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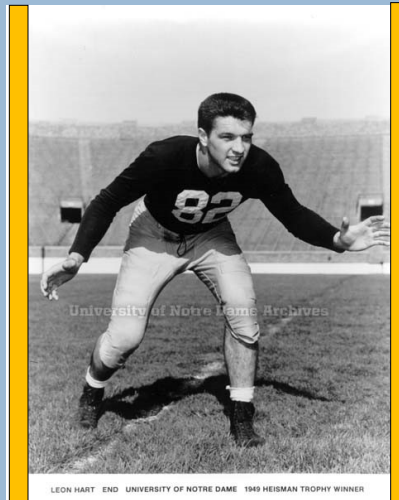
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LEON HART END UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME 1940 HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER

Legend, continued from page 5

My mother waved a lace hanky at him. She caught his glance and he smiled a huge smile. He shouted at the top of his voice "Betty!" He ran over to her, picked her up, and whirled her around in a circle three feet off the ground. Clearly they were more than just acquaintances.

I have always been a rather substantial human being, as a kid as well as now. Leon looked down at me with approval and said, "I hope you play some ball, kid. We could use you on the O line." He shook my small hand, which got completely lost in his huge paw, chatted excitedly with my mother for a few moments, and then he was gone.

Beaver Falls has its Joe Namath; Donora, its Stan Musial; Oakland, its Dan Marino; but I will forever have the memory of Leon Hart lifting my mom like a feather on the sidewalk of St. Colman's Church in Turtle Creek, PA. Thanks, Mom.

David R. Lichius

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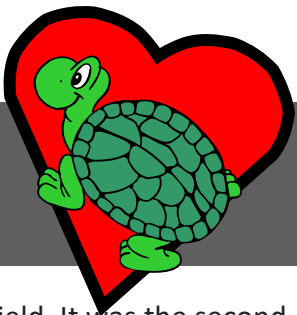
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Woodland Hills Schools Fall Update

School has begun for Woodland Hills Students, and though the format is different, the education continues. The District is teaching primarily remotely, with teachers connecting with students through Google Classroom and associated tools. Students are able to access live instruction and connect with teachers each day, which is a marked difference and improvement from the springtime shutdown. Since school began in August, students and teachers alike have learned to navigate the tools.



The District has made some exceptions to remote learning for students with needs that cannot be served virtually. Those students have returned to school in person, in small groups to ensure appropriate distancing and with necessary protective equipment.

Woodland Hills teachers and staff are working hard, and learning a great deal themselves. Throughout the fall, in sessions leading up to the opening of school and during professional development days since, teachers have been trained on the tools available to them to instruct virtually. With the support of the community, the District has invested in technology upgrades like Chromebooks and WIFI hotspots for students, document cameras for classrooms, and software of varying types to assist students and teachers. All of these tools serve the District well during virtual instruction, but will also be with us for the long term, as the pandemic has moved the technology infrastructure of the District ahead by leaps and bounds. Even after this unusual time ends, that infrastructure will remain an integral part of education in Woodland Hills.

Students, faculty, and staff are adapting in all aspects of school life, including athletics and activities as well as academics. Fall sports are underway, with safety precautions and requirements in place, and student clubs and activities are meeting virtually to begin the year. The District is planning for a return to school in-person when it is safe to do that. At this time, a date for return is not set.

In addition to the work to ensure that Technology meets the need, the District continues to improve infrastructure throughout buildings as well. Building improvements are more than aesthetic, improving the efficiency of buildings, which will make the District both more environmentally and fiscally responsible, as energy use and utility bills both decrease.

In August, a small and physically distant group met to cut the ribbon on the newly renovated Dickson Preparatory STEAM Academy in Swissvale, which is home to state-of-the-art STEAM spaces, an upgraded media center, a new gym, and classrooms that are fully equipped for education in 2020 and beyond.

Renovations continue at Woodland Hills High School as well. Soon, visitors will see a new entrance, the renovated auditorium, and fresh finishes throughout the building. The project will continue through 2021, but teachers and students will see the benefits in areas of the building throughout that time, as phases are completed and newly renovated classrooms are opened for use. Among those will be modern science labs, spaces for gathering informally, and new furniture throughout. The upgrades include conversion from steam heat to a modern HVAC system, new electrical systems throughout the building, and new plumbing, including updated restrooms.

Outdoor facilities are being improved as well, and the newly renovated soccer and track facility on the High School campus opened for play this fall as well. The new field and track are accompanied by new LED stadium lighting that allows for night games, and, when restrictions are lifted, will allow groups from throughout our region to rent a modern space for play. Even with the restrictions of this moment, good things are happening in Woodland Hills!

Submitted by Jamie Glasser

From the Heart of Turtle Creek...

Meeting the Legend

On November 13, 1955, the Detroit Lions beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-28 at old Forbes Field. It was the second of only three wins the Lions had that season. Why should I remember this? It was the day I shook hands with Leon Hart.

Leon Hart is a Turtle Creek legend. Betty Jean Guthrie is not. She was in TCHS class of 1946 and my mother. One day in 1955, as I was sorting through my collection of football cards, I came across Leon's card. She saw the card and casually mentioned that she knew Leon, that she had not seen him in a while, and that perhaps she should get in touch with him.

I was flabbergasted! How could my very average work-a-day mother possibly know a superstar football player like Leon Hart? She told me that he had gone to Turtle Creek High School and that she had known him there. That was news to me. I had known about Notre Dame, the Heisman Trophy and the Lions, but not about Leon being a Creeker. Now the mindblower... she promised to introduce me to him the next time the Lions came to town. She just happened to know that when the Lions came to Pittsburgh, Leon did not stay with the team. He stayed with his mother in Turtle Creek. Leon would be at the 9:00 Mass on Sunday morning before the game. That was his habit.

November 13 was an eternity in coming. On that morning, we were early for the 9:00 Mass, but Leon was already in Church. It was impossible to miss Leon Hart. He was quite simply the most imposing man I had ever seen. He was right up front. Big head, big shoulders ... a big man. My mom needn't have pointed him out, but she did. The introduction would come right after Mass.

We exited the church first and waited near the concrete fence. Leon emerged. *Continued page 6*

Patrick T.
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