

THE WEEKLY RECORDER

Community News • Serving Washington County

The Adios Pace

One of Washington County's Most Significant Events

By John Sacco

The success of the Adios Pace is steeped in the great fervor and affection the local community has for The Meadows' signature racing event.

That is according to the King of the Adios himself, Hall of Fame driver John Campbell, who has the most driving wins in the annual Pace for the Orchids with eight.

"I had some really good horses there," Campbell said. "And I had a couple unexpected winners. One took an accident with a lot of horses involved to win one of them (Miles McCool in 1993).

The Adios Pace, the brainchild of legendary horseman Delvin Miller, is a horse race for 3-year-old Standardbred colts and geldings contested each year since 1967 on the North Strabane Township's 5/8-mile mile track.

The 1972 race final was the only time the Adios Pace ended in a dead heat. Since that race, officials have two Adios trophies on hand in case it happens again, according to Tom Charters – a member of the Harness Racing Hall of Fame and a director of the Hambletonian Society.

"I remember watching from the hill (across from the old grandstand)," Charters added. "The Adios is such a great event. Earlier on, it was probably an even more popular event because of Delvin. It brought a lot of celebrities and people to The Meadows.

"The Adios is different now. There are no more heats, eliminations one weekend, the final the next. Horses are managed more carefully. They are faster and they don't recover as quickly. They came more routinely in the past and then headed for Indiana and Illinois."



A view of the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows grandstand from the paddock

In 1997 the race was renamed the Delvin Miller Adios Pace to honor the legendary founder of The Meadows, which recently celebrated its 60th anniversary.

Ironically, 1997 also saw the only winner disqualification in the race's history when Dream Away, who finished first by five lengths, was disqualified for interference. It handed Legacy of Power and local driver Dan Ross an Adios title.

Some of the other stunning outcomes – and there have been two handfuls – in The Adios included:

- In 1985, when the great Nihalator was beaten in a division of the Adios Pace by Marauder. Nihalator – who the previous year was defeated for the first time by Dragon's Lair in the Breeders Crown for 2-year-old pacers – won the next division but was

withdrawn from the final which would have been a match race against Marauder. The meadows crowd was upset and angry with owner Lou Guida for withdrawing from the final. Marauder merely jogged around the track, alone, for the victory in a walkover.

- Dave Palone and Washington VC -- a 9-1 shot -- upending Blissful Hall, who went on to win the harness racing triple crown, in the 1999 final. It was one of Palone's highlights in a career that has included more than a world-record 20,000-plus victories.

"At that point, it was the biggest victory of my racing career," Palone acknowledged some years ago. "To that point of my life, except for my daughter's birth, it was the greatest day of my life." Palone was wide-eyed and tearful in the crowded winner's circle. He had won the race he first witnessed in 1976 when

Armbro Ranger and driver Joe O'Brien upset Keystone Ore and the great Stanley Dancer.

"That Adios hooked me on the sport," Palone has said. "It became meaningful for me to win the Adios. To be surrounded by my family and my friends and people who worked and loved The Meadows, that day was very special. I still smile when I think about it."

- Another huge moment was Barberry Spur winning in 1985, making Hall of Fame driver Richard Stillings the first local driver to win The Adios and setting off a celebration like never seen before, according to some who attended the party.

- Last year, local horse Bythemissal – owned and trained by Ron Burke – rebuffed his two top adversaries in Beach Glass and Pebble Beach by thundering down the stretch to capture an impressive victory and culminate a strong drive by Chris Page for the Burke Stable, Fredericktown, and the Burke Brigade. It was sweet considering Bythemissal went off at 8-1 in the final.

It was another blanket of orchids for Burke, as he also prevailed with Dorsoduro Hanover. He was an assistant trainer for his father, Mickey, when the elder Burke won The Adios with May June Character -- the final win of that horse's career. Each win, Burke has said was different.

"The one with my dad is still special," he said. "That was the one that knocked the door down for us. It's a hard race to win. But in the others, we were favorites. People

we're calling this a two-horse race."

Campbell understands the emotion and meaning.

"Anytime you're racing at a track's signature race, it's a big race," said Campbell, who won his first Adios in 1984 driving Andrel and four straight from 1992-1995 with Direct Flight, Miles McCool, Cam's Card Shark, and David's Pass.

One his best winners was Run The Table in 1987.

"It's a big deal. It's a big deal in the local community and with the local horsemen. I have always been impressed with the local support and how pumped up they get for The Adios. It is impressive."

Campbell also said a reason for the sometimes-unpredictable finishes or outcomes in The Adios is about the track itself.

"A 5/8-mile track can be tricky," Campbell explained. "Especially at The Meadows. You must be careful not to use your horse up too early. Strategy is important at The Meadows. On that track, sometimes it is tough for horses to finish. You must be careful."

Charters said it is Miller's mystique and standing in the racing community that helped The Adios gain esteem and standing.

"It's always been about great racing," Charters said. "It's ways marked on my stakes calendar. I've seen most of them. It's a terrific race and event."



Meadows trainer warms up his horse

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PACE FOR THE ORCHIDS
2023

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Dave McCormick Book Review by Dr. Joseph DiSarro Pg 9

Profile

By W.R. Smith

Chris Gooden the Meadows Racetrack Photographer

Chris Gooden, some could say, has the best seat in the house at race time at The Meadows Racetrack and Casino. And while some might argue the best seat goes to the harness driver, Chris definitely has the best view of the race, through the lens of his camera. Gooden has been at The Meadows since 1998 when he assisted then track photographer Doug Bishop. When Bishop moved to another role in 2002, Gooden took over. Gooden plays an exceedingly important role in documenting all of the action before, during and after the races. He has documented history through his art, and is an award-winning photographer, including winning the prestigious George Smallsreed Award for outstanding harness racing action photography, three times. One of his more famous Smallsreed winners is a photo he titles "Shadow Racing," which appeared in an issue of Hoof Beats magazine.



Chris Gooden

The Weekly Recorder was fortunate enough to sit down with Gooden for a one-on-one discussion. The following text is the result of our chat.



Shadow Racing – Photo by Chris Gooden

Gooden captured the photo using a drone. The photograph captured horses, and their shadows, running three wide towards the end of a race at The Meadows.

- **Where are you from and where do you make your home?**

I grew up in Washington, graduated from Trinity Highschool, and lived 5 minutes from the track but ironically, I never went to The Meadows as a kid. I never dreamed I would end up working here, much less as a photographer. I currently live in Speers with my wife Erin.

- **What does a track photographer do?**

Primarily I am there to photograph the finish line and winner's circle. But I have turned it into a little more than that. I take photos of what I find interesting and different. My focus is everywhere. You never know where that next good shot might come from.

- **You have been with the meadows since 1998. What did you do prior?**

Well, it is funny, I started as a truck driver for my dad and was on a family vacation and bought a camera and just loved taking pictures. Down the road from there I fell into shooting sports at California University of PA (Now Penn-West California), and I also did youth sports photography and weddings, and here I am now.

- **Do you photograph outside of the Meadows? If so, what?**

I do a lot of videos and photos for barrel racing and from those contacts I end up doing families and portraits and other shoots as well.

You have won several awards for your photography and are known for your work in far-reaching places. Tell me about the "Shadow Racing" picture, which won you one of your George Smallsreed awards.

I had been wanting to incorporate drones into my work for some time, when a friend who is also a photographer shared a photo of a family portrait, with the family laying in the grass, taken from a drone. Shadows and all. So, from that encounter I knew I wanted to give drones a try. I knew that the shadows would fall on our track at our ¾ mark, so I shot one on the first time around then one coming home. The second shot was the one that produced the Smallsreed winner.

And it is a funny story how that award came about. I am not one to enter my work for awards but someone at Hoof Beats Magazine liked the photo and wanted to publish it, so I said yes. To qualify for the Smallsreed, a photo must be published in a magazine. From there the photo was entered and it blew me away that the photo won. It also ended up winning the International Media Award for Achievement in Best photography by the International Trotting Association. I am so humbled by the recognition.

- **Drone photography seems like it would be a challenge. How have you mastered it?**

I have by no means mastered it (Gooden said while chuckling), but I love doing things different than others, so I went to work on learning how it was done. The photography aspect of the drone is so much different than traditional photography. I learned to look for unique angles and different things and have been able to do ok. Flying a drone at 35 mph is way more difficult than getting one photo as the horses go by. It has been a fun experience.



Horses behind the gate– Photo by Chris Gooden

- **To what do you attribute your success?**

I am never satisfied with my work. I just work very hard at what I do. I have taken over 5 million photographs and I can count on one hand pictures that I am truly satisfied with. I am also always paying attention to new equipment and technology and coming up with new ideas. I am a techy, at heart and love equipment. I am always mounting cameras where I can, and always experimenting with different things. I like to be different and unique. I am so grateful to The Meadows for letting me do my own things when it comes to being creative. I think also that shooting weddings and learning to watch everything around me has helped a great deal towards finding interesting shots. I am watching everything around me besides just the horses themselves. It has helped me a lot. I have been very fortunate that they just let me go and do my thing. And I guess you could say I am a workaholic. I probably work 100 hours a week. But I love what I do.

- **Where can our readers see your work? Are you active in social media?**

I have every account there is! My TikTok is @chrisgoodenvisuals, Facebook is Chris Gooden and Instagram is chrisgoodenvisuals

- **How has photography technology changed since you started in 1998?**

When I started working for Doug, we still used film. Doug did all the developing. I actually have never been in a dark room. I just felt more comfortable behind the camera. After we went digital, a whole new world opened up. Technology has given me the capability to shoot things I never thought I could. Flying a drone, shooting helmets from a distance, shooting in total darkness or a driving snow, and having usable photos. It is crazy how things have changed. And I love the editing side of it too.



Another Chris Gooden classic

- **Tell me about a couple of your greatest memories at The Meadows.**

There are so many great things which have happened that this is tough to answer with just a few.

I've been with Dave Palone for 15,000 of his over 20,000 wins, watching him become the all-time leading driver has been great. Seeing Dave and Mike Wilder win the Adios are great memories as well. Seeing the records and watching the horses go so fast; all of it. But for me it has mainly been seeing others get the accolades they deserve.

Being a part of the big records has been nice too. Watching Papi Rob Hanover finish at 1:47 1, was amazing. And just today It'smy Show went 1:47 4, for a three-year-old gelding record on a 5/8 track. The previous record was 1:48 3, by Alsace Hanover in 2011, and last year's Adios winner Bythemissal going 1:48 3. It'smy Show almost beat it by a full second.

The Meadows is one big family. There are so many great things through the years. I have great backing there and I have so much support and that means a lot to me...

In summary, Chris Gooden is one of the best photographers in the harness racing game, and a very modest man by all accounts. He has documented many of the greatest moments in The Meadows history. It seems only fitting that a man of his drive, talent, and passion for his work, has been the one to capture it all.

Adios Livestream

If you can't be here for the Adios in person, watch the livestream show hosted by track announcer Jeff Zidek, Harness Announcer Gabe Prewitt and the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association's Dawnelle Mock, live from the apron starting at 11:45 am on Saturday, July 29, 2023 on the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association Facebook page or YouTube channel. You can also find the link at www.MeadowsHarnessRacing.com so you can watch and wager online!



Gabe Prewitt has anchored the Adios Day coverage from The Meadows. He is a part of the television team on some of the sport's biggest days, including next week's \$1M Hambletonian (Aug 5) from The Meadowlands which will be broadcast nationally on Fox. He has appeared on various harness racing broadcast teams over the years, most recently working with America's Day at the Races which can be seen on FS1/FS2. Prewitt, 40, resides in Lexington, Kentucky, where he is the VP of Racing and Sports Wagering Operations at the historic Red Mile racetrack.

Dawnelle Mock is a passionate marketer and advocate for the horse racing and breeding industry in Pennsylvania. Dawnelle graduated from Youngstown State University with a degree in Marketing and quickly put her skills to work at the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association, where she spent six incredible years. Mock now works for the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association, where she serves as the Digital Content Director. In this role, Dawnelle works tirelessly to promote the industry through engaging, informative, and creative content across various digital platforms.

Jeff Zidek started his career in harness racing in 1987 as the backup announcer at The Meadows. After serving as a Standardbred trainer, a PR specialist for the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission, and a 20-year career in college athletic administration, he returned to the track full-time in 2019 to replace longtime Meadow's announcer Roger Huston. Zidek currently serves as the track's handicapper and TV host, in addition to race calling duties.

It's My Show sets 1:47.4 world record in Adios eliminations

By Evan Pattak

It's My Show put on a show once more, blazing to a world record 1:47.4 Saturday (July 22) in an elimination of the Delvin Miller Adios Pace for the Orchids at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows. Cannibal captured the other elimination.

Those two will be joined in next Saturday's \$350,000 final by the rest of the top four finishers in each elimination as well as the fifth-place finisher with higher career earnings.

Thus, in addition to It's My Show and Cannibal, the Adios final field will include Redwood Hanover, Seven Colors, Fulton, Ken Hanover, Ervin Hanover, Flite Craft and Bamboozler (who was the qualifying fifth-place finisher). Linda Toscano will be the only trainer with two finalists, sending out It's My Show and Fulton.

The draw for The Adios final post positions will take place Wednesday, with the connections of It's My Show and Cannibal choosing their post positions after a random draw to determine their selection order. All other post positions will be determined by random draw. The July 29 Adios Day card shapes up as a blockbuster, featuring five Grand Circuit stakes in addition to the Adios. First post that day is 11:45 a.m.

Ervin Hanover cut the fractions in his elimination, throwing down a swift 1:20.1 three-quarters while It's My Show followed patiently in third. But when Scott Zeron tipped him off the cones, the Sweet Lou-Put On A Show gelding left Ervin Hanover in his wake and defeated the closing Ken Hanover by a length while Ervin Hanover saved show.

The mile is the fastest ever by a 3-year-old gelding on a five-eighths-mile track, knocking a tick from the record shared by Wiggle It Jiggle It and Lucan Hanover.

The Pepsi North America Cup winner is now undefeated in seven outings this year with career earnings of \$536,215 after a winless freshman season. But he hadn't raced since the June 17 North America Cup, skipping the Meadowlands Pace by design, and Toscano, who conditions the homebred for Richard Young and Joanne Young, wondered if he'd be as tight as he needed to be.

"This was a really nerve-wracking race for me because it's chancy when you give one five weeks off," she said. "It was

what I wanted to do, I wanted to freshen him up, I want to try to keep him fresh for the whole season. Yet at the same time, you want him to be tight, happy, sound. The race was important because it's the Adios.

"I'm really happy that he didn't power move back to the lead because that would have created a really tough race for him today."

Cannibal suffered his only defeat of the year in the Meadowlands Pace final when he struggled to make up ground from the back of the pack. Though he hadn't been better than third at the quarter in any start this year, Yannick Gingras was determined to give him his chance this week, battling hard for the lead before yielding to Seven Colors. Winning trainer Nancy Takter said getting to the point early wasn't necessarily a key goal.

"This was a different race from last week," she said. "The flow just didn't develop in the Meadowlands Pace the way I would have liked. But he raced super; he just wasn't in a good spot. He can race on the pace, he can race off the pace. It's the first time he's ever been here, and he got around the track good. So, I think we'll keep things the same for next week."

Cannibal kicked clear in the lane and defeated Redwood Hanover by 1-1/2 lengths in 1:48.2, with Seven Colors third.

Diamond Creek Racing owns the homered son of Sweet Lou-No More Losses, who lifted his lifetime bankroll to \$194,978.

Takter said Cannibal is ticketed for Kentucky Sires Stakes as well as most of the rich late-season events.

Racing and Breeding's importance to PA Economy

Press Release

Pennsylvania Equine Coalition

Stakeholders in Pennsylvania's horse breeding and racing industry expressed their appreciation to Gov. Josh Shapiro, who presented his new administration's first proposed budget to the legislature last week. The proposed budget, unlike those presented by the prior administration, does not recommend any additional transfers of funding from the Race Horse Development Trust Fund (RHDTF), which serves as the major source of funding for breeding incentives and racing purses in the Commonwealth.

"Governor Shapiro's budget proposal signals his recognition of the importance of the racing and breeding sector to the overall state economy, and we thank him for his support," said Russell Williams, who serves as President of the Standardbred Breeders

Association of Pennsylvania (SBAP). "The equine sector is the second largest segment of Pennsylvania's overall agriculture industry, and we believe we are in an excellent position for continued growth. We look forward to working with Governor Shapiro and the legislature on initiatives that will strengthen Pennsylvania's breeding and racing sector and, in the process, benefit the broader agricultural industry."

"The support of the governor and legislature is very instrumental to the success of the breeding and racing industry in Pennsylvania," said Brian Sanfratello, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, which represents the state's Thoroughbred breeders. "Pennsylvania's breeding and racing industry is made up of many diverse small

businesses that contribute to jobs and the preservation of hundreds of thousands of acres of open space. Breeders, owners, and trainers in the racing industry are also significant drivers of other sectors of the agriculture industry, including hay, straw, grain, and mushroom farmers; feed mills and tack shops; and veterinarians. A strong, viable breeding and racing sector is an important part of ensuring the overall stability of the broader agricultural industry in Pennsylvania."

In addition to serving as president of the SBAP, Williams also serves as president of Hanover Shoe Farms, the largest Standardbred horse breeding farm in the world. Situated on 3,000 acres in Adams and York Counties, the operations of the 97-year-old

breeding farm underscore the important contributions of horse breeders throughout Pennsylvania to the overall state economy. At peak, over 1,000 horses reside at the farm, which are cared for by approximately 80 employees, which includes 40 families who live on the farm. Each year, Hanover alone is responsible for the purchase of 1,500 tons of hay and 1,500 tons of straw, much of which is sourced from local farmers. The farm contributes millions of dollars each year to the state's economy through the purchase of feed, farm machinery, fence boards, supplies, and equipment, as well as numerous contractors.

Collectively, the breeding and racing sector supports hundreds of small businesses and 23,000 family-sustaining jobs,

delivers a \$1.6 billion economic impact, generates \$69 million in annual tax revenue, and protects hundreds of thousands of acres of open space. The impact of the racing and breeding sector extends well beyond those who work at a racetrack or breed horses. Purse money earned by a horse enables the owner to buy hay and straw from farmers, feed from local feed mills, as well as pay the horse's jockey, trainer, blacksmith, groom, veterinarian, and equine dentist. In addition, countless small businesses in the manufacturing, retail and construction industries count horsemen and breeders among their major customers for horse trailers and vehicles, feed equipment, riding tack and other supplies, the construction or repair of barns and fencing, and more.

Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund Fact Sheet

- Pennsylvania horse racing supports the economy and protects farmland.
- Pennsylvania horse racing contributes \$1.6 billion in economic activity every year.
- 18 percent of the total acres in the agricultural preservation program are equine-related.
- The PA Gaming Act has increased jobs by 205 percent! Of those equine jobs, 23,028 are within the horse racing industry.
- Horse owners and trainers reinvested 89 percent (\$210 million) of monies paid from the Race Horse Development Fund into their local economies.

- Since expanding gaming, many PA farms have opened or grown and are home to about \$40 million in racehorses.



- Did you know the Pennsylvania equine community generates \$4 billion in annual economic activity?

- The PA horse racing industry generates \$1.6 billion in annual economic activity, more than a quadruple increase from 2002.
- Funding from the Race Horse Development Fund has encouraged new business and economic development in Pennsylvania.
- According to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, horse owners and trainers reinvested approximately 89 percent, or \$210 million, of monies paid from the Race Horse Development Fund into their local economies.

• Each year, Pennsylvania's agriculture and horse racing industries pour billions of dollars into Pennsylvania's economy and support tens of thousands of jobs.

• According to the PA Gaming Control Board, in 2014, revenue generated from slot machine gaming accounted for approximately 87 percent of all purses earned.

• Before Act 71, horse racing had a \$1 billion impact in the state. It now has a \$4 billion economic impact.

• The horse racing industry has a \$4 billion economic impact to equine industry in Pennsylvania.

• The Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund is a national example.

• There is no tax money used in the Race Horse Development Fund. The fund was created through slot generated money.



How to Bet

WIN
The horse must finish first to collect.

PLACE
The horse must finish either first or second to collect. Generally the payoff is less than a win payoff.

SHOW
The horse must finish either first, second or third to collect. Generally the payoff is less than for Win or Place.

DAILY DOUBLE
You must pick the winners of two consecutive races to collect. Most tracks have this bet on the first two races of the card. Some tracks also have this bet on the last two races of the card.

