

Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

A DIRECT RESULTS COMPANY



IN THIS EDITION

Special
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA **250**
1776 2026
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BACK-TO-SCHOOL

AUGUST 2026

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FRONT COVER PHOTO:
Sisters, Olivia and Ivy Usher, enjoying hand scooped ice cream cones at LK Cafe in Carmichaels, PA. Photo by Molly Usher.

PUBLISHED BY
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DIRECT RESULTS
CERTIFIED WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS

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COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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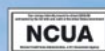
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TOWNE SQUARE



MORE THAN NEIGHBORS: WHY TOWN AND GOWN MATTERS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

In places like Greene County, institutions become woven into the local identity. That is especially true when the institution is a small college. The phrase “town and gown” may sound formal – even old-fashioned – but the idea behind it is simple. For those unfamiliar with the phrase, it refers to the relationship between a college and the community that surrounds it.

In large cities, colleges can operate almost like neighborhoods unto themselves such as Pitt’s Oakland campus. In small towns, that separation is nearly impossible. The success of the town affects the college. The success of the college affects the town. And when those relationships are healthy, both sides become stronger.

It would be disingenuous to suggest that the relationship between Waynesburg University and the town has been completely harmonious over the years – especially in the last three decades.

There have been fissures and even fractures in the relationship for multiple reasons that we do not need to enumerate or dwell on. Many of these complications linger and impede future progress for our town, county, and area. We must understand the symbiotic nature of such a relationship to achieve what is best for both entities.

For generations, small colleges have served as more than places of learning. They become employers, gathering places, cultural centers, volunteer forces, and sources of local pride. Likewise, small towns provide colleges with character, tradition, and a sense of belonging that cannot be built with bricks and landscaping alone.

For generations, students have arrived in Waynesburg carrying suitcases, expectations, and uncertainty. Many came from nearby communities. Others traveled from across the state and beyond. Yet almost immediately many of them encountered something that cannot be measured in enrollment reports or financial statements—a community that cares about people.

Through the years, students discovered local restaurants that remembered their orders, families who welcomed them into churches and businesses that offered part-time jobs. In fact, some of our most notable community leaders today came to the college in the 1960s and 1970s and never left. These individuals quickly became engrained in our community in various capacities. On a personal note, my little league football coaches were members of those legendary Jacket teams of the mid-60s.

Just as important on the other side of the equation, local residents filled the college gym and football field, attended performances, and treated campus events as community events. I’m old enough to remember the huge crowd that gathered to welcome home the 1966 National Champion football team and the long lines that literally waited hours to get in to see the 1980s Jacket basketball teams. That interaction created something larger than a college experience. It created belonging.

Beyond the cultural and civic aspects of the relationship is the economic impact of a small college on a town. In communities where manufacturing, agriculture, energy, and small business all play important roles, a college often provides a different kind of stability.

For years, administrators, faculty, and staff at the college bought homes, goods, and services in the area. In addition, they joined social and civic organizations to strengthen the fibers of community. However, the nationwide trend known as “adjunctification” has somewhat limited this connection. Fewer full-time professors means more adjunct professors who can commute to the campus from outside the county.

But reducing the relationship to economics misses the bigger picture. Small colleges often become cultural anchors. Performing arts programs bring theater, concerts, lectures, and exhibits that might otherwise require a drive to Pittsburgh or Morgantown. Athletic contests

could still become a community event, albeit not like it was a generation ago.

Such public events can create opportunities for residents and students to sit in the same room, share experiences, and strengthen local ties.

For some residents, campus traditions have become community traditions. Homecoming weekends draw alumni back not only to the institution but to the town itself. Such events usually include former students revisiting their favorite old haunts. However, the town has changed so much this experience is limited for many of those returning alumni.

On a positive note, the University regularly places students into schools, nonprofits, youth organizations, churches, health programs, and community events. Students still coach little leagues, mentor children, organize food drives, assist at festivals, and support local causes.

Those experiences do more than help the community. They teach the students that citizenship is not abstract. Likewise, community members gain something equally valuable—energy, fresh perspectives, and connections to younger generations.

In communities such as ours facing population decline and demographic challenges, those relationships matter. Many rural counties continue searching for ways to retain young adults. The University can become part of that equation – if people work together.

Obviously, strong town and gown relationships do not happen automatically. There are challenges.

Students sometimes see themselves as temporary visitors rather than community members. Every college/university student from the county has heard the pejorative “hoopie” lobbed as a condescending invective. Conversely, locals occasionally view campus life as separate or disconnected. Parking concerns, housing issues, and generational differences can create tension.

The answer has never been isolation. It has always been engagement. Colleges that thrive in small communities encourage students to leave campus and participate in local life. Community leaders invite institutions into planning conversations. Businesses support students. Residents attend events. Faculty serve on boards and committees.

The goal is not to eliminate differences. The goal is to recognize shared interests. Because in a small town, everyone benefits when neighbors succeed.

The strongest examples of town and gown relationships are not built through major announcements or ribbon cuttings. They are built in ordinary moments. Those moments accumulate. They create identity. They create loyalty. They create the kind of place people remember.

Small towns understand something that larger places sometimes forget: community is not automatic. It must be built. And when a college and a town choose to build together, they become more than neighbors. They become partners in each other’s future.

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

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JULY PERSON, PLACE OR THING ANSWER

Linda Metz: The Heart of Carmichaels Borough

In a small coal mining town where neighbors still know one another by name, Linda Metz has become one of the familiar faces helping keep the community moving forward. Through her dedication to local government and her commitment to the people of Carmichaels, she has earned a reputation as "The Boss of Carmichaels Borough." A title worn with pride and a smile.

Linda has spent years serving her hometown, believing that strong communities are built through hard work, cooperation, and a willingness to lend a helping hand. Whether addressing borough issues, attending community events, or simply talking with residents, she understands that local government is about people first.

Before retiring, Linda spent 13 years handling payroll at the state prison. Her experience managing such important responsibilities prepared her well for municipal government.

Linda treasures spending time with her family. She is the proud mother of one daughter, and her home is made even livelier by two beloved Chihuahua mix rescue dogs, Joseph and Lucy. When it's time to unwind, you'll often find Linda boating on the Monongahela River.

Like many who call Carmichaels home, Linda appreciates the area's rich coal mining heritage. Living in a community built by generations of hardworking miners has instilled in her a deep respect for the resilience and determination that define the town today.

Linda embodies the values of small-town America. Her dedication to Carmichaels Borough, combined with her love for family and community, reflects a life centered on service and hometown pride.



July winner is Sherri Chun. She won a GreeneScene T-shirt!

PERSON PLACE OR THING

SCAN TO ENTER!



Hint:

*Where flour and coffee perfumed morning air,
And sugar filled the scoops with measured grace,
Where barrels, bolts, and kerosene found care,
Time left its gentle fingerprint in place.*

*A merchant's smile once greeted every guest,
As wagons paused where horses cooled below;
The potbellied stove drew neighbors in to rest,
And traded news as winter winds did blow.*

*Though bigger markets rose and larger stores appeared,
This faithful keeper yielded not to age;
Yet beneath new layers weathered floors remain seared
by countless footsteps of customers who stood center stage.*

*We seek the shop where the years still thrive -
In Graysville's heart, the past remains alive.*

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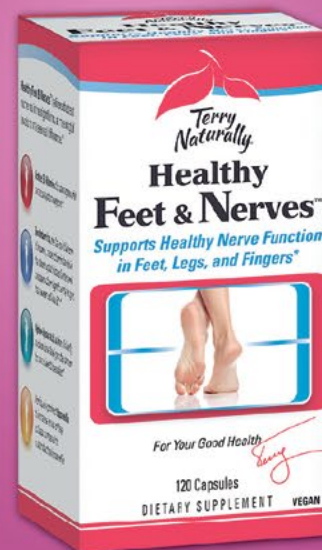
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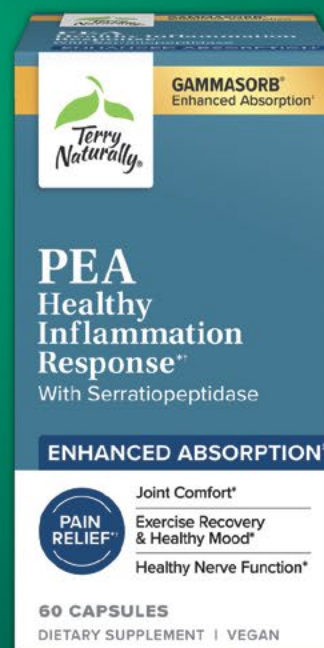
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Good NEWS

In Greene County

The Jackie Fedorko Marisa Medical Scholarship for Waynesburg University established at CFGC

The Jackie Fedorko Marisa Medical Scholarship for Waynesburg University was recently established by Mrs. Marisa, her son, Kurt Marisa, and her daughter, Autumn Marisa Lexer at the Community Foundation of Greene County (CFGC). Upon being fully endowed, this fund will provide a scholarship to one high school senior who graduates from a Greene County public school, plans to attend Waynesburg University, and major in a medical field (Pre-Med, Nursing, Athletic Training, etc.).

Marisa was born and raised in the coal town of Moffitt along the Monongahela River and graduated from Mapletown High School. She desires to make a difference in her beloved home of Greene County.

The scholarship was established by her family to honor Jackie's long-time commitment to health and medicine in the county, which included 10 years as a nurse at Greene County Memorial Hospital. In addition, she was the school nurse for Waynesburg Central High School for 30 years, where she impacted the lives of thousands of students and residents.

Jackie and her husband, the late Rudy Marisa of Waynesburg University basketball fame, have five children that grew up in Greene County and were graduates of Waynesburg Central High School.

The recipient will be selected by the CFGC scholarship selection committee. Since this scholarship will be endowed in the future, it will live into perpetuity. The Community Foundation of Greene County will manage and invest the funds in its restricted endowment pool and distribute approximately \$1,000 annually.

To make a gift to the Jackie Fedorko Marisa Medical Scholarship for Waynesburg University, please contact the Community Foundation at 724-627-2010, or mail a check to CFGC, PO Box 768, Waynesburg, PA 15370. For general information, the Foundation website is www.cfgcpa.org.

To Donate: www.cfgcpa.org/donate.

The Richhill Agricultural Society selected Lew and Debbie Crouse as this year's Grand Marshalls.

This year marks an incredible milestone for Lew: his 50th continuous year showing sheep at the Jacktown Fair. His deep commitment to the community is reflected in his extensive volunteer work. He has served on numerous boards, including the Greene County Cooperative Extension, Greene County Wool Growers, Greene County Fair Board, Greene County Farm Bureau, Greene County Junior Livestock Sale Association, and the West Greene FFA Advisory Board.

Currently, Lew volunteers for Dr. Nancy Kerr, DVM, delivers Meals on Wheels, volunteers at the Washington City Mission, and is a member of the Youth Development Committee for Greene County 4-H.

Serving alongside him is his wife, Debbie Crouse, the retired Business Manager of the Central Greene School District. Deeply invested in local education and community leadership, Debbie previously served on the West Greene School Board for 12 years and currently serves as the Treasurer for the Board of Second Sam 9.



Community Comes Together and Has a Blast Supporting The Way Community Center

By Jay Buckhalter

On July 11th, nearly 50 friends and neighbors gathered with one goal in mind: raising funds for The Way Community Center in Waynesburg. What many didn't expect was just how much fun they'd have along the way.

The event took place at **Hunting Hills Shooting Preserve** in Dilliner, a beautiful setting that proved to be the perfect host for a day of sporting clays, friendly competition, and genuine community spirit. From the moment shooters arrived mid-morning, the atmosphere was electric — part competition, part reunion, and part good old-fashioned fellowship.

Teams assembled in multiple combinations: brothers standing shoulder to shoulder, fathers shooting alongside their sons and daughters, co-workers swapping their usual roles for shotguns and clay pigeons, and longtime friends teaming up for bragging rights. By the end of the day, many participants who arrived as strangers left as friends, bonded by a shared love of the sport and a shared cause.

None of it would have come together without the outstanding hospitality of **Hunting Hills Shooting Preserve** and their team who made sure every guest felt welcomed. Every station ran smoothly, and every stomach was well fed with delicious food at the end of the day.

Adding to the excitement, participants had the chance to win cash prizes through raffles and head-to-head events. A standout moment came with the gun raffle, which offered winners their choice of five firearms displayed by the on-site gun shop at Hunting Hills.

When the last clays had fallen, **Rex Buckhalter** claimed the title of top shooter, while the team of **Randy Connor, Brendan Midla, Chuck Stewart, and Scotty Downen** took home the top team award. But the real winners were the families served by **The Way Community Center**. Every dollar raised will go directly toward helping connect the people of Greene County.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of the local businesses, churches, and nonprofits who sponsored the event. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to:

- Direct Results
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- Waynesburg Bible Chapel
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- Hoy's Construction
- StoneMile
- Hands & Feet Ministries
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- ECM Energy Services
- First Federal Savings and Loan

Their support, combined with the incredible hospitality of **Hunting Hills Shooting Preserve** and all our shooters, made this a day the community won't soon forget.

