

Greene Scene

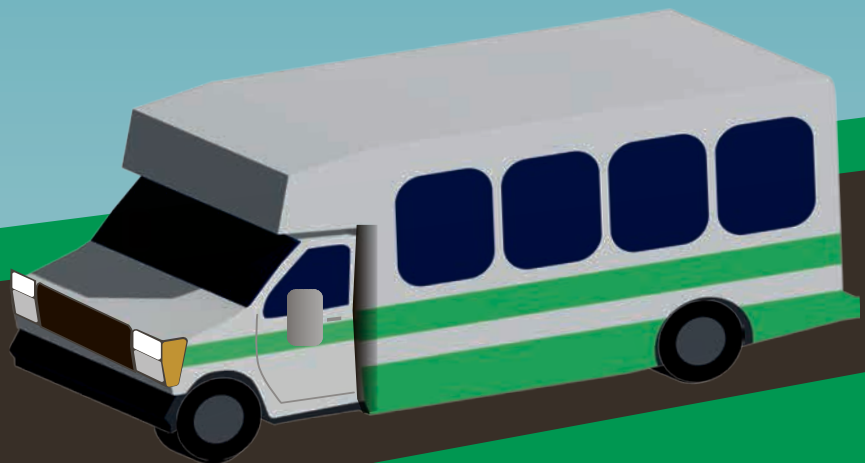
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

**SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY**

November 30, 2024

Holiday | 2024 Issue

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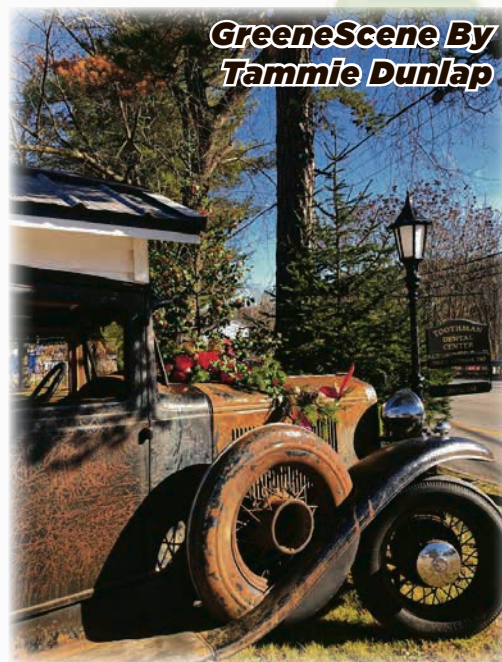
Managing Editor
DANIELLE NYLAND
danielle@directresults.us

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

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

Holiday I Contributors
MATTHEW CUMBERLEDGE, EMMA
BATES, CHARLES ZGELA, MICHELLE
ZEIGLER, ZACK ZEIGLER, AUBREY
LESNETT & SPORTS EDITOR BRET
MOORE

**GreeneScene By
Tammie Dunlap**



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info@greenescenemagazine.com
185 Wade St., Waynesburg, PA 15370

*Please direct inquiries
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I Love this Community — BEN McMILLEN

By Emma Bates

Jack (or Ben) of all trades, local entrepreneur Ben McMillen and his team of dedicated dreamers have built a network of small businesses that are shaping the dining and outdoor culture of not only Waynesburg, but Greene County and the surrounding areas. Since his teen years, Ben has been proudly self-employed in some capacity all his life. “I’ve been in the wedding business since [I was]

17,” he says, first as a DJ,

and eventually developing into a photographer, which he still is today, running McMillen Photography.

But the entrepreneur itch surfaced again in early 2019, when Ben and his two daughters began making backpacks and other hiking gear in the basement of their home. “We saw a need for custom-made packs,” he remembers, and in September 2019, Hilltop Packs was founded just in the nick of time. In 2020, all of us can remember the global pandemic striking, and with the struggles and sadness that stemmed from that time, so too did the opportunity for some extra time outdoors.

“The backpacking business kind of saved us during Covid, being a photographer,” says Ben. In a time where few gatherings could take place, America headed for the great outdoors. “It was a perfect storm for hiking time. But if [my daughters] said no, there would have never been a business,” Ben says gratefully.

As business progressed at Hilltop Packs on Greene Street in Waynesburg, the team started a little coffee shop onsite, originally just for employees. But Ben and the staff took an interest in the hands-on process of roasting, grinding, and brewing coffee, not just for themselves, but for the community. So, RGB Roastery (standing for the three-step coffee-making process of roast-grind-brew) began in the same building to extend the delectable flavor to the rest of the community in 2021.

Ben describes his role as “the dreamer” in each of these ventures. “I’m the risk taker,” he explains. “I wanted to do something different. We want [customers] to know us... it’s about connection,” he states. And in order to fulfill this level of connection in the community, the coffee company needed a full, sit-down experience for its customers. Enter RGB Coffee.

In order to outfit this coffee shop in downtown



Ben has hosted gatherings for small business owners to collaborate at his RGB Coffee location.

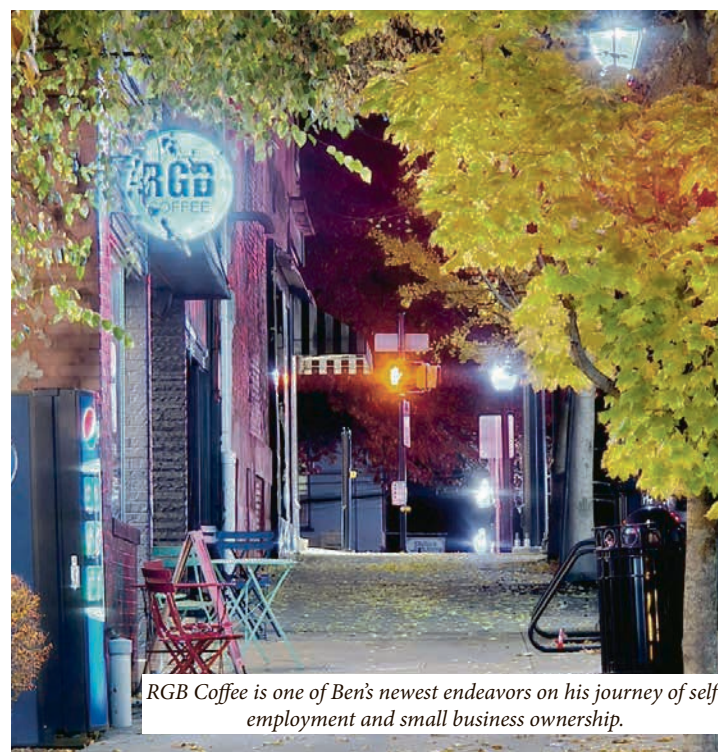
Waynesburg, however, Ben knew that finding the right employees was vital. “There was a lot of headhunting,” he recalls. “We never put out an application; we look for them,” he says of the employee search. The search process was more of a slow treasure hunt than a mile-a-minute skim through stacks of applications. “A waitress was hustling? Let’s go talk to her!” Ben would say. “It’s hard to find the right people with the same work ethic.” RGB needed people who, for them, it wasn’t just a job, but an opportunity “to be part of something really cool in our town.”

As such a driving force of small business ownership in Greene County, Ben has found himself to be a “lightning rod” of sorts for information and collaboration between other local entrepreneurs. Although Greene County does not have an official “small business liaison,” Ben has unofficially taken on this role for our county. He often walks new businesses through the challenges of start-up, and uses his own experiences to consult with others, helping them to become successful.

Ben says that “a lot of small business owners get stuck in their own head.” He advises these entrepreneurs to “talk with others with similar drives, not just similar interests.” Sharing a work ethic proves to be even more beneficial than sharing surface-level commonalities in so far as working together to provide services to the local region, and keeping individual businesses thriving as well.

Communication, according to Ben, is key. “If you lock yourself in a closet, you’ll eventually think, ‘What’s wrong with me? This isn’t working; I’m different.’ If they put themselves out there, work in the community, they thrive,” he says of local businesses.

Ben finds that the importance of online presence for small businesses is also astronomical. He recom-



RGB Coffee is one of Ben’s newest endeavors on his journey of self-employment and small business ownership.

mends the use of Google Services and other web-based platforms to gain visibility and a broad spectrum of customers. Ben feels that his role as a small businesses advocate is as rewarding to himself as it is beneficial to others. “I want to help you,” he says, “but I really get inspiration from this... I’ve been self-employed for 34 years,” he says. “I don’t want to stop engaging with the community.”

Ben is highly involved with both the Chamber of Commerce Board and the Greene County Tourism Board, both of which allow him to engage with managers of other businesses and help promote what each offers. Working on the Tourism Board, Ben identifies the greatest challenge is the astigmatism that Greene County has “nothing there.” He and the others in tourism promote the hidden gems in our community to those living outside of our county through advertisement, and all of their work centers around the question, “What can I do to attract people?”

“Small businesses really are the backbone of the community, [and] the entire country,” Ben believes. He compares businesses to a baseball game. “[Many people] think factories are what we need.” And factories, he agrees, are like home runs. “But they’re not realistic. You can’t bank on home runs. We need the circle of life between small businesses and the community. We need base hits. Small businesses are base hits.” And with the local ingredients of local love, Greene County is in the perfect position to score.

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Toys for Tots Distribution

Greene County Toys for Tots Celebrates 44 Years of Giving

Greene County's Toys for Tots program celebrates its 44th year of bringing Christmas joy to families in need. The program was led for 42 years by Buzz Walters alongside fellow Marines, and now, with the support of family and friends, it will continue under the National Toys for Tots organization, as part of the Washington-Greene County program.

Greene County Toys for Tots toy distribution will take place at two sites: Carmichaels Senior Citizens Center and the Waynesburg Fairgrounds, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Families wishing to participate must show a medical card for each child and proof of Greene County residency, such as a driver's license, photo ID/address, or a utility bill in the parent's or guardian's name.

Additionally, Toys for Tots collection boxes are available throughout Greene County at the following locations: Waynesburg Wal Mart, Waynesburg Fraternal Order of Eagles, Waynesburg VFW Post #4793, McCracken Pharmacy in Waynesburg, Carmichaels Senior Activity Center (Rt. 88, 100 Nemacolin Road), Cumberland Township Police Department, Dollar General in Carmichaels, Michael's Auto in Carmichaels, Stacy's Hair Salon (Fredericktown),

Community Bank at the Carmichaels and Greene Plaza branches, First Federal Savings of Greene County (High Street in Waynesburg), Evergreen Care Home in Waynesburg, Franklin Township Administration Building (Rolling Meadows Road in Waynesburg), West Greene High School, Modern Image Hair Design (Lincoln Street in Waynesburg), and SCI-Greene Waynesburg (for employees). Your generosity in donating toys can help bring the joy of Christmas to children in need this season.

We welcome donations of new, unopened toys or funds to support this cause. For contributions or questions, please reach out to Greene County Co-Chairs Lori Paletta-Davis at 724-833-5413 or Laura Walters at 724-986-6692. If you'd like to contribute by check, please make it payable to Toys for Tots. Thank you for helping us bring joy to children in Greene County this Christmas.



The Waynesburg Eagles #598 recently donated 8109.50 to the Greene County Toys for Tots.



CARMICHAEL'S AUSTIN POST OPENS DOOR FOR LOCAL HOCKEY PLAYERS WITH BISHOP CANEVIN HOCKEY CO-OP

Since he was nine years old, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania native Austin Post has loved the game of hockey. He attended the Little Penguins Learn to Play Program, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Penguins, and from there, he was determined to play the sport. Today, that dream has been realized as Post is playing with the Bishop Canevin High School Hockey team as part of a co-op that allows him to play the sport he loves while completing his studies.

"Playing for [Bishop Canevin] is quite an experi-

ence," said Post. "It started in the summer league where I met half of the team, and I loved them. Once I met the rest of the team, they were very inclusive and accepting of me playing with their team. It feels great to have a high school team of my own."

It was a long road for Post to find his current home at Bishop Canevin, and it took hours of work to find the right team. His first stop saw him reach out to Connelville, where he played travel hockey. Their co-op was full and, after calling several coaches around the area, he had his field narrowed down to Sewickley Academy, Bishop Canevin, and Deer Lakes. He chose Bishop Canevin because it was the best fit for him as a player, and he says his administration at Carmichaels has been all on board.

"The Athletic Director, principals, students, and even school cops have all been very supportive," said Post. "I talked to the AD and the principal, and they were all for it and asked for my schedule.

The rest of the school found out about a month ago when I earned Player of the Game. Carmichaels posted it on their social media, and everyone has been really supportive since."

Post has gotten off to a strong start through the team's first three games, starting in net for two of those games. He has won both games that he has started and holds a .882 save percentage and 3.0 Goals Against Average. It continues the journey that began when he was nine years old, and he credits his success to a pair of goalkeeper coaches that helped him along the way.