EXACTA
You win by picking the first two horses to cross the finish line in exact order.

TRIFECTA
You win by selecting the first three horses to cross the finish line in exact order. This payoff is generally higher than an Exacta, but is a tougher bet to win.

SUPERFECTA
You win by selecting the first four horses to cross the finish line in exact order.

PICK 3 / PICK 4 / PICK 5 / PICK 6
Must pick winners of the number of consecutive races stated in the bet's name. For example a Pick 3 is for three consecutive races, a Pick 4 is for four consecutive races, etc.

You can increase your chances of winning by using boxes and wheels. Here is how they work:

BOX
This wager combines your selections to finish first and second in every possible combination. Example: If you be a "Trifecta box 3-4-5," you win if those three horses finish in any order first, second and third. This bet can be used with Exactas, Trifectas and Superfectas; it can be wagered in \$1 increments and at lower increments at some tracks.

WHEEL
Combines one horse with all the others in a race. Example: If you wager an "Exacta wheel 5-All," you win if the five finishes first no matter whom finishes seconds. This bet can be used with all bets except Win, Place and Show and can be wagered in \$1 increments.

PART-WHEEL
Lets you pick only the combinations you want. This is often used by very experienced bettors.

Example: If you bet a "Trifecta part wheel - 3 with 1, 2, and 4, with 1, 2, and 4," you win if the 3 wins and 1, 2 or 4 finish second and third. This bet can be used with all bets except Win, Place and Show, an can be wagered in \$1 increments.

In Remembrance of Danny Abraham



1959-2023

On July 15, 2023, Daniel "Danny" Abraham passed away unexpectedly. Danny was a Canonsburg resident who was loved and admired by so many people in Washington County and beyond. His joy was infectious. On behalf of his friends in Washington County, farewell good friend. Your smile will live on with us all.

“Line ‘em Up” A ride in the Starters Car at The Meadows Racetrack

By Mark Finfrock

The 57th Annual Delvin Miller Adios Pace for the Orchids is underway at The Meadows and the Weekly Recorder was on hand to learn about the drivers, starters, and starting car operation.

The Mobile Gate or Gate Car

In 1937 Steve Phillips, a veteran starter had an idea after watching cinematographers shoot head – on footage of races from the back of a moving truck. His idea was an automobile equipped with a barrier or gate behind which the horses moved rapidly and equally to the start where the car would speed away leaving the horses to begin their race. The starter can then begin calling for horses to line up according to their barrier positions behind the numbers on the mobile arm. The starter sits in the rear of the mobile vehicle facing the gate and the horses. The vehicle driver simply steers during this operation with acceleration under the control of the starter who ensures the gate arms are closed, then speeds away at release point. The Driver will then steer to the outside of the track. It is the starter’s responsibility to ensure all horses leave in line from their designated starting position and in gait.



Judge Joe Denman

Let Us Meet the Starter

Joe Denman is originally from Piqua Ohio. He is a diehard Ohio State fan, judging by his wristwatch, ball cap and the banter between my colleague who was present and is a University of Michigan Fan. Joe is the Starter at The Meadows Racetrack. And as of the day of this interview, is marking his twelfth year as a Starter with The Meadows. Joe told me he has been around horses for an exceptionally long time. “The year I was born, my grandfather got into owning horses. My father and Uncles got into them as well. My brother trained and drove a little bit. As I got older, I helped my uncles, training and driving for them. Then eventually after some time, I got to be a starter. I got my starters license in 2002.”

I asked him if his was a family business, “No” he said. “I mean, the sport in general is a family business in a lot of ways. There are a lot of families in the business and that is usually how it is generation after generation that keeps the business itself going.” Joe talked about how a person may start out as a driver or starter by describing his hometown county fairs.

“Well, back in Ohio we have matinees at the county fairgrounds,” he explained, “where they train the babies (younger horses) and that is a good place to get drivers some experience because it is a slow pace around the track and the horses get experience with that. Also, the gate driver gets experience operating the gate too. So, places like that are where someone would get a start.”

“Here at the meadows,” he continued, “we do qualifiers every Tuesday and afterwards we will have gate schooling. This is where we will bring out the horses that may have trouble behind the gate or young horses that have not even seen the starting gate (schoolers), they will bring them out and let them go around the track a couple of times. Nothing like what we would do in an actual race but get them used to things first.”

Joe explained that a new driver at the meadows would start out doing schoolers then go on to qualifiers. From there if they are safe enough, drivers will be allowed to run the actual races. This is the same for Starters also.

“However,” Joe continued, “In order to become a starter, you need to have at least a minimum of one year as a driver, driving the starter gate car with an instructor. Then you go on to the written exam through the U.S.T.A. (United States Trotters Association). When schooling they are driving 15 to 20 MPH. Speeds will increase slightly to operate the gate wings but, training is at a slow driving speed.”

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starter, and the starter warns the riders, and they brace themselves and hope for the best. Which would be either the animal backtracks off the track or is totally missed altogether. Remember, the accelerator pedal is connected to the throttle lever in the back with the Starter. To quickly slam on the brakes would be disastrous. “I communicated to Joe one time when a deer jumped onto the track, I said DEER, DEER. Theres a Deer coming up on the right” Joe was able to slightly slow down to try and avoid a hit. But it jumped back off the track and Joe regained speed again. And we just continued. Now, he will let the riders know of course. He has a microphone and speakers at the back.” “Joe will know if there is a problem because he will hear me yelling!” Polly assured me. Communication is key between the driver and the starter. Polly calls off the miles per hour as Joe pushes throttle. Joe is making sure the horses are all in line. Polly is keeping eyes open on both sides of the vehicle and the front.

The Gate

Pictured is the control panel for the gates. The control switch is operated with one hand while the accelerator lever (pictured) is controlled with the other; simultaneously as needed.

The Ride

What took place next was a surprise and an exciting ending for this interview. Remember that colleague I mentioned at the beginning of this article? He is none other than the Weekly Recorder editor W. R. Smith. He and I climb into the Starter car as we are about to see and experience firsthand how this operation is managed.

Colleague up front with Polly, and I positioned in the back beside Joe, who is advising where I can and where I cannot put my camera. I must keep all areas in his immediate and peripheral eyesight unobstructed. I set my position. Joe speaks into the microphone advising everyone to get into position.

We are now motoring at a nice steady seven miles per hour.

I positioned my camera and started filming.

I am concentrating on a couple of the horses and already, I am elated at how amazing this is.

The vehicle accelerates.

“20!” Polly shouts back to us. This is great! I shout to myself watching the horses trot along like they are primed and ready to take off.

“25!” Polly cries out.

By now we are moving at a higher rate of speed, and I do not know what it is because the gates are closing, we are moving ahead of the horses.

AND WE ARE OFF!

Polly is staying true to her word on where she must be in the driver’s lane.

Here come the racers!

The sounds of the hooves hitting the track in that classic gallop sound you hear in the movies.

The voices of the jockey yawing and whips cracking. The jingle of the strap buckles and the harness wheels rolling over the limestone track. I have a back seat view in an official race at The Meadows!

As we came to the finish line, we slowed down and veered off to the right of the track, again, just like Polly said we would, and the riders all slowed down and made their way back to the paddock. I do not know



Racer

what speed we were officially traveling at, but I can say, at least my pulse was racing significantly faster than normal! And for that feeling of excitement, I must thank two of the most professional and extraordinary people I had the pleasure of meeting, AT THE MEADOWS!!!



Joe and Polly by the starter car

You can tell that Joe and Polly genuinely enjoy their roles at The Meadows. Their attention to safety, following of procedure and strong teamwork ensure a safe start and a safe race for all. From the grandstands the starter car looks like a simple drive around the track. But it is much more than that. And Joe and Polly are consummate professionals who manage it well.

Win a Ride in the Starters Car!

Look inside this edition to find an entry for a chance to win a ride in the Starters Car. Fill out the information and send it in to The Weekly Recorder. One lucky reader will win a ride in the car with Joe and Polly! Entrants must be 16 years of age or older.



Car driver Polly Blackhurst

with training the standardbreds, Polly and her husband had some thoroughbreds and being an experienced rider, applied for the position and was hired. Polly went on to explain that in 1996, she along with three other Outriders were featured in Hoof Beats magazine on the topic of Outriders.

“Now to drive the starting gate” Polly explained “you must maintain your position. You cannot be in, and you cannot be out. You must be in what I call or consider the four-horse position the entire way around. Then when I say NOW, we accelerate away from the horses and then the wings (Gate) come in.”

If those wings don’t come in, you have to stomp on that gas and stay way in front of the whole field, in your position, because you have...” She paused and brought both arms up spread apart, “the wings on both sides are open and you must keep going like that until after the race. Then you can get them closed.

In case you are wondering, there is a backup vehicle should any mechanical malfunctions of the gate or even the vehicle itself occur.

Polly said that the driver must not only maintain her position, gate awareness, position of the horses within her purview and speed, but the outer areas of the track as well. As in, are there any wild animals wandering onto the track?

“The job, if you know how to drive and your sentience, because when you...when you got a field of nine behind you, you cannot make a mistake. You have got horses on the wings pushing, you got to go, if Bambi runs in front of you...” She snaps her finger and continues “you’re hitting it.”

Regardless of what it may be (within reason of course) the driver does not brake for anything. You cannot stop. Should an animal get on the track, the driver warns the

The Adios Pace – Race by Race

56 Years of The Pace for the Orchids

ADIOS 1 - Romulus Hanover - 1967 This Adios came down to Romulus Hanover and Best Of All. Romulus Hanover almost scratched from the championship because of a calcium deposit on his left front leg. But on this particular day the decision was made to race, and Billy Haughton's colt out maneuvered Best Of All in 2:00.3 to win the inaugural Adios.

ADIOS 2 - Bye And Large - 1968 Billy Haughton was back, this time with an entry, Bye And Large and Rum Customer. Haughton had George Sholty drive Bye And Large, considered to be the weaker of the two. Haughton guessed wrong. Bye And Large won both heats. Sholty had a plane to catch and couldn't bring the horse back to the winner's circle. Somewhat embarrassed, Haughton had to do it and he accepted the trophy.

ADIOS 3 - Laverne Hanover - 1969 Billy Haughton was back in the winner's circle again but not without incident. Laverne Hanover was the favorite in the first heat, but after being tapped with the whip in the stretch, he went off stride and finished last. Laverne Hanover came back to win the second heat and then won the race-off from Kat Byrd. It was the first time that Haughton had used the whip on the horse. Haughton also said it would be the last!

ADIOS 4 - Most Happy Fella - 1970 Most Happy Fella And Columbia George won the two heats of the Adios. They were ordered back for a raceoff. In the raceoff, Columbia George dropped in behind Most Happy Fella, trailed him all the way and made his move in the stretch but couldn't make up the ground, however. The time was 2:19.1 with the last quarter in 31 seconds.

ADIOS 5 - Albatross - 1971 Albatross toyed with the field in the first division, making his move in the stretch and winning easily in 1:58.3. In the second heat it was all Albatross again, this time in 1:59.3. The combined time was a stake record. Albatross was one of the greatest and he let it be known during this Adios. He would later become the sport's top pacing sire of all time.

ADIOS 6 - Deat Heat - 1972 Strike Out, driven by Keith Waples, and Jay Time, with Gene Riegle aboard, came up with a big surprise. They finished in a dead heat, one of the few in stake racing history and the only one ever in the Adios. Strangely enough, neither won a heat in the event - not even the final heat! Strike Out finished second and Jay Time third in their respective elimination heats.

ADIOS 7 - Ricci Reenie Time - 1973 Ricci Reenie Time looked unbeatable during his two-year-old career, but as a three-year-old he simply hadn't accomplished much. In fact, he didn't have a win in nine races. But when he rolled into The Meadows, he was ready. He won going away in 2:00.2 for Harold (Sonny) Dancer Jr.

ADIOS 8 - Armbro Omaha - 1974 Delvin Miller founded the Adios but never won it. He came as close as you could in 1974 but fell short by a whisker. Billy Haughton won another Adios with his horse Armbro Omaha. Delvin's horse, Tarport Low, was less than two inches behind Billy Haughton's horse at the finish.

ADIOS 9 - Nero - 1975 Nero and Joe O'Brien won the first heat victory in 1:58.3, while Whata Baron captured the second heat in 157.2. O'Brien's horse was better prepared for the final however, and Nero won it in 157.3.

ADIOS 10 - Armbro Ranger - 1976 Injured in a sire stake at The Meadows several weeks earlier, it was unclear just how well Armbro Ranger would perform in this tenth Adios. Armbro Ranger beat back a late challenge by Richmond, the favorite, to win the first heat in 1:56.3., a track record. Keystone Ore won the second heat with Stanley Dancer in a world record time of 1:56. The final was a classic with Dancer swinging his horse wide at the top of the stretch and pulling ahead of Armbro Ranger and Joe O'Brien for a few strides. Then, Armbro Ranger fought back and picked up the win. The time was 1:56, equaling the world record.

ADIOS 11 - Governor Skipper - 1977 Governor Skipper and John Chapman didn't let the world record from the previous season last very long. He won the first heat in 1:54.4. Nat Lobell won the second heat in 1:56. Governor Skipper took charge in the final and defeated Nat Lobell by a few inches following a stirring stretch duel.

ADIOS 12 - Abercrombie - 1978 Falcon Almahurst was the people's choice this day, and the railbirds weren't too concerned with Glen Garnsey and Abercrombie. But when the dust had settled, Abercrombie made believers out of everyone, winning the Adios in 1:56.1 and 1:55.

ADIOS 13 - Hot Hitter - 1979 Sonsam was rated just about as unbeatable as any three-year-old colt when he stopped by The Meadows for this Adios. It rained all day, and it was muddy. Whether the off-track, or just an off day, this Adios proved to be the downfall of a great colt driven by George Sholty. Hot Hitter and Herve Filion won the first heat in 156.3 while Sonsam was pinned in at the rail and couldn't shake free. In the second heat, Sonsam broke stride briefly, tried to make up the ground but couldn't and Hot Hitter won again. It was a memorable Adios and Herve Filion standing in the bike in the winner's circle is a moment frozen in time in Adios history.

ADIOS 14 - Storm Damage - 1980 Storm Damage was foaled about the time a tornado hit the area of Castleton Farm at Lexington, Kentucky. Thus, came his name and thus came a great horse. Storm Damage paced up a storm and won convincingly, putting eight new records in the books. Joe O'Brien won his third and final Adios and also set a world record with Storm Damage of 1:53.2.

ADIOS 15 - Landslide - 1981 Landslide, a colt who had competed in only two races prior to The Adios, made a shambles of the field. He surprised everyone in the grandstand and a lot of horsemen as well. He won two straight heats in 1:56.1 and 1:57.2 on a sloppy track. Eddie Lohmeyer steered the horse to victory in the richest Adios yet, worth \$155,000.

ADIOS 16 - Higher Power - 1982 Higher Power, a little-known colt coming off a ninth place finish a week earlier, surprised the 10,000 people in attendance as he captured the 19382 Adios. Sent off at 27-1, he roared through the stretch and overhauled Merger to gain the victory in 154 flat. The time would be the fastest of the year for any three-year-old colt on a five-eighths mile track. For Higher Power, the Adios would be his only major stake win. A week later, a leg fracture forced him to the sideline.

ADIOS 17 - Ralph Hanover - 1983 Ralph Hanover dominated the opposition in the 1983 Adios. He tallied straight heat wins in 1:56 and 1:54.4. The colt would continue his winning ways through the year and would become the pacing triple crown winner. Driven to victory by Ron Waples, Ralph Hanover circled the field in the final turn and won the first heat with ease. In the final, Ralph Hanover moved early and no one else was a factor.

ADIOS 18 - Andrej - 1984 It was the first of the modern day Adios races contested at night. It rained all evening but Andrej was not troubled. In the first heat, the colt outdistanced Holmes Hanover in 1:56.4. John Campbell would post a better time in the final, winning in 1:54.2.

ADIOS 19 - Marauder - 1985 The great Nihilator visited The Meadows and was the heavy favorite going into this Adios but Marauder would change all of that by the end of the day. Marauder, driven by Dick Richards Jr. went out and tied the existing world record on a five-eighths mile track of 1:52.1. In doing so, he upset Nihilator and Bill O'Donnell. Nihilator recovered to win the second heat but the horse did not have the capacity to come back for the race-off. Thus, Marauder was declared the winner after a walkover in 2:27.1 as Nihilator bowed out of the final heat.

ADIOS 20 - Barberry Spur - 1986 No local colt had ever won the Adios. There was great hope and expectation as Barberry Spur entered this Adios as a favorite. Owned by Roy Davis of Pittsburgh and the

Barberry Farms of Sewickley, the colt circled the track in 1:53.3 to win the first division of the stake for Dick Stillings. Division two went to Tyler's Mark and John Campbell. Barberry Spur went to the front in the final, a lead that he would not give up. It was a major victory for Barberry Spur and the winner's circle scene was one of the largest in the history of the track. The final heat time was 1:53.1.

ADIOS 21 - Run The Table - 1987 In 1987, Jaguar Spur was definitely the hometown favorite and on this particular day the local colt was in top form. But asking Dick Stillings' horse to win the Adios just like stablemate Barberry Spur did a year earlier proved to be a bit too much. Jaguar Spur won the first division in 1:53.2. In Division two, Run The Table, driven by John Campbell was the heavy favorite. He cruised to victory in 1:54 for driver Campbell. Jaguar Spur put in a game effort but Run The Table was too tough. He won the Adios in 1:53.2.

ADIOS 22 - Camtastic - 1988 There were three divisions of the stake in 1988, carrying the largest purse ever. Dare You To And John Campbell won the first division in 1:52.4. The second division was won by Camtastic and Bill O'Donnell in 1:54.2, while the third division went to Albert Albert and Chris Boring in 1:54.3. Camtastic roared out of the starting gate and won the final in 1:53.3. The news of this Adios centered on the large field, the large purse, the exciting race and the extreme heat, which saw temperatures near 100 degrees.

ADIOS 23 - Goalie Jeff - 1989 Goalie Jeff and Mike LaChance dominated this Adios but once again the Stillings Stable was back in contention. Roy Davis entered Kentucky Spur, and despite a nagging foot problem, the horse won the second division in 1:55.2. The first division was won by Kick Up A Storm and Ron Waples in 1:54.3. The third division was won by Barefoot Hanover and Dave Rankin in 1:55.2. Goalie Jeff didn't figure in the divisional races, but he did figure in the final, winning it in 1:54.2 with LaChance in the bike. It was one of the few times in Adios history that a colt would fail to win in the divisional races but would come back to dominate the final

ADIOS 24 - Beach Towel - 1990 Beach Towel on his way to "Horse of the Year" honors won the 1990 Adios over In The Pocket. Beach Towel, driven by Ray Remmen, posted a winning time of 1:51.4 on a clear afternoon. Although Beach Towel won the Adios trophy it was really in The Pocket and John Campbell who stunned the racing crowd. In The Pocket paced a mile in 1:50.4 to win the first division. The time was a world record on a five-eighths mile track.

ADIOS 25 - Precious Bunny - 1991 Artsplace and Precious Bunny were considered the dominant horses going into the Silver Anniversary Adios. In the first division, Artsplace defeated the favored Precious Bunny in a world record-equaling time of 1:50.4. In the second division, Three Wizzards and William Gale defeated Nuke Of Earl in 1:54.3, but the final set up as a showdown between Precious Bunny and Artsplace. Despite his defeat in the first division, the wagering still favored Precious Bunny. In another mile clocked in 1:50.4. Precious Bunny was the winner.

ADIOS 26 - Direct Flight - 1992 Direct Flight and John Campbell won the Adios, winning his elimination round and then holding off Shore Patrol and Michel LaChance in the final. Direct Flight came into The Adios as one of the favorites and had earned over \$205,000 during his 3-year-old season prior to The Adios. His time of 1:52 in the Adios final was a lifetime mark. He was able to conserve a bit in his divisional battle, winning that mile in 1:53.4.

ADIOS 27 - Miles McCool - 1993 Riyadh and Jim Morrill Jr. set a world record in the second of the two elimination divisions, pacing a mile in 1:50.1. The mark stands as the fastest mile ever by a horse on a five-eighths mile track. Riyadh stole the show at The Adios with driver Jim Morrill saying that he felt as though Riyadh could have gone in 1:48 if pressured. The other division of The Adios was won by Mystical Prince and Ron Pierce in 1:51. In the final, Riyadh was sitting third and was in perfect position to win. However, Mystical Prince who was on the front, jumped a shadow causing a pile-up at the three-quarter pole. No horses or drivers were injured but Riyadh was caught up in the accident allowing longshot Miles McCool and John Campbell to win the race. Riyadh made up ground in the stretch but by this time the trophy was lost, and he had to settle for second. The time of the final was 1:51.2.

