

# 'Handyman' also is award winner

**W**hen Josh Quarrick received his check for \$250 from The Challenge Program Inc. in May, he used the extra cash to fulfill his lifelong dream of starting his own lawn mower, engine repair and welding business.

With the \$250, Josh was able to purchase three golf carts at \$60 each and one riding lawn mower, all of which were in poor condition.

Within days, Josh was able to completely restore all of the golf carts and the lawn mower. He then resold the newly renovated items for \$500 each.

to his uncle, whose mailbox had been vandalized several times in the past.

"The cool thing is, I made (the mailbox) look like his house to scale," Josh said.

Josh's business has flourished so much within the past year that he is currently self-employed, electing to work from his family's farm in Uniontown.

His success has allowed him to begin to

invest in farmland of his own and in the stock market.

Josh is a 2007 graduate of Laurel Highlands High School and Fayette County Vocational-Technical School, where he won The Challenge Program's Best G.P.A. Award his senior year.

*This article is part of a human interest series that will feature past recipients of The*

*Challenge Program's four award categories: Most Improved, Best G.P.A., Most Community Service, and Best Attendance. The Challenge Program is a nonprofit organization located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania that provides financial incentives to students for successes they achieve while still in high school. The Challenge Program also aims to provide a bridge between high school students and the local business community.*



THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM

**Kayla Washko**

From an early age, Josh expressed an interest in motors.

In elementary school, Josh was known by teachers and classmates as a "handyman"; he even carried a set of tools with him to school every day, causing him to have to obtain special permission to be able to go through the metal detectors there.

Outside of the classroom, Josh used his creativity and interest in motors to invent machines that make daily life a little easier. At age 8, Josh's parents bought him a bike for Christmas.

Because the Quarricks live on a farm with rough terrain, it was difficult for Josh to pedal his bike. That is, until he cleverly came up with the idea of attaching a weed-wacker engine to it, thus eliminating the need to pedal.

Josh Quarrick's business has flourished so much within the past year that he is currently self-employed, electing to work from his family's farm.

Another one of Josh's childhood inventions involved a spoon, a motor and one of his mother's cooking pots. Josh installed a motor in the pot so that when the pot was plugged in, a large spoon would begin to turn in it.

"That way, my mother didn't have to stand and stir anymore," Josh said.

Recently, Josh has begun designing indestructible steel mailboxes.

The first of these mailboxes was given

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