

GreeneScene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

ANGLERS'
SHOWCASE



August 2023 Issue

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COVER PHOTO by Grace Bradmon of Rices Landing.



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I Love this Community — BRICE RUSH, KING COAL, & THE BRYANT

About the only thing missing at Brice Rush's Coal Mining Museum is the sign at the edge of the driveway inviting you in.

For those in the know, the old coal cars arranged on the front lawn are a dead giveaway. And then there's the blue mine rescue capsule standing guard behind the coal car being pulled by a wooden mule. It was hewn from a log by Bob Varasko and its mission these days is greeting the traffic on State Rt. 88 as the road crests the hill above Carmichaels, then drops to the Paisley Intersection. Then on to the Monongahela River where tow boats and barges were once thick as flies, pushing coal from mines up and down the watery face of Greene County to Pittsburgh and beyond, to the furnaces and factories that made the steel that built America and the world.

Want to know more about coal mining? Just call Brice Rush and he'll invite you in for a tour. His phone number is in the book. Yeah, he's old school.

Collections of mining memorabilia—stickers, belt buckles, lunch buckets, hats, lanterns and many, many tools—can certainly add up. Home museums happen when collections outgrow the basement, take over the living room, and demand their own place to be better seen.

The house that Brice Rush built by hand in 1975 with help from father-in-law Bob Verasco Sr. is a museum in itself, with log beams from salvaged log cabins incorporated into its design.

When wife Linda pointed out there wasn't another square inch of living space that could absorb another blast from the past, Brice, by then a card-carrying member of the log cabin restoration craze that saved so much of Greene County's pioneer past in the 1970s and 80s, purchased the circa 1808 log cabin his high school math teacher lived in and reassembled it in the side yard for the overflow of artifacts.

"Everybody called her Ma Hartley, but not to her face!" Brice remembers. "She really knew her numbers. You learned something from her."

Brice's love of numbers and collecting shards of the past (from old canning jars to vintage glassware) was honed on the family farm in Khedive, going with his mom to auctions and keeping track of what she brought home.

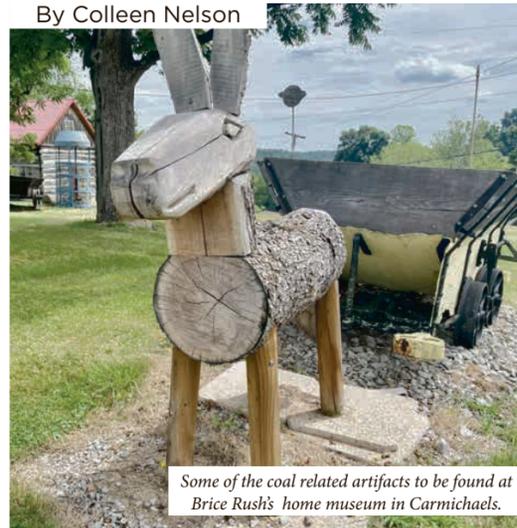
After graduating Carmichaels High School in 1963, Brice attended California University of Pennsylvania for two years, joined the National Guard, then went to work for a local printing company. But it was his marriage to Linda Varesko, a coal miner's daughter and granddaughter, that got him into the mines. It also eventually got him into the history of the industry, from the pick axes used in the 1800s to undercut a block of coal before blasting it free, to today's continuous mining operations that chew through miles of coal seam under the steady hand of a highly trained operator.

The artifacts Brice has collected draw the visitor into the underground world of mining in gritty, sobering, electrifying, explosive detail, a world he lived for 31 years after father-in-law Bob got him a job at Robena's Frosty Run Shaft.

The museum has been getting its share of out-of-town visitors lately. When Senator Bob Casey's people visited recently, "I gave each one of the representatives a cardboard mine check book from World War II. They were usually metal, but they were on rations during the war."

When I called to find out when the big model of the Bryant New Showboat would be delivered from storage in

By Colleen Nelson



Some of the coal related artifacts to be found at Brice Rush's home museum in Carmichaels.



Brice describing some of the tools of the coal mining trade.

Brownsville for its debut at the King Coal Show, Brice was on the phone doing an interview, could I call back later?

The model arrived on a muggy July afternoon, delivered by Pete Jedlicka and his crew of artifact hunters from the American Industrial Mining Co. Museum in Brownsville. A crowd, including me, had gathered for the big event. Brice's face had the look of a kid about to get a new toy.

The hefty nine foot model of the showboat barge that once entertained the crowds at river towns from West Virginia to Huntington, Ohio, just fit through the door of the museum's newest addition—a high-ceilinged display center behind the house that Brice began building during Covid lockdown.

The walls and most of the floor space are filled with displays, neatly catalogued, arranged just right and ready for viewing. There was enough space to set up two tables for the Bryant to rest on, beside a model of the Crucible towboat that Brice will also take to the coal show. There would be plenty of time after the showboat was in place for Pete and his crew to help start the reassembly process with Brice, retrieving the gangplanks and the captain's house from the interior, stop-



Brice Rush and Pete Jedlicka inspect the model of Bryant's New Showboat that will be on display at the King Coal Show.

ping to peer at the displays surrounding them, talk mining machinery and restoration rescues then talk some more before heading back to work. Their museum at 222 Spring Rd. Brownsville is getting ready for its upcoming three day show Aug. 11-13 that includes the dedication of its newest exhibit, a remote controlled Joy 14CM Continuous miner. And Brice will be there with his extensive collection of stickers given out over the years by companies in the mining industries.

A week later, Brice will bring his Crucible exhibit to Cumberland Township Fire Hall, where his passion for collecting all things coal began, when "me and Barry Nelson started the sticker swap in 1983 at the King Coal Show."

See you there!

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POP QUIZ!

The answers to this month's questions can be found by reading this issue! Read carefully to win \$50!

What movie was Fred the Ferry in? _____

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GreeneScene of the Past By Colleen Nelson

When a model of Crucible, a steam powered, sternwheel towboat that moved coal for Crucible Steel from 1910 to 1948 came up for auction recently, Brice Ruch jumped at the chance to buy it. Built by R.D. Latta of Rices Landing in the late 1940s, the model has been tucked away for decades. Intricately reconstructed down to the smallest detail, it now lives in its own glass and oak trimmed case at Rush's Mine Museum in Carmichaels.

Come to the King Coal Festival (August 19-26) and see this magnificent piece of folk art for yourself. Brice will have it on display at Cumberland Township Fire Hall Wednesday through Saturday along with a nine-foot model of Bryant's New Showboat, on loan from American Industrial Mine Museum Co. and many artifacts from the Crucible Steel years.

This photograph captures the Crucible, not in a glass case but in action. Smoke is billowing from the stacks, steam is rising and the riverbank is studded with the houses, buildings and infrastructures of the early 20th century. The boat and her crew are hard at work moving coal from Crucible Mine on the Monongahela River through Pittsburgh to "the Mills at Midland PA on the Ohio River."

The Latin word for ship, "navis" is feminine, which helps explain the pronoun captains and sailers have used since ancient times. The riverboats and boat masters of America were no exception.

When the coal powered, steam driven, sternwheeling Charley Jutte was built in 1904 in Jeffersonville, Indiana, her wooden model bow hull was 150' x 27' x 4'. When Crucible Mine bought her in 1910, Charley got an even less girly moniker—Crucible—and joined the armada of towboats moving coal from the many mines that were in operation. The dry facts on the plaque accompanying the photo also tell us her first master was "Capt. Charles E. Ritts until promoted to Master of River Transportation in 1925" and that, in 1928, her hull was replaced by a scow bow. History comes closer to home on July 26, 1930, when Crucible rammed the "lower middle lock wall at #6, Rices Landing, doing much damage to the boat and breaking many steam lines."

Was the repair work done in Rices Landing at the W A Young & Sons Machine Shop and Foundry? The shop was well equipped to replace steam lines and kept those kinds of fittings on hand for just such accidents, foundry volunteer Bly Blystone tells me when I call.

Then again, maybe they towed her to Brownsville, a thriving river industry town, that built the nation's first sternwheeler, En-



A model of this historic showboat will be on display at the King Coal Show.

terprise, in 1814 as an improvement over the less efficient side wheelers of those earliest days.

The plaque doesn't say how long the repairs took or where they were done, but by 1932 Crucible had a new master and is on record as the last boat locked through old lock #4 in Charleroi. Captains Guy A. Smith and Lovell Greenlee remained masters until she was dismantled at Crucible in 1948. A sweet note here—the wooden whistle from the Crucible was transferred to another, newer steel hulled tow boat that had just joined the fleet—the W.P. Snyder Jr.

Lucky for history buffs looking for the real deal, the W.P. Snyder Jr. was the one boat rescued for posterity when diesel engines made coal powered vessels obsolete.

Built in Downtown Pittsburgh in 1918 by Rees and Sons Company, she was named the W. H. Clingerman after the president of H.G. Frick Coke Company. She then worked hard years for Carnegie Steel Company hauling Mon River coal to Clairton and occasionally towed steel as far as Memphis, Tennessee. Renamed J.L. Perry in 1938, then A-1 in 1945, she got her last title that same year when Crucible Steel bought and re-



W.P. Snyder, last sternwheeler still on the water, at Ohio River Museum near Marietta, Ohio.

named her after the president and chief executive of the company. When finally retired to West Brownsville in 1955, the Ohio Historical Society and the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen decided it was time to save at least one of these old workhorses of the river and they fundraised. She left Brownsville under her own steam on September 12, 1955 and arrived at Marietta, Ohio, four days later to be formally presented to the Ohio Histori-

cal Society.

