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Wake Schepman trains on skate ramps in the back yard of his Hunlock Creek home.

Defying gravity: Teen astounds the world

SUSAN DENNEY
Dallas Post Correspondent

It's easy to forget to breathe when watching Wake Schepman skate. He defies gravity as he flies over ramps and twists in the air. His favorite stunt is a trick called a flat spin 540. It's an unbelievable sideways backflip with one and a half rotations.

Wake, 16, of Hunlock Creek, is a phenomenon in the world

of inline skating, also known as Rollerblading.

He's a likeable and humble high school student who enjoys Boy Scouting and church activities. He has won many competitions and is the only teen ranked in the top 10 inline skaters in the world.

"The biggest accomplishment I have had was this last February," he said. "I competed in the biggest Rollerblading com-

petition in North America called the Bittercold Showdown. I won third place. First place went to a man from Australia and second place went to a man from France."

The Bittercold Showdown was held in Royal Oak, Michigan and drew the best inline skaters from around the globe.

Wake's mom, April, said the family has been in the Back Mountain area for four years.

She said the winters here are a challenge for her son's skating because one of his parents must drive him to the closest indoor skating park if the weather is bad.

In good weather, Wake practices on the backyard ramp his dad, Wes, created for him.

April used to be afraid when Wake first started skating at age 5.

See GRAVITY | 10

Founders Day celebrated in Tunkhannock



Above, Autumn Barzelowski, 5, of Tunkhannock, reviews the face-painting work created by Rozanne Bozek, of Trading Faces. At left, one momentous move in Tunkhannock this year was the relocation of Gay's True Value Store from Bridge Street to 189 E. Tioga. Shown is the former Gay's True Value located on Bridge Street for 100 years. Business owners decided to move after the most recent flood. The building shown has been demolished and a CVS pharmacy will be built in its place.

Alice Stuffle | Dallas Post



The 32nd Annual Founders' Day celebration in historic downtown Tunkhannock was hosted June 22. Once again, Peoples Neighborhood Bank was the event's major sponsor. In addition to Tioga Street, vendors exhibited their merchandise along Warren and Harding Streets.

The Tunkhannock Business and Professional Association coordinated the annual event, including food, entertainment and music. A record number of vendors offered a variety of metal crafts, art, fabric crafts, woodworking, jewelry, home décor, photography and other unique trades and professions.

Festivities began at 10 a.m. and concluded at 4 p.m. The Wyoming County United Way held its annual Duck Derby. Artists from the Endless Mountain Council of the Arts exhibited paintings.

Novrocki named Teacher of the Year

Michael Novrocki, a Lake-Lehman High School teacher, was selected as winner of the National History Day Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year in the 2013 senior division.

The Behring Award recognizes teachers for exemplary commitment to helping students develop their interest in history through the use of creative teaching methods and helping them make discoveries about the past.

Novrocki was selected

from a pool of more than 50 teachers.

Novrocki received the award before a crowd of thousands at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Lake-Lehman High School has won the Outstanding School Award in the Senior Division for 14 years in a row at the regional History Day Contest and this year received the Outstanding School position at the state-level competition.

Misericordia U teaching program nationally ranked

The Misericordia University Teacher Education Program is one of 105 teacher preparation programs in the country and one of only seven in Pennsylvania named to the Honor Roll in the 2013 National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) ratings released by U.S. News & World Report on June 18.

Misericordia University's undergraduate secondary education program received three out of four stars in the national report, "Teacher Prep Review: A Review

of the Nation's Teacher Preparation Programs 2013." T

he three-star designation means the Misericordia University Teacher Education Program "provides strong preparation," according to the report.

Of the 1,200 elementary and secondary education programs in the United States that were assigned an overall program rating by NCTQ, only 9 percent received the special Honor Roll designation by earning three or four stars.

Playing it forward on the field for tornado victims

SARAH HITE
Dallas Post Correspondent

Nicole Chipeco wants to play it forward.

When Chipeco heard of the devastation caused by tornadoes in Oklahoma in early June, she knew she wanted to help children whose lives were turned upside down by the storm. So she began planning an adult softball tournament to benefit the Moore,

Oklahoma Little League.

The two-day Field of Dreams Co-Ed Softball Tournament will be held Labor Day weekend and proceeds from the entry fees and raffle ticket sales will all benefit the Little League organization in Oklahoma.

"It's important when kids love something, that they're able to keep playing, especially when there is chaos going on," she said. "It gives kids an outlet."

The 32-year-old mom and softball enthusiast of Noxen knows firsthand the important role sports can play in the lives of children. After all, she's been playing softball on local teams

What: Field of Dreams Co-Ed Softball Tournament

When: Saturday, Aug. 31 and Sunday, Sept. 1

Where: Tannery Yard, Noxen

Who: Teams will consist of 10 players, with at least three women and seven men

Cost: \$175 per team entry fee. Deadline to enter is Aug. 24.

Contact: Nicole Chipeco, event organizer, by phone at 406-9883 or by e-mail at mlc1987@ptd.net. Businesses may also contact Chipeco for concessions, raffle or monetary donations.

for more than 20 years.

"I can't remember not playing," said Chipeco. "I've always been good at it. And my whole family played - my mom, my dad and my three sisters."

The Lake-Lehman graduate played softball for her high school team,

winning awards for her prowess on the field. She also had an opportunity to play in the National Pro Fastpitch Professional Women's Softball League for the New York/New Jersey Juggernaut in the early 2000s. "[I] got invited to

play," said Chipeco. "It was a two-day tryout with 150 girls playing each day. They picked 20 girls out of all of them."

But now Chipeco has traded in her pro status to play on two local teams and coach her daughter, 5-year-old Hannah, through her first T-Ball season with the Badgers, part of the Bob Horlacher League.

"Hannah also comes with me to my games, and I like to keep involved in the benefit tournaments," she said.

The tragedy in Moore, Oklahoma hit close to home for



Charlotte Bartizek | Dallas Post

Nicole Chipeco, a former softball standout at Lake-Lehman High School, has more than the game on her mind. Chipeco is planning a benefit softball game to aid tornado victims in Oklahoma.

See FORWARD | 10

