

Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

 **Honoring**
OUR VETS 
Special Tribute Edition

November 2023 Issue

In this issue...
NOVEMBER 2023

- FEATURES**
- 4 I LOVE THIS PLACE**
Throckmorton's Mission for Miracles
 - 6 SHINING THE LIGHT**
Washington Street Church
 - 7 LOCAL. LIBRARY. LOVE**
Turkey Trot returns
 - 8 PUBLIC SERVICE PROFILE**
Crawford Park Renovations
 - 9 COOL AT SCHOOL**
Jefferson-Morgan Drama Club
 - 10 GREENE ARTIFACTS**
Happenings & haunts
 - 11 GOING GREENE**
Superstitions & folklore
 - 12 ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY**
Meet writer Timothy Denman
 - 14 RECENT HAPPENINGS IN GREENE**
Check out the recent events & see what you're missing!
 - 18 GOOD NEWS IN GREENE**
Awards & acknowledgements within our community
 - 20 MESSAGE BOARD**
What's up in the area
 - 22 HOMETOWN HERITAGE**
Current and vintage local sports highlights
 - 41 TOGETHER WITH VETERANS**
Suicide Summit

- EXTRAS**
- 34 VETERAN TRIBUTE**
Shane Cole
 - 35 VETERAN TRIBUTE**
Ed & Ted Sikora
 - 36 VETERAN TRIBUTE**
Julia Kostak Plasko
 - 38 VETERAN HONOR ROLL**
Sam Crawford
 - 39 RESOURCES FOR VETERANS**
Linda Gunter Hagyar
 - 40 VETERAN TRIBUTE**
Lucille DeFrank
 - 42 VETERAN TRIBUTE**
Christopher, Daniel, & Joseph Teagarden
 - 43 VETERAN TRIBUTE**
Roy Lesnett
 - 44 VETERAN TRIBUTE**
John F. Rock



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DR
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Publisher & Owner
 Meet writer Timothy Denman
 PAMELA MARISA

Managing Editor
 DANIELLE NYLAND
 danielle@directresults.us

Advertising Sales
 MICHELLE ZEIGLER, KAMERON MARISA, DAVID STONEKING, JEREMIAH RAINES, NICHOLE SOWDEN, JULIE HOROWITZ, KASON MARISA, SPENSER SARGENT

Graphic Design
 CHARLES SCHOLTISEK, MOLLY USHER, JOELLE DORSEY, PETE BRUNETTO, ERIC PALFREY, JACOB AHLBRAND, RANDY SCOTT, KATERYNA KRUTTI

November Contributors
 COLLEEN NELSON, MATTHEW CUMBERLEDGE, ZACK ZEIGLER, TRACY HORNE, ALEX HUGHES, STACEY FLYNN, AMY SMITH, EMMA BATES, MICHELLE CHURCH, MORGAN MARISA & SPORTS EDITOR BRET MOORE

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 FMI or Advertising Rates
 Call 724-627-2040
 info@greenescenemagazine.com
 185 Wade St., Waynesburg, PA 15370

Please direct inquiries about articles and content to editor Danielle Nyland: danielle@directresults.us

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I Love this Community — THROCKMORTON'S MISSION FOR MIRACLES

By Colleen Nelson

The colorful pop-up tent and banners that John and Dolly Throckmorton set up on High Street for this story are an eye-catching reminder that Missions for Miracles – The Spinal Cord and Brain Health Project co-founded by John in 2014 – is alive and still growing. Its mission: to show the way to healing and recovery for families dealing with neurological trauma and to advocate for the institutions that serve these families in their times of greatest need. Missions for Miracles is the happy ending to a story that is any parent's worst nightmare.

For the Throckmortons, their lives were forever changed on April 13, 2012. That sunny spring morning daughter Meg, 16, was at Dolly's In Motion + Fitness at 48 W. High Street, Waynesburg, practicing for a competition. Round off back tucks were part of the routine. But with her last tuck, something went awry and she landed on the back of her neck.

The fall injured her C1 and C2 vertebra, leaving Meg instantly paralyzed, unable to move or breathe on her own.

Miracle number one: Meg's friend Abby Walters and her mom Dana, a nurse at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, were there at the studio. Dana began CPR immediately. Meg was air lifted to WVU Medicine Children's and the battle against the clock began. "Speed is everything," John Throckmorton said. "The injury has to be stabilized before the body begins isolating the injury to protect the rest of the body." The diagnosis was grim. Doctors gave minimal hope that Meg would ever move a muscle below her skull.

A diaphragmatic pacemaker was implanted along with a feeding tube and ventilator; days later she was transferred to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Ga. Harold and Alana Shepherd founded this state of the art research and rehabilitation hospital in 1975 after they were unable to find appropriate rehabilitation for their son James who was paralyzed from the neck down from a body surfing accident.

It was there that the Throckmortons began receiving training for operating the ventilator, learning to do the round the clock care that is the new reality for families whose kids have neurological damage and might be paralyzed for life.

Miraculously, Meg would beat the odds.

The next two months were an all-hands-on-deck time of wait, see and pray as Meg began her amazing journey of healing. The first sign came two days after arriving at the center, when movement returned to her right pinky toe, John remembers.

And then there was that smile.

"Meg never stopped smiling. The therapists were amazed; they said they never saw anything like it. She was always the kid who figured out how to make things happen. She couldn't talk but she used her communicator to write, "I don't know how I am going to walk but I will walk."

Meg took her first steps with the aid of a physical therapist and overhead suspension lifts in June, and by the end of the month, was weaned from the ventilator. When discharged from Shepherd Center on August 8, she went home in a wheel chair with her family the next day, ready for her junior year.

Those long months of healing became the inspiration for Mission for Miracles, John admits. "I looked at the Shepherds and what a difference one family can make and thought why

not do it here? Why not pay it forward?"

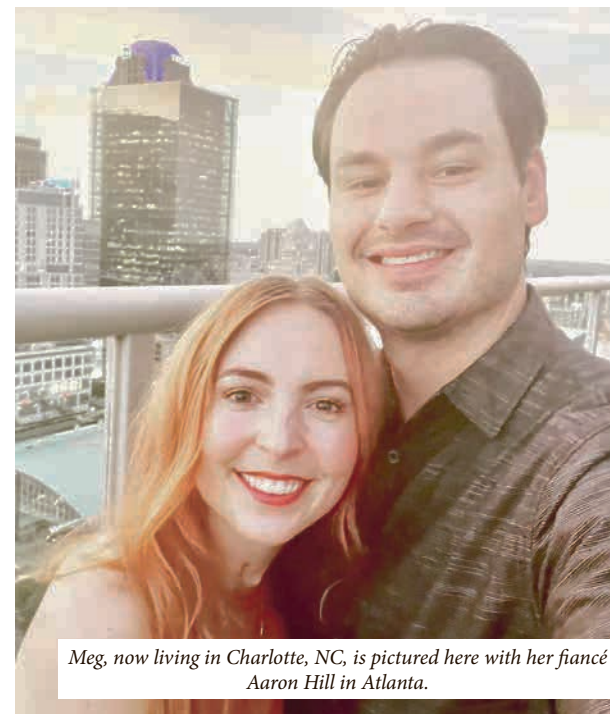
Mission for Miracles builds partnerships in three categories of care that are available for rehabilitation. "Hope and Healing" includes WVU Medicine Children's and the Cure Cancer Initiative and the HOSS foundation, founded by famed WVU quarterback Jeff Hostetler, whose youngest son was paralyzed in an ATV accident in 1999. "Brain Health" is the focus of the Ryan Blaney Family Foundation, WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute and UPMC Sports Medicine. "Spinal Cord Research and Recovery" includes Shepherd Center and New



Pictured L-R- Seated: Meg Throckmorton, Ryan Shazier, Kent Marisa. Back: Barbie McMinn, Pam Marisa, Dolly Throckmorton, Bobbie Nicholsa, and John Throckmorton.



Dolly and John Throckmorton started Missions for Miracles after an accident left their daughter paralyzed in 2012.



Meg, now living in Charlotte, NC, is pictured here with her fiancé Aaron Hill in Atlanta.

Perspectives, a foundation for assistance with travel costs for individuals with spinal cord injuries. Other foundations the Throckmortons have met on Meg's journey of recovery include Nick Buoniconti's Miami Project to Cure Paralysis and the Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation.

Mission for Miracles main fundraiser is the yearly All American Grand Bash, formerly known as the West Virginia Grand Bash. This philanthropic extravaganza offers up "\$650,000 worth of goods and 100 raffles" John tells me, "... cash, cars, trucks and ATVs, trips, jewelry, firearms, hunting gear. We give away a couple of motorcycles and RVs too. It's prizes that everybody in this area would love to win."

The Bash is held at Ruby Community Center in Mylan Park, W.V. and to date has raised 2.4 million dollars for the partnership, which includes other nonprofits that volunteer to help with the bash, John added. "For every hour worked, their

agency will benefit from this fundraiser."

The mission continues to grow, John noted. "This year I sat down with Pam Marisa (owner of Direct Results & GreeneScene Community magazine) and we quickly realized how many ties we share with the community and how we can help grow this event throughout the tri-state area." "Direct Results is proud to partner with Mission for Miracles," Pam told me when I called. "Working together is a win-win for the community."

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SHINING THE LIGHT

By Colleen Nelson

Washington Street Church in Waynesburg is inviting old members and new neighbors to “Fall - Back to Church” on Sunday November 5. Service is at 9 a.m. “with fellowship and refreshments to follow.”

Yes, Washington Street Methodist Church has been renamed but its new signage lets you know – “A New Name A New Sign But Still United with Christ.”

And Reverend Bill Parker, who has been pastoring here for 17 years, is still spreading the Good Word envisioned in John Wesley’s three simple rules: “Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.”

This isn’t the first time this historic church, tucked behind the modern trappings of Pecjaks Sunoco on Greene St. has been renamed. A browse through G. Wayne Smith’s History of Greene County tells us the Methodist Episcopal Church arrived with the first frontier preachers of the Redstone Circuit of 1784. In Waynesburg, a first wooden church was built in 1803 on Liberty Street beside the Methodist cemetery. (Later it would find its forever home on Richhill Street, next door to Waynesburg University and the First Presbyterian Church.) For many years, Methodism was the largest denomination on the Western Frontier; with circuit riding pastors bringing services every two weeks or so if the weather was good, to the scattered communities of the Redstone Circuit.

The Methodist Protestant Church broke away in 1828, and a congregation formed in Waynesburg in 1829. By 1831 they purchased a brick meetinghouse at the edge of a lot on Washington Street, just south of the town limits. The old “cornfield church” would be torn down, and when the church you see today was dedicated on July 30, 1893 “no other churches in town held services, and their pastors were invited to participate in the Grand Occasion.”

The new church cost “about \$6000” and had stained glass windows, frescoed interior walls, electric lights, forced air heating and a new oak organ. It added a brick Sunday school building in 1914, complete with classrooms upstairs and a kitchen and dining hall downstairs.



You’re invited to join the Washington Street Church on November 5 to “Fall Back to Church.”

When the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant and Methodist Episcopal South churches merged nationally in 1939, community churches could merge voluntarily. In Waynesburg “the congregations chose not to merge” and instead changed their names to First Methodist Church and Washington Street Methodist Church. By now the cornfields at the edge of town were long gone, replaced by the bustling businesses and working class neighborhoods of the South Side that stretched down to the railroad tracks along Ten Mile Creek.

Longtime member Bob Beabout found the folks attending church on Washington Street to be to his liking more than 30 years ago when his mother, who was a member, died, and he stopped by to celebrate her memory. “Everybody made me feel welcome and I’ve been here ever since!”

The best ending to this fall back to church story came when I dropped in to see for myself how doing no harm, doing good and loving God is doing at this church whose membership stretches from Waynesburg to Hundred to Hopewell Ridge.

It didn’t surprise me that I already knew many of the people who came through the door, stopped to chat and stayed for a group photo after services.

Reverend Parker combines the joy of singing hymns and the call and response prayers of pastor to congregation with that one thing good preachers are masters of – adding modern meaning to what the Good Book says.

This morning, “The Secret” that the apostle Paul shared with the world takes a deep dive into relevance by way of the old TV show “I’ve got a Secret” and a trip to Rolling Thunder in Washington DC that Reverend Parker once took by way of the back roads of West Virginia.

I’m not going to fill you in on all the details of the service – Heaven help me if I tried! But if you stop by on November 5 you can hear for yourself just what makes this church and its congregation feel so at home and neighborly.

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The 7th Annual Bowlby Library Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk and 1K Children’s Fun Run will be held on Saturday, November 18 beginning at the Library’s Gazebo. The Turkey Trot is a much-loved morning filled with fun events for the whole family, as well as a major fundraiser for the Eva K. Bowlby Public Library.

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Eva K. Bowlby Library
724-627-9776 • 311 N. West Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370

Event schedule:

- 9 AM — the 1K Pet Walk. All pets must be on a leash, and a prize will be given for the best dressed pet.
- 9:15 AM — the 1K Children’s Fun Run for kids 12 and under
- 9:30 AM — the 5K Walk
- 9:45 AM — the 5K Run. Awards will be given to the top 3 male and female walkers/runners in each age category.

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided, as well as children’s activities inside the library while the parents run or walk in the race. You may register for each event at <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Waynesburg/EvaKBowlbyLibrary5KTurkeyTrot> or at the library. Online registration



is open until November 17 at 8 PM. Don’t worry if you miss the deadline and wake up that Saturday morning with the urge to run – you can still register the day of the races. Registration costs are \$15 for the Pet Walk and the Children’s Fun Run and \$25 for the 5 K Run/Walk. Each participant will receive a T-shirt. If you are unable to participate in person and would still like to donate and receive a T-shirt, register as a “pardoned turkey” and your shirt can be picked up at the library after the race. The award ceremony will be held after the race at the library’s gazebo.

In addition to the races there are 50/50 drawings and a silent auction with a dozen gift baskets. Lace up your running shoes and head out for the Turkey Trot!

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Greene County and Kinetic Broadband Ribbon Cutting Event Kicks Off Project

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce, Greene County Commissioners and Kinetic by Windstream representatives held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Oct 17, 2023 at the Springhill Community Center in New Freeport.

Along with their industry partner, Kinetic by Windstream, the Greene County Commissioners are pleased to start the physical rollout and installation of this long-awaited project. Funded by a \$2.5 million Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant and \$2.7 million capital investment by Kinetic, this project will provide gigabit speed broadband access to more than 767 currently underserved or unserved houses and businesses

in the Graysville, New Freeport and Spraggs exchanges. These exchanges cover geographic areas larger than traditionally considered in the defined area of these towns and include all or portions of six townships: Aleppo, Freeport, Gilmore, Perry, Springhill and Wayne.