W.P. Snyder Jr, now all cleaned up and painted pretty, is a National Historic Landmark, the "only intact, steam driven stern wheel towboat still on the nation's river system." She sits at anchor on the Muskingum River as part of Ohio Riverboat Museum and I can't wait to go see her!

Road trip, anyone?

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Veterans Corner By Morgan Marisa

THE FIGHT AGAINST VETERAN SUICIDE: PRESERVING THE SOUL

Currently, US veterans have a suicide rate 1.5 times higher than those who did not serve and have remained at higher risk for decades. In recent years, efforts have increased towards developing paradigms and improved approaches to understand and prevent the major causes of suicide among active military and veterans.

When it comes to the human mind and body, locating the precise root of the issue proves to be no simple task—especially when those minds and bodies have experienced significant trauma. Combat trauma not only potentially leaves its victims with lasting physical injuries, but can cause psychological and spiritual wounds that cut much deeper.

"Basically, we're trying to give definition and actually a way forward on how to look at when someone experiences moral injuries, the unseen invisible wounds that our military and our veterans have experienced because of the complex nature of war," explained Dr. John Edgar Caterson, who serves as an Executive Subject Matter Expert at the Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) in Tampa, FL. His courses span a wide range of subjects relating to psychological and spiritual intelligence such as Emotional Intelligence, Ethical Leadership Advisement, Spiritual Moral Resiliency, Moral Drift, Moral Injury, and SOF Suicide.

Caterson earned a doctorate with concentrations in Story Integration, Narrative Theology, Leadership, and Psychology. Because of his unique background and dissertation work, he was called upon by the US Special Operations Command (SOCOM) to help strengthen their holistic approach in advancing Preservation of the Force and the Family (POTFF).

"That's SOCOM's five holistic domains: spiritual, cognitive, psychological, social family and physical domains," said Caterson. "They realized that a big part of what it would have to be is that each domain to work hand in hand to try to get at these very compound, complex issues."

Researchers and professors like Caterson have been attempting to tackle these issues from all sides with efforts aimed at prevention, intervention, and postvention. Each angle comes with specific, individualized methodologies and practices, but they all revolve around the well-being of the soul in the presence of potential or acquired moral injury. They apply a heavy emphasis on purpose, meaning, and value.

With prevention, Caterson hopes to prepare and train Special Forces soldiers, sailors, airman, and Marines mentally for what they may encounter in war just as they are trained physically. This approach helps them work through challenging decisions and situations that may lead to moral drift and moral injury in actual operational scenarios.

Since these models are relatively new, there is still much work and research to be done. Countless factors play into the complexity of the problem, including the fact that every brain processes and reacts to trauma differently, so there is a subjective component to the puzzle as well. It is going to take conversations between SOF components and integrated teams, bringing varying viewpoints of these issues to build a comprehensive strategy.

"We're not trying to give people fish. We're trying to teach them to fish," Caterson added in regard to their collaborative efforts. "We're not trying to give them a model. We're saying, 'you help us create the models for the future.'"

With an estimated four to five new models coming out of the JSOU classes every year, it appears that our SOF holistic strategy is headed in the right direction. If the rest of the military is following in the same footsteps, then maybe our veterans will soon be able to enjoy the same peace that they have provided for the American people.

SHINING THE LIGHT

By Colleen Nelson

Be a sermon in your shoes" is a great way to describe the congregation of Carmichaels Methodist Church. The classic old brick lets you know that Methodists have been doing good work here for over 100 years. But these days, it's in the building that was once Union Supply Company Store for US Steel behind the church, where these parishioners roll up their sleeves and love their neighbors, just like the Good Book says. Talk about loaves of bread!

Tables by the front door were stacked high with rolls, loaves, buns, croissants, you name it, when I stopped by on the second Thursday of July to see Good Samaritans in action, filling boxes for the Cumberland Township Food Pantry.

Terri Cartier coordinates this monthly event for healthy eats for those on a tight budget. "I'm on the board of Corner Cupboard, Food Bank," she tells me. "Last month we served 240 families here, this month 175. It usually drops in the summer - people have their own gardens. But it picks up again in the fall."

It's a little after 10 a.m. and most of the boxes and bags of fresh produce, canned goods, bread and whatnots have been given out. A row of boxes crowned with vine-ripened tomatoes, fresh mushrooms and green beans, and a roll of paper towels line a back wall. They wait to be taken to those who couldn't make it. Empty boxes whizz through the air as teens from Carmichaels High School toss them hand to hand and out the side door to be broken down and recycled.

"We come in on Wednesday to help set up too," ninth grader Isaiah Currey tells me later as he helps Terri load up her brother Bill Piper's truck with all those leftover donated loaves. Bill, a retired Cumberland miner, will take them around the township to families who don't sign up for the pantry but appreciate something extra.

Terri remembers it was her mother, Marie Piper, who got her kids involved with helping neighbors going through the hard times of layoffs and injuries in a coal mining town. "She'd have us go at night to neighbors' houses, leave food and a gallon of milk, ring the doorbell and run!"

When Terri got involved with the pantry with her mother in 1982, it was at Community Chapel of Carmichaels. She took over pantry operations when it moved to her church in 1984, and she remembers finding two cans of vegetables left in the pantry stockpile and praying for guidance.

Today, surrounded by over 30 vol-

unteers and a bounty of donations coming in from the Corner Cupboard Food Bank and its growing network of corporate supporters, including the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, it appears her prayers have been answered.

What other community services do these hard working volunteers provide? Cartier and the mission group have recently returned from their yearly Casa Aleluya mission to San Bartolome, Guatemala. "We work with a children's home where the children are political refugees," along with picking out a different remote village with each visit to distribute Gideon's Bible in Spanish. Carole Wheeler is the head of the mission group and, along with husband Carl, host bible study every other week in their home. "Our new men's prayer group meets for breakfast every second Tuesday and we have a youth group and youth ministry."

The Hometown Heroes Military Banners going up around Carmichaels is a project of The Carmichaels Women's Civic Club. Members hold their meetings here at the company store, now the church fellowship hall, as do scout groups, AA and the "Church Ladies" who plan other yearly outreaches including fundraisers for Christmas and back to school giveaways. The All Things Christmas Tree Extravaganza is held there in December to raise funds for the pantry.

When I was ready to leave, I went through a side door into the Acts Shop, the church thrift store that's open six days a week, M-F 9:30-3:30pm, Sat 10am-2pm. No one remembers when the shop opened. "I've belonged to the church for 35 years and it was open when I got here," Cartier said, laughing. "This building used to be a company store for coal miners, so maybe it never closed!"

During the fall, preschool is available. Fmi, call Nikki Baker at the church office M-F 8:30am-12:30pm. If you think this church sounds pretty cool, stop by some Sunday.



L-R: Carole Wheeler, Kristen Barrish, Terri Cartier, Debbi Swanee, Ben Hathaway, & Dan Gottheld packing boxes for the monthly Carmichaels Food Pantry.

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WIN A NEW TRUCK & Support Local Community Initiatives!

The Greene County United Way's mission is to change lives throughout Greene County. Their work has been incredibly important in youth education, senior support, health and wellness initiatives, and emergency assistance.

In early spring, United Way's Community Impact Fund Committee engaged with 14 local non-profits to award \$40,000 in grants. Awardees included Corner Cupboard Food Bank, Cornerstone Care, WWJD Christian Center, Greene Arc, Inc, CASA of Greene County, Fleniken Library, and others. These grants will benefit the community in ways that align with the United Way's Mission.

Their 2023 Inspire Greene program molded community members into community leaders. On Monday, June 5, the United Way hosted the Inspire Greene Awards Celebration. With over 35 participants, presenters, steering committee members, family, and friends, the 2023 class received their certificates of completion and the StrengthsFinder 2.0 book. Rick Heinze's and George Sligar's presentation won the Community Impact Project of the Year award. George also won the Inspire Greene Award; his classmates voted him the student with the most personal and leadership growth.

In August, the annual Stuff the Bus program provides school supplies, shoes, clothing, haircuts, dental checkups, and more to the school-age children of our community. (See sidebar for registration information.)

Initiatives like this wouldn't be possible without the funds to support them. This is where you and other community members come in. The Greene County United Way depends on donations from donors just like you. Whether it's a \$5 personal donation or a \$50,000 workplace campaign, each dollar contributed by generous donors makes a difference for the community. Donors come in all shapes and sizes and no donation is too small.

This year, the summer fundraiser is a



2022 Ford F-150 4x4 Supercrew XL. Thanks to generous sponsors Fox Ford, EQT, Iron Synergy, Baily Insurance, and First Federal Savings & Loan, the United Way is selling tickets for a chance to win an awesome truck.

