

# TICKET



## COLORFUL CATALYSTS

Highlands art students  
take to the walls of  
Allegheny Valley  
Hospital

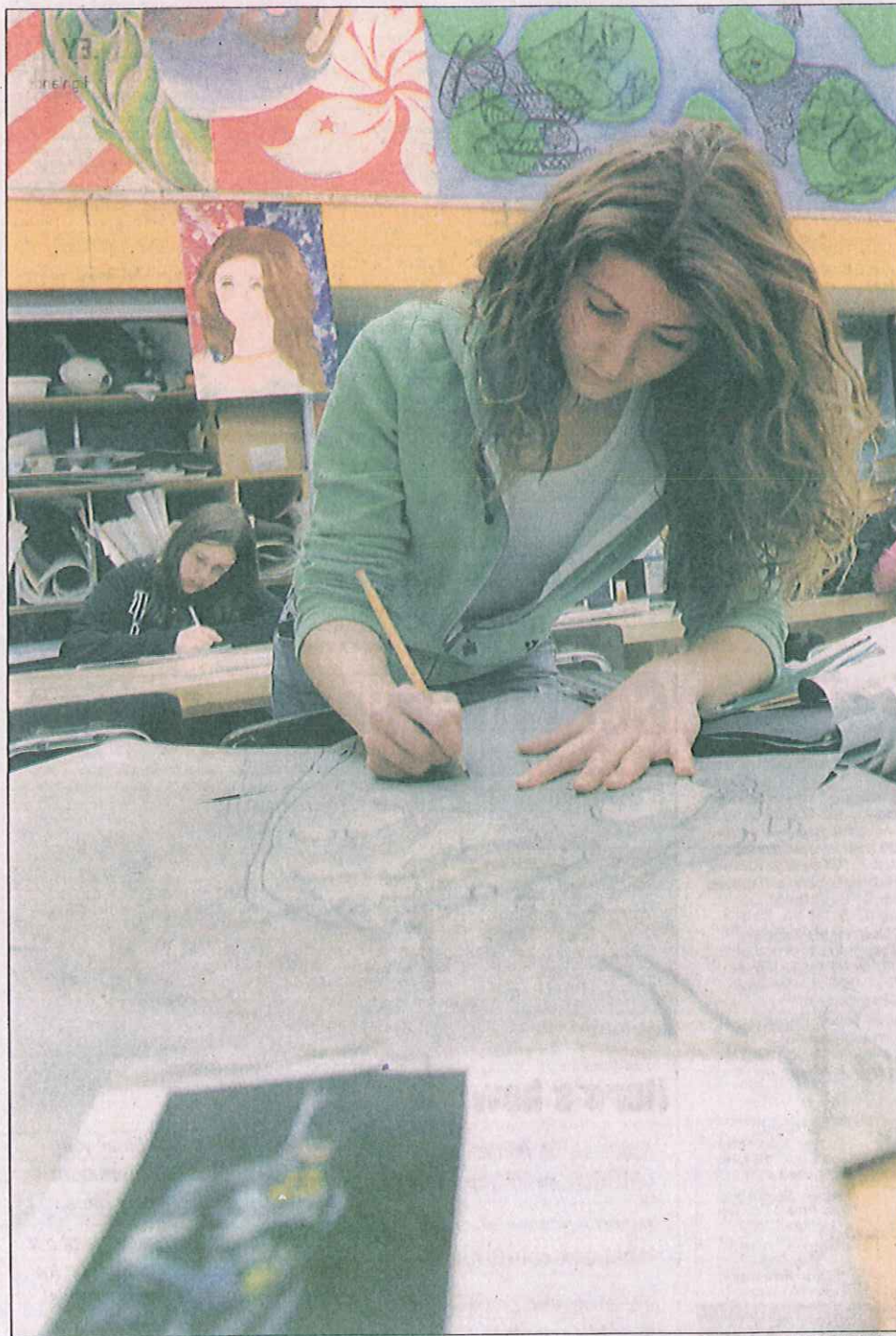
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» One-man band is a  
human jukebox **Page 14**

» Eazer's is a legend and landmark  
in New Kensington **Page 15**





PHOTOS: STEVEN DIETZ | FOR THE VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH

Rachel Sportelli works on an art piece during class at Highlands High School.

# Life

*Highlands High School students create works showing life*

BY REX RUTKOSKI  
VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH

For Kayla Weinfurter, it's her mother.  
For Marti Orren, it's her friends and family.

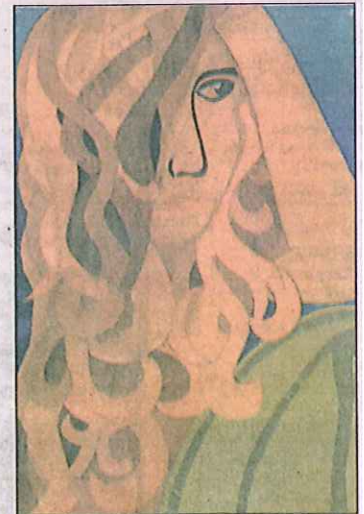
Stephanie Oertel says life, in general, is what gives her inspiration and motivation for her creativity.