Plans are already in motion to make next year's event even bigger and better. Whether you're a seasoned shooter or have never held a shotgun in your life, there's a place for you at next year's fundraiser.

If you'd like to get involved — as a participant, volunteer, or sponsor — reach out to The Way Community Center at (724) 201-2060 or administrator@thewaygc.org.



Top team award goes to Randy Connor, Brendan Midla, Chuck Stewart, and Scotty Downen.



Rex Buckhalter won the Top Shooter Award.

9/11 Remembrance Concert Scheduled: We Will Never Forget

The Washington Festival Chorale and the Washington Symphony Orchestra are presenting a 25th Anniversary of 9-11 Concert on Saturday, September 12 at 7:00 PM. It will be a spectacular collaborative concert featuring two of the area's most accomplished musical entities.

The evening's program will feature Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* and other pieces about dreams of a better world and hope. Those pieces include *Bring Me All Your Dreams* by popular composer Christopher Harris, and *I Dream a World* by the venerable Dave Brubeck.

The works all have themes of compassion, healing, and safeguarding our dreams, making them especially fitting for a concert centered on remembrance, peace, and renewal. Together, the pieces form a thoughtful program that remembers tragedy while ultimately pointing toward hope, resilience, and a better future.

For decades, the Washington Festival Chorale has been enriching the cultural life of south-western Pennsylvania through the power of choral music. The volunteer community chorus brings together singers from Washington, Greene, Fayette, Allegheny, and surrounding counties who share a passion for performing a wide range of vocal literature.

Under the direction of Artistic Director **Mitchell Stecker**, the Chorale presents concerts that span classical masterworks, sacred music, contemporary compositions, holiday favorites, and patriotic selections. Retired Central Greene teacher **Lori Green** serves as the group's manager and board president.

The Chorale provides an opportunity for singers of varying experience levels to grow musically while building lasting friendships through a shared love of music. The organization welcomes new members and continues to encourage participation from throughout the region, including

Greene County.

The other collaborative partner of the evening, the Washington Symphony Orchestra, has proven that world-class music can thrive in a community setting, enriching the cultural landscape of our area.

Founded in 2002, the WSO began with a simple but ambitious vision: to make live orchestral music accessible to everyone. What started as a modest ensemble has grown into a respected orchestra that attracts audiences from across the region.

Today, under the direction of Music Director **Dr. Yugo Sava Ikach**, the orchestra performs an impressive repertoire that reaches far beyond traditional classical concerts. Audiences can enjoy everything from the timeless works of Beethoven, Mozart, and Tchaikovsky to movie soundtracks, Broadway favorites, patriotic celebrations, holiday concerts, and pops performances. This variety has helped introduce countless newcomers to orchestral music while continuing to satisfy longtime classical music enthusiasts.

The orchestra calls the Olin Fine Arts Center at Washington & Jefferson College home, where it presents a regular concert season featuring professional-quality performances in an intimate setting. However, the special Remembrance Concert will be performed in the beautiful confines of **Immaculate Conception Church**

One of the orchestra's greatest strengths is its commitment to community engagement. Its musicians regularly perform at civic celebrations, educational programs, and special events throughout the region. Young people often experience their first live symphony concert through the orchestra's outreach efforts.

For residents of Greene County, a short drive to Washington offers audiences an affordable evening filled with stirring music, talented performers, and an atmosphere that welcomes first-time concertgoers as warmly as seasoned subscribers.

2026 Coal Queen and Rain Day Candidates



The Coal Queen candidates celebrate outside the Denny House.

Back row: (L-R) Arissa Myers (Albert Gallatin), Kylie Kolek (Brounsville), Mya Atkinson (Frazier), Annabell Geracia (West Greene), Lexus Novotny (Geibel), Julie Rusilko (Bentworth), Jady Russell (California), Malanna Hertig (Carmichaels). Front row: Leah Williamson (Mapletown), Laramie Zollars (Crown Bearer), Emma Mihalco (2025 Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Queen), Krissa Snyder (Jefferson-Morgan). Not Pictured: Logan Carlson (Laurel Highlands), Kaylin Luster (Belle Vernon), Grace Perkins (Uniontown), and Ella Sims (Beth-Center)



The Miss Rain Day participants on the campus of Waynesburg University. (L-R) Eilidh Batchelder, Brooklyn Burns, Sophie Batchelder, Sienna Stoneking, Jillisa Yeater, Josephine Rupert (Crown Bearer), Camryn Hawfield (Miss Rain Day 2025), Jaira Withrow, Isabella Wise, Meah Branham, Bella Walker, and Sophia Faddis

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WHAT IS A MASTER GARDENER AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

Cheryl Brendel, Part-time Coordinator
Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Greene County

Over the years you have seen articles in the GreeneScene written by Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Greene County. All articles were research based on a variety of gardening topics. As the Coordinator for Greene County, I recently asked the Master Gardeners to tell me how they feel about the projects we have. Here are some of the answers:

Poison Prevention Program – Master Gardeners work with the Penn State Pesticide Department to help our schools meet their requirement for an educational program. They go to the first-grade classes and teach about household poisons, hazardous substances and the proper way to label them with Mr. Yuk stickers. Students learn what pests are! We sometimes follow up with a craft to reinforce the lesson. This year, Jefferson, Bobtown, Carmichaels, Open Door Christian, West Greene and the Intermediate Unit participated.

The Spring Wildflower Walk along the Greene River Trail allows participants to learn and interact with nature, learning and appreciating our early native flowers and pollinators.

Our **Demonstration Gardens at the Greene County Fairgrounds** have a variety of native species that are available to the home garden.

Each year the **Intermediate Unit** has a fair, and the Master Gardeners work with the school to provide an educational experience for the special needs students. Students get actively involved in our projects.



Teaching children about growing beans at Krystal's Child Care Center

The **Tomato Giveaway** began during Covid, when we were not able to teach kids about tomatoes. All the tomato plants we grew were taken to Corner Cupboard food distribution sites and offered to people who were picking up their boxes. This is now in its 5th year, and participants look forward to getting a tomato plant.

Our **"Cabin Fever Escape" Spring Gardening Seminar** is held each March at the Fairgrounds. It is a low cost (\$10) workshop with three different topics related to gardening. The Master Gardeners work to put together presentations on topics that were suggested in the previous year's evaluations. There has been a large range of topics over the years, with each Master Gardener having different interests in gardening.

The Farm and Garden Show-Sale was started at the fairgrounds last year. It will be bigger and better this year. Our Master Gardeners will have an educational display and free seeds.

Years ago, we met with Candace Weber from the **Corner Cupboard Foodbank** who was dreaming of having a garden at the foodbank to supplement the supplies they had for distribution. Waynesburg University students created raised beds, and the Master Gardeners went to work, providing over 200 lbs. of additional produce each year. We feel good about providing our neighbors with fresh, naturally grown healthy produce.

The Greene County Fair is always a time of creativity. We use the theme of the fair to create an educational display. Last year we cut over 400 leaves to make a large oak tree and listed names of those who influence our gardening ambitions. Working with the **Farm Bureau Women on kids' night**, children planted an acorn to take home with growing instructions.

At the **Jacktown Fair**, the Master Gardeners had three evenings of activities, a bee talk, a children's craft and an evening of spinning a wheel to identify insects.

"Tiny Tim" is a project where children learn about tomato plants and are given one to take home. Master Gardeners grow tomato seedlings. These are usually held at **Bowlby Library and Flenniken Library**.

For the last five years we have been participating with Bowlby Library and The Corner Cupboard Foodbank to conduct **"Seed to Supper" classes**. Participants learn how to plan, plant and harvest a garden. The last class is using your produce to create meals.

As the **Mt. Morris Community Center** continues to grow, we have held two programs. Seed starting allowed us to work with members and answer questions. A **winter Sowing Project** allowed us to teach the difference between planting annual seed versus those seed for perennials which require



Planting the Community Garden at Corner Cupboard Foodbank

a cold period.

Last fall we participated in the **Halloween Party at the Fairgrounds**. We created a spinning wheel, and kids would spin then try to identify different Pennsylvania tree leaves. Of course, the Master Gardeners were in costume.

Each Master Gardener seems to have an area they enjoy more than others. They love watching their seeds grow and produce. They get involved and are proud of what they are doing.

So, if any of this interest you and you would like to give back to our community by educating and volunteering as a Master Gardener, our program is accepting applications for residents to enroll in our 2026 - 2027 Basic Training classes.

This is not a garden club; it is a 40-week course taught by Penn State educators.

Online weekly classes start in October 2026. They will be held on Thursday evenings via Zoom with Penn State Faculty. Should you miss the class, recordings will be available. Participants will then meet in person monthly. We will also do hands-on activities for some of the classes.

The class costs \$275 and includes an award-winning Master Gardener Manual and hands-on materials.

After completing the class training, candidates must complete 50 hours of volunteer work by September 30th, 2027, to become certified. Each year following the original certification, 20 hours of volunteer activities and 10 hours of continuing education are required to maintain certification.

You must be 18 years of age or older. If interested, please contact the Penn State Extension office at 724-802-8025 or email Cheryl Brendel at ckb5569@psu.edu. If you go to the Penn State Master Gardener Website, under counties and how to become a Master Gardener, there is a link to do an application online. Applications will be accepted until September 25th.

Find your place in the sun for fun!



Dreaming of a backyard refresh this summer? Leverage your existing home equity, or ask about a home improvement or construction loan from **First Federal of Greene County**. We'll help you dive in to any new project: a swimming pool, patio, outdoor kitchen, even a new driveway or garage. Whatever floats your boat. Visit one of our Loan Officers, or apply anytime online!

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A NEW ERA OF SCHOOL TRANSPARENCY: PENNSYLVANIA'S WEAPON NOTIFICATION LAW PUTS PARENTS ON ALERT

For parents sending their children off to school each morning, few concerns are more serious than the safety of the classroom environment. While schools across Pennsylvania have long had policies and procedures in place to respond to threats, a new state law changes one important part of that process: how quickly families are informed when a weapon is found on school grounds.

Beginning in 2026, Pennsylvania schools are required to notify parents, guardians and school employees within 24 hours after a weapon-related incident occurs on school property, on school transportation, or during a school-sponsored activity.

The law represents a shift toward greater transparency, giving families more information about incidents that could affect their children's safety.

The legislation, known as **Act 44**, was created in response to concerns from parents and lawmakers that families sometimes learned about weapons incidents through unofficial channels rather than directly from school officials. Supporters argued that parents deserve timely information when a weapon enters a school environment, even if the situation is quickly resolved and there is no continuing danger.

That means schools must evaluate a wide range of situations, from serious threats involving firearms to incidents involving prohibited objects brought onto school property.

The law does not mean every situation will result in the same response. School administrators will continue to investigate each incident, work with law enforcement when required, and determine the appropriate disciplinary and safety measures. A student who accidentally brings a prohibited item to school may present a very different situation from someone who intentionally brings a weapon with harmful intent.

One important balance built into the law involves **student privacy**. While parents and staff must be notified that a weapon incident occurred, schools are not permitted to release the identity of the student involved. Federal privacy laws protect student records and personal information, meaning families will receive information about the event without details that could identify individual students.

For school districts, the new requirement adds another responsibility to an already complex safety system. **Administrators must develop communication plans that allow them to notify families quickly while ensuring that information released is accurate and does not interfere with investigations.**

Many school officials emphasize that communication is a key part of building trust. In an age when information spreads instantly through social media, a lack of official communication can quickly create confusion and concern.

A timely message from a school district can provide facts, explain what actions were taken, and reassure families that safety procedures are being followed. For parents, the law provides clear expectations. If a weapon-related incident occurs at their child's school, they should receive official notification rather than having to rely on rumors or online discussions.

As local schools put the new requirements into practice, the message from the state is straightforward. When it comes to school safety, parents, guardians, and the community have a right to know.

SCHOOL CELL PHONE BAN CLEARS MAJOR HURDLE, BUT FINAL APPROVAL STILL AHEAD

Pennsylvania lawmakers are closer than ever to adopting a statewide policy restricting student cell phone use during the school day, but the proposal must still clear several legislative hurdles before it becomes law.

The latest effort centers on **House Bill 1814**, which would require every public school district in the Commonwealth to establish a "bell-to-bell" cell phone policy. Under the proposal, students would be prohibited from using cell phones and other personal electronic devices from the opening bell until dismissal, with exceptions for emergencies, documented medical conditions, disabilities, and other circumstances determined by local school officials.

The House approved the measure by a bipartisan 126-75 vote in early June. Earlier this year, the Senate overwhelmingly approved a similar proposal, **Senate Bill 1014**, signaling broad agreement that student cell phone use has become a growing concern in Pennsylvania schools.

Despite that bipartisan momentum, the legislation has not yet reached Gov. Josh Shapiro's desk.

