

# THE WEEKLY RECORDER

Community News • Serving Washington County

## The Running of the Wools A New Washington Tradition

By Tom Grande



Spectators line up to watch "The Running of the Wools"

When the Running of the Wools event first came to my attention, I had no notion that this meant actual sheep would be hustling their way down Washington's Main Street, to the cheers of dozens of onlookers, like The Flocking Idiots. What would inspire such a unique take on an event? It turns out it was the vision of Clay Kilgore, executive director of the Washington County Historical Society, and the shepherding of "Downtown" Shana Brown, director of the Washington Business District Authority, who is always looking for new ways to bring the community together in downtown Washington.

Shana was looking into the county's history for

inspiration, and Clay pointed out that Washington county was once the nation's, perhaps even the world's, largest exporter of wool. "Ha ha, wouldn't that be so cool? Running Sheep down Main Street," Brown joked. Clay said, "go with it Shana!" And she did just that.

Soon businesses and individuals alike were whipping up their baaaaddest sheep puns and getting in the spirit, "That's been my number one priority...we wanted this to be an event that celebrates the whole community, and it really has done just that," Brown said.

If you are not already familiar with the renaissance happening in Downtown Washington,

Shana Brown's Business District Authority has been bringing in grants and partners like Ignite business Incubator to restore buildings and create new businesses. Year after year, the town is experiencing growth once again. The Community Pavilion has First Friday activities throughout most of the year. At these events, local vendors gather rain or shine to sell all sorts of delicious goodies, fashionable clothing, and artisan crafts. This year, First Friday fell on Cinco de Mayo, or as it was known here, Sheepo de Mayo.

### The Breakfast Crawl

Saturday morning brought early revelers into town to participate in a breakfast crawl

featuring thirteen businesses in a scavenger hunt of sorts. Participants went to each location and scanned a QR code which allowed entry into a raffle held by the event organizers. Breakfast specials could be found throughout downtown. Some businesses had a bit of fun with the theme of the day. Chicco Baccello offered Fluffy Lamb Cappuccinos and Mary Had a Little Lattes. Drew Ross, owner of Farmer's and Friends Marketplace, served lamb quesadillas. Drew explained the quesadillas as "Ross Farms lamb, seasoned with Mexican Inspired flavors, oven roasted and seared on (our) flat top, nestled in between two toasted corn tortillas with shredded cheese and served with a fresh lime wedge. Lines formed for lamb treats and other goodies as trucks and stands were set up to welcome the hundreds that arrived to enjoy the picturesque downtown setting. Worldwide Eats, Romanos Pizza Cafe, Cretan Gyros, and many other downtown businesses had set up trucks and tables to accommodate the families gathering. T shirts bearing sheep were being scooped up and put on quickly, as more and more people joined in the spirit of the day.

It was notable that not all the businesses on the breakfast crawl were restaurants. New to town businesses Wild Hope Boutique and The Cheerful Balloon had goodies on hand and were fully in the spirit of the day with sheep shirts and balloons adorning their

respective storefronts. The breakfast crawl also was an invigorating opportunity to walk a good portion of the downtown area and realize the potential that is growing in our small town.

### The Running of the Wools

After the crawl, the first race was set to start. Main street was loaded with multitudes of onlookers as Roger Huston, the legendary "voice" from The Meadows Racetrack, called the races. The surreal scene was a joy to behold as the sheep leapt from the starting gate, off to a fast start before meandering around until the feed at the finish line enticed the day's first winner, Chicco Baaacello to take the first heat.

The section reserved for The Flocking Idiots, was filled later that day when the sheep they were sponsoring, Alexander Lambilton, was racing. Kym Lambert attended a community meeting where the idea for The Running of the Wools was being discussed, and she and loved it, "Most sheep were being sponsored by local downtown businesses, so we decided to gather a bunch of friends and sponsor as a team." A big motivation to get a sheep in the race for Kym and her friends is that the winner of this year's Running will lead the Whiskey Rebellion parade in July. However, the Hamilton namesake

See The Running of the Wools, page 16

## National Pike Festival

By Tracy Horn



One of the many vendors at the Pike Festival

### After a two-year hiatus the Nation Pike Festival Returns...

Come rain or shine, the National Road Festival (Pike Days) is a yearly event attended by thousands in Washington and surrounding counties. The festivities consist of everything from covered wagons to funnel cakes and pie eating contests. This year's event, despite a rainy-day Saturday, did not disappoint, and took place from May 19th through May 21st. According to the Washington County website, the festival is known as the "world's

longest festival" and stretches for 90 miles of the historic National Road (Route 40) in PA. Some of the communities who hold Pike Day's festivities include Claysville, Scenery Hill, and Brownsville.

The National Road is deep in history. According to the nationalroadpa.org, the road was a gateway to the west through some of our country's most famous landscapes. It provided employment and the ability for trade and industry to be enhanced and expand more rapidly. That is the reason that this road is so celebrated,

it was part of the formation of our great country. Initially a toll road, eventually the road was turned over to the states it traveled through, mostly for maintenance purposes.

The festival has been around for over 50 years. Due to the Pandemic, the festival took a two-year hiatus returning to full swing this year. Many of the vendors from pre-pandemic years were back to partake in the celebration.

Saturday's events were a little damp. Michelle Wrubleski of Washington was one of the many attendees this year. She said that even though she was a little waterlogged, she still had a great time. She said that she has been going to "Pike Day's" for many years and explained that when she was younger, she attended with friends, but the past few years she has been attending with family members and meeting old and new friends along the way. She loves the yard sales and when asked about a favorite or best purchase she stated that

her son's girlfriend got a brand-new pair of Sketcher boots for a dollar. The yard sale finds were plentiful.

Unique items sometimes tend to be a draw to some of the yard sales. Cheryl Lowery of Scenery Hill shared some interesting facts about their yard sale, and the drawing item, a stuffed deer. Lots of folks new to the festival were stopping by to see the large buck in their front yard. Her family has been participating in "Pike Day's" for many years and started out by selling barbeque pork from their kitchen to those who stopped by to shop. She said that friends and family have used their property to put up yard sale tables because "location is everything." The longevity of this festival speaks volumes to those who participate; no matter how they do so. Cheryl stated the highlight of the weekend for her was on Saturday when folks lined Route 40 to watch for the long-awaited wagon train. It was something that had

been missed not only by the community but her family as well.

This writer's purchase of the weekend you may ask? I stopped at Westerwald Pottery, a pottery store in Scenery Hill, located on the Pike route. I purchased a decorative crock for my living room. If you have not stopped by you need to do so, Westerwald sells a unique product, and uses an interesting process to create it. The company has been a Washington County staple for over 40 years and is known world-wide for their high-quality crock ware.

So, yes, the National Pike Festival is back. Whether you travel the whole 90 miles, or just visit a town or two, or even the Steam show, there is something for everyone.



Traffic lined up in Scenery Hill

### ELECTION RESULTS

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Dan Rush Pg 7



Golf Guide 17-20

# ELECTION RESULTS

## 2023 Washington County Primary Election concludes

*The Washington County 2023 primary election is in the books and has been officially certified by the Washington County Elections office.*

Turnout for the primary was underwhelming at best. 31% of all registered democrats turned out for the primary. This outpaced republicans who had 28% of registered voters participate.

Melanie Ostrander, Washington County Elections Director said, "since mail in ballots were introduced, turnout has increased year over year, however, when you compare this primary to the past, there was not an increase; it has basically the same. Ostrander continued, "in 2019, which had similar offices on the ballot, turnout was 26% and this election was at 26% as well. When asked if the turnout numbers were similar or different than what her office anticipated Ostrander said, "I thought turnout would be around 35% based on prior elections again, with similar offices on the ballot."

### County Commissioner

Republican County Commissioner	
Nick Sherman	9,228
Electra Janis	6,190
Ashley Duff	5,255
Bruce Bandel	4,314
Sonia Sulc	4,125
Kevin Redford	3,514
Write in 113	
<b>Total Republican Votes</b>	<b>- 32,738</b>
Democrat County Commissioner	
Larry Maggi	12,208
Cindy Fisher	11,070
Randy Barli	3,806
Write In	333
<b>Total Democrat Votes</b>	<b>- 27,417</b>

The Washington County Commissioners race saw six republican candidates competing for position on the general election ballot in November, while the democrat ticket had three entries in the primary.

Incumbent Nick Sherman and Electra Janis were the top vote winners on the republican ticket while incumbent Larry Maggi, who ran with Cindy Fisher of Cecil Township, finished tops on the democrat card.

"I was very happy with the results of the May Primary," said Commissioner Sherman. "It was a great opportunity for the republican party to have their voices heard. Sherman went on to say, "I met with the leadership of the Republican party, and we are excited to work together over the summer to make certain that Washington County conservative values continue to be represented, with low taxes and great economic growth. I am also excited to work with Electra Janis to represent all the citizens of the county, as we continue to strive to be the greatest county in the Commonwealth to live, work and raise a family in."

Maggi had this to say about the primary election. "I was pleased with the primary election results and the Democrat turnout for the election. I think the people of Washington County, of both parties, are engaged and pay attention to what

the issues are. I think that there are groups within both parties who are very active and will be very much engaged in the general election."

All four candidates will face off in the general election in November, with the top three vote getters winning seats as Washington County Commissioners.

Several County row offices were contested in this primary as well.

### Clerk of Courts

In the only county race to see an incumbent fall, Ray Phillips, a North Strabane Township businessman, handily defeated current office holder Brenda Davis. Phillips outpaced Davis winning 9,330 votes to 7,328 for Davis; or 56% to 44%.

"I simply outworked my opponent, knocking on doors and attending events daily to spread my message," Phillips said. "I want to clean up this office, which has been in a shambles the last 7 1/2 years. I want to bring forward civility, respect and leadership that works together, with other county offices and officials, regardless of political affiliation, to ensure our citizens receive the best possible representation."

On the Democrat ticket Bobby Dellorso of Canonsburg ran unopposed and will square off against Phillips in November to determine the winner of the Clerk of Courts race. Dellorso said, "I am very excited about the great support I received this spring and all the concerned citizens that voted on May 23rd. We are running full steam ahead into November and I'm looking forward to making the Washington County Clerk of Courts a respectable office again."

### Prothonotary

Sandy Sabot of North Franklin Township ran unopposed on the Democrat ticket and will face off against incumbent Republican Laura Hough in the general election. Hough defeated Republican challenger Kevin Hill by nearly 2,000 votes to earn her chance at another term in office.

### Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans Court

Republican incumbent office holder James Roman chalked up 9,130 votes on the republican ticket vs. 7,421 for political newcomer Christi Wiles Thomas. The Democrat ticket found Alex Taylor running unopposed. Taylor and Roman will face off in the general election.

Roman was pleased with the primary results and said, "it was a great win for a strong Republican field. It is through continued unity, transparency, truth, and Christian values that the republican candidates will continue to provide a positive future for Washington County."

Despite the higher Democrat turnout by percentage, Taylor said he "thinks the turnout could have been a little better across the board. "We have a huge swath of registered voters who only vote in Presidential/Congressional elections," he said. "While those elections are important, it's the local elections that most affect our day to day lives

## 2023 Municipal Primary Write in Winners

MUNICIPALITY	POSITION	YEAR TERM	PARTY	NAME
Washington County	Coroner	4 year	Democratic	S Timothy Warco
Speers	Council	4 Year	Democratic	Denise Decooman
Stockdale	Council	4 Year	Democratic	Ethan Hank
Stockdale	Council	4 Year	Democratic	Jesse B. Stringer
Stockdale	Council	4 Year	Democratic	Tyler Palfrey
Cokeburg	Council	4 Year	Democratic	Allen Eimer
McDonald	Council	4 Year	Democratic	Kirk Inskipt
Burgettstown	Council	4 Year	Democratic	Gary D. Manges
New Eagle	Council	4 Year	Democratic	Barry E. Williams
Centerville - Third Ward	Council	4 Year	Democratic	Chad Novotney
Peters - At Large	Council	4 Year	Democratic	Frank Kosir Jr
Elco	Council	4 Year	Republican	Allan Waraksa
California	Council	4 Year	Republican	Michael D. Watson
Charleroi	Council	4 Year	Republican	Kristin R. Calcek
Charleroi	Council	4 Year	Republican	Thomas D. Santoro
Donora	Council	4 Year	Republican	James L. Brice
Houston	Council	4 Year	Republican	Lisa M. Minney
Stockdale	Council	4 Year	Republican	Tyler Palfrey
Stockdale	Council	4 Year	Republican	Ethan J Hank
Cokeburg	Council	4 Year	Republican	Ruben Phillip Lessner
Deemston	Council	4 Year	Republican	John C. Dieterle
Deemston	Council	4 Year	Republican	Andrew N. Witouski
East Washington	Council	4 Year	Republican	Anthony J. Dinch Jr
Long Branch	Council	4 Year	Republican	William D. Nutt
McDonald	Council	4 Year	Republican	Michael C. Schaal
Canonsburg - Third Ward	Council	4 Year	Republican	Brian Stephen Parris
Centerville - At Large	Council	4 Year	Republican	Scott A Marcolini
Centerville - First Ward	Council	4 Year	Republican	Scott A Marcolini
Burgettstown	Council	2 Year	Democratic	Gary Manges
Burgettstown	Council	2 Year	Democratic	Pamela Church
Charleroi	Council	2 Year	Republican	Robert C. Whiten Jr
East Washington	Council	2 Year	Republican	Anthony J. Dinch Jr
Burgettstown	Council	2 Year	Republican	Gary D. Manges
Canton	Supervisor	6 Year	Democratic	Thomas A. Bodnovich
Chartiers	Supervisor	6 Year	Democratic	Harlan L. Shober
Fallowfield	Supervisor	6 Year	Democratic	Bruce C. Smith
Independence	Supervisor	6 Year	Democratic	Michael A. Dzurko
Morris	Supervisor	6 Year	Democratic	Patrick Bracey
Nottingham	Supervisor	6 Year	Democratic	Peter Mansmann
North Strabane	Supervisor	6 Year	Democratic	Harold R. Close Jr
North Strabane	Supervisor	6 Year	Democratic	Neil Kelly
South Strabane	Supervisor	6 Year	Democratic	Jeffrey D. Bull
East Finley	Supervisor	6 Year	Republican	Timothy S. Byers
North Franklin	Supervisor	6 Year	Republican	Robert A. Sabot
East Bethlehem - At Large	Commissioner	4 years	Republican	Marta Jo McCombs
West Pike Run	Supervisor	6 Year	Republican	Richard A. Molish
Morris	Auditor	6 Year	Democratic	Dan Edward Watt
Morris	Auditor	6 Year	Republican	Dan Edward Watt
Independence	Auditor	6 Year	Republican	Melinda J Valduga-Latynski
Fort Cherry	School Director	4 Year	Democratic	Leslie Ann Maxin
Fort Cherry	School Director	4 Year	Democratic	Beverly ann Schwab
Avella - Region III	School Director	4 Year	Democratic	Terry Glenn Jacobs Jr.
Avella - Region III	School Director	4 Year	Democratic	Leslie J. Cunningham
Burgettstown - Region II	School Director	4 Year	Democratic	Teresa McGraw Walsh
McGuffey - Region III	School Director	4 Year	Democratic	Renee Monique Frye
Fort Cherry	School Director	4 Year	Republican	Leslie Ann Maxin
Fort Cherry	School Director	4 Year	Republican	Joseph James Plezia
Avella	School Director	4 Year	Republican	Terry Glenn Jacobs Jr.
Avella	School Director	4 Year	Republican	Tia L. Shore
Chartiers Houston	School Director	2 year	Democratic	Richard M. Hall
Chartiers Houston	School Director	2 Year	Republican	William Russell Smith

and should be paid more attention to. I personally think that if more people participated, more people would feel that their voices are heard," he added.

### Coroner

Incumbent Coroner S. Timothy Warco was challenged on the republican slate by Funeral Director Mark Zmijowski. Warco prevailed on a vote count of 9,926 vs. 7,602 for his challenger. There were no candidates on the Democratic ticket however, Warco won the Democrat nod, winning the nomination based on write-in votes. Warco is now unopposed in the general election. When asked about the race, Warco said, "my opponent ran a very tough race and I have nothing but respect for him and the race he ran. He worked very hard. Mark is a good man from a great family, and I truly wish him well in future endeavors." Warco also

said, "I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve a 9th term. I want to thank the voters and supporters from Washington County who have entrusted me to continue holding the office of Coroner."

### Treasurer

Tom Flickinger (incumbent - R) and Joe Manning (D), ran unopposed in the primary and will square off in the general election. District Attorney Current Office holder Jason Walsh ran unopposed on the Republican ticket as did Democrat Christina DeMarco Breeden, leading into a showdown in November.

### Magisterial District Judge

Only one competitive race was contested in the 2023 primary election. The Peters Township based district, 27-3-01, saw current office holder Phil Melograne, win the

republican nod with 2,594 votes over challenger Christina Fox Grasso who earned 1,375 votes. Melograne was appointed to his current seat by former Governor Tom Wolf to replace Jesse Pettit, who was elected to the Washington County Court of Common Pleas in 2021. Grasso, who cross filed, won the Democrat nomination with 957 votes over Daniel D. Ketelaar who earned 917 votes. Melograne, who also cross filed, finished with 739 Democrat votes. November will pit Melograne and Grasso in a race for the office.

### Write-in-votes

Many candidates found success through write-in votes. The following list, published on the Washington County Election site, lists write-in candidates who will participate in the 2023 general election. (See PDF List) year."