"When I initially started playing travel hockey, I knew I wanted to be a goalie, so I went out and got equipment," said Post. "I worked with a private goalkeeper coach, Steve Switzer, and practiced a lot to get better. During the pandemic, I began working with Tyler Hawk and those two really helped me get to where I am today."

It took a lot of work to create this opportunity, and Post's advice to others looking to do the same is "be ready to do the work and pursue your passions."

"Be persistent and don't stop emailing, calling, and reaching out to people," said Post. "Make sure the team is a good fit for you. It is a big-time commitment, with the closest arena being 30 minutes away and some of them being even farther. If you have the time and love the sport, it will be something you will never forget."



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Going Greene:

A FAVORITE HOLIDAY DISH

By Matthew Cumberledge

Thanksgiving, as a holiday, has a long and very complex history. Most of us associate the holiday with early Thanksgiving celebrations and festivals of the pilgrims of Massachusetts. Colonists also held similar celebrations in Virginia in the early years of the 17th century. Virginia and Massachusetts both laid claim to having celebrated the first Thanksgiving in what would become the United States; however, as a little-known fact, Texas did as well! In 1598, an exploring expedition by Juan de Onate held a Thanksgiving celebration on a stretch of land in the Rio Grande Valley.

Throughout most of the history of this country, Thanksgiving didn't have a fixed date. It wasn't until 1942 that a joint resolution of both houses of Congress set the date for the last Thursday in November.

Thanksgiving is a time for family, friends and feasting, as distant family members travel home for the holidays and catch up with family. A beloved tradition in many homes, and the meal is just one of the many highlights of the day!

Turkey is often the main course, sometimes accompanied by ham, potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and a sundry assortment of other delightful eats. Many families passed down the recipes used from generation to generation.

Thankfully, many of these recipes

have been preserved in various forms, especially in cookbooks published by local churches throughout the county.

Today we turn to "The Cook's Friend and Home Guide" printed by the Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Jollytown PA in 1906. A wealth of amazing recipes fill this book, but one stands out as something many families might have enjoyed at Thanksgiving many, many years ago, and perhaps even still today!

Pumpkin Pie

Mrs. Dora Phillips, Hoovers Run PA

Take one tinful of pumpkin, to which add six eggs, half a cup of sugar, one-half gallon of good milk, flavor with nutmeg and bake slowly.

This recipe assumes, as do many others, you already have your own recipe for a crust, and I would imagine this recipe would make more than one pie, but imagine how tasty this 1906 recipe would be, especially if it baked in an old wood or coal fired range on a chilly November morning, just waiting to be eaten by a loving family later in the day. Such a pie even may have been baked in an old gas range as seen in the photo!



Greene Artifacts

By Matthew Cumberledge, GCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AN OLD CHURCH COOKBOOK

Through the late 19th century and a good portion of the 20th century, even up to the present time, many of the small community churches in our region published periodic cook books and home guides. They sold these to church members and the local community, often as a fundraiser for the church.

This month, we turn to Jollytown PA, for the 1906 Edition of the Methodist Episcopal Church Cookbook entitled "The Cook's Friend and Home Guide", compiled and published by the Ladies Aid Society.

This is a smaller bound book with cardboard covers and is about 150 pages. The book is broken down into sections such as Eggs and Fritters, Confections, Canning, Butters and Jellies, Meats, Cakes and other organized classifications of meals in dishes. In the back is a section consisting of advice for the homemaker. Tips such as how to use milkweed cotton to make cushions abound.

One particularly interesting piece of advice by Rose Mariner states that, "If you wish to shut off a view through a window, dissolve in a little hot water as much Epson's salts as the water will

absorb. Paint this over the inside of the window and you will have an air imitation of ground glass." It's also mentioned you can clean straw hats with lemon juice and a toothbrush!

Another section is about the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and its work to rid the world of alcohol and other such harmful vices. There is even a lengthy set of instructions on how to set up a local WCTU group!

Many cookbooks like this had advertisements from local merchants or vendors of items useful for one taking advice from such a book, but the 1906 Jollytown Cookbook is different. It has only two advertisements in it, one for The Perfect Separator, a turn of the century cream separator, and a business ad for the store of Frances A. Gynne of Washington PA that states "I have in my store at 833 Jefferson Avenue in Washington PA, a fine assortment of hand painted mottoes suitable for the home, church and school room which can be had at reasonable rates. Mail Orders Promptly Filled."

Please keep an eye out on social media for information on our Christmas Open House and for the 100th anniversary in 2025!

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Recent Events in Greene & Nearby

Mason-Dixon Line Festival & Buckwheat Cake Breakfast

Core, WV's Mason Dixon Historical Park celebrated its 33rd annual Mason-Dixon Line Festival on Saturday, October 19 by honoring one of West Virginia's most famous dishes, Buckwheat Cakes! The festival breakfast was held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., with the accompanying craft show and exhibition lasting until 3 p.m.

Volunteers from both the Mon County Parks and Recreation Department and the Red Hat Society arrived bright and early to serve unlimited portions of buckwheat cakes, pancakes, and pork sausage for dozens of hungry park guests. The park is just a few miles away from Greene County's border and is a significant location for civil engineering buffs. The park had several displays centered around the park's surveying roots, showcasing antique surveying equipment that the original Mason & Dixon used during their historic mapping. Crafters and local ven-



Mason-Dixon Line Festival Buckwheat Cake Breakfast

dors had display tents set up to show off their seasonal offerings for guests who were happily full of delicious, sour cakes. (Michelle Zeigler)

Greene County Empty Bowls Luncheon

Waynesburg University held its Greene County Empty Bowls luncheon and fundraiser Sunday, November 10, at the First Baptist Church located at 303 West High Street in Waynesburg.

The event featured all-you-can-eat soup and a variety of raffle baskets available for auction. Each adult ticket also received a ceramic bowl made by students and members of the community included with their purchase. All proceeds benefit the local Greene County school districts through the Community Foundation of Greene County's Weekend Food Program.

"Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement that we are excited to bring to our community once again," said Adrienne Tharp, assistant dean of Student Development at Waynesburg University. "This event was started by students with a hope to raise awareness around food insecurity right here in our neighborhood. We appreciate all of the support and donations we have received to make this event successful."

The University has hosted the Empty Bowls fundraising event since 2014, with a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, students and staff are looking forward to the opportunity to host the event in a more central location within the community to allow for easier access for community members to attend.

Pre-sale tickets were available online for \$15 per person, with children 12 and under are free. Tickets at the door were \$20.

Greene ARC Open House

The Greene ARC office in Prosperity, PA was abuzz with program participants and visitors alike as the organization hosted an Open House event on Thursday, October 24. Greene ARC hoped to reach out to the community, while showcasing the organization's newly implemented programs designed to help the in-

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Greene Arc Open House

dividuals they service. The Greene ARC is a nonprofit organization that serves Greene County citizens with intellectual, cognitive, or neurological disabilities by offering an assortment of programs and support services to those individuals and their families.

At the Open House, the organization showcased the newest additions to its variety of programs, including its Photography Club and its Sublimation Printing Program. Artwork from both clubs was displayed at the event and was available for purchase to all event attendees, with all proceeds returning to the organization to accomplish their mission.

The facility's new Nurses' Station was on display, offering visitors a glance at how the facility helps with the program participants' overall health. Informational booths from the different segments of Greene ARC were displayed at the event. Local fan-favorite food truck What's Smokin BBQ provided delicious eats for attendees to dine on while touring the facility.

"The Greene ARC gives a voice to those who don't have a voice," said Executive Director Travis Duncan. "We wanted this event to remind the people of our county that we're here and active in the community. We advocate for all our individuals to live their best lives as best as we can, and we welcome anyone who would



PA Arts & Crafts Festival

like to help us in this mission through fundraising, community outreach, and volunteer work." (Michelle Zeigler)

Pennsylvania Arts and Crafts Christmas Festival

The Holiday Season arrived early in neighboring Washington County, PA as the Pennsylvania Arts and Crafts Christmas Festival made its annual return to the Washington County Fairgrounds last month. The yearly artistic event lasted two weekends, October 18-20 and October 26-27, and hosted over 230 exhibits featuring an assortment of artisan goods. The event was hosted by Family Festivals, Inc. and brought together creative minds from across southwestern PA to share their handmade work with eager buyers to usher in the 2024 Christmas season. Several local bands and musicians performed during the event, such as local favorite Part Time Cowboys. Children's activities and entertainment were also offered, including face painting and a visit from Mrs. Claus and St. Nicholas himself! The PA Trolley Museum offered festival goers low-cost trolley rides on all 5 days of the event, adding an extra element of Christmas magic to an already enchanting event. (Michelle Zeigler)

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Recent Events in Greene & Nearby

HALLOWEEN IN GREENE



WU Haunted Lab

The end of October brought an end to the Halloween festivities in Greene County. In addition to the many different township and borough trick or treat events, the county celebrated with trunk or treats, Halloween parties, and interactive Halloween festivities for all ages.

Waynesburg University brought two haunted events to the public during October. Waynesburg University's Department of Chemistry and Forensic Science held its annual **Haunted Lab** on Friday, October 26 from 6-8:30pm on the fifth floor of the Stewart Science Hall, located on the corner of N. Washington Street and E. Wayne Street.

This fun, family-friendly event for all ages is free and open to the public, and is a favorite of annual attendees.

Every year, Waynesburg University's American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Chapter and the Department of Chemistry and Forensic Science hosts this event for the Waynesburg community to share a unique and interactive look at the sciences. Attendees were able to see a variety of "spooky"

chemistry demonstrations and kid-friendly, hands-on activities.

"This will be the 15th year that the Department of Chemistry & Forensic Science has hosted the Haunted Lab," said Dr. Evonne Baldauff, chairperson for the Chemistry and Forensic Science and Mathematics, Computer Science and Physics departments. "Hosting an event that gets kids excited about science is always our priority. As always, we hope that entire families can come enjoy the activities together."

This year brought new experiments focusing on color and photography, as well as returning favorites such as the screaming gummy bear, monster's toothpaste, and the disappearing ghost.

The University's ACS Student Chapter is continually recognized for its community outreach efforts, which include the Haunted Lab and the Chemistry for the Future event for high school students.

WU also hosted a **Haunted House Fundraiser** to support the Criminal Justice Club, Forensic Science Club and ACS. This event was held October 18 and 19 from 7-10pm at the University's CSI House.

The **Greene County Early Intervention's Good Old Fashioned Halloween Party** was held at the



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HALLOWEEN IN GREENE

Greene County Fairgrounds in the arena barn on October 22 from 5:30-8:30pm.

More than 30 partners prepared Halloween activities and treat stations, including an indoor bouncy house, apple bobbing, caramel apple station, 10-foot candy chute,

New this year was a hay maze sponsored and built by Crown Chrysler Jeep Ram. The first 100 families thorough the door also received a free pumpkin from the pumpkin patch.

In addition to the fun and games, pre-registered attendees were eligible for the raffle prizes: a \$50 Amazon gift card, \$30 RGB gift card, and more.

"I like attending the Halloween Party at the fairgrounds because it's well organized and a safe, fun environment for the kids to trick or treat in! On the way home Isaac said this was the best night ever! They really enjoyed themselves!" shares attendee Alissa.

All these wonderful activities are thanks to the many community sponsors and participants, many returning year after year to support the event.

In support of the Class of 2025, the Carmichaels Area School District held a **Spooktacular Dinner and Dance** at the Nemaocolin Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, October 26 from 5-10pm.

The event, originally scheduled to be held at the

Carmichaels Fire Hall, was moved to Nemaocolin VFD prior to the event date. But the move from Carmichaels to Nemaocolin didn't stop the good time had by all that attended. It was a fun evening of dinner and dancing featuring DJ Mark Batis.

The costume contest saw awards for best overall, best couple, most original, scariest, and funniest. Groups decorated their tables with themes and winners were: 1st place - Sleepy Hollow, 2nd place - Toy Story, and 3rd place - witches.

Door prizes were pulled from ticket stubs, and many names were drawn for the Chinese auction prize baskets; baskets included candy baskets, game night theme, date night, smores, football, and more.

The dance was organized by boosters of the senior class: President Michelle Kraynak, Vice President Dottie Virgili, Secretary Chloe Adamson, Treasurer Amanda Anderson, and Class Sponsor Carrie Thomas.

Back in Carmichaels, the annual **Halloween Parade** was held on Sunday, October 27, followed by **Trunk or Treat** at



Spooktacular Dinner & Dance



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Carmichael's Halloween Parade

HALLOWEEN IN GREENE

Bukett; Scariest (9-12): Anthony Zites; Most Original (9-12): Aiden Walker; Prettiest (9-12): Rosie Fotta; Judges Choice (9-12): Emma Bowden. Prizes were also awarded for second and third place in all categories.