"GCUW is always looking for unique ways to create awareness and raise funds for ourselves and other Greene County non-profits," says MaChal Forbes, Greene County United Way director. "The idea was brought up by our Board President, Joshua Dains, as a fundraiser. With his vision, the GCUW Board of Directors took a chance on the Truck Giveaway, thinking it would not only help us support our programs and also get us out into the community and connecting with people we may not have reached before. The interest, so far, has been outstanding and we really appreciate all the sponsors, partners, and event organizers who have generously helped make this a reality."

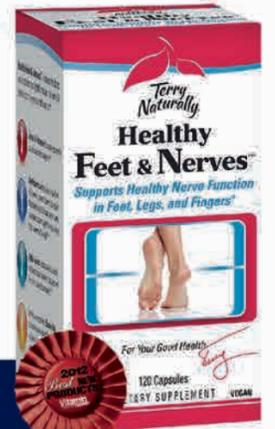
"A huge thank you to Fox Ford, the EQT Foundation, Iron Senergy, and Baily's Insurance Agency for their sponsorship," she adds. The drawing date for the truck is Saturday, September 30, 2023, with the 7pm PA Pick 4 Daily Number. If you'd like to see the truck in person, you can stop by Rain Day, the Greene County Fair, and the White Covered Bridge Festival. FMI, visit greenecountyunit-edway.org.

Take a chance and grab a ticket to win a new truck from the United Way. Even if you don't win, you're supporting vital community

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Public Service Profile

By Alex Hughes

2ND SAM 9 & A NEW LOCATION

One of the greatest human instincts that exists is the desire and want to lend a hand to fellow people in need of help. We see this in many ways today, with charities, nonprofits, fundraising events, and newer resources like online donations providing financial assistance, food security, educational support, and more. The common thread weaving between these types of organizations is a want to help people in any way possible.

A local nonprofit, 2nd Sam 9 works with adults with developmental disabilities and is guided by the principle that everyone has value, as well as unique God-given gifts and talents to share, and that are all equal in God's sight. It is a faith-based program free for those who want to attend and take part in the activities held there. It is both free for those wishing to join and free of government funding; the program gets its funding entirely from the generosity of donors. Many individual donors and churches have blessed them over the years so they can do what they do. Another great help is the money they have received in grants from many agencies.

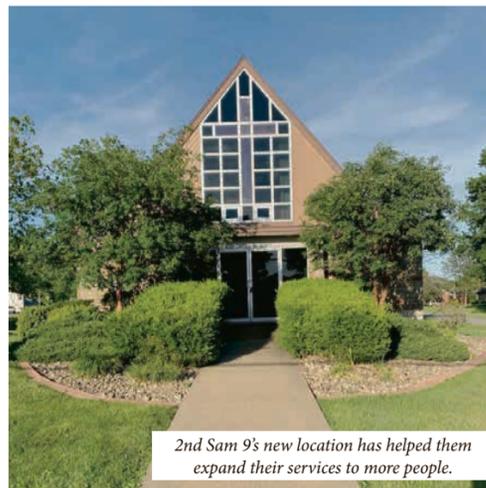
A big part of the organization is the faith aspect. The name was derived from the Bible story from chapter nine of the Second Book of Samuel, where King David encountered Mephibosheth, who was the grandson of Saul (the former king) in hiding. When David sent for him, Mephibosheth, a disabled person, went to the king, expecting to be killed because of his relation to the previous king, was instead welcomed with kindness. David gave him the land of his grandfather, along with a seat of honor at the king's house alongside his sons.

The many activities at 2nd Sam 9 fill attendees' time with as much education and fun as possible. They have religious based activities like prayer, Bible lessons, worship, and music. They also have social time, life-skills training, games, and sometimes trips to different community events.

The goal of these activities is to help the individuals develop to their fullest potential spiritually, socially, and emotionally.

Since its inception over a decade ago, 2 Sam 9 has been a welcome addition to the community. Scott and Teresa Roberts founded the incorporation in 2010, and the board opened the program in 2012. Thanks to its success in the community, and a waiting list of those wanting to attend, they decided to move to a new, bigger location. They originally planned to build a new home on a lot in West Waynesburg, but found purchasing an existing building to be a better opportunity. They moved from High Street into the former St. George Anglican Church on Bonar Avenue, near Washington Health System Greene. They held their official dedication ceremony at the new location in spring of 2023. The building was anointed with oil by Pastor Bill Sukolsky. A beautiful stained-glass window featuring the program's logo was dedicated to Kurt and Janice Gottschalk for their generous contributions.

Interested in volunteering or 2nd Sam 9's programming? They are open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am to 2pm. They are always looking for volunteers, whether it's a onetime thing or full-time. Contact them by email at 2ndsam9@windstream.net, visit their website 2ndsam9.org, or call 724-627-0609.



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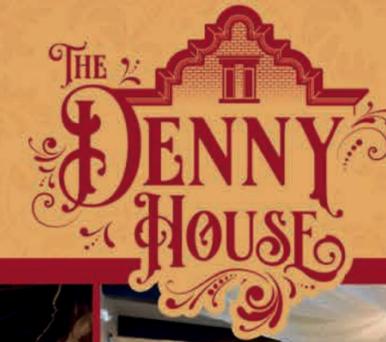


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Cool at School: Jefferson-Morgan School District

By Zack Zeigler

There is a new buzz around town, and it's coming from Jefferson Morgan High School. This summer, the school district worked with the company Alveole to bring a working beehive to the district to teach students about the importance of bees and their impact on our everyday lives.

"I hope that through this project we can bring more awareness to the importance of bees both to our school and the community," says Jefferson Morgan teacher Karen Cox. "We hope to grow the appreciation of bees by showing how far they travel and the benefits they have towards our local gardens in Greene County."

The idea for bringing the beehive to Jefferson Morgan came when Cox was browsing online and saw an ad for the beehive program through Alveole. The company had done a lot of work previously for companies and other urban settings, but had little experience in the education field. They worked with Cox and saw an opportunity both for the students and their company, and the two sides cut a deal that brought the bees to Jefferson Morgan.

After a long process filled with ups and downs, the Rockets got one beehive they are currently taking care of on their campus.

"It was hit or miss initially, with the first

batch of bees not surviving due to transport issues and cold weather," said Cox. "We had to have a new batch of bees sent out to us and we had a beekeeper assigned to us from South Park. At our last check, he told us they were choosing a new queen and there were twice as many bees as there were when they first arrived."

With the bees now fully established at the school, Cox is planning several learning opportunities both for the community and the entire school. She has been working with Alveole on different projects, including interactive presentations for the students, special opportunities to work with the bees during the school's flex time, and fundraising opportunities for the Envirothon team.

"Included in the program is our beehive and our bee keeper, who comes every 4-6 weeks to check on the bees," says Cox. "They offer two interactive presentations and different workshops surrounding the beehive throughout the year. Two programs that we will work with are the "Meet Your Bees" and "Meet Your Beekeepers" where our students can learn about the bees and how they are working in the hive. Each hive can also produce 100 jars of honey that we can use through different fundraising opportunities

for our Envirothon team."

You can follow along with the Jefferson Morgan Beehive and get information on where the bees are going by visiting the hive website at <https://myhive.alveole.buzz/jefferson-morgan-school-district>. Cox invites the community to follow along with the hive on the website, where they can learn about how far the bees have traveled and the impact they are making on the community. Bees are vital to the ecosystem not only here in Greene County but across the country, and Cox and her team are looking to create a buzz about their impact.



Students learn from the beekeeper that will help them with their hive.

Greene Artifacts

By Matthew Cumberledge, GCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COUNTY HOME AUDITS

Ledgers, ledgers, and more ledgers are housed in the collection at the Greene County Historical Society. Some are from old businesses and others are account books from stores. Perhaps the most interesting are a series of books that contain audits for the old County Home, the building that now houses the Greene County Historical Society Museum.

Though these books do not cover the entire history of the building and institution, they do cover periods from 1860 through the late 1870s and 1916 through 1937. These early audits give us a closer look at the expenses the County Home incurred. They document the original expenses when the County bought the farm and converted it to a poorhouse. The farm was purchased for \$5000, and they spent a further \$8000 building the first addition. Needing furnishings, they purchased dining room tables from a local carpenter for \$28.

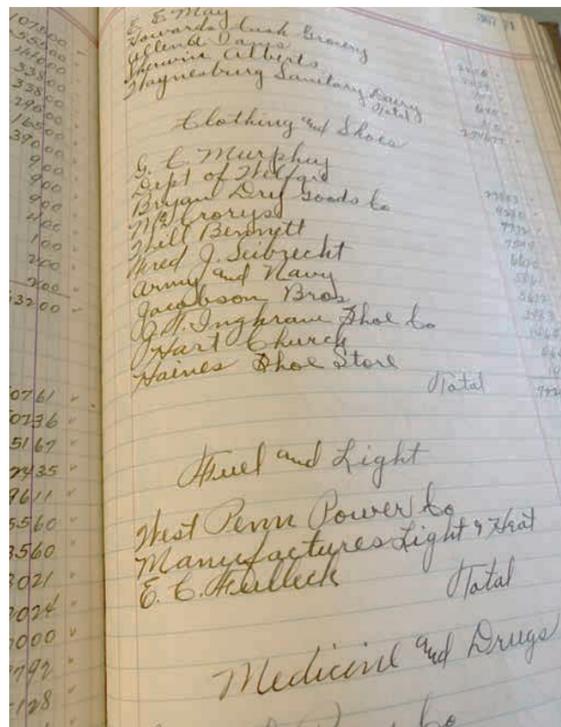
Unfortunately, we have not found the audits for the 1886 West Wing addition, but in the later 1916 to 1937 audits, it's clear that fixing up the house was high on the priority list. Each year, they spent money on wallpaper, paint, and repairs for the building. Other funds went to purchasing supplies to keep the highly fruitful farm going. In addition, from 1932 to 1934, they catalogued all the expenses covering the construction and outfitting of the Curry Home across the road.