# COMMUNITY

## Former Chair of Citigroup and NYSE Inspires Graduates At Washington & Jefferson College Commencement



**WASHINGTON, PA (May 20, 2023)—** *John S. Reed, former chair of Citigroup and the New York Stock Exchange, inspired the graduates at Washington & Jefferson College's 2023 commencement, advising them to take charge of their own lives and always to act with integrity.*

Mr. Reed, a 1961 graduate of the college, spoke to 220 graduates and their families, as well as faculty, staff, and members of the class of 1973 celebrating their 50th reunion. Reflecting on his own experience, he stressed the importance of finding satisfying career opportunities and advised, "Don't stay in jobs you dislike."

President John C. Knapp expressed his pride and belief in the Class of 2023, acknowledging their resilience through the challenges of a global pandemic. He stated, "I am proud to say that these graduates are prepared to make a positive difference in the future by

living out W&J's time-honored commitment to responsible citizenship."

The 2023 student speaker was Sarah Marshall, a neuroscience major and psychology minor, who described herself as "worried, excited, frightened, proud, amazed . . . at the end of a chapter, the end of what I know." Addressing her classmates, she continued, "But here's the thing. I'm starting to catch on that it's not so bad to write new chapters. Every bit of fear that I have felt from leaving one chapter and going to the next has become an adventure of unknowns and growth." Marshall previously has made the graduation speeches for sixth-grade and high school commencements.

Both John Reed and Dr. Larry Roper were awarded honorary doctorates during the ceremony. Dr. Roper served as the college's Baccalaureate speaker on May 19. A professor emeritus and former vice president at Oregon State University, he has helped W&J with initiatives to ensure that the college is welcoming, supportive and inclusive of an increasingly diverse campus population. He urged the graduates to reflect deeply on the value of their college years and to "take time, look around, take in the

beauty . . . and recount the ways in which your life has been enriched and transformed by the unique touch of the W&J experience."

The commencement ceremony also recognized a Staff Member of the Year and Faculty Member of the Year as voted on by the graduating class. Heidi Ryan, College Nurse, and Dr. Jenny Kline, Professor of Mathematics, were selected for the honor. In keeping with W&J's tradition, Dr. Kline will provide the welcoming address to new students at the Matriculation Ceremony in August.

To see the full commencement ceremony, you can visit [washjeff.edu/commencement-may-20-2023](http://washjeff.edu/commencement-may-20-2023).

About Washington & Jefferson College

Washington & Jefferson College, located in Washington, Pa., is a selective liberal arts college founded in 1781. Committed to providing each of its students with the highest-quality undergraduate education available, W&J offers a traditional arts and sciences curriculum emphasizing interdisciplinary study and independent study work. For more information about W&J, visit [www.washjeff.edu](http://www.washjeff.edu), or call 888-W-AND-JAY.

## Washington and Jefferson College President to retire after the 2024 school year



Washington and Jefferson College President John Knapp

Washington and Jefferson College President John Knapp to retire after the 2024 school year. Knapp has held the post since 2017. A search for a replacement will begin this fall. School enrollment is 1162 and a school of nursing was added in cooperation with Washington Hospital.

## Solaio Market House to Open June 25th



Solaio Market House to open June 25 at 335 Morganza Rd. in Canonsburg. A marketplace for all things health, wellness, lifestyle and beauty. Confirmed tenants Beauty by Taimuty, Whole Hearted Esthetics, and Southpointe Massage.

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# Washington County Summer Guide

**June 16 Trace Adkins Meadows Casino**

**June 17 Sports Card Showcase Washington Crown Center**

**June 17 Nottingham Township Community Day**

**June 21 Washington Symphony Orchestra Peterswood Park**

**June 22 Canonsburg Townpark 100th Anniversary Celebration**

**June 24 Farm to Table Dinner Nineteen North**

**June 24 Peters Township Community Day**

**June 24 Car Cruise Canonsburg Town Park**

**July 4 Canonsburg 4th of July Parade**

**July 7-8 Whiskey Rebellion Festival**

**July 15 Buckwild Southpointe Town Center**

**July 15 Three Rivers Celebrity Softball Game Wild Things Park**

**July 15 Marquee Mopars McDoanlds Meadowlands**

**July 19 The Jaggerz Peterswoods park**

**July 21 Canonsburg Day at Kennywood Park**

**July 22 Cecil Township Community Day**

**July 22 St John's 4th Annual Auto Show Avella**

**July 23 Car and Tractor Show American Legion Fredericktown**

**July 27 Friends of Chartiers Park**

**July 29 -Aug 5 McSummerfest McDonald**

**July 29 Adios Day The Meadows Racetrack and Casino**

**August 4 Ted Nugent Meadows Casino**

**August 5 North Strabane Twp Community Day**

**August 11 -16 Pony League World Series**

**August 12-19 Washington County Fair**

**August 20 31st Annual Crusin Classics Hot Rod Hoedown Cecil Township Ballfield**

**August 23 Ruff Creek Peterswoods Park**

**August 26 Rally On Main Motorcycle Event Downtown Washington**



*Chris Hoffman*

## Canonsburg Fourth of July Committee Announces Grand Marshals for Upcoming 60th Anniversary Celebration

*2023 Celebration to take place on Tuesday, July 4, 2023*



*Linda Lou Neill*

Canonsburg, PA— — Today, the Greater Canonsburg Area July Fourth Celebration, Inc., announced its annual Fourth of July Parade and Celebration is pleased to welcome Chris Hoffman from CBS Pittsburgh, KDKA News and first ever 4th of July Fire Queen, Linda Lou Neill as their Grand Marshals.

Celebrity Grand Marshal, Chris Hoffman is an Emmy-winning reporter who started with KDKA in May 2019. During his time at KDKA, he has covered the Fern Hollow Bridge collapse, presidential visits, and numerous headlines with the Steelers. He and several colleagues were awarded an Emmy in 2022 for their team coverage of the bridge collapse.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Chris was part of CBS's coverage in Florida. He brought first-hand accounts of what people were going through after the devastating storm.

Prior to coming back to Pittsburgh, Chris worked at WSET in Lynchburg, Virginia, in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. While he was there, he covered major stories including the scandals that rocked Virginia politics, the chaos in Charlottesville that followed the "Unite the Right" rally, Virginia Tech's 10th anniversary of the deadly mass shooting on campus, and several damaging storms, including a tornado that tore through 20-miles.

He was honored to cover stories nationally for the company. Chris' work was recognized by The Associated Press of the Virginias, naming him one of their reporters of the year.

Before living in Virginia, Chris worked at WPMT in the Harrisburg area and WCTI along the North Carolina Coast. Chris was born and raised in the shadow of the Pittsburgh International Airport, in Crescent Township. After graduating from Moon Area High School, he moved downtown to attend Point Park University. While there he double majored in Broadcast Journalism and Television Production. He also interned at KDKA before graduating.

Chris is an avid Steelers, Pirates, and Penguins fan. He and his wife bought their first house in the area. They both enjoy running along the city's trails.

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Local Grand Marshal, Linda Lou Neill is a lifelong resident of Canonsburg. She has the solitary distinction of being the very first 4th of July Fire Queen. Linda was able to achieve this by selling 1,173 tickets for the Canonsburg Volunteer Fire Department and crowned the night before the very first 4th of July Celebration in 1963. Not only was she awarded the title, but also tickets to Florida for her accomplishment. This was the first time she had been on a plane and never missed a parade since.

"I was only sixteen years old and knocked on every door in Canonsburg with my mom," Linda Lou recounts. "If someone wasn't home, I'd go back the following day."

Linda was in the graduating class of 1964 from Canon MacMillan High School and subsequently earned a bachelor's degree in literature from Washington & Jefferson College. She worked as a case worker for community action with Head Start.

Currently, Linda Lou is the President of the Lion's Club of Eighty Four, Pennsylvania, moderator of Chartiers Hill United Presbyterian Church and does standup comedy at senior centers around the area. She has also played hand bells for over forty years.

"I am proud of winning the crown. It was a life lesson set when I was only sixteen years old. Hard work pays off and I've carried that with me throughout my life," she added.

Sixty years later, she still has her crown, program booklet, photographs, and tickets from her trip. A true representation of our community and the effort outstanding citizens have consistently contributed in making Canonsburg truly unique.

The Annual Celebration will take place on Tuesday, July 4th, 2023. For more information, visit the Celebration's website at: [canonsburgjuly4th.org](http://canonsburgjuly4th.org)

# GOVERNMENT

## The Conservative Mind

By Tom Flickinger



By Tom Flickinger

I have become tired of non-conservatives defining in the press how conservatives think and feel about important societal issues and concerns. Why allow Liberals to define the narrative when, as usual, they are biased and do not have the ability to understand from where the conservative mind emanates. Therefore, with the blessing of this newspaper to print my columns, I will endeavor to educate and inform the readers about the foundations and viewpoints of a true conservative mind. History We have to stat our conservative journey with the man who many feel was the "father" of conservatism, according to Wikipedia, "Sir Edmund Burke (1729-1797) an Anglo-Irish statesman, economist, and philosopher. Born in Dublin, Burke served as a member of Parliament (MP) between 1766 and 1794 in the House of Commons of Great

Britain with the Whig Party. Burke was a proponent of established virtues with manners in society and stressed the importance of religious institutions for the moral stability and good of the state. In his Reflections on the Revolution in France, Burke asserted that the revolution was destroying the fabric of good society and traditional institutions of state and society and condemned the persecution of the Catholic Church that resulted from it. Conservatism arose in Europe throughout the 18th century, mostly as a reaction to the chaos of the English and French Revolutions." Fast forward to the 20th century in America and we meet Russell Kirk (1918-1994). According to Wikipedia, "Kirk was an American political theorist, moralist, historian, social critic, and literary critic, known for his influence on 20th-century American conservatism. Kirk authored "The Conservative Mind," a classic work on America's conservative legacy dating from the founding of the American republic and continuing into the 20th century. It traced the development of conservative thought in the Anglo-American tradition, giving special importance to the ideas of Edmund Burke." Not only does Kirk offer a succinct definition of conservatism (change is inevitable but ought to be

gradual, "never unfixing old interests at once"). His 1953 book gave shape to the postwar conservative movement in the United States. Kirk also gave conservatives their name. Before "The Conservative Mind" was published in 1953, conservatives called themselves many different things, including individualists, classical liberals, traditionalists, and Jeffersonian Republicans. After "The Conservative Mind" they called themselves— "conservatives." Conservative Defined Conservatism, as defined by Wikipedia, is a cultural, social, and political philosophy that seeks to promote and to preserve traditional institutions, practices, and values. It is a political and social philosophy that emphasizes the importance of moral principles, manifested through certain "natural laws" or divine order to which society should adhere. Conservatives, according to Andrew Bacevich, form his book American Conservatism, "uphold the principle of social continuity. They prefer the devil they know, rather than the devil they don't know. Order, justice, and freedom are the result of a long and sometimes painful social experience, the results of centuries of trial and error. Although change is occurring, it should be gradual with much thought, not revolutionary; as Burke

states "never unfixing old interests at once." Revolution slices through the arteries of a culture, a cure that kills." "The individual is foolish, but the species is wise" states Burke. Conservatives value the importance of social ties and the preservation of ancestral institutions. They frown on the wisdom of flavor of the day philosophers. As Burke states, "the wisdom of our ancestors" is an important conservative concept. It is the arrogance of man that allows him to believe that he has found a new way of thinking, some new social insight being discovered. It's all done before. Paraphrasing Bacevich, "We stand on the shoulders of our ancestors, having suffered the cost of trial and error over centuries of civilized development." Bacevich states, "Conservatives believe that any public measure taken should be judged by long term consequences, not by temporary advantage or popularity of the day. Liberals and radicals are imprudent, for they demand implementation of their objectives without giving much heed to the risk of new abuses that will result, much worse than the evils they hope to eliminate. Human society is complex, and remedies cannot be simple if they are to be effective. The conservative acts only after sufficient reflection, having weighed the

consequences of his action. Sudden and slashing reforms are perilous. The march of prudent progress is slow." "Conservatives uphold the concept of private property, and equality before a just court of law. The leveling of society to promote equality of outcomes will at best lead to social stagnation. Society longs for honest and able leadership, and if natural and institutional differences among people are destroyed, then a new tyrant will create new forms of inequality" paraphrasing Bacevich once again. Finally, conservatives believe that man is imperfect. Bacevich states, "Man being imperfect, no perfect social order can ever be created. Because of human restlessness and imperfection, mankind would grow rebellious under any form of a utopian state and break out in violent discontent-or else expire in boredom"...we are not made for perfect things" All we can reasonably expect is a tolerable social order, with a just and free society, in which some evils, maladjustments and suffering will continue. By proper attention to prudent reform, we may preserve and improve this order. But if the old institutional and moral safeguards of a nation are forgotten, then the anarchic impulses in man break lose." chy will grow.

By Robert Johnson

### Budget Negotiations Continue

Budget negotiations continue in Harrisburg as the June 30th deadline comes closer. The PA House recently approved a higher budget than was introduced by the Governor in March. The approved House Budget would spend \$46.5 billion dollars, a 13% increase over last year's budget of \$40.5 billion. This bill was passed on a straight party vote with the 102 Democrats voted in favor while 101 Republicans voting against.

The PA Senate controlled by the GOP is very likely to reduce the spending levels as they now have the House Bill to review. Education funding allocations to the school districts is an important line item in the budget. Governor Shapiro's budget proposed 2023-24 fiscal year budget includes \$8,421,751,000 for Basic Education funding. This amount is a \$10.45% increase over the 2022-23 fiscal year appropriation (\$796,627,000).

### Property Tax Rent and Rebate Programs for Seniors

The PA House earlier this month passed HB 1100 increasing the amount a PA Senior can receive in a rebate from \$650 to



\$1,000. Household income limits are adjusted in this legislation increasing the number of seniors who will be eligible for this rebate. Income limits will be connected to the Consumer Price Index thus providing for increases in the cost of living and inflation. It is estimated with these increased income limits 173,000 PA residents could be eligible for a rebate. HB 1100 is now in the Senate for review.

### Legislation may be introduced in Harrisburg proving for "Run off" Elections

There is some legislator support to enact new elections laws in Pennsylvania providing for "run off" elections. Legislation may be introduced creating a primary run off system requiring candidates to receive at least 50% of their party's support in a

primary election. before they can be declared the winner and advance to the November General Election. How does it work? If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote in the primary election, then a second or "run off" would be held between the two top vote getters. The candidate with the most votes in this "run off" will advance to compete in the November General Election. Other states across the country conduct "run off" elections but Pennsylvania has never approved this type of primary system. Some grassroots advocacy groups are likely to oppose this primary election change and it is unknown how much support it will have in the General Assembly. However, we expect legislation to be introduced in the near future moving this debate forward.

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## Top County Administrative Officials resign posts



Washington County government will be seeking to fill three key administrative roles because of the voluntary resignations of Finance Director Joshua Hatfield, Human Services Director Kimberly Rogers, and Michael Namie, Chief of staff for the county commissioners. All three officials notified the county that their last day will be June 30th. Namie, who was appointed to his current role in 2022, previously served five terms as the county controller. He has been with the county

since the 1990's. Hatfield has worked in several county roles since 2004 including deputy controller and in his current role, he has been responsible for preparing the county budget. Rogers began work with the Children and Youth Services department in 2012 and was promoted to the Director role in 2020. It could be assumed that the commissioners will begin work immediately to appoint interim leaders to head the department while the search for replacements takes place.

# HEALTH

## As more physicians approach retirement age, are we prepared for the shortfall?

By Lauren Liebhaber-Stacker.com

About 2 in 5 active physicians will be 65 or older by 2034. While many physicians have historically retired closer to age 70, burnout exacerbated by COVID-19 will likely accelerate rather than delay retirement among the current cohort of practicing physicians.

As a result, the United States is projected to be short between 38,000 and 124,000 full-time physicians across all specialties by the end of the decade, according to the American Association of Medical Colleges.

Because it can take at least 10 years to train a physician fully—and in most cases, longer—these decade-long projections require immediate attention if the U.S. hopes to avoid a crisis-level shortage of qualified physicians.

To compound the issue, America is getting older and sicker. Currently, about 1 in 6 Americans is 65 or older. Over the next several decades, this demographic will likely comprise nearly a quarter of the U.S. population. Chronic illness is also becoming more prevalent, driving the need for increased primary care capacity. Eighty percent of adults 65 and older—about 45 million people—have at least one chronic condition, most



commonly arthritis, cancer, diabetes, or heart disease.

DocBuddy cited data from the Health Resources and Services Administration to visualize the projected shortages in the health care industry, specifically among physicians.

Shortages are projected across the health care industry. It's not just physicians that are in short supply. The U.S. faces a shortage of nearly every type of critical health care worker, including nurses, therapists, counselors, and social workers. Roughly 1 million registered nurses in the U.S. are 50 or older and will reach retirement age around the same time as many practicing physicians.

In addition to age, stressful working conditions are another driving factor behind the health care professionals shortage. According to the National Academy of Medicine, approximately 35-54% of U.S. nurses and physicians felt burned out before the pandemic. The pandemic exacerbated these stressful conditions, with more than 50% of all public health care workers reporting symptoms of anxiety, depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder.

According to DocBuddy, the US could be short over 18,000 general medicine physicians by 2035. A rapidly aging and ailing U.S. population, an aging health care workforce,

and pervasive burnout that led to an exodus from the industry are just a few reasons why the U.S. cannot meet health care demands. Limited training capacity and funding are another, as some medical students struggle to get matched with residencies.

In the U.S., there are as many as 10,000 chronically unmatched doctors—people who graduated from medical school but have repeatedly received rejections from residency programs.

The Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services are the largest funders of graduate medical education programs such as residencies and internships. However, a provision of the Balanced Budget Act capped funding in 1997. As a result, increased GME program funding has not accompanied patient population growth.

Nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered will likely fill the primary care gap over the next decade.