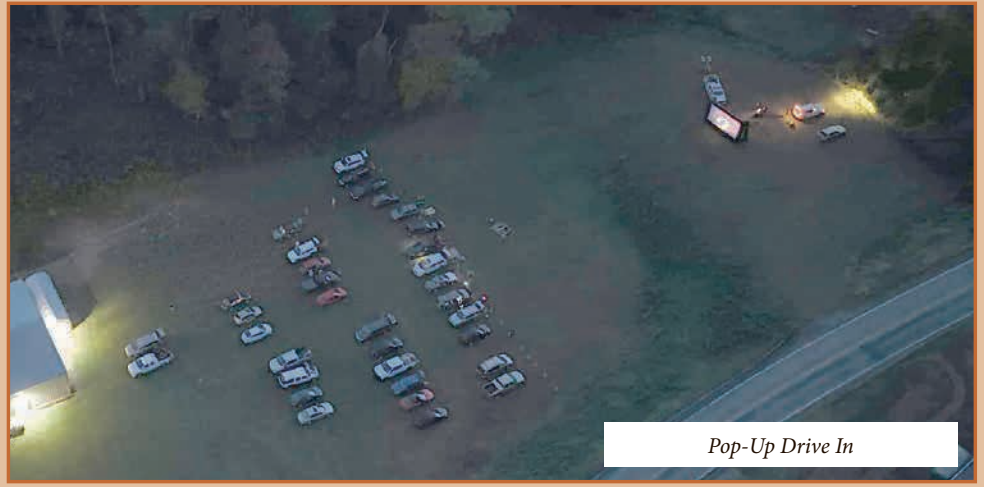
This year marked the 5th year for the trunk or treat in Carmichael. The event was originally held at the Skyview Drive-In before moving to Wana B Park.

Always a popular event, this year's event was no different. Over 700 kids and 2000 people attended. Organizer Dave Plavi of Legendary Conventions shared, "We'd like to thank all of the businesses, organizations and people who set up at today's event. Thank you Wana B Park for hosting us again this year."

We are grateful for every one who donated their time and hard earned money in purchasing the treats they hand out at their trunks."

Plavi followed up the successful trunk or treat event with his second **Pop-Up Drive-In** Movie double feature at the Nemaocolin VFD on November 1 at 7pm. The event played a double feature of Hocus Pocus 2 and Deadpool & Wolverine.

Pop-Up Drive-In held its first event at the Nemaocolin VFD back in September - and it was a perfect gift



Pop-Up Drive In

Wana B Park.

The parade was led by the Carmichael Area marching band in full costume, followed by the costumed children divided into age groups. Each age group paraded around the town square to be judged and then headed over to the bank for treat bags.

First place parade winners for this year included: Scariest (0-4): Ivy Wilkinson; Most Original (0-4): Connor Rychtarsky; Prettiest (0-4): Hayden & Spencer Crago; Judges Choice (0-4): Cecilia Christopher; Scariest (5-8): Waylen Meighen; Most Original (5-8): Trystin Miller, Elana, Braxtyn & Ashtyn Walker; Prettiest (5-8): Khloe Harbarger; Judges Choice (5-8): Leah

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HALLOWEEN IN GREENE

to the area that night, as the area was without power for most of the day and well into the night. Families looking for something to do other than hang around their dark homes were able to catch two family friendly movies and enjoy refreshments from the fire hall until the power was restored at their homes.

In spooky movie news, locally shot film *Crackcoon* held its Morgantown, WV premiere on Saturday, October 12 at the Monongalia Arts Center. The in-per-

son screening with the cast and crew also brought the title character and his handler, Greene County resident Michelle Bowser.

After the screening, the cast crew held a Q&A session, and the Crackcoon himself was on hand for photo ops with fans. The film was later released on physical media at major retailers and online at Amazon, and sold out at Amazon and Walmart quickly. If you're interested in watching the movie, it is also available streaming through Screambox.

In Waynesburg, the Rain Day Festival Special Events Commit-

tee and Waynesburg Boro held the annual **Halloween Spooktacular** on Halloween day. The event is geared towards local borough businesses and their employees that love participating in Halloween festivities - especially costume contests!

Judging is held on Halloween morning and winners are announced later at noon on the courthouse steps. Categories include best group, best individual, most original, and most entertaining.

Winners for this year's event were Most Original: Treasa McElroy as a deviled egg; Most Entertaining: Christina Lahew as Bob Barker of The Price is Right; Best Individual: Shirley Kutek as a witch; and Best Group: Clek of Courts "Once Upon a Crime" with Lisa

Wheeler, Nicole Vandevender, Lisa Murdock, Crystal Walters, Rachel Courtwright, and Lesley Ross.



Rosaria Eraso, Michelle Bowser with the Crackcoon, Chris Rhydings and Carly Sonafelt, who all starred in the film.



Halloween Spooktacular

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HOMETOWN HORROR: THE DAMNED LANDS

RED CARPET PREMIERE

Article by
Michelle Zeigler

Southwestern PA got a taste of the glitz and glamour of Hollywood on Sunday, October 20, when the State Theatre in Uniontown hosted a red carpet premiere for *The Damned Lands*, a locally made, feature-length horror film. The cast and crew of the film showed up in their Oscar-best attire, with some even arriving at the event in a shiny white limo. Dozens of eager horror fans attended the premiere event, eager to watch a local piece of film history for the first time.

The Damned Lands tells the story of six young campers who accidentally trespass onto the rural property of a hostile family with a history of violence towards outsiders. This graphic, exhilarating slasher film is inspired by popular horror franchises of the 80s like Friday the 13th, using suspense and practical effects to showcase the horror that humanity can unleash upon the unsuspecting. The film was written, produced, and filmed entirely in southwestern PA, mostly in Fayette

County.

The film is the brainchild and first feature-length film of director and writer Ben Pramuk of Uniontown, PA, who began this film project in 2022. Saddened by the lack of traditional slasher content in the modern horrorscape, Pramuk began experimenting with scriptwriting and the project took on a life of its own. "I had two options, put this script on the pile of the dozens more I have, or to put it into action and actually do something with it," Pramuk said.

Two years and hundreds of hours of production, he actualized his dream and shown on screen for the first time. "I'm in absolute awe of everything," Pradmuk said. "This project was all about the idea of local film enthusiasts coming together to create something both new and nostalgic. It's a project that will always hold dear."

Following Pradmuk's dream of local filmmaking, Director of Cinematography and Fairchance, PA resident Justin Christopher has a passion for utilizing local businesses

and local talent to bring script pages to life. Christopher shared that the entire cast and crew of this film originate from or currently live in the Greater Pitts-



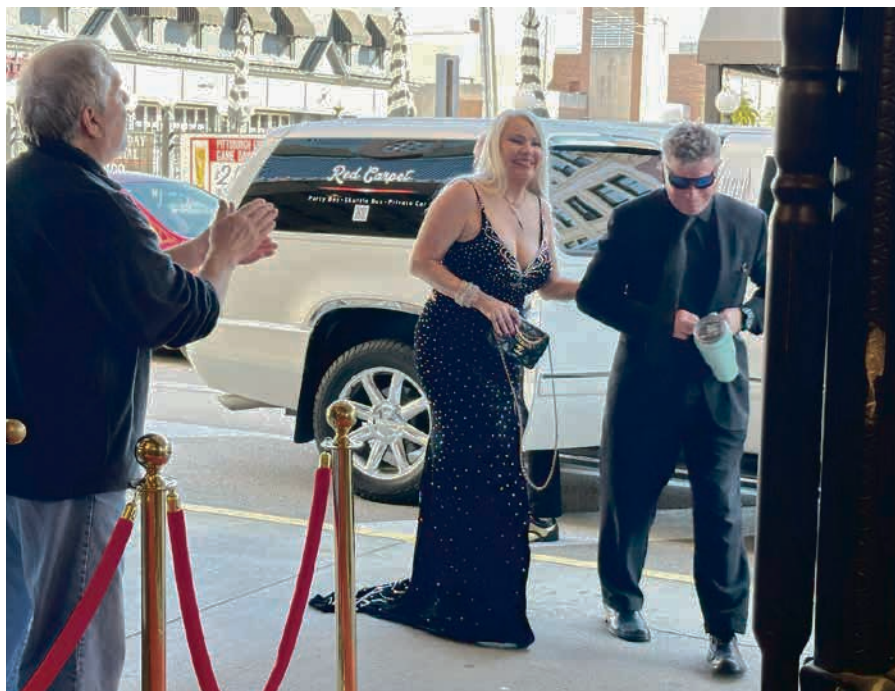
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burgh region, something he finds to be meaningful.

“We want to celebrate the culture of local with this film,” Christopher said. “We want to bring small communities back to life through the magic of movies.” As the owner of Red Phoenix Media who published *The Damned Lands*, Christopher put in nearly 2,000 hours into the post-production of the movie.

“I was here from the beginning. I was there for the very first shot and stayed until the very last. Filmmaking is a form of art, and I’m thrilled to share my art with the greater community.”

They hired several local actors and businesses to bring this film to life, including one Greene County resident and entrepreneur. Jefferson, PA native Shana Fischer both starred in the film and helped with the local setting. Fischer and her husband Randy own ShinDigz Bar in Uniontown, PA and when they were approached about filming several scenes of the movie in their establishment, they eagerly accepted and became part of the team.

Fischer plays Alice, a server at a diner/bar where the campers come to get directions after getting lost, and warns them to stay away from the evil family’s property. “I feel very blessed and honored to have the opportunity for ShinDigz and myself to be a part of this project,” Fischer said. “The entire process was exciting, and I didn’t want the filming day to end!”

She also shared how the filming has affected her

business and the greater southwestern PA community and economy. “The more the movie grows in popularity, the more ShinDigz gets its name out there. It’s a blessing for any business to receive that kind of coverage. The effects on our community are just getting started and going to grow bigger as local filmmakers utilize small, local businesses to create their films.”

AJ Gross of West Mifflin, PA plays George, one of the film’s protagonists and the male lead role. He got involved in the project through connections with the film’s senior team members. After a video audition and table reading, Gross was selected for the lead role and filmed his scenes in the Summer of 2024. Having been an actor since he was in high school, Gross was thrilled to bring the audience into the nightmare that is *The Damned Lands*. “Acting gives me the



Jefferson, PA native Shana Fischer (far right) and her *Damned Lands* Co-Stars at the movie’s Red Carpet Premiere at the State Theatre in Uniontown.

ability to open the audience up to new worlds,” Gross said. “This movie’s world might not be the happiest, but I’m sure they’ll love it. Blood, guts, and all!”

Look for *The Damned Lands* on a streaming service near you and follow their Facebook or Instagram page for updates.

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Good NEWS

In Greene County

CFGC Awards Over \$34K in EITC Scholarships to Greene County Families

The Community Foundation of Greene County (CFGC) announced that over \$34,000 has been awarded to Greene County families whose child(ren) attend Pre-K and/or K-12 private schools.

The purpose of the EITC Pre-K and K-12 scholarship program is to assist families who choose to send their children to private schools. According to Holly Hathaway, Principal of Greene Valley Christian Academy, "Some of our parents depend on the EITC scholarship, and without the scholarship, some of the students would not be able to attend any private school."

CFGC has administered the EITC scholarship program for over 20 years. For the 2024-2025 school year, Greene County families attending the following Pre-K and K-12 private schools received scholarships: Christian Sandbox, Grace Academy, Greene Valley Christian Academy, Here Wee Grow, Open Door Christian School, and St. Anns.

Dave Calvario, Executive Director of CFGC, said, "The EITC scholarship program provides financial assistance to families who might not be able to afford a pre-school program or who desire to educate their children at a private school. Additionally, Calvario stated he would like to thank First Federal Savings and Loan of Greene County, First National Bank of PA, and Waste Management for their generous donations to fund the EITC scholarship program. Without donations from these corporations, the EITC scholarship program would not exist."

In return for their contributions, First Federal Savings and Loan of Greene County, First National Bank of PA, and Waste Management each receive a 90% tax credit for their donation on their PA state taxes. "EITC contributions are an investment in our Commonwealth, and the youth of Greene County," said Courtney Schroyer, VP/Chief Financial Officer of First Federal Savings and Loan.

To learn more about the EITC scholarship program, or how to make a potential tax exempt gift to the Pre-K and K-12 scholarship fund, contact the Community Foundation by phone at 724-627-2010, email at cfgcpa@gmail.com or go to our website at www.cfgcpa.org.

Growth at WU Continues with Renovations for Updated Pathways Center

Construction is underway on a new and improved space for the Pathways Center, as Waynesburg University continues to celebrate its milestone 175th Anniversary year.

