

Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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AND
FESTIVAL
GUIDE

ADMIT ONE



JULY 2026

In this issue... JULY 2026

FEATURES

- 4 TOWNE SQUARE**
Investing in Care: Why America Must Expand Funding for Nursing Education
- 6 PERSON PLACE OR THING**
- 8 GOOD NEWS IN GREENE COUNTY**
- 10 COOL AT SCHOOL:**
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!
County Students Come Together for Music, Friendship and Fun
A Scholarly Summer
Carmichaels Area NHS Induction Ceremony
Has Social Media Replaced the Yearbook?
- 16 FOX FORD REUNITES WITH 1976 MERCURY MARQUIS BROUGHAM**
- 16 ELITE ELVIS FAN**
- 17 250TH CELEBRATION CALENDAR 2026**
- 18 BACKROADS REDUX**
- 20 GREENE COUNTY VETERAN TALK: THE VA IN YOUR POCKET**
- 21 FAIR & FESTIVAL GUIDE REMOVEABLE INSERT SECTION**
PLOWS AND PICKAXES: GREENE COUNTY'S DUAL LEGACY
Harvest, Horses, and Commerce: The Economic Legacy of County Fairs
Two Area Women Take the Cake at Local Fairs
The Greene County Fair
Greene County Fair Queen Program celebrates 40 years
"Ewe" Can Do It - Lew Crouse
West Alexander Fair
The Mount Morris Fair
The First Local Fair: Carmichaels
From Harvests to Headframes: The Birth of a Mining Economy
The King Coal Show: Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Community
Carmichaels Borough Builds Community Pride Through Service and Renewal
Fastball, Meet Forecast: Mason Miller Puts His Hat on the Line for Rain Day
- 37 SCENE AND HEARD**
Yogashmoga - Part Two
- 38 SUMMER IN THE COUNTRY**
- 39 MON VIEW PARK: A HIDDEN GEM**
- 40 JOE'S DAIRY BAR**
- 47 THE CROWDED KITCHEN:**
WITH CHAY LAHEW
- 49 HOMETOWN HERITAGE**
When the Whole Town Came to the Ballpark
- 52 IN THE OUT-DOOR**
OUTDOOR SPOTLIGHT: BUSH PLANES, HORSEBACK HUNTS, AND B&C GRIZZLY'S
JAKES in the Wild, the NWTF & The Warrior Trail Gobblers
The Harmful Effects of Baling Hay on Wildlife
The Appalachian Fly Fishing Festival in Thomas, WV

FRONT COVER PHOTO:
The colors of the Greene County Fair
captured by photographer Lexie Mooney

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TOWNE SQUARE

INVESTING IN CARE: WHY AMERICA MUST EXPAND FUNDING FOR NURSING EDUCATION

In May, the Greene County Career & Technology Center's Joint Operating Committee voted to authorize Executive Director Mark Krupa and Superintendent of Record Brandon Robinson to take all actions necessary to close the License Practical Nursing program by June 26.

This closure will occur in the middle of the four currently enrolled students' program, which was scheduled to be completed in October.

The 12-month training program for adult students puts them through three levels of training, at the end of which they take the Licensure Examination. By June 26, the students will have completed the second level.

The committee also ratified a "teach-out" agreement between the Greene County CTC and the Fayette County Career and Technical Institute that would allow students to continue the program there. Krupa said Greene CTC was also working with two other programs in the area to allow for transfers.

Both votes were 3-2, with Janet Pennington and Betty Jo Black voting against the move. Those voting for the closure were Wayne Knisely, Robert Mitchell, and Lewis May.

Administrators said they are seeking outside funding to extend the program to allow the current class of four students to finish at Greene. Krupa said it would cost slightly more than \$100,000 to cover the shortfall and continue the program through October.

Krupa explained the CTC has discussed closing the program for the past two years due to continued low enrollment. Graduating classes were as high as 28 as recently as 2014, then fell into the teens and single digits.

Funding comes from student tuition, rather than from local districts, Krupa said. "If you don't have the students, you don't have the tuition. At the same time, operating costs from wages, health insurance and pensions have gone up significantly, making keeping the program no longer feasible."

The four students and their instructors who were affected were understandably upset and voiced their objections at the committee meeting. They pointed out what they felt was lack of sufficient notice and transparency in the closing process.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that we hope everyone can sympathize with and that a fair and equitable solution can be achieved.

However, this situation is emblematic of a larger issue, considering the country is facing a major nursing shortage that affects nearly every area of healthcare, including hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, and schools.

While much public attention focuses on Registered Nurses, there is also a growing shortage of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). The shortage has serious implications for the overall stability of the healthcare system.

Without increased funding for recruitment, educational opportunities and workplace benefits for these indispensable people, our already troubled rural hospitals will

cease to exist as we know them.

The nursing shortage developed over many years due to a combination of demographic changes, workplace stress, educational limitations, and increased demand. One of the largest causes is the aging population in the United States. As millions of Americans grow older, they require more care for chronic illnesses.

Older adults also require long-term services in nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and home healthcare settings. At the same time, many experienced nurses are nearing retirement age themselves, reducing the size of the workforce just as demand for care increases.

Another major factor is burnout. Nurses experienced extraordinary stress during the COVID-19 pandemic, and many left the profession afterward. Long shifts, emotional exhaustion, understaffing, workplace violence, and mandatory overtime contributed to dissatisfaction among nurses.

Unfortunately, surveys show that many nurses intend to leave bedside care within the next several years because of unsafe staffing ratios and poor working conditions.

Educational bottlenecks also contribute heavily to the shortage. Nursing schools across the country struggle to expand enrollment because they lack faculty, space, and clinical placements for students. This limits the number of new nurses entering the profession despite strong interest in nursing careers.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects approximately 189,000 RN job openings annually due to both new demand and replacement needs. **Rural communities** and urban areas **are particularly vulnerable** because they already struggle to recruit healthcare professionals.

Moreover, the role of Licensed Practical Nurses is increasingly important in understanding the broader nursing workforce crisis. LPNs provide basic nursing care. Their duties often include monitoring vital signs, administering medications, assisting with daily activities, collecting samples, documenting care, and supporting patient comfort.

Recently, many healthcare organizations have begun relying more heavily on LPNs because of continuing RN shortages. Some hospitals have reintroduced LPNs into medical-surgical units and long-term care settings to stabilize staffing levels.

Federal workforce projections indicate that demand for LPNs is expected to exceed supply substantially in the coming years.

Nursing homes already face major staffing challenges, especially in rural communities. In addition, LPNs are often paid

far less than RNs despite facing physically and emotionally demanding work environments. This can make recruitment and retention difficult.

The shortage also affects healthcare economics. Healthcare systems increasingly rely on temporary staffing agencies and travel nurses to fill vacancies, which significantly increases labor costs. Some facilities close units or reduce services because they cannot safely staff them.

Patients will experience longer wait times, reduced access to care, and overcrowded emergency departments. In nursing homes, shortages will lead to delayed assistance for residents, medication errors, and lower overall quality of care.

Addressing the nursing shortage will require long-term solutions. Governments and healthcare organizations need to provide scholarships, loan forgiveness, and incentives for nurse educators to help expand training programs.

Improving workplace conditions is equally important. Better staffing ratios, higher wages, and safer work environments would encourage more nurses to remain. **Expanding career pathways for LPNs and supporting bridge programs** from LPN to RN may also strengthen the workforce.

In previous issues, we have already discussed the emergency healthcare desert affecting our area. **Without a sustained, holistic long-term solution to recruiting and maintaining nurses, our healthcare infrastructure will continue to crumble around us.**



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 *We reserve the right to edit submissions for grammar, length and clarity.*

Miss Denny's 133rd Birthday Tea

Join us for a delightful afternoon as we celebrate the legacy of Miss Josephine Denny and her extraordinary philanthropy in Greene County.



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JUNE PERSON, PLACE OR THING ANSWER

The statue of General Nathanael Greene that crowns the Greene County Courthouse is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the county. The county was named in honor of Greene, one of George Washington's most trusted commanders during the American Revolution. Known for his leadership in the Southern campaign, Greene played a major role in weakening British forces and helping secure American independence. Because of his importance to the nation's founding, local residents chose to honor him with a statue overlooking the courthouse square in Waynesburg.

The statue has become a symbol of county pride and historical identity. Over the years, several versions of the figure have stood atop the courthouse dome. In 2013, officials removed an aging wooden statue after structural concerns were discovered during restoration work. A new fiberglass replica was later lifted back into place, preserving the tradition and appearance of the courthouse skyline.

Today, the statue serves as both a tribute to Revolutionary War history and a reminder of Greene County's deep connection to America's early heritage.



PERSON PLACE OR THING

SCAN TO ENTER!



Hint:

*Upon the Mon's bright waves she loves to bide,
Where gentle currents drift her boat along,
Far from the prison walls where once she plied
The heavy books of payroll for the throng.*

*Thrice four and one long years have softly passed
Since from that state-bound labor she retired,
To rule a small coal mining town at last,
Where as the borough boss she is admired.*

*Two rescued hounds, her faithful, furry joy,
Sweet Lucy and her Joseph, guard her side,
While one dear daughter, free from all annoy,
Fills her devoted mother's heart with pride.*

*No greater dame commands this rustic space,
Go seek the leader of this historic place.*

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EACH MONTH, WE'LL PRESENT A TEASER - A SHORT RIDDLE ABOUT A PERSON, PLACE, OR THING IN OUR READERSHIP AREA - AND INVITE OUR READERS TO GUESS THE ANSWER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GREENSCENE T-SHIRT! THE FOLLOWING MONTH, WE'LL REVEAL BOTH THE ANSWER AND THE LUCKY WINNER.

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CARMICHAELS AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Shaley Glover - Walter Samek, III Memorial Scholarship, \$500
Bettie Stammerjohn Medical Scholarship, \$1,000
Skyler Glendenning - William H. Davis, Jr Memorial Scholarship, \$3,000
Carys McConnell - The Linda Kostak Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000
Rocky Doman Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500
Army Specialist Gregory Cox Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500
Cannon Bupka - Patrick Taylor Scholarship, \$1,000

JEFFERSON-MORGAN HIGH SCHOOL

Ava Wood - Dove Award, \$4,000
George L. Misher & Anne Misher Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000
Bettie Stammerjohn Medical Scholarship, \$1,000
Lloyd "Tag" Ross Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000
R. A. and Janet Matteucci Family Scholarship, \$1,200
Ava Lawver - Enstrom Family Scholarship, \$1,500
Chelsea McGinnis - Dove Award, \$4,000
George L. Misher & Anne Misher Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000
Russell A. Guthrie Memorial Scholarship, \$500
Brooke Ramirez - Enstrom Family Scholarship, \$1,500
Hayden Yeck - George L. Misher & Anne Misher Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000
Joseph Bair - Gregory and Mary Lou Niverth Scholarship, \$1,500
Dayten Marion - R. A. and Janet Matteucci Family Scholarship, \$1,200
Bettie Stammerjohn Scholarship, \$1,000
G. Robert English Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000
Elizabeth Corbett - PFC. Brent A. McClellan Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000
Bailee Buchanan - Jesse Benson Finnegan Scholarship (CTC), \$1,000
Deakyn DeHoet - Jesse Benson Finnegan Scholarship (CTC), \$1,000
Brayden Ellsworth - William H. Davis, Jr Memorial Scholarship, \$3,000

GREENE COUNTY CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Tucker Smith - Jesse Benson Finnegan Scholarship, \$1,000
Bailee Buchanan - Jesse Benson Finnegan Scholarship, \$1,000
Deakyn DeHoet - Jesse Benson Finnegan Scholarship, \$1,000

MAPLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Nicole Barrera - American Legion & Sons of the American Legion Mt. Morris, \$2,000
Army Specialist Gregory Cox Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500
Victor & Anna Mae Wancheck Beghini Scholarship, \$3,300
The Evelyn Minor Memorial Scholarship for the Valedictorian, \$1,250
Ella Menear - Victor & Anna Mae Wancheck Beghini Scholarship, \$3,300
(repeat recipient)

Reagan Rankin - Darlene Phillips Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500
MaKenna Lotspeich - Victor & Anna Mae Wancheck Beghini Scholarship, \$3,300
The Jackie Fedorko Marisa Medical Scholarship, \$1,000
HVM Fine Arts Scholarship Fund, \$4,000
The Evelyn Minor Memorial Scholarship for the Valedictorian, \$1,250
Marley Shiflett - The Evelyn Minor Memorial Scholarship for the Salutatorian, \$750

OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Bailey Burkett - William H. Davis, Jr Memorial Scholarship, \$3,000

WAYNESBURG HIGH SCHOOL

Duncan Barto - American Legion & Sons of the American Legion Mt. Morris, \$2,000
Michelle Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000
Evan Lin - Robert Scott Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000
Jack Dulaney Scholarship, \$4,000
Eli Huffman - Robert Scott Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000
Tucker Smith - Jesse Benson Finnegan Scholarship (CTC), \$1,000
William H. Davis, Jr Memorial Scholarship, \$3,000
Peyton Cowell - Daniel Davis Well Rounded Student Award, \$1,500
Goldie R. Everly 4-H Scholarship, \$4,000
George Nader, Jr. "Remember Your Education is Important" Scholarship, \$7,000
Allie Midla - Goldie R. Everly 4-H Scholarship, \$4,000
Ani Cree - Goldie R. Everly 4-H Scholarship, \$4,000

WEST GREENE HIGH SCHOOL

Eryka Hackney - Carl I. and Joyce Johnston Scholarship, \$2,000
Emmaline Beazell - Carl I. and Joyce Johnston Scholarship, \$2,000
Michelle Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000
Savannah Leighann Hennen Memorial Scholarship, \$5,000
Gavin Cassiday - Thelma S. Hoge Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500
Kendra Tharp - Michelle Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000
Rocky Doman Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500
Chase Morris - L.M. Faddis Scholarship, \$3,000
Army Specialist Gregory Cox Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500
Carlson Family Scholarship, \$1,000
Thelma S. Hoge Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500
Brooklyn Burns - James Cecil Cummins Memorial Scholarship, \$5,000
Matthew Wassil - Thelma Szarell Scholarship, \$1,500
Michelle Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500

STEALTH SCHOLARSHIP FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

Kylee Gump, \$2,500

Good NEWS

In Greene County

Group to Hold 250th Celebration Chapel Service

The observances of our country's 250th Birthday Celebration will include parades, fireworks, and parties by multiple municipal, community, club, and neighborhood organizations. While these are all wonderful ways to celebrate this momentous occasion, perhaps one more should be added to our holiday calendar.

In 1776, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail about our Independence Day. He noted, in addition to the "pomp and parade," the celebration "ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty."

In keeping with this sentiment, **a county-wide worship service will be held in Roberts Chapel on the campus of Waynesburg University on July 5. The event is titled: "A Celebration of Faith, Praise, and Thanksgiving."**

The service will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will feature 18th century hymns and relevant scripture readings and prayers.

The planning committee consists of Greene County Commissioner Jared Edgreen, Waynesburg University President Doug Lee, Rev. Dr. Lawrence Stratton, Rev. Dr. Donald P. Wilson, and organist Ferd Dolfi.

Everyone is cordially invited to this service of community celebration and thanks.

West Greene Grad Receives W.U. Founders Scholarship

Waynesburg University has selected **Eryka Hackney** as a 2026 recipient of the esteemed Founders Scholarship, which covers tuition and fees in full. She is the daughter of Eric and Jessica Hackney of Wind Ridge.

Hackney is a Highest Honor Roll student who has challenged herself academically through several AP courses while actively participating in numerous clubs and athletic programs throughout the district. She was crowned the 2024 Greene County Fair Queen and has completed more than 100 hours of community service. Through the National Honor Society, she helped lead community service projects benefiting The Salvation Army and Corner Cupboard Food Bank. She remains deeply committed to serving and strengthening her community.

A dedicated student-athlete, Hackney served as captain of the cross country and track & field teams and as co-captain of the cheer squad. She is also president of West Greene's Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter and of the Class of 2026, as well as vice president of the Science Club. She plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and hopes to continue her leadership, service, and passion for helping others.



Special Olympics Pom-Pom Picnic a Success

In May, the Washington/Greene Cheerleading Special Olympics hosted participants from Washington, Greene, Fayette, and Beaver counties at a celebratory picnic at the Waynesburg Lions Club Park.

Their seasonal sports schedule for Washington and Greene Counties include:

Fall: Bocce, Flag Football, Long Distance Running/Walking, Powerlifting, Soccer, and Cheerleading

Winter: Snowshoeing and Bowling

Spring: Basketball and Swimming

Summer: Golf

Special Olympics sports registrations can be found on their Facebook page.

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WG Lions Club Awards Scholarships

The West Greene Area Lions Club awarded four \$1,000 scholarships this year to the following essay winners: From left to right are Lion **Jeff Polander**; **Kendra Tharp**, daughter of Cory and Natasha Tharp of Wind Ridge; **Brooklyn Burns**, daughter of Nyle and Scarlett Burns of Graysville; **Morgan Whipkey**, daughter of Steven and Nicole Whipkey of Graysville; **Matthew Wassil**, son of Michael and Jessica Wassil of Nineveh; and Lion Jeremiah Allison.

Matthew Wassil's scholarship was in memory of Don Jarvis, deceased Lions Club Treasurer. Mr. Jeff Polander and Jeremiah Allison presented the awards.

W.U. Hosts EdVenture EQT STEM Days for Local Middle Schoolers

Last month, Waynesburg University partnered with **The EdVenture Group** and the **EQT Foundation** to host their STEM Days Middle School Pitch Competition, welcoming students from across Greene County to campus for a day of entrepreneurship, innovation and STEM-focused learning.

Building on the success of the 2025 EQT STEM Days Design Thinking Challenges, this year's competition engaged middle school students in entrepreneurship and design thinking through a hands-on experience that challenged them to develop and pitch original business ideas.

Participating schools hosted their own school-level competitions throughout the spring, with up to three teams from each school advancing to the countywide challenge held at the University. A total of 50 students representing the five county school districts formed 13 teams and presented their ideas before a panel of judges. Teams were evaluated using a scoring rubric, and cash prizes were awarded to the top-performing groups.

The EdVenture Group has partnered with the EQT Foundation since 2018 to provide educational programming for Greene County schools. Previous initiatives have included esports competitions, drone competitions, design thinking workshops and creativity challenges. The 2026 Pitch Challenge was created to further develop students' creativity, critical thinking, communication and problem-solving skills while exposing them to entrepreneurial concepts.

This marked the first time the county-level competition was hosted at Waynesburg University.

“Last year, we partnered with The EdVenture Group and visited various middle schools around the county,” said Cassy Dorsch, director of the eHIVE, the University’s entrepreneurial hub. “This year, The EdVenture Group wanted a central location and asked us if we would be interested in hosting the event on campus, so students from all five school districts could attend.”

In addition to delivering their pitches, students participated in campus tours and completed hands-on activities in the eHIVE. Students also gathered for lunch in the University's dining hall before returning for an awards ceremony and winner announcements.

“It was incredibly inspiring to see middle schoolers share their ideas and passion to solve problems in their own communities within Greene County,” Dorsch said. “Our eHIVE program works to foster the Entrepreneurial Leadership mindset and develop problem-solving skills in a variety of ways. This event allowed students to showcase new business ideas that are impactful and meaningful to their communities.”

