

THE WEEKLY RECORDER

Community News • Serving Washington County

Canonsburg 4th of July celebration marches into 60th year An Independence Day tradition like none other...



Let the celebration begin

The beginning

On Independence Day 1963, the first Canonsburg 4th of July celebration was launched. The brainchild of the event came to be when prominent Canonsburg resident Tony Colaizzo first developed the idea for the celebration in 1962, following the illness of his daughter. That year, the Colaizzo family had to miss their annual trip to South Park, their typical

Fourth of July tradition. As he walked through town, he noted that his beloved Canonsburg was barren of any type of patriotic celebration. No decorations, no flags and certainly no chairs set out the week prior, a moniker that would put the celebration on the map for the coming decades.

This inspired Colaizzo to organize a group to start a day-long celebration with a firework display as a

grand finale. As chief fundraiser, Mr. Colaizzo went to work raising the funds, including working the crowd with a bucket on the morning of the inaugural celebration, to make the budget at the eleventh hour.

From his seeding of an idea and his ongoing efforts, the celebration has grown to an annual attendance of an estimated 15,000 people filling Memorial Stadium for fireworks

and 30,000 people along the parade route in Canonsburg the day of the celebration since that first parade in 1963.

In the beginning, the parade was very short. As time passed, it became longer as more musical units were involved like the Mummer's out of

celebration invites a celebrity grand marshal and a local grand marshal. Typically, the celebrity is someone who has some tie to the community. A few of the celebrities participating in the past include Mr. McFeely from Mr. Rogers Neighborhood, Ann B. Davis from the



The first celebration – Anthony Colaizzo and Mayor Norbert Lesniakowski

Philadelphia, the oldest continuous folk parade in the United States of America, which put on a show. At one point, the Shriners began participating with their mini cars. Something that continues in the modern era.

Every year, the

Brady Bunch, and several on-air personalities from the three Pittsburgh news networks, KDKA, WTAE, and WPXI.

See Canonsburg 4th of July celebration,

The 12th Annual Whiskey Rebellion Festival

The Whiskey Rebellion festival is touted as Washington County's largest festival. The festival honors the history of the Whiskey Rebellion from 1791-1794 and is returning for its 12th year beginning on Friday, July 7th and running through July 8th.

"We are proud to be the largest festival in Washington County and each year we tweak our offerings just a bit, as we have many repeat visitors," said Tracie Liberatore, Executive Director of the Bradford House Historical Association. Liberatore, who also serves as the Program Director of the Whiskey Rebellion Festival, added that "in 2023, we welcome several new history groups, such as the Baker Blockhouse & Cemetery Association and Rivers of Steel Heritage Corridor, who will be sending their new blacksmith to do demonstrations." Also, 2023 is the first year that festival will be using the Meeting House, located



Whiskey Rebellion Main Festival Stage

at 182 S. Main Street. This extension of the Bradford House Historical Association will provide space for the Whiskey & Spirits Walk on Friday and demonstrators on Saturday. The mercantile area will have some new additions, such as Westerwald Pottery, Couldn't Bee Better Honey, and Opossum Pouch Soft Goods. All of the music performances will be at the Main Stage in the pavilion at 139 S. Main Street, Washington, Pa 15301. And let us not forget about the Whiskey and the Food!

Washington Brewery has crafted a Rebellion Lager and Red Pump Spirits will be serving a Rebellion Rye.

Friday evening kicks off the festivities with a Whiskey & Spirits Walk. "Be a Rebel and join the walk from 6-9pm, said Liberatore." (\$50 per person; must be 21 or over). A dozen distilleries will be participating. If you like something you sample, you can purchase a bottle. Friday night continues with a performance by the Washington Symphony

Orchestra at the Main Street Pavilion. If you are hungry or thirsty, the Blue Eagle Tavern and the food trucks will be open. Most festival events happen on Saturday, July 8th beginning with a community parade down Main Street. Free festival activities include history museum tours, local history group displays, historic street theater performances, demonstrators, reenactors, the Lil' Rebels Area, mercantile, all-day music, a wide variety of food trucks and Blue Eagle Tavern Libations. The Lil' Rebels area for children's activities is full of family fun. Our favorite tall man, Bob the Juggler, will be strolling about and Robert Moulard will be back with his jig puppet and a new instrument. Keeping history alive, you can visit the Bradford House Museum and tour the first floor of this Whiskey Rebellion leader's home. Across the street is the Whiskey Rebellion



Taking in the Festival History

Education and Visitor Center. Everything you want to know about the Whiskey Rebellion is here, including our big display of a whiskey still. Courthouse Tours and Talks occur throughout the day. Over one hundred years old, this remains one of western Pennsylvania's architectural gems. But the biggest treat of all is the Historic Street Theater performances right on Main Street. And yes, they will be tarring and feathering the tax collector!

For a complete schedule of events visit whiskeyrebellionfestival.com



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One of the original floats

War time

Since there have been multiple conflicts over the past 60 years: Vietnam, Grenada, Gulf War I and II and Afghanistan, the committee draws on support of the community to keep the home fires burning with the celebration. For example, following the COVID epidemic, the committee chose to honor first responders and health care workers as Grand Marshals. The primary goal, as outlined in the celebrations bylaws is the promotion of social welfare of the citizens of the Borough of Canonsburg through the establishment of social activities for public engagement and entertainment of the Fourth of July of each year. The committee



Mayor Rhome left, Christine McGee, Mark Galley

ALWAYS considers hardships that the community may be experiencing and has done a wonderful job of giving the town something to celebrate, with respect for those who have made sacrifices.

The committee

Not many know that the celebration is completely managed by a large volunteer committee. The committee handles everything from working with the borough on security, parking, and logistics, to organizing “after parade events” and even working with the Canonsburg school district to utilize the high school’s stadium for the fireworks celebration. And so very much more.

The committee is most certainly a tradition in itself. Many families have been a part of overseeing the celebration over the

years, as the elders have passed their experiences and duties down to multiple generations in order to ensure the celebration continues. Fred Terling, this years Vice Chairman of the committee said, “Many of us have followed our parents around who were involved from the very beginning. Personally, I’ve been active since 1970. Even while a member of the Marine Corps, I found a way home for most 4th of July Celebrations, where others have never missed. EVERY year

fifty-six years since the first one (meeting) was held in 1962. Now known throughout the rest of the state as the celebration where residents put out their chair’s days in advance, the parade and day’s celebration has become a mainstay for citizens of this slice of Americana. Although the complexity in preparation of this holiday has increased, the heart of the organization remains the same.

2023



Veterans in the parade

yields crazy, unbelievable stories. There is a LOT of laughter that goes on throughout the planning. The stressful part goes into high gear mid-May of every year until July 4th. All part of being involved with the committee.”

An excerpt from an article written by Terling in 2020 titled, *The Canonsburg Fourth of July Committee, Strangers who became Family*, wonderfully sums up the family tradition and hard work involved in putting on the annual celebration.

It was another typical first Monday of the month meeting taking place in the upstairs of the White Eagles Club in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. These meetings begin the month after Independence Day and continue on schedule until June of the following year, wherein the frequency increases to every week until the eventual celebration on the Fourth of July. This has gone on for the past

The 2023 celebration will kick off promptly at 9:00 a.m. with the traditional ringing of the church bells, followed directly by the national anthem and opening remarks at the reviewing stand at 9:05. This year’s Celebrity Grand Marshall is KDKA reporter Chris Marshall. Linda Lou Neill, a lifelong Canonsburg resident, who has the distinction of being crowned the very first 4th of July Celebration queen, will serve as the local Grand Marshall. Good times and lifelong



chairs along the parade route. Sometimes several days in advance. This in itself is part of the tradition. However,

the Canon Mac Cross Country Team headed by Mark Galley (22 years) kept the tradition and helped it grow as the fundraiser for the school’s team.

The unique experience of a family friendly competitive race, as part of the July 4th celebration and long running tradition, make for an exciting experience. “Where else can you dress festively to be cheered out of the stadium while racing through the streets of Canonsburg and be greeted by thousands of chairs (empty chairs as the race takes place early morning)?” Said McGee.

McGee has been the Race Director for the last eight years. Within this time, she and her race committee have helped the race evolve by adding - start and finish chip timing, QR codes for quick registration, results viewing, race branding, custom wooden medals, fun themed race shirts, and corrals to name a few. This year the race will feature the School of Rock house band performing, and the Wish 99.7 Street Treat Patrol topped off by folks decked out in red, white, and blue rock themed shirts. McGee said, “It’s been a fantastic experience to meet the participants and to see racers enjoying the event through the years. We have been extremely lucky to have fantastic sponsors, volunteers, and racers! At the end of the day, it is the fundraiser for the Canon Mac Cross Country Team, but through the volunteering of the CMXC Families we keep this traditional community event going... which is a Win-Win for the Community and the Team.”

if you are planning on setting up chairs in advance, it is important to know that Canonsburg Borough has an ordinance in place that chairs can only be set up 48 hours in advance of parade day.

Whiskey Rebellion 5K Run/Walk

The Whiskey Rebellion 5K Run/Walk is a race that is a great experience, as part of the Canonsburg 4th of July Celebration. The event enjoys a “fun vibe” according to Race Director Christine



Racers make their way through town

memories are certainly on tap for this year’s celebration. Well over 100 units including fire companies, high school bands, dance teams, sports teams, veteran groups, floats and so many more will be marching in the parade downtown.

And do not forget the chairs

For years parade spectators have set up

McGee. Adding to the celebrations the tradition and history.

This year is the 39th Annual Race. It all began when a group of runners decided to put together a challenging 10K from Canon McMillan high school to Canonsburg Park, before the July 4th parade. For those beginning years, it was a small event that was only a local tradition. In the 1990’s

So, bring the family, bring your friends, and come celebrate our great nation’s day of independence at one of the most celebrated July 4th celebrations in the country. Be a part of the tradition! If you cannot make the parade, the committee has set up live streaming. The festivities can be streamed at <https://canonsburgjuly4th.org/live-stream>

Raise A Fork For A Good Cause

GEORGETOWN ESTATES FIRE VICTIMS

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER SAT 22 JULY

Presale: ADULTS \$10 | KIDS (9&UNDER) \$5
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Tunnel to Towers Foundation Giving back to those who gave all

By W.R. Smith

Canonsburg will again host the Pittsburgh region's annual fundraising event for the national Tunnel to Towers Foundation (T2T). The 5K Run and Family Walk starts in downtown Canonsburg on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 8 a.m. at 1 N. Jefferson Ave. Local firefighters, police, community groups, families and sponsors are encouraged to participate individually or in teams to show their support. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is committed to ensuring "we never forget 9/11, the sacrifices made, and those that continue to be made by our first responders and military, in the line of duty." The Pittsburgh region of T2T is lead by volunteer co-chairmen Vince Faith

the unique needs of each individual. The Gold Star Family Home Program is similar to the Fallen First Responder Program in that it provides mortgage free homes for the families of service members that give the ultimate sacrifice. The newest program is the Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute. This program is the go-to resource for educators of all types to get non-fiction, first person resources they need to teach children across the country about the events on September 11th, 2001. The T2T mission To increase awareness about the Tunnel to Tower organization and the good they do. To engage

Fire and Police:
•Combination of Most participants in the event (Walkers/ Runners) and the funds raised by the team.
• Team of Runners
• Funds Raised Military and Youth cups are planned to be introduced with similar criteria. Sponsorships that include benefit packages.
• Name and Logo on National website
• Various event benefits aligned with sponsorship level
• Recognition at the event Last year, Note - The successful event raised over \$106,000 of which over \$92,000 was cash. There was also \$14,000 in kind contributions. 500 people participated in the event. Participants that walked or ran the course in last year's event consisted of

volunteer to help us execute. We know we can achieve our goals with the community support."

Sponsorship levels

Be a sponsor - Sponsorship levels

Participating Sponsor - \$250 • Logo/mention on specific event social media pages • Logo and link on registration page • Signage at event

Patriot Sponsor - \$500 • Free registrations for 2 participants at the event • Logo/mention on specific event social media pages • Logo and link on registration page • Signage at event

Freedom Sponsor - \$750 • Free registrations for 3 participants at the event • Logo/mention on specific event social media pages • Logo and link on registration page • Signage at event

Hero Sponsor - \$1,000 • Free registration for 5 for participants • Logo and link on local Tunnel to Towers Event registration webpage • Logo on all signage throughout the event and post event festivities • Logo on event t-shirts • Logo/mention on specific event social media pages

Liberty Sponsor- \$1,500 • Free registration for 7 for participants • Logo and link on local Tunnel to Towers Event registration webpage • Logo on all signage throughout the event and post event festivities • Logo on event t-shirts • Logo/mention on specific event social media pages

Our Bravest Sponsor - \$2,500 • Free registration for 10 participants • Logo/mention in all event advertising • Logo and link on local Tunnel to Towers Event registration webpage • Logo on all signage throughout the run and post event festivities • Signage at start/finish lines • Logo/mention on specific event social media pages • Logo on event t-shirts

Star Spangled Sponsor - \$3,500 • Logo on event t-shirts • Free registration for 15 participants • Logo/mention in all event advertising and social media • Logo and link on local Tunnel to Towers Event registration webpage • Logo on all signage throughout the run and post event festivities • Signage a start/finish Lines

Presenting Sponsor- \$5,000 • Free registration for 20 participants • Logo/mention in all event advertising and social media • Logo and link on local Tunnel to Towers Event registration webpage • Logo on all signage throughout the run and post event festivities • Signage a start/finish Lines • Logo on event t-shirts

For sponsorships that are \$10,000 or more, T2T will customize a package for you, Participation registration and sponsorship forms are available at
<https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Canonsburg/TunneltoTowers5KRunWalkPittsburghPA>.

