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COVER PHOTO by Julie Yerkovich.

PUBLISHED BY
DR DIRECTRESULTS.US
 CERTIFIED WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS

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GreeneScene
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 185 Wade St., Waynesburg, PA 15370

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I Love this Community — JANET PENNINGTON

By Colleen Nelson



Janet Pennington is dedicated to advocating for education and helping kids find their potential.

The best way to catch up with Janet Pennington, I'm learning, is between meetings. We're sitting in one of the classrooms tucked into a corner of the brick and mortar sprawl that is Greene County Career Technology Center. It's half an hour before the monthly Joint Operating Committee (JOC) meeting, and we have our notebooks out for a pre-meeting/interview of our own. CTC director Mark Krupa settles us in and says, "I hardly ever turn on the air conditioning. You can ask the students! Hope you don't mind." Pennington, now treasurer of the JOC, laughs. "When I started teaching, we didn't know what air conditioning was!"

We're here to talk about Pennington's over 50-year career of both advocating for and teaching kids—and then their kids and grandkids—how to find their potential. Ironically, or perhaps fit-

tingly, we're discussing Pennington's love of learning in the same place where her mother, Anna Powelko Burich, found her own potential, back when this career path was called Vo-Tech.

For Pennington, a coal miner's daughter who grew up in Penn Pitt, education of any kind is everything.

"I've always been an advocate for kids and learning. My mother had to quit school in ninth grade to take care of the family when her mother got ill. She told me she really hated missing those years of high school."

But Anna Powelko made up for it after getting married: she raised a family of four, got her GED, then enrolled in the first nursing class offered at Waynesburg Vo-Tech School, graduating as an LPN. Times were a-changing by the late 1960s when her book-loving daughter graduated from Mapletown High School, but there were still cultural norms to be reckoned with, Pennington points out. "Lucky for me that both my parents saw the value in educating a daughter at a time when people felt it was a waste of time and money. My two choices were to be a nurse or a teacher. I actually wanted to be a nun, but teacher won!"

When Pennington graduated with a degree in secondary English from California State College in 1972, she started teaching that fall in Monongalia County, WV schools in an uncertified area, with the promise of furthering her education to get her credentials. A month later, "I was offered a position as a Title I English Teacher in the Southeastern Greene School

District and jumped at the opportunity to teach the subject that I loved."

For the next 37 years, Pennington would keep her promise to reach further, becoming certified in Elementary Education, then pursuing a Master's Degree as a K-12 Reading Specialist while raising her own family. ("Brad graduated from WVU with a degree in marketing and Joe got his BS and MS at Duquesne University and his doctorate in physical therapy at WVU," she texts me later. Her only grandson Hayden is a sophomore at Waynesburg University majoring in Healthcare Management.)

Each part of Pennington's career has been a stepping-stone that reflects the trust her community of parents, fellow teachers, and administrators have in her to carry forward great educational dreams with the times.

Another laugh. "When I retired from teaching in 2009, I was ready to stay involved, so I ran for school board and was elected. Now I'm serving on board with some of the students I taught in school!"

Pennington was also ready to go back to working as a reading interventionist in the Monongalia County schools. "People ask why I still teach at this stage of life. My answer is that I love helping students learn. Seeing a child finally get a concept is amazing. That light bulb moment always gets me!"

Krupa pops in to tell us that the board meeting is about to start. He and Pennington disappear down the hall, leaving me with time to look over the letters of recommendation submitted when she was nominated, then inducted into the Allwein Society in April 2024. This prestigious state award program "recognizes school directors who advocate on behalf of public schools and students." The eligibility requirements read like the story of Pennington's life as a tireless advocate for

what every student needs.

Fellow SESD board member Christine Spiker noted in her letter that Pennington kept up with educational advancements by going to state and national school board leadership conferences. She also did countless ZOOM meetings during Covid, working through health and safety issues as schools geared up for 21st century learning and students returned to the classrooms.

"As a tribute to her leadership, Janet was nominated by Superintendent (Richard) Pekar as a leader in modern governance," a Diligent Corporation honoree of the Modern 100 Community Boards, "supporting community leaders working for positive organizational change."

As a member of the state board's platform committee, Pennington helped draft proposals for education improvements that delegates would present to the state general assembly, then on to the governor and to the US Congress.

The results of that positive organizational change are clear when I join Pennington and other school district representatives who make up the JOC for the public meeting and stay to chat afterwards.

This is Pennington's first year to serve after being drafted by fellow Mapletown board members to support students from all districts who come here to build careers in the 21st century workplace.

"Our classes here are a great way for students to find out what they want to do, and what they don't want to do," Krupa points out. "What's really great is some get paid through our apprenticeship programs while they're still in school."

In the end, when they find the right fit, whether it be auto collision and repair, automotive technology, building construction, computer networking, cosmetology, culinary

arts, emergency and medical services, electrical occupations, health assistants, precision machining, or welding fabrication, the students graduate ready to further their education in their area or go directly into the workforce.

"When I got here 12 years ago, we had trouble placing students. Now employers are coming to us, begging for workers. We could place more kids than we have."

Moving into future jobs is also on track with CTC Eats, a newly acquired, student-run "classroom on wheels" food truck. The truck will be on the road this summer, giving culinary arts students a chance to learn to cook on-the-go goodies while learning the entrepreneurial skills of running a business.

Krupa also notes that for the last few years, Fox Ford and Ford Motor Company have supported future automotive workers by encouraging students to enroll in the Ford Asset Program. This program gives students a chance to work at the local Ford dealership where they can earn college credits and eventually become Ford master mechanics.

Pennington admits she's more than a bit excited that Mapletown graduate Joel Menear is receiving a scholarship to play esports at Waynesburg University. "I presented the idea of an esports team to the board after attending a conference in Philadelphia."

Digital game playing has grown into a global electronic sports industry that teaches the essential skills of teamwork, strategic thinking, and digital literacy, all needed in the 21st century workplace. "Joel will major in Sports Announcing and his game is Rocket League. Dr. Chris Davis, Waynesburg University Esports Director and Head Coach will present Joel with his WU Esports jersey at the (Mapletown) senior awards ceremony on May 24. I'm so proud of him!"

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Public Service Profile

By Colleen Nelson

COLBY'S STARS FOUNDATION

The trailer parked in the driveway of the Simkovic home on Bedilion Road in Waynesburg is wrapped in all things #ColbyStrong. The words "BE LIKE COLBY" frame one side of the smiling image of Colby Simkovic (September 20, 2001–March 7, 2021), forever 19 and ready to cheerlead another season of fun and games with plenty of muddy moments. To his left is a rambunctious image of an ATV with "Ridin' 4 A Legend—Offroad Benefit Ride" That event logo sits above the bold orange letters spelling out the heart and soul of Colby's Stars Foundation: "Assisting others in their battle against cancer since 2010."

But more to the point today when I come to visit is the logo below those letters, showing a ball being kicked high over the words "Kicking Cancer's Butt—Kickball Tournament." "This is our Eighth Annual Kickball Tournament," Colby's mom Carrie Bedilion Simkovic tells me. She's taking a break from her in-home salon Addictive Hair Design to do more prep work. She's helping husband Jerry and daughter Morgan, 26, pack up the trailer for two days of fun, games, fireworks, live music, good food and plenty of raffles on May 17-18 that will happen, rain or shine, at Rices Landing Athletic Club's fields.

Friday kickball is all kids' day, with teams in two-year brackets from first to 8th grade, Carrie explains, including a kindergarten bracket. (Kickball, originally a playground game, is the way most kids learn the rules of baseball, by kicking an inflated ball instead of batting and only using hands to throw each other out.)

On Saturday, high school and adult teams gather for a day of fast and furious twenty-minute games as they vie for the annual Colby Cup: "The last team standing is the winner!"

This yearly fundraiser is one of the ways

the Bedilion and Simkovic families have found to pay it forward to those who stood by them both financially and emotionally when eight-year-old Colby was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor in 2010.

Carrie remembers the months of staying over for intensive treatment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital after Colby's diagnosis. Husband Jerry stayed home with daughter Morgan to maintain the normal family life Colby thrived in and lived the life of a normal kid.

As the initial cancer was destroyed, the family started the Colby's Stars Foundation and began doing events to raise money to help others facing the day-to-day challenges they faced and overcame—with a little help from their friends.

"Colby was so proud of his foundation. He'd give bracelets to his medical staff when he was ready to go home. We could never do what we do without the people who volunteer to help out. We've raised well over \$500,000 and have helped more than 75 people in the tri-county area with what they need. Especially kids. We get them what they need: a laptop for learning at home, gas cards, help with bills, trips, equipment. We even got one family a van. No one should have to face financial problems when these things happen."

For a kid who loved to play outside, make things with his hands and not afraid of a little mud, kickball seemed to be a perfect fit.

Carrie is all smiles. "We were trying to think of something and my friend Julie Venick said, 'Let's do kickball!' It usually rains, and it's an ugly, dirty slip and slide. We call it Colby's Rain Day. The teams bring tents and it's 50 acres of fun!"

Colby's Stars has found other ways to carry Colby's spirit of kindness, generosity and perseverance that carried him through when a secondary cancer from his treat-

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- + HARDWORKING
- + FUN-LOVING
- + GENUINE
- + ALWAYS POSITIVE

Carrie Bedilion and daughter Morgan stand in front of the Colby's Stars trailer, wrapped in all things #ColbyStrong.

ments nine years before occurred in 2019. He graduated Jefferson Morgan as a superior marksman on the rifle team and earned his CD license at CGCTC. He hunted antelope in Montana and mule deer in Oregon and continued to be his own loving, positive self to all who knew him.

Carrie remembers the lines of students who came to pay their respects and the inspiration she found in the two shy boys who told her, "Colby was our friend. He always stuck up for us."

The Be Like Colby Award now honors a graduating student from each school district, including GCCTC, who exemplifies Colby's traits: "compassionate, non-judgmental, hardworking, fun loving, genuine, always positive and selflessness." Teachers observe students throughout the year. The students do not know they are being singled out until awards night.

"Every student who is chosen gets at

least a \$1000 award."

The 4th Annual Be Like Colby fundraiser Ridin' for a Legend, is a fun, muddy off-road day on 4-wheelers and side by sides. It will be held August 24, and the money raised will go to the 2025 Be Like Colby Awards.

For more information, including how to nominate a child for recipient help, email or go online: colbysstarsfoundation@windstream.net, or www.colbysstarsfoundation.org. Or call Colby's mom at 724-998-5116.

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Greene Artifacts

By Matthew Cumberledge, GCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DIETZ PIONEER LANTERN

As far as the length of human history goes, electrical lighting is relatively new. However, the need to light up the world is far from new. Even after the electric light was invented, it took a while for it to be commonplace everywhere. In rural places, like Greene County, it took much longer to get the basic infrastructure. Gas lighting was popular for a long time, but nothing beat the cost, simplicity, and comparative safety of kerosene.

Ignacy Lukaszewicz invented the first kerosene lamp in 1856. Lukaszewicz was a Polish pharmacist, engineer, entrepreneur, inventor, and philanthropist. In 1859, brothers Robert and Michael Dietz patented a flat wick burner that revolutionized the kerosene lighting industry.

At age 22 in 1840, Robert Dietz purchased a lamp and oil business in Brooklyn, New York. That business became the R. E. Dietz Company; it still exists to this very day. The R. E. Dietz Company started out making different kinds of lamps, but when the Dietz Kerosene Burner was introduced in 1859, their production shifted towards lanterns.

It's a safe bet that almost everyone has seen or used a Dietz lantern in their life. They became the standard in the lantern industry, and the R. E. Dietz Company eventually bought out most of their competitors.

Starting about 1899 or 1900, the R. E. Dietz Company began producing the Blizzard and Monarch Lanterns. Both models proved very successful. They are still made to this day and made in a way that is largely unchanged from their original design.

Another model made for a period starting in the late 1880s through the 1930s was the Dietz Pioneer Lantern. That is the artifact we are showcasing this month. The Pioneer was a very large lantern, took a two-inch wide wick, and came in two

different styles: one was mounted on a pole and used as a streetlight, the other was a hanging style lantern also used for outdoor lighting.

This Dietz Pioneer Lantern dates to the very early 1900s, likely somewhere between 1900 and 1915, and it was originally used in Phillippi, WV. Its original owner was Ervin Tenney, and a letter from Mr. Tenney and the R. E. Dietz Company from 1961 accompanies this lantern. In the letter, Mr. Tenney is looking for replacement parts for the lantern; it seems the lantern globe was broken. Unfortunately, he was unable to gain the parts he needed from Dietz. In the reply, he was told they stopped making parts for that model of lantern some 30 years ago.

Luckily, Mr. Tenney did eventually find and install a replacement globe for this lantern, and this lantern still works to this day!

Want to see more cool artifacts like this? Check out the Greene County Historical Society Museum! You Find them on Facebook!



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Going Green: GARARDS FORT CEMETERY: AN INTERESTING WALK

By Matthew Cumberledge, GCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Garards Fort is a small community in Greene Township that dates to the days of the early Western frontier. The village takes its name from a pioneer-era fort that played a role in the frontier defenses of the area in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War.

This area was also one of the first to be settled. Folks were living here as early as the 1760s, long before Greene County was established, and before the concept of the United States had fully been realized.

Tucked away up a short lane that leads off Garards Fort Road and marked by a sign that is always decorated with flags is the Garards Fort Cemetery. Generally considered the oldest cemetery in the county, this site stands as a testimony to the early history of Greene County and the region.

It's worth a walk through Garards Fort Cemetery, also sometimes known as Goshen Cemetery or Goshen Baptist Church Cemetery or for its affiliation with the Corbly family. The Reverend John Corbly played an integral role in the Whiskey Rebellion. He is known for the Indian attack on his family in 1782. His grave, and the graves of his family, are near the southwest corner of the cemetery.

The Corbly graves are in the oldest part of the cemetery, and that section is perhaps the most interesting section to walk through. There you will find a wide variety of stones: some professionally carved, others lovingly carved by hand by loved ones of the deceased. Be careful walking around this section—many of these small handmade markers are low to the ground. Some markers bear interesting and beautifully carved, yet simple, inscriptions.

Unfortunately, many stones were lost to time, having sunk into the ground, or fallen over. In 1975, Dorothy and James Hennen made a record of the cemetery (*Volume 8, Cemetery Records of Greene County Pennsylvania*, published by Cornerstone Genealogical Society). In that they quote a much older, but undated, record that gives information for a Livengood burial marked by a simple fieldstone marker with a date of death in 1766. However, the Hennens were unable to locate this marker.

