

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Fire at The Ohringer

The Red Cross is helping multiple residents who were displaced from an apartment building after a fire in Braddock.

Emergency crews were called to the 600 block of Braddock Avenue at approximately 1:49 p.m. Sunday, August 7.

After arriving at the scene, crews worked on putting out a fire in the building that stands eight stories high. There are 37 apartments in the building.

Only one of the apartments was on fire but the other residents in the building are displaced due to water damage.

Firefighters turned off the building's power to prevent continued water damage.

Red Cross was called to the scene at 2:45 p.m. and learned all of the residents had been removed from the building. There have been no reported injuries as a result of the fire.

### Four teens shot in Duquesne

Four teenagers were shot late August 6, at night in the city of Duquesne.

It happened around 9:40 p.m. along Orchard Park Avenue and Ridge Street.

Duquesne police officers responded to multiple calls for gunshots and people injured at Allegheny County Orchard Park Housing Community.

Once on scene, they found the four victims. Two 17-year-old boys were found with lower body gunshot wounds. Another 16-year-old boy suffered a graze wound to the head. One 17-year-old girl suffered a gunshot wound to her lower body as well.

All four victims were transported to the hospital in stable condition. Police have not released anymore information but are investigating into how this shooting happened.

### Local fire department scam hits Mon Valley

People are getting personalized text messages claiming to be from their local fire department asking for them to buy a shirt and show their support.

Dozens of fire departments have posted on social media to warn people. If you receive one of these text messages, block the number or call your local police department.

### Severe flooding at several residences in Munhall

Several homes along Shady Avenue in Munhall were flooded after a brief but heavy downpour Friday, August 5, forcing some residents to evacuate their homes with whatever valuables they could grab.

at least 10 homes on Shady Avenue and another 15 elsewhere in the borough were flooded.

# A journey into the unknown

When I was a freshman in high school, we were allowed to choose electives for our schedules. I always liked creative writing, but there was nothing like that on offer. My love for writing came from my love for reading.



## From the Editor's Desk

EMILY O'CONLY

I became a voracious reader one summer when I was nine-years-old. I never cared too much for reading beforehand, but one day I got in trouble at home.

I honestly couldn't tell you what I had gotten in trouble for, because I only remember the punishment - I was grounded to my room for one week and my parents took everything out of my bedroom except for books and clothes. Nowadays that is considered pretty harsh punishment to a lot of people, and back then it seemed like the end of the world.

Seeing as how I was banished to my room when not in school, I had no choice but to either read the books my mom had bought me over the years, or be bored. I am sure you can guess how

that went.

I grew up in North Canton, Ohio, and while I went to a very nice school, there were limited options for electives in the freshman category.

Most of the classes were for sophomores and up. One of the very few available to me was Journalism I.

I wasn't too excited about it, but better than choir or sociology. I didn't even know what sociology was back then and I have a voice that could give the phrase "nails-on-a-chalkboard" a run for its money.

I ended up taking the next level of Journalism for each year I was in school, and learned that I loved features writing. That being said, I went to college for case management in social work. I never imagined that I would ever be the editor of a newspaper, let alone be involved in the field of media at all.

In 2016 I came to Pittsburgh on a work trip. I stayed downtown at the Monaco, which is back before Kimpton merged with IHG. That first night I went to the hotel's restaurant, The Commoner, to grab a drink at the bar. Soon enough, I locked eyes with a gentleman also seated at the bar, and we instantly connected.

Fast forward a few weeks, and

he introduced me to his mother, none other than Marilyn Schiavoni, owner of The Valley Mirror. Six years later we are still together, and I have come to think of Marilyn as a mother.

I didn't have a great relationship with my own mother growing up - and it's impossible not to like Marilyn. I feel so honored and privileged to be a part of her family and to consider her a part of mine.

My eight-year-old son considers her one of his grandparents, and I often find him squeezed up next to her as closely as possible, happily chatting in her ear - talking 100 miles a minute and trying to convince her that she should play Super Mario Brothers with him. (Something he requests on a near daily basis.)

It really is a testament to her that The Valley Mirror is hanging on when so many local newspapers have collapsed and folded.

This month, we found out that two of the grants we applied for were given to other small businesses. I can't tell you what a disappointment it was to see that grant giving corporations don't see the value in local news. We wanted to use that money to help bring even more value to our advertiser and readers, but since we were passed over this

time, we will just have to get creative going forward.

There are so many boroughs we are unable to cover due to lack of resources that those grants would have helped with. The boroughs that have less daily contact with us don't get featured as often as they should.

I really encourage our local boroughs to reach out and let us know what is going on in their municipality. Teamwork makes the dream work, or so they say.

The Valley Mirror certainly didn't get to where it now is on its own. It has been a tireless collaboration from so many over the years.

When I think about the journey that I took to get to where I am today, I like to also think about the journey that The Valley Mirror has taken over the years. Every journey has its bumps and misdirections, but one also comes out better for it.

