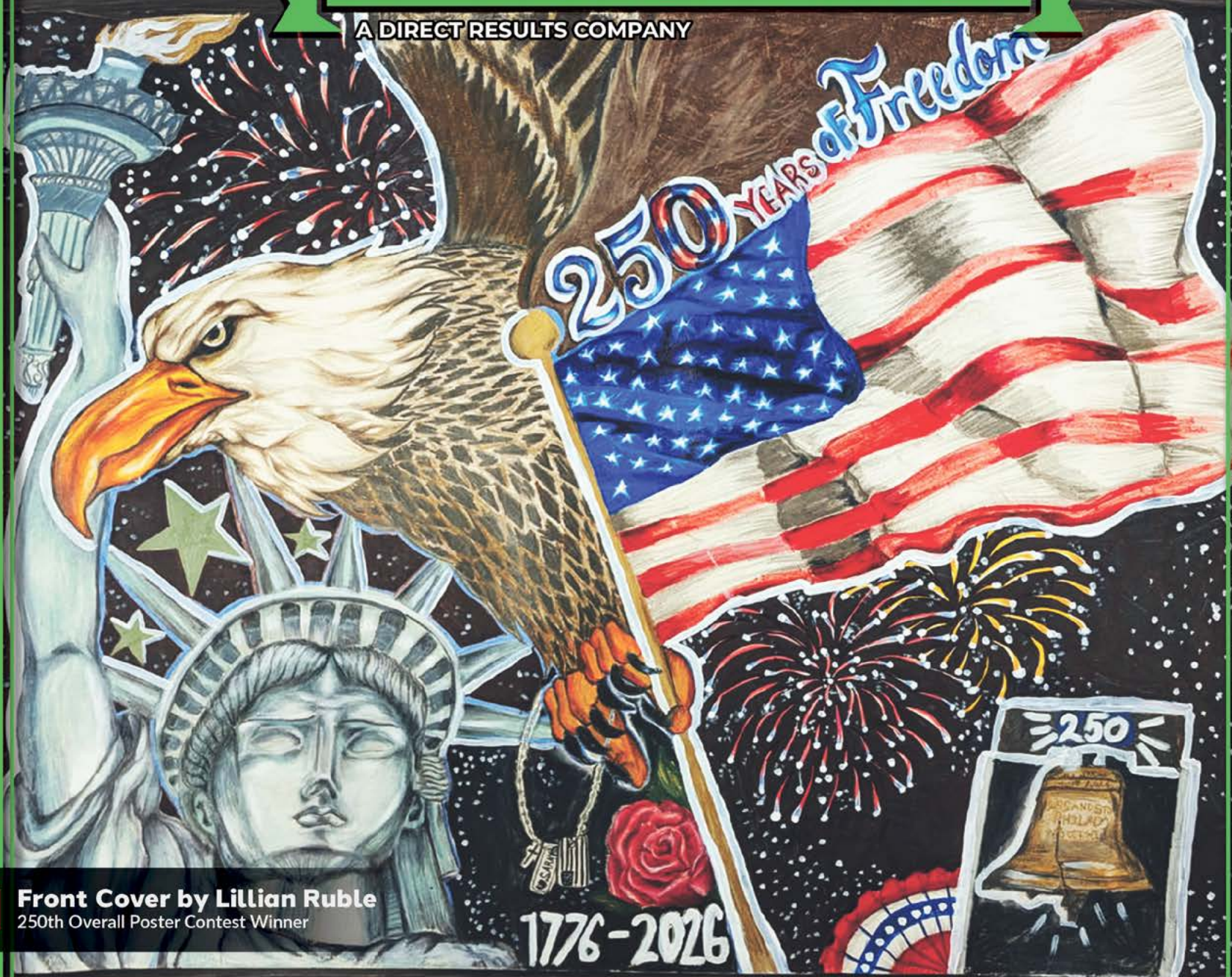


Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

A DIRECT RESULTS COMPANY



Front Cover by Lillian Ruble
250th Overall Poster Contest Winner

SEPTEMBER 2026

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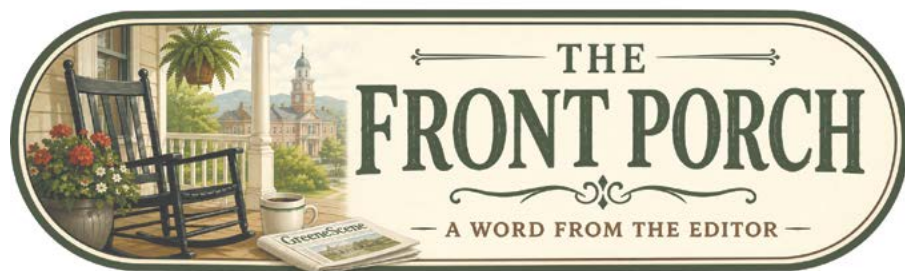
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As another Greene County summer gently gives way to autumn, familiar fall traditions begin to take center stage. As always, this month's edition of GreeneScene celebrates a wonderful blend of past and present.

Summer in Greene County has a way of filling the calendar—and our memories. From the rumble of engines at car shows to the sights, sounds and traditions of the fairs, our communities have been alive with activity. We take a look back at some of the moments and memories that made this summer one to remember.

However, fields that were planted with hope months ago now yield their **harvest**. Back roads come alive with **bridge festivals**, where history, craftsmanship and hometown pride come together. We feature the spirit and locations of these celebrations that continue to connect communities.

Finally, we step back into a different kind of journey with **a retrospective of Greene County's movie theaters**—from the nickelodeons and grand downtown cinemas to the beloved drive-ins where countless first dates, family outings and Saturday nights created memories that still linger today.

We invite you to sit back with a cup of coffee and enjoy these stories and more in this month's edition.

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TOWNE SQUARE

BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS 101

Why We Buy the \$7 Coffee While Complaining About Gas Prices

For the past 25 years, I have listened to annoying, unimaginative commercials on ESPN Radio. The most puzzling ads are those that exhort people to change careers or enter training because of “today’s economy.”

Obviously, **the pitch is based on the idea that “today’s economy” is in shambles**, and we all need to protect ourselves from the horrors wrought upon us from the idiot politicians in charge.

The only problem is logic tells us the economy has not ALWAYS been bad for that long. Over the past quarter century, our economy has had highs and lows for the middle class. There have been five different administrations in the White House over that time.

Of course, people always say when their side is in power, the economy is “better.” However, the commercials never change.

Aside from the fact that an incredibly small percentage of people actually know what economic numbers mean, that doesn’t stop them from assigning emotional attachment to them and basing their views about the well-being of the “economy” on those numbers.

This is why advertisers always scare consumers with “the economy today,” using the tone of a wise, disappointed grandfather with an MBA. There is a very easy explanation for this phenomenon.

Welcome to **behavioral economics**, the field that asks a simple question: *Why do otherwise intelligent people make decisions that are definitely not logical?*

For generations, economists viewed people as cool-headed calculators. (You know- rational) Give them the facts, the prices, and the choices, and they would carefully weigh the options before selecting whatever provided the greatest benefit at the lowest cost. It made for elegant theories, tidy graphs, and mathematical models that fit neatly into textbooks.

Then real people showed up.

Instead of behaving like rational machines, they bought lottery tickets despite impossible odds, paid extra for “limited-time offers” they didn’t need, refused to sell stocks that were losing money, and happily drove to Morgantown to save \$5 on a \$20 purchase.

However, behavioral economists don’t dismiss people as simply irrational. They propose something far more complex. They argue, we are emotional, social creatures whose decisions are influenced by habits, biases, fears, confidence, memories, and even how choices are presented to us. (You know – irrational stuff)

Behavioral economics sits at **the intersection of economics and psychology**. Rather than assuming people always maximize their financial interests, it studies how they actually make decisions in everyday life.

The roots of the discipline gained momentum during

the 1970s when psychologists began demonstrating that people consistently rely on mental shortcuts when making decisions. These shortcuts help us navigate a complicated world, but they also lead to predictable mistakes.

These works challenged decades of traditional economic thinking and eventually earned some guy a Nobel Prize in Economics in 2002. Another researcher’s work on how choices are presented encouraged better decisions without taking away freedom earned him the Nobel Prize in 2017.

Today, behavioral economics influences almost everything in our daily lives - public policy, marketing, finance, healthcare, etc.

Proponents like to argue that Traditional Economics isn’t “wrong”. It’s simply built on assumptions that don’t always match real life. Its central character is the perfectly rational decision-maker. This fictional shopper carefully compares every option, calculates every cost and benefit, and ignores emotions.

If gasoline becomes more expensive, people buy less. If interest rates rise, borrowing falls. If prices increase, demand decreases. Simple. Predictable. Elegant. Although many of these relationships hold true over the long run and remain essential to understanding markets, **the challenge comes when real human behavior refuses to cooperate.**

These traditional assumptions are becoming more and more untethered from reality as the partisan divide in America colors every aspect of our daily lives.

In addition to the political biases inherent in our culture, traditional elements like sneaky advertisers and human nature make economics more art than science.

Imagine two grocery stores. One advertises “Buy Two, Get One Free.” The other simply lowers the price by one-third. Mathematically, they’re almost identical. **Yet shoppers overwhelmingly prefer the first option because it feels like they’re getting something extra.**

Or consider restaurant menus. Many include one outrageously expensive steak—not because they expect to sell many of them, but because it suddenly makes the second-most expensive entrée look like a bargain. That’s called the **“decoy effect.”**

Then there’s **loss aversion**. Most people dislike losing \$100 far more than they enjoy finding \$100. Psychologically, losses hurt roughly twice as much as equivalent gains feel good. This explains why investors stubbornly hang onto losing stocks while selling winners too soon. **They’re trying to avoid admitting defeat or**

that they were wrong about something.

One of behavioral economics’ greatest discoveries is that **presentation matters**. Suppose a doctor says a surgery has a 90 percent survival rate. Most patients feel encouraged. Now suppose the doctor says the same surgery has a 10 percent mortality rate. The statistics are identical. The emotional reaction isn’t.

Nothing captures human psychology quite like the word “free.” Studies have found removing even a tiny cost dramatically changes decision-making because “free” eliminates the possibility of regret. As an English teacher, my biggest pet peeve by far was the use of the tautology – “Free Gift.” Obviously, a GIFT IS FREE, or it wouldn’t be a gift, but advertisers take advantage of our illogical impulses.

Behavioral economics has become even more relevant during the past ten years. Many traditional economic relationships have not followed the predictable patterns.

Inflation reached levels not seen in decades, yet consumers continued spending robustly. Interest rates climbed, but parts of the economy remained more resilient than forecasts predicted. Housing prices stayed elevated despite much higher mortgage rates. Companies found customers willing to pay premium prices even while surveys showed widespread concern about the economy.

None of that means traditional economics stopped working. Rather, it highlighted that economic decisions are shaped by more than income, prices, and interest rates alone.

After all, if human behavior were perfectly rational, there would be no impulse-buy aisle at the grocery store, no gyms packed every January, and no one would ever convince themselves that buying a gadget they didn’t know existed five minutes ago was somehow “saving money.”

Ultimately, the numbers alone don’t tell the whole story. James Carville famously instructed the Clinton campaign staff, “It’s the economy, Stupid.”

In reality, “It’s *what the people think* the economy is, Stupid.”

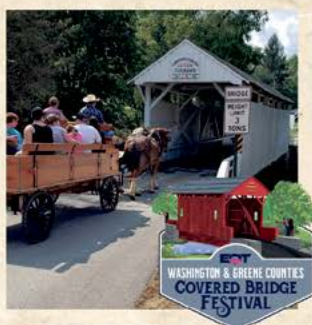
The GreeneScene welcomes its readers to share their opinions on civic, economic, or cultural issues in Town Square Thoughts. All submissions must be respectful and constructive points of view aimed at improving our area. Please send Thoughts to bret@directresults.us We reserve the right to edit submissions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



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Greene County, Pennsylvania

Explore the Place You Call Home

Fall is a beautiful time to rediscover home. Take the scenic route, explore historic bridges, savor local flavors, and enjoy the celebrations that make Greene County special.



EQT WASHINGTON & GREENE COUNTIES' COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Celebrate the season at the EQT Washington and Greene Counties Covered Bridge Festival, September 19–20. Explore nine scenic covered bridge locations featuring handmade arts and crafts, homestyle foods, historic demonstrations, entertainment, and more, including Greene County's White Covered Bridge and Carmichaels Covered Bridge.



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SEPTEMBER 2026 EVENTS

September 4 | First Fridays
Downtown Waynesburg

September 4 | Fox Feather Trail Hike
Ryerson Station State Park, Wind Ridge

September 12 | 50s Fest & Car Cruise
Downtown Waynesburg

September 12 | Almshouse ParaCon 2
Greene County Historical Society Museum, Waynesburg

September 12 | Farm to Fork
Thistlethwaite Vineyards, Jefferson

September 12 | Greene County Rollin' Coal Pull
Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg

September 13 | Flashlight Drags
Greene County Airport, Waynesburg

September 19-20 | EQT Washington & Greene Counties' Covered Bridge Festival
9 Festival Sites in Greene & Washington Counties

September 20 | Mt Morris VFD Car & Truck Show
Mt. Morris Volunteer Fire Department, Mt. Morris

September 26 | Gospel Tabernacle Car Show
Mount Morris Gospel Tabernacle, Mt. Morris

September 26 | Touch-A-Truck
First Baptist Church & The Way, Waynesburg

September 26-27 | National Alpaca Farm Days
Lippencott Alpacas, Waynesburg

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AUGUST PERSON, PLACE OR THING ANSWER

The answer to last month's **Person, Place or Thing** is the **Greenville General Store**, one of Greene County's most enduring gathering places. Since **1817**, when it opened as the Hayes General Store, the old building has welcomed generations of customers from Graysville and beyond.

Before being updated, the original hardwood floors creaked beneath the boots of farmers, hunters, travelers and neighbors for more than two centuries, each step adding another chapter to its story. Today, visitors can still find everyday groceries, gasoline, sandwiches and pizza, while antique displays and hunting trophies offer reminders of an earlier era.

More than just a place to shop, the store has long served as the community's front porch—a place where news travels faster than the internet, coffee tastes a little better, and everyone knows someone walking through the door.

In Graysville, the General Store isn't just a business—it's a living piece of Greene County history and the heartbeat of the community.



AUGUST WINNER: NANCY GREENWOOD

PERSON PLACE OR THING

SCAN TO ENTER!



Hint:

*Beneath the earth where potters wrought,
A weathered shard still sleeps beside the way;
A fragment of the vessels craftsmen sought
To shape from clay and fire in former day.*

*The Vance brothers first the wheel did turn,
And Boughner gave the stoneware strength and grace;
While Hamilton's proud kilns would brightly burn,
And jugs and crocks were carried place to place.*

*The river bore their wares to distant shore,
By flatboat sent where waiting markets grew;
The little town grew busy evermore,
As craftsmen shaped the clay the river knew.*

*Now buried half, this broken piece remains—
A quiet witness to those vanished days;
The kiln is cold, the workshop lost to rains,
Yet clay remembers hands that shaped its ways.*

*So let it rest beneath the river's breeze;
One shard can keep a town's lost history.*

**ENTER TO
WIN**
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AND THE LUCKY WINNER.**

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Town of Residence: _____

Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 9-15-26. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

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Good NEWS

In Greene County

A Celebration of Country and Serving Others

By Becci Watson

The community enjoyed a free concert on June 29th in celebration of our country's 250th birthday and the 14th birthday of Second Sam 9.

Sandy Lusco Huffman and Bob Podish performed beautiful melodies and moving songs on the lawn of the former St. George's church (now home to Second Sam 9) for two hours much to the delight of those in attendance. Rick Headlee joined Huffman on stage for an encore of "How Great Thou Art" The concert was made possible through a grant from Greene County Tourism and was coordinated by Program Director Julie D'Eletto.

Second Sam 9 runs a faith-based program for adults with developmental disabilities. It was developed by dedicated individuals who envisioned a program to meet the needs of their clients. The program provides social time, life skills training, pre-vocational activities, music and crafts, Bible lessons and community outings to participants at no cost.

This program does not receive government funding and relies entirely upon the generous support of individuals, groups, churches, organizations and corporate sponsors.

The group's foundational principles are from the Old Testament book 2nd Samuel - specifically, that everyone is equal in God's sight and has unique gifts to share.

Second Sam Nine began in a rented space at WWJD on the west side of Waynesburg. Throughout its history, gatherings were held in the First Methodist Church and other public places. In 2021, Second Sam 9 purchased their current site.

"The concert served as a way to give thanks to God and those who have supported Second Sam 9 throughout our journey," remarked co-founder Scott Roberts. "We are extremely grateful for God's provision and for the many donors and volunteers. It's been an amazing faith building experience to see how God supplies all our needs."

The Second Sam 9 Board is made up of Scott as the President. His wife Teresa is the Secretary. Deborah Crouse is the Treasurer. Other board members are Lauren Schaefer, Reverend Jacob Judy, Elaine Williamson and Julie D'Eletto.

Rachel Williamson added, "The concert was engaging and fun even if it was hot out. The pizza came from my favorite place, Scotty's. Friends had fun, listened to music and enjoyed ice cream from Coolies Skoolie's as a cool down."

For more information on Second Sam 9, please reach out to Julie at (724) 627-0609. They are currently accepting applications for the part-time position of Activities Leader.

Help Make a Difference in Children's Lives

The Greene County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board is seeking dedicated community members to serve on the board and help support the well-being, safety, and permanency of children and families throughout Greene County.

Board members also play an important role in recognizing and supporting the dedicated employees who serve children and families through Greene County Children and Youth Services.

If you are interested in making a positive difference in our community, please contact the Greene County Commissioners for more information about joining the Advisory Board.