Just after they completed the Curry Home, a huge renovation project happened

at the County Home. Through several installments, more than \$2800 was paid to Acklin Lumber Company to replace several of the worn-out floors in many of the old rooms. They also constructed a new series of rooms in what was a large second dining hall on the second floor of the County Home, and new window sashes were installed in the original 1857 portion of the building. These window sashes are still in place and currently undergoing restoration.

Readers can also see the expenses for medical fees and burial expenses for the folks who lived and died at the County Home.

These ledgers provide a unique insight into the operations of a long-forgotten type of institution that played a vital role throughout the community. Shown in the photo here is one page of County Home expenses from 1936 that details some utility bills and other expenses for the year.



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LOCAL TEACHER FINALIST FOR PA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

By Stacey Flynn

I honestly cannot believe I've made it this far!" That's what Brittney Bell says about her place among the top twelve finalists in the running for the 2024 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year award.

While she might never have imagined such an honor for herself, she certainly imagined becoming a teacher. In fact, she says she's always known it's what she wanted to do with her life. Inspired by a few special teachers of her own, Brittney recalls having spent many childhood days "teaching" her stuffed animals - with her twin sister serving as her assistant. "I saw what an impact teachers can make, and I wanted to have that impact," she says.

It seems she grew up to do exactly that, as evidenced by her school district administration's decision to nominate her for the most prestigious recognition a Pennsylvania educator can receive.

A fifth grade ELA teacher at Carmichaels Area Elementary Center for the past nine years, Brittney clearly loves not only her profession, but more importantly, her students. It's important to her to help create a space where they feel safe, valued, and encouraged.

Brittney says that, for her, building foundational relationships with students and their families always serves as the important first step in teaching effectively. "I love getting to know the kids and who they are as people. I love cheering them on in and outside of school."

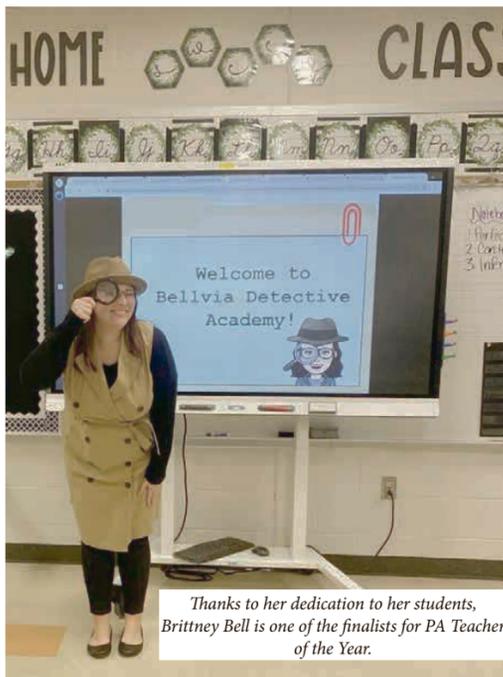
She explains that, as a teacher, she lives by the saying, "You will have a hard time reaching the mind without first reaching the heart." Brittney finds that when her students know she loves them and wants the best for them as human beings, they tend to show up more willing to work hard at what she asks of them academically. "I like that they become a part of my heart and my family," she says. "I like challenging them to reach their full potential without

fear of failure."

Brittney's found herself leading by example in that regard while walking each step of the Teacher of the Year nomination process: She's provided written and video submissions, took part in a blind interview, and even traveled to Harrisburg to meet with other finalists and the Governor—an experience she describes as having felt surreal. "It's been incredible to go through these rounds and reflect on what I am doing in the classroom," she says.

Also incredible, she points out, is the support she's received from her community of coworkers. "I definitely didn't make it through all of these rounds on my own," Brittney says, noting how her friends have stepped up, cheered her on, and calmed her down when she's needed it most.

The 2024 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year will be announced this December. Although Brittney would naturally feel honored to win, she says, "For me, this experience isn't about winning. For me, it is really an honor to be able to represent Carmichaels. I really just want to make my students, my teammates, and my family proud."



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Going Green

By Matthew Cumberledge

WORLEY'S FORT AND LAKE WILMA

The wide sprawling valley along Dunkard Creek has been home to civilization for millennia. Low rolling hills and fertile meadows line the banks, and throughout history, quaint towns and villages have grown up in the lands by the vital waters.

Blacksville, a small community established by David Black in 1830, sits on the border of Wayne Township, Greene County, PA and Clay District, Monongalia County, WV. It was an important place in its day - a stop on the railroad with many stores and industries that supplied much of the surrounding area. But the history of the area can be traced back long before 1839.

No doubt Paleoindians traveled this area nearly 13,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age, though little trace of them can be found now. Certainly, the Archaic peoples that inhabited the eastern woodlands called this land home, and remnants of them can be found in the area, especially in plowed fields and gravel banks of creeks, in their distinctive stemmed arrowheads. Around two thousand years ago, the Adena people built their burial mounds and settlements on the floodplains along Dunkard Creek. But of the prehistoric peoples, the ones we know the most about are the Monongahela people who lived in circular villages, many of which have been discovered around Blacksville, WV.

The Monongahela people were planters, raising their hefty crops on the plains along Dunkard in the areas immediately surrounding their villages. Corn, or maize, was one of their staples and evidence of corn production is well documented in the archaeological record. By 1635 or 1640, the Monongahela people had disappeared, and this area was vacant, seeing only visits from hunters of cultures from the four cardinal directions. A century later, European settlers began inhabiting the area.

Brice Worley was one of the earliest settlers around Blacksville, having come to the region as early as 1766 with his brother Nathan. Brice settled east of Blacksville on land between the Blacksville Cemetery and what are colloquially known as the Blacksville Ponds, or more properly, Lake Wilma. At that time, Lake Wilma did not exist; it was just a small run ran down from the ridge and drained into Dunkard Creek. Andrew Waychoff, in 1925, related the following incidents of the Worley family in their early days of settlement in the area near Lake Wilma:

"Brice Worley's first born babe died in infancy (around 1778) and there is a well treasured tradition that the brave mother with gun in hand stood a faithful sentinel while the father nailed up a rude box, prepared the grave and committed the darling baby to the tomb. The little mound is still well preserved and, to the credit of succeeding generations of kin-folk, is still cared for and kindly cherished, an act that speaks volumes on behalf of the head and heart of the Worley Family. Brice Worley's house was stockaded and known as the Worley Fort. Nathan Worley, his brother, was killed by the Indians in one of the later deeds of violence committed in that community."

By all indications, Worley's Fort stood on the edge of what is now Lake Wilma. Worley Cemetery is on the high meadow about equidistant between the Blacksville Cemetery and the road that goes along Lake Wilma. The last time I vis-

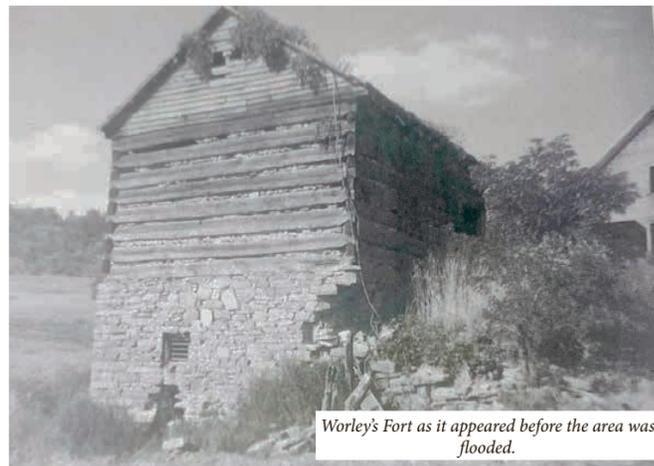


Local fisherman Brett McKelvey setting lines for catfish at Lake Wilma.

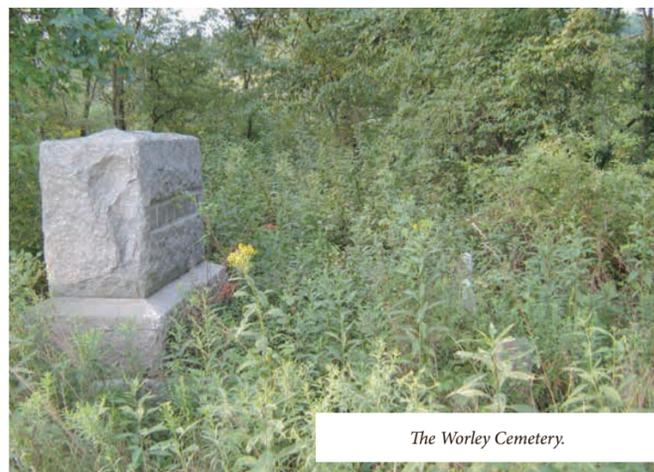
ited the Worley Cemetery, sometime around 2010, it had become somewhat overgrown, and I could not identify the small burial mound that Waychoff mentioned in 1925. However, it is likely just hidden by the overgrowth. There is a large marker commemorating John I. Worley, a grandson of Brice, that also serves as a family plot marker with footstones around it, showing the graves of other family members including Brice and his wife Martha.