“This is the second of three large investments in broadband as we continue to seek opportunities to provide highspeed internet access to every resident, business and industry in the County,” said Greene County Commissioner Mike Belding. Commissioner Blair Zimmerman added, “We will continue leading the rural counties in Pennsylvania with our broadband expansion.”

Approximately 105 miles of fiber-optic cable will be installed as well as the hardware and other technical requirements offering fiber-to-the-prem service. Project construction date is estimated to begin by mid-November and be completed by mid-summer 2024.

The third investment is a CNX Foundation \$1M donation specifically for broadband. The approved fiber to the premise projects are within Gray Township, Morris Township, and Richhill Township and include Ryerson Station State Park. This project includes 31 fiber miles and more than 103 addresses of unserved or underserved residences, businesses and state park addresses that

will have access to gigabit speed broadband.

“In the last three years, we have made significant strides in broadband installation through strong, consistent, collaboration, and partnership with Windstream, and excellent work by our own county Economic Development team. Our focus has been and will continue to be, delivering real results that improve the quality of life for the people of Greene County,” said Greene County Commissioner Betsy McClure.

Additional information on the county’s programs can be obtained through the Greene County Commissioners’ Facebook page or by calling 724-852-5210.

Public Service Profile

By Zack Zeigler

CRAWFORD PARK RENOVATIONS

Crawford Park, sitting in Franklin Township and bordering the Borough of Waynesburg, has been a place for the children of the area to play, and just be kids. The Franklin Township supervisors have been working the last five years on renovations to the park that will continue that tradition now and for years to come.

"For us, it was important to create future places for the kids to play," says Franklin Township Supervisor William Walker. "The community has needed that for a long time and to have nice new renovated facilities will hopefully help out local organizations allowing for softball tournaments and other youth sports programs."

The original land for the park was bought by the township in 1989 and the park officially opened to the public during 1995. Since then, the park has been a safe haven for the kids of Greene County. However, over the years, the park began to age and the township saw the need for renovations. Walker had been there since the beginning and wanted to work to ensure that the youth of the county had a place to continue to call their own.

"I have been an employee of the township for over 44 years, and a working supervisor for the past four years, so I was there when the township first purchased the property back in 1989," Walker says. "I have seen the growth of the park when the original building was constructed, the fields were established, and the playground equipment was installed. Over the past several years, the entire area has definitely shown its age and was in desperate need of a remodel."

The remodel process has been a long one, delayed by different factors including the COVID-19 pandemic. But, with the help of former State Representative Pam Snyder and State Senator Camera Bartolotta, the township received two government grants and two private grants to start the process. With the help of these grants, the township was able to raise the original building above flood level and completely renovate the top

floor to house concessions, an announcer's booth, and balcony seating. Along with the changes to the building, a retaining wall was built behind the softball field backstop, a new playground was installed, and the park is now fully ADA accessible.

The help of the grants, Act 13 funding, and the outpouring of community support was the driving force behind these changes and helped make them possible.

"It shows that a lot of people were interested in making (Crawford Park) a better place for our kids," Walker says. "We all wanted to do this for the kids to give them something to do and keep them busy and the community showed that they wanted to do it for the kids as well."

"There are several people we want to thank, including Pam Snyder, Camera Bartolotta and the countless others who helped make this possible," adds Franklin Township Secretary/Treasurer Angela Riley. "It has been a long process that we started back in 2019 and we can't thank everyone by name, but we appreciate all their support."

The plan is to finish renovations by 2024 and have the park fully open by spring. It has been a long process to get the park back to where it needs to be, but once it's open the township knows it will be a place where kids can be kids.

"We know it has been a burden to Youth Sports and Community Residents during this process," says Franklin Township Supervisor and Vice Chairman Todd Hoy. "However, when the work is fully completed I think people will be happy with the way the park looks."



Crawford Park's renovations should finish by 2024 and will have the park restored to its former glory.



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Cool at School:

Jefferson Morgan

By Michelle Church

A years' long dream will come true for theater director Christian Wilson on November 3, 2023 when Jefferson-Morgan school district begins their run of the Pulitzer Prize winning play, "Harvey" by Mary Chase.

"Harvey" has been a show that I have always wanted to put on but never had the cour-

age to do until this year. I was always waiting around for the perfect Elwood P. Dowd," Christian says. "When I would tell my father this, he always told me that I would never do the show if that high exception would always be there... Although I did not find the right guy for the part, I did, however, find the perfect woman for the role. Which is why we are

now renaming the role Edna P. Dowd."

A wonderful part of entertainment is the ability to take us out of our ordinary lives for a little while. "For 100 some minutes, this show takes you away from the real world. It gets you away from all the evil, nasty, yucky things that are going on. This show also gives you a chance to rekindle the time you had with your imaginary friend that we all had at one point in our lives ... even if it's just for a short amount of time."

Harvey is about someone that, "ultimately reinforces the need for optimism and faith in a cynical world - a message that was much needed in America and around the globe in the mid-1940s." (www.historymatterscelebratingwomensplaysofthepast.org) It's safe to say that this is a universal message that is just as timely today.

Harvey is set in 1944 and the scenes take place between Edna's house and Chumley's Rest. The play tells the story of Edna P. Dowd and her six-foot tall, imaginary, white rabbit named Harvey. Edna's sister is embarrassed by her stories of Harvey and she commits Edna to a sanitarium called Chumley's Rest. But wires get crossed and Edna's sister is the one who gets committed.

The central theme of Harvey is friend-

ship. "Edna has so many friends that you hear about during this show. You also see her handing out business cards to people she hardly even knows because she's still trying to meet and connect with new people. She never has anything bad to say about anyone, even if they have done something wrong to her."

Twenty students are involved with the play: ten are acting in the play and the other half are helping with the technical aspects of the show. Auditions were held in August, and the students have been rehearsing since then.

Harvey is a three act play and runs a little over 100 minutes. The play begins its run November 3 and runs through November 5 (11/3 at 7pm, 11/4 at 12pm and 7pm, and 11/5 at 2pm) at the Stanley Fowler Auditorium on Jefferson Road, Jefferson, PA. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. "We usually have a maximum of 200 tickets per night, but we do not send anyone away who wants to see the show."

Don't miss your chance to see this wonderful show and follow Jefferson-Morgan High School Drama Club on Facebook for information about their upcoming spring musical, The Little Mermaid.



The Jefferson Morgan Drama Club is presenting "Harvey".

Greene Artifacts

By Matthew Cumberledge, GCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAPPENINGS & HAUNTS

The Greene County Historical Society is in what was once the County Home, poor farm, or almshouse, and regardless of its use at the time, it has been an integral institution to Greene County for well over one hundred and fifty years. This building was home to many people over the years; some lived good peaceful lives here, but many existed in a perpetual state of tragedy.

As a result of the often violent and sad history of the building, it has many memories and hauntings to go along with them. At the GCHS, we are often reminded of a line from Bram Stoker's *Dracula* when showing guests the buildings; "This house is old, and has many bad memories."

We are often asked if we have experienced anything here personally, and the answer to that question is always yes. Just in the weeks and months leading up to October, especially as renovations and repairs have amped up, the haunted happenings have increased significantly.

One morning, upon arriving to work, and entering the main hall a ghostly voice yelled "Hello" from some remote corner of the upstairs and a key played on the piano in the main hall. While cleaning in preparation for Harvest Festival, a visible hand reached out from a closet in the Stewards Kitchen and frightened a volunteer who was running the vacuum.

Some folks who are new to the building are often frightened when they have their first experience, but, as I was often told when I started working here regularly, you get used to it. In fact, the longer we are here, the more it seems that the "residents," as we call the spirit inhabitants of the museum, are just part of our daily life, friends that we greet when we arrive in the mornings, and that we wish goodbye at the end of the day.

It is important for us here to remember the lives and struggles of the former residents of the County Home, and to remember them as the people they once were, while we hope that our continued improvements to the building are making their time here a little better.

It seems the residents do enjoy the renovations and repairs. Activity always increases with work to the structure: lights will go on and off, doors will close, and more than once we have caught a glimpse of someone peeking around corner or through a doorway, watching as we work.

It is an interesting experience working in a building with such a history and memories. We often remind ourselves that this is their home, and we are just stewards preserving the old county home for the next generation. What will happen when we are gone, we do not know...perhaps we too shall haunt the halls of the former Greene County Home!



WANT MORE? VISIT THE
Greene County Museum

2023 4-H & FFA MARKET HOG THANK YOU

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RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine exhibited by Easton Ostrich & purchased by EQT.

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Kim Barnes
Darren Crouse
Wesley Wright

A Special Thanks

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Going Greene: SUPERSTITIONS AND FOLKLORE

By Matthew Cumberledge

As a part of northern Appalachia, southwestern Pennsylvania is home to an amazing tradition of folklore and superstitions. Although this part of Appalachian culture has been steadily on the decline in the age of internet and technology, there are still pockets where these traditions hold firm.

Halloween is an exceptionally good time to remember some of these old traditions and superstitions. In the early 20th Century, as Halloween gatherings and harvest festivals wound down for the evening, many younger folks would often gather in small groups and tell ghost stories or enact some various superstitious traditions.

A favorite activity amongst the younger folk of the olden days was to find an abandoned house. Each participant would venture inside one by one, armed with only a scrap of blank paper that they would hide somewhere in the house. They would recite a special phrase, rhyme, or riddle, and then leave. The lore goes that the next day, upon returning to the abandoned house, a ghostly entity would write on the scrap of paper left behind the name of the person the individual would

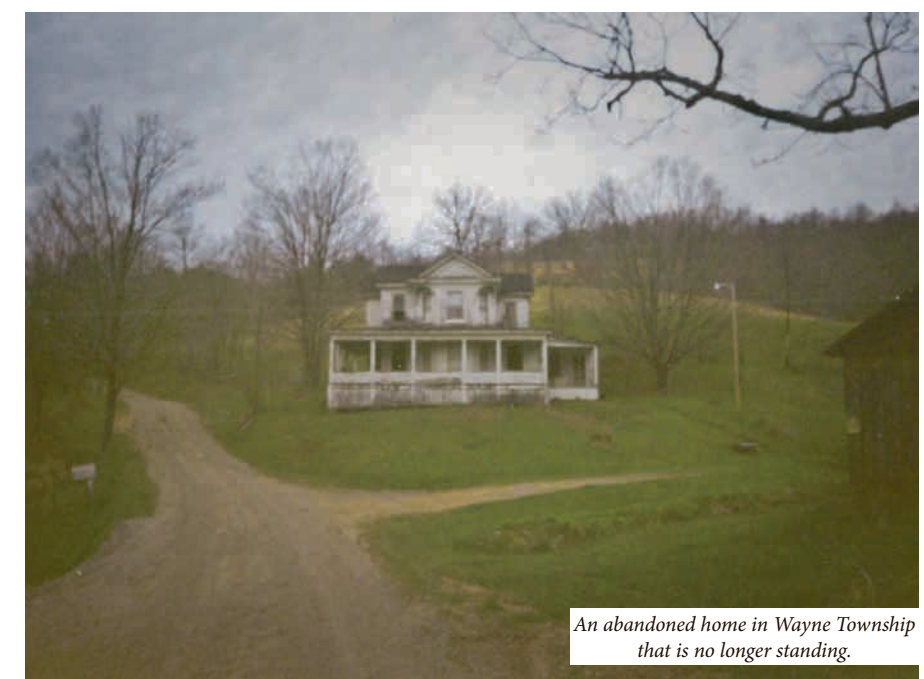
marry. Children often ventured off to old forgotten graveyards and told exaggerated tales of the persons buried there. The bravest of the lot would walk around a grave backwards thirteen times to make the spirit of the deceased appear so they could ask questions of it. If such a spirit appeared, it could be sent back to rest by several different methods: by reminding it that it was dead, by reciting the Lord's Prayer, or by saying "Go back to where you came from."

It was also believed that if a pine tree already over two feet tall was planted, by the time it could cast a shadow over a grave, the one who planted it would die.

Other superstitions were often followed throughout the fall and Halloween seasons. Many existed to give signs as to the nature of the coming winter. It has been said that when the fire in the fireplace would burn blue, a hard blizzard was soon to come. A thunderstorm in October was also looked upon as an omen for a particularly bad winter. Milk that spoiled overnight was seen as an indicator of the land having been bewitched, and horses that sweat in the morning also indicated the

presence of witchcraft. Many of these beliefs and superstitions still exist within the memory of folks living today and serve as an amazing insight to the

beliefs and practices of those that came before us. It was a simpler, and often more interesting, time when there was still a lot of mystery left in life and the ways of the world.



An abandoned home in Wayne Township that is no longer standing.

Arts in the Community: *Tim Denman*

By Morgan Marisa

Growing up on a farm surrounded by his grandmother's tales of manholes, omens, ghosts, and an infamous local serial killer, it's no wonder Greene County's Timothy Denman was destined to find success telling stories of his own one day. With his latest novel reaching number one in Amazon's new releases in science fiction fantasy for six days, it appears that day has arrived.

Devil's Half Acre specifically drew inspiration from Denman's grandmother's tales, as its namesake belongs to a road his family would pass frequently and was known to be vacant and unwanted.

"Her story had stayed in my mind for decades and I was reminded of it every time that I drove past that road," says Denman, a passionate fan of everything horror. "As I drove past it on a trip to my sister's farm several years ago, a character that has been with me for twenty years let me know that she had grown up in this area and she knew the whole history of Devil's Half Acre."

The project had been on the backburner for decades, but became something he knew he had to finish after the passing of a friend last year and encouragement from his favorite writer, Lee Murphy. Set in the small town of Grayson, the novel presents the origin story of Neve Richards and the start of her journey into the world of paranormal and cryptozoology.

"At its core, it is about the love we have for our first real group of friends and the lengths that we will go to protect them," adds Denman. "The story centers on four friends ex-

ploring the unknown history of Devil's Half Acre and who or what may be behind it."

Denman additionally draws inspiration from some of his favorite horror directors and writers, specifically Wes Craven and Stephen King. He noted how the opening scene in *A Nightmare on Elm Street* changed his life and sparked something in him, pushing him to discover what type of person can create something like that. These creators provided an informal education in inventing multidimensional characters and stories that invoke the same feelings of ominous mystery and terror.

"I love to explore the darkness that lives in all of us," Denman says about the genre. "I love finding out what is hiding behind that well-crafted façade that we show people. In most stories, the good guy isn't without their darkness. Neve is a character that walks sometimes as much in the dark as she does in the light and that depth is so amazing to explore."