40th Anniversary Greene County Fair Queen Court



Front Row: 2026 Title Holders: Ellie Whitlach (Mini Princess), Payton Duncan (Junior Princess), Abigail Willis (Fair Queen), Ashdyn Kern (Princess), Haily Policz (Little Princess)

Back Row: 2025 Title Holders: Addison Orndoff (Mini Princess), Paige Borovichka (Junior Princess), Courtney Main (Queen), Cameron Wendell (Princess), Danika Grim (Little Princess)

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10 TO 4:30 PM**

**SEPTEMBER 20TH
NOON TO 4:30 PM**

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Miss Rain Day Scholarship Pageant a Success



Miss Rain Day Court: (L-R) Sienna Stoneking – 4th Runner Up, Isabella Wise – 2nd Runner Up, Sophia Faddis – Miss Rain Day 2026, Brooklyn Burns – 1st Runner Up and Jaira Withrow – 3rd Runner Up.

Congratulations to **Sophia Faddis** – Miss Rain Day 2026 and her court

Award Winners

Top Interview – Sophia Faddis
 Top Talent – Brooklyn Burns
 Top Evening Gown – Brooklyn Burns
 Top Sportswear – Brooklyn Burns
 Scholastic Achievement – Brooklyn Burns
 Rain Maker – Isabella Wise
 Miss Photogenic – Isabella Wise
 Rain Drop – Meah Branham, Eilidh Batchelder & Sophie Batchelder

Miss Personality – Sophia Faddis
 Pageantry Spirit – Brooklyn Burns
 Bryn Patton Smile Award – Bella Walker
 Abby Ray Dedication to Service Award – Sophia Faddis
 Remo Bertugli Memorial Award – Isabella Wise
 Kelly Smotzer Memorial Award – Jillissa Yeater
 John O'Hara Essay Award – Jillissa Yeater



The Waynesburg Lions Club Little Miss Firecracker Contestants: Ellie Whitlatch, Georgia Tift, Adeline Jetten (2025 Little Miss Firecracker), Lilah Kelly (2026 Little Miss Firecracker), Isla Falter, Regan Tharp. In the back is Camryn Hawfield (2025 Miss Rain Day).

Local Author Publishes Second Children's Book in "The Adventures of Charlie" Series

Natalie Eddy of Mount Morris has written and published the second children's book in "The Adventures of Charlie" series, available now on Amazon.com. In the book, Charlie and his dog, Jenny, travel back in time to discover that history is not as "boring" as he previously thought.

When Charlie struggles to write a school report about the Mason-Dixon line, his old friend McDoogle – a colorful Scottish bird with a talent for time travel – shows up at the Mason-Dixon Park to help the boy realize how exciting, fun and interesting history can be. He takes Charlie and Jenny on an unforgettable journey into the past.

Along the way, Charlie meets the founders of the Mason-Dixon line, Charles Mason, an astronomer, and Jeremiah Dixon, a surveyor. The two famous historical figures are credited with drawing the line, which served as the border between Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia and later became an important boundary between slave and free territory during the American Civil War.

Like the first book in the series, *The Adventures of Charlie: Thunder*, the new book is written as a namesake tribute to Eddy's grandson, Charlie. Geared toward ages 4 to 12, the 38-page paperback was designed by Eddy's daughter-in-law, Heather Eddy, who is Charlie's mother.

While on his journey, Charlie witnesses the challenges of surveying the famous boundary and learns about the people and events that shaped its history. Filled with adventure, friendship, and discovery, *The Adventures of Charlie: The Mason-Dixon Line* shows that history is anything but boring.

Natalie Eddy is a retired Adjunct Professor at West Virginia University and a current professor at Southern New Hampshire University. She built a distinguished career as a magazine writer for international environmental publications, was a public relations specialist and editor at WVU and was a local newspaper reporter at the Uniontown Herald-Standard.



OAK VIEW

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METHODIST CHURCH

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September 12th
Start 9 AM – 2 PM

Items to be sold:
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Oak View Methodist Church:

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SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15am · SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE 10:30am

Cool at School:

WEST GREENE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR

By Superintendent Eric Gaydos

Three new instructors have been hired: (Devin Hall - Middle Level ELA, Jacob Beppler - Secondary ELA, Lyndsey Garrett - Agriculture Mechanics) Campus Improvements and Modernization

We are currently undergoing a campus **modernization project of our HVAC systems** in the Athletic Center wing and administrative offices.

Classroom renovations are currently ongoing throughout parts of the high school.

New signage has been installed around campus, and will be expanded to include wall, window, and door wraps before the end of summer.

New floors, lockers, and restrooms are on the docket **to be refreshed** next summer.

A new roof was installed over the 500-level of the Middle-Senior High School, the visitor's football press/coaching box, and extensive roof repairs were completed on the Elementary Center roof.

The West Greene Sewage Line Extension Project Started

Work has commenced on the West Greene Sewage Project, which will provide a sewage line extension from Rogersville to the district campus, replacing our aging sewage plant. The district and the **Center Township supervisors** have worked hand in hand to bring this project to life. The district also received **grant support from Senator Bartolatta's office** to help bring this project to fruition.

West Greene School District Community AI Playbook Authored

At West Greene School District, we believe that technology must never replace the human connections, critical thinking, and hard work that define our Pioneer community. While we recognize AI's potential as a restricted, secondary tool for deep research, brainstorming, and administrative efficiency, we explicitly reject its use as a shortcut or a substitute for independent student thought.

Our district is committed to establishing strict, clear boundaries within our student handbooks to prevent academic dishonesty and dependency, while ensuring that both teachers and students navigate these tools with total transparency. We are dedicated to prioritizing hands-on, engaging learning experiences that foster integrity, safeguard data privacy, and ensure our graduates remain deeply human, capable, and prepared for a changing workforce.

New Course Offerings

There will be several new course offerings this year at West Greene. We will be implementing **two new AI courses** based on explaining machine learning and how we can use it ethically in education. We will also be offering a new **Financial Literacy curriculum** in grades K-12.



This classic was on display at The Ice Plant's 30th annual car show.

Cool at School:

MATA SELECTED TO RECEIVE WAYNESBURG U. LEADERSHIP AWARD



Waynesburg University has selected Olivia Mata as a 2026 recipient of the Leadership Award. She is the daughter of Anthony and Regina Mata.

Mata is a 2026 graduate of Carmichaels Area High School. She served as senior class secretary, National Honor Society president and drum major of the Mikes' Marching Band. She was also a member of the concert band, academic league, Big Brothers Big Sisters, SADD and senior standing committee.

Outside of school, Olivia is a parishioner at St. Hugh's Catholic Church, and she is a crew member at LK Cafe. In her free time, she enjoys being with her friends and family.

She plans to major in nursing, with hopes of becoming a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

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THE QUEEN OF THE COAL PATCH

By Dave Bates

As students head back to school this fall, I am drawn to a question that has as many answers as there are individuals of which to ask it. Who was that special teacher who made a difference in your life? Which teacher changed education for you? Who was that teacher who cared about you and went the extra distance for you as a kid?

For me, it was a difficult choice since I had so many great teachers that made school fun, interesting, challenging, and most of all productive, dare I say life changing. For me, Stan Sagosky, Betti Corazzi, Carol Skirchak, Karen Willis and Amelia Dascenzo all come to mind.

Murray Kline, my wood shop teacher, was near the apex as that teacher who kept an eye on me after my Dad passed away in seventh grade. I practically lived in his wood shop during my junior/senior high career. I actually lived with him, or, more correctly next door, in his extra house when I moved home to take a teaching job at Carmichaels.

By today's standards and practices, Murray would have been a disciple of the school of the modern-day pedagogical icon Harry Wong. (No I am not kidding, that is really his name.) Wong wrote the famous book *The First Days of School* which many of us cut our teeth on as young educators. I have taken a course or two from Harry and his battle cry was "Procedure! Procedure! Procedure!" Murray was doing these things years in advance of Mr. Wong giving it a name. Truth be told, Murray probably kept me out of jail as a youth or at least from the confines of the detention center.

Frank Pazzynski, professor of Waynesburg College fame, was one of those life-changing educators who made every aspect of living a teaching moment. He made us educators by not taking ourselves too seriously and making education fun. Frank was the teacher who forced me to quit worrying about making an "A" and to truly focus on learning. He demonstrated that learning takes place everywhere you look. For that, I will be forever in his debt.

All these folks have shaped me as a teacher, but they are not the subject upon which I will focus my story. I'll begin this piece by sharing with you the story of the lady that changed my life back in fourth grade at Mather Elementary School. Her name was Mrs. Thelma Harrison, and she was so far ahead of her time it still amazes me today.

Still, she wore the visage of an "old school" schoolmarm. Mrs. Harrison was one of those older ladies in the teaching profession, nearing retirement, who insisted that her students go outside every day if possible. No matter the falling mercury of the thermometer, Thelma would don her heavy blue wool dress coat, rubber overshoes and plastic rain hat and out we would go into the elements. When kids complained about the cold she simply told them to go run around and get warm.

Thelma encouraged us to bring sleds to school. She was right there with us. She knew we needed to blow off steam so we could focus upon our studies upon returning to the classroom. Often, she insisted on being pitcher for both sides during our daily softball games. We thought she liked softball that much but looking back, she was simply monitoring the pulse of the game, keeping arguing to a minimum.

Each day as we departed the classroom for recess, Mrs. Harrison would pour me a cup of water, place an electric heating rod into my "special mug" and allow a teabag of strong black tea to steep for thirty minutes while we played outside. By the time we returned from the playground the tea was not only piping hot but quite strong as well, almost too strong to drink.

Nevertheless, drink it I did. She added just a hint of honey to strike the bitterness of the heavy concoction. I assumed I was her favorite since she made me my own cup of tea every day. Tea before English class just made sense. Little did I know that her intent was far from my summations. The caffeine content acted as a reversal to the coursing effects of my undiagnosed ADHD.

Mornings were barely tolerable as I trudged through history, math and science. But as a result of Mrs. Harrison's efforts and patience, English language arts were a true joy, especially the writing aspect. I was a different student in her class because of her magic elixir.

The only thing better than her tea was her praise for a young boy who needed positive reinforcement to tap into the talents that lay hidden beneath the surface. To hear what I had done right rather than another dose of "sit down, sit still and be quiet" would make all the difference.

She never called attention to her efforts nor made me feel conscientious about her methods. She kept up the tea regiment for my entire fourth grade year. Somewhere along the line she decided I could do without the tea infusion, and we began to attempt nominative case pronouns without chemical inducement. It was a glorious success.

In addition to tea therapy, she made me the school postman which worked in tandem

with the effects of the tea. Just about the time that I could no longer remain in my seat without vibrating into mid-air, Thelma would announce that it was time to make my rounds.

My appointed route could be initiated near any time of day and was largely dependent on my current state of distraction. I would run from classroom to classroom picking up letters to carry to the post office across the street. Like a blue streak, out the school doors and down the steps I'd fly to the post office.

Of course, I'd have to take the circuitous route through the Liar's Den and maybe slow up for a chat with its inhabitants. I'd drop the letters in the slot, purchase stamps if necessary, affix postage with limited saliva as I was out of breath.

Most of the teachers told me to keep the two cents change since stamps were thirteen cents in the spring of 1976. Those two cent tips added up over time and stops at Jean and Ruth's Corner Store for penny candy were of a don't ask/don't tell nature as the increased sugar content sort of disrupted Mrs. Harrison's primary goal.

I am certain I became a writer because of Thelma's compassion and ingenuity and far thinking vision. I'm pretty sure it's why I ended up in public education for nearly thirty-five years, as well. I figure it's not an accident that I spent about half my career as an English teacher as well?

I just wish I had possessed the maturity to properly thank Mrs. Harrison for all she did. By the time I understood such things as chemical compounding, Mrs. Harrison had passed and I was too naive to appreciate the gift I had been given. Thanks Mrs. Harrison! I hope that I might have lent some struggling kid similar support along the way during my teaching days. God bless the Queen of the Coal Patch - Mrs. Thelma Harrison.

So many others seem to have their own special teacher that I thought I'd share a few stories that I've run across as I was putting this piece together. Those stories will be shared in next month's edition. I'd love to hear about your unique experiences. You can reach out to me at alphaomegashootingsolutions@gmail.com



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BIG TRUCKS & BIGGER SMILES: 14 YEARS OF TOUCH-A-TRUCK

In the newest episode of the GreeneScene Podcast, host Shelly Brown sits down with Direct Results owner Pam Marisa and Dawn Mankey to take us behind the scenes of Touch-A-Truck, a beloved, 100% free annual tradition hosted by the First Baptist Church in Waynesburg! Discover how a small gathering of 10 vehicles grew over 14 years into a massive autumn celebration drawing more than 2,000 neighbors. The day is complete with big rigs, giant piñata-lifting cranes, racecars, free food, and inspiring stories of local youth finding their future careers right in the driver's seat.



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EPISODE #35 A HUB FOR THE COMMUNITY: HOW JEFFERSON-MORGAN IS SHAPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS




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HOOFPRIENTS & ANGEL WINGS

Giving Kill Pen Horses a Second Chance

By Becci Watson



Julie Whipkey with Annie ...a surprise blessing from a rescued mare named Mo.

A crooked sign marks the dirt road that takes you to a farm built on a dream. The sign reads Yukon Hill. Nothing special about the name, but make the turn and you will come to a place where the journey to save horses in need has created a special place for them to call home.

If you are lucky, you will be greeted by the owner as you pull into the barn. She is always eager to tell the story behind her dream of rescuing horses headed for slaughter. Founded in 2016 as a 501(c)(3), Hoofprint and Angel Wings is proof that with patience and hard work dreams do come true.

As founder Julie Whipkey gazes lovingly at what she has built over the years, she summarizes her dream, "These rescue horses are amazing, and being able to give them a second chance at life is truly my mission"

Grazing goats, roaming rabbits and happy horses fall under her gaze. Wife of Chris Whipkey and mother of three, Julie balances family life and

work life while running a rescue farm where 12 horses and four mini horses are living their best life.

"Our first rescue was in 2016. Many of the horses were nothing but skin over bones. But with love and care, they are thriving and enjoying life here on the farm." Julie is dedicated to each horse. This means an incredible amount of trust has to be built with each rescue.

The organization is blessed to have several supporters and volunteers helping to make her dream a reality. Sisters-in-law Nicole Whipkey and Jolene Headley are two such supporters. They have been with Hoofprints and Angel Wings since the beginning.

Along with their children, they help plan and coordinate big events and projects for the rescue. They also help in the hayfields and with feeding throughout the year. However, even with all this help, a rescue is expensive to operate. Hoofprints and Angel Wings needs close to \$20,000 annually to run smoothly.

The process of saving a kill pen horse starts at an online auction. When buying on kill pen lots like **Before the End of the Line**, Julie goes to their Facebook page to see what horses are headed to slaughter. Horses who are neglected, abused, injured or simply forgotten are being sold to a processing plant unless someone like Julie steps in to save them.

According to Julie, "Purchase prices range from \$800 to \$2000. Then a buyer has to pay \$400 to \$600 to quarantine the rescue to avoid bringing diseases into the existing herd. In addition, hauling the horse home runs around \$300 to \$600 depending on where they are located."

Each rescue needs to be vetted which means farrier care and a visit from an Equine Dental

Technician. This step can be \$300 to \$500 depending on the condition of the horse, and this is just the first 60 days of their new journey.

Running a rescue also involves many behind the scenes expenses, such as property maintenance, fencing repairs, barn maintenance, liability insurance, as well as tractor, equipment, and fuel costs.

Fundraising is key to helping offset these expenses. Julie and her helpers put together events like Bingo in the Barn, Paint and Sips and other craft-related workshops. Birthday parties and individual or group visits are always welcome.

The next event is Halloween in the Barn, scheduled for October 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is a fun time for children to put on a costume and meet the horses. It also includes live music, raffle baskets, vendors, food trucks, games and more.

Julie also offers \$2.00 Tuesdays and \$5.00 Fridays on the Facebook page because small gifts can make a huge impact. These funds help her rescue mission and the educational & community outreach therapy programs she has started like the Equine Therapy program.

This therapeutic program gives children, adults, and veterans hope, confidence and joy. Julie explained, "Our mission is to provide a safe loving home for horses while using the healing power of horses to change lives. The special bond between a horse and a human has the power to build self-esteem, reduce anxiety, ease stress and bring healing to minds and hearts. We believe in second chances for both horses and people."

Celebrating 10 years this year, Julie encourages anyone interested in the rescue to visit Hoofprints and Angel Wings located at 247 Yukon Hill Road in Graysville to meet the horses, hear their stories and experience the connection. For more information and to learn about the available programs and upcoming events at the barn and how to donate to keep this dream alive, please follow Hoofprints and Angel Wings on Facebook.



Greene County Girl Scout Troop 80016 with Julie and volunteers after a little horse therapy.

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LOCAL ACTOR MAXIMUS VIRGILI MAKES HIS DEBUT IN AMERICAN SUMMER

Carmichaels native Maximus Virgili is making his **feature film debut** as Buck Mulvaney in director Michael W. Gray's coming-of-age family film *American Summer*, starring Christie Brinkley and Steve Guttenberg.

Virgili began his acting journey at the age of 11 and is the son of Geno and Erin Virgili. According to his representative, David Doan of CESD Talent Agency in New York, Maximus is known for his charisma, comedic timing, and authentic performances.

He feels Virgili developed a disciplined work ethic and

natural on-screen presence thanks to years of youth athletics and physical training.

American Summer was directed by Michael W. Gray and premiered on the red carpet in East Hampton, New York on August 25th. It will be released in AMC and Regal theaters across America this fall.

In the film, an older Mikey reflects on a summer from his youth. That season, he had met 'the' girl and scored a spot on the team, while his US Army dad was missing in action. According

to the film's PR, the movie is a "heartwarming coming-of-age family film with humor, baseball, summer love, and a puppy who saves the day."

The cast includes Dan Lauria (*The Wonder Years*), Logan Gray (*Surfside Girls*), Mia Talerico (*Good Luck Charlie*), Cullen Moss (*Outer Banks*), Erinn Ruth (*Billions*), Maximus Virgili and former Major League Baseball players Lee Mazzilli and Luis Sojo.

Gray directed the movie from a script he wrote, with additional writing by Jennifer B. White and Marc Prey. According to Gray, "We made this movie in tribute to small-town-USA life," "It is important to me to bring people together which is what movies, baseball, community and family have always done. I am grateful for the opportunity to share *American Summer* with the country and soon the world."