Jennifer Wotring, senior program manager at The EdVenture Group, was on campus for the event, alongside colleague Casey Patterson, Director of Future Readiness at EdVenture. Wotring praised the students and the partners who helped make the event possible.

“We are truly grateful to the EQT Foundation for its continued investment in the STEM Days program, which makes this work possible,” Wotring said. “We also appreciate the ongoing partnership and support of Waynesburg University and the eHIVE. I was especially impressed by the creativity, innovation and confidence shown in the students’ ideas and pitches. I also extend my appreciation to the Greene County educators whose guidance and support helped make their success possible.”



Evee Henderson submitted this shot of her cat Marmie lying on Granny and Gramps porch in Wind Ridge.



AMERICA 250™

POSTER CONTEST

GreeneScene Magazine invites local students and artists to help celebrate America's 250th anniversary by creating an original poster that honors our country, our community, and the stories that make Greene County special.

THEME:

AMERICA 250:

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Cool at School: CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



Bailey Burkett (Open Door Christian / LPN Program)



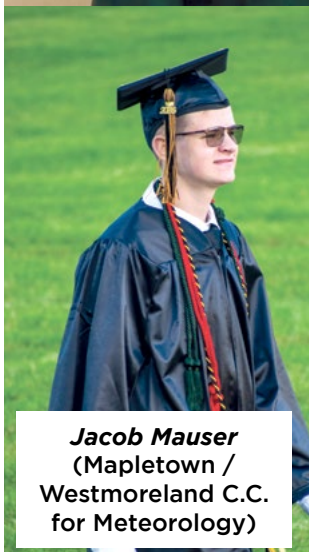
Kendra Tharp
(West Greene / PennWest to be a Physical Therapy Assistant)



Jackson Grimes (West Greene / Penn State Behrend for Finance)



(Mapletown) **Nicole Barrera, Addison Halbert, Makenna Lotspeich, Marley Shiflett, Treslee Weston, and Emma Zalar Halbert**



Jacob Mauser
(Mapletown / Westmoreland C.C. for Meteorology)



Jaymison Robinson
(Jefferson Morgan / University of Cincinnati for Accounting)



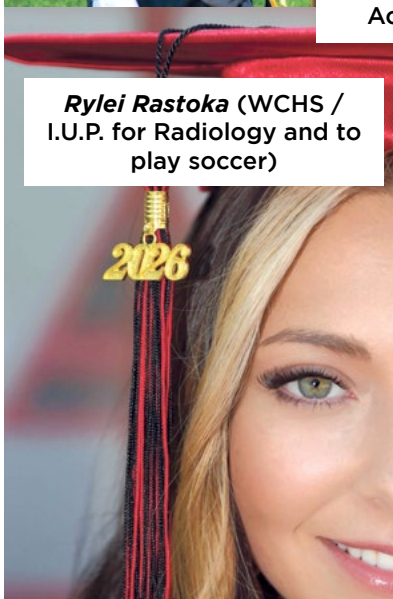
Joey Bair
(Jefferson Morgan / Penn State Behrend for Engineering)



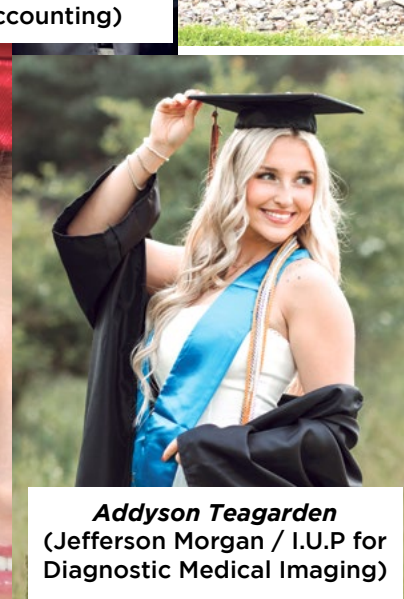
Hayden Yeck (Jefferson Morgan / Geneva College for Mechanical Engineering)



Kameryn Deter
(WCHS / WU for Nursing)



Rylei Rastoka (WCHS / I.U.P. for Radiology and to play soccer)



Addyson Teagarden
(Jefferson Morgan / I.U.P for Diagnostic Medical Imaging)



MaKayla Zimmerman
(Morrisville Headstart)



Isla Falter (Carmichaels Kindergarten)



Kaleb Workman
(Morrisville Headstart)

COUNTY STUDENTS COME TOGETHER FOR MUSIC, FRIENDSHIP AND FUN

By Becci Watson

Two years ago, Mrs. Haley Bissett and Mrs. Carrie Green, employees in the West Greene School District, were kicking around ideas for a fun way to bring students from across the county together to connect and make lasting memories.

Maybe a day at the movies? Or a fun shopping excursion? However, they kept coming back to the idea of a dance and how much fun and special it would be for everyone involved.

Haley and Carrie shared this idea with Hello 2 Hope, a non-profit organization, organized by Justin and Jessica Carpenter of Wind Ridge and Matt Tedrow of Waynesburg. They immediately jumped on board and generously agreed to sponsor the entire event. From there, everyone went to work bringing this vision to life.

Local DJ Jason Forbes generously donated his time and talent to keep the dance floor full all evening, while Angela Horne beautifully captured so many special memories through her photography.

Over the past two years, the festive balloon displays were created by Balloons by Brittany and Balloonatics by Holly Miller. In addition, Back Bay Catering, led by Holly Shipley, served up a delicious taco bar that everyone loved.

From the very beginning, Haley and Carrie's hope was for this event to become a yearly tradition that stu-

dents would look forward to. Every dance has its own unique theme and personality. Last year, the theme was "Spring Fling." This year was the "Black and White Ball."

The event also brought together an incredible group of educators and staff from schools across Greene County who helped make the evening so meaningful. Representing the participating schools were: (West Greene), teacher Haley Bissett and paraprofessional Carrie Green; (Carmichaels Area) Melissa Christopher; (Jefferson-Morgan) Brittany McIntire; (Central Greene) Rose Chiprich; and (Mapletown) Christy Menear.

Haley's favorite part of the event is seeing schools come together to give students the chance to build friendships, connect with others, and simply enjoy a fun and memorable day together.

Carrie echoed a similar sentiment adding, "Haley and I couldn't have made this dream a reality without the assistance of Jessica Carpenter and all the support from Hello 2 Hope. Their generosity, encouragement and belief in creating meaningful opportunities for all students helped turn a simple idea into something truly special for our community."



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Cool at School:

A SCHOLARLY SUMMER

By Emma Bates

Forget flowers. After the rush of activity and full calendar of events that May is always sure to promise, the slower-paced warmth of summer is a welcome respite for many diligent students across the county. Summer got even sweeter, though, for three Carmichaels Area School District's major scholarship winners who received a great surprise in the form of college funds at the 2026 Graduation ceremony.

Halupka-Marinoff scholarship winner and Salutatorian Sophia Carter was awarded \$5,000 dollars amongst other scholarships for her high academic scores and her in-school and extracurricular activities, including her work as a veterinary technician at Dr. Kerr's animal hospital. She plans to further her education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the pre-Veterinary program to eventually work in that capacity.

This year's Jazwa-Lavins awardees were Kaylee Dickey and Mandy Zhang, both of whom proudly graduated in the Top Ten of their class. The audience seemed to hold its breath as the announcement for the tandem winners of both \$20,000 scholarships were announced. This distinction is given to two seniors annually who would most appreciate the financial support, and who demonstrate a hunger for learning well beyond the classroom into their personal lives within their future studies and careers.

Both winners were ecstatic that they had been given this award. "I am honored to be one of the recipients," Mandy Zhang stated. "Going into senior year, a key piece of advice I was given was to apply to as many scholarships as possible, regardless of the amount given." She continued, "The advice that has always been helpful to me throughout my high school career was to try my best and that hard work pays off in the long run."

Zhang plans to attend The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown to obtain her certification in Early Childhood Education and become an elementary mathematics teacher. Meanwhile, Dickey is looking forward to her studies at PennWest California, where she will major in psychology for a career as a Childhood Psychologist.

Each of the 67 graduates brought something different to the table, with 70% of students planning to further their education in a myriad of ways— 4-year universities, 2-year associates degrees, and trade, technical, and nursing schools to advance in their chosen fields.

The other 30% of the class decided to jump directly into the workforce using the skills they gained at Carmichaels, at the Greene County Career and Technology Center, and in their own previous work experience.

These graduates are ready for whatever comes next.

CARMICHAELS AREA NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

By Kevin Willis



The Carmichaels Area chapter of the National Honor Society held its Induction Ceremony on March 16 in the Stan Ferek III Auditorium. The following members were installed as 2026-2027 **NHS Officers**: president, Sydney Miller; vice-president, Madilyn Simons; secretary, Ruah Dobosh; treasurer, James (Rhythm) Caffrey-Bauman; historian, Emma Arbogast.

The following students were inducted under the supervision of NHS advisor, Kevin Willis.

Senior Inductees: Bailey Barnyak, Cannon Bupka, Abigail Cuppett.

Junior Inductees: Corran Ahrends, Emma Arbogast, James (Rhythm) Caffrey-Bauman, Elan Caldwell, Trinity Conard, Isaiah Currey, Ruah Dobosh, Luke Donaldson, Madysen Drew, Calli Eddy, Taylor Giles, Lillian Hardy, Malanna Hertig, Lindsay Kikta, Charles Kozy, Ryder Krieg, Connor Lapana, Stephen Lewis, Reese Marzo, Scott Maskil Jr., Sydney Miller, Phoebe Mitchell, Sydon Myers, Mario Pascuzzo, Austin Phillips, Shalyn Pyle, Katelynn Schoenfeldt, Madilyn Simons, Payton Smith, Abigail Stewart, Zachary Stewart, Alexander Toth, Avery Voithofer, Paxton Wade, Brenna Walker, Bella Wilson, Hayden Yeager, Niki Zhang.

Cool at School:

Doug Wilson of the 140th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Re-enactors visited the sixth-grade class at West Greene School District. Wilson shared his personal Civil War artifacts and described his re-enacting experiences. His presentation preceded the students' two-day field trip to Gettysburg. From left are Remington Whipkey, Waylon Anderson, Wilson, Cooper Burghy, and Hannah Shaffer.





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Cool at School:

HAS SOCIAL MEDIA REPLACED THE YEARBOOK?

By Chantel Nicolella

When I was in school, many, many years ago, almost all of the students purchased a yearbook. We waited in anticipation for it to come out, and I can remember sitting in my bedroom looking at every page and every picture. Even years later, I still pull them out and reminisce. In some cases, those are the only pictures that exist of groups of friends and the time we spent together, so I've always held a special place in my heart for yearbooks.

Which is why, in my second year of teaching, I became the yearbook advisor. This year, I produced my 30th yearbook for McGuffey. For the first 20 years, approximately 85 percent of the students purchased a yearbook, but it's a different story now.

Kids have phones and social media, and they document almost every minute of their lives. They aren't interested in a yearbook with a limited number of pictures, so it has become progressively harder to sell the contracted amount each year. We went from selling more than 250 yearbooks a year to selling just 108 this year.

About 10 years ago, the principal told me that the future of yearbooks was digital, and I couldn't imagine a time when people wouldn't want to hold an actual book in their hands and flip through the pages. He was right. The future seems to

be digital, and yearbooks are slowly becoming outdated.

Ironically, students today probably have more photographs of themselves than any generation in history. **Every sporting event, every lunch table, every weekend outing, and every funny moment seems to be documented.** Yet I sometimes wonder how many of those photos will still be around 20 years from now. Thousands of pictures sit on phones, in cloud storage, or on social media accounts, but they are rarely organized into a story.

That is what a yearbook has always done. It captures a year in time and tells the story of a school community. It is more than a collection of pictures. It is a record of friendships, accomplishments, activities, and memories that might otherwise be forgotten.

As the yearbook advisor, I have watched students flip through old books from decades ago. They laugh at the hairstyles and fashions, but they are also fascinated by the students who sat in the same classrooms and walked the same hallways long before they did. Those books connect generations in a way that digital images simply do not.

Of course, I understand why yearbook sales have declined. Families are dealing with rising costs, and students have

endless digital options competing for their attention. A yearbook is no longer viewed as a necessity. For many students, it feels like just another purchase rather than a keepsake they will treasure years later.

Still, every year when the books arrive, I see students excitedly searching for their pictures and their friends. They pass the books around, collect signatures, and spend time looking through pages that represent an entire year of their lives.

For a moment, they disconnect from screens and engage with something tangible.

Maybe the principal was right and the future of yearbooks is digital. Maybe one day students will scroll through an online version instead of turning pages. But I hope there will always be a place for the traditional yearbook. Thirty years after becoming an advisor, I still believe there is something special about holding memories in your hands.

Technology has changed the way we record our lives, but it hasn't changed the importance of remembering them.

Editor's note: According to information provided by the major yearbook companies, nationwide 92% of students bought a yearbook in 2000.

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FOX FORD REUNITES WITH 1976 MERCURY MARQUIS BROUGHAM

By Sandy Wilson

Fox Ford has been providing our area with the highest level of sales and service for a stunning 114 years. In a new chapter of that generational legacy, current owner Mark Fox has re-acquired a treasured piece of that history to revive a connection to the past that floods the senses of car aficionados.

From 1948 to 2011, Fox Ford held the local Mercury franchise, and few models were more popular than the Mercury Marquis. That classic is considered one of the most comfortable and luxurious, traditional American sedans ever built.

When Fox began browsing Bring a Trailer, the online marketplace known for vintage and classic cars, he had one car in mind. Of course, that car was a Marquis that could reconnect the dealership with a meaningful part of its past.

Mark's first lead was a 1978 Marquis in Ohio, but that purchase never came together. Then, in 2024, Kevin Virgin of Fox Ford learned that Jimmie Core, a longtime customer and friend of the dealership, still owned a 1976 Mercury Marquis in Hundred, West Virginia. Mark reached out to Mr. Core and was able to buy the car — and what he discovered next made the find even more special.

The very same car had originally been sold to Mr. Core on Nov. 26, 1975, by Mark's brother Ronnie Fox and their uncle, Wills Fox, who was 72 years old at the time. Adding another family touch to the story, brother Dave Fox had just completed the rustproofing on the new car before it was sold to Mr. Core. Nearly five decades later, the Marquis has come full circle, returning to the dealership that first sent it out onto the road.

Remarkably, the car needed very little repair. It had been carefully preserved over the years, and even the original transfer slip and window sticker were still inside. After thorough detailing, the 1976 Mercury Marquis Brougham with only 28,474 miles now sits on display in the Fox Ford showroom — not just as a classic car, but as a rolling piece of local and family history.

This summer, Mark and his wife, Shari, hope to take the Marquis out for a sunny little spin — the kind of joy ride that feels more like a page from a storybook than a drive down the road.



Mark and Shari Fox with their daughter Missy and grandchildren Samuel and Everly.

ELITE ELVIS FAN

By Pam Marisa

Harry Herrod of Waynesburg has loved Elvis for as long as he can remember. Over the years, he has built quite a collection of Elvis memorabilia, each piece holding a little bit of that unmistakable rock 'n' roll magic.

When Harry heard that Devon Cowell would be performing as Elvis at The Denny House in Waynesburg, he was all shook up with excitement. He arrived early, proudly wearing his favorite Elvis hat and ready for an unforgettable evening.

From the very first note, Harry was mesmerized. Devon's voice, charm, and stage presence made it feel as though the King himself had stepped back into the room. For Harry, it was a heartwarming moment filled with music, memories, and a whole lot of Elvis spirit.

To make the evening even more special, Harry was able to get his picture taken with "the King."

You, too, can experience the magic of Elvis at The Denny House on Friday, July 3. Come enjoy the music, the memories, and a little bit of rock 'n' roll royalty right here in Waynesburg.



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June 30 - The Classics Rock, Sponsored by Baily Insurance

July 7 - Helicopter Collective, Sponsored by Community Bank

July 21 - The Projects, Sponsored by Ross Tractor Sales

July 28 - Top Shelf, Sponsored by Jay D Enterprises

August 4 - Devon Cowell as Elvis & Johnny Cash
Sponsored by Direct Results & The Denny House

August 18 - Marks Brothers Band,
Sponsored by First Federal

August 25 - Rick K Road Trip,
Sponsored by Fox Ford



Reserve your Tuesday evenings for FREE concerts. Parking is FREE, too.
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250TH CELEBRATION CALENDAR 2026

USA 1776

USA 1776

Patriotic Celebrations

June 29 | Happy Birthday America & 2nd Sam 9

Evening of Musical Entertainment

July 3 | The Denny House 250th America Celebration

Celebrate with live music, food and summer fun! 4pm - 9pm

July 3 | 4th - a - Palooza

Free Family- friendly street festival in downtown Waynesburg

July 3-4 | America's 250th Celebration

Patriotic Ceremony, Vendors & Music

Carmichaels Town Square and Wana B Park

July 4 | Waynesburg Lions Club

Lions Club Park in Waynesburg

(Pancake Breakfast, Car Show, Little Miss Firecracker Pageant & Fireworks)

July 8 | Sharing the Spirit of America

Greene County Veterans Memorial Park

Fort Jackson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Commemorative Reading of the Declaration of Independence

July 11 | Old Glory in Greene (Bootsie's Bed and Breakfast)

Free family-friendly event featuring vendors, music and history exhibits

July 25 | America 250 Open House

Cornerstone Genealogical Society

Presentations, Reenactments, Displays of Frontier Era Collections

Summer Car Show Schedule

Flashlight Drags (Greene County Airport)

July 12, August 23, & September 13

First Friday Car Cruises at Thistlewaite Winery

July 3 and August 7 (5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Waynesburg Lions Club 4th of July Celebration & Car Show

Lions Club Park

VFW Freedom Car Show

July 11 (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

The Ice Plant's Annual Car Show

July 25 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Nemacolin VFD Car Show

August 2 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Greene County Airport Wings and Wheels

August 15 (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

King Coal Charles Workman Memorial

Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show

August 29 (10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

At Wana B Park

50's Fest and Car Cruise

September 12 (10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

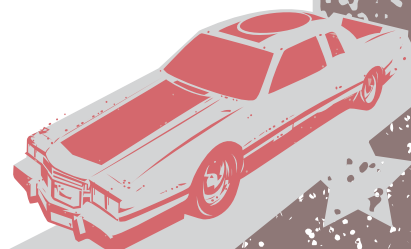
Downtown Waynesburg

Mt. Morris VFD Car and Truck Show

September 20 (9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Mt. Morris Gospel Tabernacle Car Show

September 26 (10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)



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Brittany McIntire submitted this shot which she titled, "Bass Fishing Memories with Pap Pap."

BACKROADS REDUX.

By Bret Moore

I recently uncovered something remarkable at the **Greene County Genealogical Society Library** (as I do every visit). I had come looking for materials related to the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States, hoping to find dates, records, and perhaps a few compelling anecdotes.

Instead, tucked quietly among aging binders and yellowed documents, I discovered something far more personal: a **slim, timeworn publication titled *Backroads***. Created nearly half a century ago by a Waynesburg Central Publications class, the book immediately drew me in.