Director Colaizzo and the T2T team are excited about the prospects for another successful event. "Last year our first year in Canonsburg we achieved great success," he said. We raised \$106,000 and had 500 participants. The participants enjoyed interaction with the State Police, FBI, Army, Air Force and County as well as local first responders. We had an all-veteran band that was great. We also had a sugar rush water station in Town Park staffed by Grandpa Joes candy shop! This year we are working to build on the opportunities to interact. The atmosphere was extremely moving and upbeat! We look forward to a better result this year in accomplishing our mission which again, is to create greater awareness about Tunnel to Tower, give young people and opportunity to interact with First Responders and Military personnel, and raise a bit of money for T2T"

and Canonsburg native Tony Colaizzo. Upon returning to the area after many years out of town, Colaizzo and his wife Robyn searched for a charity to get involved with. "Tunnel to Towers seemed like a great cause and we loved their rating on charity navigator, so we contacted them," Colaizzo said. "We met with them at Shanksville and after a positive interaction we decided to get engaged." This region's event had been previously run by others and in 2021, Colaizzo and Faith stepped in. "We were excited for the opportunity and are working to grow it annually," Colaizzo said. Programs that provide Through the Fallen First Responder Home Program, Tunnel to Towers aims to pay off the mortgages of fallen law enforcement officers and firefighters who lose their lives in the line of duty, or to 9/11 related illness, and leave behind young children. The Foundation's goal is to ensure stability and security for those families facing sudden, tragic loss. The Smart Home Program supports building mortgage free homes for the most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. Each home is designed to address

young people with first responders and military personnel to increase understanding and improve the perception of the groups. Increasing awareness is very important to Colaizzo. "This is a local effort," Colaizzo stated. "We feel strongly that we all have a responsibility to share the positives about First Responders and the Military. These folks are willing go to bat for people they do not even know. They are just regular folks who have decided to give of themselves to others in a very big way." Colaizzo also stressed the importance of engaging the younger population. "Our young people get bombarded with information daily that influences their decisions" he said. "This opportunity to interact with First Responders and Military can have a positive influence on them." The 5K event in Canonsburg This year's T2T Pittsburgh 5K Family Walk/ Run in Canonsburg will involve showing local support through participation and fund raising to the organization. Recognition that will be presented:
•First Responder Cup

more than 20% of people under the age of 18. The event welcomed 35 Sponsors that supported the event financially. Sponsors contributed \$77,000. This year the event committee hopes to double their participation and contribution to T2T. Doubling the efforts can be a monumental task, Colaizzo had this important message towards achieving that goal: "There are many ways to engage. Our businesses in the Washington, Greene, Allegheny County, and the entire southwestern portion of PA. can show support for those that support them. Becoming a sponsor allows any company to show, support, encourage their employees, family and friends to participate and to help support T2T, an organization that is solely focused on first responders and military personnel in their greatest time of need. Individuals can sign up and build a team so they can develop understanding about T2T in their neighborhoods or in their circle of friends. Key point: It is a Walk/ Run so everyone can participate. Finally, you can sign up on the website to



County Markets

By Sylvia McCabe

The Southwestern Pennsylvania region is well known for its winding roads and beautiful scenery in the good-weather months. It is also a hub for family-owned markets, most of which have been serving the community for decades, and each one rich with its own unique offerings: food, amenities, seasonal family activities, wedding venues, and so on. Each of the markets featured here are golden nuggets of family-owned business that have been resilient and trustworthy staples in our community – some, for generations. Here is a look at the local markets that you should explore if you have not already...

Cox Market and Specialty Grocery Store

Unlike big box grocery stores, Cox's is known for its high quality, USDA choice meats from all over the United States.

Cox's specializes in Certified Angus Beef and 100% all-natural pork and poultry. While most of their sausage and ground beef products are made in-house, Cox's also acquires some products from other local vendors.

Cox meats are processed differently than the average grocery store. At Cox, "the ground chuck is ground fresh in the store multiple times, every day," which means no fillers. No mystery preservatives. No chemicals.

Cox also features a full-service deli, serving DeLallo and Albert's meat, Isaly's chipped ham, Land-O-Lakes Cheese, and Eddie's Brick Cheese. The homemade salad section draws customers to the counter for some of the Cox family favorites: chicken, pasta, potato, macaroni, broccoli, and ham salads. The market serves a hot lunch, entrée, and soup menu, in addition to sandwiches, which changes daily and "caters to the busy lives of customers with an array of ready-to-heat entrees and side dishes including parmesan crusted chicken, stuffed chicken breast, homemade meatloaf,

meatballs, cheesy potatoes and more."

The market carries basic grocery staples like milk, butter, eggs, and snacks. In addition to carrying a full line of national brands, they also offer their own private label products – ShurFine, which offers a "double your money back guarantee."

The creations of local vendors are featured, including Evelyn's Elegant Edibles, Jimmie Jam fudge, Ciccanti's spaghetti sauce, Local Honey by Ed's Honey Bee Products; Local maple syrup from Rossell's Sugar Camp; local barbeque and wing sauces, including Sanguillen's Hall of Fame Sauce, Porkee's BBQ Sauce, Blaine Hill Barbeque Sauce and Wing Sauces by Gourmet Sauces of Pittsburgh; Daddy Hinkle's specialty seasonings and marinades; Galliker's milk and ice cream products; and Greenawalt Eggs (brown or white) from free-range chickens.

To learn more or place and order visit Cox's Market at www.coxmkt.com or call (724) 258-4900.

Heisler's Market

Heisler's Market, a family owned and operated business located in McMurray is "more than just a market."

With a focus on the family dynamic, Heisler's Market strives to provide the community with an array of choices, prepared by their culinary team. The McMurray market offers daily homemade meals and sides, served from their ready-to-eat hot bar. Their repertoire includes breakfast offerings like the Belly Buster Breakfast Sandwich, Slow-Cooked Pot Roast Hash, Market Avocado Toast, Grilled Top-Sirloin Steak Burrito, Breakfast Burrito, and the Western Omelet, to name a few; salads such as Grilled Top-Sirloin Angus Steak, Crispy Buffalo Chicken Salad, Crispy BB Chicken Salad and Skillet Seared Cajun Chicken.



Still not sure what you are hungry for? When in doubt, get a pizza. Heisler's Market offers a large array of pizza choices, including a gluten-free and make-your-own-pizza option. Also available are wings, burgers, sandwiches, and Panini.

Heisler's offers family meals 7 days of the week with options ranging from Heisler's Famous Fried Chicken, BBQ Brisket Bowl, Grilled Shrimp and Chicken Linguini, Heisler's Famous Homemade Meatloaf, Honey-Chipotle Grilled Shrimp and Baby Spinach Salad, to Char-Grilled Maple-Bacon Bone-In Pork Chop. Call ahead to order a family meal by 3 p.m. and be sure to pick up between 4 and 7 p.m. Catering and take-out are also available.

No need to run to make another stop if you are interested in a bottle of wine or beer to accompany your hot meal: Heisler's Market offers an array of brands from which to choose. To learn more or place and order visit Heisler's Market at www.heislsmarket.com or call (724) 941-8250.

Cheplic Packing Inc. Located in Finleyville, Cheplic Packing, Inc. is a full-service butcher shop, serving customers since 1950.

Cheplic's is known for its custom packing and slaughtering services of cattle, hogs, and lambs. (See website for prices).

Here is a look at the large variety of meat products available for purchase at Cheplic's.

Chicken and Beef Products

Boneless skinless chicken breasts, pork and veal city chicken, chicken breast kabobs, chicken breast cutlets, ground chicken and turkey, pork tenderloins, bone-in and boneless beef short ribs, chuck Delmonicos, flat iron steaks, pork cube steaks, bone-in beef shank, beef cube steaks, beef stir fry, beef stroganoff, beef stew meat, beef ox tails, beef tri-tip roast, beef skirt steak, beef top round braciola, beef top sirloin kabobs, beef sirloin chip steak, sliced beef liver, Baby back ribs, beef flank steak, split pig's feet, calf liver, and pork neck ones

Hamburgers

1/3-pound Angus seasoned patties, 1/3-pound Angus beef, jalapeno Monterey jack, ground chuck, bacon, ground sirloin, and bacon cheeseburger beef patties.

Lamb, Veal, Soup Bones

Lamb leg front shanks, lamb leg kabobs, lamb loin chops; rolled boneless leg of lamb roast, ground lamb, veal shanks, veal loin chops, veal cutlets, veal scaloppini, ground veal - Bags of Soup Bones

Sausage and Sausage Links

Fresh bratwurst and kielbasa, maple big link and finger sausage, chorizo link and bulk sausage; Andouille link and bulk sausage; jalapeno, chipotle lime, chipotle mango, sage, sweet Italian, and blueberry maple bulk sausage; banger and boudin big link sausage; chicken and turkey sausage links including, apple spice chicken, pepper and onion, Gary's spicy blend, spinach and feta, buffalo wing & Blue Cheese.

Sausage Patties

Chorizo sausage, southern Cajun, maple, blueberry maple, hot sausage, homemade kielbasa, sweet Italian, traditional sweet, sage sweet, hot pepper cheese, kielbasa and sriracha.

Marinated Meat Products

Black Nugget Marinade:

Boneless Chuck Roasts, Tri-Tip Roasts, Shishkabobs, Boneless New York Strip Steaks, Flat Iron Steaks, Delmonico Steaks, Boneless Chicken Breasts

Burgundy Wine Marinade:

Shishkabobs Pork Chops, T-bone steaks, pork tenderloins, sirloin tip roasts Hot Buffalo Marinade: Whole chickens, boneless chicken breasts, chicken tenders

Sweet Bourbon Marinade:

Baby back ribs, pork tenderloins, pork chops, bone-in chicken breasts, whole chickens

Italian Flavored Marinade:

Boneless chicken breasts, London broil

Butter Garlic Marinade:

Chicken wings, bone-in chicken breasts, whole chickens

Southern Cajun Marinade:

Whole Chickens, Pork chops

Bold Teriyaki Marinade:

Pork and chicken tenderloins, beef stir-fry

Zesty Fajita Marinade:

Chicken stir-fry, beef stir-fry

Cheplic's House Blend Marinade:

Flat iron steaks; chuck roasts, Delmonico steaks, and strip steaks To learn more or place an order, visit www.cheplicpacking.com or call (724) 348-7094.

Kauffman's Marketplace

Family owned since 2001, Kaufmann's Marketplace located in Burgettstown, is best know for its "buy in bulk" products and for its Amish furniture and playsets.

At Kauffman's customers can purchase in bulk: rice, grains, flours, pasta, soup mixes, beans, cereals, trail mixes, nut butters,

Continued, next page



Cheplic Packing Inc.



sweeteners, herbs, spices, salts, dried fruits, nuts and seeds, candy, and snacks.

The savings is passed down to the customer by purchasing in bulk and then repackaging in convenient sizes for customers right in the store. Bulk purchasing creates less waste, is easier on the wallet and stays fresher longer.

If customers find a bulk item in the store but would like to have it packaged in a bigger or smaller size, the staff will be happy to repackage it for you.

Kauffman's Marketplace draws in customers for its fresh deli meats and cheeses from the Amish Country. Featured meats include Albert's, John Martin's, Walnut Creek Cheese, Heini's, and Guggisberg. If you are hungry, the market also sells sandwiches, made to order and fresh every day.

Kauffman's Marketplace features a broad selection of wooden, poly and vinyl lawn furniture, swing sets and play sets. The staff at Kauffman's can help choose the material that works best for each customer. To learn more visit www.kauffmanmarketplace.com or call (724) 947-9682.

The Spring House
For seven decades, The Springhouse, located in Eighty-Four, has been serving the community with home-cooked buffet-style meals, baked goods, a full-service deli, sandwiches, salads, gifts, hayrides, farm tours, and special events.

For three years running, The Springhouse has been voted Best Buffet by the Observer-Reporter's Community Choice Awards and for four years, it was voted Best Catering.

The Springhouse Store also features:
Farm Fresh Milk: whole, two percent, and skim milk; heavy cream, butter-chunked buttermilk, and chocolate.

Special Events Year Round: Teddy Bear Tea Party, Breakfast with Santa, Easter Egg Hunt, Great Pumpkin Weekend Festivals, and more.

Delightful Eats for Lunch and Supper: From-scratch family-recipe mains dishes and veggie casseroles, hand-peeled mashed potatoes, freshly made salads, and homemade desserts.

From Scratch Baked Goodies: Hand-cripped pies featuring fresh fruit or cooked-on-site fillings inside a Grandma Robison's-recipe pie crust; pies, cupcakes, family-recipe cookies, and more.

Scrumptious Salads—Our salad makers fill a twelve-foot salad case with Grandma Robison's recipes every day of the week. Be sure to ask for a taste when you come in!
Ice Cream Concoctions—Cool, creamy ice cream in 30 flavors; sundae choices like the Mud-Covered Dirtball and Peanut Butter Brownie Thing.

Charming Catering—Beautiful, bounteous displays of farm-fresh foods and bakery goodies make for a wonderful catered meal by The SpringHouse...so relaxing for the host too!

SpringHouse Smokehouse—Hickory Smoked Hams and Smoked Salmon tantalize your taste buds with a hint of days gone by. Using only real hickory wood (from trees right off the farm), the cured meats smoked long and slow for an utterly unique flavor. Smoked Hams are

available year-round, smoked salmon at holiday time. Come on in and ask for a taste!

The Springhouse is proud to support local businesses: Hillside Goat Dairy (soaps, lotions), Bedillion Honey, Rossell's Maple (real maple syrup), Kern Farms Eggs, 19 Coffee,

choosing seasonal crops: strawberries, apples, peaches, flowers, sunflowers, and pumpkins.

Here is a look at the Pick-Ur-Own timelines...
Apple Picking – Late Summer/Fall
Cut-Your-Own-Flowers – Summer/Fall (may vary on year)
Pumpkin Picking – fall
Peach Picking – Mid-late summer
Strawberry Picking – Select days.

In addition to seasonal activities for families and groups, Simmons Farm serves the community by providing a large variety daily, freshly picked, locally grown fruits and vegetables. From their own greenhouse, the farm produces beets, broccoli, cabbage, kale, lettuce, onion (Sweet Spanish), peas, peppers, Swiss chard, spinach, turnips, zucchini. (Certain varieties may not be available daily). Customers are encouraged to call before visiting to check the availability of a specific crop.

On Tuesdays, Simmons Farm offers Little Farmers Camp from nine to Noon, for children ages 5-9. The cost is \$55 per session. Here is a look at the upcoming themes: July 11, Farm Animals; July 18, Seeds, and Planting; July 25, Farm

serving the community with their passion for growing food and bringing families together. Known as one of the oldest and most-awarded fruit and vegetable farms in Pittsburgh and the South Hills, Trax attracts visitors from far and wide to enjoy their perfectly grown sweet corn; taste their fresh-baked, homemade pies; and enjoy the wide selection of convenient, homemade deli salads. In the fall, Trax offers their fresh-pressed cider, voted the Best Apple Cider in Pittsburgh.

For family reunions, birthday and graduation parties, Trax Farms serves as a unique venue: guests can choose to rent Trax Farms' Pavilion or Event Room. The Farm Pavilion is located on the hilltop with a lovely view of the farm. The Event Room is located in the back of the Gift Shop. Guests wishing to shop, and browse can visit the Home and Gift, Garden, Grocery, Deli, and Bakery Departments. Special sales are running throughout the season in the Trax Greenhouse. Trax Farms also features Arrowhead Wine Shop, carrying more than thirty-three different "varietals, blends, and fruit wines from Arrowhead – the best, locally-produced, premium PA wines made with native, European, hybrid grapes and fruits. Guests can also purchase a single or six-pack of their favorite craft beer, with the option of mixing and matching. For more information visit www.traxfarms.com or call (412) 835-3246.