As you move east through the cemetery, the graves get younger and younger. There is also a newer section in the northernmost part of the cemetery. Many veterans from the Revolutionary War onward are buried here,

and each year volunteers and members of the community put fresh flags on all the veterans' graves, an exquisite and humbling sight.

If you have the time to do so, get a copy of *Bates 1888 History of Greene County Pennsylvania* (available for a low price at both the Greene County Historical Society and Cornerstone Genealogy) or for free online via Google Books. Look at the biographical section for Greene Township and see how many of the folks you can find in the cemetery. Study on their lives and times for just a little while.

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Recent Events in Greene & Nearby



Edward Powers farewell party

Colby's Stars Foundation Kickball Tournament

Mid-May, the 8th Annual Kicking Cancers Butt kickball tournament was held and was a huge success. There were 42 adult teams on Saturday, with 160 games played that day. The final game saw "Kickin It 4 Hillsman" taking home the Colby's Cup. There were 37 youth teams on Friday, in five different age brackets, with 140 games total played. The event raised over \$86,000 this year.

Mason-Dixon Ramp Dinner

The last weekend of April, ramp enthusiasts of all ages gathered to enjoy a ramp dinner in the red barn, while others perused the vendors lining the park lawn outside. The delicious dinner started at 9am, and ramp-infused items such as scrambled eggs with ramps, potatoes with ramps, sausage biscuits and gravy, ramp wontons, ramp deviled eggs, ham and bean soup, ham, and wide spread of desserts. There were even ramp cupcakes for dessert. Outside, vendors had a variety



Colby's Stars kickball tournament

of handmade items, including ramp bread, ramporoni rolls, ramp dip, ramp lollipops, and more.

GCHS Museum Opening Day

The Greene County Historical Society held its annual Opening Day event at the end of April. The museum was open for tours, and the public could visit the Civil War encampment, watch Civil War reenactments, visit the Revolutionary War tavern, peruse the historic documents on display, and check out various demonstrations scattered throughout the grounds. Admission for the event was free.

Curtain Call for Edward Powers

Waynesburg University Professor Edward L. Powers was treated to an unexpected retirement celebration on Saturday, May 5. The longtime Professor of Theatre and Stage Director officially retired at the end of the Spring 2024 semester, and over 70 of his former students and colleagues came together to celebrate his 24 years of service to the university. Originally



GCHS Opening Day



Mason-Dixon Ramp Dinner

believing he was going to dinner with members of the Fine Arts Department Faculty, Powers was shocked to find multiple generations of the WU Players Theatre program alumni

WIN \$50!

In honor of Memorial Day, this month's contest is some military trivia. One random winner from correct answers will win \$50!

Who is the town of HERO named in honor of?

Where is Greene County's Combat Wounded Veterans memorial located?

Where can you find a M 60 A3 Battle Tank in Greene County?

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One entry per person per category. Drawing on 6-10-24. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification.

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Photo by Jeffrey Mayhle.

and close friends had gathered to honor the beloved instructor, some of which traveled from Maryland and New Jersey, to say goodbye and to wish him well on his next chapter in life.

Powers directed 100 shows during his career at WU, and Department Chair Andrew Heisey and his team wanted to send him off with one final surprise get-together that he'd never forget. He was treated with cake, former students sharing stories about their time with him, a video recapping his past productions and adventures, and several gifts, including a custom-made bobble-head of his own likeness and dedication plaques.

A native of Clarksville, TN, Powers will be returning to his hometown later in the summer of 2024, but insists that even though his career at the university has now come to an end, that the show must go on and hopes to continue acting and directing for years to come.



Dreamer Park Cleanup

early days of rebel drag racing. After getting the signal, the hot rods, rat rods, trucks, cars, and almost anything on wheels race for 660 feet or 1/8 mile before the left lane or right lane is declared a winner!

of this hobby."

The next date scheduled for Flashlight Drags is Sunday, June 23. Registration gates open at noon and racing is from 2-6pm. So, bring your car or your truck, and bring out the entire family for an exciting day. It's not about WIN or LOSE, the focus is on the FUN!

Clean Up at Dreamer Park

On a sunny spring day, volunteers and students from Speiro Academy in Martins Ferry, Ohio, came to Dreamer Park with a mission - to clean it up in time for Memorial Day. The students and adults cut the cras, planted flowers, spread mulch, cleaned monuments, placed stones, and even repainted the Dreamer Park sign. On a different day, the Patriot Dream Riders Association came and placed flags. The volunteers will be returning to the park on June 14, July 3, and August 13, and before Labor Day if you are interested in assisting. Read more about the cleanup effort in an upcoming issue of the *GreeneScene*!

Flashlight Drags

Flashlight Drags

The sun was shining brightly, with a few sparse clouds rolling by and an occasional warm breeze blowing through and, with no chance of precipitation, the cars and drivers started cruising in for opening day of the Flashlight Drags.

According to event manager, Dave "Buzz" Cognetti, over 190 drivers and vehicles registered for opening day on Sunday, May 19. The event stems from an early idea to provide a venue where drivers can burn some tires and race with a buddy in a safe place without risking jail time! The Greene County Airport provides a safe place, and the folks show up. There are food vendors, music, and fun for the whole family. Racing starts with a "flashlight" signal, much like the



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SUNDAY SEPT 22
Raindate Sept 29

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

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Good NEWS

In Greene County

West Greene Lions Club Recognizes Outstanding Students

The West Greene Area Lions Club recently honored these outstanding students with a dinner, certificate, and Amazon gift card.

Allexis Berdine is the daughter of Hoyt and Stacy Berdine of New Freeport. She is a member of the Science Club, Peer Mentoring Program, Calculus Club, Student Government, FFA, and National Honor Society. She is currently the Vice President of the West Greene FFA and also the treasurer of the class of 2024. Allexis is a two-year letterman of the volleyball team, where she was the setter and was selected by the team as the team leader. She is a four year letterman of the rifle team, in which she has been the captain for the past two years. Allexis has participated in the local 4-H programs for ten years. She is currently the president of the 4-H Market Steer Club. Throughout high school, she has volunteered over 70 hours doing community service, which included working at car washes to benefit



William Witlatch



Allexis Berdine



Seth Burns



Brian Andrew Jackson



Dylan Wilson

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 June 25 - The Projects, Sponsored by Ross Tractor Sales
 July 2 - Helicopter Collective, Sponsored by Community Bank- Special Salute to Veterans
 July 9 - Slim Pickins, Sponsored by Old Station Bar & Grill
 July 23 - Tom Ankrom & Luke Schroyer (& Students), Sponsored by First Federal S&L
 July 30 - Quick Exit, Sponsored by Washington Health System
 August 13 - Longshot, Sponsored by Mickey's Men's & Women's Fine Clothing and the Fashion Shoppe
 August 20 - C&T Acoustic, Sponsored by Waynesburg Rotary
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the Humane Society, delivering poinsettia and Christmas cards to local nursing homes, and working at bake sales benefitting the Greene County Guard. Allexis plans on attending a four year university majoring in Civil Engineering.

Seth Burns is the son of Nyle and Scarlett Burns of Graysville. Some of Seth's clubs, activities and awards include: Peer Mentoring, FFA, National Honor Society, Science Club, Varsity Football, Varsity Wrestling, Captain of the wrestling team, four year letterman in football and wrestling, Best Tackler Award, Scholar Athlete Award, Greensports Athlete of the Week, All Greene County Award for both football and wrestling, Most Valuable Wrestler Award, Academic Achievement Award, American Citizen Award, Unsung Hero Award, Tri-County South All Conference Award, Tri-County Scholar Athlete Award, Keystone State FFA Degree, placed 5th at TRICADA Wrestling Tournament, placed 5th at Sections, placed 8th at WPIAL, and qualified for Regionals. He completed community service hours for the Richhill Agricultural Society, Jacktown Fairgrounds, WG Little League Football, For the Love of Dance, WG Wrestling Boosters, IndividualService Learning Project, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, Used to be Yours Thrift Shop, WG Volleyball Boosters, Respi Center Personal Care Home and Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA. Seth's future plans include attending a Technical School for further education in the industrial trade of Heavy Equipment Technician.

Brian Andrew Jackson is the son of Brian and Crystal Jackson of Waynesburg. Brian Andrew's extra curricular activities include: Varsity Football and captain his senior year, National Honor Society and Vice-President during his senior year, Wrestling, Track and Field, Science Club and Vice President in grade 12, FFA, Calculus Club, International Club, Pep-rally Planning Committee, SADD Program, and Student Government, in which he was the Class President grades 9-12. Brian Andrew's community based activities and community service include: attends Willow Grove Baptist Church, Little League Volunteer Part-Time Coach in grade 10, Little League Football Announcer, Book Drive Volunteer, and Car Wash Volunteer to benefit the Humane Society. His future plans are to attend Messiah University majoring in History, to become a teacher, like his Dad.

Dylan Wilson is the son of William and Vicki Wilson of Graysville. Dylan attends CTC for Culinary Arts, and belongs to Family, Carer and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Skills USA, Interact, National Honor Society, and the Culinary Arts Club. He is the President of his FC-CLA Chapter, the Interact Chapter, and the Culinary Arts Club. Dylan is the voting delegate of Skills USA. He has been awarded a sizable amount of scholarship money along with many academic awards. They include American Citizenship Award, Academic Letter, Fifth Place Accolades, and will be a speaker at the CTC Graduation. Dylan volunteers at Erin's Cafe Soup Kitchen in Waynesburg and has also volunteered at numerous CTC events such as: Mardi Gras at St. Marcellus Church, The Christmas Buffet, and the Rotary Gala, to name a few. Dylan's future plans are to attend Westmoreland Community College completing a Culinary Arts Apprenticeship.

William (Billy) Witlatch is the son of William Whitlatch of Wind Ridge. Billy has been on the honor roll for four years. Other honors include being the President of the Science Club, Captain of the Football Team, 4 Year Letterman in Football, and he was chosen as McCracken Pharmacy Player of the Week. Billy's future plans are to go to Belmont College to study HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning).

Greene County Fair Queen Donates \$3000 to Greene County Fair Board

The Greene County Commissioners and the Fairboard would like to extend a sincere appreciation to 2023 Fair Queen Adysan Kern for her \$3,000.00 dollar donation to the Fairboard, this donation will assist with the Arena Barn Sound System for the week of the Greene County Fair. Adysan organized and held a Spaghetti Fundraiser to make this donation.continued on page 16.



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...continued from page 15.

Conservation District Contest Winners

In honor of Conservation District Week, April 28-May 4th, the Greene County Conservation District announces winners of their annual poster contest that was open to all Greene County students in kindergarten through the eighth grade. The contest highlighted the National Association of Conservation District's 2024 theme, "May the Forest be With You Always."

Twenty-one students from across the county participated in the contest. Contests like this promote interest in the environment, sciences, arts, and other disciplines. Each first-place winners' posters will automatically be entered into the statewide contest held by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. Winning posters were awarded cash prizes for participation in the amount of \$100 first place, \$75 second place and \$50 for third place. Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all participants.

In the 7th - 8th grade category, the winners were:

- 1st Place - Ava Dialesandro, CGSD Junior High School
- 2nd Place - Brielle Whipkey, CGSD Junior High School
- 3rd Place - Layla Crouse, CGSD Junior High School

In the 4th - 6th grade category, the winners were:

- 1st Place - Payton Duncan, PA Distance Learning Charter School
- 2nd Place - Julianna Kirsch, Waynesburg Central Elementary School
- 3rd Place - Chloe Shaffer, Waynesburg Central Elementary School

In the 2nd- 3rd grade category, the winners were:

- 1st Place - Landon Simpson, Waynesburg Central Elementary School
- 2nd Place - Grant Patton, West Greene Elementary School
- 3rd Place - Elodie McGowan, Waynesburg Central Elementary School

In the K-1st grade category, the winners were:

- 1st Place - Kaelyn Duncan, PA Distance Learning Charter School
- 2nd Place - Ella Patton, Waynesburg Central Elementary School
- 3rd Place - August McGowan, Waynesburg Central Elementary School

The Greene County Conservation District also announced the winners of their annual coloring contest that was open to pre-k students within Greene County. The contest is promoted to introduce children to soil and water conservation and the importance of healthy soils and clean water. This year a total 74 entries were received by the district. Each of the three winners received a new bicycle and helmet compliments of the Conservation District. Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all participants.



7th - 8th Grade winners



4th - 6th Grade winners



2nd - 3rd Grade winners



Coloring Contest winners



K - 1st Grade winners

Madisyn Shay, age 5, parents Matthew and Lindsay Shay.
Jackson Argyle, age 5, parents Ryan and Nicole Argyle.
Addison Wilson, age 4, parents Gary and Courtney Wilson.

CFGC Awards \$2,000 to Greene County Human Services Early Intervention Program

The Community Foundation of Greene County is pleased to announce it has awarded \$2,000 to Greene County Human Services Early Intervention Program from the James and Jackie Campbell Family Fund to host the Night at the Barnyard on June 20, 2024 at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

Lauren Chambers, Greene County Early Intervention Administrator, said, "We are excited to host, Night at the Barnyard, for the 2nd year with the generous support from the Jamie and Jackie Campbell Family Fund. Night at the Barnyard is a fun filled night for families and children of all ages. Barnyard Petting Zoo of Eighty Four, PA will bring a variety of both, domestic and exotic animals for children to interact with, including, hand feeding, bottle feeding, cuddles and pictures. All free to the community!"

The Early Intervention Program provides developmental and educational services to Greene County children younger than three years old who have development delays. These services are offered at NO COST to all clients, regardless of the family's income. Children qualify based on the results of a full developmental assessment. Following the development of an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Sessions are provided at the convenience of the family in the child's home or day care setting.

The Community Foundation of Greene County (CFGC), a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2000, is the central philanthropic vehicle in Greene County for donations of various types and sizes. CFGC currently manages over \$8 million in assets through more than 100 different endowed and restricted funds.

For more information about the Community Foundation of Greene County, view our website at www.cfgcpa.org. Contact us by email at cfgc-pa@gmail.com or call 724-627-2010.



Conservation District Announces Envirothon Winners

The 36th annual Greene County Envirothon competition was held at Hunting Hills on Wednesday, April 17th. Sixty high school students from Greene County's four school districts competed in this year's event.

