



'Oppenheimer' wins best picture at Academy Awards

Page A5



Franklin advances to second round of PIAA playoffs

Page B1

THE DERRICK.

TheDerrick.com

© Oil City, PA Monday, March 11, 2024 800-352-1002 814-676-7444 \$1.00

X @The_Derrick

f The Derrick and The News-Herald

OC Derrick

Today's weather



Partly cloudy. High 46.

Page A3

Biden steps up pressure on Netanyahu



President Joe Biden steps up public pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

Page A2

ORAS to host virtual public night

The Oil Region Astronomical Society will be hosting a virtual public night at 7 p.m. on March 16.

Page A3

Why you shouldn't text your kids at school



Parents are keenly aware of the distractions and the mental health issues associated with smartphones, but teachers say they might not realize how much those struggles play out at school. Parents themselves can even be part of the problem by texting during school hours.

Page B6

Index

- Advice, horoscopesB5
- Classifieds B3-B5
- Comics.....A7
- OpinionA4
- Sports B1-B3
- TVA5

Deaths

- Susan Ann (Piercy) Rumburd, Seneca
- William A. "Bill" Neely, Knox
- Ralph "Toot" Umstead, Shipperville
- Barbara M. Cisek McGarvey, Van
- Robert Eugene "Gene" Fair, Parker
- Janet E. Guterry, Ford City

(Deaths on Page B6)



'The lesson is — strong women — know one, be one and raise one...empowerment can come from just about anywhere.'



Photos by Kelly Malek

A crowd of about 100 women and men attend the Pack the Plaza II rally inside Parish Hall at Christ Episcopal Church in Oil City on Sunday.

Celebrating women

About 100 turn out for rally in Oil City

BY KARA O'NEIL
Staff writer

Sunday arrived with gusts of wind carrying snow through the air, transforming the Pack the Plaza II rally, which was to be held in the Central Avenue Plaza in Oil City, into the Pack the Parish Hall rally inside Christ Episcopal Church.

But the weather didn't keep away the crowd of about 100 women and men who filled the parish hall in a celebratory mood to rally about women's empowerment and celebrate the contributions of women.

The rally, organized and sponsored by the Zonta Club of Oil City-Franklin and the Oil City YWCA, was held in conjunction with the March 8 annual observance of International Women's Day.

The two women's organizations share the mission of "empowering women."

The rally also kicked off the celebration of the Oil City YWCA's 100-year anniversary this year.

See **WOMEN**, Page A8



Marie T. Veon, retired Venango County president judge and former Venango County district attorney, speaks Sunday at Christ Episcopal Church in Oil City.

Leaders recognized at Clarion Chamber dinner

BY RANDY BARTLEY
Staff writer

CLARION — The Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry honored individuals and organizations that have contributed to the region at their annual awards dinner held in the James Gemmell Student Complex at PennWest-Clarion on Saturday.

The chamber honored Rev. Harold "Jake" Jacobson with the Lifetime Achievement award.

"The word that comes to mind when considering this year's award winner is 'always,'" said chamber executive director Tracy Becker.

She said he is always willing to interrupt a family meal to answer a phone call and go to the hospital, lend an ear to someone in a crisis, open his church for a weary traveler who needed a place to stay or to offer a couple of bucks to a stranger on his doorstep.

He helped found SAFE, is the chaplain for the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), has worked with Pathways, United Community Independence Programs (UCIP) and MHMR, and he is a board member for the Clarion County Agency on Aging.

He was a baseball coach for the Clarion Little League and helped with the Boy Scouts. He served with the Clarion High School Band Boosters and as the "hot dog man" at Clarion football games.

He was also a supporter of the Clarion Arts Council and has earned several awards for his wood carving skills. Additionally, he opened his own art studio, The Kronor Studio.

Becker said Jacobson has always had a love of music and participates in the Clarion Community Chorus.

He was named the United Way Volunteer of the Year and is the author of three books.

Jacobson has been the Pastor at the Grace Lutheran Church in Clarion for the past 42 years. He worked with PASSAGES, Food for Friends and helped distribute food with ABATE during the COVID pandemic.

Jacobson said that he was humbled to be included in the list of award winners. "I am truly honored," he said.

See **CLARION**, Page A3

PMEA Region II Chorus 'couldn't have gone better'

BY KELLY MALEK
Contributing writer

The 2024 Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Region II Chorus Festival was held Saturday at Oil City High School.

Venango Catholic High School co-hosted the event with Oil City.

Paul Rode, vice president of PMEA, District 3, addressed the audience.

"We're about to hear some of the best singing this side of the state," Rode said.

Rode spoke about three points that he wanted to express.

One, it takes a village (a team). A team of people to make this happen.

Two, more than 150 students came together and didn't know many people outside of their small groups. "They came to work together to create a beautiful thing," Rode said.

Three, he said this moment will live on forever as he referred to the fact it will never be duplicated or recreated.

There were more than 150 students from 50 schools at the festival. They sang songs about "Praise, Love, Roses and Stories" to a packed audience.

See **CHORUS**, Page A6



By Kelly Malek

Guest conductor, Thomas Octave, the musical director of the Westmoreland Choral Society, directs during the Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Region II Chorus Festival Saturday at Oil City High School. Venango Catholic High School co-hosted the event with Oil City.

UGI
Energy to do more®

Rotten Egg Smell?
It could be a gas leak.

The odor of Mercaptan, a chemical that's added to natural gas to make it detectable, could be the first sign of a gas leak.

Remember these tips to stay safe.