Beyond his acting career, Virgili recently launched an artificial intelligence company focused on making AI-powered call answering more accessible and reliable for small businesses.

His company, Sentire Systems LLC, helps restaurants, medical clinics, salons, and home service providers capture customer calls that might otherwise go unanswered, enabling businesses to recover revenue that would have been lost to voicemail.

As he continues to build both his entertainment and entrepreneurial careers, Virgili is actively pursuing opportunities in television and film while remaining committed to bringing memorable characters to audiences.



Maximus Virgili is flanked by Kobi Frumer and Jake Gravy in the new feature film *American Summer*.

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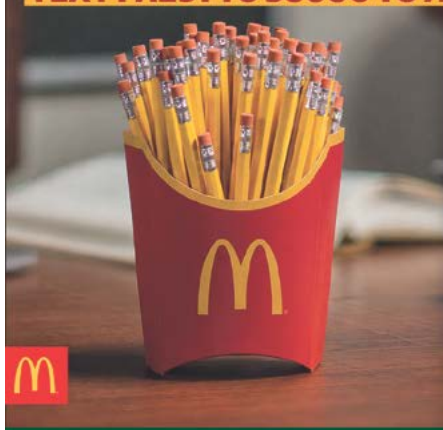
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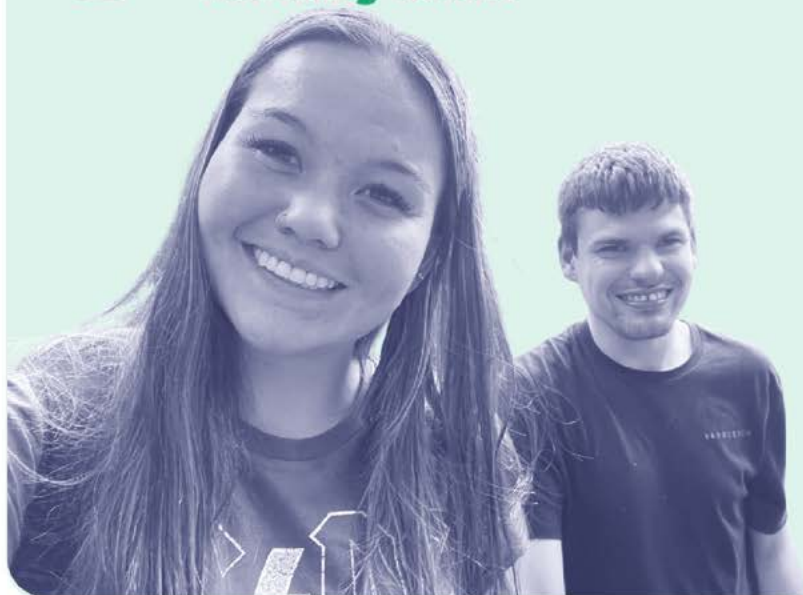
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DMVA Hosts INAUGURAL EVENT

Supporting Veteran Safety and Suicide Prevention

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) recently hosted its first Plan. Pause. Protect. event designed to connect Pennsylvania's veterans with mental health and community resources, as well as provide education on safe firearm storage and lethal means safety for items that could be used in a crisis.

The event was hosted in partnership with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency through the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program.

Over 20 organizations also partnered with the initiative, which took place at the Center for Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigations at Waynesburg University. The partner groups' support focused on lethal means safety, and veterans' physical and psychological health. The day consisted of multiple speakers, workshops and demonstrations.

"The Plan. Pause. Protect. Campaign is a vital step forward in DMVA's mission to protect Pennsylvania service members, veterans and families against suicide," said Patti Tanner, veterans mental/behavioral health subject matter expert. "With firearms accounting for nearly three-quarters of veteran suicides, embedding mental health and lethal means safety into everyday discussions is not about restricting rights—it is about encouraging proactive safety planning that will serve to protect life when someone is in crisis."

The veteran firearm suicide rate has increased 65% since 2001. Data from 2022 found that male veterans over age 35 experienced increased suicide rates, while females aged 18-34 had the highest suicide rates among their peers. The firearm suicide rate among female veterans was 144.4% higher than female non-veterans. For males, it was 69.6% higher, demonstrating a persistent and elevated risk.

Firearms are the most lethal means of suicide, with an 85% fatality rate compared to other methods. Suicide remains the leading cause of gun-related deaths in Pennsylvania, with over 900 suicides annually in the commonwealth.

In 2023, nearly 60% of all gun deaths statewide were firearm suicides, with the number being significantly higher, nearly 80%, in Pennsylvania's rural counties. This is more than twice that of urban counties, even when population size has been accounted for.

Roughly 45% of veterans own firearms, and approximately one in three of those stores at least one firearm unlocked and loaded.

"Veteran self-harm is one of the most pressing social issues facing our commonwealth's heroes. Events like this raise awareness and promote a sense of community," said Maj. Gen. John Pippy, Pennsylvania's adjutant general and head of the DMVA. "We owe it to veterans for all they have endured, and still endure, because of the unique challenges they faced in service to our country."

If you are a veteran in crisis — or you are concerned about one — free, confidential support is available 24/7. Call the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 and then pressing 1, or send a text message to 838255. You can also chat online www.veteranscrisisline.net.

Another resource available to veterans facing challenging times is DMVA's PA VET-Connect, an outreach program that enables the DMVA to concentrate on services from within communities where our veterans live. This initiative allows the DMVA to utilize community-based providers to fill gaps in services for homelessness, employment, mental health, addiction and more.

For more information visit: www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect



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PRISON PUPPY RAISING PROGRAM A SUCCESS



The current training class includes Gracie, Jayne, Zoey, Barnabus and Jenny

Canine Partners for Life (CPL), is a nonprofit organization that partners service and companion dogs with people who have various physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities, or who are in other situations of need, to provide them with the opportunity to live a more independent life.

Originally, all puppies were raised by volunteers in the local community. However, as CPL flourished and the program began to grow, there weren't enough community volunteers to meet the demands of the program.

Thinking outside the box, CPL began the Prison Puppy Raising Program in 2001. At six months of age, puppies are partnered with inmates at one of six prisons in Pennsylvania, Maryland and soon in Delaware. As the puppies are provided with the training and structure they require, the inmates are given the opportunity to give back to the community, learn new skills, and experience the puppies' unconditional love.

CPL has been in a partnership with State Correctional Institution Greene since 2014. Since then, their program has grown to include 13 inmate handlers and 50 volunteers. They have trained over 60 dogs.

In the program, dogs begin the second level of training, which begins to build functional skills upon the foundation they established in their community home. This consists of beginning to tug doors and drawers open and multiple other skills.

Research shows that prison puppy raising programs reduce tensions and create a calmer environment overall. Often, prisons with puppy-raising programs report reduced disciplinary infractions, in part, because staying in the program is an incentive for good behavior.

If you are interested in being a volunteer with the Greene prison program, there are several opportunities available. Community volunteers can be puppy raisers, socialization volunteers, or weekend dogsitters. For more information, contact Amanda Walton, Communications and Volunteer Manager, at awalton@k94life.org.

Please Join Canine Partners for Life for "Pop a Cork, Pet a Pup" a fun event at Christian W. Klay Winery on Sunday, September 27 from 1:30-5pm. Enjoy a fun-filled Fall afternoon with a raffle, 50/50, food and wine, all while supporting an amazing cause!

To learn more about the organization and the program, please visit www.k94life.org.

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MOUNTAINVIEW GARDENS

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First Federal of Greene County proudly announces its 2026 scholarship winners

Eight local students were recently selected to receive four-year scholarships, courtesy of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Greene County. Each winner will receive a \$1,000 annual scholarship renewable for a maximum of four years, or up to \$4,000 total. Funding is made possible through the First Federal Scholarship Fund, which awards up to eight randomly selected eligible Education Club account holders each year. Congratulations and best wishes to all of this year's winners!



BROOKLYN ALLEN
Trinity High School
Washington & Jefferson College



BROOKLYN BURNS
West Greene High School
West Virginia University



MAE COBURN
McGuffey High School
Penn State University



PEYTON COWELL
Waynesburg Central High School
University of Pittsburgh



CRAIG ROHANNA
Waynesburg Central High School
University of Florida



BENJAMIN RUSH
Albert Gallatin Area High School
West Virginia University



JERICHO SCHIFFBAUER
Carmichaels Area High School
Kent State University



KORY TAYLOR
Waynesburg Central High School
Emmanuel University (GA)

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Your Future
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Open an **Education Club Savings Account** and start investing in your future today. Every dollar you save brings you one step closer to achieving your goals. **Plus, you may qualify for this scholarship upon high school graduation!**

Current high school students can stop by a branch in Waynesburg, Carmichaels or Mt. Morris to open an account and begin saving. For more information, including account rules and scholarship eligibility, visit www.ffgc.bank or scan the QR code!



THE PHONE PURGE THAT FELT LIKE GOODBYE

By T.R. Mahle

Recently while looking up a number in my contact list, I noticed there were a couple of names in there that had no meaning...names I had stuck in there for one reason or another, these were easily deleted. However, I also notice the names of several friends and family members who had passed on over the years. Looking at these names, I was reminded of a part of my past that now only exists in memory.



In the quiet glow of my phone screen, I was overcome with a sense of loss...not like the grief of a funeral or a bad anniversary, but a loss that so much of my past is no longer with me. My contact list has grown over the years, with each name representing a conversation, a celebration, or an ordinary moment that once seemed endless. Eventually, there comes a time when practicality whispers that it is time to tidy up, time to remove the numbers that will never ring again. Yet pressing "Delete" felt far heavier than the task would suggest.

My contact list is more than a collection of digits to me. It is a small digital monument, a reminder that someone once occupied a place in my daily life. Their name appears alphabetically among the living, unchanged by time, as though they might still answer with a familiar greeting or send a message that brightens an ordinary afternoon. Even after death, those names carry a quiet illusion of presence. They wait patiently, untouched, preserving a fragile connection between memory and reality.

Deleting a family or friends contact can feel like a second goodbye. The first farewell

comes with the finality of loss, but this one is chosen. It requires me to acknowledge that the practical need for a phone number has ended, even though the emotional need for the person never will. It stirred an unexpected emotion in me, as though erasing the contact somehow diminished the life that was lived and shared with me. Rationally, I know that memories are not stored in a contact list but erasing them seems way too final to me.

Each name carries its own story for me. A parent whose voice is still heard in quiet moments. A sibling whose laughter echoes unexpectedly, a lifelong friend whose number once appeared almost daily. Parents, cousins, friends and neighbors...people who shaped me in countless ways. Their absence isn't measured in any real way. It's just an empty void to me that has quietly transformed my phone into a personal archive.

My phone also holds their photographs, messages, and voice mails that have outlived all of them. These digital remnants have become unexpected keepsakes, no less meaningful than a handwritten letter tucked into a drawer. I am thankful for the technology of these modern phones but while technology races forward, grief of loss rarely does.

Perhaps there is no right time to remove these names. Some are destined to remain on my phone forever, not because I expect another call, but because deleting them now feels unnecessary to me. Some numbers may eventually disappear, not because they have been forgotten, but because remembrance has moved beyond a screen for them.

This unforeseen and unexpected event in my life, purging a contact list, is not truly about deleting people, it's about confronting the passage of time and recognizing how many chapters of my life have quietly closed. The names remain etched in my heart, in my stories, and in the countless ways they all helped shape who I have become. No delete button can erase that legacy, and perhaps that is the quiet comfort hidden within such a melancholy task.

I'm not ready to say goodbye yet, so there will be no purge today.

THE LEARNING NEVER STOPS

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Enrollment is open for the 2025–2026 school year. Explore PA Cyber as an option for your child's education at pacyber.org or call **724-643-1180**.



TOUCH-A-TRUCK ROLLS INTO WAYNESBURG SEPTEMBER 26

Get ready for big trucks, big fun, and plenty of honking!

The popular **Touch-A-Truck** event returns **September 26, 2026**, giving children and families the chance to get an up-close look at some of the biggest and coolest vehicles around.

Kids can climb aboard, sit in the driver's seat, honk horns, check out the lights, and meet the people who operate these amazing machines every day. Past events have featured everything from **dump trucks, cranes, and excavators to fire trucks, police vehicles, bucket trucks, buses, tractor-trailers, and more.**

And Touch-A-Truck is about so much more than trucks! Families can enjoy a fun-filled day packed with activities, games, face painting, prizes, and plenty of opportunities for kids to learn, explore, and discover exciting future career possibilities. **Best of all, FREE lunch and ice cream will be provided for all children and adults!**

The event has become a favorite Greene County tradition, previously attracting close to **2,000 people** and hundreds of children.

Most importantly, Touch-A-Truck brings businesses, organizations, volunteers, and families together for one big day centered around our community's kids.

Mark your calendar for September 26, 2026, and bring the whole family for a day of BIG vehicles, BIG smiles and BIG fun at Touch-A-Truck!

If you would like to bring a vehicle or donate or sponsor the Touch-A-Truck event, please contact Dawn Mankey at 724-833-1355 or email dawn@thewaygc.org



Volunteers at Touch-A-Truck



First Baptist Church's **TOUCH A TRUCK**



A free family fun event!

SEPT 26th, 2026
11AM - 2PM

FREE!
T-shirt
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*While supplies last
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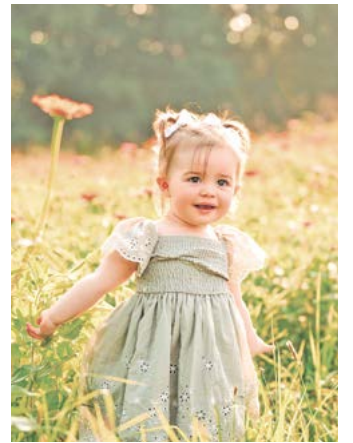
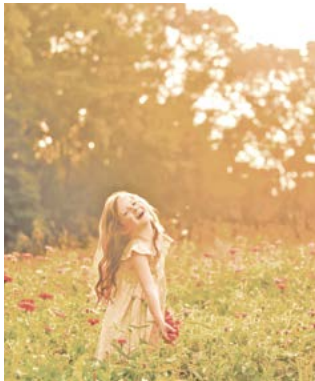
**Lunch
will be
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For more information:

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www.fbcwaynesburg.org

303 West High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370



Lexi Mooney, Nicole Toland, Shelly Yourchik, Pete Brunetto, Jacob Ahlbrand, Vicky Hughes, and Lucy Estle (Lucy Sunshine Photography) all shared their photos to capture some of the moments that made the Summer of 2026 so special.

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GREENE COUNTY'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE MOVIES

By Bret Moore

(Acknowledgements to the additional research of G. Wayne Smith and Mary Beth Pastorius)

For more than a century, the movie-going experience has evolved in remarkable ways. Audiences have traded wooden chairs in nickelodeons for plush recliners, silent films for surround sound, and hand-painted posters for digital marquees. Yet beneath all the technological change, the magic has remained wonderfully familiar.

The Opera House

For more than 150 years, the *Opera House* has stood as one of the architectural and cultural anchors of downtown Waynesburg. The building has evolved from a Victorian town hall into a vaudeville theater, movie palace, and community arts center, reflecting nearly every era of American entertainment.

Construction began in 1870 and was completed in 1871 by the Odd Fellows and Masonic Building Association. The three-story Italianate brick building originally contained: Three retail storefronts on the first floor, a large “Town Hall” auditorium on the second floor, and lodge rooms for the Odd Fellows and Masons on the third floor.



In 1889, the Town Hall was remodeled into a 524-seat Opera House, giving Waynesburg a first-class venue for entertainment during an era when nearly every prosperous town aspired to have such a venue. It hosted plays, concerts, lectures, minstrel shows, comedy acts, political rallies, and community celebrations.

The first public performance was on September 23 of that year. Captain John Wiley welcomed the crowd but said there would be no “munching of peanuts, whistling, or stamping of feet.” On the bill that evening was Adam’s Stock Company’s presentation of *Chip, the Fairy Waif*.

The following year, the Maude Sypher Dramatic Company was formed and performed to sold out audiences. Miss Sypher had returned home to Waynesburg after working in New York City with a famous acting company.

One of the more famous visitors was Mrs. General Tom Thumb, who appeared with her second husband Count Magri. On her arrival at the train station, she and the “Count” were driven to the Downey House in a tiny, closed carriage pulled by two ponies, “no larger than Newfoundland dogs.”

As live entertainment flourished, the *Opera House* underwent a dramatic expansion around 1900. A large rear addition replaced the old livery stable, and renowned theater architects from New York designed a much larger auditorium. The renovation increased seating to approximately 1,100 patrons, complete with: Main floor seating, Two balconies, Decorative side boxes, and an enlarged stage capable of accommodating touring productions.

The first show was staged in January of 1901. Howard Kyle, one of the most famous actors in the country at the time, starred in the play *Nathan Hale*. For a town the size of Waynesburg, it was an impressive cultural landmark in one of the finest theaters in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Seasons began in September and ran through May. Manager J.W. Munnell brought in national touring companies. The acts included theatrical groups, minstrel shows, Shakespearean troupes, vaudeville acts, the Pittsburgh Orchestra, and popular local artists.

They even showed some moving pictures occasionally. In addition, it was the site for the annual Greene County Teachers Institute – a forum that brought famous lecturers such as William Jennings Bryan to town.

In addition to Bryan, other notable appearances through the years included: President William Taft; Woodrow Wilson’s VP, Thomas Marshall; Calvin Coolidge’s wife Grace; heavyweight champion Bob Fitzsimmons; Comedians Will Rogers and Amos & Andy; and the famous actress Sidney Drew (who was a member of the Barrymore family).

A popular recurring visitor was Lyman Howell’s Travel Festival, a moving picture show that showed exotic travel destinations and news reels of major events. Each show also featured an animated cartoon which could always be counted on “to convulse the most sedate audience.”

In January of 1911, the venue hosted a popular touring burlesque show called “The Monte Carlo Girls.” Apparently, many of the town folk were up in arms. The *Waynesburg Republican* reported, “It was a disgrace to decent society” and “It went beyond the limits of both the law and decency.”

