

FREE

The Hampton News

May 2024

From the Neighborhoods of Hampton Township, PA

Vol. 19 No. 10

School Musical Showcases “Everlasting” Talent

by Jenn Edmonds

Hampton High School Drama Club took us back in time to a cabin in the woods in the late 1800’s for their extraordinary musical production of “Tuck Everlasting,” with four performances in April. Over 100 students were involved across all aspects of the show from the cast, crew, orchestra, lighting, makeup and anything else you can think of. Only eight adults are directly involved in the production, plus the costume volunteers who created all the cos-

tumes from scratch.

Last years’ hilarious Gene Kelly award-winning production of *Something Rotten!* would be difficult to replicate, so director Dan Franklin and his creative team went in a different direction in selecting this production. Tuck is a tightly written story with well-developed characters that the audience cares about. It is a show about life, love, and how to live with the choices you make. “You wind up caring about the

characters and what happens to them. Plays accomplish this all the time, but when a musical can get the audience to invest in the outcome like that, it’s a truly rare performance piece,” said Franklin.

Senior Andrew Kaehly, who played the role of Jesse Tuck, commended the cast saying, “We have people who are so emotionally expressive. The audience gets lost through the performers,” and this was

(Continued on page 3)



School Blood Drive Helps Diminished Supply

by Emerson Pryal, 11th grade student at HHS

On April 10th, Hampton High School sponsored a blood drive for Vitalant, a blood drive and supply organization. The event was very successful. Vitalant collected 68 units of blood products which will help up to 204 area hospital patients. Vitalant had 12 deferrals as well. Blood drives are such an amazing way to make a positive impact in our community. They

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Stroke Survivor Participates in Groundbreaking Study

by Mary-Theresa Watson

Diagnosed 12 years ago with Cavernous Angioma—a cluster of abnormal, weak-walled blood vessels that form in the brain—Heather Rendulic suffered a series of strokes at age 22. Today, she perseveres daily through the residual effects of her strokes, having essentially lost the use of her left arm. Though she has become quite adept at one-handed living, she still dreams of a return to dual-armed life. For a short time, Heather’s

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Police Information

The Hampton Township Police Department (HTPD) is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of our residents and guests by providing the very best in law enforcement services. Thank you to the staff for helping to keep our community safe.

A summary of noteworthy incidents that occurred are listed below. These incident statistics included, but WERE NOT LIMITED TO, the following between the dates of 3/6/2024—4/21/2024:

Work America to Canvass Hampton Residential Neighborhoods

The HTP would like to advise all Township residents of the following group that will be walking the neighborhoods speaking with residents.

Working America, a community affiliate of the AFL-CIO, will be conducting a door-to-door organizing drive in Township of Hampton from now until at least June 2024.


The purpose of this notification is to provide you with background information on Working America and their canvassing operation, so that you are aware of their activities and have the information you need to respond to any inquiries about their purpose.

Working America is an organization that engages in legislative and political advocacy.


Their canvassing typically operates in the late afternoon and evening, from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Because Working America is engaged in constitutionally-protected political speech in its canvassing operation, it is not required to obtain a permit prior to engaging in this activity.


Solicitation Permit

 On April 22nd, Home Genius Exteriors was given a permit to be soliciting in the Township from April 22nd through May 25th. A "No solicitation" list was provided to the solicitors prohibiting solicitation of residences and businesses on that list. Any business or resident can be added to this list by calling the Police Department (412-486-0400) or by completing the Township's online form.

Wires Down

 On April 4th, HTP were dispatched to the area of Wagner Rd. for a report of a tree lying down on high-tension wires and the tree was believed to be smoking. Upon arrival, officers confirmed that the tree was lying on the high-tension wires. Allegheny County Emergency Services notified Duquesne Light to be dispatched to the scene. Hampton Volunteer Fire Department arrived on scene and blocked off the roadway until Duquesne Light arrived on scene.

Vehicle Fire

 On April 21, HTP along with Hampton Township Volunteer Fire Department were dispatched to the intersection of McCully Road and William Flinn Highway for a vehicle on fire. The vehicle was

(Continued on page 22)



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A NOTE FROM THE HAMPTON NEWS

As *The Hampton News* continues to strive to bring you informative and interesting stories, we welcome feedback, ideas and submissions. We are always happy to hear from you and want to help keep the neighbors connected! The deadline for submissions is on the 15th of each month.

Please support the advertisers since they help provide this publication, and remember to SUPPORT local!

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Proofreading: Deb Brady

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TUCK

(Continued from page 1)

true as the audience laughed at the antics of Constable Joe (Keegan Baker) and Hugo (Logan Brady) and yet, were teary-eyed by the end of each performance as they witnessed Winnie Foster (Lordyn Schomaeker) live out her life without the TUCKS. The audience expressed their personal investment in the show with standing ovations every night.

Hampton has earned the reputation of having high quality musicals that are on par or better than many larger schools. "The directors did a great job at letting us know it's about doing OUR best, rather than being THE best," said Kaehly. It is especially impressive knowing that all of the money used to create and produce the show only comes from ticket sales from the previous year, concessions, and multiple fundraising efforts by the parent booster organization. The show is not

district funded and with a smaller student body, there is a much smaller talent pool to pick from.

Franklin explained that 95% of everything you see on the stage is created solely by the students. For every adult director, there is a student equivalent. "I think that's what truly makes theatre so unique at Hampton; the students have ownership over all of it. They care about what they produce. They're a theatre family in the truest sense. Every year I am impressed with their dedication, passion, and talent," said Franklin. "When a student joins the musical, whether it be in the cast, crew, or orchestra, they're coming into a family of people just like them. They find their tribe."

"The beautiful thing we have at Hampton is that everyone is so close. There is no division between cast, orchestra, and crew," said Kaehly. "The directors work really hard to make sure everyone is on the same page."



Photos by Jen Lavella and Liz Dowling



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Library News



3101 McCully Road Allison Park, PA
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hamptoncommunitylibrary.org

News you can use!

The library will be getting new computers Fridays, May, 3rd!
We will be opening at **11:00 a.m.** that morning.

It's a Spring-Wonder World! Drop-in Storytime ends May 9th!

Join us as we fill our mornings with stories, songs and crafts designed to celebrate discovery as we interact with our environment. All ages and abilities welcome!
Come early and stay for all the activities or come later and stay for a few; you decide!

