."

The Heroes Supporting Heroes board and West Allegheny Workcamp Core Team thank the community for supporting this first-ever week-long home repair effort.

For more information, to volunteer for future workcamps, or to donate, visit www.heroessupportingheroes.org, call (412) 235-0787, or send correspondence to: Heroes Supporting Heroes, P.O. Box 787, Imperial, PA 15126.

A video of the West Allegheny Workcamp project will be shown on Monday, August 18 at 7 p.m. at Crossroads Church. Anyone with an interest in learning about the project is welcome to attend.



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Girls Varsity Soccer

8/20 - @ Bethel Park Senior HS - Scrimmage - 6 pm
8/26 - vs. Beaver Area HS - Scrimmage - 7 pm
8/30-31 - South Fayette Tournament @ South Fayette HS - TBA
9/3 - vs. Shaler Area HS - 6 pm
9/6 - vs. Canon McMillan HS - 10 am
9/8 - @ Chartiers Valley HS - 6 pm
9/10 - vs. Brainerd HS - 6 pm
9/11 - @ Moon Area HS - 6 pm
9/15 - vs. Peters Township HS - 6 pm
9/17 - @ Trinity Senior HS - 6:30 pm
9/20 - @ Young Senior HS - 1 pm
9/22 - @ Canon McMillan HS - 6 pm
9/24 - vs. Chartiers Valley HS - 6 pm
9/29 - @ Brainerd HS - 3:30 pm
10/1 - vs. Moon Area HS - 6 pm
10/4 - vs. Quaker Valley HS - 9 am
10/6 - @ Peters Township HS - 6:30 pm
10/8 - vs. Trinity Senior HS - 6 pm

Boys Varsity Soccer

8/18 - vs. Central Valley HS - Scrimmage - 7 pm
8/26 - @ Beaver Area HS - Scrimmage - 6 pm
9/2 - @ Quaker Valley HS - 6 pm
9/4 - vs. Keystone Oaks HS - 6 pm
9/6 - @ Moon Area HS - 6 pm
9/9 - @ Montour HS - 6 pm
9/11 - @ Switzkey Academy - 4:15 pm
9/13 - @ Franklin Regional HS - 1 pm
9/16 - vs. Steel Valley HS - 6 pm
9/18 - @ Obama HS - TBA
9/20 - vs. South Fayette HS - 10 am
9/23 - vs. Quaker Valley HS - 6 pm
9/25 - @ Keystone Oaks HS - 6 pm
9/27 - vs. Montour HS - 1 pm
10/2 - @ Steel Valley HS - 6 pm
10/4 - vs. Brainerd HS - 11:45 am
10/7 - vs. Obama HS - 6 pm
10/9 - @ South Fayette HS - 6 pm
10/11 - vs. Freedom Area HS - 12 pm
10/14 - vs. Seneca Valley Senior HS - 6 pm

Boys Varsity Football

8/16 - Scrimmage vs. Mt. Lebanon HS - 10 am
8/22 - Scrimmage vs. Belle Vernon Area HS - 6 pm
8/20 - @ New Castle HS - 7:30 pm
9/5 - vs. Chartiers Valley HS - Senior Night - 7 pm
9/12 - @ Hopewell HS - 7 pm
9/19 - vs. Ambbridge HS - 7 pm
9/26 - @ Montour HS - 7 pm
10/3 - vs. Blackhawk HS - Homecoming - 7 pm
10/10 - vs. Woodland Hills Senior HS - Youth Night - 7 pm
10/17 - @ Moon Area HS - 7 pm
10/24 - @ Central Valley HS - 7 pm
11/28 - @ Shady Side Academy - Scrimmage - 10 am
12/2 - vs. Hopewell HS - Scrimmage - 3:30 pm
12/5-6 - @ Moon HS - Moon Tipoff - Multiple Opponents
12/9 - vs. Shaler Area HS - 6 pm
12/12 - @ McGuffey HS - 6 pm
12/13 - @ Allderdice HS - 1 pm
12/16 - vs. Keystone Oaks HS - 6 pm
12/19 - @ South Park HS - 6 pm
12/23 - vs. South Fayette HS - 6 pm
1/6 - @ Trinity Senior HS - 6 pm
1/13 - vs. Montour HS - 6 pm
1/16 - vs. McGuffey HS - 6 pm
1/20 - @ Keystone Oaks HS - 6 pm
1/23 - vs. South Park HS - 6 pm
1/24 - vs. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart - 2 pm

Boys Varsity Basketball

12/2 - vs. Hopewell HS - Scrimmage - 10 am
12/5-6 - @ Moon HS - Moon Tipoff - Multiple Opponents
12/9 - vs. Shaler Area HS - 6 pm
12/12 - @ McGuffey HS - 6 pm
12/13 - @ Allderdice HS - 1 pm
12/16 - vs. Keystone Oaks HS - 6 pm
12/19 - @ South Park HS - 6 pm
12/23 - vs. South Fayette HS - 6 pm
1/6 - @ Trinity Senior HS - 6 pm
1/13 - vs. Montour HS - 6 pm
1/16 - vs. McGuffey HS - 6 pm
1/20 - @ Keystone Oaks HS - 6 pm
1/23 - vs. South Park HS - 6 pm
1/24 - vs. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart - 2 pm
1/27 - @ South Fayette HS - 6 pm
1/30 - vs. Trinity Senior HS - 6 pm
2/4 - vs. Blackhawk HS - 6 pm
2/6 - @ Montour HS - 6 pm
11/23 - vs. Quaker Valley - Scrimmage - 11 am
12/2 - vs. Beaver Area HS - Scrimmage - 6 pm
12/5-6 - @ South Side Beaver HS - South Side Area Tipoff: Multiple Opponents
12/8 - vs. Mt. Lebanon HS - 6 pm
12/11 - @ Bethel Park HS - 6 pm
12/15 - vs. Canon McMillan HS - 6 pm
12/18 - @ Baldwin HS - 6 pm
12/22 - vs. Upper St. Clair HS - 6 pm
12/26-27 - @ Riverside HS - LGKG Holiday Classic - Multiple Opponents
1/5 - @ Peters Township HS - 6 pm
1/8 - vs. Mt. Lebanon HS - 6 pm
1/9 - @ Woodland Hills Senior HS - 6 pm
1/12 - @ Moon Area HS - 6 pm
1/15 - vs. Bethel Park Senior HS - 6 pm
1/17 - @ Keystone Oaks HS - 12 pm
1/19 - @ Canon McMillan HS - 6 pm
1/22 - vs. Baldwin HS - 6 pm
1/26 - @ Upper St. Clair HS - 6 pm
1/27 - vs. North Hills HS - 6 pm
1/29 - vs. Peters Township HS - 6 pm
2/2 - @ Mt. Lebanon HS - 6 pm
2/5 - vs. Moon Area HS - 6 pm

Girls Varsity Basketball

12/2 - vs. Beaver Area HS - Scrimmage - 6 pm
12/5-6 - @ South Side Beaver HS - South Side Area Tipoff: Multiple Opponents
12/8 - vs. Mt. Lebanon HS - 6 pm
12/11 - @ Bethel Park HS - 6 pm
12/15 - vs. Canon McMillan HS - 6 pm
12/18 - @ Baldwin HS - 6 pm
12/22 - vs. Upper St. Clair HS - 6 pm
12/26-27 - @ Riverside HS - LGKG Holiday Classic - Multiple Opponents
1/5 - @ Peters Township HS - 6 pm
1/8 - vs. Mt. Lebanon HS - 6 pm
1/9 - @ Woodland Hills Senior HS - 6 pm
1/12 - @ Moon Area HS - 6 pm
1/15 - vs. Bethel Park Senior HS - 6 pm
1/17 - @ Keystone Oaks HS - 12 pm
1/19 - @ Canon McMillan HS - 6 pm
1/22 - vs. Baldwin HS - 6 pm
1/26 - @ Upper St. Clair HS - 6 pm
1/27 - vs. North Hills HS - 6 pm
1/29 - vs. Peters Township HS - 6 pm
2/2 - @ Mt. Lebanon HS - 6 pm
2/5 - vs. Moon Area HS - 6 pm

Boys/Girls Varsity Cross Country

8/19 - @ Baldwin HS - Scrimmage - 10 am
8/26 - vs. Multiple Opponents - Tri-Scrimmage with G-Salem/Gateway - 4 pm
8/30 - @ Gateway HS - 9 am
9/2 - vs. Multiple Opponents - Tri-meet with Beaver/Freedom - 3:45 pm
9/16 - @ Blackhawk HS - Tri-meet with Montour/Blackhawk - 4 pm
9/23 - vs. New Castle HS - 3:45 pm
9/30 - @ Hopewell HS - Tri-meet with Moon/Hopewell - 3:45 pm
10/6 - @ Central Valley HS - Tri-meet with Ambbridge/Central Valley - TBA
10/9 - MAC Championship @ Brush Creek - 3 pm
10/23 - WPAAL Finals - Boys @ Cooper's Lake-Slippery Rock - TBA
10/23 - WPAAL Finals - Girls @ Cooper's Lake-Slippery Rock - TBA
11/1 - PIAA Finals @ Hershey Course - 10 am



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Saturday, October 11,
Cavalcade of Bands - 6 pm

West Allegheny School District 2014-15 School Calendar

2014

August 25, 26, 27, 28 - Teacher In-service/Clerical - No Students
September 1 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
September 2 - First Day School for Students
October 31 - In-Service/Clerical Day - No Students
November 6 and 7 - CONFERENCE DAYS (No School K-8)
November 27 - December 1 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
December 24 - 31 - NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

2015

January 1 and 2 - NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
January 5 - Classes Resume
January 19 - In-service/Clerical Day - No Students
February 16 - In-service Day - No Students
March 27 - In-service/Clerical Day - No Students
April 2 - 6 - NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
April 10 - CONFERENCE DAY (No School K-8)
May 25 - NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
June 5 - COMMENCEMENT*
June 11 - Last Day - Students*
June 12 - Last Day - Teachers*
June 18 - Kennywood Day
* Dependent upon snow make-up days
Snow Make-up Days: April 2, April 6, Remainder at year-end.

Picture Day!