It was actually published the year I graduated, but I had no memory of it. **The class had been taught by Therese Albert**, a respected teacher in the district for years. I had been in Mr. and Mrs. Berryhill's classes, which would explain my unfamiliarity with the

project.

The publication was typed by another WCHS teacher, Margaret Cipicic. Mrs. Lois Riggs was credited with fact-checking research, and to my surprise, my father Jim Moore was thanked for printing the booklet.

Published in 1977, *Backroads* is a collection of interviews conducted by students with their grandparents and older family friends. Through these conversations, the students captured stories of everyday life in the county—memories of small-town traditions, hard times, simple joys, and the changing landscape across generations. **What makes this work so special is its authenticity; these are not polished historical accounts, but voices preserved in their own words.**

Holding it felt like opening a door to the past, not through official records, but through lived experience. In the midst of researching a national milestone, I found a deeply local treasure—one that reveals how history is truly carried forward: in stories remembered and shared.

When those students conducted their interviews nearly 50 years ago, their subjects were already reflecting on childhoods and experiences that, in many cases, dated back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The voices captured in its pages speak from another era entirely, offering glimpses of horse-drawn travel, one-room schools, and a slower, more close-knit way of life.

Over the coming months, I will revisit these stories as they were told in a series called *Backroads Redux*. The stories include everything from farms, railroads, epidemics, old-time radio, hunting tales, bakeries, buildings, bridges, and college dorm gangs.

Although it might be a cliché, such “recent memories” have become a valuable bridge across time thanks to the dedication of a hard-working teacher with imagination and insight.

The first student story I chose was written by **Erin Stockdale (Patterson)**. Its title was “**Pat-a-cake, Pat-a-cake, Baker’s Man.**”

She wrote a great piece about her grandfather **Charles Phillips**. He was raised on a farm along Purman Run. At that time (1977), he had been a baker for 42 years at Hoge’s Bakery. His wares included breads, rolls, and pastries but his passion was decorating special occasion cakes.

Erin explained a baker’s day started at 3:30 a.m. and lasted until 3:00 p.m. (for relatively low wages). However, her grandfather loved the work and became well-known locally for his talent.

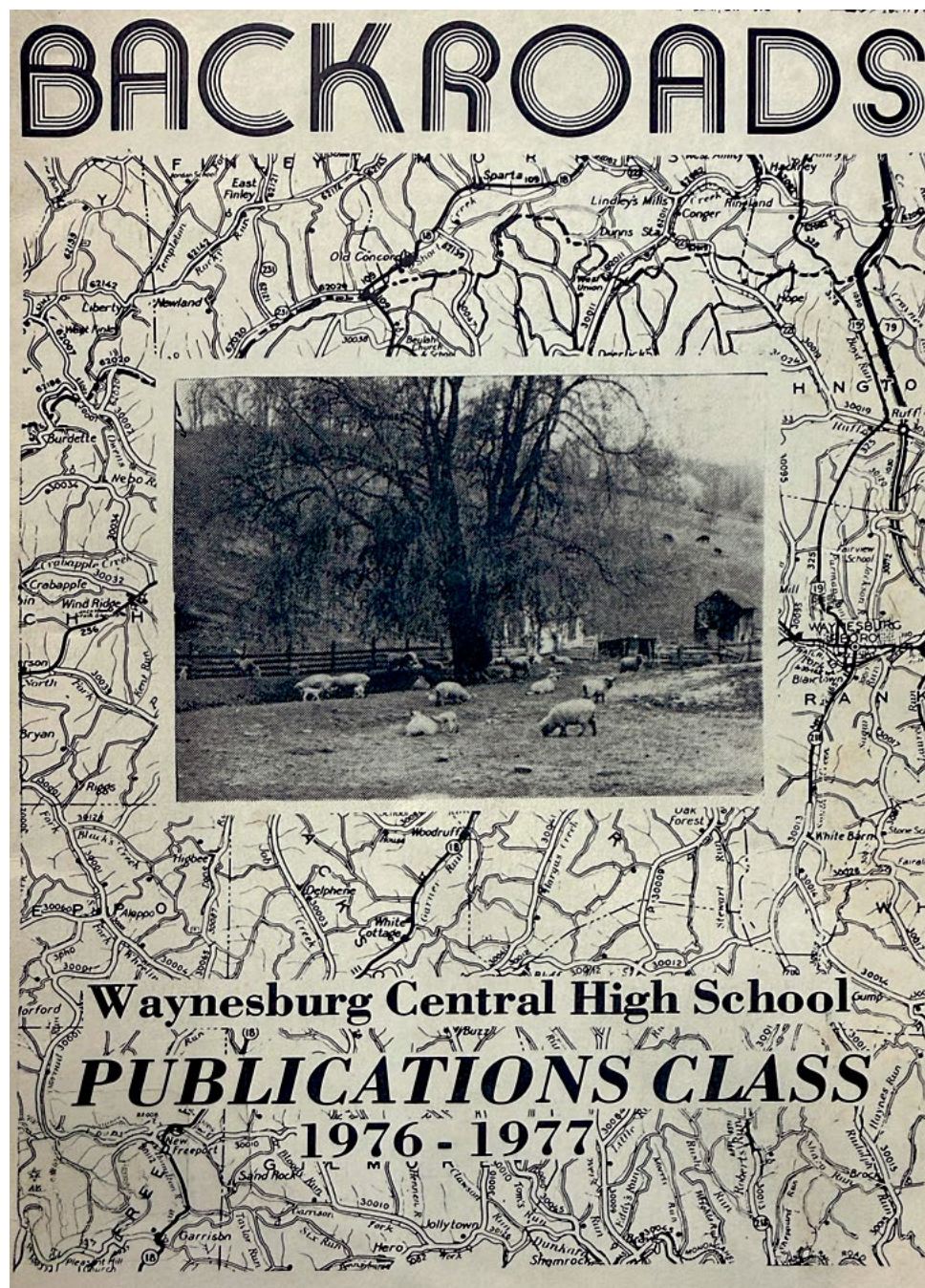
She wrote about a story from her grandfather’s past. **In 1949, First Federal was going to celebrate their 25th anniversary with a party.** Of course, a large fancy cake would be needed for the occasion. Charles and his friend **Mickey Krenzy** were called upon to deliver a cake fit for such an auspicious celebration.

They produced what was said to have been the largest cake ever assembled in town. The work of art was six layers. Each layer was baked and transported separately to the bank lobby. Charles assembled and frosted each layer in a painstaking building process.

According to the story, after all the layers were in place, “the delicate job of decorating the cake began. With his special tools he swirled the frosting into loops and tassels adding extra frosting for roses and leaves.”

Finally, “He wrote with frosting the words ‘25th Anniversary, First Federal Savings and Loan.’ He then placed the candles on the prize 32-inch-high cake.”

The story concludes with a poignant observation that her grandfather is still working his “hard, long job”, but he usually just “does bread and rolls.” His cre-



ative decorating at that time was reserved for family birthday cakes where he “puts all his love and attention.”

Thorton Wilder’s *Our Town* is my favorite play because it captures the quiet beauty and struggles of everyday life, showing how ordinary moments and common people shape the deeper story of American history. The routines, relationships, and reflections of simple human experiences connect generations and preserve the meaning of our daily lives. Thanks to a dedicated and creative teacher, we have a small, local capsule for those memories.



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GREENE COUNTY VETERAN TALK: THE VA IN YOUR POCKET

By Chris Clark

For many local veterans, the phrase "dealing with the VA" conjures up images of long hold times on the 1-800 line or checking the mailbox every day for that all-important VA Decision Letter. Whether you're a Vietnam, brown water Navy vet in Jefferson or a "Guardman" veteran of "K Company" in Waynesburg, the distance between your front door and a VA Regional Office can feel like a major obstacle.

However, there is a tool that closes that gap. It's the **VA: Health and Benefits** mobile app, and if you are a veteran and have a smartphone, it's the single most important piece of tech you can carry for your VA benefits and care.

Why the App Matters for Greene County Vets

Living in a rural area means we have to be more self-reliant. This app puts your entire VA file—healthcare, disability claims, and payments—into a secure, high-speed interface.

Real-Time Claims Tracking: No more wondering where your claim stands. You can see the exact phase of your claim (e.g., "Ready for Decision") and get push notifications the second a rater makes a move.

Decision Letters on Demand: You no longer have to wait two weeks for the mail. You can view and download your official rating letters directly to your phone.

Secure Messaging: Think of this as a secure text thread with your VA care team. You can message your doctor at the Morgantown or Pittsburgh VAMC without playing phone tag.

Healthcare at a Glance: Refill prescriptions, track shipments, and manage your appointments without ever picking up a phone.

The 3-Step "Quick Start" Guide

1. Download the App: Search for "**VA: Health and Benefits**" in your app store. It is free and available for both iPhone and Android devices.

2. Setup Your Login: To keep your medical and financial data safe, the app uses identity verification. You'll need a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account. If you don't have one, the app will walk you through a one-time verification using your ID.

3. Set Up Biometrics: Once you're in, go to the "Profile" section and turn on **Face ID** or **Touch ID**. This lets you bypass typing your password and get to your info in seconds.

The Advantage: Uploading Evidence

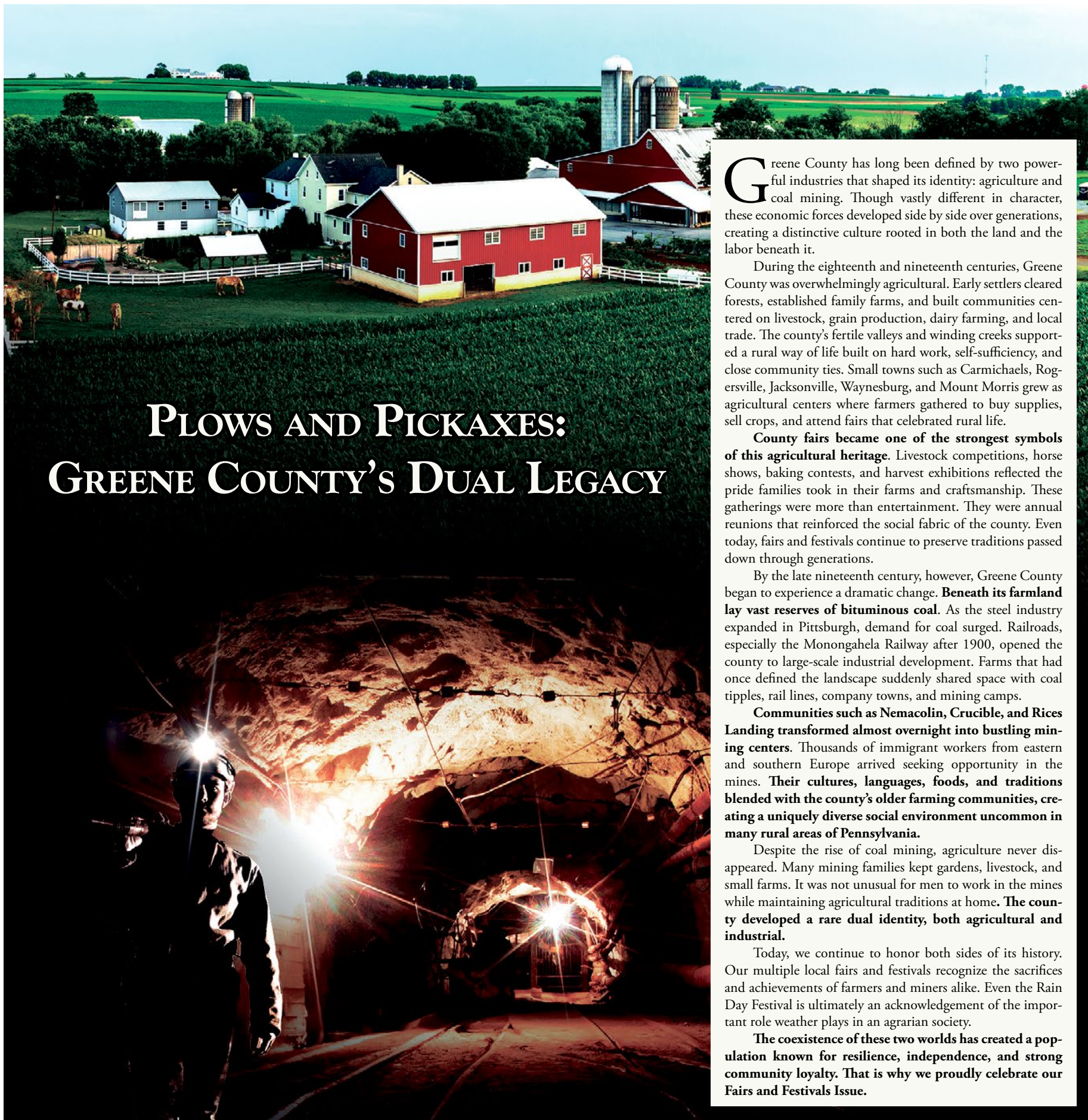
One of the best features for local vets is the "Document Upload." If you get a medical report from a private doctor in Uniontown or Washington, you don't need to find a fax machine. You can simply take a clear photo of the document with your phone and upload it directly to your open claim through the app.

Final Thought: Don't Go It Alone

Technology is a force multiplier, but it doesn't replace the "boots on the ground" support we have right here in Waynesburg. Whether you're using the app or filing on paper, your Greene County Department of Veterans Affairs team under Director Renee Imhoff and the **Together With Veterans (TWV)-Greene County** group are here to help you navigate the process.

If you have questions about the app or your benefits, call Renee's office (724.852.5275) or come see us at our monthly **Coffee with Veterans** events (second Saturday of each month from 8-10AM; location changes monthly). We'll have the coffee on, and we're always ready to talk shop.

Chris Clark is a 29-year retiree of the US Army and PA Army National Guard, having served in Iraq and Kosovo in the Global War on Terrorism. He now works in outreach and reintegration for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. He is a charter member and facilitator for Together with Veterans-Greene County, a volunteer group that assists and educates veterans in our area.



PLOWS AND PICKAXES: GREENE COUNTY'S DUAL LEGACY

Greene County has long been defined by two powerful industries that shaped its identity: agriculture and coal mining. Though vastly different in character, these economic forces developed side by side over generations, creating a distinctive culture rooted in both the land and the labor beneath it.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Greene County was overwhelmingly agricultural. Early settlers cleared forests, established family farms, and built communities centered on livestock, grain production, dairy farming, and local trade. The county's fertile valleys and winding creeks supported a rural way of life built on hard work, self-sufficiency, and close community ties. Small towns such as Carmichaels, Rogersville, Jacksonville, Waynesburg, and Mount Morris grew as agricultural centers where farmers gathered to buy supplies, sell crops, and attend fairs that celebrated rural life.

County fairs became one of the strongest symbols of this agricultural heritage. Livestock competitions, horse shows, baking contests, and harvest exhibitions reflected the pride families took in their farms and craftsmanship. These gatherings were more than entertainment. They were annual reunions that reinforced the social fabric of the county. Even today, fairs and festivals continue to preserve traditions passed down through generations.

By the late nineteenth century, however, Greene County began to experience a dramatic change. **Beneath its farmland lay vast reserves of bituminous coal.** As the steel industry expanded in Pittsburgh, demand for coal surged. Railroads, especially the Monongahela Railway after 1900, opened the county to large-scale industrial development. Farms that had once defined the landscape suddenly shared space with coal tipples, rail lines, company towns, and mining camps.

Communities such as Nemacolin, Crucible, and Rices Landing transformed almost overnight into bustling mining centers. Thousands of immigrant workers from eastern and southern Europe arrived seeking opportunity in the mines. **Their cultures, languages, foods, and traditions blended with the county's older farming communities, creating a uniquely diverse social environment uncommon in many rural areas of Pennsylvania.**

Despite the rise of coal mining, agriculture never disappeared. Many mining families kept gardens, livestock, and small farms. It was not unusual for men to work in the mines while maintaining agricultural traditions at home. **The county developed a rare dual identity, both agricultural and industrial.**

Today, we continue to honor both sides of its history. Our multiple local fairs and festivals recognize the sacrifices and achievements of farmers and miners alike. Even the Rain Day Festival is ultimately an acknowledgement of the important role weather plays in an agrarian society.

The coexistence of these two worlds has created a population known for resilience, independence, and strong community loyalty. That is why we proudly celebrate our Fairs and Festivals Issue.

HARVEST, HORSES, AND COMMERCE: THE ECONOMIC LEGACY OF COUNTY FAIRS

By 1793, John Antill was operating a flour mill in Carmichaels which shipped some 120 barrels of flour each season to New Orleans via flat boat. In 1822, Mark Gordon, who lived three miles south of Waynesburg began leading packhorses loaded with barrels of whiskey over the Mountains to Winchester, Virginia. He would return with salt and iron.

By the middle of the 19th century, three groups came into existence to promote agriculture, which was the economic lifeblood of the county. They were the **Greene County Agricultural and Manufacturing Society (1853 in Carmichaels)**, the **Richhill Agricultural Society (1866 in Jacksonville/Wind Ridge)**, and the **Central Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association (1869 in Waynesburg)**.

The first railroad didn't come here until 1877, and roads were not passable much of the year. Therefore, local millers were necessary and thrived throughout the county.

Over the next century and a half, this agricultural way of life became part of our economic, cultural and, societal DNA. In this issue, we will explore the rich historical traditions of our agricultural past via our local fairs – past and present.

You Can't Die Happy 'til...

The Jacktown Fair is one of the oldest continuously operating agricultural fairs in Pennsylvania and has been a centerpiece of community life in western Greene County since 1866. The fair began when residents of what was then called **Jacksonville** (later renamed Wind Ridge) formed the Richhill Agricultural, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Association on July 6, 1866. Organizers sold 280 shares of stock to finance the purchase of grounds, construction of buildings, and creation of a racetrack for the first fair held on October 3 and 4 of that same year.

Originally known as the Jacksonville Fair, the event quickly became known as the "Jacktown Fair." The fair focused heavily on agriculture and horse racing, with competitions in livestock, produce, baked goods, sewing, crafts, and farm machinery. Traveling attractions such as balloon ascensions, trapeze performers, brass bands, fireworks, and circus acts brought excitement to the rural hills of Greene County.

The fairgrounds developed into a social center for the region during the horse-and-buggy era. Families arrived by wagon carrying picnic supplies and often spent the entire day on the grounds. "Trader's Alley," where horses and livestock were bought and sold, became a famous tradition for decades. By the 1920s and 1930s, the fair expanded into nighttime entertainment with gas lighting and later electricity.

Despite wars, epidemics, economic hardship, and modernization, the Jacktown Fair has never missed a year. Today it remains known for its agricultural exhibits, parade, demolition derby, carnival rides, livestock competitions, and the longtime slogan: "You can't die happy 'til you've been to the Jacktown Fair."

The origin of that phrase can be traced to the August 7, 1931, issue of the *Waynesburg Democrat Messenger*. The exact phrase used in that edition said, "Visit Jacktown and die

happy."

The fair throughout much of the rest of the 1800s and early 1900s consisted of horse racing as the main event, and there were of course the contests that created the inevitable bragging rights of farmers, homemakers and craftsmen. Entries were taken in a large variety of categories – livestock, linen and clothing, cotton, leather, needlework, farm machinery, grains, produce, arts, furniture, flowers, bread, preserves, and even horseshoes.