- ▶ **LEAVE** the area immediately and evacuate others. Move at least the length of a football field away.
- ▶ **LEAVE** the door open behind you.
- ▶ **CALL** UGI's 24/7 emergency line at 1.800.276.2722 or 911 from a safe distance where you can no longer smell gas.
- ▶ **CALL** 911 immediately from a safe distance if you hear or see natural gas blowing.
- ▶ **DO NOT** use electronics such as phones, computers, appliances, or lamps.
- ▶ **DO NOT** use fire such as a lighter, match, or pilot light.
- ▶ **DO NOT** use vehicles or powered equipment.
- ▶ **DO NOT** use email or social media to contact UGI—CALL instead.
- ▶ **DO NOT** reenter the building until a UGI technician has inspected it.

Smell. Evacuate. Call.

800-276-2722
Visit www.UGI.com to learn more.

Women

Continued from Page A1

Organizers for Sunday's event included well-known Venango County women Bonnie Summers, Deb Lutz and Judy Etzel. The speakers were introduced by Etzel and Summers, and Lutz, the president of the Oil City-Franklin Zonta Club, welcomed everyone and gave closing remarks.

"Strong women raise strong children who create strong communities," Summers said.

Marie T. Veon, who served as the first female Court of Common Pleas judge and president judge in Venango County and was also the first female district attorney in the county and second female DA in Pennsylvania, recalled the impact on her of how her mother empowered her and her siblings.

She also talked about a nun who told her in ninth grade, following school aptitude tests, "you can do anything you want to do, except sing."

"The lesson is — strong women — know one, be one and raise one," Veon said. "Empowerment can come from just about anywhere," she added in conclusion.

Many of the speakers noted the welcoming, safe haven for women and the community center that the Oil City YWCA is and has been for 100 years.

After speaking about the women who began the YWCA, current executive director Jennifer Friedhaber said "My advice to women is never be afraid to take an idea and run with it. You never know when you may start a legacy."

Kammi Stiller spoke about the Oil City-Franklin Zonta's advocacy efforts locally. She noted that Zonta partnered with the PPC Violence Free Network of Family Service and Children's Aid Society to put posters in women's restrooms in local businesses with a hotline for women who suffer violence.

Last year, Zonta also began a partnership with the Set Free Movement of Venango County to combat human trafficking locally and also donated items for babies to the Life Center in Franklin, which helps pregnant women and new mothers, Stiller said.

In addition, Zonta is working on stickers to note women-owned businesses locally, she said.

Proclamations honoring the YWCA's 100-year anniversary from state Sen. Scott Hutchinson, state Rep. R. Lee James, the Venango County commissioners and Oil City Mayor John Kluck were presented.

James was unable to attend, but his staff member, Kim Scott, who is also a board member of the YWCA, said she was delighted to present the citation on his behalf.

In addition, Kluck also presented a proclamation from the City of Oil City honoring the Oil City-Franklin Zonta club.

Ashley Smith, the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce Be Here program manager/community heart and soul manager, spoke about the community development program.

The community heart and soul program, which had its soft launch Sunday at the rally, has as its aim to "involve everyone, focus on what matters and play the long game" in community development, Smith said.

Additional speakers were Jessica Hoffman, who is a YWCA board member and the owner of Massage Therapy by Jessica at the YWCA; YWCA health and fitness director Jane Horos; 2024 YWCA board president Sue Johnson; 2023 YWCA board president Jeanan Deibert; entrepreneur Emily Lineman, owner of AM Gear and Pro Style MX; Sr. Tina Geiger, RSM, and Sr. Mirian Wehler, OSB, of Catholic Rural Ministry; and Rev. Mark Elliston, the vicar of Christ Episcopal Church.

Elliston noted that in the roughly 50 years since the Episcopal Church began ordaining women, the church in many ways has been run by women.

And he also said that all men are called to do is "bring a hammer when there is a glass ceiling and get out of the way."

A performance by Porch Music and Friends as well as light refreshments in Christ Episcopal Church followed the rally.

KARA O'NEIL, reporter for The Derrick and The News-Herald, can be reached at karaoneil.thederrick@gmail.com or (814) 677-8369.



Photos by Kelly Malek

Bad weather didn't keep away the crowd of about 100 from attending the Pack the Plaza II rally inside Parish Hall at Christ Episcopal Church in Oil City on Sunday.



Jennifer Friedhaber, executive director of the YWCA, speaks at the rally Sunday.



Ashley Smith, Marie Veon, and Emily Lineman, all guest speakers, listen to Deb Lutz at the rally on Sunday.



Deb Lutz, president of the Oil City-Franklin Zonta Club, speaks at the rally on Sunday.

EASTER Bunnies

\$1500 To be published in The Derrick and The News-Herald on Saturday, March 30th. **Deadline: Monday, March 25th at 8 a.m.** Feature Page

More than 2 children in photo requires larger size and costs \$25. All photos MUST be prepaid at time of submission. Late submissions will not run.

Submit picture, form and payment to the Classified Department:

DROP OFF: 1510 W 1st Street, Oil City • **MAIL:** Venango Newspapers, P.O. Box 928, Oil City, PA 16301
EMAIL: classifieds.thederrick@gmail.com • **ONLINE:** TheDerrick.com/site/forms


I give my permission to publish the enclosed picture and information in the 2024 Bunny Page.
4 lines of type, max. 3 words per line, please print neatly

Line 1: _____
 Line 2: _____
 Line 3: _____
 Line 4: _____

Info below this line will not be printed:

Your Name (printed): _____
 Address: _____ Apt./Unit: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Daytime Phone: _____ Signature: _____

Tributes will also appear in a slideshow on TheDerrick.com!



Happy Easter,
 Mason and Owen Friedhaber!
 Love, Mom & Dad

Photos will be mailed back after being published.



Judy Etzel, gives opening remarks and introductions before a packed crowd during the event on Sunday.