### International medical graduates could fill gaps

According to the American Medical Association, international medical graduates often

practice in health care shortage areas serving some of the most at-risk communities. The amount of red tape IMGs must go through, from excessive regulations and immigration applications to difficulty obtaining sponsorship, is a barrier to realizing the full potential of this talented pool of health care providers.

Internationally trained physicians account for more than 50% of all physicians in primary care shortage areas, serving more than 20 million Americans, according to the American Immigration Council. Foreign-trained physicians are also more likely to serve higher-risk populations, including those with lower income, less educational attainment, and those in rural or "health care desert" areas.

Story editing by Brian Budzynski. Copy editing by Kristen Wegrzyn.

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## The Trevor Popeck Foundation, Inc.

Chartiers-Houston student creates 501(c)(3) non-profit



Trevor Popeck

**The Trevor Popeck Foundation Inc. is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization which was started to help offset medical expenses for children who suffer from various eye related ailments. It was recently formed in January of 2023 by Trevor Popeck, who is now entering his senior year at Chartiers Houston High School.**

### Trevor's Story

When Trevor was 3 years old, he went to preschool and the school conducted a standard vision screening. It was determined in testing, that his left eye had some abnormality. The school suggested to his parents, Steve, and Laurie Popeck of Chartiers Township, that they follow up with a pediatric ophthalmologist. After scanning the family's insurance for a nearby doctor who was covered under their plan, Laurie scheduled an appointment with Pediatric Ophthalmology. It was a day that will live in her memory forever.

After meeting with Dr. Paviglianiti, MD, they learned of the issue with Trevor's left eye. "I can still remember the conversation like it was yesterday," said Laurie. "Dr. Pav (that is what everyone calls Dr. Paviglianiti) conducted the eye exam and turned to me and said, well, Trevor has a juvenile cataract." His vision was 20/5000; 20/20 is normal.

Having only heard of cataracts in the elderly Laurie asked, "how is this possible?" Dr. Pav could see that she was terribly upset and calmly assured her that it was nothing the family did wrong, it simply is something that happens to 25% of the population and that it could be fixed by surgical intervention. It was treatable. Steve and Laurie were relieved, but now concerned about their three-year-old having surgery.

A few months later, surgery was scheduled at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. Trevor's parents went with him while his younger sister, Brooke, stayed with her grandparents. Dr. Pav conducted a successful 8-hour long surgery to remove the cataract. This felt like an eternity to Steve and Laurie who sat anxiously in the waiting room. The surgery went well.

Trevor's recovery included patching his "good" eye, to help get the connections strong in the left eye. This was a struggle at times as the toddler did not fully accept wearing a patch. He eventually got glasses to help him with reading. The prescription was strong in the left eye, but completely clear in the right eye.

The days passed quickly, and it was time for Trevor to go to kindergarten. Dr. PAV suggested the family look into an Individual Education Program (IEP) which would help Trevor with larger fonts and other accommodations, to help with his learning. His eyesight had improved to 20/4000 by this point, better but still a challenge. Despite the "bad eye," and with hopes of further improvement as the years progressed, he did not need the IEP. Trevor received no special treatment and immediately found success in the classroom

and in sports as well. He played baseball and basketball (while wearing prescription sport goggles). Eventually he began participating in football and wore a prescription face shield to protect his eyes.

### Fourteen Years Later

Fast forward to today, Trevor's wears contact lenses, and his eyesight is now 20/150; not perfect, but it does not hold him back. Trevor is excelling. He carries a 4.3 GPA and is a member of The National Honor Society. On the football field he is a starting lineman at Chartiers Houston and was recently selected as an all-conference player.

Trevor set his goal of creating a nonprofit to fundraise and help offset medical expenses for other children and their families in the Pittsburgh Area. While his family's insurance covered his procedures, he is aware that other children may not be so fortunate. He believes his non-profit can help. Trevor has the opportunity to be an inspiration to others. He wants to help other families feel like they are not alone, and that financial help is available. "I want other kids to know that if this happens to them that they can overcome it. Their future can still be bright, and this will just be part of the story they tell someday. It may not be easy, but the key is to listen to your parents and your doctor."

Trevor Popeck is truly an inspiration and his endeavor to create this nonprofit organization is a testament to his outstanding character.

For more information and to make a donation to The Trevor Popeck Foundation, Inc., please check out their website: <https://www.thetrevorpopECKfoundationinc.org/>

## CERVICAL WHIPLASH: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Sean Labuda, D.C.

Whiplash, known medically as cervical spine sprain/strain injury, is characterized by a collection of patient symptoms that may occur as a result of injury to the neck. There are over 200,000 cases of cervical whiplash injuries annually in the United States. Typical mechanisms responsible for this injury include automotive rear end collisions, sports-related contact injuries, personal falls and other traumatic scenarios which result in sudden acceleration or deceleration to the cervical spine (neck). During a cervical sprain/strain injury, soft tissues of the neck area such as muscles, ligaments, tendons, discs, and nerves may become damaged or irritated. These damaged soft tissues can then become inflamed and swollen and result in neck pain, neck stiffness, headaches, dizziness and pain or numbness radiating into the shoulders, arms and hands and even ringing into the ears. Injuries can range from minimal to severe and may resolve in days; however, some severe cases may even last for years.

Cervical spine sprain/strain injuries are treatable and various treatment methods are available depending on the severity of the individual case. These treatment modalities include immobilization through a cervical collar, ice/heat application, physical therapy, medication, chiropractic spinal manipulation,

TENS "transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation" therapy, spinal injections, and even spinal surgery in rare cases.

Due to the nature of whiplash injuries, it is impossible to prevent them entirely. However, one can take several steps to diminish the risk of developing whiplash. When operating a vehicle or if you are a passenger, you can wear your seat belt properly across the shoulder and snug against the torso. One can also drive safely by not tailgating other vehicles or not driving too fast and being forced to apply the vehicle brakes too forcefully. Sports injury prevention techniques should be reinforced at all levels to reduce the likelihood of cervical spine sprain/strain injuries.

Individuals should seek out professional health care if they have suffered a cervical sprain/strain injury and are noticing pain that is lasting more than a few days and/or if their complaints are adversely affecting their ability to perform normal activities of daily living. If the individual has suffered acute significant cervical spine sprain/strain injury, they are typically advised to report to the emergency room or local hospital for immediate evaluation and subsequent treatment.

Sean Labuda, D.C. is the clinical director at Labuda Chiropractic, LLC located in Washington PA at 975 Jefferson Avenue. Office phone number (724) 222-2660.

# PROFILE

## Interview with City of Washington Police Chief Daniel Rush

**Why did you get into a career in law enforcement?**

“I wanted to be an aircraft mechanic and enlisted in the Air Force while in high school. However, the Air Force said I was color blind. They asked if I was interested in being in the Security Police (Military Police). That was in 1990. I spent 4 years as a law enforcement specialist and K9 handler. I enjoyed the varied nature of the work and decided to make it a career. I attended Waynesburg College afterward where I got my bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.”

**As chief, what are your primary responsibilities and duties?**

“I, with the aid of my assistant chief, attend to the day-to-day administration of our staff of 29 sworn personnel and 2 civilian staff. That consists of everything from scheduling training to policy review and revision to meeting with local entities and organizations, vehicle maintenance and enforcement of ordinances.”

**What are the major challenges you and your team face in policing the city?**

“Washington is a good place with good people. I try to remind folks that we are not Philly, or Pittsburgh or New York. We have our issues. Every town does, but people here generally get along. But like so many others much of our problems stem from the sale and use of drugs and the problems associated with them. Theft, assault, homicide, etc. In a close second to and often comingled with drug use is mental health issues. We have begun providing our officers with additional training outside the state mandated yearly training and coordinating with county mental health agencies; however, those in mental health crisis aren’t committing crimes necessarily and having a mental health issue is not a crime and the line between what a law enforcement officer can and can not do within the confines of their legal authority runs head first in to the poor optics of the appearance of doing nothing.”

**What are your departmental goals?**

“Since I took over in Jan of 2022 my primary goal has been to equip our officers with the technology, they need to police in the 21st century. In doing so, we are now drafting reports in an electronic report database and have fielded body worn cameras. We are currently in the process of installing in-car computers which we hope will result in more time spent in patrol zones instead of coming on-station to draft reports as well as giving officer the means to run registrations and warrant checks without tying up the radio.”

**What resources do you need to achieve your goals and improve policing in the city?**

“Cooperation of the public from reporting crime all the way through prosecution. All the money and technology in the world can not replace fully the public taking a vested interest in the safety and security of their neighborhoods.”

**Is fentanyl a problem in our city?**

“We find fentanyl in almost all of the heroin we send to the lab. Overdoses ebb and flow but heroin is pretty much a constant and has been for over 10 years.”

**Is there any legislation that needs improvement to help you police effectively?**

“Crime and criminals advance as fast as technology advances and we (at least at the state and local level) can only move as fast as our Constitutional constraints allow us so I don’t know that there is legislation that could solve that problem except infringement of Rights which I do NOT support.”

**What is your assessment of our court system in relationship to criminals and crime?**

“Courts are far too lenient on juvenile offenders as well as those who commit property crimes (theft, vandalism, burglary, trespass). Juveniles aren’t just skipping school and getting into mischief. They are carrying guns, selling drugs, stealing cars, and committing assaults and in some cases attempted homicides and homicides. These more serious offenses don’t just happen in a vacuum. Many serious juvenile offenders commit lower-level offenses prior to and were treated with a soft approach. Property crimes are, in many cases, considered as just the loss of “stuff” when in fact that loss or damage of property is damaging to the victim in more ways than just the loss of some material thing. It represents the loss of time and labor spent in earning money to purchase that “thing” and victims know that when the offender is sentenced, an order to pay restitution means either not getting paid or being paid on a timetable more favorable to the offender than the financial interests of the victim.”



Police Chief Daniel Rush

**Tell me about repeat offenders. Is this a problem? If so, what needs to be done to make improvements?**

“Recidivism is a problem. At the county level I do not have any hard stats; however, the PA Dept of Corrections Recidivism report of 2022 showed that 40% of released inmates recidivate within a year and 64% within 3 years of release. What’s the answer? I don’t know. There are hundreds of programs available both at the county and state level for offenders to “help” them, but ultimately it boils down to the individual.”

### City Police Resources

- 31 officers
  - 5 detectives
- 24 patrol (one of them is a k9 officer)**  
**K9 Tony**  
**Chief**  
**Captain**  
**2 civilian clerks**  
**All full time**
- Fleet of 11. 8 marked. 3 unmarked**



# FOOD & DRINK

## Angelo's Restaurant 84 years and still thriving

By Sylvia McCabe

*Eighty-four years of anything is rare and precious.*

For Michael Passalacqua, owner of Angelo's Restaurant in Washington, celebrating the 84th Anniversary of his family business on March 28, 2023, was a humbling and profound experience. The celebration evoked a deep sense of pride for his family's hard work, resilience, and passion to succeed through nearly nine decades.

Angelo's restaurant first opened its doors in 1939 when Michael's grandparents, Angelo, and Giacomina, opened a small tavern at 955 West Chestnut Street. Once customers got a taste of Giacomina's spaghetti, it became a popular lunch and dinner spot, known then as The West Chestnut Spaghetti Inn. After Angelo passed on in 1953, Giacomina

continued to run the restaurant with the help of her two children, Silvio (Michael's Dad) and Carmelina. Then, in 1958, when Giacomina retired, she handed the business over to Silvio and Carmelina. The siblings changed the restaurant name to Angelo's, added a full menu, and remodeled the space. Angelo's continued to grow in popularity over the next two decades. In 1981 when Michael's Aunt Carmelina retired, Michael's father took over the business prompting Michael and his sister, Tonne, to

leave their jobs and come home to help. Then, in 1992, after 42 years of running the restaurant, Michael's parents retired, passing the torch of ownership to Michael.

He shares that taking over the business did not come without struggles and challenges: the most significant challenge came in 2008 when Angelo's moved from the old location in downtown Washington, to the new and present location at North Franklin Drive.

"All my life I have been able to see the big picture

and think and see ahead. I knew early on that the restaurant would someday have to move. And I was prepared for other obstacles as well... In the 90's Southpointe came along and wiped out much of the customer base for our lunch crowd. Our lunch business went from over 100 customers a day to about 30. Through it all we prevailed, but not without the help and support of wife, Tenna, and my family."

"I took a big risk when we moved to our new location. We experienced some lean times in my family budget,

but I knew I would persevere just as my parents and grandparents had always done," says Michael. "I just never said quit. I felt optimistic enough to succeed no matter what the obstacle."

The restaurant currently employs about 50 people, several of whom have been with the restaurant for several decades.

"Culture is the key. Respecting, rewarding, recognizing, and putting people in roles they are naturally wired to do," says Michael, adding that hiring people begins with a behavioral assessment he calls the predictive index. "Specific jobs require specific personalities. For example, front-of-the-house personnel must be highly social, capable of multi-tasking and able to follow procedures. We pride ourselves putting our people where they are naturally wired to



Private room at Angelo's

excel."

For Michael, providing his guests with a high-quality meal that they cannot get just anywhere, is what sets Angelo's apart from its competitors.

"We offer homemade sauces, soups, stocks, dressings and some pastas, in addition to an environment that mimics the warmth and charm of mealtime at an Italian home," says Michael. "Our value is unsurpassed. We don't even buy lemon juice...we squeeze our lemons and cook 90% of our menu to order. When you order chicken piccata, it's started with garlic, butter floured chicken and is shocked with stock and lemon juice with capers and mushrooms until it is reduced to a sauce. There is no pre-cooked chicken and a bucket of piccata sauce."

In addition to an 18-flavor gelato

display in the front room that attracts families looking for a sweet treat and kid's birthday parties, Angelo's also features three private rooms with partitioned walls that can be opened or closed to accommodate smaller and larger groups. With all partitions open, Angelo's can seat groups of up to 50-60.

"We host reunions, showers, rehearsal dinners, bereavements, seminars and family and business get-togethers," says Michael. "We

specialize in family style service for those events, which has become very popular. We have been hosting some Christmas parties here for nearly 13 years."

As for future goals, Michael says he always has one. "My way of doing things is to constantly tweak, update, fix, replace, keep fresh and keep my foot on the gas," Michael says, adding that over the past few years the restaurant has been updated with new countertops, flooring, carpet, equipment, tables, chairs, and paint. He has weekly meetings with management to discuss his plans and is always reaching for improvement.

"We were completely built on warmth and service and that remains our goal today," Michael says. "What we do is the product of sincere intention...getting to know our guests and training our people to deliver the very best."



Gelato on display

## Pizza, Pizza, Pizza! One Bite...

We at the Weekly Recorder or are big fans of pizza and of Dave Portnoy, known as the Prez from Barstool Sports. Each weekday he reviews pizza shops around the country on his One Bite Pizza App. We need more Dave's in this world and we will bring you a recap of his reviews, so in your travels you can seek out the best pizza. Next Month we will have the pizza issue featuring Washington County's best pizza options. Take our survey online for the best pizza in Washington County

### This Week Dave Reviewed:

Brewport Pizza Co. Bridgeport Ct 8.1  
Dante's Pizza New Canaan Ct 7.7  
Grigg St Pizza Greenwich Ct 8.2 Bonus  
Cheesesteak 9.2  
Wheated Brooklyn, NY 8.1 Bonus  
Review New Haven Style 8.4  
The Brooklyn Firefly Brooklyn NY 7.5

### Top 4 Washington County on One Bite App must have fifteen reviews.

Harry's Pizza McMurray 8.0  
Osso's Washington 7.8  
Fiori's McMurray 7.8  
Jimmy Z's Houston 7.1



88 N Main St.  
Washington  
Pa 15301



# FOOD & DRINK

## Bedillion's Pizza – It's all in the family

By W.R. Smith

“Who Doesn't love Pizza!?” That was Bedillion's Pizza owner Eric Bedillion's answer when asked of all things, why his family would choose to open a pizza shop at 210 Main Steet in Claysville. He went on to say that his family has “fond memories of making pepperoni rolls from scratch at home,” and that the Bedillion children often reflect on getting off the school bus after school and coming home to those freshly made pepperoni rolls.

### A true family business

When Eric and his wife Tammy heard that the local Claysville Pizzeria was closing, they sprung into action and opened Bedillion's Pizza on July 5th, 2022. Eric, who previously worked for MarkWest, runs the day-to-day operation of the shop while Tammy, a registered nurse, helps in a similar capacity on her days off. Both husband and wife have had prior experience in the pizza business with Tammy formerly working at Sbarro's and Eric worked from 1989-1991 at Delucia's Pizza, previously located in Claysville as well. The Bedillion Children also play active roles in the family business. Samantha Dawn (age 24) works at the shop 5 plus days a week as the evening shift manager. Samantha has been known to leave kind notes in customers' pizza boxes, often wishing them a good evening or telling them to drive safely or any other little nicety she can think of. Many customers have come to enjoy these custom messages. Halley Grace (age 22) is currently pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice and finds time to pitch in at the shop on a regular basis. Dustin helps his

parents out with maintenance work around the shop and jumps into action in the kitchen when needed. Dustin's wife Hailey also helps around the shop when needed. Courtney Tipker (age 27), the oldest of the Bedillion daughters takes charge of graphic design, communications, and technical support. Courtney designed the company logo and recently illustrated a drawing for the shops Holiday Coloring Contest. She and her husband Dr. Ryan Tipker have also been known to spend time helping in the shop.

### The Menu

Traditional pizza shop items like pizza, hoagies, calzone and stromboli highlight the daily menu along with other favorites such as salads, cheese sticks, french fries and the family recipe pepperoni rolls.

Bedillion's also features some unique offerings such as the Kinda Big Dill pizza which is their signature pickle pizza. Included on this gourmet pie is house made garlic sauce topped with cheese, dill pickles, tomatoes, onions, and spinach. Tammy was the brainchild behind this recipe which has started to gain quite a following from their customer base.

