

# Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

A DIRECT RESULTS COMPANY

IN THIS EDITION

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Insert

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Graduation/Education



JUNE 2026

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## THE GREENESCENE WELCOMES NEW ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Sandy Wilson, a local business and hospitality leader with more than 30 years of experience spanning sales, operations, and event management has accepted the position of Advertising Sales Manager for the GreeneScene.

In her new role, she will be partnering with local businesses to develop effective advertising and promotion strategies that strengthen visibility across the region.

Sandy previously served as business manager for Producers Supply Company/Venturi Supply Energy Segment, where she directed end-to-end accounts payable and receivable operations for nine branches and led an administrative team supporting day-to-day branch performance.

She collaborated closely with operations and sales leaders on pricing, billing, order flow, credit, and customer service, while ensuring compliance with customer and vendor requirements.

Earlier in her career, Sandy spent more than two decades with Hospitality Ventures Management Group in progressive leadership roles, including area director of sales, director of sales, director of catering, and catering manager.

She led multi-property sales and marketing efforts and planned and executed events of up to 500 guests, overseeing large banquet operations and delivering service-focused experiences.

Active in the community, Sandy served on the Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency board and previously served as its president and vice president. She has also served on the Greene County Chamber of Commerce board.

She is a volunteer for The Way Community Center, assisting in promoting and planning fundraising events. Known for her collaborative approach and results-driven mindset, Sandy combines deep experience in advertising, operations, and hospitality to help organizations connect with their audiences and deliver memorable experiences.

She takes pride in supporting the local business community and continues to look for new ways to strengthen local partnerships through strategic promotion and community involvement.



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# TOWNE SQUARE



## FROM CARMICHAELS TO ROGERSVILLE: AMERICA'S 250TH BEGINS AT HOME

Small town celebrations of the 250th Anniversary of America carry a significance that goes far beyond parades, fireworks, and commemorative speeches. As the United States approaches this historic milestone, communities across the nation have an opportunity to reflect on the country's founding ideals while strengthening local identity, civic pride, and social connection.

In small towns especially, these celebrations can become deeply meaningful expressions of American democracy because they are rooted in personal relationships, local traditions, and shared history. In fact, small communities, like ours, may ultimately give the anniversary its most authentic and lasting meaning.

**The Revolution did not begin solely in major cities or among famous national figures. It depended on farmers, tradespeople, clergy, teachers, and local militias who gathered in town squares, churches, taverns, and meeting halls to debate ideas about liberty and self-government.**

In many ways, small towns represent the original foundation of American civic life. Celebrating the 250th Anniversary in communities such as Carmichaels, Greensboro, Jefferson, and Rogersville reconnects modern Americans to that grassroots spirit. It reminds citizens that democracy is really shaped in borough buildings, volunteer fire halls, churches, and libraries where neighbors still gather face to face.

The upcoming anniversary also invites Americans to look back at earlier national commemorations and the role small towns played in them. During the Centennial celebration of 1876, communities across the country held patriotic festivals, military parades, church services, and public readings of the Declaration of Independence. The nation was still healing from the Civil War, and the Centennial became a way to reaffirm national unity.

Even isolated rural communities found ways to participate, often decorating town centers with flags and bunting while local bands performed patriotic music. For many Americans in the nineteenth century, these celebrations represented hope that the country could move forward together after years of division and bloodshed.

A century later came the Bicentennial of 1976, an event that remains vivid in the memories of millions of Americans who are still alive today. Anyone who was a child, teenager, or young adult in 1976 is now old enough to share firsthand stories with younger generations. People remember the red, white, and blue decorations that covered Main Streets, the Liberty Bell-themed memorabilia, the tall ships in harbors, school pageants, and fireworks displays that seemed larger than life.

That living memory gives the 250th Anniversary special emotional importance. Unlike the Centennial, which has passed entirely into history, the Bicentennial still survives in family photographs, scrapbooks, home movies, and personal stories. Grandparents can tell grandchildren about dressing in colonial costumes at school, marching in local parades, or watching fireworks on a humid July evening in 1976. The 250th Anniversary creates a rare bridge between generations.

Small town celebrations are especially important because they create opportunities

for civic education. National anniversaries encourage reflection on history, but local events make that history personal and accessible. Many small towns have deep connections to military service, coal mining, agriculture, railroads, or immigration that deserve recognition. Through exhibits, oral histories, and educational programs, communities can preserve stories that might otherwise disappear.

**These celebrations also strengthen community unity at a time when many Americans feel politically and socially divided.** National political debates often dominate modern life, leaving citizens feeling disconnected from one another. Local anniversary events can provide common ground. People of different backgrounds and viewpoints can gather for concerts, festivals, and volunteer activities centered on a shared appreciation for community and country. In smaller communities, where residents often know one another personally, these events can reinforce bonds that transcend politics.

Volunteerism will also likely play a major role in these local observances. Small towns often rely heavily on volunteers to organize festivals, maintain public spaces, and support civic organizations. Residents working together toward a common goal builds trust and strengthens the social fabric of the community. Young people who volunteer for anniversary projects may develop a greater sense of civic responsibility and pride in their hometowns.

**The symbolism of local celebrations should not be underestimated.** A flag raised in front of a borough building, a choir singing patriotic songs, or a memorial ceremony honoring local veterans can carry profound emotional power because participants feel personally connected to the place and to each other. These moments create memories that families pass down through generations.

Ultimately, the importance of small-town celebrations of America's 250th Anniversary lies in their authenticity. Large national events may attract headlines and television audiences, but local gatherings are where patriotism becomes personal and history becomes meaningful. They preserve local heritage, encourage civic participation, and remind Americans that democracy begins in communities where people know one another and work together.

**As the nation marks a quarter millennium of independence, small towns may provide the clearest example of what America has always been at its best: neighbors gathering in shared purpose, honoring the past while building hope for the future.**

The GreeneScene welcomes its readers to share their opinions on civic, economic, or cultural issues in Town Square Thoughts. All submissions must be respectful and constructive points of view aimed at improving our area. Please send Thoughts to [bret@directresults.us](mailto:bret@directresults.us) *We reserve the right to edit submissions for grammar, length and clarity.*

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## MAY PERSON, PLACE OR THING ANSWER



Wayne Lumber & Supply has a history that reflects both family ownership and the broader development of small-town lumber businesses in southwestern Pennsylvania. The company traces its roots to the mid-20th century, when members of the Headlee family established the business shortly after World War II. In 1947, brothers Shirl and Kenneth Headlee founded the lumberyard in West Waynesburg, starting modestly in an old feed store with enough capital to purchase a single railroad car of lumber.

During the 1950s, the business expanded steadily. A larger store was constructed in 1951, and additional storage buildings were added as demand for building materials increased during the postwar housing boom. Lumber shipments often arrived by rail, requiring significant manual labor to unload and manage inventory.

Over the decades, Wayne Lumber remained a family-run operation, becoming a well-known local supplier for contractors and homeowners. The Headlee family owned and operated the business for more than 60 years, maintaining its reputation for personalized service.

In 2018, ownership transitioned to Ryan and Greta Mooney, marking a new chapter while preserving its community-focused identity and long-standing traditions.

# PERSON PLACE OR THING

SCAN TO ENTER!



**Hint:**

*Upon the dome a watchful figure stands,  
Above the town where justice keeps its throne;  
He guards the square and all the weathered lands,  
Though flesh and blood long since to dust have flown.*

*A patriot once he marched through smoke and flame,  
With steadfast heart beside his nation's sire;  
We bear with honor still his name,  
And lift his likeness ever climbing higher.*

*Though time decayed the form that once was raised,  
And age did wear the ancient wood away,  
The people kept his memory well praised,  
Restored anew to greet the light of day.*

*So who is he that crowns the downtown sky,  
Whose silent gaze lets history never die?*

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**FOR MORE INFO, CALL DAWN MANKEY 724-833-1355 OR EMAIL DAWN@THEWAYGC.ORG**

# Good NEWS

In Greene County

## 2026 Little Miss Firecracker Pageant

The Little Miss Firecracker Pageant sponsored by the Waynesburg Lions Club will be held on Saturday, July 4, at the Waynesburg Lions Club Park Stage at 6:30 pm.

**The pageant is a noncompetitive event for girls ages 5-8** (as of July 4). The girls will appear in patriotic attire while being interviewed on stage.

Little Miss Firecracker is determined by a random drawing. The winner will receive a crown, trophy and bouquet. Each contestant receives a participation medal and gifts.

The contestants will rehearse on Friday, July 3 at 6:00 pm at the Waynesburg Lions Club Park on the stage of the amphitheater.

**Applications are available** from Lion Eleanor Chapman, 1 Northwoods, Waynesburg, PA 15370- please call 724-627-5284 before June 1, to get an application.



*Pictured are the 2025 contestants. Last year's Little Miss Firecracker Adeline Jetten, daughter of Mike and Mabel Jetten, will crown this year's winner.*

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The legendary Jacktown Fair will be held July 14th through July 18th celebrating 161 years. The week will begin with a worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 12th and Queen and Princess Competition at 7:00 p.m. that evening at the Fairgrounds. The Fair is sponsored by the Richhill Agricultural Society originally named The Richhill Agricultural, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Association in its charter formed July 6, 1866. The first Jacksonville Fair (as it was initially named) occurred on October 3rd and 4th of that same year. The Fair will kick off with the Parade to be held Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Wind Ridge.

The Board of Directors has not yet selected the Grand Marshal for the parade. The parade will feature the reigning 2025 Miss Jacktown Fair Queen, Madison Burns. Madison is the 17-year-old daughter of Andrew and Alisa Burns of Wind Ridge. Also featured will be the 2026 Jacktown Fair Princess who will be crowned July 12th, and the contestants vying to be this year's Fair Queen. In addition, State and local dignitaries will be invited to participate in this year's parade.

The parade will have two float contests: the Mini Float Contest—entries in this category will receive prizes of \$40, \$30, \$20, and \$10. This is to be a float constructed on a child's wagon, a wheelbarrow, garden cart, small cart, etc. It can be hand pulled, pulled by a lawn size tractor or other vehicle. This contest will be in addition to our normal Float Contest for which winning entries will receive \$100, \$75, \$50, and \$25. Both float contests will utilize this year's fair theme "Celebrating 250 Years of Freedom, Family & PA Fairs 1776-2026!" Float entries will be judged on their attractiveness, design, workmanship, use of the theme, originality and other elements. Anyone desiring to enter a float or entry corresponding to this year's theme is encouraged to do so.

The Jacktown Fair Board would like to invite all interested bands, businesses, churches, fire companies, groups, organizations and individuals to participate in the parade. We are also interested in having antique and classic cars, clowns, fire equipment, horses, regional/ local Queens and Princesses, etc. in the parade.

It is imperative that those wishing to enter the parade contact Ms. Sonneborn as soon as possible. Your date of entry will be taken into consideration when forming the parade line.

**Parade Entries: For entry and information about the Jacktown Fair Parade, call Marcia Sonneborn at 724-428-4344, or text at 724-747-4631 or email: marciasonne@windstream.net**



### The Mail Carrier, The Mechanic and The Machine

*Jeanne Williams of New Freeport recently retired as a Rural Mail Carrier for USPS on the Glen Easton, WV route. She is pictured here with her 2011 Kia Sorento. Also in the photo is mechanic David Coffield of B and D Auto in New Freeport. According to Jeanne, Dave's expertise kept her workhorse vehicle running for an amazing 410,614 miles.*

## The WAY 5K Draws Over 70 Participants: Raises Funds for Community Center

On May 2, more than 70 runners, walkers and ruckers participated in the inaugural WAY 5K. Organizers plan to make the event an annual spring fundraiser benefiting The WAY Community Center.

**Ella Courtwright and Logan Shields**, members of the West Greene National Honor Society, coordinated the Chinese auction. With support from local businesses, more than 25 themed baskets were donated, raising additional funds for the event.

The 5K committee included **Sandy Wilson, Matt Brandstretter, Julia Ann Smith, Beth Hinerman, Melissa St. Giles and Dawn Mankey**. Volunteers **Pam Marisa, Seth Wilson and Jay Buckhulter** also assisted on race day.

The WAY is a faith-based nonprofit organization in Waynesburg that serves individuals and families through community programs, outreach initiatives and events designed to promote connection, wellness and positive impact throughout the region.

The Event Sponsors were **Direct Results, Fox Ford, JD Enterprises, DT Midstream, Waynesburg Bible Chapel, Fairall Church, Hoy Construction Co. Inc., and Fierce Beauty Studio**.



*The event included a successful pet walk.*

## Robert Kelley Celebrates 95th Birthday

On Sunday, May 3, Robert V. Kelley, lifelong Waynesburg resident and a **Navy veteran of the Korean Conflict**, celebrated his 95th birthday with family and friends. Bob grew up in "Dotysburg," the neighborhood that lies roughly between the Sugar Run Road and CVS Pharmacy. He fondly remembers walking home from the "Opera House" movie theater, learning to swim and fish in Ten Mile Creek, and heading home for lunch from the old high school (MBM) via the train tracks.

Bob still enjoys tinkering and repairing items, especially anything mechanical. He even used to equip friends' bikes with small motors for old-school-style e-bikes! He delivered newspapers with the help of his trusty dog Flash, and he and his friends helped out his grandmother by disposing of her slightly burned cookies.

Robert loves to read, and you can frequently find him listening to historical audiobooks, wielding tools on various projects, working outdoors when the weather cooperates, and relaxing on the porch with his furry friend, KitKat. He's supported various local social and veteran organizations, being an invaluable supporter of the Greene County Veterans Park Memorial near the Historical Society, and Cornerstone Genealogy.

Bob's daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren gathered with relatives, friends and neighbors to celebrate and wish Bob a happy birthday. If you see him, wish him a belated happy birthday!



*Robert Kelley with his daughters Melissa Loizes, Rebecca Martinak, and Laurel Kenna*

# SEASON 2026 DRAG RACING

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## RC CAR RACING

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The Flashlight Drags wish to thank the Greene County Board of Commissioners, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Waynesburg VFD for their continued support.

# Cool at School:

## CULINARY ARTS: AN ALL-YOU-CAN-SEE BUFFET!

By Kol Ford (GCCTC Senior Student)

When it comes to looking at a culinary class from an outside perspective, it may be easy to make assumptions. Do the students usually stay in their own kitchen? Well, to answer your question, no! Here at the Greene County Career and Technical Center, we're always on the move and finding new ways to learn.

A prime example of this was our recent trip to the **NFL Draft in Pittsburgh**. Eight students from our program traveled to the Tower at PNC Plaza, where they worked alongside top-tier chefs from a variety of restaurants to help serve guests. It was an exciting, fast-paced environment that gave students a real taste of the industry.



As **Allison Walls**, a culinary arts student, shared, "It was really nice to see the NFL players in person, and it was nice to see the crowd from where I was located."

Another key moment came from an appreciative **Landen Sanner**, one of the students who worked the event. When asked about his experience, he said, "It was a fun experience, and it was re-

ally cool to work with a two-time competitor and **past winner of Hell's Kitchen, Ariel.**"

This opportunity was made possible by sponsoring organizations such as the National Dairy Association and GenYOUth. The latter group also brought an important mission to the event by raising funds to help tackle food insecurity across the region. Thanks to the success of the draft, meaningful progress was made toward that goal.

Overall, most of us were pretty "cheesed" with how things turned out. Of course, if your favorite team didn't have the best draft day...then things might be a tad spoiled.

But this was only the tip of the iceberg. Or, as our students might say, the "tip of the ice-block." That's a nod to another hands-on experience our class had during a visit to **Mastro Ice**. The company welcomed students for a behind-the-scenes tour, giving everyone a chance to explore their arctic workspace and even try their hand at ice carving.

In March, Joe and Mike Mastro guided students through the process, teaching them about production, storage, carv-



ing techniques, and shipping. Students got to experience the process firsthand. Student **Josh Ross** explained, "Carving the ice was a smooth experience as a result of the ice's texture." **Kylee Yost** added that "it was chilling, but good," noting that there were "plenty of tools and methods used, and a lot was learned."

In addition, past visits to sites such as the Gordon Food Service warehouse help our students continue to explore everything the culinary world has to offer. We make sure to take advantage of every opportunity, because real learning happens beyond the classroom.

