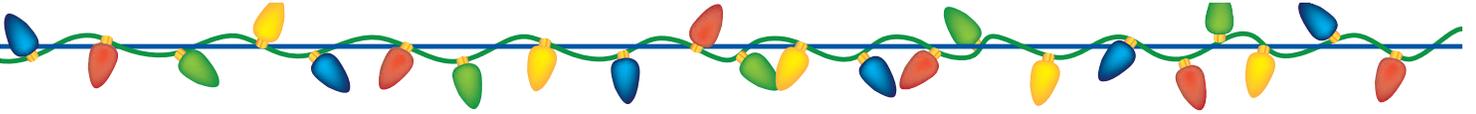




Washington County Highlights

Vol. 11 Issue 4
December 2014



Washington County Employees, Guests and Friends Enjoyed a Weekend in New York City

By Randi Marodi

There was a brisk chill in the air on the morning of November 8 as 55 people from Washington County embarked on a two-day adventure in New York City.

The trip, which was arranged by the Washington County Activities Committee through Davis Travel of Monongahela, was originally offered to county employees and their guests. However, some seats were still available after the deadline and the trip was opened up to the general public.

After traveling for about nine hours and making a couple of stops between Washington and The Big Apple, the bus dropped everyone off near Macy's on 34th Street in Manhattan. At this point, everyone broke into small groups as they set off to explore the city. Some headed directly to Radio City Music Hall to see the Rockettes, some went shopping and others



The Bubba Gump Shrimp Company in Times Square where the Washington County group had dinner.

headed off toward the Empire State Building or the Statue of Liberty.

In the evening, the group gathered for dinner at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. at 1501 Broadway, in the heart of Times Square. The dinner was included in the cost of the trip and the guests were able to choose from fried shrimp, shrimp scampi, a BBQ burger, baby back ribs, Mahi Mahi or fried chicken. Once this relaxing meal was done, everyone crossed over Broadway and boarded the bus, which took them to the LaQuinta Inn in Fairfield, NJ.

On Sunday morning, the travelers enjoyed a continental breakfast at the hotel, before heading back to the city to take in more sights. This time the bus dropped a group off at the site of the 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center Site and



Washington County Employees, Guests and Friends Enjoyed a Weekend in New York City

continued from page 1



others at Chinatown. At 1 p.m. everyone got back on the bus and took one last look at the city. On the bus ride back to Pennsylvania, some of the travelers shared stories about their great shopping buys, their subway adventures and their success in navigating through the city. The group had so much fun, that there was talk of possibly taking another trip next year. The names of cities such as Boston, Chicago and Washington, D.C. were thrown about, along with a few other destinations that aren't too far away. So, stay tuned for any announcements about future trips. If there is one scheduled, be sure to get your name on the list early, because the next trip might fill up quickly.



Front row: Morgan Muhly, Randi Marodi and Sam Wessel. Back row: Kate Marodi, Abby Marodi and Vickie Knizner at the Empire State Building



Erin Jeffries and Kristin Marcy at F A O Schwarz toy store.

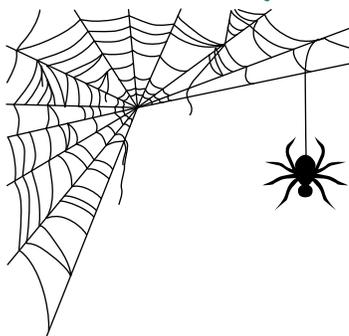


Sue and Jesse Orrick at the 9-11 Memorial



The 9-11 Memorial

for more photos see page 8



CYS Halloween Party SPOOKTACULAR

Fun!

By Marie Higgins

On Wednesday, October 29, 2014, CYS decided to start the Halloween celebrations a little early, by hosting a potluck Halloween luncheon. Costumes were optional. Some of our more creative cooks made deviled eggs with spiders (made out of black olives), ghost cookies, and cupcakes with funny faces, along with the usual fried chicken, cheesy potatoes, sandwiches, meatballs, salad, pasta, side dishes and desserts.



A Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle!



A Duck Dynasty Duo - Jennifer Schaeffer Wolfe and Jolene Diethorn

At the end of the day, the 5th floor was opened up to foster children and CYS employees' kids for trick or treating. Many of the staff dressed up to join in the fun. Children were given a backpack with school supplies or treat bags for their candy. Kids went door to door (or office to office) to get candy, snacks, beverages and to participate in crafts. The weather couldn't have been more bootiful, which added to the nice turnout. Parents liked the idea of a safe place, held indoors; after school and kids were happy to get an extra day to wear their costumes and of course more free candy!