Attractions in the early years included an "international circus," balloon ascensions, fireworks, trapeze and other aerial acts, tight rope walkers, and many different bands. The first mention of rides at the fair was reported in the *True Blue* newspaper in 1886, stating that two large swings "did a good business."

A noteworthy story of entertainment comes from 1893. Madame and Professor Zeno were performing a balloon ascension at the fair, in which the balloon caught fire. Madame Zeno was able to escape just in time, as the balloon was caught by the wind and blown into the side of a house 500 yards away.

Attendance has always been overwhelming for such a rural area. In 1879, the *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer* reported that, "Colonel Bridges estimates the crowd at the Jacktown Fair between 5,000 and 6,000 people." People from Washington County and "Little Virginia" attended even the very first fairs.

In the 1920s, advertisements promoted a "night fair" at Jacktown, as it was one of the earliest in the area to feature lighting. In 1939, the gas lights were replaced with electric ones.

In 1931, the concrete road from Waynesburg to Jacktown was completed. This was great for travelers, but drastically hurt the three hotels (Bryan, Pettit, and Taylor) in Jacktown. During the fair, these hotels were bursting at the seams, often having to hire additional help for the week of the fair.

In 1932, the fair featured a wedding as the main event on Friday evening. Lawrence Ray Wood of Holbrook married Alverta McClelland of Wind Ridge. The wedding was arranged and sponsored by event planners Boyd and Worth of Pittsburgh. They sponsored the nuptials, paying for everything including advertisement, in exchange for a 50 percent cut of the gate proceeds. The two were happily married for the rest of their lives.



Photo Credit: Jacktownfair.org



Photo Credit: Jacktownfair.org

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, many improvements were made to the fair under the influence of Frank Ross, a native of Wind Ridge who moved to Chicago to become the very successful owner of the Jewel Tea Company. He was very generous to the fair and the community.

The president of the fair in the 1940s was Ross Burns, a relative of Mr. Ross, and their cooperation was vital to the development of the event. During WWII, the fair was limited yet still survived. Sadly, horse racing came to an end in 1946, and horse pulls became the new main event.

The 100th fair anniversary celebration in 1965 was the first five-day affair and the beginning of the traditional fair parade. It was also the first year of the fair queen contest.

Clear back on October 1, 1879, The *Waynesburg Messenger* captured the true spirit of the Jacktown Fair to this day. "If there was nothing on exhibition except the large crowd of people, it would pay to spend thirty-five cents and a half day on the fairgrounds. It is worth all it cost, and more, merely as a grand reunion and day of recreation and social employment."

TWO AREA WOMEN TAKE THE CAKE AT LOCAL FAIRS

By Aubrey Lesnett

Within the past couple of fair seasons, two local women have brought some rather sweet attention to Greene County. One earned first place at the 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show while representing Jacktown Fair with her chocolate cake, and the other claimed second place at the 2024 Pennsylvania Farm Show to represent the Greene County Fair in the same competition.

Even though their competitive journeys took place two years apart, both women demonstrated the talent and dedication found in Greene County's fair community.

Lainey Duncan went on to earn her state blue ribbon after winning the chocolate cake baking contest at the Jacktown Fair. When asked what it was like to represent Jacktown at the Farm Show, Duncan said, "Being able to represent Jacktown on a bigger stage was an achievement in and of itself, and winning was even better. I was excited to even just be there, but placing made it all the better."

Angel Coneybeer, who earned second place in the chocolate cake baking contest in 2024, shared the same sentiment when it came to representing the Greene County Fair at Farm Show. "It was nice to be able to represent the area. I had competed in these contests before and, unfortunately, didn't place those times. I wasn't exactly expecting to make it all the way to the state contest. Being able to earn the second-place title was extremely worth it."

Although both women achieved great success, there were challenges they each faced on their competitive journeys. "Dealing with the change in humidity was probably my biggest challenge at the state contest. The humidity is going to be different when you're baking in July as opposed to when you're baking in January, so you really just have to roll with the punches and remake something if it doesn't come out the right consistency. Patience is key," stated Duncan.

"The year I went to the Farm Show, we had really bad weather with a snowstorm, so we couldn't leave the venue until after the placings were announced. Keeping my 4-year-old at the time occupied while we were there in bad weather was probably my biggest challenge," recalled Coneybeer.

Despite the obstacles they encountered, both women agree that preparation and persistence are essential ingredients for success. Duncan emphasized the importance of practice and paying attention to details, while Coneybeer noted that experience helped build her confidence over the years.

Both encouraged aspiring bakers not to be intimidated by competition and to give local fair contests a try. Whether competing for the first time or a returning veteran, they believe the experience is rewarding and offers an opportunity to showcase local talent on a larger stage. Their accomplishments serve as a reminder that dedication, patience, and a passion for baking can take competitors from county fairgrounds all the way to the Pennsylvania Farm Show stage.



Kallan Greene , Skylar & McKenzie Salisbury, & Athena Love

— 2026 —
JACKTOWN FAIR

Sunday, July 12
10:00 AM - Worship Service
2:00-6:00 PM - Home and Garden Entries Accepted
7:00 PM - Queen and Princess Competition followed by Princess Crowning

Tuesday, July 14
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Bingo
6:00 PM - Rides Open
6:00 PM - Float Contests
6:30 PM - Parade
8:00 PM - Opening Ceremony & Crowning of Miss Jacktown Fair
8:00 PM - Music by Honky Tonk Sweethearts

Wednesday, July 15
5:00 - 10:00 PM - Bingo
6:00 - 11:00 PM - Youth Night (free rides for ages 14 & under sponsored by First Federal of Greene County)
6:00 PM - Rides Open
7:00 PM - Steel City Truck Pull
7:00 PM - Music by Smokey Robbins Band

Thursday, July 16
5:00 - 10:00 PM - Bingo
6:00 PM - Rides Open
7:00 PM - Steel City Tractor Pull
7:00 PM - Music by Country Sounds

Friday, July 17
9:00 AM - Tractor Driving Contest
10:30 AM - Livestock Judging Contest
5:00 - 10:00 PM - Bingo
6:00 PM - Rides Open
7:00 PM - ATV/UTV/Dirt Bike Dirt Drags
7:00 PM - 4H Rabbit & Goat Sale
7:00 PM - Music by Iron Horse Band
9:30 PM - DNT Fireworks

Saturday, July 18
9:00 AM - 5K Walk/Run and Kids 1K Run
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Bingo
5:00 PM - Cornhole Tournament
6:00 PM - Rides Open
7:00 PM - Hardcore Demolition Derby
7:00 PM - Music by Shortline Junction

Judging Schedule

Tuesday, July 14 11 AM - Rabbits	Thursday, July 16 9 AM - Sheep 1 PM - Dairy Cattle 2 PM - Horses
Wednesday, July 15 9 AM - Beef Cattle 1 PM - Goats	

JACKTOWN FAIR 5K
JULY 18TH AT 9:00AM

ONLINE REGISTRATION

WWW.JACKTOWNFAIR.ORG

JULY 2026 • GreeneScene Community Magazine

23

THE GREENE COUNTY FAIR

The Greene County Fair has been an important part of the county's agricultural and social history since the nineteenth century. **The first Greene County Fair was held in 1867 by the Waynesburg Central Fair Association.** The original fairgrounds were located on land that is now occupied in large part by the Waynesburg University football field. Like most fairs of the time, it featured livestock exhibits, horse racing, home and garden displays, and entertainment attractions that drew large crowds from across the county.

The fair quickly became a major social event. **By the 1880s it featured attractions such as hot-air balloon performances by acrobat "Professor Oscar Hunt, the Daring Aeronaut."** However, the fair also developed a reputation for gambling and other questionable amusements.

The midway attractions featured several booths that local newspapers heavily criticized, including the "Shooting-Gallery Man," "Wheel-of-Fortune Man," and the Almond Shell game. These games were a major issue that divided the attendees.

In the early 1890s, the original association dissolved after a lawsuit stemming from an injury that occurred at the fair. A woman named Mary Elizabeth Wiley lost an eye in a shooting-gallery accident. She filed a lawsuit and won a significant damage judgement in 1893.

The resulting damages forced the Fair Association to disband, and their properties were sold at a sheriff's sale in 1893 for \$6,200.

In 1911, the newly organized Waynesburg Fair and Agricultural Association purchased a 60-acre farm from R.S. Sayers for \$12,000 at the fairground's current location. The move allowed the fair to expand its racing facilities, barns, exhibition areas, and entertainment venues. The first fair at the new location was held that same year and marked the beginning of the modern Greene County Fair.

The choice of the site was practical and strategic. Unlike the cramped original grounds near Morgan Street and Ten Mile Creek, the Sayers farm offered open, relatively level acreage large enough for a racetrack, livestock barns, exhibit halls, and a large grandstand.



Ford Model T's jam the midway at the 1913 Greene County Fair. (Courtesy of Greene Connections)

The land also sat outside the borough, giving easier access for horse teams, livestock wagons, and the growing number of automobiles arriving from across the area. **The first fair at the present site was held October 3-6, 1911.**

By the following year, the association had already constructed a 2,500-seat grandstand and racetrack. The county's first air show was also held that year featuring aviator Joe "Birdman" Stevenson.

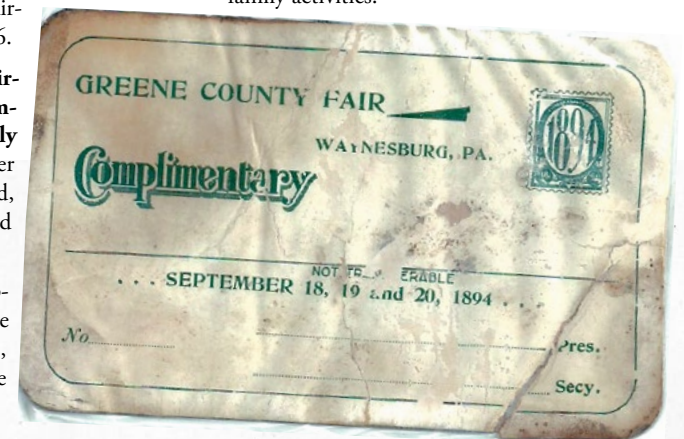
The fair expanded rapidly during the 1910s and 1920s. Entertainment included orchestras, acrobats, and more air-plane exhibitions. Automobile racing was added in 1926.

Facing debt after the Great Depression, the fairgrounds were purchased by the Greene County Commissioners in 1940 for \$12,500, making it one of only two county-owned fairgrounds in Pennsylvania. After World War II, new barns and facilities were constructed, and the grounds continued to evolve into a year-round community venue.

Additions included: New cattle barns (1946), updated harness racing facilities (1971), an Agriculture Building and indoor arena (1974), a 4-H Barn (1975), and a modern grandstand was completed in the late 1980s.

Over the decades, the fair became one of southwestern Pennsylvania's premier agricultural events. Harness racing remained a centerpiece, while 4-H and FFA competitions showcased the county's farming traditions. The first Greene County Fair Queen was crowned in 1986, adding another long-standing tradition.

Today, the fair continues to emphasize agriculture through livestock shows, auctions, home and garden exhibits, and youth programs while also offering carnival rides, entertainment, and family activities.



The new 2,500 capacity grandstands in 1913. (Courtesy of Greene Connections)



AUGUST 9-15, 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

RULES AND DETAILS FOR EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: GREENECOUNTYFAIR.ORG

Saturday, July 25, 2026

**40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
HOSTED AT VALLEY VIEW FARM VENUE**

- 4 PM FAIR QUEEN CONTEST
- 4 PM LITTLE & MINI PRINCESS CONTEST

Saturday, August 8, 2026

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC
NO RIDES**

- 10 AM 4-H HORSE AND PONY CLUB ROUND-UP

Sunday, August 9, 2026

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC
NO RIDES**

- 8 AM-2 PM CHECK-IN: LIVESTOCK
- 10 AM-3 PM CHECK-IN: HOME & GARDEN
- 5 PM WOOL, HAY, & GRAIN SHOW (CLOSED SHOW)
- 6:30 PM VESPER SERVICE

Monday, August 10, 2026

KID'S DAY

**FIRST 300 KIDS (12 & UNDER) ARE FREE WITH THE
PURCHASE OF AN ADULT TICKET**

- 9 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN GOAT SHOW
- 1 PM 4-H & FFA EXHIBITION LIVE CARCASS CLASS
- 2 PM GATES OPEN
- 4 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
- 4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
- 4 PM-6 PM GREENE COUNTY FAIR QUEEN AND COURT MEET AND GREET
- 4 PM-8 PM KIDS ACTIVITIES BY GREENE COUNTY FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
- 5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
- 5 PM-10 PM BONNIE WEST & HER FARM FRIENDS STROLLING SHOW
- 5 PM-8 PM ROAMING MASCOTS
- 6 PM MASCOT MAYHEM - MASCOT MEET & GREET TO FOLLOW MASCOT MAYHEM SHOW
- 6 PM LIVE MUSIC IN SHOW ARENA - SOLDIERS & SONS
- 6 PM LEAD LINE CONTEST

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

SENIOR & VETERANS DAY

- 9 AM AMERICAN PA 250 DAY
- 9 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN DAIRY CATTLE SHOW
- 9 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN RABBIT SHOW
- 12 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
- 2 PM GATES OPEN
- 2 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
- 2 PM-4 PM GREENE COUNTY MINI SENIOR FAIR BY GREENE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND BLUEPRINTS
- 5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
- 6 PM 4-H & FFA MARKET STEER SHOW
- 6 PM LIVE MUSIC IN SHOW ARENA - COLE LEATHERS
- 7 PM REDEYE RODEO WITH DAVE "SHOWTIME" MEYER

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

- 9 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN BEEF CATTLE SHOW
- 2 PM GATES OPEN
- 4 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
- 4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
- 5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
- 6 PM LIVE MUSIC IN SHOW ARENA FEATURING MARKS BROS. BAND
- 6 PM 4-H & FFA MARKET LAMB SHOW
- 7 PM LIVE WRESTLING W/RYS PRO WRESTLING

Thursday, August 13, 2026

- 9 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN SHEEP SHOW
- 2 PM GATES OPEN
- 4 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
- 4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
- 5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
- 5:15 PM 4-H & FFA AWARDS
- 6 PM 4-H & FFA MARKET STEER AND LAMB MARKET SALE
- 6 PM LIVE MUSIC IN SHOW ARENA FEATURING C&T ACOUSTICS
- 7 PM TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS

Friday, August 14, 2026

- 10 AM 4-H & FFA TRACTOR DRIVING AND 4-H & FFA STOCKMEN'S CONTEST
- 10 AM GATES OPEN
- 4 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
- 4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
- 5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
- 6 PM LIVE MUSIC IN SHOW ARENA FEATURING NUTHER ROUND BAND
- 7 PM HARDCORE DEMOLITION DERBY

Saturday, August 15, 2026

- 10 AM GATES OPEN
- 10 AM STOCK TRACTOR PULLS
- 4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
- 4 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
- 5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
- 5:30 PM WOOD CARVING AUCTION
- 4 PM-6 PM LIVE MUSIC IN SHOW ARENA - JUST 4 KICKS
- 7 PM-9 PM LIVE MUSIC IN SHOW ARENA FEATURING THE R & B ACOUSTIC DUO
- 7 PM TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS

Daily Shows & Events

DAILY SHOWS AND EVENTS

- 5 PM-10 PM WOOD CARVING SHOWS BY NATE HOWARD (TUESDAY - FRIDAY)
- 5 PM-10 PM BARNYARD PETTING ZOO
- 5 PM-10 PM SKY CIRCUS STROLLING ENTERTAINMENT
- 5 PM - 10 PM RC RACING LIVE

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

THANKS TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS!
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND CHECK OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE INFORMATION
GET YOUR FAIR ENTRY IN TODAY!



GREENE COUNTY FAIR QUEEN PROGRAM CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

By Melody Longstreth

In 1986, the Pennsylvania Association of County Fairs began a Fair Queen Program and fairs across the state held local contests for the first time. Amy Willison (Mendicino) was crowned as the first Greene County Fair Queen and the following January, she joined fourteen young ladies from across the state in Hershey, as they represented their fairs while competing to become the first State Fair Queen. The program has grown and in January of 2026, a new record was set with sixty-one queens competing.

Greene County has had success on the Hershey stage several times over the last 40 years. In 1992, Amy Anderson (Ernest) was crowned as the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen. Ameila Simpson (Steinmiller) was named 2007 State Miss Congeniality. Megan Moore (Curry) brought home the title of 2008 Pennsylvania State First Alternate. In 2009, Lindsey Longstreth (Parks) was selected as a top-five finalist. Krista Marie Ziefel (Mitchell) was also selected as a top-five finalist in 2013.

In 2023, the Greene County Queen program added four



Danika Grim-Little Princess, Cameron Wendell-Princess, Addison Orndoff-Mini Princess, Courtney Main-Queen, Paige Borovichka-Junior Princess

new age divisions; Princess, Junior Princess, Little Princess and Mini Princess. This allows children as young as six years old the opportunity to participate, learn about agriculture and represent the fair at various local events. Greene County residents between the ages of six and 20 years old on June 1st are eligible.

The program will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with a celebration and contest to be held at Valley View Farm Venue on Saturday, July 25 at 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. All former queens are invited to return for a private reception preceding the contest, on stage introduction and a role in the passing of the crown ceremony.

The new queen will compete in the 2027 State Fair Queen Contest this coming January. The Queen will receive a \$1,000 cash award at the end of her reign and a \$4,000 Yellow Jacket scholarship to Waynesburg University. All title holders will receive a crown, sash and a floral bouquet in addition to a prize package with items donated by local individuals and businesses. Each of the four princesses will also

receive a cash prize at the end of their reign.

Queen contestants will be judged on an essay, speech, interview, impromptu question, and modeling in an evening gown. Younger contestants will be judged on age-appropriate items. All will receive a thank you gift for participating. Orientation for all registered contestants will be held on Friday, July 10.

The program operates with a volunteer Coordinator, Co-Coordinator and a nine-member committee. Most of the operating expenses come through fund raisers and private donations with the Fair Board providing premiums and State Contest expenses.

The program goal is to provide an opportunity for Greene County youth to represent and promote the fair along with the importance of agriculture.

Applications can be downloaded at www.greenecountyfair.org. Questions may be emailed to greenecountypafairqueen@gmail.com. Application deadline is midnight on June 30th each year.



“EWE” CAN DO IT - LEW CROUSE

By Emma Bates

“You’re shy, but you can do it.” Those words spoken by former Greene County Extension Agent Roger Smith were ones of great inspiration for a blossoming young 4-H student named Lew Crouse a few decades ago.

Now, Crouse would express a similar sentiment to any young people who have caught the “bug” for farming or showing livestock but doubt their abilities to handle such responsibilities.

Crouse’s 4-H and FFA career began at West Greene High School around the age of 16. Under the direction of his Vo-Ag teacher, Byron Hughes, Crouse immediately became engrossed with every opportunity he could to learn about animals.

His first year of showing was 1977. He and his ewes traveled to the Jacktown, Greene, and Washington County Fairs for the first in what would become a long line of competitions for the young showman. “My parents were always good with hauling the sheep to big shows,” Crouse explains gratefully.