ADIOS 28 - Cam's Card Shark - 1994 Cam's Card Shark won the first of two divisions as expected while Historic and Doug Brown upset Magical Mike and Jack Moiseyev in the second division. Cam's Card Shark paced in 1:50.4 on the sunny and warm afternoon while Historic won in 1:51 flat. Despite finishing second in the elimination, Magical Mike was still considered the main opponent to Cam's Card Shark in the final. The excitement was over early as Magical Mike made a break in the first turn. Cam's Card Shark coasted to an easy win in 1:51.1, giving driver John Campbell another Adios win.

ADIOS 29 - David's Pass - 1995 David's Pass captured the 1995 Adios, but the race will be remembered as a year that local horses held their own against the sport's best. Neutrality, driven by Dave Palone, finished second to David's Pass in both the first elim and the final. Nick's Fantasy, driven by Bob Ritchie, won the second elim and finished a strong third in the 1:51.4 final despite never seeing the rail. For John Campbell, driver of David's Pass, it was his fourth consecutive Adios win.

ADIOS 30 - Electric Yankee - 1996 For the second straight year, trainer Brett Pelling sent the Adios winner postward, but, as in 1995, a local horse grabbed much of the attention. As Electric Yankee returned to the winner's circle following his 1:52.1 win in the final heat, the crowd was busy cheering for Satin Town and driver Bill Zandt, who led throughout the mile and was caught in the final strides. While Pelling extended his win streak to two Adios races, John Campbell's win streak ended as Mike LaChance drove lightly raced upset winner Electric Yankee to victory.

ADIOS 31 - Legacy Of Power - 1997 Legacy Of Power, trained by Jerry Ross Sr. of Warren, OH and driven by his son Dan, became the second locally-connected winner of the race, which was renamed The Delvin Miller Adios in honor of the race's late founder. In reality, Legacy Of Power was not the fastest horse in the final heat. Dream Away, driven by Ron Pierce, crossed the wire five lengths ahead of Ross, but was disqualified for interference with race favorite Gothic Dream, who along with Legacy Of Power recorded a victory in the elimination heats. Legacy Of Power was credited with the time of 1:52.1.

ADIOS 32 - Artist Stena - 1998 Artist Stena, owned by Montreal's Ecurie Stena and trained by N. J. Corley entered the Adios with but a pair of victories over two seasons and 17 career starts. He won as a freshman, taking home the honors in the New Jersey Futurity but his sole 1998 win came in an Open at The Meadowlands. Artist Stena took the honors in the first of three Adios divisions in the good time of 1:52.1 for regular driver Mike LaChance. However, in the final Luc Ouelette inherited the drive on Artist Stens and the pair went on to score an upset in 1:51.1 to secure their spot in the Adios record book.

ADIOS 33 - Washington VC - 1999 Washington VC poses in the winner's circle with race fans while Ladbroke officials present the trophy and blanket of orchids to the 1999 Adios Champ, who was driven to victory by Dave Palone. Meadows' driver Dave Palone steers Washington VC to a victory in the 33rd edition of the Coors Delvin Miller Adios.

ADIOS 34 - Riverboat King - 2000 Powerful favorites ruled in the two elimination divisions of Adios 34. Ain't No Stopn Him commanded Division 1 when he went on a wire-to-wire romp from post one to complete the mile in 1:51.4, returning a modest \$2.80 for his venture.

The Adios Pace – Race by Race

56 Years of The Pace for the Orchids

Riverboat King, Western Millennium and The Blue Pan Group completed the top four and earned spots in the final heat. Division two went to another who scored at 40 cents on the dollar, Life's Not Fair. John Campbell picked up his second division win of the afternoon, matching his wire-to-wire effort in Division 1, with a slightly slower 1:53 clocking. Allie's Western closed stoutly from far back to earn the place honors. Dream Work finished third, Life Moves On fourth to earn the last of the final heat positions. In the final, division winners Life's Not Fair and Ain't No Stopn Him dueled for the early lead, but Ain't No Stopn Him took the lead at the quarter and stepped off brisk splits, recording a half in 54.4 and three-quarters in 1:23. Turning for home, though, Campbell's 3-10 choice tired and Riverboat King, who entered the final as the 10-1 third choice, moved outside to earn a neck win in 1:51.4 to become the 34th Adios winner. Ain't No Stopn Him finished a neck back in second, while Dream Work completed the top three.

ADIOS 35 - Pine Valley - 2001 The Coors Delvin Miller Adios drew 19 horses to its 35th edition. Separated into three divisions, two field of six and one field of seven completed elimination heats in races 9,10,11. Fully Loaded and LCB won two of the three divisions as favorites in 1:51.1 and 1:51.2 while Ready Cash won the middle division as the second choice in 1:51.3. The top nine finishers in the eliminations returned for the Final in Race 15. LCB went to the post in the final as the favorite, but he was never a factor in the final. On The Attack with Mike LaChance taking over the drive in the final went to the half in 56.4 and continued a moderate tempo to three-quarters in 1:23.3. Ready Cash was the first to move late in the third quarter. He was followed by Oaks Enforcer while Peruvian Hanover and Pine Valley stayed at the rail. Turning for home, On The Attack tired, Peruvian Hanover moved outside and Pine Valley chose the inside path, which opened in time to allow him to sprint home the best of the nine in the final heat. Pine Valley and Brian Sears won Adios 35 in 1:51.4. The complete order of finish was Pine Valley, Peruvian Hanover, On The Attack, LCB, Full Of Fun, Ready Cash, Whosurboy, Fully Loaded, and Oaks Enforcer.

ADIOS 36 - Million Dollar Cam - 2002 A total of 23 horses competed in the 36th edition of the Coors Delvin Miller Adios. The first division had eight horses, none faster than Monsoon Hall and driver Eric Ledford. Ledford earned his first career Adios victory in his first start in the Adios with Monsoon Hall who won in a time of 1:52. The second division was knocked down to seven horses with the scratch of Rounder. Soho driven by Richard Silverman won the division in 1:50.2. The win gave Silverman his first Adios victory as well. The third elimination was won by Million Dollar Cam and John Campbell. The son of Cam's Card Shark had a rough overland trip but prevailed by a head in 1:51.4. To the final where entry mates Soho, Kilowatt and Monsoon Hall went off as the 1-2 favorite. Million Dollar Cam and Brad's Gold teamed up as entries and were the public's second choice. As it turns out, the public knew what they were talking about as Million Dollar Cam and Campbell won the \$300,000 Adios Final in 1:50.4. Entry mates Soho and Kilowatt finished second and third - local interest Jo Pa's Bench Mark closed to finish fourth for Ray Paver. Million Dollar Cam has earned over \$880,000 lifetime. He is owned by Jeffrey Snyder and Peter Heffering of New York and Ontario.

ADIOS 37 - Armbr Animat - 2003 John Campbell added to his prestige in the Coors Delvin Miller Adios by winning his 23rd Adios with Armbr Animat. Campbell is first in wins by more than double of any other driver and has over \$1,800,000 in Adios purse earnings. The first division was won by Iced Yankee and David Miller in 1:52. Miller took the lead past the first quarter mile and never looked back. Tarpaulin Hanover finished second and Nvincbl Artist finished third. Dave Palone got his second career Adios victory with General Challenge in the second division. Palone chose to come from off the pace and won by a neck in 1:52.1. Whatanartist finished second. The Globe finished third. The third division was won by Jr Mint and Paul MacDonell in 1:52.1. The win was the first Adios victory in MacDonell's career. Wolfdancer Mindale closed to finish second. Armbr Animat and Campbell finished third. Armbr Animat closed from eighth at the half to win the Adios by a length in 1:52.2 with Campbell aboard. The 15-1 long shot had the opportunity to close after fast early fractions [26.2 - 54.4] were set by Iced Yankee and Wolfdancer Mindale. General Challenge finished second with Palone driving. The Globe finished third for driver Luc Ouellette at 46-1.

ADIOS 38 - Timesareachanging - 2004 The much anticipated 38th edition of the Coors Delvin Miller Adios did not disappoint at all. Great weather and exceptional horses resulted in a fantastic Adios that saw the overall track record get equaled in the final by Timesareachanging. The first division was won by locally owned and trained Georgia Pacific driven by Brian Sears. As the favorite he delivered in a gate-to-wire victory timed in 1:50. Driven To Win finished second with David Miller. Western Terror finished third for Ron Pierce. Locally owned and trained Basil Hanover won the second division in 1:50.3 for driver Mike Wilder. A fast close down the lane gave him the victory by a nose over Geartogear and Pierce. Spirit Of A Shark and George Brennan finished third. The third division showed a powerful effort by Timesareachanging and driver Ron Pierce. The son of Cam's Card Shark has thrived in his three-year old campaign for the Perfect World Enterprises. Harry Hornet finished second for Miller. The Preacher Pan finished third at 99-1 for driver Luc Ouellette. The final showcased a head-to-head duel with Georgia Pacific and Timesareachanging who were sitting one-two throughout. Georgia Pacific set fractions of 26.3 - 54 - 1:21.4 with Sears aboard. Pierce sat patiently with Timesareachanging. He came to the outside down the lane and pulled away to win by two lengths in a record setting 1:49.3. Georgia Pacific held on for second. Driven To Win and David Miller closed to finish third.

ADIOS 39 - Village Jolt - 2005 With the leading contender for three-year-old colt of the year Rocknroll Hanover passing on the Adios, stablemate Village Jolt stole the show in the 39th Annual Coors Delvin Miller Adios The Pace for the Orchids. Last year, driver Ron Pierce won the Adios with Timesareachanging. This year he won it with Village Jolt who is owned by Jeffrey Snyder of New York, New York and Jules and Arlene Siegel of New Hope, Pennsylvania. Both owners have won the Adios in prior years. It was the fourth Adios victory for trainer Brett Pelling. The native of New Zealand also trains Timesareachanging, and he won the 1995 Adios with David's Pass and the 1996 version with Electric Yankee. With only 13 horses entered only two divisions were needed to filter the final down to eight horses. The first division was won by the final winner Village Jolt. With Pierce in the bike the three-year-old set fractions of 27.1, 56, 1:24 and clipped the final timer in 1:51.3 in a wire-to-wire victory. Mega Hall and Tony Hall closed for second, Load The Dice was third, and Kublai Pan closed from sixth to advance to the final. The second division was more of a shocker as Realscape and Brian Sears came from last to stun Dave Palone and the favored P-FortySeven. Realscape beat P-Forty-Seven by a nose in 1:51.2 to advance to the final. Andreoli Hanover was third, and Speed Demon also advanced to the final. Realscape is trained by Ross Croghan. The final was won in the second quarter mile when Pierce and Village Jolt put up a time of 56.1. The 29.3 second quarter breather was plenty enough to give Village Jolt the victory. They hit the three-quarters in 1:24.1 and as they came home P-Forty-Seven ducked into the lightning lane, but he couldn't gain on Village Jolt as he tripped the timer at 1:52.1 to win the Coors Delvin Miller Adios. P-Forty-Seven finished second for Palone and Realscape settled for third.

ADIOS 40 - Cactus Creek - 2006 Dismissed at 20-1, Cactus Creek saves ground until crunch time, then powers through the stretch to win in 1:50.2 for Mike Lachance and trainer Erv Miller. It's the first Adios victory for Miller and the third for Lachance, who gets the assignment when John Campbell chooses Feelin Friskie over Cactus Creek for the final. Feelin Friskie finishes eighth.

ADIOS 41 - May June Character - 2007 Seventy-one-year-old trainer Mickey Burke had never won a Pace for the Orchids at his home track; when he finally breaks through, he does it in style. Not only does May June Character triumph in 1:51.1 with George Brennan at the helm, but Won The West and Pan Giovanni also finish second and third, respectively, giving Burke an Adios training sweep. Owned by Sandy Goldfarb and A Bunch Of Characters II, May June Character would be named 2007 Pennsylvania Horse of the Year.

ADIOS 42 - Shadow Play - 2008 Shadow Play goes a world record 1:48.2 in his elimination, then comes back to win the final in 1:50.4 for David Miller. Adios 43 is historic for several reasons. It's the first to feature eliminations and the final on separate days, and it's the only Adios to be staged by a track other than The Meadows. Due to racing construction at The Meadows, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs hosts the event.

ADIOS 43 - Vintage Master - 2009 The 2009 Adios looked as if it might be a coronation for Well Said, who had won the North America Cup and the Meadowlands Pace and set a Meadows track record of 1:49 in his Adios elimination. But when Well Said drew post 9 for the final, the race that followed was among the most competitive and entertaining in Adios history. Vintage Master, a 13-1 long shot still eligible for NW2, got up late to win for driver Daniel Dube and trainer Jimmy Takter. Well Said was parked the first half in 53.3 and finished a game third.

ADIOS 44 - Delmarvalous - 2010 Passed and apparently exhausted from leading the field through a grueling three-quarters in 1:20.3, 17-1 Delmarvalous reached deep, found more and won the final of the 2010 Delvin Miller Adios in improbable, dramatic fashion. Six horses were within 1-1/4 lengths of Delmarvalous, but he and Brian Sears were able to hold off Versado, the 7-5 favorite, by 1/2 length. Pang Shui was third. George Teague, Jr. trains Delmarvalous for Badlands Racing, Elmer Fannin and Howard Dorfman.

ADIOS 45 - ALSACE HANOVER - 2011 In his elimination, Alsace Hanover set a world record for 3-year-old geldings - and he wasn't done yet. He blazed to victory in the final in 1:48.3, fastest ever paced by a sophomore gelding on a five-eighths-mile track. In doing so, he defeated Custard The Dragon, who established a world record for 3-year-old colts in his Adios elim, and gave Ron Pierce his third blunder of orchids. Pierce triumphed previously with Timesareachanging (2004) and Village Jolt (2005).

ADIOS 46 - Bolt The Duer - 2012 Entering the Adios, Bolt The Duer was suffering from "seconditis," with place finishes in the Art Rooney, the Hempt final and his Adios elimination. But in the final of the "Pace for the Orchids," he sat the pocket behind the unprecedented fractions thrown down by A Rocknroll Dance - three-quarters in 1:19.2 - shot the Lightning Lane and triumphed at 11-1 in 1:47.4, fastest mile ever on a five-eighths-mile track. Mark MacDonald drove the son of Ponder-Wonderbolt for trainer Peter Foley and owner All Star Racing Inc. Amazingly, A Rocknroll Dance saved place.

ADIOS 47 - Sunfire Blue Chip - 2013 On paper, it's a tight Adios with many horses with chances. But apparently Sunfire Blue Chip doesn't read the papers. The son of American Ideal-Shot Togo bursts to the lead with a quarter-pole move and his little trouble holding them off in 1:48.3. It's the first Adios final win for Yannick Gingras, the second for trainer Jimmy Takter.

ADIOS 48 - McWicked - 2014 Confronted by a challenger who would not go away, 1-5 favorite McWicked dug in, blazed the back half in an amazing :53.2 and captured the Pace for the Orchids in 1:49.1. With the victory, Casie Coleman, who conditioned McWicked for SSG Stables, became the first female trainer to win an Adios final.

ADIOS 49 - Dude's The Man - 2015 He skipped shadows for most of the mile, but when Dude's The Man turned for home, a cloud cover blocked the sun. Said winning driver Corey Callahan: "Someone was looking out for me in the last turn. The clouds covered the sun, and he paced right home." Dude's The Man triumphed in 1:48.4, giving Callahan and trainer Jessica Okusko their first orchids.

ADIOS 50 - Racing Hill - 2016 Racing Hill survived brutal fractions in the slop to capture the 50th edition of the Pace for the Orchids and give Brett Miller and trainer Tony Alagna their first Adios wins. Alarmed by the opening-half fractions of 25.2/52.1, Miller was anything but confident of victory. "When I saw the time flash up," he said, "I wanted to throw up."

ADIOS 51 - Fear The Dragon - 2017 In a battle of harness racing's top two-ranked horses, No. 1 Fear The Dragon wore down Huntsville with a prolonged, dramatic first-over move that earned him the orchids in 1:49.1. It was the third Adios championship for David Miller, who triumphed previously with Shadow Play (2008) and McWicked (2014), the first for trainer Brian Brown. With the win, Fear The Dragon became a millionaire, boosting his career bankroll to \$1,152,844.

ADIOS 52 - Dorsoduro Hanover - 2018 Dorsoduro Hanover gave The Meadows-based trainer Ron Burke, perennially the sport's leading conditioner, his first blanket of Adios orchids as the head of his stable, although he was assistant for his father, Mickey, when their horse, May June Character, won the 2007 Adios. Matt Kakaley provided the Somebeachsomewhere-Deer Valley Miss gelding a significant 28.3 second-panel breather after a 26.3 opening-quarter burst to the lead. He triumphed in 1:50.1 over American History and Hitman Hill. Said Burke: "We have a big crew, and to me, that's what it's about: doing it together." In that core group are the owners of Dorsoduro Hanover: Burke Racing Stable; Silva, Purnel & Libby; Weaver Brussemi LLC and Wingfield Five.

ADIOS 53 - Southwind Ozzi - 2019 Southwind Ozzi came into the race as the horse to beat, and he lived up to all expectations. Driven by Brian Sears for trainer Bill Mackenzie, paced the second-fastest mile in Adios history, winning in 1:48 by a margin of 7 lengths. Prince Of Tides, who like Southwind Ozzi had won an elimination race a week earlier, finished second for Dave Palone.

ADIOS 54 - Catch The Fire - 2020 In a bizarre year that saw the Adios contested before no fans due to Covid-19, an equally unusual situation took place between the elimination heats and the final. Papi Rob Hanover set a World Record, pacing in 1:47.1, but an injury forced him to retire after that race, and he did not enter the final. One of the other elimination heat winners, Catch The Fire, was driven by local regular Mike Wilder, and he piloted the Ohio-based colt to the Adios win in 1:49.3 for trainer John Ackley. It was Wilder's first Adios victory.

ADIOS 55 - Hellabalou - 2021 For the first time since 2013, a horse that won his elimination with one driver captured the final with a different reinsman at the lines. Andrew McCarthy won two of the three elimination races a week before the final, and chose to drive Abuckabett Hanover in the final, leaving the drive open on Hellabalou. Tim Tetrick seized the opportunity and drove Hellabalou to the victory at 6-1 for trainer Eddie Dennis in 1:48.4.

Adios 56 - Local horse Bythemissal, off at 8-1, bested his two main challengers - Beach Glass and Pebble Beach -- throughout the racing season to win The Adios, the second for Hall of Fame trainer Ron Burke. Bythemissal took charge down the stretch and barreled his way to the finish line. It was driver Chris Page's first Adios victory.

FAITH

New Greek Orthodox Metropolis Center to open in Washington, PA in 2024

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh hosted a Groundbreaking Ceremony on Tuesday July 18th, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. for a new Metropolis Center. The event was held in the parking lot at 525 Fairway St. Washington, PA, adjacent to the New Metropolis Center site. This new Metropolis Center will continue to serve the Greek Orthodox parishes and communities of Eastern and Central Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia today, and for generations to come. The mission of the new Metropolis Center will be a place to worship, to educate, to gather, to enable ministry, and much more.

When it opens in 2024 the new Metropolis Center will offer the faithful a 15,000 sq ft building incorporating a Church,



His Eminence Metropolitan Savas speaking at the ground breaking

library/conference room, dedicated offices for the Metropolis staff, a multi-purpose hall, a fully equipped caterer's kitchen, and an outdoor terrace to enjoy in the warmer months.

We are eternally grateful to our major donors, especially Peter Giorgi. Through the Giorgi Family Foundation, the new Metropolis Center received a

transformational gift – a gift of significance and lasting impact. The Giorgi family of Reading, PA, has committed \$6 million over five years – the single largest donation ever offered by the foundation. “We know this transformational gift from the Giorgi Family Foundation will have a meaningful impact on the people and parishes of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh for generations to come,” said Peter F. Giorgi, President of The Giorgi Family Foundation. “The ministries of the Metropolis and its parishes profoundly affect the lives of all those served by the Church, and we are pleased to partner with the Metropolis to build its capacity to stand as an even greater presence in our communities.”