Devil's Half Acre can currently be found on Amazon in paperback or Kindle along with a screenplay called *The Missing Link*. Another screenplay, *Storytime*, is on the way, set to be released in 2024. Neve's tales are also far from finished, as the second of five novels centered around the character is set to release in the spring of 2024, titled *Dreamer Man*.



Tim Denman recently released *Devil's Half Acre*, which reached number one on Amazon's New Releases.

With the month of horror in full swing, there's no better time to dive into a story that will feel close to home whether it's through the bit of darkness that lives in every one or the curiosity of what really waits at the end of all those small-town dirt roads no one dares to venture down.

Waynesburg University Theatre Presents....

By Zack Zeigler

There is a rumor swirling around Waynesburg University this fall as the school prepares for its annual fall play. This year, the Waynesburg University Players will be performing "Rumors," the comedic work of playwright Neil Simon, November 1 through the 4 inside the campus's Goodwin Performing Arts Center. Waynesburg University's Director of Theatre Edward L. Powers realizes the struggles that everyone faces in today's world and offers the fall play as a comedic way for people to relax and interact with live theater right here in Greene County.

"Everybody needs a good laugh," says Powers. "Life is difficult as it is on a day-to-day basis, and we all need to relax and have some fun. Nothing quite compares to the fun factor of live theater because you are there in the same presence as the actors. They are in the audience's presence, and you are in their presence which leads to an immediate laugh filled result. So, what would I tell people who are interested in the show? I say if you want to laugh, come see the show."

"Rumors" was written by Neil Simon, widely considered one of America's greatest playwrights, and premiered in 1988. The story centers around four couples visiting an-

other couple's house for their 10th wedding anniversary. However, when they arrive, their hosts are nowhere to be found. As each of the four couples arrive and build their theories as to what is happening, rumors build on each other until the entire room is in utter chaos. The insanity leads to a hilarious set of circumstances that forms throughout the play. The cast features 10 actors, including three upperclassmen and seven freshmen. The young talent has given life to this show

on stage, and Powers is excited for that talent to shine.

"I have quite a bit of young talent here. Now, some of it is raw and we are shaping the performances now, but these young people have been a delight to work with. I really hope they get a good turnout in terms of audience because they are working very hard. It's refreshing to see this young energy on stage."

An upperclassmen in the show, junior

Jayda Fyock plays Chris, one of the main leads in the show, and has been involved with the Waynesburg University Players all three years she has been on campus. She echoes Powers' thoughts and is excited to take the stage with this cast.

"[The cast] is really fun and I'm super excited to work with them," says Fyock. "They are just a great group of people, really upbeat and energetic, and they make it just really easy to work with them."

This fall show is also going to be a full circle moment for Powers in his career at Waynesburg University. When he first came to Waynesburg in the fall semester of 2000, "Rumors" was the first play he directed with the university. As he enters the 97th production of his career, he is bringing the play back to the GPAC stage this fall. For more information or to inquire about tickets, you can call Powers at (724) 852-3226.

"In our post pandemic society, we sort of rely on home entertainment, whether its television, streaming, or what have you," says Powers. "And again, there is nothing better than being in the presence of performers who are causing us to laugh. So, please attend Rumors so you can have an evening of good laughter."



The cast of Rumors with Director of Theatre Edward Powers.



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Recent Events in Greene & Nearby

Greene County Outdoor Show



After a first successful year, the Greene County Outdoor Show returned to the Greene County Fairgrounds. Hosted by the Greene County Department of Recreation, the Outdoor Show gathered a variety of vendors that specialized in outdoor activities. The range of vendors represented taxidermy, weaponry, machinery, gear and more. There was hot food for sale, and the United Way was offering last minute chances to participate in their truck giveaway. And speaking of the truck giveaway....

United Way Truck Giveaway



Greene County United Way (GCUW) celebrated the winner of their first Truck Giveaway, Cheryl Lawrence of Carmichaels, Pennsylvania, as she took possession of her new 2022 Ford F-150 4x4 Supercrew XL. Ms. Lawrence purchased one ticket at the Greene County Fair in August.

"I don't normally buy raffle tickets, but as I was walking by their [the GCUW] booth, I told my husband I am feeling lucky," said Cheryl. And lucky she was.

Along with Cheryl and her husband Dan, attending the celebration were the Truck Raffle sponsors – Brian Wood from Fox Ford, Casey Durdines from the EQT Corporation, Heidi Jamison from Iron Senergy, Brett Shimek from Baily's Insurance Agency, and Chad Moore from First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Greene County. Also in attendance were the GCUW Board President, Joshua Dains, and the Board Treasurer, David Floyd.

"We are super excited to give Cheryl the truck," said Dains. "We sold just over 3,000 tickets all over Greene County

this summer. We are very grateful to Fox Ford, EQT, Iron Senergy, Baily's Insurance, and First Federal for jumping on board with us and grateful to our community for supporting this new GCUW fundraiser."

For the first year of the Truck Giveaway, GCUW sold 3011 tickets and made a little over \$38,000 for the organization. The money raised will be invested back into the community through programs like Stuff the Bus as well as into the GCUW Community Impact Fund, which provides grants for 12 necessary neighborhood programs.

Cumberland Township Pumpkin Patch



On Saturday, September 30, Wana B Park held a Pumpkin Patch event for area children. The first 50 children received a free pumpkin to decorate. Children arrived at the event, checked in, and were able to pick a pumpkin from the patch and take it over to the decorating station. A bounce house and slide were available for the children to play on, as well as park equipment, and dried corn sandbox. Children were also served a hot meal during the event.

GCHS Harvest Festival



Another successful Harvest Festival is in the books! The Greene County Historical Society Museum welcomed visitors from all over to explore their museum, outbuildings, and grounds. Reenactors delivered battles, while resting in their historic encampments between actions. The museum was open for visitors to tour, and showcased some recent renovations. "The staff and volunteers at the Greene County Historical Society would like to thank everyone who braved the cooler weather and came out to visit and support us during our 52nd Annual Harvest Festival," says Matthew Cumblede,

director of the museum. "It was a great weekend with awesome vendors, food and entertainment and we look forward to enjoying the festivities again next October. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for winter presentations, our Christmas Open House and information about our next open season beginning in April 2024!"

Waynesburg Farmers Market



The farmers market season is wrapping up in downtown Waynesburg. Although the location changed this year from near the courthouse to West High Street between the Denny House and PNC Bank, the many wonderful vendors brought attendees uptown as usual each Wednesday from May to October.

"We are blessed to have a core group of great vendors, many who have been with us for years. It's not just about the produce, food and variety of products offered, it's about the people and the stories behind it," says Jenine Henry of Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful. This year's vendors included Bliss Hollow Farms, Harden Family Farm, Plum Run Winery, Pursley Creek Farm, Sue's Bakery, Dyers Fork Farms, C&T Barkshop, What's Smokin' BBQ, Juliet's Empanadas, and Shipley's Firehouse Grub. The variety of vendors provided fresh fruit and vegetables, prepared foods and baked goods, wines, homemade dog treats, and more.

"With the move to the new location, the market is undergoing the growing pains of change. Next year promises to be a time of growth and greater opportunities for all at the market," says market manager Scott Hackenburg.

Flashlight Drags



The Flashlight Drags returned to ...continued on page 16

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the Greene County Airport in October for their last race of the season, after inclement weather on their scheduled date of September 24 caused them to cancel. The drags started in May and continued through until September, with five race dates throughout the season in Greene County. For just \$40, the races were open to all street legal cars and trucks, with licensed and insured drivers. Spectators were also welcome for \$10.

The July event featured street racing for the kids, with the first ever Flashlight Drags RC drag race. The August 27 featured the annual PID Reunion that welcomed the PID (Pittsburgh International Dragway) members. The Flashlight Drags will return in 2024 for more racing without the jail time!



Lippencott Alpacas Open House

Even though the event was a little damp, Farm Days at brought attendees out to Lippencott Alpacas for a day of farm fun. Attendees enjoyed hayrides, pronking races, a scavenger hunt, touching and washing a tractor, demonstrations, and presentations about alpacas and their fiber. The event spread awareness and education about alpacas each year. The winner of this year's scavenger hunt was six-year-old Bailey Noce (pictured). If you missed Farm Days, you can see Lippencott Alpacas at the upcoming Veterans Day and Christmas parades in Waynesburg.

Symphonic Band presents "Music for



Ghosts, Goblins, and Ghouls"

The Waynesburg University Symphonic Band presented its first concert of the semester Wednesday, October 11, at 5:15 p.m. in the Marsh Center under Roberts Chapel: "Music for Ghosts, Goblins, and Ghouls." This is one of two performances that the band does each semester.

The Symphonic Band performed a free show centered around Halloween, and attendees enjoyed warm apple cider, home baked cookies and treats.



Touch A Truck

On September 30, children of all ages gathered in Waynesburg to get up close and personal with firetrucks, first responder vehicles, heavy equipment, race cars, and more. Both kids and adults got hands-on with many of the vehicles, including sitting inside some of them, and learning about how they work and what they do.

There were plenty of children's activities, including a bounce slide, pinatas, and more were available to add to the delight. Parents could sign children up for programs such as Project Bundle UP and and Angel Tree, as well as visit with Cornerstone Care, and stop by the Corner Cupboard for free



ice cream.

Stover Center Hosts Judge D. Brooks Smith

Waynesburg University's Stover Center for Constitutional Studies and Moral Leadership hosted United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit Judge D. Brooks Smith Thursday, Sept. 21, in Alumni Hall.

Judge Smith, serving as a Judicial Fellow in Residence, participated in a question-and-answer-styled lecture titled, "Reflections on Law and Judiciary." Dr. Lawrence M. Stratton, Director of the Stover Center for Constitutional Studies and Moral Leadership, served as the interviewer.

His presentation stressed the importance of judicial independence, respect for the procedures or rules of legal analysis, and the duties of citizenship to Waynesburg University students, faculty and administrators.

"Judge Smith is renowned as a jurist for his prudence and sound judgment which embody the ideal of judges articulated by Alexander Hamilton in the Federalist Papers," said Dr. Stratton. "It was truly a wonderful opportunity for Waynesburg University pre-law, political science and other students to learn from Judge Smith's insights."

The Waynesburg University Stover Scholars had the opportunity to engage in the presentation and ask questions. Several offered remarks on their experience afterwards.

"I thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to hear from Judge Smith concerning his work as a circuit judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit," said Kaylee Boll, a junior nursing major. "Throughout the lecture, Judge Smith emphasized the idea of the judicial process and how a good judge must overlook his personal views or desires and focus on the facts of a case in order to reach a just conclusion."

"Judge Smith is an influential legal figure with years of judicial wisdom. His support of the jury system and judicial processes was unwavering in his informative lecture," added Ethan Lown, a senior political science major.

"Judge D. Brooks Smith offered the Waynesburg University students and faculty insightful knowledge of the judicial system and the extraordinary privilege that 'We the People' have to participate as a jury in a trial," Kristie Faber, a sophomore business administration major, said. "Judge Smith expressed it is our obligation to teach the public Civics, to truly assist in 'transforming the polis.'"

"The reverence and thoughtfulness with which Judge Smith approaches the legal system is something that we can all learn from," Joshua DeFries, a sophomore computer science major, added. "Judge Smith only cares about how to best uphold and enact the legal system laid out before us."

"Judge Smith gave a riveting discussion regarding the process and procedure of the judiciary and the weight that this branch carries within the American government system," remarked sophomore criminal justice major Emily Barker. "He referenced his experience and knowledge to give us a better understanding of the role of judges. He connected his humanity and moral convictions to his legal duties in a legalist role. Judge Smith is a wonderful example of the ideal American judge."

Judge Smith has served on the Third Circuit since 2002 and was Chief Judge of that court from October 2016 to December 2021. Judge Smith is the only judge in the history of the Circuit to have served as both a chief district judge and chief circuit judge. Prior to his elevation to the Third Circuit, Judge Smith was the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Waynesburg University also hosted former NFL quarterback and professional speaker, Charlie Batch, as part of the Rosetta Kormuth DeVito Lecture Series this fall. The event was held Thursday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Goodwin Performing Arts Center. Admission was free and open to the public.

WU Presents Homecoming Celebration

Waynesburg University hosted its annual Homecoming celebrations Sept. 21, through Sept. 23. During halftime of the Saturday football game, the 2023 Homecoming King and Queen, Marco Moorby and Shekinah Chandler, were crowned.



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Moorby, son of Donald and Marilena Moorby, is a senior forensic investigation major and psychology minor from Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

On campus, Moorby is involved in cheerleading, Sting Swing, Forensics Club, Gateway, First Baptist coffee house and Empty Bowls. He is also a Bonner Scholar, president of Sting Swing, a leader of the Unity Trail and responsible for organizing the study abroad/internship program in South Africa. Moorby's future plans are to become a wildlife investigator and inform people about the same.

Chandler is the daughter of Norman and Debbie Chandler of Robinson Township, Pennsylvania. She is a senior nursing major and serves as the senior intern for the Bonner Scholars Program.

As a student, Chandler has been involved in the Vira I Heinz Global Leadership Program, the Bonner Scholars Program and participated as an athlete in lacrosse and track and field. After graduation, Chandler plans to pursue her master's degree in public health and hopes to begin her nursing career as a labor and delivery nurse.

The 2023 Homecoming festivities kicked off Thursday night with a virtual trivia night for alumni.

On Friday evening, an all-alumni combined class reunion was held at The Denny House in Waynesburg, where reunion classes of 2018, 2013, 2008, 2003, 1998, 1993, 1988, 1983 and 1978 were recognized. Also celebrated during this event was the 10th anniversary of President Lee's inauguration.

The Class of 1973 was honored Saturday for their 50th class reunion at a brunch hosted by President and Mrs. Lee.

Saturday boasted an array of in-person activities, which included the 27th Annual 5K Run/Walk; reunions for gradu-

ates of the Department of Nursing, Department of Biology, Environmental Science & Health Science, Department of Chemistry & Forensic Science, and Stover Scholars; and family festivities at John F. Wiley Stadium before, during and after the football game.

After the conclusion of the game, a dedication was held for the Wilson Gate in recognition of Reverend Dr. Donald Wilson ('64). President Lee gave the opening remarks.

A dedication of the University tennis courts was held in honor of Scott Bechtle ('73). During this dedication, the new plaque was unveiled and guests had the opportunity to view the recently renovated facility. Waynesburg University students Ethan Lown, a senior men's tennis player, and Julia Luzar, a freshman women's tennis player, gave the ceremonial first serves.

