

Anthony Wayne Alumni Association Newsletter

Summer 2019



EIGHT AW SENIORS RECEIVE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Hans Rudolph



Madelynn Mangold



Sarina El-Joubaily



Jordan Pack



Jeremy Krause



Ojal Kakrecha



Isabelle Merkel



Alexa Fries

Hans C. Rudolph lives in Waterville. He achieved great success in academics, so in his sophomore year he began tutoring his fellow classmates. Hans soon learned that tutoring was less a chore but more an enjoyment. He tutored every grade level, which he said was rewarding and humbling. Hans played on the lacrosse team.

One activity he enjoys most is cycling the trails in Oak Openings Metropark. He was involved in the construction of a mountain bike trail and found the process of building the trail very rewarding. Since its completion, he has ridden the trail numerous times.

Hans plans to attend Ohio State

University, majoring in industrial design.

Madelynn R. Mangold hails from Whitehouse. Maddie has been involved with Whitehouse American Legion Post 384 in the junior auxiliary. Through her time at the Legion post, she participated in Memorial

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EIGHT AW SENIORS RECEIVE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Day and Veterans Day activities at the Waterville and Whitehouse cemeteries. Maddie also volunteered at the monthly steak fries and community breakfasts.

She was selected to represent the Whitehouse Post at the 2018 Buckeye Girls State at Mount Union University in Alliance, Ohio. While at BGS she learned about state and local government and how they function.

Maddie also was a member of the AW FFA and volunteered in many FFA activities. She also participated in pep, jazz, symphonic, marching and honors bands at AW.

She plans to attend Bowling Green State University and study microbiology (plant pathology).

Sarina SF El-Joubaily resides in Monclova. Throughout Sarina's high school career, she has had a desire to be involved in volunteering. She was a member of Interact Club, the National Honor Society and student council. Sarina learned about the value of dedication in service to others through the honor society. She has helped with activities at Genesis Village, Whitehouse Elementary, American Red Cross blood drive and a church in Waterville.

While attending the University of Toledo, she plans on majoring in biology, pre-med and plans on getting involved with student council at the university.

Jordan M. Pack resides in the Maumee area. She participated in numerous clubs at AW, including Environmental Club, Art Club, Interact, Chess, St. Luke's Explorer Post and National Honor Society, to name a few. Jordan particularly favored St. Luke's Explorer Post. She partnered with hospital staff to help educate high school students interested in the medical field.

Jordan played soccer two years at AW, then joined the crew team. Since joining crew, she rowed at the 2017 Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston

and the Head of the Hooch in Tennessee.

Jordan is enrolled at Michigan State and is majoring in environmental engineering.

Jeremy W. Krause is a Waterville resident. Jeremy spent much of his volunteer time at Sunshine Inc. of NWO. He transported residents, served meals and worked on the grounds crew. He also volunteered throughout high school as a Bidy Wrestling assistant coach, teaching grade school kids how to wrestle.

Jeremy did wrestle for AW, making it to the sectional and district tournaments. He also played football while at Anthony Wayne.

Jeremy is enrolled at the University of Toledo, where he is majoring in education with emphasis on social studies or history.

Ojal Kakrecha, a Perrysburg Township resident, has been involved in many activities while at AW. She has been in band (marching, pep and concert), plus Link Crew, Chess, French, Interact and Environmental clubs. She also is a member of the National Honor Society. Ojal was a member of St. Luke's Explorer Post.

She has volunteered at Way Public Library, University of Toledo Medical Center, tutored elementary students and belonged to the Hindu Temple of Toledo youth group, where she taught dance and was a junior ambassador leader.

Ojal has embraced her Indian heritage and endeavored to expose her classmates to different customs and cultures.

Ojal is attending Case Western Reserve University with a major of public health.

Isabelle S. Merkel lives in Monclova. Like the others, Isabelle volunteered extensively, including Link Crew, Camp Intervention, tutoring at Whitehouse Elementary and National Honor Society.

One situation involved a girl who was very quiet and uninvolved with

other classmates. Isabelle as a Link Crew member worked with the girl and was able to get her to come out of her shell and open up to Isabelle. Throughout the ensuing weeks the girl was able to fit in and engage with classmates. Isabelle continued contact with her through text messaging.

She played varsity soccer, but at the beginning of her sophomore year she was using inhalers and medication for asthma. Soon it was discovered that she wasn't asthmatic, but suffered from acid reflux, which caused swelling in the throat, which caused reduced air flow. Through eliminating certain foods and drinks, she is breathing fine and continues her soccer career in college.

Isabelle is attending Baldwin Wallace University, majoring in communicative disorders.

Alexa N. Fries has resided in Waterville. Alexa has always been willing to take risks in sports, like switching from softball to track. Alexa also was a member of several clubs while at AW. She was in Link Crew, FFA, Chess Club and Spanish Club, to name a few.

While serving as a Link Crew member her junior and seniors years, she helped freshmen and new AW students to acclimate to the high school atmosphere and overcome insecurities.

While volunteering at Sunshine Communities, she worked with residents to improve mobility and communication skills, but her main focus was helping produce hydroponic greenhouse facilities.

Alexa is enrolled at the University of Findlay majoring in animal science.

These college scholarships are made possible through the generous support of you and a caring AW community.