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays *

Now thru May 9th from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m.- "Stories & Songs", 10:45- "Investigate and Create"
11:00 a.m.- "Stories and Songs", 11:30 a.m.- "Parachute Play",
11:50 p.m.- "Stories and Songs", 12:00 p.m.- "Stay and Play."

**times are subject to go longer or shorter*

Card Club!

Wednesdays from 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join us Wednesday afternoons for a game of 500 Bid or something new! Come out and show your skill, teach someone a new game or just enjoy some time out with friends new and old!

Sew Hampton!

Wednesday, May 1st -6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

Do you like to sew, crochet, stitch? Join a bunch of creative friends to gather together to learn and sew! All sewing welcome (quilts, clothing, embroidery, etc.) Please bring your machine or tools for hand sewing. Pressing station and extension cords for small machines will be provided.

News and Views! First Fridays!

Friday, May 3rd @ 1:00 p.m. in the library.

This longtime discussion group is led by local author and journalist Gerry K. Smith--with a new format inviting members to participate as guest leaders the *First Friday* of the month. Discussion topics welcome from all.
New members are welcome to come share-- or just listen.

Scrapbooking! Monday, May 20th @ 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Are you new to scrapbooking or maybe got away from it and looking for a reboot?
This is the day for you. Come join us and scrap to your heart's content! Marie Golio from Creative Memories will be here to share, teach, and support fellow scrapbookers and their goals!
No need to register, class will be in the library!

Murder by the Book! A Mystery Book Discussion

Wednesday, May 15th @ 6:30 p.m.

Zero Days, by Ruth Ware.

The Mystery Book Group will be meeting inside the library. Please call the library to request a copy of the book. Everyone who is interested in great reads is invited to join us!

Betty's Book Buzz Discussion Group

Friday, May 17th @ 1:00 p.m.

Defending Jacob, by William Landay.

Betty's Book Group will be meeting in the library. Please call the library to request a copy of the book. Everyone who is

(Continued on page 5)

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Library

(Continued from page 4)

interested in great conversations and good reads is invited to join us!

Cooks-N-Books: What Can I Bring?

Thursday, May 16th, 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.

(Please note, we are meeting a week earlier.)

Cooks-n-Books is a cookbook and food discussion group for people who love to cook and make new friends! No real experience or culinary expertise is needed- just a desire to share recipes and food!! We meet in Great Room A in the Hampton Community Center. Here's what to do...

- 1) Check out a cookbook or magazines from the library.
 - 2) Cook that dish and bring it to the group the evening of the discussion. Please bring a copy of the recipe as well.
 - 3) Sample all of the amazing recipes!
- Please note there will be a \$2.00 fee to cover the cost of supplies.

Please note:

The library will be closed Saturday May 11th (Recycle Rama) and Memorial Day Weekend: Saturday, May 25th through Monday, May 27th.

Blood Drive

(Continued from page 1)

can save lives and bring people together, all at once. It's always heart-warming to see so many individuals coming forward to help others in need. The success of a blood drive truly lies in the generosity and compassion of the donors. Keep up the great work, Hampton Township! Make sure to register and sign up for the next blood drive hosted at the high school on Wednesday, October 30th to contribute to your community. To sign up, or if you have questions regarding future blood drives, please contact Hampton High School Nurse, Kirsten Nelson, RN, CSN, 412-492-6384 or email: Kirsten.nelson@ht-sd.org.



Thank you Mick Celko (10th grade) for doing your part!

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Stroke Survivor

(Continued from page 1)

dream came true, thanks to the intervention of Dr. Robert Friedlander and his team at the University of Pittsburgh.

Heather explains, "In the spring of 2021, I saw an article posted by the university about an upcoming clinical trial on spinal cord stimulation for stroke patients. I immediately had this gut feeling that I had to be a part of it. So," she continues, "I reached out to Dr. Friedlander, the neurosurgeon who did my brain surgery 12 years ago. He got me in touch with the research team, and he actually was helping them with the clinical trial. We had a meeting, and I was selected as the first participant."



Heather with Dr. Capogrosso and Dr. Friedlander

On a Friday in May 2021, Heather underwent surgery for temporary placement of the device, and by the following Monday, she was in the research lab hard at work with the study team. For the next four weeks, she spent four hours per weekday in the lab as researchers tested the device and evaluated its efficacy. Leads had been carefully positioned along the portion of Heather's cervical spine that affects her left arm, all in an attempt to provide some control over the limb she essentially hadn't used for over a decade. A month later, it was clear the trial

had succeeded.

Though the implant was removed at the end of the study—as it's still in the trial phase and not yet approved by the FDA for use in stroke victims—Heather still feels residual effects from wearing it during the trial, having retained some extra strength in her hand and arm.

Heather remains in contact with the research team, and she's become the face of their study. She and her husband Mark recently traveled with the group to Naples, Florida, where she spoke at the 18th Annual University of Pittsburgh Vanscoy Winter Academy Conference.

"I was invited to speak about my experiences," she shares. "We attended the conference as well as a celebration dinner and a reception. We got to have dinner with some of the best neurosurgeons in the world, and it was just amazing."

Today, Heather works in human resources, but after her experience in Florida, she has her sights set on joining



Speaking at the University of Pittsburgh 18th annual Winter Vanscoy Academy



the speaker circuit full-time.

"I have such a passion for sharing my story and inspiring people, so I'm really focusing on how I can become a professional speaker," she says. "I'd love to expand my reach to share my story and help people around the world."

To discover more about Heather's journey—and even watch some videos from the trial—visit her website

www.heatherheadstrong.com. To connect with her for information on speaking engagements, email her at Heather@heatherheadstrong.com.



Heather with Dr. Capogrosso and the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon joint clinical trial staff

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Brilliant Performances in Odyssey of the Mind Competitions

by Lisa Lamb and Colleen Turcsanyi
Co-coordinators, Hampton Township
Odyssey of the Mind Association

The Hampton Township Odyssey of the Mind program is celebrating the achievements of their teams from the Western PA Regional Tournament held at Keystone Oaks on March 2nd and the PA State Finals held at Pocono Mountain East School District on April 6th. Students from grades K-10 from Central, Poff, Wyland, Hampton Middle School, Hampton High School, Aquinas Academy, DePaul School for Hearing and Speech, and Bayside Middle School (a former Hampton student relocated to Wisconsin and participated remotely) comprised the 16 teams from our township.