Slated to open in the spring 2025 semester, the Pathways Center, formerly located throughout Eberly Library, will now have one centralized location on the lower level of the building dedicated to the comprehensive student support services it offers on campus.

"We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve students through a centralized location this spring," Sarah Bell, director of the Pathways Center, said. "As a team that is truly student-centered, this space will allow us to meet a diverse range of student needs while offering holistic and collaborative care and support. As a one-stop-shop, the updated Pathways Center will lead to more collaboration and campus-wide understanding of services available to all students."

The \$1.4 million renovations have been funded by a generous donor and will benefit students across all disciplines during their time at Waynesburg. Within the updated Pathways Center, students will have access to a new community learning space, private testing and interview rooms, a restructured Career Closet storefront with changing rooms, a sensory room and staff offices.

Waynesburg's Pathways Center offers services in academic support, academic mentoring, career development, disability services, library services, peer tutoring, student work study and the writing center all under one office as a means to promote better collaboration between staff across departments and a more holistic approach to support for students.

Additionally, the Pathways Center works to oversee programs including the Pennsylvania Act 101 Program, Fostering Independence Through Education Tuition Waiver Program and the MUM Early Alert System, a system which allows University faculty, instructors and staff to relay any student concerns and connect with students in need of support.

By having one physical location on campus to house the Pathways Center, the hope is to have the many services offered through it more easily identified and accessible for students seeking support.

This year has marked a year of tremendous growth for the University as it celebrates "175 Years of Light." In February, the new Entrepreneurial Hub for Innovative Ventures and Endeavors (eHIVE), located on the first floor of Stover Campus Center, was unveiled with a ribbon cutting



The poster features the Lions International logo at the top left. The title "Waynesburg Lions Club" is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, a message of thanks is written in white. A list of "SPECIAL THANKS TO:" is provided in yellow and white text, listing various community organizations and individuals. The background is dark blue with scattered autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red.

Waynesburg Lions Club

We thank the families and kids of our community for making the 1st Waynesburg Lions Club Fall Fest a great success!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Central Greene Lions Club Students
- Waynesburg University Bonner Students
- Waynesburg Eagles #598
- Fred Clark Nursery
- Tom Jones Family
- Cera Jamison & Zoey Caldwell
- Greene County Fair Queen Eryka Hackney
- Miss Rain Day Brynn Lahew
- Joy Gunzler
- Avid X Change
- Greene County Veteran's Club
- Franklin Township Recreation Fund
- Wade's Body Shop
- Lions Eleanor & Ted Chapman
- First Federal Savings and Loan

ceremony, demonstrations, competitions and activities. Made possible by generous donors, the new innovation hub houses equipment that supports student entrepreneurs in their prototyping efforts and enables them to make products to sell for their own small businesses.

Construction is almost complete on the University's new Center for Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation. The Center, funded exclusively by generous donors, will include a large space that can be used for functions of up to 120 people while also being able to convert into three separate classrooms outfitted with state-of-the-art technology. It will also house a conference room, office space and large area for practical learning exercises.

In addition, two properties were recently donated to the University: the Alston Farm and the Thyreen Farm. These properties will allow the expansion of learning opportunities available for students as well as partnerships with local organizations for community outreach.

GCASR Fall Luncheon Awards

More than a hundred people recently attended the GCASR (Greene County Association of



School Retirees) 2024 fall luncheon at The First Church of the Nazarene, Waynesburg, PA. Some of the activities for the day included GCASR annual recognition awards, ed support grant winner presentations, and our special guest speaker, Kristen Holjes (Executive Director PASR) and a great meal served by Back Bay Catering. Reconnecting with former school colleagues and meeting new ones is always a strong benefit of our event. Central Greene retirees were the hosts.

County Ed support Grant winners received \$750 each: Stacie Kniha (JM) - JM Host for County Science Olympiad 1st time; Mark Willis (CG) - Robotics automation; Cassie Menhart (C) - embroidery machine for school spirit store; Natalie Goodwin (GCCTC) - slushy machine for school store; and Zach Patton (WG) - cemetery restoration.

WG Lions Club Honors Outstanding Students

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

Parker Burns is the son of Andrew and Alissa Burns of Wind Ridge. Some of Parker's clubs, activities, and awards include: Four Year Letterman of Football, Three Year Letterman of Basketball, Member of FFA - earning his Greenhand Degree, Chapter Degree, and is working towards the Keystone Degree. Awards that he has received are the Academic Achievement Award, Scholar Athlete Award, Academic Excellence Award, and Citizenship Award. He also was in the Top 10 of his Class in his Junior Year and was selected for the GCADA Winter Sports. Parker has volunteered to assist with Little League Football and has worked at the Jacktown Fair for many years. Parker's plans are to attend Wests Virginia University majoring in Mechanical Engineering and minoring in Entrepreneurship.



Parker Burns

Payton Gilbert is the daughter of Robby and Jennifer Gilbert of New Freeport. She is the President of the National Honor Society, Treasurer of the Class of 2025, Member of the Science Club, Part of the EQT Aspire Program, Captain of the Academic League, Principal Student Advisor, SGA Student Forum, Pep Rally Committee, (Softball: Second Team All-State, First Team All Section, All Area First Team, Greene County Messenger First Team, and 3 time Spring Sport GCADDA Recipient), One Year Letterman of the Basketball Team, Two Year Letterman of the Rifle Team, and Three Year Letterman and Captain of the Varsity Softball Team. Payton's Community Service includes Operation Overnight Bag- as her individual service project, Bowlby Library Turkey Trot, GCADDA Athletic Directors Golf Outing, Greene County Human Resources Trunk or Treat and Easter Egg Hunt. Payton plans to get a Master's in Business to become a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative.



Payton Gilbert

Hayden Hamilton is the son of Jeff and Rhonda Hamilton of Rutan. Hayden is a Three-Year member of the Varsity Football Team, a Two Year Letterman for the Varsity Wrestling Team, and a Three Year Letterman for the Varsity Baseball Team, in which he earned Second Team Herald Standard All Area and GCADA recognition. He is a member of the FFA earning his Greenhand Degree and is working towards his Keystone Degree. He belongs to the Science Club, is currently ranked 7th in his class and has been a Three-Year recipient of both Academic Achievement and Scholar Athletic Awards. Hayden volunteers as an event worker for the National Wildlife Turkey Federation. Hayden's plans are to attend College or a Trade School.



Hayden Hamilton

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5th All Things Christmas Festival

The All Things Christmas Festival returns to the Carmichaels Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Carmichaels, PA on December 2 to 7 from 10am to 7pm. The event helps raise money for the Cumberland Township food pantry.

Donations of decorated, themed Christmas trees, wreaths, crafts, baskets, and more will be displayed all week. Raffle tickets will be available all week in the Carmichaels Methodist Fellowship Hall. Tickets are used to select items that you are interested in winning. The drawing will take place on Saturday, December 7 at 6pm and winners will be announced live in the hall and on Facebook.

Each year, the Cumberland Township food pantry gathers all its resources to provide food boxes to those in the community. The food provides plenty for the holiday season and upcoming winter. With the new year approaching, funding to purchase goods becomes vital.

All proceeds go directly to the Cumberland Township Food Pantry. FMI please contact Nicole Baker 724-970-3276 or visit @allthingschristmasfestival on Facebook.

FCAA OFFERS FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYERS & RESIDENTS IN FOR LAST OF 2024

Fayette County Community Action Agency (FCCAA) has scheduled additional free trainings for the remainder of the 2024 calendar year. The trainings are available to residents ages 55+ in Fayette, Greene, Washington & Westmoreland Counties; employers are also able to register their age-eligible employees, at no cost; all materials are provided.

For the first set of trainings, FCCAA is partnering with Uniontown-based American EMS to host free **CPR Certification Classes**. Prior to registering for this training, participants must have an established email address. The training dates, locations and times are as follows:

Monday, November 25 from 1 to 4 pm
EQT Recreation Center | 400 Evergreene Drive,
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Monday, December 2 from 1 to 4 pm
Blueprints | 150 West Beau Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Washington PA, 15301

Monday, December 9 from 1 to 4 pm
PA CareerLink® Westmoreland County at Youngwood | 151 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA 15697

FCCAA is also hosting a free **ServSafe® training** designed to help participants prepare for the ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification exam. This training will be held on Friday, December 6 from 8 am to 4 pm at the Uniontown Senior Activity Center located at 137 North Beeson Avenue in Uniontown.

ServSafe® covers these concepts: food safety, personal hygiene, time and temperature control, cross contamination prevention, cleaning/sanitizing, receiving/storing food, methods of thawing/cooking/reheating food and food safety regulations. Participants take the certification exam immediately following the training; FCCAA will cover the costs associated with the exam.

Local. Library. Love.

This year's annual **Christmas Open House at Bowlby Library** will be held on Wednesday, December 4 from 3:30 - 7 p.m.

Stop in to enjoy the grand front rooms of the library decorated for Christmas, enjoy some Christmas music, and pick up your Cookie orders from the Friends of the Library Christmas Cookie sale.

Heather Gapen of Willow Tree Farms Bakery will bake the cookies for this year's Friends Cookie Walk. There are twenty-five varieties of cookies to choose—from Nut Rolls and Pecan Tassies to Gingerbread Men, Lady Locks, Traditional Iced Sugar Cookies, and two Gluten Free options. Whatever your favorite Christmas cookie, it's sure to be on the order list.

Prices are \$4/half dozen; \$8/dozen; or 5 dozen cookies for \$45. Cookie order forms are available at the Library's Circulation Desk or online at www.evakbowlby.org. Orders must be prepaid at the library with cash, check, or card, or online via PayPal. You can pick up your ordered cookies at the Christmas Open House.

There's no sweeter way to support your library than with a Christmas Cookie order!

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



AWARD-WINNING BAKED GOODS FROM GREENE COUNTY FAIR HEAD TO STATE FAIR IN JANUARY

Did you see all of the angel food cakes at the Greene County Fair this year? Our own hometown bakers created those extraordinary cakes for competition in Pennsylvania's INCREDIBLE Angel Food Cake Contest. Contestants use quality eggs produced in Pennsylvania to create their INCREDIBLE cakes, which are judged on a variety of categories. This year's Angel Food Cake Contest winner was Nettie Hill from Greensboro. This year's contest was proudly sponsored by Pennsylvania's Egg Farmers and the Pennsylvania Association of County Fairs.

What about all those apple pies at the Greene County Fair? Local bakers created those special pies for competition in the annual Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest. This year's Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest winner was Cheryl White from Clarksville. This year's contest was sponsored by The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs.

Local youth bakers created delicious desserts during the Greene County Fair's 2024 Junior Baking Cookies-Brownies-Bars contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania

Department of Agriculture's PA Preferred® program and coordinated by the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF). Ava S Worden, from Clarksville, took home top honors in the PA Preferred® Junior Baking Contest with her Blackberry Bars recipe. This is PA Preferred®'s seventh year of sponsoring the Junior Baking Contest. The goal of the PA

Preferred® Baking Contest is to encourage young people across the Commonwealth to participate in Pennsylvania's agricultural fairs by showcasing Pennsylvania grown and produced products in their contest entries.

Additionally, five local home bakers created decadent cakes during the Greene County Fair's Homemade Chocolate Cake baking contest sponsored by Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF) on August 4th, 2024. Maria Christopher, from Carmichaels, took home top honors in the PSACF Homemade Chocolate Cake Contest with her Chocolate Cake recipe.

More than 100 fairs across the state are offering cash prizes as part of Pennsylvania's various fair baking contests. Greene County Fair's contests are preliminary competitions that lead to the selection of the overall baking winners competition held each January at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show.

This Message Board Is For You!

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

ENDOCRINOLOGY SERVICES

WVU Medicine endocrinologists treat all diseases and disorders of the endocrine system, including diabetes; disorders of adrenal, pituitary, and reproductive glands; obesity; thyroid disorders, including thyroid cancer; and osteoporosis and calcium disorders; in addition to providing gender-affirming hormone therapy. We provide a comprehensive approach to your care.



Appointments:

855-WVU-CARE

WAYNESBURG OUTPATIENT CLINIC

[WVUMedicine.org/Waynesburg](https://www.wvu.edu/medicine/waynesburg)
451 Murtha Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370

100 Years as Community Servants

First Federal Savings & Loan of Greene County Celebrates 100 Years in Greene

By Emma Bates

When First Federal Savings and Loan of Greene County opened its first office in Carmichaels, Pennsylvania, in 1924, who could have imagined the immense impact such a bank would have on our community? President Charles “Chuck” Trump knows that First Federal and community service are inseparable concepts that work together to create the institution we know and trust today.