As time passed, the Worley Farm passed to the Chalfant family, and the area of Lake Wilma was known as Chalfant Meadows. Later, Consolidation Coal Company bought the land, and in the 1960s (though I could not find an exact year) the coal company flooded the meadows and created Lake Wilma. Lake Wilma, now a 19-acre lake owned by Consol Energy and leased by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, is one of the most popular fishing destinations in the area. The lake is regularly and well stocked, and fisherman often find themselves catching the likes of bluegill, carp, bass, trout, crappie, and many varieties of catfish. The land around the lake is well kept and suitable to bring a few chairs and poles and spend a day or night fishing. The lake is off limits to boats, and its depth isn't very great, but the fishing is exquisite. And should you find yourself hungry, the nearby Creek & Rail Café is an excellent destination for lunch and dinner, Monday through Friday!

Should you find yourself fishing at Lake Wilma this season, consider its rather long and interesting history and, as always, enjoy the scenic natural beauty that the Dunkard Valley offers!



Worley's Fort as it appeared before the area was flooded.



The Worley Cemetery.

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Good NEWS

In Greene County

CFGC Awards \$20,500 to Blueprints for Carmichaels Senior Center and Central Kitchen

The Community Foundation of Greene County is pleased to announce it has awarded \$20,500 to Blueprints for the James and Jackie Campbell Family Fund for renovations to the Carmichaels Senior Community Center and to assist with relocating/building the new central kitchen.

Blueprints, formerly Community Action Southwest, is a change agency that shapes futures by equipping and educating people to improve their lives. They serve as the catalyst to mobilize the resources for the entire community to enable families and individuals to attain the skills, knowledge, motivations, and opportunities to become self-sufficient.

The new Carmichaels Senior Community Center is located at 125 Municipal Road, Carmichaels, PA 15320. The Carmichaels Senior Community Center not only offers nutritious meals, but also a myriad of activities, education, social supports, volunteer opportunities and linkages to community resources. Though this site recently relocated in March, it continues to provide the same vital programming.

The Central Kitchen is responsible to prepare all the

Home Delivered Meals distributed throughout Greene County. Congregate meals are also prepared from this location for the Carmichaels, Mt. Morris, and Waynesburg Senior Centers.

"We are so appreciative of the Campbell's and the Foundation for their generous support of our efforts in Greene County. We can't express that strongly enough. We could not have made this work without their contribution," said Darlene Bigler, CEO of Blueprints.

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



L-R: Dave Calvario, Norman Higgins, Mary Nicholson, Jamie Campbell, Jackie Campbell, Kelly Woolen, Stacy Stroman.

The Jackie Fedorko Marisa Medical Scholarship established at CFGC

The Jackie Fedorko Marisa Medical Scholarship was recently established by Mrs. Jacquelyn J. Marisa at the Community Foundation of Greene County. Born and raised in the coal patch town of Moffitt, and a graduate of Mapletown HS, Jackie desires to make a difference in her home school district of Mapletown.

The scholarship will provide a scholarship to a senior student graduating from Mapletown High School to attend a four-year

college/university or community college with a major in a medical related field (pre-med, nursing, etc.). The scholarship may be used only for tuition.

Scholarship guidelines for the Jackie Fedorko Marisa Medical Scholarship are available on the CFGC website <http://myw.cfgcpa.org/post-secondary-scholarships/>. Contacts us by email at cfgcpa@gmail.com or call 724-627-2010.

WHS & UPMC Sign Letter of Intent to Pursue Affiliation

The Boards of Directors of both Washington Health System (WHS) and UPMC (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center) have signed a non-binding letter of intent to negotiate an affiliation agreement between the two entities that would integrate WHS into the UPMC system. The WHS Board of Directors met on June 1, 2023, and unanimously voted to pursue affiliation discussions with UPMC, a clinically integrated and world-renowned nonprofit health care provider and insurer.

"Our primary focus is to ensure the residents of Washington and Greene Counties have local access to high-quality health care that is sustainable into the future," said Brook Ward, President and CEO of WHS. "After careful consideration and analysis, we believe the best path forward is to affiliate with UPMC to achieve that goal. We currently have numerous clinical arrangements and joint ventures with UPMC, which have provided our patients with exceptional care over the years. From our experience working with UPMC and knowing their track record of providing outstanding patient care, it was an obvious choice to select UPMC as our partner going forward."

For the past several decades, WHS and UPMC have collaborated in several areas to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care, including:

- A joint partnership in local cancer treatment, a collaboration with UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and based at WHS Washington Hospital. This partnership has brought cutting-edge cancer expertise and treatment to the area while eliminating the inconvenience of traveling for care.
 - UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Express Care clinic and other specialty clinics, also on the campus of WHS Washington Hospital. These have brought specialty pediatric services to the community and have augmented the physicians and advanced practice providers of the Washington Physicians Group in their mission to provide Great Patient Care.
 - UPMC's Heart and Vascular Institute (HVI) provides vascular surgery services throughout the communities WHS serves.
 - Onsite neonatal care provided at every birth by UPMC Children's Hospital.
 - Senior care services provided at Strabane Trails and Strabane Woods.
 - OB ultrasounds interpretation services by UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital.
 - And additional partnerships in telestroke, Chartwell specialty pharmacy services and Clinical Connect HIE electronic records.
- WHS Washington Hospital was

also one of the original members of the UPMC Health Plan when it was launched 26 years ago. This affiliation with UPMC would help ensure continued high-quality care that patients in the WHS community have come to expect over the past several decades.

In late 2022, the WHS Board of Directors submitted a request for proposals to affiliate with a larger health care provider that could enhance the services and clinical offerings of WHS. The Board's intent in seeking an affiliation was to keep high-quality health care that is sustainable and locally available not only for today, but for the future generations of Washington and Greene Counties.

"The Board and senior leadership of WHS have realized, that in today's health care environment, we need to consider the long-term stability of our health system to continue to provide the quality health care services our local residents have come to expect. With that goal, we are excited to be able to affiliate with UPMC, a premier integrated health care system, to continue our mission of Great Patient Care," said Dan Miller, Chairman of WHS Board of Directors.

The signing of the letter of intent means WHS and UPMC have agreed to conditions of affiliation. Over the next several months, both entities will engage in due diligence, research and discussions to work towards a definitive agreement. This affiliation is subject to customary regulatory filings, and WHS and UPMC leaders hope to complete the affiliation as soon as possible. WHS will keep its team members, partners and community members updated as there are developments to share.



CONSOL Energy Inc. for sent a group of volunteers to help the Greene County United Way sort clothing for Stuff the Bus (Jason, Teresa, Melissa & Shane)! Want to help the Greene County United Way on their next volunteer day? Email info@greencountyunitedway.org.

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21st Annual Stuff the Bus

The 2023 Stuff the Bus event will be held on August 9 from 10am-2pm at Lions Club Park in Waynesburg. Starting July 1, school supplies can be dropped off at Greene County United Way office Monday-Thursday from 8:00am-2:30pm. Other drop off locations: Blueprints' Senior Centers, Cornerstone Care, Bowlby Library, Flenniken Library, First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Greene County, Bailly's Insurance Agency, Big Lots (Waynesburg), Phillips & Ross, LLC, and Washington

Health Systems Greene.

The Greene County United Way is also collecting gently-used clothing for kids from kindergarten through 12th grade (sorry, no undergarments or bathing suits will be accepted).

Registration for Stuff the Bus opens on July 1 and runs to August 1. To register, call 2-1-1 or visit www.greenecountyunitedway.org/stb-registration-2023. After August 1, email info@greenecountyunitedway.org or call 724-852-1009.

Become a Master Gardener in Greene

Ready to become a Penn State Extension Master Gardener in Greene County? Training will start the fall of 2023.

The Master Gardener program is accepting applications for residents to enroll in their 2023 Master Gardener Basic Training classes. This program is designed to provide participants with the information and skills necessary to share their knowledge with others. Volunteers use this science-based knowledge to teach the community about growing vegetables, attracting pollinators, educating the public of all ages, keeping plants healthy, and more. This is not a garden club; it is a 40-week course taught by Penn State educators.

Online weekly classes start in October 2023, and are held Thursday evenings via Zoom with Penn State faculty. If you miss the class, recordings are available. Monthly, participants also meet in person and can attend monthly Master Gardener meetings. The meetings help gardeners stay current with what is happening in Greene County. There are also hands-on activities for some of the classes.

The cost of the class is \$200 and includes an award-winning Master Gardener Manual and hands-on materials.

After completing the class training, candidates must complete 50 hours of volunteer work by September 30, 2024, to become certified. Each year following the original certification, 20 hours of volunteer activities and 10 hours of continuing education are required to maintain certification. There are a variety of activities including demonstration gardens, writing articles, teaching, answering garden questions, growing plants for our programs, teaching

our youth about growing plants and more.