There were four teams from grades K-2 who participated in the non-competitive primary division, "The Night Life". In this problem, teams created a story about an explorer character who discovers nocturnal creatures, including something that lights up. These students were: Shaelyn Allerton, Nora Cole-Fetterman, Louisa Collin, Max De Marco, Owen Euculano, Devan Faddish, Caleb Harjo, Reese Hayes, Coughlin Jablonowski, Daniel Kiryakos, Martyna Krys, Kaylee Kurasch, Maria Lucey, Emma Mullarkey, Audrey Murphy, Paisley Pingenot, Christopher Radomski, Ciaran Reigle, Cameron Ridenour, Ellis Sherer, Lila Stangl, Eva Sulia, John Tedesco, Ian Templeton, Leo Venturino, and Aiden Woodworth.

The Odyssey of the Mind program offers five competitive problem categories: vehicle, technical, classics, structure, and performance. Each year, these problem categories have different themes.

The vehicle problem had a "Drive-In Movie" theme this year, and teams had to create a moving vehicle that completed a series of tasks in a drive-in theater setting, including getting a movie ticket and food from a concession stand, parking, and actually becoming a part of a movie. A Poff team (Central and Poff students include Chris Duarte, Charlie Haynes, Micah Keller, Elyse Pacek, Edward Sager, Abby Swartz, and Amy Templeton), a Wyland team (Central, Poff, Wyland students include Emma Carr, Jaxon Clark, Julian Geubtner, Santiago Hidalgo-Bowler, Tyler Mooney, Joshua Pearl, and Iona Reigle), and a Hampton High School team (Marli Dankmeyer, Olivia Dietz, Thi Malesky, Sophia Nguyen, Lu Santos, Megan Troup, and Teagan Turcsanyi) each solved this problem. All three teams advanced from the Western PA Regional tournament to the



The Wyland team photo: (pictured from left to right): Tyler Mooney, Iona Reigle, Jaxon Clark, Julian Geubtner, Santiago Hidalgo-Bowler, Emma Carr, Joshua Pearl, and Ann Pearl.



The Poff team photo: (pictured from left to right): Todd Templeton, Chris Duarte, Amy Templeton, Elyse Pacek, Edward Sager, Micah Keller, and Michael Sager. Not pictured: Abby Swartz and Charlie Haynes.

PA State Finals. At the State Finals tournament, the Hampton High School team placed 6th, the Poff team won 2nd place, and the Wyland team won a prestigious creativity award, called the Ranatra Fusca award. Both the Poff and Wyland teams will advance to the World Finals tournament, which will be held at Iowa State University on May 21-24, 2024.

The technical problem had a "AI Tech-No-Art" theme this year, which meant that teams created a device that critiques art using a different signal if it determines art is beautiful or not, then the device had to dismantle art that it determined to be not beautiful to reassemble it into a beautiful work of art. A Central team (Jeanne Collin, August Fleischmann, Amelia Hayes, Josephine Kurasch, Ashton Rubenstein, Seth Ryan, and Lincoln Verbofsky) and a Hampton Middle School team (Andrew Allen, Evie Dankmyer, Nicholas Radomski, Simon Troup, and Brecken Turcsanyi) both advanced to the PA State Finals. The Central team placed 3rd, and the Hampton Middle School team placed 8th in the state among their respective age groups.

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Odyssey of the Mind

(Continued from page 7)

The classics problem had an "Opening Night Antics" theme this year, where teams had to portray the opening night of a play based on a classic story, but with a set malfunction, unexpected sound effects, and a theater critic as part of their solution. A Wyland team included Central, Poff, Wyland students Ethan Barley, Charles Lamb, Holly Macioce, Abby Merritt, Thomas Murphy, Emma Osborn, and Brooke Schomburger. The team placed 8th at the Western PA Regional tournament.

The structure problem had a "Deep Space Structure" theme this year, where teams had to create a balsa structure to be tested for weight held, which was represented as a character that was discovered and studied by scientist characters in a deep space setting. A Wyland team (Central, Poff, Wyland students include Sullivan Bischof, Aiden Moore, Mason Moore, Ardenn Nassal-Ryan, Levi Retsch, Gavin Schomburger, and Torin Turcsanyi), a Hampton Middle School team (Andrew Allen, Sam Bennet, Nicholas Radomski, and Brecken Turcsanyi, plus DePaul School for Hearing and Speech student Jake Gault, Aquinas Academy student Jack Leyenaar, and Bayside Middle School student Ella Lavigne), and Hampton High School team (Marli Dankmeyer, Olivia Dietz, Thi Malesky, Sophia Nguyen, Lu Santos, Megan Troup, and Teagan Turcsanyi) solved this problem. The Wyland team placed 7th at the Western PA Regional tournament. The Hampton Middle School and Hampton High School teams advanced to the PA State Finals, where they

earned 8th and 5th place, respectively.

The performance problem had a "Rocking World Detour" theme this year, where teams created their own rock band, which hits an unexpected detour and had to use music to get back on track. Each year one of the problems has an added challenge of using baking soda in a creative way (Arm & Hammer is a major program sponsor). This year, the performance problem had this added challenge. A Central team (Charlie Judge, Aubrey Lubbert, Eleanor Palko, Anne Pohl, Oliver Sherer, Alex Trevino, and Jacob Wilthem), a Wyland team (Exodus Fleischmann, Lyla Verbofsky, Mila McDonald, Trevor Merlina, Jonathan Radomski, Jonah Euculano, and Violet Euculano), and a Hampton Middle School team (Theo Bennett, Morgan Curry, Annika Donermann, Ella Donermann, Adrien Duarte, and Lily Ippolito) participated in this problem. The Wyland team placed 13th and the Hampton Middle School placed 10th in their respective age groups at the Western PA Regional tournament. The Central team advanced to the PA State Finals, and placed 9th in their age group.

For more information about the non-profit Hampton Township Odyssey of the Mind program, please visit the website at <https://www.htsd-om.org/> or contact coordinator@htsd-om.org. Please consider a donation in support of our teams advancing to World Finals (<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4137575>).

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20328 R4-23

Why Can't We Get More Restaurants in Hampton?

by Amanda Lukas

As the Planning Director for Hampton Township, I understand that educational outreach is an important part of my job. To that end, I am happy to write a short column for the Hampton News to explain permitting and land-use topics and answer frequently asked questions.

