

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2014

Altoona Mirror

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## Area students honored at SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Students from area high schools and college technical education programs won the nation's highest awards at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Industry leaders representing more than 600 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions recognized the students for their demonstrated excellence in 99 hands-on occupational and leadership contests, such as robotics, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking. All contests are designed, run and judged by industry using industry standards.

Top student winners received gold, silver and bronze medallions. Many also received prizes, such as tools of their trade and/or scholarships to further their careers and education. The SkillsUSA Championships is for high school and college-level students who are members of SkillsUSA.

In addition, high scorers in the contests received Skill Point Certificates. The Skill Point Certificate was awarded in 86 occupational and leadership areas to students who achieved a high score defined by industry.

The SkillsUSA Championships have been a premier event since 1967. The Skill Point Certificates were introduced in 2009 as a component of the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System.

The following area students are Skill Point Certificate recipients:

■ Katie Scott of Tyrone, a student at YTI Career Institute, Altoona, was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Medical Math.

■ Nicole Gill of Hollidaysburg, a student at YTI Career Institute, Altoona,

was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in First Aid-CPR.

■ Valerie Chamberlin of Bellwood, a student at Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center, was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Advertising Design.

Over 6,000 students from every state in the nation came to compete in the SkillsUSA Championships," said SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence. "This is the SkillsUSA partnership at its best. Students, instructors and industry representatives are working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce and every student excels. These students prove that career and technical education expands opportunities."

Industry support of the SkillsUSA Championships is valued at more than \$36 million in donated time, equipment, cash and material. All contests are run and judged by industry experts using industry standards for employment. Contests assess hands-on, employability and academic skills.

More than 1,700 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year.

The SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System was developed as an extension of the SkillsUSA mission and supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The system recognizes students for excellence in occupational training; it assesses and documents the entry-level technical proficiency and cumulative experiences of candidates.

For more information about the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System, visit [www.workforceready.com](http://www.workforceready.com).

### ACROSS THE AREA

#### AFSCME to meet in Ebensburg

EBENSBURG — The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Sub-Chapter 8303 will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Ebensburg Municipal Building.

#### Thursdays garden line ends Sept. 25

EBENSBURG — The Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Cambria County will be ending their "Garden Line" on Thursdays, and Sept. 25 will be the last "Garden Line" for this growing season.

During "Garden Line," Master Gardeners answer gardening questions from the public at 472-7986 between 10 a.m. and noon Thursdays.

"Garden Line" will resume in the spring.

#### Walk to End Alzheimer's is Sept. 13

HOLLIDAYSBURG — The fourth annual Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held Sept. 13 at Legion Park.

Walk registration begins at 8 a.m., with the kick-off ceremony at 9:30 a.m.

Additionally, a chicken barbecue will be held with all proceeds going directly to the Alzheimer's Association.

An Alzheimer's diagnosis presents many challenges for families living with this disease. Annually, there are more than 400 newly diagnosed Alzheimer's patients in Blair and Cambria counties.

An estimated 70 percent of people with Alzheimer's live at home, with the responsibility of care for them usually falling on their families. It can place a large burden on their families.

The walk is an annual tribute to those fighting the disease and their families by carrying commemorative flowers representing all facets of the Alzheimer's battle. Last year's walk raised more than \$20,000.

For those who want to donate but cannot participate in the event, donations are being accepted via the Walk to End Alzheimer's website at [www.act.alz.org](http://www.act.alz.org).

#### Country dance slated for Sept. 13

PLEASANTVILLE — A dance to music by the Country Gentlemen will be held from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Sept. 13 at the Alum Bank Firehall on Route 96 just north of Route 56. Admission is \$5 per person.

The kitchen will open at 5:30 p.m. The event is smoke- and alcohol-free. It is sponsored by the Alum Bank Community Fire Company Auxiliary.

For more information, call 839-2358 or visit [www.facebook.com/AlumBankFireCompanyAux](http://www.facebook.com/AlumBankFireCompanyAux).

## Smearman golf event funds scholarship

**R**OARING SPRING — The fifth annual Coach Bill Smearman Golf Tournament was held June 23 at the Iron Masters Country Club with 13 teams of golfers.

The tournament is the main fundraiser for the \$1,000 Coach Bill Smearman Memorial Scholarship, presented annually to an Altoona Area High School senior athlete.

Smearman, who passed away in 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer, was a longtime teacher and coach of football and wrestling at Roosevelt Junior High School.

The 2014 scholarship was awarded to Morgan Pensyl, a member of the cross-country, indoor and outdoor track and field teams. She plans to pursue a degree in forensic chemistry at Penn State in the fall.

Amy Smearman and Steve Rhodes co-chaired the event, which drew teams from Blair Mill Outlet, Martin Oil, Pacifico Bakery, Coldwell Banker and the Old West Wash House, as well as many of



Courtesy photo

Taking part in the 2014 Coach Bill Smearman Memorial Golf Tournament were (from left): first row — Morgan Pensyl, scholarship recipient; Glenna Smearman, Smearman's wife; and Amy Smearman, event co-chairman; second row — Steve Rhodes, event co-chairman; and Matt Smearman and Scott Smearman, Smearman's sons.