Located at 334 Front Street in Fredericktown PA you will find the Fredericktown Butcher Shop. This market seems to have it all from general groceries, fresh produce and a solid selection of fresh meats in the butcher shop. The store also features a deli with a variety of deli meats and cheeses and a large variety of hot lunches and daily specials, which bring regulars in consistently. Do not pass up on the fried chicken and ribs, and make sure to grab a side or two! On one recent "Meat Market Monday" the shop featured several mouth-watering specials including a marinated steak sandwich, and stuffed cabbage rolls, On the same day they ran a meat sale including pre-cut porkchops, london broil, top rounds steaks, boneless round steak, and boneless chicken breast all at fantastic prices and delivered fresh! And do not forget to grab a scoop of ice cream because the Fredericktown Butcher Shop carries 24 tempting flavors. This shop is a must visit for anyone in the county who enjoys family style markets with fresh food and excellent customer service.



Hot Lunch Fredricktown Butcher Shop

Peanut Butter Bones, The Toffee House, Westerwald Pottery, Emerald Valley Artisans (cheese) & more. To learn more visit www.springhousemarket.com or call (724) 228-3339.

Simmons Farm
Simmons Farm, located in McMurray features its own set of alluring attractions with Hayrides to the pumpkin patch to pick a pumpkin, ride the slides, navigate the corn maze, and take part in other fall activities, Easter Egg hunts, birthday parties, nighttime hayrides, field trips and Farm Camp. The farm also features Pick-Your-Own purchase options for

Equipment; August 2, Flowers, and Irrigation; August 8, tree fruits. Little Farmers Camp also provides times for the campers to enjoy a hayride, pick crops, use the play area, and make crafts.

For larger gatherings, consider Simmons Farm as your venue. For more information email market@simmonsfarm.com and address your request to Megan Simmons. To learn more about Simmons Farm, visit www.simmonsfarm.com or call (724) 941-7540.

Trax Farms
For more than 150 years, Trax Farms of Finleyville has been

PROFILES

By W.R. Smith

Canonsburg Mayor Dave Rhome is a very busy man who has dedicated his life to being a positive force in his town. He wears many hats and works very hard at making Canonsburg a wonderful town to live in. The following article is an interview with Mayor Rhome.

Question 1

Tell me about Dave Rhome.

Rhyme: I was born and raised in the wonderful town of Canonsburg and am a lifelong resident and a graduate of Canon McMillan high school. My beautiful wife of 44 years, Kimberly Ann and I have raised our family here. We are blessed with two wonderful daughters Amy Lynn and Stacy Marie and grandsons Austin David, Brayden Michael, and Hunter Joseph. I am also blessed to have my brother Dale and his wife Jody, and my niece Catly by my side. Along with my sister Darla and my son-in-laws Justin Smith and Joe Rubis.

Question 2

You wear many hats, some of which are small business owner, Mayor, and Assistant Fire Chief; Where do you find the time to do it all?

Rhyme: Family support has been invaluable to me. Regardless of the job or venture, my family has always been beside me, supporting and encouraging me along the way.

I spent the first 35 years of my career working in the electronics industry. During that time, I have been fortunate to have many mentors who taught me many things. One of the most important lessons was that teamwork is what gets things done. Without a great team in the borough, at Sam's Pizza, in the fire department and even in my personal life, I would not be the person I am today. Having strong teams working together around me has been the reason for any success I have had. I always reflect on something that my father told me; he said son, you will never do anything by yourself, but you will carry the torch along the way. Truer words have never been spoken.

Question 3

What are your duties as mayor?

Rhyme: I am a working Mayor. I try to make myself available to everyone seven days a week. As an administrator of our local government, I have responsibility for public safety, budgeting, ordinance enforcement and much more. But my most important duty is to ensure that the people of Canonsburg have a safe place to live, work and play. A community where residents can expect business growth, affordable housing, and recreational opportunities. When I came into the office, I promised prosperity, a lower crime rate and simply a better place to live. I believe the team concept has helped me keep these promises to the people of our community.

Question 4

What inspired you to run for mayor?

Rhyme: Throughout my early years in public service in the fire department, I gained a desire to further serve the people of my town. Several of the Mayors of Canonsburg who came before me were good people and mentors to me, and I decided to take the good work they had done and hopefully build on it. I enjoy working for our community to help it be the best it can be.

Question 5

You have been in office as Mayor since 2010 and have won re-election rather easily each cycle. What do you attribute that to?

Rhyme: Honesty, Integrity, and hard work have been key components to my success in this role. And again, by employing the team concept successfully in order to best serve our community, I think our voters have been pleased with our results. I am so thankful to the people of Canonsburg for putting their trust in me year after year, and I am honored to represent them as Mayor.



Mayor Dave Rhome

Question 6

Tell me about your progression through the FD.

Rhyme: My father was a life member in the fire department with over sixty years of service. He was a trustee there. I followed him around the firehouse and basically grew up there. From a young age I knew I wanted to follow in his footsteps, as did my brother Dale who has been involved for 30 years. I started out fighting fires and through my 45 years in the department I moved up to Lieutenant, Captain and now Assistant Fire Chief. My work in the department is one of the most rewarding things I have done in life.

Question 7

Sam's Pizza is a county staple, how did you get involved with that and when?

Rhyme: During my 35 years working at Engineered Communications, I really enjoyed what I did. But in the back of my mind, I had always wanted to own my own business. My family had always enjoyed Sam's Pizza and one night while standing in line waiting for my order, I mentioned to Sam, the previous owner, that if he ever wanted to sell the business I was interested. I guess you could say that timing was everything. Several weeks later we had a deal. It has been a great venture and another excellent opportunity to engage with the people of our community.



Canonsburgh Borough Building

PROFILES

By W.R. Smith

Question 8

What are the major challenges to governing a borough?

Rhome: Again, because we have a great team, I would not say the challenges have been major. However, being at the forefront of enforcing the many rules and regulations a community needs can be somewhat challenging. Unfortunately, you cannot always make everyone happy.

Question 9

What has changed in Canonsburg since you took office?

Rhome: Well, I think the accessibility of the office is one of the things. I try to keep the communications open daily with the public. We have continued to expand on the great work of other administrations and continue to improve on economic development with new business, new and improved housing, and safer streets where everyone can live, work and play. We have also tried to improve on the leisure activities for our community as well. Canonsburg Town Park is a gem of over 50 acres, and in the summer months it is full of people enjoying activities from swimming at one of the largest pools in the state, to enjoying a concert at our amphitheater or picnicking in one of our pavilions. We encourage people to use these facilities and I am proud to say that they do. We also have baseball and softball fields throughout the community and walking trails and skate parks as well. We constantly work to improve everything the town has to offer. I am proud of what we have to offer.

Question 10

What are you most proud of?

Rhome: One of the things kind of ties into the last question. The growth and improvement in our town has been very nice. It all started when the owners of Brody's furniture were retiring and decided to close their doors. We worked with them to market the building and connected them with ARC Human Services, who fortunately liked Canonsburg for its open spaces, sidewalks, and general access to town. A deal was ultimately made, and ARC came in as an anchor, and that was a new beginning for further renovation and growth in our downtown area. And again, the growth and success of our housing market is another bright spot. Properties do not stay on the market for very long, and that is a testament to everything that our small town has to offer. And I know I keep saying it, our TEAM has made it happen.



Mayor Dave Rhome in full gear

Question 11

The Canonsburg 4th of July Celebration is always amazing. What do those few days mean to the town?

Rhome: It has been a tradition for 60 years now. There is a wonderful committee made up of volunteers from our borough who do a wonderful job of putting everything together. Families have gathered for generations, including mine, to spend the day downtown admiring the second largest parade in the state. The parade and fireworks bring in thousands of visitors from outside of our area and these folks support our downtown stores and shops. It gives others the opportunity to see firsthand how great Canonsburg is. It is just an awesome celebration, put on by hard working volunteers for all to see.

Question 12

I understand Canonsburg has hired actual goats to work in the community, tell me about that, and how it has worked out.

Rhome: Yes, the goats are here working. The DEP requires up to keep the areas by the waterway clean and trimmed. When we investigated hiring an outside organization, the cost was over 200 thousand dollars. The goats are doing the job for around 30 thousand. So, we are saving money, staying compliant, beautifying our space, and feeding the goats! It is a win-win situation. They are doing a great job. They sleep for about 6 hours a day and spend the rest of the time browsing.

Question 13

You have been "secretly" providing a special service to the children of Canonsburg for years. How long have you been involved with Santa? Tell me about the experience.

Rhome: I have been doing this for decades. I started when I was just 16. I again followed in the footsteps of my father and uncle who started the tradition. Dale participates as well. We visit many families on Christmas eve. We have been to the Shriners hospitals visiting patients and local hospitals as well. It is just a wonderful feeling seeing the children's faces light up and realizing that we are doing a small part in spreading Christmas joy.

Question 14

What message do you have for your community going forward?

Rhome: I think volunteerism should be a part of everybody's vocabulary. I encourage young people to get involved in their community, volunteer with the fire department, or for the fourth of July or Oktoberfest committee. There is just so much to do for volunteers, and it all helps improve our community. I have been fortunate to volunteer time with the fire department, the executive board of the Washington County Drug and Alcohol task force, the executive board for the Duncan Miller Museum and many other things. Get involved, let's keep it going.



Sam's Pizza Shop

FAITH

The Overflowing... Worship is more than a song!

By Tracy Horne

“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that I will seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His Temple.” Psalm 27:4

This was the scripture shared by Justine Nielsen song writer, worship leader, a true woman of faith, the scripture that is one of the motivators of her heart and for the Ministry that she and her husband Ray lead, “The Overflowing.”

Justine’s humble spirit is apparent when she speaks about the ministry, it encompasses a lot of things not just music, the heart of what they do is simply promoting God. Sharing His goodness and mercy, His desire to meet us where we are, and to help us through wherever we are in our journey. She says that her desire is for an alter ministry, not just a physical place, the alter but the alters of our hearts where we can just meet God and be ministered to. Her desire is to see folks healed, whether it be chains broken or physical healing, whatever God has for us.

Justine and Ray are worship leaders at Christian Church of North America in

Washington, they also have been present in the community doing public events through Neighbor 2 Neighbor and ministering in various churches, they share their testimony as well as music, some of which she and Ray have written. They have released an EP single called “Falling,” this song was written for her husband in honor of their wedding anniversary. You can find it via YouTube or your favorite music website.

They are at this point releasing one song at a time, wherever God is leading them in this adventure, after a lot of research and study, they are making sure that they have all their ducks in a row when it comes to publication and the releasing of their singles. The next single they plan on releasing is a worship song called, “Bought.”

When asked where it is that is her favorite place to worship, she said, “wherever, whenever, with everyone who is willing.” She hopes one day that they will be able to take their ministry into the homes of folks who are willing to open their homes to that. That they go in and simply worship, pray, and share their giftings in a very intimate setting.

Justine says this thing that she tried to leave on a shelf, has defined itself as God given knowledge that needs to be used, and by walking in it you are adding value to the world.

She stated that we may feel as if we are not good enough when searching for our sense of purpose, but that is not truth. We are good enough because God says so.

Luke 6:45 says: “for out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”

You may learn more about their ministry by logging onto theoverflowingmusic.com or by visiting their Facebook page The Overflowing.



How to Get Back Up After a Major Setback

By Stephanie Reck

One definition of setback is to slow the progress of-to hinder or delay. I wonder what has set you back? Death of a loved one, health concerns, or divorce. For me, it’s been coping with the loss of a good friend to COVID, another friend that was in ICU for several weeks with COVID, and a dear neighbor in the hospital with pneumonia. The one that caused the greatest setback was my healthy, young friend dying from COVID. There have been other small things that have been lurking around, but I still managed to bounce back fairly quickly, even going through my father’s cancer diagnosis and treatments this last year. When I lost my beloved dog of 18 years several months ago, that was a big setback for me. It took me several weeks to feel somewhat normal, and about 2 months before I felt like there had been a light at the end of the tunnel. Grief has a way of slowing you down.

Grief had slowed my motivation, my creativity, my energy, and productivity. When these types of life setbacks occur, do what you can. When the time comes after you have properly healed, you will be able to get back up again.

Listed below are some practical steps you can take to get back up after a major setback:

Take the time that you need to rest. Major setbacks in life have a way of draining you, so take the time that you need to feel rejuvenated again. There is not a time limit on how much extra rest you need. Listen to your body, if you feel worn-out and rundown that’s a sign your body is saying that you still need recovery time.

Keep praying and seeking God. He may feel distant, but don’t stop bringing your deepest feelings to God. God is faithful and though you may not understand why certain things happen, keep meeting and showing up with God daily.

Take the time to grieve. Grief is a natural process that happens after we lose someone or something important to us. It is normal for several weeks to several months after a loss, to not feel like yourself. If you work through your grief in healthy ways and do not suppress the loss, the severity of the pain should lessen in a few weeks. There is no time limit on how long you should grieve. It’s normal not to be fully functional

for several weeks after a loss, but if you are unable to function in any capacity after several weeks, this is an indicator that you may have a deeper issue.

You may need to process what your setback is with a trusted friend, by journaling, seeking counseling, and/or with God. There is a time and a place to process life events, but this should not be our main focus every day. You may need to spend 15-20 minutes daily for a while processing, but then you would benefit from moving forward with your day afterward. Of course, there will be triggers that can come during your day, and when they do allow yourself to process what you are feeling, then move forward with something positive.

Begin to accept what you cannot change and stop trying to figure out why it happened and what you could have to prevent it. Acceptance brings healing. You will not be able to properly heal by staying focused on what you cannot change.

Remember what brought you joy before your setback and add joy back to your life. This may seem strange to do at first, start small, such as remembering that

you like to watch the sunrise and then make a plan to go and do that. Every day add joy to your life. Keep it simple at first and when you are able add more joy to your life.

When a major setback occurs, remember it feels more like a marathon than a race. This means healing is a process and can feel slow and overwhelming, but when you have properly allowed yourself to heal one day you will get up and feel like yourself again, this may be a few weeks or a little longer for some. Just know that if you keep up with the practical steps I listed above, you will one day feel stronger physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Stephanie R. Reck, LMSW, LBT, BCCC Founder of Hope Ministry www.stephaniereck.com Hopeandencouragement4women@gmail.com Hope Ministry, @2022 Author of, “Disciplining Your Mind 30 Days to a Better You!”

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VETERANS

TRAVELING VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL COMES TO WASHINGTON COUNTY

By Toni Fitch

On Thursday, June 15 the parking lot at the Pilot in Bentleyville was filled with motorcycles, cars and emergency vehicles surrounding a truck pulling a trailer that read "The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall." They were all readying to pull out of the Pilot and make their way down along the river towards Roscoe. The trailer carried the precious cargo of the many pieces that make up the wall, a three-fifths scale of the actual Vietnam Memorial that stands in Washington DC.