Trump breaks down service into two categories: time and treasure. In this century, we as a human race hold our treasures—whatever they may be—to a high standard in our lives. All too often, we allow ourselves to become so caught up in gaining and preserving material treasure that we forget to appreciate the time we have been given to enjoy life in the company and service of others. First Federal values its position to dedicate both its time and treasure to the betterment of our community. The treasure here, as Trump explains, is monetary donations. “Many nonprofits need help—financial support,” Trump says.

First Federal supports many organizations financially. “We are involved in a multitude of ways,” he explains, supporting everything from “little league teams, the United Way, the Salvation Army, the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and 4-H Programs,” to name a few.

First Federal also supports the youth of our communities through the Education Scholarship. This program awards four \$1000 scholarships that are renewable for four years. The fund has awarded over \$750,000 thus far. Additionally, First Federal recognizes and awards student achievement through the Challenge Program. “[It takes] partnership to bring about something spe-

cial,” Trump explains. But this partnership often goes beyond monetary support, and instead involves time. He defines “time” as “volunteerism.”

One example of the servant heart of First Federal is its active ties to charities in the area. “The Corner Cupboard Food Bank is an absolute necessity,” Trump believes, “and the bank intermittently permits employees to volunteer on their lunch hour.”

Employees have also taken on physical labors of love at the Humane Society and the Salvation Army, where they give of personal time to support specific missions in our community. “It takes a network of people, and it’s so rich when they come together to unite around a common purpose,” Trump says.

First Federal has seen significant growth throughout its last century. Trump notes that “Growth has taken on many forms.” What started as a bank with \$33,000 in assets is now an institution with assets over \$1 billion. Trump attributes this success not to himself, but to the many employees he works alongside. “Many men and women have been instrumental in this growth,” he says.

But it is “measured growth”, Trump believes, that has shaped the bank into the presence it holds today. “An aggressive pursuit sometimes is not the most intelligent method. It is measured growth that has slowly molded First Federal into a firm community presence. First Federal has also grown “geographically and in regard to workforce.” In 10 (soon to be 11) branches across Greene, Fayette, and Washington counties, 130 individuals call themselves First Federal employees.

First Federal is based on relationships, not just interactions. “Much like

in life,” Trump says, “your best friends... how have you gotten to know them and love them?” It has certainly taken time for “the People You Know, the People You Can Trust” to become just that in our communities.

“Pivotal men and women are ambassadors for the bank,” Trump states, and he credits them with carrying not only First Federal’s slogan but its attitude of service into their individual lives. This connotation didn’t just happen overnight. It’s taken 100 years. But “if you wrapped your arms around all the memories, it goes beyond withdrawals and deposits,” Trump reflects. “Walking with humility, you can take pride in something without being prideful. We are proud of our leadership and service.”

Thank you, First Federal, for being community servants for a century. Here’s to 100 more!



TOP: First Federal Savings & Loan volunteers cleaned a half-mile section of Apple Hill Road north of Waynesburg and filled half a dozen bags of trash. BOTTOM: First Federal donated 240 plush bulldogs to the Child Life program at the WVU Medicine Childrens Hospital.



First Federal Savings & Loan has been a long time supporter of United Way’s Stuff the Bus.





ATTENTION PARENTS AND COACHES!

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

Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore

RETRO ROCKETS RETURN TO PAST GLORIES

This season marked exactly 100 years since Jefferson started its football history. Since that opening game at Mapletown a century ago, the program has been one of the most successful in the area. By the 1930s, the Jeffs, as they were then known, dominated the gridiron. Their teams were 61-14-9 on the decade. They had undefeated seasons in 1935, 1938 and 1939.

The following decade, the success continued as they rolled up a 67-12-5 record. After a 7-1-1 record in 1940, the Jeffs did not lose a game until 1945. The string included five straight Mid-Mon Valley Conference Championships.

The 1973 and 1974 teams captured back-to-back WPIAL championships and have received well-earned acclaim as the greatest team in the program's history. Dennis Garrett, Frank Paci, the Culp and Martin brothers, and many others on that team are firmly ensconced in our sports lore.

The Rockets also won conference championships in 1985, 1987, and 1989. The 1985 team finished 9-1, while the '87 team was led by running back Scott Venick and edged Avella for the title. However, in the final year of the decade, the Rockets completed their last undefeated regular season after beating Waynesburg 21-18 and then running the table against Tri-County conference foes. They advanced to the WPIAL semifinals after they destroyed Monaca 42-14 in the opening round. However, they fell to eventual champion Clairton 19-7 to end the program's best season since the championship years.

Thirty-five years later, the Rockets have once again cap-

tured the Tri-County South conference title and the elusive undefeated season. They were led by senior quarterback Houston Guesman and his historic signal caller to throw (1,852) and run (1,185) for over 1,000 yards in a single year. Houston finished the regular season ranked first in total yards in the WPIAL and fifth overall in the state. He also tossed an incredible 25 touchdown passes while running for another 14. Junior Deakyn Dehoet ranked second in both the WPIAL and PIAA in receiving yards with 1,039.

The team averaged an incredible 40.4 points per game. The defense allowed only 14 points a game; however, most of those were allowed by reserves during blowout victories.

This dream regular season and conference title is something these boys will carry with them for the rest of their lives. They have made their district and the entire County proud and have added to the tapestry of our collective athletic history.

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.



l-r: Row 1: Ryan Baker, Brenton Barnhart, Johnny Gilbert, Houston Guesman, Jase Bedilion, Ethan Crowe, Logan Wilson, Brandon Veres. Row 2: Deakyn Dehoet, John Woodward, Eli Hill, Levi Heath, Landon Heath, Remington Broadwater, Daniel Casne. Row 3: Jeremiah Rodriguez, Logan Yeck, Logan Pecjak, Eli Pears. Row 4: Liam Rogers, EJ Lingensfield, William Wheeler, Tyler Schnick, Jacob Katruska. Row 5: Seth Fox, Jeremiah Robertson, Zander Tharp, Daniel Smith. Row 6: Shane Ziats, Emily Fields, Jake Nace (Coaches not pictured) Troy Barnhart, Ron Gallagher, Caleb Gallagher, Tom Palko, Jake Rush, Tom Sandela and Max Clevenger. (Player not pictured) Triton Farabe

BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE MONTH



John Gilbert is the son of John and Sarah Gilbert of Mather. He is a member of the Rockets football, wrestling, and baseball teams. He also enjoys golfing in his spare time. John plans to major in criminology.



Chelsea McGinnis is the daughter of Lori and Dave McGinnis of Rices Landing. She is a cheerleader for the Rockets and is a member of the Leo Club, Leadership 3, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Chelsea is also a member of the National Honor Society. Outside of school, she enjoys tumbling and dance. Her plans are to continue her education at a four-year college.



Levi Yeater is the son of Tyson and Tracy Yeater of Aleppo. He is a junior and participates in cross country, wrestling, and baseball for the Pioneers. In school, Levi is a member of the FFA and is part of the P20 science group. He enjoys hunting and fishing in his leisure time.



Halynn Salisbury is the daughter of Eric and Jessica Dutton of Wind Ridge. She is a sophomore and participates in cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, and softball. Halynn is a member of the FFA Chapter and the P20 science group. In her spare time, she enjoys fishing, playing fall softball, and babysitting her two sisters and brother.

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Holiday Brass Spectacular

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 • 7:00 PM

ROBERTS CHAPEL • 51 West College Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370

Pre-Concert Holiday Village in Johnson Commons • 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Tickets

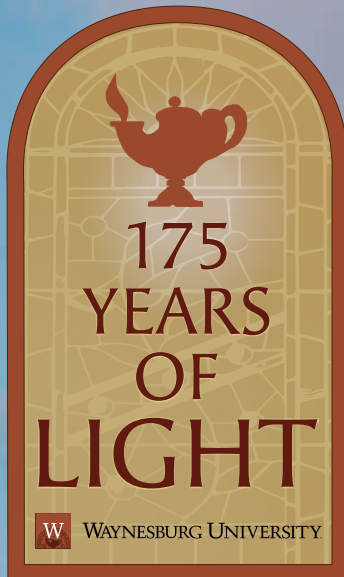
\$25 General Admission
\$15 for Children 12 and Under

Visit

waynesburg.edu/pittsburghsymphony
or scan to purchase tickets



WAYNESBURG
UNIVERSITY



THE YEAR 2024 MARKS WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY.

This milestone year is a time for reflection, but also a time for great anticipation as the Waynesburg University community looks forward to the next 175 years – while celebrating the growth of today and the generations of servant leaders who came before us.

Learn more about how Waynesburg grows at
WAYNESBURG.EDU/WAYNESBURGGROWS



Saturday, November 30th from 4 PM - 9 PM
 at the Denny House & Carriage House • Downtown Waynesburg

Step inside the Historical Denny House for a magical evening filled with Christmas spirit!
Music in the Main House by Ferd Dolfi

- Vendors throughout the house
- Hot Chocolate Bar
- Cookie Bar
- Cash bar with Specialty Christmas Drinks
- Delicious Appetizer & Soup Menu
- Festive Christmas Music

Don't miss this perfect chance to tour the historic Denny House, enjoy cozy treats, and kick off the Holiday Season with friends, family, and lots of Christmas cheer!



DECEMBER SPECIAL: \$1,500 OFF! YOUR NEW WATER WELL

Get the gift of fresh, clean water this Christmas! Call us today to schedule a consultation to drill a new well, or test and treat your current water for that crisp and clean water taste.

Make this season merry with reliable water for years to come.

LET US TEST YOUR WATER TODAY!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS LIMITED-TIME OFFER
CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE!

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- water well drilling
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- camera inspection
- flow rate tests

(724) 428-4322 | Graysville, PA 15337 | ljscogin@gmail.com

BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE MONTH



Vince Maley is the son of Craig and Susan Maley of Waynesburg. He participates in football and baseball. The senior has been named a First-Team All-Conference and All-County selection in football. In school, he maintains a 3.8 GPA. After graduation, Vince plans to attend Slippery Rock University and major in Industrial Engineering.



Kolbi Rastoka is the daughter of Travis and Lindsey Rastoka of Waynesburg. She plays on the Raiders' soccer and softball teams. Kolbi was recently named Greensports / McCracken Pharmacy athlete of the week. Outside of school, she plays travel softball for Steel City Athletics, club soccer for BVB WV, and attends strength and conditioning training at Better Performance Physical Therapy. Only a freshman, her future plans are still undecided. However, she hopes to play softball or soccer in college.

ALBIE RINEHART GUIDES HIS 35TH LOCAL RACE TO THE FINISH LINE

In 2005, the Greene County Department of Parks and Recreation started a series of races that would raise money for local programs and charities. That inaugural Greene River Trail Run was a 5,500 Meter Run. The non-standard distance was the brain child of the jocular local philanthropist Albie Rinehart, who served as the

Race Director. He based the race distance on the old saying that one should always "give 110 percent" in any venture, thus the 5.5K Race, rather than the traditional 5K.

For those in the community lucky enough to interact with Rinehart on his altruistic endeavors, that sentiment is incredibly apropos. On October 19, the former Graysville elementary teacher directed his 35th race in conjunction with Parks and Recreation and local charities. The race was a traditional 5K at the Rices Landing Trail Head of the Greene River Trail.

That first race almost 20 years ago was incredibly successful and featured appearances by famous ultramarathoner "Badwater Bill" Menard and local Arena Football League star, Greg Hopkins. Rinehart orchestrated their appearance and kicked off a two-decade string of events that would raise money to bring joy to many underserved children



Albie Rinehart finished his 35th local race.

MARISA MEN CREATE ENDOWMENT IN THE LEGENDARY COACH'S HONOR

Last May, a group of Waynesburg University men's basketball alumni established an endowment fund in honor of legendary coach Rudy Marisa, who passed away in 2023.

"You cannot write the story of Waynesburg University or Western Pennsylvania athletics without Rudy Marisa," said Waynesburg University Director of Athletics and head men's basketball coach Tim Fusina. "What he gave to this university over the decades can never be forgotten. His success on the court pales in comparison to the man he was to not only his family and friends, but to the players he mentored over his 34 years as head basketball coach at Waynesburg University."

The endowment will directly support the men's basketball program's staffing, as well as travel and facility upgrades.

According to Fusina, "The endowment will provide a first-class student-athlete experience for our kids by providing them opportunities to travel yearly to either destination Division III tournaments around the country or possibly international tours, which are permitted every four years by the NCAA. Second, we will also plan on using some of this endowment to provide the best technology and amenities for our student-athletes in the men's basketball program. Lastly, this endowment means that we can expand our coaching staff, so we can continue to recruit the best possible student-athlete to our program and provide another staff member to help our athletes grow athletically, academically and socially during their time at Waynesburg."

"Coach Marisa's former players are spearheading this amazing campaign, and we cannot express our gratitude to them for ensuring his legacy lives on through this endowment," said



Fusina. "This is going to set us apart from a lot of Division III programs in our region and will ensure that our program competes at a high level well into the future."

