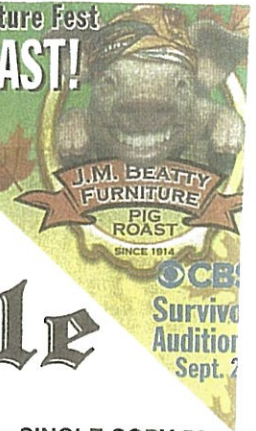




TERRIBLE BREAK

Pirates lose Jung Ho Kang for season with broken leg, torn MCL PAGE 7

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Butler



Eagle

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FIREFIGHTER SCHOLARSHIPS



Members of the first class of firefighter scholarship awardees at Butler County Community College are, from left, Michael Riley, Alysha Bricker, Samuel Stewart and Melisa Stoner. Missing from the photograph is Cole Campbell.

DAVE PRELOSKY/BUTLER EAGLE

5 students are 1st recipients

College presents each with \$1,000

By **Kate Malongowski**
Eagle Staff Writer

BUTLER TWP — Her mother says Alysha Bricker has wanted to be a firefighter ever since she could talk.

Now 19, Bricker is among the first five Butler County Community College students who have received the college's new firefighter \$1,000 scholarship. Those students were presented with certificates Thursday night at the Butler County Fire Chiefs Association meeting.

Bricker of Chicora has been volunteering at the Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department for four years.

She's now studying heating and air conditioning at the college, but that doesn't take away from her volunteer duties. She runs to fire calls and is secretary at the fire department.

For instance, last weekend, she went to two structure fires, and then had to go home afterward to study.

"You kind of have to adapt with balancing your time," Bricker said.

The scholarships were established thanks to the Cranberry Township Community Chest, which made the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters its project of the year in 2014.

Over a number of months, that group raised nearly \$400,000 from throughout the county, including more than \$260,000 to establish the scholarships.

"It's just a great opportunity for these kids, and they're from all over the county," said Kevin Boozel, president of the fire chiefs' association.

The other scholarship recipients are:

■ Melisa Stoner, 20, of the Oneida Valley Volunteer Fire Department

■ Samuel Stewart, 19, of the Portersville Volunteer Fire Department

■ Michael Riley, 19, of the Chicora Volunteer Fire Department

■ Cole Campbell, 20, of the Unionville Volunteer Fire Department

Riley of Chicora is studying engineering at BC3. His father, also Mike Riley, has been working at the Chicora Volunteer Fire Department.

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Scholarships

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partment for 35 years. His father is, secretary there, and was formerly the fire chief.

"Seeing my dad help people inspires me to help people," Riley said. "I just grew up with it, I guess."

He plans to transfer to Penn State Behrend next year to study plastics engineering.

Firefighting is also in Stoner's family. Her father, Ronald Stoner, is the fire chief at Oneida Valley Fire Department.

She's studying nursing at BC3 and hopes to transfer to a four-year school next year. She's on the active volunteers list, but doesn't currently go out to fire calls.

"It's a good opportunity," she said of the scholarship. "It helps me pursue my career in nursing."

Stewart of Portersville is studying biology at the college, and Campbell of Clay Township is studying welding.

"This is a small way of thanking them for their service," Michelle Jamieson, associate director of the BC3 Education Foundation, said of the scholarships.

BC3 is providing the \$1,000 scholarships for up to 12 students in the county who are volunteer firefighters or who are working to become firefighters.

Students can study any program at the college on a part- or full-time basis.

The endowed scholarship is renewable once for

a maximum of \$2,000 per person.

As of now, every eligible firefighter who applied has received the scholarship.

"It's going to take us time to get the information out there and let firefighters know this is available," Jamieson said.

The application process for the scholarship is open. Rather than applying in a window of time, firefighters can apply at any time.

Students can contact the BC3 foundation to learn more about the scholarship or to obtain an application for the spring semester.

Additional money from the project of the year effort also paid for two mobile fire training trailers that will be used to educate people about fire safety and to recruit volunteers.

One of these trailers is based at the college.

Happy 6th Birthday Stewie Barr



Love,
Dad, Mom and Bella