As the caravan pulled out, curious onlookers as well as veterans and patriotic citizens stood on the highway overpasses and the streets along the way to the Roscoe Sportsmen's Association, cheering, saluting, and waving their American flags. There was a two-year waiting list to host this monument, along with a smaller display in memoriam of 9/11 as well as the Desert Shield and Afghanistan wars. Washington County Commissioner Larry



Maggi was among those that participated in the ride.

Wall Manager Doc Russo has been traveling with this monument for seventeen years, serving as manager since 2016. The Florida resident drives the rig around the eastern part of the country, as far as "Central Texas and Iowa east all the way to the Canadian border." The traveling wall can be seen on display from April-November with up to eighteen events per year. Doc mentioned that he enjoys traveling to western Pennsylvania because the memorial is always well received.

Doc is a veteran himself, having served in Panama, Grenada and the first Gulf War. He is also a member of the grassroots organization that created the wall. All Veterans of Brevard out of Florida built the monument and maintain it, making sure that these fallen warriors are never forgotten. They accept donations to help support this endeavor.

Veterans from all branches of the military, from all walks of life turned out to honor their fallen brothers and sisters. Many of them are Vietnam veterans but they were not alone. The convoy was joined by

members of the Blue Knights, Chapter XVI of Washington, PA. According to Michael Yanchak, the Blue Knights president, they are a "law enforcement motorcycle club" that is public service oriented. If "something is going on with motorcycles or escorts, you will find the Blue Knights there." The Blue Knights along with a crowd of 100-200 patriots gathered when the trailer pulled into the Sportsmen's Club. Many joined in to assist with unloading the materials to erect the 288-foot-long, 6-foot-tall wall. They hoped to have it finished by nightfall and ready for the Opening Night Ceremony the following evening.

Roscoe Sportsmen's Association member Jim Salzman led the Veterans Appreciation Committee that spearheaded this movement to have the memorials visit Washington County. While on the waiting list, the members worked long and hard to raise the \$7,000 that was needed.

A candlelight vigil was held the night of the Opening Ceremony on Friday, June 17. The observance featured a color guard as all in attendance stood for the singing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. PA House Representative Bud Cook said a few words. A prayer was read for those that perished. The Albert Gallatin JROTC assisted with a missing man table ceremony that honors fallen, missing, or imprisoned military service members. Two bugle players played "Taps" and a bag pipe player performed "Amazing Grace" while those that participated held glow sticks high into the evening sky.

If you were unable to view the memorials while they were in Roscoe, they will return to Western Pennsylvania at the Brownsville Area High School from September 8-12, 2023.

To donate for the expenses and upkeep of the wall, please visit <https://www.travelingwall.us/> for more information.

Vietnam Veterans Honored



Wash Co DAR Veterans

A Vietnam War Commemoration for local Vietnam-era Veterans was held on June 10, 2023, at the Loft Conference Center, Southpointe, Canonsburg. The Washington County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the premier sponsor Humana co-hosted the event as Vietnam War Commemorative Partners. They joined the local community in giving over 60 Vietnam-era Veterans the welcome home they should have received over 50 years ago. For a Vietnam-era Veterans Commemoration the period of November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, is utilized to recognize Veterans who served in any location. These Veterans, who served with valor and honor, gathered to receive a Vietnam Veterans lapel pin, presidential proclamation, and a rose donated for each Veteran in recognition of the loved ones who waited, wrote, and worried. The featured speaker was Mr. Harry Van Riper, a combat wounded Vietnam Veteran recently featured on the cover of the Veterans Breakfast Club magazine. Local businesses, Veterans organizations, Humana, DAR members and individuals donated twenty-seven gift baskets and twenty-five centerpieces which were given to the Veterans in a free raffle; as well as items for a "Welcome Home" bag given to each Vietnam-era Veteran. These generous donors also helped provide refreshments for these Veterans and their families to enjoy. Highlights of the program included a "Thank you for your service" video showcasing a Vietnam Veteran (https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/videos/thank_you_for_your_service/), a POW/MIA recognition, a moment of silence and Taps for the young men who did not return from Vietnam. Additionally, a series of posters displayed the names and faces of the fallen Vietnam Veterans from Washington County (<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>). The Washington County Chapter DAR and Humana are appreciative of the overwhelming support received by the Washington County community and asks readers to please thank a Vietnam-era Veteran; and if they are comfortable, ask them about their service. These Veterans were mostly teenagers when much was asked of them by their Country. Vietnam-era Veterans who could not attend this event can receive a Vietnam Veteran lapel pin by emailing whs.pentagon.wso.mbx.vnwar50th-cpp-events-application@mail.mil. The following donors made this event a success: Annie Bench, Diana Berry, Brenda Bearman, Cate Briggs, Crazy Horse Coffee, Susan DeLost, Eddy Homes, Trudy Fittro, Giant Eagle, Grandpa Joe's, Humana, Lily's Flower Boutique, Lisa McFarland, The Medicine Shoppe of Washington, Lisanne Migyanko, Karen Neubauer, Park Place Realty Group, Megan Regan, Renee Schoenfelder, Southpointe Chiropractic and Fitness, Slovenian Savings and Loan, SPA Inc., Penny Stegges, VFW Memorial Park Auxiliary 764, VFW Memorial Park Post 764. *The Chapter can be contacted at: washingtoncodar1776@gmail.com*



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SUMMER SPOTS

Summer. A time to get outside. Back to nature. Run, walk swim and my favorite, throwing around a regular old frisbee. Where can you do these things and more? At your local park of course. My wife and I spent hours at various parks in our area back when we were just dating. This was a very cost effective “spend time together” date for a couple working minimum wage.

Yes sir, a bucket of chicken and a frisbee. That was all we needed. This was so enjoyable that when our kids would say “there’s nothing to do” we would tell them to go to the park. But which one?

Well friends, here is a collection of ten of the nearby larger and smaller parks you can visit to enjoy the great outdoors and have some good old-fashioned family fun.

Let us start with the Washington county Parks and recreation Department. According to their web page the Department oversees Mingo Creek, Cross Creek, and Ten Mile Creek County parks, and the Washington County portion of the Panhandle Trail.

Mingo Park - Finleyville

Mingo Park is located a little under 30 minutes from Washington heading East on Rt. 40

This park sits on 2600 acres in Finleyville. The park has 2 beautiful, covered bridges, 2

historical houses, an observatory so if star gazing is your thing, they host Star Parties where people can look at the sky through the observatory’s permanent telescopes, portable telescopes set up by members or visitors’ own telescopes.

Into flying model airplanes? They got you covered, per their website, The Washington County Model Aviation Association operates an airfield with long grass runways in a secluded area. Saturday and Sunday mornings are the best times to show up.

Due to the location of the 2600-acre park, there is a multitude of wildflowers that can be viewed by those interested in Wildflower Phenology. Or ornithology. There have been over 150 bird species identified at Mingo along with geese, Owls, American tree swallows, songbirds to name a couple.

Like to hike? There are plenty of hiking trails available. They vary from just a short stretch of the legs to this is going to take a while. This would be the perimeter trail. It is twelve miles long and can take 6 or more hours

to walk. At a moderate pace. Horse trails are available as well and a nine hole “Disc Golf Course.”

But of course, the main attraction for a weekend getaway for a minute is the Picnic and Shelter areas. These are all over the park. Picnic tables are on a first come first serve basis and ten picnic shelters that can be rented for a reasonable price.

To find out more on Mingo Park visit: <https://www.co.washington.pa.us/164/Parks-Recreation> or <https://washingtonish.com/mingo-creek-county-park/>.

Cross Creek - Avella

Cross Creek Park is a 2000-acre park located in Avella.

The park features facilities such as picnic tables, kids play areas, and more, the park also has a short hiking trail. But the real action is the Lake itself. You can rent a boat or drop your own, and just float or, as one does, go fishing. The lake is known for its big bass and Panfish.



To learn more, visit: <https://www.co.washington.pa.us/164/Parks-Recreation>

Ten Mile Creek Located near Sunset Marina and East Millsboro sits Ten Mile Creek.

According to Wikipedia: Tenmile Creek is named on account of frequent branches, occurring about every ten miles. This park is for the avid Angler. The upper section of Tenmile Creek near the town of Amity, is routinely stocked, with trout by the state’s Fish Commission and managed as a “stocked trout stream.” Other areas stocked with trout are by private organizations. They introduced trout to join a host of native fish including bass, drum, and musky.

Washington Park – City of Washington Washington Park is the only community park, which is designed to serve the recreational needs of local Washingtonians.

The City of Washington has three neighborhood parks, 7th, 8th Ward parks and one on Park and Dewey Avenues, which serve their surrounding neighborhoods. The city also owns Ramage Field, an informal ball field.

And, the Borough of East Washington owns one park, which is a neighborhood park.

Washington Park sits on 270 acres and offers a variety of facilities and activities for the whole family. Facilities include a swimming pool, tennis courts, pavilions including the historical Stone and the Main Pavilions, baseball fields including P.O.N.Y. Field, T.W.I.S.T. softball fields, and a log cabin and history center. In addition, Washington Park is also home to the Vernon C. Neal Sportsplex, which opened in 2004. The indoor sports facility offers a sports turf surface for fall and winter, a multi-purpose hard floor, for spring and summer, changing rooms, restrooms, storage rooms, a party/meeting room, vending machines and video games, and a concession area. For more on the scheduled activities at Washington Park visit: https://washingtonpa.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Part2_ParksFacilities.pdf

Town Park – City of Canonsburg Celebrating their 100th anniversary this year and tucked in the heart of one of Americas historical towns, sits the quaint Town Park.

Town Park sits on fifty-two acres that was then known as “The Crosbey property” was purchased for \$6000.00 in 1919 by the Borough. The property sat undeveloped for approximately 10 years, until Kids wading pools, as well as picnic benches and tables began to be placed throughout the park along with an Olympic size pool. The official opening of the Town Park and Pool was on the 4th of July 1935.

As the years went by, development from playgrounds to Basketball and Tennis Courts were added. Hiking trails with “fitness Cluster Sections,” lighted ball fields and added 2 Pickleball courts and much more. This gem is well worth the visit.

For the full schedule of 100th-year anniversary events or the latest park happenings, visit <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063473174008>.

The thing to remember is that most towns, municipalities, boroughs etc., have some kind of park. They range from the small playground and a couple of park benches to the bigger ones mentioned. I cannot speak for the staff and owners of the Weekly Recorder but I for one like to unplug

and not be tethered to all the electronic gadgets we have become accustomed to if even for a small amount of time on any given day or week. Parks are a great place to reconnect with family and friends and participate together in activities that perhaps you are not always afforded. And since Parks come in a variety of sizes and amenities it is fun to go out and explore which ones suit your desires. The following list of parks are some of the many small to medium-sized parks you can visit in the area. And who knows? One or more will be a place where you too, can build some amazing memories of spending quality time with those that mean the most.

Billy Bell Park – 100 Manse St. Washington Pa. 6.3 acres with a ½ mile walking trail with 8 exercise stations. 2 baseball/softball fields, soccer field, basketball court and playground.

North Franklin Township Park – 1 Washington Federal Way, Washington Pa. This beauty has a 1.2 mile walking and exercise trail, rentable pavilions, playgrounds, and a sand volleyball court!

South Franklin Township Park – 100 municipal Rd. Washington Pa. This little park offers big amenities in the ways of ball fields, pickleball and basketball courts, a pavilion, gazebo, and a community center that you can rent.

East Finley Township Park – 700 Templeton Run Road, Claysville Pa. Considered the “Back home” Township Park, East Finley Park is the perfect place to bring the kids out to play. You can rent out one of their pavilions for weddings and reunions.

Arnold Park – 1186 W. Pike St. Houston Pa. This one is great for kids. Offers climbing structures and a sand box. Benches and picnic tables.

North Strabane Park – 1929 PA-519, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Thinking about a reunion or graduation party, look no further this park offers pavilions, playgrounds, ballfields, walking trails and much more.

Looking for a little fun in the sun? Check out these unique county locations.

Coconut Joe’s Tiki Bar - 6285 Route 88, Finleyville, PA 15332. Looking for a relaxing place to enjoy an adult beverage, listen to a band, have dinner, or

just slip into the summer chill out at a destination that is billed as a little piece of Florida – Fort Myers style, then The Tikki Bar is the place for you.

How about some fun on the water?

Green Cove Yacht Club – 1590 N. 88 Road Clarksville, PA 15322. Enjoy the ambiance of Green Cove’s protected harbor located on the Monongahela River where boating, water sports and relaxation are always on tap. Slip your boat in the harbor, fuel up and hit the water. Or simply soak up the sun poolside. Do not forget to grab lunch or dinner at the Greene Cove Galley Restaurant and Bar, where local favorites are always on the menu.

Beach Club Marina – 137 Main Street New Eagle, PA 15067.

Featuring the Monongahela river’s largest marina, with a capacity of over 300 boats, fun on the water is always in cards. With a full-service marina, all your boating needs will be met. Some of the other amazing amenities include a floating convenience store, restaurant, and club facility, two pavilions overlooking the marina, and full bath house service with showers.

There you have it. Multiple weekend (or weekday) destinations. All you need to do now is go into that garage and pull out the frisbee or wiffle ball gear, or hook up that boat, grab a beach towel and the family, and enjoy any of the great recreational parks our communities have to offer.

Community Park located on 750 Floral Hill Dr. in South Strabane is another great summer spot. The park features 73 acres a playground, climbing rock, baseball field and a multi-purpose field. Fields can be rented for private use for a nominal fee. Visitors can also enjoy basketball, volleyball and pickleball along with a 3/4 mile, handicap accessible walking trail. The park also features a main pavilion and Kiesling pavilion which can be rented by both residents and non-residents.



THE WEEKLY RECORDER

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ENTERTAINMENT

The Monongahela Aquatorium Great Entertainment Without High Cost

By P. Phillips



Aquatorium crowd

You can arrive on foot, by automobile and even by boat! Parking lots and boat docks too (you can watch from your boat). You cannot say that about many destinations in our county. The Monongahela Aquatorium is a unique, fun, and cost-effective way to have a great day on the river and in a town, that's smack in the middle of revival. It is an easy decision for a day of entertainment here in Washington County. It is also a perfect first date, family

outing or just a great day of hanging out. Located at 200 Railroad Street in Monongahela, Pa, this river stop is an ideal way to catch a show and enjoy a bite at some of the ever-evolving Mon City eateries and shops.

First opened in 1969 then modernized in 2013, the Aquatorium has become an integral member of the Mon Valley and a true cultural enterprise, adding to the charm of the region, making your river visit spectacular.