Our mission is to provide education to the public using research-based information. You must be 18 years of age or older. If interested in becoming a Master Gardener, please contact the Penn State Extension office at 724-802-8025 or email Cheryl Brendel at ckb5569@psu.edu. Applications will be accepted until September 1, 2023.

July 4th Little Miss Firecracker Crowned

Bristol Whyte is the 2023 Waynesburg Lions Club Little Miss Firecracker. She is the 7 years old daughter of Justin & Jessica Whyte.



Washington Fill-A-Bag Sale

Do you love shopping at a bargain? The Fill-A-Bag (FAB) Sale is perfect for everyone, from the fashionista to the ultimate thrifter. FAB provides guests the opportunity to purchase an empty shopping bag and fill it with as many FAB-ulous brand new or lightly used items from our overstock of inventory as possible. Build your wardrobe on a budget!

Items include professional, business casual and everyday attire, along with some select vintage and formal wear finds.

Funds raised will support Dress for Success boutique and mobile services for local women in 2023.

The event will be held at 1500 W Chestnut Street, Washington PA.

FAB Presale: \$50 per bag

Fri, August 4: 5-9pm

- Light snacks and refreshments provided
- First selection of name brand, new/gently used items

- Extra-large shopping bag
- Specialty items priced separately

Regular FAB Sale: \$30 per bag

Sat, Aug 5: 11am-5pm, Sun, Aug 6: 12pm-4pm, & Mon, Aug 7: 11am-3pm

- Large shopping bag
- Specialty items priced separately

Donate a FAB bag: \$30 per bag

Sat, Aug 5: 11am-5pm, Sun, Aug 6: 12pm-4pm, & Mon, Aug 7: 11am-3pm

- Large shopping bag
- Specialty items priced separately

Purchase a ticket: <https://dfspg.salsalabs.org/August2023FABSaleWashington/>. Questions? Email: Jade@dressforsuccesspittsburgh.org.

Thank you to our Sponsors: Range Resources, Washington Financial Bank & Washington Crown Center.

Teddy Bear Care Corp. Fundraising



Teddy Bear Care Corp. is doing a tip board, and all proceeds benefit the foster animals and other animals that need to be seen by a vet for any reason. They are playing a 50 sure tip board and tips are \$10 each.

They accept PayPal at www.tbcares.org/donate or can meet locally. The winner will get everything pictured here. Support this wonderful organization doing a great job helping animals in Greene and Fayette counties.



Virtual Museum Visits with Your Library

Looking for something fun to do this summer? We at Bowlby are proud to partner with the John Heinz History Center to bring you FREE access to a great selection of museums around our area! As a bonus, if you use three or more of our Experience Kits before October 31, 2023, you will be entered to win a prize basket! Visit the library for more information!

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.



Does your family need more room to run?

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Happening in Greene & Nearby



The 17th Annual Dryerson Festival was a success! Around 100 attendees enjoyed free food, music, and community, while raising awareness of the work the Center for Coalfield Justice does in protecting our environment.



Bowlby Library kicked off their summer reading program the last week of June with activities, including a party with a gardening activity and snacks. Other summer activities include painting to music, used Buddha Boards, working on a friendship quilt, crafts, summer movies, and so much more!



The Bogucki Memorial Ride honored the memory of Justin Bogucki. Bogucki lost his battle with ALS in 2022 and proceeds from the event were donated in his name to the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the ALS Association.



Legendary Con brought celebrities, toys and collectibles, comics, artists and more to the EQT REC Center!



Enjoy complementary food, a peaceful atmosphere, wine slushies, and glass and bottle specials on Wine Down Wednesdays at Thistlethwaite Vineyards.



Fleniken Library hosted their first movie in the park at Wana B Park. Moviegoers watched The Super Mario Bros. Movie. The day before, the library held a paint and snack event. These fun activities are part of their summer reading program.



The Fredericktown Riverfest on July 1 brought delicious food, good music, face painting vendors, crafts, a fireworks, and more to the banks of the Monongahela River.



Greene County Early Intervention hosted Night at the Barnyard at the Greene County Fair in June. Attendees enjoyed snacks, activities, free books, and petting and feeding animals in the petting zoo.

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Intentional Walks The Decline of Youth Baseball Leagues

Nationally, the number of kids participating in youth baseball leagues has drastically declined over the past 40 years. According to the National Sporting Goods Association, participation is down 17% in just the past 10 years. The decline in children seven to eleven years of age is even worse (35%) during that period.

I believe one reason is the extreme pressure put on youth to specialize in a sport. It has driven many kids who simply do not have the skill level to compete at an elite level to stop playing the game all together. There are still opportunities for those kids who travel the country playing in elite tournaments. However, the number of kids who have that skill level is limited, thus the overall participation is declining.

Our society has put more emphasis on winning than teaching values, promoting positive ideas, or fostering community. Youth sports should be creating an atmosphere where its participants are learning just as much about life as they are about attaining athletic skills. This does not mean the league cannot be competitive. It just means they have every child's best interest at stake, not just the elite athletes.

Please do not misunderstand my argument and think I am arguing against competition. My point is elite competition does not appeal to every kid. For those of us old enough to remember when there were six different local Little Leagues throughout the county, there was no lack of competitive fire. In the early 1960s, there were 44 Little League teams in Greene County. Today, we have only four or five Bronco teams (the corresponding age group) in the whole county. That means far more kids got to play for teams such as Ross Drug, the Lions Club, Lesako's, Rotary, Grumman Boats, or the Dry Tavern Reds. Perhaps only two or three members of each of those teams even made it to the high school varsity level.

However, the Waynesburg, West Greene, Clarksville, Greensboro, King Coal and Greene Valley Little Leagues gave many

children the chance to take part in America's game and created a real community environment surrounding the games. In addition, numerous Minor League, Senior League, and Junior Legion teams all provided a myriad of opportunities to boys of all ages and skill levels. The advanced level games were played after these leagues would choose all-star teams to play each other and advance to regional and state tournaments.

Those who support the current system will probably argue that iron sharpens iron in youth baseball competition. However, the facts do not support such a conclusion. We had more local guys playing college baseball and even making it to the minor leagues in the 1960s through the 1980s than we do today. There has been no flood of college baseball scholarships to local athletes despite the fact there are more schools offering them in greater numbers than in previous generations. Moreover, the last players from the county who made it to the minor leagues are old enough to remember when the Pirates still had good teams.

No doubt, the decline in the popularity of professional baseball, the soaring costs of equipment, and the proliferation of multiple electronic distractions for kids have played a part in the participation decline. However, we do not need to accelerate the demise of youth baseball, which is such an ingrained part of our local culture. If youth sports are not a place where proper values are taught in a fun atmosphere to kids of varying skill levels, the gradual erosion of one of our community foundations will continue.

By Bret Moore

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A round of applause to all the golfers who participated in the Greene County Cup in June. There were teams of golfers representing Carmichaels Golf Club, Greene County Country Club & Rohanna's Golf Course. After a close 3 rounds, Rohanna's Gold Course pulled out a win! Congratulations!



12U Smash Softball. L-R: Rylee Yeager, Brielle Whipkey, Beautiful Medlen, Brelynn Wood, Paige Harker, Tavan Ternitsky, M. Goodnight, Leanna Neff, Emma Leigh Bailey, Chloe Shaffer, and Ke'Lani Chun.



West Greene Area Lions Club recently held their 25th annual golf tournament at Rohanna's Golf Course. Pictured are the winning team members: Brian Huggins, Larry Bedilion, Eric Bedilion, and Justin Bedilion.

Even More Happenings...



The Flashlight Drags returned to the Greene County Airport in July (and have more dates coming up!). Cars and spectators turned out for drag racing without the jail time! Check out an upcoming show.



On July 9, a craft and vendor show was held at the Greene County Fairgrounds to benefit Russell's Bikes for Kids.



Independence Day in Greene County wouldn't be the same without the annual July 4th Celebration organized by the Lions Club. Check out this patriotic car from their car show at the park!



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ANGLERS SHOWCASE 2023

We're pleased to share photos of our local fishermen that have earned the right to brag!



TODD DOWNER

Todd Downer of Kirby brought in this big catch while fishing at the Sebastian Inlet in Florida. Congratulations, Todd!



NADIA TEASDALE

Nadia Teasdale of Waynesburg caught this steelhead while fishing in Ashtubula, OH this past fall. Congratulations, Nadia!



KOLSON MYERS

Kolson Myers of Kirby caught this while fishing with a broken arm. Congratulations, Kolson!



JASON LOHR

Jason Lohr of Carmichaels caught this 22-inch, 5.5lb bass while fishing at the Carmichaels Golf Club. Congratulations, Jason!



ZACH BLAKE

Zach Blake of Spraggs caught this catfish while fishing in Rivesville, WV on June 8, 2023. Congratulations, Zach!



PATRICK FRYE

Patrick Frye, age 11, of Millsboro caught this walleye while fishing Lake Erie. Congratulations, Patrick!

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MICHELLE ZEIGLER

Michelle Zeigler of Masontown caught this largemouth bass at Cross Creek Park in Avella. Congratulations, Michelle!



AIDEN VERNON

Aiden Vernon, age 13 of Mapletown caught this hybrid bass on June 20, 2023 at Alicia Locks using night crawlers. Congratulations, Aiden!