Whitney Wolff's Hippotherapy Experience Inspires Thesis, BGSU Award

BY KAREN
GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

*Content edited with
permission of The Mirror*

After years of volunteering in a local hippotherapy program, Whitney Wolff was confident that she could measure and prove that the therapeutic horseback riding treatment is successful in improving the core muscles and stability in children – especially those with cerebral palsy.

Last year, the 2012 Anthony Wayne High School graduate learned that her master's thesis on that topic earned her the 2018 Mary Ann Robertson Outstanding Thesis in Bowling Green State University's School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies.

The selection committee members noted that Wolff's thesis showed the difficulty of the data collection and a tremendous investment of time to reduce, analyze and interpret the data, said Vikki Krane, Ph.D. and professor of teaching excellence at BGSU. The work also has practical applications and the potential to positively impact people, another judge added.

Wolff used accelerometers with Bluetooth technology to measure the stability of six children who took lessons for several years. She did a test in a trial both before and after 30-minute sessions.

"They were more still and stable after 30 minutes," Wolff said. That muscle improvement remained, even after students took a three-month break for winter. "I definitely noticed they were more physically capable," she said.



Whitney Wolff, a 2012 Anthony Wayne High School graduate and current Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan, wrote her master's thesis on the benefit of hippotherapy – therapeutic horseback riding – on children's core muscles. Her thesis was named the 2018 Mary Ann Robertson Outstanding Thesis in BGSU's School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies.

Mirror Photo by Karen Gerhardinger

Her BGSU advisor, Dr. Adam Fullencamp, noticed Wolff's knack for working with children – and getting them to sit still.

While she was a student at Anthony Wayne, Wolff ran track and volunteered with the hippotherapy program, so she decided to major in exercise science at BGSU. As her college graduation date neared, Wolff said she was wondering what to do next.

"I love doing research and I wanted to add something to science that no one else has done," she said.

Now a doctoral student in biomechanics at the University of Michigan, Wolff is continuing that goal. Working in the Musculoskeletal Biomechanics and Imaging Laboratory at the U.M. School of Kinesiology, Wolff is focusing on how radiation used on patients with head or neck cancer impacts head and neck muscles.

"I want to develop exercises for those going through rehabilitation," she said.

In addition to her classes and studies, Wolff teaches a 300-level biomechanics class at the university.

2019 Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees Named

- Roberta Huber Sunkle, Class of 1956
- Jim Conrad, Class of 1965
- Teri Utz Bersee, Class of 1971
- Andrew Smith, Class of 1973
- Randee DeBolt Masciola, Class of 1991

Look for the winter issue of the newsletter for photos and story about inductees.

Whitehouse Fire Names Kevin McNutt as Full-Time Training Officer

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

*Content edited with
permission of The Mirror*

The Whitehouse Fire Department's new, full-time training officer is no stranger to the position – or the department.

Kevin McNutt, who joined the fire department's volunteer ranks shortly after graduating from Anthony Wayne High School in June 2000, has been serving as part-time training officer since 2016.

In January, Fire Chief Joshua Hartbarger received permission from Whitehouse Village Council to add the full-time position in order to not only accommodate the training needs, but to provide a third person during the day shifts to respond to a call volume that neared 900 in 2018.

Like many area departments, having the three firefighters and two EMTs needed to provide a minimum response during the day is a challenge, as volunteers often are busy with their careers. Adding McNutt to the full-time roster will help with filling in during scheduled time off and call-offs by the part-time staff on duty, as well, Hartbarger said.

The son of retired Fire Chief Daryl McNutt, Kevin grew up in the fire station. His older brother, John, serves as fire chief in Palmer, Alaska.

While Kevin completed his fire training in Oregon, he repeated that process when he joined the Air National Guard in 2003, serving through 2017. He continues to work as a civilian employee for the 180th Fighter Wing.

As Whitehouse's training officer, Kevin coordinates with agencies to provide a variety of hands-on and informational sessions to firefighters and EMS personnel twice a month. That could range from understanding new equipment and protocols to a full rescue exercise. He's worked with the Metroparks to plan water rescues at the large quarry and to prepare for emergencies at other area parks.

Kevin also arranged for firefighters to tour the AT&T complex on Finzel Road and plans to arrange a tour of Ardagh



Kevin McNutt is the new full-time training officer for Whitehouse Fire Department.

Photo Courtesy of Whitehouse Fire Department

Group.

“We want to get our people familiar with the businesses, so if there is an emergency they’re more prepared,” he said.

Live fires are vital to training, but are the most challenging, as they require securing a trainer and fuel, bringing in multiple pieces of apparatus and cycling personnel through the scene – either an existing training tower or a donated structure.

When using a donated home, Kevin has the extra duty of working with the EPA to make sure that any asbestos shingles or other hazardous materials are removed and the site is cleaned up properly.

Having joint training exercises with Monclova Township and Waterville is vital because the departments have mutual aid agreements to assist in structure fires.

“We’re learning every year. Whether you’re on the fire department for three

years or 30 years, the construction materials change, the apparatus changes,” Kevin said.

Training keeps the staff up to date and prepared for as many situations as possible. No matter the conditions, the public counts on the crew to arrive prepared.

“Fires happen even if it’s 104 degrees out. We have to adapt,” he said.

AW Class of 1962 Plans Classmate’s 75th Birthday Party

The classmates in general, all turn 75 this year. In celebration, they have planned a dinner at the Whitehouse Inn on Saturday, September 14, 2019. Contact Steve Wayne at 419-666-7181 for more information.