Oh My Gourd!

This fall festival extravaganza, held at the Greene River Trail, celebrated an awesome autumn. The day started early with the Greene River Trail 5K Walk/Run at 9am, followed by a Kid's Halloween Bike Ride. At the bike ride, prizes were awarded for costumes and bike decorating. During the late morning and into the afternoon, a fall craft show showcased area makers. Music and entertainment were held throughout the day, with Timm Reeves Acoustic, and Quick Exit. Another walk, a Pink Out Party, was held at 5pm to support breast cancer awareness. Nearby, the WA Young & Sons Foundry and Machine Shop and the Rices Landing Jail were open to touring visitors, with ghost tours at the foundry that evening. While rain may have kept some people away (and made it hard to get pictures!), it didn't stop the event and those that attended from having fun.

FCPABRP Bigfoot Seminar



The Fayette County PA Bigfoot Research Project presented a Bigfoot Seminar at the Jefferson Volunteer Fire Company on Saturday, October 14. The event, held from 10am-5pm, had vendors, food, and expert speakers. Expert speakers included Terry Ronzio, a paranormal investigator and historian; Brian Seech, founder of the Center for Cryptozoological Studies; Mike Hartmen, founder of Ohio Bigfoot Research & Investigation Center; Kevin Paul, author and paranormal researcher (*cancelled*); and Damon Keys, paranormal investigator with Outsider Paranormal SWPA. The event was free for attendees; all proceeds benefited the Jefferson VFC.

Share pictures and information about your events both before and after they happen to be included in either our *GreeneScene* calendar or our event wrap up. Email info@greenescenemagazine.com to share!

Good NEWS

In Greene County

Students Give Back with Community Service

JM students Eric Basiorka, Elisabeth Hollerich, Jacie Manning, Marilyn Marody, Sayde Stickovich and their teacher Ms. Caffrey, took part in a community service with the Jefferson Baptist food pantry as a way of encouraging the bridge between the youth of Jefferson and its more experienced leaders. This opportunity allowed students to help out the members of their community while socializing with members of the community who have been promoting service to its residents for years. These students will help out once a month for the duration of the school year.

The Carmichaels Cross Country team and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) gave back to their community today, September 20, 2023. They cleaned up the roadsides and parking lots surrounding the firehall, Center for Performing Arts, Circle K, and the Greene Academy.



TC Energy Awards Generous Grant to Bolster West Greene High School Welding Program

In an exciting development for the local community and aspiring young welders, West Greene High School is proud to announce they have received a substantial grant from TC Energy aimed at enhancing the West Greene High School agriculture mechanical welding program. With a strong commitment to education, workforce development, and fostering skilled trades, TC Energy has allocated this grant to provide students with opportunities to excel in the world of welding without having to leave our campus.



The grant from TC Energy, totaling \$20,000, will be utilized to enhance and update the high school welding program's equipment and safety protocols. The program will receive an infusion of cutting-edge welding equipment and technology, allowing students to train on industry-standard machinery and stay ahead of the curve. The district plans to requisition a

Lincoln Electric Power Mig 360 MP Multi-Process Welder and several Idealarc 250 Stick Welders w/ PFC to support welding instruction. Students will be able to train on a VRTEX Virtual Welding Simulator before progressing towards live welding. From a realistic welding puddle to accurate sounds and movements, what can be learned virtually with a VRTEX welding simulator seamlessly transfers into real-world, hands-on welding, creating safer welding practices, less material waste, and an enhanced learning experience. Additionally, we will be able to resupply the welding program with new safety helmets, gloves, and welding jackets.

West Greene School District is thrilled to partner with TC Energy in this endeavor, aligning with the school's vision to equip students with practical skills that open doors to promising career opportunities. This collaboration underscores TC Energy's dedication to education, workforce development, and community growth.

The grant will not only benefit the high school and its students but will also contribute to the region's economic development by producing a skilled workforce that meets industry demands.

This grant from TC Energy is a testament to their belief in the potential of young welders and the importance of investing in their future. By providing the tools, resources, and support needed to excel in the field of welding, TC Energy and West Greene School District are setting the stage for a brighter future for the next generation of skilled tradespeople.

As the welding program at West Greene School District prepares to embark on this exciting journey with TC Energy, we invite the community to join us in celebrating this generous grant and the boundless opportunities it will create for our students and our community. Together, we're forging a path to a stronger, more prosperous future.

Business Incubator to Begin Construction in Waynesburg

In an effort to grow small business in Greene County, the Greene County Commissioner are beginning the process of creating a business incubator in the Waynesburg, located in the Silveus Building.

The county received in a grant in 2022; the money received from this grant will fund the project. In September, the commissioners approved bids for general contracting, HVAC, and electric totaling over \$2.7 million to begin the project: \$1.7 million (Waller Corporation), \$479,000 (Hranac Sheet Metal), and \$607,000 (Westmoreland Electric).

It's estimated that the project will take at least another two years to reach completion.

Carmichaels Places 2nd in Grasslands Evaluations Competition



Congratulations to the team from Carmichaels Area High School for placing second in the state at the 2023 Grasslands Evaluation Competition.

Team members individually completed exams in four areas, including: Grassland Condition, Wildlife Habitat, Soil Evaluation, and Plant Identification.

Team members include: Faith Willis, Alex Lawrence, Emma Bates, and Allie Miller.

Each team member received a \$250 scholarship for the second place finish.

The team would like to especially thank the Greene County Conservation District for their help in funding the transportation to this event held at Penn State's Ag Progress Days site.

The Grassland Evaluation contest is hosted by Southwest Project Grass. Since 2003, Southwest Project Grass has been sponsoring this educational contest for high school students to learn practical and profitable ways to graze livestock. Over \$41,000 in scholarships have been awarded to date.

WCHS Lions Club Students of the Month

The WCHS Lions Club Students of the Month for September are Colleen Lemley and Tyler Jeffries.

Colleen Lemley is the daughter of Heather and Don Lemley of Waynesburg. She has earned a 3.95 GPA throughout high school. She is a member of the Basketball Team, ...continued on page 19



Colleen Lemley

Alpha Beta Club, the Letterman Club and the Creative Writing Club.

She has received recognition for her writing. Colleen has earned two Scholastic Silver Key Awards for her Poetry and the Creative Writing Club Scholar Award. Her poetry has been featured in the American Library of Poetry book "Empowered".

Outside of school Colleen enjoys collecting plants, traveling, herbology, hiking and working out. She also enjoys crocheting and sewing for her own small business. Colleen's future plans are to pursue a degree in floristry and become a florist.

Tyler Jeffries is the son of Charles and Carol Jeffries of Waynesburg. Tyler has earned straight 'A's throughout high school. He is the captain of the Academic League Team, the Senior Class President, and a member of Student Council, the Debate Team, Art Club, NHS, and the Music Club. Tyler's team won the 2023 Greene County Reading Competition.

Outside of school Tyler enjoys giving vocal performances as a singer. He also has great interest in history, the arts and model railroading. He also works as the grounds keeper for the Lions Club Park. Tyler's future plans are to attend college are pursue a career as a history professor.



Tyler Jeffries

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Free Christmas Dinner

The 6th annual free Christmas Day Dinner will be held on December 25 at the Waynesburg Eagles at 52 West High Street. The Eagles will begin taking orders on October 1. The dinner is available for eat in, take out, or delivery. The Eagles' goal is to deliver to all of Greene County who cannot attend in person. Dinner includes ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, egg noodles, macaroni/potato salad, gravy, vegetables, dinner roll and dessert.

Eat in and to go orders will begin at 1pm; deliveries will start at 11am. If you would like to order, please call 724-344-5527.



All Things Christmas Festival

The All Things Christmas Festival returns to the Carmichaels Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Carmichaels, PA on November 27 through December 2 from 9:30am to 7pm. The event helps raise money for the Cumberland Township food pantry.

Donations of decorated, themed Christmas trees, wreaths, crafts, baskets, and more will be displayed all week. Raffle tickets will be available all week in the Carmichaels Methodist Fellowship Hall. Tickets are used to select items that you are interested in winning. The drawing will take place on Saturday, December 2 at 6pm and winners will be announced live in the hall and on Facebook.

Each year, the Cumberland Township food pantry gathers all its resources to provide food boxes to those in the community. The food provides plenty for the holiday season and upcoming winter. With the new year approaching, funding to purchase goods becomes vital. Last year, the festival raised \$4,892 to support the pantry, their highest amount to date. This year the goal is \$5000.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the food bank during the event, please make all checks payable to the Carmichaels Methodist Church and include "food bank" in the memo section of the check. All proceeds go directly to the Cumberland Township Food Pantry. FMI please contact Nicole Baker 724-970-3276 or visit @allthingschristmasfestival on Facebook.

Hands on History Workshop for Middle School/Junior High Students

The Bradford House Historical Association's educators will present a workshop on Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 10:00 to 2:00, at the Meeting House, located at 182 S. Main Street, Washington, PA. The workshop is designed for students who are in grades 6, 7, 8 or 9. The class is limited to 16 students. The workshop fee is \$25.00.

Students will be introduced to the Bradford House Poster Contest and will be guided through the steps of creating a visual project. They will be introduced to primary sources of historical information, research methods, and presentation techniques. These skills will become an asset that will carry over into the classroom. A tour of the Whiskey Rebellion Education & Visitor Center will be included.

Students must bring a laptop, Chromebook, or other electronic device capable of internet connection for research purposes. Lunch,

snacks, and water will be provided. FMI, contact education@bradfordhouse.org.

Veterans' Appreciation at Grange

The Harveys-Aleppo Grange Hall will host a Veterans Appreciation event on November 2 at 7pm. Veterans of any of the U.S. Armed Forces will be honored that day, and certificates and pins will be presented to each veteran whose name is submitted in advance. To submit a name contact Colleen Nelson at 724-833-2622 or crnelson@windstream.net or Mary Jane Kent at 724-710-0470 or kentmaryjane@yahoo.com.

Refreshments and finger foods will be served. This year, the event is held in loving memory of John "Buzz" Walters.

Angel Tree Signups

In person Angel Tree sign ups will be held on October 23 & 24 from 10am-12pm at 131 W 1st Street, Waynesburg. Angel Tree is available for ages birth to 12. You must show proof of income and proof of children's ages. You may request sign up through email until November 1. Visit wpa.salvationarmy.org/WesternPennsylvania/greene-county FMI.

TRICK OR TREAT!

Aleppo Twp. trick or treat from 6 to 8pm Oct. 31
 Carmichaels Borough parade 2pm, trick or treat immediately following Oct 29
 Center Twp. trick or treat from 6 to 7pm Oct. 31
 Clarksville Borough trick or treat from 6 to 8pm Oct. 31
 Cumberland Twp. trick or treat 3 to 5pm Oct. 29
 Dunkard Twp. trick or treat from 6 to 8pm Oct. 31
 East Bethlehem Twp. trick or treat 1 to 3pm Oct. 28
 Franklin Twp. trick or treat from 4 to 6pm Oct. 31
 Freeport Twp. no available information
 Gilmore Twp. trick or treat from 6 to 8pm Oct. 31
 Gray Twp. no available information
 Greene Twp. trick or treat from 5 to 7pm Oct. 31
 Greensboro Borough trick or treat from 6 to 8pm Oct. 31
 Jackson Twp. no available information
 Jefferson Borough & Twp. trick or treat from 6 to 8pm Oct. 31
 Masontown Borough parade at 5:30pm Oct. 29
 Monongahela Twp. trick or treat from 6 to 8pm Oct. 31
 Morgan Twp. trick or treat from 6 to 7:30pm Oct. 31
 Morris Twp. trick or treat from 6 to 7pm Oct. 31
 Perry Twp. trick or treat from 5 to 7pm Oct. 28
 Rices Landing Borough Parade at 1pm Oct. 29, trick or treat follow 2 to 4pm
 Richhill Twp. trick or treat from 6 to 7pm Oct. 31
 Ronco trick or treat from 3 to 5pm on Oct 29
 Springhill Twp. no available information
 Washington Twp. trunk or treat from 2 to 4pm at the Twp Park Oct. 28
 Wayne Twp. trick or treat from 6 to 8pm Oct. 31
 Waynesburg trick or treat from 4 to 6pm, parade to follow at 6:30pm Oct. 31
 Whitely Twp. no set times

Times may change. Check with your township or borough for updates.

CORRECTION: In our October "Shining the Light" it was incorrectly stated that Daniel Festog was a sometime pastor at Greensboro First Baptist Church. This is incorrect. We apologize for the info error.

This Message Board Is For You!

If you'd like to comment on a picture, send in a GreeneScene of your own, ask questions or share an interesting tidbit about the local area, send it to: GreeneScene Magazine Message Board, 185 Wade Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370 or email to: info@GreeneSceneMagazine.com.

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Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore

Celebrating Veterans in Sports History

Several years ago, the first column I did for the Greene Scene was about some of the legendary local athletes who missed years of their prime due to serving their country in the armed forces. Some of those athletes, such as Bucky Murdock, went on to become decorated war heroes. In honor of Veteran's Day this year, I thought I might revisit the sacrifices many of our iconic national sports heroes made for a calling above and beyond public adulation. The tradition is as old as our sports themselves.

After setting single-season record for stolen bases in 1916, Ty Cobb enlisted in the United States Army in October of 1917 and was sent to the Allied Expeditionary Forces in France during World War I.

Numerous famous athletes also did their part during World War II. The first MLB player to volunteer for active duty after Pearl Harbor was Hall of Famer pitcher Bob Feller. He served four years in the Navy and was later commended as a lifetime member of the Green Berets.

Jackie Robinson served from 1942-1944 as a second lieutenant in the Army. Unfortunately, his service was marred by his court-martial for refusing to sit in the back of the Army's bus while he was at Fort Hood, Texas. He was eventually acquitted and received an honorable discharge. A few years later, Robinson broke baseball's color barrier.

In 1942, Ted Williams won baseball's Triple Crown for the Red Sox. The following year he was a naval flight instructor. He also flew 39 combat missions in the Korean War. Somehow, Williams made 19 All-Star game appearances between his active duties. In Korea, he crash-landed his Navy F9F Panther jet, which was damaged by anti-aircraft fire, and managed to walk away from the wreckage.

Fifteen-time All-Star Yogi Berra signed with the Yankees in 1943. However, a year later he was one of thousands who stormed the beaches of Normandy during D-Day. Berra manned a machine gun on a landing craft support boat and earned a Purple Heart. Joe DiMaggio was also a sergeant during World War II.

Heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis enlisted as a private during the war and earned the Legion of Merit Medal. In 1943, Johnny Lujack won a national football championship with Notre Dame. Then, he went overseas to fight as an officer in the Navy. He returned home to win a Heisman Trophy and two more national titles.

The trend continued during the Korean War. Before winning seven majors and 62 PGA Tour events, Arnold Palmer served three years in the U.S Coast Guard after college. 1950 Rookie of the Year Whitey Ford and 1951 Rookie of the Year Willie Mays both missed two full seasons due to military ser-

vice. It was in the army that Mays learned the basket catch from a fellow soldier.

A little over a decade later, Roger Staubach served in Vietnam after graduating from the Naval Academy before winning two Super Bowl with the Cowboys. Every Steeler fan knows the story of Rocky Bleier. In 1968, he was drafted by the Steelers after graduating from Notre Dame, but he went to Vietnam. Bleier took shrapnel to his thigh during an ambush. He recovered and received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star before winning four Super Bowl rings as Franco Harris' running mate. In 1969, the Buffalo Bills starting right guard Bob Kalsu left to join the Army. On July 21, 1970, he became the first NFL player to be killed in Vietnam.

In recent decades, Basketball Hall of Famer David Robinson served two tours after graduating from the Naval Academy. Air Force Academy grad Chad Hennings flew 45 successful A-10 combat missions in Iraq. The former Outland Trophy winner dropped to the eleventh round of the 1988 NFL Draft because of his military commitment. However, four years later he started his career with the Dallas Cowboys and played until 2000, winning three Super Bowls. Steeler fans also remember Alejandro Villanueva who earned a Bronze Star as an Army Ranger. The undrafted tackle went to back-to-back Pro Bowls in 2017 and 2018.

One of the most iconic veterans in pro sports, Pat Tillman famously turned down a multi-million contract from the Arizona Cardinals to enlist as a U.S. Army Ranger following the attacks on September 11, 2001. Initially deployed to Iraq, Tillman was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan, and posthumously earned a Silver Star and Purple Heart.

For some famous athletes the military was the reason for their eventual success.

In 1955, Hall of Fame golfer Lee Trevino was two years removed from dropping out of high school. He was working part-time at a golf course in Texas. After being caught by a policeman for a petty theft, the officer referred Trevino to a recruiter for the Marine Corps. Later, Trevino said the four years he spent in the Corps "was the greatest thing that ever happened to me."

Many of our greatest boxers got their start in the service. Rocky Marciano, Leon Spinks and Ken Norton all credited their successful careers to

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

the armed forces.

Finally, the man who brought the "Mile High Salute" to the NFL, former Denver Broncos' running back Mike Anderson spent four years in the Marine Corps after graduating high school. It was there that he was spotted as a potential prospect. Anderson was playing for the 11th Marines team when he was offered the chance to play at a junior college, which led to an opportunity at the University of Utah, which gave him the credibility to eventually become a starting running back in the NFL.



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GREENE COUNTY FOOTBALL STATS

Player	Total	TDs	2XP	1XP
C. Brady (WG)	90	14	6	0
B. Woods (WC)	60	10	0	0
J. Stephenson (WC)	48	8	0	0
D. Dehoet (JM)	42	7	0	0
B. Whitlatch (WG)	42	7	0	0
J. Lampe (WG)	42	7	0	0
L. Donaldson (C)	38	6	1	0
E. Griffin (M)	38	6	1	0
P. Durbin (WG)	25	1	19	0
C. Basceglia (JM)	24	3	3	0
C. Chambers (WG)	24	4	0	0
B. Evans (M)	20	3	1	0
A.J. Vanata (M)	18	3	0	0
J. Ricciuti (WC)	18	3	0	0
D. Taylor (WC)	17	0	0	17
A. Adamson (C)	14	2	1	0
R. Gradek (M)	14	2	1	0
W. Murray (C)	14	2	1	0
J. Woodward (JM)	12	2	0	0
S. Burns (WG)	12	2	0	0
D. Huffman (WC)	12	2	0	0
A. Adamson (C)	12	2	0	0
J. Robinson (JM)	12	2	0	0
P. Burns (WG)	12	2	0	0
J. Mick (M)	7	0	2	3
C. Fox (WC)	6	1	0	0
H. Guseman (JM)	6	1	0	0
P. Hewitt (C)	6	1	0	0
G. Kundly (C)	6	0	0	0
Husentis (C)	3	0	1	1
J. Mick (C)	2	0	1	0

SCORING

Player	Total	TDs	2XP	1XP
J. Howard (M)	2	0	1	0
Lane Allison (WG)	2	0	1	0
Billy White (C)	1	0	0	1

PASSING

Player	Yards	Attempts	Comp	TDs
L. Allison (WG)	583	77	35	10
J. Stephenson (WC)	559	74	45	5
H. Guseman (JM)	516	60	37	5
L. Donaldson (C)	247	56	35	1
A.J. Vanata (M)	224	36	19	4
B. Evans (M)	101	12	9	0

RUSHING

Player	Yards	Carries	TDs
C. Brady (WG)	1060	107	13
B. Woods (WC)	771	98	9
B. Whitlatch (WG)	634	67	7
J. Stephenson (WC)	477	78	8
C. Basceglia (JM)	471	61	5
W. Murray (C)	400	63	2
J. Woodward (JM)	396	48	2
E. Griffin (M)	381	49	4
H. Guseman (JM)	369	75	4
L. Donaldson (C)	335	65	5
J. Lampe (WG)	284	58	5
A.J. Vanata (M)	217	44	3
B. Evans (M)	195	39	2
R. Gradek (M)	137	25	0
R. Tennant (WC)	106	13	0
D. Huffman (WC)	96	20	0

RECEIVING

Player	Yards	Catches	TDs	Player	Yards	Catches	TDs
D. Dehoet (JM)	458	25	7	R. Gradek (M)	80	8	1
J. Ricciuti (WC)	250	16	3	J. Mick (M)	77	4	0
C. Chambers (WG)	148	6	4	B. Yekel (C)	74	15	0
B. Woods (WC)	134	10	1	C. Bupka (C)	74	6	0
S. Burns (WG)	114	7	2	P. Burns (WG)	76	5	2
J. Lampe (WG)	93	7	2	P. Durbin (WG)	67	4	1
E. Griffin (M)	86	5	1	B. Evans (M)	63	6	0



Billy White is the son of Brandon and Cissie Hixenbaugh of Carmichaels and Bryan White of Rices Landing and the late Karrie Ball. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the football team. He attends Greene County CTC and studies Building Construction. Billy is also a member of the National Honor Society for the CTC. In his spare time, he is a commentator for the Carmichaels Esports team. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and family. After graduation, he plans on attending college and playing football. His hopes to one day own his own construction company.



Jovi Blasinsky is the daughter of Krissi and Jeff Blasinsky of Carmichaels. She is a senior libero for the volleyball team. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, Senior Standing Committee, and Student Council. Outside of school, Jovi enjoys painting, spending time with her friends and family, and volunteering in the community when possible. For the past two summers, Jovi has been employed as a lifeguard for the Carmichaels Pool. After graduation, Jovi plans to become an esthetician, with a future goal of owning her own business.



Braden Benke is the son of Scott and Traci Benke of Waynesburg. He is a four-year letterman on the golf team. His accomplishments include: 2X All-County, 2023 Tri-CADA 10th Place Medalist, and 2021 and 2023 WPIAL Individual Finalist. Braden contributed greatly to the team's TriCADA and Section Championships in his career. In addition, Braden is a three-year letterman and captain of the Raiders baseball team. He is active in his church, where he serves as a member of the Nazarene Youth Council. His future plans are undecided at this time.



Reiley Shultz is the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Shultz of Waynesburg. She is a freshman member of the Raiders' cross country and track team. Reily is also a dance student at In Motion Dance & Fitness and was awarded an Outstanding Dancer Scholarship earlier this year. She is a voice student at LPS Guitar and enjoys singing at various open mic and church events. In school, she is a member of the Spanish, Alpha Beta, Creative Writing, Encore and World Travelers Clubs. She is a big Tennessee Volunteers fan and hopes to attend there in the future.



Mason Sisler is the son of Christina and Bill Sisler of Mather. He is center/defensive tackle on the Rockets' football team. The senior also participates in baseball and wrestling. In school, he is a member of the Entrepreneurship Club. Mason plans to attend Fairmont University to major in nursing.



Alisa Long is the daughter of Bryan and Courtney Long of Jefferson. She is a junior outside hitter on the Rocket's volleyball team. She also plays club volleyball and was a member of this year's homecoming court.



Matt Wassil is the son of Michael and Jessica Wassil of Nineveh. He is a sophomore and participates in football and basketball. Matt is also active in Science Club and Peer Mentoring.



Mya Smith is the daughter of Shannon and Sheena Smith of Center Highlands. She is a junior and participates in cheerleading and volleyball for the Pioneers. Mya is a member of the National Honor Society, Academic League, and the Greene County HOPE Squad. She is also active in Science Club and Peer Mentoring.



Tyler Howard is a junior and has played wide receiver and defensive back for the varsity football team for the past three years. He also plays for the Maples' basketball team. In his spare time, Tyler enjoys hunting, fishing, and riding ATV's and dirt bikes. Tyler is the son of Scott and Amber Howard of Greensboro, and plans to continue playing sports through high school and at the college level.



Rowan Eisiminger is the only freshman playing as an outside hitter for the Lady Maples volleyball team. Rowan has over 100 kills and serves at a 94% success rate. She intends to play softball in the spring. In addition, Rowan is an active member of Interact Club, Academic League, Student Council, and the SADD club. She is an honor student with a 4.0 GPA. Rowan is the daughter of Paula Wright and Travis Eisiminger.

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GreeneScene of the Past

The Carmichaels' Historical Society recently loaned Hometown Heritage Sports material from the collection of local baseball legend Dominic Christy. Among the treasures in the collection are these photos from Christy's scholastic days at Cumberland Township High School. The photos show the school's 1947 section champion basketball team and 1948 section champion and WPIAL semi-finalist baseball team. The teams were both coached by Al Cree. Some of the most successful athletes in Greene County history can be seen in these photos.



TOP - Front Row: Charles Bizub, William Nichols, Dominic Christy, Eddie Palone, Eddie Cihon, Mike Korcheck and Fred Novak. Back Row: Steve Korcheck, Mel Harrison, Nick Hartley, Walter Markiewich, Jack Hartley, Joe Markiewich and John Katusa.

BOTTOM - Front Row: Steve Korcheck, Mike Korcheck, Dominic Christy, Bill Cihon, and Bill Clarichick. Back Row: Larry Krutko, Fetsko, John Katusa, Fred Novak and Coach Al Cree.



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CARMICHAELS VOLLEYBALL

Carmichaels 2 Jefferson Morgan 3
Set Scores - 25-18 (C), 14-25 (JM), 25-27 (JM), 25-23 (C) 10-15 (JM)
CARM STATS Assists: Chloe Mitchell 43, Aces: Ani Cree 4, Chloe Mitchell 4, Pacey Pratt 4 Kills: Ani Cree 22, Pacey Pratt 13 Digs: Pacey Pratt 15, Ani Cree 12, Jovi Blasinsky 12 Service Points: Chloe Mitchell 21, Pacey Pratt 18 Blocks: Brenna Walker 1, Bailey Barnyak 1

Carmichaels 0 West Greene 3
Set Scores - 12-25, 17-25, 23-25
CARM STATS Assists: Camryn Anderson 8, Avery Voithofer 5 Aces: Ani Cree 1, Camryn Anderson 1 Kills: Ani Cree 7, Bailey Barnyak 5 Digs: Ani Cree, 9 Pacey Pratt 7 Service Points: Pacey Pratt 11, Chloe Mitchell 10 Blocks: Payton Plavi 2

Carmichaels 0 Frazier 3
Set Scores - 17-25, 23-25, 19-25
CARM STATS Assists: Camryn Anderson 8, Chloe Mitchell 7 Aces: Bailey Barnyak 2, Ani Cree 1 Kills: Pacey Pratt 8, Bailey Barnyak 5 Digs: Bailey Barnyak 17, Pacey Pratt 15 Service Points: Bailey Barnyak 14, Camryn Anderson 10 Blocks: Ani Cree 4, Pacey Pratt 3

Carmichaels 1 California 3
Set Scores: 25-23 (Cal), 25-21 (Cal), 24-26, (Carm), 25-21 (Cal)
CARM STATS Assists: Camryn Anderson 15, Chloe Mitchell 10 Aces: Bailey Barnyak 6, Chloe Mitchell 3 Kills: Bailey Barnyak 10, Pacey Pratt 9, Ani Cree 8 Digs: Ani Cree 20, Pacey Pratt 20, Bailey Barnyak 17 Service Points: Chloe Mitchell 18, Pacey Pratt 18 Blocks: Pacey Pratt 1

Carmichaels 3 Avella 0
Set Scores: 25-23, 25-19, 25-9
CARM STATS Assists: Chloe Mitchell 16 Camryn Anderson 14 Aces: Payton Plavi 4, Camryn Anderson 4 Kills: Ani Cree 11, Bailey Barnyak 10, Pacey Pratt 9 Digs: Pacey Pratt 11, Bailey Barnyak 7, Ani Cree 6 Service Points: Payton Plavi 15, Camryn Anderson 13, Chloe Mitchell 12 Blocks: Ani Cree 2, Payton Plavi 1, Pacey Pratt 1

Carmichaels 3 Mapletown 2
Set Scores: 16-25 (M) 24-25, (M) 25-21 (Carm), 25-17 (Carm), 19-17 (Carm)
CARM STATS Assists: Chloe Mitchell 18, Camryn Anderson 10 Aces: Chloe Mitchell 3, Camryn Anderson 2, Bailey Barnyak 2, Ani Cree 2, Calli Eddy 2 Kills: Bailey Barnyak 11, Ani Cree 8, Pacey Pratt 8 Digs: Pacey Pratt 28, Bailey Barnyak 24, Chloe Mitchell 17, Ani Cree 17 Service Points: Camryn Anderson 23, Chloe Mitchell 18, Payton Plavi 16 Blocks: Ani Cree 9

Carmichaels 3 Geibel 0
Set Scores: 25-12, 25-11, 25-12
CARM STATS Assists: Camryn Anderson 11, Chloe Mitchell 10, Avery 5 Aces: Ani Cree 8, Bailey Barnyak 3, Pacey Pratt 2 Kills: Pacey Pratt 13, Bailey Barnyak 7 Digs: Jovi Blasinsky 5, Bailey Barnyak 5, Chloe Mitchell 4 Service Points: Ani Cree 20, Chloe Mitchell 12, Pacey Pratt 11, Camryn Anderson 10 Blocks: Chloe Mitchell 1, Pacey Pratt 1, Brenna Walker 1

Carmichaels 3 Jefferson Morgan 0
Set Scores: 27-25, 25-18, 25-19
CARM STATS Assists: Camryn Anderson 13, Chloe Mitchell 7 Aces: Camryn Anderson 7, Ani Cree 4, Chloe Mitchell 2 Kills: Pacey Pratt 13, Bailey Barnyak 7 Digs: Pacey Pratt 15, Ani Cree 12, Bailey Barnyak 11 Service Points: Ani Cree 12, Payton Plavi 12, Chloe Mitchell 12, Camryn Anderson 10 Blocks: Brenna Walker 2, Ani Cree 1



LEFT: Jay Donley and Gary Bochna were members of the Pill and Pill team that captured the Over 70 national title. Donley was named the tournament MVP. RIGHT: Rex Buckhalter's Pill and Pill team recently won the Over 65 national championship.