Another interesting feature on the menu is the Fireman's Favorite specialty hoagie which features steak, grilled onions and peppers, cheese and mayonnaise all topped with fries and drizzled with another home-grown recipe for Bedillion's Blaze Sauce. This spicy sauce is what gives the sandwich its name. Claysville fire chief Dave Hildebrand comments regularly on how the Fireman's Favorite is his favorite item on the menu. Samantha Dawn did



Samantha and Eric with the Relay for Life Spirit Award

some experimenting of her own and came up with customer favorite, Bacon Ranch Fries.

Nate Mass, founder of the highly touted Washington PA Food page on Facebook, and a pizza connoisseur, recently visited Bedillion's Pizza and had this to say; “The best way to see what a new place is all about.....order a little of everything and share with friends and family! Bedillion's Pizza said "Challenge Accepted" and hit an absolute HOMERUN! Wow! The flavors, the uniqueness, and the local love is all there. From your normal pizza to your specialty pizza. From your normal hoagie to your specialty hoagies. From Calzones to Stromboli's and incredible cheesy breads, they have a ton of great menu items.....or deliciousness as we say! The service, well the service is amazing! Now you know I've been to a lot of places for food. I can't ever recall being told to drive safely when ordering pickup like they do when their customers order. A step above! You totally get that hometown feel, and you can tell they appreciate your business.

*Thanks for our smorgasbord!”*

### Nate Mass-Services

Bedillion's Pizza does offer party catering from time to time. And when a customer books a party at the Community Building next door to the shop, the family offers a discount to customers who utilize their catering service.

Although daily delivery is not currently a daily affair, the company has provided delivery services to the local schools and other community venues, when booked in advance. It is always best to contact the shop in advance to schedule possible event deliveries.

### Community

As residents of the Claysville community the Bedillion family is committed to serving their neighbors and “giving back” whenever possible. You can find Bedillion's discounted pepperoni rolls served at the local football concession stand and at other sporting events within the community. Tammy Bedillion said, “We are so proud to be here in this community and to provide our community with great food and a positive experience. We are incredibly

thankful to the community for such a favorable response,”

Bedillions' Pizza was also the winner of the 2023 Relay for Life Spirit Award for raising the most money through donation boxes placed in their shop. Many of the Bedillion family members are also active in the Claysville Fire Department. Whether participating in active fire calls or helping at events, there's a good chance you will find the Bedillions participating.

New in the month of June, the shop has begun offering a FREE lunch program for children in grades K-12, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Eric said that “we realize that many families in our area rely on school provided lunches either monetarily or for convenience, and we understand the financial and time constraints it can sometimes place on families in the summer. For details, please refer to the company's Facebook page.

If you have a hankering for pizza shop fare, make sure to make the drive out to Claysville and visit Bedillion's Pizza. From fresh ingredients to a diverse menu, to good old-fashioned customer service, Bedillion's will not disappoint.



Kinda Big Dill Pizza

# FAITH

## One Look at Grace

By Tonya Taylor

**God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.**-Ephesians 2:8-9, NLT

What is "Grace"? It is God being good to us, in spite of us.

It is the overcoming, unfailing, sacrificial Love of a parent for the child, no matter what.

*Every good thing in your life is from the Grace of God*--those blessings you did and didn't work for (For His Grace gives us the power to get wealth; the breath and strength and energy to function and work!), and didn't even plan for; that you and I could not ever earn or be good enough to deserve!

ffff  
**Hallelujah!**

**For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.**--2 Timothy 1:9, NLT

The LORD has taught me, since a few years ago, to ask Him to "put His Grace all over this," especially if it's a new venture, or something that may be a challenging situation (even getting together with family members, where the conversation may be awkward, if they don't believe like you do, or have anything really in common with you!). Things always flow smoother when I pray this, and do my part--ask Him to fill me with Himself, keep my mind on Him, and yield to His Spirit.

All of that--from Him teaching and helping us to receive His filling and keep our minds on Him, to asking Him to put His Grace all over situations, then doing it for us, making things much better than they could be!--is His Grace!

Having a heart of thanksgiving to the LORD for His Grace is an effective way to increase your awareness of it, for God's Grace is His goodness.

He commands us to be thankful, for many reasons, and when we are, we are doing what He says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

Being thankful for the Grace of God is one way to set our mind on things above, which can only make us feel better and focus on God's goodness:

**Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**--Philippians 4:8, KJV

In times of warfare, when the enemy is slamming your mind and it seems like all is negative, you can cry out to the Holy Spirit Who is God, to help you remember and speak out the good things of God, which is His Grace.

God has shown all of us so much Grace! Praise His holy Name, forever! *He is the good, good Father!* He will help you and me, and that itself is more of His matchless Grace!

**For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**--Romans 8:15, KJV

*Tonja K. Taylor and her husband of almost 18 years live to exalt God. Tonja tutors K-12 kids and adults in core and creative subjects online, and is available for presentations and workshops on many subjects, from writing to worship to health. Book IV of The P.O.W.E.R. \* Girl series is almost done!*

Article Source:  
<http://www.faithwriters.com-CHRISTIAN WRITERS>

## Walking Through Life

By Joseph DiSarro, Ph.D, Professor and Director of Pre-Law Washington & Jefferson College



Dr Joseph DiSarro

Recently a good neighbor and friend passed away. His name was Duane Sprenger but among his friends and neighbors he was referred to as "Rocky." This was a person of high character with an affinity for the natural world. A true lover of nature with a deep concern for the environment and all living things. Rocky until retirement a year ago had worked hard as a union painter with a specialization in drywall installation. He started his blue-collar career in his native North Dakota and later moved to Cortland, New York and eventually to Western Pennsylvania. Yet, Rocky had an expertise beyond drywall installation to include all areas of home building, real estate as well

as a thorough understanding of technology. Rocky was meticulous in his work as well as his appearance, although his dress was causal but always stylish. He was a man of about six feet three inches, two hundred pounds with a stylish gray black ponytail. I attribute his technological prowess to his musical talent. He enjoyed playing guitar and one of his favorite songs was "Purple Rain." At his Celebration of Life at the Phillip Salvato Studio in Carnegie, "Purple Rain" was the featured song. He was a music aficionado and along with his beloved wife Samantha, an exceptional jazz singer, would attend performances and jam sessions in Pittsburgh as well as at President's

Pub in Washington PA. He combined his interest in music with a deep appreciation of the natural world. This was a person that understood and treasured the symphony of nature.

While in recovery from open heart surgery I walked with Rocky daily. It was great therapy, given that after bypass surgery a person can become a victim of fear. Yet, walking with Rocky was a wonderful journey to an appreciation of the simple but complex gifts of life. He would walk at a slow pace and allow time to comment on the birds, cats, deer as well as other living things in our neighborhood. Several times we would walk to the Carnegie Dog Park where Rocky would enjoy the frolicking of the many different breeds of canines. The Dog Park brought back memories of his dog "Journey" that had passed after a lengthy illness as well as surgeries. He cherished "Journey" and was unable to adopt a new dog. Thus, he maintained a close relationship with a variety of animals including several feral cats in the area. Indeed, he knew some of the neighborhood cats by name, one of his favorites was "Midnight." Midnight, a beautiful jet-black feline with deep green eyes was always attentive when Rocky would

call her over. It was an event to witness Rocky's understanding and fondness for cats as well as other animals. I recall a comment he made on one of our walks that there was little if any water in the neighborhood for deer or other animals. Thus, daily Rocky would not only provide water but also food for the birds, deer, and feral cats. Still, it was his calm approach to life and all living things that was impressive and reassuring, especially during my recovery from surgery. Rocky would greet everyone on our walks and spend quality time with neighborhood companions on their daily constitutional. He would always have a smile; a kind word and he was always prepared to entertain an extended conversation with everyone we would meet including a neighborhood dog with a permanently injured leg named "Roscoe." He lived in the moment never in a rush and always had the patience to appreciate the ambience. Our walks were a journey through the most significant moments of life. We discussed a plethora of subjects, greeted our neighbors, other strollers and enjoyed the communion with nature. I looked forward to the walks with Rocky and attributed my

recovery to our walks that nourished a deep friendship. In my hometown of Pietracupa, Italy the daily walk and conversation in the evening "La Passeggiata" was considered as essential aspect of the cultural life. Walking with Rocky was a walk-through life and provided time for reflection, spirituality, and an appreciation of the essence of being. Life can be difficult, but we are all walking through life and Rocky walked without fear and love for all. This was quite remarkable given I knew he was ill with cancer. Rocky passed away about two weeks ago and at his Celebration of life at Phillip Salvato Studio, the seats were all filled with his many friends. This was a humble, self-taught, artistic person of passion and compassion. He will be missed. I have continued my neighborhood walks and feel Rocky's spirit in the cool breeze through the trees and in the movements of the deer.

**"We all walk through life and look for the good of heart and soul"**—Rocky.

**Have a good week.**

# REAL ESTATE

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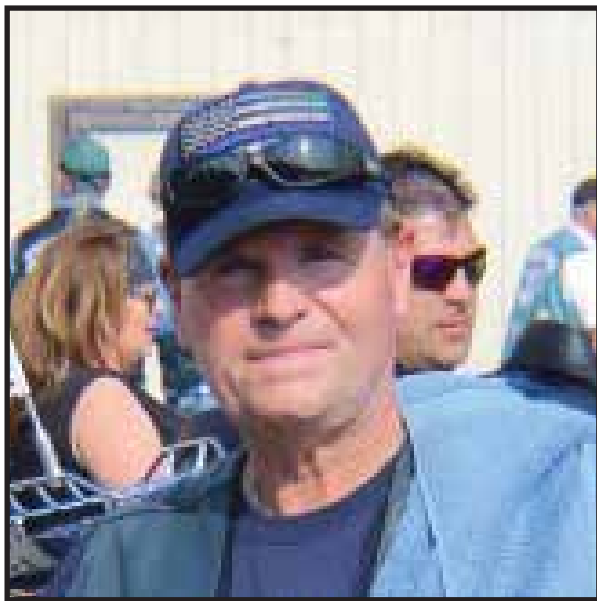


# CYCLES

## Blue Ride for Charity

July 30, 2023

By Mark A. Finfrock



David Richards

The Blue Ride (motorcycle charity ride) is an event which has been held annually since 2004. It is a collaboration between Blue Knights International Pa. Chapter XVI and Washington Lodge No. 164.

**Blue Knights International's mission statement, as posted on the Chapter XVI website is to:**

- Provide mutual assistance, enjoyment, entertainment, education, physical, mental, and social benefit of its members and the public.
- To promote and advance the sport of motorcycling and the safety of motorcycling.
- To serve the interests of motorcycle owners and users.
- To promote by example and any other acceptable means, safe use, operation, and enjoyment of motorcycles.
- To develop a fraternal spirit between law enforcement personnel and the public...

Washington Lodge No. 164 F & AM has a similar mission which can be summed up as Faith, Hope and Charity.

"We should have no problem hitting the \$700,000.00 mark this year", stated Blue Ride Chairman David L. Richards, "And what is nice about this event is that all money raised for charity is kept locally. For local charities, for our community," he added.

Richards is a recently retired law enforcement sergeant and avid motorcyclist who also is a member of Washington Lodge No. 164 Free & Accepted Masons. Richards, along with a close friend, "DOC" Jones, joined forces with other Masons and Blue Knight International members to raise as much money as possible for various local charities.

Since the first ride, 1.5 million dollars has been raised. The Blue Ride continues to grow each year by the number of registered riders. "Our first year we had around a hundred and fifty riders and since then up to 700 riders one time." Said Richards, "We all sat around and thought about what we can do for the community, and we proved that when you get together for a common good; a common goal, anything is possible."

Over the years the organization has made sizable donations to the 2000 Turkeys program, Tall Cedars Foundation for Muscular Dystrophy, Make a Wish Foundation, The Ronald McDonald House, and the Greater Washington County Food Bank along with The Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pa. And many more.

The annual 2023 Blue Ride will be held this year on Sunday, July 30, 2023, with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the ride begins at 11:30 AM. The ride will start from The Washington County Fairgrounds and wind its way through Washington, Greene, and Fayette counties. There will be a one-hour stop midway, allowing a nonprofit or school group to serve refreshments to the riders while allowing them to raise funds for their group. The approximate 90-mile ride ends at the American Legion Post 175 located at 168 Park Ave. Washington Pa.



Bikes lined up at the 2022 Blue Ride

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# SPORTS

## The Weekly Recorder Girls Basketball Player of the Year Eden Williamson – Trinity

By John Sacco



Eden Williamson-Trinity

**Eden Williamson is the whole package. She is athletic, personable, a great student and polished speaker.**

She also can play a little basketball.

**The Trinity High School senior** – despite battling an ankle injury – has been selected as the *Weekly Recorder's* Washington County girls' basketball Player of the Year.

Williamson led the Hillers to an 18-8 overall record and an 8-2 section record, finishing second behind eventual WPIAL champion and PIAA runnerup South Fayette.

Trinity split its first two WPIAL playoff games and then won two straight consolation games to advance to the PIAA tournament. The Hillers were eliminated by Erie Cathedral Prep in the state tournament.

The county's Coach of the Year is Washington's first-year coach Josh Wise.

Wise led the Little Prexies to an impressive turnaround. Washington went 18-5 overall and won the Section 4-AA championship with a 12-0 record.

The Little Prexies won their last 11 regular season games but fell in the WPIAL Class AA quarterfinals to Aliquippa. Wise led Washington back to the post-season after taking over a team that went 1-21 in the 2021-2022 season.

Williamson is an outstanding overall athlete -- and is a member of Trinity's track and field team.

She will attend New York University in New York City and will play basketball for the Violets.

"She had an exceptional career," said Trinity Coach Kathy McConnell-Miller. "As a four-year starter she has impacted the program in so many ways."

"Eden is an exceptional young lady, provides great leadership and is an exceptional student. You won't find many kids who will out work her. The amount of time she puts into everything she does is to be recognized. I don't see too many kids who are willing and eager to do what she does."

Williamson, a natural forward, played point guard for Trinity this past

season and worked in every position for McConnell-Miller through her career.

Despite time missed because of injury and the Hillers falling short of some goals, Williamson feels good about what Trinity did accomplish.

"It definitely is always hard to be injured, sitting and watching," Williamson said. "I pushed through and tested myself and to see how strong I could bounce back. I turned the ankle once and came back and turned it again."

"Obviously, the end goal is to win a WPIAL championship and make it to state. With all that we were challenged, I'm proud of our team and of the season we had. I feel we made it through adversity, injuries and sickness. I'm proud of the team."

"Class 5-A is super hard with Central Catholic, South Fayette, McKeesport and Woody High. It's a grind."

Williamson is enthusiastic to be headed to New York University. They recruited her hard and offer the education she is looking for.

"I am proud of my career, there were some ups and down. I'm overall proud to have played in a great program and to play for great coaches."

"I wanted to go to a city school, and New York is one of the busiest cities in world. I fell in love with staff there and they made

it super welcoming. Their style of play, I think, is a perfect fit for me and the academics are matched by very few schools."

McConnell-Miller said Williamson's presence in the program will be missed but her legacy will shine bright on Trinity's program.

"Eden is the blueprint of a student-athlete," McConnell-Miller said.

"She's inspiring. It's a credit to her parents as well. She really benefitted from their guidance. The amount of work Eden does academically and athletically is admirable. She does it with grace, humility and without anyone else knowing what she puts in."

Williamson is joined on the All-Washington County first team by McKenna DeUnger, a junior from Charleroi; Burgettstown junior Kaitlyn Nease; and junior Gemma Walker and sophomore Natalie Wetzel of Peters



Eden Williamson

## The Weekly Recorder All-Washington County Girls' Basketball Team

*The Weekly Recorder All County Girls Basketball Team is selected from athletes representing all 16 Washington County High Schools. The team selections are chosen from all athletes competing in WPIAL class 1A through Class 6A, combined.*

**Player Of the Year**  
Eden Williamson, Sr., Trinity

**Coach of the Year**  
Josh Wise, Washington

### First Team

McKenna DeUnger, Jr., Charleroi  
Kaitlyn Nease, Jr., Burgettstown  
Gemma Walker, Jr., Peters Township  
Natalie Wetzel, So., Peters Township  
Eden Williamson, Sr., Trinity

### Second Team

Bella Carroto, Jr., Charleroi  
Jillian Frazier, Sr., Burgettstown  
Katie Dryer, Sr., Avella  
Kaprice Johnson, Jr., Washington  
Ruby Morgan, Jr. Trinity

### Third Team

Kayden Buckingham, Sr. Chartiers-Houston  
Ava Capozzoli, So, Chartiers-Houston  
Olivia Kemp, So., Fort Cherry  
Raney Staub, Jr., Fort Cherry  
Olivia Woods, Fr., Washington

## The Weekly Recorder Boys Basketball Player of the Year Jack Dunbar – Peters Township

By John Sacco



Jack Dunbar-Peters Township

**The only way to become a better shooter in basketball is to shoot -- like all the time.**

If improvement is made, shots start falling. Point totals start rising and if there are enough other players who can do the same, victories can be stacked.

Meet Jack Dunbar and the Peters Township High School boys' basketball team.

He became a better shooter and a force in the 2022-2023 season. The team was exponentially improved. The Indians stacked wins.

Dunbar, an Indians' junior, spent the offseason working on his shot. He would shoot, shoot, and shoot some more to be more proficient and a threat.

His improvement as a shooter made him a

prolific scorer. That, along with talented teammates, pushed Peters Township upward.

The Indians tripled their win total (24) compared with the eight games they won in the 2021-22 season.

Peters Township advanced to the WPIAL 5-A championship game before seeing its 15-game winning streak snapped in a loss to Penn Hills.