At the Envirothon, five-member teams participate in a series of field station tests that focus on five topic areas - soils and land use, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and environmental issues. The theme for the 2024 event was "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future." ...continued on page 18.



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**MOUNTAINEERS
GO FIRST.**

...continued from page 16.

Carmichaels Team # 1 won this year's competition with a score of 439.5 points out of a possible 500. Team members Alex Lawrence, Hayden Yeager, Allie Miller, Faith Willis, and Emma Bates, with team advisor Kevin Willis. The team will represent Greene County at the PA Envirothon. The 2024 PA Envirothon will be held at Camp Mt. Luther, Mifflinburg, PA on May 22nd.

Second Place was Mapletown Coal Cowboys who earned 361 points and consisted of Nicole Barrera, MaKenna Lotspeich, Hannah Knutsen, Alexis Perry and Erin Richmond and their advisor Amber Burkett.

The third-place team was Carmichaels High School Team # 3 who earned 321.5 points, which included Katelynn Schoenfeldt, Isiah Currey, James Caffrey-Bauman, Daniel Hetrick, Stephen Lewis and advisor Kevin Willis.

The Greene County Envirothon is organized each year by the Greene County Conservation District and is funded through donations and grants from various businesses, agencies, and individuals. Thank you to the following that improved our competition - EQT Foundation, Sheetz, Greene Team Pellet Fuel Company, LLC, Hunting Hills, Bankson Engineers, First Federal of Greene County,



1st Place - Carmichaels Team #1



2nd Place - Mapletown Coal Cowboys



3rd Place - Carmichaels Team #3

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Each student on the first-place team secured a \$500 college scholarship funded by donations from donors and the Greene County Conservation District.

In addition to the continued financial support of sponsors, other partners that made the event successful include Greene County Commissioners Jared Edgreen, Betsy McClure, and Blair Zimmerman; Russell Gibbs, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry; Brandon Bonin and Zack Hay, PA Game Commission, Christine Phillips of PA Department of Environmental Protection, Mike Davis of EQT and Greene County Development Office Jeremy Kelly and Kyle Lamb. The Conservation District would sincerely like to thank Roy, Sally, Raz and Johnna Sisler for the use of their facility at Hunting Hills for the day.

For more information on the Greene County Envirothon, call the Greene County Conservation District at 724-852-5278.

CFGC Awards \$2,000 Awards \$36,720 to Growing Up Greene

The Community Foundation of Greene County is pleased to announce it has awarded \$36,720 to Growing Up Greene from the James and Jackie Campbell Family Fund to assist with the purchase of supplies for the 2024 Winter Gear Distribution event which will be held in December, and to assist with administrative and training costs.

Growing Up Greene was born from the need for greater child-centered charitable work in Greene County. Their volunteer Child Advocates, board members, and staff are dedicated to serving children and families inside and outside of the child-welfare system, while maintaining the confidentiality of those same children and families.

Their Mission Statement: Growing Up Greene is committed to protecting Greene County's most important resource: its children. Their innovative child-welfare programming, expanding on time-tested, volunteer-led advocacy, provides real and positive results to the children and families they serve. They strive to reduce the impact and severity of childhood traumas, leading to healthier and happier local communities.

From their volunteer Child Advocates, to their new Emergency Overnight Housing program, and more initiatives being launched soon, Growing Up Greene stands ready to assist their child-welfare partners in caring for children and strengthening the families they all serve. "We can do so much more when we all work together."

"The Campbell Family Fund and the Community Foundation of Greene County are making an incredible investment in the health of local families," said Aaron Houser, Executive Director of Growing Up Greene. "Children learn from the examples they see in their communities, and we all want to help the next generation reach further than they could have imagined."

The Community Foundation of Greene County (CFGC), a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2000, is the central philanthropic vehicle in Greene County for donations of various types and sizes. CFGC currently manages over \$8 million in assets through more than 100 different endowed and restricted funds.

For more information about the Community Foundation of Greene County, view our website at www.cfgcpa.org. Contact us by email at cfgcpa@gmail.com or call 724-627-2010.



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Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore

Greene County's Own Moonlight Graham

In the 1989 film *Field of Dreams*, Burt Lancaster plays the pivotal character Moonlight Graham. In the novel *Shoeless Joe*, upon which the movie is based, author W.P. Kinsella captured the complex frustrations of a man who came achingly close to achieving a dream to play in a major league baseball game. The real-life Moon Light Graham played the top half of the ninth inning for the New York Giants on June 29, 1905. He played right field without recording a putout or assist. The game ended with him on deck awaiting his only shot to enter the record books.

According to the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), approximately 2,200 players have had similar experiences to Moonlight Graham. One such player is Stan "Stush" Ferek of Carmichaels. When I wrote my book on the history of sports in Greene County, I missed Ferek as an actual major leaguer for two reasons. First, although he was a longtime resident of Carmichaels, he was born in the Fayette County coal-patch of Keisterville. Therefore, he wasn't listed as a Greene County native. More importantly, he was not recorded as a major leaguer due to circumstances that make Moonlight Graham seem lucky.

After graduating high school in 1940 at the age of 17, Ferek pitched for Keister against grown men in the highly competitive Big 10 coal mine league. He was a 6'1", 180-pound

left-hander with a devastating curve ball. In 1941, he tore through the league, posting a 35-0 record, which captured the attention of several scouts. His only loss that season was against the legendary Homestead Grays in a barnstorming exhibition at South Union Stadium. The Tigers and Pirates both offered him contracts, and he chose to sign with the local team.

The following season, he reported to the Pirates' Class D affiliate the Oil City Oilers of the Pennsylvania State Association. His contract was for \$500 and free room and board. After posting a winning record that year, promotion seemed inevitable. However, Ferek did what many young men of that era did. He answered a higher calling and enlisted in the Marines the day after the last game of the season. No doubt, the selflessness of that generation is enshrined in our history and may never be witnessed again.

He spent the next four years of his prime athletic life in the Pacific, island hopping and participating in historic battles. He took part in the invasion of the Marshall Islands, Saipan (where he was wounded in the knee and finger), Tinian, and Iwo Jima. He was also in Japan after the surrender. Ferek performed his duties with the same stoic resolve men of his generation assumed were part of the covenant of being an American. According to his son, Ron Ferek, his father never complained about the missed baseball opportunities. In characteristic fashion, the war-time tales of glory were never part of their family lore. In fact, they remained obscured until a trove of photos emerged from "Stush's" attic after his death. One of those grainy photos was of the actual flag raising ceremony at Iwo Jima.

Before the Island campaign began, the troops were training and awaiting deployment in Hawaii. Baseball was one of the rare entertainments available to the soldiers and the locals. Thousands of spectators would turn out to watch teams representing various branches of the service face off against one another. The level of competition was intense given the quality of the players. A Honolulu sporting goods store sponsored the Williams Equipment Player of the Week Award. In early March, Ferek received the award after tossing a no-hitter against a Coast

*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.*

Guard team. A month later, a guy named Joe DiMaggio won the same award. In July, Dodger legend and Hall of Famer Pee Wee Reese was the recipient.

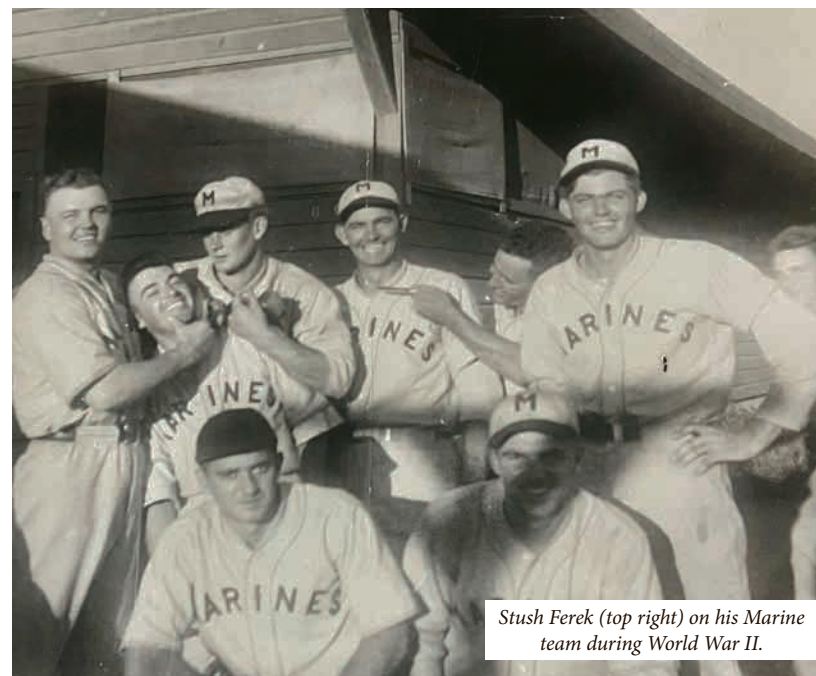
After the war, Ferek returned to the Pirates farm system in 1946 and worked his way up from Class B Selma to AAA Indianapolis in only two seasons. In spring training of 1947, he had a tremendous outing against the Yankees. He impressed all-star Frankie Gustine and his camp roommate Danny Murtaugh with his tenacity when he drilled several Bronx Bombers and pitched 10 strong innings against starters during the exhibition game. He and Murtaugh would become life-long friends.

Ferek made the 1948 opening day roster, but had developed elbow trouble after his extensive use again during spring training. In June, the Pirates finally sent him to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore for surgery. However, a nerve was partially severed, and he was never the same. He tried an unsuccessful rehab assignment back at Indianapolis. The following year, the team sent him back to A ball in Albany. However, after a couple of tough starts, he decided to retire.

He returned to Carmichaels and opened an Atlantic Service station in 1951 with the help of the Pirates. Atlantic Refining had been a long-time sponsor of the Bucs. Murtaugh and a group of his old Pirate buddies showed up to promote the grand opening.

Always a good hitter, Ferek ended up playing first base for the Nemaocolin team in the Big 10 league. He was elected to that league's hall of fame in 1971. He remained involved in the game by coaching the Carmichaels legion teams in the 1960s. However, Ferek's first love (after his wife Blanche) was playing trumpet and leading his renowned polka band, Stush and the Boys, for a quarter century at various wedding and party venues around the area.

In *Field of Dreams*, Kevin Costner's character asks Moonlight Graham how he can live with the "tragedy" of not fulfilling his dream to bat in the major leagues. Graham replies it would have been a "tragedy" for him not to become a doctor. The other thing was just an unfulfilled wish. The depth of understanding and maturity of that character's response is emblematic of Stush Ferek's generation. A generation that knew that family, friends, community, and country are the truly important things.



Stush Ferek (top right) on his Marine team during World War II.



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BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE MONTH



Mason Lapana is the son of Nick and Valerie Lapana of Carmichaels. He was a four-year letterman for the Mike's golf team and named a GCADA fall athlete. Mason also plays on the varsity baseball team. In school, Mason is a member of the National Honor Society, as well as the Leo, chess, chemistry, Spanish and ski clubs. He is also a member of the E-Sports team, Mike's Nation Live broadcasting crew, Big Brother Big Sister, Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania, Academic League and the Home Town Hi Q Team. Mason enjoys fishing, archery, hunting and is a member of the Greene Valley Presbyterian Church in Carmichaels. He plans to continue his academic and athletic career at Fairmont State University. He will be golfing for the Falcons and majoring in Information Systems Management to specialize in Computer Network Engineering.



Bailey Barnyak is the daughter of Nikki and Nick Onderko of Carmichaels and Jeff and Kate Barnyak of Pittsburgh. She is a sophomore on the Mike's girls' softball and volleyball teams. Bailey is also a member of the school's cheerleading squad. On the mound last softball season, she earned First-Team All-State honors and was named the All-County Player of the Year. She earned GCADA all-county honors in both softball and volleyball. She also plays travel softball for the Steel City Athletics Hilligsberg 16u team. In school, Bailey maintains a 3.5 GPA, participates in Junior Achievement, and is a member of the Jr. National Honor Society.



Ashtin Nesselroad is a junior at Mapletown, where he is a letterman on the football team, playing on the offensive line and as a linebacker on defense. He currently plays in the infield for the Maples' baseball team, as well as handling pitching and catching duties. Ashtin is on the yearbook staff and likes to lift weights and hang out with friends. He is the son of Yvonne Burns and Jestin Nesselroad of Greensboro.



MaKenna Lotspeich is a sophomore at Mapletown High School where she is a letter winner on the varsity basketball and softball teams. She has also garnered All-County recognition in both sports. MaKenna currently maintains a 4.64 GPA while additionally participating in Envirothon, Academic League, and student council. She is class president and was recently awarded 3rd place in the introduction to FBLA state event, which qualifies her to represent PA in the national competition in Orlando this summer. In MaKenna's free time, she enjoys drawing and creating artworks, fishing, and spending time with family, friends, and pets. She is the daughter of Nicholas and Amy Lotspeich of Dilliner.



Drew Adams is the son of Scott Adams and Tiffany DeBoe of Clarksville. Only a sophomore, he is the starting catcher on the varsity baseball team. He also pitches and serves as a utility man for the Rockets. He has played six years of travel baseball and is currently with the Greene County Ghosts. Drew is also extremely active in community service with the JM RLL Class and helps coach and umpire youth baseball.



Jenna Cyr is the daughter of Kevin and Ashley Cyr of Clarksville. The Rocket senior cheers and plays volleyball and softball for the school. In school, Jenna is president of the Student Council, Leo and Foreign Language clubs. She is also secretary of National Honor Society and a member of SADD and the Envirothon Club. Jenna plans to attend Penn West University to study Elementary Education and Special Education.



Alex VanSickle is the son of Scott and Corey VanSickle of Waynesburg. He is the captain of the Raider baseball team where he earned the following accolades: 2023 & 2024 Pre-Season WPIAL "Player to Watch" (Tribune), 2022 & 2023 WPIAL 3A Section 4 All-Section (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette), 2022 & 2023 All-County Baseball Team, 2023 First Team All-Section WPIAL 3A Section, and Greene Sports Athlete of the Week. Alex also captains the basketball team, where he has earned the following honors: 2023 & 2024 All-Section teams, and 2023 & 2024 All-County teams. Alex is a member of the National Honor Society, Yearbook, and Newspaper staffs. Outside of school, he plays for the Team All American travel baseball program, works for Ryan Encapera Youth Baseball camps, and is a member of St. Matthias Roman Catholic Church. After graduation, Alex plans to attend college with aspirations of playing baseball and obtaining a degree in finance and economics.



