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business news
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Fish Sandwich Chronicles

Readers share their reactions to Patty Tascarella's online series about fish fry Fridays. **13**

Back on the market

Philadelphia company drops option to buy Downtown building. **7**

This week's lists

Investment services firms, general aviation airports. **9,10**



Executive Living

Three local execs let us into their homes, while others talk about their favorite rooms. **14 - 19**



INSIDE

LISTS	9,10
FOCUS	14
PUBLIC SECTOR	21
PEOPLE & AWARDS	22
CALENDAR	24
AFTER HOURS	26
LEADS	27
INDEX	39

PITTSBURGH BUSINESSTIMES

Vol. 31, No. 33

MARCH 2 - 8, 2012

\$4.00

Move over, Marcellus Shale

Drillers explore potential from Burkett, Rhinestreet, other shales closer to surface

BY ANYA LITVAK

A couple of southwestern Pennsylvania natural gas operators are moving on up the shale column and beginning to explore formations hundreds of feet above the Marcellus in hopes of striking liquid

treasure.

Range Resources, the region's largest driller, has been probing the Rhinestreet and Burkett shales for several years, but only recently began talking about their results. In 2011, the company drilled two test wells in the Upper Devonian group in

Washington County, which in this region includes the Rhinestreet, Middlesex, Genesee and Burkett shales.

The Marcellus is a middle Devonian Shale, which lies several hundred feet below those.

If the test wells drilled in the next few years show the Upper

Devonian can be developed economically, southwestern Pennsylvania operators may find themselves sitting on twice as much gas as they originally imagined. Add to that the potential of the Utica Shale, which lies

SEE SHALE, PAGE 38

Jefferson Regional bringing docs into management fold

BY KRIS B. MAMULA



JOE WOJCIK

John Dempster, president and CEO of Jefferson Regional Medical Center, says there will be a formal agreement to pay doctors for managerial help and oversight by July.

In a bold effort to improve operational efficiency and quality of care, Jefferson Regional Medical Center is inviting its doctors to help run the hospital.

Jefferson is seeking the involvement of its employed physicians in meeting quality of care benchmarks and making better use of scarce health care dollars, the first arrangement of its kind in western Pennsylvania. A formal agreement to pay doctors for managerial help and oversight is expected to be in place by July, said President and CEO John Dempster.

"The more we can involve physicians, the better we're going to be in efficiently running the organization," Dempster said. "You have to have them as partners economically as well, not just clinically."

"We want them to be at the table."

The shift to co-clinical management that's

SEE JEFFERSON, PAGE 39

How tiny Latrobe airport took off after discount carrier's arrival

BY PAUL J. GOUGH

Two years ago, commercial airline service at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe was at a standstill.

Northwest Airlines had pulled out of Westmoreland County, leaving the airport without passenger service for the second time in a decade. The airport was falling below the passenger threshold for \$1 million federal

funding. And because of its proximity to Pittsburgh, the airport didn't qualify as other cities in Pennsylvania do for the so-called Essential Air Service program of subsidized flights.

Latrobe's fortunes would rise or fall

■ FOR A LIST OF THE REGION'S LARGEST GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORTS, go to Page 9



COURTESY OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Spirit Airlines began offering flights out of Latrobe airport in 2011, and has added several flights since then.

SEE SPIRIT, PAGE 8



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EXECUTIVE LIVING

A well-rounded experience

Architect's round house shows off creativity, gives kids a stimulating environment



Choosing a home, in general, is a very personal decision, even more so if you have a hand in designing it and building it. We spoke with three different area executives with three very different stories on how their family homes came to be.

BY LOU CORSARO

When Matt Schlueb and his wife decided to move from California to Pittsburgh, it presented a unique opportunity for the architect.

Using a piece of property in Wexford, Schlueb, principal of his architectural firm, SCHLUEB architecture, could design the home from the ground up. Several thoughts went through Schlueb's head — it was a chance to get creative and build with an eye toward green principles. But one thing stood out to the father of two young sons, Oskar, 9, and Olin, 6 — he wanted to see how raising his children in a unique and stimulating environment would impact their development.