Dunbar suffered an injury in the game that diminished the Indians' attack and chances.

That is the only thing that stopped Dunbar and Peters Township this past season.

For his efforts and rise, Dunbar has been selected as the Weekly Recorder's Washington County boys' basketball Player of the Year.

In addition, Indians' Coach Joe Urmann is the Washington County Coach of the Year.

Dunbar, a 6-foot, 5-inch, forward averaged 20 points per game during the regular season, ironically almost triple what he averaged (seven points per game) as a sophomore.

Dunbar helped Peters Township win Section 1 with a 9-1 record and earn WPIAL playoff victories over Penn-Trafford, South Fayette, and Gateway.

The Indians rebounded from their WPIAL title game loss by winning

PIAA tournament games over Milton Hershey and Lampeter-Strasburg. Peters Township's season ended in a quarterfinal round match with Exeter Township.

"It was special to be part of a team that made a 180 (degree) turn," Dunbar said. "It was pretty awesome."

"My goal was to step up into a bigger role, have more trust in my teammates and them have more trust in me. It helped us flow much better."

"Shooting was the aspect of my game I wanted to improve the most. I wanted to become a threat beyond the arc because I really wasn't as a sophomore. You can't be a better shooter if you never (practice) shooting. I just took more shots in the offseason, more reps."

Dunbar, who has outstanding bloodlines, added that improvement with his ball handling allowed him to grab a defensive rebound and take the ball down the court instead of always looking for an outlet.

His mom and dad were athletes at Washington and Jefferson College and his grand pap is former Steelers defensive lineman and Super Bowl champion John Banaszak.

Urmann said it was easiest to see Dunbar's growth and development in the biggest games.

"We leaned on his growth as a player and his maturation as a young man," the coach added. "Jack had an incredible season in terms of production. He was our leading rebounder as well."

"He worked himself into becoming a darn good shooter. As the season went on, he became a better rebounder. We challenged him in that area, and he responded. He became good at it."

Dunbar said while expectations for next season will be high, he won't forget this past season.

"It was an absolute blast," he said. "We were as close off the court as we were on the court. We hung out together and we are friends. It was an awesome season."

"I think we'll be back looking for bigger and better things. The loss (in the WPIAL finals) will only add fuel to our fire. This means a lot. Obviously growing up here and following basketball is important to me. We'll all look to be better next season."

Joining Dunbar on the first team is his teammate, Brendan McCullough, Fort Cherry senior Owen Norman, junior Ruben Gordon of Washington, and Trinity senior Drew Collins.

## The Weekly Recorder All-Washington County Boys Basketball Team

### All-Washington County Boy's Basketball

**Player of the Year**  
Jack Dunbar, Sr., Peters Township

**Coach of the Year**  
Joe Urmann, Peters Township

### First Team

Drew Collins., Sr., Trinity  
Jack Dunbar., Sr., Peters Township  
Ruben Gordon, Jr., Washington  
Brendan McCullough, Sr., Peters Township  
Owen Norman, Sr., Fort Cherry

### Second Team

Shane Cornali., So., Fort Cherry  
Dante DeRubbo., Sr., Trinity  
Nate Miller, Jr., Peters Township  
Brayce Patterson, Sr., Washington  
Zxavian Willis, Jr., Washington

### Third Team

Tim Hodges, Jr., Trinity  
Bryce Large, Jr., Charleroi  
Grayson Wallace, Jr., McGuffey  
Jake Mele., Sr., Chartiers-Houston  
Landon Urcho, Sr., Bentworth

# SPORTS

## I'm a child of Ted Turner's SuperStation WTBS.

By Jeremy Cowen – NonDoc Contributing Reporter

Early evenings in the 1980s were spent at my grandfather's house, watching the Atlanta Braves game du jour. The Braves' 13-game win streak to open the 1982 season? It's when my grandpa taught me about baseball, as we watched every inning of those games to initiate my love for the sport.

The "One Crazy Summer" promos for the disastrous 1987 season that saw Atlanta lose 92 games? I was watching. The 106-loss 1988 season? Scarred right into my memory as I lived and died (mostly died) through nearly every game on Channel 4 in Hartshorne, Oklahoma. The miracle worst-to-first 1991 season? I watched almost every game, until the moment Jack Morris threw his final pitch against my Braves in the World Series. The summer of '96 when I moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas, for a newspaper internship? Skip Caray and Pete Van Wieren were my best friends that summer, always welcoming me home to my destitute little apartment after work.

have four teams (four!) regularly blacked out. We're lucky as Okies because, it has come to my attention, the state of Iowa can now be known for something other than corn, mediocre quarterback play and surprisingly good beer: A whopping six Major League Baseball teams are blacked out for Iowa viewers!

I guess the people who run the MLB must hate baseball? That's sarcasm, but what else are we supposed to conclude?

To understand the nuts and bolts of the issue, Major League Baseball blackout rules can be boiled down thusly: Games will not be streamed through the MLB.tv package in participating teams' "home territory." In other words, if you live in Dallas, you won't be streaming Texas Rangers games any time soon. Same for those who live in Houston for Astros games, Kansas City for Royals games or St. Louis for Cardinals games.

But the problem is that "home territories" span hundreds of miles and

territory" for the Minnesota Twins, Milwaukee Brewers, Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox, St. Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Royals. Local politicians there are certainly unamused.

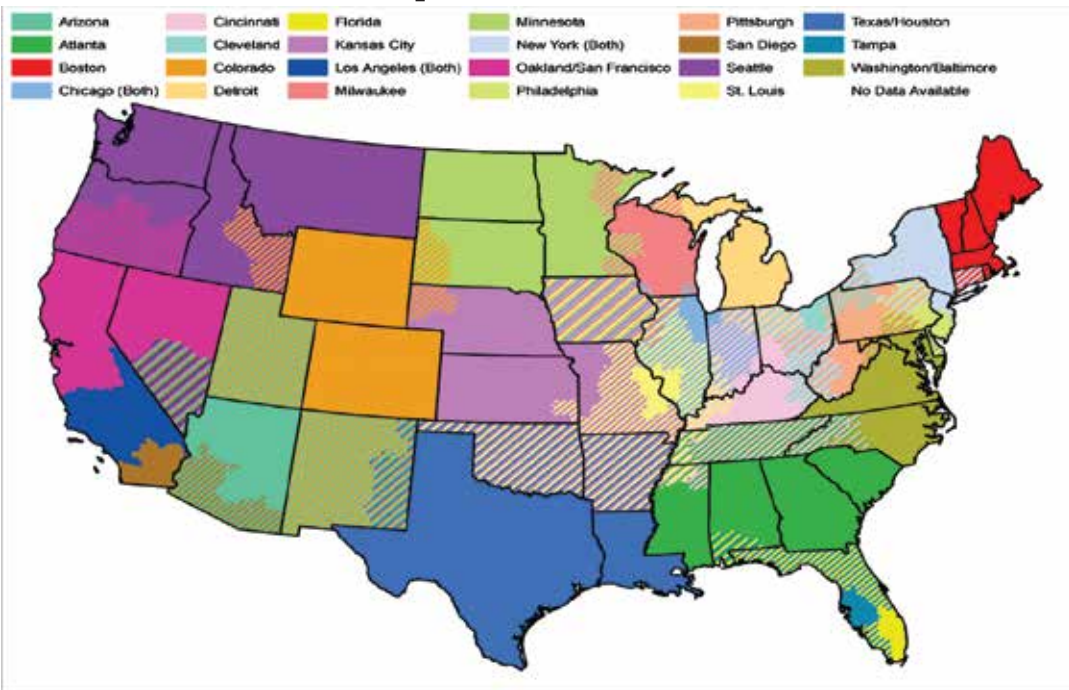
**Don't stream on my leg and tell me it's raining**

The MLB's blackout policy looks even more foolish as Americans gravitate to the growing list of streaming services that rarely carry local channels. That makes getting coverage of "local" teams difficult at best and impossible at worst.

Luckily, the league offers MLB.tv, where every game can be streamed for a monthly or yearly price, right? Well, again, not if you're a Houston Astros fan living 718 miles away in Boise City, Oklahoma. You're considered as living in their "home territory."

If you're an Atlanta Braves fan who was born and bred on 162 televised games courtesy of WTBS, you're similarly out of luck when they play any of those capriciously chosen "home teams."

### The MLB blackout problem is even worse in Iowa



So imagine my consternation this baseball season when, during the opening month of April, my attempts to watch my beloved Braves were met by an unwelcome sight: the dreaded "this game is unavailable for live viewing in your area" MLB blackout notification. I experienced this not once, mind you. Not just for a three-game series, either.

The MLB blackout problem disrupted my plans nine times in the first 21 games.

That's nine times I wanted to watch my Braves and was faced with a frustrating message on the MLB app. That's nine times Major League Baseball wanted me to get up and either drive five-plus hours to St. Louis or Houston or Kansas City to watch a baseball game in person, or to re-enlist with AT&T or Cox or some other cable company that might not even carry every game anyway.

I know I'm not alone in facing this frustrating experience, and that's why I'm writing this column: It is beyond time to address the MLB blackout problem.

When it comes to dealing with the MLB blackout problem, I guess I should count myself lucky.

In Oklahoma, we only

cross state lines. In Oklahoma and Arkansas, MLB package subscribers can view none of those four teams' games, no matter where or whom they are playing. ESPN's Sunday Night Baseball game is also unavailable on the MLB package, as is the new Sunday morning game on Peacock's paid service.

Blackout rules are silly vestiges of decades past, inasmuch as they were ever intended to help in-person attendance. As far as meeting cable providers' desires for exclusive broadcasting rights in local markets, I guess it makes more sense — as long as those broadcasts are easily available in the blackout area. Sure, the Cardinals and Rangers have historic broadcasting ties to Oklahoma. But using my hometown of Hartshorne as an example, it's rare to find a Royals game on TV.

Why MLB has considered Oklahoma a "home territory" for all four of those teams is asinine. Maybe the Texas Rangers qualify. I'll give them that — begrudgingly — but the other three are far more than a day trip from this state unless you're powered by jet fuel.

I'm positive the folks in Iowa are similarly confused how they're considered "home

And that brings us back to why I sat dumbfounded nine times last month, slowly realizing the Venn diagram for a dumbass and an MLB executive is a single, solid black hole. For decades, baseball has bemoaned its lost standing in the American consciousness, first ceding its catbird seat to football, and now finding itself assaulted by basketball. Yet, the response from the suits in MLB offices is to make the sport less accessible and harder to consume.

While the on-the-field product is better than ever — those who reign over the actual gameplay have done fans a great service with the advent of the pitch clock and the elimination of the infield shift — fewer people seem to be able to watch it because of the draconian blackout rules.

So, sit back, pop a cold one, and get ready to watch a still screen if your favorite hardball team is playing anywhere in the incredibly general vicinity of where you're located. That's "general," as measured in cosmic Star Trek distances.

For an old Superstation WTBS kid like myself, the MLB blackout problem hits worse than reruns of The Andy Griffith Show when the Braves are rained out.



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# SPORTS

## Hillers Capture WPIAL 5A Softball Championship

### WPIAL Champions



Trinity Hiller's celebrate the teams first WPIAL softball title

The hit parade was on at Penn West University's Lilley field during the Class 5A WPIAL championship game. The Armstrong River Hawks, powered through the game with 7 runs on 10 hits, but Trinity was better on this day, scoring 11 runs with an impressive 14 hits, to secure the team's first ever WPIAL title.

Ryleigh Hoy, who will be heading to Mercyhurst University in the fall, ignited the Hiller offense in the first inning, lining a

home run over the center field fence, driving in Madison Argo who reached base on a walk, and Hanna Suhoski who reached on a fielder's choice. Armstrong failed to score in the bottom of the first. Trinity led 3-0.

Trinity fired off three hits in the second inning resulting in four runs. Finley Hohn singled, and Addison Agnew singled, knocking in two runs. Suhoski singled as well, allowing two more runs to cross the plate.

Winning Pitcher Taylor

Dunn had a strong bottom of the second forcing two ground outs and striking out one and allowing no runs.

Both the Hillers and the River Hawks scored two in the fourth inning bringing the score to 9-2, Trinity. Suhoski hit her second single of the game and scored on Hoy's second round tripper, this time to left field.

Miranda Rinehart added a double for Trinity. Isabella Atherton doubled to left field and scored on a homerun by

Armstrong's Jenna Clontz.

Armstrong picked up four runs in the bottom of the fifth after Trinity went scoreless in the top of the inning. Madison Baker singled, stole second base and advanced to third on a groundout hit by Emma Smerick. Baker then scored on a wild pitch. After a single by Atherton, Clontz was intentionally walked. Jessie Pugh then smacked a three-run home run making the score 9-7 Trinity.

The Hillers picked up their final two runs in the sixth inning on a two-run single by Finley Hohn. The River Hawks picked on one run in the bottom half of the inning. After a scoreless 7th, the Hillers were officially crowned WPIAL Champions.

Trinity finished WPIAL play at 19-2 on the season, while Armstrong ended the campaign at 11-7. Both teams qualified for the PIAA Championships.

2023 WPIAL Championships		Trinity vs Armstrong		Jun 01, 2023 at California, PA (Lilley Field)															
Trinity 11 (19-2)						Armstrong 7 (19-2)													
Player	ab	r	h	rbi	bb	so	po	a	lob	Player	ab	r	h	rbi	bb	so	po	a	lob
Amber Morgan cf	5	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	Emma Smerick rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Addison Agnew 1b	2	1	1	2	0	1	12	0	3	Emma Paul ss	4	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	2
Hanna Suhoski ss	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	3	1	Isabella Atherton c	4	2	2	0	0	0	6	0	1
Emma Starr pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Jenna Clontz lf	3	2	1	2	1	0	2	0	0
Madison Argo 3b	4	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	Jessie Pugh 1b	3	1	1	3	1	0	6	0	0
Ryleigh Hoy rf	3	3	2	5	1	1	1	0	1	Shelby Cloak 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Miranda Rinehart c	4	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	Cassidy Adams cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Kristina Bozek 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	Jordyn Klingensmith 2b	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1
Finley Hohn dp	4	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	Cameryn Sprankle p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylor Dunn p	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	Madison Baker p	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Emily Hasson ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Totals	31	7	10	6	2	2	21	8	5
Riley Venick lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0										
Totals	34	11	13	11	3	5	21	10	8										

Score by Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Trinity	3	4	0	2	0	2	0	11	13	1
Armstrong	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	7	10	1

E - Bozek; Sprankle. LOB - Trinity 8; Armstrong 5. 2B - Morgan; Rinehart; Paul; Atherton. HR - Hoy 2; Clontz; Pugh. HBP - Agnew. SH - Agnew 2. SB - Hoy; Baker.																			
Trinity	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	ab	bf	np	Armstrong	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	ab	bf	np
Taylor Dunn	7.0	10	7	7	2	31	33	93		Cameryn Sprankle	1.1	5	7	7	1	0	10	12	47
										Madison Baker	5.2	8	4	4	2	5	24	28	84



## Just Play Ball

By John Stiegerwald

Take me out to the ball game.  
Take me out to the crowd.  
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks  
Baseball is nice but that's not why I'm here.  
I'm here to celebrate the Lesbian, The Gay, The Bi, the Trans and the Queer.

Imagine what a heart-warming scene it would be at Dodgers Stadium on Pride Night June 16th to hear the fans sing that song like they meant it. You have probably heard the story about the Dodgers inviting, uninviting and then re-inviting the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to be honored before (during?) their game on the 16th of this month. It could have been just another Friday night game against the Giants, which used to be a pretty

big deal in need of no embellishments, but the Dodgers, as just about every team in the four major sports does now, felt obligated to schedule a Pride Night.

Because, in America in 2023, not nearly enough time is devoted to telling LGBTQetc.people that they're not only welcomed everywhere but also loved.

The Dodgers think they're loved so much that people, many of whom just want to watch a ball game, would be thrilled to take part in the celebration of a group of men who dress up as really ugly Catholic nuns and mock and desecrate the religion of 4 million people who live in their market.

Apparently, the Sisters, the LGBTQetc. Community and the Dodgers marketing department are not aware of the concept of overkill.

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred, of course, made sure that the 4 million Catholics in

Dodger Country knew that he respected and honored the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence as much as the Dodgers do. And remember, there are 4 million Catholics, but there are also almost as many non-Catholic Christians in the market. And God forbid they would be allowed to just show up and watch a baseball game without having to explain what was going on to their kids.

Of course, the few players or people in the media who criticized the Dodgers for this insanity were immediately declared bigots and/or homophobes. And, of course, most of them eventually embarrassed themselves by issuing obviously disingenuous apologies.

Have we seen enough evidence from MLB, NBA, and NHL Pride Nights to accept the fact that they're more trouble than they're worth? That they're counterproductive and produce as much

resentment as acceptance and pride?

There was talk that the Major League Baseball Players Association would be filing a complaint on behalf of the players who resent being used by the owners to do their virtue signaling. Every professional players union should do the same. Players sign up to play. They are asked to represent themselves and the team well in the community. They didn't sign up to be political pawns for their bosses, most of whom, if they were honest, would tell you that the sight of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence cavorting around on their field would make them want to throw up.

Most of the mostly liberal sports media celebrated Colin Kaepernick's decision to mix his politics with his sports and most of them still don't understand why he became unemployable in the NFL.

He alienated more than half of the 49ers paying customers every time he took a knee during the National Anthem at a time when he was being paid \$600,000 per game.

It became bad business for an owner to let Kaepernick show up on the sidelines wearing his team's jersey.

Owners in all sports could be finding out that signaling virtue to one group is also spitting in another group's face and just as bad if not worse for business.

Play ball. Drop the puck. Jump center. Kick off.