Because the House and Senate passed different versions of the proposal, lawmakers must still agree on a single bill. **Once identical legislation passes both chambers, it would then be sent to the governor, who has publicly expressed his support and is expected to sign such legislation if it reaches his desk.**

Supporters argue smartphones have become one of the biggest distractions in today's classrooms, making it more difficult for students to focus. Many also point to research linking excessive smartphone use to increased anxiety, reduced attention spans, cyberbullying, and declining social interaction among young people.

Advocates emphasize that the proposal is not intended to prohibit students from owning phones or bringing them to school. Instead, they say it simply establishes consistent expectations during the instructional day while allowing exceptions for legitimate medical and safety concerns. They also note that many districts have already adopted similar policies with positive results. Those districts have reported greater student engagement and fewer discipline problems.

Critics, however, caution against a statewide mandate. Some legislators believe individual school districts should decide how to manage student cell phone use. Pennsylvania's urban, suburban, and rural districts face different challenges, opponents argue, and a one-size-fits-all policy may not work equally well everywhere.

Others have expressed concern about student safety. Many parents prefer knowing their children have immediate access to a phone during emergencies, even if schools already maintain emergency communication procedures. Some also question whether enforcing a statewide ban would create additional burdens for teachers and administrators, potentially leading to conflicts over confiscating devices.

Even with those concerns, the proposal appears to have substantial bipartisan support. The remaining debate centers less on whether phones should be restricted than on how much flexibility local school districts should retain when creating and enforcing their own policies.

For now, Pennsylvania schools continue operating under their individual district rules. Some districts already require students to store phones in lockers or locked pouches during the day, while others permit limited use during lunch or between classes.

If legislators can reach agreement and send a final bill to the governor, Pennsylvania could soon join the growing number of states that have adopted statewide restrictions on student cell phone use in schools.

Where Both Bills Agree

- Students would be prohibited from using cell phones during the school day under a "bell-to-bell" policy.
- Exceptions would be allowed for medical needs, disabilities, emergencies, and other approved circumstances.
- Every public school district would be required to adopt a written policy governing student cell phone use.

The Remaining Differences

- How much flexibility local school districts should have when designing their policies.
- Whether specific enforcement procedures should be outlined in state law or left to individual school boards.
- Technical language regarding implementation and accountability.

Cool at School:

JEFFERSON-MORGAN EXCITED TO BEGIN ANOTHER CHAPTER

An Update from Superintendent Brandon Robinson

We are excited for the start of the 2026-2027 school year at Jefferson-Morgan School District.

This year, our district theme is, "**Be the person they need. Someone did it for us, now it's our turn.**" It reflects our commitment to ensuring every student feels supported, challenged, and inspired by the adults who serve them each day.

As we begin the new school year, Jefferson-Morgan continues to focus on providing a more individualized educational experience for every student. We recognize that no two students have the same goals after graduation, and our work continues to center on meeting students where they are while preparing them for success in college, the workforce, the military, or skilled trades.

One of our **primary areas of focus this year is evaluating and expanding our elective offerings** to better align with students' interests and the skills needed for today's and tomorrow's careers. By partnering with local businesses, higher education institutions, and industry leaders, we are working to ensure students have meaningful learning experiences that connect the classroom to future opportunities.

We continue to build upon our **Personalized Learning Time (PLT) model** for students in grades 9 through 12. This dedicated period provides opportunities for individualized academic support, enrichment, intervention, career exploration, and student choice. For our seventh and eighth grade students, we have expanded elective opportunities through a mini-PLT model, allowing students to explore additional areas of interest while beginning to personalize their middle school experience.

Another major focus for the district is **strengthening core instruction**. We continue to implement our structured literacy initiative in the elementary grades through the CKLA curriculum and other evidence-based literacy practices designed to improve foundational reading skills and long-term student achievement. At the same time, we are **evaluating our mathematics curriculum** to ensure it aligns with best instructional practices and prepares students with the knowledge and problem-solving skills needed for future success.

Student and staff safety remains a top priority. During the upcoming school year, Jefferson-Morgan will **implement a new wearable panic button system for all staff members**, further enhancing our emergency response capabilities and strengthening our comprehensive school safety program. This investment reflects our continued commitment to providing a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment for every student and employee.

In addition, we remain committed to strengthening instruction through professional learning, expanding student leadership opportunities, and creating a culture where every student is challenged, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Jefferson-Morgan is also proud to be one of only 50 school districts across western Pennsylvania participating in the Future Driven Schools initiative through the Learning Alliance Network. Through this collaborative cohort, district leaders are working alongside other innovative school systems to reimagine teaching and learning, strengthen student centered educational experiences, and prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. This work supports our commitment to ensuring every Jefferson-Morgan student graduates prepared for success, no matter which path they choose after high school.

Jefferson-Morgan continues to build upon the momentum of being recognized as a Great Pennsylvania School in 2025. We are also incredibly proud that fourth grade teacher Maddie Loring was named Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year, reflecting the exceptional educators who make a difference in the lives of our students every day.

Cool at School:



Hana Vilenica, a 2014 graduate of Carmichaels High School, recently graduated as a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine from Barry University in Miami. Hana's classmates included Benny and Marble, who received their doctorates in Paw-dietry.

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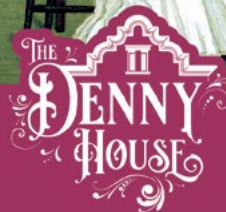
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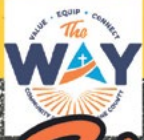
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BUILDING TODAY OR PLANNING TOMORROW: THE TOUGH CHOICES BEHIND ACT 13

PART ONE

Greene County just received \$15.2 million from the annual natural gas impact fee according to recently released figures from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. How these fees are spent has long been a point of contention among politicians and residents.

Since 2012, the county has received millions of dollars from this source of income. For those who are unfamiliar with this system, a brief summary may be in order.

Overview

Act 13 money comes from Pennsylvania's unconventional gas well impact fee. The fee is paid by the companies operating those gas wells. Unlike a severance tax tied directly to production, the fee is based largely on the number and age of wells and energy market conditions. A portion is returned to counties and municipalities experiencing drilling activity.

Revenue is distributed to local governments to address drilling-related impacts, fund infrastructure, environmental projects, and community needs. **In this article we will discuss how the County uses the money. In Part II next month, we will explore how local municipalities use the funds.**

"Unconventional" gas wells are those that extract natural gas from rock formations where the gas is trapped tightly and does not flow easily. In Pennsylvania, this usually refers to shale formations such as the Marcellus Shale and Utica Shale.

These wells typically use **horizontal drilling** and **hydraulic fracturing (fracking)** to release the gas. By contrast, **conventional** wells tap reservoirs which can produce with less intensive extraction methods. The impact fee applies specifically to unconventional wells because of the environmental and community impacts associated with modern shale development.

The Act 13 debate was extremely contentious from the beginning. **Supporters of severance taxes** said the public should capture value from these nonrenewable resources and help offset infrastructure and environmental impacts. **Opponents** argued severance taxes could discourage investment, reduce competitiveness with neighboring states, and threaten jobs.

In comparison, Pennsylvania coal companies are taxed through a combination of state and local taxes. However, unlike West Virginia, Kentucky, and Wyoming, the commonwealth does not impose a statewide severance tax based on actual coal extraction. Instead, coal producers pay a variety of other taxes and fees.

Local Impact

According to a statement from Jared Edgreen, Chairman of the Greene County Commissioners, "Since 2010, Greene County has lost approximately 300 million dollars in assessed coal tax revenue, which has greatly affected our "corporate" county operations and the county-at-large. At the advent of the Marcellus Shale drilling in Greene County, the county was teetering on raising taxes or cutting vital programs."

For Greene County, Act 13 became a significant new revenue stream. By 2018, Greene County was the fourth-highest receiving county in Pennsylvania, reflecting the concentration



of drilling activity in the county.

Edgreen continued, "Act 13 has had a significant impact on Greene County by ensuring that communities hosting natural gas development receive funding to address the needs that come with that drilling. County, townships, and boroughs receive this funding and cannot spend these funds arbitrarily as they are required to adhere to 13 spending categories only."

A Useful Way to Think How the Money Can/Should be Spent

Immediate impact: roads, emergency response, public works.

Community stabilization: human services, local government capacity.

Long-term legacy: recreation, planning, technology, public facilities.

One of the more surprising takeaways is that Greene County's public reports suggest the county often used a significant share for human services, public safety, and county operations, while municipalities frequently focused on **physical infrastructure and local capital projects**.

Ten County Projects You Can Actually See

For most residents, million-dollar figures can feel abstract. **What does Act 13 money actually look like?** Here in Greene County, the answer is found not in one giant landmark project but in dozens of improvements spread quietly across the county - roads repaired, facilities modernized, recreation expanded, services strengthened, and systems upgraded.

1. County Bridges That Stayed Open

Before Act 13, bridge replacements and rehabilitation often depended on long grant cycles and delayed capital planning. Impact fee dollars allowed additional flexibility to address deteriorating bridge infrastructure and leverage outside funding. Not glamorous work, perhaps, but certainly essential.

2. Municipal Roads

Heavy industrial traffic accelerates wear on township roads throughout drilling regions. Rather than relying entirely on local tax bases, municipalities used impact fee dollars for resurfacing, reconstruction, drainage improvements, culvert replacements, and transportation upgrades.

3. The County's 911 Emergency System

Emergency response rarely attracts headlines—until it's needed. Act 13 revenue supported county emergency response capability, including 911 systems and communications infrastructure.

4. Improvements at the Courthouse

Historic buildings require expensive upkeep. Courthouse roof work and facility upgrades were among projects supported through impact fee revenue. These are the types of investments that often get postponed for years because they compete with more immediate needs.

5. The County Prison and Public Safety Upgrades

Public safety has become one of the county's largest spending categories. Over several allocation years, millions of dollars were directed toward law enforcement, public facilities, prison improvements, and operational support.

6. Recreation

Not all Act 13 dollars went into government operations. Some money went to recreational trails, pool-related projects, and improvements connected to the Wisecarver Recreation Area. Those investments reflected a broader strategy, converting a temporary energy boom into quality-of-life improvements that will remain after drilling slows.

7. Fairgrounds Improvements

For agricultural counties, fairgrounds are more than event spaces. They host youth programs, exhibitions, and community gatherings.

8. Food Security and Human Services

One of the least visible uses of Act 13 dollars involved people rather than infrastructure. Support for Human Services, Children & Youth programs, and food security efforts, challenge assumptions that impact fee revenue was only about roads and construction.

9. Mapping, Technology, and Smarter Planning

Act 13 money also funded projects many residents never physically see but benefit from regularly. Examples included: aerial imagery and mapping upgrades, assessment modernization, communications improvements, information technology, paperless government initiatives, and planning updates. These projects aimed to make county government more efficient and better prepared for future growth.

10. Investing Beyond the Boom

Comprehensive planning, strategic development initiatives, housing and blight reduction efforts, and partnerships with municipalities also received funds.

The County's Plan for the Most Recent Money Received

Commissioner Edgreen laid out the broad strokes of how the County plans to use the latest distribution.

"First, instead of cutting vital programs in the county, Act 13 serves as a tool to replace the lost coal tax revenue without raising taxes to ensure programming in Parks and Recreation, Kids Summer Day Camps, Penn State Extension services, Human Services, court-related operations, and bridges and infrastructure for our constituents."

"Second, the distribution will be used to maximize and stack grant monies from state and federal sources, private foundations, and industry partners. Once such project is the West Greene Waterline Extension. The county has received a federal earmark grant of 2.5 million dollars and has applied for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant from the Commonwealth to match those funds.

Additionally, industry partners will also help with the project, but the county will have to employ matching funds.

Another project that may use Act 13 dollars is the **preservation of the Greene County Fairgrounds.** The county received a Local Share Account (LSA) Grant from the state and is applying for an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) POWER Grant for the revitalization of the fairgrounds to become a regional hub for Agro-Tourism.

Third, the county created a small grant program out of the Act 13 dollars for local emergency management agencies, non-profits, and social services to continue vital services for the surrounding community.

Fourth, the county may apply Act 13 funds to expand parks and trails, environmental initiatives, and protection of our natural resources.

He concluded, "The county is also more than happy to



Wisecarver Recreation Area

work with the townships and boroughs on projects utilizing Act 13 dollars while stacking grants."