At Greene County CTC, culinary arts is not just about cooking. It is about experience, exploration, and stepping outside of the kitchen to learn in real world experiences. Just like a ripened fruit, we always make sure to pick our opportunities and place them in our educational baskets.





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July 7 - Helicopter Collective, Sponsored by Community Bank

July 21 - The Projects, Sponsored by Ross Tractor Sales

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# Cool at School:

## GENO LEVI SALON HELPS STARS STUDENTS SHINE

By Megan Tilger  
McGuffey Middle/High School Life Skills Teacher  
McFriends Club Advisor



For many high school students, prom is a milestone filled with excitement and unforgettable memories. For the students participating in the STARS Prom, that experience became even more meaningful thanks to the generosity and kindness of Geno Levi Salon.

This year, the stylists at Geno Levi Salon donated their time and services to help the McGuffey Middle/High School Life Skills students prepare for their special day by styling their hair and making them feel celebrated. This boosted their confidence, created smiles, and reminded our students just how special they are.

The purpose of the STARS Prom is to provide students in Life Skills and Autistic Support programs with a prom experience designed to meet their needs while allowing them to have as much fun as possible. The event creates an environment where these students can be supported and comfortable.

The STARS Prom serves students from numerous school districts across the region. Community partners, like Geno Levi Salon, play a vital role in making the day extraordinary.

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## Cool at School:

# PIONEERS HOLD ACADEMIC BANQUET

By Aubrey Lesnett

To celebrate all the academic achievements made by their students, West Greene High School holds their annual Academic Banquet towards the end of the school year, with their National Honor Society chapter organizing the event. Families, faculty members, and students gather to recognize the hard work and dedication that students display throughout the academic year. The banquet serves as one of the school's annual traditions dedicated to celebrating academic excellence and student achievement.

West Greene's NHS chapter is sponsored by Mrs. Melissa Ullom, who is approaching her 20<sup>th</sup> year of English education in the school district, all while recently becoming the high school librarian. Throughout her time at West Greene, Ullom has played an important role in the academic success of many students, both inside and outside of the classroom, me being one of them. She makes her classroom feel like a second home to her students, making sure that they feel heard both academically and just as a person, making her more than qualified to sponsor the schools' NHS chapter.

To begin the banquet, Superintendent Eric Gaydos gave his opening remarks on how well the school year went for the district academically, making it very clear how proud he was of the hard work that students and educators put in during the year. The opening remarks were followed by a dinner that preceded the awards ceremony.

During the awards ceremony, students were recognized by the Challenge Program with a certificate and check in the following categories: Attendance, STEM, Community Service, Academic Improvement, and Academic Excellence. Additional awards that were distributed include the President's Award for Educational Excellence, American Citizenship Awards, and AP Capstone Awards.

Before it was time to distribute scholarships to members of the senior class, there was one more award that the district needed to recognize: Educator of the Year. This year's recipient of the honorable award was Mr. Jeffery Polander, who spent many years teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade science, as well as 6<sup>th</sup> grade English. Polander left a profound mark on many students during his tenure in the district. Year after year, Polander invested a lot of his own time and effort into organizing a trip to Gettysburg for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class, as well as serving his community as much as he could, all while being an exceptional educator.

Many senior students left the banquet with a little more money than they came with, as the hardworking group had many students being awarded scholarships for their impressive academics, their commitment to community service, and the grit that they display in athletics. These scholarships were distributed by several local businesses, organizations, and families to support graduating seniors as they prepare for college and future careers. The awards highlighted the strong support system that exists within the West Greene community.

As the banquet ended, students left with not only awards and scholarships, but also recognition for the countless hours of hard work they put into the school year. The evening served as a reminder of the strong academic community at West Greene and the educators who continue to support student success year after year.



## Cool at School:

# DIAMOND LIGHTS & SHINING NIGHTS

By Emma Bates

It's not spring until you hear the familiar echo of a ball coming into contact with a bat traveling across campus on a sunny day. For the members of Carmichaels' varsity baseball and softball teams, this sound—and the many other memories and accomplishments made on the field—has defined high school and carried this year's seniors through thick and thin together.

The Lady Mikes Softball team will be saying goodbye to some key members at the conclusion of this season. **Seniors Bailey Barnyak, Carys McConnell, and Payton Plavi** have served as indelible players, not only as their own individual entities, but through their trademark unity and rapport with one another and their team.

What's been most special for these three over the years hasn't just been playing softball, but playing it together. "I believe trust is built by having faith in your team, believing they can make the close plays, and building trust as it goes...I always trust Carys [because] we honestly click well together on the left side together for those close plays," shares left fielder Plavi. Shortstop McConnell and Barnyak, pitcher for the Lady Mikes, share in their team's excitement as they prepare to take on their first round in the WPIAL playoffs.

Just down the hill, you'll find the varsity baseball team playing hard eight days a week. The 2026 season also finds the boys with three seniors and long-time friends having to say goodbye at the conclusion of the year.

**Cooper Richards** speaks for the team when he explains just how fast the game can feel when they are out on the field. "Some people will say that a certain play was really smart, but honestly I'm just thinking about how to get the ball back out there," he says. When asked his thoughts of the last playoff game experience, **Cannon Bupka**, who joined the team for his senior year, jokingly says that he hopes that game won't really be the Mikes' last for the season. It is this banter, both on and off the field, that creates the atmosphere that senior catcher **Brayden Andrews**, along with Richards, Bupka, and the rest of the team have cultivated this year.

And it's been quite a year, with the baseball team advancing to the second round of the WPIAL playoffs after their 7-4 victory against Sewickley Academy. But it isn't just these wins that score points for the Mikes—it's the lessons learned and the memories shared along the way. Hopefully, these are the moments that shine the brightest.





## History Comes to Life at Jefferson Morgan Elementary School: A Night of Icons and Innovation



**Ava Lagaza**  
as Alice Cogswell



**Briella Yanak**  
as Eva Hart



**Mackenzie Feathers**  
as Chloe Primerano



**Giada Buday**  
as Jane Goodall



**Levi Noce**  
as J.J. Watt



**Charles Pogue**  
as Theodore Roosevelt



**Ariana Carter**  
as Betsy Ross



**Esther Kniha**  
as Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton



**Ava Sworden**  
as Sacajawea



**Emilee Crockard**  
as Juliet Gordon Low



The halls of Jefferson-Morgan Elementary were transformed into a living timeline recently as the GATE program hosted its first annual Student Wax Museum. The event, led by teachers Ms. Kelly Keruskin and Mrs. Courtney Ignaski, saw months of rigorous research and creative preparation culminate in a showcase of history, creativity, and community spirit.

From the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss to the legendary stage of Dolly Parton, students stepped into the shoes of a wide array of icons. The museum featured a stunning lineup including Lady Liberty, Betsy Ross, Sacajawea, and Elizabeth Hamilton, alongside a variety of sports legends and the inventor of Lego. Visitors were treated to a diverse range of history, meeting "Storm Chaser" Reed Timmer, Hollywood inventor Hedy Lamarr, primatologist Jane Goodall, and Alice Cogswell, a pioneer in the history of deaf education. Whether it was the trailblazing spirit of Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low, the mystery of Enola Holmes, or the gravity of Titanic survivors and U.S. Presidents, the students portrayed their figures with a level of detail that left visitors "bursting with pride." However, the academic success was only half the story; the evening was also a testament to the power of community partnership.

### A Titanic Achievement

The centerpiece of this year's museum was a monumental engineering feat: a massive, student-built replica of the Titanic. This project was made possible through the incredible generosity of Pam and Kent Marisa, whose ongoing support of the GATE program continues to provide students with high-impact, hands-on learning opportunities.

The build was a true "bridge" between schools, as Mrs. Pierce's High School students mentored the younger GATE students through the complex construction process. To ensure this masterpiece remains a part of the school's legacy, local benefactor David Best contributed a custom display case to preserve the model for years to come.

### Beyond the Costumes

While the costumes and displays were stunning, the true magic of the night was found in the students' interactions.

"It was truly amazing seeing all of the kids share and thrive," noted Mrs. Ignaski. "My favorite part was watching the students visit the exhibits of their peers," said Ms. Keruskin. "Seeing them explore history with such genuine curiosity and being so supportive of one another's hard work was truly special. They weren't just students; they were each other's biggest fans."

The event "took a village" to execute, with help ranging from the JM-PTO and parent volunteers to the beloved "popcorn lady," Rebecca Walker, and even a surprise appearance by the Loring Family as the "Roving GATE Gators."

As the "wax" figures eventually came back to life and the costumes were tucked away, the message of the night remained clear: when a community invests in its students, history doesn't just stay in the books—it comes to life.



**Naomi Brandstetter**  
as Florence Griffith Joyner



**Penelope Bebee**  
as Shawn Johnson East



**Tessa Morgan**  
as Paige Buckers



**Lily Hritz**  
as Enola Holmes



**Joelle Katruska** as Theodore Geisel/  
Dr. Seuss/Cat in the Hat



**Marklee Beal**  
as Dolly Parton



**Camden Rinehart**  
as Ole Kirk Christiansen



**Josh Renner**  
as Reed Timmer



**Stella Dikun**  
as Hedy Lamarr



**Adam Keys**  
as George Washington



**Addison Lagaza**  
as Lady Liberty

# GREENE COUNTY CTC DEPLOYS ITS NEW JUNIOR ROTC PROGRAM

Recently Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Patric Patterson is excited about the next phase of his life. “I can’t think of a better job than running a program like this.”

In January, all five Greene County schools became part of a Junior ROTC Program that has been a tremendous success so far. Patterson, who retired last September, explained, “We don’t push students into the military. I just truly believe in the program and its ability to shape leadership and organizational skills in young people.”

Patterson is originally from Newcomerstown, Ohio – an area very similar to Greene County demographically and economically. “I believe I understand the needs of these kids and the challenges they face.”

Although the students in the program have no military commitment, 80% of those enrolled do plan to enlist. If they do so, there are definite advantages. Those with at least two years in the program will begin their Army service at a higher pay grade (E-2). Those with three years will start as a Private First Class. (There are similar rank privileges that apply to the other service branches as well)

There are currently 14 cadets enlisted in the program. Jefferson-Morgan has eight enrolled, Central Greene has three, Carmichaels has two, and West Greene has one. The students from JM were previously enrolled in a similar program in a co-op with Albert Gallatin. According to Patterson, “Those kids came in very well-prepared and helped the program hit the ground running.”

The entire program is built on a four-year Leadership Education Training (LET) system of levels. However, students can

join at any time. Patterson feels the benefits are applicable to all students who wish to improve their discipline and communication skills.

The cadets attend the CTC in the afternoon for a two-and-a-half-hour block schedule that equals three elective credits. The curriculum includes skills such as Leadership Training (rank structure & communication); Drill & Ceremony (marching and formations); Physical Fitness exercise (not a boot camp); as well as instruction in military knowledge, team building, citizenship and ethics.

The students are also currently working with the local group Together with Veterans. They serve as guides and work the group’s monthly coffee klatches. “The goal is to get them to meet and talk to veteran’s who may be able to give them advice on their future plans.” Patterson also hopes to build relationships within that group to include those men and women to help with activities or lectures.

Other plans for the group possibly include field trips to some of the historic military sites in our area and region. Sites on wish list include Gettysburg and the 9/11 Memorial.

Three seniors are about to graduate from the program. One will be joining the Army, one will be joining the Navy, and the third will be attending Waynesburg University. (He is undecided about continuing in their ROTC program)

Regardless, Patterson feels the discipline and skills learned in the program will benefit all his students no matter what career path they choose. “I have seen tremendous growth in all these



*The cadets planned and ran a recruiting event at Jefferson Morgan High School in March 2026.*

kids in just the short time we’ve been working together.”

No doubt such a program would look good on a college application or job resume; however, the program is more than that. According to West Greene junior Bailey Carroll, “I joined the Army JROTC for the experience and to help me join the military. I like how we all support each other and it’s all about teamwork.”

Those parents and students who are interested should remember there is no binding military or school commitment. The program is NOT a boot camp, but there will be physical exercise. Those interested should contact their school counselor.

## THE LEARNING NEVER STOPS

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The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School



# A SALUTE TO OUR STUDENTS

By Emma Bates



Greene County CTC's JROTC cadets and honored enlistees (Pictured L-R): Nickolas Robinson, Cayden Hauge, Brandon Remington, Landon Heath, Cole Knight, Austin Phillips, Ealyn Klaner, and Colton Manning.

“As we gather together as a community, it is a privilege to honor these young men.” So began Violet Lawless, event Co-chair of the 2026 Shield of Honor Pledge Ceremony held May 8 at “The Way” Community Center in Waynesburg. This event was held to honor the commitments of five Greene County students as they declared their enlistment status in the United States Military.

Honored Enlistees included, **Landon Heath**, enlisted in the U.S. Navy and **Cole Knight**, enlisted in the U.S. Army, both of which are from Jefferson-Morgan, as well as **Tyler Scott** of Mapletown and **Charles Stoneking** of West Greene, both of whom have enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and **Chase Morris** of West Greene who is enlisted in the U.S. National Guard.

Among the supporters of these five enlistees were their fellow JROTC program cadets. **The Greene County JROTC program is special because it is the first of its kind in the nation to be based out of a Career and Technology Center.** This remarkable first places Greene County on a national stage as we provide exposure to and training in vital skills for future military enlistees in the region.

The commitment of these five young men, and the other, younger JROTC cadets, to serve their country is even more important now than ever, according to some recent statistics.

After hearing from retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel and former Greene County Commissioner Mike Belding, listeners learned that only 23% of American youth are even eligible to serve in any branch of the military. About 7% of our country's population is made up of veterans, and— perhaps even more shockingly— only 1% actively serve. “Your choice to join the United States Military,” he states, “makes you part of a special group.”

Among those students, all are considering and actively working towards their own enlistment in one of the branches of the U.S. Military. Many of them shared their own JROTC story prior to the event.

**Austin Phillips**, a Carmichaels Area High School junior shares that he joined the program this year after seeking some heavenly guidance: “I prayed, Lord, where is my future?” His next steps ended up being taken in a polished pair of JROTC uniform shoes.

**Brandon Remington**, another supportive cadet from Jefferson-Morgan High School explained that the JROTC program has made him— and his fellow cadets— better people. Cole Knight, one of JM's honored enlistees, continued that the program “aligned with his goals.”

“In theory,” Col. Belding elaborates, “We join military organizations to protect our freedoms, we pledge allegiance to the flag, and swear to support and defend the constitution of the United States of America.” But it is in the moments of chaos and disaster, that Belding says every service member begins instead fighting for “the soldier, Marine, sailor, airman, Coastguardsman, or Space Force Guardian,” to their left or right.

Our community pays homage to these future servicemen from our county schools, saluting them for “their entrance into a 250-year tradition of defense against all enemies foreign and domestic.” Our hats are off to you.

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# A SMALL-TOWN CANCER JOURNEY: PART TWO

By Brittany Groover

*This is Part 2 of a contribution from one of our readers. In Part 1, Brittany Groover shared her journey as a cancer survivor. She movingly recounted her treatment for Stage 3 melanoma and emphasized the importance of having the correct healthcare system in place for proper diagnosis and treatment. This second half of the narrative details her life as a patient advocate.*

## Advocacy

**Now I am on the other side. I have done the research. I have learned the language. I have learned how to find trustworthy information and how to fight misinformation online. I have learned how to help other cancer warriors find their footing in a world that feels impossible to navigate at first. I share my story on social media as the creator behind @beingbrittanny, and it's opened doors I never imagined — rooms with lawmakers, conversations with cancer research-**



**ers, and connections with fellow cancer patients and advocates around the world.**

We have been dubbed the “melahomies.” Our collective spans from Katie O. in Arizona to Michelle in Australia to Jen in Minnesota to myself here in Pennsylvania. In fact, there are hundreds, if not thousands, more. What started online has become real-life friendship and collective action in our nation’s capital and beyond. We trade ideas and progress from Australia and Europe because, **when it comes to skin cancer prevention and sunscreen policy, the United States is sadly about three decades behind.** We’re working hard to change that and expand access to safe, effective prevention for everyone.

As recently as March, I was in Washington, D.C., on Capitol Hill with the Melanoma Research Foundation. We were in the office of our District 14 congressman, Guy Reschenthaler, asking for his help to keep \$40 million in funding for melanoma research in the nation’s budget.