Looking For Outstanding Alumni . . .

The Anthony Wayne Alumni Association is looking for nominees for future classes of the Anthony Wayne Alumni Hall of Fame. A nomination form is enclosed for your use.

- **Due March 30 of the calendar year to be considered for the fall of the same year.**
- Nominees shall come from correct submission of this form. You must be an Anthony Wayne High School Alumni to prepare a nomination form.
- There are 3 categories of Nominees: Alumni, Faculty/Staff, Community

HOF Mission Statement: The AW Alumni Association’s Hall of Fame was created to honor both alumni athletes and non-athletes, as well as other individuals, who have impacted the school through their participation in academics, activities, creative arts, music, sports and/or their support of the educational environment at Anthony Wayne High school, in addition to significant contributions and impact in their own communities, and/or in their professions.

Nominee Criteria:

Alumni: The Anthony Wayne graduates are expected to have distinguished themselves in academics/athletics and/or activities (i.e. band, choir, dramatics, government, etc.) and have made significant contributions in career achievements and/or community service. All alumni honorees must have been graduated from Anthony Wayne High school a minimum of ten (10) years.

Faculty/Staff Members: Persons nominated as Faculty/Staff members must have been employed for ten (10) years and must be retired for at least five (5) to be eligible. When considering faculty/staff members, the panel should look at the significant or unique contributions that he/she made to the educational environment that would separate him or her from his/her peers.

Community Member: In assessing the merits of community nominees, the major factor should be what contributions he/she has made that directly benefitted the Anthony Wayne Local Schools and the community which supports them.



“HALL OF FAME” Nomination Form



Nominee Type: Alumni _____ Faculty/Staff _____ Community Member _____

Year of Graduation: _____ or Year Retired (Faculty/Staff): _____

Name of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

Phone Number of Nominee: _____ Email Address: _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Year Graduated: _____
FIRST MIDDLE/MAIDEN LAST

Email of Nominator: _____ Phone Number: _____

On the back of this page, please write a brief statement about the nominee and why you believe they have made a significant impact on the school, their community and/or their profession which would justify their consideration into the AW Hall of Fame. Please keep in mind the criteria above when nominating an individual, faculty or community member. Remember this nomination form will reflect on your nominee.

- A follow-up form will be sent to the nominee asking for more information regarding life and accomplishments.
- If a nominee is not selected in current year, their application will be considered again for an additional 2 years.

Wall of Honor Recognizes Graduates Who Served

BY KAREN
GERHARDINGER
MIRROR
REPORTER

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with permission
of *The Mirror*

Wearing a U.S. Navy hat, Anthony Wayne High School senior Matthew Williamson posed with his other classmates in front of the Wall of Honor – a large blue wall featuring the names of graduates who have served in the Armed Forces.

“Matthew will be a third-generation submariner,” said his dad, Barry Williamson Jr., who wrapped up his 20-year Navy career in 2017. Matthew’s grandfather, Barry Williamson Sr., served from 1969 to 1974.

“I’ve heard plenty of stories,” said Matthew, one of 16 military recruits who joined the May 1 dedication of the Wall of Honor near the high school’s main gym.

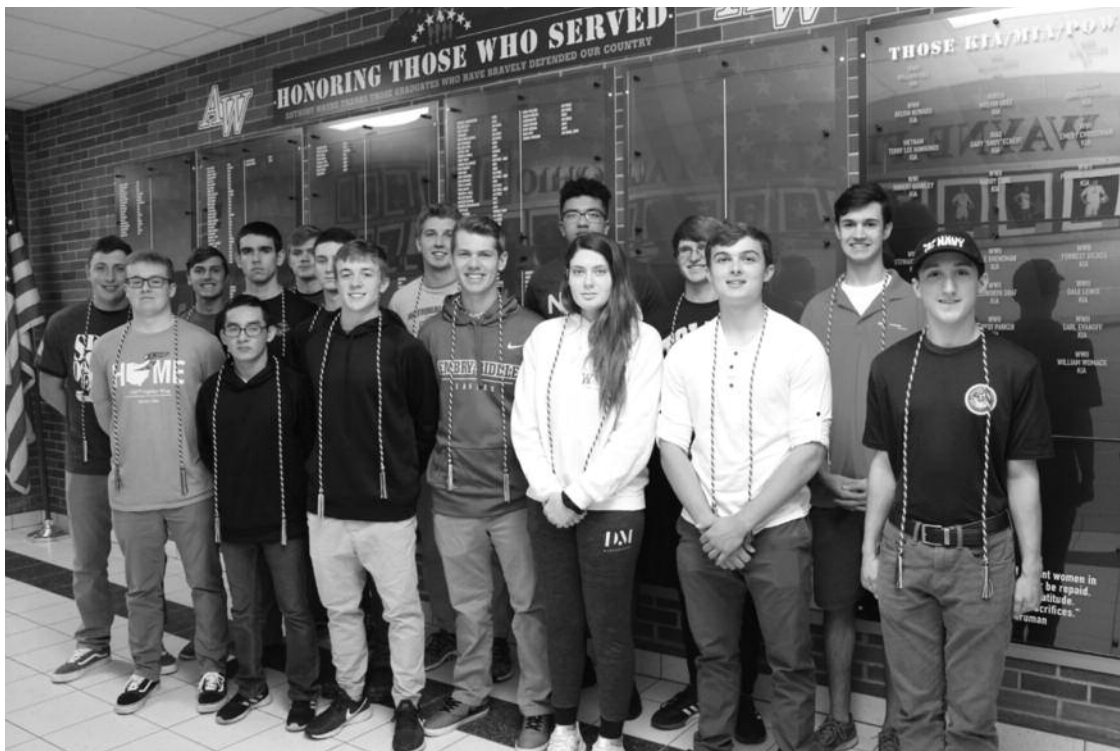
“This wall is the coolest thing I’ve seen in a long time,” said senior Cameron Freeman, who along with his friend Brady Johnson, has joined the Marines.