Washington County Commissioner Nick Sherman who attended the groundbreaking said, “We believe that the site selection of Washington County could not have



Artists rendering of the new Greek Orthodox Metropolis headquarters

been any better for this beautiful new 15,000 sq. ft. center. We are overjoyed that they selected Washington as their new home, and we welcome them.”

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh is an ecclesiastical district of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, an eparchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople serving the people of West Virginia, Eastern and Central Ohio, and Pennsylvania (except for the 5 counties of the Greater Philadelphia area) - an area with a population of

approximately 18 million residents. It is comprised of 50 parishes, 2 missions, 3 monastic communities, and many vibrant ministries supported by our dedicated volunteers and staff - all overseen from our current historic home of 60+ years in Pittsburgh's Shadyside neighborhood.

Please visit pittsburgh.goarch.org for more information or give us a call at 412 621 5529 and follow us on Facebook: Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, and Instagram: [MetropolisofPittsburgh](https://www.instagram.com/MetropolisofPittsburgh).

FAITH, FRIENDS, AND FELLOWSHIP

Article By: Ashley Eisenbeil & Mary Lark – Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association
Modified by W.R. Smith

“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deuteronomy 31:8



Although most do not realize it, on the backside of a racehorse track there is a community of people that work and even live at the track. This community is made up of people that come from all walks of life but are brought together because of their love of horses and a passion for the sport. The main purpose of their job is to care for the horses with incredible devotion and love so the horses can run their best race. But who will care for the people in this unique community? Who will lift them up with compassion in a time of need, and be their biggest supporter in times of happiness? Who is the spiritual backbone of this community? The answer may surprise you – it is the track chaplain. The track chaplain is so much more than a man or woman of God. They are friends, advocates, educators, and even event coordinators. They provide the community with someone to not only lead worship services, but also a compassionate person who listens to their concerns without judgment, and who will do anything within their power to help. The chaplains are supported by the tracks and the horsemen's groups because they realize how vital a chaplain's role is in maintaining the well-being of the many people who make up a track's community. We would like to introduce you to The Meadows Racetrack and Casino track chaplain Joe DiDonato.

Pastor Joe DiDonato has served as the chaplain at The Meadows Racetrack for almost 30

years. His role is to provide ministry to the entire track community – meeting the many spiritual, emotional, physical, monetary, and social needs that come his way. “Horsemen work seven days a week and put in long hours. There is not much time to do many other things, such as get connected to a local church. It is a unique community, and we minister to the richest



Pastor Joe DiDonato and his wife

of the rich and poorest of the poor. Owners who have good-paying jobs, groomers, or caretakers who are transient and need assistance in many different ways. However, we are all human and hurt the same way no matter what our social status may be. We are there to help folks through the tough times and celebrate with them during times of celebration. Everything we do is open to everyone. No matter what is taking place in someone's life, as Roger Huston would say, I want to ‘Be There!’ The responsibilities of a chaplain are not always easy, Joe expressed, “Things are toughest when you sit next to someone who has become a good friend and spend the final hours of their life with them and family members. When you are called to someone's home following an unexpected death or to the scene of an accident. I have followed many Life Flight choppers to Pittsburgh Hospitals over the years, driving family members with me. It is also tough when young people succumb to addiction, and you have to support the family and eulogize one of your kids. Helping and

supporting others through various addictions is difficult, but it is awesome when someone overcomes! Meadows based trainer Norm Parker says that “Pastor Joe has a great following at The Meadows and is always there for someone in need.” Parker has known the Pastor Joe from the beginning of the Pastors time at the track and knows firsthand of kindness Joe delivers. “Pastor Joe was there for our family when our father passed away and he even helped my son Ryan get into Grove City College, Parker said.”

Parker went on to say that “if someone at the track needs help, either spiritual or of any kind, he has always been there for them. He is just an all-around great guy.” Despite some of the challenges, Pastor Joe considers it an honor to serve as chaplain at The Meadows. He has touched many lives over the years in so many positive ways. From activities for the children whose parents work at the track to parties for the families at Easter, Christmas, and Halloween. His dedication and love to the community he serves are evident when he says, “I have always said that I would rather be called ‘Friend’ than Pastor or Reverend anytime. I believe that is the greatest compliment one person can give to another.” It is plain to see that Pastor Joe DiDonato is passionate about ministering, being a spiritual leader, and, most of all – a friend. Tim Twaddle has been a trainer at The Meadows for over 40 years and has attended Pastor Joe's Chapel with his wife Sophia, daughters Meadow and Lexi, and Son Parker for the past 15

years. Twaddle was raised in a different denomination and started going to Chapel because he wanted to get his son Baptized. “The Church I used to attend would not allow Parkers's God Father to be a part of the baptism because he was not of the same religion. That was upsetting, so we decided to have the service at the Meadows. It is one of the best decisions we have ever made.” When asked what Pastor Joe means to The Meadows he said, “Joe is always there for anyone who needs him. Not just



Pastor Joe DiDonato baptizing a baby

folks at the paddock or even those who attend regularly. He provides for everyone including the employees who work along the front stretch (The Casino and grandstand building). He not only provides services, but he is constantly visiting people in the hospitals and away from the track. Going above and beyond is just second nature to him. Without him our track family would be lost souls.” Twaddle also spoke to the healing power Pastor Joe has delivered for his family first-hand. “Both of my parents are 96 years old right now, and my mom has had a few instances where she was not doing well at all. Each time Pastor Joe prayed with us Mom recovered. Joe has a lot to do with mom's healing. We are forever grateful for him.” A message delivered by Pastor Joe during the height of the Covid 19 Pandemic seems to sum up his thoughts on troubled times for any reason, at any time. If we have learned anything through our current hardships it is that we actually have no control over anything. At any moment on any given day, our lives could change forever in ways we could have never imagined. We are very vulnerable. We need to keep in prayer those infected by the virus, their family members, our

healthcare workers, first responders, those in our local areas, our individual states, our nation, and the world. When I say “family members” that includes all our horsemen, women, and horses. We need to pray for a vaccine or medications that work towards destroying this virus. Of course, we need to especially pray for those who have experienced the death of a loved one. What we need to do during this time and with Easter almost here, is look to the One who defeated death and came back from the grave. Speaking of friends, we need to turn to the One who wants to be our best friend, Jesus. On that first Easter morning, Jesus rose from the grave. A huge stone was rolled away, and He rose. When he walked this earth before his death Jesus stood in front of the spot where a man who died named Lazarus was buried. He gave the command to Take away or roll away the stone. When the stone was removed, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus come forth.” It was then that the one who was dead, Lazarus, came out of that grave alive. The good news I have to share with you is that Jesus is still in the business of rolling away stones. So many feel dead and buried in the midst of our current crisis. However, if we continue in prayer and look to Jesus, He will roll that huge stone away. Even when we do eventually get back to our normal lifestyles, we will need Jesus to guide and direct us. The Bible calls death our final enemy in life. When we allow Jesus to come into our lives and trust him as The Savior who died for us that first Good Friday and The Lord whom we look to and follow each day, we will have the peace, comfort, and love to face anything in life. This includes that final enemy death, as we will, like Jesus, bypass the grave and life forever with Him in the glory of heaven. -Pastor DiDonato, The Meadows Racetrack Pastor Joe is truly a blessing to the racetrack community and beyond. He is a man who gives everything of himself, for others. A friend to all. A truly Godly man.

BOOK REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

“Superpower in Peril: A Battle Plan to Renew America”, by David H. McCormick with James M. Cunningham

by Joseph DiSarro, PhD. Professor of Political Science, Washington and Jefferson College



David H. McCormick was born in Washington, Pennsylvania in 1965. He was an outstanding high school athlete earning honors in both football and wrestling. David McCormick's parents were educators, and his father was President of Bloomsburg University. He graduated with a B.S. in engineering from West Point and as a cadet was co-captain of the wrestling team. After graduation from the Academy Lieutenant McCormick entered Ranger School and as an accomplished paratrooper in the 82 Airborne Division served in Desert Storm. In the war, Lieutenant McCormick served as a combat engineer and was awarded the Bronze Star. After five years in the military, he left the service with the rank of Captain and traveled the world for eight months, wherein David developed an in-depth knowledge and appreciation of the complexities of the nation-state system. Afterwards, McCormick was admitted to Princeton University and earned a Ph.D. in International Relations. His career path after Princeton was to enter the world of international business and finance, first as an executive for Free-Markets and later as CEO of Bridgewater Associates. In his distinguished career in the arena of high finance David McCormick was committed not only to the expansion of Bridgewater but also to the expansion of opportunities for main street Americans. As CEO of Bridgewater Associates McCormick grew to appreciate the interrelationship of business and politics, leading McCormick to accept an appointment with the George W. Bush Administration as Undersecretary of Treasury for International Affairs and later as Undersecretary of Commerce for Industry and Security.

As a member of the Bush Administration, he was involved in negotiating trade agreements and the protection of American intellectual property rights. While in government service, David McCormick developed insight into the world of bureaucratic machinations and became troubled by the bureaucratic labyrinth of excessive regulation and ineffectiveness of government. His dedication to service, concern with bureaucratic stagnation, as well as the desire to give-back for his exceptional career opportunities led David McCormick to enter the race to fill the open United States Senate seat held by Pat Toomey. Thus, in 2021, he entered a highly divisive

multi-candidate Republican Primary. Given McCormick's outstanding educational, military, business, governmental credentials as well as Western Pennsylvania cultural background he quickly led in the polls and had a double-digit lead over his most formidable opponent Dr. Mehmet Oz.

However, the ideological challenges/conflicts within the Republican Party were substantial and toward the last weeks of the primary the polls narrowed. Furthermore, after a meeting with Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago Candidate McCormick was denied the former President's endorsement. Donald Trump had demanded McCormick announce to the public and press that the election of 2020 was rigged. Captain McCormick's values of "duty, honor, and country" would not allow for such a statement, given the courts had ruled against claims of election fraud or illegal recounts. Upon the McCormick refusal to become an election denier the former President proceeded with a vicious attack on David McCormick and an endorsement of Dr. Oz. Additionally, in the final days of the primary, the Club for Growth provided the Kathy Barnette campaign with a two-million-dollar contribution. It can be inferred that the Trump endorsement of Dr. Oz and the dubious Club for Growth contribution to Barnette led to the defeat of David McCormick by 900 votes. The strong McCormick campaign resulted in 419,000 votes but after mandatory recounts David McCormick would not undermine the democratic process and "fall prey to the politics of grievance and victimhood". McCormick further stated, "There is a time for fighting and a time for coming together... finding common ground... heal the partisan wounds that for too long have divided our Country". In his compelling new text David McCormick argues that America is in decline and faces an existential threat from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Xi Jinping, President of the CCP is on a mission for world domination. The CCP has developed a "techno-totalitarian regime" that seeks client states or de facto colonies and is focused on the domination of the world stage through the expansion of economic, political, and military power. McCormick has identified the beginnings of a generational conflict with China or "New Cold War". More specifically, Xi Jinping has deployed a massive fleet of naval vessels including state of the art aircraft carriers, has deployed an alarming missile arsenal, has pledged to assist Putin in the Ukraine, has committed genocide in Xinjiang, has engaged in a colossal theft of

intellectual property, has engaged in the manipulation of currency as well as the use of digital currency in order to direct and manage international business transactions, has engaged in limitations on media/social media to further the ends of the authoritarian state with vehicles such as TikTok and has engaged in the distribution of chemicals required for the production of Fentanyl.

Moreover, the United States humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan compounded by the failure of NATO to deter Putin's invasion of the Ukraine has demonstrated to President Xi that America is but a "Paper Tiger". McCormick, in the text, discusses his deep concern that the United States is on a dangerous path of confrontation with an atomic power with inimical client states such as, North Korea, Iran, Cuba, Venezuela and Russia. Indeed, foreign policy scholars such as Henry Kissinger have also warned that tensions with China over Taiwan may result in a serious confrontation and perhaps war in the Pacific. Furthermore, the CCP, allied with the Communist government of Cuba, has engaged in an aggressive challenge to the United States only 90 miles from Florida with an agreement to establish a base to collect intelligence and monitor American military activities. David McCormick contends that the United States diminution in terms of political, diplomatic, and military prowess has resulted in decline as well as an American leadership vacuum on the world stage. This is a precarious era and as Ronald Reagan warned in his First Inaugural Address, "...Freedom is a fragile thing and never more than one generation away from extinction... it must be fought for and defended... Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again..." Richard Nixon cautioned in his text entitled the "The Real War" "empires, nation-states come and go, dark ages emerge". Furthermore, President Chirac of France, expressed his concern as to the importance of world order after 9/11, "for a moment I looked out at a world without America". McCormick makes a strong argument for dynamic American leadership on the world stage to preserve liberty and opportunity for humanity.

David McCormick has documented an existential threat from the CCP. He asserts that America must confront this latest challenge to liberty and world domination with overwhelming economic as well as military power. Furthermore, McCormick presents an analytical examination of the preeminence of "American

Exceptionalism" from Alexis de Tocqueville to Ronald Reagan. He argues that American history is replete with examples of renewal after difficult and perhaps insurmountable challenges to our political/economic system based on individualism, free markets, and liberty. More specifically, he comments on the United States response to the Civil War by the creation of a more perfect union based not only on liberty but also equality. Secondly, McCormick directs our attention to the America's response to the Great Depression by the construct of a more flexible political/economic system as well as a commitment to the social welfare of all citizens. Thirdly, the United States in World War II faced an existential threat from Fascism/Nazism. America not only defeated the Axis powers but also established a more stable world order based on freedom and respect for national sovereignty. Fourth, the United States, after WWII, was confronted with an attempt at world domination by Totalitarian Communism from the Soviet Union as well as Maoist China. With respect to this last formidable threat to freedom and liberty McCormick's focus is on the leadership of President Reagan to end Jimmy Carter's notions of decline, malaise, and crisis of confidence with renewal of the "American Dream-Morning Again in America" and with a program of action to defeat Communism. The Carter Administration was unprepared to confront a recession with double digit unemployment, double digit inflation and a paralysis of American power abroad exemplified by the Iranian Hostage Crisis. The Hostage Crisis, perhaps one of the most shameful events in recent history was compounded by the failure of the hostage rescue mission that resulted in the deaths of US servicemen as well as the demand by the rogue Iranian state to require payment for the return of bodies of dead Americans. Ronald Reagan responded with clarity and decisiveness resulting in the release of the hostages on Inauguration Day and America embarked on a path of national renewal.

David McCormick questions the rhetoric of decline illustrated by his quote of Charles Krauthammer, "For America today, decline is not a condition, decline is a choice". Reagan chose to advance freedom and restore national confidence through the rebuilding of the military with bold innovations such as, the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). The direct result of the Reagan approach to stand firm against the "evil empire" was the fall to Communism and the rise

of freedom on the world stage. Furthermore, Reagan's tax cuts brought an era of economic growth and opportunity for all Americans. McCormick's analysis demonstrates that Reagan's strong belief in American Exceptionalism -- "The City on the Hill, the beacon to the world" was the catalyst for renewal.

Today, David McCormick argues that the United States is in a crisis with the CCP attempt at world domination and offers a plan for renewal with a program for the restoration of political, economic, and military institutions. David's first step is for the nation to recognize its shortcomings and remember "that humility is a close cousin to courage". More specifically, a problematic bureaucracy has led to stagnation and ineffective government. Furthermore, polarization and lack of trust in the political process has led to a decline in patriotism, the American spirit, faith in the American Dream and the belief that future generations will suffer under inferior economic conditions. Thus, McCormick outlines a bold multi-faceted program for renewal: (1) invest in talent, school choice- end the state monopoly on education, focus on math and science, limit the growth of the educational bureaucracy, return universities to their historical role as forums for the acquisition of knowledge and the free exchange of ideas, restore the role of educational institutions to inculcate the values of civic duty; (2) given the world is in a "digital age", wherein, data is indispensable to technological innovation, protect intellectual property rights, establish public/private workforce training programs to include the development and training in technical skills; (3) develop a strategic immigration policy, open borders is folly and results in cartel violence, sex trafficking and chaos; (4) establish a legal merit based immigration policy that values emigrants, given the fact that they create jobs, open small business and enhance our market based economic system; (5) encourage the best talent in the fields of semiconductors, pharmaceuticals and artificial intelligence to come and share in the American Dream.

Additionally, McCormick discusses the necessity of public/private ventures to assist in the creation of capital, with an emphasis in high-risk technological projects in areas such as chips/semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and pharmaceuticals. David points to the success of the joint venture "Operation Warp Speed", that with an eighteen-million-dollar public/private investment, combined with regulatory

See Dissaro on pg 10

Washington County 911 Public Radio System At Risk

By Clyde Wilhelm

Washington County's 911 public safety radio system is broken and has been since it was installed nearly 20 years ago. To date, the county has failed to fix or establish a viable path forward to provide a system that works to ensure the safety of our citizens and emergency responders.

This system has never worked effectively and does not provide adequate coverage throughout the county to nationally accepted standards and best practices. The county knew this and that is why in 2018, they spent an additional \$4.5 million to try to fix it. The same vendor who installed and maintained this ineffective system is the same vendor who the county paid to fix it, to no avail, wasting your tax dollars. And now, Commissioners Diana Irely-Vaughan and Larry Maggi are rewarding that same vendor with a new \$22 million dollar contract to install a new radio system, that many, including radio experts, don't believe will work. They scoffed at and dismissed the other vendor's proposal. That vendor has consistently delivered and built solidly reliable and working public safety radio systems in 53 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. This decision is an abhorrence to common sense and a total disregard to the law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel who use this system on a daily basis. This endangers the lives of those first responders and the public.

In October 2020, the Board of Commissioners formed the Washington County First Responder/Public Safety Advisory Board ("Public Safety Board"). This Board is comprised of diverse public safety professionals and leaders representing law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services. The Board was established and charged with identifying issues related to public safety and formulating solutions and recommendations to the Commissioners. This Board quickly determined that the troubled public safety radio system put first responders at risk due to inadequate coverage and continued unreliability. At its inception, Commissioners Irely-Vaughan and Maggi seemed eager to embrace the recommendations of the Emergency Service Professionals. They then sadly rebuked their near unanimous recommendation when it came to awarding a contract to replace the broken radio system.

At our Public Safety Board meeting on March 2nd, Chief of Staff Mike Namie provided an update on the progress of the radio project and advised that "we [the county] are not yet in negotiations, we only talked with both vendors and asked them to review their proposals." Just 13 days later, out of the blue, it appears on the March 15th commissioner's meeting agenda to award the contract!

Members of the Public Safety Advisory Board along with other Emergency Service Professionals were dismayed that Commissioners Diana Irely-Vaughan and Larry Maggi would select the same vendor who built and maintained the current troubled and failed radio system. At their meeting on March 15th, the vast majority spoke out against this decision. Here are a few examples of what was said. West Alexander Fire Chief Eric Graham stated: "I'm standing here today with apprehension and a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach that we're going to be going down the same road we have had for the last 42 years." City of Washington Fire Chief Chris Richer described a fire call with entrapped people where firefighters could not communicate because the radio system failed. He went on to say: "It baffled me this morning, when my colleagues contacted me.... that we are going to award a contract to the same company that has failed this county for 20 years.....\$20 million dollars – That's insane! The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result." South Strabane Fire Chief Jordan Cramer expressed his concerns: "... during multiple incidents over the past year, while responding to emergencies, the radio system has gone down. We lost the ability to contact the control center.... we lost the ability to contact other responding emergency units.... This puts us all at risk." I personally commented about the fact that in 2018 the county approved to fix the current system and wasted \$4.5 million of taxpayer's dollars with this vendor and the system still doesn't work! Commissioners Irely-Vaughan and Maggi went on to vote to approve the award!

Commissioner Nick Sherman rightly objected to the motion to award that \$22 million contract to this same vendor in opposition to his colleagues. Nick was deeply concerned that they were not listening to the Commissioner appointed Public Safety Board's recommendations to award the contract to the other vendor who submitted a proposal. We applaud Commissioner Sherman for listening to the Emergency Service Professionals and Board Members in attendance by answering their call to table the action.

Commissioners Irely Vaughan and Maggi said they wanted to use the Tait/MRA Inc./PMC Wireless system because there was a chance its VHF radio system could be compatible with the county's current network while also raising concerns about the cost of Motorola (the other vendor) and the inability of that company to implement it quickly. The Emergency Responders present roundly criticized this point and simply want it fixed right, especially after dealing with a broken and ineffective radio system for nearly 2 decades. The other major problem is that MRA is the only vendor who said the VHF system would work. The other vendor and the two expert consulting agencies that the county hired said it wouldn't.