September 9 - Middle School
September 10 - McKee Elementary
September 16 - Donaldson Elementary
September 17 - High School
September 25 - Wilson Elementary

TEST DATES

SEPTEMBER 12 - DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER SAT
SEPTEMBER 13 - ACT
SEPTEMBER 19 - DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ACT
OCTOBER 4 - DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER SAT
OCTOBER 11 - SAT
OCTOBER 15 - PSAT
OCTOBER 25 - ACT
NOVEMBER 6 - DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER SAT
NOVEMBER 7 - DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ACT
NOVEMBER 8 - SAT @ WR
DECEMBER 3-17 (TENTATIVE) - KEYSTONE EXAMS
DECEMBER 6 - SAT
DECEMBER 13 - ACT
JANUARY 7-21 (TENTATIVE) - KEYSTONE EXAMS
MAY 18-27 (TENTATIVE) - KEYSTONE EXAMS

Absentee Call-off Numbers:
High School: (724) 695-1545
Middle School: (724) 695-1583
Donaldson: (724) 213-1013
McKee: (724) 695-5264
Wilson: (724) 695-1548



Olivia Mater, WEST ALLEGHENY.

*Scarlet and gray are true,
To thee we raise our loyal voices,
To echo our lifetime thru.
Thy guiding hand and spirit
Has kept our love for thee,
The hours and days that were spent here
Will linger thru the years.*



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Other Important Dates:

September 10 - Senior/Parent Meeting, 6-7:15 pm
September 17 - Junior/Parent Meeting, 6-7:15 pm
September 18 - WA Middle School Open House
September 24 - High School Open House
September 25 - McKee Open House
October 2 - Donaldson Open House, 6:30-8 pm
October 3 - Homecoming
October 4 - Homecoming Dance
October 8 - Wilson Students at Donaldson Open House, 6:30-8 pm
October 9 - Wilson Open House, 6:30-8 pm

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ALL ATHLETIC EVENT DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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WA TODAY

AUGUST,
2014
VOL. 34,
No. 6

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF FINDLAY AND NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIPS AND OAKDALE BOROUGH

West Allegheny graduates Class of 2014

On the evening of June 6, a total of 272 seniors received their diplomas during commencement ceremonies celebrating the West Allegheny class of 2014. Family, friends, teachers and administrators were on hand to recognize graduates' accomplishments and wish them continued success.



Graduates entered the gymnasium led by senior class officers, president Joshua Rosen, vice president Joseph Falcioni, secretary Hannah Lutz, and treasurer Haley Joyce. The colors were then presented by the West Allegheny Marine Corps JROTC. The evening commenced with Rosen leading the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the senior address given by distinguished honors recipient Vishmaya Saravanan. School Board President Debbie Mirich presented the welcoming notes and Dr. John S. DiSanti, retiring superintendent, offered the Keynote Address. High school Principal Daniel P. Smith announced roll call as Mirich led the Presentation of Diplomas.

Recognized with distinguished honors as the top 10 percent of the class with a 4.0 or higher GPA, and graduating summa cum laude, were: Heather Amper, Andrew Becker, Sarah Becker, Courtney Burggren, Gabriele Eaborn, Joseph Falcioni, Alaina Fritz, Michaela Gardner, Jordan Gigliotti, Jordan Grogan,

Brandi Hermes, Lara Jakiel, Charles Matthew Johnson, Jennie Kriznik, Aubrey Leasure, Lindsay McCracken, Elizabeth Murn, William Page, Alec Palmer, Jocelyn Perry, India Price, Jenna Reilly, Vishmayaa Saravanan, Rachel Smith, Zachary Tarasenkov, Cole Toulouse, Michael Ujevich and Emma Wilson.

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



TOP: Graduates remember classmate Garrett Williamson by donning bracelets in his memory. Garrett passed away from an illness their freshman year.

MIDDLE LEFT: Retiring superintendent Dr. John S. DiSanti gets in on the selfie action.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Distinguished honors recipient Vishmayaa Saravanan gives senior address.

ABOVE: Graduates prepare for commencement.

LEFT: Diplomas are proudly displayed following commencement.

West Allegheny School District welcomes back students for the first day of school on September 2nd.

Best wishes on a successful year!

Sean Aiken hired as new assistant superintendent

West Allegheny School District has hired Sean Aiken as assistant superintendent of schools for personnel and student support services, effective August 18. At the July 16 regular meeting of the board of school directors, members voted to approve a three-year contract. Aiken will fill the position vacated by Dr. William Englert, Jr., who will be retiring August 29.

"I am extremely honored to be selected as an assistant superintendent of the West Allegheny School District," said Aiken. "West Allegheny has a reputation for being a strong community and an excellent school district. The opportunity to be a part of this growing community is exciting, and I look forward to working with the people of this community and school district."

Aiken currently serves as principal of Quaker Valley Middle School in Sewickley, where he has held the position for six years. Prior to serving in that capacity, he was assistant principal at both Shaler Area Middle School and Urban Pathways Charter School. Mr. Aiken began his career as a special education teacher and athletic director in Norfolk, Virginia.

"We are excited for Mr. Aiken to join the West Allegheny team," stated Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, superintendent of West

Allegheny School District. "He comes with many positive accolades from his former and current superintendents. He will bring expertise in major building renovations and instructional technology to enhance teaching and student learning. The interview team was extremely positive about Sean and was confident that he will be a great fit for West Allegheny to take over for the esteemed Dr. Englert."



"With Mr. Aiken's background in both special education and middle school leadership, I feel that he is an excellent choice for our assistant superintendent," added school board president Debbie Mirich. "His experience will surely balance our administrative team, with Dr. Assetta's elementary level knowledge and Dr.

Lippert's high school experience. I feel we have the perfect team in place, along with our superior building principals, to raise the level of education here at West Allegheny."

Aiken is working toward a doctorate degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He holds a master's degree from Regent University and a bachelor's degree from Malone College. He is married with five children and resides in the North Hills.

West Allegheny schools earn Governor's Award for Excellence in Academics

West Allegheny High School, along with Donaldson, McKee and Wilson Elementary Schools, have earned the Governor's Award for Excellence in Academics from the office of Gov. Tom Corbett. Awards reflect the 2012-2013 School Performance Profile scores, which are based on multiple measures of student academic achievement, including academic growth, PSSA scores and attendance.

The proclamations state that each school should "serve as a role model to its peers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for its ability to showcase what can be achieved when quality educational programs, enthusiastic teachers and staff, dedicated administrators, parents and a supportive community come together on behalf of students."

New Gold Card Club members welcomed!

The West Allegheny School District continues to welcome new members into its Gold Card Club. Residents who are at least age 60 and live in the District may pick up a Gold Card at the District office, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. A driver's license or other proof of age and residence is required.

The Gold Card entitles members to attend all District-sponsored activities for which there is normally a charge. These events include a variety of concerts, plays, science fairs, art shows and regular-season athletic activities. Special events, including a December holiday breakfast and a luncheon in conjunction with the spring musical production, are also included in member benefits. Membership does not, however, provide free admission to fundraising events or other activities sponsored by booster organizations.

Visit the West Allegheny School District website at www.westasd.org for the District calendar and a wide variety of both school and community information.

Superintendent's Message

Compiled by Karen Ruhl

As the community relations coordinator for the West Allegheny School District, I recently had the opportunity to interview our new superintendent, Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, to learn more about her professionally as well as personally.

Excerpts from our interview follow:

Q: What are your first impressions of West Allegheny?

A: The first thing that comes to mind is the tremendous pride the entire community has in this District. It is truly an amazing attribute. Second is the quality of people. I have met so many individuals who have unselfishly dedicated a great deal to our schools and are committed to enriching the lives of our students. Third is the community's thirst to drive the District forward.

Q: What upcoming trends in education will have the greatest impact on our schools?

A: The PA Core Standards will greatly impact our students for the better. They have the ability to create fewer, higher, clearer standards that require students to have depth of knowledge and increased critical thinking. PA Core Standards will raise the floor for both students and teachers.

Also, the model of what college and career readiness looks like is shifting. Standards are changing and we need to stay ahead of those changes. This directly connects to educator effectiveness and what that process looks like as well.

Finally, fiscal sustainability is something you will be hearing a lot about. I do anticipate experiencing fiscal challenges in the future, as are most districts in the commonwealth and across the nation. This is mainly due to increasing health care and retirement costs.

Our current 2014-2015 budget was approved with revenues of approximately \$54 million and expenditures of approximately \$58 million. The \$4 million deficit in spending will continue to grow throughout the next few years and will require the district to draw on budgetary reserves. This will present significant challenges for the District. We pride ourselves on sound fiscal planning and careful monitoring of expenditures, assuring every resident that tax dollars are supporting the highest level of educational services for children. We will continue to analyze the financials, manage costs through careful budget planning, and develop a multi-year financial forecast presenting options to maintain our fiscal sustainability.

Q: Where do you see the district in five years?

A: I see all third graders reading at or beyond grade level by the end of third grade. Research has shown that third grade literacy is the number one predictor of career attainment.

I see all students prepared for college or to enter the workforce, taking more rigorous programs of study and AP courses. Indicators for college persistence include access to rigorous curriculum and AP courses, GPA and attendance.

I also see West Allegheny providing all students with the tools to compete globally. We want our students to be extremely competitive and our District to be one of the top in the state as well as ranked nationally.

Q: When you were a student, what was your favorite class or subject?

A: I had quite a few, actually. When I was in high school it was AP biology and organic chemistry, and advanced

physical education. When I was at Duquesne University studying physical therapy, my favorite classes were anatomy, psychology and physiology. When I transferred to the University of Pittsburgh, I really enjoyed school law and any superintendent classes around transformative leadership.

Q: List three people you admire?

A: I don't think I can limit this answer to specific individuals. I can tell you that I find inspiration from students who are resilient and teachers who never give up on students and constantly demand more learning. I am inspired by those around me who have overcome adversity and demonstrate tenacity. I am also inspired by exemplary teaching that results in student learning.

Q: What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

A: I love gardening and hardscaping, which is landscaping with solids like rock, masonry and wood materials. I enjoy creating something from nothing. I also love manual work and being outside.

.....

I also asked those who have worked with Dr. Lippert, both past and present, their insights regarding her approach to education.

Dr. Linda Lane, superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools:

Q: What qualities does Dr. Lippert bring to West Allegheny that will assist in advancing the District?

A: Dr. Lippert brings an awesome work ethic, a passion for serving young people, and phenomenal organizational skills to her new role. She seeks out strong team members and sets up processes to assist them in reaching goals which have been agreed on. She holds people accountable. This does not mean that she does not develop strong professional relationships with her team. She does that, too.

Ms. Nina Esposito-Visgitis, president, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers:

Q: How would you describe Dr. Lippert's approach to education?