It's very cliché, but one never really knows where life will take them. I am glad that I have gone on the journey that brought me here; and now that I am here, I am not going anywhere. For as long as The Valley Mirror exists, I will work to make it better for our readers year after year.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### It's your responsibility to make your voice heard

I am writing in response to Ms. Fry's letter to the editor in the July 7 issue of the Valley Mirror and in general in response to comments I have been hearing.

I am not writing to comment on any opinion about the Steel Valley Stronger plan or its merits in particular. I write to acknowledge and rebut the "feeling" that comes across in Ms. Fry's letter and in various comments around the district that the SV School Board is being deceitful, secretive, or otherwise not entirely open with the public.

I strongly disagree with that feeling or opinion.

It is not the job of the School Board (or Borough Council, or other governing body) to force feed its agenda to the public - the meetings are open and members of the public are allowed to comment openly at any meeting.

The board is not obligated to knock on your door and invite you personally. It is also not any sort of a requirement that the public get any sort of vote on anything that the board members are voting on. We hear this at many public meetings: "when does the public get a say?". My answer to that is that you did get a say. You got a say on a Tues-

day in May and a Tuesday in November when you (hopefully) went to your local polling place and voted for School Board of Directors candidates.

Admittedly, in recent years you haven't had much choice - many have run unopposed. But this district is small, small enough that it should not be hard to meet these candidates and talk to them, find out their feelings on the issues and tell them your own opinions.

In fact, in the past 4 municipal primary election seasons, there has been a "Meet the Candidates running for SV School Board" event scheduled a week or two before the primary election date. Turnout at those events has not been as high as one might hope.

When big issues come up, like a new borough building or a new school, many people complain about them and claim that the council or board are hiding things.

This Steel Valley Stronger plan was presented at least twice before May 19, once to faculty and staff and once at a board meeting (January or February 2022 I think). It's not a big surprise that anyone is trying to hide.

I would urge members of the public to be more involved in elections and local politics, not just when something big comes up but every single month at

monthly meetings.

If you can't do all of them, choose what is most important to you.

I don't go to Council meetings, but I go to School Board meetings - I can't fit it all and School Board is more important to me. Choose something and commit to it. Don't complain if you haven't tried to do something to make a change first!

Christine Schott  
Munhall, PA

### Nothing but fan service

When four-o'clock comes around I sit in my favorite chair and wait to hear the news of the day. But I forgot, Steelers going to camp is the only news of importance.

How exciting is it to watch ball players walk to the practice field among a crowd of fans? Is it really that interesting to hear people travel from other states and countries to watch the Steelers practice in 90 degree temperatures and bake in the sun (all for their love of the Steelers)?

How much more excitement can a body take? Baseball just inducted new members into its Hall of Fame, and now the Pittsburgh Steelers will honor former players in their Hall of Honor.

Don't people see the moves as a way to get more fan appeal,

and distract professional teams from being more charitable and accountable; to make this a better world?

People in California are losing their homes, and people in Kentucky lost all their possessions and even lives. It's a story that will quickly pass as people turn their eyes to an upcoming season.

Let's turn our eyes away from loving our sports teams and look into the eyes of those suffering. Realize that real issues should be our concern. Sports is a diversion and we should not worry about how our favorite sports team is doing. Do you think in hundreds of years from now people are going to remember sports stars?

I prefer to worship God and try to love my neighbor, and not love a sport. A lady's dog in Trafford had a caretaker not return her dog and sadly, the dog was found dead in Braddock by railroad tracks. There were protesters who took to the streets to try and get justice for the deceased German Shephard dog. I can understand loving our pets; I have four cats and three dogs, but I never lose sight of the fact that human life is more important to fight for.

I can only hope that the dog lovers are pro-life and value human life as they do animal life.

Craig Galik  
West Mifflin

**HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?** We'd love to hear it! Send your signed letter of 250 words or less to [valleymirror@comcast.net](mailto:valleymirror@comcast.net). The Valley Mirror reserves the right to edit for length and grammar and does not publish letters that violate standards of good taste or endorse commercial products or candidates for election. All letters must be signed with full name — not initials. An address and telephone number must be included, but will not be published.



## Combine & Save.

&



**Ray Schon Ins and Fin Svcs Inc**  
Ray Schon, Agent  
3616 Main St  
Munhall, PA 15120  
Bus: 412-461-6700

Good things happen when you combine your home and auto insurance with State Farm\*. Like saving an average of \$761\* Plus, you'll have a good neighbor like me to help life go right.  
**CALL ME TODAY.**



\*Average annual household savings based on 2015 national survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company • State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL  
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, Dallas, TX • State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company • State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL 1606203  
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

## Jaime Codispor

### A U T O B O D

Collision  
Touch-Up

• Detailing  
• Estimates

• Recovered Theft  
• Insurance Claims

We do hail and storm damage repairs

## FAST SERVICE REASONABLE RATE



5604 Homeville Road, West Mifflin, PA



412-466-6444

## Howell

Village Shopping Center  
West Mifflin, PA 15122

Remodeling Phone: 412-461-1445 • PA018655






- Roofs
- Siding
- Doors
- Porches
- Baths
- Windows
- Awnings
- Kitchens

[www.Howellremodeling.com](http://www.Howellremodeling.com)