And shut up. Please.

ended the campaign at 11-7. Both teams qualified for the PIAA Championships.

ended the campaign at 11-7. Both teams qualified for the PIAA Championships.

### Hollywood Casino at the Meadows - Top 10 Drivers

Name	%	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	UDRS	Purses
Dave Palone	21.7	635	138	132	74	.373	1,213,373
Ronnie Wrenn jr.	26.2	412	108	75	51.	.410	938,163
Aaron Merriman	14.0	658	92	89	92	.262	923,137
Hunter Myers	13.4	568	76	76	60	.243	757,432
Jeremy Indof	11.1	615	68	89	105	.248	743,480
Mike Wilder	20.1	268	58	36	41	.318	507,332
Brady Brown	7.3	591	43	50	67	.158	579,279
Ridge Warren	9.0	479	43	56	64	.199	522,041
Drew Monti	8.6	492	42	55	62	.190	479,718
Dan Charlino	15.3	137	21	9	19	.236	185,130

### Hollywood Casino at the Meadows - Top 10 Trainers

Name	%	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	UDRS	Purses
Ron Burke	29.7	320	95	56	40	.434	925,233
Dirk Simpson	17.4	293	51	51	49	.327	508,700
Stacey Currie	47.9	71	34	13	6	.609	214,428
Brandon Presto	15.6	212	33	30	27	.277	289,374
Scott Betts	14.8	209	31	36	30	.292	319,431
Norm Parker	19.0	137	26	25	16	.330	283,393
Randy Bendis	15.5	148	23	29	21	.312	150,066
Justin Pirillo	23.4	94	22	19	14	.396	172,176
Carl Cocciolone	19.6	97	19	10	17	.312	150,066
Dean Collins	14.5	119	16	16	14	.269	124,477

# OUTDOORS

## Sidick Outdoors

By Chris Sidick



Chris Sidick and his trophy elk

### PA Big Game

With turkey season just wrapping up, I learned a valuable lesson this late season. First, I really don't like daylight savings time, which requires an alarm set for 4:00am to get into position of these vocal dawn risers. Second, the early bird does not always get the worm, or Tom in this case. Most remaining gobblers tend to roost within close proximity of hens to allow first

dibs on their girlfriends in the morning. And as most Spring hunters know, calling to an old Tom who is within eye sight of a hen is the definition of an exercise in futility. Every turkey hunter has at one time or another wasted the better of a morning watching a long beard perform his best mating dance just out of range in small section of field. So, why waste the morning or the sleep. As the morning dew turns

to mist and the sun begins to rise, the hens move off to nest. This leaves the bewildered Tom's alone and heart broken, so, they begin to roam. A few subtle yelps and purrs can now draw these thunder chickens hundreds of yards into your position. And if you get locked on a stubborn Tom who struts by himself while ignoring your calls, there is one more tactic. The time-tested spot and stalk. Typically, this time of year,

farmers and landowners let their fields grow. The thigh high tall grass is just enough cover to kneel and crawl undetected. Add the advantages your target is pre-occupied with looking his best, there are no hens around to spot your movements, and any light wind creates ocean waves in the tall grass allowing you to slip into his strut zone. With the correct ammo, you can drop him at 75 yards. Then you can proudly start sending pics of his Sherwin-William and two-inch daggers.

thermals, plus breezes from a changing weather pattern. This is why most hunters find more success in the morning or evening hunts vs midday. In basic terms, morning thermals are created by cool temperatures that spur air to descend down a mountain, carrying scent with it. As the sun and daytime temperatures warm surrounding surfaces, thermals begin an upslope journey that continues much of the day. Toward nightfall, cooling once again causes air to plunge.

### Tips from Experience

When stalking an Elk, one saying rings true. If an elk hears you three times, sees you twice, or smells you once it's over. Taking advantage of thermals is the undisputed champion of the olfactory challenge. You get two thermal opportunities per day, morning and night. Why not mid-day? Rising temperatures cause unpredictable shifts in the mountain

### Youth Activity

Frog catching. My boys and I often check out local private and public ponds for these bouncy critters. Don't underestimate the joy of creeping up on these timid amphibians. It's a great way to teach youth the skills of slow stalking, spotting, knowing when to strike, and how to emotionally handle failed attempts of this outdoor past time.

## Running of the Wools

### Continued

By Tom Grande

came up short. "All in all, we had a great time cheering on our sheep...and very much look forward to next year."

### The Kitchen Clash

The day culminated in an event known as Kitchen Clash, Lambchop Edition. Kitchen Clash is hosted by Nate Mass, founder of the Facebook group "Washington PA Food Group," which has grown to nearly 30,000 members in under five years. Kitchen Clash pits two willing contestants against one another to be judged by area foodies for bragging rights. "We host the kitchen clashes to give everyone a chance to compete...whether you're a chef or a self-taught cook, you could be on the show." Today's event fit that description perfectly.

Chef James Warcholak is an Executive Chef at Bella Sera Event Center in Canonsburg. He brought some serious chops to this competition, his lamb loin was, ...prepared sous vide...with a stock using lamb chops, currants, garlic, carrots, shallot, and deglazed with brandy." On site he seared the loin, added stock, reduced again, and added a few pats of butter. This was served with potato espuma [a process of foaming the potato], which met with some complications during preparation, "In a perfect world I would have added it to the whipped cream dispenser, charged it with NO2 and had a light potato foam on each plate but since

that didn't work... I presented the whipped potatoes in a loose quenelle," he said. And yet while frustrated, James kept his cool during the presentation, and impressed the judges with his flavors and attention to detail, even garnishing his plate with edible orchids and clover from the field the lambs were raised in.

Self-taught cooking enthusiast Shawn Philbrick likes to compete. He has earned a medal from the American Culinary Federation for his lamb chops in a past competition. "I don't work in the industry, and never have. I just love good food, and love to cook," he said. Shawn began his presentation with a lamb carpaccio, sliced very thin and served very rare, with toasted pine nuts, microgreens, capers fig jam, stone ground mustard and balsamic fig glaze. I was surprised to be offered a sample, which I found to have a delicate texture and flavor accompanied by bright acidic tones from the glaze and mustard, and a little earthy crunch from the pine nuts that balanced it very well. His lamb racks were marinated in red wine vinegar, EVOO, rosemary and garlic, then seared on a grill. Once seared, the chops were coated in an herb, garlic and mustard crust, roasted for ten minutes and served with blackberry, mint and lime coulis (puree) and baby potatoes cooked in lamb stock.

While both challenger's dishes were well thought

out, meticulously prepared, and beautifully presented, the judges were left with the unenviable task of choosing only one. The criteria used to select the winning dish was presentation, creativity, and flavor. Once the scores were tallied, Chef James was declared the day's winner and graciously accepted his trophy and a gift certificate from Ross Farms. Afterwards, Nate Mass reflected on another successful clash, "This was the first of many Running of the Wools. We plan on coming back every year to host something special to end the day."

The day ended with the final heat of The Running of the Wools. Each heat's winners were pitted against one another for the ultimate prize. That honor was taken by Baaaaaaad Company sponsored by Compassionate Care Unlimited.

If you missed out on this weekend, do not worry. You can catch your glimpse of Baaaaaaad Company when she is set to lead the Whiskey Rebellion Parade on July 8th in Downtown Washington.

## Help Wanted!

### Weekly Newspaper - Writers- Part Time

**ATTENTION ALL ASPIRING WRITERS!**  
**PENN WEST MEDIA – THE WEEKLY RECORDER**

75 E. Maiden St. Suite 201 Washington PA  
Weekly Washington county newspaper recently, revitalized under new ownership is looking for a few part time assignment reporters/writers to contribute to our newspaper/digital media publication. If you have a love for writing and a desire to share important news within your community, then we want to hear from you!

As a part time writer, you will work closely with our team of journalists, editors, and publishers to produce high quality content for our readers. You will have the chance to cover a variety of topics, including local news, municipal/government meetings, sports, entertainment, agriculture, business, events and much more within Washington

County PA.

To be considered for the position, you should have excellent writing skills, a strong attention to detail, and the ability to meet deadlines. Previous experience in journalism is preferred, but not required.

These positions are ideal for students, freelancers, retirees, or anyone looking to supplement their income with a flexible, part-time job. We offer competitive compensation and the opportunity to work from home or in our office, depending on your preference.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to join a dynamic team of writers and make your mark in the world of journalism. Apply now and let your voice be heard!



# GOLF

## U.S. Open Preview

When: June 15-18, 2023

Where: Los Angeles Country Club

Defending Champion: Mathew Fitzpatrick- England

### The Venue

The 123rd United States Golf Open is set to kick off in mid-June at the Los Angeles Country Club in Los Angeles California. Traditionally the test of skill at U.S. Open venues is a difficult one. Fast greens, high rough, narrow fairways and tricky pin positions are the norm in this annual competition. Los Angeles Country Club is no exception.

Designed by Herbert Fowler and opened in 1921 and redesigned in 1927, the North Course at Los Angeles Country Club is a par 70, featuring five par threes, and three par 5's. Typically, U.S. open championship courses include four par threes and two par 5's. The course measures a daunting 7,200 yards.

"The collection of par 3s here is second to none in the country," said the USGA's Jeff Hall in a recent article published on the USGA website. "They range from the downhill, 290-yard 11th hole, with its backdrop of the downtown skyline, to the devilish 15th hole, listed at 124 yards on the card, although it played as short as 78 yards during Walker Cup match play."

"There's an ebb and flow throughout the course, with wonderful strategy, especially off the tee," noted Hall. "It'll be interesting to see how the best players in the world game-plan and attack the course", Hall concluded.

The track is long, narrow and should test the greatest players in the game. And you can be certain that the United States Golf Association will provide on course challenges not regularly seen by the venue's members.

The course has hosted multiple championship competitions including the 1930 United States Women's Golf Championship, the 1954 U.S. Junior Golf Championship, and the 2017 Walker Cup which is a competition between the best amateur players in the United States, vs. the best amateurs in Great Britain and Ireland. The Los Angeles Open has been contested on the north course five times as well. The 2023 U.S. Open is the first major championship for the historic club.

### The Field

The U.S. Open is truly an "open field. Amateurs and professionals alike have opportunities to make the final field. For an amateur to qualify to play in a local qualifier, they must maintain a handicap of 1.4 or lower. The same handicap requirement holds true for professionals as well. In 2023 a record 10,187 golfers who met the handicap criteria entered into local qualifier competitions. Roughly 7% of the original contestants will make the final field.

Qualifying for the 123rd U.S. Open takes place at 109 local course sites over 18 holes. Local qualifiers then advance to one of 13 sites for a 36-hole competition to determine the final field. Final qualifying is held in the U.S. Canada, Japan, and England.

### Exemption Categories

As noted by Golf Digest – June 2023

1. Winners of the U.S. Open the last 10 years (2013-22)
2. From the 2022 U.S. Open, the 10 lowest scorers and anyone tying for 10th place
3. Winner of the 2022 U.S. Senior Open
4. Winner of the 2022 U.S. Amateur
5. Winners of the 2022 U.S. Junior Amateur and U.S. Mid-Amateur, and the 2022 U.S. Amateur runner-up (must be an amateur)
6. Winners of the Masters Tournament (2019-2023)
7. Winners of the PGA Championship (2018-2023)
8. Winners of The Open Championship, conducted by the R&A (2018-2022)
9. Winners of The Players Championship (2021-2023)
10. Winner of the 2022 DP World Tour BMW PGA Championship
11. Those players who qualified and were eligible for the season-ending 2022 Tour Championship\*
12. Multiple winners of PGA Tour events that award a full-point allocation for the FedEx Cup, from the conclusion of the 2022 U.S. Open (June 16-19) to the initiation of the 2023 U.S. Open
13. The top five players in the 2022-23 FedEx Cup standings as of May 22, 2023, who are not otherwise exempt\*
14. The points leader from the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season using combined points earned on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List and points earned in the Korn Ferry Tour Finals\*
15. The top two players from the final 2022 DP World Tour Rankings who are not otherwise exempt as of May 22, 2023\*\*
16. The top player on the 2023 Race to Dubai Rankings as of May 22, 2023, who is not otherwise exempt\*\*
17. The top two finishers from the 2023 DP World Tour U.S. Open Qualifying Series, who are not otherwise exempt\*\*
18. Winner of the 2022 British Amateur (must be an amateur)
19. Winner of the 2022 Mark H. McCormack Medal (Men's World Amateur Golf Ranking) (must be an amateur)
20. Winner of the 2023 NCAA D-I Men's Golf Championship (must be an amateur)
21. Winner of the 2023 Latin America Amateur (must be an amateur)
22. From the current Official World Golf Ranking, the top 60-point leaders and ties as of May 22, 2023
23. From the current Official World Golf Ranking, the top 60-point leaders and ties as of June 12, 2023 (if not previously exempt)
24. Special exemptions selected by the USGA

FQ. Final Qualifying

\*Note 1: For Exemptions 11, 13 and 14, players must be considered eligible per PGA Tour regulations at the time the exemption is determined to qualify for the exemption.

\*\*Note 2: For Exemptions 15, 16 and 17, players must be in DP World Tour Membership at the time the exemption is determined to qualify for the exemption.

### Notables in the field

#### Past U.S. Open champions

John Rahm, Brooks Koepka, Rory McIlroy, Dustin Johnson, Joaquin Niemann, Abraham Ancer, Bryson DeChambeau, Phil Mickelson, Mito Pereira, Thomas Peters, Patrick Reed, Martin Kymer, Cameron Smith). Note: Tiger Woods was qualified for the final field but withdrew due to injury.

Nine of the world's top ranked players are in the field as well including Scottie Scheffler (1), Rahm (2), McIlroy (3), Patrick Cantlay (4), Xander Schauffele (5), Max Homa (6), Viktor Hovland (7), Fitzpatrick (8) Smith (9).

#### Top Amateurs

Fred Biondi, Ben Carr, Wenyi Ding, Mateo Fernandez

#### 2023 Field (as of June 1st)

Abraham Ancer, 22	Tyrrell Hatton, 22	Wilco Nienaber, FQ
Sam Bennett (a), 4	Russell Henley, 22	Alex Noren, 22
Keegan Bradley, 2, 22	Lucas Herbert, 22	Matthieu Pavon, FQ
Hayden Buckley, 13	Tom Hoge, 11, 22	Mito Pereira, 22
Sam Burns, 11, 22	Max Homa, 11, 12, 22	Victor Perez, 22
Patrick Cantlay, 11, 22	Billy Horschel, 11, 22	Thomas Pieters, 22
Ben Carr (a), 5	David Horsey, FQ	J.T. Poston, 22
Gunn Charoenkul, FQ	Viktor Hovland, 11, 22	Aldrich Potgieter (a), 18
Wyndham Clark, 22	Mackenzie Hughes, 13	Seamus Power, 22
Corey Connors, 11, 22	Sungjae Im, 11, 22	Andrew Putnam, 13
Joel Dahmen, 2	Ryo Ishikawa, FQ	Jon Rahm, 1, 6, 11, 12, 22
Jens Dantorp, FQ	Dustin Johnson, 1, 6	Patrick Reed, 22
Cam Davis, 22	Martin Kaymer, 1	Justin Rose, 1, 22
Jason Day, 22	Si Woo Kim, 22	Xander Schauffele, 11, 12, 22
Bryson DeChambeau, 1	Tom (Joohyung) Kim, 12, 22	Scottie Scheffler, 2, 6, 9, 11, 12, 22
Alejandro Del Rey, FQ	Chris Kirk, 22	Adam Scott, 11, 22
Wenyi Ding (a), 5	Kurt Kitayama, 22	Roger Sloan, FQ
Austin Eckroat, FQ	Brooks Koepka, 1, 7, 22	Cameron Smith, 8, 9, 11, 22
Harris English, 22	Matt Kuchar, 22	Jordan Smith, 15
Mateo Fernandez de Oliveira (a), 21	Thirston Lawrence, 15	Jacob Solomon, FQ
Tony Finau, 11, 12, 22	Hank Lebioda, FQ	Jordan Spieth, 1, 11, 22
Ross Fisher, FQ	K.H. Lee, 11, 22	Scott Stallings, 11
Matt Fitzpatrick, 1, 2, 11, 22	Min Woo Lee, 16	Sepp Straka, 11, 22
Tommy Fleetwood, 22	Shane Lowry, 8, 10, 22	Justin Suh, 14
Rickie Fowler, 22	Hideki Matsuyama, 2, 6, 11, 22	Adam Svensson, 22
Ryan Fox, 22	Denny McCarthy, 2, 22	Nick Taylor, 13
Sergio Garcia, FQ	Matthew McClean (a), 5	Sahith Theegala, 11, 22
Deon Germishuys, FQ	Rory McIlroy, 2, 11, 12, 22	Justin Thomas, 7, 9, 11, 22
Brent Grant, FQ	Adrian Meronk, 22	Aaron Wood, 11, 22
Adam Hadwin, 2	Phil Mickelson, 7	Gary Woodland, 1, 2
Paul Haley II, FQ	Keith Mitchell, 22	Cameron Young, 11, 22
Brian Harman, 11, 22	Francesco Molinari, 8	Carson Young, FQ
Padraig Harrington, 3	Taylor Montgomery, 13	
	Taylor Moore, 22	
	Collin Morikawa, 2, 7, 8, 11	
	Ryutaro Nagano, FQ	
	Joaquin Niemann, 11, 22	

*A few things are for certain when the world's greatest players gather at any of the four major championships; The field will be strong, the course will be laid out very difficult, weather will play a factor, and the best of the best will rise. Who is your pick?*

# GOLF

## PGA Tour vs. LIV golf

Two very different organizations, same sport

By now most golfers know about the rise of LIV Golf and the contention which has arisen with the PGA tour. Some folks pull for LIV and its new age, even “loud” brand of golf and traditionalists seem to favor the PGA tour as the historical and traditional brand. Now that we also know that an agreement in principle has been made to merge the two leagues, this article will serve to compare the two organizations and help you draw your own conclusions on which side of the fence you stand on. As you follow the details of the agreement in the coming weeks, let's see what details from the two tours fall in place and which details go away.