This funding has remained consistent for the last several years, and we want to keep it there. I am constantly in contact with his office to stress the importance of funding the FDA, NIH, and NCI so research can continue to save lives like mine.

The drug I was given in 2021, Keytruda, was FDA approved less than two years before my diagnosis. It had just finished clinical trials and research status while the melanoma was still growing on my body. By the time I was diagnosed, it was FDA approved and ready for me to access and save my life. We need more of that. Stories like mine, shared with our grassroots lawmakers, are what make change possible.

I was selected out of hundreds of applicants as one of only 30 people to represent the Melanoma and AYA cancer community at the **FDA GRASP Cancer Workshop**. This was a full day inside the FDA with 29 other cancer patients of all ages, races, genders, and cancer types from around the nation. I spoke with researchers who work on clinical trials and told them my story. I heard about their day-to-day work, and I added my patient perspective to help them understand the difference between what they think patients want and what we actually need.

For example, the **MCED Act** and the **Nancy Sewell Early Cancer Detection Screening Act**, which I have been working on with the American Cancer Society Cancer support a test called **ctDNA**. It is a blood test that can catch cancer earlier than ever before. FDA researchers raised concerns about releasing this test to the public. Why tell people they have cancer so early if we can’t treat it yet?

My counterpoint was: if we can diagnose cancer earlier, we can change how we approach it. We will have to learn to live with the stress of having cancer, but we already do that. Instead of being thrown into a car crash and learning what happened afterward, we can use that crucial time to sit down and let doctors teach us about our cancer from the beginning.

I caught mine at Stage 3. When you catch something late,



you miss multiple chapters of information — it’s like opening a book in the middle, reading to the end, and then trying to comprehend the beginning. It doesn’t make sense the way we do it now.

## Why There Is No Finish Line

**I speak up for patients like me — people who see small-town doctors and don’t have easy access to big hospitals.** I stand up for folks who aren’t given medical information in plain language, for people who struggle to understand complex words because of mental health challenges, limited schooling, or simply because they just don’t comprehend it. Many are hard workers who fix cars, build houses, and keep our communities running. We don’t always know medical terms, and that’s okay.

When doctors use big words, we can get lost and scared. We might nod along, but we don’t really understand what they mean. My job is to take those words and make them simple. I explain things in a way regular small-town people can follow so care feels less frightening. I want patients to leave appointments knowing what’s happening, what to expect, and what to ask next. I hope this piece does that for you.

**That is why I call it a journey. There is no end.** I still live with side effects from treatment every day. Those effects are part of me now. They are woven into who I am. They are the reason I speak up. They are the reason I fight for other patients the way I wish someone had fought for me.

There is no finish line. There is only the next step, and then the next, and then the next. **Somehow, through all of it, you become more caring and more grounded. Not because cancer is a gift — it is not — but because surviving it makes you see the world differently.** It makes you see yourself differently.

This is my life now. I keep walking through it, one day at a time.

## BRIDLED FAITH: LEARNING LEADERSHIP AND LOVE AT HIS BARN

By Jillian Butela

**H**is Barn began in Indian Land, South Carolina; however, it is rooted in southwestern Pennsylvania.

I grew up in Connellsville as a horse crazy kid who couldn't afford lessons. A week of horse camp at Camp Allegheny every summer as a teenager gave me more than just an opportunity to be near a horse. The camp and the people God put there shaped my love for horses. It also led to my relationship with Jesus and my desire to provide a place for others to enjoy the same things I experienced. Those passions have only grown over the years.

The world can be hectic and unstable with more questions than answers. The culture continues to erode our family units, our relationships and our perceptions of God. Mistakes are now potentially plastered across social media for the world to comment. Self-esteem and self-worth are derived from how many likes are attained by what is likely an AI generated picture.

This is not so with a horse. Horses have been the same for hundreds of years. They don't care about where we come from, how much money we have, or even if we're any good at riding. They care about the way we treat them and if they feel safe. They will see through us in a heartbeat if we are insincere. However, they don't hold a grudge. They forgive freely and move on, leaving our mishaps in the past.

Horses demand honesty and consistency, and they will teach us how to lead them with confidence. They long to have a relationship with us even when we don't feel worthy of their trust and somehow our heart heals in the process.

They perfectly represent the love God has for us. The deeper my relationship has gone with Jesus over the years, the better horse trainer I have become. The more time I have spent with horses, the better I understand God's gentleness, patience and love for me.

**His Barn** tries to reflect that. **It was created to be a place where people can learn about horses in a safe environment. It's a place where they can also feel loved and feel like they are enough, just the way they are.**

Our approach here is slow, consistent and focused on life-long safe habits. Horses can be dangerous. It's my job to educate both horse and human to help explain the unknown between them. ANYONE can learn enough to stay safe and enjoy a well-trained horse.

You will learn how to ride, care for, and maintain training for a horse. You will learn to handle them safely and how to navigate an emergency if one occurs. Ultimately, you will learn how to trust yourself.

Every moment with a horse is a moment to learn something from them or about them. This, in turn, teaches us lessons that go far beyond the barn or the corral. We were created for so much more than most of us believe. The horse needs us to step into that truth so that it can feel safe enough to follow us wherever we're leading. It's a beautiful relationship I love introducing to people.

There's a place at His Barn for all ages. Those under the age of seven can schedule pony rides. Lessons are for riders seven and up. Those who are uncertain can come brush or just watch. We also offer day camps in the summer that are the heartbeat of the program.

**Life-long friendships form as kids ride, learn, and eat together.** We cater lunches from local restaurants for the kids and have full days planned to make priceless memories. We already have a few return kids from Carolina registered to make the trip up here, and our counselors are travelling to help make our first summer in PA top notch.

The opportunity to bring this program "home" after 26 years in the South is a dream come true for me. I am so excited to meet y'all and share the world of horses with you!



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## PIONEER ALUM LANDS DREAM JOB AT KDKA

By Alex Hughes

Jeremiah Scott Miller was born on July 29, 2000, and early on he got involved in sports. He was a three-sport athlete at West Greene, playing baseball, basketball, and football. According to Miller, “I always knew I wanted to work in sports ever since I was a kid. Like most kids, I dreamed of becoming a professional athlete. But once I realized that wasn’t in the cards, I knew I still wanted to be around the game because I loved talking about sports.”

He would go on to graduate from West Greene High in 2019 with a class of 52 kids. After graduation, he enrolled at Waynesburg University and majored in Sports Announcing. He was fortunate enough to learn directly from Lanny Frattare, the play-by-play announcer for the Pittsburgh Pirates for 33 years.

Jeremiah jumped right into everything the Communications Department had to offer. He started working at the radio station (WCYJ-FM), the television station (WCTV), and the Waynesburg University Sports Network (WUSN), who produced the college’s sporting events. He eventually became a co-producer for Plead Your Case - the sports debate program on WCTV. By his junior year, he became the executive producer for WUSN.

He credits these experiences to opening his eyes to the different ways to be involved in sports media, “I quickly realized there were so many more opportunities in sports beyond just play-by-play broadcasting. I was able to learn about the many behind-the-scenes roles that are just as important to sports coverage and production.”

In June of 2022, the next chapter opened for Jeremiah when he was hired at KDKA-TV as a sports producer. He was heading into his senior year of college, so he would have to figure out how to balance work and his final year of college. “That fall semester, all my classes happened to be at 8:00 a.m., which I wasn’t thrilled about at the time. But it ended up being a blessing in disguise. Since my shift at KDKA didn’t start until 3 pm, I never had to miss work because of classes.”

In May of 2023, Jeremiah graduated from Waynesburg University on a rainy day with over 400 other seniors – far more than the 52 from high school. He gives a lot of credit to both schools for preparing him and allowing him the kind of hands-on experiences not available at many larger schools.

“Without the Department of Communication at Waynesburg University, I honestly don’t know where I would be today. The opportunities, guidance, and real-world experience I received there played a major role in helping me get to where I am now.

After graduation, he kept working at KDKA which is in one of the largest news markets in the country. As a sports producer, he has many different roles and responsibilities there. He edits video for sports shows and sportscasts, while also putting together highlights, packages, and other on-air content.

In addition, he helps out where he is needed to make sure everything runs smoothly in the fast-paced and chaotic newsroom. Jeremiah also helps with producing the nightly call-in show, answering the viewers’ phone calls and running videos. He also edits sports packages and feature stories that “Help tell the stories behind the games, teams, and athletes.”

Outside the newsroom, he has been able to work numerous games for all major sports teams in Pittsburgh. He has also been able to work on national sports stages including the US Open at Oakmont Country Club last June.

Most recently, he covered April’s NFL Draft in Pittsburgh. He also did a lot of work to help with the countdown to the draft, where they counted down the 52 best players from the Pittsburgh area to be drafted. He has also been down on the field working for the NFL’s Thursday and Sunday night football broadcasts when they came to the city.

Jeremiah also still loves covering high school football and being able to reminisce on his own playing days saying “There’s just something about Friday night lights. It’s an atmosphere and feeling that’s hard to fully understand unless you’ve experienced it yourself.”

He knows that all he’s accomplished is already a great achievement, “I feel incredibly fortunate to have experienced all of this before even turning 26 years old. It’s truly been an honor, and many of these opportunities are things I never imagined I’d accomplish, especially this early in my career.”

Jeremiah credits his success to those who have supported him throughout his entire journey, including his parents, Scott and Lana, who have always encouraged and supported him chasing his dreams from the very beginning. He is also grateful to his wife Tori for her patience and support through the long hours and demands of his job.



L to R, Jared Barton, Bob Pompeani and Jeremiah Miller as part of the KDKA sports team.



## CRAZY CRATE LIQUIDATION BRINGS BARGAIN-HUNTING FUN TO GREENE COUNTY



Have you ever wondered what happens to overstock and returned items from large retail and online stores?

Returned and overstock merchandise from places like Amazon, Walmart, and other big-box retailers often finds a second life through liquidation sales. Instead of being forgotten in warehouses or discarded, many of these items are sold in bulk to third-party resellers and eventually make their way to popular “bin stores,” where shoppers can discover name-brand products, household items, gifts, décor, and everyday essentials at deeply discounted prices.

Now, Greene County has a bin store of its own, and it is bringing a fresh, exciting shopping experience to the community.

**Crazy Crate Liquidation**, located in Carmichaels, gives local residents the chance to find great deals close to home without having to travel out of the area. For families, bargain hunters, small business owners, and anyone who loves the thrill of a good find, the store offers a fun and affordable way to shop while supporting a local business.



Ivy and June

Owner **Carla Hlatky** is excited to welcome customers to her first store, which opened in **March 2026** at **202 Carmichaels Plaza in Carmichaels, Pa.** She hopes to continue growing and eventually open a second location in Waynesburg.

One of the most exciting parts of Crazy Crate Liquidation is that the inventory is always changing. New merchandise arrives every two weeks, which means shoppers never know what treasures they may discover. Each visit feels like a new adventure, with opportunities to uncover surprising deals and unique items at prices that make shopping fun again.

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In addition to liquidation merchandise, the store also features a charming selection of locally made products, including great-smelling lotions, soaps, simmer pots, and “Ivy’s potions.” These special creations are made locally by **Ivy & June**, named after Carla’s four-year-old granddaughter and Ivy’s Dog **June**, adding a heartwarming family touch to the business.

Crazy Crate Liquidation is more than just a discount store. It is a new opportunity for Greene County residents to save money, shop local, discover something unexpected, and support a family-owned business with big dreams for the future.

Crazy Crate Liquidation is open **Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

## JEFFERSON-MORGAN ALUMNI RECOGNITION: MORGAN SIMKOVIC-BOGUCKI

By T.R. Mahle

The GreeneScene Magazine annually selects a group of local county alumni for recognition. Selecting those individuals is based on several factors including achievements, leadership, and contributions to society. Their accomplishments in academics, business, sports, or social service can hopefully inspire others in the community to do the same.

When selecting such an alumnus, it is important to consider not only personal success but also community involvement and dedication to helping others. Recognizing a deserving alumnus motivates others to pursue excellence and encourages members of the community to remain connected with and contribute meaningfully to our county.

One such alumnus is *Morgan Simkovic-Bogucki*. She is well known in the county for her commitment to healthcare, community service, and family advocacy. She became widely recognized through her family's efforts to support children and families battling cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Her story is closely connected to the mission of the Colby's Stars Foundation, an organization established by her family to "pay it forward" after the serious illness of her younger brother, Colby Simkovic.

During her years at Jefferson-Morgan High School, Simkovic distinguished herself as both a student and an athlete. She competed in volleyball, softball, and basketball, earning numerous honors and awards throughout her athletic career.

She was especially successful in volleyball, where she received multiple all-conference selections and recognition as one of the region's top student-athletes. In softball, she helped lead Jefferson-Morgan to a WPIAL championship and additional postseason appearances. Academically, she graduated near the top of her class with a GPA above 4.0 and received several scholarships and scholar-athlete recognitions.

Teachers, coaches, and community members frequently recognized her for balancing academic excellence with athletic achievement and volunteer work. The values of perseverance and service that shaped her upbringing became central to her later career and community involvement.

After high school, Morgan pursued a healthcare career at Slipper Rock University, earning a degree in Exercise Science in 2020. She later earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Seton Hill University in 2024.

Morgan currently works as the *Managing Physical Therapist* with OSTPA in Carmichaels, helping patients improve mobility, recover from injuries, and regain independence through rehabilitation services. Physical therapy requires patience, empathy, and communication skills, qualities that align with the compassionate personality she developed through years of community service and advocacy.

Morgan remains strongly connected to the work of Colby's Stars Foundation. Inspired by the support their family received from the local community, the Simkovic family established the foundation to assist other families facing medical hardships. Morgan has spoken publicly through the organization about the importance of giving back and carrying on her brother's legacy by helping others.

Fundraising for the *Colby Stars Foundation* started in 2011 with "Dancing with Colby Stars" and later switched to a Kickball tournament. This tournament has grown from six teams to a staggering 42 teams at last year's competition. They also added the "Be Like Colby Ride" fundraiser, "Riding for a Legend", a fun off-road day for 4-wheelers, side-by-sides, and dirt bikes, where they travel over 30 miles through the scenic hills of Greene County.

Morgan's personal life has also remained rooted in family and community. In 2024, she married Joshua Bogucki and they are currently building a new home on her family farm in Cumberland township. Morgan also enjoys spending time with family, reading, embroidering, and caring for her two dogs (Traeger and Ripley).

Morgan's story is one of perseverance, compassion, and dedication. Her achievements reflect a life focused on helping others and strengthening the community around her.



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## THE REST IS HISTORY

By Farley Toothman

Two hundred fifty years ago, Greene County wasn't the southwest corner of Pennsylvania ... it was the wild west frontier of a developing nation.

Pennsylvania was created in 1681 by a land-grant from King Charles II, but Greene County's earth wasn't part of the deal. This land was designated the "western frontier" and/or "Indian Reserve."

But as the nation moved west, borders overlapped and boundary disputes were many among what we now recognize to be Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. The skirmishes were mostly settled by the mapping of the Mason-Dixon Line, and therefore, various counties sprung up.

Westmoreland County was divided out of Bedford County in 1773. Five years later Washington County was divided from Westmoreland County in 1781. Fayette County was created in 1783. And in 1796, Greene County was carved out of Washington County. That same year 201 building lots were first offered for sale in Waynesburg as the seat of government. It wasn't incorporated until 1816.

**Turning a Native American frontier into a community of European settlements wasn't easy, and we still honor it 250 years later.** The Revolutionary War kicked off an eight-year struggle with England for independence. We fought the natives; we fought the King; and then we fought our neighbors and neighboring states.

Early settlers built four forts locally as refuge from native

raiding parties: Jackson's Fort in Waynesburg, Garard's Fort in Greene Township, Fort Swan & Van Meter in Cumberland Township, and later Ryerson's Fort in Richhill Township, along the major trading route between the Ohio and Monongahela Rivers.

**The Jackson's Fort**, built in 1774 started as a single cabin on the property of a man named Jackson. It eventually expanded into cabins connected by 10-to-12-foot high palisades. The fort had only one entrance. Jackson's Fort was a critical defensive post during the Revolutionary War, and it was supplied from Fort Pitt. Today, there is but a historical marker along the sidewalk on east Greene Street.

