



WTAE reporter Katelyn Sykes announced early this week on Facebook that her last day at Channel 4 will be Monday.

Katelyn Sykes

‘Thank you, Pittsburgh’

Katelyn Sykes leaving WTAE after 6-plus years

By Joshua Axelrod
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The revolving door of WTAE-TV on-air talent continues to spin. Katelyn Sykes, a Channel 4 general assignment reporter since 2015, revealed Monday that her last day at the station will be next Monday. She made the announcement via a heartfelt Facebook post.

“Thanksgiving is just a couple days away, and it has me thinking about everything that I am thankful for,” she wrote. “This year, I am thankful for you, Pittsburgh.”

Sykes wrote in the Facebook post that she decided “to not accept another contract” with WTAE, a choice she expanded upon a bit in a statement to the Post-Gazette.

“It wasn’t an easy decision and



WTAE-TV
Katelyn Sykes is a native of Shaler and a graduate of West Virginia University.

one that I went back and forth on for a while,” she said. “Ultimately, it’s what’s best for me right now and I’m excited to see what lies ahead. I’m working on some stuff right now, just not ready to say what, but I will be staying in the Pittsburgh area.”

The Shaler native and West Virginia University graduate spent the past 6½ years reporting for WTAE after working in West Virginia and California. Outside of work, Sykes enjoys spending time with her daughter and is an avid runner who has participated in the Pittsburgh Half Marathon every year since 2013, according to her bio on Channel 4’s website.

She is the latest in a series of

SEE **SYKES**, PAGE C-2

Local books on dancing, storytelling, bikes and love

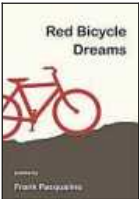
By Thandi Weaver
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Western Pennsylvania has many authors who have recently published books. Here is a sampling of them, along with information on the authors and where the books can be purchased. This feature appears occasionally in the Magazine section of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

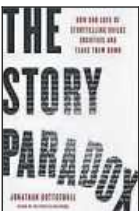
“**Down on James Street**” by Nicole McCandless with illustrator Byron Gramby is a children’s book based on a real event in 1930s Pittsburgh. Two teens, Dorothy and George, fight to reopen a North Side dance hall closed by police because it allowed Black and white people to dance together. McCandless, who lives in the South Hills, learned about the incident while studying at Carlow University and is a graduate (Hardball Press, \$12.50 at sparksbooksph.com).



“**Red Bicycle Dreams**” by Francesco Pasqualino is a collection of poems centered around the day-to-day experiences of a local writer and restaurateur. The owner of Pasqualino’s Italian Restaurant in Penn Hills writes about his own self-discovery during his travels locally and around the world on a mountain bike he received as a gift. The Fox Chapel resident has written for the Post-Gazette and other publications. He writes about his culinary interests in *Attenzione!* A Writer’s Journal on his restaurant’s website, www.pasqualinos.com (Main Street Rag Publishing Co., \$13 at mainstreetdragbookstore.com).



“**The Story Paradox: How Our Love of Storytelling Builds Societies and Tears Them Down**” by Jonathan Gottschall focuses on the scientific effect storytelling has on the human brain and how stories have changed the course of history. Featured in The New York Times, Gottschall is from Washington, Pa., and is a researcher in Washington & Jefferson College’s English department (Basic Books, \$28 at mysterylovers.com).



Gabriel Welsch’s “**Ground Scratchers**” is a collection of short stories focused on multiple characters and their experiences with secrets, love, discovery and more. Welsch is an author and vice president of marketing/communications for Duquesne University. He has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from Penn State University. (Tolsun Books, \$20 at bookshop.org).



Thandi Weaver is this fall’s City Charter High School intern at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. She can be reached at tweaver@post-gazette.com.

Symphony Splendor preview party

SEEN
KEVIN KIRKLAND

The Symphony Splendor Holiday House was, well, splendid, from Thursday through Sunday. The fun began Thursday night with the preview party at the 7,300-square-foot Shadyside home of Scott Cavanaugh and Ron Graham.

Over 100 people turned out to ogle 15 Christmas trees and 22 rooms decorated with thousands of twinkling lights and blown glass ornaments, the same ones hundreds of others saw on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the annual fundraiser for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

PSO musicians performed holiday music in various parts of the house during the tours. On Thursday night, PSO flutist Rhian



Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette
Homeowners Ron Graham, left, and Scott Cavanaugh at the Symphony Splendor preview party Thursday in Shadyside. More photos inside and at post-gazette.com.

Kenny and violinist Chris Wu played carols as well-dressed patrons lined the foyer and grand staircase like kids on Christmas morning, enjoying “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” and “What Child

Is This (Greensleeves).” The latter was in honor of Wu’s first grandchild.

The homeowners and organizers Cathy Trombetta and Jean Horne looked a little tired — “I was putting lights on the trees outside last night!” Graham admitted — but they still managed to raise everyone’s spirits with wine, sweet and savory bites, live and silent auctions and a holiday boutique on the mansion’s third floor. With the party and house tours, the Pittsburgh Symphony Association raised nearly \$50,000.

Celebrating the holidays were: Scott’s parents, Dennis and Sue Cavanaugh, Leslie Dunn, Dr. Verna Corey, Jim Cunningham, Diana Misetic, Chuck Snyder, Tonia Caruso, Kathy Slencak, Rachelle Havelka, Neill Stouffer, Bruce Harshman, Natalie Bradley, Barbara Ghilani, Maria Bradley and Leah and Joe DeNardo.

Cancer Bridges gala

SEEN
PATRICIA SHERIDAN

Guests made their way through Rivers Casino Friday night for the second annual **Cancer Bridges Light Up Gala**. Event co-chairs Laura Kronk and Denise Rost greeted the

272 guests before they honored this year’s awardees. “This is a really exciting evening aside from the gala,” said Rost. “It is the coming together of two former organizations, Our Clubhouse and Cancer Caring. We are now a brand-new organization called Cancer Bridges.”

After cocktails, execu-

tive director Dani Wilson welcomed everyone to the dining room for dinner, games and dancing to DJ Becky. Dr. Shannon Puhalla of UPMC Hillman Cancer spoke about the continuing efforts to fight cancer. Paul Cantalupo was presented with the Light Up Hope Award and Cindy and Ted Yates received the Light Up the Community Award. Cynthia and Albert Stanish received the Light Up Cancer Bridges Award.

The Light Up Pittsburgh Award went to Dr. Josie van Londen, who was unable attend.

Celebrating were board co-chair Jack Morrow with Cheryl Mantzouridis, associate director Rebecca Whitlinger, Teresa and Ron Bauer, Dr. Jeffrey and Ella Antimarino, Holly and Dr. Raymond Planinsic, Mary Ann Miller, Lisa and Brian Lurie, Kristene Fitzgerald, Josette and Brent Gephart and Christina O’Toole.



John Colombo for the Post-Gazette
Event co-chairs Laura Kronk, left, and Denise Rost at the Cancer Bridges Light up Gala on Friday at Rivers Casino. For video, go to post-gazette.com/life.