Marisa spent 34 seasons as the head men's basketball coach at Waynesburg. He coached the Yellow Jackets to 565 victories across five decades and turned Waynesburg into a perennial contender in the NAIA in the 1980s. The Jackets won seven NAIA District 18 titles in the decade, including six-straight from 1983 to 1989. In 1987-88, Waynesburg won 32-straight games to reach the NAIA Final Four in Kansas City.

The Waynesburg University gymnasium was renamed in Marisa's honor in 2000. When he retired in 2003, he was the 10th-winningest coach in NCAA Division III history. He is a four-time Hall of Fame inductee and coached tens of thousands of campers at his Tri-State Camps for over 40 years.

Contribute online at waynesburg.edu/giving. Be sure to specify your gift for the Rudy Marisa Memorial Endowed Fund.

WU CROWNS HOMECOMING QUEEN AND KING

Waynesburg University's 2024 Homecoming King and Queen, Josiah Gordon and Macy Moore, were crowned during halftime of the annual Homecoming football game Saturday, Oct. 19, where the Yellow Jackets defeated Bethany College 34 to 14.

This year's Homecoming celebrations centered around the University's 175th Anniversary, "175 Years of Light," and took place from Thursday, Oct. 17, through Saturday, Oct. 19.

"Being named Homecoming King definitely came as a surprise to me, as I firmly believe each person on the homecoming court had an equal shot at winning," shared Gordon. "It's an honor to have been chosen by my peers to represent the University in this man-

ner."

"I am incredibly honored to be named Homecoming Queen," Moore said. "Every lady on the court is amazing, and I feel so fortunate to have shared this experience with them." Homecoming 2024 activities began Thursday night with a virtual trivia night for all alumni.

In-person events began Friday with an afternoon of Alumni Golf at the Greene County Country Club and a dedication for The Villacampa Family classroom in Hanna Hall 204 on campus. In the evening, the All-Alumni Celebration and Combined Class Reunion was held at The Denny House, where the reunion classes of 2019, 2014, 2009, 2004, 1999, 1994, 1989, 1984, 1979, 1974 and 1969 were recognized. The evening also featured

a special celebration of the 175th Anniversary.

Several events took place on Saturday, which included a few new events and special dedications.

In addition to the 28th Annual 5K Run/Walk, reunions were held for graduates of the Baseball Program, with a special baseball alumni game; the Departments of Biology, Environmental Science and Health Science and Chemistry and Forensic Science; Department of Education; Stover Scholars; Department of Nursing; and Women's Soccer.

The Class of 1969 was honored at a reunion breakfast for their 55th reunion year and the Class of 1974 celebrated their 50th reunion with a brunch at the President's House.

Special dedications of the bricks purchased as part of the 175th Anniversary Fundraising Initiative were held separately at their respective locations: Cusick Court, Veterans Memorial Plaza and John F. Wiley Stadium.

The night concluded with the men's and women's soccer games against Franciscan University.



and adults.

In addition to the Greene River Trail Run, Rinehart worked with the Department of Recreation's Jake Blaker and Traci Sokol to raise money for the County's Summer Day Camp program. The spring Dock to Lock Run was held annually from 2006 to 2019, running from the Greene Cove Marina to the Rices Landing Lock on the Monongahela.

Rinehart also served for eight years as the director of The Heroes' Run, which raised scholarship funds in honor of Army Spc. Gregory Cox and Marine Lance Corporal Steven Phillips, who gave their lives while serving in Iraq. He was also involved in the 5K Race to End Hunger to benefit

the Corner Cupboard Food Bank. That race was headquartered at the National Guard Armory in Waynesburg, where Rinehart served 20 years as a staff sergeant.

Fittingly, Rinehart won the 80+ division at the October race with a time of 40:24. Before the start of the race, he welcomed the 68 runners to the event and reminded them they were there for more than a simple day of healthy exercise. He complimented the group for, "being part of something bigger than yourselves by doing something good for others."

No matter the event, for Rinehart it's about making an impact on others and the positive outcomes that result.



PASSING

Player	Yards	Attempts	Comp	TDs
H. Guesman (JM)	94	156	1,852	25
L. Allison (WG)	86	185	1,411	11
J. Stephenson (WC)	89	148	1,142	7
C. Bupka (C)	35	56	398	6
T. Blair (WC)	3	10	119	1
C. Vanata (M)	11	47	117	0
A. Walker (M)	10	33	112	0

RUSHING

Player	Attempts	Yards	TDs
H. Guesman (JM)	128	1,185	16
J. Stephenson (WC)	132	1,081	19
J. Woodward (JM)	113	659	7
C. Bupka (C)	106	620	0
W. Murray (C)	81	553	0
H. Hamilton (WG)	107	493	2
C. Vanata (M)	84	441	1
R. Tennant (WC)	72	305	6
J. Gilbert (JM)	37	267	5
B. Evans (M)	53	261	1
Hewitt (C)	38	236	1
C. Spitznogle (M)	64	230	4
J. Orndoff (WG)	50	198	0
C. Whyte (WG)	40	194	7
L. Allison (WG)	65	191	3
T. Crouse (WC)	20	166	0
E. Crowe (JM)	27	142	3
Wilson-Jones (C)	13	139	2

RECEIVING

Player	Catches	Yards	TDs
D. Dehoet (JM)	52	1,039	6
P. Burns (WG)	21	520	6
J. Ricciuti (WC)	31	489	3
J. Grimes (WG)	18	399	4
Z. Jiblit (WC)	25	310	2
R. Baker (JM)	10	300	2
J. Gilbert (JM)	17	294	1
B. Yekel (C)	25	285	5
T. Crouse (WC)	24	281	3
M. Wassil (WG)	10	204	0
J. Bedilion (JM)	8	195	1
H. Hamilton (WG)	23	134	0
C. Spitznogle (M)	8	105	1

SCORING

Player	TDs	Total
Stephenson (WC)	20	120
Guesman (JM)	16	116
Dehoet (JM)	10	62
J. Gilbert (JM)	8	50
C. Whyte (WG)	7	46
J. Woodward (JM)	7	42
P. Burns (WG)	6	38
R. Tennet (WC)	6	36
B. Yekel (C)	6	36
Hamilton (WG)	2	33
D. Taylor (WC)	0	33
C. Spitznogle (M)	5	30
Crouse (WC)	5	30
J. Grimes (WG)	4	24
E. Crowe (JM)	3	20
C. Bupka (C)	3	18
P. Hewitt (C)	3	18
L. Yeck (JM)	0	18
Ricciuti (WC)	3	18
L. Allison (WG)	3	18
A. Walker (M)	3	18
W. Murray (C)	3	18
B. Evans (M)	2	14
Z. Jiblit (WC)	2	14
R. Baker (JM)	2	12
J. Blair (WC)	2	12
P. Durbin (WG)	1	8
C. McKnight (M)	1	8
C. Vanata (M)	1	6
Tustin (WC)	1	6
Wilson-Jones (C)	1	6
J. Bedilion (JM)	1	6
L. Rogers (JM)	1	6
C. Shaffer (M)	0	2
D. Woods (WC)	0	2



JAKE STEPHENSON ACCOMPLISHED A RARE FEAT THIS SEASON WHEN HE JOINED LEE FRITZ AS THE ONLY PLAYERS IN WAYNESBURG RAIDER HISTORY TO BOTH THROW AND RUSH FOR 1,000 YARDS.

THE ROCKETS' HOUSTON GUESMAN LED THE COUNTY IN BOTH RUSHING AND PASSING THIS SEASON.



JEFFERSON-MORGAN'S DEAKYN DEHOET LED THE COUNTY IN RECEIVING YARDS THIS SEASON.



Where's is the Winter Waynie Express Heading?

Do you know where the Winter Waynie Express is stopping on its special holidays trip around Greene County? Guess the locations for each of its stops to win \$50!



Name: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____

Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One entry per person per category.

Drawing on 12-2-24. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

CHILDREN'S WINTER GEAR DISTRIBUTION

NOVEMBER 30, 2024 • CHRISTMAS ON HIGH STREET • 2:00 - 8:00 P.M.



ALL GREENE COUNTY CHILDREN 0-18 ARE INVITED & MUST ATTEND IN-PERSON. NO RSVPS.

**VISIT [GROWINGUPGREENE.ORG](http://growingupgreene.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION. FOLLOW US ON  AND  TO STAY UPDATED.
52 SOUTH CHURCH STREET • WAYNESBURG, PA 15370 • 724-802-7347 • [GROWINGUPGREENECO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:growingupgreeneeco@gmail.com)**

GREENE COUNTY'S MEDICARE GUIDANCE

Brendan & Rhetta Byham
Independent Licensed Insurance Brokers

 724-802-2601  rbyham.insurance@gmail.com

Contact us today to discuss your Medicare questions as well as Medicare health plan options including Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement, and Part D Prescription Drug Plans.

There is never a cost for our assistance.

Health Insurance Solutions Company

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Last Minute Medicare Reviews:** Saturday, December 7th, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Bowlby Library
- With big changes coming to plans in 2025, make sure you know what is changing with your plan.



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER WITH THE WAYNESBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce is preparing for its 86th Annual Downtown Waynesburg Christmas Parade on December 7 at 2pm and reminding “residents and organizations the entry deadlines are fast approaching,” shares Greene County Chamber of Commerce Director Melody Longstreth.

One of the most fun aspects of the parade is a little friendly competition between the floats. Entered floats do their best to come up with the most creative ideas that capture Christmas Spirit - with only one specific rule that must be followed: “no live Santa is permitted on any unit in the parade as he is the guest of honor at the conclusion of the parade,” shares Melody Longstreth.

Float judging takes place prior to the start of the parade during line-up. This year’s judges are Wayne Hart, Jeff McCracken, and Randy Durr from West

Penn Power. Wayne Hart and Jeff McCracken have served as judges multiple times for the parade.

“We’re looking for entries that showcase three criteria: design, spirit, and originality,” Hart says. He jokingly adds, “And those that are giving away free cookies!”

McCracken adds, “You can tell how much work gets put into some of the floats, and there are some very innovative ideas. We like to reward that hard work.”

Trophies are awarded to the top three floats that meet the criteria, along with three honorable mentions.

The parade will be led by Grand Marshals Miss Rain Day 2024 Bryn Lathew and the Chamber’s 2024 Distinguished Service Award winners Connie Hart, Doug Wilson, and Chuck Wolfe, along with representatives from the 2024 McCracken Legacy Award winner, Ross Tractor.



Marklee Mae Beal, the 9-year-old daughter of Devan and Jason Beal of Rices Landing will sing the National Anthem and the Pennsylvania 140th Volunteers, a civil war re-enactment group, presents the colors at the courthouse .

If you can’t make it to the parade in person, it will be broadcast live on the Chamber’s Facebook page. WCYJ Television from Waynesburg College will be videotaping the parade for a later broad-

cast on local stations.

This year’s entry deadline for pre-registration is November 27; all entries must pre-register. Visit www.greenechamber.org to download an application.

The execution of the Parade is underwritten by West Penn Power, a First Energy Company. Questions may be directed to the chamber office at 724-627-5926 or info@greenechamber.org.

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Greene County United Way would like to thank our community, our donors, our sponsors, and our volunteers for your support throughout 2024...

And wish you a wonderful holiday season!




Christmas on High Street

The Waynesburg-Franklin Twp. Volunteer Fire Company is thrilled to continue the long-standing community tradition by organizing this year's Waynesburg's Christmas on High Street event, presented by the generous support of EQT Corporation. This beloved annual celebration will take place on Saturday, November 30, 2024, from 3 to 8 p.m.

Volunteers with the fire company have been hard at work planning this must-attend celebration, ensuring it upholds the beloved legacy of the former Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful's Holiday Open House while introducing fresh, innovative twists that will make Waynesburg's Christmas on High Street an unforgettable experience for all who attend.

At 6 p.m. on the steps of the Greene County Courthouse, Santa and Mrs. Claus will lead the countdown to lighting the Christmas tree. Children will then have the opportunity to take photos with the Clauses in front of the tree and the first 200 will receive a gift from them. The event concludes at 8 p.m. with a dazzling fireworks display presented by the First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Greene County - a truly breathtaking finale to cap off an evening of holiday cheer and community spirit.

From 3 to 8 p.m., spend a delightful Saturday on a free nostalgic wagon ride with Rocky Ridge Acres down High Street to admire the festive holiday window displays that have been carefully curated by local merchants. As you slowly clip-clop along the street, you'll be enchanted by the twinkling lights, whimsical decorations, and the warm glow of the fire barrels.