While we are conscious of budgetary limits and taxpayer dollars, the nearly \$100 million in American Rescue Plan Act federal funds provided to the county should have made public safety more of a priority and earmarked more of it towards this radio system project. Moreover, when we started down this road of working towards the radio replacement project, these funds were not even yet available for this use. So, trying to tie their decision to these funds is disingenuous.

Today, they still have an opportunity to listen to the Public Safety Board and adopt their recommendation. It has been four months since Commissioner Irely-Vaughan and Maggi voted approve the \$22 million bid, and we are still waiting for information from the vendor for further action on this critical issue. Since the bid's approval, it is my understanding that the county has found that the Tait/MRA Inc./PMC Wireless proposal is not fully meeting the needs or specifications of the project. Moreover, it is troubling that the Board of Commissioners has not met with anyone other than MRA since that vote to address any questions or concerns.

Some of us who have concerns with how this award occurred have filed numerous Right-to-Know requests with the county. Some have been answered, others have had to be appealed to the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records because of the county's failure to be transparent. Some released records have more redactions than the JFK assassination documents and in one of my requests, after I appealed their failure to produce documents requested, they simply responded that it was just an oversight to send them to me. It took 71 days to get three pages, but that's what they are doing - delaying and keeping the public in the dark. What are they hiding? Most recently, I received documents requested that answered many of my questions. The proposal that was approved was from MRA, Inc., the sole signer of the proposal documents. Tait and PMC Wireless are not legally binding parties in the proposal. While MRA may be using equipment and/or services via subcontract from these companies, they are not legally parties to this award. It appears that the agenda item, the motion to approve and subsequent claims of such have been purposely done in an attempt to obfuscate the fact that this proposal was solely from MRA, Inc. I have queried several municipal solicitors that I personally know and they believe, based on these facts, that the motion to award passed by Commissioners Irely-Vaughan and Maggi may not be legally binding because it is legally flawed!

Based on all the information presented combined with the fact that the overwhelming majority of stakeholders have opposed the proposal from this vendor, the county should seriously consider the other vendor's proposal that was submitted. Motorola is the preferred vendor for the vast majority of the counties in the Commonwealth. Commissioners Irely-Vaughan and Maggi should reverse course before it is too late. There has still not been a contract or agreement signed by the county.

The Public Safety Board has put in countless volunteer work and deliberation over the past two and half years. The time they have devoted, and their expertise should not go unnoticed. We should have the backs of our first responders and follow their recommendations. We must take care of the people who have devoted their lives to taking care of us. We are disappointed and dismayed that Commissioner Irely Vaughan and Maggi appointed a Board of Public Safety and Emergency Service Professionals only to ignore their recommendations after nearly three years of meetings, research, and hard work. They should respect the Board's recommendation and invest in public safety with an eye toward the future and not stick with a vendor who has failed in the county in the past. We must have a fully operational county-wide radio system. We owe that to the men and women who risk their lives to protect us!

Again, we applaud the leadership of Commissioner Nick Sherman on this issue.

Updating the 911 public safety radio system has been a top priority of his since day one. He recently stated, "We can have the best medical equipment and trained staff, but if a child is choking or an abusive spouse violates a Protection from Abuse Order, and our first responders never get the call, these dire emergencies will go unanswered. We cannot continue to put our Police Officers in life-threatening situations without the ability to call for backup."

We implore the Commissioners to rescind this award and do what is right for the safety of our first responders!

I leave you with the following questions for Commissioners Diane Irely-Vaughan and Larry Maggi:

1. Why would they abruptly, with only 24 hours notice, award this contract contrary to the recommendations of the Public Safety Board (that they created) as well as the Expert Radio Consultants (that they hired)?
2. Why did they award the contract to the vendor that built the current radio system that has never effectively worked since it was installed, and whom they gave an additional \$4.5 million to fix since 2018?
3. Why did they obfuscate the proposal award to include company's names that are not a legal party to the submitted proposal?
4. Why do they continue to hide and delay access to the relevant data and documents from the public and those who have filed Right-To-Know requests seeking the records and documents related to this project?

Is this insanity or is something else going on here. I'm sure you can draw your own conclusions. I know that I have.

Clyde Wilhelm
Nottingham Township

(The author has been involved in Public Safety for more than 40 years. He has served as a Dispatcher, Police Officer, Firefighter, EMT, Career Fire Chief and Municipal Manager. He also serves as a member of the Washington County First Responder/Public Safety Advisory Board.)

Dissaro Continued

reform, resulted in the development of the COVID vaccine in unprecedented time. McCormick is optimistic that the spirit of American Exceptionalism has and will continue to address challenges and effectuate renewal.

Captain McCormick is a strong advocate for rebuilding the military, given threats to the security of the United States as well as to world order from the CCP and client states including Putin's Russia. To David McCormick, a strong military is the sine-quo-non in the face of the CCP's plan for world supremacy. Moreover, former Secretary of Defense

Mike Pompeo has repeatedly declared that, "President Xi Jinping is the most dangerous man in the world, driven by Marxism-Leninism, interested only in global hegemony and seeks to eviscerate human rights... with the Chinese, engagement will not get it done" and Representative Mike Gallagher, Chair of the House Select Committee on Competition between the US and the CCP has argued "...acquiescence today only makes military conflict more likely tomorrow". Gallagher also quotes Lenin to support the view that Communism will act in an aggressive mode to achieve its goal of world domination—"if you can

take it, do so if you can, if you can attack strike". McCormick's argues that peace is preserved through strength and the rebuilding/modernization of the military is an invaluable aspect of the "national fabric of renewal". Yet, he cautions that the military must be open to innovation, new methods of recruitment to address a 28,000 personnel shortfall, promotion needs to be based on diversity of experiences as well as expertise and politicians need to stop co-opting the military to advance an illiberal political agenda. Finally, McCormick is a proponent of national service thus, on a voluntary basis

Americans should give-back or as JFK in his inaugural address stated, "ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country". McCormick firmly believes that service in a variety of institutions including the military will allow for the rebuilding of our national system of values, inspire a patriotic civic duty and provided the leadership training for renewal of the American spirit.

David McCormick's text is a compelling in-depth analysis of the threat of global supremacy by the CCP as well as an inquiry into the political, economic, and social consequences of the

"spiral of decline". His plan for renewal based on American Exceptionalism is a blueprint for American greatness and a triumph of liberty over autocracy.

"Superpower in Peril: A Battle Plan to Renew America", is a must read for all concerned with the decline of America and the absence of national/international leadership. The text is a compendium of McCormick's broad range of knowledge and experience in a complex-dangerous world. This soldier-scholar demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the art of leadership on the national and international stage.

COMMUNITY

Fourth Annual Canonsburg Rib Cook-Off

By Mark Finrock

Once again, back yard grill warriors will compete and throw down some BBQ flavors to win a chance at cash prizes and a shot at the belt.

This event is sponsored and put on by Rusty Gold Brewing in Canonsburg and Silver Star Meats of Pittsburgh. According to Susanne Snyder, Manager of Rusty Gold Brewing, "There are 2 categories. Pro and Amateur. Entrants from the prior year automatically move into the Pro rank. This year's entries total 8 Pro's and 3 Amateurs." She spoke. "This year the Pro's will make Kansas City BBQ and Brisket. The Amateurs will be judged for their Ribs and a chicken main of their choice."

One of those that moved from Amateur to pro is Jim Taggart of Pappie T's BBQ and Catering of Washington, who started his BBQ journey a couple of years back after trying Brisket for the first time, fell in

love with it and began creating his own sauces and rubs along with other main dishes of chicken, pulled pork, Ribs and the brisket. There is a variety of side dishes including but not limited to, Homemade Armadillo Eggs/ Jalapeno Poppers, corn breads and Mac N' Cheese. "Ultimately I'm working on transitioning from retirement to owning a food truck and competitions like this help not only gets our names out there, but let the public know there are some actual accredited BBQ Pit master's out there, and the food is deliciously incredible".

Taggart received a certification from 5-time world BBQ champ Myron Mixon, at Jack's Old South BBQ cooking school. Mixon has also won almost 200 BBQ grand championships and nearly 2,000 trophies in his legendary BBQ career. Taggart sought to learn from the best and



Jim Taggart, Pro Competitor and owner of Pappie T's BBQ and catering with legendary BBQ Champion Myron Mixon

has been expanding his craft since. Pappie T's also adds homemade sugar free sauces to their menu as well, "I'm a diabetic so, it was only natural to create sugar free sauces. Our Sugar Free Apple/Habanero and Peach sauces are our best sellers."

The Rib Cookoff raises money for local charities". Said Sussane, "Last year alone, \$5,000.00 was raised for Pa. VetPets, a veteran

owned nonprofit that helps veterans with PTSD. This year's charity will be for ARC Human Service."

The ARC serves people of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health challenges, allowing them to fulfill their ambitions, protect their rights and foster meaningful relationships at home, at work and in their communities.

"Along with the competitors, there will be other vendors present as well, "continued Snyder, "Live Music, Axe Throwing, BLT Art, Shaved Ice, and much more!"

Local Pittsburgh historian Rick Sebak is slated as a judge for the event. Earl Kleckner, or EJ, Owner of Rusty Gold Brewing, is one of those small-town business owners who enjoys giving back to the community. Along with the cookoff, he helps to raise money for the community via various boosters and fundraisers. "Last year, there were six hundred people from all over Pittsburgh and Ohio that came to sample and vote. We are looking forward to seeing more this year." Said Snyder. "I hope to make it at least in the top 3 this year", Stated Taggart. Good Luck Competitors and "Laissez les bon temps rouler." (Let the good times roll)

The 4th Annual Canonsburg Rib Cook-off is scheduled for 6 hours beginning at 12 noon on August 5th, 2023, and is being held at Town Park, Park Dr, Canonsburg, PA 15317.



ALWAYS B SMILING CREATES SMILES

By Toni Fitch

"Always B Smiling" is a way of life for Kristin Heine Huibregtse and Dean Huibregtse. They founded the non-profit organization in honor of their late son, Bennett, in December 2020 to honor his memory and "create smiles" for children, teens and young adults that have disabilities and health challenges as well as their families and caregivers. Young Bennett faced his challenges head-on, always with a smile on his face, inspiring his parents to provide a place and opportunities for those that face similar struggles. According to Kristin, Bennett had "a very challenging life but also a very beautiful life."

In creating their organization, Kristin and Dean were determined to "live Bennett's legacy and change the world and provide the services" to children and families in hopes of brightening their lives. Some of the experiences offered through their programs include adaptive biking and creative arts (part of the "B Active program) and nurturing independent life skills via the "B Independent" initiative.

Thanks to grants from Washington County Tourism the dream of building a recreational barn on the Montour Trail at Bennett Park is becoming a reality. The Tom Robinson Family generously gave them a 100-year lease on their



Always B Smiling participants are ready for an adaptive bike ride.

property with the intent to build an activity and learning center. Fund raising and a capital campaign will assist with bringing it all together.

The facility is expected to be 3300 square feet with a "clubhouse-type atmosphere", providing participants with life skills experience by helping to manage a café within the building that will except donations. There are also plans to continue with outdoor experiences to allow everyone to enjoy the natural surroundings of the trail, including horticulture and a greenhouse. The objective is to have both the children, the entire family and the caretakers participate, creating a fun-filled experience for all.

After Bennett passed away at 16 1/2, his parents were left wondering what they could do to help others in similar

situations. Dean's idea to start a non-profit seemed like it was meant to be. Through careful planning and dedication, Always B Smiling was born thanks to the hard work of many friends, volunteers, and supporters. Per Kristin "every day is a challenge without Bennett." Seeing the smiles on the kids' faces and the enjoyment of the whole family when experiencing something such as the adaptive bike ride makes it all worthwhile. "Giving back" is all part of the organization's mission.

While Kristin and Dean have embraced making a difference in the community, Washington County has taken their mission to heart. Local civic leaders, politicians, and citizens from all walks of life have supported the efforts of the Huibregtse family to bring this experience to as many families as possible. According to

Kristin this type of endeavor is the first of its kind in the tri-state area.

When this article went to press, Kristin and Dean were preparing for the third annual "Miles for Smiles 5K Walk, Run and Have Fun" event on July 23 on the Montour Trail. This happening is in remembrance of Bennett's passing on July 26. They always hold the event the Sunday before the 26th to honor his memory. Even when there are struggles to pull off a happening such as this, Kristin feels Bennett's

culminating with "B Together," an adults-only fundraising event that is held at Valley Brook Country Club every February. Check the Always B Smiling website for more information on fundraising and events: <https://www.alwaysbsmiling.org/>. The hope is to have the center "up and running by the end of 2024" to expand the programming for everyone.

When asked how Always B Smiling is connected to Washington



A look at Always B Smiling's Bennett Park along the Montour Trail.

presence, cheering them on. She expects the walk to have well over the 300 participants that were on hand last year. But it is not just a walk in the park. There is food, fun and games for the whole family.

If you miss the walk, do not worry. You can help support their mission throughout the year via the capital campaign,

County, Dean reflected on the time he and Kristin spent with Bennett on the Montour Trail, enjoying each precious moment. The memories and beauty of the trail give Kristin and Dean a chance to share their family's special place with the rest of us and gives us all a reason to smile.

Adios

PACE FOR THE ORCHIDS
2023

SATURDAY, JULY 29
POST TIME 11:45 AM



MSOA

Meadows Standardbred Owners Association



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SPORTS

BIANCO SCHOOL OF BASEBALL HITS A HOME RUN

By Toni Fitch



Pittsburgh Pirates President Travis Williams, EL1 Co-founder Jameel Cante, Bianco Baseball founder Matt Bianco

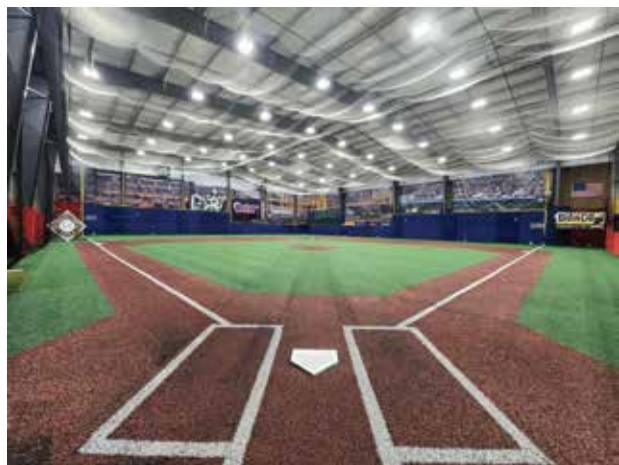
Bianco School of Baseball in Canonsburg recently hit a home run with the announcement that they have formed a partnership with EL1 Sports and the Pittsburgh Pirates to become a “Pirates training center”, providing the developmental tools and resources to area athletes that aspire to take their game to the next level. According to founder Matt Bianco, EL1 Sports approached him last August with the concept of designing “a hundred schools in the next five years”. The intent is to work in conjunction with Major League teams across the country and those areas that do not have MLB teams. Matt’s facility, as well as every other training center, will have the latest technology to assist baseball and softball players along with Bianco’s top-notch instructors, all while providing students with the skills to become not only better players but better teammates on and off the field, too. The school focuses on both personal instruction in addition to offering league play throughout the year, going so far as to have a field on the second floor of their

complex for the winter months.

Founded in 1991, the school features “state-of-the-art” equipment for personal instruction while also offering camps and clinics. The relationship was forged with the idea of not only helping the athletes grow but also helping to grow the game. Matt is working to help students have “a good taste of baseball, not a bad taste of baseball”. He

through the ranks and are imparting their wisdom on the next generation of potential superstars.

Bianco Baseball is rooted in Washington County. They are currently housed in a facility that Matt designed and built in 2003. Matt and his wife Chrissie raised their children in Peters Township, and it certainly is a family affair. Their children work at the training center in various capacities and Chrissie offers instruction with competitive cheer and dance teams along with tumbling classes. Camps and clinics are offered for students ages 3-18. Various age groups have competed at Disney/ESPN with many winning championships.



Bianco indoor facility

wants families to bond over baseball, helping local families to “get back together and do family things and if that’s baseball, I’m in”.

Matt himself attended the University of Pittsburgh on a baseball scholarship when he first got involved in baseball instruction. Numerous students from the school have gone on to receive scholarships with many reaching the pro level. All the instructors came up

Some of these teams travel throughout the United States while others have competed internationally. Chrissie said that the hope is to make cheering an Olympic sport in the future. Like Matt, Chrissie also hopes to inspire her teams to develop into “leaders of the community”. They both want their faith-based instruction to help their students thrive in competition as well as in life.

Golf Tip of the Day

Simplifying Chipping

By John Popeck – Golf Professional

Golf professional John Popeck is an area teaching and playing professional who is 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.

Chipping a golf ball is a shot that is often required, and when done correctly, can help prevent high numbers on your scorecard. I always teach a simplified chip to help my clients make better contact with the ball. A chip shot is a short swing, not a full swing. If you make a full swing while chipping, most likely, you will decelerate or hit the ball too hard. Deceleration through the ball means you are taking too big of a back swing and stopping the club through impact. A short backswing and acceleration through the ball is the easiest way to produce a good chip.

Acceleration through the ball ensures that the club is traveling through towards the target, rather than stopping abruptly at the ball. A shorter swing will allow you to hit the ball with the bounce on the club. The bounce on the club is the bottom sole that travels through the turf while chipping. If you make a long swing, you will not use the bounce of the club because of deceleration in your downswing. I like to say, feel a popping sensation. If the club is accelerating through, the opportunity of better contact will be much better. The goal of chipping is getting the ball in the air, past the rough and getting as close to the hole as possible.

Knowing the distance you must make the ball travel in the air is another key to chipping. If you have a chip where the pin is tucked or not far on the green, you might want to look at using a more lofted club (SW or PW) which will allow the ball to go higher in the air, resulting in less roll. If you have a chip where there is more green to work with, think about using a less lofted club (9 iron to 6 iron) where the ball will get on the ground and roll more like a putt. Picking a landing spot is beneficial for chipping. If you hit your landing spot, you will see much better shots.

I tell my clients, drive for show, the short game makes the dough. I hope these tips help with making a better chip in golf.

All-Washington County Girl's Softball 2023

Player of the Year
Hannah Suhoski, Jr. SS,
Trinity

Coach of the Year
Shawn Gray, Trinity

First Team
(listed alphabetically)

Sofia Celaschi, Jr. P,
Charleroi
McKenna DeUnger, Jr.,
C, Charleroi,
Tylor Dunn, Sr., P, Trinity
Meadow Ferri, Jr., P,
Chartiers-Houston
Finley Hohn, Jr. Trinity
Area
Ryleigh Hoy, Sr., OF,
Trinity
Amber Morgan, OF,
Trinity
Ella Richey, Sr., C,
Chartiers-Houston
Lauren Rush, Fr., INF,
Chartiers-Houston

2nd Team
(listed alphabetically)

Sami Bewick, Sr., INF,
Peters Township
Kristina Bozek, Sr., 2B,
Trinity
Morgan Doyle, Jr., OF,
Canon-McMillan
Katie Grimm, Jr., INF,
McGuffey
Adryonna Herbst, Sr.,
INF, Fort Cherry
Maddy Lancy, Jr., INF,
Charleroi
Peyton Mermon, So., OF,
Burgettstown
Makenzie Morgan, So.,
C, Peters Township
Mirranda Rinehart, Sr., C,
Trinity
Raya Sentipal, Fr., INF,
Burgettstown
Layla Sherman, So., INF,
Burgettstown

All-Washington County High School Baseball Team 2023

Player of the Year
Jack Natili, Sr., C, Peters
Township

Coach of the Year
Taylor Andrisco,
California Area

First Team
(listed alphabetically)

Andrew Bredl, Sr., P,
Burgettstown
Lorenzo Glasser, Sr., P,
Ringgold
Andrew Kocan, Sr., INF,
Canon-McMillan
Keegan Kosek, Jr., P-INF,
Chartiers-Houston
Ricky Lawson, So.,
California Area
Aidan Lowden, Sr.,
California Area
Jack Lutte, Sr., INF
Peters Township
Matthew Robaugh, So.,
Trinity Area
Michael Shallcross, Sr.,
3B, Washington
Austin Winkelbeck, Sr., P,
Canon-McMillan

2nd Team
(listed alphabetically)

Gianni Cantini, Sr., P,
Ringgold
Kaden Hathaway, So.,
INF, Trinity Area
Brodie Kuzior, Jr., INF,
Burgettstown
Ryan Opfer, Sr., OF-P,
Chartiers-Houston
Addison Panepinto, Sr., P,
California Area
Anthony Romano, Jr.,
OF, Chartiers-Houston
Jacob Ross, Sr., 3B,
McGuffey
Ben Shields, Sr., C,
Charleroi Area
Matt Sieg Fr., SS, Fort
Cherry
Landon Urcho, Sr.,
P-INF, Bentworth
Kris Weston, Jr., OF,
California Area

Wild Things Update

It has been a busy few weeks for the Washington Wild Things and there’s more fun and good baseball in store for the next few as the club continues its 21st Frontier League season in 2023.