“It’s awesome. There’s a lot of meaning behind it,” Brady added.

Divided into decades, the wall recognizes AWHS graduates, and graduates of Whitehouse, Waterville and Monclova schools before the 1951 consolidation, who served in the military. Those who were killed in action, missing in action or prisoners of war are also honored.

Dave Johnson, a 1985 graduate, is one of 18 employees listed on the wall. A physics teacher, Johnson joined the Navy in 1987 and served through 1993.

“I rode around on subs. It was probably the coolest thing I’ve ever done,” said Johnson, who worked aboard the SS *George C. Marshall* in the



Standing in front of the new Wall of Honor at Anthony Wayne High School are seniors who are committing to military service after graduation, including (from left) front row, Nathan Keller, Saul Avendano, Peyton Elliott, Carson Orr, Kaitlyn Casper, Phillip Montion and Matt Williamson; and back row, Max Wallace, Benjamin Peterson, Cameron Freeman, Joe Wallace, Brady Johnson, Garrett Mintz, Zhante Elliott, Gavin Rinto and Blaine Instone.

Mirror Photo by Karen Gerhardinger

nuclear plant.

Brad Contat, an Army veteran and assistant high school principal, is also listed with the employees, as he was in the Army from 2001 to 2004.

“The Wall of Honor is a testament to our community’s commitment to service and sacrifice. Each name represents a unique story, but a common thread in being an Anthony Wayne General. Seeing it finished today is awesome,” said Contat, who was involved in the wall project, as well as the 2015 installation of a POW/MIA chair in the athletic lobby.

The idea for the wall sprouted a few years ago as the high school staff discussed how to earn the Ohio Department of Education’s Purple Star Award – given to schools that support military families and children, principal Dr. Kevin Pfefferle said. The high school, Waterville Primary and Whitehouse Primary are recognized as Purple Star Award schools for their dedication to working with students who have family members in the military.

After checking out similar walls in

other schools, Contat and secretary Anne Stevens began asking staff, students, parents and community members to submit names via a Wall of Honor Google form on the high school’s website. The wall will be updated annually with additional names.

“This will forever be a work in progress,” Pfefferle said. “We will keep this a living and dynamic wall.”

The Anthony Wayne Alumni Association (AWAA) will cover the cost of adding names.

“They’re alumni. We feel like we should support them,” said AWAA member Holly Schmidbauer. The AWAA is also purchasing a Flag of Honor – made of wood by veterans – to display in the new main office.

The cost of the wall was covered by donations. Local farmers Bill and Vicky Ryan applied for and received a \$2,500 grant from America’s Farmers Grow Communities to support the wall project.

Girl Scout Troop 10451 donated \$115 – 25 percent of their profits from

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Wall of Honor Recognizes Graduates Who Served

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selling 1,750 boxes of cookies this year. Sydney Choma, Aubrey Liming, Haley Reid, Zoe Reid and Scarlet Robinson said they heard about the wall and wanted to support it.

"We know some people whose names will be added to the wall," Aubrey said.

The 16 seniors who joined the military after their Saturday, May 25 graduation include Carson Orr, who will be heading to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to be part of the Air Force ROTC training program, and Zhante Elliot, whose goal is to become part of the Navy SEALs. Brady and Cameron, who became friends in kindergarten, chose the Marines after meeting with recruiter Sgt. Leon Peterson. Cameron plans to become a combat engineer while Brady will focus on reconnaissance.

The seniors all said they are proud to know that their names will be added to

the wall, along with last year's seniors and the generations before them.

"We have athletic signings and recognize graduates who are making decisions about colleges," Contat said. "Up until this point, we have not had a way to honor graduates who plan to serve."

Some past graduates learned of their addition to the wall through social media and shared their thoughts.

"My daughter (Kathryn Biggins, Air Force) is the first one on the list," Sharon Biggins said of the 1980s panel. "What a wonderful thing for the school to do."

John Canfield, who served in the Army, said, "This means so much to me!"

"Awesome. I'm glad they finished it," said Jerry Ochs, an Army veteran.

AWAA trustee Steve Wayne, a 1962 graduate who served in the Navy from 1962 to 1966, including two years aboard the *USS America*, was in attendance, as was Navy veteran Leroy Ryer-

son.

"It was nice having my name on the wall, but the best part was the reason it was there – which was the four years in the Navy, where I met and worked with a lot of people and got to see a lot of the world," Ryerson said.

The positive feedback about the wall and the Veterans Memorial Park, which is under construction in downtown Whitehouse, shows the level of support for those who serve in the military, Pfefferle said.

"I'm grateful for our community, which is supportive of those who are in the armed services," Pfefferle said.

For those who want to see the wall, photos are posted on the AWAA Facebook page.