A: Dr. Lippert is extraordinarily knowledgeable about all of the most current research and findings in education. She is able to sift through all of the information in order to mine for the gems of knowledge that will be most beneficial for our students and our educators. She is much too savvy to be drawn in to the latest fad. She is not drawn to glitz. She looks for what will



At a meet and greet hosted by the Findlay Township Board of Supervisors, Township Supervisor Chairman Tom Gallant proudly shares West Allegheny photos with Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert.

Superintendent's Message, cont.

work to move students forward and is able to get buy-in from stakeholders by securing their authentic input. She works to promote and elevate those around her, not her own agenda.

Members of West Allegheny's administrative team offered their insights as well.

Dr. Christine Assetta, assistant to the superintendent for curriculum and instruction:

Q: What are your first impressions of Dr. Lippert?

A: I find her to be very personable and committed to improving instruction for all students. She is especially interested in early childhood instruction.

Elaine Fitzgerald, pupil services coordinator:

Q: What are your first impressions of Dr. Lippert?

A: My first impressions are very positive. Dr. Lippert has a wealth of knowledge on instructional strategies and ways to move the district forward. She has a very positive and inclusive approach.

Dr. William Englert, Jr., assistant to the superintendent for personnel and student support services:

Q: How do you think Dr. Lippert's background and leadership approach will benefit WA?

A: Dr. Lippert immediately established a team approach to tasks. For example, she invited members of the administrative team to participate in the interviewing process for the assistant superintendent position. Coming from a large organization (the

Pittsburgh Public School System), Dr. Lippert appears to be quite comfortable with the immense scope of the superintendent position.

Mrs. Debbie Mirich, school board president:

Q: What qualities led the board to appoint Dr. Lippert to the position of superintendent?

A: From the moment we first met Dr. Lippert, we could see that she was a warm, genuine, caring individual who was indeed very passionate about education. Her knowledge of our District was very impressive. She was ready to provide our students and staff with means to raise our test scores and our students' expectations for their future. Dr. Lippert is a very intelligent woman who has earned respect from her colleagues through her experiences and knowledge.

Q: How do you see the students and staff benefitting from Dr. Lippert's approach to education?

A: Dr. Lippert has already been working tirelessly analyzing our test scores, reviewing our curriculum and identifying key areas to determine our current state of teaching and learning. She is making recommendations to the school board and administrators on changes at all grade levels that would advance our student achievement while still maintaining financial stability for the district. Dr. Lippert firmly believes in a vision for tomorrow that will bring West Allegheny to a new height of excellence.

Academic program advancements introduced

The District is excited to introduce the following academic program advancements starting in the 2014-2015 school year:

The high school team has developed a plan for students not proficient on the Algebra Keystone Exams to continue advancement into the geometry curriculum if a certain set of criteria is met. The criteria include an algebra grade of 85 percent or higher, a minimum scaled score of 1485 on the Keystone Algebra I Exam, as well as parental and administrative support. Students afforded this opportunity will be placed into a two-day, per rotation Keystone math course along with geometry (or higher level math course). This option will allow students to access upper level courses, including AP courses, without having to take two math courses in one year.

The high school is also implementing a double block English

course designed to enhance skills of students in ninth grade who are below proficient in reading. This additional time will support both necessary remediation and acceleration back to grade level.

To further advance overall student skill sets, a literacy coach will be active in grades six through 12. This addition will not only support the implementation of the Common Core Standards, but will also push into English language arts, science, and social studies classrooms. This will model how to pull from informational text, use text-based evidence, and how to apply academic vocabulary to enhance comprehension.

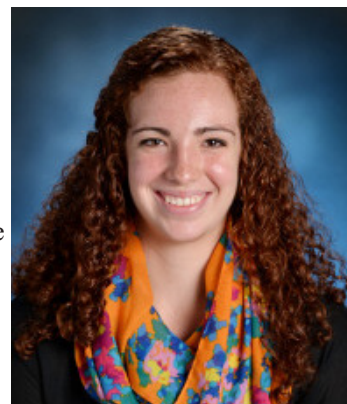
These advancements reflect both student and parental interest as well as the District's intent to move academic offerings forward.

Sophomore earns National Scholastic Art & Writing Medal

As a sophomore, Angela Martelli earned a National Medal in the 2014 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. Her work was selected by creative professionals as one of the most accomplished in the nation. National medalists represent approximately the top one percent of submissions. This year, 255,000 works of art and writing were submitted and only 2,068 received national distinction.

Martelli was invited to attend a ceremony at Carnegie Hall June 6 and participated in a showcase event at Parsons The New School for Design in New York City.

"I was so blessed to have her in my final year," said high school art teacher Carol DeWitt, who retired at the end of the school year. "She set a high standard amongst her peers."



Creativity on display at district-wide art shows

The art department hosted art shows this spring that proudly displayed the creativity and imagination of students.

This year's **high school** art show titled Imagination Factory was held April 24-26. Art installations created by 41 seniors were on display, representing a compilation of their last four years of work. The public also experienced installation art as a group of 50 Art 2 students created a Steampunk-themed factory machine exhibit. Steampunk is a term coined in the 1980s as a literary genre, which blends Victorian era details with futuristic innovations. In addition, over 800 student works were on display, including a variety of photographs, drawings, graphic designs, paintings, three-dimensional



sculpture, and decorative clay masks created by art students enrolled in the art and photography curricula.

A total of 699 student pieces were on display at this year's **middle school** show May 21 and 22, the most in the school's history. Featured mediums ranged from watercolors and pastels to sculptures and mosaics. The show also included 15 staff entries. Students and visitors voted on their choices for best in show. Middle school art teacher Sharon Harn coordinated the event.

All three elementary schools hosted art shows throughout the spring, each with a unique and varied theme. At **McKee Elementary**, the Arts Alive theme spanned both art and music

disciplines. The works of art included paintings, drawings and paper cutouts that were created under the guidance of McKee art teacher Claire March. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade also showcased musical performances under the direction of music teacher Terisa Sharlow and instrumental band director Mark Hoffman. Performances included dance, drama, singing and instrumental ensembles. **Wilson and Donaldson Elementary** Schools hosted art shows organized by elementary art teachers March and Debbie Turici. The art and activities celebrated this year's student works, as well as a collection of projects spanning more than 30 years of Turici's career as a West Allegheny art teacher.

These events were offered in conjunction with the West



Allegheny arts curriculum, and are an integral part of the school's efforts to promote the exploration of self-expression in students.

TOP RIGHT: Colleen Wade displays her senior installation.

TOP LEFT: Middle school art show winners include: (front row) Connor Stout, second place; Skylar Brown, third place; Stacia Shaytar, honorable mention; Alexis Fleet, second place; Jamie Sheppard, first place; Miala Palaima, first place; (back row) Alexander Prevade, third place; Brenna Downing, honorable mention; Eva Lagard, first place; Melina Lynn, honorable mention; Michael Chen, third place; Stephanie Berhosky, second place.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Middle school staff entry winners were Megan Huchko, Bonnie Trucco and Sharon Harn.

BOTTOM LEFT: Students perform at the McKee Arts Alive show.



Students chosen to perform at the PMEA Elementary Band Fest West included: (back) Madison Dean, Hope Yoder, Renee Rozum, Gabrielle Martelli, Laura Croco, Ryan Aguirre, Eric Diffendal; (front) Melody Dean, Morgan Carnahan and Katie Bleil.

Students selected for PMEA Elementary Band Fest West

Several West Allegheny students were selected to participate in the annual Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Elementary Band Fest West. The festival was hosted by Carlynton High School May 9 and 10 for students in fifth and sixth grades. Students were instructed by Darren Humbert, Mark Hoffman and Tom Snyder.

Middle school recycling takes on colorful hue

In an effort to expand the District's green initiatives, middle school art teacher Sharon Harn has signed on to participate in Crayola's ColorCycle program. The program encourages students and teachers to save any used or dried-out markers and deposit them in the art room collection bins. Discarded markers will then be shipped back to Crayola, where they will be recycled.

Crayola started the program to serve as a partnership with schools across the country, and to help kids understand the simple steps they can take to protect the planet. Crayola has even developed lesson plans to promote classroom discussions on eco-friendly practices.

Medieval fair brings history into classroom



Seventh grade social studies students experienced a truly hands-on history lesson when teachers Jessica Henry and Todd Rasbach hosted a medieval fair May 29 and 30. The fair served as a culmination of study on the Middle Ages and included a banquet with traditional foods and language. Students experienced the life and challenges of a knight as they had an opportunity to try on a suit of armor acquired through a grant from the West Allegheny Foundation.

LEFT: Jacob Costantino gets a hands-on history lesson.

RIGHT: Teacher Todd Rasbach explains the purpose of chainmail to students Sammy Cook, Haylee Sturgeon, Amanda Schlör, Sage Bender, Eve Vogt, Madison Twardy and Jacob Costantino.



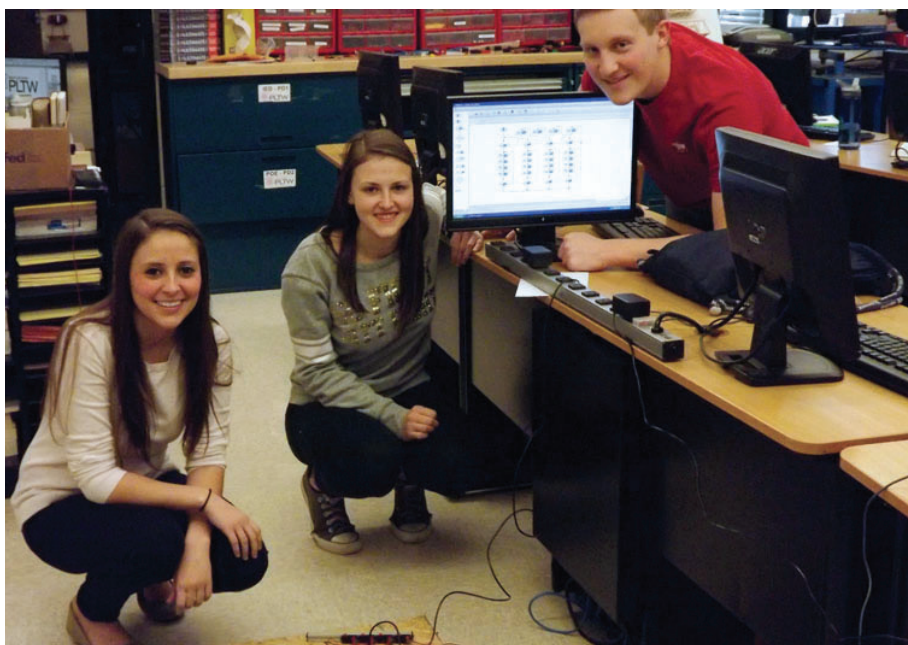
Engineering students take on progressive projects

High school engineering classes, under the direction of teachers Martin Lestander and Ron Neurohr, embarked on progressive projects this past year ranging from building robots and hovercrafts to virtual design.