A question I've heard many times is, "Why can't we get more restaurants in Hampton?" There are many factors that go into answering that question. Restaurants are an allowable use along Route 8, and they don't carry any extra restrictions relative to any other type of business - such as auto parts stores, which we all know Hampton has many of. Hampton's zoning laws aim to balance many things, such as improving the appearance of Route 8, mitigating the already heavy traffic flow, managing runoff in an area that floods often, and creating safe conditions for people pulling in and out of commercial properties. The Route 8 corridor has very limited space, and it's almost entirely built-out. This means restaurants must be able to fit into an existing building or cover the cost of demolition as well as constructing a new building. Additionally, PennDOT controls Route 8 so they must sign off on all new developments, which creates another barrier that Hampton's administration cannot control. Lastly, it's important to note that it's illegal for the Township to tell any type of business that meets our laws, including automotive businesses, that they cannot open here just because we think we already have too many. These laws do play a part in economic development, but the main factor driving a business's decision to open anywhere is market demand. Automotive related businesses do very well in this area, while restaurants have historically had a more challenging time. Hampton has a limited lunch crowd and there many areas nearby competing for dinner customers, like McCandless Crossing, Waterworks, and McKnight Road, among others. However, despite all of this, there are already many restaurants open in Hampton that would love to have your business.

If you're looking for independently owned restaurants there are many options, including Kanlaya Thai Kitchen, Caliente Pizza & Draft-house, The 3 Little Birds Café & Juice Bar, Bella Terra Vineyards - Wine Cave, K Asian Bistro & Sushi Bar, Pine Creek Public House (in two locations), Mineo's Pizza House, Monte Cello's, A Fare to Re-

member at Home (take-out only), Simply Subs, Pasquale's Pizzeria (in two locations), Bob's Sub, Jay's Other Place (over 21 only), Bruno's Pizza, Golden Star Restaurant, and Messina's Pizza.

When it comes to well-loved chain restaurants, some of which are also independently owned, we have Eat'n Park, Primanti Brothers, Panera Bread, Chipotle, Starbucks, Subway, McDonalds, Jersey Mike's Subs, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Vocelli Pizza, Arby's, Pizza Hut, Domino's, and Little Caesars Pizza.

If you're looking for something sweet, check out Betsy Ann Chocolates, Bruster's Ice Cream, Donut Connection, Cone Zone or Dunkin' Donuts.

So please be sure to patronize your local restaurants if you'd like to see more of them come to the area. On the Township's end, we understand the community's desire to have a vibrant mix of business options, so in recent years we have established an Economic Advisory Board with the goal of attracting new businesses, supporting existing businesses, and making it easier to get through the permitting process. Please check out the Hampton Business Hub on the Township website for more information. Encouraging economic development through our zoning laws will also be a focus of discussion during the upcoming Zoning Ordinance update planned for next year.



Grad parties? Bridal shower?
Baby shower? Birthday party?

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HAMPTON HOME SALES (3/23/2024 - 4/21/2024)

This information is supplied from the West Penn Multi-List. It is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
2136 Laurel Lane	\$724,900	\$715,000	77
4238 Monrachat Court	\$650,000	\$683,000	6
4953 Apple Ridge Drive	\$685,000	\$677,500	88
4233 Yarmouth Drive	\$650,000	\$645,000	4
4191 Rothschild Court	\$585,000	\$560,000	151
2453 Saddle Drive	\$339,000	\$350,000	42
2230 Ferguson Road	\$225,000	\$230,000	14
2553 Hampton Avenue	\$220,000	\$198,000	49

TIP OF THE MONTH:

April showers bring May maintenance to check on your drainage system and prevent water damage to your home. It's also prime time to make sure your landscaping is ready for the hotter months when you may need to provide irrigation in lieu of regular rainfall.

Check the sprinkler system for any leaks or lawn spots that need coverage.

Refrigerator check up: makers release new models in the summer, so if you're in the market for a discounted appliance, this is the season to shop for the best price on last season's models.

Clean rain gutters and downspouts for drainage or moisture problems, on average twice per year.

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Building Community One Rock at a Time

by Jackie Smith

In a season where social media can have such a negative connotation, Hampton resident, Marte Novak saw a post on social media, and she took the lead to see if it would catch on - - a rock snake built by our community!

According to Marte, "I originally posted it on the Hampton Moms Facebook page to test the level of interest; it was received so warmly which made me very happy and excited." After Novak discussed the idea with the Township, it was received positively by all, and now the plan is in place to move forward.

The Hampton rock snake (or snakes!) will be located in front of the Community Center - right by the flagpole. There are two sides, so that it can hold two snakes. "I love the idea of community involvement," said Novak, "especially with kids." Having raised her children in Hampton, she now takes her grandchildren to the community park, and they will definitely participate in the project. Marte believes the Township would support the idea of identifying other areas if there is enough interest.

Building the rock snakes will start in June; Parks & Recreation Program Administrator Melanie Martino will oversee the project. The summer camp coordinator will make the sign and heads of the snakes. Rocks will be made by the camp participants to ensure a great start to the project. "ANYONE, ANY AGE is welcome to add to the snake," said Marte, "It will be a summer long project that I'm so excited about." Marte also declared, "The snake(s) will be named!"

"In today's world, community is so very important; bringing kids together for a project that will be seen and enjoyed by all is so exciting to me." Let's get creative and build community at the same time; bring your painted rocks to the Community Center this summer!



Poffee Pot . . . At Your Service

by Jackie Smith

“Teaching life skills through real life situations,” according to paraeducator Leatrice Krivyanski, “is the best way for all students to learn.” That’s why Mrs. K, as she’s known by the Poff Elementary students, worked to get a coffee cart started where the students could learn, work and grow!

With the support of Poff Elementary’s principal, Dr. Colleen Hannigan, the Poffee Pot officially opened for business on February 9th. In order to name the cart, multiple names were created and the students and staff voted: Poffee Pot was selected.

Support has come not only from those within Poff, but also in the community; Wagner’s Market donated everything needed to get the cart started, and Charles Hengelsberg, a Hampton High School student, designed the punch card. Mrs. K advised, “We serve coffee, tea and hot cocoa; the students punch the cards after each purchase. After 5 beverages, you get a free drink.”

Students who receive learning support services are assisted

by peers each Friday morning from 8:30 to 9:00. Students begin arriving around 8:15. According to Mrs. K, “The students share many duties including sorting orders, preparing and delivering beverages, as well as interacting with each other and staff. They are learning so many new skills by participating.” According to 4th grader, Layla Lichvarcik, “I like making the coffee and tea; delivering it is fun too.”

“It’s amazing to see the students working together and supporting each other,” said Mrs. K. “They have created ways to streamline the work. The teachers look forward to the Poffee Pot,” she said. “They enjoy seeing the students working, and I love seeing the reactions and interactions between the students, the teachers and their peers!”