If you know anybody who should be included, please complete an online survey at <https://goo.gl/forms/QRmJL8o8UhwOHnft2> or the link can be found on the district website at www.anthonywayneschools.org.

Like and Follow Us on Facebook Anthony Wayne Alumni Association

Check out the updated Anthony Wayne Alumni website, awalumni.org and leave a comment on the "Get in Touch" page or make a donation on the "Donate" page.

Find the newsletter, events, hall of fame list, photos and more on the website – pass the word.

The Anthony Wayne Alumni Association Trustees would like to invite you to join the Alumni Association by becoming a Lifetime Member for only \$50 by

Calling All Members

As an AWAA member, the association would like you to consider asking any friends or family to join the AWAA.

A lifetime membership is only a one-time fee of \$50, which is a real bargain.

Find us on Facebook!
Anthony Wayne Alumni Association/Facebook
Also look for our updated website!
www.awalumni.org

completing the form in this newsletter.

Nominate someone for the Hall of Fame by March 30 of any given year (nominations received after this date will be considered the NEXT year) by completing the form in this newsletter.

Purchase 50/50 raffle tickets at all home football games, support wine tasting and Chick-fil-A fundraisers. Also check out our Flower Power fundraiser.

You are invited to sit in on any or all of our AW Alumni Association Board Meetings held at the Waterville Public Library at 7 p.m. Go to our Facebook page or website to see future dates. Your trustees are Jon McAfee, Karen (LaRue) Wiggins, Stephanie Phillips, Jim Fisher, Holly (Richard) Schmidbauer, Kit (Morris) Heintschel, Wendy Gehring, Steve Wayne and Debbie Jacoby, advisor.

Please Help Us

In an effort to keep our membership contact information current and up-to-date, please jot down any new mailing or email addresses or phone number changes and mail to Anthony Wayne Alumni Association, P.O. Box 2441, Whitehouse, OH 43571-0441.

AW Grad Brings Bison to Northwest Ohio Farm



Stacy (Murphy) Nofzinger, an Anthony Wayne graduate, and her husband Brent bought the former Schmidlin's Greenhouse property and created pastures with the right grass mix for bison.

**BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER**

*Content edited with
permission of The Mirror*

Mama 10 slowly eases her way closer to the 10-foot-tall fence, one eye on Knox, a friendly mixed-breed dog.

As one of 12 pregnant bison delivered to Brent and Stacy Nofzinger's Bracy Gold Bison Farm last month, Mama 10 is a pioneer of sorts.

"We're the first bison farm in this area," said Stacy, an Anthony Wayne High School graduate who has long wanted to live on a farm with lots of animals.

"I used to be a zookeeper and take care of bison at the African Safari Wildlife Park," she said. "I always wanted to have a homestead with chickens and horses and other animals."

Finding the perfect plot of land to accommodate a growing herd, yet one that was still close to family, was a challenge, Stacy said. Then, the two found the former Schmidlin Greenhouse land on County Road 4, north of the Fulton County town of Ai. The 87-acre farm has 55 acres for pasture, a farmhouse, barn and pond, plus one remaining greenhouse – the others were sold and dismantled.

Touring the farm, Brent and Stacy pointed out the tall fences erected on land that was once used for field crops.

"They eat, poop and move on. Moving them into different paddocks allows



Mama 10 (left) is one of 12 pregnant bison at the Bracy Gold Bison Farm in Fulton County. Stacy and Brent Nofzinger started the farm on County Road 4 north of Ai to provide a healthful alternative to beef.

Mirror Photos by Karen Gerhardinger

time to rebuild the micro-nutrition of the soil," Stacy explained. "That reduces the parasites because they're not eating in the same area they're pooping."

Each bison needs about an acre of land for proper grazing on a mixture of orchard, alfalfa, clover and rye perennial.

"We're farmers of grass, not ranchers of bison," Stacy said.

Weighing in at 1,100 pounds for a female and 2,000 pounds for a male, bison consume a lot, but otherwise are self-sustaining. Their hides are so thick that snow doesn't even melt off their backs, but stays on like a blanket.

Of course, a veterinarian is needed for shots and to make sure the herd is healthy. After all, the whole purpose of the bison farm is for the meat. With a nine-month gestation period, Stacy expected the babies to begin arriving in May and June. In 22 to 30 months, when the calves are grown, they'll be harvested.

"On the first business day of the year, more cattle are slaughtered by noon than the number of bison in an entire year," Brent said. That's why the National Bison Association is trying to boost the number of bison farmers – in order to meet a growing demand.

Referring to a nutritional chart, Brent explained that bison meat is leaner, lower in fat and calories, yet higher in protein, than beef.

"It tastes like beef. But you have to be more careful because it can go from perfectly done to hockey puck really quick," he said. Instead of the white

marbling of beef fat, bison meat is marbled with a yellow fat due to the grassy diet.

For now, the cost is \$11.49 a pound. Brent and Stacy drove to Indiana to purchase bison meat from another farmer to sell to customers who want to better know the taste before putting in an order for future bison burgers and steaks.

A bull is on its way to further grow the herd. No artificial insemination is used – just put him out to pasture with the females and hope there's a spark.

Those interested in visiting the farm should contact Brent and Stacy through the Bracy Gold Bison Farm Facebook page. Visits are welcome as long as they're planned in advance.

Recent AWAA Activities

August 10—Chick-fil-A sales at the alumni soccer games. Alumni players vs. varsity, 6:30 p.m.