In 1912, a second projector was purchased so people did not have to wait for the operator to change reels. In 1915, they began using direct current, hoping to prevent the flickering caused by alternating current. It was the first use of DC in town because the town’s grid was AC.

During that time, the *Opera House* also hosted multiple benefits for groups, civic projects, and charities. One of the most unusual events was a locally produced motion picture in 1915. The film was written and produced by the students and faculty of Waynesburg College. The title was “Metamorphosis of a Freshman,” and the story featured over 400 students and townspeople chronicling the life of a fictional student.

One musical in 1916 called *The Million Dollar Doll* even featured an elevated runway over the heads of the audience.

Like theaters across America, the *Opera House* adapted to changing tastes.

By 1914, motion pictures had become a regular attraction, alongside live performances. In 1918, Charles Silveus of the rival Eclipse Theater bought the Opera House and ran both venues.

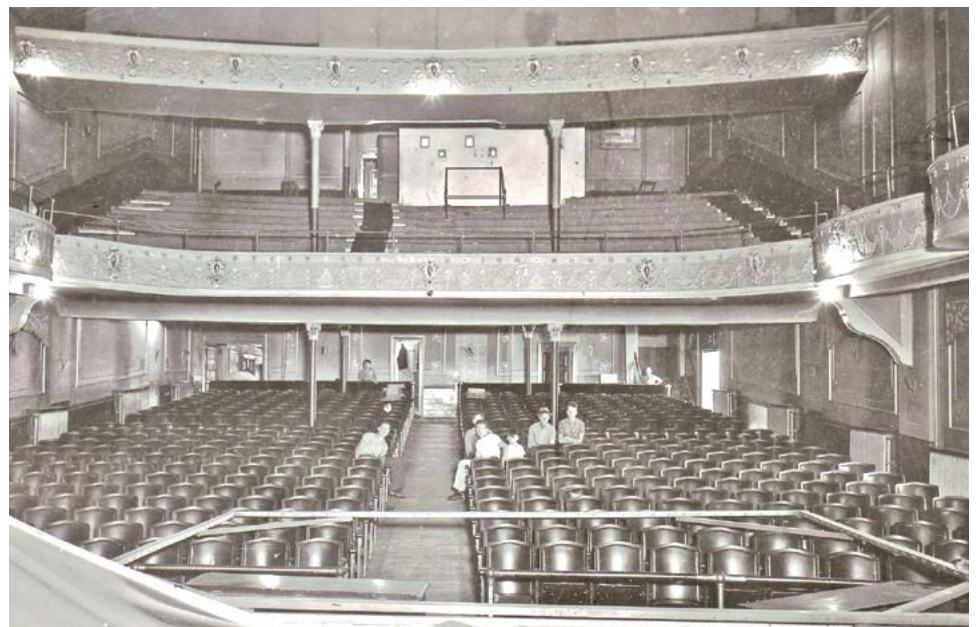
In 1929, Silveus sold both theaters to Paul Puglia and his brother-in-law Frank Pishionery. The building underwent another major transformation into a modern Art Deco movie theater in 1939. Changes included: A fireproof auditorium, an elegant Italian marble lobby, a new central entrance, a neon marquee, removal of the upper balcony, and new seating for roughly 820 patrons.

After 57 years, under the management of the Puglia family, the theater closed in 1986. Upon his retirement, Paul Puglia, Jr. recalled the grand reopening night in ’39. The first movie was *Gone with the Wind*. It was a gala affair with strobe lights in front of the theater and seats required hard-to-get reservations.

For generations of Greene County residents, going “to the Opera House” meant going to the movies on Saturday night.

Revival as the Waynesburg Theatre & Arts Center

In 1989, the Kiger family purchased the building and carefully restored it. It reopened as the Waynesburg Theatre & Arts Center, showing first-run films while also hosting live productions, concerts, and community events.



The Opera House in the early twentieth century with two separate balconies.

Photo credit: Greene Connections

One of its reopening highlights was a production of **Godspell** by the Greene Theatre Company. Visitors could still admire original decorative canvas paintings flanking the stage—survivors from the theater’s earlier years.

Like many independently owned single-screen theaters, the *Opera House* struggled against multiplexes and the expense of converting to digital projection. The theater ultimately closed in **2011**, ending nearly 140 years of entertainment history.

Although movies no longer flicker across its screen, the *Opera House* remains one of Waynesburg’s most recognizable historic buildings. It reflects the optimism and prosperity that shaped Waynesburg in the late nineteenth century. Few buildings have witnessed as much of the area’s social and cultural history, making it one of our most treasured landmarks.

Nickelodeons in Waynesburg

Long before movie palaces dazzled audiences with glittering marquees and plush velvet seats, America’s first taste of the silver screen came in humble storefront theaters known as nickelodeons.

For five cents, people from every walk of life could step inside to escape into a world of comedy, adventure, romance, and newsreels. Between 1905 and the early 1910s, these simple theaters transformed entertainment from an occasional luxury into an everyday pastime. In communities like Waynesburg, their arrival marked the beginning of a cultural revolution that forever changed how people experienced storytelling.

Between roughly 1910 and 1935, Waynesburg supported an impressive number of entertainment venues for a town of its size.

Waynesburg’s first dedicated movie house was the *Eclipse Moving Picture Theatre*, which opened in 1912 just across Fruit Alley from the *Opera House*. According to a 1914 *Waynesburg Republican* story, “The local pictures shown last night attracted a large crowd, and the theater was crowded until a late hour.”

Unlike the *Opera House*, which was built for live stage productions, the *Eclipse* was designed exclusively to show silent motion pictures. Inside, patrons sat on simple wooden chairs while a pianist usually accompanied the silent films. However, Silveus employed the Waynesburg Jazz Band (consisting of pianist, violinist, saxophonist, and drummer) for the job.

Programs usually consisted of several short films, newsreels, comedies, westerns, and serialized adventures that changed every few days. In other words, the *Eclipse* was Greene County’s window to a rapidly changing world.

The theater quickly outgrew its original quarters. In **1915**, the building was expanded to occupy the entire first floor. Then, in **1921**, a substantial addition costing \$25,000 stretched to Strawberry Alley, increasing capacity to **650 seats**.

According to G. Wayne Smith’s *History of Greene County*, the management of the Eclipse often donated ticket sales for benefits. In 1914, those recipients included the Red Cross, the high school basketball team, the college athletic association, and the Sunday School class of the First Baptist Church.

After Charlie Silveus sold the theater to Larry Puglia and Frank Pishionery, they updated



The former Eclipse Theatre looks like an average office building of the 1930s. But, behind its façade lies a fascinating history. From 1912-1954, it was one of two movie theatres in downtown Waynesburg, located side-by-side across Fruit Alley.

equipment in both theaters, changed the *Eclipse* façade, renamed it ***The Wayne***, and continued to show movies there until 1954.

According to **Mary Beth Pastorius**, “Charlie Silveus is considered a pioneer of cinema history. He was both a theatre operator and filmmaker. With a hand-cranked, 35-mm camera, he captured both important events and every-day life in Waynesburg from 1914 until 1929, showing his films alongside commercial releases at *The Eclipse*. Miraculously, about an hour and a half of his footage survived and is now owned by the Waynesburg Fire Department.”

(The footage was preserved and narrated by the late Miles Davin, Sr.)

The Edisonia Theatre and the Lyric Theatre are two lesser-known chapters in Waynesburg’s movie-going history. Both operated during the early decades of the twentieth century, but details about their operations were difficult to ascertain.

The *Edisonia Theatre* was established during the **1910s**, when theaters often borrowed the name “Edisonia” in tribute to Thomas Edison, who was instrumental in developing early motion picture technology. Like many neighborhood theaters of the period, the *Edisonia* specialized in silent films and newsreels accompanied by live piano music.

It was located in downtown Waynesburg in the Syphers Building on West High Street. A Pittsburgh magician named J.B. McIntosh bought the theater in 1912.

The old *Lyric Theatre Room* appeared in Waynesburg during the **1920s**, as movie houses became larger and more elaborate. By this time, theaters were moving beyond the simple “nickelodeon” concept, offering upholstered seating, decorative interiors, improved projection equipment, and expanded concession stands.

Like many independent theaters, the *Lyric* faced stiff competition from larger, more modern venues. Eventually, patrons gravitated toward the expanded *Opera House* and the *Eclipse*, and it faded from Waynesburg’s entertainment scene. It was located in the Blair and Cole Building on South Washington Street.

There were also small theaters such as the *Majestic Theater* in the Downey House, but few details were available.

Carmichaels’ Lund Theatre

The **Lund Theatre** stood at 100 North Market Street in downtown Carmichaels and was the community’s principal indoor movie theater for several decades.

The theater most people remember actually replaced an earlier Lund Theatre. In **1949**, owner **John Lund** and his son “**Fuzzy**” **Lund**, constructed a brand-new, modern theater immediately beside the original building. The new theater officially opened on August 5, with Randolph Scott starring in the western *Canadian Pacific*.

The new Lund featured: Seating for approximately 900 patrons. A large stage measuring 28 X 30 feet, allowing occasional live performances. Modern projection and sound equipment. Comfortable seating and air-conditioning that made it a popular gathering place during the 1950s and 1960s.

Like many small-town theaters, the Lund was more than a place to watch movies. Saturday matinees drew children, while Friday and Saturday evenings became social occasions for teenagers on dates and families enjoying a night out.

Unfortunately, changing entertainment habits and the rise of television reduced attendance. In **1971**, the **First National Bank of Carmichaels** purchased the property. The theater was demolished shortly afterward, and the site became a parking lot.

Evidence from **The American Motion Picture Directory (1914–1915)** indicates that Carmichaels also had a **Ross Theatre** during the nickelodeon era. Although little documentation survives, its listing shows that motion pictures had reached the borough by the mid-1910s, years before the Lund Theatre became the town’s premier cinema.

Greensboro’s Star Theatre

The best-documented theater in Greensboro was the **Star Theatre**, which appears in **The American Motion Picture Directory (1914–1915)**. The listing confirms that Greensboro had an operating movie house by the mid-1910s, just as motion pictures were becoming America’s favorite form of entertainment.

At that time, Greensboro was a bustling river and coal town. Although, the theater probably occupied a remodeled storefront rather than a purpose-built movie palace.

Rices Landing Theatre

The National Register nomination for the Rice’s Landing Historic District notes that by the early twentieth century, the borough had developed into a thriving commercial center that included a clothing store, restaurant, pool hall, post office, bank—and a movie theater.

Unfortunately, the nomination does not identify the theater by name, and no surviving advertisements have surfaced to confirm its name.

Whether in Greene County’s earliest nickelodeons or a grand downtown theater, each generation has discovered that while the screen changes, the experience of escaping into a great story never does.

THE LAST PICTURE SHOW, UNDER THE STARS

By Bret Moore

Long before multiplexes dominated the landscape, drive-in theaters offered moviegoers a uniquely American way to enjoy films beneath the stars. The first drive-in theater was opened on June 6, 1933, in Camden, New Jersey.

The golden age of the American drive-in theater lasted from the late 1940s through the mid-1960s. The post-World War II boom in automobile ownership, suburban growth, the Baby Boom, and affordable family entertainment combined to make drive-ins one of the nation's favorite pastimes.

The U.S. had just over 4,000 drive-in theaters in 1958. By the mid-1960s, the industry began to decline as television, multiplexes, rising land values, and later home videos reduced attendance. Today, only about 300 drive-in theaters remain in operation across the country.

At drive-ins, teenagers enjoyed dates beneath the stars and parents appreciated being able to take young children without worrying if they became restless. The outdoor setting had a relaxed atmosphere that indoor cinemas couldn't match, making it a summertime tradition for many families.

In my youth, there was something magical about a summer evening at a drive-in. Long before the movie began, the younger children raced across the playground, silhouetted against the giant white screen.

As darkness fell, everyone settled into their cars and lawn chairs. Irresistible aromas drifted from the concession stand, tempting everyone to make one more snack run. Back at the car, the familiar crackle and tinny sound of the metal window speaker signaled that show time had arrived.

The Waynesburg Drive-In

The Waynesburg Drive-In Theatre opened on June 29, 1950. It was located in West Waynesburg just off Route 21 and was designed to accommodate 300 vehicles. The first film shown was *The Boy from Indiana*, starring Lon McCallister.

The theater was owned privately for a time and later became part of the Cinemette Corporation of America during the early 1970s. Throughout its operation it showed first-run Hollywood films that attracted audiences from all over the county and neighboring West Virginia communities.

Eventually it closed and was later demolished. Today, no visible traces of the screen or projection building remain. Although it disappeared decades ago, that Drive-In occupies a special place in local memory. For many residents, it wasn't simply a movie theater—it was a summertime tradition where first dates began, families gathered, and lifelong memories were made.

For me, those memories include going there with my parents every Fourth of July to watch the fireworks from the rear-facing seat in our Ford LTD station wagon. I think the statute of limitations has run out, so I can share another vivid memory of the place. In high school, my buddies and I would take turns hiding in the trunk to sneak in (because young boys are stupid). I feel bad about that now, but I'm pretty sure that's not what caused them to close.

The Skyview Drive-In

Just north of Carmichaels along Route 88, the Skyview Drive-In opened in 1946. It was one of Pennsylvania's oldest drive-in theaters when it ceased operations in 2020.

The Skyview quickly became a summertime tradition for families throughout Greene County.

Moviegoers could choose between two screens, each showing a double feature.

Patrons parked beneath the stars, hung speakers on their car windows in the early years, and later tuned into FM radio for movie sound. I remember seeing such classics as the original *Star Wars*, *Ghostbusters*, and *Gremlins* at the Skyview.

Unlike many drive-ins that disappeared after the 1980s, the Skyview continued operating for decades because of the dedication of local owners and community support. Its closing deeply affected the community because of the visceral attachment of so many memories associated with those summer evenings.

The Blue Horizon

Just south of Mt. Morris, the Blue

Horizon Drive-In opened on May 9, 1957, with a double feature that included *Bhowani Junction* starring Ava Gardner and *It's a Dog's Life* starring Jeff Richards. It was built during the peak of America's drive-in boom, when hundreds of outdoor theaters were opening across the country.

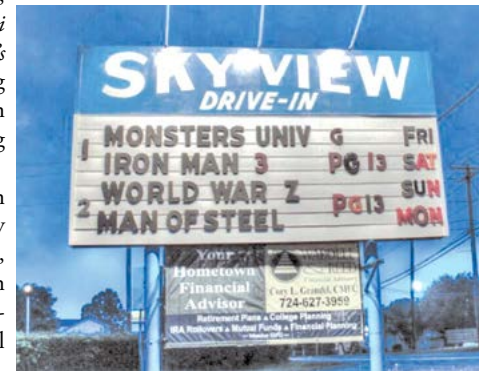
The Blue Horizon remained in operation until 1985. Like many drive-ins, it eventually succumbed to changing entertainment habits, rising operating costs, and competition from multiplex theaters and home video. The property has since been redeveloped, and Coastal Drilling East now occupies the site.

Most young people do not realize that I-79 to Morgantown was not open until the summer of 1975. The screen for the Blue Horizon was not visible from Route 19 on your way to Morgantown. However, from the elevated height of I-79, one could watch 20-30 seconds of that evening's films depending on how fast you were driving.

Back in the day, the Blue Horizon occasionally featured low-budget films that offered salacious scenes. One had to be careful on the way to Morgantown and be prepared for a cluster of brake lights if the timing was wrong (or right depending on your point of view).

Other Local Drive-ins

During those decades, a quick check of the newspaper revealed listings for Mauldin Drive-In in Richeyville, Fixes Drive-In in Brownsville, and the Route 19 Drive-In at the current site of Washington Ford. We gladly hit the road to take-in whatever movie was playing – whether it was some B-movie double feature or a Hollywood blockbuster. Afterall, the movie was just part of the overall experience of an evening beneath the stars.



SUMMER MOVIES COME ROARING BACK

For those who wondered whether movie theaters had become an endangered species, this summer offered a pretty convincing answer. Not yet. After years of streaming services and audiences becoming accustomed to watching new movies from the living-room couch, movie theaters suddenly became one of the busiest places in town again. The 2026 summer box office has topped \$4 billion, making it one of the strongest post-pandemic summers and putting it on pace to rival the best summers before COVID-19.

Movies such as *Toy Story 5*, *The Odyssey* and *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* have turned moviegoing into an event again. *Spider-Man* alone has become a phenomenal box-office success, while *The Odyssey* has demonstrated that audiences will still turn out in huge numbers for a movie that promises something bigger than a television screen can provide.

Even smaller movies have joined the party. Horror films and other unexpected hits have shown that audiences aren't interested only in familiar superheroes and sequels. Sometimes they want to be surprised.

There is also the theater itself. Movie houses have spent years reinventing the experience, replacing the old, straight-backed seats with oversized recliners, extra legroom and seats that practically invite you to settle in for the evening.

Many theaters now even offer heated or reserved seating, larger screens, improved sound systems and upgraded concessions that go well beyond popcorn and a box of candy. Some even bring food and drinks directly to your seat.

When the chair is comfortable enough to make you forget you paid to sit in it, the movie suddenly seems even better.

There is, however, a little fine print. Higher ticket prices, premium IMAX screenings and more expensive concessions mean box-office dollars are rising faster than attendance. In fact, overall attendance remains below 2019 levels.

Still, this summer has proved something important: People haven't forgotten the magic of going to the movies. There is something different about sitting in a dark theater with a crowd, hearing everyone laugh, gasp or cheer at the same time. For a few hours, at least, the couch lost its advantage.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

MEET AVA SIMONS



Ava is available by appointment only, Monday through Saturday, for extensions, highlights, color, cuts, and styles. Clients can call or text for availability. She asks clients to come with an inspiration photo and an open mind—then leave the rest to her to help bring their best look to life.

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Fierce Beauty Studio

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MEET AVA SIMONS — THE STYLIST BRINGING CONFIDENCE, CREATIVITY, AND GORGEOUS HAIR TO FIERCE BEAUTY STUDIO

Ava Simons has been behind the chair for more than a year after graduating from Laurel Business Institute, and she already brings a true passion for helping people feel confident and beautiful. She was drawn to hairstyling because she understands how much hair can affect the way someone feels about themselves. Ava loves being part of the moment when someone sees a change they have been dreaming about - whether it's healthier hair growth, a fresh color, a new style, or even a total transformation

One of Ava's favorite parts of being a stylist is seeing the excitement in her clients' eyes when they see the final result. Hair extensions are one of her specialties, and she especially enjoys working with sew in extensions.