The last couple of weeks have been highlighted by a few series wins, the first bobblehead night of the year and the 2023 Frontier League All-Star Game and festivities, hosted this year by the Windy City ThunderBolts in Crestwood, Illinois.

The Wild Things were not represented as well as some in the league think they should have been at the All-Star Game, but Washington was represented by catcher Melvin Novoa, who appeared in his first Frontier League All-Star Game in what is his first season with Washington. Around a trip to the injured list and a 10-day layoff while playing for Team Nicaragua in El Salvador in international play, Novoa has driven in more than 30 runs for Washington this season.

He, along with members of Washington’s front-office staff, headed to the festivities in Crestwood, Illinois, the week of Monday, July 10. Novoa did not participate in the skills competition Tuesday but caught two innings and made a trip to the plate in the All-Star Game Wednesday, which was won by the East Division at Ozinga Field.

Prior to the break, Washington played nine-straight games at home at Wild Things Park, highlighted by two series victories, a walk-off victory over the Schaumburg Boomers and the first bobblehead night of the year. Now, more fun is in store as July comes to a close. Washington will host six games between Tuesday, July 25 and Sunday, July 30, with the New Jersey Jackals and Joliet Slammers set to come to town. Saturday, July 29 features the final bobblehead of the season, which is a Canon-Mac Chris Sidick Bobblehead, presented by Key Bank. The first 1,000 fans will take it home. Also, on the homestand, fireworks are due for Friday like every Friday in Washington and Star Wars Night is slated for a Kids Eat Free Sunday.

Following the homestand, Washington will travel to Schaumburg for three weekday games before coming home for three with the Gateway Grizzlies. The playoff race is heating up in the Frontier League.

Following play, Sunday, July 23, Washington sits 7.5 games back of a playoff spot with 36 games to go. It would not be unheard of, but Washington will need to be on the up for the final 12 series of the season, which includes five sets against clubs ahead of Washington in the West Division standings.

For tickets and more promotions info for the remainder of the 2023 season, visit washingtonwildthings.com or call 724-250-9555.

Coffee culture by the numbers as of 2023

By Chia Yi Hou

Stacker.com

People tend to like their beverages a certain way—their cocktails straight up versus on the rocks, their water still versus carbonated, their soda diet versus regular, and their coffee with countless flavors, milk, and other customizations. Whether it's a creamy iced latte, a foamy cappuccino, or a piping hot cup of black brew, coffee drinkers tend to be exceptionally loyal and consistent. In a survey released in April 2023, the National Coffee Association found 65% of adults had coffee within the last day, but how they took their coffee varied widely.

In the United States, coffee isn't just a vehicle for caffeine—it's a key part of morning routines, the drink of choice when catching up with an old friend, and a way to prolong a date that's going well. But not all of the 50 states are created equal when it comes to coffee culture. The latest NCA survey found coffee consumption varies by age and region. Homegrounds compiled a list of 10 facts and statistics about how Americans consume coffee using data from the NCA's Spring 2023 report to get a glimpse at current coffee culture in the U.S. Almost two-thirds of Americans drank coffee within the past day. As proof of coffee's popularity, 65% of survey respondents said they had coffee within the past day. If that statistic were to hold for all people over 18 across the U.S., which is about 260 million people, that would amount to 169 million people drinking coffee daily. The survey results also showed more people drank coffee than water in the last 24 hours—56% said they had bottled water and 45% said they drank tap water during the same time. It's also more popular than tea, juice, and soda. Far more Americans over 60 drink coffee daily than those in their early 20s. The older you are, the longer you've had to build



a coffee-drinking habit. The survey results show that older folks drink coffee more than younger people: 69% of Americans over 60 drank coffee in the past day, compared to just 47% of 18- to 24-year-olds who said the same. However, once survey respondents hit 25, it seems coffee consumption skyrocketed: 66% of respondents 25 to 39 and 67% aged 40 to 59 had had a cup of Joe within the last day. 91% of Americans bought at least one cup of coffee out in the past week rather than making it at home. The survey data showed that many people pick up a coffee when they're out instead of making it at home. More than 90% of respondents said they bought a cup of coffee out at least once a week. While slightly over half (54%) said they bought a cup of coffee out one to three times a week, 37% said they do so at least four times a week.

It's no wonder then that investing app Acorns reports that Americans spend about \$1,100 a year on coffee, as of 2018. Also unsurprisingly, more respondents would give up dessert or social media for a year than coffee, according to Acorn's 2022 survey. The most popular preparation in the US is traditional drip. Although new brewing methods still pop up, the tried and true drip coffee

machine was still the most common method of brewing among those surveyed, with 41% preferring it. One of the significant benefits of using a machine is being able to make a large amount of coffee at once and the ability to set a timer so it can start brewing before you even get out of bed in the morning.

The second most popular preparation method is via single-cup brewing machines at 28%, up 4% compared to the same survey conducted in 2022. Cold brew comes in at #3, with 11% of respondents preferring their java cold, and the more complex espresso machine ranks at #4 with 9%.

Lattes, cappuccinos, and plain espresso tied for the most popular espresso drinks. There are almost too many espresso drinks to count, from Americanos and macchiatos to flat whites and café mochas. Based on the survey results, Americans certainly have their favorites. Lattes, cappuccinos, and plain espresso are the most popular, with 16% of respondents saying they had one of those three beverages in the past week. Next up were café mochas and Americanos, which 11% of people surveyed drank in the past week, while 9% had macchiatos and 4% opted for flat whites.

Of all the regions in the

US, coffee is most popular in the Northeast, but not by much.

The survey also broke out results by four broad regions of the U.S.

Although more people in the Northeast said they had coffee in the last day (67%), it's nearly just as common in other parts of the country. The West and South are close behind, with 65% of people saying they had coffee within the last day.

Coffee is least popular in the Midwest. People consume coffee relatively evenly across the United States. Still, technically, according to the survey results, it's least popular in the Midwest: 61% of respondents from the region said they had coffee in the past day.

People in the US consume nearly 500 million cups of coffee each day.

According to the NCA, Americans drink approximately 491 cups of coffee every day. If every one of the nearly 260 million adults in the country drank a cup of coffee daily, that would be about 2 cups per person daily. But as we know from this survey, 65% of people drink coffee daily, about 169 million Americans. By that estimation, many people drink two to three cups daily.

There are about 80 to 100 mg of caffeine in each 8-ounce cup of coffee, according to the FDA,

meaning a good portion of Americans consume up to 300 mg of caffeine a day via coffee alone. The FDA considers 400 mg to be the upper limit for a healthy amount of caffeine for an adult. Still, it's valuable to note there's a wide variation in sensitivity to caffeine, especially for those on medication or pregnant. Traditional coffee is slightly more popular than specialty coffee. Most people—62%, to be precise—drink traditional coffee, according to the survey. The NCA defines classic Joe as coffee "not brewed from premium whole bean or ground varieties."

Although there isn't a widely recognized definition of specialty coffee, generally, it is made from higher-quality coffee beans. The Specialty Coffee Association defines it as "a coffee or coffee experience recognized for its distinctive attributes, and because of these attributes, has significant extra value in the marketplace."

Specialty coffee may also be roasted in small batches at the same site where it will be sold, compared to factory-roasted and distributed beans.

About 1 in 3 coffee drinkers in the past week opted for flavored coffee. Coffee can get its flavor from how the beans are roasted and processed or from adding flavoring after the coffee brews. While most survey respondents don't prefer flavored coffee, those who do (32%) favor vanilla and mocha the most.

Tied in third place are caramel/toffee/butterscotch and hazelnut. Irish cream, pumpkin spice, amaretto/almond, and maple pecan rounded out the list. People have also created some particularly creative specialty flavors, like fruity cereal, cheesecake, and sweet potato pie.

This story originally appeared on Homegrounds and was produced and distributed in partnership with Stacker Studio.

Coffee fun facts and Washington locations

• **"The Coffee Song"** (occasionally subtitled "They've Got an Awful Lot of Coffee in Brazil") is a novelty song written by Bob Hilliard and Dick Miles, first recorded by Frank Sinatra in 1946. Later that year it was recorded by The Smart Set, and by others in later years.

The song caricatures Brazil's coffee surplus, jokingly claiming that no other beverages are available. Snowclones on this phrase have been used in analyses of the coffee industry, and of the Brazilian economy and culture.

Frank Sinatra re-recorded the song in 1960 for his inaugural Reprise release, Ring-a-Ding-Ding!

- Coffee is actually a fruit
- Coffee Shops boost your creativity
- The most expensive coffee in the world is more than \$600 per pound
 - Finland Drinks the most coffee in the world
- The World drinks 2.25 billion Cups of coffee per day

The Coffee culture is always changing as people find new ways of enjoying this tasty and energizing drink.

Washington County offers a wide variety of different coffee stops where you can relax and enjoy your favorite coffee drink. Here a several of the many we recommend.

The Table – 21 E. Chestnut St Washington

Crazy Horse Coffee – 900 Wildflower Circle Washington

Fortuitea Café and Bakery – 1445 Washington Rd The Shoppes at Quail Hollow/Washington

Chicco Baccello – 239 S. Main St Washington and 111 W. Pike St. Canonsburg

Harmony House – 47 N. Main St Washington

Labella Bean – 1900 Main St. Canonsburg

Coffee Express-O – 2200 Tanger Blvd Tanger Outlets/Washington

Little City Coffee – 418 W. Main St Monongahela

Bartrum Bakery House Bakery – 4120 Washington Rd McMurray

The Country Store – 698 Venetia Rd Venetia

Perked Up Café – 530 McKean Ave Charleroi

Fresh Start Cafe- 46 W. Pike St. Canonsburg



IT'S NOT MOM AND POPS... IT'S POP'S AND RORY'S

By Tracy Horne

Small town ice cream shop becoming a community favorite in Claysville...

"You can't buy happiness... but you can by ice cream and that's pretty much the same thing!" -Author Unknown.

There is a lot of truth in that statement, but there is also a lot of truth in the statement that food in itself can bring a lot of happiness, and that is what the Graham family has discovered over many years of providing opportunities for folks to enjoy their food offerings, whether it be pizza at a local roller rink, or the Lagonda pizza shop they once owned, the purchase of Minteers Market in Claysville and their newest adventure, Pop's and Rory's ice cream shop.

Pop's and Rory's was birthed out of an idea of what to do with the garage behind Minteers. Julie and Clay Graham purchased Minteers and were in the garage one day and she said, "don't you think this would make a great ice cream shop?" That is how the idea came about and after much discussion and a



Brownie sundae

whole lot of planning the project came alive.

Julie shared the coolest story about Pop's and Rory's creation, from the process of the conversion of the space, and how they came up with the name for the establishment. She said that her husband has always loved to cook, and he and their granddaughter Rory cook

together all the time. Rory has a great imagination, and they would pretend to have a restaurant, and one day while playing and cooking she made a sign and it said, "Pop's and Rory's," she put the sign up and the name was born!

Rory is a vital part of what happens at the ice cream/restaurant, she is

the designer of the sign, she wrote the words and the folks who made the sign were able to use her actual printing to create what people see when coming up to order. Not only did Rory make a commercial for Facebook for the grand opening, but she also went out and introduced herself to all the patrons during the grand opening. She is super excited and proud to have her name on the sign with her Pop!



Busy afternoon at Pop's and Rory's

One of the things that Julie shared as well was with the purchase of the small grocery store in the front, that they had decided to leave the name Minteers because that is what the community associated the store with and the fond memories that the community has of the former owners and she hopes that same kind of connection happens with Pops's and Rory's.

The Graham family has a heart for the community and their hope is to employ young people at their establishments. It offers opportunity for local kids who may have to walk or ride their bikes to a job, and the kids in the community have eagerly joined up as staff. Graham says they take

pride in their work and do a great job, it is impressive to see the relationships that are being created due to the opportunity they have been afforded.

Pop's and Rory's is open seven days a week from 10-10! They offer a variety of pizzas, *>Lorem* sandwiches, appetizer type foods and of course ice cream. This writer would highly recommend their version of a blizzard, the "Ro-Ro Nado!"

So, if you are looking for a family friendly, something unique experience, try Pop's and Rory's in Claysville. It will not disappoint!

Ollie's Bargain Outlet coming to Washington County

With over 482 stores across 29 states Ollie's is Bargain Outlet is America's largest retailer of closeout merchandise and excess inventory. Shoppers can find real brands at real bargain prices in every department, from housewares to sporting goods to flooring and to food. Ollie's features brand name products at up to 70% off the "fancy stores". Pennsylvania currently is home to 49 stores, but in late October of this year, Ollie's will open their first store in Washington County at the Washington Crown Center located at 1500 West Chestnut Street, Washington, PA. The store will cover



Scene from a previous Ollie's grand opening

25,239 square feet and will bring about 50-60 new jobs to the local community. Positions ranging from cashiers to

assistant managers will be up for hire in September, prior to the opening. Ollie's employs over 10,000 associates across the company. According to Tom Kuypers, Senior Vice President of Marketing & Advertising, Ollie's "believes in promoting from within to help fuel their ongoing growth." Accordingly, there will be opportunities to join the Ollie's team, and grow with the company from its new location. Anyone interested in applying for one of the Washington

positions can apply online at Ollies.us or on location as they get closer to the opening. The first Ollie's Bargain Outlet store was born in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania on July 29, 1982, to its four founding fathers: Mark Butler, Mort Bernstein, Oliver "Ollie" Rosenberg, and Harry Coverman. Since then, Ollie's has continued the tradition that they started. The company went public in 2015 and recently celebrated their 40th anniversary in July of last

year. Ollie's buyers scour the world looking for closeouts, overstocks, package changes, manufacturer-refurbished goods, and irregulars. Kuypers said, "our products are always changing and when they're gone, they're gone. So, make sure you stop on by because you never know what you'll find." Kuypers continued, "Ollie's is a very different type of store. We offer incredible deals on brand name products that may be in old packaging or have been last year's model, but at incredible discounts off what they cost at the fancy stores. We're very excited to bring this concept to Washington PA. and look forward to being a part of the community for years to come." When asked why Ollie's targeted Washington for one of its stores, Kuypers said, "Ollie's is always looking to grow. We want to become part of the fabric of the community we serve, and Washington PA is exactly the kind of town we love to come to."



Typical Ollie's store layout

Let's Build Your

DREAMS

We have a reputation as one of the area's foremost quality custom builders and we take pride in building homes that stand out from the rest.

LEICHTY BUILDERS
Custom Homes and Remodeling

750 Brownlee Road, Eighty Four, PA 15330
724-228-8020

GOVERNMENT

Harrisburg Update

By Robert Johnson

No budget approval in Harrisburg.


As of now there has been little movement on the state budget. Senate Republicans and Governor Shapiro agreed on a \$45 billion dollar budget which included \$100 million dollars for the "Pennsylvania Award for Student Success (PASS) Scholarship program. The PASS program

would provide between \$2,500 and \$15,000 per year in state – funded vouchers to eligible students, depending on grade and whether the student needs special education services. Funds can be used only for tuition at a nonpublic school, or for associated fees, including special education expenses. Student eligibility requirements exist with this new PASS program,

Students must reside in the attendance area of a public school categorized as "low-achieving" (bottom 15% in reading and math scores of similar schools). The PA House is not agreeing with the Governor and State Senate on the PASS program which has stalled passage of the 2023-24 budget. The PSEA (state teacher's union) is working

diligently to oppose the PASS program. PA Representative Sara Innamorato (D-Allegheny) has resigned her seat in the House to focus on her race for County Executive in Allegheny County. This brings the House numbers back to 101-101 with an even split among Republicans and Democrats. A special election has been set for September 19th to elect a

new Representative for Sara's seat. Due to PA House Democrat opposition and the Special election, PA House Republican Appropriations Chair Seth Grove (R-York) recently stated he believes we may not see budget approval before October 2023. The PA House and PA Senate are not scheduled to return to session in Harrisburg until late September.

*** KEEP ***
JASON WALSH

YOUR LAW AND ORDER DISTRICT ATTORNEY

 Current District Attorney
 Member of the Washington County DA's office since 2016
 Lifelong resident of Washington County
TOUGH ON CRIME
 Strong advocate for elderly and child victims
 Aggressive prosecution of violent criminals
 ENDORSEMENTS:
 Pennsylvania State Police FOP 47
 Mon Valley Chief's of Police Association
 City of Washington Police Lodge 95
 South-West Regional Police Lodge 87
 AFSCME Council 84
 FOAC - Firearms Owners Against Crime
 Award:
 Excellence in Prosecution-International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Association
Paid for by candidate

Re-Elect
WARCO
CORONER
Paid for by candidate
EXPERIENCE MATTERS

WASHINGTON COUNTY

RAY PHILLIPS
 Clerk of Courts
VOTE DATE NOV 7TH
 Just Good Business
Paid for by candidate
 Restoring Integrity

CONSERVATIVE
Electra Janis
 COUNTY COMMISSIONER
Paid for by candidate
 ⚡ GROW JOBS
 ⚡ DEFEND TAXPAYERS
 ⚡ ENSURE ELECTION INTEGRITY
 Republican General: Tuesday Nov 7th
 Polls Open From: 7:00AM - 8:00PM
VOTE NOV 7 IN THE REPUBLICAN GENERAL
 ELECTRAJANIS.COM

REELECT CONSERVATIVE NICK SHERMAN
 COUNTY COMMISSIONER
VOTE NOV 7 IN THE REPUBLICAN GENERAL
IN HIS FIRST TERM, NICK SHERMAN:
 * Sued Governor Wolf to end covid lockdowns and mandates—and won
 * Eliminated ballot drop boxes to ensure election integrity
 * Reinstated Second Amendment rights for firearm carry in county parks
 * Kept taxes low and turned down a pay raise
 * Opposed the Home Rule Charter
 Republican General: Tuesday Nov 7th
 Polls Open from 7:00AM - 8:00PM
Paid for by Friends of Nick Sherman
Paid for by candidate

OPINION

From the Depths of Despair – Our Nations Motto is Declared In God We Trust – The Story

By Thomas Uram

*From the Depths of Despair,
Our Nations Motto is Declared!*

"In God We Trust" ~ The Story

The Rev. Mark R. Watkinson was deeply troubled by a Civil War in which brother fought against brother and the blood of all Americans boiled. Such godlessness, he reasoned, might wreck the nation beyond repair. He deplored the lack of a federal recognition of trust in God.

Mr. Watkinson brooded as the Confederates shelled Fort Sumpter, S.C. into surrender on April 14, 1861, then a few months later chased the Union forces back to Washington, D.C. in the first battle of Bull Run.

Finally, he sat down Nov. 13, 1861 in his study of The First Particular Baptist Church of Ridleyville – now Prospect Park – and wrote to Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase.

"One fact touching our currency has hitherto been seriously overlooked. I mean the recognition of the Almighty God in some form on our coins. What if our republic were now shattered beyond reconstruction? Would not the antiquaries of succeeding centuries rightly reason from our past that we were a heathen nation?"

He suggested a motto on the theme of "God, Liberty, Law," and asserted *"This would relieve us from the ignominy of heathenism. This would place us openly under the Divine protection we have personally claimed. From my heart I have felt our national shame in disowning God as not the least of our present national disasters."*

Secretary Salmon P. Chase, one of the ablest members in President Abraham Lincoln's cabinet and regarded as the father of the modern American banking system, was burdened with the problems of war financing when he received the Watkinson letter. But he read it and promptly recognized the merit of the minister's plea and dispatched a letter to James W. Pollock, director of the U.S. Mint at Philadelphia.

"No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins. You will cause a device to be prepared without delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and truest words possible this national recognition."

An Act of Congress on April 22, 1864 formally put the motto on coins. It first appeared on the short-lived two-cent bronze piece coined in May, 1864. By 1866, "In God We Trust" was appearing on \$5, \$10 and \$20 gold pieces, the 25-and 50-cent and \$1 silver pieces, and the five-cent piece.