Next month: Act 13 Municipal Spending

2026

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6:00PM - Live Music C&T Acoustics
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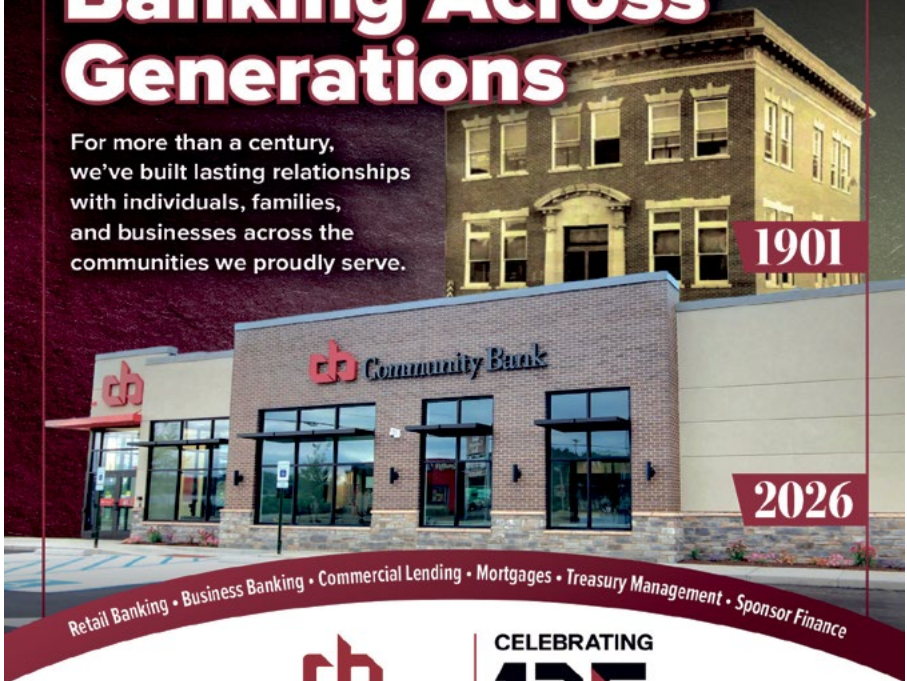


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SHARING THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA:

A Community Remembers the Words That Shaped a Nation

By Bret Moore

On a day when communities across America paused to celebrate the nation's history, *Sharing the Spirit of America* offered a unique reminder that the story of the United States is built not only on historic moments, but on the people who continue to carry those moments forward.

In Greene County, it is people such as the members of the **Fort Jackson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution** who carry on the legacy. The group hosted a special Reading of the Declaration of Independence at Greene County Veterans Memorial Park on **July 8**, as part of the nationwide initiative. Local radio personality Doug Wilson was given the honor of reading the document to the large crowd in attendance.

The event commemorated the **250th anniversary of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence** when it was read aloud to citizens throughout the colonies.

At 6:00 p.m. (EDT), communities across all 50 states and U.S. territories read the Declaration together, symbolically connecting Americans from coast to coast in a shared moment of patriotism and remembrance. Guests of all ages attended this inspiring community gathering and experienced a once-in-a-generation celebration of America's spirit.

While the Declaration was adopted on July 4, it was several days later that ordinary citizens first heard its powerful words read aloud in public gatherings. The words written more than two centuries ago continue to find meaning wherever neighbors gather.

Beyond the ceremony itself, the program served as an invitation to listen, reflect, and appreciate the shared experiences that connect Americans across generations. It was a reminder that patriotism is not simply found in remembering the past, but in understanding the responsibilities that come with a true understanding of the principles upon which the nation was founded.



Members of the Fort Jackson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution hosted the Sharing the Spirit of America program at Veterans Park. They are gathered in front of the Revolutionary War Heroes Monument, the group presented to the county. Members include: (L-R) Jim Willis, John Mariner, Doug Willis, Don King, Lawrence Headley, David Ricciuti (President), Doug Wilson (Presenter), Rodney Grimes, Willie Wilson, Jim Hixon, Rich Menhart, and David Hixon.

FROM SPOKEN WORDS TO MUSKET BALLS

The public reading of the **Declaration of Independence** was one of the most powerful moments of the American Revolution. As everyone knows, the Continental Congress approved the Declaration on **July 4, 1776**. However, people forget the war for independence had already been underway for more than a year.

Fighting first erupted at **Lexington and Concord** on April 19, 1775, followed by the **Battle of Bunker Hill** in June. The Continental Congress had already created the "Army" and appointed **George Washington** as its commander. For months, many colonists still hoped for reconciliation with Great Britain, but by the summer of 1776, independence had become the goal.

As official copies of the Declaration reached towns and military camps, they were read aloud before cheering crowds. These public readings transformed a written document into a shared pledge of freedom, giving ordinary citizens a clear understanding of why they were risking their lives and livelihoods. The words united soldiers and civilians behind a common cause.

One of the most famous reactions came in **New York City** on July 9, 1776. After hearing the Declaration read publicly, a jubilant crowd pulled down a lead statue of **King George III**. The rebels then sent it to Connecticut, where it was melted into thousands of musket balls for the Continental Army. That symbolic gesture was a dramatic reminder that words can inspire decisive action.



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BELLS ACROSS PA RING IN GREENE COUNTY PRIDE



As America celebrates its 250th anniversary in 2026, one of Pennsylvania's most creative tributes took shape through the **Bells Across PA** program. Inspired by the Liberty Bell, the statewide initiative transformed more than 100 three-foot fiberglass bells into colorful works of public art, each telling the unique story of a Pennsylvania community. Artists from across the Commonwealth submitted original designs, with one selected for each county to highlight its history, culture, and people. Together, the bells form a statewide art trail inviting residents and visitors alike to explore Pennsylvania's rich heritage.

Greene County's contribution is "**Coal & Country**," a striking design created by Nemaquin artist **Danielle Nyland**. Chosen to represent the county, Nyland's artwork captures the heart of Greene County through scenes of rolling farmland, historic agriculture, and the coal industry that helped shape generations of local families. Prominently featured is the Nemaquin Mine, a tribute that reflects both the county's industrial heritage and Nyland's own family connections to coal mining.

The design also includes sheep, a nod to Greene County's once-thriving wool industry, a rainbow trout symbolizing the Monongahela River, and a classic Pennsylvania barn representing the area's rural traditions.

Her artwork now stands outside the Greene County Historical Society Museum in Waynesburg, where it serves as both a community landmark and a reminder that Greene County's story is an important chapter in Pennsylvania's—and America's—history. As visitors travel the Bells Across PA trail, Nyland's creation proudly tells the story of a county built on hard work, natural beauty, and enduring community spirit.

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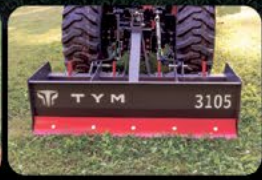
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BOOTSIE'S BED & BREAKFAST

By Becci Watson

Celebrating our country's 250th birthday a few days late, Bootsie's Bed and Breakfast went all out to give Greene County one last hurrah before locals turned their attention to agricultural fairs and fall festivals. Founded by West Greene graduate Ruthie Grooms in 2024, Bootsie's is a traditional Bed & Breakfast offering a serene country setting. The renovated historic home is nestled in the highlands of Dilliner and was the site for the first ever OLD GLORY IN GREENE COUNTY FESTIVAL on July 11.



This family-friendly community celebration honored the spirit, heritage and traditions of Greene County and the surrounding region with a full day of local vendors, live music, food trucks, demonstrations and engaging local history with the 140th Pennsylvania Volunteers Co. A Reenactors.

Guests of all ages enjoyed the culture, flavor and hospitality that make the region unique while celebrating America's 250th birthday in a welcoming small-town setting.

The Cornerstone Genealogical Society, the Warrior Trail Association and Visit Greene set up booths to offer those in attendance information and souvenirs. Tales on the Trail set up a self-guided walk-through history which provided visitors with insight on the people, inventions, and traditions that shaped America and Greene County.

Several vendors were on hand to sell a variety of items. Individuals from 2nd Sam 9 offered handmade bookmarks, cookie mixes, suet and friendship bracelets for a small donation. Simply Country had a table full of colorful wreaths, baskets and woodworking items.

Blackberry Design sold art, crafts and home décor. Double Barrel Designs had unique soy candles. Everlasting Design offered to stamp gear on site. Leaves of Greene sold beautiful plants to brighten your home or your garden.

Spreadin' Sunshine had an array of homemade cards for every occasion. Weeping Willow Treasures Home Fragrances had deodorizers and other great fragrant items. Terri Cartier and family sold wreaths, crafts and home décor.

On site demonstrations included Travis Crouse from New Life Farm demonstrating how to make mini hay bales on a mini baler. The mini bales are often used for fall decorations or in displays. Mary Briggs set up a loom to show how yarn spun from raw fibers can be woven into usable fabrics. Several samples were available for inspection. Both Travis and Mary fielded questions about their demonstrations from curious onlookers.

Local volunteers discussed the history of Bootsie's during engaging tours of the home, while carriage rides from Kiger's Rocky Ridge Acres gave guests an up-close look at the property. The historic home is believed to have been built in the late 1830's by Reverend Thomas Mapel and his wife Elizabeth.

The couple was known for hosting itinerant preachers and using their home as a community meeting house. Named Bootsie's in honor of her late grandmother Lois Kerr, Ruthie hopes to embody the love and hospitality in all that she does - just like her grandmother. "I come from a long line of amazing women, tenacious in the best ways."

It seems only fitting that Ruthie is continuing the traditions of the original owners by opening her home to travelers and community members alike for short term stays, events, and celebrations.

In addition to the crafts, Press On Bakes and The Lazy Dough served up a delicious variety of favorites ranging from hot dogs and donuts to fresh brews and gluten-free baked goods.

Musical guests included Grounded, who took the stage at 10:30 AM, while Ruthie's mother, Debbie Crouse, played the piano for the early afternoon crowd. Michael May and The Project Band rounded out the entertainment for the day.

It was an educational and fun day thanks to Ruthie, Debbie and friends. "I always say the three of us make a good team: me, my mom and God, because without Him, nothing is possible." Check out Bootsie's Bed and Breakfast on Facebook for upcoming events or to book your own stay.

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A PIECE OF MY MIND

Random Thoughts, Reflections & Memories That Occupy Space in My Mind by Vicky Hughes



The older I get, the more I realize that aging isn't just about growing older, it's about learning to live with the empty spaces left by those we've lost.

Life often feels permanent. We make plans for next week, next year, or even further into the future, believing there will always be another sunrise, another opportunity, and another chance to say the words we leave unspoken. Yet beneath this comforting illusion lies a simple truth: life is remarkably fragile.

A single moment can change everything. An unexpected phone call, a sudden illness, a natural disaster, or an accident can transform the lives of individuals and families in ways they never imagined. One day can begin with ordinary routines and end with a reality that is forever different. This uncertainty is not meant to inspire fear but to remind us that every moment carries value.

Just as a flower blooms beautifully for only a short time before its petals fall, the changing seasons remind us that nothing remains the same forever. Spring gives way to summer, and autumn eventually yields to winter. Every living thing experiences a cycle of growth, change, and eventually an ending.

Recognizing how delicate life is can change the way we treat others. Small acts of kindness become more significant when we remember that everyone is carrying unseen struggles. A smile, a word of encouragement, or a moment of patience may have a greater impact than we realize. Since

we cannot know what challenges another person faces, compassion becomes one of the greatest gifts we can offer.

The awareness of life's uncertainty also encourages us to appreciate the present. Too often, people postpone happiness, believing they will have more time in the future. They delay vacations, meaningful conversations, creative dreams, or time with loved ones while pursuing goals that seem endlessly urgent. Although planning for tomorrow is wise, living only for tomorrow can cause us to overlook the beauty that exists today.

Acknowledging life's fragility does not mean expecting the worst. Instead, it can inspire resilience and gratitude. Knowing that time is limited encourages us to spend it wisely, to forgive more readily, to express love more openly, and to focus on what truly matters rather than becoming consumed by trivial disagreements or material possessions.

So, here's a piece of my mind...recognizing the fragility of life is not a weakness but a reminder of its preciousness. Because our time is finite, our choices matter. The relationships we build, the kindness we show, the memories we create, and the legacy we leave behind all gain significance because they cannot last forever, so live with intention. Instead of assuming there will always be another opportunity, we can choose to appreciate today, value the people around us, and embrace each moment with gratitude. In doing so, we honor the extraordinary gift of being alive, however brief that gift may be.



Button buck photographed by Elizabeth Durbin in Rogersville, PA



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 - Jeanine Henry
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- and all Lions & Volunteers that worked to make the Day's Activities possible.

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BACKROADS REDUX.

By Bret Moore

Last month we published the first story of our new feature *Backroads Redux*. To recap, I recently discovered something remarkable at the **Greene County Genealogical Society Library**. It was a timeworn publication titled *Backroads*, created nearly half a century ago by a Waynesburg Central Publications class. The class had been taught by Therese Albert, a respected teacher in the district for years.

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. These are not polished historical accounts, but voices preserved in their own words.

The voices captured in its pages speak from another era entirely. In this series, we revisit these stories as they were originally told. The stories include everything from farms, railroads, epidemics, old-time radio, hunting tales, bakeries, buildings, and college dorm gangs.

This month's feature was written by the late Bill Leskosky about Bryan's Dairy. He had interviewed his uncle John Bryan, whose grandfather had started the business back in 1918.

In the Ice Plant (Bryan's Dairy)

According to the article, the business was originally simply called the Waynesburg Ice Plant. In 1925, it became Waynesburg Sanitary Dairy. It wasn't until 1962 that the name was changed to Bryan's Dairy, Inc.