Hampton also has a student run coffee business at the middle school, and then the Busy Bean at the high school. By teaching these skills to students at the elementary level, they will develop the confidence and understanding needed as they go through school and life.



Charlotte Hentges, Jacob Towson, and Layla Lichvarcik



Front: Henry Felton, Ava Stahlman, Layla Lichvarcik, Victoria Webb

Back: Charlotte Hentges, Ethan Barley and Leatrice Krivyanski



The Poffee Pot punch card designed and created by Hampton High School student Charles Hengelsberg

**Clean Up Day Saturday, April 6
145 Registered Volunteers!**



Where Are They Now?

HHS Basketball Star Returns Home

by Jenn Edmonds

Laryn Edwards dribbled her way through Hampton High School as an all-state guard and ranks among the program's all-time scoring leaders. The 2018 graduate went on to play Division 1 basketball at Loyola University of Maryland and graduated a semester early in 2021 with a degree in International Business.



Edwards won the Arthur Ashe Jr. sports scholar award for outstanding academic and athletic achievement while there.

At the Final Four in Glendale, AZ, Edwards was selected by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) as one of 54 female collegiate basketball players to be part of the "You Want to Be a Coach Program." She entered the transfer portal after graduating from Loyola and didn't get

any suitable offers, so she spent time reflecting. Ultimately, Edwards accepted a position at Providence College in Rhode Island as a graduate assistant coach. "I like how I can teach and see what I've taught come to life; also learning from the players and the relationships you create," said Edwards.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Providence coach needed a player with Edwards' skills. Things fell into place and the coach again became the player. Edwards described her success as "embracing the unexpected. After taking a year and a

half off, being able to play basketball at Providence is just not something that usually happens." Edwards has kept in touch with her Hampton coaches Tony Howard and Cate Paradise (Potter) throughout her career and they have traveled to see her play in college games. "I appreciate their love and support," said Edwards.

Edwards is graduating from Providence in May with a MBA and a certificate in Sports Management. She just started working for Robert Morris University as the Women's Basketball Assistant Coach/Director of Basketball Operations, which means a move back to Pittsburgh. Her family includes her mom Portia, her dad Eddie, her two brothers James and Eddie III, their wives Gia and Ari, her nephew Cam, and her dog Pepper.

Students Create Non-Profit to Support Local Charities

by Mary-Theresa Watson

Service is a way of life for Hampton High School sophomore Addison Pozza, who, alongside friend Ella Hoffman—a sophomore at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School in Coraopolis—spends hours every month working on projects to support local charities. The duo created "Earrings with a Purpose," a non-profit endeavor in which they create and sell leather earrings and donate 100% of the proceeds to their selected charities. The girls recently raised \$600 for Wyland Elementary's Caring Closet and, at last count, have \$1,000 earmarked for a meal-plan scholarship for an Allderdice High School student attending college next fall.

(Continued on page 15)

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Several Local Gymnasts Headed to States

On April 11-14, the Regional 7 Gymnastics Championships was held at Center Elite Gymnastics in State College. The Pittsburgh Northstars, who train out of Jewart's Gymnastics, were hoping to have a few gymnasts qualify to Nationals, the highest honor in their sport.

The weekend started with senior Lila Pileggi who had an uncharacteristic fall on bars. She needed to be flawless on her final two events to have a chance, and flawless she was, scoring a 9.65 on both events. She secured the 7th and final spot by just .25.

Next up was North Allegheny senior Kaelyn Skeel. She made it a goal to finish her career at Nationals, but the start of the season was rocky at best. Happily, Kaelyn overcame all her obstacles and finished 3rd in the All-Around, the Northstars highest finish of the weekend.

The level 9's were up next, where two more gymnasts qualified to Nationals. 8th graders Alaina Scoleri and Peyton Swingle overcame their injuries; Scoleri battling a hip injury and Swingle fighting through an ankle injury; and both managed to qualify among some fierce competition.

Adrianna Seese, a freshman at N.A. started the competition strong and was winning the meet going into the 4th and final event. But she not only fell on her beam tumble, she slipped getting back on the beam, and fell again. "At that point, it's just a waiting game," said coach Lainy Carlaw. "You never know how the chips are going to fall." Thankfully, Seese had done enough to finish in the top 7.

Last was Hampton gymnast, Ella Lattimore. Lattimore had been a consistent competitor all year and needed to have the

meet of her life to make Nationals. Lattimore did just that, scoring an impressive 37.4. She finished 4th, becoming the 6th Northstar to qualify to Nationals.

It's a huge accomplishment to have one or two qualifiers but six is a truly impressive number. And it wasn't easy. The Northstars have had many coaching adjustments since Covid, leaving the majority of spotting these very high-level skills to Katie Hilko. "She had to step up with no consistent male help," said Carlaw. "I am so proud of my sister. With her on vault and bars and me on beam, we have had truly great results."

It's also not easy because most of the teams they are competing against train almost twice as many hours. "Our mom (Elaine Jewart) made it her mission that kids can be good at gymnastics and have a normal life—going to school and attending family and school events. Katie and I fully believe in that mission and want to carry it on," said Carlaw. "It's a child's well-being that is our top priority and we have proven that it can work."

Another Hampton gymnast, Chloe Ramirez, had a very successful season at level 8, winning beam at almost every one of her competitions.

"I am so proud of our team this year," said Carlaw. They will travel to Daytona for level 10 Nationals on May 10th and Myrtle Beach for level 9 on May 1st. In the stands will be Hilko and Carlaw's uncle, Paul Fabish, who lives in Myrtle Beach. It is so fitting because he was their very first coach growing up. "We plan to celebrate his 75th birthday after the competition. But the day before," said Carlaw, "he will be in the stands, cheering on the Northstars, and I can't think of a better way to end this amazing season."



Hampton freshman, Chloe Ramirez, level 8 state beam medalist



Kaelyn Skeel and Lila Pileggi with coaches Katie Hilko and Lainy Carlaw

Soccer Club Adds AED to Park Facility

by Mary-Theresa Watson

With the spring soccer season well underway, scores of Hampton families find themselves spending their weekends at the community park cheering for the blue and gold. What many may not realize in the excitement of competition, however, is that a new safety device was recently added to the facility to ensure emergency medical care is available to all visitors to the park. With assistance from a significant donation from the Hampton Athletic Association (HAA), the Hampton Soccer Club has purchased an AED, or automated external defibrillator, for the Meadow Field/tennis court area of the park.