Gina Tedrow is the daughter of Ryan and Mindy Tedrow of Waynesburg. She is a sophomore with highest honors at Waynesburg Central. She is a member of the softball and volleyball teams and is a two-year letter winner for both sports. She was named First Team WPIAL All-Section in volleyball. She was chosen All-County by GCADA for both sports this year. This past softball season, Gina struck out 200 batters and was named a McCracken Pharmacy Athlete of the Week. Her future plans include going to college to continue playing softball and going into the medical field.



After multiple auditions, Joe Kirsch, a Waynesburg Central High School Junior, was selected to play trumpet for the Pennsylvania All-State Wind Ensemble. He performed on April 20 at the Warner Theater in Erie, PA as part of the PMEA All-state Conference.

Ryerson Station State Park Announces Pool Hours

Ryerson Station State Park's Swimming Pool will be opening Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday May 25th for the 2024 season. The Pool and Spray Park will be open daily from 11:30 am to 6:30 pm with weather and operations permitting. Please check the park advisory section of our website: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/ryersonstation for up to the minute updates as to the status of the pool and spray park and the hours.

Ryerson Station State Park Staff emphasizes all swimmers must obey all posted rules and regulations in addition to following lifeguard commands. For more information on this or other park activities contact the park office at (724) 428-4254, visit our website, or visit the Friends of Ryerson Station State Park on Facebook page. Information about all Pennsylvania State Parks is available through the Pennsylvania homepage at www.dcnr.pa.gov or by visiting DCNR directly at www.dcnr.state.pa.us.

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Show us your best catch and you might find yourself featured in the GreeneScene Community Magazine's 5th Annual Anglers' Showcase, publishing in our August 2024 issue.

We're looking for photos of your trophy catch or beginner's luck. Your photo may be selected to appear in our Anglers' Showcase. Everyone who submits a picture for consideration will go in a random drawing to win \$50 CASH!

Send us pictures of your best catch from this fishing season, along with:

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WHERE the picture was taken?
HOW you got the fish?
WHO is in the picture?
WHERE the fisherman is from?
WHO is submitting the picture?

Send your clear, quality photographs to:
GreeneScene Magazine/Angler
185 Wade St.
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Attach jpeg files & do not allow the program to reduce size before sending. High quality digital photos (minimum 300 dpi). Email to info@GreeneSceneMagazine.com

All photos must be received no later than July 1, 2024 to be considered.



WHO WILL BE THE NEXT GREENE COUNTY FAIR QUEEN?

The Fair Queen Program of the Greene County Fair is now accepting applications for the 2024 Greene County Fair Queen Contest celebrating its 38th year. The contest will take place on Saturday, July 27th at the Greene County Fair Grounds. The Queen and Princess contest is open to females aged 6 to 20 as of June 1, 2024, who must reside in Greene County, Pennsylvania.

A Queen will be crowned, along with a Princess, Junior Princess, Little Princess, and Mini Princess. The new age divisions, added in 2023, allow children as young as 6-years old the opportunity to participate, learn about agriculture and represent the fair at local parades, other fairs, and queen contests in the region along with various local events and activities over the next year and of course participate in many activities during the week of August 3rd through the 10th at the Greene County Fair.

The 2024 Greene County Fair Queen will compete in the 2025 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Contest during the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs Convention, held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in January 2025. As part of the Queen's prize package, she will be eligible to receive professional development in interview skills and public speaking. The goal is to not only prepare our young women to compete at the state contest, but to prepare them for college and entering the workforce.

Queen contestants will be judged on an essay on "What the Greene County Fair Means to my Community", a three-to-five-minute speech on "Why You Should Come to the Greene County Fair", a personal interview, impromptu question, and modeling in an evening gown. Younger contestants will be judged on age-appropriate activities.

At the conclusion of the contests, the 2024 Queen Team will be crowned by the 2023 Greene County Fair Queen Adysan Kern, Princess Rachel Koratich, Junior Princess Cameron Wendell, Little Princess Payton Duncan, and Mini Princess Marklee Beal. In addition, to a crown and sash, compliments of Lola Energy, each new title holder will receive a prize package with items donated by local businesses. Each new title holder will also receive a cash prize at the end of their reign with the queen taking home \$1,000.

Once again, the queen will receive a \$4,000 scholarship to Waynesburg University. This scholarship was presented for the first



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Greene County Fair is looking for pictures of these past Greene County Fair Queens. Do you have pictures of them to share?

1986 AMY WILLISON
1987 DORIE MATSCHERZ
1988 BECKY MILLER
1989 BOBBIE WHIPKEY
1991 EMILY BOWLEN
1994 JENNIFER HOWARD

1995 BECKY CRAMER
2001 ALICIA HAMEL
2002 VANESSA MIRKOVICH
2003 CLARISSA MIRKOVICH
2005 NICOLE FINNEGAN

If you can help the Greene County Fair Queen committee with acquiring copies of these pictures, please email melody@greenechamber.org or call 724-998-2386.

time in 2023 to begin a new tradition for the Queen program.

A Queen Meet-n-Greet will be held on Monday, August 5th from 4-6pm during "Kids Night at the Fair" during which time attendees to the fair can meet and get their photo taken, not only with our new queens and princesses, they can also meet the 2024 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen, Erica Teegarden who will be a special guest of the fair that day.

The application to participate can be obtained by emailing greenecountypa-fairqueen@gmail.com and providing a postal

or email address along with the name and age of the contestant. Questions can also be directed to this email. The deadline to register to participate is June 30th.

An orientation for all contestants participating in this year's contest will be held on Saturday, July 6th. The contestants will learn about the contest, meet their fellow contestants, current title holders and participate in a fun activity.

The application can also be found on the fair's website at <https://greenecountyfair.org/fair-queen>

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8am-10am

June 8th - Dickey's BBQ Pit Waynesburg
July 13th - American Legion, Post 400, Carmichaels, PA
August 10th - Greene County Fair
Sept 14th - Mason Lodge in Waynesburg
Oct 12th - Waynesburg Moose Lodge
Nov 9th - GC Fairgrounds Bld #10 (Pancake Breakfast)
Dec 14th - Waynesburg VFW



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Chat: www.veteranscrisisline
https://www.facebook.com/TWVGreene/

Local. Library. Love.

NEW ONLINE SERVICE COMES TO GREENE COUNTY LIBRARIES

The two public libraries in the Greene County Library System—Eva K. Bowlby in Waynesburg and Flenniken Library in Carmichaels—are excited to announce a new online service for kids of all ages. Tumble Book Library is available for free to all children of Greene County regardless of whether they have a library card.

Tumble Book Library includes read-alongs, picture books, beginning readers, ebooks, STEM books, graphic novels, nonfiction, videos, puzzles and games, and language learning. Kids and their parents can save their favorites, experience the highlighted daily read, choose by subject matter, or grade and reading level.

This is a wonderful resource for parents who want to keep their kids engaged in reading and learning during the summer. For instance, all books have a summary, how long it takes to read, age level, a choice to turn the sound down and have the child read on their own, and a choice to have the story advance automatically or turn the pages by hand. The illustrations can fill the screen, and the readers sound just like a real person—no AI voices here! The illustrations look just like the picture books, but they are gently animated. There are also quizzes for each book, as well as help writing a book report for each book read.

If you choose the puzzles and games, the categories are divided into sentence games, STEM games, memory games, and games in Spanish. The video category is general science videos on nature, mammals, insects, underwater animals, birds and are generally 8-10 minutes long. To access the Tumble Book Library, go to either library's web page and look under Children's or Resources. It's easy to find, it's a lot of fun, and it's free for everyone.

SUMMER READING STARTS IN JUNE

Adventure Begins at Your Library is the summer reading theme for Eva K. Bowlby Library in Waynesburg and Flenniken Library in Carmichaels, and there will be adventures aplenty for kids of all ages.

Bowlby's Kick-off party begins on Saturday, June 22 from 1-3pm with a performance by Storyteller Alan Irvine, and ends on Saturday, August 17 with a bus trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo. In between are Summer Quest Adventure programs for all ages: Mondays from 10am-1pm for 4-6-year-olds; Tuesdays for babies (Lap sits) through preschool at various times; Wednesdays from 10am-3pm for 6-8-year-olds; and Thursdays from 10am-3pm for 9-12-year-olds.

Flenniken Public Library
724-966-5263 • 102 E. George Street, Carmichaels, PA 15320

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

Free lunches are served on Wednesdays and Thursdays. (Anyone 18 years and younger are eligible for the lunches; they do not have to be registered for programming.)

For teenagers there is a new program, "Do Something!" is two hours of time to hang out, mess around, and geek out with creative, tech, and practical projects of your choice. Two different time slots are available: Monday 3-5pm or Friday 1-3pm. Sign-ups for all ages are open soon. Visit the library in person or online (www.evakbowlby.org) or call 724-627-9776 for more information.

The Summer Adventure Kick-off party at Flenniken begins at 3pm on Friday, June 14, and regular summer adventures start on Monday, June 17. The ending adventure is on Saturday, July 27 at 11am when the Oglebay Good Zoo brings the zoo to the library. In between there is the Wacky Science Magic Show presented by WQED on Friday July 12 at 3pm, and regular age appropriate story adventures: Toddlers on Friday at 11am; Pre-Kindergarten Tuesdays at 11am; Kindergarten Tuesdays at 1pm; grades 1-2 on Wednesdays at 1pm; grades 3-5 on Wednesdays at 11am. Visit www.Flenniken.org or call Rae at 724-966-5623 to sign up or for more information about any programs.


If you live in Greene County, a free library card is available to you, so that you can take advantage of everything the libraries have to offer. Don't let your kids be bored this summer—introduce them to the adventures that begin at their local libraries.



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Arts in the Community:

April was National Poetry Month, and both Bowlby Public Library and Flenniken Public Library held a poetry contest for the community. During the month

of April, local citizens were encouraged to submit their original poems to both libraries.

Both libraries are proud to announce the winners of their annual poetry competitions. From the original poems that were submitted, judges narrowed it down to the following winners. Congratulations to the winners from both libraries' competitions and keep writing! We can't wait to see next year's winning entries!

Local Libraries Build Poetry Pride



Would You Be There

Anna Hetrick
6th - 12th grade (first place/Flenniken)

Would you be there if my branches fell apart, my puzzle was scattered and unsolved,
Would you be there if a piece of me was missing like the pieces were not fitting in the "perfect spot,"
Would you be there if I felt lost like any game I played was just another loss,
Would you be there if I fell into a tornado I got lost in my head and felt myself fall and tumble,
Would you be there if I stopped caring like the things I loved had no meaning,
Would you be there if it was my last day "would you be there," to pick me up after I'd already fallen.

An Unbalanced Equation

Jessica Hathaway
Adults (first place/Flenniken)

In the background;
Simple cog) bigger machine).
Not shiny enough).
No glitter) no gleam;
More of a soft blue-
Serenity.
A constant drive;
Hushed tone) a calm breeze;
Waiting for a moment;
An instance) a dream).
The weight of it all
Amounting to something.
Behind the pomp)
The circumstance of the thing)
The shimmer u1ll fade
Applause dies out-
What gets remembered) The whisper or the shout?

Changing Seasons

Julie Murphy
Adults (second place/Flenniken)

I love the lush green grass of spring and the flowering trees with their blossom burdened limbs. The bright blue sky turns to torrential rain renewing the earth below.
I love a warm summer day sitting in the shade with a gentle cool breeze. Sipping sweet tea brewed by the sun. Sunsets so colorful they seem to last forever, until fireflies queue the night and stars that dazzle the sky.
I love the changing colors of the trees in autumn. From vivid green to shades of red, orange, yellow, and even rusty brown. The crunch of fallen leaves under foot on a path in the woods. The smell of campfire and roasting marshmallows.
I love the first fallen snow of winter, a cup of hot cocoa in hand, while watching big fluffy flakes. Snowflakes nearly defy gravity ever so so slowly and gently, gliding to the ground, covering every surface, glistening in the light of the full moon. The world quiet and frozen till broken by the joy of children building snowmen, making snow angels and sledding.

Me

Amber Miller
Adults (third place/Flenniken)

I woke up today looking into the mirror not recognizing the woman standing before me.
The small lines and wrinkles over her face the guilt and shame from past mistakes the laugh lines from years of laughing with her children.
The small blemishes that only she notices, the piercings that no one approved of that she loved, the double chin that she just can't seem to get rid of, the mirror is a window into the life she lived the good and the bad.
You don't always notice the small details of a life well lived but that is what I see.
Many years of living and loving maybe not always loving myself enough but living just the same.

Poetry winners continued on page 32.

I Love Winter

Anna Sumpter
K - 2nd grade (first place/Bowlby)

It is very cold in winter.
There is a lot of snow.
You will need a coat.
Let's learn about the life cycle of snow.

The rain when it gets too cold,
The rain freezes and it make snow or ice.
And when it gets warm the rain melts.

The Beat of Life

Samantha Murphy
6th - 12th grade (second place/Flenniken)

Life is like a Spotify Playlist on shuffle
It can go from happy and bright to,
Calm, smooth, and gentle like classical music
Life like music; is filled with different sounds and rhythms

But life can change tempo to something sad, slow, and filled with meaning
Music is filled with heart and soul,

And everyone goes to the beat of their own drum
Framing out something new that never would have existed

Some breaking the top ten hit list being heard around the world
Yet, just as all songs do they will slowly come to a cutoff

Mr. Bear

Eve Henderson
3rd - 5th grade (first place/Bowlby)

I saw a bear,
He was sitting in my chair!
I ran up to the beast,
He said he was in terrible need of a feast!
I said I could help,
He gave a sudden yelp:
"Yes, you could help! You would be delicious!"
I stared in horror,
that bear was malicious!
I quickly ran away,
Mr. Bear was going to have to be hungry for a day

Febru-ugh-y

Nora Henderson
6rd - 8th grade (first place/Bowlby)

The woods are sleeping,
The snow is merry.
This is the month of February.
The trees are the same color as the ground;
A yucky, dirty, muddy brown.
Everything outside is gloomy,
And indoors its not so roomy.
The sky's the color of an elephant;
I don't really know if that's relevant.
Pale, cold, foggy, gray,
This isn't the time to play.
Everything is freezing and thawing and muddy;
This is the month of Febru-ugh-y.

