

Speers woman urges cancer awareness

'Cathy's Pink Brunch' planned for Oct. 15 in West Newton

BY STACY WOLFORD
THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT

Cathy McGrath will never forget the devastation of learning she had breast cancer.

Today, 20 years later, she is proud to say she is a cancer survivor.

McGrath, 59, of Speers, has made a complete recovery since undergoing surgery in 1991 to remove a malignant lump in her breast.

Since then, she has made it her mission to spread hope and the importance of early detection

through self examinations.

McGrath will preside over a fundraiser for Passionately Pink for the Cure called "Cathy's Pink Brunch," at 11 a.m. Oct. 15 at the Le Grande Room, 107 Second St., West Newton. Over the years, she has shared her inspirational story as a guest speaker at churches and other gatherings in the area.

Since 1997, she has participated in the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Pittsburgh walk-a-thon and race. She also participated in a breast cancer research study conducted by the University of Pittsburgh.

She supports Passionately Pink for the Cure, a cause of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Passionately Pink for the Cure is

a fundraising program that inspires breast cancer advocacy and honors those affected by the disease.

So far, McGrath has raised \$3,700 for Passionately Pink for the Cure.

"I just want to do all I can to help fight this," McGrath said. "I figure every dollar helps."

McGrath said a representative from the Susan G. Komen Pittsburgh branch will be the guest speaker.

Although she has been in remission for two decades, McGrath said she still frightened at the the prospect of a mammogram.

"I still get a little edgy, but I know it's something I have to do," she said.

She often encourages her friends to go for annual mammograms.

"I don't hound them, but I do send friendly reminders," she said.

McGrath said she saw a friend at a shopping mall who was quick to report her news.

"It was so funny. She saw me and just said 'I just had my mammogram,'" she said with a laugh. "If I can inspire one person, than it's all worth it."

Tickets for "Cathy's Pink Brunch" are \$20. The event will feature door prizes and gift auction.

The last day for ticket sales is Oct. 7. Tickets can be purchased by mailing a check made out to Cathy McGrath, P. O. Box 11, Dunlevy, PA 15432.

No tickets will be sold at door. For more information, call 724-483-5063 or e-mail: pinkbrunch@yahoo.com.

Idol star comes to Stockdale for benefit

Concert sponsored by wish foundation, Friends of the Coyle

TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Aaron Wayne Kelly, one of the stars of television's "American Idol," will headline a show Oct. 22 at the Stockdale Fire Hall.

"We're very pleased to present Aaron to his many fans in the Mon Valley and southwestern Pennsylvania," Charleroi mayor Nancy Ellis, co-chairman of the concert organizing committee said. "He is truly one of the rising young stars on the national music scene, Kelly so it should be a big night for the area."

Walter Stelma of Charleroi is chairman of the organizing committee and his daughter, Michelle Tegtmeyer, is the liaison coordinator with Aaron Kelly.

The concert will benefit Unity — A Journey of Hope, an organization that grants wishes to adults 18 years of age and older, and Friends of the Coyle, a civic organization involved in efforts to restore the Coyle theater in Charleroi.

Friends of the Coyle is not affiliated with the Mon Valley Cultural Trust, which also is working toward that goal.

Kelly, 18, who finished fifth on the ninth season of American Idol, will be accompanied by his band, The 2nd South.

Also performing at the show will be Steeltown, a Pittsburgh-based country rock band.

The doors will open at 6 p.m.

Tickets for adults are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door the night of the concert. Tickets for children under 16 are \$10 and for children under 10 \$5.

Tickets also are available in advance at Maple Creek Distributors in Charleroi.

Additional information are available at 724-489-0951 or 412-889-9795.

The event will include a special section at the fire hall designated for those who bring their own alcoholic beverage. Refreshments including soda, water, sandwiches and pizza also will be available.

Kelly, a native of Davenport, Fla., who makes his home in Sonestown, Sullivan County, and works out of Nashville, has sung professionally since the age of 9. He has performed at festivals and fairs and opened for such acts as Charlie Daniels, Loretta Lynn, Emerson Drive, Bill Anderson and The Marshall Tucker Band.

Because of his strong performances during season nine of American Idol, Kelly was chosen to participate in the American Idols Live Tour 2010 with Siobhan Magnus, Tim Urban, Katie Stevens, Andrew Garcia and Didi Benami.

His first recording, a single, "I Can't Wait for Christmas," was released last year and he is working on a new album.

"Aaron certainly has very impressive credentials and accomplishments for a young performer," Ellis said. "He has a strong fan base in this area and we're confident that he will offer a show that will delight them."



Kelly

GOOD TIMES ON THE PITCH

Rossi, Shannon celebrate roles in WVU soccer history

BY RON PAGLIA
FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

They didn't set out to become part of West Virginia University's athletic history but Ralph "Butch" Rossi and Jack Shannon did just that, as pioneers of sorts.

Rossi, a native of Dunlevy, and Shannon, who grew up in Allenport, were among the former players honored at the golden anniversary celebration of WVU men's soccer.