BOBTOWN SOFTBALL PLAYERS ADD TO THEIR IMPRESSIVE LEGACY

Three Greene County senior softball players recently won National Championships. Gary Bochna, Jay Donley, and Rex Buckhalter all play for Pill & Pill Softball. The team plays out of Martinsburg, WV. For five decades, these three men have been cornerstones of the Bobtown softball dynasty.

Buckhalter plays on Pill's 65+ Major Team and Bochna and Donely play 70+ Major. Both teams won their age group in the prestigious ISSA National Tournament in Richmond, VA in August. They were crowned ISSA National Champs in the 65 Major and 70 Major divisions.

Buckhalter's team defeated Bassa Mist from Aylett, VA in the finals. Bochna and Donley's team defeated Superior Softball from Charlotte, Virginia. Superior Softball

had seven senior softball Hall of Famers on their team.

In addition, the Pill and Pill 70s played in the SSUSA World Tournament in Las Vegas from September 18-21. There were 651 senior teams entered - forty-eight of them were 70+ teams. Pill & Pill finished in 5th place. The teams in the tournament were grouped together in five-year spans, starting at age 40. There were even two Over 90 teams, who played a best two out of three series

Bochna and Donley's team also won the Smokey Mountain Classic in Tennessee and The Tournament of Champions in Tampa, Florida this year. They still play locally in the Bobtown and Morgantown Senior Leagues in the summer. The three men have been playing together since 1976.



Four new members of the West Greene Athletic Hall of Fame were inducted on Friday, September 28. The inductees included Emily Mathason, John Bristor, Ryan Crouse, and Ronnie King. Also pictured is West Greene Athletic Director Billy Simms.

GREENE RIVER TRAIL 5K RUN/WALK



Female Runners Overall: Ava Smith, Carmichaels, 3rd; Rachel Popielarcheck, Rices Landing, 2nd; Ann McCormick, Washington, 1st.



Male Runners Overall: Jesse Balar, Jefferson Pa, 3rd; Mo Kiger, Waynesburg Pa, 2nd; Christian Georgiana, Uniontown, 1st.



Female Walkers Overall: Andrea Henneman, Clarksville, 2nd; Jane Naymick, Uniontown, 1st; Linda Keller, Waynesburg, 3rd.



Male Walkers Overall: Richard Respole, Bellaire OH, 2nd; Dennis Cropp, Uniontown Pa, 3rd; Carl Kondrach, Barnesville OH, 1st.

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WHAT'S UP AT WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY

Waynesburg U. Hosts Fall Open Houses

Waynesburg University will host its annual Fall Open House events Saturday, Oct. 21, and Saturday, Nov. 18, for prospective students and their families.

“This event is for prospective Waynesburg students that could be sophomores, juniors or seniors in high school and is designed to give them an idea of what Waynesburg University is all about, from the application or admission process, to academics and to student life,” Robert Barnhart, director of Admissions, said.

Students and their families will meet faculty members and learn more about their major during the fair. The day will start at 9:30 a.m. in Roberts Chapel with

registration. Prospective students and their families will receive a welcome from Barnhart and WU President Douglas G. Lee.

After that, the students will be free to explore campus, learn more about financial aid and discover more about what life is like on campus. Students will eat lunch in the Benedum Dining Hall, then move on to the academic fair. Optional activities include a meeting with Sarah Feldberg, coordinator of Disability Services, a tour of the Department of Chemistry and Biology and a look at the eSports arena. Registration is free and can be done online or by contacting Admissions at 800-225-7393.

Partnership Benefits Students Interested in Public Accounting

WU and certified public accounting firm Schneider Downs & Co., Inc. recently established a partnership as part of the University’s WU Talent Network Pilot Project to provide opportunities for students looking to enter the public accounting field.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our students,” said William Stough, program director for the Master of Business Administration and associate professor of Business Administration. “They will have a direct link to a public accounting firm in order to pursue their career. Schneider Downs and Waynesburg University look to have a long-term beneficial relationship that will benefit the students at the University.”

Within this partnership, eligible students are interviewed by personnel at Schneider Downs

and offered internships if selected. If those students are found to be a good fit for the company, they will also have the opportunity to be offered full-time employment after graduation.

The University’s Department of Business Administration faculty will identify students for the program who have a desire to enter the public accounting field. Students can also let faculty know of their interest. For a student to be eligible for this opportunity, they must be working towards 150 credit hours, which can also be completed through the University’s Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. Students must also be pursuing a Certified Public Accounting (CPA) license. Majors eligible for consideration include accounting, finance and computer science.

FMI contact Stough at 724-852-3458.

Waynesburg U. Hosts Criminal Justice Job & Internship Fair

Waynesburg University’s Department of Criminal Justice and Social Sciences and the Pathways Center will host the annual Criminal Justice Job & Internship Fair Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the old gym. All students, regardless of their major, are encouraged to come and meet with employers about opportunities in the field.

This job fair is specifically focused on giving students experience in the job search and what it is like to speak professionally with employers.

“The Criminal Justice Job & Internship Fair is an annual event where employers have the opportunity to connect with Waynesburg University students, especially those in the

Department of Criminal Justice and Social Sciences,” Sarah Bell, director of the Pathways Center, said. “This major-specific fair enables students to grow their network while learning about the vast range of employment opportunities in their field.”

While the event is centered around the field of criminal justice, students not looking to go into that industry are still encouraged to attend. “Students will learn how to go about applying for internships and jobs and are welcome to bring their resumes to hand out to prospective employers,” Kenneth Cairns, chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Social Sciences, said. “Students from other majors are also encouraged to attend, as

a wide variety of opportunities are available.” Those opportunities could include information about potential job openings beyond the field of criminal justice.

“While it is hosted by the criminal justice department, many of the employers have opportunities in other areas as well,” Bell said. “For example, it’s common for employers who are recruiting at this fair to share openings in forensic science and investigation, communication, computer science, business and the humanities as well.”

It will also be a good opportunity for students to get a better understanding of the jobs available to them in the local area.

“In addition to employers from several

states, there are a wide variety of local agencies that will be attending and that have internship and career opportunities available,” Cairns said.

Ultimately, it is the hard work of everyone involved that makes the event possible. “This event is consistently successful because the Department of Criminal Justice and Social Sciences faculty and students are committed to making it a great event,” Bell said. “Year after year, employers walk away impressed with the students who attend and assist with the Criminal Justice Job and Internship Fair.”

The event is free for all students. Participating employers can register online.

Music Program Presents Chamber Works Concert

Waynesburg University’s Music Program will present the first Chamber Works concert of the semester Wednesday, Oct. 26, at noon in the Marsh Center.

Throughout the school year, students

with an interest in music can play in various small ensemble groups, such as woodwind and brass. These groups meet once a week to rehearse and present two concerts each semester. These small music ensembles give

students the chance to take charge of the music and give it their own interpretation. The chosen music is often one person to a part, making each member a soloist. This first concert will feature the mid-point of study for

the semester. The selections to be performed come from a variety of traditions and styles.

This concert is free and open to the public. Anyone who wants to bring their lunch while they enjoy the music is welcome.

Waynesburg U. kicks off 175th Anniversary Celebration with Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Holiday Brass Spectacular

Waynesburg University will kick off its 175th Anniversary celebrations with a Holiday Spectacular concert by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Brass Section in Roberts Chapel Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend. Tickets are \$15 per person and are available for purchase online at waynesburg.edu/pittsburghsymphony. Seating is limited, and tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

“We are honored to bring this Holiday Spectacular to Greene County as we kick off

Waynesburg University’s 175th Anniversary celebration,” said Stacey Brodak, Waynesburg University’s vice president for institutional advancement and university relations. “We hope local residents will join us as we celebrate both the holiday season and 175 years of light for the University.”

In recent years, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra began a holiday tradition of presenting this brass concert in Heinz Hall to sold out crowds. This year, Waynesburg University is pleased to present a preview of that performance to Greene County and the surrounding communities for a portion of the

cost to Heinz Hall.

Hailed as one of the world’s finest orchestras, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra has been the standard of culture in Pennsylvania for over a hundred years. This year, that artistry comes to Waynesburg in a festive holiday performance of brass music celebrating the holiday season. This Holiday Spectacular, perfect for the whole family, is sure to usher in the merry season!

Twelve members of the symphony brass and percussion sections of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform works from the Baroque era, along with arrange-

ments of beloved holiday melodies.

Waynesburg University will celebrate its 175th Anniversary in 2024. The theme of the year-long celebration, “175 Years of Light,” focuses on honoring the University’s mission as well as its motto, “fiat lux,” or “let there be light,” with a special emphasis on Matthew 5:14, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

As part of the anniversary celebration, the University will be hosting a special calendar of events on campus and fundraising initiatives throughout 2024.

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Veteran Shane Cole continues to serve his community as a member of Together With Veterans.

Veterans Day is an American holiday to remember and honor the brave men and women who serve and fight for the country, going back all the way to 1954, when Armistice Day merged into Veterans Day. Since then, November 11 has been the day when Americans honor all military veterans and their dedication and sacrifice.

All veterans have a story to tell and Waynesburg's Shane Cole is no different. Shane started his military journey when he enlisted in the Navy at the age of 19. Since then, he has spent most of his life serving in the military and devoting himself to it for many reasons.

"I started out by enlisting into the military, at the age of 19, for the college benefits, but that quickly changed and evolved over the years," Shane says. After serving ten years in the Navy, he enlisted into the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, serving part time. The part time service consisted of one weekend once a month and two weeks in the summer. "I did this for about a year, when I realized that I truly missed full-time military service, so I enlisted into a full-time position."

He continued with the National Guard in a full-time capacity, where he was in the active duty staff running day to day operations. He stayed in this position for another 16 years, serving for a total of 26 years. While serving for more than a quarter of a century, Shane was able to see and experience much of the world. He has traveled the Panama Canal and Atlantic Ocean, along with visiting numerous different countries in South America, the Mediterranean, and the Caribbean Islands. "I also had the privilege to serve in a time of need and deployed to Iraq for a

year. It's been a lifetime of experiences, none of which I regret."

After 26 years of active service, Shane is now a part of the organization Together With Veterans. After hearing about the group by a friend, he went to an event to learn more about it and its mission, and he got involved with the program. Shane is a part of the steering committee that helps with events for veterans that bring awareness to the high rate of veteran suicide, especially veterans in rural areas.

Also important to Shane is being a part of a small and special group that is the US veterans. Veterans currently serving make up a little less than one percent, and all veterans who have served at some point make up only about five percent of the population. "I think that with that low of a percentage that I feel as though I'm part of something special, and I want to continue to serve in that community."

Thank you for your service, Shane.

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These two photos from World War II are a glimpse into a past that still lives in the memories of the Sikora brothers – Ed, who just turned 100 on September 14, and big brother Ted, still smiling at 103.

We're gathered at Ed's daughter Sandy Logan's home in Ruff Creek to look at old photos, laugh, tell stories and enjoy lunch and some leftover cake from Ed's recent birthday party at Nemaocolin Woodlands.

"I got 107 birthday cards – every available space on my mantle is taken by cards!" Ed declares with a broad grin. The birthday banner hanging on the wall is decorated with flowers and the Polish word for 100 – Stolat. The conversation between the two brothers as we eat is a mellow mix of brotherly good humor.

There are plenty of stories to share about these long-lived brothers and the extended family that still wraps around them and makes their every day something to look forward to. There's Goat Hill in Washington where they grew up surrounded by hard working working class immigrants, a family that learned to "help that stranger and never ask for anything in return," a mother who lived to be 104. But for this story honoring veterans, their years of military duty are here to be shared once more.

That's Ed, looking over his shoulder as he mans his anti-aircraft gun on Okinawa as that bloody three-month siege is grinding down in the Pacific. This photo was part of the April 1, 2005 Observer Reporter story told by Harry Morgan to Associate Editor Harry Funk, about the battle on Okinawa that began April 1, 1945.

"Those 30 mm guns were loud!" Ed remembers, loud enough to leave him hearing impaired for life. "But it was safer with the guns in the turrets than on the ground where soldiers were dug in with little protection. I was fortunate – our mission was to shoot down airplanes, and we had radar to scan the skies."

When Ed graduated high school, war was not on his mind. Following up on an ad in Popular Mechanics Magazine, he borrowed money from his dad and registered with the Milwaukee School of Engineering for a two-year program. Three weeks into his new life "My sister called said 'You have to come home, you've been drafted!' I took a train back to Pittsburgh." Nineteen-year-old Ed soon found himself learning to fire a World War I era artillery gun at Camp Edwards in Barnstable County, MA. His marksmanship – "I fired a 30 caliber gun and got a perfect score" – earned him a position as anti-aircraft

gunner. "I was all packed to go to Alaska but they sent us to Hawaii. They feared another Pearl Harbor." Then the Philippines, then Okinawa. When Sergeant Sikora mustered out, he would parlay the GI bill into a degree in industrial arts at California State Teachers College (now Penn West California). He taught in Beaver Falls at Joe Namath's alma mater, then returned to "Cal U" to train shop teachers as the 20th century gradually went high tech. "Printing was my specialty. Offset presses, which are now obsolete. When computers came along, I said we need to move forward. I had to learn computers to register students."

Ted, seen here in his cadet aviator helmet, was soon on his way to England to be an airplane mechanic. "I was in the Army Air Force before there was the Air Force." He was there on D-Day when the planes were taking off for Normandy: "When I woke up in the morning the sky was full of airplanes heading to bomb France and Germany."