Students in the principles of engineering class were assigned the task of constructing Sumo bots, a form of robot designed to compete and force challengers out of a battle area. The culminating project utilized gears, pulleys, and programming while building on acquired classroom knowledge to craft a winning robot.

Principles of engineering students also designed and built one-person hovercrafts. Students applied properties of pneumatics or pressurized air to design and construct a vehicle capable of traveling over both land and water.

The introduction to engineering classes completed a virtual design challenge project that encompassed engineering drawing skills to assess an identified problem. Students were then partnered with other students taking the same class in Texas. They were faced with the task of dealing with team behavior norms while successfully sending design elements back and forth, simulating real-life engineering projects.



ABOVE: Building their bots are Heather Amper, Elizabeth Murn, and Zach Tarasenkov.

SADD drives home safety tips

The high school organization Students Against Destructive Decisions was busy this past spring as they initiated several activities underscoring the importance of safe driving. Members first created and displayed posters in the school parking lot that reminded students to wear seat belts and refrain from using cell phones while driving. They also hosted a pre-prom assembly featuring Dr. Dennis Phillip, an orthopedic surgeon from Allegheny General Hospital, who spoke about the health dangers associated with drinking and driving. Throughout prom week, members distributed safety information in the high school lobby and decorated sidewalks with chalk drawings to remind students to make smart choices.

Carol Bookmiller serves as the advisor for SADD.

Substitutes needed

The West Allegheny School District is in need of substitutes for the following positions: teachers and nurses; support staff positions, including custodians; instructional paraprofessionals; clerical workers and cafeteria workers.

To apply as a substitute teacher or nurse, please visit the district website at www.westasd.org. Select Employment – Professional Openings. To apply as a substitute for a support staff position, please visit the district website and select Employment – Support Openings.

2014-15 Academic Calendar

August 25-28	Teacher In-Service/Clerical Days - No Students
September 1	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
September 2	First Day of School for Students
October 31	In-Service/Clerical Day - No Students
November 6-7	Conference Days - No School K-8
November 27-December 1	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
December 24-January 2	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
January 5	Classes Resume
January 19	In-Service/Clerical Day - No Students
February 16	In-Service/Clerical Day - No Students
March 27	In-Service/Clerical Day - No Students
April 2-6	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
April 10	Conference Day - No School K-8
May 25	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
June 5	Commencement*
June 11	Last Day - Students*
June 12	Last Day - Teachers*
June 18	Kennywood Day

* Dependent upon snow make-up days.

Snow Make-up Days: Thursday, April 2, 2015
Monday, April 6, 2015
Remainder at year-end.

Community garden blooms at Wilson Log House

Retiring principal Dr. Kathy Sites has long dreamed of creating a community garden on the grounds of her school at Wilson Elementary. With the help of West Allegheny students and staff, as well as community members, that dream has grown to fruition and the rewards are far-reaching.

Sites originally envisioned a garden brimming with herbs that were popular during the time period when the Wilson Log House was in its prime. Her idea grew to include a community garden that would benefit neighboring families. West Allegheny parent Kim Bailey had a similar vision and reached out to the District to determine if any schools were interested. Sites jumped at the idea of working together. They began meeting at the start of the 2013-2014 school year and invited master gardener Sue Peindl and high school biology teacher and environmental club advisor Amy Schweinsberg to join them.

The group met monthly as plans took shape, sketches were drawn and lists were made. As spring arrived, the community came together to help. Joe Szyjko, from the maintenance department, built raised beds. Park West Supply donated soil. Peindl and Janoski's Farm and Greenhouse donated flats of vegetables. Wilson students got involved as well by planting seeds and collecting newspapers to line beds. High school students joined in and collected water bottles for drainage.

Once the weather warmed, the big



TOP: High school teacher Amy Schweinsberg works with students to plant the vegetables.

MIDDLE: Dr. Kathy Sites (back left) proudly displays the hard work of volunteers.

BOTTOM: By mid July the gardens are thriving.



day arrived. High school students from Schweinsberg's biology classes and environmental club made a trip to Wilson and joined elementary students for a day of planting. A total of eight beds were planted with hot peppers, sweet peppers, red onions, zucchini, squash, watermelons, red beets, green beans, cucumbers and one bed with vintage herbs.

Throughout the summer, volunteers and Wilson custodians are helping Sites maintain the garden and the plants are flourishing. The harvested fruit and vegetables will be donated to the West Allegheny Food Pantry to provide fresh produce to families who rely on the nonprofit for supplementary food. The Rev. Ben Robbins, from Valley Church in Imperial, is working with Sites to facilitate delivery of produce to the pantry.

As the first round of crops is harvested, the true meaning of a community garden has become apparent.

"I feel confident that this garden will benefit our kids educationally and with regard to character development, as well as the community as a whole," stated Sites. "I plan to stay involved even after my retirement as I feel very

'invested' in it."

Through the dedication of volunteers, Sites hopes to grow the garden next year, adding five more beds and increasing student and community involvement. Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact Sites at (412) 398-1843.

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

This spring, the Donaldson Elementary School Student Council collected \$1,400 for the North Fayette K-9 Fund through a variety of fundraisers. Student council members presented a check to North Fayette Police Chief Mark O'Donnell and Cpl. Todd Heufelder when they brought police dog Nevo for a visit May 27. Students had the opportunity to interact with Nevo and witness a demonstration. Teacher Tiffany Mangan serves as the student council advisor.

The North Fayette Police Department K-9 Unit provides support for the department by searching buildings and vehicles, apprehending suspects and protecting officers.

RIGHT: Donaldson Student Council members present a check to the North Fayette K-9 Unit.



McKee fourth graders go bananas in spelling contest

McKee Elementary fourth graders tested their spelling skills in a Bananagrams Tournament held May 19. The popular Bananagram game utilizes lettered tiles, which are combined to create as many words as possible with the goal of depleting all of one's own tiles.

Over 30 students participated in practice sessions in the fall and spring with the top 16 advancing to the semi-final round. The semi-finalists were Scott Bilovus, Ellie Conforti, Cameron Davis, Maura De Bor, Piper Duncan, Rocco Farelli, Mario Ketter, Rahul Koka, Maddy Lucas, Abbie Mendenhall, Dylan Murray, Nathan Nolan, Payton Oslick, Blake Palochak, Jaxon Pottle and Leah Stern. The top five finishers then played in the championship round with Rocco Farelli going "bananas" and winning the competition. The activity was organized by McKee fourth grade teachers Tammy Chiccarello, Susie Dorman, Jan Schade and Deb Stockhausen.

RIGHT: The 2014 Bananagrams winner, Rocco Farelli, proudly displays his trophy.



LEFT: The top five Bananagrams finishers were Rahul Koka, Piper Duncan, Jaxon Pottle, Blake Palochak and Rocco Farelli.

Donaldson incentive program rewards readers

Research indicates that one of the most effective ways to improve reading skills is simply to read! At Donaldson Elementary, teachers Ruth Bouwers and Karen Tracy set out to motivate their students to do exactly that and more.

Through a program funded by the West Allegheny Foundation's Grants for Teachers, Bouwers and Tracy built an incentive program based on the amount of books read in each grade. Both a winter and spring session were implemented.

The winter session was titled There's Snow Better Time to Read. Students received snowflakes for each completed book. The program was tailored to both primary and intermediate students. For primary students (grades K-2), the goal was simply to read a designated number of books, and for intermediate students (grades 3-5), the goal was to read more informational text. Once goals were met or surpassed, students attended a reward party where Donaldson was transformed into a maze. Cards were posted with phonemic awareness, phonics, and vocabulary questions throughout the hallways. When students

followed the correct answers, they were led to several small prizes. The top readers from each grade were rewarded with their choice of a large prize.

The spring session followed a similar concept and was titled

We're EGGcited about Reading. Students received an egg for each completed book. The spring reward party was based on a scavenger hunt. Students were to solve a riddle with a missing rhyming word, which led them to locations such as the playground, cafeteria, or flagpole. When students arrived at the destination, they found a basket with small prizes and the next clue. One clue led students to principal Patricia Nolan's office, where she told them how proud she was of their accomplishments. Larger prizes were again given to the top readers.

Upon completion of the programs, it was evident through observations that the majority of students increased their confidence as early readers and

enjoyed reading more with increased frequency. As well, the intermediate participants reflected a noticeable increase in successfully reading informational text.



Julianne Brindle searches for her next clue.

McKee classrooms transformed into fairgrounds



Fourth grade students at McKee Elementary School transformed classrooms into fairgrounds when they held their annual state fair May 30. Following a yearlong study of the regions, students researched and gathered key information about their designated state and presented their findings on tri-fold displays. Students even dressed in state-themed clothing and shared foods indigenous to each state they researched. Classmates, teachers and parents were invited to visit the fair, ask questions and sample treats.

Fourth grade teachers Susie Dorman, Jan Schade, Debbie Stockhausen and Tammy Chiccarello organized the event.

James Beard and Jacob Nemec present what they learned about the state of Washington.

Tennis team serves up busy spring

The high school girls' tennis team was busy this past spring when members hosted both a teaching clinic and a staff versus students fundraising tournament.

The youth clinic was held for students in third through eighth grade. A total of 32 participants gained valuable knowledge and experience in three hours of clinic time that included drills, basic skills and techniques. Several participants will be trying out for the tennis team in the fall.

The fundraising tournament was brought back by popular demand this year and proved to be a success, as 30 members of the West Allegheny staff accepted the challenge put to them by students. The staff winners were Bobbi Jo Buggey and Richard Mason from the middle school.

Both activities were hosted by the girls' tennis boosters and girls' tennis team, and overseen by coach Rita Wilson.



ABOVE: Participants in a tennis youth clinic hosted by the high school girls' tennis team and boosters stretch to prepare for practice.



LEFT: High school teachers Mary Buhman and Allison McLaren take their best swing.



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Mr. Thomas Orr, McKee Elementary Principal
Dr. Kathleen Sites (retiring), Wilson Elementary Principal
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Harvesting the Sun:

Shared Acres founder Dwayne Bauknight takes what he's learned on the farm about renewable energy into the classroom.

