ELLWOOD CITY – Kathy McDonald, among the newest members of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce and who became the first female barber in the borough, says she could write a best-seller from all the secrets she has heard during a career that began in 1979.

“People claim this institution as their own,” Neupauer says.

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

UTLER – Dr. Nick Neupauer, an Ellwood City native, 1985 graduate of Lincoln High School and president of Butler County Community College, announced a $1 million gift to the college Feb. 21 from former state Sen. Tim Shaffer that will benefit what Shaffer calls BC3’s “premier” registered nursing program.

“The gift from Shaffer – a retired attorney from Prospect and a former district judge who served 16 years as a state senator in Pennsylvania’s 21st district – will create The Shaffer School of Nursing and Allied Health at BC3. The college is a member of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, as is Neupauer. His gift, combined with a $1 million donation from Janice Phillips Larrick in September, will facilitate the expansion of BC3’s highly competitive registered nursing program, Neupauer said.

The donations will help to fund a proposed $10 million state-of-the-art nursing and allied health facility whose skills laboratories, simulated hospital rooms and architectural ac-

Secret is out!
Longtime barber joins chamber

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

ELLWOOD CITY – Kathy McDonald, among the newest members of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce and who became the first female barber in the borough, says she could write a best-seller from all the secrets she has heard during a career that began in 1979.

But what she hears while she holds her shears “doesn’t go any further,” she says.
MEET & GREET!

Meat cutter’s choice: E.C. chamber

Farm biz worker mentored by late uncle

**By William V. Foley**
*For The Chamber*

EAvER FALLS – His only beef with the only job he has wanted to do since he was a child is standing up to 12 hours a day on a concrete floor and lifting heavy sides of meat, says Fred Pflugh, among the newest members of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce and owner of Milk House Meats, 215 Harpers Ferry Road.

“It’s right on our farm,” Pflugh says of the business that opened in July 2015 and expects to expand its Easter inventory by adding more selections of lamb.

“We mostly offer beef and pork,” Pflugh says, adding that Milk House Meats has a variety of smoked and fully cooked bacon, beef stick, pork chops, hamloaf, jerky, ham and sausage.

“We have a nice line of sausage from smoked to fresh and even breakfast sausage,” he says. “And gourmet burgers and steak hoagie patties.

“We can’t keep these items here in the summer time,” he says. “They fly out the door.”

Milk House Meats – which employs five and whose hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays -- began as a custom shop in which it could sell only whole, halves or quarters of livestock, Pflugh said, and with its license could process livestock for farmers.

Pflugh credits the influence of his uncle Paul Kotuba in his choice to become a meat cutter.

“My dad’s side of the family would always cut pigs up once or twice a year,” Pflugh says. “I always looked forward to missing school and helping. My grandfather started Paul’s Market (in North Sewickley Township) in 1963. Growing up I would always run around the store.

“It wasn’t until I got to high school that I really started to learn a lot about cutting meat. My uncle Paul taught me just about everything. I enjoyed the time we spent together and all the holidays.”

His uncle passed away on Dec. 9, Pflugh says.

“Ever since that day I just want to do the best I can for my grandfather and uncle,” he said.

Pflugh joined the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce to make connections with other area businesses, he says.

“I like to support local,” he says, “and I know this will help.”

ELLWOOD CITY WOLVES CLUB-HOLY REDEEMER PARISH FUNDRAISER

425 have bash, raise $8,000

Golf event a fair way to aid educational efforts

**By William V. Foley**
*For The Chamber*

ELLWOOD CITY – More than 425 golfers helped the Ellwood City Wolves Club and Holy Redeemer Parish to raise $8,000 Feb. 10 in the first joint effort to benefit education endeavors, event organizer Chris Cioffi said. Prior golf bashes were conducted by only Holy Redeemer Parish, Cioffi said.

Prizes, and five $150 cash awards over the course of the event, were raffled every 15 minutes beginning at 4 p.m. Prizes included a Titleist 917 driver, Cobra irons 4-GW, See Bash, Page 3

Fred Pflugh carries a portion of a hind quarter into Milk House Meats on March 2, 2018.