SEE SCHLUEB, PAGE 17



PHOTOS BY JOE WLOCIK



Clockwise from top left: The master bedroom in Matt Schlueb's home includes specially made pieces of art and plenty of natural light; he recently had a door custom-made for the bedroom to create some privacy; Schlueb stands in the living room, which includes plenty of round windows and a working fireplace; and the spacious kitchen offers more unique touches, including a table for his sons to draw and color on.

- **MCKESSON EXEC SETTLES INTO NEW HOME WITH FAMILY.**
Page 15
- **AE WORKS OWNER FEELS AT HOME ON THE WATER.**
Page 16
- **EXECS DESCRIBE FAVORITE ROOMS IN THEIR HOUSE.**
Pages 18-19

SCHLUEB: Home proves to be a popular choice for children's playdates

FROM PAGE 14

And that's how you end up living in a multicolored, entirely round house. The structure of the home itself has all rounded sides, and that theme continues inside the home, with round windows and mostly circular rooms.

The round windows are all different sizes throughout the home, and Schlueb even included some lower ones so the boys could look outside while they played.

"One of the first things they did was take balls and roll them back and forth (on the round window sill)," Schlueb said. "They think of 10 things for every one that I thought of."

Schlueb isn't quite sure yet if the house is making a big impact on the boys — Oskar was a toddler when the house was built and Olin was not yet born — but he finds it personally fascinating to see how their minds work.

"They find stuff to do I never would have anticipated," he said.

To be sure, the round home serves other purposes. Schlueb's wife, Julianne, is from the Pittsburgh area, but he had no connections here.

So, he figured such a unique home would act as a great marketing tool for his firm. Media coverage has not been a problem, he brings in schoolchildren for tours, and also takes prospective clients through the house.

While most people don't dream about living in a round home, Schlueb said the unique architecture shows off his skills and the potential for creativity.

"Most people who have an open mind can see something they like," he said.

Work on the home went on for two years before the family moved in for good in 2004. Schlueb still had much weekend work to do to finish off smaller projects. His wife was fully supportive of the project, and Schlueb let her make her mark on the home as well.

"I kind of gave my wife the choice on colors," he said. "She gave me a lot of freedom

on building."

The house has central air, as well as tubes under the concrete floors to help warm them. The large, round windows, including some on the ceiling, allow for a lot of natural light in the home, limiting the use of electricity.

One room that took some extra weekend work was the bathroom, where Schlueb decided to do something other than a typical shower curtain.

He decided he wanted to go for a "fish scale" kind of look for the curtain to go with the calming, ocean breeze-style of the room.

This required some creative, though not expensive measures. Schlueb used fishing wire and clips to individually hang a number of light blue plates, bought for \$1 each at Target, where they were being discontinued.

"I'm always asked by my clients to design on a budget, so doing stuff like this helps," he said.

In the end, the bathroom was an area where he "really challenged himself," and he couldn't be happier with the finished product.

"In my entire 20 years of practice, it's probably one of the things I'm most proud of," he said.

Another uniquely personal touch came in the dining room, where the family has a round table with wraparound bench seating.

"One of the things I love to do is go out to eat — you get nestled in and spend hours. I wanted to create a nice booth seat," Schlueb said. "Every day is so fast-paced. You find the little things you can do — spend time with the family."

And one thing he doesn't have to worry about, whether he likes it or not, is seeing too little of their kids as they spend time with their friends.

"All the playdates happen here," Schlueb said. "We don't get any quiet time, but we know where the kids are."



Matt Schlueb's round home sits atop a hill and includes patio space for outdoor grilling and enjoying summer nights.

COURTESY OF MATT SCHLUEB

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JOE WOJCIK

Matt Schlueb did much weekend work to finish off the bathroom of his home. He says the finished product is one of his proudest achievements.

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