The American Red Cross explains that an AED is used to help someone experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. Though it is a sophisticated piece of equipment, this easy-to-use medical device can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electric shock (defibrillation) to help reestablish an effective heart rhythm.

The soccer club proudly



shared news of the purchase, pointing out that this is the fourth AED placed in the park. Located just inside the men's room door in the restroom building, the AED box and device are available for use by anyone on the fields, courts, pavilions, trails, and playgrounds in that area of the park. Additional AEDs are located at the soccer building (just inside the men's room door), at the baseball/softball concession stand building near the restrooms, and indoors at the Hampton Community Center.

Dedicated to its mission of providing a safe environment and positive experience for all players, coaches, families, spectators, and referees, the Hampton Soccer Club has a reputation for teaching exemplary teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play.

Along with that mission, the club responsibly does all it can to ensure the health and safety protocols are the best they can be to support the wellbeing of all involved. So the next time you're at the park—even if your family is not a part of the Hampton Soccer Club or the HAA—you are encouraged to take a moment to thank those whose actions contribute to community-wide safety.

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Earrings with a Purpose

Explaining how it all started, Addison says, "The idea was initially sparked a few years ago for a holiday project to support



Ella and Addison

(Continued from page 12)

a homeless shelter in Pittsburgh. Earrings with a Purpose officially started this winter after Ella and I were volunteering together for St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind and were brainstorming ways to make money to help people in need. So we ordered supplies, wrote letters, called venues, and it took off from there!"

The girls meet at least twice every month for hours-long work sessions in which they create earrings, reach out to businesses to set up pop-up sales, work on promotions, and select charities to support. They have even created promotional videos, complete with

bloopers that, according to Addison, often send them into bursts of laughter.

"We select a variety of charities that mean something to us," Addison shares. "We started with the Hearth House domestic violence homeless shelter; we had so much fun shopping for the items on their wish list! Our most recent project," she continues, "was creating and delivering 'sunshine carts' to the Allegheny General Hospital oncology/radiation waiting room. The carts are filled with inspirational cards, snacks, and word search books. This project was really close to our hearts because both of our grandmothers are undergoing treatment."

In recognition of her dedication to community service paired with stellar academic achievement, Addison was recently selected as the recipient of the 2024 Maureen Yaw Endowment and as a 2024 Carson Scholar. Schools across the country are invited to nominate one student each year to apply to the nationally recognized program, and as a winner, Addison will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for college.

Looking ahead, Addison says, "We plan to continue projects throughout high school. It's a time investment that's been rewarding in so many ways."

To learn more about Addison's and Ella's work and stay updated on future events, please visit their web site at <https://sites.google.com/view/earringwithapurpose-com/home>. The next pop-up shop will be held at Cafe Conmigo on May 11th.

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Wyland Club Creates Blankets for Infants

by Mary-Theresa Watson

During a recent meeting of Wyland Elementary's Helping Hands Club, Visual Arts teacher Elizabeth Howe shared a personal story with club members and their faculty advisor, Amy Kinney, as the group began their latest service project. The activity involved making blankets for infants in the NICU at West Penn, and each one was tagged with a sweet note signed by all the students. This project hit close to Elizabeth's heart because,



just a few years ago, she sat with her newborn son, Rory, in West Penn Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for nearly three months. Draped over Rory's incubator was a beautiful handmade blanket donated by a local women's church group, and its purpose was to block light to create a comfortable, nurturing environment for the baby. Now a keepsake that the family will forever treasure, that simple blanket was a show of kindness and love from strangers during a particularly vulnerable time. Like a warm hug on a chilly day, it was exactly what little Rory and his parents needed: a sign that they were not alone.

In reflecting on her time spent with this distinctive group of kids, Elizabeth says, "It was so special to share Rory's story with

(Continued on page 17)



Rory Howe delivering blankets to West Penn Hospital

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Blankets

(Continued from page 16)

my students, and watching them make the blankets was heart-warming! I showed them some pictures, and I even brought in the blanket that covered Rory's incubator. Their reactions were so sweet! I also explained to them," she continues, "how our family will treasure that little blanket forever. I told them that the babies and families who receive their blankets will know they're extra special because they are made with kid hands. Kid hands," she emphasizes, "make the most amazing things!"

Agreeing with Elizabeth, Amy adds, "After hearing Rory's story, the students were really motivated to help. The personal connection energized them so much that many even offered to give up their recess to make additional blankets."

Dedicated to serving others, "Pawsitive" Helping Hands was initiated 10 years ago when Amy and a group of PTO parents gathered to plan, organize, and facilitate the club. Filled with 25 to 30 students in grades 3 through 5, the group meets every month at the school, gathering with their adult sponsors and parent volunteers to work on service projects inspired by ideas submitted by club members. Generally completing four to five

projects per year, the group closes out each school year by creating a product to sell during lunchtime—such as slime or buttons—and the proceeds from the sale are donated to a local charity.

Whether they are creating placemats for Meals on Wheels, organizing coat drives, sock drives, toy drives, or even making blankets for infants in the NICU, group members put their hearts into their work, always aiming to help others. Thanks to their most recent efforts, 47 infants and their families will be wrapped in kindness and love thanks to these very special blankets made by the caring hands of a remarkable group of students in Hampton.

A special thank you goes out to the parent volunteers Elizabeth Saraceno, Amber Koehler, and Allison Madigan.



Elizabeth Howe sharing the blanket idea with her students at Wyland Elementary



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2024 Friendship Walk

The Best Buddies Friendship Walk, a significant event advocating for inclusion of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, took place on April 7th at Highmark Stadium.

The walk was organized by various groups, and participants came together to raise funds and awareness. Approximately 40 Hampton residents laced up their shoes and joined the Pittsburgh walk and collectively raised \$144,301.32 to champion the cause of inclusion!



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More photos from clean up day are on the
website: www.thehamptonnews.com

Current Events

Flea Market and Bake Sale

Friday, May 10, 2024
Saturday, May 11, 2024
Time: 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
Epworth United Methodist Church
1300 Burchfield Road



"Give Your Garden a Facelift at Shaler Garden Club's Plant Sale"

Give your garden an affordable facelift this Spring by shopping at the Shaler Garden Club's 70th Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at Kiwanis Park on Wetzel Road, Glenshaw. A variety of hardy perennials from members' gardens will be offered at bargain prices, along with herbs, vegetables, houseplants, bulbs, hanging baskets and potted arrangements perfect for Mother's Day gifts. A basket raffle and bake sale will add to the festivities. Are your garden tools dull? Bring them for friends in the Men's Garden Club to sharpen for a voluntary donation. Come rain or shine. Proceeds benefit community projects and philanthropic donations of the Shaler Garden Club. For more information, go to www.shalergardenclub.com.