In her opinion, a great client-stylist relationship starts with mutual interest, trust, and making sure every client feels comfortable throughout the process.

She is always excited to learn new techniques and continue growing in her craft. Her goal is to uplift her clients and help them look and feel their best. Before beginning a new service, she takes time for a thorough consultation, walking clients through the process, expectations, and pricing so they feel informed and comfortable.

When Ava is not creating beautiful looks at the salon, she enjoys working out, spending time outdoors, and making memories with her family. She especially loves her role as big sister to her three younger siblings.

She gives special credit to her stepmother, Elizabeth Simons, who encouraged her to attend beauty school and has always supported her dreams.

Ava is available by appointment only, Monday through Saturday, for extensions, highlights, color, cuts, and styles.

The Movie Trivia Challenge

MATCH THE ACTOR WITH THE FAMOUS WORLD LEADER THEY PORTRAYED ON FILM!

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☐	6. Ben Kingsley	F. Nelson Mandela
☐	7. Judi Dench	G. Abraham Lincoln
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☐	10. Cate Blanchett	J. Lyndon Johnson



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Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 09-15-26. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

DISCOVER GREENE

New Community Development Corporation Seeks Revitalization

Discover Greene, Inc is built on the premise that quality of life is not a secondary byproduct of economic development: it is the strategy.

The new Community Development Corporation (CDC) was formed last month to serve all of Greene County. It is the successor to Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful, whose board — composed of local civic, institutional, and business leaders — will formally reconstitute the organization under new leadership, a new name, and a substantially expanded mission.

The new organization is designed to serve as a catalyst and project manager for community-driven revitalization. They hope to bridge the gap between local vision and the institutional, financial, and technical capacity needed to realize it.

The group's mission is to advance the long-term vitality of Greene County by building community-rooted strategies, coordinating investment, and managing projects that make the county a more beautiful, connected, and economically resilient place to live, learn, and work.

Founders of the new entity are David Baily, John Throckmorton, and Jonathan Johnson; with financial support from The Heinz Endowments and advisement from The SWPA Hub, and Waynesburg University.

"We are working with regional experts to design a three-block section that can be something that can serve as an inspiration, regional attraction, and economic driver for Waynesburg and the University," said Board President David Baily.

The Jimmie's Lunch building located on the corner of Morris St. and High St in Waynesburg has been identified as the first property to become part of the community revitalization mission. The building was secured through the Heinz Endowment with help from The Way Community Center of Greene County.

The demolition of the additions to the structure has been completed, and the original structure has

been stabilized and is undergoing structural assessment. Although the reconstruction plans have not been finalized, the group hopes to have a culinary enterprise on the first floor and offices on the second floor. The site will serve as the cornerstone of revitalization to the Morris Street corridor.

Discover Greene's two-year start-up period is explicitly designed as a runway to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP), which provides multi-year operational and program funding for CDCs.

The group's founders are clear-eyed that Heinz Endowments' support is start-up capital, not a permanent operating subsidy. If successful, the NAP application this work will support provides five to six years of additional operational and program funding from the Commonwealth. **The ultimate goal is to synthesize this engagement into a County-wide vision document with actionable priorities.**

Rather than building its own program infrastructure, the organization's **theory of change relies on coordinating existing community assets** such as civic and church organizations; local businesses; the university; and county, borough and municipal governments.

A Grand Bash and a Fresh Start for Greene

As part of this new initiative, the tremendously successful **All-American Grand Bash** will be moved to the Greene County Fairgrounds. The event has traditionally been held in Morgantown at Mylan Park.

The Bash will be held in the Arena Barn on Saturday, October 3 and serve as a fundraising kickoff for Discover Greene. The event is a partnership between Discover Greene, the Waynesburg-Franklin Township Fire Department, and Mission for Miracles.

Only 2,500 tickets will be sold, so they will be gone quickly. For anyone who has not attended THE Bash, it is a day of excitement, entertainment, and community celebration like you've never seen.

The goal is to use these funds as part of a long-term strategy to identify economic stimulus and quality of life projects that will improve the county's livability for this and future generations.

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TOUGH DECISIONS WHEN SPENDING ACT 13 MONEY

Part II - Municipalities



This new interactive playground at Wana B Park was purchased with Act 13 funds.

Last month, we explored how Greene County has invested millions of dollars in Act 13 impact fee revenue to strengthen countywide services and infrastructure. This month, the focus shifts closer to home—to the municipalities where the drilling takes place. In our townships, Act 13 dollars have helped pave roads, replace bridges and culverts, purchase emergency equipment, improve parks, and upgrade public facilities. While each township has chosen projects to meet its own needs, together they tell a larger story of how natural gas impact fees have become a lasting investment in our communities.

The county has distributed portions of the funds to all 26 of its **municipalities**, allowing townships and boroughs to undertake projects of their own. Under Act 13's formula, municipalities receive more when they: have unconventional wells inside their borders, border municipalities with wells, have larger populations, and maintain local road mileage. That meant the largest municipal beneficiaries in Greene County generally aligned with the most active gas-development areas.

Five Greene County Townships Among Pennsylvania's Act 13 Leaders

When Pennsylvania created the Act 13 impact fee in 2012, few Greene County residents imagined that several of their townships would soon rank among the biggest recipients of the money in the entire Commonwealth.

According to a Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee review of Act 13 distributions through 2023, **five Greene County townships ranked among the 10 Pennsylvania municipalities receiving the most Act 13 money**. Center Township led the state, followed by Cumberland Township.

Morris, Franklin, and Morgan Townships also landed in the statewide top 10. It's a reflection of the tremendous natural-gas development that has taken place here.

The money has not simply sat in township accounts. Act 13 permits municipalities to use the funds for a broad range of purposes, including roads and other infrastructure, public safety, emergency preparedness, environmental projects, recreation and community facilities.

Center Township, the state's top municipal recipient through 2023, has used its resources in the context of the township's roads, public services and infrastructure. Its recent Act 13 distribution alone was substantial enough to provide meaningful support for township projects and reserves. The township has also pursued recreation improvements, including work associated with its parks and a new concession facility.

Cumberland Township has perhaps the most visible record of early Act 13 spending. Township allocations have supported roads and road equipment, police and emergency services, volunteer fire departments, park improvements and community facilities. Among the projects supported over the years were improvements at Wana B. Park and assistance for the King Coal softball field in Carmichaels.

Morris Township has directed its resources toward the practical needs that come with maintaining a large rural township such as roads, equipment, public safety and other infrastructure. The township's substantial distributions have given supervisors the ability to address capital needs without relying solely on property-tax revenue.

Franklin Township has likewise benefited from the impact fee. One example of the broader use of Act 13 resources in the township is the partnership involving the Franklin Township Sewer Authority and improvements associated with sanitary sewer infrastructure. In 2024, **\$160,344** was used for **Crawford Park Playground Improvements**, continuing the township's investment in quality-of-life projects.

Morgan Township, the fifth Greene County municipality in the statewide top 10 through 2023, illustrates another important aspect of the program. For a rural township, impact-fee revenue can provide the financial flexibility to tackle road, equipment, emergency-service and infrastructure needs that otherwise could require years of saving or additional local taxation.

The five statewide leaders are not the only municipalities to benefit from the program. The remaining townships and boroughs have received amounts ranging from relatively modest sums in municipalities with few or no qualifying wells to **hundreds of thousands of dollars over the life of the program**.

Richhill Township, for example, has been a significant recipient because of its gas development, while **Dunkard**, Greene and other townships have also received substantial annual allocations. In 2025 alone, **Greene Township** received more than \$136,000 from the portion of the distribution tied to municipalities with unconventional wells, while Richhill received more than \$101,000 from that component before additional population- and highway-mile distributions were added. Dunkard received more than \$214,000 from the same well-related component.

Smaller boroughs such as Rices Landing, which has no qualifying wells of its own, have received smaller annual distributions based primarily on population and highway miles.

The common thread among all these municipalities is that Act 13 has provided a source of revenue that can be directed toward very ordinary — but very important — pieces of community life. Roads have to be maintained. Fire departments need equipment. Parks need improvements. Buildings need repairs. Police and emergency services need support.

Ultimately, Act 13 is about what a rural community chooses to do when an unexpected source of revenue arrives and how those choices can leave a lasting mark on the landscape. Years from now, residents may not remember annual distribution totals, but they will still drive the roads, use the parks, and call 911.

Critics have pointed out local governments that become accustomed to receiving huge sums annually may struggle if distributions decline. They worry communities are not focusing on long-term economic diversification. Others have argued that impact fees do not fully account for the environmental pressures, housing changes, and infrastructure demands associated with extraction industries.

As we pointed out in Part I, Act 13 has not solved every challenge facing Greene County. It did not reverse demographic trends or guarantee future prosperity. But it gives local leaders something communities rarely receive—time, resources, and the ability to invest. Only time will tell whether that opportunity was fully maximized.



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IT'S ABOUT THAT TIME

By Dolly Throckmorton



White Bridge is a popular spot in the Garards Fort area.

Nothing kicks off the start of fall season like the **EQT Washington and Greene Counties' Covered Bridge Festival**. Always held on the third weekend of September, the festival will take place this year September 19-20. Hours are 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM each day, and parking and admission are free.

If you have never attended the festival, you are certainly missing out on food, handcrafted items, entertainment, history, and more. It has been a long-running event since 1971, and there's a reason visitors keep showing up year after year.

There are 30 covered bridges in all (23 in Washington and 7 in Greene), and 9 (7 in Washington and 2 in Greene) of those will be stops for the festival. You can take a driving tour of all of them at any time or block off time on either day of festival weekend to visit a few.

The 9 bridges featured during festival weekend are:

1. Brownlee Bridge is in Claysville at McGuffey Community Park. It was relocated to its current site in 2008 and started as a festival stop. It was noteworthy originally for its triangular-shaped windows, which I think would have been quite the talk back in its early days. In addition to vendors, there will be chainsaw carving and classic cars.

2. The Carmichaels Bridge is a huge fan-favorite in Greene County. It was restored in 1998 and crosses Muddy Creek. A fun fact is this bridge has been a stop since the festival's inception in 1971. In addition to crafts and food, they will have local entertainment and wagon rides. Carmichaels Bridge is also a huge site for photography with many graduates or local couples using the bridge as the perfect backdrop for senior pictures or engagement and wedding photos.

3. Ebenezer Bridge is in Mingo Creek County Park and is best known for its enormous selection of vendors and food. It is a must-see if you are looking for handmade goods or just feeling hangry. This bridge was relocated to Mingo Park in 1977 and resembles an old train caboosse. It was altered to tie in with the landscape of the area. If you're looking for fall décor and BBQ, make this a stop.

4. Henry Bridge is also in Mingo Creek County Park. It is approximately 1.5 miles from Ebenezer Bridge, so this is a "twofer" you could say. Henry Bridge has been a part of the festival since 1984. You'll find plenty of vendors here as well and note that the actual bridge site is not where the bridge is currently, but up the hill a bit.

5. Hughes Bridge is in Amwell Township. This bridge is believed to have replaced an earlier bridge due to a flood in 1888. If you have an interest in antique cars, make this a stop on your tour during festival weekend. Lots of free activities for the kiddos happen here too.

6. McClurg Bridge is in Hanover Township Park. At its original location, it was referred to as Devil's Den Bridge due to a hidden cave behind a waterfall. The bridge is the shortest in Washington County at 24 feet, and you will find plenty to see and eat here. There

may even be a vegetable contest.

7. Pine Bank Bridge is located at Meadowcroft Rockshelter & Historic Village. It was relocated in 1962 to avoid demolition in Jollytown (Gilmore Township). It is one of the only surviving bridges to use the king post truss system, which is a simple support system using minimal materials. It was used in shorter bridges. You won't find vendors and food like the other stops, but there is much to see at the Historical Village.

8. White Bridge is in the Garards Fort area and is the longest in Greene County at 77 feet. This is another fan-favorite for Greene County. Park, and golf carts will take you to the entrance if you like. Vendors, food, and civil war reenactments make this a popular stop. A survey completed in 1990 said the bridge was built in 1900. However, a resident born in 1911 said this bridge didn't begin construction until 1919. I think I will take that resident's statement as fact. Watching the construction as an 8-year-old would certainly leave a lasting impression.

9. Wyit Sprowls Bridge is in East Finley Township Park. It was relocated in 2002 due to subsidence. The bridge is named after the property owner where the bridge was originally built. It is located right in front of Jordan (one-room) Schoolhouse, which visitors can tour as well. You can learn what old-time grain thrashing is (separating the kernels from the plant I think) and enjoy apple cider from the press.

The Autumnal Equinox for 2026 arrives on Tuesday, September 22, at 8:04 PM, according to *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. Festival weekend is the kick-off to everything fall for our area. Whether it's to start Christmas shopping, find fall décor, support local artisans, enjoy the beautiful weather (this festival happens rain or shine by the way), listen to local entertainment, learn a little history, or eat until you can't breathe, the EQT Washington Greene Counties Covered Bridge Festival will certainly deliver. Get out there, folks!

LINK FOR MORE INFO:

Washington & Greene Counties' Covered Bridge Festival | Pennsylvania Fall Festival

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SENATOR CAMERA BARTOLOTTA ANNOUNCES, “FARMERS FOR BARTOLOTTA” COALITION

Senator Camera Bartolotta has announced the formation of “Farmers for Bartolotta,” a growing coalition of agricultural leaders, farmers, and small business owners united in support of her re-election campaign and her ongoing efforts to strengthen southwestern Pennsylvania’s agricultural sector, the Commonwealth’s top industry.

According to a release from the Senator’s office, “Farmers and agricultural leaders from Greene, Washington, and Beaver Counties have long praised Senator Bartolotta’s steadfast support for the men and women who feed our communities, as well as her work to reduce burdens on farmers, combat government overreach, cut red tape, protect farmland, expand property tax relief, and invest in the next generation of producers”.

“Southwestern Pennsylvania’s farmers and agricultural leaders work hard every day to feed our communities, and they deserve a state government that has their back, not one that stands in their way,” said Senator Bartolotta. “I’m honored to have the support of so many farmers who share my commitment to protecting our farmland, reducing taxes and regulations, and making sure the next generation can afford to carry on the family tradition.”

“Senator Bartolotta has a strong record of championing Pennsylvania’s agricultural community. She has consistently highlighted National Agriculture Week and emphasized that Pennsylvania agriculture helps feed the nation and the world. She has secured Pennsylvania Ag & Youth Grant funding for local organizations to support agricultural education, workforce development, and 4H, FFA, and similar youth programs. These investments help prepare the next generation of farmers and producers.”

“To ease the strain on farmers and protect the food supply, Senator Bartolotta has backed legislation and regulatory reforms that cut unnecessary mandates on farms, especially smaller, family-run operations. She has worked to streamline permitting, reporting, and inspection requirements so farmers can spend more time in the field and less time on government paperwork”.

The release continued, “Senator Bartolotta has also led efforts to protect productive farmland from incompatible development. She sponsored legislation, including Senate Bills 798 and 336, to safeguard prime agricultural soils from large-scale solar projects, and is working to protect farmland and livestock from irresponsible data center development. She co-sponsored Senate Bill 1345, which empowers local municipalities to place moratoriums on data centers and establish clear standards on issues such as noise, power generation, and setbacks to protect rural communities.

“Understanding that high property taxes threaten family farms, she has supported measures that provide property tax relief and ensure rural landowners are treated fairly. She backed changes to well-depletion tax policy that aligned Pennsylvania with federal guidelines and helped ease the local tax burden”.

“Bill Black, and his wife, Sheila, are native Greene Countians and retired agricultural teachers and farmers residing in Washington County. “When we approached Camera and her staff about the need for well-depletion tax policy to increase savings for farmers, she took the lead, carried it across the finish line, and secured it in last year’s budget deal. That’s why we are proud to support her for re-election,” Black said.

The release states, “Senator Bartolotta is also a strong advocate for rural infrastructure, services, and healthcare. She has supported critical investments in local roads, bridges, and broadband to expand internet connectivity which are all essential to modern farm operations and marketing. She introduced Senate Bill 25 to grant nurse practitioners full practice authority, which would significantly expand access to healthcare and telemedicine in rural communities across Greene County.”

“For more than a decade, Senator Bartolotta has regularly visited with farm families and youth exhibitors at the Greene County, Washington County, Jacktown, and West Alexander Fairs. As summer projects and 4H and FFA programs wrap up, she congratulates all participating youth on a successful year and thanks them for their dedication to agriculture”.

Farmers for Bartolotta continues to grow as more producers, agribusiness owners, and rural residents join the coalition. If you would like to be part of this effort, please contact Hunter Muro at hunter@cameraforsenate.com.

VOTE FOR CAMERA BARTOLOTTA ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Proven Leadership, Proven Results



Since her election to the Pennsylvania Senate in 2014, Senator Bartolotta has built a reputation as a tireless advocate for economic growth, workforce development, law enforcement, and energy independence. Representing communities across Greene, Washington, and Beaver Counties, she has championed legislation that strengthens Pennsylvania's economy, supports working families, and restores common sense to government.

She continues to work to:

- ✓ Lower energy costs and protect energy jobs
- ✓ Hold data centers accountable
- ✓ Advance property tax reform
- ✓ Equip law enforcement with needed tools and resources

Camera will always stand firm in defending Pennsylvania's coal, oil, and natural gas workers against Jodi Borello's Green New Deal agenda and the Center for Coalfield Justice's efforts to eliminate their jobs.

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STATE POLICE HOST DAY CAMP

By Becci Watson



Participants inspecting a State Police Helicopter.

The Pennsylvania State Police recently hosted the first Sunny Day Camp at the Greene County Fairgrounds. One of only sixteen locations across the United States, the Day Camp for Special Needs adults and children was a great success.

State Police, along with local and area law enforcement officers, spent the day interacting with these individuals in a variety of ways. The camp was based on the principles of their Cadet Program.