1980 marked the purchase of his first merino sheep, which he then showed for years after. “Truman and Florence Calvert from Spraggs really got me started...I’m still close with their sons,” he shares. “I still have Calvert blood in the merinos, which are fine wool sheep.”

In 1984, Crouse married his wife, Debbie, and by the time their children were four or five, they were already caring for and showing livestock of their own.

“I thought it was important for the boys to have their own breeds,” Crouse says. This emphasis on originality prompted Darren to select Rambouillets. Travis would select Targhee sheep, a western range breed, as his weapon of choice. Both boys were active FFA members, with Darren eventually becoming a key member of the Whyte-Crouse Club Lambs, and Crouse’s stepdaughter Ruth showing Suffolks as well.

“Both boys live on farms now in addition to being raised on one. I guess we must have done something right,” he says proudly.

As the boys went off to college, Crouse continued to show after a friend of Lew’s encouraged him to get back in the saddle. “Eva Jean Pettit put the fire under me,” shares Crouse. “She told me she’d like to see me do 50 years. I said I wanted to do 62!”

That goal is the same one that Crouse is actively working on. To aid in the process, Lew shares that he has made some accommodations to his barns that allow him to feed and care for his sheep more effectively. He hopes to show one sheep per year for 12 more years to reach his stated goal.

Today, Crouse owns 100 commercial ewes which he sells to a New York market made popular by Eastern Orthodox Easter traditions annually. “The show sheep get babied more, though,” he says laughing. And Crouse still houses many show sheep, including merinos, Targhees, and the color-morph “black sheep.”

When asked of his workload, Crouse replied, “Summer is the easy time. Lambing and winter are the hardest. But even then, you know it will be over soon.”

“We shear in September,” he continued. “There’s lots of life lessons to be learned by raising livestock. We try to have fun and learn something, which I try to encourage young people these days to do.”

That’s why Crouse encourages any kids who are interested in doing the same to find someone to mentor them as they begin their FFA or 4-H journey.

“Even kids from the city can participate if they have someone in the country to keep their livestock for them,” Crouse suggests. “I was encouraged to do public speaking through Vo-Ag and showing, as well as the farming responsibilities. If you’ve got it in you, do it.”



Lew Crouse (Third from left) pictured with family and fair officials at the 2022 Greene County Fair.

From the looks of it, Lew isn’t the only Crouse who’s got it. The owner of a Supreme Champion Ewe and numerous other distinctions now has grandchildren who are equally as passionate about the show world. Sophie and Levi are busy showing market lambs and attending weekly Jackpot shows and local fairs.

“Seeing my grandchildren progress week-to-week in their showmanship skills and seeing their lambs do better each week is why it’s worth it. We also have generations of friends who are buyers and have been supportive since day one.”

“Arielle and Caleb are also active in showing in Washington County and West Alexander Fairs, showing lambs, goats, and hogs.” Granddaughter Mallory is too young to show yet.

Crouse reminds his children, grandchildren, and now his Clover Bud Kids, 4-H participants aged five to seven under his direction, to always “strive to win something,” but to remember that “It’s not all about winning the ribbon. It’s about having fun, learning responsibility, and meeting new people who become lifelong friends.”



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FAIR FOOD Favorites

Contest

WE WANT TO KNOW WHICH FAIR & FESTIVAL
FOOD IS THE COMMUNITY FAVORITE!

From funnel cakes and French fries to corn dogs, kettle corn, ice cream, milkshakes, and more, everyone has a favorite treat they look forward to at the fair.

Vote for your favorite fair food by completing our short Fair/Festival Favorite Food Survey. The food with the most votes will be named this year's Community Favorite Fair Food.

FAVORITE FOOD CHOICES

☐ Funnel cake
☐ Corn dog
☐ French fries
☐ Cotton candy
☐ Candy apple
☐ Kettle corn
☐ BBQ sandwich
☐ Walking taco
☐ Lemonade
☐ Fried Oreos

☐ Pizza
☐ Nachos
☐ Sausage sandwich
☐ Burgers
☐ Hot dogs
☐ Ice cream
☐ Snow cones
☐ Fudge
☐ Milkshake

☐ Other: _____

25 lucky participants will be randomly selected to win:

AN EXCLUSIVE 250TH T-SHIRT

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ONLINE OR BY MAIL



SUBMIT YOUR VOTE

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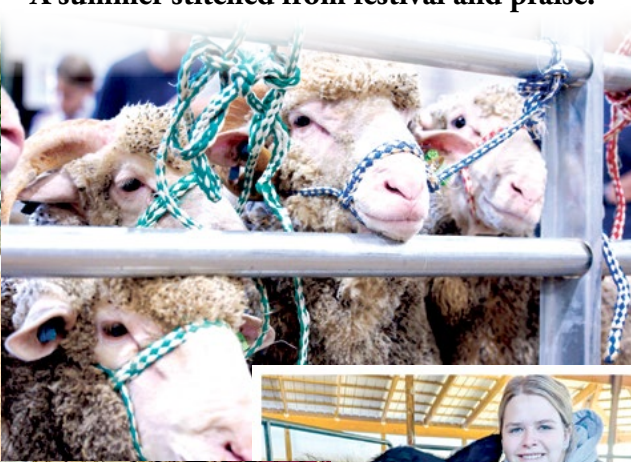
Phone: _____

Town of Residence: _____

Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 07-14-26. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.



When July unfolds its banners to the sky,
And Rain Day wakes the town with hopeful cheer,
Though clouds may gather, laughter passes by,
For summer's first bright celebration's here.
Then fields awaken under warmer suns,
As fairgrounds fill with harvest, stock, and song;
The measured march of contests just begun,
Where old and young alike to joy belong.
The King Coal Show arrives in stately pride,
With queens and memory walking hand in hand;
A tribute to the strength that still resides
Beneath the hills and through the mining land.
So turns the season through its treasured ways—
A summer stitched from festival and praise.



Photos courtesy of Lexie Mooney and West Alexander Fair



COLORING CONTEST

This one's for kids & adults - You only have to be young at heart!

WIN FREE TICKETS TO THE GREENE COUNTY FAIR!



For this contest, there are **THREE** age categories: **A. 6 years and under** **B. 7-12 years** **C. 13 years and up**

The winner in **EACH** category will receive **4 FREE TICKETS TO THE GREENE COUNTY FAIR**. So get out your crayons (and your specs if you need 'em) and get coloring! Fill in your name, age category, and daytime phone number and send this entire page **NO LATER** than July 14, 2026 to: c/o GreeneScene Magazine: 185 Wade Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370

Name _____ Age _____ Phone _____

WEST ALEXANDER FAIR

Early in 1906 a group of men from the area surrounding West Alexander, met to discuss the establishment of an annual agricultural fair in the community. Most of these individuals had been involved in a similar event just across the state line in West Virginia that had ceased to operate after the 1905 fair. The West Alexander Agricultural Association was chartered in April of 1906. The objective of the association was and remains to encourage the advancement and progress in all things pertaining to agriculture and horticulture and to promote the intelligence and welfare of the community.

Seven hundred fifty shares of stock were issued and sold at ten dollars a share to create the capital needed to buy land and erect buildings. The total seven thousand five hundred dollars allowed the Association to purchase a fifty-seven-acre farm just north of the town of West Alexander and to purchase the buildings from the old fair in West Virginia to be moved to the newly acquired fairgrounds. **The first West Alexander Fair was held in September 1906.** The directors scrambled through numerous meetings to deal with multiple issues associated with starting such a complex endeavor in such a short time. Through hard work and perseverance, the racetrack around the grounds had been completed in time and two horse races were the feature events. An exhibit hall and livestock barns and pens were later erected during the first years

of the fair allowing the showing of all local farm animals and products.

Hot air balloon ascensions became a major attraction during the early years of the fair. Crowds gathered each year to witness this exciting event until 1951 when the wind carried the balloon away from the fairground and deposited it in a very destructive manner in a neighbor's cornfield.

A wedding was held in front of the grandstand at the 1915 fair, and the bride and groom were presented with a thirty-five-dollar bedroom suite for providing this attraction. According to the current board, "While fair traditions have and must be maintained, the fair is constantly challenged to meet the changing tastes of the public. Upgrades in entertainment and midway attractions have been made to satisfy the modern fair-goer."

Today's dedicated directors work hard and volunteer their time with the hope that the fair will remain the highlight of the community as it has been for over 120 years.



H.P. Shriver and Dr. Becky Greusenmyer receive West Alexander Fair Diamond Awards celebrating women in agriculture. They are flanked by Princess Kinsley Krausbaar and Queen Ashlynn Mankey.





DAILY ADMISSION: \$10
WEEKLY PASS: \$40

Admission includes Parking,
Amusement Rides,
and Grandstand

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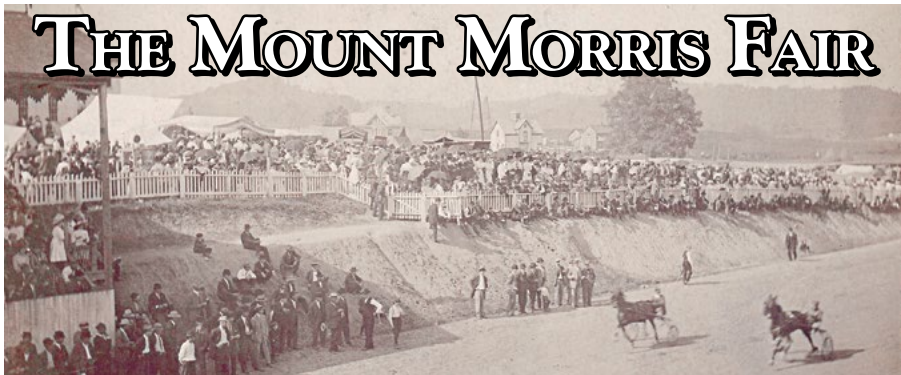


SEPT 7-12, 2026

• RODEO • DEMO DERBIES • TRUCK
AND TRACTOR PULLS • MUSICAL
ENTERTAINMENT • FIREWORKS



SCAN ME!



The Mt. Morris racing track at the 1909 fair (Courtesy of Greene Connections)

The Mount Morris Fair and Agricultural Association sponsored its first exhibition October 3-6, 1905, on a fairground site bought for \$4,000 the preceding February from D.L. Donley. The new fair association was chartered a month earlier with a capital stock of \$12,000. There were 120 "subscribers" (Stockholders) in the initial offering.

The first board of directors included Robert Shear, L.L. Long, J.N. Headley, J.E. Donley, H.M. Hatfield, William Pomeroy, and C.N. Fox of Mt. Morris; Jesse Ross of Waynesburg; and L.L. Thomas of Blacksville. Shear was the first president of the board.

George Jenkins surveyed and supervised the construction of the racetrack that had been graded by Meek and Sprague of Waynesburg.

The first fair was a huge success, featuring an extensive racing program that offered a total purse of \$1,800. The entertainment featured a tight wire performer, hot air balloon ascensions, and parachute leaps by the Famous Belmont Sisters. The Waynesburg Military Band provided several concerts.

According to contemporary sources, the fairgrounds became a lively gathering place filled with music, food stands, horse races, and demonstrations of modern farm equipment. Traveling entertainers and small carnival attractions added excitement, especially for children and young adults. For many residents, **the fair was one of the year's most anticipated events because it combined business, recreation, and community celebration in a single setting.**

A 1906 advertisement in the Waynesburg Republican proclaimed to prospective visitors "Mt. Morris easy to get at – only 5 miles from steamboat landing at Madsville, W. Va., fifteen miles from Waynesburg, and ten miles from Morgantown." They also stated they had the "best 1/2 -mile track in Western Pennsylvania" and "straw furnished for free."

In 1910, the Waynesburg Republican reported they had their biggest crowd to date after featuring a "two-mile automobile race."

A year later, 2,000 people came through the gate on the opening Wednesday night. **The big feature of the night was a baseball game between the famous Taylortown team and Kuhntown.** The game went 13 innings as Taylortown delighted the crowd with a 2-1 victory. In addition to the always popular horse racing, "The halls were well filled with exhibits, and the stock show was the best in several years."

However, no reason was listed in an April 2, 1913 issue of the Republican, when the Mt. Morris fairgrounds were claimed at a sheriff's sale as a result of a "suit by M.E. Rose." The closing included "22 acres, a large grandstand, a large exhibit hall, and stables sufficient for the horses, cattle, sheep, and other livestock."

Their financial situation could have been affected by the return of the Greene County Fair in Waynesburg, although GreeneScene Magazine found no details supporting that theory; or any further reports on what happened to the fair or fairgrounds.

By the 1930's, the Mt. Morris Community Firemen were holding a carnival each fall to replace the fair. If any of our readers have information on the fair's fate, we would be glad to hear from you.

**In 1932, Mt. Morris High School moved their football games from Downey Fox's field to the "old fairgrounds." They wore the old orange and black uniforms donated to the school by Waynesburg College.*



Packed grandstands for the 1909 Fair (Courtesy of Greene Connections)



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THE FIRST LOCAL FAIR: CARMICHAELS

By Bret Moore

During the second half of the 18th century, the agricultural fair in Carmichaels stood as one of the most important social and economic events in the county. **Starting in 1852**, farmers from across the area gathered each year to display livestock, crops, machinery, and handmade goods that reflected the region's agricultural traditions. Horses, dairy cattle, sheep, and prized poultry were judged, while competitions for the best corn, apples, preserves, and baked goods attracted widespread participation.

Beyond farming exhibitions, the fair served as a center of community life. Residents traveled by wagon and horseback to meet neighbors, exchange news, and enjoy entertainment that included brass bands, horse races, and traveling performers. Merchants and equipment dealers demonstrated modern farming tools, illustrating how industrial progress was beginning to influence rural agriculture. These exhibits helped farmers learn about improved plows, harvesting equipment, and breeding practices that could increase productivity.

Excerpts from G. Wayne Smith's, *History of Greene County, Pennsylvania* reveal **the Greene County Agricultural and Manufacturing Society held its thirty-fourth annual exhibition in Carmichaels on September 30 and October 1, 1886**. The society chose Professor W.M. Nickeson as president, E.B. Baily, James Bell, S.B. Swan, and H.H. Cree as vice-presidents.

The annual Carmichaels Fair on October 10-11, 1889 was quite successful with approximately 2,500 people visiting the exhibits of animals and industrial machinery. The horse races also drew huge, enthusiastic crowds.

The following year, the crowd was estimated to be 3,000. The fair collected \$1,200, which paid all expenses and left "a balance for future activities." In 1892, the Board advertised the 40th annual fair of the Society as "the oldest agricultural association in Western Pennsylvania that has run without a break well on to a half century."

Around the turn of the twentieth century, the fair was

held in and around the borough itself, serving as the temporary "Greene County Fair" from 1902 to 1910 after the original Waynesburg fairgrounds were sold.

In January of 1904, a new 25-acre site was purchased on Ceylon Road from J. Ewing Baily for \$10,000. Baily was also the treasurer of the Society, while F.M. Blackshere, G.L. Hathaway, and Isaac Eaton were the other officers.

That September, the exhibitions were held at the new site. The horse races had a total purse of \$2,000 and drew participants from all over the tri-state area. Five thousand people came through the gates on Saturday night.

The following year, the fair was again held in late September, and attendance topped 7,000. The previous year, the weather had been chilly and rainy; however, the reporter claimed the "dust on the ground was almost unbearable" that season. However, two types of racing were still extremely popular.

First, there were three types of horse racing. One was a series of one-third mile heats featuring three and four-year-olds. The winner received a \$15 prize. In addition, there were also one-mile harness races with the top three places going home with \$60, \$25, \$15, respectively (\$60 would be equal to \$2,500 in today's money). Finally, there was a two-thirds mile sweepstakes race with a \$25 prize.

However, the most popular competitions were the one-mile bicycle races. An individual needed to win three of five heats to take home the Silver Cup and \$40 (Approximately, \$1,500 today).

Other highlights I found from the era included Khedive's A.L. Rich, Esq. attracting attention in 1909 with his fifty-six-pound pumpkin as well as his "collection of relics." That collection included the first bicycle ever manufactured and a 200-year-old wooden wheel clock.

In addition, the Biddle family dominated annually in almost every livestock category.

The final year the Carmichaels Fair operated as the undisputed Greene County Fair was 1910. The following year, the newly formed Waynesburg Fair and Agricultural Association opened its new grounds and resumed the "county fair" in Waynesburg. Although, according to articles in the Waynesburg Republican, both fairs claimed to be the "Greene County Fair" for years to come.

Regardless of that moniker, the Carmichaels fair continued to flourish and drew 10,000 people on big nights through the 1920s and 1930s.

Dog racing was added to the slate of activities in 1930 and proved very popular. In 1937, Pennsylvania Speaker of the House Roy Furman was the featured speaker on "Workers' Day" at the "84th annual Greene County Fair in Carmichaels." Ten thousand miners from the tri-county area were expected to be in attendance.

This would appear to represent the gradual shift from agricultural to industrial emphasis in the area. That year the fair also featured "a Bright Lights show, 45 fair units (including 5 rides), five high class shows, 35 concession vendors, and the world famous Flying Talverts."

In addition to the traditional horse racing, there were motorcycle races, "free hill-billy acts," and three WPA musical programs. It was to be the "greatest outdoor program ever on the Carmichaels fairgrounds"

The 1938 edition of the fair featured "several rodeos, motorcycle racing, and picnics."

However, in May of 1939, the Republican reported the fairgrounds were being renovated and no definite plans for the summer had been announced. I found no further references to a Carmichaels Fair throughout the 1940s. My theory would be the fair ceased during WWII and transformed into post-war firemen's carnivals and Coal Show activities.

If any of our readers have additional information, we would be glad to hear from you.

FROM HARVESTS TO HEADFRAMES: THE BIRTH OF A MINING ECONOMY

Originally, Carmichaels and the surrounding areas were overwhelmingly agricultural communities producing grain, livestock, hay, and dairy products. Early settlers established farms throughout the Muddy Creek valley after the late eighteenth century. Their products were sent by flatboat and steamboat across the western half of the country.

Farming remained the primary economic activity through most of the nineteenth century before coal mining gradually began overtaking agriculture in the 1890s. In Greene County, early mining initially remained small-scale. Farmers often extracted coal from outcroppings on their own land for heating and local sale.

However, coal production expanded steadily in the area as Pittsburgh grew into an industrial center. By 1830, the city consumed hundreds of tons of coal daily for homes, blacksmithing, glassmaking, and small factories. Early mines relied entirely on manual labor, with miners cutting coal by hand and hauling it by horse and wagon.

After the Civil War, the coal industry transformed southwestern Pennsylvania. The rise of iron furnaces, coke production, railroads, and steel manufacturing created enormous demand for high-quality bituminous coal from the Pittsburgh seam.

Mining spread southward into Greene, Washington, Fayette, and Westmoreland counties. Small family operations gradually gave way to larger commercial mines backed by outside investors and railroad companies.

Large-scale development did not begin until the 1890s, when coal land speculation and railroad expansion accelerated dramatically. Between 1893 and the early 1900s, companies pur-

chased tens of thousands of acres of coal rights throughout the Mon Valley.