### PGA Tour

The PGA tour was established in 1968 as a spin-off of the Professional Golfers Association of America, which at the time represented club professionals. The spinoff was the brainchild of touring professional Gardner Dickinson and Hall of Famers Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer. One of the main reasons for the Tour spinoff has been explained in the past by Nicklaus who said that when a player signed with the PGA of America, they basically signed away their personal rights. Legally, players were beholden to the PGA when it came to their personal marketing and playing opportunities. The PGA Tour gave those rights to the players.

### LIV Golf

The LIV series, founded by professional golfer Greg Norman, is funded by over \$2 billion from Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, and was started as an opportunity to reinvigorate golf through larger payouts with star players and team competitions, all encompassed by strong marketing.

## The Differences

### Teams vs. Individuals

#### LIV Golf

LIV is built around the team concept where a team captain selects multiple players to compete with other LIV teams for a team purse which is split amongst team members. There is also an individual element to LIV which allows players to cash in on individual and team prize money.

#### PGA Tour

The PGA tour is primarily an individual tour where prize money is earned at the individual level based on a player's performance vs. the field. There are also a few sanctioned team events throughout the year that players can choose to compete in.

### Player Payouts

#### LIV Golf

LIV events generally carry purses of \$25 million, of which \$20 million counts towards individual winnings and \$5 million goes towards the team element. First place winners earn \$4 million with payouts descending to \$120,000 for the player who finishes last.

#### PGA Tour

On the PGA tour a winning check can garner between \$1 million and \$4.5 million dollars, depending on the tournament. Prior to 2023, if a player missed the cut on the PGA tour, the player did not earn a check. However, the Tour has implemented a payment of \$5,000 for players who do not make the cut, to help cover expenses.

### The Fields

#### LIV Golf

LIV fields are limited to a field of 48 players. There is no qualification to enter a LIV tournament other than the initial contract signed by the LIV player to join the series.

#### PGA Tour

PGA Tour events feature fields of either 132, 144 or 156 players depending on the tournament. Players are chosen for the fields by gaining Tour exemptions through pre-season qualifying schools and other criteria including current series points standings, PGA Tour official earnings, sponsor's exemptions and qualifying tournament generally held on the Monday of tournament week.

### Number of Events

#### LIV Golf

One of the draws of players to LIV, outside of the lucrative signing bonuses, is that LIV only schedules 14 events per season.

#### PGA Tour

The PGA tour has 47 scheduled events which players can choose from. Players must participate in a minimum number of events to maintain player status. The PGA tour also enacts a wrap-around season which accounts for almost an entire year. The number of events gives tour members outside of the best players, opportunities to compete and earn in events where many top ranked players do not compete.

### Tournaments

#### LIV Golf

LIV golf tournaments are 54-hole events, with a shotgun start and no cut. Players tee off at the same time throughout the course to promote faster play and more complete player coverage.

#### PGA Tour

PGA Tour events are 72-hole events with player cuts at the 36-hole mark. The PGA tour does sanction three events with no cuts. The FedEx Cup playoffs which include the FedEx St. Jude Championship, the BMW Championship, and the Tour Championship. Players participating in these events have qualified based on their body of work for the entire season.

### Official World Golf Ranking Points (OWGR)

#### LIV Golf

LIV golfers are not eligible to receive world ranking points, which could affect their opportunities to participate in major tournaments and other events. It should be noted that LIV and a handful of players are currently involved in lawsuits to try and gain opportunities to earn world ranking points.

#### PGA Tour

Players on the PGA tour are eligible to earn OWGR points.

### The Stars

#### LIV Golf

It is no secret that LIV tries to recruit only the best players. Former PGA Tour players such as Hall of Famer Phil Mickelson, Brooks Koepka, Sergio Garcia, and others have all signed with LIV. However, with a limited membership of 48 players, star production is limited to very few.

#### PGA Tour

The PGA Tour is not short on big names either. Players like all-time great Tiger Woods, John Rahm, Scottie Scheffler and Adam Scott are just a few who have chosen to remain on the PGA Tour. It should be noted that the combination of more players and events on the PGA tour, and the various minor league feeder tours associated with the Tour, allows news stars to emerge on an almost weekly basis.

### Tour Participation

#### LIV Golf

LIV has very limited fields and no prequalifying requirements. The only players competing on the LIV tour are those 48 chosen and signed by LIV (Lucrative Signing Bonuses, reportedly between \$15 million and up to \$200 million – depending on the player).

#### PGA Tour

The PGA Tour has a competitive pathway to participate. Feeder, or mini tours allow players to earn points to move up the ranks to earn PGA Tour status. And as previously explained, participation status can be gained by earning exemptions through qualifying schools and Monday qualifiers held at each event.

## Golf Tip of the day

Balance in the golf swing

By John Popeck-Teaching Professional, Washington CC



John Popeck

*John is a Charters Houston graduate and former Division 1 golfer at the University of Maryland. He has won multiple tournaments throughout his junior, college and professional golf career and has qualified for both Korn Ferry and PGA Tour events. John will be a regular contributor to The Weekly Recorder, providing tips and insight into the game of golf.*

**People always ask how I keep my balance throughout my golf swing. I have a couple tips that may help with this question.**

I always ask my clients, what is the most constant thing in golf. It is there every time you play? The answer is the ground. No matter if you are on an uphill, sidehill, downhill, or flat lie, your two feet are always on the ground. With that being said, the

feet should at least be shoulder width apart, allowing you to feel the weight distribution on both sides. The ground should always be used as your friend, not the enemy in golf. Keep in mind that the club is what hits the golf ball, not you. You make the swing, but the piece of metal moving is what makes the golf ball go. Keeping a wider stance will allow for better balance and allow for the clubhead to swing

more freely and smoothly. Lastly, it never hurts to open the front foot a hair. This allows for the hips to open and give you more balance and weight transfer into your side.



# GOLF

## Washington County Golf Course Listings Public – Private – Driving Ranges Public Golf Courses

**Chippewa Golf Club**  
18 holes 6,051 yards with a par of 70  
128 Chippewa Rd  
Bentleyville, PA  
15314-2058  
(724) 239-4841

**Dogwood Hills Golf Club**  
18 holes 5,000 yards with a par of 69  
1728 Beham Ridge Rd  
Claysville, PA  
15323-1285  
(724) 663-5870

**Fort Cherry Golf Club**  
18 holes 6,205 yards with a par of 70  
80 Fort Cherry Rd  
Mc Donald, PA  
15057-2962  
(724) 926-4182

**Frosty Valley Golf Club**  
9 holes 3,121 yards with a par of 35  
2652 Hidden Valley Rd Ste 201  
Pittsburgh, PA  
15241-3915  
(724) 941-5003

**Hickory Heights Golf Club**  
18 holes 6,045 yards with a par of 72  
116 Hickory Heights Dr  
Bridgeville, PA  
15017-1076  
(412) 257-0300

**Highland Springs Golf Course**  
18 holes 6,853 yards with a par of 72  
1600 Washington Pike  
Wellsburg, WV  
26070-2232  
(304) 737-2201

**Indian Run Golf Club**  
18 holes 5,720 yards with a par of 72  
1975 Avella Rd  
Avella, PA 15312-2371  
(724) 587-0330

**Lindenwood Golf Club**  
27 holes  
360 Galley Rd  
Canonsburg, PA  
15317-2391  
(724) 745-9889

**Pondersoa Golf Course**  
18 holes 6,376 yards with a par of 71  
2728 St. Route 168  
Hookstown, PA 15050  
724-947-4745

**Quicksilver Golf Club**  
18 holes 5,720 yards with a par of 72  
1975 Avella Rd  
Avella, PA 15312-2371  
(724) 587-0330

**Rolling Green Golf Course**  
18 holes 6,011 yards with a par of 71  
2426 Route 136  
Eighty Four, PA  
15330-2426  
(724) 222-9671

**1781 Golf Club**  
18 holes 6,400 yards with a par of 72  
681 Church Hill Rd  
Peters Township, PA  
15367  
(412) 941-1781



### Private Clubs

**Lone Pine Golf Club**  
18 holes 6,437 yards par 72  
2755 Park Ave  
Washington, PA  
15301-8147  
(724) 222-4700

**Mon Valley Country Club**  
9 Holes  
1188 Country Club Road  
Monongahela, PA  
18 holes 6,605 yards with a par of 72  
(724) 258-3345

**Nemacolin Country Club**  
18 holes 6,605 yards with a par of 72  
3100 National Pike  
Beallsville, PA  
15313-0056  
(724) 632-5443

**Southpointe Golf Club**  
18 holes 6,856 yards with a par of 72  
360 Southpointe Blvd  
Canonsburg, PA  
15317-8537  
(724) 746-2951

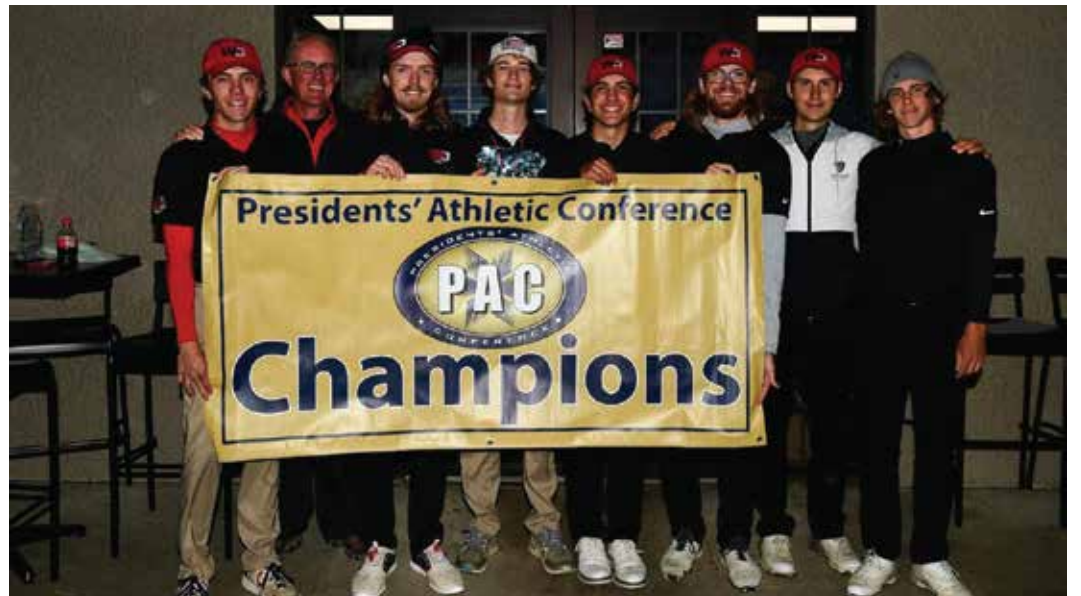
**Valley Brook Country Club**  
18 holes over with a par of 72  
425 Hidden Valley Rd.  
McMurray, PA 15317  
(724) 746-9000

**Washington Country Club**  
18 holes over with a par of 72  
2755 Park Ave  
Washington, PA  
15301-8147  
(724) 222-4700

**Driving Ranges Pomykala's**  
1250 Locust Avenue  
Washington, PA 15301  
724-884-5588  
84 Golf Center  
16 Golf Center Drive  
84, PA  
724-229-4002

**Interstate Golf and Activity Center**  
2200 Old National Pike  
Road  
Washington, PA 15301  
724-228-4653

## Washington & Jefferson Mens Golf team drives into summer Wins 2023 Presidents Athletic Conference Championship



For his efforts in guiding the Presidents, eighth-year head coach Matt Kluck was recognized as PAC Men's Golf Coach of the Year for a fifth time.

The Donald Ross designed south course at Mill-Creek in Boardman Ohio can be a challenging test of skill to any golfer. With its tree lined fairways, and winding streams, the natural hazards can be tough to navigate; especially when facing a 13-stroke final round deficit in a team championship final round.

One Stroke. In golf it can mean the difference between winning a championship or going home in second place.

The 2023 Washington & Jefferson Mens golf team stepped up to the challenges of the Ross design and by a margin of one stroke, overcame a final round 13 stroke deficit to finish the PAC tournament at 1211, vs second place Allegheny college who ended at 1212. Westminster finished third at 1213.

The Victory marked the 21st PAC conference team championship in school history for the Presidents.

Grove City College finished in fourth place for the Championships with a score of 1296, followed by Saint Vincent College 1302, Geneva College 1305, Waynesburg University 1359, and Thiel College 1394.

Allegheny College sophomore Carter Hassenplug was tournament medalist firing a four-round total of 291. This performance also secured PAC MVP honors for Hassenplug.

W&J freshman Andrew Platt tied for eighth overall with a 309 (82/77/73/77) while earning a crucial par 4 par on the 18th hole to ensure the championship for the Presidents Township.

## PGA Champions Tour

### Who is new and exempt in 2023?

Every year a "new breed" of PGA Champions Tour player becomes eligible to compete on the much-heralded senior tour as a result of lifetime status/achievements, on the PGA Tour. The following list outlines the players who will gain Champions Tour status in 2023.

Player	Birthdate	PGA Tour Wins
Brian Bateman	February 25 1973	1
Arjun Atwal	March 20 1973	1
Jason Bohn	April 24 1973	2
Chris Couch	May 1 1973	1
Stewart Cink	May 21 1973	8
Boo Weekly	July 23 1973	3
Brett Wetterich	August 9 1973	1
Ted Purdy	August 15 1973	1
Greg Chalmers	October 11 1973	1
Garrett Willis	November 21 1973	1
Chris Riley	December 8 1973	1
Daniel Chopra	December 23 1973	1

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# GOLF

## Duffers ease up on Down Swing

Written in 1949 – Published in multiple newspapers

By Ben Hogan – Ghost written by Tom Shehan

Nobody can argue the point that Ben Hogan is one of the greatest golfers to play the game. With 71 professional wins, nine of which are major championships, only Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods have notched more victories on tour and in majors. Noted as one of the best ball strikers in the game, Hogan was often sought after for his many theories on the swing and has been often copied by amateurs and professionals as well, who are in search of the perfect swing. This article is a reprint which appeared in multiple newspapers in 1949. Some of Hogans teachings, as written by writer Tom Shehan.

### Dragging clubhead can result in slice

Stay with the ball, be dead sure you don't go panty waste at contact. This is a fault far too common to many golfers, especially duffers. They may look great on the backswing and



Ben Hogan

starting the club down. But at contact something seems to happen to all of their good intentions.

They let up on the ball. When this happens, generally their hands drag the clubhead through the

ball, with a honey of a slice resulting. A drag by the hands is always disastrous. The hands should remain cocked until the last possible moment as the clubhead reaches the ball. Winning golfers, through perfect timing and control, manage to attain their maximum hand action at the moment of contact. The duffer at this point invariably, is losing hand action, or letting up on the ball.

### Reason for trouble

Generally, this is a result of trying to hurry the backswing, the downswing, or both by hitting from the top of the swing. When a duffer initiates his downswing with his hands or arms, he is in for real trouble. By the time the clubhead reaches the ball, all zip is gone. In addition, such a procedure results in hitting the ball from the outside in, instead from the inside out. When a ball is hit from the outside in, a slice can be guaranteed. The proper way of

course, is to initiate the downswing and get into the correct position by turning the left hip to the left as the clubhead reaches the top of the swing. This gives your hands and arms a head start, thus creating all the speed possible with your body before applying the arms and hands.

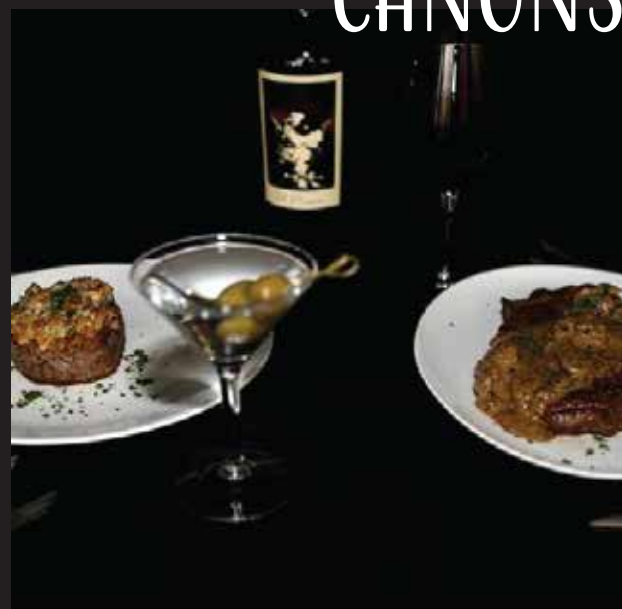
### Speed and Power

Speed and Power must be gradually and smoothly applied during the golf swing and any efforts to hasten matters will result in trouble. When properly applied, speed and power reach their climax right on the ball. If you watch a player like Sammy Snead hit the ball, you know what I mean. His swing seems lazy, so smoothly and surely does he hold back in applying speed and power in the blow until just before the clubhead contacts the ball. And he never lets up on it.

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CANONSBURG, PA



# TRAVEL

## Born to Travel, Born to Cook

By Jason Capps

From the beginning I was destined to lead a life filled with food and travel. I came into the world in 1969 and took my first flight at the tender age of three months. My parents, Judy and Paul Douglas, fresh out of college armed with bachelor's degrees, decided to escape the chaos in America at the time and pursue teaching careers outside the US. After sending tons of resumes around the world they landed jobs at Carol Morgan, an American school in Santo Domingo. They loved the idea of raising a family in the Dominican Republic, where they could play tennis and take me to the beach every day.