**Garard's Fort** was located on the left bank of Whiteley Creek in Greene Township. It was an essential place of safety in the fertile but exposed valleys. It began as a station for a small detachment of Virginia militia but is memorable for the nearby tragic Corbly Massacre in May of 1782. Reverend John Corbly was walking to church with his family when they were ambushed by natives. His wife and three of his children were brutally killed and scalped, and two other daughters severely wounded.

**Fort Swan and Van Meter** is named for early pioneers John Swan and Jesse Vanmeter who, along with Thomas Hughes, had pooled their resources. It was located near the border of Cumberland Township and Carmichaels on John Swan's farm. It was a rallying point for the pioneers who set-

tled the Pumpkin Valley area, near the Monongahela River.

**Ryerson's Fort** was built by the authorities of Virginia at the confluence of the north and south forks of the Dunkard branch of Wheeling Creek. It was an important strategic defense point because it sat directly on the great Native war path between the Ohio and Monongahela Rivers. Captain James Seals (who owned the land that is now Waynesburg Borough) was dispatched to defend it against hostile Natives. While these forts were being used to defend against the Natives, the Revolutionary War had begun in Massachusetts.

The Natives controlling this area were known as "The Iroquois Confederacy of Six Tribal Nations" consisting of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, Senecas, and Tuscaroras. However, the Shawnee Nation possessed historical hunting rights and refused to recognize the 1768 treaty whereby the Iroquois sold the land to the British. The Delaware and Mingo tribes were also prominent forces, frequently allying with the Shawnee to launch raids against the frontier settlements and forts. These overlapping claims fueled brutal frontier-style warfare.

When the Revolutionary War was in full swing, Colonel John Minor was the key militia officer from the Mapletown area. He is considered the "Father of Greene County" because he sponsored the bill that made the division from Washington County a reality.

There is so much more, but the rest is History.

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The *Democrat-Messenger* (\*The two merged in 1914 and lasted until 1986)

The *Greene County Republican* 1833 -1867 (Weekly)  
During the 1840s and early 1850s, it also went by the names  
the *Greene County Wig* and the *Greene County Eagle*  
1867 - Re-named the *Waynesburg Republican*.  
1963 – Bought by the *Washington Observer-Reporter*  
1967 – Merged with the *Observer- Reporter*  
1992 – Ceased publication

*True Blue* (Waynesburg) (1886 - 1887)

The *Waynesburg Independent* (1872 – 1910) (Weekly that focused on local corruption)  
*Waynesburg Daily Times* (1901-1914) became *Waynesburg Morning Times* (in 1914)  
(The *Daily Times* had Democratic Association)  
\**The Independent and the Daily Times merged in 1906*

*The Waynesburg Clipper* (Published in intervals in the late 1800s to early 1900s  
Primarily a gossip style paper.

(1900s –1910s) **Small district papers/sheets** appeared in: Carmichaels, Jefferson, Rogersville,  
and Greensboro.

*Wetzel Republican* (1898-1901) and the *Wetzel Democrat* (1898-1903)

*Greene Countian* (Published in Carmichaels) (1946-1952)

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# MYTHS, MAYHEM, AND THE MAKING OF AMERICA

The founding of the United States has long occupied a special place in American memory, but over time many myths have grown around the nation's origins. Some of these myths simplify complicated events into patriotic stories, while others erase the uncertainty, conflict, and fragility that defined the early republic.

Understanding these myths does not diminish the accomplishments of the founding generation; rather, it reveals how improbable the survival of the United States truly was before the Civil War.

One of the most persistent myths is that the American Revolution was universally supported by the colonists. In reality, the population was deeply divided. **Historians estimate that perhaps only one-third of Americans supported independence, one-third remained loyal to Britain, and another third tried to stay neutral.**

Loyalists served in the British army, fled to Canada, or had their property confiscated. The Revolution was not simply a united people throwing off tyranny; it was also a bitter civil conflict between neighbors and families.

The war's outcome was far from guaranteed, especially during the dark years of 1776 and 1777 when George Washington's army nearly collapsed from desertion and lack of supplies.

**Another enduring myth is that the Founding Fathers were unified visionaries who agreed on the nation's purpose.** The founders were often deeply divided. Alexander Hamilton favored a strong national government and commercial economy, while Thomas Jefferson feared centralizing power and wanted agrarian republicanism. John Adams deeply distrusted direct democracy, while others actually had faith in the common man.

The Constitutional Convention itself was marked by fierce disputes over representation, slavery, taxation, and federal authority. The Constitution emerged not from perfect agreement, but from excruciating compromise and political exhaustion.

**The First Amendment prohibited the establishment of a national religion, reflecting both Enlightenment ideas and the founders' awareness of Europe's destructive religious conflicts.** Many founders held conventional Christian beliefs, while others embraced deism or skepticism.

Perhaps the greatest contradiction in the founding era was slavery. Americans celebrated liberty while one-fifth of the population remained enslaved. Founders recognized the contradiction but failed to resolve it. This unresolved issue haunted the republic from the beginning and eventually led to civil war. **The myth that the founders created a fully realized democracy ignores the reality that most colonial men and**

**all women lacked any political rights in the early republic.**

**The United States also survived a series of crises before the Civil War that nearly destroyed the nation.** One of the earliest came under the Articles of Confederation, the weak first national government. Congress lacked the power to tax, regulate trade, or enforce national laws. Economic instability and interstate disputes threatened national collapse.

Even after the Constitution was adopted, the nation remained fragile. **Political conflict between the Federalists and Jeffersonian Republicans became intense during the 1790s.** The Alien and Sedition Acts criminalized criticism of the federal government and raised fears that the young republic was abandoning its ideals. Some New England Federalists even discussed secession during the War of 1812 when they believed Southern interests dominated national policy.

**Foreign threats also endangered the nation.** Britain and France repeatedly interfered with American shipping during the Napoleonic Wars. The War of 1812 exposed severe military weakness. British forces burned Washington, D.C., including the Capitol and White House. Some Americans questioned whether the republic could survive in a world dominated by European empires.

**The greatest recurring threat before the Civil War,**

**however, was sectional conflict over slavery and western expansion.** The Missouri Compromise temporarily preserved balance between free and slave states, but only delayed confrontation. The Nullification Crisis nearly produced armed conflict when South Carolina claimed the right to nullify federal tariffs.

As the nation expanded westward, every new territory reopened the slavery debate. The Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and violence in "Bleeding Kansas" demonstrated how close the nation stood to disunion long before 1861.

The survival of the United States before the Civil War was never inevitable. The early republic was divided by politics, economics, religion, and slavery. The myths surrounding the founding often present American independence and constitutional government as destined successes. **In truth, the nation endured repeated moments when collapse, dictatorship, or fragmentation seemed entirely possible.** That precarious history is part of what makes the American experiment historically remarkable.

*Sources included multiple works by noted local historians Dorothy Hennen, William Dusenberry, and G. Wayne Smith.*





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# 250 HISTORY: BIG STORIES IN SMALL TOWNS

By Emma Bates



At this point in the year, most of us know that we are celebrating America's 250th anniversary, or the Semiquincentennial (even if we can't always pronounce it correctly!) And while Greene County was formed just after the birth of our country in 1796, one of its iconic small towns—Carmichaels—was actually around before, having celebrated its very own 250th anniversary back in 2017.

In the summer of 1767, a group of settlers came to the area, with a man by the name of Thomas Hughes first settling and naming the area known as Old Town. On July 24, 1780, Hughes sold 360 acres to James Carmichael, a Major in the American Revolution. By 1781, Carmichael had acquired 809 acres of land.

James Carmichael had a vision of a town, which he first called Lisbon. He began laying out a map that included a town square and lots with the main road running north and south called Market Street. The main road running east and west through town would be called George Street. And, as any local knows, these two roads have been the same ever since.

James Carmichael died in 1796 and sadly did not have the opportunity to see his dream town come to fulfillment. In 1807, James' son William finished the layout of the town and commissioned a map. The town was named New Lisbon, in honor of his father's dream.

Carmichaels Borough was incorporated in 1855 from Cumberland Township. The Carmichaels Covered Bridge, which crosses Muddy Creek has stood in that same location since the founding of Old Town.

Just next door and across the street from the iconic Greene Academy sits the "Olde Mill House," originally serving as James Carmichael's grist mill along Muddy Creek. The building served as a home to many in the following years. It is now owned and being restored to its original glory by the Carmichaels Area Historical Society as a future museum and research center for the public.

Our small towns tell big stories, and as we celebrate 250 years of being Americans, let's not forget where we came from...because *that's* how we know where we're going.



Restored Olde Mill House in Carmichaels.

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# DEMOCRACY WAS NEW: TOWN NAMES, NOT SO MUCH

By George Jefferson Franklin III

From the very name of our county to numerous towns and townships within, the original connection to our Founding Fathers and Revolutionary heroes is undeniable – even if it is long forgotten or taken for granted.

Across the young United States, naming a town was more than a practical decision. It was an act of identity and allegiance. **In the decades following independence, communities chose names that honored the figures they revered.** Names like Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, and Greene reflected admiration, political ideals, and a desire to connect local identity with national purpose.

This practice spread rapidly as settlers moved westward, carrying with them a shared cultural memory of revolution and nation-building. Naming towns after revered leaders became a way to embed patriotism into the landscape itself. The result is a map dotted with tributes, where everyday place names quietly preserve the legacy of the founders and their ideals.

Probably the best story regarding our own County is the **town of Jefferson**. In the immediate aftermath of the war, Thomas Hughes bought 175 acres of land and moved down the road from his Carmichaels home. In 1790, he purchased another tract of land from a man named Isaac Heaton.

With that land, Hughes laid out what is now the eastern part of the town and called it Jefferson in honor of his political hero. However, anyone who has seen Hamilton (or paid attention in high school history class) knows Jefferson was a polarizing figure in his day. Colonel Heaton was a Federalist and a staunch supporter of Jefferson's archrival, so he named his town on the west side Hamilton (as in Alexander).

There were many actual fights and brawls between the residents of the competing "towns." There was also a group of people who lived between the competing factions. They decided to make their own town and call it Harmony. In 1827, the post office for the area was placed in Jefferson, so the other "town" names eventually faded into history.

**Greene County** was separated from Washington County in 1796. Most people know towns and counties bearing the name "Greene" commemorate Nathanael Greene, one of the most capable commanders of the American Revolutionary War. His strategy of maneuver and attrition weakened British forces despite limited resources. His efforts helped pave the way for the eventual American victory, making him a widely admired figure in the postwar years.

As new communities formed along the expanding frontier, many adopted his name to honor that legacy. Cities like Greensboro and Greenville reflect this trend, as do 14 counties

named "Greene." His name is second only to Washington (31 counties) and Jefferson (26 counties) in popularity. Greene came to symbolize resilience and Revolutionary patriotism in the early national memory.

**Waynesburg** traces its origin to Anthony Wayne, the fiery Revolutionary War officer better known as "Mad Anthony." His mix of bold battlefield tactics and a famously intense personality made him one of the more colorful heroes of the era. Wayne played a crucial role in key campaigns of the Revolutionary War and later led U.S. forces to victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, helping secure control of the Northwest Territory.

Communities that adopted his name did so to signal patriotism, toughness, and a connection to the nation's founding struggles. "Wayne" became a popular choice as settlers moved westward in places like Fort Wayne, Indiana, where the name reinforced a frontier identity tied to courage and expansion.

American towns and counties bearing the name "Clark" honor George Rogers Clark, a key figure in the western theater of the American Revolutionary War. Clark led daring campaigns that secured vital territory for the young United States. These victories helped establish American claims to lands north of the Ohio River in the postwar settlement.

As settlers pushed into these newly opened regions, many communities chose to honor Clark by adopting his name. Places like **Clarksville and Clarksburg** reflect this, tying local identity to frontier success and Revolutionary heroism.

Of course, by far the most popular name for locations is "**Washington**", reflecting the towering legacy of George Washington. As the commanding general of the Continental Army, Washington became a universal symbol of leadership, unity, and republican virtue. Naming a city, town, or **township** after him was a statement of civic identity, signaling loyalty to the ideals of the new republic.

The practice began even before Washington's death in 1799 and accelerated in the early 19th century as settlers moved westward. The sheer number of "Washingtons" on the map speaks to his unmatched status in American memory, turning his name into a kind of civic shorthand for patriotism and national pride.

Benjamin Franklin was one of the most influential figures of the early republic and a key contributor to the War. Franklin's reputation as a statesman, inventor, diplomat, and printer made his name especially appealing to early American communities seeking to align themselves with Enlightenment ideals and practical ingenuity.

As the nation expanded in the late 18th and 19th centuries, "**Franklin**" became one of the most widely used place names in the country. Today, there are **dozens of towns, cities, and townships** named Franklin across nearly every state. He represented both intellectual achievement and everyday pragmatism, making him a fitting namesake for communities hoping to project progress, self-reliance, and civic virtue.

Other places in the area are named after locals who fought bravely in the Revolutionary War, such as Kirby, Smith Creek, and Ryerson Station, which gives us at least a modicum of originality.



Greene Connections. (Greene County Historical Society Collection)

*The Soldiers and Sailors Monument honors Greene County men who served the Union during the Civil War. (Dedicated on July 4, 1899)*



# THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF GREENE COUNTY

By Bret Moore

Greene County was officially created in 1796, but its history reaches back through several layers of colonial jurisdiction. During the mid-1700s, both Virginia and Pennsylvania disputed ownership of southwestern Pennsylvania. Virginia briefly governed the region as part of Yohogania County, while Pennsylvania organized nearby lands into Westmoreland County in 1773.

As settlement increased after the American Revolution, Pennsylvania divided its western lands for easier administration. In 1781, Washington County was formed from the southern portion of Westmoreland County. The frontier communities continued to grow rapidly along the Monongahela River and surrounding farming areas. To better serve residents in the southern reaches of Washington County, the legislature established Greene County.

The region had already been inhabited for decades by pioneers pushing westward beyond the Allegheny Mountains. These settlers entered a landscape defined by rolling hills and waterways like Ten Mile Creek and the Monongahela River, which served as vital corridors for movement and trade.

**Most of the earliest settlers were of Scotch-Irish, German, and English descent. They arrived in waves during the 1760s and 1770s,** often traveling along rough trails or descending the Monongahela River by flatboat.

Although the Quakers, who had established eastern Pennsylvania, didn't actively push the Scots-Irish settlers to leave their area, their land policies and pacifism regarding the native population created conditions that nudged the relative newcomers toward the western frontier.

These pioneers were typically subsistence farmers, clearing land, building log cabins, and establishing small homesteads. Communities formed around fertile creek bottoms, where soil was rich and water readily available.

Agriculture dominated early economic life, and the Mon River became an economic lifeline, allowing settlers to transport surplus goods, especially flour and whiskey. Churches were among the first institutions established, often serving multiple denominations in shared spaces. Presbyterian and Baptist congregations were especially prominent. These churches were not only religious centers but also venues for community gatherings and decision-making.

Roads were often little more than dirt paths, becoming nearly impassable in bad weather. Travel was difficult, reinforcing the isolation of many settlements. Over time, however, improved roads and river transport strengthened connections with nearby towns and regions.

**In essence, the settlement of the county reflects a broader American story: the westward movement of diverse peoples seeking land and opportunity and the gradual emergence of stable communities from contested ground.**

The "first settlers" in what became Greene County weren't part of a single organized migration. The first

wave came around 1763 along Whiteley Creek. Names like **John and William Minor, Zachariah Gapen, Justus Garard, George Morris, and Reverend John Corbly** were among these early founders.

Familiar names along Dunkard Creek include **Augustine Dillinger, Leonard Garrison, and Enoch Enix. Jacob Crow** settled along Wheeling Creek.

Approximately four years later a larger "immigrant train" came along Braddock's Road and included the **Swan, VanMeter, Teagarden, Hughes, and Carmichaels families**, who settled in the Fredericktown, Pumpkin Run, Jefferson, and Carmichaels areas.

During the **years of the American Revolutionary War**, settlers in the region faced frequent threats from Native American raids tied to the broader conflict between British forces and American revolutionaries. As a result, families constructed small stockades or blockhouses for protection. One such site, Fort **(John) Ryerson**, reflects this defensive strategy. Named after a local settler, it served as a refuge during times of danger rather than as a formal military installation.