August 22—Chick-fil-A sales at the varsity football scrimmage vs. Central Catholic, 6 p.m.

September 7, 12:00 noon—Hall of Fame luncheon, high school cafeteria.

50/50 raffle tickets sold at every home football game.

Thanks for your support.

Combat Medic Stacie Phillips Honored by Whitehouse Mayor

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

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Sgt. Stacie Phillips, a combat medic in the U.S. Army Reserves, returned from Iraq last month to a warm welcome from her family, friends and



Sgt. Stacie Phillips, a combat medic in the Army Reserves, served in Iraq last year.
Photo Courtesy of Stacie Phillips

Whitehouse Mayor Don Atkinson.

During the March 5 Whitehouse Village council meeting, Atkinson recognized Stacie, a Whitehouse resident and 2007 Anthony Wayne High School graduate, for her service.

The daughter of Kathy and Gene Phillips – a recent Army retiree – and the sister of SKP Massage owner Stephanie Phillips, Stacie joined the Army Reserves in September 2013.

While she was taking classes at the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse, Stacie said she changed her major a few times. Then she decided to serve her country.

“I knew it wasn’t going to be a cakewalk,” she said.

With a goal to make a career in trauma medicine, and with a civilian EMT license, Stacie was assigned as a combat medic with the 983rd Combat Heavy Army Unit. When she deployed in March 2018, she was attached to the 878th Vertical Engineer Company of the North Carolina National Guard, composed mostly of carpenters, masons, plumbers and electricians, constructing buildings for troops stationed at Al-Asad Air Base.

Working with Danish, French, American and other doctors, she provided what she calls “tailgate medicine” – stabilizing patients before they were

sent to the hospital.

“Thankfully, the worst injuries I saw were an eye injury from table saw debris and a deep cut from razor wire,” she said. “I saw several musculo-skeletal injuries, a few broken fingers and toes, dislocated joints, dermatologic issues and a few concussions, nearly all on a daily basis.”

Medics are increasingly expected to spend more time with patients before they can be evacuated out, Stacie said, which means being able to administer drugs or perform whole blood transfusions in the field. On the civilian side, that would require a doctorate, she noted.

While in Iraq, Stacie decided to sign up for an additional six years. During that time, she hopes to also earn a nursing degree.

The Iraq deployment was her second, as she spent two weeks on a humanitarian mission to El Salvador, as well.

Last spring, Atkinson was in Local Thyme when he overheard Stephanie talking about her younger sister’s impending deployment. Without knowing Stacie’s name, Atkinson wrote a \$50.00 check to help with her expenses.

“That was very unexpected,” said Stacie, who responded with a photo card of her and Stephanie.

Veterans Visit Anthony Wayne’s Wall of Honor

Marvin Heminger, a 1951 Anthony Wayne High School graduate who served in the Army from 1953-55, is one of several veterans who stopped by the school during the May 11 art show to see the Wall of Honor, which recognizes all AW graduates who have served in the armed forces. To submit a name, visit www.anthoniwayneschools.org and go to the high school website. A Google document for the Wall of Honor is listed on the bottom left side.

Mirror Photos by Karen Gerhardinger



WATERVILLE SCOUT AUSTIN SISLER BUILDS ATLAS CASE FOR WAKEMAN HALL

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

*Content edited with
permission of The Mirror*

The voluminous 1924 Lucas County Plat Book, containing detailed drawings from surveys – and names in elegant script, identifying the owners – now lies open and flat on an inclined, freshly made wood stand.

Austin Sisler, a 2018 Anthony Wayne High School graduate, recently pointed to the side of the new atlas stand, where a plaque commemorates his grandmother, Sally Waggoner, who volunteered for the Waterville Historical Society, indexing items and helping with the website.

“I used to come here and help her scan documents,” Austin said. So when he was looking for an Eagle Scout project, the Troop 101 member asked the volunteers at the WHS Wakeman Archival Research Center for ideas.

John Rose said the six heavy atlases from various decades were lying flat and had to be lifted up when needed. An atlas stand seemed like the ideal solution.

Drawing upon his knowledge from multimedia classes at AWHHS, Austin used Google SketchUp to create plans from which he made a model. Then he sought help from Troop 101 peers to build the stand, especially parent Alan Matney, a skilled carpenter. The team also removed a stage and replaced the carpet, so that the area is now all one level.

For John and Verna Rose, who



Austin Sisler, a Boy Scout Troop 101 member, built an atlas case for the Waterville Historical Society's Wakeman Archival Research Center as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Mirror Photo by Karen Gerhardinger

spend every Wednesday and one Saturday a month at the center doing an inventory of donated items, helping residents search records for ancestors and working on books about Waterville history, the project was welcome.

Austin said the Eagle Scout project capped off more than 10 years in Scouts, including his favorite annual

activity: Camp Alaska.

“We would go to Camp Miakonda in January or February and camp outdoors in plastic sheets,” he said.

Being an Eagle Scout will no doubt help him as he seeks a job later, Austin said. For now he's heading to Bowling Green State University to study computer science.

Many Options Available for Contributing to the AWAA Scholarship Fund

- 50/50 Raffle Ticket Sales** at every home football game. Plus second chance packets with gift cards, coupons and various other incentives are announced directly after the 50/50 winning number is announced near the end of the halftime break.