After your wagon ride, head to Washington Street to have a free caricature portrait drawn by the talented local artist Jeff Harris, whose skilled hand will capture your likeness with flair and humor. For the kids, there's a free fun activity area where they can unleash their creativity by making their own unique ornaments or sand art crafts to take home as cherished holiday keepsakes.

New for this year, the Living Nativity presented by a coalition of area churches brings the biblical story of the birth of Jesus Christ to life in a captivating display on High Street. And to complete your merry outing, enjoy live musical performances on the courthouse steps, filling the air with the joyful sounds of the holidays.

Start your holiday shopping this year by supporting the local merchants and restaurants in the charming downtown

area of Waynesburg. Not only will you discover one-of-a-kind gifts and delectable treats, but you'll also be investing directly back into your community and the hard-working small business owners who pour their hearts into making Waynesburg a warm and welcoming destination.

The Holiday Market will return this year on Washington Street with a tent full of local crafters and vendors. Those in search of the perfect present or simply looking to immerse themselves in the joy of the holiday season will delight in strolling through the lively market, discovering one-of-a-kind treasures and indulging in the spirited ambiance. Beyond the tent, the surrounding Downtown area will come alive with the mouthwatering aromas of regional food trucks parked throughout, offering a delectable array of seasonal treats and warm beverages to savor.

Candy Cane Lane on Church Street will welcome back cherished local non-profit organizations to showcase their festive holiday décor and host a variety of merry activities. But Candy Cane Lane is more than just a dazzling display - it also serves as a gateway to an important community initiative, leading visitors directly to Growing Up Greene's annual Winter Coat Distribution. Here, children are provided with warm winter coats, scarves, and other cold-weather essentials, ensuring that no one is left out in the cold during the



chillier months. It is a heartwarming celebration of generosity, unity, and the true meaning of the holiday season, all centered around the enchanting Candy Cane Lane on Church Street.

With the support of generous local sponsors and the dedicated efforts of the tireless volunteer firefighters and auxiliary, this cherished annual tradition is poised to shine brighter than ever, ushering in the magic of the holiday season for the entire Waynesburg community.

Chili Fest at the First Christian Church will be held during the Christmas on High Street festivities. The Chili Fest is 3 to 8pm. The event is free to the public.

The church is located at the intersection of Franklin and Morris Streets across from Domino Pizza. The church will be serving chili and cornbread, assorted cookies, brownies and many other great snacks as well as beverages. Also during the event, the Ambassadors For Christ will be playing at the church.

Other local businesses will be open during the event, as well. The Denny House will be open to the public with food and adult beverages to purchase, free hot chocolate, and cookies for everyone. Festive Christmas music and vendors will also be at the event. Interested in being a vendor? Contact innkeeper@dennyhousewb.com to set up your free table.

**Waynesburg's
Christmas on High Street**

Saturday, November 30, 2024 | 3-8pm

**3-8pm: Shopping in
Downtown Waynesburg,
Holiday Market & Candy Cane Lane**
Unique & hand crafted gifts, plus great deals on apparel,
jewelry, collectibles, specialty food & more

**3-8pm: Live Music, Horse Drawn Wagon Rides,
Kids Activities & Caricature Portraits**

**6pm: Greene County Courthouse
Tree Lighting Ceremony**

6:15-8pm: Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus

Presented by:
EQT 

Fireworks Display @ 8pm presented by: 

www.waynesburgfire.com/waynesburg-christmas

WHY SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES?

Supporting small local businesses is more than just a purchase; it's a commitment to the community's prosperity and uniqueness. As a business owner for over 23 years, I know the community's impact on a small business can be significant. I want to share my personal experience and response to these top reasons and why it can be so impactful.

Boosting the Local Economy:

When you shop at local businesses, more money stays within the community. Locally-owned businesses reinvest profits into the area, foster economic growth, and create job opportunities for your neighbors.

Pamela: This is so true. As a small business, we are constantly approached to donate to numerous causes, all significant to those making requests and our community. However, without strong support from the community, it becomes challenging for us to contribute to these meaningful initiatives, especially when profitability is strained, or survival is at stake.

Choosing to shop locally truly goes a long way. When it's time for the business to give back and support your cause, a thriving local customer base makes the cycle of support possible.

Local businesses also support other local enterprises—whether it's hiring a local contractor for a new heating or AC unit, purchasing personal vehicles, or making other community connections, our economic well-being is intertwined.

Unique and Authentic Products:

Local businesses often offer products that embody the community's culture and character. Shopping locally offers the opportunity to discover unique, one-of-a-kind items that aren't commonly available at big-box stores, making every purchase feel special and meaningful.

Pamela: Small businesses must stand out from the vast sea of online stores to thrive. That's why we put so much thought and effort into every aspect of our offerings, from carefully curated products to exceptional customer service. This personal touch and dedication make local businesses a genuinely memorable experience for every customer.

Preserving Local Character:

Supporting local businesses helps preserve your town's unique charm and character. These establishments often operate from historic buildings, enhancing the area's aesthetic appeal and contributing to a diverse and vibrant community atmosphere.

Pamela: As my small business grew, so did our commitment to giving back. We invested in purchas-

ing and restoring historic buildings, preserving a piece of our town's heritage and providing much-needed services to the community. It's a rewarding cycle—local support allows us to reinvest in our shared spaces and enrich the character and offerings of our hometown.

Engaging with the Community:

Local businesses are often deeply involved in community events, charities, and initiatives. By supporting them, you're also uplifting these efforts, making Greene County a more connected and close-knit place to live.

Pamela: Business owners bring immense value to local boards and charities. Personally, I serve on several boards in Greene County, consistently using my experience as a business owner to help strengthen and improve our community. We want our community to thrive, so we do all we can to give back and support initiatives that matter. It's all about building meaningful connections and fostering a sense of togetherness.

Enhancing Your Community's Tax Base:

Local businesses contribute significantly to the local tax base, helping to fund essential services like schools, parks, and public safety. By choosing to shop locally, you play a role in supporting these vital services, which benefit everyone in the community.

Pamela: Our county's tax base depends heavily on the success of for-profit businesses. The taxes paid by small businesses each year are a substantial part of the resources that fuel our community's growth and development. When a business expands or relocates, business owners often have the flexibility to decide where they establish themselves. The fact that companies continue to choose our county and invest here makes our community stronger and more vibrant. It's in everyone's best interest to encourage and support local businesses so they can keep contributing to a thriving county.

Boosting Local Employment:

Local businesses often hire from within the community, so your patronage directly contributes to local job growth. According to Forbes, small businesses create two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. By choosing to shop locally, you play an active role in sustaining and expanding these employment opportunities.

Pamela: I currently employ nearly 50 people who live in this county. They spend their local earnings, support community causes, and pay taxes, strengthening our shared infrastructure. Every single job makes a difference and helps our community thrive.

Supporting Local Entrepreneurs:

When you shop at local businesses, you champion

the dreams and aspirations of fellow community members. These entrepreneurs take risks bringing unique products and services to the area, enriching the community's character. Your support drives job creation and economic growth and fosters a sense of pride among residents.

Pamela: Enriching the community is a cause close to my heart. I'm passionate about helping other entrepreneurs and encouraging young people to pursue their dreams. I frequently give talks at universities to share insights about what it means to own a business—the challenges, the rewards, and the perseverance it takes. It's all about building and inspiring the next generation of dreamers and doers.

Making a Big Impact Through Small Actions:

Supporting local businesses doesn't always require grand gestures. Simple, everyday choices—like shopping at a local store—can create a meaningful impact. Your purchase directly supports people you know and care about right in your own neighborhood.

Pamela: When you're searching for a gift, think local first. If someone asks you to contribute to a Chinese auction, consider putting together a basket of local gift certificates—it makes for a thoughtful and appreciated gesture. Small business owners genuinely value every single transaction, and these small acts of support help strengthen our community in meaningful ways.

When you shop at local businesses, you're sending a message that you care about your community's well-being and future. Through small, meaningful actions, we can support our fellow entrepreneurs and continue building strong, thriving communities. Every small purchase counts. Let's make a difference together!

By Pamela Marisa



Owner of Direct Results, GreeneScene Magazine, & The Denny House

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congratulations to all the busi-
nesses that won, as well as our
thanks to every business that
donated a prize for our gift
baskets.

Continue reading our
Small Business section to see
the winners of the Greatest in
Greene contest.



SHOP LOCAL - SHOP SMALL

**Greatest
IN
GREENE**

DJ's Diner
Best Breakfast



Co-Owners Debbie Allen & Jackie Gifford celebrate their win as Best Breakfast with staff and happy customers.

SUPPORT NONPROFITS

Studies show that nonprofits receive up to 250 percent more support from small businesses over big businesses.

Johnna McNett of Fuchs Lubricants Co. says:

"Fuchs is a Global Lubricant Company. In Greene county and surrounding areas we provide lubricants and longwall fluids for coal mines. For me supporting local business with my business is rewarding.

[I also support] restaurants and shops[by shopping locally]."

Jessica Jacobs says:

"[I shop small] to help keep businesses run by local people in business. The owners of these businesses know their customers, and I think this is important."

Some of her favorites to shop small/local are coffee shops and local food places.

WIN \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM OZIE'S SPORT SHOP
CAN YOU FIND THE HIDDEN DEER?



Deer season is here and the deer are running scared! Spike the deer is hiding out from hunters in the pages of this month's GreeneScene. Can you find him? One random winner will be selected from the correct answers.

Name: _____
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Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One entry per person per category. Drawing on 12-2-24. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

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72%

of shoppers said Small Business Saturday makes them want to shop and dine at small, locally owned retailers and restaurants all year long.

Greatest IN GREENE

Burgers & More Best Burgers

Burgers and More, a burger shop on PA 21, was voted by GreeneScene's readers as the best burgers in Greene County. Burgers & More provides a quality product at a great price with a service that comes with a smile. Carolyn Sandericker, the restaurant's owner, shared some of her thoughts on the importance of shopping locally, especially since restaurants are notorious for narrow profit margins.

Carolyn believes that people shopping is the lifeblood of any small business. "When customers shop locally, we are able to build trust and a reputation. We can have a good relationship with our customers to ensure they are happy and want to return," she says.

She also knows a good relationship goes above and beyond any advertising the business could provide. "You could advertise until you are blue

in the face, but if that relationship is not a good one, then no one will want to sit down and eat at our establishment."

When it comes to the most important aspect of shopping locally, Carolyn shares, "Definitely building a reputation of supplying high-quality products so that they tell all of their friends. Word of mouth is the best advertising!"

Small local restaurants rely on that word of mouth as their primary advertising since they don't have the means large chain restaurants have when it comes to advertising in a larger scope. Carolyn herself also shops locally when possible. "I like to support the local economy as much as possible."

"We shop locally as much as possible to support our fellow community businesses. Many of them are our friends and we try to support them as much as possible."

When asked what is the best way she feels community members can shop small, she says, "The community can support each other and tell their friends about their good experiences."

That support network resonates with this establishment through their relationship with customers and other small businesses. Carolyn encourages community members to remember "buying locally helps keep our small businesses alive and keeps more shopping options available for everyone."

SUPPORT FUTURE GROWTH

Shopping locally helps make our communities grow. Successful businesses expand, hire more employees, and encourage new businesses to open in the community.

CREATE ADDITIONAL LOCAL JOBS

The more successful a local small business is, the more likely it is to hire additional staff. A thriving business community also brings in new businesses that will need staff.



Co-Owners Buck & Carolyn Sandericker & team flipped a landslide victory in the Best Burger Category.

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The Greene County Chamber of Commerce hosted an official ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of Chapman Insurance Agency.

On Tuesday, October 22nd, Greene County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Melody Longstreth opened the ceremony by welcoming all those in attendance. Family members, community supporters, and various Chamber Board of Director members gathered to celebrate.

Longstreth introduced speakers Eric Cowden of State Senator Camera Bartolotta's office, Rachel Willson from State Representative Bud Cook's office, and Jeanine Henry from Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful. The last speakers were Miranda Chapman and Daniel Foster of Chapman Insurance. They spoke of their gratitude for the assistance in launching their brick-and-mortar location, and all they hope to see come from their new facility. "There's a need for this in our community, a location with people the community knows to help advise them in

health & medicare, it's such a confusing landscape; so, we are here to be a friendly face to help them through the process, with people they trust." Chapman stated. Once the ribbon was cut, everyone had the opportunity to soak up some sun and enjoy refreshments outside; and if you were feeling the need to feed on some BBQ, they had Piccolo's BBQ food truck was stationed in the parking lot as well.

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce is

Chantel Fisher of CNF Apparel says:

"Shopping small and locally means to me that a small business owner & their family will be able to put food on their table, pay their bills, have their kids in extracurriculars, and so much more. You're also supporting someone's dreams, aspirations, hard work, and also supporting the local economy, all at the same time.