With national acts like former Lynyrd Skynyrd drummer Artemis Pyle, regional touring talent, Six Gun Sally, Tribute acts like 13 Stories and do not forget to bring your party game for Country fanatics Buckwild and rockers Gene the Werewolf! All bases covered. For the foodies, the waiting might be the hardest part because the Street Food Festival is not until September 9, but should be well worth it. AND possibly the most uniquely fun and entertaining event, Witchfest 2023 which (no pun intended), might have the most fun for adults with events including which and warlock costumes, contests, and dancing.

This place screams Americana!!

This year's docket is diverse, interesting, and loaded with talent and fun! Check out this year's lineup:

DATE	EVENT
July 1	Six Gun Sally and Artemis Pyle with Bon Journey
July 8	No Bad JuJu
July 15	Earth, Wind and Fire Tribute
July 29	13 Stories - 80's tribute
Aug 12	Gene the Werewolf
Aug 19	Buckwild
Aug 26	Artemis Pyle Band with Six Gun Sally
Sept 9	Street Food Festival 11am-8pm
Oct 21	Witchfest 2023 12-8pm

All events are slated for a 6pm start unless otherwise noted.



The stage at the Aquatorium



The Band - Six Gun Sally

SIX GUN SALLY HAS GUNS A'BLAZIN' Mon Valley Classic and Southern Rock Band

By Toni Fitch

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with Lori Bernish, the lead singer for the Mon Valley's "ultimate 70s classic and southern rock" band, Six Gun Sally. They have been busy touring with bands such as Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Marshall Tucker Band while promoting their latest single "Let's Take a Ride."

The band released "Let's Take a Ride" on May 26. With a feel-good, summertime vibe, the song came out just in time to put the top down on the convertible and crank up the car stereo with a song that is sure to be a summer staple. Lori says that the band is hard at work on a full-length album which they try to record when they are not on the road providing good tunes and good times for their many fans.

I asked her what the experience was like playing with musicians that influenced them

musically such as Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Lynyrd Skynyrd. She had nothing but good things to say about the southern rock legends and explained that they were able to tour with them thanks to the efforts of Six Gun Sally's tour manager.

In fact, one of her favorite shows was a bill they shared with Skynyrd in Massachusetts with an intimate crowd of approximately 8,000. The smaller audience did not take away from the energy that was provided by the faithful followers.

The seven-piece band is made up of Lori on lead vocals with the dual guitar attack of Jeff Yeckel and Allen Granus, keyboardist Dan Rach, and bass player Stan Brusoski, with Dave Barbe and Billy G. sharing drums and percussion duties. They are all veterans of the local music scene that

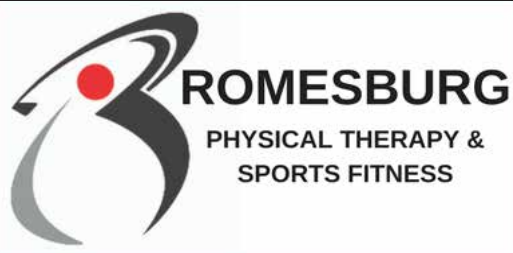
came together over their love of classic southern rock and country. Lori herself is originally from South Park. When I wondered who the primary songwriter was for the group and what their songwriting process is, Lori told me that their producer, Ford Thurston contributes to the band's songs as well as the other members bringing their own unique talents to the table. "It's a collaboration" was how Lori described it.

If you are planning to attend a Six Gun Sally show this summer, there will be plenty of opportunity to catch their high-energy performances in the Washington County area as well as nationally. Unfortunately, Lori told me they will not be at the Lynyrd Skynyrd/ZZ Top show at the Pavilion at Star Lake in September due to other commitments. But fear not, Six Gun Sally fans. You will be able to see them

alongside Skynyrd drummer Artimus Pyle's band at the Monongahela Aquatorium on Saturday, August 26. They will also be playing the Washington County Fair this summer and the Canonsburg Oktoberfest in the fall. For more tour dates as well as the latest merchandise and other Six Gun Sally news go to their website at <https://www.sixgunsallyband.com/>.

And, of course, you can listen to "Let's Take a Ride" and enjoy the ride!





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Happy 4th of July

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SPORTS

Washington Wild Things Update



The Washington Wild Things are in the midst of the club's 21st Frontier League season, having joined the independent league in 2002 after the Canton Crocodiles were sold to the group that birthed the Wild Things. The team has won eight division titles, most recently winning three in the last four seasons. Despite never having won a championship to this point, Washington has been a postseason team 11 times and has been in the Frontier League play-offs four out of the last seasons. The club is off to a bit of a rough start in 2023. Through a little over a third of the campaign, Washington sits at 15-20 following play Wednesday, June 21. The team started hot, getting to 6-1, the best start in manager Tom Vaeth's three seasons. Pitching struggles have been the team's demise since then. The pitching staff, which has experienced somewhat significant turnover in the last few weeks, with only half of the current crop of arms having been on the Opening Day roster, has worked its way to a 5.84 team earned run average, which is 14th in the league. The Wild Things have allowed 338 hits, which is tied for 13th in the league. Despite that, Washington has issued the fewest number of walks in the league (111). 2022 Rookie of the Year Kobe Foster leads the club with a 2.25 ERA in 28 innings of work thus far. He is 2-1 in six lost his most recent start after a short stint with a pectoral injury on the injured list. Bert Gonzalez and Justin Showalter join Foster in trying to solidify a starting rotation that has seen turnover... 10

different pitchers have made a start for Washington this season. Offensively, Washington is slashing .264/.353/.439, all percentages which are in the top half of the league. The Wild Things are also in the top three in doubles, lead the league in triples and are in the top half in home runs. The Wild Things are averaging 5.4 runs per game. The offense is led by Nick Gotta, Andrew Czech, Anthony Brocato, Melvin Novoa and a few more. Czech recently had a 28-game on-base streak snapped, a streak that is the second-longest such streak in the league this season. With the team, has 16 RBI to go with a .320 batting average and a .422 on-base percentage. He's stolen a team-high 13 bases. Scotty Dubrule is behind him with 12 bags and has a .287 batting average and 16 RBI. Czech is hitting .301 with seven homers and 28 RBI. Brocato is at .292 with nine homers, a team high, and 23 RBI. Melvin Novoa has 27 Washington is in the midst of its longest road trip of the season. Two games are complete in the nine-game span with one in Joliet, three against Gateway and three against New York still slated for the trip. Around the All-Star Break in Crestwood, Illinois, Washington only plays six games away from Wild Things Park in the month of July. Tickets and promotions are available at washington-wildthings.com.



Golf Tip of the Day Slicing the golf ball

By John Popeck - Golf Professional



Golf professional John Popeck is an area teaching and playing professional who will be a regular contributor to The Weekly Recorder, providing tips, advice, and golf stories. On top of his busy tournament schedule, John currently provides instruction at Washington Country Club and Pomykala's Driving Range in Washington. Some of John's Career Accomplishments:

Junior Golf - 3 x USGA Junior Amateur participant - 4 x PGA Junior Championship participant - American Junior Golf Association Rolex All American - Tri-State PGA and West Penn Golf Association Junior player of the year - Finished 2nd at the Harden German Masters at Hildesheim, Germany


- Final National Junior Golf Ranking, # 7 of 5,500 as recognized by Golf Week/Titleist.

College - Scholarship to Division 1, University of Maryland (70 additional offers) - Atlantic Coast Conference All American -


Professional - Winner, multiple mini-tour tournaments (Florida) - Qualified for stage 2, PGA Tour qualifying School - 2 x US Open Sectional Qualifier - 2nd place Pennsylvania State Open - 12-time West Penn Open and Pennsylvania Open participant - 3 x invitee, Frank Fuhrer Invitational -

Slicing the golf ball is a very common shot. It makes us as golfers think about why does this always happen to me. Here are a couple of tips I have learned throughout my career to help with this issue. The first thing that needs to be addressed is how we are gripping the golf club. If you have a weak grip, that will cause more of a slice. Making your grip stronger by turning your dominant

hand more on top of the grip will help you control the clubhead and face much better through impact. Next, I like to look at the stance. If you are trying to play for the slice, most times it will not happen. I suggest trying to stay as square as possible with the stance, with shoulders, hips, and feet parallel to your target. This will allow the club head to travel squarer through impact. Look at what your weight and turn are doing also. Going through the ball, the hips should be square at impact with the golf ball and club. If your front hip is too fast, it will cause the hip to move forward, and the ball will slice because the clubhead is stuck behind. Feel through impact that you are snapping your front hip backwards to cause more of a rotary motion, not a swaying motion. Lastly, a long, extended dominant arm equals maximum accuracy. If that dominant arm cuts off through impact, there will be a bigger dispersion with the golf ball. Hope this helps with correcting the slice.



GOLF LESSONS



Take Your Game from Bogey to Birdie

John Popeck

<p>Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) - All American</p> <p>U.S. Open Championship - Section Qualifier - 2 years</p>	<p>U.S. Junior Amateur Championship - 3 Years</p> <p>PGA Junior Amateur Championship - 4 Years</p> <p>Golf Week Magazine - Boys National Player of the Week</p>
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SPORTS

Pickleball in Washington County

By W.R. Smith

The sport of Pickleball is on the rise in the Washington County area. Tom Hincy, a local pickleball aficionado and a USA Pickleball Association Ambassador, a PPR Certified Coach and a tournament Director, has been at the forefront of the sports expansion in the county.

"I started playing in 2015, when I was 70 at a resort in Florida," Hincy said. "There were only 8 of us playing pickleball at that time. The resort now has over 300 that play pickleball, which is almost half of the residents of the resort." He went on to explain that when he started playing there were less than 2 million individuals playing pickleball, and currently, according to the Association of Pickleball Professionals (APP), there are 36.5 million people playing pickleball in the United States.

Pickleball has grown tremendously here in Washington County as well. Canonsburg took the lead in getting some of the first outdoor pickleball courts built at Canonsburg Park over 4 years ago. Now there are at least 8 places to play pickleball here within the county with two more townships installing pickleball courts at the time of this writing. Those courts are in Nottingham Township and North Strabane Township.

Four years ago, Hincy was at the tennis courts at Washington Park and noticed they had an area that was not being used for tennis so he went to a Washington City Council meeting and asked Mayor Putnam and city council members if he could chalk off the area for pickleball courts. With



the council in agreement, Hincy eventually went back and asked if they would consider having four permanent courts installed. He was pleased to explain that "with the help of the city, a private donor, and The Washington County Tourism Agency, we were able to get enough funding for the four courts."

In 2022, Hincy was part of a group who held a tournament at Washington Park which attracted 76 participants. Wanting to have a larger tournament they approached the Washington Tourism Agency and met with Jeff Kotula, president of the agency, to see if they could get more funding to buy more nets and have the tennis courts painted so they were dual courts. "Jeff and the agency agreed to help us, so we now have the ability to have 16 courts set up for Pickleball. This allowed us to have another tournament this year with 192 players. The Washington County Tourism agency has been a big part of expansion in the county."

Here are the basic rules and gameplay of pickleball:

Court: Pickleball is typically played on a court that measures

twenty feet wide by forty-four feet long. The court is divided into two equal halves by a net.

Equipment: Players use solid faced paddles made of wood, composite material, or graphite to hit the ball, as opposed to the open faced or netted racquets used in tennis. The paddles are larger than those used in table tennis, or ping-pong, but



smaller than tennis rackets. The ball is plastic with holes in it, unlike the felt covered rubber ball used in tennis.

Serving: The game begins with an underhand serve, where the server must strike the ball below their navel and contact it in an upward motion. The serve must clear the net and land in the diagonal service court on the opponent's side. The serve is done diagonally, and the receiving player

must let it bounce before returning it.

Double Bounce Rule: After the serve, both the serving team and the receiving team must let the ball bounce once before hitting it. This is known as the double bounce rule. Only after the first bounce can the ball be returned.

Rally: Once the ball has bounced on each side, the players can volley the ball or let it bounce before hitting it. The ball must stay within the bounds of the court and cannot be hit out of the air if it has not bounced first. **Non-volley Zone (Kitchen):** There is a seven-foot non-volley zone on both sides of the net, known as the kitchen. Players are not allowed to volley the ball while standing

Pickleball is known for its friendly and social nature, making it a popular sport for players of all ages and skill levels. It combines elements of strategy, quick reflexes, and hand-eye coordination, providing a fun and engaging experience. Like tennis, pickleball will provide its players with a solid cardiovascular workout.

There are several places individuals can go to play pickleball here in the Washington County area.

Washington Park – Has club members allocated times, but courts are available to the public most hours - Beginner classes are also offered through the Washington Park website.

Mingo Park – Has three courts available. No scheduled times

Peters Township Tennis Center – Has members allocated times – fee to play.

Cameron Wellness Center – Fee to play.

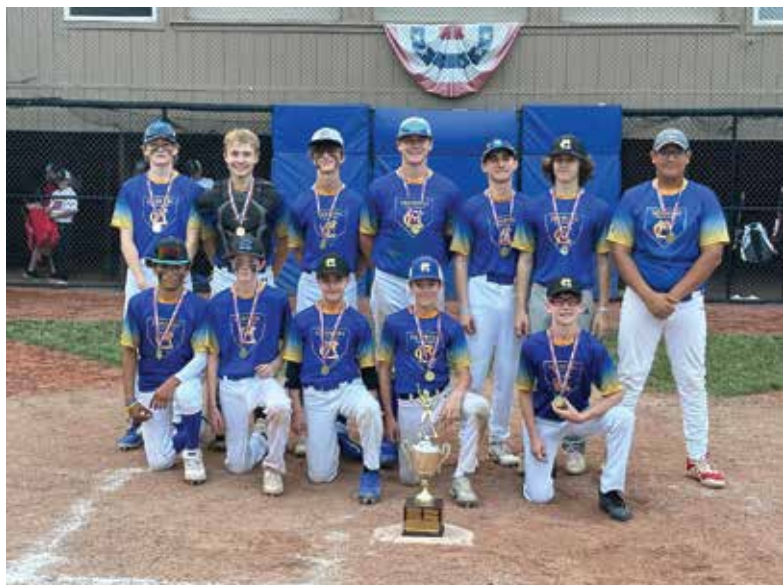
Thomas Church CLC – Winter indoor play – fee to play.

Canonsburg Town Park – Has club member allocated times.

And soon to be available – **Nottingham Township and North Strabane Township.**

So, if you are thinking of joining the pickleball momentum, seek out one of the local courts and get started. Facebook offers a page for the sport called **Washington Park Pickleball Club**. Give them a view. Ask questions and serve away!