Because of design limitations, the motto was dropped from the liberty head nickel, first coined in 1883, and from its successor, the buffalo nickel.

Not until 1957 – almost a century after the Watkinson letter – did \$1 silver certificates begin to carry the motto. The bill, which finally emerged from Congress and was approved on July 11, 1955 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, specified "...that at such time as new dies for the printing currency are adopted...the dies shall bear...the inscription 'In God We Trust,' and thereafter the inscription shall appear on all United States currency and coins."

Reverend Mark R. Watkinson

Salmon P. Chase

James W. Pollock

A Virtuous and Moral Citizenry

By Tom Flickinger



I just returned from a weeklong retreat at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. Hillsdale seems to be one of the few remaining colleges that refuses federal money and remains an independent bastion of conservative thought. The course was titled "Constitutional Issues and Controversies." They packed an intensive five days of instruction and lecture from their finest professors. I was in my element and was thrilled to learn of the founding fathers' original intent of our republic as compared to the aristocracy (a government of the few who rule in the interest of the whole) we have today. We are far from the constitution's basic precepts (rule by the people) and have fallen away from its core structure.

James Madison was a genius. He studied all the governmental structures known to man and the sayings of the ancient philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle. He studied the Roman empire, the Saxons, the Greeks, and the Bible searching for the "best practices" in government. What he came up with, along with other very wise men such as Jefferson, Adams, Jay etc. was a form of government that never existed anywhere on the face of the earth. A constitutional republic was formed with separation of powers, ruled by the citizenry. However, there is a caveat to this form of government. I will let those that were there tell

you about this caveat. Benjamin Franklin stated, "Only virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." George Washington stated that the country could only survive, "so long as there shall remain any virtue in the body of the people." And James Madison states... "to suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people, is an imaginary idea."

A free people cannot survive under a constitutional republic unless they remain virtuous and morally strong. It does not take an expert to know that the morality and virtuousness of this nation has declined. How do you elect virtuous leaders for the state if your citizens are addicted to drugs, sleeping on the streets, illiterate, and morally corrupt? We cannot even define what a citizen is any more as we allow a flood of illegal immigration into the country. Are these illegal immigrants vested in the patriotic responsibilities of a citizen of the USA? If you look from where this flood of immigrants come from, their governments are not bastions of good civil practice. The immigrants are not familiar with the freedoms and the laws of the USA and will not automatically assimilate into the norms and morals of the United States. In 1924 the Immigration Act was passed to address the huge influx of immigrants and greatly limited immigration to allow time for assimilation and keep the ideal of U.S. homogeneity. What we are creating now, is a nation of tribes with no assimilation efforts which will end in a host of cultural clashes as can be learned from the failed immigration experiments of Germany and France. And finally, the best way to secure a virtuous and morally stable people is to elect virtuous leaders. Have we seen one of these virtuous leaders lately? With the vast corruption within the very halls of Congress and the Executive branch, paid for by lobbyist and foreign interests' dollars, how can we expect an outcome beneficial to the people? When the very law-making apparatus (Congress) defined in the constitution has been assigned to an unelected Administrative State (EPA, FDA, DEP, etc.) contrary to the constitution's original intent, how can the "People" hold its representatives accountable? The connection to the "People" has been severed. We must return to the original design of the three branches of government as originally intended and bring the law origination back to Congress. I trust more in the intellect and virtue of the "founding fathers" than in the combined intellect of all the Presidents, Congressmen and Justices since the founding of this once great nation.

Storm Warning on the Election Front

By Dave Ball

The Commonwealth Office in charge of administering elections is the appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth. In recent years, this office has gained a less than stellar reputation for mismanagement and accusations of abetting fraud.

In 2019, Gov. Tom Wolf appointed ultra-liberal Democratic political hack Kathy Boockvar to the position with the assignment of seeing how far voting laws and regulations could be pushed to allow questionable registration and illegal Democratic voting. She bent laws and created regulations on the fly. She was finally forced to resign when her office failed to properly administer the advertising of a ballot amendment. She was succeeded by equally liberal Veronica Degraffeneid.

Governor Wolf, in an attempt to deceive people into thinking he was making a bipartisan gesture at restoring some semblance of respectability to the office of Secretary of State made a big show of nominating what he claimed is a Republican in Al Schmidt.

The first red flag with Al Schmidt should be that Tom Wolf nominated him. The second should be that, previously, he was one of three Commissioners in charge of the Philadelphia Elections Office. Knowing Tom Wolf, he would not nominate someone who he was not fairly sure would beckon to his call and, coming from the Philadelphia elections office, we can be reasonably sure Al has only a passing acquaintance with honest elections.

After the 2020 Presidential election, Al Schmidt proudly tweeted that Philadelphia had just certified the results of the most transparent and secure election in the history of Philadelphia. Wow is that a boast and a half. Let's take a quick look at some of the highlights of that transparent and secure election. Satellite election offices popped up all over Philadelphia, just coincidentally in the most densely Democratic neighborhoods, financed by money from master Democratic election thug Mark Zuckerberg. No observers were permitted at these satellite offices. How's that for transparency? When brought to Schmidt's attention, he just blew it off. Nothing to see here, move along. Then, of course, there was the major issue of observers in the counting warehouse. A fence was built to keep observers far away, in some cases a hundred feet or more, from where actual counting as occurring. When a court ordered that observers be permitted to stand within six feet, counting was stopped until Philadelphia obtained a stay on the court order. So much for transparent Al who obtained the order to keep observers away.

At Al Schmidt's confirmation hearing, Sen. Dush and his committee asked a lot of questions regarding Schmidt's position on registration, drop boxes, the integrity of voter rolls and different counties interpreting voter laws differently. Schmidt never did give answers to many of the questions. Further, Schmidt appears to agree with those who do not believe that voters need to follow the law regarding signing and dating mail in ballots. It is a dangerous thing to have the person in charge of enforcing the law believing he has the authority to interpret the law as he sees fit. All these negatives notwithstanding, the Pennsylvania Senate State Government Committee, a Republican led committee, approved Al Schmidt, and forwarded his nomination to the full Senate for confirmation. In the name of Heaven, how can they do this? How will we ever restore honesty and the rule of law to our voting system if Republican led committees endorse people for position such as Secretary of State who both by word and deed have no respect for the law and therefore offer no prospect for upholding it in future elections? Shame on Senator Dush and all the Republicans on the Committee that voted to move the nomination forward. The nomination was sent to the floor and not acted upon in the statutory time period so was deemed approved. Not only do we have a Secretary of the Commonwealth with no respect for the law but a Senate full of spineless Republicans afraid to stand up and be counted. This should have been an easy one. Very disappointing.

Infused IV Therapy Opens in Washington

Melissa Sumney ACNP, MSN, RN has 30 years' experience as a Registered Nurse, 16 of those years as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner working in Critical Care Medicine. Born and raised in Washington County PA, she graduated from Trinity Senior High School in 1987, completed her RN Diploma at The Washington Hospital School of Nursing, her BSN from California University of Pennsylvania and finally her master's in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh in 2006.

One could assume that Sumney knows a thing or two about medicine and healing the human body. That assumption would be correct.

It is with this knowledge and background, coupled with a desire to open a new chapter in her life that the idea of her new Washington based business, "Infused," was born. "I wanted something that I could build off of the skill set that I have developed over the past 30 years and after researching options I came across the IV infusion clinics that were up and coming in major

cities and travel destinations," she said. "After educating myself on the clinical and business end of things my husband (Rob) and I decided this would be a great transition into retirement. I am still looking to add other services and lines to the business like body sculpting or maybe Botox and fillers but would like to bring someone on board to provide those



services. I am currently taking courses in Functional Medicine. I see so much progressive chronic illness in my line of work that is so debilitating. I would like to be able to provide a service that focuses on root causes of chronic illness, prevention, and longevity."

What is Infused IV Therapy?

Infused IV provides a number of Intravenous

(IV) Therapies, supplements, and medications to help clients with Migraine Relief, Energy Boost, Cellular Support, Immune Support, Hangover Recovery, Overall Wellness, PMS Relief, Metabolism Boost, Fatigue, Rehydration, Performance Recovery, weight loss, and more.

Depending on the service, these IV Infusions contain such

supplements and medications as Amino Acids, Ascorbic Acid, B-Vitamins (including Thiamine, Niacin, Pantothenic Acid, Pyridoxine, and Cobalamin/B12), Calcium Chloride, Glutathione, Magnesium Chloride, Taurine (or L-Taurine), Mineral Blends, NAD+, ALA (Alpha Lipoic Acid).

Who should use this therapy?

According to Sumney, the short answer is anyone. "If you are feeling run down and over stressed, athletes looking for prep for or recovery from and event, migraine sufferers, anyone needing relief from a hard night out/hangover recovery, or anyone needing fluids working out in the heat/elements feeling dehydrated. We are working on bringing in NAD+ therapy which is something the body makes naturally but decreases as we age and will be part of our longevity program. ALA (alpha lipoic acid) has some documented effects in fighting neuropathy and Glutathione is a strong antioxidant and both are available with consultation. All clients receive a review of their health and medication history for appropriateness of treatment."

Overall Intravenous Infusion Therapy is fairly new in the Washington County area, however, it is quite established in larger cities and in travel destination areas. Infused is looking to provide IV therapy for a variety of needs for their clients that would not normally be

available outside of an Emergency Room Visit.

How can you Schedule a visit?

Infusion is located is located at 378 West Chestnut Street, suite 104 in Washington. Potential clients can call 724-705-7341 to book an appointment or learn more about the full menu of services offered. The infused website is a plethora of information. Visit myinfusediv.com for available infusions and to review their FAQ page. Infusions are by appointment only and can be scheduled through the website or on our direct booking site at myinfusediv.janeapp.com.

The company does try to have at least 2 months of available appointments posted however if you are unable to find a time that works for you, email them at info@myinfusediv.com or message them through their Facebook page, Infused IV Hydration.

Infused is hoping to provide mobile services soon and with planning can provide infusion services for events.

Guyton's Food Warehouse Celebrates 40 Years in Washington County

Long before the big box warehouse stores settled in town, Guyton's Food Warehouse opened its doors on a stretch of Route 136 in 84 PA, just five minutes outside of Washington City limits. On July 1st, 1983, proprietor Greg Guyton opened his shop offering small and bulk food service quality products for restaurants and at home cooking. Forty years later, Guyton's is still going strong operating out of their two-story market which is full of literally thousands of different products. A bit of a throwback to a different time, Guyton's operates with the idea of providing the best customer service to the store's patrons. Chrissie Slebonick, who oversees the store in Greg Guyton's absence and is a three-year employee said,



planning, has been coming to Guyton's for over 20 years. "I love Guyton's for the price, selection, dependability and the friendly service," Worthington said. She went on to say that "If the store does not have something I need, Greg will order it in within a couple of days. During the pandemic I needed a certain type of pan and just could not find them anywhere. Greg went out of his way to find them and get them to me quickly, that is old school service you just do not find anymore."

At Guyton's you will not find fancy cash register scanners of bar codes. The simple old-school push-button register lends itself nicely to the country store atmosphere. However, Guyton's does accept all forms of payment including debit and credit cards (except American Express), cash, checks and EBT. Store hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9-5 and Saturday 9-6. And yet again in good old country store fashion, they are closed on Sunday's.

So, if you are looking to buy in small quantity or bulk, with a wide variety of selections, service to rival none other and a pleasant shopping experience; stop in at Guyton's and visit with anyone of their six employees who will most certainly serve you with a smile and ensure you get what you need. Be sure to visit their website at guytonfoodwarehouse.com or their Facebook page, Guyton's Food Warehouse.



Guyton's employee Chrissie Slebonick and long time customer Jane Worthington

"We sell customer service more than anything," On top of the large variety of canned goods, frozen foods, paper and container supplies and party goods, the service at Guyton's rivals that of any store in the area. "We have customers call ahead for orders and we pack them up, have them ready and deliver them to their cars," Slebonick stated. "We serve restaurants, bars, families and many other businesses and we also do it with a smile. We have so many regular customers who keep coming back for our selection and service." Jane Worthington, who formally owned Grannie's Griddle and Grub restaurant and now focuses on party

The Weekly Recorder Locations

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Paper Boxes - Look for the Burgandy and Black Box

- Beau Street Park and Ride – I70 Exit 20-E Beau St, Washington
- 19 North Main St. – Washington
- Landmark Building, 75 E. Maiden Street – Washington
- Grande Jr. Pizza – 596 Racetrack Road – Washington
- Crazy Horse Coffee – 900 Wildflower Circle, Washington
- Bedillion's Pizza – 210 Main Street, Claysville
- Linda's Hometown Bakery – 148 W. Pike Street, Canonsburg
- 245 Latimer Avenue – Strabane
- Casciola's Twin Twist – 3407 Millers Run Road – McDonald Pike Inn – 40 Maryland Ave. Houston
- Southpointe Park and Ride – 657 Morganza Road, Canonsburg

Store Locations

- Dog House Diner – 1145 Jefferson Avenue, Washington
- Chicco Bacello = 239 South Main Street, Washington
- Krency's Bakery – 990 Jefferson Avenue, Washington
- Krency's Bakery – 690 E. Maiden Street, Washington
- Angelo's – 2109 N. Franklin Road, Washington
- Presidents Pub – 88 N. Main Street, Washington
- Bethel Bakery - Washington
- Beck's Beer – 855 Jefferson Ave, Washington
- Interstate Golf - 2200 Old National Pike, Washington
- Interstate Foodland- 1920 West Chestnut, Washington
- Shop and Save – 125 W. Beau St, Washington
- Chicco Bacello – 111 W. Pike Street, Canonsburg
- Canonsburg Cake Company -
- Fresh Start Café – 46 W. Pike Street, Canonsburg
- Bella Sera – 414 Morganza Road, Canonsburg
- Southpointe Golf Club – 360 Southpointe Blvd, Canonsburg
- MMM MMM Pizza - Canonsburg
- Family First Care – Canonsburg
- Jefferies Drug Store - Canonsburg
- LaBella Bean – 1900 Main St, Canonsburg
- Lindenwood Golf Course – 360 Galley Road, Canonsburg
- Canonsburg Shop and Save – 617 W, Pike St, Canonsburg
- Heisler's Market – 601 E. McMurray Rd, Canonsburg
- Eye Gallery - 150 W. Beau Street, Washington
- 84 Auction – PA 136, Washington
- Lone Pine Golf Club – 2755 Park Ave, Washington
- Springhouse – 1531 Route 136, Washington
- Carlton Diner – 704 Main St, Bentleyville
- Chippewa Golf Course – 128 Chippewa Rd, Bentleyville
- Medicine Shoppe – 808 Main St, Bentleyville
- Rolling Green Golf – 2426 PA 136, Eighty-Four
- Canton Town Hall – Eighty-Fourth
- 519 Beer Stop – 820 PA-519
- Eighty Four Collectibles and Antiques – Eighty Four
- Frosty Valley Golf – 2652 Hidden Valley Rd, Upper St, Clair
- Cox Market – 711 Rte 481, Monongahela
- Hog Fathers – 243 #qwt Main St., Monongahela
- SPHS Senior Center – 102 W. Main Street, Monongahela
- Hickory Heights Golf – 116 Hickory Heights Dr, Bridgeville
- Jimmy Z's Pizza – 12 W Pike St, Houston
- BP Houston – 29 E Pike St, Houston
- Indian Run GC = 1975 Avella Rd, Avella

THINGS TO DO IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

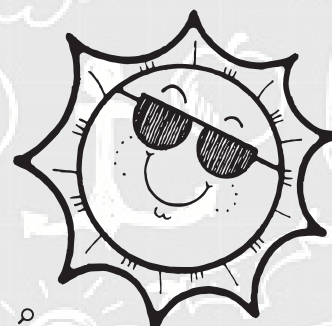
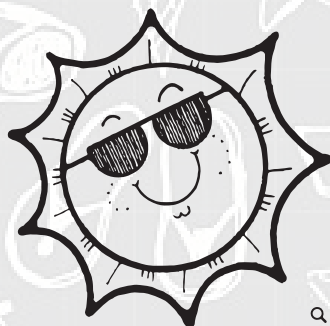
July events

July 29

The Adios Hollywood Meadows Racetrack and Casino

July 30

Claysville Firemens Festival
The Blue Ride



August events

August 2nd

the Next McDonald Summerfest

August 4th

RAD White and Blue Car Show Main Street Washington
Ted Nugent Hollywood Casino at The Meadows

August

North Strabane Community Day The Clarks
Ribest Canonsburg Town Park

August 6th

Good Karma Band Canonsburg Town Park

August 10th

Barrel Racing Sydmor Arena Monongahela

August 11th

the Mazerowski's Deadhead Winery

August 12th

Andy Gregg and The Liquor Missiles Liberty Pole Spirits

Outlaw Music Festival Willie Nelson John Fogerty The
Pavilion at Starlake

Four Chord Music Festival Wildthings Park

August 13th

Linden Creek Dairy Customer Appreciation
Day 13 Russell Dickerson Washington County Fair

August 15th

Jelly Roll The Pavilion at Starlake

August 16th

Ruff Creek Washington County Fair

August 19th

Luke Bryan The Pavilion at Starlake
Kids Fishing Derby Canonsburg Lake
Marcus Tyler Band at Washington County Fair
Buckwild Monongahela Aquatorium

August 20th

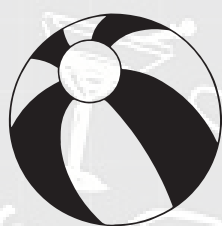
Sheriff's Night Out and Canton Carnival Canton
Township Park

August 24th

Barrel Racing Sydmor Arena

August 26th

Corks and Kegs Hollywood Casino at the Meadows
26 Steel City Pull West Alexander Fair



AROUND THE COUNTY

North Franklin

Variety goods chain, Dollar General, who operates over 18,000 stores, has announced they will be opening a new store in North Franklin Township at 1890 West Chestnut Street at the location of the former USA Steak Buffet. Details on the timing of the opening are not available currently.

North Strabane

Rohrich Lexus has recently broke ground for a new dealership along Route 19/Washington Road in North Strabane Township. The site will be just over 18,000 square feet including a basement and three floors above. Included will be a showroom, sales offices, a service area with customer lounges and a multi-story garage for customer/employee parking and dealership inventory.

The North Strabane Public Safety Complex is currently under construction at 2550 Washington Road Canonsburg.

North Strabane Township renews 10-year contract with the PA Fish and Boat Commission allowing for utilization of public recreation areas around Canonsburg Lake for township sponsored activities.

Chartiers Township

Signal Graphics, located at 565 Pike Street Meadowlands, which has served Washington and Allegheny Counties for 27 years, will be getting a new name in the coming weeks. Parent company Franchise Services, who currently owns multiple printing stores, will be rebranding Signal Graphics under the new name, Sir Speedy. Sir Speedy will continue to employ the same people while maintaining the same products, pricing, quality, and excellent customer service. The Signal graphics website and current emails will be seamlessly redirected to the new Sir Speedy accounts. The phone number, 724-942-5699 will stay the same.

Peter's Township

Arts and crafts store Michael's began constructing a new location in March, in Peters Township. The store will be located at 4041 Washington Road, next to Aldi.

Huntington Bank will be opening a new branch at the old site of Robert's For Hair, located at 3952 Washington Road in Peters Township. Demolition of the old structures began on July 12th. Details about the bank's grand opening date are not available at this point.

Canonsburg

Trendy By Georgeann is a women's clothing store offering a wide variety the latest trends in fashion including women's clothes, shoes, and accessories. With frequent sales and stylish fashions for the seasons, you are sure to find what you need at a great price. Be sure to visit the store located at 53 West Pike Street Canonsburg.

So Blue coming to 36 West Pike Canonsburg. Founded in 2002, So Blue is a mother-daughter owned business (Elizabeth Chiarel and Maria Chiarel Diamond) that sources products made in or inspired by Greece. Hand-painted ceramics, pillow covers, decor, olive oil and other pantry staples. A unique shopping experience is in store for certain.

Claysville

Pop's and Rory's Ice Cream Shop opened this spring in Claysville at 211 North Main Street. See the full story in this edition of The Weekly Recorder on page 15.

Canton Township

Ambulance and Chair EMS moved to a new location at 2000 The Road, Washington PA. The new location will serve the western communities of Washington County.