Bill's friends, colleagues and former athletes.

The first-place team included Justin Arthur, Troy Monahan, CD Gunnert and Jeff Friday.

Individual hole prize winners were:

Tom Kyle, Hole No. 3, closest to the pin.

Nate Martin, Hole No. 4, longest putt made.

Justin Arthur, Hole No. 5, closest to the pin in two.

JR Leonard, Hole No. 6, closest to the pin in three.

Scott Smearman, Hole No. 8, longest drive in the fairway.

Bob Miller, Hole No. 9, closest to the pin.

Chad Wensel, Hole No. 12, longest putt made.

Nate Miller, Hole No. 13,

closest to the pin.

Rob Lafferty, Hole No. 14, closest to the pin in three.

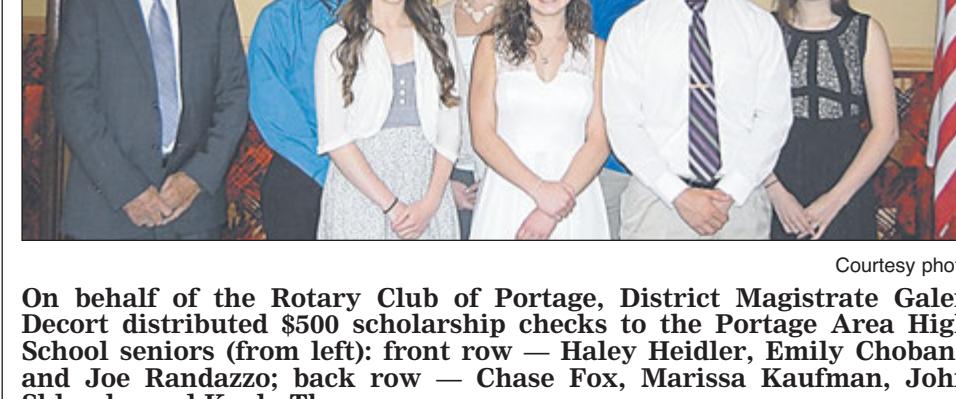
Tom Kyle, Hole No. 16, closest to the pin.

Troy Monahan, Hole No. 17, straightest drive.

Geordan Miller, Hole No. 18, closest to the pin in two.

The 2015 tournament is scheduled to return to Iron Masters on June 22.

## ROTARY SCHOLARSHIPS



Courtesy photo

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Portage, District Magistrate Galen Decort distributed \$500 scholarship checks to the Portage Area High School seniors (from left): front row — Haley Heidler, Emily Chobany and Joe Randazzo; back row — Chase Fox, Marissa Kaufman, John Sklarsky and Kayla Thrower.

## Businessman creates endowed scholarship at Pennsylvania Highlands in Huntingdon

JOHNSTOWN — Huntingdon businessman Dale W. Miller has created the first endowed scholarship for the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College Huntingdon Center. The endowment will provide an annual scholarship for a student attending the Penn Highlands Huntingdon Center.

Miller has worked closely with the college since the Huntingdon Center's inception in 2008, providing and renovating space for its operation and working with other community leaders to ensure that the college had everything necessary to be successful.

For the past 63 years, Miller has owned and operated D.W. Miller Inc., a highway construction company. Under his leadership, this company has grown into a very successful business, providing jobs for as many as 300 employees throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Since the company's inception, it has been responsible for building and repairing bridges, as well as constructing culverts and inlets. Currently, the business specializes in the installation of raised pavement markers.

As a U.S. Army veteran, Miller has also used his knowledge and expertise to help his community by serving on the boards of the Huntingdon School Board, First National Bank of Mapleton Bank and the Central Mellon Bank. His philanthropic endeavors have also included the donation of land to the Huntingdon School District, McConnellstown Fire Company and Walker Township.

Pennsylvania Highlands will serve more than 100 full- and part-time students in the fall semester, as well as providing concurrent enrollment programming in all four Huntingdon County school districts through the college's Accelerated College Education program.

### IN THE NEWS ON THIS DATE: AUG. 30

#### LOCAL HISTORY

**25**  
YEARS AGO  
1989

Retired Bellwood School principal Lewis Myers took part in the opening of the elementary school that was named for him. He had retired in 1972 and was a Navy veteran of both World War II and the Korean Conflict.

**10**  
YEARS AGO  
2004

Frankstown Township supervisors were purchasing two acres currently owned by the Hollidaysburg congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in order to construct a large pond to stop flooding on Lower Brush Mountain Road.

— Compiled by Tim Doyle

#### WORLD HISTORY

Today is the 242nd day of 2014.

There are 123 days left in the year.

##### On this date:

- In 1861, Union Gen. John C. Fremont instituted martial law in Missouri and declared slaves there to be free. (However, Fremont's emancipation order was countermanded by President Lincoln.)
- In 1862, Confederate forces won victories against the Union at the Second Battle of Bull Run in Manassas, Virginia, and the Battle of Richmond in Kentucky.
- In 1945, Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrived in Japan to set up Allied occupation headquarters.

— The Associated Press



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