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FCAA OFFERS FREE SUMMER TRAINING FOR ADULTS 55+

Fayette County Community Action Agency (FCCAA) is partnering with Westmoreland County Community College to host free training opportunities for residents ages 55+ through its Hillman Foundationfunded Experienced Worker Advocacy Program this summer. Residents ages 55+ in Fayette, Greene, Washington & Westmoreland Counties are eligible to participate; employers are also able to send employees ages 55+ to the trainings, at no cost to them; all materials are provided. Trainings available are:

Computer Basics - 5-week course, 15 hours of total instruction, 3 hours per session. Explore the Windows® operating system, basic features and terms; create documents, send emails, browse the internet and share information between systems and other users. Sessions will be held June 7, June 14, June 21, June 24 and July 12.

Microsoft Word® Basics - 2-week course, 8 hours of total instruction, 4 hours

per session. Explore capabilities; create, edit, format documents, add tables, lists, design elements; understand layout options; learn proofing abilities. Sessions will be held July 19 & July 26.

Microsoft Excel® Basics - 2-week course, 8 hours of total instruction, 4 hours per session. Explore essential features; create, manage and edit worksheets/workbooks; create formulas, manage data; format worksheets to prepare, set-up and print information. Sessions will be held August 2 & August 9

Additionally, the program is sponsoring a ServSafe® Certification Class on Monday, June 24.

Classes will be held at Westmoreland County Community College's Uniontown Campus at 140 North Beeson Avenue. For more information on services available and/or to register for classes, contact Project Manager Kevin VanVerth at 724.437.6050 ext. 3284 or email kvanverth@fcaa.org



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Arts in the Community:

Continued from page 30.

A Brother Dear

Melissa Fawley
Adults (first place/Bowlby)

In the echoes of a bingo hall's din,
A mother's voice, a cry within,
The news that shattered a fragile night,
Heralding darkness, casting light.

March of twenty-seventeen, the year,
When Tragedy whispered, drawing near,
A brother lost to heroin's grasp.

In shadows deep, he breathed his last.

I saw my mother's tears cascade,
As she received the call, her heart dismayed,
A son, a brother, taken too soon,

In the silence of a lonely room.

The days that followed, a haze a blur,
Arranging funerals, emotions stir,
Divorced parents united in grief,

As we searched for solace, seeking relief.

But in the midst of sorrow's tide,
I struggled with a grief untied,
For he, my brother, my closest friend,

Was lost to darkness in the end.

We were the only children, he and I,
Bound by blood, beneath the sky,
No other Sibling understood,

The bond we shared, misunderstood.

I begged him, pleaded, to break free,
From heroin's grip, its cruelty,
but he laughed it off, dismissed my fear,

Said, "Calm down, sis, I'll be here."

yet addiction's hold, relentless strong,
Proved fatal, cruel, in its song,
He underestimated its might,

And in that moment, lost the fight.

He was smart, loving, kind, they say,
But addiction stole him away,
First in life, then in death's embrace,

Leaving behind an empty space.

My heart forever broken, torn,
In grief's embrace, I am reborn,
Through therapy's touch and lessons learned,

In his memory, my soul yearned.

For though he's gone, forevermore,
in my heart, he'll dwell, evermore,
A beacon of love, a guiding light,

In the darkest hour, through the night.

So here I stand, forever changed,
In loss and love, forever chained,
To memories of a brother dear,

Whose absence I'll forever fear.

But through the pain, I find my way,
Learning to live, day by day,
in his honor, I'll rise above,

Embracing life, with boundless love.

Artist Residency Returns to Carmichaels Elementary

As a result of feedback from the community, DVSSP's THRIVE team has made it a priority to bring art to the Carmichaels Area Elementary School. For the second year in a row, the 5th grade class welcomed resident artists Lindsay Huff and Lauren Bailey. Lindsay and Lauren worked with the students from January to March to create a tree that exemplifies the 7 Mindsets. The 7 Mindsets is the social and emotional learning curriculum used by Carmichaels Area School District. Mediums used included screen print, paint, and the use of recycled materials. A grand unveiling of the finished piece will be held later this spring!



Adults Enjoy Stained Glass Classes

Twelve community members had the opportunity to participate in a series of stained glass classes led by local art teacher, Randi Knizner. Each participant chose an 8 x 8 design, selected their glass, cut and shaped their pieces, then brought it all together to create a piece of art they could take home. This was all made possible as a result of the THRIVE project. spring!



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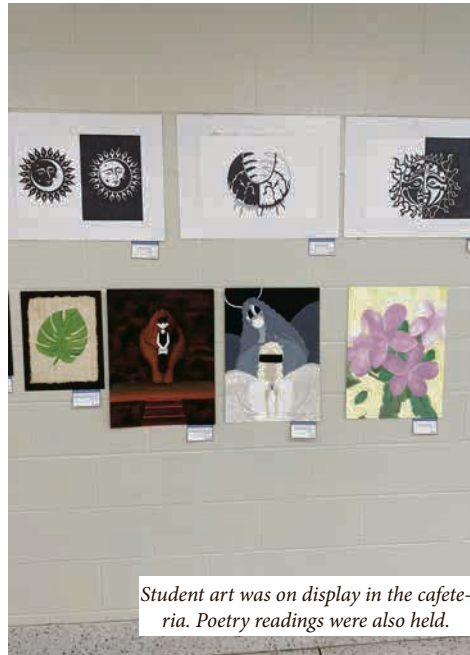
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Cool at School: Carmichaels Area School District

By Emma Bates



Daysha Skolnekovich with her at the Art Show held in April.



Student art was on display in the cafeteria. Poetry readings were also held.

in the magic, reading quotes about poetry by other poets and authors to set the tone for the evening. In this way, many students were able to participate in the beauty of the written word.

Seventh grade English Language Arts teacher Mrs. Sara Ruffalo explains that throughout middle school, students are immersed in a wide variety of literature, especially poetry, and they spend a great deal of time reading and analyzing the poetry of others, as well as writing their own by discovering their voices through a diverse range of styles. The poetry reading, Mrs. Ruffalo shares, is a culminating celebration of the art of words, and the courage it takes to share those words with others. Many of the students' poems were based on works by other poets, while other students wrote poetry based on their own experiences and imaginations.

The special night continued with the High School Art Show that followed. "The Art Show was a beautiful backdrop to my kids' art of their words!" Mrs. Ruffalo says.

Middle and High School Art teacher Mrs. Randi Knizner facilitated a satisfying night that highlighted the talents of her many students. Forty-five students displayed

artwork at the show, and many of the pieces were arranged by theme into exhibits, such as one class assignment that taught students about art curation as well as creation. The students studied a particular artist's style and life story, chose a piece to recreate, and then wrote an accompanying artist biography to be displayed by their interpretation of the piece. Senior Daysha Skolnekovich was one of many students who took part in this activity, displaying an oil paint project in the style of artist Jan Brueghel.

Students displayed art in wide varieties of mediums, with everything from stained glass, charcoal, oil pastels, watercolors, and pen and ink used to create the masterpieces. The goal of the art show, according to Mrs. Knizner, was to "accumulate the best of kids' work," giving them "the opportunity to express themselves and expose them to different mediums of art." Each piece is an extension of the student artist, and the diverse creations are representative of the diverse student body that brought them to life.

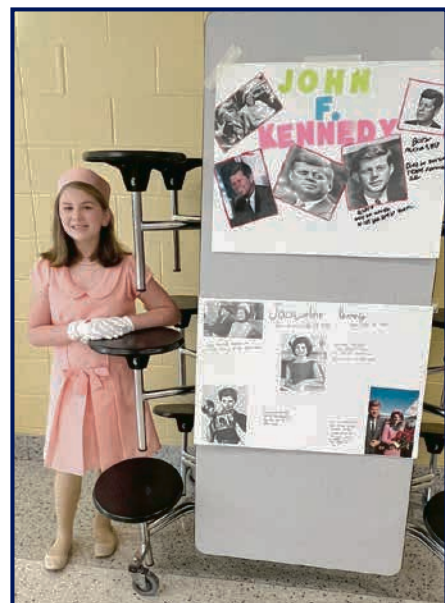
Both poetry and art blended together beautifully to create a night of culture and creativity at Carmichaels, and it is the art found in every day that makes life so special and brings something to appreciate into each moment.

On Friday April 19, 2024, Carmichaels Area Middle/Senior High School took part in a combined night of poetry and art. Sixth-8th grade students were invited to the Middle School Poetry reading in honor of April being National Poetry Month.

Sixteen brave students took up the challenge of reading original poetry to their families, friends, and peers. This was double the number of readers from last year. An additional 16 Middle School Student Council members hosted the event and took their turn to share

"The Art Show was a beautiful backdrop to my kids' art of their words!" Mrs. Ruffalo says.

Middle and High School Art teacher Mrs. Randi Knizner facilitated a satisfying night that highlighted the talents of her many students. Forty-five students displayed



The 6th grade put on a Wax Museum performance. The public was invited to visit the wax displays. Students were elated with the attendance from the community and the money they raised for the Carmichaels Area Historical Society.



The Carmichaels band played at Hershey Park in mid-May. They received a superior rating for their performance.

Students excelled in the 5-county Southwest Region Spring Investing Challenge. Senior Daniel Hetrick clinched 1st place in the high school division, while 7th grader Michael Burdick secured the top spot in the middle school division. Additionally, 6th grade student Mikyah Patrick achieved an impressive 2nd place in the elementary division.



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Cool at School: Central Greene School District

By Tracy Horne

How many of us remember back in the day when the folks from Junior Achievement visited our schools to offer us the opportunity to participate in a project that taught us how a company works? Recently, a group of students from Waynesburg Central Elementary took part in a six-week career readiness class. The class prepared them for the day they would spend being business people at an intense simulation of the real world called "Biz Town".

Before their trip, students prepared by learning about the processes involved in employment. Sixth grade teacher Ashton Shaffer explained the students prepared by learning about job acquisitions, writing resumes, having elections, going through the interview process, and banking.

"I learned how to deposit checks and get a loan." - Carlie Febinger (CFO of ALCOSAN)

She said the process was intense and, on the day of the event, the students sold products they had created, held company meetings, had timed lunch breaks, and had to pay back their small business loans at the end.

"I learned how to do a business loan and how to work with people who I'm not friends with," says Natalee Kirkham (CEO of Clearview Federal Credit Union).

Junior Achievement has been around for decades and offers several types of opportunities for students from elementary grades through high school. As a non-profit, their goal is to inspire and prepare young people for success. They work with local companies to fund programs like the one that these students were part of.

"I learned a lot from BizTown! It was an amazing experience, not just for me, but for everyone. I hope that future classes get to enjoy JA BizTown because it's fantastic," says Gianna Stephenson (CEO of UPMC).

These opportunities for students are important. The children get a sense of how it really is out there, and they do have the ability to be successful when they enter the workforce as adults.

"At JA Biztown, I learned what it's like to have a job and pay bills. It was super fun and a great experience," says Chloe Shaffer (Engineer at Carmeuse).

Waylon Hodgson (FedEx Delivery Driver) says, "What I liked about BizTown was the ability to skip a few years in time to feel what it is like to have a job."

The students, teacher Ashton Shaffer, and the Waynesburg Central School District would like to thank Equitrans, who provided help for the opportunity was through



The 6th grade's newly elected Mayor of BizTown, Carter Mason.



Students at Biztown were assigned jobs and other business tasks.

a grant, and the Western Pennsylvania Junior Achievement organization for providing the opportunity to participate in this true to life experience.

"I really enjoyed going to BizTown! It was really fun getting to be the CEO of a

company. Although some of my employees were absent, I enjoyed doing more than one job. Thank you for making it possible to go to BizTown," says Isaiah Griffion (CEO of ALCOSAN).



Advanced Agriculture students are working hard to spread agricultural literacy! As part of their unit, they had to create a lesson to share with an elementary class. Kory Taylor, taught Ms. Brant's first grade class how to make butter. They got a workout in shaking heavy cream through the whipped cream stage all the way to butter.



Washington Texas Roadhouse presented Mrs. Stephenson with a certificate to honor her nomination as Teacher of the Month.



Mrs. Plisko's Forensics class dissecting fetal pigs as a part of their Forensic Pathology unit. They are examining organs, tissues and blood vessels to better understand how the autopsy process works. Fetal pigs are used because their anatomy is very similar to that of a human.

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Cool at School: Greene County Career & Technology Center

By D. Nyland

The culinary students at Greene County Career & Technology Center (GCCTC) are taking their education on the road. In April, a project long in the making was unveiled to the public: GCCTC Eats, the GCCTC's new food truck.

The new food truck provides the culinary students with a classroom on wheels, where they will gain hands-on, real-world experience in serving the public, working under pressure, communication, and adapting as part of a team.

Dave Calvario of the Community Foundation of Greene County brought the initial idea to GCCTC Director Mark Krupa and Culinary Arts Instructor Dan Wagner. The school located an empty truck on the other side of the state, drove across the state, picked it up, and brought it home. After a consultation with the culinary occupational advisory committee (professionals in the industry) to plan out the truck, the school had Titan Food Truck Manufacturing in Columbus, Ohio, to build their mobile classroom. Direct Results designed and wrapped the completed truck.

"I think the key is that when you look at the corporations, local businesses, everybody that believed in the concept of having the truck for the students for education, and donating funds from their own establishments, that's what made it possible," Wagner says. "You have a vision, but you have to have the people behind you to make it possible."

The students will manage the truck, work out labor costs, food costs, inventory, ordering, running the point-of-sale system. There is a lot of prep work, and logistics, in running the food truck. "We're all learning something new in the process," says Mark Krupa.

"I like the recognition [for the truck], because it's really cool to see other schools

wanting to see it, call you about it, businesses, people from Pittsburgh, coming down, taking photos... Other schools are getting inspired. It's a classroom that is really going to inspire a group of students over the next years to look at small business, entrepreneurship," Wagner says.

"This is one of those items that you could see the kids turn around and look at smaller food trucks on the market, refit them, and start opening their own business. And from there, it expands to the next level."

Since its unveiling, the truck has been in high demand. The school is receiving multiple calls a day to attend events. While they'd love to do every event possible, at this beginning stage, they are carefully evaluating possible events to make sure it falls within their capabilities. The menu will comprise around four items, with a couple of signature dishes and some that rotate.

"We want to make sure that we are taking on events where the kids will not be overwhelmed, the people are going to understand we're going to be a little slower. It's a learning thing, a classroom. The kids are learning as we're cooking for them. It's going to take time. But as time progresses, the kids will learn to adapt, and I think people will embrace it."