When the business started, its purpose was to mass produce one-foot square blocks of ice for home and business delivery for ice boxes. The plant owned two horse-drawn wagons, which were driven by "husky men" who had to cut and weigh each block before carrying it into the customer. They used large tongs if the piece was small or placed a leather blanket on their shoulders to carry the larger chunks.

On summer days, swarms of children would surround the ice wagon hopping to pick up excess chips for a frozen treat.

The ice was made in three chambers called dungeons. Two of those rooms were flooded by a creek that ran under the plant and the third by means of a water pipe. The resulting huge chunks of ice were cut by two-man saws. At that point, they would place the blocks in chutes to get it to the wagons. Those chutes were still in the building at the time of its closing.

In 1925, Bryan and his brother and sister assumed the managerial duties upon the death of his grandfather. He worked in the plant processing raw milk into drinking milk. At the time of the story (1976), he was still doing that job.

Many locals of a certain age will swear that Bryan's milk (and their 8% cottage cheese) were without a doubt superior to any modern-day products.

However, most people today remember Bryan's Dairy for its ice cream. In the story, Laskosky explained that ice cream is very soft in its initial stage. It was taken first to the "hardening room," which was "kept at 20 degrees below zero by a big fan and pipes filled with pure 100% ammonia." It remained in that room for 48 hours before being transferred to the next freezer, which was kept at 20 degrees above zero.

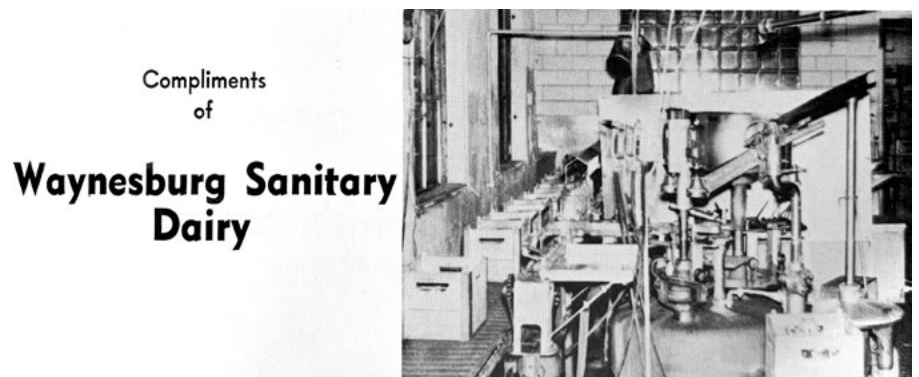
Reading that description of the freezer brought back immediate chilling memories for me. Like many people around here, my first job was dipping ice cream at Bryan's Dairy.

I'm not sure if one particular rite of passage was a time-honored tradition through the years, or something unique to my era. However, in my time behind the counter, I was introduced to the "good-natured" hazing of the newest employee. The older boys would insist the low man on the seniority scale was responsible for bringing the large tubs of ice cream from the freezer to the serving area.

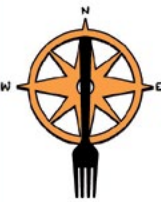
Needless to say, the giant metal door would lock behind the poor newbie as soon as his search for the new tub began. I seem to remember the length of the icy incarceration was subject to whoever the senior scooper happened to be. Fortunately, my time in the chilly clink was short lived.

Many young people (and parents) today would be incredulous at this form of "initiation." However, (right or wrong) most in my generation view it as part of a tapestry of experiences that make a community unique.

After all, anyone who remembers their black raspberry or maplenut ice cream would surely spend a little time in that freezer for a double dip cone.



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LIFE WAS BETTER WITH SPRINKLES; REMEMBERING OUR SUNDAE BEST

By Bret Moore

Around here, ice cream was never just dessert. For much of the 20th century, it was a social event, a summer ritual, and a marker of small-town life that stretched from dairy plants on Main Street to glowing neon “Dari Delite” signs along “rural” highways. Though most of the stands have disappeared, their memory still lingers in the rhythm of warm evenings, traffic-lined streets, and paper-wrapped cones passed through walk-up windows.

Last month, we featured **Joe’s Dairy Bar**. An iconic fixture on Waynesburg’s North Side in the middle of the last century. As its name implies, sweet treats were part of the fare available at Joe’s along with the short-order options. I vaguely remember the tail-end of that business. But for many, that establishment would have been part of their early ice cream consciousness.

One of my earliest vivid memories was my grandfather taking me to the **ice cream soda fountain at Ross Drug in Waynesburg**. It was quintessential Americana of the era. Several such pharmacies proliferated on high street for generations during and before my childhood.

Rexall (Now McCracken), Headlee’s, and Ullom & Bailly had popular soda fountains that served as the town’s unofficial “living rooms”—places where businessmen discussed politics, teenagers met after school, college students gathered between classes, and families stopped after Saturday shopping or church on Sunday. Each fountain developed its own personality and loyal following.

Ross Drug’s fountain became legendary for two specialties: the **Coffee Milkshake** (widely regarded as the best for miles around) and their **Part Milk Soda** – a unique fountain drink remembered by generations of residents. When the store closed on January 1, 1986, newspaper stories devoted almost as much attention to the loss of the soda fountain as to the pharmacy itself.

In many ways, the soda fountains were the social media of their day. News spread there before it reached the newspaper, election results were debated over coffee, romances began over chocolate malts, and generations of children learned that a quarter could fix almost any trauma.

An ice cream soda wasn’t just a soft drink. It was a handmade treat: carbonated soda and one or two scoops of vanilla ice cream mixed so it foamed and floated at the top. It was typically made by a “soda jerk” behind the counter, poured into a tall glass, and served with a long spoon.

For those old enough to remember, Wally Cleaver’s “job as a soda jerk” is one of those perfect snapshots of mid-century Americana that *Leave It to Beaver* used to capture small-town life. A “soda jerk” wasn’t just a funny title. In the 1950s, it was often a first “real job” for teenagers in that era.

By the 1970s, changing consumer habits and the rise of fast-food restaurants had reduced the importance of drug store fountains throughout America. Most soda fountains faded away due to supermarket competition, and changes in pharmacy business models. Fewer downtown “walk-in” customers forced those few who stayed in business to expand retail space.

However, our readers provided us with a list of shared sweet memories in local establishments long gone. Some of those iconic parlors included the legendary **Isaly’s, McCrory’s, and G.C. Murphy fountains** on High Street in Waynesburg. One reader also remembered **Wilson’s Lunch Room** (across from the high school or middle school depending on your age).

While drug stores were part of our early ice cream history, **Bryan’s Dairy** undoubtedly stands at the center of Greene County’s frozen story. More than a place to buy ice cream, Bryan’s was a destination. In the mid-20th century, East High Street would back up for blocks on summer nights and Sunday afternoons as families lined up for hand-dipped cones, thick milkshakes, and sundaes made from locally produced dairy.

It was part plant, part shop, and part community gathering space. For many residents, Bryan’s wasn’t just a business. It was the unofficial social hub of Waynesburg in the 1940s, ’50s, and ’60s, where summer evenings were measured in scoops and conversations on the sidewalk.



The original Dari Delite in Waynesburg (at the site of the old Pizza Hut)

I can remember sitting in front of the store with my grandmother looking at the iconic mounted sail fish in the window. She had taken me there the night of the JFK assassination to distract my young brain from the horrors of that day.

A decade later, the venerable institution continued to thrive despite the fact I landed my first job there scooping ice cream. In college, I remember my buddy’s father swore by the restorative powers of their vanilla milkshake after an overly exuberant night at the Elks.

For a more detailed history of the Dairy, check out our Crossroads feature on the previous page.

Although most local restaurants provided sumptuous dessert options, the landscape really changed mid-century.

After World War II, as automobiles reshaped American life, small roadside ice cream stands began appearing across the county. **This was the age of the “Dari Delite” or “Dairy Delite”** style shop—independent, often family-run, and designed for quick stops rather than long stays.

They were simple by design: walk-up windows, neon signage, a handful of picnic tables, and a menu built around soft-serve cones, milkshakes, and sundaes.

The name “Dari Delite” itself was less a brand than a generic description. They were not part of a single chain. They were locally owned businesses borrowing a popular naming style that suggested homemade quality and roadside charm. Some were seasonal, opening only during the warm months.

By the 1950s and 1960s, these stands had become a familiar part of the Greene County landscape. They dotted the roadsides throughout the county. They became gathering places for families and teens, offering a cold break from long workdays and humid summer nights.

The Carpenter family owned the original **Dari Delite in Waynesburg** (Where the old Pizza Hut now stands in Morrisville). It was a popular teen hang out in the 1960s and 70s. The “cool kids” reigned on the picnic tables under the neon lights. I can remember being sent to run that gauntlet to the window as a small child to retrieve my twist cone and a “banana split without the banana” for my mother. The Delite closed early in 1977, and Pizza Hut was open by early 1980.

The Twin Cup in West Waynesburg at the bottom of Tollgate Run was another such establishment. It offered the iconic chocolate/vanilla twist cones and great milkshakes along with burgers and fries. Much of its business came after the Little League games finished at Emerald Field across the road.

Reader Ann Bargerstock remembers **The Custard Stand on Route 88** owned by the Mavins, who also owned the Ice Plant. She also mentioned **Hoge’s Dairy Bar on Route 21** near Carmichaels. It had the added attraction of a popular mini-golf course.



Lisa Rumble Miller, who now owns the Ice Plant, remembered **Prete's Twin Twister in Dilliner** and **Longo's Confectionary in Greensboro**.

Julie Miller recalls a place called **Carney's in Rices Landing** (Where Italian Boys is now located)

Several readers remembered **Reesman's Dairy Delight and Brodak's Ice Cream Shop** (in the video store) across the bridge near Fredericktown. My friends and I would often drive all the way to Reesman's for the outstanding milkshakes. (It had nothing to do with meeting Beth-Center girls)

In the 1970s, the ice cream stand had reached its peak as a cultural fixture. Summer evenings often meant car radios and circling the Delite to survey the social scene. But even as demand remained strong, the foundations of the industry began to shift. National chains introduced inexpensive soft-serve desserts, and dairy consolidation changed the economics of small-scale production. One by one, many of Greene County's independent stands began to close or transform into other businesses.

One establishment that successfully bucked the trend was **Scott's Delite** on Washington Street near the college. The Scott family had bought the business from the Carpenters in 1977 and moved it across town to the bottom of campus. The building had been a pizza shop owned by Gary Klinefelter. They kept the original Dari Delite name for the first three years before changing it.

The place was jammed every summer night with basketball campers and year-round by college students and locals ordering the Every-Day Special. But it is best remembered for their incredible milkshakes. Alicia Harry recalls repeatedly sending her husband to Scott's during her pregnancy to satisfy her craving for their special butterscotch shakes. Scott's lasted until 2000, proving an exception to the national trend.

The decline continued through the 1980s and into the early 1990s. Former ice cream stands became pizza shops, retail spaces, or vacant roadside buildings. Some simply disappeared without formal closure notices, remembered only through old photographs or yearbook advertisements. The "Dari Delite" era, once so visible on summer nights, faded gradually rather than ending abruptly.

However, there were fitful attempts to rekindle the magic of the previous era. Reader Becky Milliken Yeager reminded us of places such as **Uncle Sam's** (Where the old Rite Aid in Waynesburg stands). They also had a good old-fashioned miniature golf course.

Those in the western end of the county remember **Burns Delite** in Wind Ridge – a mandatory stop when leaving Ryerson.

Lori's Dip and Twist (at the current site of the American Judo Hapkido Institute) was a wonderful throwback to the halcyon days of traditional ice cream parlors.

Today's Contenders

Yet the tradition never fully vanished. In the area, there are still places that are writing their own chapters of local ice cream history. These are unique, small-town stops where sweets, nostalgia, and community overlap.

Fortunately, Waynesburg has **5 Kidz Kandy**, **RGB Coffee**, and the new **Burgers and More Ice Cream**. To the west, **South Fork** offers Rogersville tasty options. The newly opened **Lilliana's Sweet Shop** is a delight in Mount Morris. A short drive east and one can experience a host of wonderful stops such as **LK Café** near Carmichaels, **Route 21 Ice Cream** in McClellandtown, **Jackson Farms Dairy** in New Salem, and **Mountaineer Guns and Ice Cream** in Morgantown. They all offer fantastic frozen treats as part of their menu.

With luck, these places will add to our ice cream history, creating another delicious layer for future generations. They represent the quiet transformation of a rural county adapting to changing times while holding onto the taste of summers past.

In the end, Greene County's ice cream story is not about what was lost, but what was shared – a scoop of vanilla on a hot night and a tradition that still melts into local memory.

