



Local chef to compete on Food Network's 'Ultimate Baking Championship'

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Kids from Guiding Hands Preschool at Otterbein United Brethren in Christ Church, Greencastle, raised \$3,503 for Penn State Health Golisano Children's Hospital at Milton S. Hershey Medical Center during their annual Cruisin' for a Cause fundraiser on Feb. 19. SHAWN HARDY/THE RECORD HERALD

HBCUs hold strong legacy

Andrea Hagan
Loyola University New Orleans
THE CONVERSATION

Historically Black colleges and universities are well known for their deep roots in U.S. higher education and proven effectiveness at graduating Black students who go on to become professionally successful.

HBCUs are colleges and universities that were established before 1964, with the mission of educating Black Americans, though now anyone can attend.

As a criminology instructor who has spent 13 years studying the relationship between educational trajectories and criminal justice – and a Black woman who grew up in the South and attended an HBCU – I believe that HBCUs offer another often overlooked benefit.

They give young people, especially Black people, a pathway in higher education that they might not otherwise receive. By opening doors to education, jobs and mentorship, HBCUs disrupt the conditions that can cause young people to get lost in the criminal justice system.

The United States incarcerates approximately 1.6 million people. Black Americans are locked up at five times the rate of White Americans. This disparity starts young: Black teenagers are 5.6 times more likely to be placed in juvenile detention than White teenagers, and people who are incarcerated as juveniles are nearly four times more likely to be incarcerated as adults. Overall, the vast majority of Black people are not incarcerated.

Attending an HBCU, or any other university, does not guarantee a stable financial future. And not graduating from high school or college certainly does not mean that someone will become incarcerated.

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CRUSIN' FOR A CAUSE

Children's hospital gets a boost from Guiding Hands Preschool



Kids from Guiding Hands Preschool were ready for a rest after doing laps in the gym.

Shawn Hardy | The Record Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK

Children from Guiding Hands Preschool on bikes, trikes and scooters circled the gym at Otterbein United Brethren in Christ Church, Greencastle, during their annual Cruisin' for a Cause fundraiser on Thursday, Feb. 19. • They raised \$3,503 for Penn State Health Golisano Children's Hospital at Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

What the youngsters' effort means for Penn State Health

Some donations to Penn State Health are in the millions, but Lindsey McKissick said, "These are the best ... small hands helping small hands."

The assistant director of community fundraising at Penn State Health and Penn State College of Medicine was on hand in Greencastle during Cruisin' for a Cause. "The money goes straight back to children receiving care," McKissick.

The funds are used to support children and their families "mentally and emotionally, as well as physically."

"This special event, Cruisin' for a Cause, is more than just fun – it's a way for even the youngest members of our community to make a meaningful impact," according to Diane Mills, director/teacher for the preschool.

"Our little learners at Guiding

Hands Preschool are putting their hearts into motion for a big mission – supporting Penn State Health Golisano Children's Hospital."

The funds raised this year are being donating in memory of Sydney Barnes, a beloved member of the Greencastle-Antrim community who passed away Oct. 20, 2025, at Penn State Health's Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Barnes, a 2023 graduate of Greencastle-Antrim High School and a junior at Millersville University, succumbed to injuries suffered in a pedestrian crash in Greencastle a week earlier.

More about donations to the children's hospital

Mills' "secret goal" for the 2026 Cruisin' for a Cause was \$3,102 – a dollar more than the youngsters

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DCNR names Pine Creek Rail Trail of the Year

Brian Whipkey
Pennsylvania Outdoor Columnist
USA TODAY NETWORK

If you are looking for a new trail to explore this year, you may want to head to Lycoming and Tioga counties.

The 62-mile Pine Creek Rail Trail has been named Pennsylvania's 2026 Trail of the Year by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

"This designation will raise awareness about the wealth of outdoor experiences in the Pennsylvania Wilds – including the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon and the recently improved visitor center at Leonard Harrison State Park – while strengthening support for local businesses and generating lasting economic, environmental, and social benefits for the region," DCNR Secretary Cindy

Adams Dunn said in a news release.

History of the trail

The trail traces a historic corridor first used by the Iroquois Nation and later developed as a railroad in the late 19th century. After rail service ended in 1988, DCNR reports the corridor was transformed into a non-motorized trail that was completed between 1995 and 2007

The pathway stretches from Jersey Shore to Wellsboro Junction.

Economic benefits of trail use

The DCNR reports the nationally recognized trail attracts more than 44,000 users annually and generates more than \$5 million in local economic impact.

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The Pine Creek Rail Trail in Lycoming and Tioga counties has been named Pennsylvania's 2026 Trail of the Year. PROVIDED BY DCNR

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