The one thing they want to avoid, Wagner says, is taking business away from other local businesses. "This is not to compete with local businesses, this is a classroom. For each event, we'll adapt the food we're offering, so



it's not duplicating the other businesses' offerings."

Funds raised by the truck will be used in two different ways. If the event is a fundraiser for a charitable organization, the proceeds will be donated back to the organization. In other cases, the funds will go into the school's student funds to help pay for educational field trips and competitions or help students that can't afford necessary school supplies.

The students' first outing in the truck was for the Mapletown High School's 100-year celebration the first weekend of May. Other events you can catch the truck at this summer will be Jacktown Fair, Rain Day, Greene County Fair, 50s Fest, Covered Bridge festival, and more. Check out the GCCTC on Facebook or visit the website at to see where the truck will be or to inquire into booking.

"One hundred percent of the funds that were put into the truck came from donations," Krupa says. "None of this would have

happened without the people that have their names on the side of the truck. This wouldn't be possible without them. And that's something amazing. I don't think it would be easy to pull off in any other community. Greene County has a community you can do that in and have that much support from the people, the businesses."

Thanks go to the local businesses and individual donors that made the truck possible: Jesmar Energy, Gattrell Business Solutions, the Community Foundation of Greene County, Moore Monuments, RG Johnson, Smalley Electric, PA National Lodging and Restaurant Association, DJ's Diner, Waynesburg VFW, Coles Greene Acres Farm, Greene County Tourism, Hoy's Concrete, Baily Agency, Fox Ford, First Federal, Jennmar, Iron Senergy, Community Bank, KSW Oilfield Services, McCracken's Pharmacy, Wilson Accounting, Direct Results, Buddy Greco, Donna Rinehart, and Albie Rinehart.



The Interact Club is the newest student organization at the CTC. Their mission is to give back to the school and community. In April, the Interact Club members repaired American flags for the Greene County Fair Grounds in preparation for Memorial Day.



The Computer Networking Technology students had the opportunity to tour the IT Department at the Children's Hospital.

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Cool at School: Jefferson Morgan School District

By D. Nyland

Teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are more at risk for motor vehicle crashes—these teen drivers are almost three times as likely to have a fatal crash as drivers aged 20 or older (based on CDC studies from 2020). These same studies found that, every day, approximately eight teen drivers died due to motor vehicle crashes. Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) is dedicated to preventing these deaths and injuries.

Teen drivers are at a disadvantage due to their inexperience behind the wheel. They may be unable to recognize dangerous situations or make an error that leads to an accident. They are more likely to speed, not allow enough space between vehicles, text or email while driving, and not wear their seatbelt when compared to older drivers. Driving impaired (by alcohol or drugs) also increases the risk of a serious crash.

The only way to combat these destructive decisions is through education and support. The SADD program at Jefferson-Morgan High School is committed to keeping students safe. Students attend monthly meetings at IU1 and other locations dealing with helping students make better decisions about destructive decisions and driving related activities.

This year, the SADD students organized a Youth Traffic Safety Teen Expo, held on May 2 at the school. The event featured engaging workshops, interactive exhibits, and peer-led initiatives to expose students and student drivers to the dangers of the decisions they make.

The program took about three months



Students wore goggles while performing tasks to better see what it is like to be inebriated.



of planning and was made possible thanks to a grant from Remake Learning and the help of with the help of AAA, PA Highway Safety Network, PENNDOT, State Farm, Greene County Drug & Alcohol, and other organizations.

Mr. Corbett and members of SADD assisted at different stations. At those stations, students had the chance to learn about diving safety, in a variety of ways. Some of the stations included Wheel of trivia, Mocktails, Pledge Station, and Tattoo Station. Other stations dealt with students using goggles of different levels of impairments: Golf Game, Distract-a-match, stacking cups, pot toss, driving school, children's hospitals driving mat, PSP

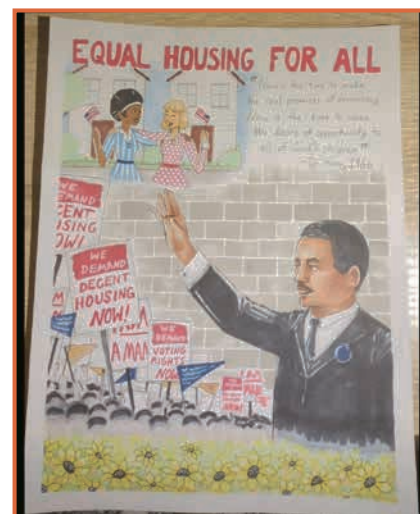
Driving School w/bike arm. There was also a PennDOT Truck Parked outside for students to explore and see what drivers deal with when on the road.

In addition to the expo, the students use other activities to promote safe decision-making. Last year, they did a mock crash as part of the Prom Promise. The group worked with local volunteer fire departments, the Pennsylvania State Police, STAT MedEvac, and various other volunteers. In other years, they've had the Grim Reaper visit students.

"Mr. Corbett and his SADD Club have been vital in providing our youth with safe decision-making opportunities. The club has

worked hard to bring in outside agencies to support our students and empower others. I am extremely proud of their efforts and the service they have provided to make our school community a better and safer place," Principal Wesley Loring says.

The JM chapter of SADD has 18 students, from grades nine to 12: Katie Lawrence, Josh Kaufman, Elsa Roberts, Elizabeth Corbett, Joey Bair, Theresa Eggleston, Maryah Demaske, Lacey Ryan, Adysan Kern, Ava Bertagnoli, Lexi Burkett, Grace Rohanna, Addison Palko, Grant Hathaway, Marilyn Marody, Hayden Yeck, and Sophia Fox.



Congratulations goes out to Julia Cox for being awarded first place in the Fair Housing Month Poster Contest, hosted by the Fair Housing Law Center.



Troy Hellen, Owner of What's Smokin' BBQ, visited our fourth grade students yesterday. Mr. Hellen discussed how he utilizes math in his career on a daily basis in order to operate a successful business.



Art Club students, along with their sponsor Mr. Lesko, got to see different art installations at the Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh PA yesterday.



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Cool at School: Southeastern Greene School District

By Michelle Church



Visitors during the celebration toured the school, watched performances, and more.

Rarely in life do we get to take a stroll down memory lane, but to quote Jon Bon Jovi, "Who says you can't go home?" On May 5, 2024, Mapletown Junior/Senior High School ushered in their 100th year with a big celebration. Students and alumni visited to the school to enjoy the festivities.

The Mapletown administration and school board had discussed ideas for how best to celebrate the school building and how

to extend that invitation to the community. The 100th year celebration highlighted history and shared current updates at the school with musical entertainment, a sale of past yearbooks, a display of student works, and a wall of honor. Around 300 commemorative t-shirts were passed out.

"Activities from the event included the marching band performing in the gymnasium, student lead tours, raffle prizes, a past yearbook sale, free nachos provided by the



This tree was planted in honor of Mapletown's 100 years.

Greene County CTC food truck and complimentary coffee from the Mapletown Mocha Coffee shop. Mapletown students worked both the food truck and the coffee shop," shares Mapletown High School Principal Dr. Bart Donley.

Superintendent of Schools Rich Pekar described the entertainment: "The band kicked off the festivities by playing the national anthem. They played the alma mater and the school fight song. Several chorus members sang solos, including Alexis Perry,

Zach Brewer, and Meah Branham."

In 1940, the first issue of the Mon-O-Leaf was published. Over the years, leftover yearbooks have been kept in a storage room in the library. During the celebration, attendees were able to purchase the old yearbooks. Over 140 copies were sold and funds from the yearbook sale went to the yearbook club. "The yearbook sale was a big hit. We had alumni travel considerable distances to participate in the celebration and to buy yearbooks," Dr.

Donley says.

Students from kindergarten through fifth grade took part in a student works display. Kindergarteners and first graders did projects where they envisioned themselves at age 100. Second graders did projects with 100 beads. Third graders made a time capsule to be opened in 100 years. Fourth graders shared facts from 1924, and fifth graders did 100 acts of kindness.

Visitors were also able to see the Wall of Honor. This is an interactive, digital display that allows guests to explore Mapletown's history, academics, military alums, class photos, athletics, and other school records.

Pekar thinks the best part of the celebration was "seeing the alums return to their old stomping grounds. They shared many stories and taught us things about the building we didn't know. Many people reunited with old friends and shared stories as they walked down memory lane."

Dr. Donley thanks everyone "that volunteered their time on a Sunday afternoon. I would like to thank Mr. Dan Wagner and Mr. Mark Krupa from the Greene County CTC for our delicious nachos. Most of all, I would like to recognize our student tour guides, band members, baristas, and nacho chefs for donating their time to make this event a success."



The third-grade classes at Bobtown Elementary went on their field trip to Acrisure Stadium and PNC Park in Pittsburgh, PA. Students were able to make connections to their social studies lessons related to different types of communities and their attributes. The trip provided students with an up-close and personal experience in an urban community. They enjoyed many parts of the trip!

Students in Mapletown's STEM class participated in Rural Wings 2024 Greene County Inaugural Drone Showcase & Competition. The students competed in teams of two. Jordan Stoneking and Bentley Strosnider placed first from Mapletown and received a plaque.



Mapletown's Class of 2024 traveled down memory lane as they marched through the halls of Bobtown Elementary School today. It was a joyous occasion as teachers were reunited with their former students. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend graduation on Friday, May 31 at 8pm.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, July 27, 2024
FREE TO THE PUBLIC NO RIDES

4 PM FAIR QUEEN CONTEST & JUNIOR, LITTLE & MINI PRINCESS CONTEST - BLD #10

Saturday, August 3, 2024
FREE TO THE PUBLIC NO RIDES

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

Sunday, August 4, 2024
FREE TO THE PUBLIC NO RIDES

10 AM DRAFT HORSE HALTER SHOW
12 PM RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY - GRANDSTANDS
1 PM DRAFT HORSE HITCH SHOW
5:30 PM VESPER SERVICE LED BY REV. DON WILSON
6:30 PM LIVE JUDGING OF SPECIAL BAKING CONTESTS

Monday, August 5, 2024
FIRST FEDERAL OF GREENE COUNTY KIDS DAY KIDS ARE FREE WITH PURCHASE OF ADULT TICKET

9:30 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN GOAT SHOW
4 PM-10 PM BOUNCE HOUSES AND PHOTO BOOTH
4 PM HOME & GARDEN EXHIBIT HALL (OPENS AFTER JUDGING CONCLUDES)
4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
4 PM-6 PM GREENE COUNTY FAIR QUEEN AND PRINCESSES MEET AND GREET
4 PM-8 PM GREENE COUNTY FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE - KIDS ACTIVITIES
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
6 PM THE LITTLE MERMEN (DISNEY TRIBUTE BAND)
7 PM LEAD LINE CONTEST

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

9 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN DAIRY CATTLE SHOW
9:30 AM 4-H RABBIT SHOW
11:30 AM 4-H & FFA EXHIBITION LIVE CARCASS CLASS
4 PM-10 PM BOUNCE HOUSES AND PHOTO BOOTH
4 PM HOME & GARDEN EXHIBIT HALL
4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
5 PM-10 PM WINE TASTING IN BLD #10 (BOTTOM)
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
6 PM 4-H & FFA MARKET STEER SHOW
6 PM LOCAL LIVE BANDS FEATURING RUFF CREEK BAND

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

9:30 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN BEEF CATTLE SHOW
4 PM-10 PM BOUNCE HOUSES AND PHOTO BOOTH
4 PM HOME & GARDEN EXHIBIT HALL
4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
5 PM-10 PM WOOD CARVING SHOWS BY NATE HOWARD
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
6 PM RAFTER RODEO
6:30 PM 4-H & FFA MARKET LAMB SHOW

Thursday, August 8, 2024
SENIOR & VETERANS DAY

8:30 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN SHEEP SHOW
12 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
2 PM-6 PM GREENE COUNTY MINI VENDOR FAIR
SPONSORED BY GREENE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND SWPA AREA AGENCY ON AGING
2 PM HOME & GARDEN EXHIBIT HALL
4 PM-10 PM BOUNCE HOUSES AND PHOTO BOOTH
5 PM-10 PM WOOD CARVING SHOWS BY NATE HOWARD
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
5:15 PM 4-H & FFA AWARDS
6 PM 4-H & FFA MARKET STEER AND LAMB MARKET LIVESTOCK SALE
INTERESTED BUYERS SHOULD CONTACT GREENE COUNTY 4-H
6 PM STEEL CITY TRUCK PULLS
- 7PM
- HOT FARM
- 6200 PRO STREET
- 8500 STREET DIESEL

Friday, August 9, 2024

10 AM 4-H & FFA TRACTOR DRIVING COMPETITION FOLLOWED BY THE 4-H & FFA STOCKMEN'S CONTEST
4 PM-10 PM BOUNCE HOUSES AND PHOTO BOOTH
4 PM HOME & GARDEN EXHIBIT HALL
4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
5 PM-10 PM WOOD CARVING SHOWS BY NATE HOWARD
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
7:30 PM CHAOS IN COAL COUNTRY DEMOLITION DERBY BY HARD CORE DEMOLITION DERBY

Saturday, August 10, 2024

10 AM TRACTOR PULL DAY STEEL CITY PULLERS
- 5500 STOCK 4 MPH
- 5500 OPEN
- 7500 STOCK 4 MPH
- 7500 OPEN
- 9500 STOCK 6 MPH
- 9500 OPEN
- 11500 STOCK 6 MPH
- 11500 OPEN
- 13500 STOCK 6 MPH
- 13500 OPEN

4 PM-10 PM BOUNCE HOUSES AND PHOTO BOOTH
4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 WAYNESBURG
4 PM HOME & GARDEN EXHIBIT HALL
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
5 PM-11 PM PATRIOT GAMES LASER TAG
5:30 PM WOOD CARVING AUCTION AUCTIONEERED BY JOE PYLE AUCTION SERVICE
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Cool at School:

Waynesburg University

At the heart of the mission at Waynesburg University is the call to serve. Throughout every year, Waynesburg students, faculty and staff work together to make an impact within the local community and the surrounding world by sharing their gifts, talents, and time with those in need.

For the University's 175th Anniversary of Charter Day, scheduling a special Day of Service to commemorate this milestone was at the top of the list for ways to celebrate.