“A vendor is shown Feb. 10 at the Ellwood City Wolves Club-Holy Redeemer Parish Golf Bash in the parish’s Catholic Center.”

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Bash, From Page 2

a Garman Approach GPS watch, a Titleist wedge set, a Taylormade M2 driver, a Callaway 3WD, a Bushnell Rangefinder and an Under Armour golf bag.

A grand prize of $500 cash and a Taylormade M1 driver and FWD were raffled at 9 p.m.

“George Bokor and I and about eight other guys attended (a golf bash) in 2013 and saw how many people were there,” Cioffi said. “We approached Holy Redeemer School, where our children attended, about running one as a fundraiser.

“It took off from there.”

Those who attend the golf bash are mostly golfers, he said, “but we have also seen people come for the prizes as well as the food.”

“The Ellwood City Wolves Club and Holy Redeemer Parish Golf Bash is “different because we offer golf items,” compared with other bashes, Cioffi said, adding that “most of the comments I hear are how good the food is for the price and how well the event is run.”

A visitor to the Ellwood City Wolves Club-Holy Redeemer Parish Golf Bash on Feb. 10 awaits the next raffle in the parish’s Catholic Center.

Visitors and ticket sellers at the Ellwood City Wolves Club-Holy Redeemer Parish Golf Bash are shown Feb. 10 in the parish’s Catholic Center.
“PEOPLE CLAIM THIS INSTITUTION AS THEIR OWN," NEUPAUER SAYS

BC3: 4 $1M gift in 43 months

Dr. Nick Neupauer, left, president of Butler County Community College, is shown Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, with Tim Shaffer, of Prospect, after Neupauer announced BC3 had received a $1 million commitment from the former state senator and retired district judge. Shaffer's gift will benefit BC3's registered nursing program, create The Shaffer School of Nursing and Allied Health and help to fund BC3's proposed $10 million state-of-the-art nursing and allied health facility.

BC3, From Page 1

coutrements will mirror those found in high-tech healthcare settings, Neupauer said.

With Shaffer's donation, BC3 will establish The Shaffer School of Nursing and Allied Health, to be located within the proposed Victor K. Phillips Nursing and Allied Health Building planned for the south side of BC3's main campus in Butler Township, Neupauer said.

The $1 million donations to BC3 from Shaffer and Larrick follow those of John L. Wise and family in September 2016 and of Robert R. Heaton in July 2014.

The spate of gifts to BC3 are both remarkable and reflect convictions that BC3 excels in its mission as the community's college, Neupauer said.

"People claim this institution as their own," Neupauer said. "I feel it. I sense it."

BC3, Shaffer added, "represents the future. The future are the people who live here. The people who live here need to be educated."

The series of $1 million gifts to the BC3 Education Foundation are the largest in the college's 52-year history.

Secret out: Longtime barber joins chamber

"They know they can trust me," she said.

With their thoughts, and with their hairstyles.

McDonald began her work as a barber nearly 39 years ago, when she was about to graduate from Riverside High School, she said.

"I was ready to sign with the Air Force, but my family had a friend who owned a barber shop," McDonald said. "He talked me into going to barber school in Pittsburgh, and come work for him."

She credits the mentoring of John Young, for whom she worked 15 years at his shop in Ellport.

Her shop – Kathy's Barber Shop – at 429½ Lawrence Ave. is her third.

"I've meet a lot of people over the years," she says. "In my shop they are my friends and a lot are like family. They know they can come to me anytime if they need someone to talk to."

Her clientele is mostly composed of men, young and older.

"I'm basically an old-time barber shop," she says. "I say I'm old school."

Her shop – open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays – is part of a town that "is very special to me. I love being a part of it, and hope to become a bigger part of it. I would like to get more involved. I am very proud of our town, and seeing all the new shops."

Those new shops, she says, are a reflection of a "younger generation stepping up and making Ellwood strong."

"We all know it won't be like the old times, but they are making it a unique place."

And that, she says, is no secret.