In addition, a few men from the county joined Captain Michael Cresap's rifle company in the Continental Army, which went to Boston to serve the cause for independence. They were armed with a few rifles and tomahawks.

Another group was led by **Captain James Hook**, who raised a militia company at Fort Jackson in Waynesburg. These types of groups were common along the western borders and were called Frontier Rangers.

In 1777, approximately 100 Tories from Fayette County met at the mouth of Whiteley Creek and conspired to capture and kill Colonel William Crawford, Colonel John Minor, and Reverend John Corbly. However, James Carmichael gathered reinforcements consisting of a mounted party of 40 men under the command of Colonel Gaddis. They routed the Tories and took 12 of them prisoner.

The prisoners were taken to William Minor's Fort near Mapletown, where Corbly (who was also the Virginia Justice of the Peace) swore out warrants for their extradition to Winchester for trial. However, because of his religious beliefs he didn't want to send the men to their execution. He delayed the movement long enough that the men were converted to the independence cause and signed Oaths of Allegiance.

A year later, Virginia Lt. Colonel George Rogers Clark launched

his critical expedition to capture key towns and British officers in the Illinois Territory. In early 1788, his men were camped at the mouth of Dunkard Creek near the river. Colonel John Minor recruited men for Clark's force and supervised construction of the boats that would carry the force down the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers. Lieutenant John Swan supplied the men with rations for the excursion.

By 1781, a number of militias were active in the county under Lt. Colonel Henry Enoch of Clarksville and Major Carmichael, who lived at Muddy Creek.

Another early name is **Zadock Springer** of Spraggs. He was part of the wave of settlers establishing farms and local identity in the late 18th century. The **Morgan families** were also among early landholders and settlers moving into the Mon Valley frontier.

Another group led by **John Dunkard**, a German Baptist "Dunkard" fleeing religious persecution, also settled near the river.

Richhill Township was settled a bit later but still early in county history. Historical records of the time show surnames such as **Allums, Clutter, Fox, Guthrie, Haines, Hughes, Kerr, King, Lemley, Long, McClelland, McCracken, McCullough, Morris, Patterson, Scott, Stephens, Stockdale, Taylor, Ullom, and Wise**

It's important to note that these early settlers were not famous individuals but ordinary farming families whose names appear in tax lists and church records rather than national histories. The true heritage of Greene County is that it was built by clusters of interconnected families, many of whom are still in the area today.

*Sources included multiple works by noted local historians Dorothy Hennen, William Dusenberry, and G. Wayne Smith.*



*The Allums were among the earliest settlers in western Greene County. Greene Connections (Greene County Historical Society Collection)*

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# THE DENNY HOUSE: A HISTORIC WAYNESBURG LANDMARK. CELEBRATING 190 YEARS

By Pamela Marisa

The Denny House at 145 West High Street in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, is one of Greene County's most distinctive surviving homes. Its history begins in the early nineteenth century, when Waynesburg was still a small county-seat town of muddy streets, wagons, livestock, and local trade. Local histories date the original two-story brick dwelling to 1850, though architectural references describe the surviving older portion as dating from about 1836. What is clear is that the present landmark grew in layers, preserving earlier fabric while reflecting the prosperity and taste of later generations.

The house is most closely associated with Eleazer Luse Denny, often written E. L. Denny, a Waynesburg businessman whose career rose with southwestern Pennsylvania's late nineteenth-century oil, gas, and coal development. Denny opened a hardware store in 1887, when he was only twenty-one, serving the farmers and merchants who made Waynesburg a regional shopping center. His fortunes grew dramatically after an 1890s gas well investment came in as a "gusher," launching his reputation as a successful broker in gas and coal leases.

As Denny's wealth increased, so did the family home. Around 1902, workers added the prominent three-story front façade with Flemish design elements; SAH Archipedia describes E. L. Denny's later Dutch-gabled brick façade, with stone coping and a round-arched entrance, as unique in Waynesburg. Behind that formal front remained the older house, creating the

layered historic character that still defines the property. Inside, the Dennys furnished the home with elaborate Victorian and Edwardian detail: quarter-sawn tiger oak trim, stairways and wainscoting, hand-painted canvas walls, decorative ceilings, terra cotta fireplaces, mosaics, and ornate lighting.

E. L. Denny married Louise Ingram, a Waynesburg College graduate, in 1890. They had three daughters: Mary, Josephine, and Helen. After Denny died of pneumonia in Pittsburgh in 1910 at age forty-four, Louise and the daughters preserved the home and continued the family's emphasis on education, music, philanthropy, and civic life. Mary studied art and music, later attending the Royal Academy of Music in London and the American School of Music in Fontainebleau, France. Helen became a trained soprano who performed in opera and on Westinghouse Radio, while Josephine became a Waynesburg High School mathematics teacher and community figure. Their travels and collecting helped make the house an "Edwardian time capsule."

In the 2020s, Pam and Kent Marisa became important modern stewards of The Denny House. Rather than treating the building simply as a private residence or business property, they approached it as a piece of Waynesburg history to be preserved and shared. Under their ownership, the house was restored and reopened as an inn, performance space, wedding venue, and community event center. Their work helped return the house

to public life while protecting the character that makes it so unusual.

Pam Marisa summarized their philosophy by saying she and Kent considered themselves "stewards" of the house, preserving its history while carrying it forward for future generations. Their ownership marked a meaningful new chapter in the building's life. The Denny House was no longer only a historic residence to admire from the outside; it became a welcoming place where visitors could stay, gather, and celebrate important life events. The Denny House is located at 145 West High Street in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania.



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# OUR CENTENNIAL

By Bret Moore



The Centennial celebrations of 1876 marked a defining moment in the United States, commemorating 100 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Coming just over a decade after the American Civil War, the occasion carried deep symbolic weight. It was not merely a birthday celebration but an effort to reaffirm national unity, showcase progress, and project confidence in the country's future.

The centerpiece of the national celebration was the Centennial Exposition, held in Philadelphia, the nation's birthplace. The United States secured a world's fair as part of its Centennial by turning the anniversary into an opportunity for global display. Civic leaders pushed for an international exposition to showcase American industry. Congress authorized the project in 1871, and the resulting exposition blended patriotic commemoration with the established European tradition of world's fairs.

**President Ulysses S. Grant opened the exposition on May 10, 1876.** It was the first official World's Fair held in the United States. The event attracted nearly 10 million visitors over six months, an extraordinary number for the time. In fact, that was roughly a quarter of the entire population of the United States at the time.

The celebration featured exhibits from more than 30 nations. The fairgrounds in Fairmount Park spanned 450 acres which were transformed into a vast display of innovation, culture, and industrial achievement. The exhibits were housed in over 200 buildings, including five main ones: Agricultural Hall, Horticultural Hall, Memorial Hall, Main Hall, and Machinery Hall.

At the heart of the exposition stood Machinery Hall, where visitors encountered cutting-edge technology that symbolized America's rapid industrial growth. One of the most famous demonstrations was **Alexander Graham Bell's telephone**, which astonished audiences with the possibility of transmitting voices over wires.

Other exhibits highlighted advances in manufacturing, agriculture, and transportation, reinforcing the idea that the United States had emerged as a modern industrial power. The massive Corliss Steam Engine in the hall provided power for the entire exhibit. **Other inventions on display were Thomas Edison's automatic telegraph, the Remington typewriter, and the first mechanical calculator.**

**Heinz ketchup made its debut, and the Statue of Liberty's arm and torch** were on display to help raise funds for its completion. People could climb the arm to the torch platform to get a better look at the fair.

Important cultural and artistic contributions were also on display. Memorial Hall housed

an extensive art exhibition, while the Women's Pavilion showcased the contributions of female inventors, artists, and entrepreneurs. The fact that the fair acknowledged women's growing role in public life, albeit separately, reflected both progress and the social boundaries of the era.

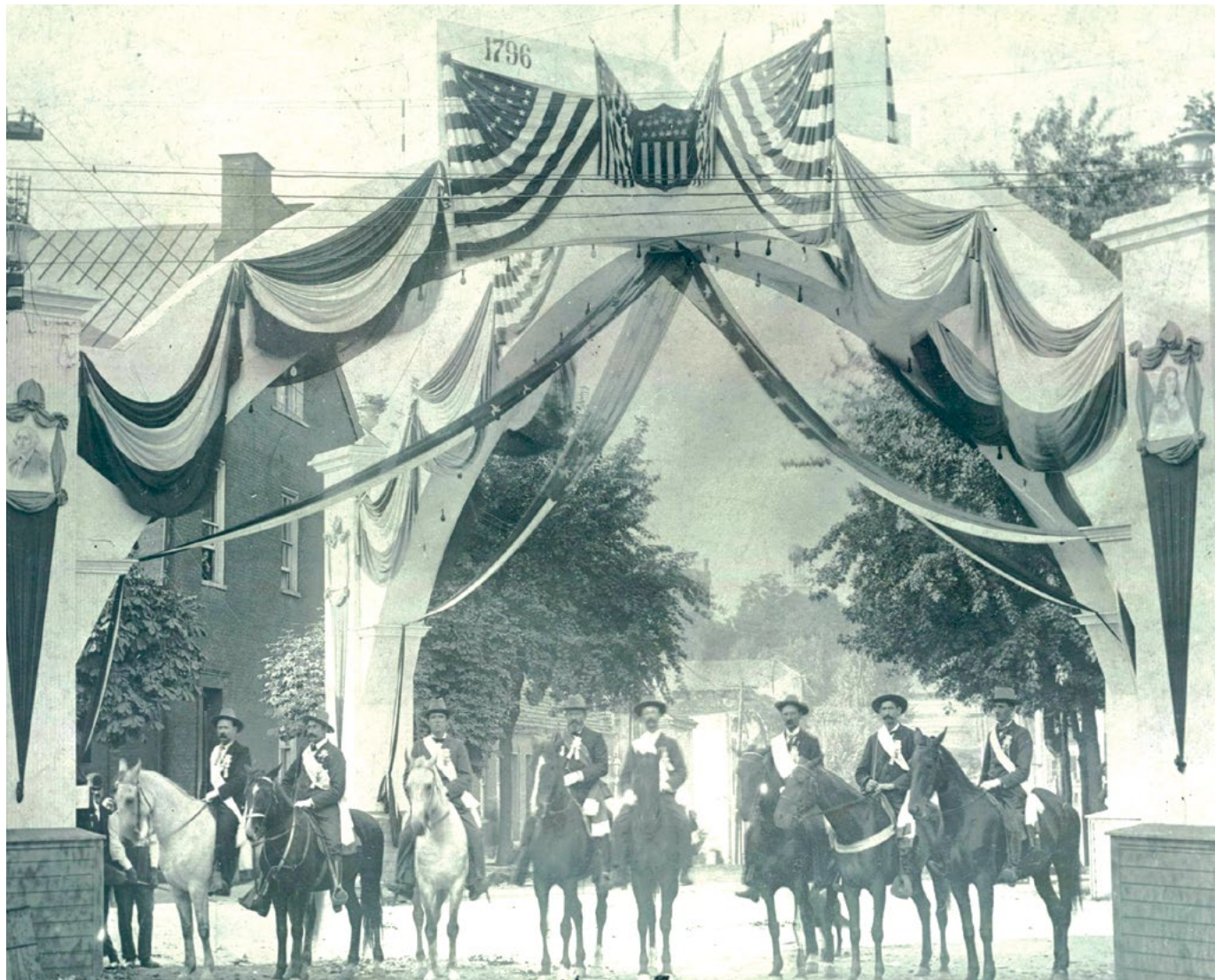
International participation added another layer of significance. European nations, including Great Britain, sent exhibits, signaling a normalization of relations a century after independence. The exposition also provided a stage for the United States to assert itself on the global stage.

Beyond Philadelphia, communities across the nation marked the Centennial with parades, speeches, concerts, and local exhibitions. On July 4, 1876, celebrations reached their peak. In Philadelphia, a formal ceremony included the read-

ing of the Declaration of Independence and patriotic orations. Across the country, towns and cities echoed these rituals, using the anniversary to foster a sense of shared identity after years of sectional conflict.

*Unfortunately, there were no sources available to determine what types of ceremonies and celebrations were held around Greene County. Although there are existing newspapers available for that period, for some reason those issues are missing from the archives.*

In retrospect, the Centennial of 1876 served as a turning point. It celebrated the nation's survival and growth, highlighted its technological achievements, and helped redefine our identity as a country. By blending commemoration with innovation, the Centennial positioned the United States as a forward-looking nation, eager to embrace the possibilities of the 20th century.



*The Greene County Centennial Parade Marshals: Robert Munnell, John Pauley, James Rinehart, John Ullom, Thomas Crago, John Wiley, Hiram Kent, and Eleazer Denny. Greene Connections (Greene County Historical Society Collection)*

# AMERICA CELEBRATES ITS SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL OR SEMIQUINCENTENIAL? YOU KNOW, ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY

By Bret Moore



English has a special talent for taking perfectly simple ideas and giving them a dramatic makeover that nobody asked for. Instead of saying something straightforward, it often borrows from Latin or Greek, tapes a few syllables together, and sends it out into the world wearing formal attire.

Need to say “250 years”? English could absolutely do that. But where’s the fun in clarity? Instead, we get *semiquincentennial*, a word that sounds like it requires a warm-up routine. It’s as if English looked at simplicity and said, “Yes, but what if it had more vowels and emotional weight?”

Imagine the insanity of autocorrect if you used voice calling to invite someone to a semiquincentennial party. Even my Word document is telling me I am spelling it wrong by the appearance of the dreaded wavy, red underline. However, a quick check with AP Standard Rules tells me the word is un-hyphenated, even though a hyphen makes the wavy, red line go away.

As a former English teacher, I have heard every com-

plaint imaginable about the absurdity of our mother tongue. I dutifully defended it for all those years with half-hearted excuses. But now that I am retired, I can honestly say standard English rests on a foundation of pretentious rules promulgated by an unseen cabal of tweed jacketed nerds.

They can’t allow a straightforward expression to get in the way of academic affectation. How about the ironic hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia, which means a **“fear of long words?”**

Part of this comes from history. English has been influenced by so many languages—Latin, French, Germanic roots—that it sometimes feels like a linguistic potluck where everyone brought their most complicated dish. The result is a vocabulary where simple and complex versions of the same idea coexist, and the complex one usually shows up in official invitations.

And yet, somehow, we endure it. We can say “Happy 250th Anniversary” and “Happy Semiquincentennial” and expect both to be correct.

So, what exactly is going on inside this linguistic skyscraper? Let’s break it down. The word comes from Latin roots, because of course it does.

First, we have *semi*, meaning “half.” Easy enough.

Then comes *quincentennial*, which itself is a bit of a nesting doll. *Quinque* means “five,” *centum* means “hundred,” and *annus* (via *ennial*) relates to “years.” Put it all together, and you get “five hundred years.”

Now take half of that with *semi*, and voilà: 250 years. We could have settled for something modest, but we went full Latin maximalist.

Just think. We are only 25 short years from the big Bicententerquasquigenary Celebration. I’m not kidding – look it up.



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From 1954 to 1957 he was Chief Communication Operator at Camp David in Maryland. While at the White House, he received a letter of commendation for outstanding service during President Eisenhower’s heart attack and national security meetings at Camp David. In 1957, he received the White House Service Certificate from the Secretary of the Army, William Bruckner.

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# THE BICENTENNIAL

By Bret Moore

**M**any of our readers are old enough to remember when America's Bicentennial celebration in 1976 became a nationwide cultural phenomenon. The commemoration extended far beyond a single day, unfolding through months of parades, festivals, exhibitions, and media programming. Cities and small towns alike embraced the occasion with historical reenactments, patriotic displays, and community events.

Red, white, and blue symbols appeared everywhere, reflecting a shared sense of heritage and identity. The Bicentennial's ubiquity fostered both celebration and reflection, as Americans revisited their history while considering the nation's challenges and aspirations for the future.

Anyone who is old enough to remember that celebration remembers how commercialization played a major role in amplifying the Bicentennial's reach, as corporations eagerly tied their products to patriotic themes. Advertisements saturated television, print, and retail spaces, often blending nostalgia with national pride.

