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Crusade for Children—Pancake Breakfast is Saturday morning

By **CLEVIS JEFFRIES**
 STAFF WRITER

Greensburg/Green County Fire and Rescue will sponsor its annual pancake breakfast this Saturday, May 27.

Proceeds from the breakfast will be donated to the WHAS Crusade for Children fundraising event.

In 2022, volunteer firefighters from Greensburg/Green County, Exie, Grab,

and Summersville Fire Departments collected over \$20,000 for the Crusade.

Locally, funds raised for this worthwhile event are also collected through roadblocks and donations from individuals, churches, and businesses.

In addition, there is the available option of contributing online through Venmo, PayPal, or CashApp by visiting the website, whascrusade.org

The 70th WHAS Crusade for Children will be held June 3-4.

“After COVID, Greensburg/Green County Fire and Rescue will bring back the pancake breakfast as one way to raise funds for the Crusade for Children,” said GGCFR coordinator Bill Taylor, Jr. “Citizens of Green County always come through each year raising funds for the annual WHAS Crusade for Children.”



Photo by Clevis Jeffries

Asst. City Chief Steve Gupton, Greensburg/Green County Fire and Rescue, collected money on South Main Thursday, May 18, for the 70th annual WHAS Crusade for Children.

Green County sweeps Region—25 qualify for State

By **SHELLEY BISHOP**
 R-H WRITER

The Green County Boys Track and Field team brought home the region title for the third year in a row last week and the Girls’ team won region for the first time since 2013. Between the Dragons and Lady Dragons gold medals were won in 14 events and 11 silver were won for runner up for a total of 25 automatic bids for the Class A State meet June 1.

Kelson McKinney and little sister Scout Brockman swept the throwing events bringing home two gold



The Green County Dragons and Lady Dragons won Class A Region 2 last week at Bethlehem.

medals each for discus and shot put. Both set new personal records in discus and McKinney extended his own

school record to 164-09. McKinney is the favorite to win both discus and shot put in Class A state next

week at UK. He is the defending champ in discus and was runner up last season in shot put.

Mia Blaydes and Jake Bishop out hurdled all competition to bring home gold medals and a region title

in both the 100/110m hurdles and the 300m hurdles. Blaydes PRed in both events moving her up the state rankings just in time for the state meet.

Not to be outdone, Riley Coffey won the 1600m and 3200m runs for her own region titles. The seventh grader has a bright future ahead for both cross country and track and field.

Amelia Creason long jumped beyond 15 feet for just the third time in her career and made her longest jump to date with a leap of 15-06.25 to bring home the gold in that event.

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Rotary Conference is “Service Above Self” in action

By **DALE CURRY**
 STAFF WRITER

Local Rotarian Nancy J. Stearman recently led the 2023 Rotary District 6710 Conference at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green, KY.

Stearman became District Governor, July 1, 2022 and will lead the district for one full year.

Rotary District 6710 consists of the area in Kentucky primarily west of I-75. The largest club in the district is the Louisville Rotary Club and the most philanthropic club is the Paducah club. Fifty-five clubs are part of the district.

This year’s conference had more than 200 paying participants, a first for the district conference.

“Three times Nancy received a standing ovation at the conference,” Walt Gorin said.

Otha Ray Stearman, Nancy’s husband, said that the biggest compliment came from Alan Palmer, a Bowling Green businessman. He said of Nancy, “I couldn’t imagine this district without having Nancy in the district. This district is much better off with Nancy in it.”

Each district governor leaves a legacy of what the person focused on while serving in that leadership position.

Nancy Stearman has several items that drew her attention over the past 11 months.

“For me,” she said, “the takeaway will be that I left the district better off. We have more members, better giving and we know that we need people plus money to provide the service.”

Stearman also talked about how she had focused on polio awareness not only on the local and district level but also on the zone level.

She is responsible for promoting bear hugs for polio awareness, a fundraiser for that campaign that kicked off with the Greensburg Rotary Club. The campaign made its way throughout the district and eventually to the zone level, which consists of 31 districts, 1,700 clubs and about 60,000 Rotarians.

The project consisted of something similar to “build a bear” in which Rotarians put together stuffed bears. Then the bears were donated to local law



Photo submitted

The Greensburg Rotary Club had the Best New Youth Service Project in District 6710 (among 41-100 member clubs) this past year. Club president Justine Landrum, right, was presented the award by District Governor Nancy Stearman during the District 6710 convention May 13-14 at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green. In July of 2022 Greensburg Rotarians worked in partnership with Rusty River Clothing Company and Shoe Sensations to provide shoes and clothes for more than 40 students in the Green County school system. Rotarians did the shopping and presented the items to be distributed by Kelli Henderson, and Kaylea Stearman at Green County Schools Family Resource Centers.

enforcement officers to share with children in domestic violence situations and other special needs.

With the donation of the bears, two groups of people benefitted from the project—the children who received

the bears and children who were vaccinated as a result of the original purchase of the bears.

The money raised from the project was matched by Rotary International one time and then the money was also matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation two times. Enough money was raised to provide polio vaccinations to 189,000 children.

Stearman also helped raise awareness of polio by working with the Lynn Family Stadium in Louisville to illuminate the stadium in purple lights for World Polio Day. Lynn Family Stadium is home to some of the best soccer matches in the nation with a capacity of more than 15,000 people.

For her work with the fight against Polio in 2020-2021, Stearman was awarded the Regional Service Award by the Rotary Foundation. Only ten of these awards are given out worldwide each year.

“Polio is pretty much under control in the United States,” Stearman said. “Afghanistan is the hot spot in the world right now but it is hoped

that it will be completely eradicated in 2026.”

Another of Stearman’s goals was to promote literacy by getting Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in every county in the district. The goal of Imagination Library is to give books to children every month until they are five years old. The Greensburg Rotary Club was instrumental in launching Green County’s Imagination Library.

“When I started there were 17 clubs that did not have an Imagination Library,” Stearman said, “and now we are down to only one in the district without an Imagination Library.”

District 6710 offers three scholarships each year for graduate students to study abroad. This is another way the clubs have of helping young people to explore the world and to see how they can help change it.

As a District Governor, Stearman is the only officer of Rotary International in the district and this means lots of administrative work.

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