Some "Super" Cool kids!



Deanna Yee



Sally Mox



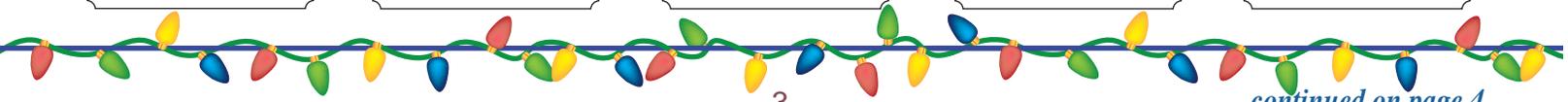
Kim Rogers



Julie Krafcheck



Nadirah Joseph



CYS Halloween Party
SPOOKTACULAR Fun!

continued from page four

Many said they are eagerly looking forward to next year's event.

Thanks to all of the CYS workers and staff who helped make this event a success by donating food, drinks, craft materials, candy, cleaning up or setting up, and helping in various ways behind the scenes. Also thank you to Mercy CAC for donating backpacks for the kids and the jail for donating ice.



The CYS Care Bears.
 Back row: Brandi Lowe, Hilary Burchett, Tiffany Lindsay, Julie Krafcheck and Pat Berdine. Middle row: Tenisha Brown, Azure Hixenbaugh, Tamie Henry and Bernadette Saylor. Front row: Samantha Saylor



Carrie Lavecchia



Kris McDowell

Crush the Holiday Pounds with us!



The Washington County Wellness Program will be continuing its sponsorship of the **Core Crush Class** at the **All Around Athletic Club** Tuesdays 4:45p.m.-5:15 p.m.

This is a five class session, beginning December 2. Call Pat Maxon for more information!

x 6933



By Janelle

United Way Campaign a Huge Success!



by Marie Trossman

The employees of Washington County made the annual United Way Campaign a huge success by raising over \$6,000 through pay roll deductions, by purchasing paper t-shirt donor signs and supporting several raffles.

This year the committee sponsored weekly prizes that were awarded to the winners whose names were drawn from the pool of those who contributed \$50 or more through payroll deductions. The following were the payroll deduction winners:

Cindy Linville of the Redevelopment Authority, a full massage at Spa Harmony and \$50 Visa gift card.

Kathy Ross of Public Safety, an airplane ride and a \$50 Visa gift card.

Stella Sukal of Human Resources, an autographed Steelers football and \$50 Visa gift card.

Susan Morgan of the Redevelopment Authority, a Coach purse, wallet and umbrella.

Suzanne Archer of the Register of Wills office, Sabika jewelry and a gift certificate to the Union Grill.

During week six of the campaign the committee sold raffle tickets and the following people were the winners:

Troy Breese of the Elections Office, won the Lone Pine Country Club golf foursome.

Jamie Yancich, the law librarian, won a \$50 Visa gift card donated by the Washington County Authority.

Brenda Williamson of the Redevelopment Authority won four tickets to the Washington Wild Things and a fan pack.

Mary Jo Poknis, the Register of Wills, won four tickets to a Wheeling Nailers game.

Kerry Fox of the Redevelopment Authority, won a \$25 gift card to the Back Porch Restaurant.

Mary Lynn Spilak of Aging Services won a Popcorn Willy's gift basket.

Stella Sukal of Human Resources won a gourmet cheesecake donated by U.S. Foods.

Carla Newland of the Health Center won a gift card tree valued at over \$500, with items donated by the county row officers, the Washington County Commissioners and local businesses.



Week one Winner
Cindy Lindville
Redevelopment Authority



Week Two Winner
Stella Sukal
Human Resources Department



Week Four Winner
Susan Morgan
Redevelopment Authority



Week Five Winner
Suzanne Archer
Register of Wills Office



Christmas at the Courthouse 2014 Concert Series

DECEMBER 3 - 12, 2014

Friday, December 5	12:00 p.m. Ringgold Elementary South
Monday, December 8	12:00 p.m. Washington High School Chorus & Brass
Tuesday, December 9	12:00 p.m. Calvary Chapel Christian 12:30 p.m. Faith Christian
Wednesday, December 10	12:00 p.m. Ringgold High School
Thursday, December 11	12:00 p.m. Chartiers Houston Band and Chorus
Friday, December 12	12:00 p.m. California University of PA 12:30 p.m. Avella Steel Ensemble



United Way Winners take a Flight to Latrobe

Every year Bill McGowen, the executive director of the Redevelopment Authority, is generous enough to make a lofty donation to the annual United Way Campaign.