After a night of thunderstorms, the morning sky remains overcast over Dwayne Bauknight's farm. His dog, Herc, lolls in a patch of tall grass beyond a 46 megawatt, free-standing solar array. Silhouettes of trees dance on the shiny black panels as a crow calls out from a distant perch. Slowly, but steadily, the solar electricity production meter is spinning.

"We're collecting electricity right now and what are we doing? Nothin...Nothin! It's a cloudy day, you know?" says Bauknight.

His wealth of knowledge bridges gaps between sustainable farming practices and profitable business. It is as rich as the soil and as diverse as the food crops he's grown at his Community Supported Agriculture operation, Shared Acres, in Findlay Township, since 2008. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, farming was not practiced by Bauknight's family. He holds two master's degrees from Robert Morris University, one in information science and another in engineering management. Bauknight studied applied technologies in the agricultural world and ecological engineering. He learned that successful farms can be environmentally responsible and thrive within the natural ecosystem. Twelve years as an independent financial advisor

gave him the insight to profit from a passion that grew out of that knowledge.

"I just loved to garden...and I got tired of giving away all my vegetables," he says. "I said, I probably could make some money doing this."

CSA has been a growing concept since the 1980s. It involves local produce consumers becoming shareholders, and paying up front for weekly allotments of fresh fruits and vegetables during the growing season. Farmer and consumer assume the business risks together, be it a bumper crop of zucchini, or a loss of tomatoes to inclement weather.

Bauknight's education led him to the starting a CSA, and that eventually led to a passion for renewable energy.

"It started bringing together the renewable energies, technologies, agriculture; the community all into one little commons, and how can that commons be a sustainable environment with all the different businesses that could track a waste stream and bring it back to life, and recycle everything so that we wouldn't have to go hundreds of miles away to get the energy that we need."

While supplying up to 100 consumers for the first several years, Bauknight continued to further his education. That led to an environmental science teaching position at his alma mater, RMU, where he has taught for the past five years. Next, he applied for a teaching position at the Community College of Allegheny County's West Hills Campus in Oakdale, where he now educates students about the benefits of solar energy.

CCAC's Renewable/Alternative Energy Technology Program

was founded in 2012. It includes two separate solar education modules - solar thermal and solar/wind - along with grid tie and hydrogen fuel cells. The lab at the West Hills center features high-tech solar equipment models set up in the classroom for ongoing student observation and interaction.

Program manager Debra Killmeyer says that CCAC's lab - which utilizes \$400,000 in equipment - is one of the only facilities of its kind within a four to five-hour drive of Pittsburgh.

"Students have the opportunity to have a hands-on experience; you can't get that anywhere else, you really can't," Bauknight says.

According to Killmeyer, Bauknight's expertise is invaluable.

"The students just can't get enough of picking his brain with questions and what he's doing and how it's working," she says.

Killmeyer says the program is attracting a wide variety of students, from traditional post high school graduates, to people from diverse and established fields who are looking for new training and careers. It's also attracted electricians and plumbers. Students who complete the program have gone on to work in the green industry, applied to enter the electrical union, worked in sales for renewable technologies and continued on into mechatronics at CCAC. Bauknight is hoping that a connection between RMU's expanding renewable energy and sustainability courses and CCAC's program can be made in the future for an undergraduate degree choice.

All students who successfully complete the program at CCAC have the opportunity to take the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners entry-level exam. After passing, students can pursue apprenticeship opportunities with solar installation companies anywhere in the U.S., including here in Pittsburgh.

"They do call us for our students...they know that we're here," says Killmeyer.

In the face of the Marcellus Shale gas drilling boom, Killmeyer admits that renewable energy installations may have taken a back seat, if only temporarily.

"It's still there," she says. "We're hearing that renewable energies have to be 15 percent of all the energies that are out there."

Bauknight perceives the situation with even more urgency.

"Sooner or later the break-even point's gonna come...and we're just about right there," he says.

If vehicles running on natural gas become the norm any time soon, Bauknight predicts that the natural gas recovered here will not last the 100-plus years predicted by the fossil fuel energy companies. A 10 to 15 percent natural gas consumption increase would have to be considered for vehicles and proposed power plant operations alone.

While he believes that fossil fuel companies present a huge barrier to renewable industries overall, he admits that they made his personal array possible. Upon learning that most of his neighbors had signed gas drilling leases with Range Resources on their land, Bauknight joined them, choosing to invest his profits in his solar setup, which has since provided 100 percent of the electric power used in all of his home appliances. That includes his water tank, heating, lights and stove. During the summer, Bauknight's array sometimes produces more electricity than he can personally use. Instead of using a battery backup system, the excess electricity is tied to the grid and moved onto other customers while collecting credits through the Pennsylvania

AEPS Alternative Energy Credit Program. A third party company documents Bauknight's energy excess and sells the credits to the commercial electric company, which in turn applies them to Bauknight's bill in the winter when solar production is at its lowest. His system is warranted for 25 years, and he is confident that it will last longer. He expects a full return on his solar investment in about eight years, give or take market fluctuations.

As of this writing, no gas well pads have been built on his property.

Bauknight sees most things in life as inevitably coming full circle. Down the hill from his solar array, a large compost pile emits sweet steam, having been turned for the first time in six months. Shortly after he started teaching at CCAC, he had an accident when an old tree he was attempting to remove fell on him. He suffered a spinal injury, and has faced two years of rehabilitation. With the help of a cane and leg braces, he's able to again walk, though for short distances. The CSA has not been open for public business since. Bauknight has been especially grateful for his teaching opportunities during this time.

"I just love it...I get to talk about something I really love," he says.

That includes the natural environment, sustainability, and his latest curriculum of solar technology, which he says is "even better."

Bauknight's older dog, George, bays at the wheels of his golf cart as he parks it next to a neat blueberry patch at the side of the house. Herc bounds in the direction of two horses that swish their tails in a nearby field. To the left, long, gentle furrows, some grown in with grass, can be seen in the ground where the CSA plots were.

"It's based on the victory garden concept," he says, meaning a food garden designed to sustain the local population using small but highly productive plots that rely only on organic production methods. Since Bauknight did most of the work on the 40-acre farm himself with the exception of a few seasonal workers - mostly local high school students - progress has been on hold.

"I'm still sitting on the precipice of where I want to take the farm, after my injury, and where I want to take it as a business," he says.

Despite the difficulties his self-described "spine of steel" may present, he hopes to have a wind turbine installed, in part as an educational exhibit for the public. He plans on seeding part of one field with flowers, and scheduling more wedding ceremonies in another beyond a line of tall maple trees. He is finishing up his dissertation for his Ph.D. at West Virginia University, which will explore differing levels of satisfaction between farmers and consumers of CSA's. He jokes that the farmers he is surveying for his thesis are "a little busy right now," as harvest season peaks. He is "rehabilitating" a greenish pond out front, currently bubbling with aeration and new life. Two ponds in his 15-acre woodlot hold naturally occurring fish.

"Everything's right here, on top of the Earth," he says, "we just got to use it."



CCAC's fall semester begins September 8. To inquire about the Renewable/Alternative Energy Technologies Program, email renewable@ccac.edu, or call Deb Killmeyer, M.Ed, at (412) 788-7387.

Library News

Fall For Your Library, September 13, 6 p.m., celebrate the next chapter of the library's story with food and wine pairings from Spain, Italy, Argentina and Australia at the new pavilion at Leopold Lake, silent and Chinese auctions, desserts, beer, music by Dan Hanczar (see the ad on page 49 for details).

Truck Touch 2014, September 27, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., the WACL, Findlay Township and Macaroni Kid/Robinson are once again hosting Truck Touch in Clinton Community Park in Findlay Township, kids can explore a school bus, fire engines, construction vehicles, tow trucks, more, additional activities offered, WACL's concession stand in Oriole Pavilion selling food and drinks, no horn zone **11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** for little ones bothered by noise, donations accepted at the park, benefits WACL.

Family Programs

Chess Club, Wednesday, August 20, 6 p.m., players of all ages and levels, learn skills and techniques followed by free play time.

Family Yoga, September 23, 10:30 a.m., 45 minutes of yoga games and songs, breathing techniques, relaxing visualizations, fun for all ages, led by Kristen Kolenda from Yoga H'om.

Children's Programs

Spanish Storytime, check website for dates and times, for preschoolers, introduces basic Spanish words through stories, songs and games.

Reader's Theater, Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m., begins September 2, ages 2-8, love to perform, but not sure you can memorize a script? Final performance November 11, children must attend most practices and final performance.

Paws for Reading, Tuesdays, September 9-November 4, 6-7:15 p.m., grades K-3, read with a registered therapy dog, program improves literacy and comfort with reading aloud, register for 15-minute slot.

Baby Storytime & Playgroup, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 3), A 20-minute storytime that introduces children ages birth-24 months to books and reading with engaging stories, songs and activities. Join us after storytime for an extra half hour of baby playgroup.

Toddler Storytime & Playgroup, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. (begins September 3), Join us as we share stories, songs, and rhymes for children ages 18 months to three years old and their caregiver! The toys will be out after storytime for open play!

Music & Movement, Thursdays, September 4, 18, and October 2, 16, 30, 10:30 a.m., You and your young child age 3 and up will learn delightful songs, dances and musical activities to enhance developmental concepts and have a ball!

LOCATION

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Oakdale, PA 15071

Phone: 724-695-8150 Fax: 724-695-2860

EMAIL: westallegheny@einetwork.net

HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 9 am-8 pm

Friday: 9 am-4 pm

Saturday: 9 am-4 pm

Sunday: 1-5 pm*

*September-June

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

Teen Programs

Teen Yoga, August 23, 9:15 a.m., for all levels, led by Kristen Kolenda from Yoga H'om, bring mat/towel and bottle of water.

Teen Advisory Board, Mondays, September 8-October 27, 6 p.m., contribute to the community, shape the teen library space, get leadership and resume building experience, teen librarian Caitlyn for application and details.

Teen Open Mic Night, Mondays, September 8 and October 6, 7 p.m., relaxed, open performance hour for teens.

Teen Art Time, Mondays, September 22 and October 20, 5-7 p.m., Stop by during this open session for a hands-on creative art project such as painting on canvas, sculpting, etc. Check out our website or upcoming fall flyer for details on the project.

Adult Programs

The Cookbook Club, first Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., begins September 2, pick up the cookbook of the month at the circulation desk, pick a recipe register, come hungry!

Social Media Savvy Series, second Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., get savvy with Pinterest (September), Facebook (October) and Twitter (November), includes overview and account set up, basic computer knowledge and current email address required. Library laptops will be provided, or bring your own mobile device to try out the app version.

