



From left, Josh Buckley, assistant professor of biology, Jason Kilgore, grounds supervisor, Jim Mirage (view obstructed by tree) and Chris Polombo work to get a limber pine tree into the ground on the campus of Washington & Jefferson College Friday.

AARON KENDEALL / OBSERVER-REPORTER

## W&J crew plants tree on campus for Arbor Day

BY AARON J. KENDEALL  
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Student volunteers, grounds personnel and faculty members celebrated a belated Arbor Day Friday by coming together to plant a limber pine tree on the campus of Washington & Jefferson College.

"Everyone is working together to recognize and appreciate the grounds we have here on campus," said Jason Kilgore, assistant professor of biology at W&J.

Kilgore said this was the first in what he hoped would become an annual Arbor Day celebration at the college. The event also was meant to kick off a proposed arboretum on the grounds of the liberal arts school.

Kilgore said the college would begin a tree-mapping project this summer. The biology department and the information technology leadership department will work together to design a geographic information system in which to store data on campus tree location, identity and size.

With his general botany

class acting as a corps of student volunteers, Kilgore used the event as an opportunity to teach the fundamentals of forest ecology to his students.

"Is this better than sitting in a classroom, or what?" he asked about 20 of his students as the backhoe moved the tree and its bulbous burlap root sack into place.

Native to the Rocky Mountain region, the limber pine tree is a welcome addition to W&J's campus and a good inaugural sapling for the arboretum initiative.

"We're trying to incorporate species diversity," said Jim Mirage, assistant director of campus grounds at W&J. "We're trying to have the right mix of native species and non-natives as well."

Kilgore hopes to eventually earn the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA certification, which requires member institutions to recognize the holiday annually as well as create a tree advisory committee and tree care plan and offer service learning. Arbor Day

is celebrated on the last Friday in April.

Getting outside gave students the opportunity to get their hands dirty. It also added a different perspective to the material they were already learning in class.

"Today is a great day to plant a tree," said junior biology major Cait Faden. "I think tree diversity on my campus is important. It would be really cool if people outside of the W&J community came to admire our trees."

Faden said taking part in the event has made her consider becoming part of the tree advisory committee once it is formed.

For Adam Toomey, the Arbor Day tree-planting offered some real-world experience in the field he was going into. After graduating later this month, Toomey will work with the Nevada Bureau of Land Management.

"Botany is a necessary part of my job," said Toomey. "And I think Arbor Day is a necessary holiday. I'm glad it's finally coming to our campus."

## Act 13

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modify its order where it "... is unclear and has created uncertainties as to the state of Act 13."

Cecil, Robinson, Peters and Mt. Pleasant townships in Washington County have all signed on to the lawsuit, along with South Fayette Township in Allegheny County, two communities in Bucks County, the Delaware Riverkeepers Network and a Monroeville doctor. They contend that Act 13, which was approved by the Gener-

al Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Tom Corbett in February, strips communities of their zoning and land-use planning rights. Supporters of Act 13 counter that the law creates uniformity and predictability for the Marcellus Shale industry.

John Smith, the solicitor for Cecil and Robinson townships, did not know when the court would make a decision on the appeal. "The municipalities believe the Commonwealth Court was correct in issuing the injunction which serves to stay Act 13 for a number of legitimate reasons," he said. "We will continue to advance the ar-

gument, if necessary, to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court."

Meanwhile, state Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati, R-Brockway, and Sam Smith, R-Punxsutawney, the speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, have asked Commonwealth Court to reconsider its decision to not let them intervene in the case.

Last month, the court turned down a request by Scarnati, Smith, gas exploration companies and natural gas trade groups to intervene in the suit, saying that it hinged on constitutional questions.

## Facility

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Range Resources spokesman Matt Pitzarella said gas from its wells has no odor and that the odor had first been reported prior to when Range began drilling. He also said the well was about a half-mile from the clinic.

MtJoy said Southwest

Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project has been assisting Cornerstone and has put the group in touch with the West Virginia University School of Medicine, which has provided access to toxicologists, industrial hygienists and sampling instruments.

The facility will need to get approval of the U.S. Department of Health Resources and Services Administration prior to moving.

"We're believing this will be temporary," MtJoy said of the relocation.

The building was built about 30 years ago and served as a community health center before being taken over by Cornerstone Care, whose mission is to increase access to health care. Cornerstone Care operates seven medical facilities and a mobile unit in Washington, Greene and Fayette counties.

## Council

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Council subsequently opted for a self-funded plan in which the city assumes the direct risk for payment of claims for benefits. With the self-funded plan, the city is responsible for all costs up to \$35,000. After that, the city's stop-loss insurance, Meritain, kicks in.

Employees make no contributions for coverage but have a minor co-pay for services. "It's nothing but good," he said.

In the meantime, however, council needs approval from all three labor unions before the new plan can be put into place.

"I don't think that's a big thing," Manning said. "I believe they are all supportive it."

## Law Day

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whose citizens connect more with individual tribes than a unified national identity.

"People think of themselves as family members first, then members of their tribe, then members of their ethnic group, then finally as Afghans," he explained.

Despite the challenges, the first courthouse was erected in Gardez, a former Taliban stronghold, to signify to the world that justice had returned to Afghanistan.

"Ultimately, you've got to win the hearts and minds of people. You've got to have them believe in their system," he said.

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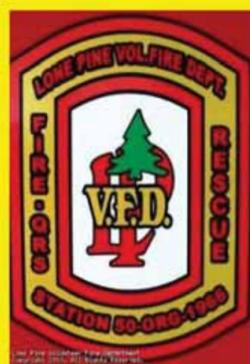
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Sat. May 5 7 pm Doors Open 6 p.m.

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Additional raffles and tickets sold that night.

Tickets still available! Sold at door!

### Pike Day Festival

May 19 and 20, Come visit us at  
Thistlecrest Farms on Route 40 for our  
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3rd Friday of every month 7:30 p.m. Admission \$5

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