Canon-Mac PONY team Wins Founders League Championship



On June 15, 2023, Canon-Mac Pony League team beat Fort Cherry 13-7 to win the Founders League Championship. Dantry's team won the Canon-Mac division and beat the Washington and Fort Cherry divisions to become the overall 2023 Champions. Pictured are;

Top Row L to R
Mason Dorrance, Henry Orbin, Gavin Dantry, Brayden Radue, Nick Harper, Vaughn Neiderer, Dakota Carmona

Bottom Row L to R.
Robbie Colosimo, Will Flaherty, Frankie Botta, Max Orsini, Aiden Charters

2023 Washington Pony League World Series Team

  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #1 Keegan Williams - Canon-Mac #2 Troy Stimpson - Canon-Mac #3 Ryan Huey - Fort Cherry #6 Alex Eslep - Canon-Mac #7 Grady Kloosterman - Canon-Mac #8 Ayvari Chandler - Wash High #9 Brayden Radue - Canon-Mac #10 Jayden Roach - Burgettstown #11 Asher Donley - Trinity #13 Noah Westfall - Canon-Mac #14 Ben Koskoski - Trinity #18 Braden Berdar - Trinity #20 Colton Temple - Fort Cherry #21 Gavin Dantry - Canon-Mac #99 Aaron Harshman - Trinity 	 
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OPINION



Rose Unplugged SOCIALISM IS TYRANICAL RULE

By Rose Tennent

Rose Tennent has a commanding TV, Podcast and Radio presence and riveting personality. When the red light lights on, so does she. She's sassy and witty, bringing insight on issues regarding politics, faith, and family values.

Within this column is where America's damaged psyche will be restored: Rose Brings to this platform what she has for 20 years to radio – the truth. Her monologues have been moving and intense, and her interviews tremendously informative – always.

Please follow Rose on the following platforms: Rumble: Search Rose Unplugged and subscribe Or Spotify: Rose Unplugged

Also check out: She Is Called by Him website where Rose also contributes: www.ShesCalledbyHim.com Providing News, Ministry & Support for Women

It has been both curious and terrifying to note just how far to the left the Democratic Party is willing to move.

The once shunned label of “Socialist” is now boldly embraced by so many on the left. They believe it to be a fairer system than capitalism. But no one stops to think about what it means to have free education for all, free health care for all, free this, and free that. There is never any mention of how we will pay for all the free stuff they want to distribute.

In the past some on the left have targeted conservatives and mocked them by saying that the Right was ignorant to the virtues of “Democratic Socialism.” They have often said that Republicans don’t understand what the word socialist means.

We absolutely understand socialism. That is why we are terrified and alarmed to see how the left has embraced it. The left has orgasms over free stuff – but we Republicans take it to its logical conclusion; there is nothing free – someone, somehow, will pay.

We understand that it eliminates free markets and does away with free enterprise. We know it doesn’t work: can someone say Venezuela. The very country that just happens to be the latest and greatest Socialism fail.

But there is something more alarming in what democrats say and it is not the first time it’s been said. Bernie Sanders was one of the first to use the term, and since then it has become a leftist mantra, Democratic Socialism.

This is a clever way to get around the argument of continued Socialism’s failures. The left can no longer just ignore or even explain away Socialism’s epic fails. So, they are now saying; That’s not the kind of Socialism we are talking about. The word Socialism is a turn off to many people. So, Bernie and the others are redefining it. They aren’t talking about “that” Socialism” they’re talking about “Democratic Socialism.”

There is NO such thing as Democratic Socialism. It is an oxymoron. It doesn’t exist. They think that democratic

socialism sells better. It is for those losers who actually think we are a democracy. We are not.

The first election under “Democratic Socialism” would be the LAST free election we would have. After that it becomes a choice between ham and pork. It’s a trick. It is a way for the government to trick you into handing over your freedom in exchange for promises they can’t keep.

Next month we celebrate 247 years of independence.

The Continental Congress was meeting, and deliberating as they were involved in the most radical event of all time. Thirteen colonies were to become the new nation of The United States of America.

Even though the resolution for the Declaration of Independence had already been adopted there was some hesitation when it came to applying their signature to the document. When Witherspoon realized that the house was wavering, he stood up and made a passionate speech. He said, “there is a tide in the affairs of men -a nick of time

we perceive it now before us. To hesitate is to consent to our own slavery.” Witherspoon finished his appeal, and the delegates signed the Declaration of Independence.

For us to cave to lies and oppression that come with Socialism it would be as though we were replacing the divine right of kings with the divine right of bureaucrats. It is a way for the government to trick us into handing over our freedoms. Our forefathers ran from the tyrannical rule of kings, those on the left seem to be running towards it.

Our forefathers’ goal – their mission was liberty. They left a culture in Europe that believed that intelligence – the capacity for freedom resided within one’s station in life. The founders believed there was genius and the potential for success within every human being. And the best way to explore and cultivate that genius and potential was liberty.

Tyrannical governments and dictatorships out of socialism have brought nothing to enhance the human condition. Only we, who love freedom

have raised the baseline of human existence beyond anything ever conceived before.

Of freedom, Thomas Paine wrote, “What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated.”

Like Paine many of us understand that it is what we care for most lovingly that holds the greatest value for us. If asked you what it was that we value most to leave as an inheritance for our children, what would that be?

Would it be that antique that’s been passed down for generations, or that sports car in the garage? A lovely home, precious metals, or stocks? Or should we consider something more precious: liberty? And isn’t liberty worth any sacrifice to secure as an inheritance for our children and their children?

THE CONSERVATIVE MIND

By Tom Flickinger



In keeping with my last article, introducing you to the mindset of conservative thinkers, I reviewed with you the premise that we, as a society, are built upon the trials and errors of our past ancestors. And if we know the lessons of our history, then we don’t have to keep repeating the mistakes made in prior generations. We can evolve into a better people, a more stable society, with full awareness of what is tried and true.

So, let’s go back into history and experience some of the failures and triumphs of the earliest colonies in the United States. Let us see what we have learned, the hard way. What has history taught us? The story of Jamestown, Virginia that follows is primarily taken from the forward of Glenn Beck in W. Cleon Skousen’s book The Thousand Year Leap.

By Christmas day of 1607, more than two thirds of those first colonists in Jamestown were dead. The next year, more settlers arrived but most of them died that winter. The year after that came additional arrivals and more deaths from starvation. It was an experiment in failure that

repeated its deadly tally for seven terrible years.

The plan was simple, really: plant the first English settlement in America-more of a business venture than colonization-and gather up all that gold. You know all that gold that lies around everywhere?

When word of the colony spread around England, hundreds more crossed the ocean for Virginia, each anxious to out-perform the dead who preceded them and prove that a fresh load of strong backs and keen minds could stand the rigors of the wilds-after all, English settlers had been colonizing faraway places for ages, all over the world, why should the Americas be any different?

But the “starving times” kept killing them off. Of the estimated 9,000 who sailed to Virginia, only 1,000 survived...

What was wrong with Jamestown and why couldn’t it flourish?...“The reason the colony wasn’t working was the leadership didn’t bother updating the way they ran the place. They started off with communalism-every man could take from the general storehouse what he needed and was supposed to give back what he could. In theory, everybody would give back enough so they could all survive. After all, shouldn’t the welfare of the colony be more

important than the individual welfare? While people would like to believe otherwise, the real answer is a resounding no.”

Sound familiar to you; it’s Marxism “From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.”

The Jamestown experiment backed fired. Worse than that, it was a pure disaster-uglier than Plato had promised.

Plato was the first of the “planners” and the true founder of the communist economy. It was in fact pure socialism in action.

The men were divided into three groups-a third to start the farm, a third to build a fort and a third to head off into the woods and find gold. Naturally, everybody slipped away to hunt for gold, and they neglected the fort and the farm. Oh yes, some of them bothered the local Indians and were shot with arrows.

The big fix didn’t come until 1614. That’s when the colony leadership realized it wasn’t the lack of food that kept killing off the settlers-it was a famine of knowledge of correct principles. Sir Thomas Dale spotted it immediately that year when he first stepped off the boat and into a stagnated mass of unmotivated colonists. ... (Socialism promotes the stagnation of the people). It seemed obvious what the problem was-the men

were lazy because they had no investment in the land-they had no private property. ... (One must understand human behavior to correctly know what motivates men to be productive.)

Without asking permission from the colony’s shareholders, Dale went ahead and gave three acres of land to the old-timers, less to the newly arrived, and asked only that in return they provide two barrels of corn for the store house at harvest time.

It’s amazing what a little freedom can do for the downtrodden! The colonists were thrilled. They dropped what they were doing and hurried about clearing their land, plowing their ground, planting, and watering-what-ever they could to have their own food for the winter. By that fall, the storehouse was full thanks to the two-barrel tax, and the people were alive. Tobacco came later and suddenly the colony took root and started on the road to prosperity.

Jamestown was different from the other colonies because it finally shed its failing ways and started practicing free enterprise principles-the freedom to own and control property and enjoy its fruits. Years later these principals worked their way into Adam Smith and his famous book, The Wealth of Nations.

The blood of these pioneers started the groundswell that brought us the first popular assembly of legislative representatives in the western hemisphere. Their descendants included many of the foremost intellects who built the framework for our future United States of America;

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, James Madison, “Father of the Constitution,” George Washington, hero-general of the War for Independence: George Mason, author of the first American Bill of Rights in Virginia.

Four of the first presidents of the United States sprung from the time fire-tested colony.

I would say that few if any of our young people know this story, it’s not taught to our youth, so they have no knowledge of the lessons learned from our ancestors. If we have no knowledge of our history, we are then afloat in a dark sea of the unknown with no anchor to hold onto. We then grasp onto anything that sounds good to our itching ears, but for certain the lessons of old will be learned again, the hard way. “Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.” Ben Franklin.

TRAVEL

3 Days in the Vermillion Cliffs

By Jeff Scanlon



Entrance to The Wave

There are very view things worth waiting 7 years and two months for, but this trip was. I found out about the Wave in the Early 2010's and just had to hike to see it on the Utah/Arizona Border. Then I found out that you needed a permit as they only let sixty-four people go a day. 48 via an online lottery system <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/274309> and 12 via an in-person lottery in Kanab, Utah that you can apply daily if you are in the area via a geo catch app. So how hard is it online? I sent my application and \$9 every month 6 months in advance for 7 years and won a permit for four people to enter The North Coyote Buttes Area to explore the 6.2-mile round trip trek. So, with step one completed we started to make travel plans and logistics. You can stay either in Kanab, Utah, or Page, AZ. Either is a good place and there are plenty of hikes and things to see. You will need to rent a 4 Wheel Drive High Clearance Vehi-cle. We rented a Pickup truck at the LAS Airport for the trip and loaded our gear to head to our hotel for 3 nights at the Hampton Inn Kanab <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/knbhxxh-hampton-kanab/> The drive from Vegas to Kanab is two hundred Miles and around 3.5 Hours.

You Coast Time to Mountain Time so there is an Hour Time Change. The drive is mostly through the desert and is worth the trip alone. take an orientation class for safety and navigation for the hike to the Wave. After our stop at the Kanab High School, we took off for our Trailhead is only seventy-nine miles from our hotel, but it will be an off-road

where mesmerizing. I would plan on spending at least 3 hours roaming around and soaking it in. We were the only vehicle in the parking lot, and it was a fantastic time. Make sure you bring everything you need for the day. There is nothing out there. Cell phones are spotty. Bring plenty of food, water, bathroom supplies etc. Day two let the hike

and walk through desert sage brush for another half mile to your second climb up a steep red sandstone hill. You are now in permit hiking and the hike gets harder to follow as there are no trail markers. Keeping a mountain ridge on your right side you start walking on red rock for over a mile through amazing rock formations and a few signs of wildlife. Some

over an hour exploring in the bowl and around. It tru-ly is amazing and because of the permits you are there with a relative few folks to truly enjoy it. We saw around ten folks and when we got there a few photographers and small groups like us. Everyone was conscious of the moment, and it was extremely quiet. We all rested and soaked it in before we reversed our course back to the trailhead as the temperatures and sun were well over one hundred and no shade to be found. We made it back to the truck in an hour. We pushed ourselves due to the heat and headed back to Kanab for the rest of the afternoon to chill out and explore the cowboy town. We had a late lunch at the Houston's Trail's End Restaurant <http://www.houstons.net/>. We had a solid meal and just relaxed the rest of the day before we had to head back We had one last stop to make on our way back and that was Horseshoe bend outside of page. This is an amazing place where the Grand Canyon begins. Sitting high on top of the Colorado River you have a short walk to the overlook, a mile round trip to see the horseshoe bend in the river. Soak it in and then jump in the car and head back to Las Vegas wondering if you can ever get lucky again to make another trip back.



trek that will take you 2.5 hours each way. If you are not an experi-enced off-road driver, I would investigate a local guide. White Pocket is a special place. If you ever wanted to know what being on Mars with oxygen would be like, then this is about as close as you can get to that experience. The trail Head to the Rock formation is less than a half mile. It is an easy walk with no trail markings my advice is to walk straight out from the parking lot for about three hundred yards and turn left. It will feel like you are walking through melted stone ice cream piles. The color contrasts on a semi cloudy day

begin!! We left the hotel for our 49-mile, hour, and ten minutes' drive. Starting on 89 we had a clear drive on paved roads the turn off, this is where you need the 4 x 4. The road is graded but there are washouts and ruts to navigate to Wire Rim Trail head. We got to the trail head at 5 am and the temperature was already 89 degrees. We set off for the hike. Our packs included snacks, head lamps, trek poles, camera, lotion, and most important three liters of water each as the temperatures where climbing into the 100's by hike is simple you start out walking in adry riverbed for about half moderate climb up. Once you

desert prong horns in the distant. The scurry of lizards and a temperatures are still below one hundred degrees and there is some shade. Now we have one more obsta-cle to hike down into a second wash that is loose sand and then a hard climb up a sandy cliff into the wave. It took us almost 1.5 hours to get here but that was because of taking pictures and just soaking in the unique landscape. One you get to the top you follow a ridge of yellow sandstone on your left for a few hundred yards and you enter the wave. Carved by wind blowing sand into a narrow valley the rocks look like water waves. We spent



The Wave

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FOOD & DRINK

Liberty Pole Spirits raises a new Flagship Our County's latest Whiskey Revolution

By Tom Grande



The exterior of the meeting house, designed with the past in mind it features stone face, iron accents, fire places throughout and within.

Liberty Pole Spirits is quickly becoming the largest nationally known upstart whiskey company in Washington. Founder and patriarch Jim Hough was gracious in giving the Weekly Recorder a behind the curtain look at the new Racetrack-road location. This endeavor will house an impressive new production facility, a massive barrel warehouse, complemented by an immersive meeting house bar and dining space which feels period perfect.