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Delight all your senses with a walk through five spectacular gardens bursting with colorful blooms, ponds, pathways and creative ideas. Join us for this 16th annual Shaler Garden Club's Great Gardens Tour on Sunday, July 14, 2024, from 11 am to 3 pm. Proceeds from the tour benefit the Shaler North Hills Library. Tickets for the tour can be purchased at the library, located at 1822 Mt. Royal Blvd., Glenshaw, PA 15116, for \$20 in advance of the tour, or \$25 the day of the tour. Tickets are also available online at the library's website. Your ticket includes hosted visits to the 5 beautiful gardens and a chance to win a lovely gift basket. The event is held rain or shine. For more information, visit www.shalergardenclub.com or www.shalerlibrary.org or call (412)486-0211 for more information. Shaler Garden Club celebrates 103 years of serving the Shaler Community.



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Current Events

Pink Tag Sale 20th Anniversary

Saturday, May 4th 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

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Come join us for our 20th Anniversary Sale. Our basement is full of all the treasures you have come to expect at our sale: decor, housewares, books, toys, clothing, office supplies, small appliances, gardening items, decorations, and more. The 25 Cent Room, the jewelry boutique, the PINKtique, ReGift Boutique, and the famous Pink Grill hot dogs are all featured at our sale. Help us to reach our goal of \$100,000 total raised to fight breast cancer. A GLIMMER OF HOPE, located right here in Pittsburgh, is the recipient of all funds raised at our sale. Help them with their quest to find the cure for breast cancer. Questions about the sale or how to donate items to the sale, please reach out to Linda Pelkofer at 412-427-7403.

Recycle Rama

Saturday, May 11th 9 am—12 noon

Hampton Community Park, 3200 Lochner Way

*Please note: The Hampton Community Center will open at Noon this day. Some areas of the park, such as the Alcoa Pavilion, access to the upper orchard, and the Community Center/pool parking lots will be blocked off for Recycle Rama use. If you plan on visiting the Community Park or Community Center this day, please plan accordingly as there will be additional traffic due to this event. In addition, no Township field use will be permitted until the event concludes.

The following items / vendors will be available this year:

JVS Electronics: There is a strict limit of 1 television per car.

Construction Junction: Construction materials will only be accepted if they are in useable condition.

Paper Shredding Collection sponsored by State Representative Robert Mercuri: Limit of two 13-gallon bags / boxes per car. Magazines, books, metal and plastics are not accepted.

Scrap Metal: see www.hampton-pa.org.

Thrivent Bicycles: Collection of used bikes in repairable condition. Items not accepted include tricycles, cooters, or other ride-on-toys.

Pints in The Park

Friday, May 17th, from 5:00 pm—9:00 pm

Join us at the Hampton Community Park for the first Pints in the Park of the summer season! Presented by Strange Roots Experimental Ales, featuring a lineup of delicious food trucks, an array of local vendors and a live music performance! There is no entry fee to attend.

Vendors scheduled for May 17th: Strange Roots Experimental Ales, Mazzotta Winery, Wigle Whiskey, Threadbare Cider along with food trucks: Brisketburgh, Chicks n' Waffles, Pita My Shawarma, Traveling Tom's Coffee Truck, Frios Gourmet Ice Pops, Live music by Missing Link. Kids activities: O'Ryan the Omazing and face painting. Come relax the summer away and enjoy all the kickoff of this spectacular event!

Additional dates for the summer event:

June 28th, July 26th, August 23rd, and September 27th

Hampton Community Outdoor Pool:

Officially opens on Saturday, May 25!

3200 Lochner Way Allison Park, PA 15101

If you have questions regarding the pool schedule please contact the pool gate at 412-486-8809 or 412-486-0400 x1453.

* This number is only available during the pool season.

The outdoor pool complex includes a heated in-ground pool featuring a zero foot walk-in area and spray play area, four adult lap lanes, two small slides, one large slide and two diving boards. In addition to the pool itself, there are two wooden pavilions, the Atlantic and Pacific, a concession area along with a shaded seating area, and a newly renovated (2020) male and female restrooms and bath house facilities.

Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable

"The Battle of Cedar Mountain", presented by Chris Bryan.

Monday, May 20th at 7 pm. Hampton Township Community Center, 1301 McCully Road, Allison Park. Presentation is free and open to the public

Memorial Day Celebration

Wear your red, white and blue and join the Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 27th at 10:00 a.m. sharp!

Rain or shine this event is for the entire family of all ages.

Scouts, the HHS band, and a veteran speaker will be featured.

Hampton American Legion Post 296 invites the public to bring any flower cuttings from their yards to leave at the memorial to honor our fallen service members.

You may want to bring a chair or blanket to sit during the ceremony as guests will gather around the flag and memorial at the Hampton Community Center.



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Opening Day is May 5th at 1 p.m.

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- Unveiling of captivating exhibits showcasing our unique history.
- Interactive talks with passionate historians.
- Immerse yourself in the charm of a bygone era!

Cost: \$5 Adult \$3 Children ages 2-11

Friendship Day is May 19th at 1 p.m.

Mark your calendars for a day of joy, connection, and history as we host Friendship Day at the museum! We are opening our doors with FREE admission for all, welcoming friends old and new to share in the wonders of our heritage.

What's Happening:

- FREE admission to explore our captivating exhibits.
- Engaging activities for families and friends.
- Historical games, storytelling, and more!
- Create lasting memories in the heart of history.

Gather your friends and loved ones for a day filled with exploration and camaraderie. Let's make memories together at the Depreciation Lands Museum.

Adventures in Pioneer Living at Depreciation Lands Museum is June 17th-21st

A camp for children who enjoy the slower pace of an 18th century lifestyle, making by hand the necessities of life, and learning about how our forebears lived here at the Depreciation Lands. For children 8-12 years. Children must be 8 years old prior to the start of camp.


Registration is required for this event. Please visit dlmuseum.org for more information.

Police Log

(Continued from page 2)

smoking with flames showing from the engine compartment of the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was out of the vehicle. Fire personnel arrived on scene and extinguished the fire. Leo's Towing arrived on scene and towed the vehicle to their lot. McCully Road was shut down between Rosanna Drive and William Flinn Highway for approximately forty-five minutes.