YA @ Heart, third Tuesdays, 6 p.m., begins September 16, Young Adult Lit: it's not just for teens anymore, pick a book each month, watch part of the movie version, enjoy snacks and games, September's book is "Divergent" by Veronica Roth.

Coupon Exchange, second and fourth Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Anime/Manga Club, 4th Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m., Lovers of Anime and Manga gather together to explore these formats, watching and discussing everything from the art form, cultural context, mythology, history and pop culture. Adults and older teens welcome.

W.A.F.E.L., Mondays, September 8 and October 6, 7:00 p.m., Join Western Area Friends to Enhance the Library (W.A.F.E.L.) and play an active role in supporting the library by helping to plan and implement fundraising activities.

Visit the library at

www.westernalleghenylibrary.org

or call (724) 695-8150 for program information and to sign up today!



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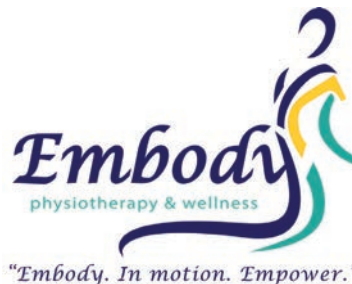
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Embodys Physiotherapy realizes that many people may not be doing the activities that they like, and that they may have stopped due to pain, fear of pain, stiffness, weakness, or generalized difficulty. Some people are afraid, or have been told it was bad for them. Others feel that they are just not as active or mobile as they would like to be, and that they are not quite sure where to start. The physical therapists at Embodys Physiotherapy & Wellness are the perfect partners in health. Susan C. Clinton (PT DScPT OCS WCS FAAOMPT) and Rebecca M. Meehan (PT WCS) are credentialed experts in the way the body moves, and use evidence-based treatment techniques to help improve function, reduce pain, and help prevent injury. They work in partnership with patients and their physicians, as well as trainers or other movement instructors, to help clients achieve a healthy, active lifestyle and manage health and wellness over the long term.

Clinton and Meehan recognize that the health and wellness journey is a personal one, so they tailor a treatment plan to each individual's goals and needs. They believe each client is the most important member of their own health care team, and when they choose to work with Embodys Physiotherapy, they work with clients to develop a plan that delivers long-term results, from adolescence through mature adult years. Embodys Physiotherapy specializes in orthopedic and women's health, including musculoskeletal problems and injuries, pregnancy, bone health, incontinence and persistent pain. They have experience in post cancer treatment problems, such as pain, limited mobility, swelling, and neuropathy. All treatments are one-on-one, utilizing hands-on techniques and manual therapy, education, and mobility and exercise techniques. The human body is an amazing organism, but daily routine, illness, or injury can prevent it from working as effectively as it can. Embodys Physiotherapy's experts are happy to discuss any problem and see if they can help.

Embodys Physiotherapy will be offering movement and training classes beginning in September. They also offer a class for post cancer and upper body surgeries beginning in the fall. Please visit their website at www.embody-pt.com for schedules and more information about the practice. They can be reached at (412) 259-5342, or at info@embody-pt.com.

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For police K-9 officers affected by Rocco's Law, dogs are a tool, an investment, and more



STORY AND PHOTOS BY DOUG HUGHEY

Over the past eight years, Findlay Township K-9 Officer Neil Cridge and his police dog, Axel, have responded to hundreds of calls, both in Findlay and the surrounding townships.

Some have involved tracking down missing persons, such as a child, or a dementia patient. For others, Axel has sniffed out stopped cars that police believed to be carrying drugs, but lacked a reasonable cause to search.

A number of times, Cridge and Axel have taken to foot through wooded areas to track a fleeing suspect. One time, Axel sniffed out a suspect so well camouflaged in a pile of leaves that officers almost stepped on or walked right past him. Another time, they caught up with a suspect accused of attempted homicide who refused to surrender and confronted Cridge and another officer. After multiple warnings, Cridge informed the suspect he was about to release Axel. The suspect surrendered peacefully, saying he “wasn’t going to mess with the dog.”

“Most times, the mere presence of the dog keeps officers from having to go hands-on with a subject,” says Cridge, “and results in a safer outcome for all.”

Recently, Cridge and North Fayette’s K-9 officer, Cpl. Todd Heufelder, gave demonstrations with their police dogs at Janoski’s Farm City Days July 26. With Heufelder wearing a thick arm guard, Cridge sent Axel after Heufelder, but not before demonstrating the ability to also stop the dog dead in his tracks.

“We have multiple tools available to us,” says Cridge, “but once we deploy another tool we can’t stop it. The dog we can.”

Both Axel and Heufelder’s dog, Nevo, are capable of delivering a single bite that can easily snap an arm or wrist. Though it’s just one tool in the arsenal, it’s one that’s helped shaped attitudes about the dogs.

“There’s this idea out there that they’re just alligators on the end of a leash,” he says.

Police canines, however, are also a deterrent that can bring a potentially dangerous situation to a close peacefully. They’re trackers that can follow a scent for miles and hear a heart beat from 25 feet away, or sniff out drugs or drug residue from a

distance farther than any human or machine. They’ll willingly rush in to search an area or building without fear or hesitation. They’re an \$8,000 instrument that can buy an officer a life-saving three to five seconds, and for which more grants are continuously becoming available, and more police departments are utilizing.

After years of relying on Cridge and Axel, North Fayette purchased their first dog using grant money earlier this year. Last year, Robinson Township also acquired a dog. Between the original purchase price of the dog, significant upfront training time, and additional costs to outfit a police vehicle, dogs can cost a department about \$30,000. However, thanks to fundraisig efforts and grants like the Roethlisberger Foundation, which helped fund North Fayette’s K-9 unit, Heufelder says that their dog, Nevo, didn’t cost taxpayers a dime. The same goes for Robinson Township.

Yet despite an uptick in the use of police dogs among departments, Pennsylvania’s laws protecting police animals have lagged behind those of other states, and even those protecting federal agencies. In the eyes of Pennsylvania law currently, taunting a police dog - such as by hammering on the window of a police car - is no different than killing one. Both are punishable by a third-degree felony.

Following the stabbing death of a Pittsburgh Police canine named Rocco earlier this year, however, state Sen. Matt Smith and state Rep. John Maher both introduced pieces of legislation to stiffen penalties against anyone who injures or kills a police animal. The legislation, dubbed Rocco’s Law, passed through the Pennsylvania House and Senate in just a matter of five months, and the bill was signed into law by Gov. Tom Corbett in July.

Once the new law takes effect in September, the penalty for killing a police animal will increase from a third-degree to a second-degree felony. It will also carry with it a penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

“This was really something that the whole community was a part of,” says Smith, “from the grieving to making sure that something like this doesn’t happen again.”

Not only does the new law protect a financial investment, but also a time investment and personal bond between officers and the community. Just to train an officer to work with a dog requires almost two months of full time work. That's on top of the 16 hours of required monthly training officers are required to perform in order to maintain their certification through the North American Work Dog Association. During that time, officers continue to test their animals as each learns the other's ticks, queues and limitations. Heufelder and Cridge say both of their dogs also live with them, and when the dogs are ready to retire, they'll buy them back from the department for \$1.

"We're with them more than we are our families," says Heufelder.

The community, too, embraces the dogs. Axel is a regular visitor to schools, so much that, Cridge jokes, more people seem to know Axel's name better than Cridge's. Thanks to Eukanuba, all of Axel's food is donated, and veterinarian Anne Bolind of Imperial Animal Hospital in Imperial donates her time and expertise, both to Findlay and North Fayette's units. The 171st Air Refueling Wing has also opened their doors to training groups.

Recently, Donaldson Elementary students donated \$1,400 to North Fayette's K-9 fund, and got to meet Nevo for the first time.

Cridge says that, at times, Axel has helped form a bridge between police and people in the community.

"Not everyone may like the police, but most people like dogs," he says.

Much of that has to do with their playful demeanor, which the officers demonstrated can be switched on or off like a light switch at Janoski's Farm City Days. When not working, they're loving animals that soak up attention with tail wagging satisfaction. Prior to latching onto Heufelder's arm, Axel reveled in the attention from a crowd as children wearing face paint ran their fingers through his coat.

During the demonstration, Heufelder and Cridge also had Nevo search a car for drugs. Upon finding the drugs, sealed in a plastic bag inside a metal container, Cridge tossed a piece of PVC pipe in front of the dog. That signaled work time was over, and led to a playful game of tug of war. Play, they explained, is the dog's payday, and overriding motivation when working.

"Even when they're working, everything we do is still a game," says Cridge. "Just like you or I want our pay day when we're done working, they don't give up until they get their pay day, and that's to play." •

OPPOSITE: Findlay Township's police dog, Axel, enjoys some attention from a crowd at Janoski's Farm City Days prior to a demonstration.

BELOW: North Fayette Police Cpl. Todd Heufelder, state Sen. Matt Smith and Findlay Township K-9 Officer Neil Cridge pose for a photo with police dogs Nevo and Axel.





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Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is Open!

A quarter-century in the making, the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, straddling North Fayette and Collier Townships, officially opened its doors to the public August 1.

Local, state, and national officials, including U.S.

Department

of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, attended the official ribbon cutting.

As the speakers each shared their thoughts about the garden's opening, a meadow behind them filled with butterflies and birds added the perfect backdrop.

This first phase unveils to visitors 60 of the garden's 460 acres for walking, hiking, wildflower and bird viewing, relaxing, children's play and more. Named Woodlands of the World, it includes three miles of trails, one mile of which is handicap accessible.

The trail winds past the new Bayer Welcome Center, a refurbished 1870s era barn that will house the entrance to the garden, information center, a kitchen and catering area.

Visitors will enjoy the Margaret L. Simon Dogwood Meadow, which features more than 500 dogwood trees and various wildflowers native to the area.

The wildflower meadow will be nurtured over time to include species that will appeal to birds, bees and butterflies.

Kitty Vagley, development director for PBG, said the meadow includes the Highmark Gazebo, which she describes as a "beautiful white cedar structure."

"In the Woodlands area, children can participate in nine family moment areas, which include a large bird's nest, the bookworm glen, the meadow maze and giant Lincoln logs where they can build their own habitat," Vagley explained.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Cutting the ribbon to officially open the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden to the public, Allegheny County Council members Tom Baker and Michael Finnerty, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, PBG president Greg Nace, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, and Joe Pizarchik, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Enforcement. PHOTO BY PAT JENNETTE

The Asian Woodlands Pond, which received the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence, offers a retreat where visitors can sit, reflect and enjoy nature. A beautifully arched bridge provides visitors with the opportunity to view species that make the pond their home.