URIJAH TEASDALE

Urijah Teasdale of Waynesburg caught this while fishing for walleye on Lake Erie in Geneva, OH. Congratulations, Urijah!



ADAM & KYLER

Adam and Kyler Theys of Rices Landing hooked this 4.21lb largemouth bass on the Monongahela River. Congratulations, Adam and Kyler!

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DOMINIC KUIS

Dominic Kuis of Dilliner landed the biggest trout he has ever caught while fishing with his dad John in Farmington. Congratulations, Dominic!



BRIANNA VANATA

Brianna Vanata of Greensboro caught this 5 pounder on the Monongahela River near Greensboro. Congratulations, Brianna!



KENNEDY SHARRATT

Kennedy Sharratt caught this while fishing Memorial Day weekend at Chestnut Ridge Park. Congratulations, Kennedy!



DAMON KEYS

Damon Keys of Waynesburg landed a stingray while fishing in Virginia Beach, VA. Congratulations, Damon!



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THE DURITSKYS

Jay, Carmella, and Carter Duritsky of Carmichaels caught this while fishing in Hutchison in April. Congratulations, everyone!



LYNLEE FORDYCE

Lynlee Fordyce of Ruff Creek caught this trout while fishing at Waynesburg Lakes in April. Congratulations, Lynlee!



MARK MELEGA

Mark Melega of Rices Landing in April with his Lake Erie trophy smallmouth bass. The bass weighed 6lbs and was 22" long. Congratulations, Mark!

Arts in the Community: Shelly Courtwright



Shelly Koss Courtwright has a lifelong passion to create.



Shelly used to paint many murals, like this one in her daughter's room.



Shelly loves to work on nontraditional and rustic materials.

This painted dresser is one of Shelly's favorite projects.



Woodburning portraits like these are one of Shelly's most popular items.

For Shelly Koss Courtwright, the urge to create has always been in her blood. Ever since she was a child, she loved anything art. Her dad was very artistic, and her oldest sister went to art school.

"From when I was little, I was doing all kinds of drawings, watercolor paintings, and my dad taught me wood burning, I think, in third grade," Shelly says.

During her time in elementary and high school, she entered her art in local competitions, like the Jacktown Fair. While she wasn't really part of her local art club, she spent much of her time creating art on her own.

After graduating from West Greene High School, Shelly attended college at Seton Hill. She began her secondary education majoring in graphic design and switched to art education after a couple of years, before realizing that what she truly wanted to focus on was studio art, "working with her hands and creating things." She also spent a summer in residency at Touchstone Center for Crafts in Farmington learning from other artists.

She graduated in 2006 and her initial plan was to find any sort of art-related job that would allow her to use her creativity. But the US was in a recession and the jobs were scarce. "There were some things in Pittsburgh, but I didn't want to have to make that drive, so I decided I was just going to start my own business."

She created a website, created some products, and started doing arts and crafts festivals. Creating the products was very experimental, as Shelly worked out what her customers were looking to buy. She took her products to local festivals and began building a clientele. Most of her clients came from word-of-mouth. With the arrival of Facebook, Shelly's work got an even bigger boost. "Once I started putting my stuff on social media, where people could share and look at it, that's how I got most of my orders."

Early in Shelly's business, she worked mainly in mural painting. After her three daughters (Ella, Kaitlyn, and Hailey) were born, it became hard to do the necessary travelling, and she focused on working from her home studio. You can find her murals in homes and local churches, and one of her favorites is the one she painted for her daughter at home.

"Wood burning has been the thing that people mostly order from me, mostly portraits," Shelly says. And while she does most of her business in wood burning, painting is her passion. "I love to paint. I love the color and you can put it on anything. I like to paint walls, furniture, saws—nontraditional canvases."

All her wood burning is done by hand. If you're wondering how she can create such wonderful works of art by hand through wood burning, a lot of it is in the equipment. She uses a wood burner with an adjustable temperature setting that, when combined with her talent, helps her create amazing art.

Her current work has a rustic feel, even her portraits, and reflects her love of the outdoors. Her wood burning creations are on natural lumber with the bark still attached and her other work focuses on nature: animals and landscapes are a very common in her art. "I love painting trees!" She says, with a laugh. "I don't know if it's just how it looks on the wood, but it's just fun to me, doing the bark and leaves."

Now that her daughters have gotten older, Shelly's looking to transition again. She's looking to integrate epoxy into her wood burning work. "It's something I've been wanting to do for a few years, but I haven't gotten to it. I'm hoping to do a few examples and see if people get into it."

"I really would like to get back into mural painting... getting back out into the community. I really do love it. I think that's where my heart is at."

Over the years, Shelly has taught classes, and her background in art education has helped. She's held some paint parties for different churches in the area, as well as organizing children's art activities with those churches. She also enjoys passing on the art tradition to her daughters in her home studio.

Shelly has some advice for aspiring artists: "Connect with other artists. I had a huge lack of that, personally. Connecting with other artists, be it in a co-op or other organization, that's

really the key. It's so hard to do everything on your own. I think you can get burnt out on your own and you can spark your creativity with other artists."

If you'd like to see more of Shelly's work, find her on Facebook Koss Create and Paint. For inquiries about her work or commissions, please message her page.

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community science: Firefly watch

Help scientists learn about the geographic distribution of fireflies through the Firefly Watch Community Science Project. Spend at least 10 minutes once a week during firefly season (late June through August) observing fireflies in one location (your backyard or in a nearby field).

Firefly Watch Community Science Project combines an annual summer evening ritual with scientific research. Join a network of community scientists around the country by observing your own backyard and help scientists map fireflies.



- Precipitation
- Wind
- Cloud cover
- Artificial light presence

Step 2: Get to Know Fireflies

Also known as lightning bugs, fireflies are neither bugs nor flies; they are actually beetles that light up using a chemical reaction in their lower abdomen (the bottom part of their body). Some of them light up in a specific blinking pattern, like a secret code that they use to "talk" with other fireflies and to find mates.

All fireflies belong to the same beetle family, although three groups have different ways of attracting mates. Some fireflies make quick flashes, while other fireflies give long-lasting glows, and still others use invisible chemical signals.

In North America, there are three main families of flashing fireflies—Photinus, Pyracomena, and Photuris.

Step 3: Count Fireflies & Observe Flash Patterns

For Firefly Watch, participants should count the number of flashing fireflies they see over the course of 10 minutes in three 10-second periods as well as the number of flashing patterns. Participants need to record information such as habitat type, precipitation, artificial light, etc.

Visit <https://www.massaudubon.org/programs-events/community-science/firefly-watch> for information about flash patterns, an observation form, and to submit your observations.

Why Watch Fireflies?

Are firefly populations growing or shrinking, and what could lead to changes in their populations? Mass Audubon is tracking the fate of these amazing insects. With your help, they hope to learn about the geographic distribution of fireflies and what environmental factors impact their abundance.

How to Participate

Anyone in North America can participate in Firefly Watch. All you need to do is spend at least 10 minutes once a week during firefly season observing fireflies in one location (your backyard or in a nearby field). All firefly sightings—or lack thereof—are valuable!

Step 1: Identify a Location

To be most useful, a location site should be fairly small and cohesive. It should be no larger than the area you can see easily while standing in one spot. A backyard that includes shrubs and trees can be considered one habitat, and a pasture bordering that yard would be considered a different habitat.

Look around and get to know the location. Before reporting, you will be asked to provide a few basic details including:

- Habitat type (and if it was mowed this firefly season)
- Temperature

WALKING THE PATH OF HISTORY AT THE MASON-DIXON HISTORICAL PARK



During the summer, the Summer Concert Series brings bands and concert-goers out to enjoy music and fresh air.



Events like the annual Ramp Dinner make the park a happening spot throughout the year.



The park has many recreational activities for all ages.

In the late 1700s, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon surveyed the area that formed the borders of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia (later West Virginia). Over three years, the duo surveyed the area to resolve the border dispute between the states. Along their route, they erected markers on the line. Their work created a definitive border between the states and ended the debate. Nestled along the line, on the border between Pennsylvania and West Virginia, sits the Mason-Dixon Historical Park on 295 acres of bucolic Appalachian beauty.

The park is just a short distance from I-79, making it an ideal location for both local and traveling visitors. Guests can enjoy picnicking, hiking, fishing, kayaking, and other outdoor activities during spring, summer, and fall. When winter comes round, guests often use the park for sledding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowboarding. Park activities are always free and are available from dawn to dusk whenever weather permits.

Multiple trails wind through park ground. Trails include the 1.3-mile M-D Marker trail, the .55-mile Blue trail, 0.6-mile Green trail, the 0.35 Orange trail, the 0.79 West Side trail, 0.35-mile Bluebell trail, the 0.7-mile Mountain Bike trailhead, and the 0.75-mile Lucky Dog trail. If you're hoping to see the Mason-Dixon Marker stone, take the M-D Marker Trail; this trail also connects to other trails throughout the park. Another visitor favorite is the Bluebell Trail; in the spring, this trail showcases fields of bluebells (giving the trail its name) and is home to the Fairy Door Trail. All the trails bring visitors closer to nature with beautiful scenery.