Beer companies in particular embraced the moment, producing Bicentennial-themed cans, labels, and commercials that linked their brands to American heritage and camaraderie. Campaigns emphasized tradition, freedom, and celebration, encouraging consumers to participate in the festivities through purchase. From limited-edition packaging to promotional events, businesses capitalized on the anniversary, turning national remembrance into a powerful marketing opportunity that reinforced the celebration's omnipresence in everyday life.

However, on a local level, the Bicentennial felt more heartfelt and truly patriotic. A quick check of the local newspapers of the day triggered a flood of viscerally nostalgic memories that might seem "corny" to some.

In Waynesburg, an estimated crowd of 10,000 people watched a 90-minute Bicentennial Parade that ran from North Porter Street to Richhill Street. Bob Wendel, the parade's coordinator, was quoted as saying, "This parade will have to enter the record books for the largest ever held in the County."

The cost of the parade was \$2,500, but organizers felt, "the amount of publicity and good will it generated was well worth the cost." A total of \$1,120 in prize money was awarded to the best floats. There were four separate categories: Religious, Youth, Themed, and Commercial.

Some of the winners included familiar groups that are still integral parts of our community such as First Federal, the American Legion, Ten Mile United Presbyterian. Other winners and place-winners are echoes of our civic past: The Youth Development Center, Graysville Youth, the West Greene Youth Education Association, Golden Hooves of Prosperity, and the Rebecca Wilson and Linda Butcho dance studios.

**Rices Landing and Dry Tavern** had a week-long celebration culminating with a Bicentennial Dance on July 10 at the Rices Landing American Legion.

There were also ecumenical church services at Hewitt Presbyterian and Sacred Heart churches. The former also offered ethnic food and entertainment by the musical group "Guys and Dolls" at their activity building and along the lockwall.

Other events of the week included a Liberty Bell Dance Cruise (It sold out at \$4 a ticket). Entertainers throughout the festivities included a magician, the Old-Time Fiddlers group, a folk singer, and a group that performed a Bicentennial play.

Children's games and arts & crafts shows were held at various civic locations all week.

Additional adult festivities included a square dance at the lockwall and a horse show in the ring behind Davis's Market.

**Carmichaels** also held a week-long celebration that coincided with the rededication of the **Greene Academy** building as an "educational and cultural center." The nightly series of lectures featured many of the area's most erudite and knowledgeable historians.

Members of the Biddle family, Dr. William Dusenberry, Judge Glenn Toothman, Dr. Richard Cowan, Alvin Laidley, "Mrs. John Masuga", and Damon Neroni were just some of the honored guest lecturers. There were also musical presentations under the direction of "Mrs. Joseph Dell."

It's hard to believe women were still referred to by their husband's last name at that time. However, for those of us who want to remain optimists, the fact that women are now referred to by their own name in a newspaper is evidence of an "evolving" society.

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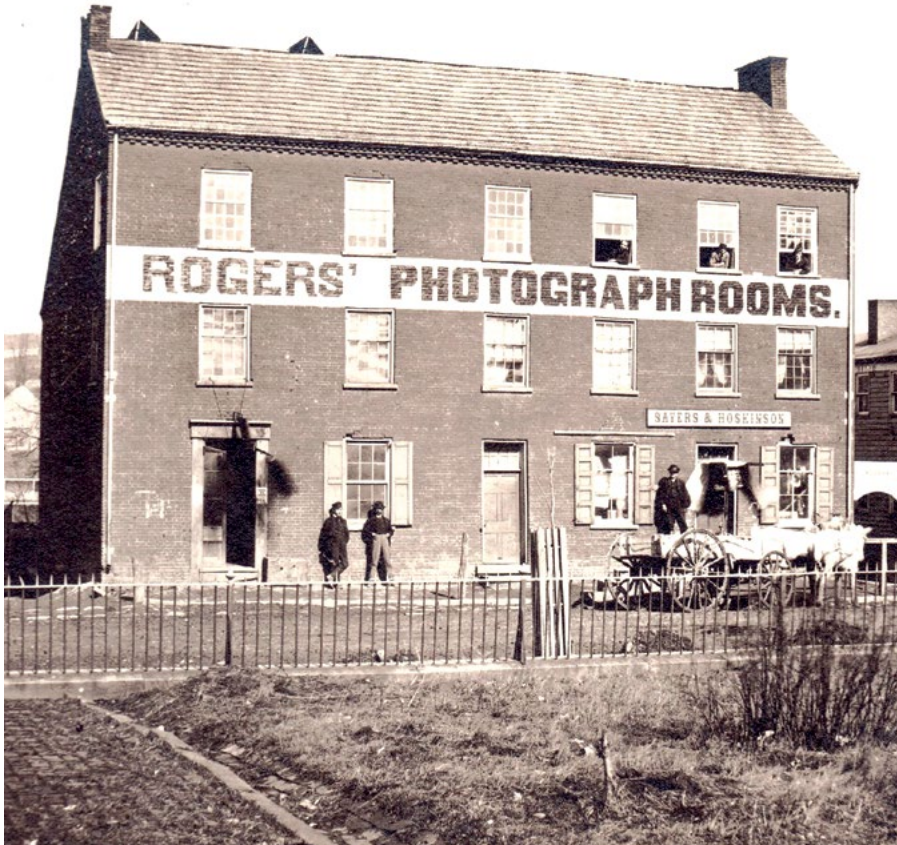


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Allison Building on High Street in Waynesburg (Across from the Courthouse looking north).  
Greene Connections (The Waynesburg Borough Collection).

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- He spent the equivalent of \$300,000 on wine at the White House. He died in debt, and they sold off his books to pay his estate.
- He was 5'4 and weighed 100 pounds. Washington Irving described him as "a withered little applejohn".
- He invented a musical instrument called the glass armonica. It was so popular Mozart and Beethoven composed on it.
- He was an immigrant who became Secretary of the Treasury at 33.
- He was a maltster, not a brewer.
- He was the first President to live in the White House.
- He was the only President that never went to college.

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C. James Madison	F. Samuel Adams	I. Patrick Henry
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## 230 YEARS OF HUNTING IN GREENE COUNTY

By T.R. Mahle



While the nation prepares to celebrate our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Greene County can celebrate 230 years of hunting tradition, where forests, fields, and ridges have sustained generations of outdoor enthusiasts. From early settlers to modern sportsmen, stewardship, skill, and respect for wildlife still endure. The hunting knowledge has been passed down through generations, deeply rooted in tradition.

Established on February 9, 1796, Greene County was a wild and unpredictable place with dense forest and abundant wildlife. When European settlers first arrived in what is now Greene County hunting was not a sport but a necessity. The land was full of white-tailed deer, black bears, turkeys, and small game that provided essential food, clothing, and trading goods.

Early hunters relied on skill, patience, and intimate knowledge of the land. Rifles, traps, and tracking techniques were crucial tools, and hunting often determined whether or not families were able to survive the harsh winters.

From these early days, hunting has been woven into the cultural and ecological fabric of Greene County. Hunting has reflected changing relationships between people, the land, and wildlife while remaining a local tradition.

I try to envision myself heading out to hunt 230 years ago. Hunting was a part of the rhythms of everyday daily life, always vigilant of the surroundings, always ready to take advantage of an opportunity that bettered my chance of survival. I visualize the early clothing of wool and buckskin and carrying a flintlock rifle, every snapped twig carried meaning, every distant rustle could signal opportunity or danger.

There were no conveniences then, no certainty about the next meal. When the opportunity presented itself, you had to make it count, second chances didn't exist with the early slow and imprecise weapons. Taking a life was not casual, it carried weight, the animal represented nourishment, clothing, and tools. Simply put, the taking of a life transformed into human survival. Gratitude and necessity were intertwined in ways that feel far more distant than they do today.

In today's environment, it's easy to forget how much effort once stood behind a single meal. That hunt 230 years ago reminds us of resilience, humility, and the cost of living close to the land. It's a quiet echo of a time when every step, and every decision truly mattered, a missed opportunity meant a missed meal.

By the 19th century, however, unregulated hunting, habitat loss and advances in weaponry, including more accurate rifles and the introduction of repeating firearms, began to take a toll. Wildlife populations declined significantly across Pennsylvania, including Greene County. Market hunting...where animals were harvested in large numbers put additional pressure on species like deer and turkey. By the late 1800s, some animals had nearly disappeared from the region. I remember my father telling me that in the late 40's, 50's and early 60's that a deer sighting would actually make the newspaper.

This decline prompted the early conservation movement, leading to the establishment of hunting laws, seasons, and game commissions designed to protect wildlife and ensure sustainable use. This marked a turning point where hunters increasingly became participants in conservation efforts.

The 20th century marked a turning point. Conservation efforts, including restocking programs and habitat management, helped restore key species. The white-tailed deer population rebounded dramatically, and wild turkeys were successfully reintroduced. In Greene County, hunting shifted from pure subsistence to a regulated recreational activity. Generations of families passed down traditions, with hunting camps, seasonal rituals, and shared knowledge strengthening community bonds.

Today, hunting in Greene County continues to balance tradition with modern conservation ethics. Hunting seasons, licensing, and bag limits are carefully designed to maintain healthy wildlife populations. Hunters play an active role in conservation through funding generated by licenses and excise taxes on equipment, which support habitat preservation and wildlife research.

Culturally, hunting remains a cornerstone of life for many Greene County residents. Deer season, in particular, is a significant annual event, bringing together families and communities. Stories, skills, and respect for the land are passed from one generation to the next. At the same time, attitudes toward hunting have evolved. There is greater emphasis on ethical practices, environmental stewardship, and coexistence with non-hunters who value wildlife in different ways.

While methods and motivations have changed, the core connection between people and the natural landscape endures. Hunting continues to reflect both the history of the region and its ongoing commitment to preserving the land and wildlife for future generations.



*Greene County Squirrel Hunters. Greene Connections (Greene County Historical Society Collection)*



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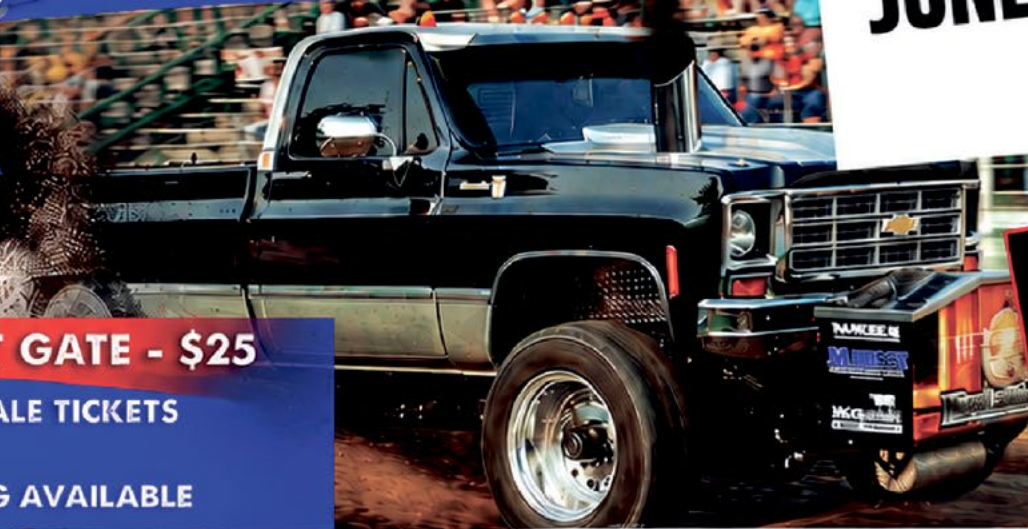
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With the help of Pam's retired business partner **Shelly Brown** and longtime friend **Dolly Throckmorton**, that vision came to life in **August 2025**. Together, Shelly and Dolly bring a wonderful mix of community knowledge, storytelling, humor, and public speaking talent to each episode. Their relaxed, friendly style makes every conversation feel like you are sitting down with neighbors and friends.

The GreeneScene Podcast is all about celebrating our community, keeping listeners informed, and having fun along the way. From local events and helpful tips to interesting people and unique places, each episode shines a light on something worth sharing in Greene County.

Join in on the fun with our most recent episodes:

**Episode #26 – Mowers and Lawn Maintenance Tips: A Chat with Murray Hoy**

**Episode #27 – Fainting Goats and Full Hearts: Life at L&B Almosta Farm**

Coming at the end of May:

**Episode #28 – Ice Plant & Car Show**

**Episode #29 – Lions Club Sound of Summer**

As the podcast continues to grow, we are always looking for new ideas, great guests, timely issues, community events, and local stories to feature. That is where our listeners, businesses, and organizations come in. The GreeneScene Podcast is more than something to listen to, it is a way to be part of the conversation.

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# GOLDEN ARCHES

By Emma Bates



Jodi Richards was 16 years old when she started her first job as a crew member at the downtown Waynesburg McDonald's restaurant in 1999. A proud alumni of West Greene High School, she cites her family, first job, and her alma mater for the start she got to the career she now actively works in— and loves— today.

Soon after starting this position, Jodi was recommended for the manager's program and became a shift manager at 18. She was then promoted to the next level in Morgantown, WV where she gained even more experience before returning to Waynesburg in 2006 as the General Manager. In this role, she found great joy in supporting the local communities in Greene County and serving familiar faces when they stopped in the restaurant.

In 2007, Jodi took a leap of faith and moved to the State College area for a chance to be promoted as the Area Supervisor. It paid off and she successfully led five McDonald's restaurants in that area and grew her skillset exponentially before returning to Morgantown in the same role. By this

point, Jodi realized that McDonald's was a special company, and one she saw herself committing to long-term.

In 2012, she was hired as a consultant for the McDonald's Corporation. In this role, Jodi became a trained facilitator at Hamburger University— “yes, that is a real place with a legitimate degree!”— Jodi remarks, laughing. She also began teaching leadership classes to employees at many of the area restaurants before moving onto her next role as a Business Consultant. “As a consultant to the franchisees, I worked with hundreds of restaurants and really liked the local feel operators had in their business.”

Fast forward to 2025 when Jodi was accepted into the owner/operator training program, which takes only 1% of all applicants. Now, she is running her own company under the Golden Arches, JMR Family Restaurants. She is the owner/operator of the three McDonald's restaurants in Washington, PA, and works in the business alongside her husband Zach, sister Jennifer, and mother Patty.

When asked how she was capable of achieving this dream when so many others may not succeed, she simply says, “I am not a unicorn. Just work hard, work well with others, and take advantage of the opportunities that come your way.”

Some of the first opportunities Jodi encountered were given to her by teachers at West Greene High School. She speaks fondly of field trips to the local animal shelter with Ms. Watson and how these trips set the stage for her love of community involvement. In her junior year, Mr. Tanner introduced her to Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW), a business-focused conference that teams high school kids together to run a fictitious company. Jodi shares that she was an active participant of 4-H

growing up and learned so much about budgeting, responsibility, and community through the leaders and program.

Jodi also cites her first crew position with McDonald's as her most beneficial training ground in the role of human resources and ownership. “Working in a rural area taught me to work hard and pull my weight. It taught me a kind of hospitality where I've never met a stranger. This was especially helpful early in my career, working with a diverse crowd on both sides of the counter,” she explains.

Throughout Jodi's years of advancement, she also worked toward her bachelor's degree, graduating in 2016 from West Liberty University. She calls attention to the McDonald's Archways Program that helped her graduate debt free. She is excited to talk about the education benefits offered to all of her team members, like the McDonald's partnership with Colorado Tech University, where employees can choose from a wide range of degree programs that are 100%

paid for. CTU is designed with working adults in mind, and provides long-term advisors that stay with students throughout the duration of their program, as well as a free laptop to help employees get a jump on their educational pursuits.

She also explains that McDonald's offers another program called “English Under the Arches” to support non-native language speakers to advance their careers with the linguistic skills they need to be successful, as well as online high school diplomas with placement testing that allows employees to finish only the coursework they need to complete this vital step of education without settling for a GED.

“Having an impact on people and being involved in give-back programs is one of my favorite things about the job. I am able to get involved with local events and have the autonomy to sponsor sporting events and provide benefits that help the whole families of my employees.”

Some of the benefits Jodi is most proud to offer at her restaurants are 24/7 access to telehealth and mental health support services for employees and their immediate families. “You can't be your best when the whole family isn't well,” Jodi remarks.