In the Homestead area, visitors can see, in addition to the barn, a log cabin from 1784, which will eventually include a period classroom. Also in this area are the heritage apple orchard and a chicken coop.

Sheep will eventually be added to a sheep herd area adjacent to the log house, where the sheep barn is presently being constructed by Eagle Scout Daniel Sheehan from Boy Scout Troop 830 in Clinton..

An open area adjacent to the Bayer Welcome Center is being transformed with the construction of a large, stone fireplace.

It will serve as the backdrop for future weddings and other special events. Vagley noted that the wedding garden in this area will be planted in the fall, further enhancing this special event space.

Now that the grand opening of the first phase is over, there are still years of work ahead to continue with the transformation of the gardens' 460 acres.

The Master Plan describes it this way: "The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden will one day be a world-class botanic garden, including 18 distinct gardens, five diverse woodland experiences, a visitor's center, an amphitheater for outdoor concerts and performances, a celebration center to accommodate indoor or outdoor weddings and corporate events, and a center for botanic research."

GARDEN DETAILS

Hours:

August through September 2014

Thursday/Friday/Sunday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m.-dusk

April through November 2015

Daily except Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m.-dusk

Admission:

Members receive two free admissions

Adults: \$9; Seniors 62+ & Students with ID: \$8

Children 3-18: \$6, Under 3: Free

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1082 Pinkerton Run Road, Oakdale, PA 15071

For More Information:

www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org, (412) 444-4464





ABOVE: The master plan for the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden shows, in yellow, the portion that is now open to the public. Over time, each of the garden areas shown in green will be established. Once finished, there will be 18 distinct gardens and a variety of other spaces for the public's enjoyment.

BELOW: Clockwise, from top left, a meadow near the entrance showcases the historic Walker-Ewing-Glass Log House and the sheep meadow. Along the trails, visitors will see nine "family moments," including the children's storybook house, a variety of native trees, flowers, and other vegetation, each identified along the way to educate visitors. Some trails include bridges that traverse the landscape, while others offer a view of the recently finished lotus pond. PHOTOS BY PAT JENNETTE; STORYBOOK HOUSE PHOTO COURTESY PITTSBURGH BOTANIC GARDEN



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is in need of volunteers to assist with admissions, greet guests, and monitor the trails. Volunteer positions are available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 1 to 5 p.m. every Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, and through dusk on Saturdays, until the Thanksgiving weekend. Backup volunteers are also welcome to fill in when needed. Tour guides are also needed each day the gardens are open, to offer tours at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. No experience is necessary and training for all positions will be provided. If interested in volunteering, please contact Joyce DiNardo at: jdinardo@pittsburghbotanicgarden.org or call (412) 444-4464, ext. 231 or (412) 862-5160.

McGill Family Reunites at Original Homestead



ABOVE: Beth McGill reads to two of her grandchildren in the Highmark Gazebo.

On a warm summer day in July, descendants of the McGill family traveled from points across the country to visit their family's original homestead, the McGill Farm. They learned about the four generations before them who cared for and farmed the land that is now the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. They toured the garden and saw the spot where the original farmhouse their descendants lived in was located.

Beth McGill, whose father was the last generation to farm the land, read to her grandchildren in the Highmark Gazebo, and the family enjoyed lunch served by the staff of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.

As Beth so beautifully said that day, "The values and vision of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden have embraced the four generations of the McGill family. We valued the property, and so do they; we believed in educating others about our land and so do they; we believe the land is for families, and so do they."

Ongoing How to Promote Your Business through Networking, Wednesdays

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

Greater Pittsburgh Football Officials Association Seeking

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

Emotions Anonymous,

Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Valley Presbyterian Church in Imperial, helps those with emotional difficulties maintain or improve emotional health and cope with everyday life, Meghan, (412) 584-9618.

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

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

No Veteran Dies Alone,

Volunteers needed for one-of-a-kind program that provides companionship and assistance to veterans entering the final stages of life, Alan Morris, (412) 822-1861, alan.morris@va.gov.

August 18-20 Carnegie Performing Arts Center School

Registration, 5-9 p.m., Carnegie Performing Arts Center Studios, Carnegie, for theater classes and dance classes, students perform in four full stage productions, "The Nutcracker," December, "Madeline," March, "The Little Princess," April, school recital, June, (412) 279-8887, carnegieperformingartscenter.com.

August 22-23 Rock the Quarry,

Panhandle Trail in Collier Township, **5-11 p.m.** Friday, country jam featuring Backwoods Playboys and Dark Horse, **noon-11 p.m.** Saturday, rock music by Tres Lads, food, demos, games, fun, Kay (724) 693-0870, www.panhandletrail.org.

September 13 Fall For Your Library,

6 p.m., celebrate the next chapter in the WACL's story with food and wine pairings from Spain, Italy, Argentina and Australia at the new pavilion at Leopold Lake, silent and Chinese auctions, desserts, beer, music by Dan Hanczar, see page 40 for registration flyer, www.westernallegHENYlibrary.org, (724) 695-8150, \$40 in advance, \$45 after September 1, benefits WACL.

September 20 12th Annual "Tour the Montour" Trail

Ride, registration opens **7:15 a.m.** with staggered start times, 62-mile riders depart **8:15 a.m.**, packet pickup morning of ride or **September 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at REI Settlers Ridge, begins and ends at Montour Trail mile 0 on Rt. 51 off I-79 and Coraopolis/Neville Island Bridge, 2316 State Avenue, Coraopolis, 15108, rain or shine,

ride lengths of 62, 44, 24, 15 and 6, mechanical support and rest stop stations, giveaways, King/Queen of the Mountain Challenge, food and drink after at Brothers Grimm, \$25 individual, \$45 family before September 5, \$30 and \$50 after, \$5 discount for trail members, helmets mandatory, benefits trail expansion and maintenance, www.montourtrail.org, Race360.com "Tour the Montour," (412) 257-3011, thetour@montourtrail.org.

October 1, 2, 8 & 9 Refuse to be a Victim,

Refuse to be a Victim personal safety seminar, Pittsburgh Technical Institute, **6 p.m.**, with North Fayette Police Sgt. Michael Hayes, teaches methods to avoid dangerous situations and protect oneself from criminal confrontations, including home, auto, phone, technology, travel, for teens and up, (412) 787-8900, nfpdmh@north-fayette.com, or contact North Fayette Police dispatch, pre-registration required, free.

October 11 Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,

Noblestown UP Church, 7427 Noblestown Road. Slightly used, used, never used and new craft items for gift giving. Think Fall and Christmas. For more information call: (724) 693-8250.

October 18 Ohio Valley Hospital's Annual A Toast to the Community, 5:30-8 p.m.,

wine-tasting event featuring reds, whites and ice cold brews, food and dessert, music by Kevin Howard Jazz Quartet, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh Airport, \$60 per person or \$110 per couple, buy online at www.ohiovalleyhospital.org, Megan Eaton, (412) 777-6313.

Findlay Programs

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

Free Summer Concert Series

September 9, 7 p.m., Clinton Park Amphitheater, Dan Hanczar performs music from his new CD "Summer" with fellow local musicians.

Findlay Township 39th Annual Fair in the Woodlands, Clinton Park,

August 15-16, live entertainment nightly by Ruff Creek, Occasional Reign and Jack Tady Polka, 5K Semi-Great Race, parade, fireworks, bake sale, vendors, contests for needlework, crafts, flowers, vegetables, fruits, canned goods, hay and grain, antique farm equipment, register **August 14**.

Outdoor Parking Lot Flea Market

September 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (sellers 7 a.m.), Clinton Park parking lot, rent a spot or just come to shop, \$5 parking spots, set up a table, sell out of a trunk, lay out a blanket, etc.

Truck Touch 2014 Library Benefit,

September 27, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., no horn time **11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**, Findlay Township, Macaroni Kid / Robinson and WACL host this one of a kind family event in Clinton Park, school bus, fire engine, bucket truck, construction truck and more, concessions, www.findlaytpw.org for schedule, donations benefit WACL.

Fall Crusin' in The Woodlands, September 20, 12-4 p.m., raindate September 21, food, DJ, 50/50, dash plaques to first 100 cars, \$5 donation at gate, benefits local Christmas charities.




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North Fayette Parks and Recreation

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

After School Program, North Fayette Parks and Recreation is partnering with the West Allegheny School District to offer an after school program for children K-5. Children will be bussed from elementary schools to the North Fayette Community Center for organized games in the gym, educational programming, and to use the game room. Program starts **September 2** and operates on school days, in-service days, vacations and snow delays and cancellations.

American Freestyle Academy, Mondays and Wednesdays, **6-6:45 p.m.** for kids ages 8-13 and for adults ages 14 and up from **7-7:45 p.m.** in the community room, (412) 446-0399, afkasensi@gmail.com.

Create a Canvas, August 19, September 23, October 21, wine glass painting, November 18, create a canvas, (724) 454-0615, cac.eatdrinkpaint@gmail.com.

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

Future Stars Flag Football and Basketball, football starts September 7, 11 a.m., at Donaldson Community Park, boys and girls ages 4-9, basketball starts November 1.

Seventh Annual Senior Citizen Picnic

September 14, 2 p.m., concert at 4 p.m. with music from the 1940-1960s by Willie Merriman Trio.

Picnic Pavilions Rental

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

Hankey Farms Pool Programming

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

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

Free Family Swim, August 11, 7 p.m., sponsored by North Fayette Police.

Dog Days, September 1, 7-8:30 p.m., bring pets for an evening swim on last day pool is open, free.

P.A.L.S. Picnic, September 20, Donaldson Park, 2 p.m., open to special needs children and their families, free.



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Raccoon Creek State Park

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

Youth Beginning Archery

Wednesday, August 13 •

6:30-8:30 p.m. Meeting location emailed to those who register. Calling all kids ages 9-15. Certified NADA instructors will teach the basic skills and proper shooting techniques needed to safely enjoy the sport of archery. Registration required by August 8. Cost is \$5, payable at the program.

Foxfire Hike

Friday, August 22 •

9:30-11:30 p.m. Venture with us as we explore the trails in a hunt for the illusive bioluminescent fungi, Foxfire. On this journey, we will be hiking 2.5 miles up and down hills that could be wet or muddy in the hope of finding this strange fungus. Space is limited for this special night hike. Registration required. An email will be sent out a week prior with directions to the meeting site within the park.

Summer Wildflower Walk

Saturday, August 16 •

10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. Morning and evening one-mile walk will cover identification, medicinal/edible uses and folklore associated with various flowers. Free program.