- Chick-fil-A Sandwich Sales** at

the alumni soccer games, usually in early August. Another Chick-fil-A sandwich sale occurs at the home football scrimmage game near the middle of August.

- Wine Tasting Event** held at Majestic Oak Winery in Neapolis sometime every June.

- A New Fund-Raiser is Flower Power**, a fall flower bulb sale. It is an online sales event. Go to AWAA Facebook page or website and click the link. For every order placed, the alumni association receives half the proceeds. Deadline to order is October 15, 2019.

New! New! New! New! New!



AWAA FLOWER POWER FUNDRAISER

This fall the alumni association is promoting a flower bulb fundraiser. The company is Flower Power Fundraising in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. You can go to our Facebook page Anthony Wayne Alumni Association/Face-

book and click on the flower bulb sale to order from a selection of 32 different flowers. As you decide which ones you want, type the quantity in the box next to the price. Then click the "update cart" tab. After your selections and

quantities are made, click on the "check out" tab to go to the page to be filled out with your credit card and shipping info.

Thank you for all the support to the AWAA. The majority of funds received go to our scholarship fund.

Whitehouse Historical Society Plans New Video

The Whitehouse Historical Society is looking for help on a new project. We are in the early stages of producing a video memory of The Whitehouse School. As the new school rises to replace the old, we wanted to capture images and memories of the school that since 1932, has been an important part of so many lives.

The Historical Society will be working with local resident Michael Vanderpool. Mike teaches videography at Northwest State Community College. He and some of his students will be tapping interviews, collecting images of the building and various mementos and compiling a video that will be available for sale. Mike has previously produced

a video entitled "A Tour of Historic Providence Street" with local legend Bud Bauman. Bud was the first to suggest that the society undertake this project as he feared the building would be gone before anyone acted.

If you, or someone you know, has a story, memento, or remembrance to share on our video, please contact Karen Gerhardinger at karen@the-mirrornewspaper.com or Joe Dollman at secretary.whitehousehs@gmail.com

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Whitehouse Native and AW Teacher Janis Witte Celebrates 90th Birthday

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

*Content edited with
permission of The Mirror*

At age 90, Janis Witte has held many titles over the years: wife, mom, grandma, teacher, advisor and even “Scrooge,” she acknowledged with a laugh.

On April 29, Janis welcomed hugs from family and friends as she celebrated her birthday.

“I have been so blessed to have such a wonderful life,” said the Whitehouse native. “There’s nothing like a large family in a small town.”

Born in 1929 to Bess and Argo Sullivan, Janis’ arrival came shortly after her mom hung the clothes on the line behind the Texas Street house that her grandfather, Jacob Lehman, had built in 1870. That house was torn down last year to make way for a driveway into the new Whitehouse Primary School.

Her father operated Sullivan’s Implement Sales, where Veterans Memorial Park is being constructed, and was an International Harvester dealer.

“So I would go to the movie theater pretty often,” Janis said. Growing up in Whitehouse, Janis also ice skated or swam at the quarry and went to the August Homecoming Festival.

After attending Whitehouse School for 12 years, Janis graduated in 1947. That summer, her family decided to build a cabin on land they had long owned at Lake of the Woods in Ontario. Argo hired two carpenters but needed some extra muscle, and a cousin recommended his friend Chuck Witte.

“By the time the cottage was built, we had a thing going,” she smiled.

Chuck, a Waterville native, was already enrolled at Bowling Green State University, and she was committed to Miami University, so they spent a semester apart, until he could transfer.

“At the end of the year, I wanted to get married, but my mom said, ‘When you have your degree, have a job and you’re 21, then come talk to me,’” she said. “I accomplished all of that in three years.”

When she graduated in 1950, teachers were scarce and it was easy to get a job, especially for those with a bachelor’s degree. Many teachers at the time made do with a two-year degree from Bowling Green Normal School, Janis said.



As a 21-year-old, Janis was teaching seniors who were eighth-graders at Whitehouse High School when she was a senior. She knew they would try to test her limits. In the ’50s, it was acceptable for a teacher to slap an unruly child on the face, shake them up against the lockers or play over the PA the sound of someone getting spanked.

“My principal, Karl Campbell, told me that I needed to start out ‘mean as hell,’ and that if I needed someone spanked, he’d back me up,” Janis said. “By Christmas, my nickname was Scrooge.”

By Christmas, she was also married – taking a few days off to head to Chicago after her December 16 wedding to Chuck. Soon, they had a growing family, including Jenni Yoder, Jack Witte, Kirk Witte and Karla Rose Witte – who was named after Karl Campbell and his wife Rose.

“They weren’t able to have kids of their own, so they treated us like we were their own,” Karla said of the Campbells.

With the consolidation of Waterville, Whitehouse, Monclova and Providence townships into one Anthony Wayne Local Schools district, Janis moved to the high school, where she was a business teacher for 31 years. She instructed students on accounting, bookkeeping, typing and shorthand.

“I was the first teacher to bring computers to the district,” she said, explaining that she took a computer class at Owens over the summer of 1978, and in the fall, five Apple computers ar-

rived.

With mom as the business teacher, the kids weren’t able to get away with much, Karla and Jenni said.

“If I was a cheerleader, she was the advisor. If I was on student council, she was the advisor. If I flunked a test, she knew before I got home,” Jenni said.