South Strabane

Sephora location opens at Kohls in South Strabane Township at 353 Washington Road,

Strabane Square. Sephora is a French multinational retailer of personal care and beauty products with nearly 340 brands, along with its own private label, Sephora Collection, and includes beauty products such as cosmetics, skincare, body, fragrance, nail color, beauty tools, body lotions and haircare.

Crumble Cookies recently opened a new location at Trinity Point shopping center in South Strabane Township. Crumbl Cookie is a gourmet cookie company that was founded in 2017. The company now has over 700 locations across the United States.

Downtown Washington

Washington Wild Hope boutique recently opened at 80 N Main St, Washington, PA. Wild hope is a unique boutique store specializing in apparel, jewelry, quality resale and gifts. From in style fashion to specialty gifts, Wild Hope offers a wide selection of inventory. Stop in to see what's new.




Win a ride in the starters car!
 Contestants must be at least 16 years of age or older
Reader Sweepstakes!

Clip coupon and mail to PO Box 123 Strabane PA 15363 or email news@theweeklyrecorder.info

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THE WEEKLY RECORDER
 PENN WEST SOLUTIONS LLC.
 DBA
 Penn West Media

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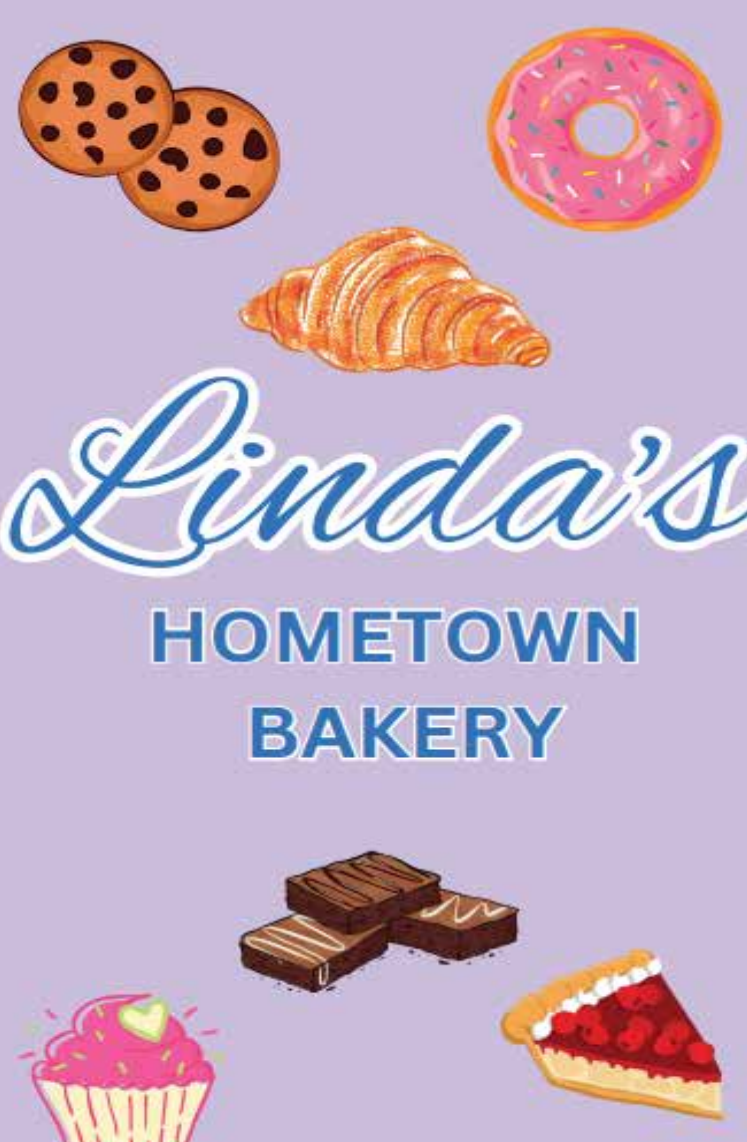
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OUTDOORS

Archery Season - 60 days out

By Chris Sidick

Archery hunting is an exhilarating pursuit that connects individuals with nature's primal rhythm. Drawing the bowstring, feeling its tension, and releasing an arrow creates a profound sense of focus and discipline. The silence of the woods amplifies the hunter's senses, heightening awareness of subtle sounds and movements. The pursuit requires patience, strategy, and skill, fostering a deep appreciation for the environment and the animals being pursued. Archery hunting cultivates a unique bond between hunter and prey, as it demands proximity, precision, and ethical shots. It offers a profound sense of accomplishment and self-reliance when a well-placed arrow finds its mark, celebrating the intersection of human skill and the wild spirit of the hunt.

Two months before archery season is a time of anticipation and excitement for many hunters. It's a time to get into the wilderness, super tune your equipment, and hit the gym. However, success during the hunting season requires thorough preparation. Here are some key steps to ensure you're ready when the season arrives.

1. Equipment Check: First, you need to inspect all your equipment. Your bow and arrows are the most critical tools in your arsenal. Ensure that your bow is in good shape, the strings are taut and not frayed, and the sight is aligned. Next article will emphasis tuning your bow. Check your arrows for any damage and make sure they are straight. Inspect the broadheads to ensure sharpness and proper mechanical function. (Look out for future article about fixed blades vs mechanical!) Don't forget to inspect your quiver, releases, tree stands, safety harnesses, boots, binoculars and range finder.

2. Physical Conditioning: Archery hunting requires strength, endurance, and flexibility. It's essential to keep yourself in good physical shape. Regularly engage in exercises that focus on two main muscle groups, back and legs. Cardiovascular fitness is also important as you may need to hike long distances or climb steep terrains, especially when hunting wapiti out west. This time of year, I routinely mix in full stretch sessions, strength bands for back and shoulders (especially long holds to prepare holding full draw for "one more step"), and weighted hill climbs or sled.

3. Shooting Practice: Accuracy is king in archery hunting. Summer is the perfect time to practice your shooting form, tempo, and dexterity. Set up a target in a safe location and practice shooting from various distances and angles. How many seasons have you calmly practiced on a block target from 20-40 yards on a level, cut grass, open shooting alley. Now, how many times has a mature buck or bull given you a similar shot opportunity. Hmm. I suggest mixing it up this season.



1. Multiple shot angles up and down
2. Multiple shooting positions (Standing, sitting, kneeling, turning torso)
3. Long holds up to 3 minutes then take aim and release
4. Add shooting obstructions such as a low hanging branch
5. Shoot in all weather (Hot sun, dusk lighting, high winds, rain)
6. Get your heart rate up then shoot steady (everyone gets buck fever)
7. Buy a full size print out of a buck or elk and place in front of block
8. Check out your local 3D shoot for even more realistic shots

4. Permission or Leases: Lets face it, every season it gets harder and harder to find quality hunting ground locally. Few landowners willing to give permission, gas and oil cutting down mountains, and public land bursting with hunters and hikers. Trespassing is not an ethical or legal option, so keep in mind finding permission. This can be achieved by knocking on a door, writing a letter, using a source such as On X Maps to gather landowner information. Starting by asking friends and family for connections is always a good idea. A long-time friend and I have recently entered the world of leasing a property's hunting rights. He found himself a good deal on quality land in Columbiana County, Ohio and I have been lucky enough to have my name added on a lease in my college alma mater Marietta, Ohio. This is all new to us, but we look forward to the challenge, adventure, and opportunity to harvest a 180+ Whitetail buck.



Chris and the boys

5. Scouting: Understanding your hunting area is critical. Spend time scouting the area you plan to hunt in. Look for signs of animal activity like tracks, droppings, or feeding areas. Game cameras have been game changing, and they add an enjoyable element to the pre-season. I strongly suggest using a cell camera to avoid disturbing the habitat and bumping your target buck. I use and give five stars to the Tactacam Reveal X Pro. Utilizing game cameras give you two vital pieces of information, quality of deer and perhaps your "target buck" and movement patterns.

6. Safety Measures: Hunting can be dangerous if proper safety measures are not taken. Refresh your knowledge on hunting safety. This includes wearing proper clothing (like blaze orange), knowing how to navigate your hunting ground, and being aware of hunting regulations in your area. Also, if you are going out west, understanding altitude sickness and the process of getting acclimated. Be sure to have proper communication with friends and family about when and where you will be hunting.



Chris teaching proper form

7. Tree Stand or Blind Preparation: If you're using a tree stand or ground blind, make sure they're in good condition and set up correctly. Practice getting in and out of your stand or blind quietly and safely. Most importantly, determine the route to and from your stand to slip in quietly or leave undetected. If your hunting land is large enough, I suggest setting up multiple stand and blind locations which will aid you when it comes to playing the wind, weather, and phase of rut.

8. Mental Preparation: Hunting requires patience and mental toughness. Prepare yourself for the fact that you might spend many hours waiting for the moment of truth. We've all had bad hunting seasons where that opportunity never showed up, or it did and you failed. Another large part of the mentality of hunting is being able to focus on the actual hunt. This means have all your ducks in order and life priorities taken care of. This could include work vacation days being turned in, money saved up, jobs completed, family time satisfied, and overall, just being a good person, which will give you peace of mind and allow you to concentrate on the task at hand.

9. Gear Preparation: Ensure all your gear is ready. This includes your hunting clothes, boots, backpack, first aid kit, navigation devices, food, and water. Make sure everything is in working condition and pack them in an organized manner so you can easily access them when needed. I have two Pelican cases, one is for hunting gear I use nearly every hunt, and the other is for everything else. I'll be doing a September issue that will break down in detail and ounces my spike hunting gear list. I've been hunting elk successfully out west for eleven seasons, and during those eleven seasons I've learned many hard lessons about gear. I'm proud to say I'm dialed in when it comes to packing in light, then packing out heavy.

Successful archery hunting is all about preparation. The more time and effort you put into preparing, the more likely you are to have a successful, safe, and enjoyable hunting season. Also, remember that hunting is not just about the kill. It's about enjoying the great outdoors, respecting wildlife, and practicing ethical hunting. Relish the process of becoming a sound archer year-round. With the right preparation, you can look forward to a rewarding archery hunting season. Remember the 6P Rule; Prior Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance.

TRAVEL

Food and Family: Hard at Work

By Jason Capps

If you happened to catch my story last month, you read about my earliest childhood memories of how food and travel has had a powerful impact on me. While visiting my father's family in South Jersey each summer no doubt played a big part in shaping my life and career interests, growing up in "WashPa" is where I was surrounded by food and family on a daily basis. It is also where my culinary career began.



Me and Aunt Sharon

I had a normal childhood. We did not grow up with any extras like new cars or even name brand shoes and we rarely, if ever, went out to eat. We did, however, have a neat home with plenty of what mattered most... lots of love and support, a warm bed, a big garden, and good food on the table. On holidays and birthdays my mom always made cakes and pies to suit the occasion and Christmas Eve was always given over to the Greco's - my mom's family - with my aunts and cousins coming over for a loud Italian feast. Not a lot of gifts, but boy was there tons to eat!

wouldn't be late to catch the 1:00pm kickoff.

Back in Washington, Grandma Greco lived next door and I remember going to her house almost every day after school to say hello and heat up leftovers for an afternoon snack. It was perfect because she had a new appliance, a microwave oven, (this was the early 80's mind you) so it was the fastest way to 'heat and eat' before disappearing with the neighborhood gang into the woods on our bikes. If I didn't show up with cold food Gram's Italian cooking was always there - simple and definitely delicious. Her homemade pizza, eggplant parmesan and angel hair pasta with fresh garlic, broccoli, olive oil, freshly grated Romano cheese and hot pepper flakes still holds a special place in my heart. So much so, I ended up naming one of my first dishes "Pasta Greco" in honor of her and this delightful staple.

Even though we didn't have a lot growing up, my parents worked hard to make sure my siblings and I had a good foundation in education at JFK, the private catholic grade school. Early on my dad was an English teacher at Clairton Middle School and eventually became a coal miner. Surrounded by friends at school with more "stuff," it dawned on me early that if I wanted to have cool things too, I would have



Jason with friends on thirteenth birthday

lots of cash tips and spent most of these earnings at The Chess King buying parachute pants and other random items in fashion at the time.

That job led to my next adventure, also in hospitality, this time at The Stone Crab Inn, which was closer to home, and I could walk to work. While I enjoyed being out on the floor with the public bussing tables, I always seemed to gravitate to the kitchen and the cooks, so I requested to become a dishwasher. I eventually moved to prep cook when the opportunity arose. I missed the cash in my

constant chaos, and dangerous work all felt very normal to me. I cut



and burned myself a lot, and sweated even more, but I thrived in this environment and enjoyed learning what it might take to maybe one day be a chef.

America (CIA), but was not 100% convinced I wanted to spend my life IN the kitchen per se, especially working for someone else. By this time, the thought of catering was at the front of my mind. My Uncle Ross had sold my grandparent's restaurant in New Jersey and dove into catering where he made a lot more money than with the restaurant. I really respected my uncle, so I began to think about how I could build something like he did. But it would be a few more years and a lot of kitchens later...

Talk about prophetic, here's the direct quote from my 1987 Trinity High School senior yearbook: "JASON ELLIOTT CAPPS. Future Plans: To open my own catering business and become a rich and successful bachelor." While I am divorced with two beautiful daughters, I guess I have done okay so far...

Thanks for reading. Stay tuned for the next story in a couple of weeks about culinary school, my Traveling 20's and life in the fast lane...

Jason Capps
Bella Sera Event Villa
Jason's Journeys

Canonsburg, PA
Jason@bellaseraph.com
JasonsJourneys.com



The DeJeet Family - New Eagle Sunday Supper

Every Sunday after church we went to Monongahela to visit my stepdad Sam's family, where food was also taken very seriously. Imagine Thanksgiving every week. That's the way it always felt there - my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles around the big table, the kids at a smaller one in the kitchen (graduating to the 'big table' was a big deal). I vividly remember smelling the food halfway up the driveway as we arrived like clockwork at noon ready to devour whatever my Grandma Annie had prepared that day. She toiled tirelessly (yet happily) ... making turkey, pot roast, braised pork, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, and salad. For dessert there were often nutrolls or fruit pies, and Steelers football on the TV. That is probably why we always ate on time, so we

to get a job and work for them. I proceeded to get a paper route when I turned 11, carrying 40 newspapers early each morning, 360 days a year, rain or shine. And while I liked being a paperboy, I knew there had to be more to life than collecting \$1.20 from each of my customers every week.

By the time I turned 13 I got my first restaurant job as a bus boy at Lou Reda's Restaurant. My best friend Louie Reda Jr and I wore a tuxedo shirt, bow tie and black dress pants, and bussing the tables of Washington's Who's Who. Louie's dad owned the joint so we ate well every night; we could order whatever we wanted for dinner, usually Braciolo or Chicken Parmesan, with lots of fresh Italian bread and plenty of Coca Cola to wash it down. We made

pocket each night, but I got a genuine rush out of the energy in the kitchen... the heat, the yelling, the pressure, the

After finishing high school, I applied for and was accepted at The Culinary Institute of



Greco family dinner

LIFESTYLE

McPeake My Interest

By Brian McPeake



Let me drop some knowledge on you...

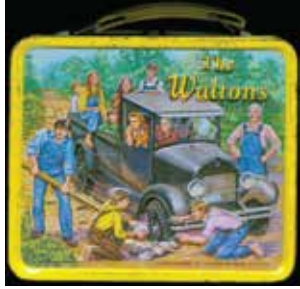
The 1970s were simultaneously the most awesome time to grow up and the most horrifying. We were given a lot of freedom and it was dubbed the "ME" decade. During that time, we tried to forge our own identity and defied all odds at surviving. It was perfectly normal for us to ask our parents, "Hey, can I ride my bike 5 miles to the park and play on the half-frozen lake with some kids you've never met?" Your dad would have just responded "Sure, just be home before the streetlights come on." Although Charles Dickens was not referring to the 70's when he penned "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" he might as well have been.



Freedom was not the only necessity of the 70's, it was all about accessories if you wanted to be cool. Some of the top picks were tube socks, a chopper bike, nerf football, bell bottoms or striped pants, and a Goody Super Comb. Older kids would desire David Bowie's Diamond Dogs on vinyl. But the one thing that gave you the most street cred in grade school was having the right metal lunch box! There was nothing like strolling into the lunchroom with your PB & J safely secured in your Lost In Space box. Bonus points if the thermos was lined with glass. Just kidding... bonus points to all as every thermos was lined with glass. The artwork was probably drawn with lead paint but somehow, we survived. What you could not survive was the shame of

having the wrong lunch box with you and enduring a lifetime of teasing that surely followed.

Here are two prime examples of how a parent's choice to send their kids lunch in the right or wrong lunch box led to a months' worth of wedgies.



1. Little Brian plops down with his new Hong Kong Phooey lunch box. Kids immediately decide that any time you can take a dog who poses as a janitor but who is actually a weird kung foo fighting son of a bleep to school with you, you must take that opportunity. #WINNER

2. Little Paul plops down with his new The Waltons lunch box. Kids immediately decide that nothing says "lunchtime fun" to kids quite like an impoverished Depression-era Mountain family desperately trying to contend with a flat tire on a rusted-out truck. #LOSER

So, this August, when you are out back to school shopping for your kids or grandkids for the love of all that is holy, make good choices. We survived the gauntlet that was the 70's and can't let the same errors in judgement repeat itself. On a side note, if you dig MeTV like I do, if you see John Boy...change the channel immediately!

Sadly, metal lunch boxes were discontinued in 1985. A group of angry parents in Florida lobbied against their use in schools, believing they could be used as weapons. Ironically, the 70's got the last laugh as the last metal lunch box ever made was printed with Rambo! Our sweet bastard of an action hero known for his violent behavior. #WINNER See you next month when we have a noted noble laureate, Murphy Connor James McPeake, fill in for me. I love you guys... Peace.

Behind the Voice – There is more to it than you think.

By P. Phillips



Drummer Eric Storer

I have an interesting theory. When we are being entertained musically, we tend to go directly to the least common denominator and are drawn to the ones doing the singing. WHY?? My hypothesis is that the vocalist is doing the one thing that you can do. No, not hold pitch, but they are using the English language to convey their musical intentions. Most of you do not make direct connections to the guitar player, drummer or even the silly face-making bassist. You go directly to what you are familiar with and that is the woman or man that is speaking a language that you understand otherwise known as the instrument that you play.... The English language. Think about it. You can sing, word for word, the lyrics of your favorite songs. On the other hand, you

can't slap the bass to a Red Hot Chili Peppers song nor can you bang out the drums to Rush, Led Zeppelin and even The Jonas Brothers (to name a few). In this article (and more in the future), I'm going to try assisting all of you in connecting to what your body and sub conscience is already perceiving and you might not even know it. Today, our focus will be on the drummer. Nothing gets your butt out of its seat, starts you moving, tapping, shaking, and grooving like a drummer does, so let me introduce you to Eric Storer. You may have seen Eric playing in The Next, The Tina Daniels Band, The Chocolate Bath tub or any other musical group that needs a percussionist on a rare night off. Eric has a long history around the tri-state region. For more than 35

years he has played on stages with (along with the bands mentioned above): various jazz bands, Artie and the Ignitors, Point Blank, 3 Car Garage, Dancing Queen, The Good Guys and many more. Eric brings a unique combination of Rock, Blues, Funky Soul, and Alternative music to his playing. For you folks that know drumming, Eric incorporates a combo of John Bonham, Tony Thompson, Gene Krupa, and Travis Barker. Now this is where it gets interesting for you! Get out and go beyond the singer. Pay attention to the backline. Peel back the onion and start with the guitar player then move on to the booming sounds that the bassist is delivering. Finally, listen to and watch what the drummer is bringing to your physical reaction. Feel how it moves you. Can you hear influences and styles? I'm guessing you will start seeing, hearing and feeling the music like you never have before. Even before you get back to your "English language comfort zone". You can catch Eric with The Tina Daniels Band

8/2 Mc Summerfest McDonald 7pm

Get out and soak it in. Life is too short to not enjoy the moments. Until next time, Me

Definitions

Nephrologist

A Nephrologist is a medical doctor who specializes in the study, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases and conditions related to the kidneys. This includes disorders such as kidney stones, kidney disease, hypertension (high blood pressure), electrolyte imbalances, and other related conditions. Nephrologists work closely with other healthcare professionals to provide comprehensive care for patients with kidney-related issues, including coordinating dialysis treatment for patients with end-stage kidney disease.

Block-chain

Block-chain a system in which a record of transactions, especially those made in a cryptocurrency, is maintained across computers that are linked in a peer-to-peer network.

Yearling

Yearling A horse between the ages of one and two.

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