When Ed was drafted in 1942, Ted had already worked as a machinist working for Edward G Budd in Philadelphia. But "one day at church a woman who just lost her son came up to me and said 'Why aren't you fighting?' The draft board wouldn't take me because I was working for a defense contractor so I quit my job and signed up." His skills as a mechanic didn't go to waste. "I got to fly in a lot of planes." And gliders, across the English Channel "with cargo on top of me and no runways."

After the European Front was secured, Ted was shipped off to the Pacific Theater. "They were on the ship when it was announced they were going home. The Bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima," Ted's son Tom tells me later. "My dad ended up in New York, then came home on leave, then was sent to Ohio," to help returning veterans with the paperwork they had to fill out to be discharged. "I think he got the job because he was such a good talker. I know he was proud of being in charge. One story he likes to tell is some major came in and said 'You get me out of here today!' and dad said no. So the major went to his CO and his CO said you just do what he says. Some of his buddies from Washington he got out the first day, and they were just privates."

Ted came home to work, first at Jessop Steel, then as a tool and die maker for McGraw before retiring in 1983 and setting off with his wife to travel the world once more. "When mom died in 2007, he fell in love with going to the gym. He drove there until he was 101. That's when he had his heart attack. They



Ted Sikora's son Tom and Ed Sikora's daughters Sandy Logan and Norma Conley holding the Stolat banner - Polish for 100 - in celebration of their dads who are 103 and 100 years old.



Ed Sikora



Ted Sikora

told me he wouldn't last six months but he's still here!"

Ed retired in 1982 and went back to his first love – gardening, just like his dad when he was growing up on Goat Hill. The four acres surrounding his Brownsville home became a cornucopia of gardens and orchards for his extended family, with plenty left over for neighbors and friends.

When Ed's wife Virginia died in the fall of 2018 ago at age 94, Sandy tells me, "We were devastated but at Thanksgiving dad

stood up and told us "Get over it! Get on with your life! It's his attitude – always wake up with a smile."

A stroke two years ago slowed Ed down – he admits to have a hard time finding words sometimes – but he's still up on the news of the day and happy to spend time with his two daughters and their families – and helping chop salad for dinner. His recipe for a long, long life? He gestures to his plate of fresh fruit and neatly cut salad fixings and beams. "Eating the rainbow!"

Honoring OUR VETS ★★ Julia Kostak Plasko

Although young people today often seem to be far removed from older generations, a shared patriotism for one's country immediately breaks barriers. This certainly proved true in meeting Julia "Julie" Kostak Plasko.

A 103-year-old Nemaquin native, Julie was born November 22, 1920, and served in the United States Navy as a Specialist X First Class.

Born to John and Julia Kostak, Julie attended Carmichaels-Cumberland High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society and graduated in 1938. After graduation, Julie moved to Buffalo, New York and took a position working in Houde's Engineering Division. As America began to feel the harsh realities of WWII most severely, Julie recognized the need to serve her country in any way possible and chose to enlist in the U.S. Navy. She and a colleague from New York decided to do their part and enlisted together in the Bronx on February 24, 1944, where both underwent training in the WAVES program (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

Julie began serving her country as a secretary to Lieutenant T. Classen, USN in the Hydrographic office, aiding American ships at sea. She also worked as a cartographer, making the maps that oriented U.S. soldiers throughout the war. Julie's department was based in Washington, D.C. throughout her time of service. Although never traveling overseas on active duty, Julie did travel the country frequently. Many of her best military memories were spent enjoying "Civvy Days" on holiday with her close friends. New Orleans was a favorite destination for the ladies on leave.

After having the privilege to view an address book filled with numerous friends and comrades' well wishes, there is no doubt that Julie was loved by all she met. One such person was Lieutenant Classen, who wrote of their shared work experience that he "only wishes they would have met twenty years earlier."

Also serving in the military were Julie's three brothers, two of whom also served in the Navy, and one who served in the Army. Her two civilian sisters worked outside of Greene County as well. Julie fondly recalls keeping her brother George's Navy picture in her footlocker on base. Other girls in the barracks would stop and gaze at the photograph, always asking who the handsome soldier was. Julie would reply with a laugh that he was only her brother. "I had a good time all the while I was in there!" Julie says of her military career.

Julie would be discharged from the U.S. Navy in July of 1946. However, due to a special talent, the Navy asked her to re-enlist. Having grown up in a Czechoslovakian household with two immigrant parents, Julie primarily spoke Russian at home. The Navy took note of her fluency and offered her a position as a translator in Hawaii after the official end of WWII. But even the warm, sunny beaches of Hawaii couldn't lure Julie back, and she left the military to begin a new chapter of service, returning home to Greene County to care for her aging parents, as none of her siblings still lived nearby.

During a conversation with Julie and her daughter, Cindy Levo, Cindy asked her mother if she could still say a phrase in Russian. Julie replied by saying, "What do you want to know?" in fluent Russian, without a thought, and a huge smile crept onto her face.

Julie met Charles "Pye" Plasko Sr. before the war but



Julie celebrated her 103rd birthday recently, making her one of the oldest veterans in Greene County.



Julie enlisted in the US Navy during WWII and received training in the WAVES Program.

didn't begin their courtship until after returning home. The two married in 1949, and had two children, Charles "Pye" Jr., and Cindy.

Julie is a lifelong, active member at church, serving numerous dinners and participating in bazaars. She was also an avid bowler and spent many evenings scoring strikes in Ma-sonstown's former bowling alley.

Cooking and baking is yet another skill on Julie's resume, and talk of her famous Czech dishes, namely her delicious homemade haluski, still circulate throughout the family. Julie's daughter, Cindy, has always said that her mother could have opened a bakery because of the beautiful way she would prepare each item. Today, Julie still enjoys the kitchen while watching Food Network, as well as Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy in the evenings.

But Julie's most treasured pastime is being with her loving family, especially her three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Reflecting on her time served in WWII, Julie most remembers the comradery she shared with men and women from all different walks of life. When asked of her proudest moment in service, Julie says that she doesn't quite know. Cindy asks, "What about when America won the war?" Julie responds with a humble smile, "Well, that was pretty good."

Whether young or old, we all have much to learn from people like Julie. After just a few moments with her, you can see the charisma and kindness that exudes from such a strong woman. In a world once dominated by men in the workforce, and especially in the military, Julie proves that barriers are meant to be broken, no matter how hard they are to tear down. Handled with grace, sacrifice, and a dose of humor, we can face the coming days no matter what.

Mrs. Plasko has been honored with the WWII Victory Ribbon and the American Campaign Ribbon. She was also honored with a Hometown Hero banner on October 5, 2023, and it is safe to say she is just that—a hero—to all who know her. The Oxford dictionary defines a hero as one who is "admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities." Julie exemplifies all three.

Leaving home, and everything familiar at a young age, and leaping into the vast ocean of possibilities, then leaving



it behind at the call of family needs, time and again—this is true sacrifice, and a beautiful example to all, especially young people today, of how we should aim to live our lives.

Thank you Julie Kostak Plasko for your service. Long may she wave.

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Honoring OUR VETS

Sam Crawford

Army veteran Sam Crawford, 71, of Holbrook believes everything happens for a reason. "We knew we were going to get drafted, so a friend and I decided to go in on the buddy system."

The pair went to the local recruiter, enlisted, and signed up for diesel mechanic school in an attempt to avoid Vietnam. After nine weeks of boot camp, they got their orders.

"John got his orders to go to Fort Hood (TX) for diesel school. I got my orders to go to Fort Jackson (SC) for combat training. I knew where I was going."

Crawford was nineteen years old.

After a brief interim at home, Crawford reported to San Francisco to the Overseas Replacement Station. It was there that he met 22-year-old Butch Borchardt. "We clicked."

The young men spent a few days together at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, bonding over latrine duty. This unpleasant task entailed setting fire to buckets of human waste doused in diesel fuel. "Stunk so bad," Crawford recalls with a chuckle. "After three days we finally got our orders to go to the same compound."

Crawford, a field mechanic, and Borchardt, a welder, were sent to Binh Thuy, a village along the Mekong River, where they spent an entire year. The duo soon became close with gate guard Steve Gari from Long Island, NY.

"We tried to take care of each other. You watch my back, I'll watch yours," Crawford muses with a faraway look. "But, ah... when Steve got killed...that was really hard." That day-August 28, 1971-is forever seared in Crawford's memory.

When the tour of duty came to an end, Crawford and Borchardt flew back to the States together but, "Once we got to California, we were so excited to be back...we said goodbye and away we went," Crawford to Pennsylvania and Borchardt to Illinois.

Life fell into a semblance of normal for Crawford... married life, children, jobs... But there were demons.

"I drank bad," Crawford explains. "I had, a couple times, thoughts of suicide. I was a rebellious drunk who tried to delete Vietnam. But it [alcohol] was killing me...and killing



Sam Crawford reunited with long-lost friend Butch Borchardt; they served together in Vietnam.

my family."

Then Crawford's father, a devout Christian, died. "This is my testimony, I'm gonna tell ya," Crawford says earnestly, leaning in. "I was standing there by the casket, and this is the gospel truth, my Dad spoke to me. He said, 'Boy, if you ever want to see me again, you need to get saved and get in church.'"

So, Crawford did. He stopped drinking. Stopped smoking. Church became his focus and, eventually, preaching. For the past five years he's been pastoring Bethel Community Church. He and his beloved wife, Sis, recently celebrated their 52nd anniversary.

It was just a couple of years ago that journalist Tricia Carzoli of Woodstock, Illinois tracked down Crawford on behalf of Borchardt. Soon the comrades were communicating via telephone. At Crawford's 70th birthday party last year, Sis arranged for a surprise Facetime session. The two hadn't seen each other for nearly half a century. "We couldn't talk. We were crying," Crawford confesses.

On a whim around Memorial Day weekend this year, Crawford got in his car and drove the 603 miles to Woodstock. It was around Columbus, Ohio when Crawford called his brother in arms to tell him that he was on his way. Carzoli was there to capture that first embrace, forever preserved in a photograph.

Not only did the men stay up late talking, laughing, and crying but, "I asked Butch if he would like to know how to be saved and he said, 'yeah,' so I lead him through the Roman's Road." They prayed together, then Crawford declared, "You and I may never see one another again on this earth...but we're gonna see each other in heaven."

"That was the best part of the trip," Crawford says with a grin.

Thank you for your service, Sam.

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STOP IN AND CHECK IT OUT

Honoring OUR VETS

Linda Hagyard

Linda Gunter Hagyard of Jefferson enlisted in the Army on January 24, 1969. Born in Virginia, Linda's family is a family that answers the call to serve. Her father was a Marine, and her brother enlisted in the Navy.

Linda was sent to Fort McClellan after her high school graduation for boot camp, followed by advanced training in communications at Fort Gordon, Georgia. She was permanently stationed at Fort Meyers, Virginia during the Vietnam War. There she worked in the Pentagon from 1969-1970.

"I have a sense of pride being a veteran that served during the Vietnam conflict... since my last duty station was at Ft. Myers working in the Pentagon, I was able to talk to some of the young men who were in Vietnam... I think they just liked hearing a voice from home," Linda says.

"My heart goes out to all veterans, but I

remember how badly our group were treated when they came home, and they were only doing their duty to protect our country and us all... to all of them I say, 'Thank you for your service and may God bless America.'"

Linda married Larry Hagyard, Sr in 1978, and had two children: Amy Hagyard Crilley and Larry Hagyard, Jr. She now also has three grandchildren: Troy, Tristan, and Tessa.

After finishing her time in the service, Linda stayed involved with her fellow veterans. Linda honorably continues to actively supports veterans with extreme dedication and service to our community. She's been an active member of the American Legion for more than 50 years and, in 2021, became the first female commander of American Legion Past 954 in Jefferson.

"I'm a proud American to have served my country over 50 yrs ago, and this vet would do it all again."



Linda Hagyard served in the military during the Vietnam era. In 2021, she became the first female commander of her American Legion Post.



VETERANS DAY PARADE IN DOWNTOWN WAYNESBURG

Prepare to honor our local veterans, and veterans across America, when the annual Veterans Day Parade returns uptown in front of the courthouse Saturday, November 4 at approximately 11am. The parade is a special time to celebrate and honor all veterans.

The preceremony will start at approximately 10am and feature Frank Ricco & the American Legion Band, an invocation by Jason Woods, vocalist Belinda Nicholas of Morgantown, WV and Abigale Phillips of Spraggs singing the National Anthem. The PA 140th Civil War reenactors will conduct the honor guard and 21 gun salute. Ryan Armstrong of Carmichaels and Marke Walawander of Waynesburg will be the Masters of Ceremony.

The parade, starting at approximately 11am, will feature the Greene County Honor Guard, military vehicles, car and motorcycle clubs, a visit from Santa and more. A horse drawn carriage will escort the family members of the area's Gold Star veterans. Following the parade, there will be an after-celebra-

tion at the Greene County Fairgrounds with music and refreshments.

This year's Veterans Parade features a unique situation: there are two Grand Marshals this year, and both are women. Julia Plasko and Linda Hagyard are the Grand Marshals this year. To read more about these Grand Marshals, look for their highlights in this veterans issue.

The parade would not be possible without the dedication of the Greene County Veterans Parade Committee. The committee sincerely appreciates the overwhelming community support and sponsorship. Thank you to everyone that plays a part in organizing, implementing, and participating in the parade. Special appreciation to Direct Results, First Federal Savings & Loan, all volunteer, and supporters.

If you cannot attend the parade, a broadcast of the parade will be available later on their website, filmed by Waynesburg University. Visit greenevetsunit.com or email greenevetsunit@hotmail.com FMI.



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Lucille Palone DeFrank

On August 23, 1965, at only seventeen years old, Lucille DeFrank (then Lucille Palone) joined the Women's Army Corp, a separate branch of the U.S. Military referred to as the WACs. This branch of the military was disbanded about a decade later and incorporated into the U.S. Army.

Not only was Lucille the first woman in her family to join the armed forces but she was so young when she joined she still needed permission from her parents. "My military service took me in as a confused, very insecure young girl and trained me into a strong, determined, and patriotic woman who stands at the ready to help my neighbor and my country as needed. I think the discipline I learned as a young recruit helped me get through some tough times in my life," says Lucille.

Lucille remembers the day she left home. "I was to leave from Morgantown, Wright Field, on a little puddle jumper to Pittsburgh to begin my journey to Ft. McClelland, Georgia. I had never been on a commercial passenger plane... I sat down in a window seat, got myself settled in and looked out the window and was surprised to see my mother, father and younger sister standing at the gate. I waved, but they could not see me, and then I realized they were all crying and comforting each other. Suddenly I thought, 'good Lord, what have I done.'"