This year the lucky winners of the airplane ride, Randi Marodi, Mary Helicke and Joyce Thornburg from the commissioners'



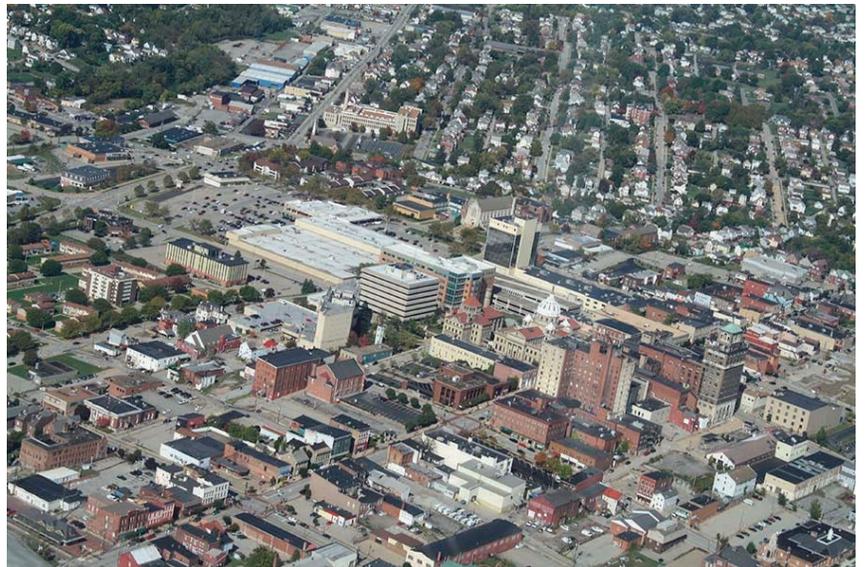
Immediately after departure, McGowen took the group on a tour of Washington County, pointing out landmarks and points of interest along the way. The original plan was to head to Nemaocolin Woodlands in Fayette County for a quick lunch. However, McGowen, a very experienced pilot, was in communication with the control towers of several local airports and he quickly discovered that heavy fog could prevent a safe landing at the mountain airport. The plans were quickly changed and the four-passenger plane was soon on its way to the Arnold Palmer Airport in Latrobe.

McGowen landed the plane with ease in Latrobe, refueled and then joined the ladies for lunch at Denunzio's Italian Restaurant at the airport. After lunch, it was back to the tarmac where he performed another inspection of the plane and again reviewed his checklist. Soon, the small plane was headed back to Washington for more sightseeing and another perfectly smooth landing.

office met McGowen at the Washington County Airport to claim their prize. They were able to watch him perform an inspection of his 1982 Mooney prop plane and go over a lengthy checklist before take-off. All of the checks and balances made the ladies confident that the flight would be smooth and safe.



Bill McGowen and Joyce Thornburg



Aerial view of Washington, PA

United Way Winners take a Flight to Latrobe

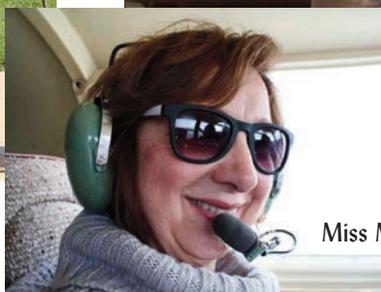
photos continued from page 7



Joyce Thornburg and Mary Helicke with Arnold Palmer



Bill McGowen, Randi Marodi, Mary Helicke and Joyce Thornburg at the Washington County Airport.



Miss Mary in flight!

More Photos of the New York Trip...

continued from page 2



Renee Datz, Amber Armstrong, Michelle Mitchell, Jamie Watson, Georgia Dovshek and Jeanette Bizet at Bubba Gumps.