Two-Vehicle Accident

 On April 3, 2024, the HTP responded to William Flinn Highway and McCully Rd. for a two vehicle accident. The accident occurred when Unit 2, at a complete stop waiting to turn left from William Flinn Highway onto McCully Road, was rear-ended by Unit 1.

Both drivers refused medical treatment. Zang's Towing towed both vehicles from the scene. HVFD was notified and

Upcoming Events

Evening Swim at the outdoor community pool

Saturday, June 22nd 7:30 p.m.—10:00 p.m.

Hampton Community Day at the Community Park

Wednesday, July 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

Firecracker 5K Hosted by Hampton Rotary

Thursday, July 4th, 2024—Save The Date

Christmas In July at the outdoor community pool

Wednesday, July 24th from 4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.


Pool Member Appreciation Day


Wednesday, August 14th from 4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Movie Night at the outdoor community pool

Friday, August 23rd at 8:45 p.m. (after Pints In The Park)


arrived on scene to assist with traffic control.

 On April 4, 2024, HTP were dispatched to the area of William Flinn Highway and Mt. Royal Boulevard for a two vehicle accident with injuries. The accident occurred when Unit 1 rear-ended Unit 2 which was stopped on William Flinn Highway to turn left onto Mt. Royal Boulevard. The driver of Unit 1 was transported to the hospital for treatment. Unit 1 was towed from the scene by Zang's Towing.

 On April 9, 2024, HTP were dispatched to Dunkin Donuts, 5161 William Flinn Highway, for a two vehicle crash. The operator of unit 1 was traveling south on William Flinn Highway in the curb lane when the vehicle in front of them quickly changed lanes from the curb lane to the passing lane, due to Unit 2 making a right hand turn into Dunkin Donuts. Unable to stop in time Unit 1 struck the rear of Unit 2.

One operator was transported to Passavant Hospital for evaluation. Unit 1 sustained heavy front end damage and was towed from the scene by Leo's Towing. Unit 2 had minor rear end damage and did not require a tow.

Property Damage

 On 04/04/2024 at approximately 7:31 p.m. hours, HTP took a report of property damage on a property/residence on Lah Road. The reporting party advised that over the past two years, he has located approximately 30 golf balls on his property, as well as on his roof. He stated that the balls have gotten close to striking his vehicles as well. There is a good chance that these are stemming from the Wickline Road area. Residents of the Township are encouraged to refrain from striking golf balls off of their own properties, as this behavior can cause damage to other person (s) / property. end

The Hampton News
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Rep. Arvind Venkat

30th District
Allegheny County

Addressing Food Allergens in Restaurants

by State Rep. Arvind Venkat

Approximately 1.3 million Pennsylvanians have food allergies. With nearly 50% of deaths caused by food allergies related to exposures at restaurants, we must take action to ensure the safety of our neighbors with food allergies.

That’s why I introduced H.B. 1869, which would require restaurants to prominently display written information on food allergies in their

food preparation and service areas and, through menus, ask customers to notify servers about any of their food allergies.

I introduced this bill after speaking to my constituent Kathy Briden, whose son Matthew died after an accidental exposure to peanuts while eating at a restaurant in Allegheny County. Matthew’s death was preventable, and this legislation would protect millions of Pennsylvanians with food allergies.

My bill received bipartisan support, passing the House by a vote of 148-53, and it now awaits consideration in the Senate. We must work together to enact legislation that addresses food allergens in restaurants, making restaurants safer for those at risk of severe allergic reactions.

Here in the district, I’m hosting a shredding event on Saturday, May 4th from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Franklin Park Municipal Building, 2344 W. Ingomar Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237. You can bring up to two boxes of paper to shred and learn about how to protect yourself from identity theft.

For more information about the shredding event or other legislation, please call my office 412-348-8028 or email me at RepVenkat@pahouse.net. My staff and I are always available to address your concerns.



State Senator LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS

38th Senatorial District



On April 18, Senator Williams hosted “Demystifying Harrisburg: Office of Consumer Advocate – Your Voice in Utility Matters” at the Hampton Community Center with Patrick Cicero, Pennsylvania’s Consumer Advocate. With Western

Pennsylvania at the beginning of rate increase requests from Duquesne Light and Columbia Gas, it’s more important than ever that you know how the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) stands up for people throughout these cases. We heard more about how the PA Utility Commission (PUC) investigates rate increase cases and how they impact your bottom line. We also discussed more about which utilities are and are not regulated by the PUC and how to protect yourself when selecting energy suppliers.

If you missed the event, don’t worry! You can still watch a recording online at SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/DemystifyingHbg. You can find more information on the Office of Consumer Advocate at <https://www.oca.pa.gov/>. For help with a complaint about a utility provider or to be added to the OCA’s mailing list (email or postal mail) to be notified about future rate cases filed by your utilities, you can contact the OCA at consumer@paoca.org or call the OCA’s toll-free call center at 800-684-6560.



State Representative Rob Mercuri

28th Legislative District of Pennsylvania



Helping More Students in PA Achieve Their Dreams

As lawmakers prepare to debate the state’s annual budget, due June 30, it is a good time to consider needed reforms in Pennsylvania’s higher education system. The current system of outdated instruction drives rising student debt and re-

mains disconnected from our workforce needs. Changes are needed and they must be structural, student focused and workforce driven to deliver an adequate return on investment for students, employers and taxpayers.

However, the system cannot change sufficiently from within, and policymakers must lead by taking action to build the future of education for the next generation of Pennsylvanians.

I recently joined fellow Republicans to introduce Grow PA, a

plan to make post-secondary education more accessible, affordable and accountable across Pennsylvania. This is a multi-bill initiative aimed at enhancing higher education offerings across the state while making Pennsylvania a desirable place to earn an education, get jobs and put down roots.

Grow PA would create a scholarship grant program, which encourages students to enter industries that grow the economy, as well as a merit-based scholarship to encourage young people to move to the Commonwealth for work. This will be an historic investment into career and technical education and create a performance-based funding model for state-related universities.

All of Pennsylvania’s students deserve the best education possible, and we must take appropriate action to ensure the Commonwealth is providing this while consistently improving. Together, we can reform higher education in a manner reflective of our shared values and create a path forward in which all Pennsylvanians can be proud. I believe Grow PA is a step in the right direction in delivering this hope.

Elected officials must work together to find the right path for our students. I believe we can align and move forward around Grow PA while representing our shared values and a path forward to put our students first, make Pennsylvania the standard of education and help more students achieve their dreams.

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