Jim met me outside with a hardhat for our tour, a requisite while the facility is undergoing some final construction. He immediately recognized my long stare at the taller structure, a metal clad, windowed building standing tall against the morning sky. "That building on the left is a five story, barrel warehouse, sometimes referred to as a rickhouse." Ricks are the wooden frames inside that hold the barrels of whiskey for aging. "As far as we know, it's the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania." Barrels of whiskey are rolled into the ricks, where they are inventoried and sorted into their spots throughout the five-story structure. A dumbwaiter elevator in the center brings barrels to the higher floors. The structure is designed without insulation and traps heat to ensure proper maturation. The metal on the outside

does not touch the wooden rickhouse within to maintain its integrity, as the wooden ricks are constantly expanding and contracting due to the elements. It is as if the building itself is breathing life into the whiskey within, "Every warehouse develops a 'honey hole' where for whatever reason in that particular zone the whiskey becomes really delicious." As this is all brand new, it will be our duty as locals and patriots to taste as much as we can to help narrow their sweet spot down.

Flanking the warehouse is the meeting house, which features all the trappings of eighteenth-century America, impressive in its stature and attention to detail. The centerpiece of the main room is the spring house bar. "Every farm in the 1700's had a spring house on it. It was where they kept perishables, it was built over water." This was an early form of refrigeration as the water flowing underneath kept the inside of these buildings' cooler. This exquisitely crafted example of one was built with Amish craftsmanship, "These trusses here...there's not a fastener, there's not a nail or a screw anywhere on that." The smooth stone countertop is Pennsylvania bluestone sourced locally, with water features guests can access to maintain the tradition of a spring house. A large-

scale fireplace with a mounted buck's head is on the facing wall and reaches up to the exposed wooden beams. Iron sconces light the ceiling from askew angles. Another large fireplace features the upside-down portrait of the Whiskey Rebellion villain, Alexander Hamilton, whose proposed excise tax on whiskey sparked the uprising.

The kitchen, while modern with all new equipment, intends to put out small plates that date back to the colonial era, "We're not going to have sliders or wings. My wife had the concept, colonial pub fair." The menu will be small, just a sampling of things such as meat pies and smoked trout

to whet the appetite for another taste of whiskey. If you cannot find a spot in the main hall, there are separate outdoor spaces, one where smoking will be permitted, as well as a patio overlooking the production area. If you care for something more intimate, a private room will be available for small gatherings.

The whiskey is the foundation for everything here, and the foundation of the whiskey is the grain that it is produced from, "We don't source any previously distilled whiskey." Liberty Pole exclusively uses Pennsylvania grown grain, primarily rye and corn, which gets fed into augers and milled in house. Everything is properly weighed, cooked, and stored until it is ready to be barreled and aged in the warehouse. The on-site lab tests and records all the products to ensure quality. And while this new facility will double

the current output, there is room for growth as space has been set aside for more equipment should the need arise.

Jim considers himself a 'hobby distiller' when compared to his sons, Rob, and Kevin, who have been with Liberty Pole since day one and represent all of the whiskey production, "We wouldn't have been able to do it without those guys!" Jim's wife Ellen is, "...the genius behind the branding, the details of the tasting room...second to none." With just a few finishing touches, a July grand opening is anticipated. In the meantime, barrels begin to fill the warehouse every day, hoping to wind up in their very own honey holes.



The exterior of the warehouse, the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania, built by experts from Kentucky



The interior of the meeting house with the spring house bar featured, the wood work was done by an Amish team

What's On Tap At Mondays Brewing

By Toni Fitch

"Everyone deserves a good beer on Monday!." That is the motto of Sam Fee, owner and operator of Mondays Brewing Company on Waterdam Plaza Road in McMurray. And even though I was there on a Friday afternoon, it still seemed like a darn good time to have a beer. Sam was kind enough to show me around his establishment while I enjoyed a cold, tasty "Gold Glove Lager."

The brewery/tap room is open 7 days a week and hosts different events regularly such as darts, trivia, and Name-That-Tune night. They recently featured Columbian musicians for a night of merriment and sometimes display art that is for sale from local artists. The events help bring in a diverse crowd that are eager to imbibe as well as compete. Per Sam the "vibe we're going for is two-fold." One area features various comfortable sofas and chairs. The other section, the tap room, has a bar and tap system along with high top tables and chairs. If you are hungry, Mondays does not have a kitchen. However, they do sell various snacks from Washington County vendors such as Popcorn Willy's popcorn. If you need something a little more substantial, they offer menus

from nearby restaurants, encouraging patrons to enjoy local cuisine. They also host local food trucks, weather permitting. You can check their social media (Facebook, Instagram) or their website <https://mondays.beer/> to keep up to date on all the latest events.

In addition, Sam says the brewery also supports "other beverages crafted in Washington County" with "guest taps" from other local breweries along with wine from Silver Mark Cellars in Canonsburg and Bourbon and Rye from Liberty Pole Spirits of Washington to name just a few. Sam was quick to note that "anything you come here, and purchase is crafted within twenty miles of Mondays."

Ever since the brewing company's opening Sam says the initiative has been "constantly trying to support local." Opened in October of 2020, during the COVID 19 pandemic, Sam spoke of the challenges that his business has faced and that they have worked to overcome. He signed his lease twelve days before the first COVID shutdown and was only open for five weeks before the second shutdown kept them closed until January 2021.



Interior bar and seating area at Mondays Brewing

Still, Sam insists he would not change a thing. He has no regrets considering the degree of difficulty starting a brewery during the pandemic. Since he works a day job as a professor at Washington & Jefferson College, he prefers to view this as a learning experience, much like when he first learned to brew his own beer. He was teaching and living in an area of Kentucky that was a dry county and was forced to invent his own brew to enjoy, noting that brewing is "the wedding of both art and science."

His "Gold Glove Lager" is the product of a collaboration with the Washington Wild Things and can also be purchased at Wild Things Park. You can find several other brews from Mondays

at various locations throughout the city of Washington and with approximately thirty distribution accounts, all over the county, too.

Make sure you enjoy them while you can. Sam estimates that since Mondays opened three years ago, they have "made over 120 different beers". And that is completely intentional. According to Sam "one of the keys to our success has been paying attention to what the local community wants." You can always be certain that something good is brewing at Mondays Brewing Company.



Fermentation tanks

COMMUNITY

Wienczek's Dairy Bar Reopens



Wienczek's Dairy Bar located at 1729 Jefferson Avenue in Washington has reopened under new ownership and management. Owners Danny and Carla Isiminger and General Manager Amy Mohr will feature an all-new menu but will include some of the favorites from the original menu as well. And of course, a wide variety of yummy ice cream treats is available. The Dairy bar is serving both breakfast and lunch and features fresh hamburger beef from Keystone Farms, a local producer. The hours of operation will be from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for breakfast and from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for lunch. Ice cream only, be served from 3:00 until 9:00 p.m. but is available all day as well. The business is closed on Monday's.

Davis Diner Opens in Canonsburg

Davis Diner Recently opened its doors at 800 1st Street in Canonsburg. Owners Kendell and Margaret Davis invite all to come out and enjoy both breakfast and lunch. The diner



features traditional breakfast and lunch fare and various specials throughout each week including fish on Fridays. Diner hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with breakfast served until 11:30 each day. The diner is closed on Monday's.

Masons award local high school seniors scholarships



First Row - L to R, Angela Haberthier, Jack Haberthier, Klover Haberthier, Jodi Smith, Kaitlin Smith, William Smith Second Row L to R, Jim Toward, W.M. Richard Vaux Lodge #454, Jay McGuier District Deputy Grand Master 29th Masonic District, Robert J. Carr, W.M. Claysville Lodge #447, Thomas M. Gasmire, Past District Deputy Grand Master and Principal of School of Instruction

On June 20th at Claysville Masonic Lodge #447, the 29th Masonic District awarded two scholarships designated for students in Washington County. The scholarship recipients were chosen based on their high academic standing and their responses to two written SA's. Scholarship winners were Chartiers Houston senior Kaitlin Smith, Daughter of William and Jodi Smith and McGuffey senior Klover Haberthier, Daughter of Jack, and Angela Haberthier. The awards were presented by the 29th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master Jay A. McGuire.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

WASHINGTON HEALTH SYSTEM AND UPMC SIGN LETTER OF INTENT TO PURSUE AFFILIATION

The Washington Health System (WHS) Board of Directors met on June 1, 2023, and unanimously voted to pursue affiliation discussions with The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), ending speculation as to Washington Health Systems future.

The Boards of Directors of both WHS and UPMC have signed a non-binding letter of intent to negotiate an affiliation agreement between the two entities that would integrate WHS into the UPMC system.

“Our primary focus is to ensure the residents of Washington and Greene Counties have local access to high-quality health care that is sustainable into the future,” said Brook Ward, President and CEO of WHS. “After careful consideration and analysis, we believe the best path forward is to affiliate with UPMC to achieve that goal. We currently have numerous clinical arrangements and joint ventures with UPMC, which have provided our patients with exceptional care over the years. From our experience working with UPMC and knowing their track record of providing outstanding patient care, it was an obvious choice to select UPMC as our partner going forward.”

For the past several decades, WHS and UPMC have collaborated in several areas to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care, including:

- Our joint partnership in local cancer treatment, a collaboration with UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and based at WHS Washington Hospital. This partnership has brought cutting-edge cancer expertise and treatment to the area while eliminating the inconvenience of traveling for care.
- UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, Express Care clinic and other specialty clinics, also on the campus of WHS Washington Hospital. These have brought specialty pediatric services to the community and have augmented the physicians and advanced practice providers of the Washington Physicians Group in their mission to provide Great Patient Care.
- UPMC’s Heart and Vascular Institute (HVI) provides vascular surgery services throughout the communities WHS serves.
- Onsite neonatal care provided at every birth by UPMC Children’s Hospital.
- Senior care services provided at Strabane Trails and Strabane Woods.
- OB ultrasounds interpretation services by UPMC Magee-Women’s Hospital.
- And additional partnerships in telestroke, Chartwell specialty pharmacy services and Clinical Connect HIE electronic records.

WHS Washington Hospital was also one of the original members of the UPMC Health Plan when it was launched 26 years ago. This affiliation with UPMC would help ensure continued high-quality care that patients in the WHS community have come to expect over the past several decades.

In late 2022, the WHS Board of Directors submitted a request for proposals to affiliate with a larger health care provider that could enhance the services and clinical offerings of WHS. The Board’s intent in seeking an affiliation was to keep high-quality health care that is sustainable and locally available not only for today, but for the future generations of Washington and Greene Counties.

“The Board and senior leadership of WHS have realized, that in today’s health care environment, we need to consider the long-term stability of our health system to continue to provide the quality health care services our local residents have come to expect. With that goal, we are excited to be able to affiliate with UPMC, a premier integrated health care system, to continue our mission of Great Patient Care,” said Dan Miller, Chairman of WHS Board of Directors.

The signing of the letter of intent means WHS and UPMC have agreed to conditions of affiliation. Over the next several months,



Washington Hospital

both entities will engage in due diligence, research, and discussions to work towards a definitive agreement. This affiliation is subject to customary regulatory filings, and WHS and UPMC leaders hope to complete the affiliation as soon as possible. WHS will keep its team members, partners and community members updated as there are developments to share.

About Washington Health System

Employing more than 2,000 highly trained medical professionals, Washington Health System provides health care services centered at its flagship 278 licensed bed hospital in Washington, Pa., and the forty-nine licensed bed WHS-Greene Hospital in Waynesburg, PA., Greene County. WHS provides clinical care at more than forty off-site locations throughout three counties. In addition, Washington Health System has diagnostic centers, outpatient care facilities, the Wilfred R. Cameron Wellness Center, and hospice care, all seamlessly working together to provide excellent patient-and-family-centered care. For more information, go to WHS.org.

About UPMC

UPMC is a world-renowned, nonprofit health care provider and insurer committed to delivering exceptional, people-centered care and community services. Headquartered in Pittsburgh and affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences, UPMC is shaping the future of health through clinical and technological innovation, research and education. Dedicated to advancing the well-being of our diverse communities, we provide more than \$1 billion every year in community benefits, more than any other health system in Pennsylvania. Our 95,000 employees — including more than 5,000 physicians — care for patients across 40 hospitals and 800 doctors’ offices and outpatient sites in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland, as well as overseas. UPMC Insurance Services covers 4.5 million members with a focus on providing the highest-quality care at the most affordable price. To learn more, visit UPMC.com.

Increased financial burdens exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and our need to make capital investments to preserve the future of health care in our region have led us to determine, after a rigorous process, that UPMC provides us the best viable option for the future. With this historic affiliation, the future of health care in our region will be bright.

According to Stephanie Wagoner, Manager of Marketing, and community relations, WHS chose UPMC based on their track record of providing the highest level of patient care, their demonstrated investment to keep services local, and their commitment to growing – and in many cases, adding — services that are needed in the communities they serve. “This affiliation with UPMC will help take us into the future and help to create a new standard for health care in our communities. The residents of Washington and Greene Counties will have access to the life changing medicine that UPMC is known for, and our facility will



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OUTDOORS



PA Trout Fishing

By Chris Sidick

Whether you bagged a turkey or got served tag soup, it is time to shift your attention back to the water. Last year, Pennsylvania sold 471,834 trout stamps which generated \$4,232,200 in revenue giving anglers the privilege to fish 16,000-plus miles of wild trout streams, 5,000 miles of stocked streams, and 125 stocked lakes. What is the huge draw to this sport? Well, for one, there's instant satisfaction in fighting a bucking rainbow on a 4lb test. Suddenly there is a swift movement and vibrant colors flash as your line cuts upstream and the torpedo shaped fish occasionally breaks the surface. And of course, all the while, you get brief bragging rights snickering to your buddy who is desperately tying on their fourth fly. To sum it up, trout is arguably the prettiest freshwater fish caught in the most beautiful natural settings in North America. One of my favorite destinations is an easy one-hour highway drive southeast.