Kristin Marcy, MacKenzie Kendall, Lori Brooks, Erin Jeffries and Jill Marcy at Paesano's in Little Italy



Home Spin

IDEAS BY DEBBIE



You will need:

- Clean pine cones
- wooden balls
- felt or cloth
- pipe cleaners
- ribbon
- scissors
- hot glue gun
- spray glitter (optional)
- black sharpie

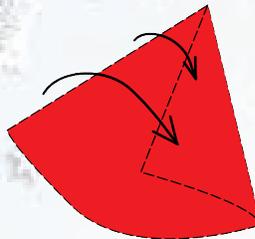
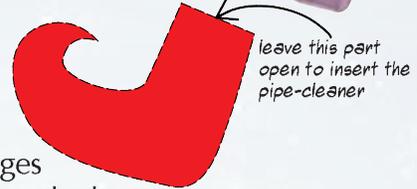
To Make:

1. Cut four pieces of felt for hands ...
2. Glue the edges of two pieces together leaving the flat part open.
3. Glue pipe-cleaner into the opening of the mitten.



4. Do the same for the boots...

5. Cut a piece of felt for the hat. Glue edges together. Leave the bottom open.



6. Glue wooden ball on cut end of pine cone.
7. Draw on eyes and a smile/mouth.
8. Hot Glue the arms to the top of the pine cone. (between the petals of the pine cone)
9. Hot Glue the legs to the bottom of the pine cone (also between the petals).
10. Tie a piece of ribbon or felt around the neck for a scarf.
11. Poke an ornament hanger through the point of the hat for hanging on your tree!

Interesting Fact!

From the Netherlands:

Sinterklaas is celebrated with the giving of gifts the Night Before St. Nicholas Day (December 5th) in the Netherlands and on the morning of St. Nicholas Day itself (December 6th).

Sinterklaas arrives from Spain by boat - the Saturday after November 11th each year.

He is an elderly man with white hair and a long, full beard. He wears a long red cape over a traditional white Bishops alb and sometimes a rod stola (head piece). He holds a gold colored erasier (a long ceremonial shepherds staff with a fancy curled top.) He rides a white horse called "Amerigo" through the streets to greet the children. He carries a big book that tells whether each child has been good or naughty in the past year.



Sinterklaas



Children and Youth's Adoption Day was Magical

By Marie Higgins

Our annual Adoption Day for Washington County Children and Youth Services was held on Friday, November, 21, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 104 and this year's theme was "Families Are Magical."



Robert Lawler, Kris McDowell, Michelle De Rosa, Dawn Ellis and Nakita Lewis of CYS

We believe "Forever Families" are indeed magical as they offer love and permanency to children in their care. This year 63 children from CYS were adopted, honored and celebrated.

The celebration was highlighted by a performance by Steve, the magician, who entertained the children with various animal, snowmen and superhero themed balloons, including Olaf, reindeer, cats, monkeys, and Spiderman. Steve also provided a wonderful magic show that kept the children entertained, especially when he enlisted children to serve as volunteer helpers. The Springhouse catered a tasty meal consisting of chicken, roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, cupcakes and pumpkin desserts.

Each adopted child received a magic black hat filled with treats and a personalized wooden block that listed the child's name, birthday, adoption date, and the names of their adopted parents.

Guests included the adopted children and their families; Commissioner Harlan Shober; Judge Katherine Emery; Director of Human Services and County Health Center Timothy Kimmel; CYS Director Kimberly Rogers; Assistant CYS Director, Dee Dee Blosnich-Gooden; CYS Attorney Daniel Chunko, CYS Adoption Unit: Michellle Greenawalt, Sally Mox; Bradley Poland, and Dawn Smith; paralegals Michelle DeRosa, Dawn Ellis, Kris McDonald, Robert Lawler and Nikita Lewis; CASA volunteers, various members of the CYS staff; and families and friends.



A proclamation for Adoption Awareness Month issued by the county Commissioners.

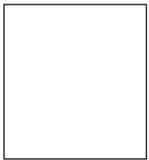
The CYS staff thanks everyone who worked hard to make this day so special. They also send their best wishes to all of the adopted children and their families.

100 West Beau Street, Suite 702
Washington, PA 15301



Washington County Highights

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County Newsletter Staff:

Randi Marodi, Commissioner Shober's Office

Marie Higgins, CYS

Mary Helicke, Chief Clerk

Pat Maxon, Human Resources

Melanie Thomas-Finney, Planning

Wes Parry, Elections

Marie Trossman, Commissioner Irey Vaughan's Office

J. Bracken Burns, Retired County Commissioner

Joyce Thornburg, Commissioners' Office