I try to shop as local as possible for products/supplies. As a small business owner, I try to outsource as much as possible to other small business, even if it is not local. Small business is a work of heart."

honored to participate in celebrating this new opening at 1466 East High St. Waynesburg, PA 15370, as well as any new business, business relocation, attraction, or asset to our area.

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SHOP SMALL, SHOP LOCAL



Owner Heather Gapen celebrates her win as Best Dessert with Lady Lock Cookies.

LESS MONEY LEAKAGE

Local businesses tend to buy from other local businesses, keeping the money in the community and helping other local businesses.

Amber Jarrell:

Amber know the importance of shopping small because, "My family has a mom and pop restaurant!" She prefers to her shopping locally by visiting the brick and mortar stores of area small businesses.

Brian J. King of Specialty Herbal Products says:

"To have the support of our local customers means everything to our small business. We wouldn't be in business with them!

We try to support all small business in the area as much as we can. Shopping local helps our local economy, We are neighbors with local businesses and have developed both personal and professional relationships in the community."

KEEP MONEY IN THE COMMUNITY

Sales taxes fund vital services in our communities. And local businesses are more likely to support and/or donate to local community initiatives.

Friends and Staff of owner Lisa Johnson celebrate their sweet victory in the Best Ice Cream Category.

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17.9
BILLION

is the estimated amount that Small Business Saturday drove based on projections from U.S. consumer reported spending.

GENERAL STORES REMAIN AN IMPORTANT HUB IN OUR COMMUNITIES

By Aubrey Lesnett

General stores have been around for centuries, often serving as a central hub in rural and frontier communities. They were places where people could purchase a wide variety of goods, anything from food to clothing to tools. These stores were often more than just places to shop; they were community gathering spots, offering news, services, and acting as a social center for the local population.

When people think of Greene County, most people think of community. For some people, this idea of community includes their local general store. In rural areas and small towns, the general store was a lifeline, especially before the era of big box retailers and chain stores. General stores offered a little of everything: groceries, hardware, medicine, textiles, fishing tackle, and farm equipment. With the rise of larger chain stores, many small town general stores closed, including many in Greene County. People turned to supermarkets and department stores for convenience and variety. To survive, the remaining general stores had to reinvent themselves by offering local foods, eco-friendly products, or community outreach. Some have found success by focusing on specific markets and created unique, personalized shopping experiences.

Recently, I had the chance to talk to

representatives from some of our local small stores, including Hopkins Store, the Graysville Store, Muhly's Little Store, Coen Markets (formerly Ruff Creek General Store), and Stokes General Store.

When asked if bigger grocery stores had affected their stores with a loss of customers, most of the representatives said that they haven't really been affected in this way. However, when talking to the manager of Muhly's Little Store, I learned they recently have had a small decrease in customers, thanks to a newly opened Dollar General near them. But Muhly's offers something special to its customers.

"Something we have that the new Dollar General doesn't wouldn't just be our deli, hoagies, and pizza, but also the sense of community we have. When most people come into the store, we already know what they're looking for because we know them so well." Similarly, Hopkins Store said that what makes them special is their eight different homemade hoagies that they sell, which you can't get anywhere else.

This was a common theme amongst all five of the stores, with someone from each of the stores telling me that their store is special because they bring the community together and give customers a more personal experience than they'd get by going to a larger store.



Ruff Creek General Store (now Coen Markets)



Muhly's Little Store in Clarksville



Stokes General Store.

Something special about Coen Markets is the fact that it's the oldest active general store in Greene County, being open since 1925.

Another common theme found in some of the stores is family. Hopkins, Muhly's, and Stokes are all family-owned businesses.

Stokes General Store is well known in the West Greene area for their deli-

icious homemade pepperoni rolls, which have been a community favorite for years. Not only does Stokes make homemade goods, but they'll also take orders during the holidays for their baked goods. Adam Stokes shared, "Stokes is a genuine, small mom and pop shop. We have all the quick things you may need if you're in a hurry, and we have homemade goods that you wouldn't be able to get at those bigger stores."

It's important to recognize these smaller stores and the significance of them as an important part of our community. Whether you grab a bite to eat or need a small load of groceries, they are there to serve you.

General stores have developed from essential rural hubs to specialized, community driven businesses that still play a key role in local economies and culture. The future of general stores may lie in their ability to adapt to modern demands while maintaining the personal touch and local focus that has made them beloved for centuries.

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SHOP SMALL, SHOP LOCAL

Greatest IN GREENE

You hear the music playing from outside. Stepping inside, your nose is met with the delectable whiff of freshly-roasted coffee. A quirky hodgepodge of tables and chairs are arranged throughout the shop. Historic photographs and local artwork line the walls of this small-town haven. RGB Coffee welcomes you. With small-town charm—not to mention the delicious, locally roasted beverages—it’s no surprise that GreeneScene readers voted RGB Coffee in Waynesburg, PA, as their favorite local coffee shop.

Owner Ben McMillen explains that it’s no accident that RGB, opened in 2023, pays such attention to detail and is crafted with personality and service in mind...“the employees face the customers so they can watch them work” he

RGB Coffee Best Coffee

says, and the design of the entire shop intentionally integrates customers into the full experience. Nothing is done behind closed doors—the process of crafting every item is open to the public eye.

Shopping small is an integral part of RGB’s existence, and to Ben McMillen’s life. “In order to tell other customers to buy local, I have to do the same,” Ben says. “[It’s important to] sustain that lifestyle on and off the clock.” And, practicing what he preaches, almost everything, from ingredients, honey, candles, and of course, the coffee, is locally sourced, not to mention the furnishings and decor.

Everything in RGB reflects the Greene County spirit of hard work and shared stories. RGB also goes the extra mile (plus a block or two!) in giving back to the community with its free meeting room.

The space is available at no cost to indi-

BETTER CUSTOMER SERVICE & EXPERIENCE

Not only is shopping locally more convenient, you’ll often have a better experience. Small businesses are passionate about their items and want to ensure their customers’ satisfaction.

LOCALLY-MADE PRODUCTS

Local small businesses are more likely to sell local products. Buying these items has a domino effect, helping multiple small businesses with one purchase.



Owner Ben McMillen, General Manager Deneen Nelson Rhodes, & Staff Wake Up to Win the Best Coffee Category.

viduals and groups hosting meetings, workshops, or events as a way of creating a homey and inviting atmosphere right in town. RGB thrives on shopping small and helps our community do the same. to the community, Jose says, “We give quality foods to the local churches and Waynesburg University.”

Reciprocity with the community in which they engage with on an everyday basis builds that excellent reputation in which small businesses such as Don Pa-

tron’s need to spread awareness of the quality of the product they provide.

Beyond positive community involvement, promoting local shops through advertising and personal recommendations is the most effective.

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PROUD TO SERVE EAST DUNKARD

WATER AUTHORITY CUSTOMERS

It has been eight months since Pennsylvania American Water began managing East Dunkard's public water system, and we couldn't be more proud. We've already completed several improvements to the water treatment plant and the system that delivers your water service. And, we're not finished. More improvements are underway. **We do this, because we care about the customers and communities we serve as much as we care about water.**



SHOP SMALL, SHOP LOCAL

Greatest
IN
GREENE

Don Patron
Best Ethnic Food



The community members of Greene County voted and chose Don Patron's Mexican restaurant as the best ethnic food of Greene County.

Don Patron's provides an excellent service of foods found throughout Mexico and South America whilst giving back to Greene County.

Shopping small is important for the surrounding community. With local manufacturing and mining industries diminishing, local businesses act as the adhesive that holds communities together and functioning.

CREATE COMMUNITY

Shopping locally builds community by creating connections, building a sense of camaraderie, and supporting our neighbors.

Jose Solis, Don Patron's general manager, says that customers choosing to eat at the family-owned business instead of a chain restaurant "helps tremendously."

Jose feels that the best way to bring the local customers in revolves around two things: building an excellent reputation and, as he puts it, mostly "staying in the county." Pleasing everyone is an arduous goal, so a strong emphasis on the local community aimed at the people that are most likely to eat there, keeps the business focused.

RIFLES, AMMO, ACCESSORIES, & MORE!

PA RIFLE SEASON STARTS SATURDAY, NOV. 30!

Boost your shot at the biggest buck with the best gear in the county! Perfect Gifts for the Outdoor Enthusiast in Your Life!



OZIE'S SPORT SHOP
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Being part of a community means local businesses often reciprocate its support. When asked how their business gives back to the community, Jose says, "We give quality foods to the local churches and Waynesburg University."

Reciprocity with the community in which they engage with on an everyday

basis builds that excellent reputation in which small businesses such as Don Patron's need to spread awareness of the quality of the product they provide.

Beyond positive community involvement, promoting local shops through advertising and personal recommendations is the most effective.

2ND ANNUAL CINDER SHACK'S MISTLETOE MARKET 2024

SATURDAY, NOV. 30 9 AM-6 PM

FIND ONE-OF-A-KIND CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM OVER 100 LOCAL ARTISAN VENDORS!

RAFFLE BASKETS, HOT CIDER & LOCAL WINE SAMPLES, FOOD TRUCKS, & MORE!



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2/3

of shoppers strongly agree they will continue to Shop Small throughout the holiday season because of the impact it has on their local community.

CENTERVILLE CLINIC HOSTS OPEN HOUSE & RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

As part of its focus on Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Centerville Clinics hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House at its Joseph A. Yablonski Memorial Clinic to unveil its new 3-D Mammography system.

The Open House on October 23 began with a ribbon cutting at 1 p.m. and ran through 6 p.m. The event included informational displays and tours of the Radiology Department.

Purchase of the new Genius™ 3D Mammography™ Exam system, considered to be the new standard of care, was made possible in part by a grant from Pennsylvania's Local Share Account (LSA) program. The LSA program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Representatives from local legislative offices took part in the ribbon cutting. They included Jarrett Niecgorski from Congressman Guy Reschenthaler's office, Brian Tirpak from Senator Camera Bartolotta's office, and Rachel Willson from Representative Bud Cook's Office.

The state-of-the-art 3D Mammography system unveiled at the Open House provides images that are considerably more accurate than conventional 2D mammograms. The 3D Mammography equipment is extremely efficient, so there is less exposure for each patient.

Earlier detection is key to curing breast cancer. Genius™ 3D Mammography exams are proven to detect 20 to 65 per cent more invasive breast cancers compared to traditional 2D mammograms.

When a lesion less than one cm is found there is a 90 to 98 per cent cure rate.

The average finding with 3D technology is 6 to 7 mm.

Annually, more than 268,600 American women are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer. More than 25,750 of them are under the age of 45.

For an appointment or more information, call Centerville Clinics at 724-632-6801, extension 1262.



THE DENNY HOUSE

TUESDAY
DECEMBER
31ST

\$75
per person

2025

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Party

BACK AGAIN BY POPULAR DEMAND

DJ JOHNNY HARTWELL FROM 3WS RADIO
CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
DINNER 7:30 • MIDNIGHT SNACK BAR • BALLOON DROP

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. SEATS ARE LIMITED.

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145 W HIGH STREET
WAYNESBURG, PA 15370



PUT YOUR BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our Business Spotlights are a unique opportunity for a feature story about your business to appear in the *GreeneScene*, the most widely circulated publication in the area.

The Business Spotlight Edition of *GreeneScene Community Magazine* direct mails to every residential address in Greene County and surrounding areas. Our special issue includes photos and feature articles highlighting growth and the unique brand of personal service or products that attract consumers and clients.

Your business is spotlighted in article format in one of the most powerful and effective advertising media in your market area. There are no additional fees or increased costs.

GIVE YOUR BUSINESS THE BOOST IT DESERVES!

PUBLISHING MARCH 2025

RESERVE YOUR ARTICLE & AD BY 2/1/2025



MICHELLE ZEIGLER
ADVERTISING SALES SPECIALIST
office: 724.627.2040
michelle@directresults.us

Are flu symptoms affecting your child?

Parents, if your child is between the ages of one through eleven, consider having your child join a paid clinical study. Qualified participants can help future generations discover new treatment options.

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Medical Center**
Established 1987

**IT'S A GOOD TIME OF THE YEAR
WITH THE HOLIDAYS COMING UP
TO REMEMBER GOOD HEART
HEALTH WITH A FEW EASY STEPS!**

- **Exercise:** Regular exercise does not have to be strenuous!
- **Stay Active Throughout the Day:** Sitting puts you at risk for heart disease, so periodically do low or moderate exercise.
- **Stick to Simple Food Groups & a Classic Diet**
- **Don't Smoke!** It greatly increases your risk for all heart disease!
- **Relax:** Stress is a part of life, but one way to relieve it is of course through exercise!
- **Shut Down:** Everyone needs to reboot and sleep! It's essential for all aspects of your health.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!



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