OHIOPYLE, PA – Nestled within the rolling hills of southwestern Pennsylvania, Ohiopyle State Park offers a picturesque setting for outdoor enthusiasts and trout fishing aficionados alike. The park, spanning over 20,000 acres of natural oasis, is home to the Youghiogheny River and numerous smaller streams, all teeming with a variety of trout species. Anglers from near and far are drawn to Ohiopyle's pristine waters to take in the views, sounds, and fresh "River Runs Through It" mountain air. The Youghiogheny River, affectionately known as the "Yough" (pronounced "yawk"), is a favorite destination for trout fishing in the region. The river's diverse ecosystem supports a healthy population of brown, rainbow, and brook trout. The Middle Yough, a 9-mile stretch

from Confluence to Ohiopyle, is particularly popular among fly fishermen due to its catch-and-release regulations and abundance of quality fish. Ohiopyle State Park's management has made concerted efforts to maintain and preserve the water quality and trout habitats within the park. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) regularly stocks the Yough and its tributaries with fingerling and adult trout to ensure a thriving fish population for anglers to enjoy year-round. In addition, the park's commitment to sustainable fishing practices has led to the implementation of seasonal restrictions and catch limits to protect the fishery. Trout fishing in Ohiopyle goes beyond the Yough. Meadow Run, a scenic tributary, offers anglers the opportunity to fish for brook and brown trout amidst the tranquil setting of fern-covered banks and rhododendron groves. With open banks, established trails, and plenty of holes, this stream is a pleasing habitat to learn the art of fly fishing. For those seeking a more remote and serene fishing experience, Sugar Run and Jonathan Run provide the perfect escape. These lesser-known tributaries, tucked away within the park's vast expanse, offer anglers the chance to fish for wild brook trout in a virtually untouched environment. The streams' narrow channels and rocky terrain can prove challenging for some, but the reward of hooking into a wild trout in such a pristine setting is an experience that many anglers cherish. The park's rich history and diverse flora and fauna make it a destination worth exploring in every season. As the sun sets over the Yough, casting a warm glow on the water's surface, anglers wade through the current with their fly rods in hand, hoping to catch one last trout before darkness falls. The tranquil beauty of Ohiopyle State Park, combined with its abundant trout populations, make it a haven for fishermen and nature lovers alike. Whether you are an experienced angler or new to the sport, Ohiopyle's trout fishing opportunities promise a memorable experience that will keep you coming back.

Tips from Experience

Here is a short story of how I learned the secret weapon to bait trout fishing. My friend Bobby and I were headed to Dunlap after a Washington Wild Things game. If any of you came to watch the Things play in June and July, you may have noticed a Pro-Crappie bass boat hooked up in the player parking area. It was my usual routine to go two for four at the plate at 7:05pm, then slay fifty rainbows at Midnight. One of those statements is a lie, I will let you choose which. While in route, we would always stop at the Uniontown Walmart to grab bait and extra hooks. An old timer approached us as we stared into the mini fridge deciding if it would be meal worm or maggots. The conversation went as follows:

Old timer: What are you fishing for?

Rookies (us): Trout

Old timer: You're in the wrong section, go to the food isle, get some marshmallows.

The old timer continued on his way and left us puzzled. We actually teased about the conversation, but then, just in case, we headed over to the food isle for some Jet Puffs. As the story goes, the rest is history. We slay them to the point where we had to drop down to one pole each simply because it was becoming more work than pleasure taking them off the hook. Marshmallows are now a staple in my tackle box. Best we can figure, they slowly disintegrate in the water leaving a scent trail. The trout follow this trail in the darkness which leads to the bright white Jet Puff looking mighty tasty.

Youth Activity

Float the Yough from Confluence dam outflow to Ramcat launch. I recently took my boys on their first kayak float with my wife. We had no idea how it would play out, could be miserable or amazing. Turned out to be the latter. You only need one vehicle which is clutch. Drop off your kayaks at the outflow dam, then drive 1.2 miles downstream to the Ramcat parking lot and walk back on the bike trail. The entire float takes about 45 minutes, and a little paddling is required.

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LIFESTYLE

McPeake My Interest

By Brian McPeake



Children gather round...

Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and relax. Today we are taking a journey back in time. No, not with Michael J Fox and the DeLorean but with Peabody and Sherman and the WABAC machine. Our destination is your living room floor in the summer of 1974. School is out, the sun is shining, and you have no cares in the world. Imagine sitting six inches from the living room television set with your mother telling you "You will go blind sitting that close." If she were right, there would be 300 million blind Gen Xers roaming the country. For the next 4 hours you will be mesmerized by the trippy groovy vibes of Saturday Morning Cartoons. So, grab a big bowl of Super Sugar Crisp and settle in.

Throw up a hand if your 70's living room was wood paneled with shag carpet. Bonus points if

your television weighed 400 pounds and was part stereo – tv – liquor cabinet. Your dad blew out his back lifting that monstrosity and you learned a few creative adverbs during the process. By the late 80's it was still sitting in the same spot no matter how many times your mom wanted to rearrange the furniture. Underneath was a treasure trove of dust bunnies, Legos, green army men and a few stray Sugar Crisps.

The biggest decision was which channel to choose. We only had three choices back then: ABC, CBS, or NBC. But the decision came down to whether you were a Hanna-Barbera fan or a Sid and Marty Kroft fan. It was a big decision! Scooby Doo, The Jetsons, Jonny Quest, and the Wacky Races all had their merits, but if you choose Sid and Marty Kroft like me, you had The Banana Splits, Sigmond the Sea Monster, Land of the Lost, the Bugaloos, Lidsville and H.R. Pufnstuf. These shows were a trippy mind-bending adventure full of low budget special effects, groovy 70's colors, large headed puppets, music and the comedic brilliance of Charles Nelson Reilly and Billie Hayes.



The shows made us use our imagination, suspend our disbelief, and believe these strange lands could exist. The worlds were "alive" in every aspect of every scene. For example, H. R. Pufnstuf was a dragon and Freddy was a talking flute. Other characters included: Witchie Poo, Skeleton Guards, Judy Frog, Pop Lolly, Polka Dotted Horse, Seymour Spider, Stupid Bat and Tick Tock. Alas, its now noon and dad is getting ready to kick us out of the house or give us a list of chores to do. Of course, we chose to go outside to play and relive the shows in our own back yards. I hear Peabody and Sherman calling us to return to the WABAC Machine or stay in 1974 forever. Another difficult decision...

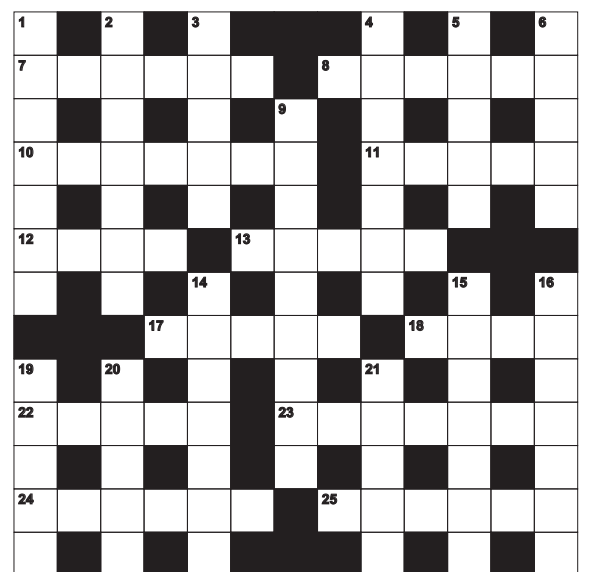
Harrisburg Update

By Robert Johnson

As of this article the budget has not passed yet in Harrisburg. A budget overview will be provided in our next Update. School Choice in Pennsylvania I want to provide an update on the long-debated issue of school choice in Pennsylvania. Going back to the 1990's then Republican Governor Tom Ridge made a strong push to have school choice enacted in the state. After heavy grassroots lobbying a school choice bill failed to generate the 102 votes needed in the State House for passage. Republicans continued to push choice legislation, but no major bills were voted on in Pennsylvania. Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) were approved as a substitute for school choice and this program has proved to be very popular in Pennsylvania. It has been expanded through the annual budget process over the years. EITC provides a tax credit for businesses/individuals donating scholarships for scholarships for low/moderate income students across the

Commonwealth. Under Republican Governor Tom Corbett another effort was made to pass a true school choice bill for all of Pennsylvania. There was legislation in the PA House and PA Senate. Then Republican Majority Leader Mike Turzai secured support from many House Republicans. Ultimately, the effort was unsuccessful. Fast forward to 2023 Democrat Governor Josh Shapiro during his campaign last year expressed support for school choice. His only concern is not taking money away from public education. During this budget season, school choice is again under discussion. Can Pennsylvania finally pass school choice legislation providing more options for inner city kids in failing schools? There is support in the PA Senate. Are there 102 votes in the PA House for passage? Not sure as of yet. Legislation is unlikely next year due to the 2024 presidential election. If school choice is finally to become law in our state, now is the time to make it happen.

Crossword



Down

- 1 - Little ____, comedy
- 2 - Saved by the Bell geek
- 3 - Snow might fall on this tree? (film)
- 4 - King Kong was a giant one!
- 5 - ____ Knightley, British actress
- 6 - Could 5D play in your five-_-_- team?
- 9 - ____ Housewives
- 14 - Ian McKellen played this Tolkien character
- 15 - Emmerdales most famous family?
- 16 - Chuck ____, hapless American Pie character!
- 19 - ____ of Nazareth (film)
- 20 - Marcia ____, plays Bree Van Der Kamp in 9D
- 21 - Billie ____, Dr Who actress

Across

- 7 - Jennifer Aniston played this Friend
- 8 - The pub in Coronation Street
- 10 - 1997 film about a wealthy financier
- 11 - The woman __/__(comedy film)
- 12 - The Seven Year ____ (film)
- 13 - First child of Chris Martin
- 17 - Famous wizard creation of J K Rowling
- 18 - Nemo and Dory, for instance
- 22 - Nestor was a long ____ donkey (film)
- 23 - Popular Only Fools and Horses character
- 24 - Phoebe's twin in Friends
- 25 - Miss Bonham Carter, actress



724-745-2050

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY 4TH

GOD BLESS THE USA

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TWIN TWIST
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Vanilla



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25 Flavors



Hardcap



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SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Washington County School Districts

The Weekly Recorders coverage area includes 15 school districts within Washington County. Below you will find data for each



Avella

Enrollment	517
Teacher/Student Ratio	11/1
Faculty	49
Revenue	\$11mm
Spending	\$11mm
Spending per Student	\$21,517.00
Graduation Rate	90%
Schools	2
Tax Millage Rate	0.0111397
Minority Enrollment	3%
Math Proficiency	37%
Reading Proficiency	59%



Canon McMillan

Enrollment	5325
Teacher/Student Ratio	17/1
Faculty	312
Revenue	\$95mm
Spending	\$90mm
Spending per Student	\$16,689.00
Graduation Rate	99%
Schools	9
Tax Millage Rate	0.0119529
Minority Enrollment	13%
Math Proficiency	49%
Reading Proficiency	72%



McGuffey

Enrollment	1396
Teacher/Student Ratio	13/1
Faculty	116
Revenue	\$32mm
Spending	\$33mm
Spending per Student	\$21,440.00
Graduation Rate	90-94%
Schools	4
Tax Millage Rate	0.01276
Minority Enrollment	3%
Math Proficiency	26%
Reading Proficiency	49%



Bentworth

Enrollment	1069
Teacher/Student Ratio	13/1
Faculty	81
Revenue	\$19mm
Spending	\$18mm
Spending per Student	\$16,327.00
Graduation Rate	95%
Schools	3
Tax Millage Rate	0.01274
Minority Enrollment	6%
Math Proficiency	35%
Reading Proficiency	68%



Chartiers Houston

Enrollment	1130
Teacher/Student Ratio	14/1
Faculty	79
Revenue	\$21mm
Spending	\$19mm
Spending per Student	\$16,419.00
Graduation Rate	90-94%
Schools	2
Tax Millage Rate	0.0129904
Minority Enrollment	14%
Math Proficiency	40%
Reading Proficiency	68%



Peters Township

Enrollment	3,933
Teacher/Student Ratio	16/1
Faculty	250
Revenue	71mm
Spending	\$113mm
Spending per Student	\$28,294.00
Graduation Rate	99%
Schools	5
Tax Millage Rate	0.015707
Minority Enrollment	8%
Math Proficiency	71%
Reading Proficiency	86%



Beth Center

Enrollment	990
Teacher/Student Ratio	12/1
Faculty	80
Revenue	\$21mm
Spending	\$26mm
Spending per Student	\$23,074.00
Graduation Rate	90-94%
Schools	3
Tax Millage Rate	0.0104065
Minority Enrollment	6%
Math Proficiency	18%
Reading Proficiency	39%



California

Enrollment	847
Teacher/Student Ratio	15/1
Faculty	57
Revenue	\$16mm
Spending	\$15mm
Spending per Student	\$17,332.00
Graduation Rate	95%
Schools	4
Tax Millage Rate	0.0123865
Minority Enrollment	14%
Math Proficiency	31%
Reading Proficiency	58%



Ringgold

Enrollment	2673
Teacher/Student Ratio	15/1
Faculty	184
Revenue	\$50mm
Spending	\$46mm
Spending per Student	\$16,497.00
Graduation Rate	92%
Schools	4
Tax Millage Rate	0.0145205
Minority Enrollment	16%
Math Proficiency	19%
Reading Proficiency	36%



Brownsville

Enrollment	1483
Teacher/Student Ratio	14/1
Faculty	103
Revenue	\$30mm
Spending	\$29mm
Spending per Student	\$18,918.00
Graduation Rate	85-89%
Schools	3
Tax Millage Rate	0.01300896
Minority Enrollment	21%
Math Proficiency	17%
Reading Proficiency	34%



Charleroi

Enrollment	1413
Teacher/Student Ratio	14/1
Faculty	98
Revenue	\$27mm
Spending	\$26mm
Spending per Student	\$18,188.00
Graduation Rate	90-94%
Schools	3
Tax Millage Rate	0.0175739
Minority Enrollment	21%
Math Proficiency	20%
Reading Proficiency	51%



Trinity

Enrollment	3278
Teacher/Student Ratio	14/1
Faculty	241
Revenue	63mm
Spending	\$64mm
Spending per Student	\$19,533.00
Graduation Rate	96%
Schools	6
Tax Millage Rate	0.01365
Minority Enrollment	10%
Math Proficiency	39%
Reading Proficiency	61%



Burgettstown

Enrollment	1021
Teacher/Student Ratio	11/1
Faculty	91
Revenue	\$21mm
Spending	\$22mm
Spending per Student	\$20,672.00
Graduation Rate	85-89%
Schools	2
Tax Millage Rate	0.0127529
Minority Enrollment	5%
Math Proficiency	22%
Reading Proficiency	48%



Fort Cherry

Enrollment	887
Teacher/Student Ratio	12/1
Faculty	76
Revenue	\$20mm
Spending	\$22mm
Spending per Student	\$22,298.00
Graduation Rate	95%
Schools	2
Tax Millage Rate	0.0129304
Minority Enrollment	8%
Math Proficiency	34%
Reading Proficiency	62%



Washington

Enrollment	1474
Teacher/Student Ratio	13/1
Faculty	115
Revenue	33mm
Spending	\$28mm
Spending per Student	\$18,818.00
Graduation Rate	85-89%
Schools	3
Tax Millage Rate	0.0151578
Minority Enrollment	52%
Math Proficiency	17%
Reading Proficiency	38%

Adios

PACE FOR THE ORCHIDS
2023

SATURDAY, JULY 29
POST TIME 11:45 AM



Meadows Standardbred Owners Association



PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE RACING
ASSOCIATION

The Meadows Standardbred Owners Association and
The Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association
invite you to the Adios Pace for the Orchids!
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Enjoy a **FREE** virtual reality horse racing experience,
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