During that decade, many river towns became increasingly tied to coal extraction and coke production rather than farming. Coal tipples, company towns, rail spurs, and barges began to dominate the landscape. Although agriculture remained important, mining wages increasingly supported local businesses, banks, and transportation networks.

The arrival of the Monongahela Railway in 1900 revolutionized the region by allowing coal to be shipped efficiently to Pittsburgh steel mills and national markets.

By the early twentieth century, nearby mining towns such as Nemaquin, Crucible, and Rices Landing were growing rapidly, and many residents who once relied on farming were now underground. Immigrant laborers arrived in large numbers during this period as coal production became the region's dominant industry.

By roughly **1910–1920**, coal mining had clearly become the main economic engine of eastern Greene County, although farming continued alongside it for decades afterward.

During Greene County's coal heyday, from the 1930s through the 1970s, coal's influence reached nearly every corner of local life. Thousands of men worked underground, while thousands more earned their living in railroads, machine shops, trucking, retail stores, and businesses that served mining communities.

By the postwar years, an estimated one-half or more of Greene County families depended directly or indirectly on the coal industry. Coal was more than the county's largest employer. It built towns, supported schools, and shaped generations of families.

THE KING COAL SHOW: HONORING OUR PAST, CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

By Dave Plavi

For generations, the Pennsylvania Bituminous King Coal Show has been more than a festival. It has been a tradition, a homecoming, and a celebration of the hardworking people and communities that built our region. Each year, families gather along parade routes, children ride carnival rides, old friends reconnect, and stories are shared that stretch back through decades. But at its heart, the King Coal Show has always represented something much deeper: a tribute to the history of southwestern Pennsylvania and the industry that shaped it.

Coal was never simply a job in our region; it was a way of life. Mines and coal companies created livelihoods that allowed families to put food on the table, buy homes, raise children, and build communities. Generations of men and women worked long hours and made tremendous sacrifices underground and above ground to provide opportunities for future generations.

Towns throughout the region grew and thrived because of the coal industry. Schools, local businesses, fire departments, churches, and community organizations all benefited from the work and dedication of those who earned their living from coal.

Today, the coal industry looks much different than it once did. Mines that once employed thousands have closed, communities have changed, and an industry that helped power America has faced difficult challenges. For many residents, there is a sense of nostalgia and sadness in watching a once-thriving way of life slowly fade. Yet while industries may change, the spirit and values that built this region remain.

That is part of what makes the King Coal Show so important.

The King Coal Show is not simply about remembering coal itself. It is about remembering the people. It is about honoring miners who worked long days underground, families who sacrificed alongside them, and communities that stood together through both prosperous times and difficult ones. It is about preserving the identity and culture of our region so future generations understand where they came from.

The event also serves another important purpose — bringing people together. In a world where life often moves too fast, where schedules are packed and time seems harder to find, the



King Coal Show creates an opportunity for neighbors, friends, and families to reconnect. Former classmates see each other again. Families return home. Parents create memories with their children that may someday become traditions of their own.

For many people, attending the King Coal Show isn't simply a yearly activity; it's part of growing up. It becomes part of family stories. Children who once watched the parade from folding chairs eventually bring their own children back years later to experience the same excitement and sense of community.

As we celebrate the King Coal Show, we are celebrating more than rides, parades, and

entertainment. We are celebrating resilience. We are celebrating the people who built our communities with hard work, determination, and pride. We are honoring where our region once was while remembering the history that made us who we are today.

Because even as times change, history matters. Traditions matter. Community matters.

And for another year, the King Coal Show reminds us that while we should always look toward the future, we should never forget the people and the sacrifices that helped build our past.

CARMICHAELS BOROUGH BUILDS COMMUNITY PRIDE THROUGH SERVICE AND RENEWAL

By Sandy Wilson

Over the past five years, President Mark Hanley reported, the Carmichaels Borough Council has worked steadily to strengthen community connections and create a welcoming environment for residents, visitors, and local businesses. That effort can be seen in both the appearance of the borough and the pride residents have in calling Carmichaels home.

The Council includes president, Mark Hanley; vice president, Ralph Ewart; secretary/treasurer, Linda Metz and members Joyce Fortney, David Antonini, and Susan Samek. Jeff Hathaway serves as mayor.

One example of that dedication is the recent hiring of part-time maintenance worker George Chahl, who is known for finding ways to keep the borough clean and ensure repairs stay up to date. His work has quickly made him a valued asset to the community and reflects the borough's ongoing commitment to making Carmichaels a better place to live and do business.

That same commitment was especially evident after a major water leak during the Christmas weekend of 2023 caused broken pipes and extensive flooding inside the borough building. The damage was significant, but the building was ultimately gutted and fully restored by Kennedy Construction of Amity, marking an important step forward in the borough's recovery.

Council members are proud of how far the borough has come. Their shared mission is to make residents feel comfortable, supported, and confident that the borough is there to serve them. As Metz put it, "Our door is always open to assist." Her efforts to connect with residents

and business owners throughout town have helped bring a renewed spirit of community to Carmichaels.

That spirit is also visible in the borough building itself, which has been beautifully decorated in honor of the America 250 celebration. Local artist Melody Longstreth created and installed the window designs, while a Christmas tree glows with red, white, and blue lights.

A bold, new "Welcome to Carmichaels Borough" sign has been installed in front of the building. Easily visible to passersby, the sign was designed by council members Ewart and Metz to celebrate local Blue & Gold pride.

The council will also sponsor a decorating contest for business owners and residents as part of the 250th celebration, the winners will receive lunch compliments of the borough. For more information, residents are encouraged to contact Linda Metz at 724-966-5506.

The borough is also partnering with the Greene County Chamber of Commerce on a variety of opportunities to promote the area. Stop by the office to get information on what will be available.

One of the upcoming events is a service honoring veterans, which is scheduled for July 4, at 2:00 p.m. at the "Town Square" followed by a celebration at Wana B Park. This event is being coordinated by "United We Shine", a non-profit organization. There will be food, music, and fun activities for all.

Residents can also follow Carmichaels Borough on Facebook to stay informed about local activities and community happenings.



Mark Ewart, Melody Longstreth, Linda Metz, and Mark Hanley

FASTBALL, MEET FORECAST: MASON MILLER PUTS HIS HAT ON THE LINE FOR RAIN DAY

For most major league pitchers, the toughest opponent is standing sixty feet, six inches away with a bat in hand. For Mason Miller, this summer's challenge arrives from somewhere much farther away - the sky above Waynesburg.

The hard-throwing closer, now starring for the San Diego Padres, has become the latest celebrity to accept one of Greene County's most beloved traditions: the Rain Day Hat Bet.

The Bethel Park native has built one of the sport's fastest-rising careers. **After beginning his college journey at Waynesburg University** and later transferring to Gardner-Webb, Miller was selected by the Oakland Athletics in the third round of the 2021 MLB Draft and debuted in the majors in 2023.

Initially developed as a starter, Miller's 100+ mph fastball turned him into one of baseball's most dominant late-inning arms. Across parts of four major league seasons, he entered 2026 with nearly 300 career strikeouts.

This season with the **San Diego Padres**, Miller has been exceptional. Through June, he owns a sub-1.00 ERA, 16 saves and 47 strikeouts, continuing his reputation as one of MLB's most overpowering relievers.

This past spring, Miller added another chapter to his legacy by representing **Team USA in the 2026 World Baseball Classic**. He became the team's most trusted late-inning arm and was used in high-pressure relief situations. In the semifinal game against the Dominican Republic, he closed out a tense 2-1 victory and helped send Team USA to the finals.

Now, alongside closing games in the majors, he's adding another pressure situation to his résumé: betting against Rain in Waynesburg on July 29.

The famous Hat Bet formally began in 1939 and has drawn everyone from entertainers and athletes to weather personalities into predicting one thing: no rain. History usually disagrees.

Miller joins a number of athletes who have tested their luck against Waynesburg's weather, including some of the most iconic and historic figures in sports history.



Heavyweight Boxing Champ Jack Dempsey — **1946**

Pirate Announcer Bob Prince - **1955**

Muhammad Ali — **1963** (Then still competing as Cassius Clay)

Golf legend Arnold Palmer — **1964**

Sports broadcaster Jack Fleming – **1974**

Sports broadcaster Myron Cope – **1976 and 1982**

St. Louis Cardinal Hall of Famer Lou Brock — **1979**

U.S. Open Champion Tom Kite — **1983**

Steeler legend Franco Harris — **1984**

Steeler Safety Rick Woods - **1986**

Mario Lemieux — **1988**

Pirate All-star Andy Van Slyke — **1990**

Penguin Jaromír Jágr — **1995**

Some guy named Troy Aikman — **1996**

Pirate pitcher Kent Tekulve — **2002**

Steeler legend Troy Polamalu — **2006**

Local MMA fighter Josh Koscheck — **2011**

Steeler great Brett Keisel — **2012**

NCAA Champion and Olympic medalist Coleman Scott — **2013**

Golf pros Robert and Rachel Rohanna – **2015**

The Champion West Greene Lady Pioneers - **2016**

WVU Basketball Coach Bob Huggins — **2017**

Sports Broadcaster Bob Pompiani - **2019**

Steeler linebacker Ryan Shazier — **2024**

Mason Miller — **2026**

A poster for the 250th Anniversary Free Concert on the Lawn at the Greene Academy of Art. The poster features a large graphic of a guitar and a microphone on the left. The text on the right reads: '250th ANNIVERSARY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FREE CONCERT ON THE LAWN GREENE ACADEMY OF ART 7-8:30 PM BRING LAWN CHAIR'. Below this is a '2026 SCHEDULE' section listing dates and performers: JULY 2 - Timm Reeves Music, JULY 9 - CT Acoustic, JULY 16 - The Projects Band, JULY 23 - American Legion Post 400 Band, JULY 30 - Juke Box Junkies. At the bottom, it says '314 N. MARKET ST., CARMICHAELS EVERY THURSDAY IN JULY'. The entire poster is framed by a border of red and blue stars.



RAIN DAY FESTIVAL 2026

**JULY
29TH**

**FUN for the
WHOLE
FAMILY!**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS!



MAIN STAGE
E. WAYNE STREET



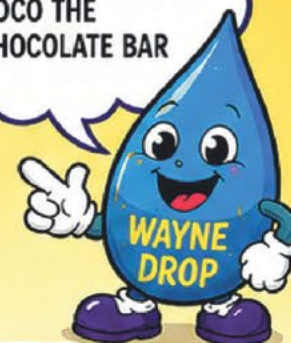
SECOND STAGE
FOUNTAIN PARK
(COLLEGE PARK)



SPECIAL EVENTS BOOTH
LOOK FOR YELLOW &
PURPLE TENT –
MONUMENT PARK!

STROLLING MASCOTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

- ★ WILD THING
- ★ ANDY ARMADILLO
- ★ WU STING
- ★ **WAYNE DROP**
- ★ COCO THE CHOCOLATE BAR



MAIN STAGE E. WAYNE STREET

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
DREW JOHNSON



1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
**LEE ALVERSON'S
ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE
& ONE MAN ONE PIANO
PERFORMANCE**



3:30 PM
MISS RAIN DAY CONTESTANTS



4:00 PM
**COMPANY K MOMENT OF
SILENCE / AWARD PRESENTATIONS**



5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
**SUNS OF BEACHES BAND
(HEADLINER BAND)**



FOUNTAIN PARK STAGE

10:50 AM
**BECKY ANNE (VOCALIST) &
MORGAN BLANKS (CELLIST)**
(NATIONAL ANTHEM)



11:00 AM
UMBRELLA CONTEST



11:30 AM – NOON
LUCIEN



NOON
**MISS RAIN DROP CONTEST –
MINI, LITTLE & JR.**



1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
ZACK BREWER



2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
JEFF GRABLE



3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
MICHELLE HADDOX



4:00 PM – 4:30 PM
NICOLE GACEK



5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
NICK POLITO



KIDS ZONE & FAMILY FUN



11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
JMS BALLOONIST

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
JMS BALLOONIST

NOON – 6:00 PM
**CHILDREN'S GAMES BY
WAYNESBURG FIRST ASSEMBLY**

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
**E.L.F. ENTERTAINMENT
INFLATABLES**



NOON – 4:00 PM
**HOWARD MINCONE
STROLLING MAGICIAN & JUGGLER**

NOON – 7:00 PM
JEFF HARRIS CARICATURES

3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
**P.G.H. PARTY CREATIONS
STROLLING CHARACTERS
CINDERELLA & ARIEL
SPIDERMAN & MINION
BABY YODA & MUTANT NINJA TURTLE
MICKEY & MINNIE MOUSE**



SPECIAL EVENTS

7:00 AM – 10:00 AM
**BUCKWHEAT PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**
ST. ANN'S CHURCH



**RAIN DAY MERCHANDISE
SALES & VOTE FOR
BABY RAIN DAY!**



6PM – 7PM

FOAM PARTY!



**DURING HEADLINER BAND
PERFORMANCES IN
MONUMENT & FOUNTAIN PARK!**

**LET'S MAKE
SOME MEMORIES!**



FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES!



#RAINDAYFESTIVAL2026



RAINDAYFESTIVAL.COM



GUESS WHEN THE FIRST RAINDROP WILL FALL ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH, AND YOU COULD WIN A DOWNPOUR OF CASH!

Just guess the time (or be the one who comes closest to the official time) of the first raindrop, and First Federal Savings and Loan will award you \$500 and a complimentary umbrella.

Enter your guess on the forms provided at your nearest First Federal Branch Office in Waynesburg, Carmichaels or Mt. Morris, or fill out the entry form with this ad and bring it in starting Wednesday, July 1.

Entry deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28. So drop in and make a guess, and who knows...into your life a shower of Rain Day prize money may fall.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

**FIRST RAINDROP
WILL FALL AT**

Write time here _____ A.M. or _____ P.M.
(You must select A.M. or P.M., not both)

Deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. One entry per person - Thank You!

PLEASE DROP IN BOX AT

First Federal
savings and loan association
of GREENE COUNTY

*If rain is continuous from the preceding night (July 28th) or no rain falls, the contest will be cancelled and the award will be carried over to the ensuing year.

Waynesburg, Carmichaels or Mt. Morris

NMLS# 458729

Member
FDIC



71ST ANNUAL KING COAL SHOW AUGUST 22-29

SAT, AUGUST 22ND

9:00AM - Sara L. Ruth Memorial Golf Outing

SUN, AUGUST 23RD

7:00PM - 71st Annual Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Queen Pageant

TUES, AUGUST 25TH

6:00-10:00PM - Exhibits/Vendors Entertainment

Food Baby Contest in Firehall

7:00-10:00PM - Carnival

WED, AUGUST 26TH

6:00PM - 58th Childrens Pet Parade

6:00-10:00PM - Exhibits/Vendors, Entertainment, Food,

Baby Contest in Firehall

7:00-10:00PM - Carnival

THURS, AUGUST 27TH

6:00PM - 52nd Bill Gideon Memorial Decorated Bicycle Parade

6:00-10:00PM - Exhibits/Vendors, Entertainment, Food,

Baby Contest in Firehall

7:00-10:00PM - Carnival

FRI, AUGUST 28TH

6:00-10:00PM - Exhibits/Vendors, Entertainment, Food,

Baby Contest in Firehall

7:00-10:00PM - Carnival

7:00-10:00PM - The Classics Rock - Music Performance

SAT, AUGUST 29TH

10:00AM-3:00PM - King Coal Car Show

4:00PM - 71st Annual King Coal Parade

5:00-11:00PM - Carnival

6:00-10:00PM - Exhibits/Vendors, Entertainment, Food,

Baby Contest in Firehall

7:00-10:00PM - Shadow Cats - Music Performance

10:00PM - Closing Fireworks at Firehall Grounds



SCAN QR FOR
FULL SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS



CARNIVAL

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Scene and Heard

By Dolly Throckmorton

YOGASHMOGA

Part Two

Last Month, I wrote about my introduction to yoga and its multiple benefits. This month, I want to discuss the basics of the practice and address common misconceptions.

For those seeking flexibility or alternatives to physical pain, it can provide relief. And for those of us with a jumbled mind jumping in all directions, it can provide a way to focus. Maybe your goal is connecting your “lower self” with your “higher self.”



Many of my classes for certification focused on helping people overcome trauma, which is surprisingly the biggest reason people seek yoga. It can even be a wonderful tool for recovery from addiction. I taught in that environment for over eight years.

For me, yoga brought a sense of acceptance of myself, acceptance of what may have happened in the past, acceptance of my lack of control of so many situations. Perhaps most importantly, it has increased my empathy.

Although it is not always perfect, knowing I have yoga and meditation in my pocket provides me with tools when I require that sense of peace.

First, Yoga is not just about “doing the poses.” We must connect the poses with our breath, which forces us to focus on that dance between breathing and moving. It takes practice just like everything else. Envisioning your inhale and exhale as if it were a wave lapping the shoreline allows you to achieve that connection.

This may be where your practice settles: mastering some poses, connecting your breath to the movement, and finding a flow if you will. In one of my earlier articles, I shared a breathing technique called “the long exhale” which can be used to help reduce stress. This is just one of many breathing techniques the student can use.

It is all about finding what works best for you. Yoga may show you very quickly some physical benefits: increased flexibility and agility, better posture, and lessening of joint and lower back pain.

Other benefits which may take more practice include self-calming in stressful situations, letting go of obsessive thoughts, and enjoying “the now” instead of worrying about what transpired or what is to come.

Those mental benefits, although life-changing, can churn up hurt, loss, and pain initially. None of us want that, so we tend to bury it. The meditation aspect of yoga forces you to reflect internally, and that is where the magic happens. However, true progress is not made by just dabbling in the easy stuff.

While five minutes may seem like a lifetime to meditate or sit still initially, practicing will improve that number. If you fall asleep, you need rest. If your mind wanders, return to your breath. That steady in and out will hone your internal focus.

If thoughts invade your head space, think of them as clouds passing over head. You can watch them pass by, but do not attach yourself. Acknowledge and let those clouds drift by. Instead of practice makes perfect, say “practice brings peace.”

For me, it is having a different outlook on my life, searching for my true purpose, finding positivity, and learning to live in the present. I may never “get there” or achieve *samadhi* in this lifetime, but I will give myself grace for trying and learning and believing in progress no matter how small it may seem at times.

Yoga is an extremely versatile tool that can help you in so many areas of your life. No equipment required. Leaving you all in love and light, namaste.

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 @gyspyrambler_pa or on Facebook under Dolly Throckmorton (w/the blue checkmark) or email me at dollygthrock@gmail.com for more information.

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SUMMER IN THE COUNTRY

By Becci Watson

Residents in Greene County and surrounding areas were treated to a special event on May 16th. Family-owned businesses in the quaint village of Rogersville opened their doors to a Saturday shopping experience sprinkled with hometown warmth.

On the outskirts of Rogersville, Laura Coss set up her seasonal pop-up shop **Country Everything** in a red, white and blue building owned by her father, Bob Bosco. Featuring handmade items inspired by God, Family & Freedom, the shop inside and out is wonderful tribute to the USA.

In addition to her own handmade creations and her father's custom signs and woodwork designs, Laura showcased pavers and wreaths made by Aunt Joyce and Uncle Randy, baskets by Debbie Coss, chenille quilts by Tammy Watson, jewelry, fresh flowers and wreaths made by **Kelly's Creations**, crocheted purses and fresh florals from **Hook Nook**, items from **Brian's woodworking**, and a personal favorite, **Larry's Candles** made by a local veteran.