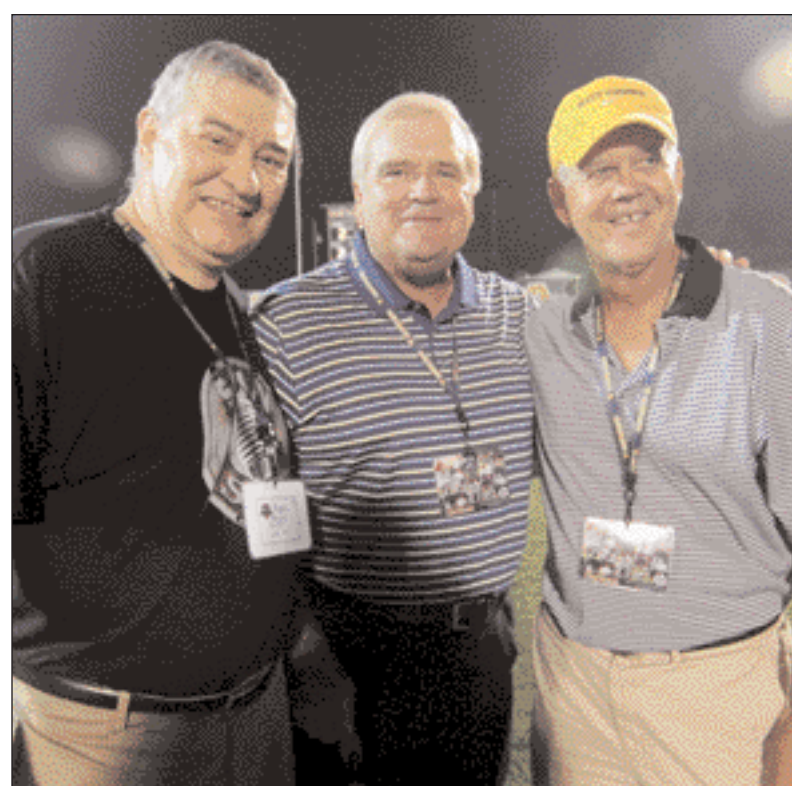
"It was quite a weekend, a time for sharing a lot of great memories with men who have played at West Virginia the past 50 years," said Rossi, who lives in Greensboro, N.C.

The two-day event in Morgantown included a reception at Dick Diesk Soccer Stadium prior to the Mountaineers' 2-1 victory over Binghamton; a banquet at the alumni center featuring WVU basketball coach Bob Huggins as the keynote speaker; an alumni soccer game, and on-field recognition at the West Virginia-Marshall football game.

The reunion evolved as the result of efforts by head men's varsity coach Marion LeBlanc as a means of re-engaging the sport's alumni base.

"We had lost touch with many of the people who helped put WVU on the college soccer map," LeBlanc said. "I have met many alumni, but with 50 years of history I hadn't met nearly enough. It seemed like a great way to rally this group together again, bring them back to the campus and continue making them proud of their alma mater, on and off the field."

Rossi said LeBlanc, a graduate of



Reminiscing at West Virginia University's golden anniversary of men's soccer are (from left) Ralph "Butch" Rossi, Ken Juskowich and Jack Shannon. They were teammates and roommates in the 1960s

Penn State, is "a great guy ... one of the hottest coaches in college soccer today."

Shannon offered similar sentiments.

"It was a pleasure to return to Morgantown and see the changes in the university and the soccer program," he said. "The soccer facilities are state-of-the-art compared to our early playing days of the 1960s. Now there's a separate soccer sta-

dium that includes a well-manicured and lighted pitch, plenty of seating for fans, a beautiful scoreboard, locker space for players and a separate soccer facility for the women's program. Coach LeBlanc informed us that he now has nine scholarships to be shared with team members. It's very obvious that he and the athletic department have made a firm commitment to supporting soccer at the national level."



Ralph "Butch" Rossi shows his All Southern Conference form in 1966.

Early days

By comparison, Shannon recalled that when he played, the soccer team shared locker facilities with the track squad, practiced on a playing field that was not lighted and "there was no thought of a women's program."

"Our scholarships were limited to three and included only books, tuition and fees," he said. Therefore, soccer success at that time had to be attributed not only to those few scholarship players but also to the many walk-on athletes that made a commitment to the program."

West Virginia fielded its first men's varsity soccer team in 1961, and Rossi and Shannon, who lives in Raleigh, NC, were among the early standouts for the Mountaineers in

SOCCER · 2

Russell a super resource for Leopards

Book reviews history of Belle Vernon Area football

BY BRUCE WALD
FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Monongahela resident Steve Russell has preserved a part of the Mon Valley's rich athletic tradition.

Author, historian and sports enthusiast, the tireless Russell recently compiled "History of BVA High School Football (1965-2010)."

The 32-page publication made its debut during Belle Vernon's 2011 home opening game with McGuffey on Sept. 9. The 12th annual Belle Vernon Football Hall of Fame Class was also honored at the game, which culminated with a 54-12 victory for the host Leopards.

A longtime educator who is the superintendent of the Belle Vernon Area School District, Russell is also the general chairman of the Mid-



Belle Vernon Area high school third-year head football coach Aaron Krepps (left) enjoys a moment at the Leopards' photo day with Belle Vernon area superintendent, author and historian Steve Russell.

BRUCE WALD | FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame. He previously wrote and published the hall's Biographical Journal in 2002 and updates that publication with biographies of each new induction class.

His research for the BVA football

project was focused on accumulating photos, stories and game programs. Russell's work covers the program from its inception when Class A schools Rostraver and Bellmar still existed for two seasons but formed one team through the 2010

season.

The document is divided by the 10 different head coaching eras, beginning with James K. Russell, who guided the team for its first four seasons. Russell goes through each season chronologically while listing players, stats and facts.

"This history of BVA football is not intended to be a definitive study but a summary of the past 45 years of the spirited sport in the Belle Vernon community," Russell said. "It was a difficult undertaking to place an overall synopsis of this particular football history into one document."

He praised Ringgold School District junior high basketball coach and Belle Vernon resident Joe Lopez for his encyclopedia-like knowledge of Belle Vernon football as well as fan Marilyn Williams, who provided Russell with game programs dating back to the inaugural 1965 season.

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