Tragically, my father was killed a year later in a motorcycle accident and my mom, and I returned to Washington, PA where she would eventually marry my godfather Sam from Monongahela, who I called Dad. My sister Nicole and brother Bret came next. While I don't remember those first couple of years, some of my earliest memories are flying by myself at five years old. Each year after baseball season I became an "unaccompanied minor" on a TWA flight from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia so I could visit my grandparents in South Jersey for my very own three-week summer vacation.

Every August when that day finally came my dad would walk me onto the plane, plop me down in the first seat. On the flight, the seemingly 7 ft tall "stewardesses" would spoil me with attention, ginger ale, and lots of snacks. I still have a few of those little plastic TWA wings they would pin to my chest. These journeys would often include visits into the cockpit to put on headphones and talk to the pilots at 30,000 ft somewhere high above Pennsylvania. Once at the gate in Philly, my Granny and Pop Pop would walk



Granny and Pop Pop

Steak House, my grandparent's restaurant in Bridgeton, NJ, eating open face ribeye sandwiches covered in onions and cheese. My favorite dessert was

maybe those cooks were extra friendly to me because I was the owner's grandson, but it doesn't matter now.

Every single morning like clockwork Pop Pop

right up in bed. If I didn't wake up, he would sneak into my room, lift the sheets, and dump a bucket of ice on me. I only made that mistake a few times!

Granny and Pop Pop also loved to take me out to dinner. We would often drive an hour to The Charcoal Pit in Delaware, or into Philadelphia to a

with my father's family, and the independence I gained on my annual pilgrimage to the other side of the state. It may not have been far, but as those of us from western PA know, it is a world away. And it shaped me in ways it would take me years to realize.

Thanks for reading. Stay tuned for the next



Paul and Judy

tapioca pudding; the thick rubbery top and fresh whipped cream was like heaven. I have vivid memories of walking through their busy kitchen, dodging servers Aunt Ruth, Hannah, Mildred, and other nice ladies, most of whom

would cook me a feast for breakfast. Delicious, scrambled eggs, creamy and soft with lots of fresh ground pepper, small, diced home fries perfectly browned and cooked in the fat from the bacon that was always on the table too. Sweet sausage patties made an appearance maybe 3-4 times a week. If I asked the night before he would make thin pancakes (he called them flapjacks), or waffles with maple syrup and as much butter as I wanted. This was always after a wedge of ripe Jersey cantaloupe and a glass of orange juice. God only knows how I finished everything, but I did.

Wake up time was 6:30 am, no exceptions, no delays. He would call my name and the smell of that food would sit me



Jason and Paul

steak house they loved. There were rules here with dining out too. I could order ANYTHING I wanted on the menu, but if I didn't finish it, I had to pay for it. I remember one time I had to help cut the grass in the blazing sun because I went a bit overboard ordering two entrees the night before. I only made this mistake once.

I treasure these memories of time spent

story in a couple of weeks about my first restaurant job and how I ended up where I am today... writing this from my home in Tuscany.

**Jason Capps**  
Bella Sera Event Villa -  
bellaserapgh.com  
Jason's Journeys LLC -  
jasonsjourneys.com

Canonsburg, PA  
jason@bellaserapgh.com



Judy, Jason and Paul

onto the plane and scoop me up and vacation was officially on.

At their house I would spend my days playing with my cousins on the train tracks, at the beach in Ocean City or at Capps Day Camp, my uncle's summer camp. Here I would do all the things kids do at summer camp like swimming, boating and other fun activities like archery and weekend sailing and camping excursions into Delaware and Maryland where we would catch crabs and bluefish and cook them over a fire on the beach.

If I wasn't at the beach or camp, I could usually be found at The Hickory

were related to me. I remember lifting the ladles of soup asking the cooks what kind of soup it was and how they made it. My favorite was the house soup, french onion. I'd eat the crispy dark edges of cheese off the sides of the crock first, before dunking my spoon through the thick raft of gooey provolone.

The cooks - Charlie, Herbie, and Donald - wore white chef coats and tall white chef hats. They always took time to explain things to me. I have no doubt this is where my real interest in cooking food came from. It was not until I was much older that I realized



Jason and Pop Pop

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Just What in the Hell is Real Country Music Anyway???

By P. Phillips



*I am a musician that has played in, filled in and listened to countless acts over the years. With that said, one statement I have heard so many times over the years is, "That ain't real country music!" George Jones, Hank Sr, Kris Kristofferson, and Waylon are real country!*

Wait.... Say What?!?!?!  
To make this statement (ad nauseum at times), is hypocrisy at the very least and might just mean you, like me are getting long in the tooth. (You can place hypothetical LOL's here)  
Let's hop into the time machine and go back to 1970. The Nashville scene and fanbase were at an early crossroads. The establishment (the unplugged, fake guitar playing, Nudie suit wearing 'Country' stars were being encroached upon by brace yourself..... GREASY LONG-HAIRED HIPPIES.... And they played

**ELECTRIC GEEETARS!!**  
Using Kristofferson and Jennings as prime examples, you must realize that the establishment hated them. They were in fact called the Outlaws. Hence, we have Outlaw Country. BUT... The young record buyers listened and spent and spent. What happened?? The new popular kids on the block became the norm. Low and behold they became Country music! So much so that today's listeners have lumped them together as one in the same, the so called 'Real Country Music.' So, think about this before you pass judgement on anything new. There seems to be a generational phenomenon that permeates American pop culture with like judgements.  
Garth Brooks was once grouped in with the 'not real country' artists. Today he is approaching Mt Rushmore status in the pantheon of 'RCM.' Similar judgement for What is Rock and Roll? For example, Stones and Beatles purists complain about later generations as not being real rock music. My guess is just like Cognitive Dissonance creeps into daily opinions of relationships, politics, sports, and our religious

beliefs, it also stains our thoughts on what we perceive what real music might be. After all we are talking about opinions here, not facts. Here is my final take as a musician. When I strike a B minor chord, it is just that. It doesn't care what type of music I am playing, doesn't care what I'm writing or what emotion I am evoking. It's just the physics of harmonic vibration looking to get out and reach your ears and let you do what you want with it. It's funny how time, opinions and generational judgement can influence that.  
So, Brad Paisley, Carrie Underwood, Kelsea Ballerini, Luke Combs, Kane Brown, Jason Aldean and Eric Church, worry not, you will be fine and very real in just a few more years.  
Let the music do the talking and realize that music can, like us, evolve, devolve, have no impact (highly unlikely), or move us powerfully in many directions.  
There is no such thing as bad music, only bad execution. Remember: Get out and experience live music, learn to play. You would be surprised how rewarding it can be. Until next time. Me

*So, I suppose what I am trying to say is, it all evolves,*

## Guntown Beer - from John Canon to Six Packs to a Western PA Entertainment Destination!

By P. Phillips

When Colonel John Canon arrived in Southwestern Pennsylvania following the Revolutionary War, I will bet he never envisioned how his last name would impact the area. One, he founded Canonsburg. Two, people seemed to use his name as a weapon (a Cannon, in particular). It's amazing what a manipulated name can do! From Canon to Cannon. Cannon to Gunner. Sports teams to Sportsman's clubs. Eventually, Gunners to Guntown.  
For years, nestled into the fabric of Canonsburg's Pike Street stood an Old Beer distributorship known as Tomsic's. Guntown Owners Tracy and Chris Mirisciotta purchased the property and turned into Gabby's Pizza

in the late 90's. The pizza business was working out quite well, but the couple had bigger dreams. Using Tracy's intuition and Chris' gift of networking, the couple envisioned something with more outreach and appeal. With a vision in hand and wanting to get their offspring involved in the world of entrepreneurship, Tracy and Chris opened Guntown Beer in 2006. Enter the second generation of Gasper and Gabby and an overall family love of entertainment. Guntown Beer started slowly. Mainly locals picking up six packs or stopping for a quick beer. The family business gears wear starting to turn.  
Around 2013, Things moved outside. Guntown

Beer became a bar/ restaurant. On a whim, A 1976 Chevy industrial flatbed was added! For what? A stage, of course! Local bands were intrigued and started to inquire about putting Guntown Beer on their schedules and things have been on the uptick ever since (outside of a CoVID 19 slow down in 2020). From local to regional bands such as Buckwild, Shady Mugs, Ruff Creek, Tina Daniels, Matt Tichon, and even the rarely heard Chocolate Bathtub! The list is long and most of all, entertaining.  
In 2019, Chris had the oddest of dreams (literally) and it caused him to



## Little Lake Theater Company 75th Anniversary

Each year since 1947, Little Lake produces a season filled with dynamic productions for all ages. As we head towards our 75th anniversary in 2023, Little Lake Theatre Company is still going strong. And with your help, we will be on stage for years to come!



**For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday**  
June 15-25, 2023

**Deathtrap**  
July 20-August 6, 2023

### Our History

In 1947, Will Disney and his mother went in search of a place to begin a community theatre. They reached Washington County, and stopped to talk to a farmer, Mr. McDowell, who owned a big red barn on a lake. He agreed to lease the barn as a place where live plays could be performed. In 1949, Little Lake Theatre was established. After several expansions and years of growth, our current theatre space continues to thrive and support our mission. Our founder, Will Disney, wanted to create not just a community theatre, but a legacy.

Late Night TV				May 29 - June 4, 2023	
Rank	Program	Host(s)	Network	Viewers	Telecast Days*
1	Gutfeld!	Greg Gutfeld	Fox News	1,584,750	TWRF..
2	Late Show (R)	Stephen Colbert	CBS	1,274,000	TWRF..
3	Jimmy Kimmel Live (R)	Jimmy Kimmel	ABC	1,213,000	TWRF..
4	11th Hour	Stephanie Ruhle	MSNBC	1,016,500	TWRF..
5	Tonight Show (R)	Jimmy Fallon	NBC	1,006,000	MTWRF..
6	Fox News @ Night	Trace Gallagher	Fox News	830,250	TWRF..
7	Nightline	Bryon Pitts & Juju Chang	ABC	735,000	TWRF..
8	Late Late Show (R)	James Corden	CBS	606,000	TWRF..
9	Late Night (R)	Seth Meyers	NBC	566,000	MTWRF..
10	CNN Tonight+		CNN	352,500	TWRF..
11	Rob Schmitt Tonight+ (R)	Rob Schmitt	Newsmax	157,000	TWRF..
12	Cuomo+ (R)	Chris Cuomo	NewsNation	70,250	TWRF..
-	Real Time	Bill Maher	HBO	n/a	...F..
-	Last Week Tonight	John Oliver	HBO	n/a	...S
-	Daily Show	Guest Host	Comedy Central	n/a	M....

Primetime Average Demo   Total Viewers	
1 @MSNBC	169,667   1,857,667
2 @FoxNews	119,333   1,726,333
3 @CNN	126,333   569,333
4 @Newsmax	27,000   374,667
5 @NewsNation	22,667   124,667

Cable News Ratings		25-54 year old Demographic Viewers   Total Viewers & Audience Share		Monday, June 5, 2023	
5 pm	MSNBC	147,000	1,462,000	19,000	236,000
6 pm	Fox News	136,000	1,431,000	15,000	281,000
7 pm	CNN	147,000	1,188,000	18,000	484,000
8 pm	MSNBC	135,000	1,179,000	13,000	341,000
9 pm	Fox News	122,000	1,416,000	13,000	292,000
10 pm	CNN	111,000	1,188,000	11,000	291,000
11 pm	MSNBC	110,000	1,188,000	11,000	178,000

make an impulse purchase. Guntown welcomed a full-sized school bus to the outside deck area. The bus can be used as a party room (it's already hosted weddings, showers and private parties) or for weekend night seating while enjoying your favorite entertainment. BTW, the school bus experience also includes markers for graffiti (keep it clean please) ☐.  
Guntown offers a tasty variety of pizzas (dough is an old family recipe), sandwiches, salads and bar food. Micro

brews, high end liquors as well as your all-time favorite drinks. So, if you are looking for a unique experience that covers the gamut of high-level entertainment, food, drink, wonderful oddities, great staff and really good folks running the show, GET ON DOWN to Guntown Beer!  
**FYI**  
**Guntown will be hosting a beach party on Saturday June 17. Get on your beach wear, Hawaiian shirts, and head on down to Guntown!**

# LIFESTYLE

## McPeake My Interest

By Brian McPeake



*I'm not making this up...*

Some would say that I am a connoisseur of dangerous playground equipment. In the 70's we risked our lives every day at recess playing on contraptions that defied the laws of gravity and physics. If there was a concussion protocol back then... we all were in it. There were many perils: Dizzying heights, wood splinters, burns, concrete landing areas, holes to pinch little fingers, rust, lead paint, hornets nests and the list goes on.

**Take a gander at my all time top 5:**

**The Merry go Round.** This circular brain scrambling device was made of rusty steel and pain chips. The idea was to hold on to the metal handle while you ran in circles to gain speed

before jumping on. When the older kids spun it, with you and your friends already on, made for a few seconds of fun before being flung off at a high rate of speed. Load up, spin fast, count the wounded, and repete until someone needed the nurses office. Just kidding, we never went to the nurses office.



**The Giant Racer Slide.** Today, playgrounds have lumpy, plastic, short-barreled slides—but it wasn't always this way. Erected of stainless steel we would climb a 30-foot metal ladder into what seemed like the clouds to let gravity propel us

toward the ground below, not to mention some burns as we sped along that sun-roasted metal. You could fry bacon on this sweet bastard before you reached the bottom. But burns weren't the issue; the real problem with slides was the dizzying climb up. Some were as high as 12 feet but we trained for this by jumping out of windows onto a dirty mattress. No helmets required, just some steel cojones.

**The Jungle Gym.** Not to be confused with today's small igloo shaped device, this monstrosity was enormous. If Isaac Newton had been around to do some quick gravitational calculations, he would have discovered kids falling from the top would be doing about 20 mph by the time they hit the pavement below. The name came from the fire pole mounted down the center of the structure, allowing tykes to drop around 15 feet to an unpadded concrete slab underneath. Today's medical personnel would categorize a plunge from the top of this piece of equipment as a "major fall."

We would categorize it as a little inconvenience for a moment of glory.

**Wooden See Saw.** Ah, so simple and yet so many hours of entertainment from two slabs of wood and a metal pole.

Not to mention the splinters. Designed to just rock back and forth gently we turned this onto a bone rattling - but crack splitting – catapult. Place a friend on one end and have 2 more jump onto the opposite end for maximum launch. We all had dreams of being an astronaut so this was required training. The smaller the kid the higher we would soar to our destination of the dreaded bottle of merthiolate. Nothing like a little Mercury poisoning among friends.

**The Metal Horse Swing.** This cute simple looking horse on a large coil spring looked innocent enough, but in reality caused enough concussions to make modern NFL players see double. We would sucker a novice to climb on as the older kids pulled it back as far as it would go. The newbie would launch fwd and fly head over

heals towards the unforgiving turf. The horse head normally mashed as many groins as it did heads. The subsequent falsetto it caused launched many future boy bands.

The 70's were a different animal all together. We had no Internet, iPhones, tablets, social media so our attempts at greatness went undocumented. Unless we had a grainy out of focus photo from a patent who watched us risk our lives before we piled into the the back of the station wagon. We were afraid of nothing and this is why Generation X should go down in history as the best / worst decision makers of all time...

Next month we will discuss the trippiest television shows and the lunch boxes ever created!

*-Brian McPeake -World Class Stink Bug Wrangler and Paper Folder.*

## Sudoku

6		4		8			7	
		9		7		3		
		2	4	5				
	6	3					2	
4	7				5			
	9					6		
					1			
						4	8	2
5					4	7	1	

## Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9					10				11 12
13					14				
15				16				17	
18							19		
		20				21			
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## J.R.'s Funnies

By Randy Lubas

### Cruise Ship observations...

I always say that "You don't have to look far for the Jokes!" I have recently been back working on cruise ships and you see some pretty funny things on the ships. I have seen people on cruise ships taking photographs of food. Which is great if you ever forget what food looks like, but from the looks of the people taking the photographs, I don't think that was likely to occur! I have seen CHEAP people on cruise ships. I have seen people on cruise ships taking photographs of the ships' photographer's photographs. That takes some chutzpah! I say to the people on the ship that I encourage them to laugh out loud at the jokes. Laugh uninhibitedly! Laugh like you are out in the middle of the ocean on a ship with a bunch of people who you will never see again as long as you live. Laugh like you don't care what anyone thinks. And I know there are people here who don't care what anyone thinks. I know this because I have seen you in your bathing suits!

Across

- 1 Finn's conveyance
- 5 Rush job letters
- 9 It replaced the franc
- 10 Make over
- 13 Image of a deity
- 14 Kind of recording
- 15 Maidenhair trees
- 17 Confucians' path
- 18 Fanciful idea
- 19 Plug
- 20 Wager
- 21 Photo, briefly
- 22 Astound
- 24 Operated by hand
- 27 Boston Bruins great
- 28 Graceful antelope
- 29 Official count
- 31 Narrative of heroic exploits
- 32 Stick to
- 33 Ollie's mate
- 34 Some butters
- 35 Long fish

Down

- 1 Prevail
- 2 Pertaining to sound reproduction
- 3 Prime cooking spot
- 4 "The Hobbit" author
- 5 Burning of another's property
- 6 Hardens
- 7 Angelus prayer
- 8 Tiny piece of atmospheric pollutant
- 11 Coarsely ground foodstuff
- 12 Table -top game
- 16 Obtained
- 19 Smoothness
- 21 La --- (South American capital)
- 22 Short stocking
- 23 Woody plant
- 24 Sail poles
- 25 Like pond scum
- 26 Tilts or slants
- 28 Southernmost Mariana island
- 30 Mineral spring

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