



GREENE COUNTY DAILIES

Beavercreek students win aviation scholarships

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Feature Writer

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Three Beavercreek young people who are interested in careers in aviation are this year's recipients of Dr. Lewis A. Jackson Aviation Scholarships. In a program Sunday afternoon at the Greene County-Dr. Lewis A. Jackson Regional Airport on Valley Rd., \$1500 Jackson Aviation Scholarships were awarded Ashley Nels and Justin Steele. A \$200 Introduction to Flight Jackson Aviation Scholarship was presented to Ken Norman.

The scholarships for flight training at Greene County airport are provided annually by the family of the late Dr. Lewis A. Jackson, a Tuskegee airman, for whom the airport is named.

Ashley, daughter of Al and Lorene Nels, 897 Winesap Dr., Beavercreek, and a junior at Beavercreek High School with a GPA of 3.5, was awarded a Private Pilot Scholarship. She's been on the honor roll all three years in high school and was given the Academic Excellence Award for High School Athletes. She attends Sinclair Community College four afternoons a week as part of the Post Secondary Education Option.

She has considerable aviation experience as her father Al Nels is an international champion hot air balloon pilot. Ashley was a primary support team member for the United States Hot Air Balloon Championships in Moteji, Japan, in 2006, and was crew chief for the U. S. National Balloon Championships in Waco, Texas, in 2007. She crewed for 2000, 2004 and 2006 hot air balloon championships.

Career options being considered are pilot, veterinarian, teacher and doctor.

Justin, son of Frank Steele, 42 Beacon Hill Dr. , received an Advanced Rating Jackson Scholarship. The college sophomore is currently enrolled in Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, majoring in professional aeronautics. In 2006, he graduated with honors from Beavercreek High School where he was captain of the varsity hockey team and played varsity football.

He earned his private pilot's license in 2007 and is currently working on an instrument rating, flying out of the Greene County-Lewis A. Jackson Regional Airport. His career goal is to become a commercial pilot.

Ken, son of Kenneth and Julie Norman, 2577 Hillsdale Dr., Beavercreek, is an eighth grader at Ferguson Middle School. He has achieved the Boy Scouts of America Life Scout rank and needs three merit badges to earn his Eagle rank. He holds the rank of Airman Basic in the Civilian Air Patrol. A member of the BFMS concert band, he was chosen one of three alto saxophonists in the OMEA district 12 Honors Jazz Band. He is a member of Forest Ridge Baptist church and active in the youth group. Ken hopes to become a military pilot.

Since 2001, 34 scholarships have been awarded by the family of Dr. and Mrs. (Violet) Jackson, both licensed pilots, to help area youth obtain training leading to careers in aviation. The memorial scholarships have been continued by Dr. Robert Jackson, Memphis, Tenn., and Mrs. Joyce Dixon, San Francisco since their parents' death.

The scholarships are administered by the Jackson Aviation Scholarship Committee under the auspices of Greene Giving (The Greene County Community Foundation).