On the other end of Rogersville, **Gloria's Ceramics and Gifts** displayed even more local talent. Owner Patty Rohanna pours, paints, and fires the ceramic pieces for sale in this shop. She creates beautiful wedding crocks, Christmas trees, garden decorations and several other seasonal ceramic items. In addition, she recently opened a sympathy section where grieving loved ones can order beautiful arrangements created by her from wooden flowers.

Patty also holds classes throughout the week for students, young and old. Birthday and Girls Night Out painting parties are common throughout the year, too. She also commissions other items like **stained glass by Karen Calvert**, **jewelry designed by Debbie Frampton**, furniture made by **Old Hundred Primitive**, wooden bowls, boxes and benches made by Harry Rhodes, aprons and dishcloths made by Lorena Rush, table runners and baby blankets made by Becky Walker, and bibs and pot holders by Carolyn Johnson, to name a few. Candles, honey, jams and jellies are available. You can also find the popular Billy Jacobs prints here.

Several customers who visited these two shops stopped by **South Fork Kitchen & Fixin's** in the center of town to grab a bite to eat. Here comfort food, daily specials, homemade soups, sweet treats and ice cream awaited them.

Morning Rush, a popular coffee shop with weekly specials, was at a previously scheduled event with their food truck and was not open.

Rogersville is blessed and happy to have not one, but four, successful businesses in our small town. It is definitely a great place to live and visit. If you did not have the opportunity to stop by, please follow these businesses on Facebook and stay tuned for the next Saturday Open House coming in the Fall.



These fun decorations are just a few of the handmade items found in Gloria's Ceramics and Gifts.

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MON VIEW PARK: A HIDDEN GEM

By David Plavi

Tucked away along the scenic banks of the Monongahela River in Greensboro, sits one of Greene County's most overlooked treasures — Mon View Park. While many residents and visitors pass through the area without realizing what the park has to offer, those who have spent time there know it is much more than just a local park. It is a place where community, recreation, and small-town memories come together.

Greene County's "Hidden Gem," Mon View Park offers something increasingly rare today — a peaceful destination where families can unplug, children can play freely, and neighbors can gather together outdoors.

Nestled among rolling hills and overlooking the river valley, the park combines natural beauty with a wide range of recreational opportunities. Visitors can enjoy the public swimming pool, during the summer months, spend afternoons at the playgrounds, roller rink and sporting facilities, or relax beneath one of the park's picnic pavilions during family reunions, birthday parties, and community events.

For local residents, Mon View Park has become more than a destination — it has become part of their family traditions. Generations have learned to swim in the pool, attended summer events, and gathered there for celebrations that created lasting memories. Whether it's children laughing at the pool, families sharing meals beneath the pavilions, or friends meeting for an evening walk, the park continues to bring people together year after year.

One of the park's greatest strengths is its versatility. Throughout the year, Mon View Park serves as the backdrop for community festivals, youth activities, and recreational programs. It provides a welcoming environment for both quiet relaxation and lively entertainment. Few places in the county offer such a blend of recreation, scenery, and community spirit in one location.

What truly makes Mon View Park special, however, is its atmosphere. Unlike crowded attractions or heavily commercialized destinations, the park maintains the charm and authenticity that defines Greene County itself. Visitors are greeted not by noise and traffic, but by open green spaces, river views, and the sense of connection that only a hometown park can provide.

As Greene County continues to grow and evolve, Mon View Park stands as a reminder of the

importance of preserving spaces where communities can gather and families can create memories together. It may not always make headlines or tourist brochures, but for those who know it well, Mon View Park remains one of the county's best-kept secrets.



JOE'S DAIRY BAR

We asked our readers to share their memories of Joe's Dairy Bar in Waynesburg. Local history buff, Farley Toothman shared some background on this photo.

Joe's was located on Washington Street (between the Old Armory and what became Scott's Delight) and was a cherished institution during the mid-20th century. It was owned and operated by Joe Komatz and served as a popular eatery and social anchor for the community. It was the ultimate hangout in the 1950s and 1960s for local youth and young adults. Local family histories frequently highlight it as a nostalgic landmark where life-long friends and future spouses first crossed paths.

According to Toothman, Komatz and his wife originally lived above the establishment until a fire destroyed the apartment in 1960. The building was repaired and modified to a one-story structure. The business continued as a social hub for another decade until a powerful explosion in 1970 brought the business to an end. The inferno also claimed the adjacent pizza shop owned by Terry Squillante.

Many of our readers shared their memories of the place. Linnie Fox and Roy Huffman worked there after school. Others remember the wonderful smells emanating from the building as they walked home from school. Joe Ayersman remembers the popularity of the place during both his high school and college years, noting Komatz was good to the local wrestlers.



Joe's Dairy Bar in 1950 looking north toward Waynesburg College. (Courtesy of Greene Connections)

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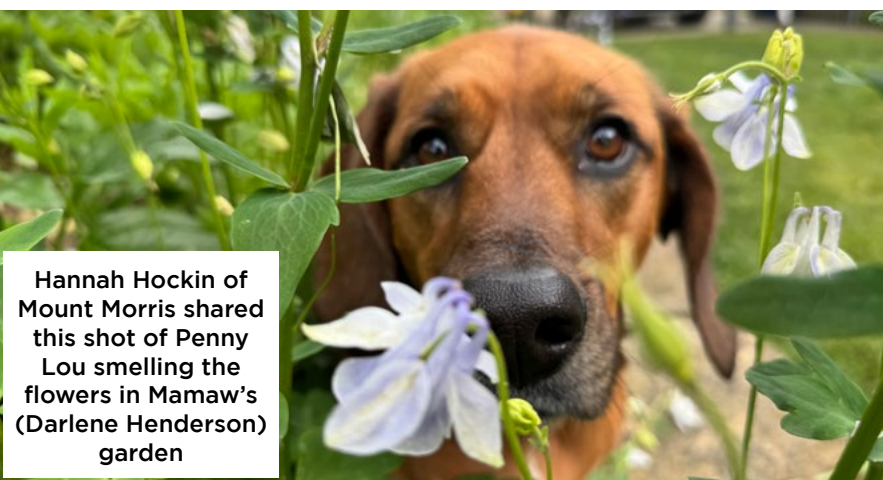
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Hannah Hockin of Mount Morris shared this shot of Penny Lou smelling the flowers in Mamaw's (Darlene Henderson) garden

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Kristine Knepp

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PODCAST #30

FROM WAYNESBURG TO ALASKA: THE FOX FORD LEGACY \ EPISODE #30

It's not every day you get to talk about a local business that has been a cornerstone of the community for over a century. In this episode of the GreeneScene Podcast, Shelly Brown sits down with Mark Fox, owner and operator of Fox Ford, alongside Commercial Sales Manager Seth Wilson.

Both homegrown right here in Waynesburg, Mark and Seth share the journey of a dealership that first opened its doors back in 1912. Through generations of name changes, family transitions, and economic shifts, Fox Ford has remained a driving force in Greene County by lifting up the community through volunteer firefighting, supporting Waynesburg University, and other helpful acts of service.

IN THIS EPISODE, WE DISCUSS:

- Steering Through History: How Fox Ford survived multiple economic hardships including World War II, the 2008 financial crash, and the unprecedented hurdles of the 2020 pandemic.
- The Internet Era: A look at how the car-buying market has completely transformed, shifting from dealership-hopping to a digital-first world where high values and treating people right matter more than ever.
- The Alaska Truck Story: Seth tells the wild tale of a custom truck buyer who traveled all the way across the United States to piece together his dream vehicle right here in Waynesburg.

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CROWDED KITCHEN: WITH CHAY LAHEW

By Pam Marisa

Chay Lahew's interest in smoked cooking began many years ago when he worked at Hot Rod's House of Barbeque. After Hot Rod's closing, Chay decided to put their skills to the test by entering the Kansas City Barbeque Society circuit. They competed for many years in Hagerstown, Maryland and consistently placed in the top 10.

After that, Chay and his friend John Sinnot started their own barbecue company called Jail House Swine. Together, they enjoyed cooking for many occasions and events. When John moved away, Chay decided to continue smoking meat for friends, family, and fun.

One of Chay's specialties is smoked alligator. Of course, I was curious, so I asked him what smoked alligator tastes like. I thought he would say, "like chicken," but his response was not what I expected. With a proud smile on his face, he explained that an alligator actually has three very distinct tastes. The tail meat has a flaky cod-like texture, the rib meat is sweet, stringy and slightly drier. The jaw, according to Chay, is "the best-tasting meat you will ever eat." And then he added, "Oh, and the claws — the claws are so good."

Chay was generous enough to share a couple of his favorite recipes. He admitted that he does not measure much anymore because he knows the recipes so well, so feel free to adjust the seasonings to your own taste.

With summer upon us, Chay's smoked brisket and smoked macaroni and cheese are great recipes to try at home. **But if you would rather enjoy Chay's cooking without firing up the smoker yourself, his smoked brisket and macaroni and cheese will be available at The Denny House on Friday, July 3, during the 250th America Celebration.**

Be sure to look in the *GreeneScene* and on Facebook to see what other nights Chay's recipes will be featured.



Smoked Brisket

Ingredients

- 1 whole prime-grade brisket
- Worcestershire sauce
- Coarse cracked black pepper
- Spice Rub
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder

Directions

Trim the fat around the outside of the brisket to about ¼ inch to ½ inch. Drizzle the entire brisket with Worcestershire sauce and rub it in to create a wet surface. Mix the salt, pepper, garlic powder, and onion powder together. Rub the spice mixture over the entire brisket. Sprinkle coarse cracked black pepper over the brisket to help create a flavorful bark.

Smoke at 225 degrees for 13 to 14 hours, or until the brisket is tender.



Smoked Macaroni and Cheese

Ingredients

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 pound elbow or spiral noodles | 4 ounces pepper jack cheese |
| 1 stick of butter | 4 ounces cheddar cheese |
| ½ cup of flour | 1 tsp Salt |
| 1 quart milk | 1 tsp Pepper |
| 4 ounces Gruyère cheese | ½ tsp Smoked garlic powder |
| 4 ounces Gouda cheese | |

Directions

Cook the noodles very al dente, then drain.

Prepare the roux. Melt the stick of butter in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Once melted, add the flour and whisk to incorporate. Continue whisking for about 4-5 minutes, cooking out the raw flour flavor to make a golden, smooth roux.

Add warmed dairy and seasonings. Slowly pour the warmed dairy into the roux 1/2 cup at a time, whisking to thicken the sauce. Once all the milk has been poured in, add the spices and whisk constantly while the sauce simmers, just until thickened. Make sure the sauce does not start simmering rapidly. Mix in the Gruyère, Gouda, pepper jack, and cheddar cheeses. Smoke uncovered for about 45 minutes, or until the noodles are tender and the cheese is melted and bubbly.



CARRIAGE HOUSE

SUMMER SCHEDULE

OPEN EVERY THURSDAY FOR DINNER 5 PM - 9 PM

	MUSIC
JULY 2ND - Special BBQ Chicken, Rice.....	Two to Win
JULY 9TH - Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, & Green Beans.....	Cole Leathers
JULY 16TH - Personalized Pizza, with Side Salad.....	Just 4 Kicks Band
JULY 23 - Build Your Own Burger, Fries & Coleslaw.....	Marks Brothers Band
JULY 30TH - Stuffed Peppers, Mashed Potatoes, & Salad.....	Nick Savage
AUG 6TH - Prime Rib, Roasted Potatoes, & Vegetables.....	Two To Win
AUG 13TH - Parmesan over Pasta & Salad.....	Tim Reeves
AUG 20TH - Lasagna Roll-ups, Salad, Garlic Knots.....	C&T Acoustics
AUG 27TH - Chicken Pot Pie & Salad.....	Marklee Beal as Dolly Parton
SEPT 3RD - BBQ Pulled Pork, Mac & Cheese, & Coleslaw.....	Devon Cowell as Elvis
SEPT 10TH - Italian Sausage Sandwich & Pasta Salad.....	Steve Halow
SEPT 17TH - Prime Rib, Roasted Potatoes, & Vegetables.....	Ferd Dolfi

FIRST FRIDAYS OPEN ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 5 PM - 9 PM

	MUSIC
JULY 3RD - 250th American Celebration: Smoked Brisket & Smoked Macaroni & Cheese by Chay Lahew 4 pm - 9 pm.....	Devon Cowell as Elvis & Johnny Cash
AUG 7TH - Prime Rib, Roasted Potatoes, & Vegetables.....	Just 4 Kicks Band
SEPT 4TH - BBQ Pulled Pork, Mac & Cheese, & Coleslaw.....	Devon Cowell as Johnny Cash

SUNDAY, AUG 23RD - Miss Denny's Birthday Tea, 1pm Party.....Reservations Required

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Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore

WHEN THE WHOLE TOWN CAME TO THE BALLPARK

*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.*



A century ago, baseball was America's undisputed national pastime. It was a gritty game played in wool uniforms before roaring crowds packed into brick ballparks.

It was also the undisputed local pastime here in Greene County. Despite all the changes to the game, the heart of baseball remains remarkably familiar. The tension of a full count, the drama of the ninth inning, and the connection between generations brought together by the crack of a bat remain.

I thought it might be interesting to survey the decade of the 1920s from a local baseball perspective.

In the first year of the decade, 19 young men from **Jollytown** were arrested for playing baseball on a Sunday. They were fined \$4 each by Justice John Goodwin. However, the boys obtained the services of attorney James Purman and appealed the case. A "settlement" was reached and the boys did not have to pay the fine. Soon after, the residents of Jollytown became "bitter toward the minister," and he moved on to another town.

Youth Leagues

In 1927, Judge A.H. Sayers, and local businessmen Joe Doody and Jim Meighen started a **Youth Legion** team in Waynesburg. By the end of the decade the league expanded to Carmichaels, Nemacolin, Bobtown, Greensboro, and Rices Landing. The winners of the league would play Uniontown at the end of the season.

By the 1930s, there were eight teams in Waynesburg alone: the Druggists, South Penn, Army-Navy, Hardwares, Schreiber's, Star Candy, Inghram's, and Kennedy's.

High Schools

Although baseball was not yet a sanctioned **WPIAL** sport, several local high schools had teams. **Nineveh** was the local powerhouse and was the first team in the area to wear real uniforms (or "baseball suits" as they were called at the time). Jim Johnson and Jake Porter were the team's best players.

Waynesburg's first reported game was a 6-2 loss to East Bethlehem in 1922. **Rogersville's** "Pood" Johnson was a local phenom as they took on a schedule of scholastic and independent teams. In 1926, **Carmichaels** fielded a team for a year. According to the school's yearbook, they didn't mind losing to Rogersville or Nineveh, but "they took great delight in licking the Waynesburg crew."

College

Waynesburg College brought baseball back in 1920 after a hiatus due to the First World War. They often played double-headers with the local independent teams. The Jackets would

play teams such as California, Indiana, Bethany, West Liberty, Duquesne, Carnegie Tech, Pitt, and WVU, in the opener. Then the Waynesburg American Steel Team would play the nightcap against a variety of independent regional teams.

In 1922, the college bought the Gibbon's Hotel on South Washington Street to use as an athletic dormitory. The head coach was the legendary Frank Wolfe, and the team won the *Pittsburgh Post's* "Western Pennsylvania Baseball League Championship," narrowly beating out Penn State and WVU. Future college president Paul "Prexie" Stewart was the team's manager.

In 1925, the school dropped the baseball program in favor of a track team because it was cheaper and involved more students. The program did not return until after WWII.



*The Kuhntown baseball team circa 1910-1920.
(Courtesy of Greene Connections; The Terry Cole Collection)*

Independents

In the first half of the decade, the real draw in the area was the aforementioned **American Steel team**. The company, located in West Waynesburg, employed over 400 men. At the Greene County Fair that year, the squad won a four-team tournament against Rogersville, Brave, and Mt. Morris. They played against major independent teams throughout the tri-state area and were highly successful.

There was also a **Greene County Baseball League** that featured teams from Carmichaels, Clarksville, Mather, Rices Landing, Crucible, and Nemacolin. A July doubleheader in 1920 between the two top teams, Nemacolin and Rices Landing, drew 4,000 spectators. Although they dropped the twin bill that day, Nemacolin went on to win the league title that season.

A year later, the **Mather Collieries** team celebrated their successful 30-20 season with a banquet at the luxurious Hotel Downey in Waynesburg. The entertainment at the three-course dinner was provided by the six-piece Mather String Orchestra.

Another team was popular in Waynesburg in the middle of the decade. The **Independents** were coached by the legendary "Hooker" Joe Phillips. They won 38 of 45 games in 1924 against teams from Fairmont to Pittsburgh. Their main rival was the Sackville Stogies of Washington. Those two teams played a seven-game series at the end of the season. The winner would take all the gate receipts (a large amount of money, considering attendance was almost 2,000 a game). Waynesburg won the series four games to one.

That same team played a **barnstorming team** called the **Cuban Giants**. According to the *Democrat*, those Cuban players were the fastest men anyone had seen play. They had even defeated a couple of Major League teams in exhibitions. However, they left College Field with a 7-2 loss.

At the end of the decade, the **Waynesburg City League** included South Penn Telephone, Equitable Gas (the Gassers), Biery's Smoke Shop, Waynesburg Normal, Morrisville, Carnegie Gas, East Waynesburg, Henderson's Cigars, and Company K. (My grandfather, Glenn Cosgray and local baseball legend, Louie Greco played for Equitable.)

During those last years of the decade, the **Tri-County League** included Mather, Rogersville, Jefferson, Nemacolin, Bobtown, Crucible, and several Fayette and Washington County teams.

In May of 1928, that Mather Mine team left work early at 2:00 p.m. for an away game. At 4:07 p.m. the mine exploded 350 feet beneath the surface, killing 196 men.

"Professionals"

Ira "Budge" Tustin is considered one of the greatest players in county history. He started playing shortstop for Kuhntown at the age of 13. In 1915, he pitched for the Waynesburg Church League All-Stars against the Pittsburgh Pirates in an exhibition game. He gave up one run and three hits. The Pirates (and several clubs) repeatedly offered him contracts over the next decade, but Budge liked his job running the Kuhntown Post Office.

He did, however, **barnstorm with Honus Wagner's Yellow Cab** team on his own schedule. In addition, he pitched for several county teams when the **Homestead Grays** came to town. He beat the Negro League legends three times, including a one-hit, 4-0 shutout while pitching for Mather.

Sports Shorts



The Carmichaels Lady Mikes continued their tradition as one of the WPIAL's elite Class A softball programs. Carmichaels finished the season with a 17-5 overall record and captured the Section 2A title with a 9-1 mark. Led by standout senior pitcher Bailey Barnyak and a powerful lineup featuring Carys McConnell, the Lady Mikes earned impressive victories over rivals West Greene, Jefferson-Morgan, and Waynesburg Central.

In the postseason, they defeated Sewickley Academy and West Greene to reach the WPIAL Class A championship game. The women once again showcased the talent, discipline, and winning tradition that have made Carmichaels softball a regional powerhouse.



