

COUNCIL ON CHEMICAL ABUSE



COURTESY OF COUNCIL ON CHEMICAL ABUSE

The Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse presented awards recognizing work in the field of substance use prevention to, from left, Mike Reese, Logan Long, Alycia Lenhart, Heather Boyer, Katelynn Humbles and Anita Miller.

7 honored for substance use prevention work

By Karen Shuey
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The Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse recognized National Prevention Week with a special celebration.

The celebration Wednesday included an awards presentation, tours of the prevention department at the nonprofit organization and games. About 60 people attended the event, which took place at the RISE Recovery Center in Reading.

Awards were presented to seven individuals for their work in the field of substance use prevention:

- Heather Boyer — program director for the Reading Recreation Commission.
- Anita Miller — community prevention partnership program coordi-

nator for Project Peace and the Northeast Community Springboard Coalition.

- Ericka Garcia — an elementary social worker at Wilson School District.

- 1st Sgt. Joseph Cipko — leader of the JROTC at Reading School District.

- Alycia Lenhart — student support coordinator at Exeter School District.

- Mike Reese — a COCA consultant.

- Logan Long — a COCA intern from Alvernia University.

In addition, the Pat Ganter Scholarship was presented to Katelynn Humbles. The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded annually by COCA to a Berks County teen pursuing a career related to substance use prevention, treatment or recovery.

Humbles, who will grad-

uate from Conrad Weiser High School in June, is planning on attending Kutztown University to study art education.

Alicia Kline, the prevention program supervisor for COCA, said the awards are an opportunity to recognize the valuable work of prevention professionals who teach youth and the community the facts about substances and the skills to lead healthy, substance-free lives.

“While there is sadness and heartbreak in this disease of addiction there is also hope and joy,” Kline said “There is hope in recovery and there is hope in all we do in prevention. Prevention provides critical skills youth and families need to avoid the devastation of addiction, and that is beautiful and important.”

Following the award presentation, the COCA Prevention Department opened its doors to attendees. Last summer, the prevention department moved to its current office next to the RISE Recovery Center at 702 N. Eighth St.

Participants were able to see the new offices and participate in several prevention-themed activities. The activities offered a glimpse into the fun, engaging methods prevention specialists use to teach youth the skills to avoid substances and cope with stress.

The event was catered by Isaac Gonzalez Perez, who spoke briefly at the event about how his participation in a prevention program run by COCA helped change his life when he was a teen.

BULLETIN BOARD

Kite Day to be held at Boone Homestead

Reading Eagle

The Daniel Boone Homestead Associates are holding their first Kite Day June 9 from noon to 4 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring and fly their favorite kite. Visitors can learn about Benjamin Franklin and try some hands-on experiments. Volunteers will demonstrate kite flying throughout the afternoon.

June 10 is the anniversary of Benjamin Franklin’s 1752 experiment in which he is said to have tied a key to his kite and took it out during a thunderstorm to see if an electrical charge was produced. The second owner of the Daniel Boone Homestead, William Maugridge, was an acquaintance of Franklin’s in Philadelphia. After purchasing the Boone property in 1750, Maugridge became one of the first magistrates or judges of Berks County when it was founded in 1752.

Admission for Kite Day is free. Guided tours of the Boone House will be offered at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. for a fee (\$10 adults, \$8 seniors 65 and older and \$5 for children ages 6-17. No charge for children 5 and under and DBHA members. For more information, visit www.thedanielboonehomestead.org and Daniel Boone Homestead on Facebook.

Memorial Day event

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Indiantown Gap National Cemetery will host its 42nd annual Memorial Day program on Sunday, May 26, at 2 p.m., rain or shine. The program is cosponsored by the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery Memorial Council and the Catholic War Veterans, Department of Pennsylvania.

The program will be held in the Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial. Parking will be at MSC Industrial Supply Company, 100 MSC Drive, Jonestown. Shuttle bus transportation will begin running at noon. If entering the area from the west, follow the detour sign on Bidle Road. There will be limited handicapped parking at the cemetery itself.

The Avenue of Flags display on the Cemetery will be flown through Veterans Day Week. It is made up of casket flags donated by veterans’ families. State, territory and service flags will also be flown. Flag donations will be accepted before the program.

Plant sale

Friends of Mifflin Community Library is holding a plant sale Saturday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Walgreens parking lot at Lancaster Avenue and Museum Road in Cumru Town-

ship. Sale includes perennials, annuals, house plants and new and vintage ornaments.

Library fundraiser

The West Lawn-Wyomissing Hills Library is having an All You Can Eat Pizza Night on May 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. to benefit the library at 101 Woodside Ave., West Lawn. Pizza is \$10 and age 3 and under are free. Pizza is from Mama’s Pizza on State Hill Road and assorted toppings will be available. Call the library at 610-678-4888 for more information.

Food truck festival

The Exeter Community Education Foundation is holding its third annual Food Truck Festival on Friday, May 31, from 4 to 9 p.m. at Exeter High School, 201 E. 37th St., Exeter Township

The event is to feature more than 25 food trucks and vendors, the family-friendly festival, music provided by Exeter students and teachers as well as games and activities provided by student and community organizations.

The festival raises funds and awareness of the foundation, which provides, enhances and expands opportunities for students and teachers.

The event is open to the public and free to attend, with food trucks and vendors accepting payments for food, games and activities.