On Saturday, March 16, groups of students, faculty and staff gathered at various local sites to serve as a part of Waynesburg University's 175th Anniversary Day of Service hosted by the Center for Service Leadership and Cultural Diversity and Belonging. Service sites included: Corner Cupboard Food Bank; Waynesburg First Assembly; Waynesburg Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center; Greene County United Way; Waynesburg University Unity Trail and Community Garden; Warrior Trail; and Greene County Soccer Fields.

"It's been a few years since we had a spring day of service," said Adrienne Tharp, assistant dean of Student Development at Waynesburg University. "It was great to organize this one to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of WU."

One particular site known and loved by many was the Corner Cupboard Food Bank in Greene County.

"I began reaching out to sites in early spring to sign up to host a group for the service day," shared Tharp. "The Corner Cupboard Food Bank was one of the first organizations to request a group. Students enjoy going there to work to help Candance and her team. We have several students that serve there throughout the academic year, too."

At the Corner Cupboard Food

Bank, University volunteers worked to unload donated food and material items for distribution, disinfect public areas and tend to the community garden, a unique attribute to Corner Cupboard that features eight raised beds for growing produce during the summer months for distribution.

Several of those involved in this particular service project for the Day of Service were student-athletes and coaches who were eager to pitch in where help was needed.

"It is important for student-athletes to understand the notion of service, and how a helping hand can significantly mend and build quality relationships," Coach Cornelius Coleman, assistant provost for Undergraduate Learning Experiences and head football coach at Waynesburg University, said.

"In order for Greene County to operate as ONE, the Campus and its local Community have to work well together."

Members of the football and women's soccer teams worked together to serve the needs of the Corner Cupboard Food Bank

while also enjoying the unique opportunity to bond with their teammates off of the field.

"We loved being able to give back to the community and help others," shared Brooklyn Loveland, a junior nursing major from New Cumberland, West Virginia, and member of the women's soccer team. "One of our team values is to grow every day and we grew as a team that day by serving the community. It was a great experience, and we hope to do it again soon."

The ability to conduct service work as a team has not only been enjoyable for the student-athletes involved, it has also shown others their compassion and heart for making a difference outside of their sport.

"We have the ability as a soccer program to have these awesome team bonding experiences that create memories for our players while also making a positive impact on our community," said Coach George DeAugustino, head women's soccer coach. "The idea

to get involved with this project was driven by the players. They wanted to find a way to get together and give back, and came to me with the idea of helping the Corner Cupboard."

"I am proud to be a coach of such an awesome group of players that want to spend a Saturday helping others. I think it shows how our team lives out Waynesburg University's Mission."

While guiding students in the development of specific skills and talents, Waynesburg University also provides opportunities to apply and sharpen them through service. Service opportunities include service learning courses, international and domestic mission trips, the Bonner Scholars Program and personal service initiatives, among others.



WU students volunteered around the community on their day of service.



Waynesburg University held its Commencement Exercises during its milestone 175th anniversary year on Sunday, May 5, on the Lawn of Miller Hall, honoring more than 350 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students.

John Montgomery, President and CEO of Community Bank, addressed the Class of 2024 as the Commencement speaker, and Rev. Dr. Edward Glover, founder of Urban Impact and Associate Preacher at Christ Church at Grove Farm in Sewickley, served as the Baccalaureate speaker.

Montgomery and Glover were awarded honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees during the Commencement ceremony.

Tyler O'Quinn and Brandon Thomas were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. 2LT O'Quinn will serve Active Duty in the Armor Corps, and 2LT Thomas will serve in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, Field Artillery Corps.

Gabrielle Michele Reifsnnyder, an early childhood education and special education major from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was named the valedictorian and delivered the valedictory to the University.

Grace Ingram, a criminal justice administration major from Valencia, Pennsylvania, was awarded the 2024 Douglas G. and Kathryn D. Lee Servant Leadership Award.



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Cool at School: West Greene School District

By D. Nyland



Students care for the greenhouse plants and help customers with purchases.

gonias, geraniums, impatiens, pansies, and vinca. They also sell coleus, vinca, hypoestes, and spikes.

Junior Haylie Barner says, "The greenhouse is a great opportunity. I really like helping the customers and seeing the flowers/plants they pick out... talking to them and seeing how their day is going... seeing the little kids walking in the greenhouse and having the biggest smile when they see the flowers. When I think of a greenhouse, I can only think of good things because we have a great committee that will support the FFA Chapter."

Freshman Madison Burns says, "[T]here are so many opportunities to learn and have fun. You get to experience how to plant properly and learn about them. I really enjoy planting and arranging the flowers. What I also enjoy about the greenhouse is being able to help customers."

The students also operate the greenhouse in late autumn for holiday season poinsettia sales. Multiple colors of poinsettias are planted in mid-August and grow during most of the fall.

While the 15 students in the horticulture class do most of the work for the greenhouse, during the busiest times, it's all hands on deck—from more than the 100 students taking part. The students get a lot from operating the greenhouse: a sense of accomplishment, pride, comradeship, interaction with the community and more.

MacKenzie Whipkey, a junior, says, "Working in the greenhouse is a wonderful opportunity because you get to watch all the plants grown from a little seed to a big colorful plant. I spend all my free time at the greenhouse doing all the things that may need done... I have spent around 36 hours out-of-school time in the greenhouse. But

with the help of Ag-mech and Ag-Gen kids, we have come together and become one, for our greenhouse to become successful!"

Marissa Tharp, another junior, shared, "Within the greenhouse this season tremendous growth has taken place. Not only with the plants, but with myself and our FFA Chapter. Fostering an environment where it's my responsibility to create something has given me a sense of pride. I've learned what it means to run a business and watch something grow out of nothing. Being with these people every day, and working towards the same goal, taught us all a lot about what it means to be an FFA family."

The original greenhouse at West Greene was in operation from the mid-1980s until a new greenhouse was built in 1999. A grant in 2021 was used to upgrade the heating system, installed by the school's agricultural mechanization students.

The greenhouse is part of West Greene's Agricultural Department. Floral design courses are also a part of the program, and using outsourced supplies, students in the design courses create flowers for school events. The department is hoping to grow the floral design program into a bigger business.

"[W]e will hopefully offer more buying opportunities in the floral design business. As our community's greenhouse/floral design needs continue to rise, along with student interest, we plan to expand right along with it."

Funds raised from both the greenhouse and the floral design program are used to help pay for West Greene FFA trips and activities. With a membership of over one hundred members and a program of activities with over 20 events per year, the group is always busy. The profits help keep costs low for members.

"Our community is extremely support-



The students are involved in all aspects of the greenhouse's operation.

ive of our program in general," says Wright. "While there isn't a specific business that helps with the greenhouse regularly, I couldn't help but take the opportunity to thank our community for their never ending support of West Greene FFA."

"Additionally, Dr. Raleigh Daniels is our biggest individual contributor to the greenhouse as he donates an unsurmountable amount of time and knowledge to helping us in the greenhouse."

If you missed the spring annual and perennial sale this year, don't worry—the holiday poinsettia sale is still to come, and there's always next spring. Follow "West Greene FFA Chapter" on Facebook to stay up-to-date with what's happening!



WGEC had 3 students place in the statewide 2024 Lyme Disease Student Art Competition. Mrs. Robinson encouraged and helped students in First through Sixth grade to submit entries into this year's competition. Destrey Jones (1st Place 3rd/4th grade), Kaitlyn Courtwright (1st Place 5th/6th grade) and Beckett Blouir (3rd Place 3rd/4th Grade) were all invited to the Capitol to be recognized.



Over the past few years, West Greene Aquaponics students take care of Trout from January till May. During this time, our students are responsible for creating a habitat for the trout to grow in. After all the hard work these same students release the trout in Ohio State Park, where these fish will continue to grow and contribute to the local ecosystem. Lastly, our students got to explore Ohio State Park looking at wildlife interactions and watershed interactions.

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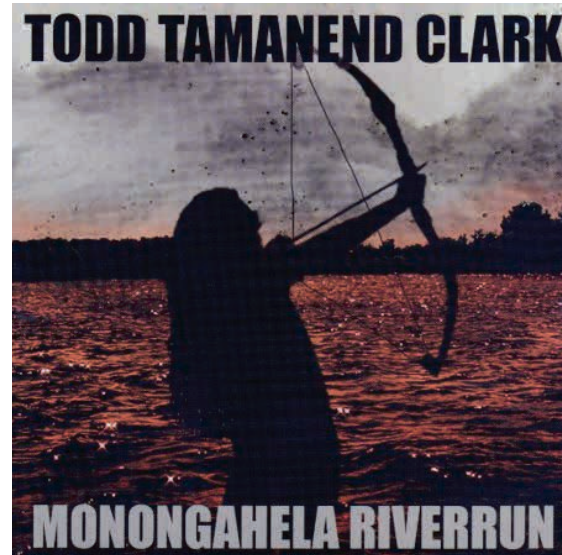
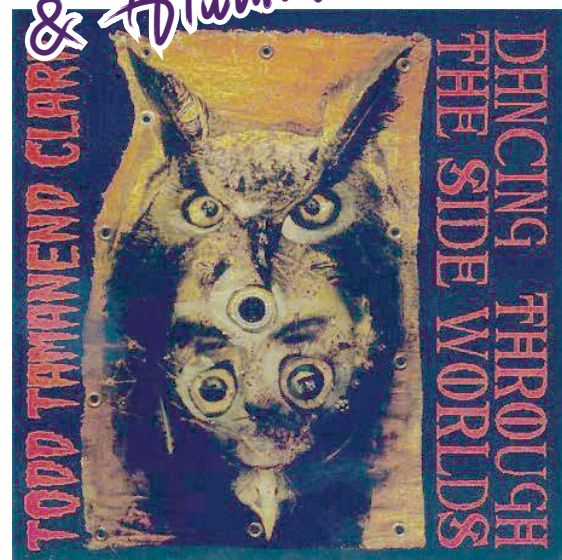
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Arts in the Community: *Todd Tamanend Clark*

& Alumni

By D. Nyland



For the past 50 years, composer/multi-instrumentalist/ author Todd Tamanend Clark has been sharing his unique artistic vision with the world.

Clark was born on August 10, 1952, at Greene County Memorial Hospital in Waynesburg. When he was born, his family was living in Greensboro in the home of his maternal grandparents, Price Harvey (1883-1968) and Mona Gabler Harvey (1895-1962). He briefly lived in Crucible and Carmichaels while growing up, before going to eighth grade and high school in Waynesburg.

"I had my first keyboard lesson at age nine in 1961 and my first guitar lesson at age fifteen in 1967, but they weren't constant... I'm largely self-taught, although I took a lot of music courses as an undergraduate at Slippery Rock and in graduate school at IUP," Clark says. He later began playing drums in 1970, theremin and violin in 1974, and flute in 1985.

While he was attending high school at Waynesburg Central High School, Clark began experimenting in the creative fields that would eventually capture his attention. He would occasionally get up and perform vocals on a song or two with his friends' band, The Velvet Myst. He would also run lights and draw posters for them.

After graduating in 1970, just four years later, Clark had his first band and manager. The next year, 1975, he recorded his first album, A Deathguard Sampler, in Cleveland as part of Todd Clark & The Stars. He formed The Eyes a couple years later and released a second album, New Gods: Aardvark Through Zyurgy. His third studio album, We're Not Safe, was released with members of The Eyes, now called The Todd Clark Group. His last album of the 1980s was Into The Vision.

During these years, Clark had six songs that were popular on college radio: "We're Not Safe" (1979), "Secret Sinema" (1980), "Nightlife Of The New Gods" (1980), "Stars In Heat" (1984), "Flame Over Philadelphia" (1985), and "Oceans Of She" (1985).

Clark then took a thirteen-year break from releasing recordings to raise his three sons from his second marriage as a custodial divorced dad.

He returned to releasing music in the early 2000s. He released three instrumental albums that included his children as guest musicians: Owls In Obsidian (2000); Staff, Mask, Rattle (2002); and Monongahela Riverrun (2004). The latter album features compositions representing sixteen towns along the Monongahela River.

Thirty-one of the songs Clark released between 1975 and 1985 were collected on a CD set entitled Nova Psychodelia in 2005 on a label from San Francisco. Three other compilations were released over the next fifteen years, as well as three additional studio albums. One of those albums was Whirlwind Of The Whispering Worlds (2020).

"I spent seven years creating Whirlwind Of The Whispering Worlds," Clark says. "It was a hell of a lot of work! And painful! Each of the eighteen songs was the emotional equivalent of passing a kidney stone. Joined together with the previous album Dancing Through The Side Worlds, it forms a four-disc autobiographical set."

Dancing with the Side Worlds (2014) has one of Clark's favorite pieces: "Shapeshifting The Monongahela Night." Clark played everything in the 18-minute song. Another complicated piece, the 2020 song, "The Nature Of Tongues" saw Clark playing all the instruments, as well as all the vocals.

Over the years, as technology progressed, Clark's musical sound evolved as well. "As more synthesizers, effects units, and drum machines were invented over the decades, I became more able to realize the sounds in my mind, resulting in a vast palette of audio options, many of which weren't available when I first started."

Clark finds inspiration in the world around him: "A lot of my songs are autobiographical. I also own several thousand books, ninety percent of which I've read. I study the ornithology of owls, and I keep myself well-informed of current events. And I love old monster movies from the 1950s and silver age comic books."

He has multiple musical and artistic influences: Jim Morrison (vocals), Frank Zappa (composition), Sun Ra (keyboard), Jimi Hendrix (guitar), Carmine Appice (drums) and William Burroughs (literary). He collaborated with Burroughs on the title song to his 1984 album Into The Vision.

In addition to poetry and music, Clark also does photography and artwork, as well as writing sociological essays and reviews of books, albums, and films. Out of all the creative endeavors Clark is involved in, his favorite is writing poetry to set to music. "I find that most popular songs have weak lyrics, and I put in extra effort to avoid that pitfall, carefully contemplating every comma and syllable, sometimes for months! But I also compose a lot of instrumental music."

While attending art school in San Francisco in 1970, Clark also became involved with Native American activism during the time of the Alcatraz occupation. His family has Onodowaga and Lenape ancestry. Clark joined the Council of Three Rivers in Pittsburgh in the 1980s. In the 1990s, Russell Means mentored Clark into the American Indian Movement (AIM), and he eventually became the head of the Pennsylvania chapter. "I'm also a member of the Green Party and an enthusiastic supporter of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who voices many of my positions on contemporary political issues."