Trooper Melinda Bondarenka, Troop B Community Affairs Officer, and Director of Greene County Emergency Services, Richie Policz, coordinated the event to allow individuals, parents, caretakers, and volunteers access to First Responders.

Allegheny Life Flight, fire trucks, ambulances and police cars were open for up close inspections. A search and rescue team (SERT) with a highly trained canine was on hand. A Mountain Rescue Ranger demonstrated how a drone is used to support first responders in search operations.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation had a fur display which garnered a great deal of interest. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission offered information on aquatic animals and had a fun fishing game to play for prizes.

The troopers who attended with their majestic horses were a crowd favorite. Also on hand was a member of a bomb squad who discussed an explosive ordnance disposal robot that disarms bombs and suspicious devices. Greene County Sheriff Marcus Simms, his staff, and K9 Deputy Snoop were also present at the event.

Agencies like Pathways, Pittsburgh Poison Control and the Mental Health Association of Washington County were on hand to discuss various support services that empower these individuals in their everyday lives.

Morris Township Fire Chief Jeff Lash grilled burgers and dogs for lunch. Greene County Human Services and Walmart employees helped serve lunch to the large group. An extra treat of cotton candy and shaved ice was served after lunch as a cool down to a hot, busy day.

The newly crowned queens and princesses from the Greene County Fair and Rain Day Festival added to the festivities by helping to direct individuals to each station. D.J. Dave Plavi was on hand providing the music for the event.

The afternoon ended with each participant receiving a medal and a certificate. Cheers, applause and shouts of encouragement for each individual and the first responders who made this day possible echoed throughout the hall.

"It was a very successful day of many groups coming together to provide this unique experience for our Special Need Individuals in Greene County," stated Richie Policz, "I look forward to working with the PSP in the future to bring other programs like this to our area."

A special thanks goes out to sponsors of this event: Hello 2 Hope, Baily Insurance, HOT LLC (Fire Extinguisher Sales Service & Training), American Legion Post 954 Auxiliary, First Federal, Michael's Auto Sales, Raising Cane's, Chuck's Collision Shop, Pathways, Family Ties, Ear'n Park, Waynesburg Walmart, Washington Sam's Club and, of course, the Pennsylvania State Police.

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Brandy Carnahan, Cheryl Block, Matt Rychtarsky

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CURB MARKETS: THE ORIGINAL BUY LOCAL MOVEMENT

This month, we continue our new feature **Backroads Redux**. The series is a retelling of stories published nearly half a century ago by a Waynesburg Central Publications class.

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.

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 Keven H. Holleran about the **Old Curb Market in Waynesburg**. He had interviewed a well-known local author, Ruth Stewart Schenley.*

During the darkest days of the Depression, the local curb market represented more than a place to buy tomatoes or eggs. It embodied a simple idea—that neighbors could help neighbors. Farmers found customers, families found affordable food, and small towns discovered that in hard times community matters.

Although the idea of farmers selling produce directly from wagons along city streets dated back to the 1800s, curb markets enjoyed a major revival during the 1930s. In many communities, local civic groups or chambers of commerce organized the markets.

The Waynesburg Curb Market started in the early 1930s on Church Street (the alley to the east of the courthouse).

According to Holleran's article, Mrs. Schenley was a member of one of the affluent families in town that organized the market. In addition, beloved Waynesburg College President, Dr. Paul R. Stewart, was heavily involved in the event.

This group of philanthropists were concerned about "those of lower economic conditions." These women would work most of the day on Friday preparing for the Saturday morning market. They coordinated vendors, cooked, and baked for the expected crowds.

The farmers and organizers usually set up at 5:30 to arrange their products and produce. By 6:00 a.m., the first customers were already milling about. Mrs. Schenley related the story that one particular customer was always first in line.

Mr. Tate operated a shoeshine and hat-blocking parlor behind the courthouse. Tate

knew that certain items would "go fast," so he quickly grabbed them on the way to open his parlor. He would return two or three times throughout the morning paying with the nickels and dimes from his customers.

Two sisters were considered the featured presenters at the market. "Mrs. Chambers and Mrs. Fry always brought an interesting assortment of prepared foods: cakes, pies, homemade bread, rolls, dressed chickens, baked beans, and all kind of cookies." The two ladies "had won many prizes at fairs around Greene County."

Many of the local women were intimidated by the sisters' talents and stuck to bringing garden and orchard products. **Products such as berries, apples, peaches, and plums, were sold by the half-gallon, gallon, peck, or bushel. Vegetables were sold in bunches.**

Another interesting aspect of the story involved a captive audience at the market.... literally. Those who were involuntary guests of the sheriff's office had a bird's eye view of the festivities (albeit through the bars). At times, friendly, good-natured teasing took place as patrons would relate how good the baked goods were to those incarcerated.

I'm not sure if the prisoners viewed it the same way.

By the mid-1950s, grocery store chains and a booming economy made the Curb Markets obsolete. **Holleran's article, written toward the end of the 70s, could not have foreseen the resurgence of such markets.** Although today's venues are more about nostalgia and healthy eating, the concept of community still plays a major part in these markets.

THE FARMERS MARKET: OLD IDEA, NEW CROWD

There was a time when a farmers market wasn't something you "visited." It was simply where you went because you needed tomatoes, potatoes, eggs or whatever else the garden had decided to produce that week. In rural America, buying food locally wasn't a lifestyle choice. It was called Tuesday.

Farmers markets have changed considerably over the years, but the idea behind them remains remarkably familiar. Early markets were practical places where farmers brought what they had grown and shoppers bought what they needed. Farmers markets have a long history in America, dating to at least 1730, when Lancaster, PA, established its central public market.

Today, however, the farmers market has undergone something of a makeover.

The old market might have featured a pickup truck and a farmer who had been awake since before sunrise. Today's version may feature handmade soaps, sourdough bread, jams, candles, flowers, crafts, specialty foods and enough varieties of zucchini to make one wonder whether somebody has been operating a clandestine squash operation.

And that is part of the resurgence.

The modern farmers market has become more than a place to buy produce. In many rural communities, it has become a social gathering. People come for fresh food, but they also come to see neighbors, visit with vendors, or listen to music.

Given recent events in the news, there is also something appealing about knowing where your food came from. At a supermarket, a tomato may have traveled thousands of miles before reaching the produce aisle. At a farmers' market, the person selling it may have dirt under his or her fingernails from the field where it grew.

The numbers tell part of the story. According to the USDA, the number of farmers markets in the United States increased from 1,755 in 1994 to 8,771 in 2019.

In rural communities, their importance may go beyond economics. Sure, they give small farmers another avenue to sell their products directly to customers, but underneath the craft booths, baked goods and social-media posts, the basic transaction hasn't changed much. A farmer grows something. A neighbor buys it. Money stays closer to home.

And somewhere, an oversized zucchini is still waiting for somebody to take it home.



GreeneScene
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

CONTEST

WHERE IS THIS?

AN ANCHOR SITS FAR FROM THE SEA,
LOOK THROUGH THE YARD—WHERE COULD IT BE?

AUGUST'S "WHERE IS THIS" ANSWER: WADE STREET, WAYNESBURG PA.

SCAN TO ENTER!



Where is this?: _____
Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Town of Residence: _____

ONLINE OR BY MAIL

Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 09-15-26. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

CARMICHAELS Will Hold Its ANNUAL 9/11 MEMORIAL

Since 2002, Carmichaels has honored the victims and heroes of the September 11 attacks every year with a Remembrance Ceremony on the town square.

This year's program will begin on that solemn date at precisely 8:46 a.m. with the sounding of the fire whistle marking the exact time the first plane hit the World Trade Center.

The ceremony started when former Carmichaels Boro Secretary, Mary Lewis contacted the Carmichaels and Cumberland Township Volunteer Fire Company and the American Legion Post 400 to form a committee to plan the remembrance each year.

This year's featured speaker is Mr. Tim Solobay, former Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner, and former member of the PA House of Representatives and the PA State Senate. He is currently the Fire Chief of Canonsburg VFD.

"A Fireman's Prayer" will be read, followed by the ringing of the bell for the last call of a fireman. "Tears of a Cop" will be read by the police department. Musical selections will be performed by the Carmichaels Area Band and the American Legion Post 400 Band.

Finally, a 21-gun salute provided by the American Legion will pay tribute to the fallen.

NEVER FORGET: A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

While millions of Americans watched the 9/11 attacks unfold on television, the Marisa family of Waynesburg was living every parent's nightmare. Waynesburg College basketball coach Rudy Marisa and his wife, Jackie, knew two of their sons were working near the sites. Kurt was inside the Pentagon. Another, Kent, was in New York City next to the World Trade Center.

The family waited desperately for hours before they received the news that both were safe. Their experience drew national attention and forever connected the family to one of the darkest days in American history.

In addition, our local children who watched television in elementary school classrooms are now parents themselves. High school students from that day are approaching middle age. That's why this anniversary matters.

The 25th anniversary is not simply about remembering the past. It is about ensuring the next generation understands why Americans promised they would "Never Forget."

Greene County's response reflected the best of small-town America. Volunteer firefighters stood ready in case they were called. Churches filled with people seeking comfort and prayer. American flags appeared on front porches and businesses overnight.

Communities gathered, not because they had all the answers, but because they needed one another.

In the weeks and months that followed, many young men and women from Greene County answered another call to service. Some enlisted in the military. Others joined local police departments, emergency medical services or volunteer fire companies. The attacks reshaped countless lives and influenced career choices for an entire generation.

Remembering is more than observing a moment of silence. It's about telling the stories of the firefighters who climbed the stairs of the World Trade Center while others fled. It is remembering police officers, emergency medical personnel and ordinary citizens who placed others before themselves.

It is honoring the passengers aboard United Flight 93, whose courage prevented even greater loss of life. Their actions, only a short drive from Greene County, remain one of the most extraordinary examples of selflessness in American history.

It is also remembering the military members who served during the decades that followed, many of whom came from our communities.

Around here, we have long recognized the importance of honoring those who serve.

Every generation inherits stories that define a nation. Generation X remembers September 11.

Now it is their turn to tell those stories. As time passes, anniversaries become less about those who remember firsthand and more about those learning the history for the first time. The responsibility shifts from witnessing to teaching.

Twenty-five years later, the smoke has long cleared, the skylines have been rebuilt and new generations have come of age. But the promise Americans made in those difficult days remains unchanged.

Not because we wish to relive the tragedy, but because remembering the courage, compassion and unity that followed reminds us of who we are at our very best.

WASHINGTON COUNTY
PRAYER
GATHERING



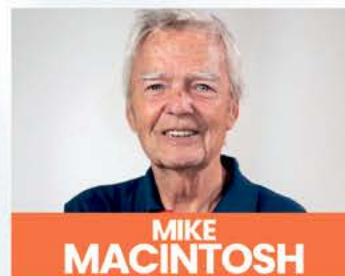
SEPTEMBER 13
1PM-6PM
WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
2151 N MAIN ST, WASHINGTON, PA 15301



WHAT TO EXPECT

- FREE Community Meal & Special Guest Speakers
- Baptisms On-Site
- Worship with Christian Recording Artists
- Neighbor 2 Neighbor Coat Distribution

GUEST SPEAKERS



MIKE
MACINTOSH

Founder, United States Prayer Force



ROCCO
WELSH

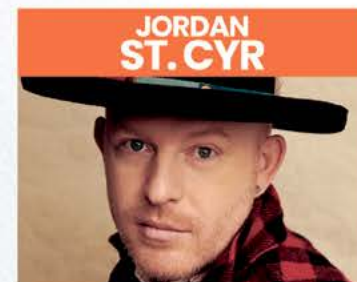
2-Time All-American, Penn State University

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Christian Recording Artist & Worship Leader



JORDAN
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Dove Award-Nominated Christian Recording Artist

PRAYERGATHERING.COM

A PIECE OF MY MIND

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



Tower of Voices, Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, PA.

Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day?”

It's hard to believe that 25 years have passed since September 11, 2001. For so many of us, that moment remains forever frozen in time.

For me, the day began much like any other. I wasn't working, so my morning was filled with the ordinary routines of a young mother, completely unaware of how profoundly that day would change everything. My daughter was already on the school bus, and my infant son sat in his high-chair eating cereal. I was working on laundry, with the television playing in the background.

Then, suddenly, every television broadcast turned to breaking news. It didn't take long for us to realize that our beloved nation was under attack. Many of us watched in disbelief as the images unfolded on live television. At 9:03 a.m., United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center.

Our ordinary routines were instantly replaced by panic, confusion, and fear. We continued watching as the unimaginable unfolded before us. At 9:59 a.m., the South Tower collapsed. Reports of another attack at the Pentagon followed, and the nation struggled to comprehend what was happening. The Federal Aviation Administration shut down U.S. airspace and ordered all aircraft operating in the country to land.

Then came the story of Flight 93.

United Airlines Flight 93 was traveling from Newark, NJ, to San Francisco, CA, when four terrorists hijacked the plane as part of the coordinated attacks taking place across the United States. Through phone calls to family members and loved ones, passengers learned that other hijacked planes had struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. They realized their own aircraft was likely being used as a weapon. And

they decided to fight back.

Led by passengers including Todd Beamer, Mark Bingham, Tom Burnett, and Jeremy Glick, a group of passengers and crew members attempted to regain control of the airplane. Their courage prevented the hijackers from reaching their intended target. At 10:03 a.m., Flight 93 crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. All 40 passengers and crew members aboard were killed.

Today, the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County honors those 40 individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Visiting the memorial is a powerful and emotional experience. The quiet landscape encourages reflection and gives visitors an opportunity to learn the personal stories behind one of the most tragic days in American history.

By preserving the site and honoring those who died there, the memorial ensures that their sacrifice will not be forgotten. It reminds future generations that courage can emerge in the most unexpected places, and that even in moments of unimaginable fear, ordinary people can choose to stand together and protect others.

I visited the Flight 93 Memorial in May 2024. I walked along the flight path, read the names of each passenger and crew member on the Wall of Names, and saw the boulder marking the point of impact. I also stood at the base of the Tower of Voices.

The Tower of Voices stands 93 feet tall and contains 40 wind chimes, each representing one of the passengers and crew members who lost their lives that day. When the wind moves through the tower, the chimes create a haunting yet peaceful harmony.

So, here's a piece of my mind...as we pause to remember September 11, we must never forget the cost of human life, or the courage of those who "went down like heroes in that Pennsylvania field."

The Flight 93 Memorial is only a short drive for many of us and a visit there makes it easier to understand the enormity of what happened and the extraordinary courage displayed by a group of ordinary people.

When I stood at the base of the Tower of Voices, the wind began to blow. The chimes came together in one beautiful, peaceful harmony. I closed my eyes and listened. For just a moment, I could almost hear those words that have come to symbolize the courage of Flight 93- "Let's Roll."

Twenty-five years later, we remember. We honor. And we will never forget.

HOW WE NEVER FORGET - 9/11 MEMORIES IN AMERICA TODAY

By Emma Bates

It was a bright, blue September morning. That's what nearly everyone remembers first. The day that became known as one of our nation's darkest started out as a cloudless, sunny day. But this infamous day, memorialized by so many, is one that I did not experience for myself.

They say history is written by the victorious, but what does victory really look like in the face of senseless evil, unknown fear, and changes that forever both united and altered the way our country functions? Each one of us has the duty to preserve history the way it really happened, all memory gaps, confusion, and personal differences intact.

That is why the people who shared their most intimate memories of September 11, 2001 with me were not renowned international journalists, military personnel, or even survivors of the direct acts of terror taken to the primary target areas.

No, the subjects who shed the most light on this fateful day were, at the time, children. These now-working professionals were once students sitting in their classrooms in shock, confusion, fear, and sadness, emotions universal to the human race.

Nurse practitioner Valerie Matychus places herself right back in time as she remembers the commotion that began around the time the first tower collapsed her sophomore year of high school.

"This was the time before everyone had cell phones, but we did have TVs in the classrooms," she explains. "At the time, I didn't know much about politics or what would lead someone to commit such horrible acts of violence. All the teachers were instructed to turn off their TVs so we couldn't see what was happening."

Rather than leaving the students in the dark, however, Valerie's history teacher, Mr. Kramer, decided to leave the TV on because "what was happening in the world right now was more important than anything he could teach from a book...he told us this would be something we'd remember for the rest of our lives, and he wasn't wrong!"

"I will forever remember in the days after the attacks, all of the videos shown and audio clips from the survivors and all of the memorials that appeared overnight around the country," Valerie states of the aftermath.

"I remember the President addressing the nation about the attacks and this feeling of overwhelming sadness from everyone, everywhere. Time just felt like time stopped, and it was the only thing everyone could focus on or discuss."

Meanwhile, another fellow classmate was seated just a hallway down when the tragedy struck.

"I was in Mrs. Gabaletto's room when we found out," shares Julia Pascuzo. "She was a very humorous teacher and always made things light. That day, when she got off a call on her desk phone, I remember her saying, 'Children, our nation is under attack.'"

Julia went on to explain that the students didn't take this statement seriously at first. But that day, the horrific news was all too real, and the nation truly was under attack.

Reflecting on those moments today, Julia remembers how differently every teacher handled the events that preceded that day. Those wildly varying approaches have given her more empathy both in her personal life and in her career as a public defender.

"One teacher stopped classes for the day just so we could all talk about what was happening," she says. Others simply turned on the projector and resumed notetaking as usual. "It has made me realize that not everybody processes things just like I do, and that doesn't mean they're wrong."

Every generation has a moment that individuals can collectively remember specifics of the experience up to the clothing worn, the music playing, and the people nearby: the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Kennedy's assassination, the start of the COVID pandemic.

Valerie recalls the emotions she and her classmates experienced around the Shanksville plane crash: "I remember being a little afraid because when the plane crashed in Pennsylvania. I thought maybe something could hit our area, too."

But thanks to the brave individuals aboard Flight 93, Pennsylvania did not experience the attack that could have come. Their sacrifice, and those of military personnel, first responders and the nearly 3,000 civilians ensured that freedom survived. This fall, as we "Never Forget," let's also remember that preserving our history and pursuing truth is something that is always worth fighting for.