Janis was the advisor the first year that the high school newspaper, *The General’s Dispatch*, was published. It won awards from competitions at Bowling Green State University and The University of Toledo. The paper progressed from a sheet printed on a mimeograph machine to printing breaking news stories in color each week.

Janis also led the yearbook staff, seeing the annual volume through improvements, such as a double-page color photo spread of the band, color senior photos and bigger advertisers. Janis and the students would write letters to big companies in Toledo, asking for advertising because “even though we’re out in the country, we still use their business.”

Over the years, Janis estimates that she taught or advised over 3,000 students. In 2002, she was the first female teacher to be inducted in the Anthony Wayne Alumni Association Hall of Fame – an honor that previously was reserved for coaches and athletes, she said.

During her career, Janis never had to travel far for work, living on the Cemetery Road property that has been in the family since the 1870s, starting with her grandfather, Jacob Lehman.

While Chuck had an opportunity to purchase the Witte House in Waterville – where he was born – Janis said she wouldn’t move out of Whitehouse. So they looked at building on Cemetery Road, which only had three houses and two cemeteries at the time. In 1951, they built a ranch in the woods near Rupp Road.

In 1978, they moved an old granary from down the road to a lot behind their existing home and built around it. Today, that home is under construction again, transforming into a multigenerational home for Chuck, Jenni, her husband Tim and son Tyler. To the south, construction is underway on Witte’s Walk, a housing development named after the family.

“I feel so blessed. I’ve had a wonderful life,” Janis said.

Three AW Alums Earn Eagle Scout Before Graduation

Content edited with permission of The Mirror

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR SPORTS

The Armored Turtles – the Boy Scout Troop 97 patrol unit of Ben Gerber, Robbie Nicely and George Roush – are celebrating a shared milestone, as all three earned their Eagle Scout rank earlier this year.

“We came up with the name a few weeks in,” Ben said, pointing to a shirt patch showing an armored turtle.

The three high school graduates are the only remaining members of the unit formed after completing fifth grade and crossing over from the Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.

“We’re all friends from a long time ago,” George said.

As the three gathered to talk about their Eagle Scout projects, they recalled some of their shared adventures in survival, such as winter campouts that required making a shelter out of sticks and tarps, or searching for a campsite while canoeing in the Boundary Waters of Northern Minnesota.

“At first you rely on others. Then you begin learning to be self-sufficient,” Ben said of Scouting.

George recalled their Northern Tier trek into the Boundary Waters, in which they had to use their skills to navigate out of the wilderness and survive during incredible storms.

“Every well-planned adventure fell apart once we were on the water. Then we improvised,” he said.

The three shared a laugh about their first year at summer camp, when they got lost heading back to their campsite and it was pitch black and pouring rain. The weather is typically rainy or incredibly hot at Camp Pioneer, noted George.

They all agree that Scouting provides opportunities for adventures that would otherwise be off-limits for most. Robbie mentioned the rock climbing, shooting and skateboarding he tried at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

During a trip to Sea Base in Florida, Ben went sailing and snorkeling, and deep-sea fishing between islands that



The Boy Scout Troop 97 patrol unit of (from left) Robbie Nicely, Ben Gerber and George Roush have been together as the Armored Turtles since fifth grade. The three recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout.
Mirror Photo by Karen Gerhardinger

are owned by Oprah Winfrey and the celebrity couple of Jay-Z and Beyoncé Knowles.

For their Eagle Scout projects, the three worked closer to home. George planned and constructed a portable climbing wall for Widewater Retreat Center in Liberty Center. Robbie built an enclosure around the portable restrooms at Blue Creek Recreation Area near the parking lot. Ben made four large “bat condos” to encourage bat habitation in Blue Creek Metropark around the large quarry.

With completion of their projects and other requirements, each achieved the Eagle Scout rank.

“I had already added Eagle Scout on my resume,” said Robbie, who was looking for a job. While he’s wrestled for the Generals throughout high school, an injury ended his season. After graduation, he enrolled to study mechanical engineering at The University of Toledo.

During high school, Ben played varsity soccer as well as the bassoon in marching band and the jazz band. While he was a member of the National Honor Society, he said the term Eagle Scout really stood out while in interviews. After graduation, he enrolled to study nursing at the University of Toledo.

George played percussion with the Generals throughout high school, but

is continuing a fifth year of school in order to wrap up a diploma with the Aerospace and Natural Sciences Academy at Toledo Express Airport, where he is learning aviation and aeronautics. He is concurrently taking classes at Bowling Green State University and will have enough credit hours for an associate degree when he graduates from high school in 2020. George also is working on his pilot’s license, taking private flying lessons. He plans to become a pilot and also study aerospace engineering or nuclear engineering at either Kent State University or Purdue University.

No matter their educational plans, the three say that the lessons from Scouting will last a lifetime. George notes that personal management and citizenship are skills that many of his peers don’t have yet.

“How many high school seniors do you know who know how to do their taxes?” he said.

Ben said that first aid and cooking are skills he uses regularly.

All three definitely learned how to work as a team, whether camping or working on an Eagle Scout project for themselves or others. They thanked fellow Scouts, families and members of Hope United Methodist Church and Maumee United Methodist Church for assistance with their Eagle projects.

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Alumni Information

The AWHs Alumni Association is seeking current information about former AWHs students. Please use the space below to share what you have been doing since your graduation. Please include information about additional education, family, hobbies, community activities, etc.

Attach additional paper if necessary.