The Record That Stayed in the Family

For 27 years, Nikki Gasti's name stood alone atop the Lady Mike's record book. Now it shares the page with her daughter. The numbers may have changed, but the story remains the same. It features a Carmichaels pitcher, a fierce competitor, and a family legacy written one strikeout at a time.

This season, Bailey Barnyak became the all-time strikeout leader in Carmichaels' softball history (868), eclipsing the school record previously held by her mother (850). The achievement added a unique and emotional chapter to the storied tradition of Carmichaels softball, connecting two generations through a shared love of the game.

Known for her poise in the circle, pinpoint control, and ability to rise to the occasion in big games, Bailey steadily climbed the record book throughout her career. As the strikeouts accumulated, anticipation grew around the community, with teammates, family members, and fans eager to witness the milestone.

When the record finally fell, it was a moment that celebrated more than individual accomplishment. It reflected years of dedication, countless hours of practice, and the support of a family deeply rooted in Carmichaels athletics. Rather than taking anything away from her mother's legacy, Bailey's achievement strengthened it, creating a rare family connection that will stand for generations.

In a program known for producing champions, Barnyak's record-breaking performance has secured her place among the greatest players ever to wear a Lady Mikes uniform.

In her senior season, she posted a 0.44 ERA with 240 strikeouts while also leading the team offensively with a .484 batting average.

It was no doubt tough to follow an act like Nikki (Gasti) Onderko, who led the Lady Mikes to WPIAL championships in 1997 and 1998 and the school's first-ever PIAA team state championship in 1998. However, her daughter extended the family legacy with the fierce resolve one would expect of such a lineage.

Now that Bailey's high school career is over, the strikeout totals will just be numbers. What will endure is the story behind them—a mother and daughter connected by talent, determination, and a love for the game that helped define an extended era of Carmichaels softball.

DeHoet Is First Greene County Sprinter to Win State Title



Deakyn DeHoet did something at this year's PIAA Track and Field Championships that no Greene County sprinter has ever done – and he did it twice.

DeHoet joins 12 other elite track athletes in Greene County history who won at least one state championship. However, all those champions were either hurdlers, distance runners, or field event participants.

The Jefferson-Morgan senior competed for Beth-Center through a cooperative agreement because Jefferson-Morgan does not field a track and field team. **His 10.51 in the 100-meter dash** was not only the fastest time in Class 2A but also faster than the Class 3A champion's winning time. **He also won the PIAA Class 2A 200-meter dash with a time of 21.29.**

Earlier in the season, DeHoet also captured **WPIAL Class 2A championships in both the 100 and 200 meters**, completing a rare WPIAL-PIAA sprint double.



The West Greene Lady Pioneers continued the proud tradition of one of Pennsylvania's premier small-school softball programs. They finished the regular season with a 12-7-1 overall record and an 8-2 mark in Section 2A. The Pioneers powered into the WPIAL Class 1A playoffs, opening with a convincing 15-1 victory over South Side before advancing to the semifinals. Coach Simm's squad once again demonstrated the competitiveness and tradition that have made West Greene softball a perennial contender.



Raider Mason Schroyer soars over the bar. (Courtesy of Crek Photography)

Sports Shorts

Local Flair in the 2026 Pittsburgh Marathon!



(Left to Right/Top to Bottom) Sarah Brandstetter; Jen and Chris Lash; Matt & Sarah Brandstetter; Mike Hildreth; and brothers, Jackson (18) & Joel (16) Grimes of Holbrook. It was Jackson's first full marathon (4:08:04). It was Joel's first half marathon (1:23:20). He finished 4th in his age division (19 & under) and 109th overall out of 14,029 half marathon runners.



The Jefferson-Morgan Lady Rockets softball team put together another strong season, finishing with a **16-6 overall record** and a **7-3 mark in Section 2A competition**. The Rockets battled their way into the WPIAL Class 1A playoffs, where they opened with a dominant 18-0 victory over Leechburg before edging Serra Catholic 2-1 in the quarterfinals. Their postseason run ended in the semifinals against perennial powerhouse Union Area. Along the way, Jefferson-Morgan earned notable wins over rivals Carmichaels, Waynesburg Central, and Fort Cherry. Led by a blend of experienced veterans and emerging young talent, **the Rockets once again established themselves among the top small-school softball programs in Southwestern Pennsylvania.**



Coach Dave Fowler, Mason Mankey, Nate Ricciuti, Jack Ricciuti, Mason Schroyer, Andy Mahle, Coach Rick Layton. Center is Maddie Blair

WCHS Track Team Takes Six to PIAA Meet

Freshman **Nate Ricciuti** captured the **WPIAL Individual Championship title** in the 110m hurdles. He advanced to the PIAA Championships and finished **12th in the state**.

Mason Mankey claimed **4th place at the WPIAL Individual Meet** in the 110m hurdles with a personal record of 15.48 seconds. Junior **Andy Mahle** secured **5th place at the WPIAL Individual Championship meet** with a personal record throw of 152'4."

Mason Schroyer placed **7th at the prestigious Baldwin Invitational** and went on to clear 13'6" at the WPIAL Championships to qualify for the PIAA. **Jack Ricciuti** jumped a personal record of 6'4" during the WPIAL Team Meet. He then placed 5th at the WPIAL Individual Meet to advance to states.

Maddie Blair qualified by placing 5th at the WPIAL Meet.

In the Out-Door

By T.R. Mahle

OUTDOOR SPOTLIGHT: BUSH PLANES, HORSEBACK HUNTS, AND B&C GRIZZLY'S



The Outdoor Section of the Greene Scene Magazine is extremely excited to announce our second in a series of articles that will be spotlighting an accomplished "outdoor" individual. This new limited series of articles will be celebrating the stories, skills, and traditions of successful hunters from around Greene County. These special articles will explore the experiences of individuals who have mastered their craft through patience, knowledge, and respect for nature. Each feature will highlight not only remarkable achievements in the field, but also the dedication, preparation, and ethical practices that define responsible hunting. Readers can expect in-depth profiles, vivid storytelling, and practical insights drawn from real-life pursuits. The series aims to present a well-rounded perspective on local hunting legends. By focusing on personal journeys and lessons learned, these articles will inspire appreciation for the outdoors and the skills required to thrive within it.

This quarter's outdoor icon is **Gary K. Rohanna Sr.** He has spent his entire life in the hills of Greene County. Gary is one of my most tenured hunting friends and has been a constant companion through some of the most memorable outdoor experiences of my life. We have seen countless sunrises together, and shared hundreds of exciting hunts. Over the years, our friendship has grown stronger through shared adventures, challenges, and lots of success in the field.

What makes him special is not just his skill as a hunter but also his character. He is patient, dependable, and always willing to help others be successful when hunting. He gets as much en-



Gary Rohanna with his Boone and Crockett grizzly.

joyment out of filming the hunts and wildlife as he does taking the trophy himself. He brings a sense of confidence and good humor and makes every hunting trip an enjoyable experience.

Our hunting trips are about much more than the hunt itself. They are opportunities to share stories, laugh together, and appreciate the outdoors. Even on days when we return empty-handed, the time spent in each other's company feels rewarding.

In the early years for Gary, it was all small game, bird dogs and beagles. However, at just 12 years old, he was at his family hunting camps in State College and Elk County and was able

to harvest a black bear and a whitetail buck on his very first hunting trip.

Gary is a seasoned outdoorsman having hunted in Montana since 1973...most years going on two different trips. One in October to hunt antelope and do some fishing and again in November for deer and elk. He has also been to Alaska (three times) for grizzly bear, Quebec for caribou, Ontario for moose, British Columbia (five times) for black bear and whitetail deer, New Mexico (four times) for mule deer, and Tennessee, West Virginia, and Ohio, for whitetail deer.

Gary's most memorable hunt took him to the **North slope of the Brooks Mountain Range in Alaska** in search of a record book grizzly bear. It was a 2-week hunt with his friend Rich Barchesi and Cousin Greg Rohanna. In all, they spotted 22 different grizzlies and put stalks on five of them with no luck. These stalks were made in hip boots because of the marshy terrain and streams...some stalks were over six miles long.

However, on the seventh day of the hunt a large boar grizzly was finally spotted and the hunt was on. After a long and careful approach through thick willows and underbrush, which was unnerving to say the least, the guide (who was over 6' tall) said **"he is right in front of us."** The height of the willows and brush prevented Gary from seeing the bear, but he could smell him - **"The bear smelled just like a hog lot."**

The guide instructed, **"get down on one knee and get ready for a shot."** Then it happened, the giant grizzly stepped into view at only 35 yards.

Gary slid his safety off and waited for the bear to move his front leg forward. **"I heard the guide click his safety off too."** His 375 H&H Magnum was a backup in case things went wrong. The first shot stumbled the bear, and the guide said **"keep shooting."** After two more shots with his 300 Winchester Magnum, the giant laid motionless on the sand bar.

It was not until they approached the bear that they realized how enormous it was. The bear squared out at over eight feet tall and easily qualified him for the Boone & Crockett record books for interior grizzly.

Coastal grizzly (bears that live within 70 miles of the coast) are considered brown bears. The hide alone weighed over 400 pounds and had to be transported by itself in the plane because of the weight restrictions. Once back in Fairbanks, according to regulations, they had to check the bear in with the Fish & Game Commission who removed a tooth for calculations, they determined that the bear was approximately 23 years old.

However, time changes everything. There was a period when the rough mountains seemed smaller than our ambitions, we would rise before dawn and climb steep ridges without a

second thought. The rocky trails, cold winds, and long miles were not obstacles but invitations. Hunting in those wild places was as much about the journey as the game itself. Every summit promised a new view, and every valley held the possibility of adventure, we always wanted to see what was over the next ridge.

Now, the mountains have not changed, but we have. The slopes seem steeper, the loose stones less forgiving, and the distances longer than we remember. Our knees and shoulders complain more, and our breath comes harder on steep climbs. Experience has taught us where to look for game, but experience cannot completely overcome the limits of age.

Ageing is not only a physical realization, but also an emotional one. It means accepting that strength fades and some chapters eventually close. Yet there is gratitude in that acceptance. We have been fortunate to walk those ridges and bring home stories that will last longer than any trophy. Although we may no longer chase game across the highest mountains, or "beat the brush" like we used to, the memories remain vivid, and in many ways, they are the richest reward of all.

Now, Montana is about the extent of the hunting adventures for us. Gary takes pleasure in introducing his friends and family to the **"Western hunting experience"**. Over the years Gary has taken over 75 different people to Montana. Some of the more notable companions over the years are **Rudy Marisa, Big Jim Hopkins, Jack McCracken, Tom Jackovic, Hershaw Mathews, Ron Fox, Bill Hinerman, Joe & Mark Headlee, Albert Amons, Scott McNay, George Keener, Jarrod Blosser, Pat McAndrews**, and many, many, more.

Through the years, my oldest hunting friend has become like family to me. His friendship has enriched my life in countless ways. I am grateful for the memories we have created together, and I look forward to many more adventures in the years ahead.

Gary said, **"I might have one more big adventure left in me...I have never hunted Africa."**



Gary Rohanna and his guides in British Columbia

JAKES IN THE WILD, THE NWTF & THE WARRIOR TRAIL GOBBLERS

By T.R. Mahle

I like to show support for good organizations, and the Warrior Trail Gobblers are one. The 2026 National Wild Turkey Federation JAKES event at Hunting Hills Shooting Preserve once again highlighted the organization's commitment to introducing young people to the outdoors, conservation and responsible hunting traditions.



Abby Garrett (guided by Chad Strennen) took this 22-pound beauty. It had a 9 ¾ inch beard and 1 1/8 inch spurs.

For the 15th year, the annual gathering brought together youth hunters, families, volunteers and mentors for a day centered on education, sportsmanship and outdoor recreation. Building on years of success, the event demonstrated how local conservation organizations continue shaping the next generation of outdoorsmen and women through hands-on experiences and mentorship. This year's event was the largest in its history with over 194 kids and their parents participating. They also set a record for "harvested birds" with 40 taken during the early PA youth hunt.

The NWTF's JAKES program, which stands for "Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship," was created to educate hunters under the age of 17 about wildlife conservation, hunting ethics and outdoor skills. Across the country, JAKES events provide opportunities for young participants to safely learn activities such as archery, firearm safety, and fishing and wildlife management. The Hunting Hills event has become one of the region's most recognized youth outreach programs because of its combination of hands-on learning

stations and mentored hunting opportunities.

The 2026 event continued that tradition by offering participants a wide range of outdoor activities designed to engage both experienced and first-time youth hunters. Young attendees rotated through stations featuring archery, BB gun shooting, sporting clays, trout fishing and trapping demonstrations. These activities allowed participants to gain practical outdoor knowledge while building confidence in a supervised environment.

One of the highlights of the weekend remained the mentored youth turkey hunt held prior to the event. Local volunteers guided young hunters into the field, many experiencing turkey hunting for the first time. The hunt not only gave participants the excitement of pursuing wild turkeys but also taught patience, responsibility and respect for wildlife.

Organizers have consistently stressed the event's greatest success lies not in trophies but in creating lasting memories and encouraging a lifelong appreciation for conservation and hunting heritage.

Equally important to the success of the 2026 JAKES event was the strong community support behind it. Volunteers from Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia worked alongside sponsors and donors to make the event accessible for local families. The collaborative atmosphere reflected the broader mission of the NWTF: conserving wildlife habitat while preserving America's hunting traditions for future generations. Many former JAKES participants now return as parents, volunteers and sponsors themselves, illustrating the lasting impact the program has on youth and communities alike.

The event served as more than just a youth field day. It represented an investment in conservation education, mentorship and the future of outdoor recreation. Through activities that combined fun, learning and fellowship, the gathering continues to inspire young people to become responsible hunters and stewards of the outdoors.

THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF BALING HAY ON WILDLIFE

By T.R. Mahle

Recent conversations with some of my farming buddies brought to life some tragic side effects of the harvesting of hay. After researching this topic, I was amazed by the staggering numbers of wildlife fatalities that result from the process.

While there is no exact, real-time tracking system for fawns killed during hay mowing, experts estimate that hundreds and potentially thousands, are killed or severely injured annually in the United States. Depending on the region and the crop, individual farmers have reported hitting an average of 1-5 fawns per year, with some reporting as high as 13 in years with early springs and tall alfalfa.

In European Statistics, where regions heavy with deer populations are monitored, wildlife agencies report a minimum of 1,500-1,700 fawns killed each year in Switzerland and up to 90,000 in Germany.

Some of the modern ways to help cut these fatality numbers includes the use of thermal drones to scan hayfields before cutting and is a highly effective method. Flushing bars or devices that drag through the grass before the mower blades is also helpful. Another method is delayed mowing until the fawns are old enough and mobile enough to escape the equipment on their own.

Baling hay is an important agricultural practice that is a necessary operation that provides feed for livestock. While hay production is essential for farming, it undoubtedly can have several harmful effects on wildlife if not managed carefully. Many species of animals depend on grasslands and hay fields for food, shelter, and breeding grounds. When hay is cut and baled, these habitats can be disturbed or destroyed, leading to negative consequences for wildlife populations.

One of the most significant impacts of baling hay is the destruction of nesting sites. Many birds, especially turkeys, meadowlarks, bobolinks, and other grassland species, build their nests directly on the ground in hay fields. During the nesting season, hay-cutting equipment can destroy nests, eggs, and young chicks before they are able to fly. Since many birds return to the same areas each year to breed, repeated disturbance can contribute to declining populations.



As mentioned earlier, not all mammals other than fawns are also at risk. Animals such as rabbits and small rodents often hide in tall grass to avoid predators. Their natural instinct is to remain still when danger approaches. Unfortunately, this behavior makes them vulnerable to machinery.

Baling hay can also reduce the availability of food and shelter for wildlife. Tall grasses provide cover from predators and harsh weather conditions. Once the grass is cut, animals lose important protection and become more exposed. Insects, which play a crucial role in the ecosystem, are also affected. Grasshoppers, butterflies, bees, and other insects may be killed during mowing, reducing food sources for birds and other animals that depend on them.

Unfortunately, the timing of hay harvest is particularly important. Early-season mowing often overlaps with the breeding and nesting periods of many wildlife species. Harvesting during these critical times usually has a greater impact than cutting later in the season. Though not really possible in this area, delaying hay harvest until after the nesting season could significantly improve the survival rates of birds and other animals.

Despite these challenges, farmers can and do take steps to reduce harm to wildlife. The best thing to do is remain vigilant while mowing. Some farmers also work with conservation organizations to create management plans that balance agricultural productivity with wildlife conservation.

THE APPALACHIAN FLY FISHING FESTIVAL IN THOMAS, WV

By T.R. Mahle

Recently, I was able to take a relaxing weekend with my wife to one of our favorite weekend destinations, Thomas, West Virginia. Thomas is a small mountain town located in Tucker County near the Monongahela National Forest. Founded in the late nineteenth century as a coal and railroad community, Thomas has transformed into a vibrant destination known for its arts, music, and outdoor recreation. The town features historic brick buildings, galleries, cafés, and live performance venues (Purple Fiddle...Bluegrass music) along its main street. If you get a chance I highly recommend you look at visiting this town, it is a unique and welcoming Appalachian community.

We were fortunate to be able to combine our enjoyment of this town with the *Appalachian Fly Fishing Festival* this year. It is one of the newest outdoor events in the Appalachian region, and it celebrates the traditions, skills, and conservation values associated with fly fishing.

The annual festival brings together anglers, families, conservation organizations, local businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts for a weekend of education, recreation, and community engagement. Since its inaugural event in 2024, the festival has quickly become a notable gathering for those interested in fly fishing.

The festival was founded by local fly-fishing enthusiasts Tyler Waldo and Robby McClung. Their vision was to create an event that not only celebrates the sport of fly fishing but also highlights the region's abundant natural resources and encourages stewardship of local waterways. The founders sought to provide opportunities for both experienced anglers and beginners to learn, connect, and appreciate the unique fishing opportunities found throughout Appalachia.

A key feature of the festival is its emphasis on education. Visitors can participate in casting clinics, fly-tying demonstrations, conservation presentations, and instructional workshops led by experienced anglers and outdoor professionals.

These activities are designed to teach participants the fundamentals of fly fishing while promoting responsible fishing practices and environmental awareness. The event welcomes people of all ages and skill levels, making it accessible to families and newcomers interested in learning about the sport.



Carson Shock of Lefty Fish Flies

In addition to educational programming, the festival includes vendor exhibits, food vendors, community gatherings, and special events. Past festivals have featured casting competitions, fundraising dinners, raffles, and opportunities to meet representatives from conservation organizations such as trout and river advocacy groups. A popular attraction is the children's Fly Fishing Rodeo, which introduces young participants to fishing in a fun and supportive environment. These activities help create a festival atmosphere that extends beyond fishing and fosters a sense of community among attendees.

The location of the festival adds to its appeal. Thomas is surrounded by renowned trout streams, mountain scenery, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The festival serves as both a celebration of Appalachian outdoor culture and a platform for conservation education. It highlights the importance of protecting waterways while preserving the traditions of fly fishing. As it continues to grow, the event strengthens Thomas's reputation as a destination for outdoor recreation and showcases the natural heritage that makes West Virginia's mountain region unique.



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