BANANA PEANUT BUTTER CHEESECAKE AKA “THE ELVIS”

By Leigh Ann Shaner, Innkeeper of The Denny House



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease an 8-inch cake pan and line the bottom with a circle of waxed paper.
2. Combine graham cracker crumbs, 3 tablespoons sugar, melted butter, and $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon banana extract in a bowl until mixture holds together; press into the bottom of the prepared cake pan, using a second 8-inch cake pan to press crust firmly into pan.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until crust is lightly browned, about 8 minutes; set aside to cool.
4. Pour about 1 inch water into the bottom of a double boiler; bring to a boil. Place peanut butter chips and half-and-half in the top of the double boiler; set over bottom of the boiler (boiling water shouldn't touch top boiler). Stir until chips are melted and mixture is smooth; set aside to cool.
5. Place cream cheese in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment; beat until smooth. Increase speed to medium; beat in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar. Beat in eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition until fully incorporated. Beat in bananas, lemon juice, remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon banana extract, and vanilla extract, stopping occasionally to scrape the sides of the bowl. Beat in the peanut butter chip mixture until smooth and even; pour into the crust.
6. Place cheesecake in a large baking pan; add enough hot water to come most of the way up the sides of the cheesecake pan.
7. Bake in the preheated oven until filling is set, about 1 hour. Turn the oven off, open the door, and let the cheesecake cool slowly in the oven for 1 hour.
8. Run a knife around the cheesecake's edge, then invert the pan onto a wire rack. Place a dish towel on the bottom of the pan and warm it by rubbing the towel with a hot water-filled tea kettle. Slowly remove the pan. Place a serving platter on top, then use the wire rack to flip the cheesecake onto the platter. Refrigerate for 8 hours.

Ingredients

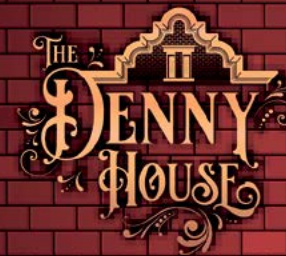
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|---|---|
| 1 cup graham cracker crumbs | 3 (8-ounce) packages of cream cheese, at room temperature |
| 3 tablespoons white sugar | $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white sugar |
| 3 tablespoons butter, melted | 3 eggs, at room temperature |
| 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoons banana extract, divided | 2 large ripe bananas, mashed |
| 1 cup peanut butter chips | 1 tablespoon lemon juice |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ cup half-and-half | $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla extract |

Enjoy baking your own Banana Peanut Butter Cheesecake, aka “The Elvis,” or visit The Denny House and treat yourself to a slice of this delicious dessert!

Thursday, September 3rd: Enjoy Devon Cowell as Johnny Cash.

Friday, September 4th: Experience Devon Cowell as Elvis

Come for the music, stay for the cheesecake—and enjoy a sweet taste of Elvis at The Denny House!



CARRIAGE HOUSE

SUMMER SCHEDULE

OPEN EVERY THURSDAY FOR DINNER 5 PM - 9 PM

MUSIC

- SEPT 3RD** - BBQ Pulled Pork, Mac & Cheese, & Coleslaw..... Devon Cowell as Elvis
SEPT 10TH - Italian Sausage Sandwich & Pasta Salad..... Steve Halow
SEPT 17TH - Prime Rib, Roasted Mini Potatoes, & Brussels Sprouts..... Ferd Dolfi
SEPT 24TH - Stuffed Chicken Breasts with Pierogies & Broccoli..... Just 4 Kicks Band
OCT 1ST - Prime Rib, Roasted Potatoes & Vegetable..... Two to Win

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

MUSIC

- SEPT 4TH** - BBQ Pulled Pork, Mac & Cheese, & Coleslaw..... Devon Cowell as Johnny Cash
OCT 2ND - Closed for Private Party

- SUNDAY, OCT 25TH** - Halloween Tea Party, 1pm.....Reservations Required
SATURDAY, NOV 14TH - One-Act Play Dinner Theater, 6pm.....Reservations Required

OPEN 5 PM - 9 PM MUSIC 6 PM - 8 PM TOURS & EVENT BOOKING AVAILABLE
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ONE OF OUR READERS PROVIDES A “REQUIEM FOR THE HOLLOW”

I grew up near Graysville in Greene County. I haven't lived in the area for a number of years. Every time I return, I'm shocked by another road closure and more empty houses of families I once knew. I wrote this poem after one of my last visits.

Home

By Jodi M. Richards (Gorby)

The road is empty and overgrown
Remnants of families who once filled these homes
Always beautiful, through the eyes of a child
now yards are forgotten and growing wild
The weeds are tall and hide the paths
To broken doors with jagged glass.
The air still crisp, fresh and clean
The fields are endless, but not as green
Memories are strong, felt in my bones
My familiar places, strangers now roam
The loss feels big and leaves me hollow
Each time I visit, less tears follow
beauty surrounds me, all in the view
What once was here can be recalled by few
Soil will stay, my tree will grow
Family of the past that no one will know
The garden out back, pet graves in the woods
Defining an era where a home once stood
Forever I leave a piece of my spirit
I say my goodbye with no one to hear it.



Photo taken during the Rain Day Fair

GREENE COUNTY FAIR

ROLLIN' COAL

SEPT 12, 2026 - 7PM

CLASSES:

- DUEL FUEL - SUPER STOCK / PRO STOCK
- WHEEL STANDING TWO WHEEL DRIVE TRUCKS
- BIG RIG SEMIS
- RENEGADE DIESEL 4X4 TRUCKS
- STREET DIESEL 4X4 TRUCKS

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PIRATES DON'T WEAR PASTELS

The Pittsburgh Pirates' iconic black-and-gold colors are among the most recognizable in professional sports, but they weren't the club's original colors.

The franchise, founded in 1882, initially wore blue and gray uniforms. After officially becoming the Pirates in the early 1890s, the team experimented with various color combinations, including red, white, and blue, as was common during baseball's early years.

The historic change came in 1948 when Branch Rickey had the team adopt black and gold as their official colors. The decision reflected the official colors of the **City of Pittsburgh**, which trace their origins to the coat of arms of British statesman William Pitt, the city's namesake.

The Steelers (who shared the Pirates' nickname until 1940) had worn the colors since their first season in 1933. The **Penguins** changed from blue and white to black and gold in 1980.

Today, Pittsburgh is the only major U.S. city where all three major professional sports teams share the same official color scheme.



LAST MONTH'S PIRATE TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The Pirates' original name was the Alleghenys
2. The team got its name when they "stole" one of Philadelphia's Players
3. Ryan O'Hearn recently set the team record for RBI in a single game (10).
4. Ralph Kiner led the league in homers from 1946-1952
5. The Waner brothers got the names Big and Little Poison from a Brooklyn sports reporter
6. Gene Clines played centerfield in the Pirates' historic non-white lineup in 1971.
7. Bing Crosby was a very active minority owner of the club for over 30 years.



ATTENTION PARENTS AND COACHES!

Do you know of an achievement in sports and would like to see it shared in Hometown Heritage? Email it to: sports@directresults.us.

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.*



MORE PLAY, LESS PAY

I'll admit it. I'm not an avid soccer fan. I enjoy all sports, but soccer has never been at the top of my list. For men my age, soccer was not a thing when we were growing up — especially in Greene County.

Still, I found myself surprisingly entertained by this year's World Cup and, more importantly, by some of the conversation surrounding it. Several analysts and former players made observations about the way young soccer players are developed in the United States that really resonated with me.

Their concerns echoed something I have been writing about for years: **Participation shouldn't come with a price tag, and a child's chance to discover what he or she can do on a playing field shouldn't depend on the size of a parent's bank account.**

That isn't just a soccer issue. It's a youth sports issue and one worth talking about, again. Ever since AAU teams, private academies, and shoe companies took over basketball in the U.S., the best players in the NBA come from other countries. (The top four players in the MVP voting were all international players).

People flock to see Japanese, Dominican, and Venezuelan players in MLB stadiums. The latter two countries are disproportionately represented (according to population) on major league rosters.

Because I grew up watching those sports, I was well aware of their current state. However, I never really thought about how our feeder system affected our soccer status in the world.

Just after the American soccer team was defeated by Belgium, I was listening to ESPN Radio. I heard something that struck a familiar chord with me. **Landon Donovan, one of the greatest American soccer players in history, offered a powerful hypothesis on why our soccer failures continue.**



He was talking about his own story. He grew up with a single mother who earned \$34,000 a year while raising three children. Donovan said he would never have made it through the club system. His mother would not have been able to afford the fees and travel. Luckily for him, someone eventually stepped in and paid for his participation.

Think about that for a moment. One of the few great soccer players the United States ever produced only had a chance because of the largesse of family friend.

Alex Morgan, a Women's World Cup champion, also pointed toward the youth system as our problem. "I think it's all about the youth system. It's been made a business." That word — **business** — is important because soccer isn't supposed to be a business to a 7-year-old. It's supposed to be a game.

With more than 340 million people,

enormous financial resources and some of the world's best athletic talent, why isn't the United States better at soccer? There are plenty of answers. But in my opinion, the biggest one starts with the greed that has taken over youth sports.

Just like most of our sports, American youth soccer has increasingly become a pay-to-play proposition. For families seeking the highest levels of competition, the costs include club fees, coaching, uniforms, registrations, hotels, gas and even air travel. What begins as a child's interest in kicking a ball around becomes a substantial financial commitment.

Ultimately, there is something simple about soccer (maybe not the rules for old guys like me). But there is a ball, a patch of grass, a few kids, and a goal — which can be two cones on the ground, or whatever else happens to be available.

No expensive equipment is required. No set of bases. No helmets or shoulder pads. Just a ball and enough room to kick it around. For the rest of the world, that's how soccer begins. In America, we've somehow managed to make it considerably more complicated and expensive.

A child in Brazil doesn't need a travel league to fall in love with soccer. A kid in Argentina doesn't need to understand the economics of club soccer before learning how to dribble. In countless communities around the world, children grow up playing wherever there is enough space. The neighborhood becomes the academy. There is no tryout fee, no hotel bill, no six-hour drive to a tournament. Just soccer.

That informal environment may be more important than we realize. When children play pickup games, they don't necessarily play the way a coach tells them to play. They experiment and try things that might not work. That's how creativity develops. That's how instinct develops. It's how a player learns to solve problems without waiting for a coach to tell him/her what to do.

But in America, at least we have become very good at *organizing* sports. We schedule everything. We travel hundreds of miles looking for better competition, and unfortunately coaches are chosen by which dad (or mom) is the best fundraiser.

I just don't believe the best way to develop young athletes is to organize every minute of their athletic lives. Sometimes kids simply need to play. And they need to be able to play regardless of their parents' income. **Only about 2% of children playing organized soccer come from households earning less than \$50,000 a year.** How many potentially great players are we never seeing?

Think about the old neighborhood baseball games. Kids showed up at a field. Somebody brought a ball. Somebody else found a few cardboard boxes. The game begins. The same was true of the asphalt basketball courts in low-income communities. Kids showed up, called their own fouls, and developed toughness and learned hard lessons.

To be fair, pay-to-play isn't the entire explanation for America's athletic struggles. However, some of the other problems are a little more societally complex.

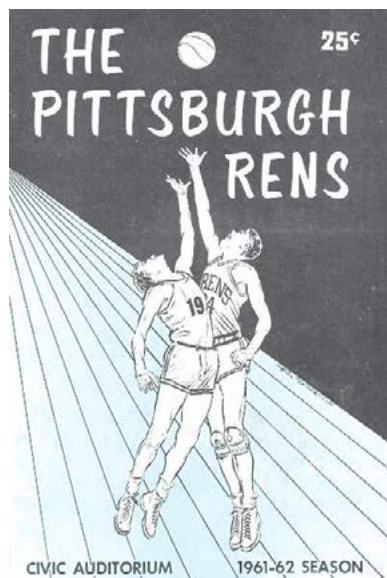
Fixing youth soccer won't automatically turn the United States into Argentina or Spain. But expanding access gives America something it desperately needs: More chances to find exceptional players. And that's the point.

The rest of the soccer world has spent generations allowing the game to grow from the bottom up. Children play because everybody plays. They play because it's inexpensive. They play because it's part of their culture. Unfortunately, America has tried to build soccer from the top down.

Perhaps we need to go back to the beginning. Back to the neighborhood. Back to the schoolyard. Back to the vacant lot.

THE GREATEST PLAYER WAYNESBURG NEVER HAD

By Bret Moore



Although I wrote a book on the history of sports in Greene County, I had no doubt there would be omissions and oversights. Covering multiple sports and levels over 150 years is impossible – even in a county as small as ours.

Fortunately, our readers often share some of these overlooked nostalgic tales with me. One such story was so interesting I felt it deserved a retelling. (*Thank you to Bob Dugan*)

The Pittsburgh Rens were a charter member of the American Basketball League (1961-63). The ABL was one of the most fascinating “what-if” stories in professional basketball. Although it lasted only two seasons, its influence on the modern game was tremendous.

The league was founded by **Abe Saperstein**, the owner of the Harlem Globetrotters. Saperstein had hoped to obtain an NBA franchise after the Minneapolis Lakers moved to LA in 1960. When that opportunity disappeared, he created a rival league.

The ABL began play with eight franchises spread across the country: the Chicago Majors, Cleveland Pipers, Hawaii Chiefs, Kansas City Steers, Los Angeles Jets, the San Francisco Saints, The Washington Tapers, and the Rens.

The ABL was ahead of its time. Among its innovations were **the three-point shot and a wider free-throw lane**, to reduce the dominance of big men near the basket. Both ideas were eventually adopted by the ABA and (later) the NBA.

The Pittsburgh team took its name from Pittsburgh’s urban renewal “Renaissance” program while also honoring the New York Renaissance (“Rens”) black professional basketball team of the 1920s and 1930s. The Pittsburgh Rens played their games in the brand-new Civic Arena.

The league’s biggest star was the Ren’s **Connie Hawkins**. He had been blacklisted from the NBA because of an unfounded connection to a college gambling scandal. Hawkins later became an NBA All-Star and Hall of Famer.

The Rens’ owner was **Lenny Litman**, a prominent Pittsburgh promoter **who had been a star basketball player and captain at Waynesburg College**. He needed to fill out a roster around Hawkins, who had cost him a pretty penny to sign.

One of the players he signed was Wayne Hightower, a 6-foot-8 forward from the University of Kansas. Hightower was one of the top players in the country but was facing financial and academic difficulties prohibiting his return to school. At the time, the NBA required a player’s class to have graduated to be draft-eligible.

The ABL had no such rule and offered Hightower a chance at professional ball. However, the Kansas City Steers protested that the Rens had violated their **territorial draft rights**. This system was implemented to try to improve attendance in the fledgling league by rostering local players.

Immediately, Litman came up with the “Litman Loophole.” He held an open tryout for local players at his alma mater to complete his roster. He had used his contacts at the college to schedule the gym and even signed former **Yellow Jacket star Jack Barclay** to a contract.

However, the real plan was to have Hightower enroll at Waynesburg College to play a few games, making him eligible to be signed by Pittsburgh.

Unfortunately for Litman, at the last minute, Hightower signed with **Real Madrid** in Spain for that season. He led the Spanish League in scoring and helped lead the team to the Spanish championship while reaching the European Cup final. He was the first American star to establish a reputation in European basketball.

The following year, he was selected 7th overall in the NBA Draft by the San Francisco Warriors. He spent 10 years in the NBA and ABA before serving as vice president of the ABA Players Association, advocating for players’ rights.

Historians often regard Hightower as a pioneer. He was the first American star to achieve success in Europe, was one of the first NBA players to sign with the ABA, and was an important voice for player rights during a transformative era in professional basketball.

It’s too bad he couldn’t have played at least one game for the Orange and Black.



Front Row: C. Bizula, W. Nichols, Dominick Christy, E. Palone, Bill Cihon, Mike Korcheck, Fred Novak. Back Row: Steve Korcheck, M. Harrison, N. Kartley, W. Markiewicz, J. Hartley, J. Markiewicz, John Katusa.

CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP CLASS OF 1948

Through the years, there have been many outstanding athletic classes in Greene County sports history. However, the **Cumberland Township Class of 1948** would be tough to beat given their all-around success, both scholastically and post-graduation.

Coach Cree’s team lost only one regular season game. In the playoffs, they upset Uniontown at Speedway Park (7-2), Redstone (4-0), and Charleroi (1-0). They lost in the **WPIAL Final** to Vandergrift (5-4).

Fred Novak (.516) and Dominick Christy (.423) led the team in hitting. M. Harrison (7-1) and W. Markiewicz (4-1) were the starting pitchers.

Members of that team were also key players on the **football team** that year, which was **undefeated and untied**, including: John Katusa (Greene County MVP, 2nd Team WPIAL), Mike Korcheck (1st Team WPIAL) and Bill Cihon (2nd Team WPIAL).

The same three boys were starters on the **basketball team** that finished with an 18-4 record (the losses coming to Class A schools). That team beat East Washington, West Newton, and East McKeesport to get to the **WPIAL Finals at Pitt Stadium** where they fell to Oakmont.

Dominick Christy Jr. went on to star for the Waynesburg College baseball team in the 1950s and later became a scout for the **Kansas City Royals and the Los Angeles Dodgers**.

Stephen Korcheck went on to **George Washington University**, where he was an outstanding two-sport athlete. The **San Francisco 49ers selected him in the 1954 NFL Draft**. Instead of playing professional football, Korcheck signed with the **Washington Senators** as a catcher and reached the major leagues by 1954.

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GIVING KIDS A CHANCE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH GOLF



Rachel Rohanna instructs one of the lucky participants at her clinic.

Professional golfer Rachel Rohanna knows better than most that success in golf begins with a single swing. For many young athletes, however, that first swing never happens.

Golf has long carried a reputation as an expensive sport. Clubs, balls, shoes, green fees and lessons can add up quickly, making it difficult for many families to introduce their children to the game.

Each summer, the Waynesburg native and former LPGA Tour professional welcomes dozens of children to **Rohanna's Golf Course** for a free junior golf clinic designed to make the game accessible to everyone. Thanks to the support of local sponsors, families pay nothing to participate. Children who don't own clubs can borrow equipment, lunch is provided, and the focus is

placed squarely on having fun while learning the fundamentals of the game.