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MINT CHOCOLATE CHIP ICE CREAM

(1 Quart)

By David Martinelli

Ingredients

2 cups heavy cream
1 cup 2% milk
½ cup sweetened condensed milk
¼ cup sugar
¼ cup plain Greek yogurt
1 tsp peppermint extract
1 tsp vanilla extract
¾ cup mini chocolate chips, frozen before use
1-2 Tbs of vodka

Day Before (or at least 2 hours before)

In a bowl, whisk together:

Heavy cream	Greek yogurt
Milk	Peppermint extract
Sweetened condensed milk	Vanilla extract
Sugar	

Taste test the mixture: it should taste a little strong in both mint and sweetness since freezing will dull the flavors a bit.

Cover the bowl and refrigerate for at least 4 hours, preferably overnight.

Place the mini chocolate chips in the freezer overnight.

Churning Day

Add the vodka and stir the chilled base.

Churn in your machine according to the manufacturer's instructions.

When the ice cream reaches a soft-serve consistency, gradually add the frozen chocolate chips.

Continue churning just long enough to distribute the chips evenly. (do not over-churn)

Hardening

Transfer to a shallow freezer-safe container.

Press plastic wrap or parchment directly onto the surface of the ice cream.

Cover and freeze 2-4 hours before serving.

Features that I've strategically incorporated in this recipe

Chill the base overnight for better texture.

Use Greek yogurt for additional body and creaminess.

Use a combination of sugar and sweetened condensed milk rather than reducing sugar too aggressively.

Freeze the chocolate chips first so they stay distinct and don't melt into the ice cream.

Add vanilla extract to round out the mint flavor.

Add green food coloring as desired.

Cover the base while it chills in the refrigerator so it doesn't absorb odors and to prevent a skin from forming.

Vodka to lower the freezing point



Make your own ice cream or come to the Denny House on Aug 13th, and you can try David Martinelli's Mint Chocolate chip Ice cream



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AUG 13TH - Parmesan over Pasta & Salad, Mint Chocolate Chip Ice Cream.....	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
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- How did they get the name "Pirates"?
☐ A. The owner's son loved Peter Pan and suggested the name.
☐ B. Before railroads were common, the team would travel on the rivers, get off the boat, and usually pummel local teams.
☐ C. A player joked that a rookie needed a treasure map to find first base and it stuck.
☐ D. The Philly Athletics started calling them that after they stole one of their players.
- Which player holds the team record for most RBI in a single game?
☐ A. Willie Stargell ☐ B. Dave Parker ☐ C. Barry Bonds ☐ D. Ryan O'Hearn
- Which Pirate led the majors in home runs four consecutive seasons?
☐ A. Willie Stargell ☐ B. Ralph Kiner ☐ C. Barry Bond ☐ D. Honus Wagner
- Brothers Paul and Lloyd Waner got their nicknames Big and Little Poison because:
☐ A. They ran an exterminating business in the off season.
☐ B. They always operated a still and brought the powerful hooch to team parties.
☐ C. A drunken Brooklyn fan called them Big and Little Person, but his accent sounded like he was saying "Poison". A sportswriter misunderstood and used it in his story.
☐ D. When they were kids, a neighbor's mother warned other kids to stay away from them because of their raucous behavior. The brothers loved the nickname and kept it.
- On September 1, 1971, the Pirates fielded the first all-minority team in MLB history. Who played centerfield for the Bucs in that game?
☐ A. Gene Clines ☐ B. Matty Alou ☐ C. Al Oliver ☐ D. Vic Davalillo
- This celebrity was a heavily involved minority owner of the Bucs for over three decades.
☐ A. Bob Hope ☐ B. Bing Crosby ☐ C. Jerry Lewis ☐ D. Dean Martin



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Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore



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

FROM DiMAGGIO AND MONROE TO SWIFT AND KELCE: THE EVOLUTION OF THE POWER COUPLE

The recent wedding of Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce became one of the most watched and discussed celebrity events of a generation. Although I have nothing against either of them, I'm just not interested in the hype surrounding the union. It no doubt deserves some passing attention in the media given the celebrity status we thrust upon athletes and entertainers – but, come on.

However, it did give me an idea for this month's column, so I guess it's not all bad. I have a problem. I always try to compare eras and place historical events in some sort of ranked pantheon. Every time I heard a commentator say it was the "wedding of the decade" or the "wedding of the century," I began thinking about other famous athlete/entertainer weddings in sports history and how they would stack up.

These types of weddings unite two worlds that have long fascinated the public. However, many people are unaware this is a tradition that stretches back decades. These high-profile marriages have always captured society's collective imagination.

Perhaps it's because they bring together extraordinary talent from different arenas, or because they seem to combine glamour, competition, fame, and success into a single story. They also remind us that even the world's biggest stars search for the same things as everyone else.

1929 Babe Ruth and Claire Hodgson – The most famous baseball player of all time married the most famous Broadway actress of their time. They became the first celebrity power couple thanks to the rise of literacy at that time in the heyday of newspapers. Baseball was also by far the most popular sport in the country. Hodgson is credited with extending Babe's career by getting him to curb his lavish lifestyle - including eating, drinking, and spending.

1938 Babe Didrikson and George Zaharias – In the 1930s and 40s, Didrikson was the Serena Williams of her day (even bigger). She had won two gold medals and a silver in track at the 1932 Olympics. She would have won five or six more, but the rules only permitted an athlete to compete in three events. In the 1940s and 50s, she became the most dominant golfer of her era, winning 10 Major titles. She transcended her profession and became a household name recognized by millions who had never even watched her compete. Both her sports victories and opinions were front page news. Her personality made her one of the most celebrated women in America.

When she married professional wrestler George Zaharias (the Crying Greek from Cripple Creek), it was more than a wedding. It was a media spectacle covering two nationally known figures at the height of their fame.

1938 Joe Louis and Marva Trotter – That same year, popular heavyweight champ Joe Louis married model and singer Marva Trotter. She was widely admired as one of the nation's most sophisticated and elegant African American social figures. She sang with the Duke Ellington and Count Basie bands, and the couple received national attention – especially in the Black Press.

1954 Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe – Undoubtedly, the most iconic athlete-celebrity marriage ever, this union was between two of the biggest stars of their respective fields at the height of their popularity. Although their marriage lasted only a short time, it became a legendary romantic tale for decades to come.



1956 Jayne Mansfield and Eddie Roken – Hollywood bombshell Jayne Mansfield's romance with Detroit Lions quarterback Eddie Roken was one of the earliest widely publicized relationships between a major movie star and an NFL player. Although they never officially married, the pairing foreshadowed the NFL player/celebrity couples that were to come.

1969 Lance Rentzel and Joey Heatherton – Rentzel was a star receiver for the Dallas Cowboys and Heatherton was one of the biggest sex symbols of the 1960s. She was an actress and singer who appeared on televisions and screens across America. If Bob Hope or Dean Martin had a TV special, she was guaranteed to be on it. Unfortunately, the marriage ended in divorce after Rentzel's highly publicized legal troubles and sexual scandal.

1989 Wayne Gretzky and Janet Jones – Dubbed "The Royal Wedding of Canada," their lavish ceremony drew enormous television audiences and media coverage. The Great One married Jones at the height of her acting popularity after she appeared in movies such as *Staying Alive*, *A Chorus Line*, *American Anthem*, and *A League of Their Own*. The couple has a famous daughter, Paulina Gretzky, who is a model/actress married to PGA star Dustin Johnson.

1999 David Beckham and Victoria Adams – Soccer's biggest star and "Posh Spice" became one of the world's first global celebrity power couples, blending sports, music, fashion, and business. They helped popularize soccer in the U.S after Beckham signed with the LA Galaxy. Victoria's celebrity status attracted enormous American media attention, bringing unprecedented visibility to Major League Soccer. The Beckhams have built one of the most valuable celebrity brands in the world.

2010 Tom Brady and Gisele Bundchen – For more than a decade, they were the ultimate American power couple—a seven-time Super Bowl champion and the world's most famous supermodel. Together, they represented the pinnacle of sports, fashion, and celebrity, making their marriage one of the most recognizable unions of the 21st century.

2016 Russell Wilson and Ciara – Steeler fans may forget that Russell Wilson was actually a popular, Super Bowl winning quarterback for most of his career. Ciara is a Grammy winning singer who is very popular in the R&B industry.

2025 Josh Allen and Hailee Steinfeld – The NFL MVP quarterback and the Oscar-nominated actress/singer represented the latest generation of sports/entertainment couples until this summer. Steinfeld is a Marvel superhero and one of Hollywood's brightest young stars. Her career spans blockbuster films, hit television series, and chart-topping music.

Even in this long line of headline-grabbing marriages none has matched the sheer cultural saturation of Swift and Kelce. Their relationship merges two audiences that already dominate U.S. television ratings and global streaming attention, creating a feedback loop of sports coverage and pop culture obsession that plays out in real time.

The only comparable historical parallel is the pairing of DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe, which similarly fused elite sports fame with Hollywood superstardom at its peak. But even that comparison is strained by today's nonstop media cycle and social platforms.

Like it or not, one must admit in scale and global reach, Swift-Kelce operates less like a celebrity couple and more like a cultural event.

HOW A TRAILBLAZER HELPED LEAD THE WAY TO WRESTLING EQUALITY

When Terri Harding walked onto the wrestling mat for Waynesburg Central High School during the 1985-86 season, she wasn't simply preparing for another match. She was stepping into history.

At a time when girls competing in varsity wrestling against boys was unheard of, Harding became one of the first female wrestlers in the country to compete in a boys' varsity match. There were no girls' teams and no roadmap for young women who wanted to wrestle. She entered a sport dominated exclusively by boys, relying on determination, and a willingness to challenge long-held traditions.

Many spectators likely viewed the moment as an oddity. Few could have imagined that four decades later, girls wrestling



Harding with Coach Joe Ayersman shortly after her post-graduation surgery

would become one of the fastest-growing high school sports in America, complete with sanctioned championships and college scholarships.

Harding decided she wanted to wrestle starting in middle school. She remembers telling gym teacher/wrestling coach, **Terry Cole**, toward the end of school that she wanted to go out for the team the following year. "He was fine with it. No negative reaction at all," she recalls.

By the following year, **Ron Headlee** had taken over the junior high program. The future PA Hall of Fame coach was very supportive and accepted her as part of the team. "He was really great and helped me a lot." The following year, her luck with coaches continued as she entered another Hall of Fame coach's program — **Joe Ayersman**.

Harding shared her admiration for Coach Joe, "I am so glad my experience with wrestling was under his guidance because elsewhere it would have been vastly different."

The admiration is mutual. According to Ayersman, "She never asked for anything special. She did everything the boys did without a word of complaint. I never heard the boys say anything negative. They accepted her because she took the sport seriously and worked hard."

She wrestled for two seasons in junior high. Then, her sophomore year, she stepped onto the varsity mat and into the history books after winning her elimination match. Her oppo-

nent was Dom Ciccenelli of Upper St. Clair.

For generations, communities like Waynesburg have celebrated wrestling with the same passion reserved elsewhere for football and basketball. Yet until recently, girls who wanted to wrestle often had only one option—join the boys' team.

However, **in 2023, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) officially sanctioned girls wrestling**, making it a recognized championship sport after years of rapid participation growth and grassroots advocacy. The decision marked a historic milestone and opened the door under the PIAA banner.

Participation has climbed by more than 200 percent in recent years, with girls now competing in every one of the state's PIAA districts. Youth wrestling programs are seeing increasing numbers of girls entering the sport, creating a pipeline that promises continued growth.

Women's collegiate wrestling has also exploded nationwide as universities recognize growing interest. More than 100 colleges now sponsor women's wrestling. Waynesburg University has also invested in women's wrestling. Beginning this year, its program will compete for a Presidents' Athletic Conference championship.

The growth has also changed public perception. Fans who attend girls' tournaments quickly discover that the intensity and excitement mirror what has made Pennsylvania wrestling famous for generations. Communities have embraced the change as well. Parents, coaches, and former wrestlers who once viewed girls wrestling as unusual now often become its biggest advocates.

No doubt, this legacy belongs to athletes like Terri Harding. When she wrestled in the 1980s, she had no female role models. There were no girls' state championships to pursue. Success required extraordinary courage because every match carried the weight of challenging expectations.

Today's young wrestlers benefit from those early pioneers. They can dream of district titles, PIAA championships, collegiate careers, and perhaps even representing the United States on the international stage.

Incredibly, Harding's accomplishments would reach beyond the mat and border on the surreal.

After her freshman year of college, she became critically ill with meningococcal meningitis. The disease forced surgeons to amputate both legs below the knee, her left arm below the elbow, her right thumb, and portions of the fingers on her remaining hand to save her life. She endured months of surgeries, rehabilitation, and physical therapy.

Rather than allowing the tragedy to define her, Harding became an inspiration throughout Pennsylvania. She learned to walk with prosthetic legs, drive a car, dance, and live independently. Her positive outlook attracted national attention, and her story was featured in newspapers across the country.

One of the most memorable chapters in her recovery came through the **Miss Rain Day Scholarship Pageant** in Waynesburg. Competing just a few years later, Harding took the stage and performed a dance routine using her prosthetic legs. Her performance earned the pageant's **Talent Award**, drawing standing ovations and emotional reactions from the audience.

