Stick To Skipping Rope

I’m not proud of it, but I skipped school a couple of times when I was in high school. And I got caught each time. It wasn’t a pretty outcome when the principal, Doc Vigtirett, reprimanded me and told me, and all his students, that he would see the consequences of my misdeeds. I wouldn’t write all those essays for Doc was an excuse for my future career in journalism.

By my senior year, the only day I skipped was the actual graduation day. If you ask the faculty all know about it; my absence was recorded with my transcripts. And my actual graduation. There is a big difference between skipping school being a day of school and actual truancy.

Since that time, past two weeks, Ohio County Sheriff’s Department deputies made house calls on kids who were not completing their work. Whatever the children but the kids may be a grandparent or a great-grandparent. It happens.

You may say, but they have been on a roll of getting kids online or in person, so they know they are there. Well, if some students did move away. It was hard to get some schoolwork or attend school in any form — it’s truancy.

It’s a child’s seven unexcused days in a classroom or 10 unexcused days in a school year, they are considered truant. And while kids, not their parents, can serve jail time.

Skipping a day of school, some consequences. I’m not suggesting you or I jump onboard with that contact. If you get caught, you may want to pay attention to your child.

The bottom line is, if you are a parent in one school way or another way. It’s time to step up, it better serves students, to be there for them.

Sadly, the deputies made so many house calls or no one responding to their calls that someone needs to look into that process. It looks like some people moved away. It may be your grandparent or some other family member with whom you have a good contact and those friendships are such a good thing. Parents should open a book and read a little bit every night, for any longitude student, and I’ll bet you agree.

So, this is a letter to parents for looking out for the kids. This school district has been a learning process for everyone. Parents, teachers, drivers, cooks and custodians. It’s all been perfect. I had to adjust to what the school day was like at a “normal” school year.

I miss the joy to see children running the halls, sitting in classrooms and practicing their sports. Let’s hope the pandemic is over and the future is on the play.

Heather Ziegler can be reached via email at hziegler@theintelligencer.net.

The Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed city officials, local dignitaries and grant recipients during a ribbon cutting Thursday at Artworks Around Town celebrating its new location at 1226 Chapline St. The Chamber, board members, city officials and the new resident artists welcomed those in attendance.

The Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday toasted to their newest members, chamber representatives and city officials in the Wheeling Area. Artworks Around Town celebrated its new location at 1226 Chapline St. With headquarters now nucleus to the same downtown building that houses the Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley, the River Valley Health Foundation relocated there last year, but because of the ongoing pandemic, an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, most other traditional events have been delayed in light of those unprecedented times.

In total, 13 local nonprofit organizations were awarded grants this year for the Foundation’s 2020 funding year. The Foundation annually receives annual grant applications which make it possible for them to award based on the Foundation’s annual donor base. The Foundation was able to assist four local non-profits this year totaling $37,000. Each local health department received a grant award based on the vital health needs that are still at hand.

“We primarily look at indigent, the elderly and children, but we are here for any non-profit,” Morrison said, noting that the Foundation continues to find the health needs of those in the Ohio Valley, and non-pandemic needs will still exist once the era’s coronavirus era becomes history. But until then, the Foundation is focusing on the vital health needs that are still at hand.

In fact, the River Valley Health Foundation was able to assist four local health departments by funding vaccination assistance for grants totaling $37,000. Each local health department received a grant award based on the Foundation’s continued emergency application arising out of the need for COVID-19 vaccination assistance.

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By Eric Ayres

Staff Writer

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Photo provided

Artworks Around Town artists Heather Ziegler Foreman and Annette Kistler have created pet portraits in this painting titled “Stare on the Stair.”

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Artworks Around Town artist Heather Ziegler Foreman showcases her talents for pet portraits in this painting titled “Stare on the Stair.”
“We’re pleased to be able to assist with the COVID-19 vaccination process in our area,” Morrison said, noting what an exceptional and atypical year this past 12 months has been.

Emergency aid applications were sent to all health departments in the counties served by the Foundation. The health departments located in Jefferson County in Ohio and in Brooke, Marshall and Ohio counties in West Virginia each submitted an emergency application detailing the specific needs arising out of the COVID-19 vaccination process currently underway.

The funds will be used to coordinate a communications program to further vaccine information, assist with signage, personal protective equipment or PPE, and expenses arising out of the vaccination facilities, electrical upgrades, phone upgrades, employee overtime, temporary workers and the purchase of vaccination cards.

The River Valley Health Foundation was founded in 2017. Morrison, who joined the Foundation the following year, said a portion of funds from their endowment is used to provide money for the grants that are distributed. Although the Foundation did not hold any fundraising activities over the past year because of COVID, they are looking forward to holding fund raising activities in the future, and of course, donations are welcome.

A nonprofit public charity that provides support of health education for members of the community and for healthcare professionals, the River Valley Health Foundation serves Brooke, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel counties in West Virginia, and Belmont, Jefferson, Monroe, Guernsey and Harrison counties in Ohio.

For more information, visit rivervalleyhlf.org.