It's an investment in children rather than scorecards.

The clinic welcomes youngsters from toddlers taking their first swings to teenagers looking to sharpen their skills. Participants rotate through stations where they learn putting, chipping and the full swing while also being introduced to golf etiquette, sportsmanship and the unique traditions that have made golf a lifelong pursuit for generations of players.

There are games, contests and plenty of encouragement. For the youngest participants, success isn't measured by how far a ball travels but by the smile that follows a solid hit. That approach reflects Rohanna's own journey.

Rachel learned the game on the fairways of her family's course before becoming one of the

area's most accomplished golfers. She was a two-time PIAA Champion at Waynesburg Central, earned All-American honors at Ohio State University and competed against the world's best players on the LPGA Tour. Although her career has taken her to golf's biggest stages, she has never forgotten where her own love of the game began.

Today she balances professional competition with coaching as head women's golf coach at Waynesburg University while remaining deeply involved in youth instruction.

Her junior clinic has grown steadily over the years, a sign that there is strong interest in golf when the barriers to entry are removed. This year's clinic filled all 96 available spots, with another 30 children placed on a waiting list. Those numbers tell an important story. Families want opportunities like this, and children are eager to discover a sport they may never have considered trying.

Recognizing that need, Rohanna helped launch **Tee to Greene**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding youth golf opportunities throughout the county. The organization's mission goes beyond teaching proper grip or swing mechanics. It seeks to ensure that every child, regardless of financial circumstances, has the chance to experience golf and the life lessons it teaches.

Rohanna has long understood that those values are as important as a low score. Earlier in her career, she volunteered with youth golf programs introducing elementary students to the game while emphasizing character, integrity and perseverance. The summer clinics continue that tradition by creating an environment where confidence can grow one swing at a time.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the clinics is their simplicity.

There are no trophies on the line. No pressure to earn scholarships. Instead, there are children laughing as they chase golf balls across the practice range, parents watching proudly from the sidelines and volunteers eager to share their passion for the game.

In an era when youth sports often seem dominated by travel teams, expensive equipment and year-round specialization, **Rohanna's clinics offer a refreshing reminder of what athletics should be about at the beginning: learning, friendship and fun.**

Not every child who attends will become a tournament champion. Most won't.

But somewhere among those first-time golfers may be the next high school standout, college player or even another LPGA professional. More importantly, many will discover a game they can enjoy for the rest of their lives with family and friends.

GREENE COUNTY CUP 2026



Greene County Cup Champions, Rohanna's Golf Course: (Front Row) Cory Dillinger, Kevin Pincavitch, Rachel Rohanna, Eric Rohanna. (Back Row) Justin Bedilion, Clay Wyne, Joel Kovach, Joel Rohanna, Jason Makel, Zach Schlomer, and Hudson Pincavitch. (Not pictured, Aaron Yorio)



Greene County Cup runners-up, Carmichaels Golf Course: (Front Row) Craig Haywood, Tim Gacek, Bob Greenlee, Liam Lohr, and Eli Hastings. (Back Row) Brian Sokol, Brett Katarsky, Connor Lapana, Mason Lapana, Tim Sepsi, Chad Warren, and John Garber.



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OUTDOOR SPOTLIGHT: PART 3

PARTNERS IN THE WILD, HUNTING TOGETHER, GROWING TOGETHER

The Outdoor Section of the Greene Scene Magazine, is extremely excited to announce our third in a series of articles that spotlight an accomplished “outdoorsman.” This limited series of articles celebrates the stories, skills, and traditions of successful hunters from around Greene County.

These special articles explore the experiences of individuals who have mastered their craft through patience, knowledge, and respect for nature. Each feature highlights not only remarkable achievements in the field, but also the dedication, preparation, and ethical practices that define responsible hunting.

These in-depth profiles share vivid storytelling and practical insights drawn from real-life pursuits. From tracking elusive game in rugged wilderness to understanding animal behavior, the series presents a well-rounded perspective on local hunting legends. By focusing on personal journeys and lessons learned, these articles hopefully inspire appreciation for the outdoors and the skills required to thrive within it. Top of Form recounting these diverse stories allows us to engage deeply with one person’s lifelong outdoor journey.

This quarter’s outdoor icon(s) highlights the achievements of a couple, **Pat and Jera Meighen**. They are more than a couple, they are partners in adventure, drawn to the wild places that very few people have dared to explore. From the frozen forests of Alaska to the golden savannas of Africa, they have traveled the world hunting side by side. Hunting is only part of their journey; the real reward is experiencing nature together. Through long treks, unexpected storms, and quiet nights beneath unfamiliar stars, their outdoor bond continues to grow stronger. Wherever the trail leads, they will face it together, sharing the thrill of discovery and the unforgettable memories that come with every expedition.

With the faithful companionship of two dogs and a cat, they have traveled to every state in the country except for Hawaii. They have hunted in Pennsylvania, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Maine, Florida, and Africa. They have an impressive trophy room as a result of many successful hunts, and they currently manage their 200+ acres outside of Waynesburg for big whitetail deer.

The walls of the trophy room are adorned with Mule deer, Whitetail deer, Elk, Bear, Impalas, Greater Kudu, Blue Wildebeest, Black Wildebeest, Mountain Reedbuck, Bushbuck, Nyala, Warthog, Springbuck, Blesbuck, and Fallow deer. Their hunting success is impressive to say the least.

The African hunt is obviously high on their list of special moments for the couple as they were able to collectively harvest eleven different species of animals. The trip (a 13.5-hour flight), the guides, the unique cultures, the native trackers, the food (meat from the previous hunters), the abundance of wildlife, and vast landscapes, makes for a most unforgettable experience.

There was a daily flat rate for this particular outfitter and the guide, and each animal carried

a different price tag...you can harvest whatever you want. Having several different animals, each with its own price tag, allows hunters to easily understand the value of each. Individual pricing can depend on the animal’s type, age, size, breed, and condition. This system gives hunters more choices while helping the outfitter fairly represent the unique value of every animal.

Successful hunts require patience, careful tracking, good marksmanship, and respect for the animals and their environment. Experienced professional hunters help guide stalks and ensure that local regulations and ethical hunting practices are followed. For many, a plains-game safari combines adventure, outdoor skills, and an appreciation for Africa’s remarkable natural heritage.

Idaho, however, is what they spoke of when I asked them about their most memorable hunts. One thing that impressed me during our conversation was their willingness to do return trips in order to find the trophy they were after. The true reward of the hunt for them is not always what they bring home, but the memories they create along the way. In the end, they were finally rewarded for their patience with a beautiful Sawtooth Mountain mule deer buck.

To the Meighen’s, time spent in the outdoors with good friends is an opportunity to laugh, share stories, learn from one another, and appreciate the experience together. The hunt itself is only one part of the adventure. What matters most is the camaraderie, the early mornings, the long conversations, the unexpected moments, and the shared challenges. Years from now, it will not be the outcome of the hunts that they remember most, but the people beside them and the experiences that brought them closer together.

Looking ahead, I hope they can continue hunting together as a couple, sharing the experiences, challenges, and excitement that come with every season. Hunting gives them an opportunity to spend meaningful time outdoors, work as a team, and create memories that they can carry with them for years to come.



Jera Meighen and a Black Wildebeest



Pat Meighen and a Greater Kudu



Jera and Pat and a Blue Wildebeest

THE BUZZ ON WASPS AND HORNETS

By T.R. Mahle



Bald-face Hornet Nest

A bad encounter recently left me with several stings and considerable pain as I attempted to mow around a tree in my orchard. Unbeknownst to me, a basketball-size hornet nest was hovering in the low branches of an apple tree, and my encroachment was not welcome. Uncharacteristically for hornets, they had no issue with me trimming around the tree a short time earlier... more notably, and to my surprise, the nest was not there last week when I performed the same routine.

Wasps and hornets can quickly become a serious nuisance around homes, businesses, gardens, and outdoor spaces. **According to the CDC, 72 people die every year from their stings.** While these insects play an important role in controlling other pests and supporting the ecosystem, they can

become aggressive when their nests are disturbed as I found out. Professional wasp and hornet control can help protect people, pets, and property while safely addressing an active infestation, but many choose to handle the problem themselves.

Wasps and hornets commonly build nests in roof spaces, wall cavities, lofts, sheds, garages, trees, bushes, and other sheltered locations. Some species may also construct nests underground. Because nests can contain hundreds or even thousands of insects, attempting to remove or treat one without the appropriate knowledge and equipment can result in multiple stings and may cause the colony to become defensive.

Effective wasp and hornet control begins with identifying the species and locating the nest. A professional pest control technician can assess the activity, determine the safest treatment method, and identify potential entry points. Treatment is generally designed to eliminate the active colony while reducing the risk of exposure to people and animals nearby.

Nest removal is an important part of dealing with some infestations, although it should only be carried out when it is safe and appropriate to do so. Simply knocking down an active nest can provoke the insects and does not necessarily eliminate the colony. Depending on the nest location and species involved, treatment may need time to take effect before the nest can be safely removed.

I opted for a late-night visit under the cover of darkness with a full can of wasp and hornet spray that has the ability to reach the nest from a distance. Success was immediate as I watched the hornets fall to the ground in the beam of my flashlight.

Preventative measures can also help reduce the likelihood of future wasp and hornet problems. Inspecting buildings for gaps, cracks, and other potential entry points can make it more difficult for insects to establish nests. Keeping food and rubbish securely covered, especially during warmer months, can also reduce attraction around outdoor areas. Gardens and buildings should be checked

regularly for early signs of nesting activity.

If you discover a wasp or hornet nest, avoid disturbing it and keep children and pets away from the immediate area. Increased insect activity around a particular hole, roofline, tree, shed, or other structure may indicate that a nest is nearby. Do not attempt to block an active entrance, as this can cause insects to seek alternative routes into a building.

Professional wasp and hornet control provides a safer and more reliable way to deal with established nests. Experienced technicians have the equipment, protective clothing, and knowledge needed to assess the situation and carry out treatment appropriately.

Whether you have noticed a small amount of wasp activity or discovered a large nest, acting promptly can prevent the problem from becoming more difficult to manage. Professional inspection, targeted treatment, and, where appropriate, safe nest removal can help restore peace of mind and keep your property safer throughout the warmer months.

HORNETS ON THE HORIZON: “SHOULD PENNSYLVANIA BE WORRIED?”

Penn State Extension reports that, as of summer 2026, **yellow-legged hornets** are established in Georgia and South Carolina. Georgia has been conducting an aggressive trapping and nest-removal program; since 2023, more than 300 monitoring traps have been deployed and 168 nests eliminated.

The concern for Pennsylvania is significant because computer models indicate that yellow-legged hornets could survive across much of eastern North America, including Pennsylvania, if they continue to spread. Natural expansion would probably be relatively slow, but transportation by people could cause sudden appearances far from the current population. What about the “Murder Hornet”?

The **northern giant hornet**, commonly called the “murder hornet,” is the one that generated enormous publicity a few years ago. Penn State says the species was detected in Washington state beginning in 2019. After extensive eradication efforts, no additional workers or nests were found from 2022 through 2024, and the species was declared **eradicated from North America.**

However, Pennsylvania’s Governor’s Invasive Species Council still lists the northern giant hornet as a potential threat.

Some people around Greene County are seeing very large wasps right now. They are probably seeing the **eastern cicada killer**, which is native to Pennsylvania. They can reach roughly 2 inches and look intimidating, but Penn State says they **rarely sting and pose little danger to people.**

Pennsylvania also has the **European hornet**, which is already widespread throughout the state. Its nests can be dangerous to disturb, but it isn’t a new invasive species moving into Pennsylvania.

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PA GAME COMMISSION NEWS:

Search Warrants and the Authority of Wildlife Officers



Pennsylvania's Game Commission recently faced a major change in its enforcement powers after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled on July 21, 2026, that game wardens generally cannot enter clearly posted private property without a warrant based on probable cause. The case, *Punxsutawney Hunting Club v. Pennsylvania Game Commission*, challenged laws that had allowed wardens to enter private land without warrants. The 7-0 ruling found those warrantless entries unconstitutional under the Pennsylvania Constitution. The decision gives Pennsylvania landowners stronger privacy protections while still allowing Game Commission officers to investigate suspected wildlife violations through lawful searches, including obtaining search warrants when appropriate.

These changes regarding rulings about the Pennsylvania Game Commission and search warrants has raised questions about what wildlife conservation officers are allowed to do when investigating suspected hunting or wildlife violations. Pennsylvania law gives Game Commission officers significant enforcement authority, but that authority is not unlimited. The rules distinguish between searches that require a warrant and circumstances in which an officer may conduct a search without one.

Under Title 34 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, wildlife conservation officers have the responsibility to enforce Pennsylvania's game and wildlife laws. Section 901 specifically gives officers the authority to secure and execute warrants and search warrants for violations of the Game Code. A properly issued search warrant can authorize officers to enter buildings, dwellings, vehicles, enclosures and other locations described in the warrant. Officers may also examine containers and seize evidence or contraband connected to an alleged wildlife violation.

The law also provides circumstances in which a search warrant may not be necessary. A Game Commission officer may search a person, vehicle, container or other property when there is probable cause, consent, an exigent circumstance, or another established exception to the warrant requirement. The officer must identify themselves and, when a person is present, state the purpose of the search.

Another important part of the law concerns administrative inspections. Wildlife conservation officers may inspect hunting licenses and permits, firearms, ammunition, hunting equipment, game bags, tags, clothing, tree stands, decoys, coolers and other items associated with hunting. These inspections can occur at a hunting location when there is prima facie evidence that hunting is taking place. Again, officers who conduct such an inspection must identify themselves and explain its purpose when a person is present.

When a search warrant is properly executed, the officer's authority extends beyond simply entering the property. Pennsylvania law permits officers to seize wildlife, firearms, hunting equipment, vehicles, records, licenses, permits and other evidence or contraband connected with an alleged violation. This allows investigators to preserve evidence for further investigation or possible prosecution.

It is important for hunters and landowners to understand the difference between a search warrant and the Game Commission's other enforcement powers. The existence of a Game Commission officer on private property does not automatically mean the officer has unlimited authority to enter a home or other protected area. The law specifically distinguishes areas outside buildings from buildings and dwellings, and different legal standards can apply depending on the circumstances.

The current law also shows that the Game Commission's enforcement authority has evolved through legislation over the years. The most recent amendment listed for Section 901 was in 2025, although that amendment deleted a separate subsection rather than creating a new general search-warrant power.

For hunters, landowners and sportsmen, the key point is that Game Commission officers have substantial investigative authority, but they must operate within the Pennsylvania Game Code and applicable constitutional requirements. Understanding when a warrant is required—and when an established exception allows a search without one—is essential when dealing with a wildlife investigation.

Game Commission Ends Deputy Game Warden Program

Effective Tuesday September 1, 2026, the PA Game Commission's Deputy Game Warden program will be ending. According to Press Secretary **John Buffone**, "as part of the ongoing mission to protect Pennsylvania's wildlife resources, the PA Game Commission has made the difficult decision to end the Deputy Game Warden program within law enforcement."

Deputy Game Wardens are part-time or volunteer workers who assist full-time wardens in enforcing hunting and trapping laws, managing nuisance wildlife, and teaching hunter safety. The program, which began in 1903, currently has over 100 people serving as Deputy Game Wardens across the state and has been a part of the PA Game Commission for 123 years.

The PA Game Commission described the decision to end the program as difficult and expressed gratitude to the volunteers who served. In an email to deputies, the commission referred to the closure as "a natural evolution of modern professional conservation law enforcement."

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BLACK BEARS MOVING INTO SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

By T.R. Mahle

Black bears are becoming an increasingly familiar sight in southwestern Pennsylvania. Although bears have lived in the region for many years, their growing numbers and expanding range means that residents are more likely to encounter them. Pennsylvania's black bear population has grown dramatically since the 1970s, when fewer than 5,000 bears lived in the state. Today, the Pennsylvania Game Commission estimates the statewide population at about 19,000 bears.

Our region contains extensive forests, hills, streams, and areas of natural cover. Bears are particularly attracted to forested habitats where they can find berries, nuts, insects, and other natural foods. They are also opportunistic feeders, meaning they may be attracted to human sources of food such as unsecured garbage, birdseed, pet food, and compost.

The Game Commission reports that bears now occupy more than three-quarters of Pennsylvania, although sightings have occurred in every county. Southwestern Pennsylvania already supports an established bear population, while some bears seen closer to heavily developed areas may simply be passing through.

Recent sightings demonstrate how noticeable this expansion has become. In 2026, there have been several reported bear sightings. However, wildlife officials emphasized that seeing bears in the area during this time of year is not unusual and does not necessarily mean that more bears are permanently moving into the county.

Black bears are an important part of Pennsylvania's wildlife and forest ecosystems. At the same time, increased contact between bears and people can lead to problems. Bears that learn to associate neighborhoods with easy food can become nuisance animals, creating property damage and potentially dangerous encounters.

Garbage should be kept securely contained, bird feeders should be removed when bears are active, and pet food should not be left outside. Pennsylvania also prohibits intentionally feeding bears because doing so can cause them to congregate and become accustomed to people.

The growing presence of black bears is therefore best understood as part of a larger statewide recovery and expansion. With responsible management and cooperation from residents, communities can learn to live alongside these remarkable animals while reducing conflicts between people and wildlife.

In Pennsylvania, there is no limit on the number of bear hunting licenses available. Hunters can purchase a bear license in addition to a general hunting license. For the **2026–27 season**, bear hunters may take **one bear per license year**.

The 2026 bear seasons include archery beginning **September 19**, muzzleloader **October 22–25**, regular firearms **November 21–24**, and extended firearms seasons from **November 28 into December**, depending on the Wildlife Management Unit. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's 2026–27 licenses are valid **July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027**.

Recent harvest data show that from 2021–2024 seven bears have been harvested in Greene County. Numbers for 2025 have not been released. Based on the county's habitat and regional population patterns, a reasonable estimate would be there are **several dozen black bears living in the county**.



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