Today, Terri Harding's legacy extends beyond wrestling or pageantry. Her journey reminds us that life's greatest victories



Accompanied by her son Drake, Harding visited her mentor last month

are often won long after the final whistle blows or the medals have been awarded.

Looking back, her varsity appearance wasn't merely a local curiosity. It was an early glimpse of a future that has finally arrived—a future where girls wrestling is no longer a novelty, but an established and thriving part of Pennsylvania's rich wrestling tradition.

FROM MOUNT MORRIS TO VIRGINIA STATE TITLES: THE LEGACY OF COACH GLENN FURMAN

By Bret Moore

In the long tradition of high school football coaching legends, few careers carry championship success quite like that of Glenn Allen Furman. After graduating from Mount Morris High School in 1960, Furman built a coaching legacy in Northern Virginia that combined consistency, discipline, and an almost unmatched record of winning.

Furman's story begins in Mount Morris, where he starred as a four-year two-way football player for the Blackhawks and earned All-Washington/Greene County honors in 1959. He also lettered in track and was the class president and salutatorian. His classmates voted him Most Likely to Succeed, Most Popular, Most Athletic, Smartest, and Best Looking.

He carried those accolades and competitive foundations to West Virginia University, where he continued his football career and later built lifelong ties to the game. His accomplishments would eventually earn him recognition from WVU with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 1987.

What set Furman apart, however, was not just where he came from—but what he built.

By the time he arrived in Northern Virginia coaching circles, Furman had already developed a reputation as a program builder. He first made his mark in the junior high ranks, where his teams compiled a staggering 59–1 record and a 38-game winning streak. That success set the stage for his rise to one of the most visible high school football jobs in the region. He became the head coach of T.C. Williams High School (now Alexandria City High School) in 1982.

While the story of T.C. Williams football is often associated with the 1971 season dramatized in the movie *Remember the Titans*, Furman's role in that broader program history is sometimes overlooked. He served as an assistant coach during that era under head coach Herman Boone, contributing to the foundation of a program that would become one

of the most famous in American sports cinema.

Taking over the program still linked in the public imagination to its integration-era breakthrough years, Furman quickly established his own identity as a winner. From 1982 to 1991, he guided the Titans to a 94–23–2 record, never enduring a losing season. His teams were known for discipline, physical defense, and a consistency that made T.C. Williams one of the most respected programs in Virginia high school football.

The peak of Furman's tenure came in the form of two Virginia AAA state championships. In 1984, his Titans completed a perfect 14–0 season, capturing the state title and earning national recognition. Three years later, he repeated the feat with another undefeated 14–0 championship run in 1987. Both teams were ranked among the best in the nation by *USA Today*.

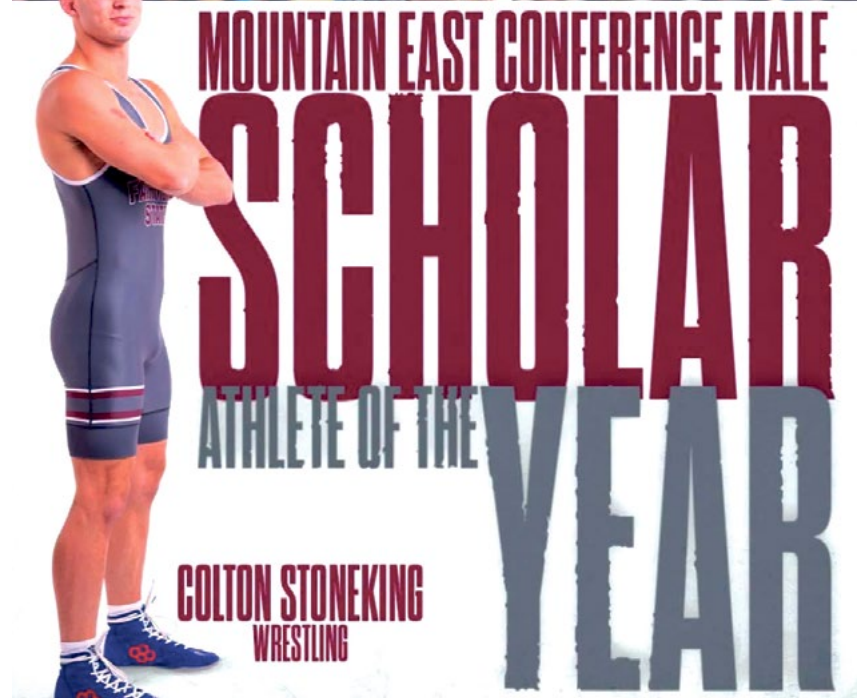
Furman's coaching career is also notable for its continuity. His influence extended beyond wins and losses, shaping athletes who played under a system rooted in structure, preparation, and accountability.

After retiring from coaching, Furman's accomplishments earned recognition in both Virginia and Pennsylvania. He was inducted into the Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame as well as the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, honoring a career that bridged two regions but remained rooted in the same core identity: building winning football programs the right way.

Glenn Allen Furman passed away on February 7, 2026, leaving behind a legacy defined not only by championships, but by consistency, leadership, and deep ties to the small-town football tradition that shaped him. From Mount Morris to state titles in Virginia, his journey reflects the rare path of a coach who brought hometown grit to the highest levels of high school success.



Glenn Allen Furman.



Augustine Awarded Blue – Gold Honor



Waynesburg Central alum Luca Augustine was presented with a prestigious Pitt Blue-Gold Award. He recently concluded his stellar wrestling career for the Panthers as a National Qualifier.

The awards are presented to the seniors who best represent the student-athlete "ideal" through academic excellence, athletic achievement, leadership, and citizenship. Recipients are forever honored on the Pitt Varsity Walk.



Waynesburg's Peyton Cowell was selected to play in the Roundball Classic at North Allegheny High School to wrap up her outstanding career for the Raiders

SPORTS SHORTS

GREENE COUNTY SENDS THREE TO NATIONALS IN HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

By T.R. Mahle

Greene County's track and field talent was on full display in two of the sport's biggest stages, as **Deakyn Dehoet** (Beth Center / Co-op from Jefferson), **Nate Ricciuti** (Waynesburg), and **Andy Mable** (Waynesburg) competed at the prestigious **New Balance Nationals and Reebok Nationals**. Earning a spot in either national meet is a significant accomplishment, reflecting months of hard work, dedication, and outstanding performances throughout the season.

The athletes qualified after posting impressive times, distances, and marks against some of the region's best competition. For many competitors, the national championships represent an opportunity to measure themselves against elite high school athletes from across the country. The meets routinely feature nationally ranked performers and future collegiate standouts, making every event highly competitive.

Simply qualifying places these Greene County's athletes among an exclusive group of competitors who have demonstrated excellence in their respective events. **Dehoet** (100-meter dash), **Ricciuti** (110-meter hurdles), and

Mable (javelin) each embraced the challenges of training and competition while representing Greene County with pride.

Their coaches credit the athletes' commitment to consistent preparation and their willingness to push through demanding workouts. The experience of competing at a national championship is expected to provide valuable lessons that will benefit them throughout their athletic careers, regardless of the final results.

Beyond the competition itself, the trip offers athletes the chance to interact with peers from across the nation, experience a championship atmosphere, and create lasting memories.

Their achievements have already brought recognition to their schools and communities, demonstrating the strength of the county's track and field programs.

Qualifying for the New Balance Nationals and Reebok Nationals marks an impressive milestone. Their participation serves as an inspiration for younger athletes who hope to follow in their footsteps and continue Greene County's tradition of excellence in track and field.



Nate Ricciuti of Waynesburg



Deakyn Dehoet of Beth-Center School District



Andy Mable of Waynesburg

WHEN LYME'S DISEASE TURNS DEADLY

Many people recognize Lyme disease by its hallmark "bull's-eye" rash, fever, fatigue and aching joints after a tick bite. What is less widely known is that, if left untreated, the infection can spread beyond the skin and joints to affect the nervous system and even the heart. This cardiac complication, known as **Lyme carditis**, is uncommon but potentially serious, making awareness just as important as recognizing the early signs of Lyme disease itself.

Recently, **Mark Zeiler** of Waynesburg found out just how severe this condition can be. On April 21, he found and removed a tick on his leg. Doctors prescribed Doxycycline for precautionary treatment. A month later, he had hip replacement surgery, and all appeared well. However, a couple of weeks later he developed a cough and sought treatment. It was discovered at that time his heart rate was only 40 BPM.

He spent five days in Washington Hospital being treated for Lyme Carditis, before he was transferred to Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh where he was taken to the Intensive Care Unit. His heart rate bottomed out at a dangerous 35 BPM. He spent another five days there before being sent home with IV antibiotics and a temporary pacemaker.

Lyme carditis occurs when bacteria invade the tissues of the heart, disrupting the electrical signals that regulate the heartbeat. The most common result is a condition called atrioventricular (AV) block, in which the heart beats more slowly or irregularly than normal.

Symptoms may include dizziness, fainting, chest pain, shortness of breath, heart palpitations and extreme fatigue. While Lyme carditis develops in only about one percent of reported Lyme disease cases, it can become life-threatening if not diagnosed and treated promptly.

However, most patients do recover completely once the infection is eliminated.

The condition is particularly relevant in Pennsylvania, which consistently ranks among the nation's leaders in reported Lyme disease cases. Black-legged ticks carrying the Lyme bacterium are now found in all 67 Pennsylvania counties. Health officials and researchers have also reported that the 2026 tick season has been especially active across western Pennsylvania.

As summer hiking, camping and yard work continue, physicians stress that preventing tick bites, checking for ticks after spending time outdoors, and seeking medical attention for suspicious rashes or unexplained heart-related symptoms can help stop Lyme disease before it progresses to Lyme carditis.

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In the Out-Door

By T.R. Mahle

KYLE SIMS' AWARD-WINNING ART AT PRIX DE WEST

In the February 2026 edition of *GreeneScene Magazine*, I highlighted wildlife artist **Kyle Sims** from Bozeman, Montana. We were able to tour his studio and see several of the paintings he was working on at different stages of completion. One Painting in particular, depicting two large bull bison fighting, was in the final stages in preparation for the **Prix de West** western and wildlife show.

The **Prix de West** Art Show is one of the most prestigious exhibitions of contemporary Western art in the United States. Hosted annually by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City since 1973, the invitational exhibition celebrates the beauty, history, and culture of the American West through exceptional paintings and sculptures. The show features works by many of the nation's leading Western artists, who are invited based on their artistic excellence and contributions to the genre.

The exhibition presents a wide variety of subjects, including dramatic landscapes, Native American heritage, wildlife, ranch life, and historical scenes. Visitors have the opportunity to view hundreds of original works, many of which are available for purchase during the exhibition's highly anticipated fixed-price art sale (not an auction...the price is displayed on the painting). The show also has seminars, artist demonstrations, award presentations, and special events that allow visitors to interact with artists and gain insight into their creative processes.

The Prix de West has become a significant event for artists, collectors, and art enthusiasts alike. It promotes the preservation of Western heritage while showcasing the highest standards of contemporary Western art.

Kyle was able to sell all three of the paintings he entered in the show with the bison painting fetching an impressive \$45,000.

His masterful oil paintings, inspired by firsthand observation of wildlife and the American West, consistently attract collectors and frequently sell during the prestigious event. Sims' ability to combine technical precision with dramatic light, movement, and atmosphere has earned him multiple awards, including the Major General and Mrs. Don D. Pittman Wildlife Award.

His strong sales at Prix de West reflect both the enduring appeal of his work and his reputation as a premier artist in contemporary Western and wildlife art.

I am proud to call him my friend, and I look forward to seeing his future works. You can view Kyle's work at www.kylesims.com.



A memorable handoff - Kyle Simms and the painting's new owner

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PODCAST #32

AUCTION WALKS & FAIR TALKS:
INSIDE THE WORLD OF GREENE COUNTY 4-H

Sponsored by Waynesburg Milling & Greene County Fair

August is just around the corner, and that means the Greene County Fairgrounds are about to come alive! In this episode of the GreeneScene Podcast, host Shelly Brown sits down with a wonderful mix of generations from our local 4-H community: dedicated leaders Tracy Cole and Robin Archer, alongside two inspiring local youth members, Lillian Cheek and Zach Butler.

FOLLOW FOR NEW EPISODES!

SCAN HERE TO START LISTENING!

COMING SOON:

EPISODE #33 MASTER GARDENER
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THE WATER WOLF...THE FISH OF 10,000 CASTS

By T.R. Mahle

Musky fishing with friends is about much more than trying to catch one of the most elusive freshwater fish. It is an adventure that combines patience, teamwork, and unforgettable memories on the water. Whether trolling along the banks of the Monongahela River at sunset or spending long hours casting along weed beds and rocky points, the experience is made richer by the company of good friends.

The muskellunge, often called the "**fish of ten thousand casts**," is a reference to their elusive nature and the patience required to catch one. It has earned its reputation as one of the most challenging game fish to catch and success requires persistence, skill, and a willingness to keep trying even when the fish refuse to bite.