Clark hasn't let time keep him from making music. Despite a moderate case of Parkinson's disease diagnosed within the last few years, he rehearses on his instruments constantly. He also stays well-informed about the technological progress of music equipment and isn't afraid of change; he believes it is an integral part of creativity. "Innovation! Deconstructing the old rules and recombining them into futuristic formations that have never existed before!"

Clark spent some years moving around the United States, later settling near Masontown in 1993. He now has six adult children and seven grandchildren. He is working on one last vocal album now entitled Nocturnal Journal, and after that, he has three instrumental albums planned. Clark has no intentions of living in a world without art: "My art keeps my mind open to the vast possibilities of life and keeps me from becoming a conformist to the social pressures of the dominant colonial society."

"In addition to enjoying the outcome of having a finished work, despite whatever suffering and sacrifice went into creating it, I find the very thought of having lived a life that leaves no art behind to be totally unacceptable!"

If you'd like to listen to Clark's music, visit Bandcamp or check out YouTube, where he has 160 videos available—with more on the way!

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County Alumni: CHLOE & BECKY

Mother/Daughter Duo Serving the Disability Community at Voices for Independence

Becky McClure is a 2000 graduate of Waynesburg Central High School. She has worked for Voices for Independence in Washington, PA as the Director of Payroll and Benefits for the last 14 years. Voices for Independence is a center for independent living, with offices in both Erie and Washington, serving the disability community across 27 counties throughout Western Pennsylvania.

Currently celebrating their 30-year anniversary, Voices for Independence empowers people with disabilities and promotes independent living. Both office locations host weekly activities for individuals with disabilities, including cooking classes, bingo/games, movie days, craft classes, and adaptive fitness classes.

The majority of employees at Voices for Independence also have a disability. Becky has Epidermolysis Bullosa – a rare condition that causes blistering skin. You will see Becky wearing flip flops, even in the dead of winter, to keep her feet cool and prevent the blisters. Becky lives with her husband Nathan in Rogersville, PA and together, they have four children – Chloe, Maddie, Karlee, and Grant.

Becky's oldest daughter, Chloe Payton, also attended Waynesburg Central High school through 11th grade. She transferred to West Greene High School for her senior year after her mom remarried. She graduated from West Greene in 2019.

Chloe is also employed by Voices for Independence in

the Nursing Home Transition department. She assists individuals residing in nursing homes with returning to the community and ensures their transition into a more independent living setting is successful. Part of the transition process involves helping individuals locate and secure accessible and affordable housing, purchasing vital household necessities, and even completing initial grocery shopping to ensure that they can begin living independently with all essential items. Chloe often talks about how rewarding her job is and how grateful the consumers are with the resources and knowledge provided by Voices for Independence.

You can find this mother/daughter duo working many of the organization's events held throughout the year. To learn more about Voices for Independence, the services they provide, or to schedule a visit today, simply visit www.vficil.org or call their Washington office Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm at (724) 223-5115.



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Unlike most homes of this caliber, which are often reserved as museums or private residences, The Denny House stands as a unique exception. Owners Pam and Kent Marisa have graciously opened the doors to the community, offering an exclusive experience. The Denny House has become an entertainment venue for baby showers, elegant teas, graduation parties, and an all-inclusive wedding destination, making each event a truly special occasion.

The Denny House has been a prominent place for entertainment in Waynesburg

for over a century. Just as the Denny sisters welcomed visitors in the days of yesteryear, the current innkeepers, Andrew and Leigh Ann Shaner, extend the same warm hospitality. With space for up to 100 guests inside and additional space in the beautifully landscaped courtyard outside, the house is ready to host! Innkeepers Andy and Leigh Ann now handle all the details and all of the cooking for in-house events. They will tackle everything from set up to clean up and take the stress and worry away while welcoming your guests and making everyone feel at home.

For these warm and sunny spring and summer evenings, The Denny House & Carriage House is open every Thursday evening from 5:00 to 9:00 PM, offering a variety of experiences. Each evening boasts a food menu and full bar, with weekly specialty sandwiches and special drinks! Local musicians also play live music occasionally, adding a touch of excitement to your visit!

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STOP IN AND CHECK IT OUT

County Alumni: JESSIE MEIGHEN

A Pioneer for Women: Jesse Meighen's Legacy Lives on at West Greene

By Zack Zeigler

When a West Greene athletic program won a championship, Athletic Director Bill Simms knew that he would have a handwritten note on his desk. This note would come from Jesse Meighen, a pioneer for women's athletics at West Greene. She not only had a big impact on Simms' life, but opened the door for many women and girls in athletics and dance.

"After every championship, Mrs. Meighen would send handwritten notes to me saying 'I'm proud to tell everyone that I was your teacher,'" Simms says. "It is truly understated how much she meant to so many people. She was very important in my life and gave girls opportunities in women's sports before they were sponsored by the WPIAL and PIAA."

Born in 1920, Jesse Meighen grew up in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, graduating with the class of 1938 from Waynesburg High School. Following graduation, she attended Slippery Rock University, where she majored in Health & Physical Education and minored in mathematics. She graduated from Slippery Rock in 1943 and her professional career brought her back home to Greene County.

The West Greene School District hired her in 1963, where she taught Health, Physical Education, and Physiology for 25 years. Simms, who is a 1988 graduate of West Greene High School, recalls the structure she brought to the classroom and how she opened their eyes to new opportunities.

"She was a very strict teacher and her phys ed class was very structured," said Simms. "She was big into dance and during phys ed class we would have a full nine weeks devoted to dance. We would do ballroom dancing, square dancing, and it was built into the course. She and Mrs. Jones would force you into doing it, but it was great exposure to something that you have never done before."

While she was strict and structured with her courses, her students were always at the top of her mind. She cared for each one of the students and was able to bring out a confidence in them that allowed them to reach their highest potential - whether or not they liked dance.

"[Mrs. Meighen] spent a lot of hours before and after school with her students," says West Green Area School District Superintendent Brian Jackson. "She was always dedicated to her students, especially those who wanted to learn and get better."

Growing up, Meighen had a passion for dance that started at four and continued throughout her life. She opened dance studios in Waynesburg, Carmichaels, and Cameron, West Virginia. During her 25-year tenure at West Greene, she passed her love of dance to her students, making it an integral part of her classes. She helped choreograph school musicals both during and after her tenure as a teacher, as well as sponsoring the school's dance and drill teams. It was a way to expose

the students to arts and culture in a way that they would never have had the opportunity otherwise.

"I always thought it made a big difference in a girl's development because back then they weren't so conscious about physical activity," said Meighen in an interview with Mary Staun in the story "Born to Dance: Jesse Reed Meighen." "I always thought that whether they became a good dancer or not, it helped develop their grace and poise and made them self confident."

Along with her love of dance, Meighen also saw an opportunity for women on the athletic field. She served as the sponsor of the initial West Greene Girls Athletic Association, which provided females the opportunity to compete in various activities against other schools. She opened the door for women as the Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, breaking down walls previously built preventing girls in athletics.

"Someone has got to open the wall and Mrs. Meighen was that person, seeing an opportunity to give our girls a chance in athletics," Simms says. "When she was 98 years old, we brought her out for the school send-off as the softball team went to the WPIAL finals and gave her a medal from the softball championship."

To commemorate her 25 years of service to West Greene High School, and to thank her for pioneering young women in athletics, in 2023 Meighen was given the highest honor the athletic department can give. She was named as a member of the West Greene Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2022-2023 at the "young age of 102." Even in her death, Meighen continues to give back to West Greene, asking that instead of flowers, memorial contributions be made to both the Slippery Rock University Alumni Association and the West Greene High School Athletic Department.

"When we inducted her into the Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame, she was 102 and still very spry," Simms says. "Her family was highly involved, and it was great to be able to honor her



as a beloved former teacher. Since her recent passing, [we've gotten] five checks... totaling \$1,350, in her memory."

Jesse Meighen affected many lives throughout her career, and it was her love of dance that drove her to open the door for many young women. Even those who weren't into dance fell in love with Mrs. Meighen. She will forever be a Pioneer.

"When you think about it, when I quit my dancing school and went into teaching, I wouldn't have liked it at all if I couldn't teach dance in high school," Meighen said. "I [taught] dance when I opened my first dancing school, and I stopped at 80 years old when I taught seven routines for 'Bye Bye Birdie' at West Greene High School. Not every child that took dance was a dancer, but you can always see something, and I am so glad that so many of the students will say to me I wasn't very good, but I still love to dance."

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- 6/23: Flashlight Drags, Greene County Airport, Waynesburg
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- 7/13: Freedom Car Show, VFW Post 4793, Waynesburg
- 7/14: Flashlight Drags, Greene County Airport, Waynesburg
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- 8/16: Third Friday Car Cruise, Thistlethwaite Vineyards, Jefferson
- 8/24: King Coal Charles Workman Memorial Car & Motorcycle Show, Wana B Park, Carmichaels
- 8/25: Flashlight Drags, Greene County Airport, Waynesburg
- 9/14: 50s Fest & Car Cruise, Downtown Waynesburg
- 9/15: Mt. Morris VFD Car & Truck Show, Downtown Mt. Morris
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County Alumni: CANDICE BUCHANAN

By Colleen Nelson

When it comes to finding an amazing old photograph from an almost forgotten past, Greene County historical researcher Candice Buchanan can't be beat. But sometimes it's the old photograph that finds her.

Case in point—Sarah (Bonar) Buchanan McConnell (1850-1871).

Buchanan happily admits that Sarah, or Sadie, to those who loved her, is one of the two long-lost cousins who made her the passionate genealogist she is today.

It was during her 14th birthday party romp with friends through Green Mount Cemetery—"We were looking for the haunted mausoleum!"—that Buchanan came face to face, or rather face to tombstone, with cousins Sadie and Albert "Bert" Buchanan. Sadie died of illness at age 21, and Albert "Bert" Buchanan was killed in action during World War I at age 26. It was a defining moment for this wide-eyed teen. "I think I bonded with them because I was so young myself."

There were no family photos, but it thrilled Buchanan fi-

nally to be face to face with Sadie when she attended Waynesburg College and discovered her posing with fellow graduates in the class photo of 1868. "Thanks to that preserved image in the school archives, we had this reunion."

Buchanan would discover later that cousin Bert was one of the 17 "Rain Day Boys" who died in battle during World War I on July 28-29, 1918 in France. The door to the past these cousins opened put Buchanan on a career path that has led to her present job as Reference Librarian of Local History and Genealogy at the Library of Congress.

Buchanan now lives in Suitland, MD, but maintains her hometown ties with regular visits and Internet availability. She returned to her alma mater on February 22 to present her slideshow lecture "We Will Do Great Things—Waynesburg's Early Female Alumnae and the Success of Coeducation" as part of the Glenn A. and Jane L. Crosby Humanities Lectureship at Alumni Hall. Her research into the lives of these trailblazing women grads is a glimpse into a world where

women rarely got public notice, yet, like Waynesburg College co-founder Margaret Belle Miller (1826-1874) were the ones who lead the charge for equality of the sexes in higher education.

"When I began to work with Glenn Toothman at Memory Medallion, Sadie and Bert were the first two Memory Medallions I drafted for my own family," Buchanan shares. "Sadie is very important to me. I come at my interest in the school's (Waynesburg University) history from many angles. The early female graduates, including my grandma, are most important."

Buchanan's third generation alumni roots at Waynesburg College go back on to grandmother Sara Livingood Buchanan who graduated in 1938, and dad John "Buck" Buchanan who graduated in 1975. As we texted back and forth for this story, she sent me a photo of the three of them together and smiling in 2008 at Sara's 70th class reunion in Alumni Hall.

Buchanan graduat-

ed in 2002 and collaborated with Toothman, who had his own family member in the fateful 1918 battle that claimed cousin Bert. Together they did the research, traveled to France to visit the infamous Glimpittes Woods where the battle took place, then published "The Rain Day Boys" in time for the 100th anniversary in 2018.

Buchanan's years of tracking down and archiving Greene County's genealogy has been an inspiration for others who have been adding their own ancestors to the mix of those who settled here since the days of the Western Frontier.

These records, anecdotes, and large-limbed family trees are on file, not only at Cornerstone and the Library of Congress, but can be added to, browsed and exclaimed over—Hello, second cousin once removed!—at Greene Connections, Buchanan's genealogy page on Facebook, or by going online at GreeneConnections.com

Recently, Buchanan was delighted to find another long-lost image of Sadie, now a beautiful young matron, along with a photo of her dashing husband Will McConnell (1848 -1931) for sale, while searching for items associated with Waynesburg on eBay. "After my years of researching her, I recognized her immediately!" All doubt was removed when she examined the original photos and handwritten captions and saw both identified by name. Buchanan shared the photos on her personal Facebook page, along with all the exciting details of how Sadie and Will finally made it home to Greene County. Buchanan's research tells us Sadie was the third daughter of attorney James Andrew Jackson Buchanan and that she married William Barnet McConnell, a young law student, on September 9, 1869. The newlyweds lived with Sadie's parents in Waynesburg until they moved to live with Will's parents in Angola, Indiana "between the summers of 1870-71."

There, Sadie soon fell ill with a malaria fever known then as "dumb ague" and returned to her parents' home in Waynesburg where she lived out the last six weeks of her life.

Sadie's stone, the one Buchanan happened upon as an impressionable teen, has these Jane Austinesque words of grief, written by a Will, engraved upon its back:

"I place this tablet to mark the last resting place of her I loved so well. Her educated mind and Christian heart ordered her love as wife, her affection as a child, and devotion as a sister. An ornament to society while living, she passed away from the love of all whispering her last words, the consoling language, 'All is well.' The love she bore and the kindness she administered will be the green spots of memory till the chords of my heart loosen, my affections dissolve, and by her side I lie down to rest, a weary pilgrim and a stricken husband."

Buchanan grew up to deliver, in her own words, the epilogue to Sadie's story, words that still echo the love to be found in close family ties. "Despite his promise, William never returned to be buried with Sadie. On November 25, 1879, back in his hometown of Angola, Indiana, William married Emma McPherson Vandercook, with whom he had at least one child, and lived out his life." Yet, "He always remained closely tied to the Buchanan family. Sadie's sisters, with their husbands and children, made the trip to Angola to attend William's wedding ceremony...and over thirty years later, when J. A. J. Buchanan's obituary was written in 1910, William B. McConnell was still listed as a son-in-law."



Three generations of WU alumni: Candice, grandmother Sara, and father Buck.



Sarah "Sadie" Bonar Buchanan McConnell and her husband Will.

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