Some of Jodi's other passions reflected in her three restaurants are supporting local youth, where she invites Trinity High School art students to frequently paint windows and design labels and logos for new drink lines and products. She is also an advocate for women in leadership, as well as any efforts to help animals, such as the “Pet Search” initiative that her business is currently supporting.

Owning and operating a McDonald's restaurant isn't for the weak, and it also isn't for anyone who is not willing to pledge their “full-time, best effort,” as Jodi says. “It's a unique franchising method,” she continues. Unlike other chain restaurants, “McDonald's is 96% privately owned,” making it “a network of small business owners,” rather than a cold, one-size-fits-all corporation.

She extends her sincere gratitude to her husband and the whole family— related or otherwise. “They are an integral part of what we do and I couldn't do this without them,” she says. “Raising two young children and running a business can be a lot at times so I lean on my team and they help me make it work.” Jodi calls attention to Kelly (Wilkes) Gaskins, another Greene County native, who is the Business Manager for JMR and keeps things running behind the scene.

Jodi encourages anyone with interest in a career in hospitality to not fall victim to the stigma of working in the fast food industry. “There's a lot of ways to get to the same destination. Be open! It's not just burgers and fries; there are so many ways to grow, with roles ranging from management to real estate to supply chain.”

Jodi is absolutely right— it has never been just burgers and fries.

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# Scene and Heard

By Dolly Throckmorton

## YOGA SCHMOGA

(Part 1)

After spending most of my life teaching dance and fitness classes in some capacity, I thought around 2017 that the natural progression for me was to transition to yoga. I started on a path to RYT 200 (200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher). I only thought of it at that time in a physical sense: maintain my flexibility, **increase my flexibility** in certain areas, and try something

that was a little gentler on the joints.

Of course, I knew there was a mental and spiritual component, but I had not happened across that side in any classes I had ever taken. I honestly did not know what it meant except that it was some state of enlightenment or bliss that I had never attained. It took me many decades in my life to come to the realization that I am just a life-long learner.

There was just no suppressing it, and it was a relief to realize what that is. There is not something inherently wrong with me that I must learn about things in the form of classes, certifications, or research.

Yoga was one of those learning experiences that provided me with a lot more than I had even anticipated. Yes, **the physical benefits are more tangible, but the mental, spiritual, and even psychological benefits were far greater.**

The simple definition of yoga is “an ancient Indian practice designed to harmonize body, mind, and spirit.” Sounds blissful, doesn’t it? Unfortunately, many people have hang-ups around this whole mind-body-spirit concept.

Regarding meditation, I have heard excuses such as: “I can pray, but I can’t meditate”; “It’s against my religion”; “I can’t sit still that long”; “My mind wanders”; or simply, “It’s stupid.”

I have also heard “Stretching just isn’t for me”, “I’m just not flexible”, or “It moves too slow for me.” as excuses against the *asanas* or yoga poses. And as far as the controlled breathing or *pranayama*, I have heard “I can’t stop holding my breath” or “I can’t focus on my breath.”

If you look at all those excuses, I see one glaring common denominator: me, me, me. And there lies your answer, folks: ego stands in the way of almost everything. It stands in the way of your progress, your happiness, and your peace. Setting your ego aside can open so many possibilities that do not go against your thoughts, your morals, your beliefs, or your religion.

**I am here to tell you that the best thing about yoga is it is whatever you make of it.** There are days when I prefer a quicker flow between poses, and there are days when I prefer to hold a pose and take more breaths. I do not know why that is, but I try to just “go with the flow” and trust my mind knows what my body needs.

It is your practice and it is always there for you, but being able to let things happen, live in the present, let go of the past, and find some kind of harmony that works for you, is all about putting your ego away for a moment. It is about relinquishing control, and for most of us, that is scary.

We will dive further into the specific benefits of yoga in next month’s column.

*If you are interested in learning more about breathwork, yoga, stretching, dancing, or Reiki, I am available for private instruction (1-4 students) and events currently. These sessions can be in-person or virtual. You can message me on Instagram @gypsyrambler pa or on Facebook under Dolly Throckmorton (with the blue checkmark) or email me at [dollythrock@gmail.com](mailto:dollythrock@gmail.com) for more information.*



# 2026 SUMMER FESTIVAL & FAIR GUIDE

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## Litter Bug

By Laura McAnallen

The following is a response by one of our readers to an article about Earth Day in our April issue.

In the 80s, when I was young, anti-litter contests were popular in schools and communities, encouraging people to take pride in keeping their environment clean. Students created posters and slogans that promoted awareness, responsibility, and friendly competition, helping reinforce the importance of reducing litter. I remember how everyone I knew was involved and cared about the planet. Many of us can remember the popular campaign "Keep America Beautiful".

Unfortunately, littering remains a widespread issue. Even worse, it seems concern has declined. In the state of Pennsylvania, studies show there are an estimated 502 million pieces of litter on our roads. The next time you get off the interstate or even drive along one of our scenic back roads, look around. The amount of litter is heartbreaking.

In 2025, Pennsylvania passed a bill regarding Litter Enforcement Corridors, which was designed to protect specially marked roadway segments where fines for littering are doubled or tripled. This was intended to protect scenic and historical areas. It is a small step in the right direction.

While exact statewide totals for fines issued in 2025 are not publicly reported, officials insist enforcement and penalties are rising as part of a broader effort to discourage littering. However, I have never heard of anyone getting fined for littering. A quick check with local officials found these code violations are rarely, if ever, enforced.

Addressing littering requires a renewed focus and responsibility. By combining the strong awareness campaigns of the past with modern enforcement, communities can work toward reducing litter and protecting our environment.

GreeneScene

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## Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore



*Bret Moore is the former Director of Recreation for Greene County. He taught English and coached multiple sports at McGuffey High School for thirty years. He is also the author of Rough and Ungentlemanly Tactics, a two-volume history of sports in Greene County, available at Direct Results and McCracken Pharmacy.*

# THE GREAT NICKNAME ROAD TRIP: GEOGRAPHY LEFT BEHIND

I hate that time of year when football is over, and baseball has yet to start. One day, a few months ago I was so desperate for sports to watch I turned on an NBA game. It was the Los Angeles Lakers and the Utah Jazz. Although they weren't playing real basketball that one could enjoy, they did provide an amusing example of silly nicknames.

Professional sports franchises bring their names, histories, and sometimes a fair bit of geographic confusion when they relocate. Few quirks in sports are as oddly charming as team nicknames that no longer make sense once the moving trucks have rolled in. These linguistic leftovers offer a glimpse into the past, even as teams try to root themselves in new cities.

The most famous example is the Los Angeles Lakers. The name "Lakers" originated in Minneapolis, a city in Minnesota known as the "Land of 10,000 Lakes." When the franchise moved to Los Angeles in 1960, it kept the name, despite Southern California being far better known for beaches than lakes. The nickname has long since detached from its geographic roots

and is now associated more with Hollywood glitz than freshwater bodies.

A similarly discordant note can be heard with the Utah Jazz. The team began as the New Orleans Jazz, a name that perfectly captured the musical heritage of New Orleans. But when the franchise relocated to Salt Lake City in 1979, the name came along for the ride. Utah is quite literally the whitest state in the country (98.9 %) and has absolutely no connection to jazz music. The thought of Mitt Romney grooving to Miles Davis is the stuff of psychedelic incongruity.

Another ironic example is the Memphis Grizzlies. The franchise began as the Vancouver Grizzlies in Canada, where the name made perfect sense given the region's population of grizzly bears. After moving to Memphis in 2001, the team retained the nickname, despite the fact the nearest grizzly is over 1,000 miles away. However, the name can be used as an adjective to describe the team's play this year.

Baseball offers its own examples. The Los Angeles Dodgers trace their name back to Brooklyn, where residents were once known as "trolley dodgers" for navigating busy streetcar lines. When the team moved west in 1958, the nickname remained, even though trolley-dodging was hardly a defining activity in Los Angeles. Yet, I feel the name has taken on new meaning recently as the team finds more and more ways to dodge the salary cap.

Another baseball oddity occurred several years ago when the California Angels became the Los Angeles Angels. I only took two years of high school Spanish, but I know that means they are "The Angels Angels."

Hockey provides a subtler case with the Calgary Flames. The team originated in Atlanta as the Atlanta Flames, a name referencing the burning of the city during the American Civil War. (Talk about a passive aggressive slap at all those NHL Yankees) When the franchise moved to Calgary, the name was kept, though its historical significance became less direct. In Calgary, "Flames" has been reinterpreted more abstractly, often tied to the region's oil industry (quite a stretch).

One such move was an easy fix. When the

Minnesota North Stars moved to Dallas, they simply removed the word North and became the Dallas Stars.



The NFL and old AFL also saw their share of interesting nickname drama.

The Baltimore Colts took their name because of the area's association with horse breeding and racing traditions. Indianapolis is better known for racing cars than horses; however, I'm sure there are at least farms in the area.

Tennessee was almost the site of another silly nickname. The Houston Oilers obviously made sense. But the only "crude" coming out of Nashville is "Bro" country music. People forget the team kept the Oiler nickname for its first two years in the Volunteer State before they became the Titans.

Football also gave us interesting stories of near, silly nicknames. The Cowboys were originally to be called the Steers until someone from Texas realized a castrated mascot might not have been the best idea. The Raiders were originally the Senors until sportswriters started complaining they didn't have the Spanish *tilde* on their keyboards to spell the team correctly (obviously, neither did I).

There were some nickname moves that were too specific or problematic to overcome. Examples include: The Dallas Texans to the Kansas City Chiefs, the Montreal Expos to the Washington Nationals, the Washington Senators to the Texas Rangers. These teams were forced to create new identities for the same franchise.

However, the occasional mismatched name persists for a mix of practical and sentimental reasons. Branding is a major factor. Merchandise, logos, and history all carry value, and owners are often reluctant to discard them. Keeping the name helps maintain a sense of continuity between a franchise's past and present, even if the geography no longer aligns.

In some cases, the disconnect becomes part of the charm. Fans and commentators enjoy the oddity, and the name's original meaning fades into a trivia question.

Still, these names serve as reminders that professional sports are as much business as they are civic institutions. Teams sometimes move for better financial opportunities. The result is a landscape dotted with linguistic relics. I guess those names tell stories of where they've been, not just where they are.





**Cora Roberts** is the daughter of Tammy and Dale Carr of Dilliner. She is a senior and has lettered in softball for the Lady Maples while pitching, playing second and third base as well as the outfield.

Cora is a member of the National Honor Society and studies building construction at the Greene County CTC. In her spare time, she takes piano lessons and does yearly recitals. After graduation, Cora hopes to work for RG Johnson, sinking shafts for coal mines.



**Kory Taylor** is the son of George and Jackie Taylor from Waynesburg, PA. He is a three-sport athlete, competing in hockey, baseball, and sporting clays, where he is a five-time individual national champion. He was also the starting catcher on the 2025 section championship team.

He enjoys hunting and fishing and is a member of the National Honor Society. Kory plans to attend Emmanuel University and study finance while competing on their clay target team.



**Colton McKnight** is a senior and he has lettered in football, basketball, and baseball for the Maples. In his spare time, he also enjoys racing motocross and golfing. After graduating, he plans to continue sharpening his skills in residential construction while building a real estate portfolio.



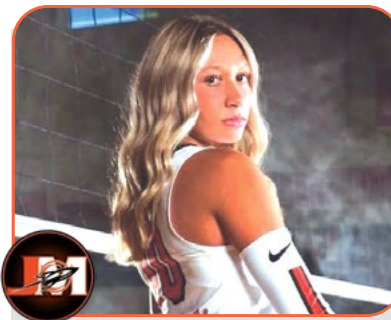
**Chatham Knight** is the daughter of Adam Knight and Chaley Knight of Waynesburg. She is a multiple-letter winner in both basketball and volleyball. She has been named a team captain and All-County (GCADA) in both sports. Chatham was also named Second Team All-Section for volleyball and to the All-Tournament Team for the Carmichaels Christmas Basketball Tournament.

She maintains a 4.0 GPA and received awards in mathematics and chemistry. Her extra-curricular activities include: vice president of the Student Council, secretary of Alpha Beta, secretary of Prom Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Hope Squad, and Youth Alive.

She plans to attend a 4-year program at a university and obtain a nursing degree to work in a pediatric unit.



**Kyle Cunningham** is the son of Matt and Cara Cunningham of Rogersville. He is a freshman and participates in football, wrestling, and track & field. Kyle was also a 2026 Prom Court member. He enjoys golfing, lifting weights, and is the President of the Student Government Association.



**Beautiful Medlen** is the daughter of Sarah Kniha of Jefferson. She plays softball, basketball, and volleyball for the Rockets. Beautiful was named All-County and All-Section in volleyball and served as team captain. She also plays for the Morgantown Volleyball Club.

In school, she is a member of the Spanish Club, yearbook staff, and Interact Club. She also enjoys volunteering, babysitting, and spending time with her family.

Beautiful plans to attend college and major in Social Psychology and play volleyball.



**Melony Shreve** is the daughter of Betsy Six of Aleppo and Tom Shreve of New Freeport.

She is a sophomore and participates in volleyball, rifle, and softball. She finished in the Top 10 at the WPI-AL Rifle Championships

Melony is a member of the Pioneers' FFA program and enjoys the outdoors and hanging out with friends.



**Evan Kniha** is the son of Jared and Sam Slusser and Pat Hager of Clarksville. He is a junior and plays baseball for the Rockets and the Greene County Ghosts. He plans to attend college and pursue a degree in nursing.

## GreeneScene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

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Emily Mahle (far right) worked the recent NFL Draft in Pittsburgh as a Wayfinder, including access to the Green Room. The assignment was part of her major in Sports Management at Penn West California.



Coach Joe Kubns displays the helmet the Steelers sent to the Raider's football team from the NFL Draft recognizing alumnus Bill George as a WPIAL player elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



Coach Brunell with five of his six state champion pole vaulters at the Greene County Sports Hall of Fame Banquet.

## WAYNESBURG CENTRAL HONORS "BUTCH"

On April 23, the Waynesburg Central High School track was officially named the **Howard "Butch" Brunell Track**.

The Greene County Sports Hall of Famer was a fixture of Waynesburg athletics for decades, serving as both a head coach and a mentor to numerous state champions.

"Butch" dedicated over **57 years** to the Waynesburg Central track and field program, serving as a head coach, assistant, and volunteer. He was widely regarded as the premier pole vault coach in Pennsylvania.

He coached **six PIAA state champions and 18 WPIAL champions** between 1973 and 2023.

In addition, Brunell's athletes also earned **12 PIAA and 32 WPIAL medals** in other events

Even at age 81 in 2025, he helped coach his grandson, Jackson Brunell, and Mason Schroyer to medals at the WPIAL Championships.

Beyond coaching, he dedicated 35 years to the district as a teacher, instructing subjects ranging from Social Studies to Physical Education. He was a constant presence at the track he helped open in 1970, coaching until just days before his passing in October 2025.

More important than his track knowledge, Butch imparted ideals of sportsmanship and compassion to everyone with whom he came into contact.

The renaming ceremony took place during the inaugural Coach Brunell Memorial Invitational, where his wife, Janice, and their family were honored at the center of the track. The meet featured several standout performances from Waynesburg athletes, including a second-place finish in the middle school pole vault by Butch's grandson Tanner.

Shortly after the ceremony, older brother Jackson, won the pole vault at the Washington-Greene County meet, dedicating the victory to his grandfather.

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## SPORTS SHORTS



The Mapletown Junior High Baseball team posted a 7-6 record, earning the first winning season in junior high program history. This marks the first winning season across BOTH junior high and varsity since 2006.



West Greene coach Bill Simms recently reached a historic milestone recording his **300th career softball victory** in a 17-2 win over Avella.

Simms has built West Greene into a premier softball dynasty in Western Pennsylvania. He has guided the Lady Pioneers to **five consecutive WPIAL championships** (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021—with 2020 canceled due to COVID-19).

He also led the team to back-to-back **PIAA state titles** in 2017 and 2018.

Simms is flanked in the photo by his daughters Kylie (left) and Emily (right)



At the recent TRICADA Athletic Banquet, Carmichaels golf coach **Dave Briggs** was nominated for TRICADA Coach of the Year for the 2025 season. Also honored were First Team All-State softball players **Bailey Barnyak**, **Carys McConnell**, and **Ashton Batis** (not-pictured).