Craig Brewer, a long-time friend and fishing companion, is one of the best when it comes to chasing and catching these



Zach Wilson with his river monster

predators. After seeing several successful pictures of catches on social media, I said to him "*I need to get on that boat with you*". When my opportunity came, I was eager to accept and with great anticipation we were off to the river.

Completely uneducated in the "*way of the muskie*", I really didn't know what to expect. We were using lures bigger than most of the trout that I have been landing recently. The poles were slightly more flexible than a broom stick, and you could drag a tractor in with the reels. When I picked one up for the

first time... "*you'll see why*" was all he said.

Trolling is the preferred method of fishing for these giants in June and July. Drifting slowly along the shoreline and covering as much territory as you can. Later in the summer, when the weed beds have developed, casting into them is the preferred tactic. Craig knows the Monongahela River like you know your kitchen. He fishes for muskie three or four times a week.

Muskies are ambush predators that swiftly bite their prey and then swallow it head first. **Muskies are the top predator in any body of water where they live**, and they will eat larger prey than most other freshwater fish would consider. Their diet consists of many other fish, muskrats, mice, frogs and ducks. They are capable of eating prey up to two-thirds of their body length due to their large stomachs.

Once on the river, teamwork becomes essential. With four poles in the water, my job was to drive the boat, scan the river for floating objects, and monitor the depth finder to keep us at approximately 13-16 feet of water. Craig, perched in the front seat, selected which lures to use, and guided me in-and-out of his favorite areas to fish. Bright bucktails, large crankbaits, and topwater lures all have their place depending on the weather and water conditions. I was taking in everything I could to help improve my fishing skills.

It was very peaceful trolling along the banks of the river as the scenery was quite impressive. I enjoyed getting a different view of the Morgantown waterfront locations that until then I had only seen from the roadways.

My quiet floating trip was about to take a drastic turn.

One second our lures are gliding through the water, and the next, a violent explosion erupted as the fish ferociously attacked our lure. The rod was bending deeply and the reel was screaming as line peeled away. As adrenaline took over, I grabbed the pole and hung on for dear life. "*Reel faster*," Craig instructed as he frantically tried to reel in the other three poles.

This Muskie fought with incredible strength and raw power, it was making long runs, powerful head shakes, and one spectacular leap that truly tested my limited skill. It took focus, patience, and quick reactions on my part to keep a fish of this size securely hooked.

As my battle with this monster continued, my anticipation was building until I finally brought the muskie alongside the



T.R. Mahle with a nice catch!

boat and Craig expertly netted him. Seeing its massive body and sharp teeth up close was both thrilling and humbling. **Successfully hooking a muskie is more than catching a fish—it is an experience that leaves a lasting memory.**

The hooks were carefully removed, he handed me the fish, and we took a quick photograph before releasing it back into the water. Catch-and-release practices help protect muskie populations so future anglers can enjoy the same thrilling experience. Watching a healthy fish swim away is often just as satisfying as catching it.

I was very lucky to hook into a muskie on my very first time out. Not every trip ends with a trophy fish, but that rarely matters. The time I spent with my friend on the water and the conversations we had during the down time will become some of my best memories. We saw lots of wildlife and a beautiful sunset...I keep reminding myself that fishing is about appreciating the outdoors as much as catching fish.

Over time, I hope to make a few more trips with my buddy to the river...strengthening friendships through shared experiences. **In the end, musky fishing with friends is not simply about landing a fish. It is about spending quality time together and creating memories that last a lifetime.** The thrill of the catch, the beauty of nature, and the companionship of trusted friends will make every future musky fishing trip an adventure worth repeating, regardless of the number of fish caught.

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HUNTING HILLS HAWKEYES: BUILDING CHAMPIONS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

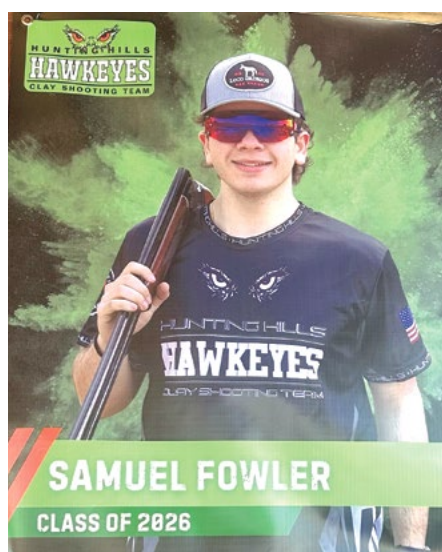
By T.R. Mahle

The Hunting Hills Hawkeyes are a respected youth clay target shooting program based at Hunting Hills in Dilliner. The organization has earned a reputation for developing not only skilled competitors but also responsible, disciplined young people. Through participation in the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP), the Hawkeyes provide instruction in trap, skeet, sporting clays, five-stand, and other shotgun disciplines. Their mission extends beyond winning competitions, emphasizing firearm safety, sportsmanship, teamwork, and personal character.

The current program is led by head coach **Adrian Whipkey** and supported by a dedicated group of volunteer coaches and parents. Each year, approximately 50 young athletes participate, benefiting from experienced mentors who focus on both technical shooting skills and life lessons. The Hawkeyes have produced numerous state, regional, and national champions over the years, with many former athletes continuing their shooting careers at the collegiate level through scholarship opportunities.

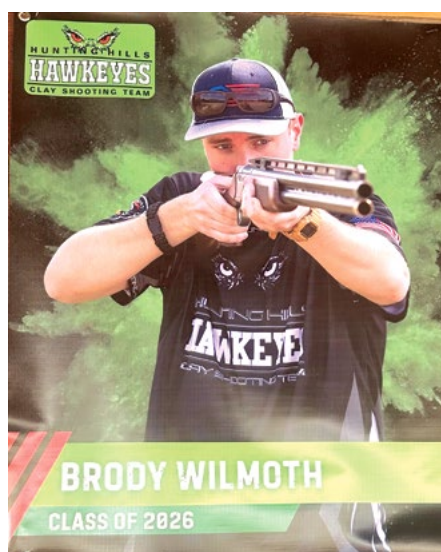
The Hawkeyes remain known for their strong family atmosphere, where parents, coaches, and volunteers work together to help young shooters succeed both on and off the range. Their long-standing philosophy of creating "**champions in life**" continues to define the organization, making it one of the region's most respected youth shooting programs. Through consistent training, community support, and a focus on integrity, the Hunting Hills Hawkeyes continue to build a legacy of excellence while preparing the next generation of competitive shooters and responsible citizens.

Senior Spotlight



Samuel Fowler

Samuel is the son of Frank and Myriam Fowler. He graduated from South Fayette High School. In addition to the shooting sports, Samuel is active as a volunteer at the local fire station and is a "Big Buddy" for the South Hills Baseball Miracle League. Samuel has fought hard to improve his self-confidence shooting sporting clays and has continued to post improvements in his scores.



Brody Wilmoth

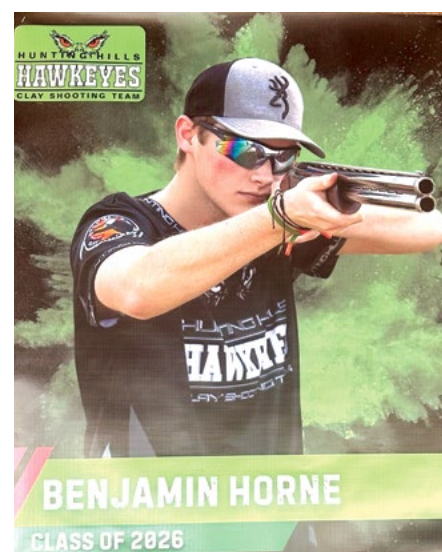
Brody is the son of Brent and Deedee Wilmoth of Morgantown, WV. Brody graduated from the Morgantown Christian Academy, where he consistently achieved Honor Roll Status. In addition to the shooting sports, Brody was a proud member of the school's award-winning choir, showcasing his passion for music and performance. Brody also enjoys hunting and has successfully taken a Barbarossa Ram, Red Stag, Mule Deer, and an Elk. Deeply involved in his faith, Brody serves as a worship leader for the EDGE, is

an active member of Youth Impact, and is a lifetime spokesperson for WVU Medicine Children's Hospital. Brody will be attending Fairmont State University in the Fall studying National Security & Intelligence as part of the Honors Program.



Micha Crowe

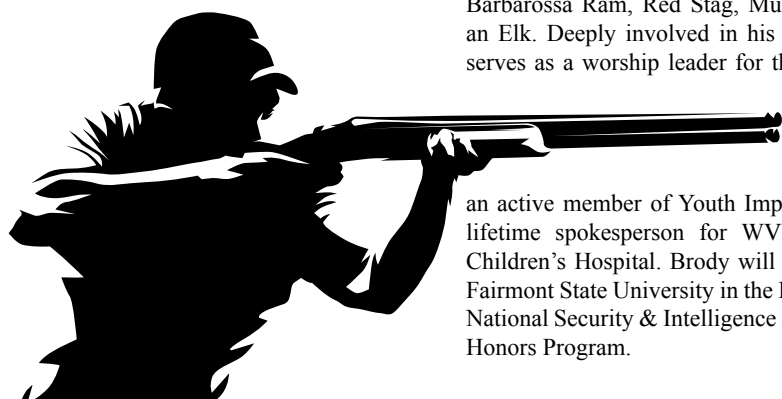
Micha is the son of Bill and Nina Crowe of Carmichaels. He is a graduate of PA Cyber. Micha attends Crosspoint Assembly of God where he faithfully serves in the children's department and ushering. He attends youth groups at both Crosspoint AOG and The Ridge at Chestnut Ridge in Cheat Lake, WV. Micha has many jobs and interests. He cuts grass, does construction, and works on the family cars. His future plans are to join the workforce and get his CDL license.

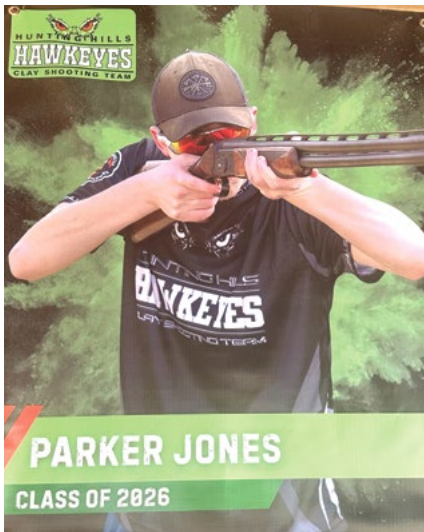


Benjamin Horne

Benjamin is the son of Nathan and Angela Horne of Waynesburg. Nathan has maintained honor roll status through high school and is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and the SCTP All Scholastic Team. He also participated in the Waynesburg University Scholars Program. Ben also enjoys playing hockey for the South Hills Panthers where he served as team captain throughout his high school career.

He has earned over 40 state and national titles for shooting as well as four citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and State Senate. Ben is also an accomplished pianist and saxophone player and has competed at the state and national level. He is a member of the Illuminate Youth Group at the First Baptist Church and the Cross Point Assembly of God - both in Waynesburg. Ben will be attending Waynesburg University to shoot on their inaugural sporting clays team this fall and will have a double major in Political Science and Music.





Parker Jones

Parker is the son of Brian and Kathy Jones of Carmichaels. He is in the Honor Society, plays basketball, and has won several state and national awards with the Hawkeyes. He attends the Oakview Methodist Church and is active in bible study and youth groups. Parker enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his family and friends. He plans on attending and completing a heavy equipment operator program and getting his CDL.



Brendan Cole

Brendan is the son of Dave and Tracy Cole of Waynesburg. He was a member of the National Honor Society. Brendon has won several State and National awards for sporting clays and was a two-time SCTP member of the make-a-break team at Nationals. He was also a member of the All-Conference boys' soccer team and the GCADA All County team. He has been a member of the Greene County 4-H club since 2018 and has shown rabbits, hogs, goats, steers, and lambs. He enjoys all outdoor activities and plans on attending college in the fall at either Fairmont State or Emmanuel University.



Kory Taylor

Kory is the son of George and Jackie Taylor of Waynesburg. He was in the NHS and maintained a 4.0 GPA. He is an avid outdoorsman and excels in basketball, hockey, and baseball. Kory is a decorated member of the Hawkeyes team with numerous State and National titles including a SCTP top 10 National Sporting Clays individual title and the coveted HOA (High Overall score) champion award several times.

Kory enjoys volunteering at community events such as Flags for Veterans and Wreaths across America. He is also a sponsored shooter for Caesar Guerini shotguns and Rhino chokes. Kory will be attending Emmanuel University in the fall to study Finance and be a member of their Sporting Clays team.



Deakin Whipkey

Deakin is the son of Adrian and Katrina Whipkey of Waynesburg. He has won several State and National awards for the sporting clays shooting as a Hawkeye. He enjoys all outdoor activities including skiing and plans on attending a four-year college for business/finance in the Fall.

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