Whatever the catalyst, the colorful results can be found on the walls of Allegheny Valley Hospital, Natrona Heights, through April. It is the second annual showcase of the art of students from Highlands High School.

"Exhibiting is like a celebration," art teacher Teresa Emeloff says. "It's a great way for students to feel an extra sense of pride in what they have created. If they make great art, and no one gets to see it, what's the point?"

Emeloff was pleased with the school's debut last year at the hospital.

"Some people have commented to me



Work by Colleen Scheerbaum

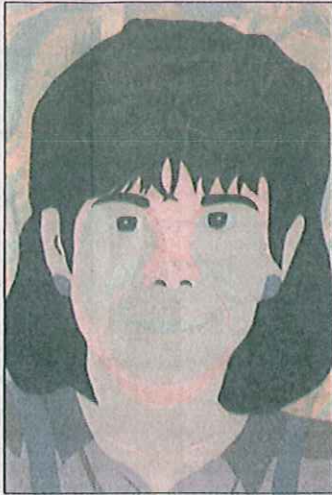


# 's rich source

ool students take inspiration from their lives  
ing this month at Allegheny Valley Hosptial

## ART IN THE VALLEY

**What:** Works by students of Highlands High School, Natrona Heights  
**When:** Through April. Viewable 24 hours per day.  
**Where:** Walls of Allegheny Valley Hospital, Natrona Heights, Harrison  
**Admission:** Free  
**Details:** 724-226-7021



Work by Kayla Weinfurther

embraced with enthusiasm. They were asked to create a portrait of a person of their choosing.

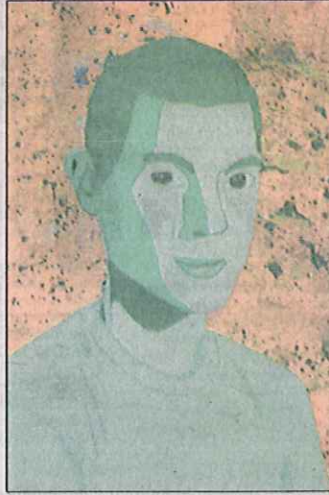
Many decided to introduce their family or friends.

"I chose to do a picture of my mother, because she has a big influence on my life. She motivates and inspires me," says sophomore Weinfurther of Natrona Heights. "I hope my work makes people happy when they see it. That's what I was going for."

Many projects she takes on begin with friends and family says sophomore Marti Orren of Natrona Heights. "They are my source material."

For her collage, Orren pays tribute to her brother. "We are really close, and he means a lot to me. I decided to do it on him, because he will be graduating this year and I won't see him as often as I do now," she says.

Orren credits "my little sister" for her love of art. "She inspired me by her art work," she says.



Work by Marti Orren

Heights, the welcome invitation of the creative process is "to make something out of nothing and to show what I pictured in my head." What was on his mind for this collage were tattoos. He loves them. "It is a permanent way to express yourself. You will always be yourself," he says.

Sophomore Tiffany Morrow of Fawn loves being with her sister as much as she can. "I don't see her much now, but we're really close, and I was hoping whoever viewed this collage would see that in my portrait (of the two together in a playground)," she says. "Even in the picture, she's hanging over my shoulders smiling, almost as if there's nowhere else she'd rather be." She chose pink to show their love for each other.

"I hope when someone looks at this, they think of someone they have a bond with and it reminds them of some event they've shared together," Morrow says.

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that they enjoy the high school shows there more than the professional artists because of the sheer variety of students involved," she says, "and the high level of talent these students have, which community members often don't get to see."

Emeloff says there are not many opportunities for students to exhibit outside of school.

After being asked last year to express themselves on a theme related to the language of flowers, students were challenged this year to create paper portrait collages.

The goal, Emeloff says, was to focus their attention on elements of design that are the building blocks of art-making. They were asked to consider color, and the mood that it can communicate to a viewer, and "value," "the lightness and darkness of color," Emeloff says.

It actually is a "pretty tricky" assignment, she says, but one the students



Work by Stephanie Oertel

Life's rich source of motivation is unending suggests sophomore Stephanie Oertel of Brackenridge. She is celebrating her young nephew in her collage. "We were down watching a parade. I loved this project, because I was doing it about him," she says. "I want people to think, 'Aw, that is a cute baby that I just want to hold.'"

Freshman Andrew Caldwell of Natrona admits that he went for "eye candy" in selecting actress-model Megan Fox as his subject. He thinks the hospital is a great place to exhibit. "Anywhere my art can be seen by an audience makes me happy," he says.

Sophomore Chelsea Meta of Natrona hopes that when people see her collage of two best friends at a homecoming dance, they bring their own interpretation to the story behind it. "I like that things as simple as art can brighten and maybe even make someone's day," she says.

For junior Michael Bash of Natrona



Work by Samantha Thornton