## RAIDER TESS PAULEY NAMED TO KDKA'S SUPER 7 WATCHLIST



Waynesburg Central's **Tess Pauley** was among those honored when the red carpet was rolled out for Pittsburgh's best and brightest basketball players from the 2025-26 season. The group was honored at an awards ceremony at the Kamin Science Center.

The night began with the players and guests getting a chance to explore the Sports360 wing of the Science Center, which is filled with Pittsburgh sports history and over 25 interactive activities. The ceremony was hosted by KDKA Radio personality Josh Rowntree.

After the final awards winners were announced, players and families exited the theater and gathered outside for more photos, as it was a night these student athletes will want to remember forever.

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# In the Out-Door

By T.R. Mahle

## OUTCAST BASS CLUB: BUILT ON FISHING, FUELED BY FRIENDSHIP

By T.R. Mahle

The *Outcasts Bass Club* has become an important part of the fishing and outdoor recreation culture in southwestern Pennsylvania. Based in Greene County, the club brings together anglers who share a passion for competitive bass fishing, conservation, and community involvement. Although it may not be as widely known as larger national fishing organizations, the club has earned respect throughout the region for its dedication to the sport and its support of local events and charitable activities.

Bass fishing has long been popular in Pennsylvania because of the state's lakes, rivers, and reservoirs that provide ideal habitats for largemouth and smallmouth bass. Greene County, with its rural setting and access to waterways, offers excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Outcasts Bass Club was organized to give local fishermen a chance to compete in tournaments, improve their fishing skills, and enjoy fellowship with others who love the sport.

In the early years, the Outcast Bass Club was called the Greene County Bassmaster's and one of the most significant figures associated with its organization was **Larry Freeman**. Along with the name change in the late 1990s, Freeman later served as District 5 president for the Pennsylvania Bass Federation, helping represent western Pennsylvania anglers in statewide competition and conservation efforts. Through leadership like this, the club developed connections with other bass fishing organizations across Pennsylvania. Freeman is currently **the Club President and Tournament Director** for the organization.

The Outcast Bass Club, which currently has thirty-eight members, holds ten club tournaments a year, and participates in three District tournaments for the PA Bass Federation, with the hopes of qualifying for the National Semi-Final Tournament held at Seneca Lake in New York.

Their season generally runs from early spring till the end of June. Anglers compete for the total "pounds" of fish with the highest weight winning the tournament. Anglers may keep five fish (minimum of twelve inches) to weigh-in at the end of the day. It's four fish after October, and the minimum is fifteen inches then. There is a separate "Lunker" prize for the biggest catch of the tournament. All fish are catch-and-release...no fish is kept. If by chance a fish dies, there is a deduction of ½ pound off the total score. Also, no live bait is permitted.



Sam Crawford, member of Outcast Bass Club.

Smallmouth, Largemouth, and Spotted Bass are the pursued species, the Monongahela River, Cheat Lake, the Youghiogheny Rive Lake and Dam, Tygart Lake (WV), and Lake Erie are preferred destinations. Boats are recommended for membership, but not required, you may ask to participate as a "rider" who fishes off the back of the boat of a member.

The Outcasts Bass Club is more than a competitive fishing organization. Community service has also played a major role in its identity. In 2022, the club partnered with the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America to host a team bass fishing tournament. The event gave disabled veterans an opportunity to enjoy a day on the water while

participating in friendly competition with volunteer boat captains and anglers. Events like this demonstrate how fishing clubs can create opportunities for recreation, friendship, and support for veterans and community members.

Like many local sportsmen's organizations, the club reflects the traditions of Greene County itself. Outdoor recreation is deeply connected to the county's culture, where hunting, fishing, and conservation remain important parts of everyday life. Clubs such as the Outcasts encourage responsible fishing practices, respect for wildlife resources, and sportsmanship among younger anglers. They also help preserve interest in outdoor activities at a time when many communities are trying to reconnect younger generations with nature and conservation efforts.

Competitive bass fishing requires patience, strategy, and knowledge of changing water and weather conditions. Members often spend countless hours preparing for tournaments, studying fish behavior, and practicing techniques that improve their chances of success. Tournament fishing also creates strong bonds among members because anglers share advice, stories, and experiences from time spent on Pennsylvania waterways.

The club represents more than just fishing competition. It stands as a symbol of community involvement, outdoor tradition, and fellowship among sportsmen in Greene County.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the **Outcast Bass Club**, you can contact **Larry Fitzgerald** at (724) 678-6860 or **Sam Crawford** at (724) 255-1599. Memberships are generally submitted in November for the April start of the tournament season.

## LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS AND MOUNTAIN FISHING

By T.R. Mahle

The road into the mountains always feels longer than it really is, as if time itself slows to match the winding curves and rising elevation. Being a guest on a well-established fishing trip with a group of guys who are lifelong friends is indeed a privilege. They have been repeating the same ritual for over 30 years now, and being a part of it is something I look forward to whenever the opportunity presents itself.

For me, there's a gentle etiquette to an event like this, knowing when to engage and when to respectfully remain at a slight distance. In the beginning, getting invited to spend time with an established group of friends that already has its own rhythm, inside jokes, and shared experiences was somewhat ticklish for me. However, over time, after years of hanging out and fishing together, repeated invitations turned unfamiliar into comfort. I now feel like I have become a small part of something special.

For this tightknit group of friends, this is an annual and very anticipated weekend. This is "*Man's World*" at its absolute best with fishing, camping, grilling, gambling, adult beverages, and no shortage of reminiscing and storytelling. It's like stepping into a story that has been waiting for us to return.

This group boasts some of the best anglers I have ever had the privilege of fishing with. I look forward to watching them navigate the stream, working the water and currents effortlessly, as if they've always belonged there. As the guys slowly drifted to their favorite spots on the water, the conversations began to fade. No one was really saying anything important anyhow. They were all just filling space with the sound of being together again.

For a while, we fished in near silence, broken only by an occasional splash, or the squeal of a child catching a fish. For me, it really wasn't about catching anything, not really. It was about being there, suspended in a moment that felt untouched by everything else.

As the afternoon stretched on, some were fishing feverishly while others were laying back against the bank, eyes half-closed, listening to the water rushing over the rocks. Others stood quietly with a beverage or fiddled with their lines without much intention. Time loosened its grip entirely.

When the shadows began to lengthen, the lone remaining comrade on the stream parted with a tip of his hand to me, "*It's all yours now big guy, good luck.*" Alone on the stream, I was so content in my surroundings I didn't even notice the departure of the others. As the sun dipped behind the trees, I packed up slowly and reluctantly headed to my truck. The hike back felt quieter. My steps were slower, and I carried a piece of the experience with me.

Early the next day, the sun was just starting to lighten the sky, and the stream seemed very inviting in the morning light. There was a mist hovering just above the surface, drifting lazily as if it too, had nowhere else to be. Sunrises in the mountain are a favorite of mine, and this one did not disappoint.

By midmorning, the mist had burned off, and many trout had landed in my net. However, it was time for my part of this adventure to end. It was enjoyable to see old friends, and it was nice to make some new ones. These are a great bunch of guys. I am grateful for the opportunity to hang out and fish with them. I appreciate them letting me share this little part of their world for a few days every year.





Aiden, Jaxon, and Logan with first day catches

Levi Phillips  
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# ANGLERS SHOWCASE

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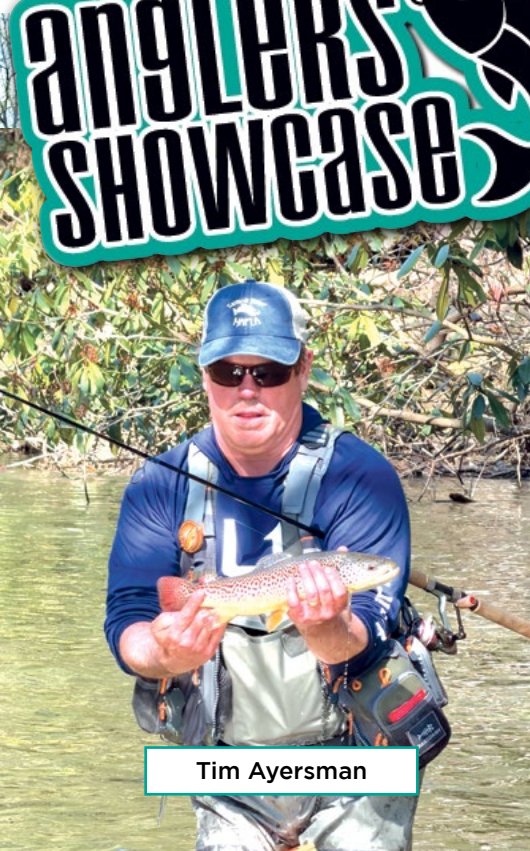


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# ANGLERS SHOWCASE



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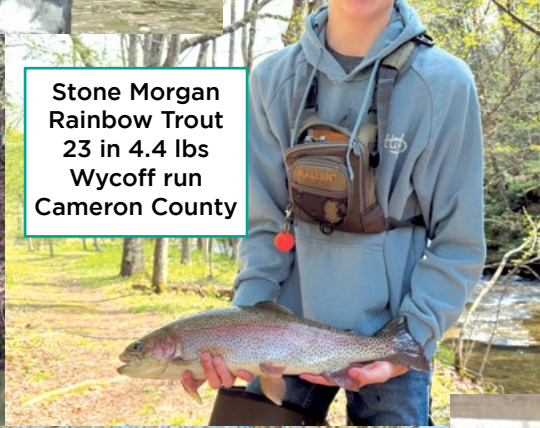
Wayne Smith



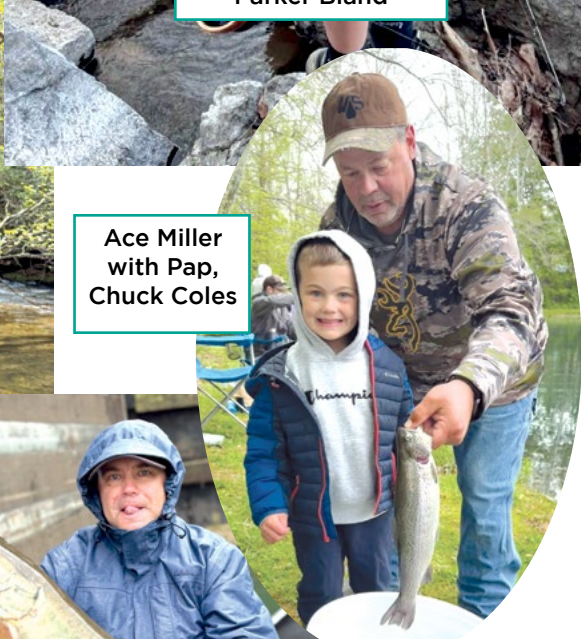
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Craig Brewer

# RED, WHITE, AND BLUE...THE HEAD COLORS OF THE GOBBLER

By T.R. Mahle

**W**hy does a turkey's head change colors? Reading a gobbler's head can make you deadlier in the woods on opening day. The head of a turkey is known for its striking and ever-changing colors, which play an important role in communication and behavior. Unlike feathers, the skin on a turkey's head can shift hues due to blood flow and emotional state, making it a vivid indicator of mood and health.

**BLUE:** calm and relaxed, not alarmed

**RED:** fired up and aggressive, ready to gobble

**WHITE:** Alert and nervous

One of the most recognizable colors is red, often seen on the wattle (the fleshy lobe under the chin) and the caruncles (the bumpy growth on the head and neck). A bright red color usually signals excitement, dominance, or aggression, especially in males during mating displays.

Blue is another prominent color, particularly on the crown and sides of the head. When a turkey is calm or relaxed, pale blue tones are more visible. This color can deepen or fade depending on the bird's level of stress or alertness.

White can appear on the head as well, often blending with blue or red. In some cases, a turkey's head may look almost completely white, which can indicate fear or extreme agitation. This sudden paling happens quickly and is part of the bird's physiological response to stress.

In addition to red, blue, and white, subtle shades of pink and purple may also appear, creating a complex, shifting palette. These color changes are especially dramatic in male turkeys, or toms, during courtship, when they display to attract females.

Overall, the changing colors of a turkey's head serve as a dynamic visual language, helping these birds communicate without sound.



Mike Zeglan



Bill D'Eletto



*Dwan Cosgrove sent this photo of his four-year-old grandson Jon of Rices Landing with his first Turkey.*



Colt Maley



Emily Simms



Tammy Hardy

## HIV STARTS WITH HUMAN

*“I believe in myself as I look forward to graduating from Hamilton Heights High School in 1991”*  
 --- Ryan White

In the business of managing work, family, and daily responsibilities, it’s easy to place our biomedical health on the backburner. We often prioritize what feels urgent and visible, while long-term health goes unchecked. Chronic conditions, HIV, and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are sometimes set aside due to other self-care priorities. Yet, caring for our health is one of the most essential forms of self-care.

Routine check-ups, preventive screenings, and regular HIV and STI testing are simple but powerful ways to assess overall wellness. These proactive steps allow for early detection, timely treatment, and better long-term outcomes. We all want to show up fully for the people and moments that matter most. Being the healthiest version of yourself is a way to do that.

In Southwestern Pennsylvania, HIV testing, treatment, and supportive services are accessible through healthcare providers and community-based organizations. For individuals seeking privacy, free HIV self-test kits can be ordered online.

While progress has been made in reducing new infections and improving care, disparities persist across race, gender, age, and geography. Approximately one in five new HIV diagnoses are considered late diagnoses, meaning the person is diagnosed after the infection progressed to advanced HIV. Increasing awareness and routine testing remains vital to closing these gaps.

HIV is a virus that attacks the body’s immune system and can progress to AIDS if left untreated. However, medical advancements have transformed what an HIV diagnosis means today. With consistent use of antiretroviral therapy (ART), people living with HIV can live long, healthy lives. Even more importantly, individuals who achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load through effective treatment cannot transmit the virus to sexual partners as (or in other words, Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U)).

Prevention has also advanced significantly. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) offers up to 99% protection against HIV transmission when taken as prescribed. PrEP is available for individuals without HIV who want greater control over their sexual health. PrEP does not protect against other STIs or pregnancy, nor does it treat existing HIV infections. Sexual health care and routine testing essential in reducing stigma and empowering people to seek testing and care without fear.

Self-care is more than rest - it is responsibility. By prioritizing routine testing, stronger education, and visibility, you invest not only in your own well-being, but in the health of your community. Education, accessibility, and community support are central to combating HIV. Resources such as AIDSFreeWesternPA.org and AIDS Free Pittsburgh’s social media platforms provide reliable information and connections to care. Knowledge reduces stigma. Awareness strengthens prevention. Action saves lives.

Self-care is more than rest. By investing in your own well-being, you invest in the health of your community. You can find more information about HIV and self-care, plus health resources near you, at AIDSFreeWesternPA.org.



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*Bridget Vernon caught this foggy image on Hoy Hill Road.*

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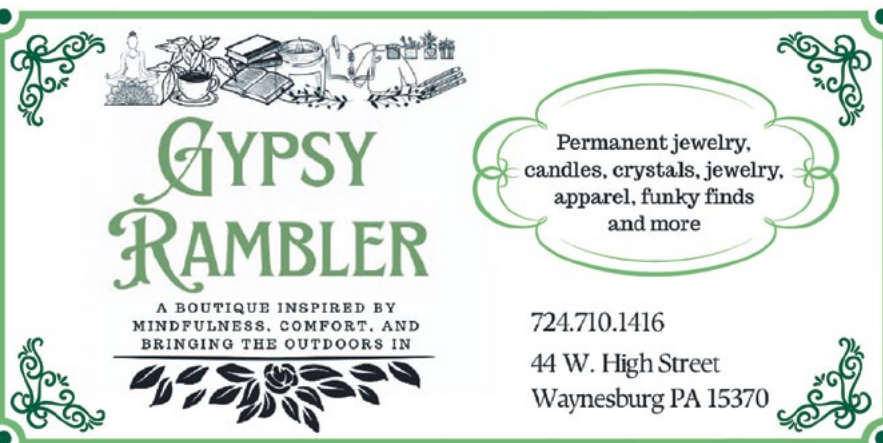


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