Spring Valley Boutique

The next Spring Valley Boutique is scheduled for Saturday, June 1, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Spring Valley Church of God, 2727 Old Pricetown Road, Muhlenberg Township. Park in the upper lot; boutique is set up in the gym. Most items are free. Selection varies by month but frequently include clothing, shoes, handbags and jewelry. Anyone looking to donate used items may do so during boutique hours. Call 610-929-7969 for more information.

Golden retriever open house

Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue will hold its monthly open house June 8 from 10:00 a.m. until noon at its Golden Gateway facility at 60 Vera Cruz Road, Reinholds. Come out and meet and greet the retrievers and dogs that are available for adoption. Staff is on hand to answer all questions, and food is also available for purchase. No admission charge. No photos please, and do not bring other dogs to this event. For more information, contact info@dvgr.org, call (717) 484-4799, or go to dvgr.org/adopt/monthlyopenhouse.

Submit items to news@readingeagle.com.

ABORTION

Ohio voters approved reproductive rights. Will the state’s near-ban on abortion stand?

By Julie Carr Smyth
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, OHIO » A county judge could rule as early as Monday on Ohio’s law banning virtually all abortions, a decision that will take into consideration the decision by voters to enshrine reproductive rights in the state constitution.

The 2019 law under consideration by Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Christian Jenkins bans most abortions once cardiac activity can be detected, which can be as early as six weeks into pregnancy, before many women are aware.

A group of abortion clinics sought to overturn the law even before voters approved Issue 1, which gives every person in Ohio “the right to make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions.”

Ohio’s Republican attorney general, Dave Yost, acknowledged in court filings that the 2023 amendment

rendered the ban unconstitutional, but has sought to maintain other elements of the prohibition, including certain notification and reporting provisions.

Ohio was the only state to consider a statewide abortion rights question in 2023, joining a growing number of states where voters are choosing to protect abortion access since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the nationwide protections granted by its landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling.

Besides the case before Jenkins, challenges also are pending to several of Ohio’s other abortion restrictions.

Those include a ban on the use of telehealth for medication abortions, a requirement that fetal remains from surgical abortions be cremated or buried, a 24-hour waiting period requirement and a mandate that abortion clinics maintain emergency transfer agreements with local hospitals. Such agreements have been rendered impos-

sible to get by related laws in some cases.

Ohio’s ban on abortions because of a Down syndrome diagnosis remains in effect, following a federal court decision in 2021.

Minority Democrats proposed a House measure to bring state law into compliance with the new amendment outside the courts. Their bill, a nonstarter with Ohio’s Republican supermajorities, would have repealed the cardiac activity ban; a ban on dilation and evacuation, a common second-trimester abortion procedure; mandatory 24-hour waiting periods; the transfer agreement requirement; and other targeted restrictions on abortion providers.

So far, Ohio’s parental consent law has not been challenged in court nor targeted by Democrats, though the anti-abortion Protect Women Ohio campaign suggested it would be a casualty of Issue 1’s passage.

Litigation also has not been filed to challenge

Ohio’s ban on dilation and extraction, a procedure once used in the third term of pregnancy. Yost opined during the voter amendment campaign that Issue 1 would open the door to allowing them, despite the procedure being banned at the federal level.

So-called “heartbeat bills” originated in Ohio before taking off across the country. But it was a decade before the policy became law in the state.

Then-Republican Gov. John Kasich twice vetoed the measure, arguing it was unlikely to pass constitutional muster in a time when Roe v. Wade was still the law of the land.

The law arrived on Republican Gov. Mike DeWine’s desk and he signed it after justices appointed by former President Donald Trump solidified the Supreme Court’s conservative majority, raising hopes among abortion opponents that restrictions could finally be successfully imposed.

Holiday

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tives.

The parade will proceed from the VFW Post to Walnut Street to North Church Street and end at the Mohnsville Cemetery, where the memorial service will begin at 10:15 a.m. Master of ceremonies is Larry Graeff. Also, Parade Grand Marshal Noemia Iordanescu and speaker Jim Swope, curator/exhibitor Berks Military History Museum. The Rev. Robert W. Shuey of Zion E.C. Church will give the invocation and

benediction. After the service, the Reading Buccaneers will present their program at the Mohnton Playground at noon. For more information, contact Jeff Shanely, 610-334-7095.

Muhlenberg Township

Muhlenberg Township will hold a Memorial Day event near the flagpole at Jim Dietrich Park on May 27 at 9 a.m. Guest speakers will share their military experiences and what Memorial Day means to them. Wreaths will be presented for all branches of service, and light refreshments will be served at Pavilion #2 after the ceremony.

Reading

Two Memorial Day ceremonies on May 27 will be hosted by the Combined Veterans Council of Berks County. The first ceremony will be at Veterans Grove in City Park at 9 a.m. The second ceremony will be at the Civil War Monument in Charles Evans Cemetery on Centre Avenue about 10:15. The guest speaker will be Jay Ostrich, Berks County director of veterans affairs.

Shillington

Shillington’s 96th annual Memorial Day parade begins May 27 at 10:30 a.m. at Shillington Memo-

rial Park. The parade will travel Broad Street to Sterley Street to Pennsylvania Avenue to Brobst Street, ending with a ceremony at borough hall.

Daily docket

DAILY THOUGHT

(Apostle Paul) “You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did

not think of equality with God as something to cling to.” Philippians 2:5-6
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