Raccoon Lake Evening Nature Paddle

Monday, August 18 • 6:30-8 p.m.

Meeting at the boat launch by the Boat Concession at **6:15 p.m.** Join park educators for a guided evening nature paddle exploring the shoreline and wetlands areas of Raccoon Lake. Kayaks and canoes can be rented from the Raccoon Creek Boat Concession. To learn about rental rates, call (724) 899-4130. For program information, contact the park.

Moss Walk

Saturday, August 23 •

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Discover the intriguing but neglected world of mosses and small plants. Attendees will learn about the strange lives of mosses, interesting uses for them, and how to identify common mosses within the Wildflower Reserve. A good magnifying glass is suggested for this one-mile hike. Free program.

Wild Teas

Saturday, August 30 •

10-11:30 a.m. For centuries, people have gathered local plants and infused them with water to make tea. During this program, guest instructor, Vince Curtis will introduce you to some of these teas and let you try a taste.

We'd like to hear from you!

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

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On the Horizon

Farmers' Markets in the Community

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

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

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

Golf Outings

Clearview Federal Credit Union Charity Golf Outing, August 30, Beaver Valley Golf Club, \$75, benefits Variety the Children's Charity, includes 18 holes, cart, lunch, steak dinner, refreshments, gift and chance to win prizes, silent auction, fees must be paid in advance, first come, first served, 1 (800) 926-0003 x 5036.

West Allegheny Foundation ninth annual golf outing, Quicksilver Golf Club, September 14, 7:15 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. shotgun start, four man scramble, lunch served immediately after, \$125 per golfer, \$500 per foursome, sponsorships available, benefits foundation's work to fund educational and community efforts, John Bates, (412) 287-3190.

Imperial VFD Happenings

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

Bingo

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

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To register, contact certified Refuse To Be A Victim® instructor & regional counselor, Sergeant Michael Hayes, at (412) 787-8900 or nfpdmh@north-fayette.com, or leave name, address, phone number and e-mail at the North Fayette Police Dispatch, 400 North Branch Road Oakdale PA 15071. The dispatch center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ladies Firearms Class

Have you been considering purchasing a firearm for the first time? Do you already own a firearm and are unsure of how to properly and safely use, clean and store the firearm?

The North Fayette Township Police Department will be hosting a ladies' firearms fundamentals and gun safety program in the coming months. This program is geared toward teaching those wanting to learn how to safely own a firearm. It will cover basic firearms types, proper handling, storage options, safety principles, basic maintenance and liability concerns. The course will begin with classroom time and is followed by live fire on the range.

This course will be run by the North Fayette Township Police Department's certified firearms instructor Sergeant Michael Hayes, and assisted by other members of the police department and volunteers. Anyone wishing to attend must first attend the Refuse to be A Victim seminar, also provided by the North Fayette Township Police Department and instructor Sergeant Michael Hayes. For questions regarding these programs, please feel free to contact Sergeant Micheal Hayes at (412) 787-8900 or nfpdmh@north-fayette.com.



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Findlay Township, p. 9, 724.695.0500, www.findlay.pa.us
Firehouse Subs, p. 15, 412.788.4070
First Steps Pediatrics, p. 22, 412.788.1999, www.fspkids.com
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Ohio Valley General Hospital, p. 7, 412.250.2600 - Kennedy Twp., www.ovgh.org
Padgett Business Services, p. 22, 412.458.0639, www.padgettbusinessservices.com
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North Fayette Township
400 North Branch Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 788-4888, www.north-fayette.com

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

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

PUBLIC & PRIVATE SCHOOLS K-12

West Allegheny School District
600 Donaldson Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 695-3422, www.westasd.org

Parkway West Career & Technology Center
7101 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 923-1772, www.parkwaywest.org

This list includes only those public and private schools located within the municipalities served by the West Allegheny Edition of Allegheny West Magazine

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Church of The Living Christ
220 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-7188, www.cotlc.com

Church of the Nazarene
(moved to Florence) 1080 Steubenville Pike, Burgettstown, PA 15021
(724) 947-9223, www.nazarene.org

Clinton UP Church
25 Wilson Road, Clinton, PA 15026
(724) 695-7993

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Covenant Family Church
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Cross Connections Alliance Church
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Crossroads Methodist Church
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First Baptist Church
141 N. McDonald Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-4216

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

Independent Bible Presbyterian Church
112 Dempse Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-3355

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

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

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

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

Rivers of Living Waters Church
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(412) 787-1888, www.rolwc.tripod.com

Resurrection Lutheran Church
7600 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 788-4513

St. Columbkille Church
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(724) 695-7325, www.saintcolumbkilleparish.org

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

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

The Bible Chapel
@ Pittsburgh Technical Institute
(724) 941-8990, ext. 124
www.robinson.biblechapel.org

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

West Ridge Christian Community Church
100 Gorwood Drive, Coraopolis, PA 15108
(724) 695-7500, www.westridge.cc

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

American Legion Post 335 Imperial,
(724) 695-0491

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

Faith in Action, (724) 921-0027

Findlay Athletic Assn., (412) 874-9348

Findlay Garden Club, (724) 350-9837

Girl Scouts WPA, (724) 774-3553

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

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

Lions Club Imperial, (724) 513-7616

Masonic Lodge #669, (724) 693-8274

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

Meals on Wheels-W.A., (412) 279-5670

Montour Run Watershed Assn., www.mrwa.info

Montour Trail Council, (412) 257-3011

Montour Valley Grange, (724) 695-0481

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

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

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

North Fayette Garden Club, (724) 693-8413

Oakdale Youth League, (724) 693-8951

Rotary - Parkway West, (412) 787-5280

Senior Citizen Groups:

- Findlay Township, (724) 695-0500
- North Fayette Township, (724) 693-3118
- St. Columbkille, (724) 695-7325

SNPJ Lodge 106, (724) 695-1411

Sturgeon Athletic Association, (724) 926-2150

The ROCK Community Center, (724) 693-2777

VFW Ladies Auxiliary, (412) 788-4674

VFW Post #7070 Oakdale, (412) 427-9195

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

West Allegheny Food Pantry & Thrift Shop, (724) 695-1305

West Allegheny Foundation, inquiries@wafoundation.org

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

West Allegheny Ministerium, (724) 693-8950

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

Western Allegheny Community Library,
(724) 695-8150

West Allegheny Aqua Club, (412) 608-4583

West Allegheny Inline Hockey, (412) 334-2640

West Allegheny Youth Assn., www.westayouth.net

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

West Allegheny Youth Wrestling, (724) 695-8132



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- Paramahansa Yogananda



BY ERMA DODD
NORTH FAYETTE
TOWNSHIP
RESIDENT

Baby Moses, wrapped in wicker-basket like material, traveled to Honduras in a carry-on bag from Pittsburgh International Airport this summer. Julie Stewart chose the story of Moses to be the lesson she would present to 16 orphaned or abandoned children at the Hope Farm near the city of San Pedro Sula.

Julie and her mother, Judy, went shopping and found one life-like baby boy doll at Walmart. He was a perfect Moses to send with Julie as she boarded the plane on a mission trip along with seven other friends from St. Stephen's Church in Sewickley.

Julie, now 50, had never been far away from her mom. It was quite an experience for her. For the first 32 years of Julie's life, she was without language. Julie had suffered an autoimmune attack that severed the language center in her brain.

Compounding the early problem was a brain injury resulting from being hit by a car when she was 10 years old and weighed just 42 pounds. It was difficult for Julie to go through those years. She could not express herself or say what was going on inside her mind.

"She had her own language," Judy explains, "but literally, Julie did not know what she was talking about."

Julie wanted so badly to learn, but teachers did not know how to help her. She taught herself to read.

For 25 years, she worked in the print shop and mailroom of the family business, Carnegie Printing on Steubenville Pike.

Finally, a smart doctor, who upon learning that Julie, at age 32, often had spontaneous blurbs of very sophisticated language, prescribed an anti-seizure medication. Within 24 hours, Julie began to speak and connect normally.

Judy says, "and she hasn't shut up since."

"My first mission trip was fantastic," says Julie.

She was the energy of the group. She decided they needed a theme song. An hour later, Julie had written the lyrics. Two lines of the song go: "The sun will shine in bright display, God's light will shine our way. Oh, blessed be the hope we share: God's love and grace and care."

"Once there," Julie writes, "there were people all around who had nothing at all. Some had no toilets, some no decent food or water, or any place to live. Animals were starving around the woods.

"When we got to the Hope of Jesus Children's Home, everything was different. All the girls and boys were wearing green uniforms for school. We watched as children played together, no television or iPhone games. Boys and girls gathered eggs and helped with the

farm and assortment of animals."

The founders of Hope Farm, Mike and Kim Miller, went to Honduras in 1999 to help after Hurricane Mitch left such devastation. Mike is in construction, and has a passion for helping children. Kim shares his passion and holds a degree in psychology and a master's in physical therapy. They made the huge decision to relocate to Honduras and establish a home to help children in need.

The Hope Farm provides work for many of the town's people. One worker had an injured foot, so it was hard for him to walk to the Hope Farm. He asked and prayed for a donkey, and he got it.

Julie writes, "What a wonderful time we had in the classroom teaching children Bible stories like the story of Moses. Every child got a turn to read from the Children's Bible, in Spanish or English."

Mission workers also spend many hours in construction, painting and maintenance on the 40-acre farm. Julie painted, and says, "It was hot."

The natives eat termites. Julie was quick to say, "I didn't."

After the trip, Julie spoke at St. Stephens about her experience. She was applauded, and one member presented a challenge. He would match money up to \$10,000 for Hope of Jesus Children's Home. Construction has begun to accommodate another 16 children.

In Julie's testimony that day, she said, "All I ever wanted in my life was to be accepted for who I am. Sometimes it has been a rough battle and gets mixed up with anger and fear from real events that happened because of the many years growing up without language. And though I know the Lord has kept me safe now for 50 years, I have still kept on doubting if I was really worth anything at all. When I looked down from Mission Mountain, I knew that He had been with me all along getting me ready for this wonderful adventure and for the peace that lies ahead."

She is going back.

When Julie returned home, she found a baby Moses waiting, just like the one left on Mission Mountain. It is a reminder of the lesson she shared with children she had come to love, and who had loved Julie just as she is.

Baby Moses' story comes from Exodus 1:14- 2:10. For more on the Hope Farm, visit www.hopefarmcoffee.com, or email info@hopeoffesus.org. Mike and Kim serve as missionaries with the South American Ministry Society.

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