Lucille mentions that when she was recruited, she was told she would be going from boot camp to Walter Reed Nursing Program and would come out a second lieutenant and an RN. "What actually happened was I was sent to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas to be a medic because Vietnam was hot and heavy at that time, and they were training as many medical corpsmen as they could for potential deployment to the war zone. I had been promised one of the best nursing programs in the world and I ended up in a prep program for a war zone," she explains.

During her time in service, Lucille was in boot camp at Ft. McClelland, Georgia. She was then sent to Ft. Sam in Houston, Texas for advanced individual training to be a medical corpsman, then to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. Most of her service was in DeWitt Army Hospital at Ft. Belvoir where she worked in the emergency room.

One of the lessons Lucille learned early on in her service was about equality. "Military life teaches us that we are all equals...right from the beginning with similar haircuts, the uniforms, our living areas all identical. No one is better than anyone else." She also credits the army with teaching her the value of hard work and teamwork.

One of Lucille's favorite memories of her time in service took place during her basic training. "In basic training everyone is getting into the best shape of their lives and at the same time learning how to be a member of a team. We did not know that we were constantly being evaluated every day of our training. In the last few days, I remember PFC Pierce and I were called to the drill instructors office. She had us standing tall and told us that the two of us were in a tie for Outstanding Trainee. We did not know such a thing even existed. In the end, I edged out my comrade in arms, Pierce, and was named Outstanding Trainee of the hundred or so women



Lucille DeFrank, the first woman in her family to join the armed forces, joined the Western Army Corp in 1965.

training at that time at Ft. McClelland. There was a parade, I was standing beside the general as the parade passed by. She then presented me with a certificate saying I was the Outstanding Trainee. I have a photo of that moment and one with my whole basic training platoon, both of which I treasure," says Lucille. She also mentions another stand out moment was when she was in a precision close order drill team and they performed for President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

When Lucille came home from her time in service to the nation she loves, she was not met with the support or acknowledgement that our veterans deserve. Veterans from the Vietnam War era were "pretty much on their own," she says. At that time there were no real services available for transitioning back into civilian life. Lucille mentions that she is grateful that there are more services available now to smooth the transition back to civilian life.

Lucille says, "military service was not a popular decision in the eyes of most of my family and indeed most anyone's community during Vietnam, there were few welcome home parties. I was very much looking forward to using my GI Bill and getting into nurses training." Lucille would go on to use her nurses training in her career until the day she retired. That is, if a nurse ever really retires.

If you know Lucille and you have heard the phrase "proud to be an American" you know that she has always lived that philosophy. "I

am honored to have had the opportunity to serve this great nation. Military members take an oath to serve the nation, day, and night from the day you raise your hand to make the promise and there is no expiration date on that oath. Some vets handle that better than others, so for the ones who struggle to blend back into society, give them a little understanding rather than judgment.

Thank You for your service, Lucille.

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VETERANS CORNER
By Tracy Horne

SUICIDE SUMMIT BRINGS AWARENESS TO GREENE'S COMMUNITY

According to Healthline, one out of five Americans suffer with mental health issues. Even with this knowledge and abundance of talk out there about mental illness in our communities, we still find ourselves attaching our own biases or placing stigmas to those suffering from these problems and not truly addressing mental illness as the illness it is. As a community, we must acknowledge the crisis the most vulnerable among us are dealing with, and provide the support needed to bring them away from the edge.

Unlike heart disease or diabetes, mental illness does not always manifest itself as something visible, and for some folks those deep dark places are where they live until they reach a point that they cannot face another day, and unfortunately make the choice of suicide.

Recently in Greene County, the Suicide Prevention & Awareness Summit (A Conversation About At Risk Populations) was held at Valley View Farm to bring these issues to light. This event was sponsored by Together With Veterans, The Ellen O'Brian Gaiser Center, and the Greene County Human Services Mental Health Program. The focus of the summit was to educate the community on the rate of suicide and what portions of the population are at risk. The summit was also to aid in the creation of community partnerships, to help eliminate the stigma put upon people who suffer from mental illness, and come up with ideas or plans on things we as a community can do to help with this mental health crisis.

Brean Fuller, Mental Health Administrator for Greene County Human Services, provided a lot of information about what Greene County is facing with suicide among our citizens. One of the most important things is the availability of services to all portions of the population, from the youngest to the oldest, especially those at high-risk. Brean mentions increasing suicide rates may be higher than thought, due to the overdoses from substance abuse; some of those overdoses may actually be suicide events. Certain populations are at a higher risk for suicides, including veterans, people living in rural areas, sexual and gender minorities, those in high-stress jobs, middle-aged adults, people of color, and tribal populations.

Speakers at the event and the populations they addressed included Chis Clark (veterans), Heidi Beverage (LGBTQAI+), Steve D'Achille (postpartum), Joe Mahoney and Dr. Brophy (substance abuse disorder), Andrea Steiner (first responders); Nichole Gallagher discussed lethal means safety. The event ended with a reading of names of those lost to suicide.

The good news is there is help available, although sometimes folks won't seek the help, either because of pride, shame or social economic barriers. Support is often important to help others seek aid. Brean shares that Team Hope (Facebook.com/justknowyoumatter) and Everlasting Circle are two groups supporting people struggling with suicidal thoughts and survivors.

The 24-hour Mental Health Crisis Hotline Number is 1-800-417-9460. You may also call 911 for Mental Health Emergencies. Crisis Walk-Ins are also available at Center for Community Resources (CCR), located at 82 High Street Waynesburg, PA 15370, Mondays through Fridays from 8:30am to 4:30pm. You can also reach out for help by dialing 988.

If you find yourself your someone in a crisis, please reach out for help. No judgment... just help! Reach out!

HELP IS AVAILABLE
If any veteran is struggling, help is available in Greene County, thanks to Together With Veterans.

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OUR VETS ★★
Christopher Teagarden



Honoring
OUR VETS ★★
Daniel M. Teagarden Jr.



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GRAYSVILLE: HARVEYS-ALEPPO GRANGE ON NOV. 2 - The Harveys-Alep-po Grange Hall will host a Veterans Appreciation event on November 2 at 7pm. Veterans of any of the U.S. Armed Forces will be honored that day, and certificates and pins will be presented to each veteran whose name is submitted in advance. Refreshments and finger foods will be served.

WAYNESBURG: VETERANS DAY PARADE ON NOV. 4 - The Veterans Council of Greene County will hold the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Waynesburg on Saturday, November 4. The community is invited to come out to thank Greene County Veterans past and present who have sacrificed their lives for this nation. Area veterans will be recognized for their service and dedication to the U.S. Military. The pre-ceremony will then begin at 10:00 am on the Court House steps. The parade

AREA OBSERVANCES FOR VETERANS DAY

will be being at 11:00 am proceeding down High Street to the Greene County Courthouse. Immediately following the parade refreshments will be provided at the Greene County Fairgrounds 4-H building lower level; veterans and the public are welcomed.

BOBTOWN: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY ON NOV. 5 - The ceremony will start at 1pm with a short invocation, then Layna Fisher singing the National Anthem, followed by the Bobtown Youth Group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The guest speaker will be retired CSM Paul Walker. The Greene County Honor Guard will do the military honors. They will also honor the Bobtown/Dunkard Twp. area's oldest living veteran, Orlando Prete. There will be a dinner following the ceremony at the Shannopin Civic Club.

WAYNESBURG: VFW POST 4793 ON NOV. 11 - The Waynesburg VFW Post 4793 will hold a service at the Greene County Veterans Memorial Park on November 11 at 11am.

JEFFERSON: AMERICAN LEGION FILER-SADLEK POST 954 ON NOV. 11 - The Jefferson American Legion Filer-Sadlek Post 954 will hold a Post Everlasting Service at the Jefferson Morgan High School auditorium on November 11 at 11am.

WAYNESBURG: VETERANS PANCAKE BREAKFAST ON NOV. 18 - Together with Veterans will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast at the Greene County Fairgrounds 4-H Building (Lower) from 8am to 10am.

This month's contest is something a little different than our usual types with an extended deadline. This year, we'd like to see how you honor the veterans in our community. Send us a picture of you at an upcoming Veterans Day event, visiting a local memorial, tending veterans graves, visiting with a veteran neighbor - whatever it is that you do to honor those that served our country.

Entries can be emailed to info@greenescenemagazine.com, sent to us via social media, or mailed to 185 Wade Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370.



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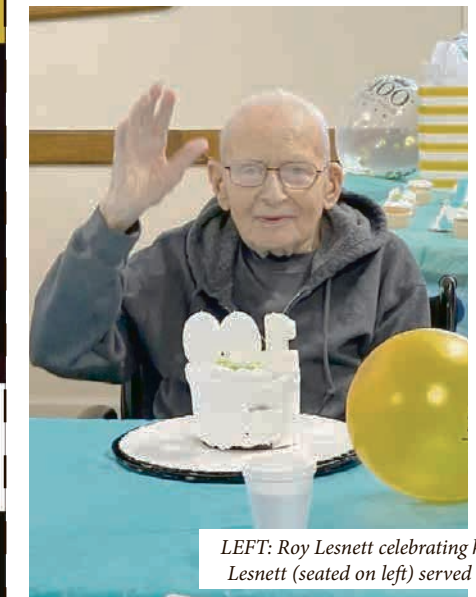
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 Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

Honoring
OUR VETS ★★

Roy Lesnett

Private Roy Lesnett celebrated his 100th birthday in April. Roy is a WWII veteran who served in the U.S. Army from December 6, 1944, until he was honorably discharged on October 6, 1946. He enlisted in December 20, 1944 at the age of 21, and had

basic training in Florida. He was deployed to Okinawa, Japan, where he serviced and maintained Army Jeeps for military use. He was presented with a state citation to recognize him for his service and for reaching the "milestone" of age 100. Thank you for your service!



LEFT: Roy Lesnett celebrating his 100th birthday. RIGHT: Roy Lesnett (seated on left) served in the US Army during WWII.

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www.co.greene.pa.us.

The mission of the Office of Veterans Affairs is to provide a network of assistance programs and services to Greene County veterans, their spouses and their dependents.

These services include but are not limited to compensation and pension claims; healthcare applications (VA hospitals and Champ VA); DIC and pension claims; life insurance; funeral and burial benefit claims; education benefits; home loans; veterans license plates; emergency assistance; flags and holders for deceased veterans' graves; and organizing Memorial Day and Veterans Day events across the county.

LOCAL EDUCATION RESOURCES
Veteran and Military Affiliated Center
First Floor of Miller Hall, Waynesburg University

The center offers dedicated programs and services for veterans and military-affiliated students, information and assistance with military benefits and resources, a gathering point for veteran and military-affiliated students, and a place to learn about Waynesburg's connection to service in the armed forces.

Waynesburg University also offers other veteran benefits. Waynesburg is participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program, provides priority registration for veterans and military-affiliated students,

participates in the Military Family Education Program and the Education Assistance Program for eligible members of the PA National Guard, accepts Joint Service Transcripts, and offers a ten percent tuition discount for Graduate & professional Studies for qualifying programs and individuals.

If you have questions, or need assistance, please feel free to contact University Registrar Vicki Wilson at vwilson@waynesburg.edu or 724-852-3375. Visit www.waynesburg.edu for additional information about the Veteran and Military Affiliated Center and veteran benefits.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS
VFW Post 4793
445 E Lincoln St,
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American Legion Post 330
676 E High St,
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-627-6333

VFW Post 3491
500 W George St,
Carmichaels, PA 15320
724-966-5965

American Legion Post 400
205 E George St,
Carmichaels, PA 15320
724-966-8730

VFW Post 6303
110 Diamond St,
Greensboro, PA 15338
724-943-3048

American Legion Post 816

133 Carmichaels St,
Rices Landing, PA 15357
724-592-6538

VFW Post 747
115 Penn St,
Point Marion, PA 15474
724-725-5580

VFW Post 4584
115 River Ave,
Masontown, PA 15461
724-583-7617

American Legion Post 992
319 Mount Morris Rd,
Mount Morris, PA 15349
724-324-2705

American Legion Post 391
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724-439-4990

Monongalia County VA Clinic
40 Commerce Drive, Suite 101
Westover, WV 26501-3952
304-292-7535

Westmoreland County VA Clinic
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Greensburg, PA 15601-7833
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866-482-7488

Louis A. Johnson Veterans' Administration Medical Center
1 Medical Center Drive
Clarksburg, WV 26301-4155

304-623-3461

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
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Pittsburgh, PA 15222
800-827-1000

SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATORS
Saucier, Sarah
University Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15240
412-360-6515

Thompkins, Gary
One Medical Center Drive
Clarksburg, WV 26301
800-733-0512x3081

Together With Veterans Greene County
Greene County Office Building
93 E High St, 2B
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-852-5275
info@twvgreene.org

Together with Veterans promotes community-based suicide prevention in rural communities. The program helps these rural communities address and prevent suicides among veterans through collaborative, veteran-led efforts. Greene County's TWV branch offers support through community activities such as pancake breakfasts and coffee with veterans, and other events that bring veterans together or provide education, such as the Suicide Summit held in September.

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724-627-9489

Honoring OUR VETS

John F. Rock

John F. Rick received his basic training at San Antonio Air Force Base in Texas, with additional training at Amarillo Air Force. He was then stationed at Lincoln Air Force Base in Nebraska as an airplane mechanic tasked with servicing B47 bombers in the Strategic Air Command (SAC). During the Cuban Missile Crisis (October 1962), John was assigned to support an OMS at Lagos Air Field, Portugal, situated in the Azores Islands where the KC97 Refueling Wing was temporarily stationed. Several years after his Air Force enlistment ended, John joined the Pennsylvania State Police. During his 27 years with the PSP, he was stationed in Indiana, Greensburg, Washington, and Waynesburg. John's father, John J. Rock, served as an officer in charge at the Waynesburg barracks for many years at the end of his enlistment. Thank you for your service!

Honoring OUR VETS

As November 11 nears, we recognize those who have served our country and helped to mold the world in which we live. Without such sacrifices from these dauntless men & women, our freedoms would be greatly limited and our spirits humbled. *GreeneScene Community Magazine* is privileged to join our readers in paying tribute to ALL our veterans, including those submitted by readers:

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- Thomas M. Blaker
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- Leroy P. Constable
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- Matthew Cumberledge
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Second Saturday of the Month

8am-10am

November 4th - Veterans Day Parade (11am)
 November 11th - RGB Coffee
 December 9th - Waynesburg VFW
 January 13th - The Denny House
 February 10th - Harveys Grange

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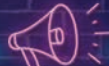
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