"Our guests love our trails and facilities. We have two trails that are big attractions: the Fairy Door trail, and the Spacewalk trail," says Park Superintendent Angela Hinerman. "These are interactive trails that people in the community have contributed to and help maintain for the enjoyment of others. All our trails are also mountain bike friendly, so we do have a decent influx of cyclists as well."

"The park is very peaceful and serene. Even when events are going on, you can still find a quiet spot somewhere to just stop and re-adjust your mind."

Angela became Park Superintendent in June 2022, and has spent the past year working to make the park a destination for everyone. She is a recent graduate of Fairmont State University (2021). She enjoys the job and the park itself: "My favorite thing about the park is putting on events for the public to come and enjoy. I always refer to our park as a hidden gem. It's very diverse."

The park is home to many events over the year, both small and large. The park has hosted wild bird talks, an Easter egg hunt, a ramp dinner and wildflower walk, craft and vendor shows, festivals, visits with Santa and concerts. Some of the events, such as the ramp dinner, craft shows, and Mountain Pow Wow, are collaborative efforts with other organizations.

During the summer, the Monongalia County Parks & Recreation Summer Concert Series brings music to the parks with concerts. Concerts start at 6:30pm, so bring a blanket or chair, and let the kids enjoy the park while you relax to the music. Tickets for the concerts are \$5/person; children six and under are free. Concessions are available, and coolers are welcome. The next concert is on August 5; stop by and watch The Five & Dime perform.

On August 25 and 26, Mountain Spirit Pow Wow returns. The Native American Community Center, Inc., a non-profit organization that celebrates Native American culture, organizes the event. Adults and children dance in traditional

regalia, with drumming, singing, storytelling, Native American-style crafts, jewelry, clothing and more. Concessions are available, including Native American fry bread, buffalo burgers, and other food and drinks. Cost is \$5/person and children five and under are free with adult admission.

On October 7, the Mason-Dixon Line Festival & Buckwheat Cake Breakfast celebrates the creation of the line and serves delicious buckwheat pancakes with sausage. The breakfast is from 8am until noon, and adults are \$12 and children under 12 are \$5. And don't forget to stop by for the annual evening visit with Santa on December 16.

The park also continues to grow, with fresh additions and improvements every year. It recently celebrated the grand opening of their Dunkard Pavilion and the debut of their new Space Trail. Local teachers and the students at North Elementary in Morgantown, WV, created the spacewalk. Plans to build a volleyball court are also in the works.

"Over the past year we have made some large improvement including installing a brand-new playground as well as the demolition and rebuild of our Dunkard Pavilion," Angela says. "Our staff is always seeking to make the park look better and functional for the community. Smaller things include adding new benches, fixing trails, installing fence, and maintaining the park property daily."

Park facilities are available for rental all year, and include pavilions with modern restrooms, a ball field, a large red barn with cooking and dining facilities, and Fisher Cabin. The furnished cabin sleeps two adults and two children and features a wood-burning stove, full-size bed, bunk beds, electricity, microwave, and mini fridge. Outside, enjoy your meals outdoors at the picnic table, with a charcoal grill and potable water spigot for your use. The restrooms are a short walk away; currently, there are no shower facilities.

FMI, visit the park at 79 Buckeye Road in Core, WV, check out their website at MonCountyParks.com, or follow them on Facebook.



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

Get Away Without Leaving Greene!

Sometimes you just need a break from the daily grind. You're tired. You're burnt out. You need to get away from it all for a while. But for whatever reason, you can't get away on a vacation. Maybe you don't have the budget for a long-distance trip. Or you only have a few days to get away and couldn't travel that far. Whatever the reason, consider taking a staycation right here in Greene County.

A staycation doesn't mean you have to stay in your house for a few days and hibernate from the world. It refers to a vacation spent close to one's home, sometimes involving day trips to local attractions. In fact, it's often best not to take your staycation in your own home because you're inclined to tackle house or cleaning projects and not get much of a break at all! Instead, look for some place local to get away from it all.

In Greene County, we have plenty of options to for a get-

away weekend. Campsites, hotels, and local airbnbs provide something for everyone. Valley View Farms offers overnight stays in a late 1800s schoolhouse just off 218 and only three miles from downtown Waynesburg. Rolling green hills surround the schoolhouse, all within view of Belgian draft horses in the fields.

Cole's Greene Acres Farm in Holbrook provides getaways for almost everyone. The cabins offer two to three bedrooms with amenities such as fully stocked kitchens, TVs, washer and dryers, and board games. They also have RV sites, primitive campsites with fire rings, and—coming soon—glamping sites. (These sites have access to a bathhouse with shower, toilet, washer and dryer.) The farm also has 15+ miles of trails to enjoy while staycationing.

Other area airbnbs include homes, farmhouses, apartments and even a former dental clinic. Ryerson Station State Park features a campground for those with tents and RVs, and cabins for those without. Mason-Dixon Historical Park also has cabins for rent. If you prefer hotels, Waynesburg has multiple choices.

So now you've found where you plan to stay, but what are you going to do with your downtime? Well, anything you want! If you're interested in just getting a way to a new place, sitting on the porch, maybe enjoying a hobby while watching the sunset, do it! But if you're interested in taking some day trip to

local attractions, Greene County is ready to give you choices.

Get outdoors and enjoy Greene's bucolic beauty. Trails of different lengths are found throughout the county, including the Greene River Trail, Greensboro trail, Mason-Dixon Historical Park's path-

ways, and Ryerson's 11 miles of trails. Many of these trails are close to or part of local parks.

If you're a historical buff, visits to the Greene County Historical Society and the W.A. Young & Sons Foundry and Machine Shop are a step back in time. Depending on the time of your visit, enjoy the museum's Harvest Festival or the foundry's Hammer-In. Historical covered bridges and Mail Pouch barns are scattered throughout the countryside. (Driving tours are available from Greene County Tourism.) Nearby Friendship Hill in Fayette County offers a museum and miles of hiking trails.

Other local events to pan your staycation around are Wind Ridge's Jacktown Fair, the Greene County Fair, racing at High Point in Mount Morris or Flashlight Drags in Waynesburg, Rain Day and 50s Fest in downtown Waynesburg, the annual July Fourth celebration at Lions Club Park, the Covered Bridge Festival at Carmichaels and White covered bridges, and so much more.

State Game Lands and ponds, lakes, the river, and creeks provide hunting and fishing for the outdoorsmen. If you're a wine drinker, Thistlethwaite Vineyards and Shields Demesne Winery offer locally crafted wines.

But why should you take a staycation over that exotic vacation to a new locale? Staycations are perfect for brief breaks away. If you don't have the time for a longer vacation, a staycation can be a good fit. The logistics of traveling a short distance are much easier and less stressful—no planes, trains, rental cars, or long road trips—especially if it's for a last-minute getaway. Minimal travel time also means more quality time. Now is the chance to take an outing to those at-home wonders you've never visited.

Staying local and taking day trips are cost-effective vacation options. At most, you have the price of your local accommodations, attraction costs (if any), and meal costs. If you have a pet, you can search for local accommodations that are open to pet and save on kennel costs.

One of the biggest upsides to taking a staycation locally is the chance to support your local economy—especially our small businesses. If you really want to make your dollars count in the local economy, focus on the small, independently owned businesses. Depending on the season, shop local farmers markets in downtown Waynesburg or the Greene County Fairgrounds for fresh fruits and vegetables, enjoy a morning coffee from places like Kiln to Table or Hilltop Packs Coffee, a sweet snack at 5 Kidz Kandy, and eat dinner at one of the many local restaurants including steakhouses, Italian, sandwiches, seafood, home-cooked, Mexican, Asian, and more. Pick up souvenirs or shop, thrift, or antique at local stores like the Fashion Shoppe, Lily Bees Gift Shop, Used to Be Yours, or Gloria's Ceramics & Greene Gifts.

Now's the time to take a staycation and get a much needed, well-deserved break. You've earned it!



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Remembering Fred

A Look Back at the Fredericktown Ferry

It's been ten years since the town of Fredericktown said goodbye to one of their most dedicated 'employees'—Fredrick, the Fredericktown Ferry. In May 2013, Fayette County Commissioners voted to cease ferry operations that September. Washington County, who shared the operational responsibility and costs of the ferry with Fayette County, had no interest in running the ferry without help. And that was that. Pennsylvania's last cable-driven ferry's days were numbered.

The ferry was a large part of our history. It played an important part in cross-river traffic for residents, employees, and the coal mines and provided convenient travel across the Monongahela River in an area without many bridges. At the time of its retirement, Fred was one of the last cable-driven ferry in operation east of the Mississippi River and the last of three original ferries to run across the Monongahela River in Washington County.

A ferry has operated between Fredericktown and LaBelle since the late 1700s, and it wasn't the only ferry on the Monongahela during the next couple hundred years. In our corner of southwestern Pennsylvania, ferries carried people across the river at points in Crucible and Crucible, just to name a few. (Crucible was the last ferry to service Greene County when it ceased operations.) Many of the small, independent ferries that crossed the river left no records or remains.

The bright-red ferry that ran until 2013 started its work in 1948. The Frederick was a 35-ton steel vessel constructed in 1948 by Hillman Barge Co. Fred, as it was affectionately called, was privately owned until it shut down in the late 1960s for multiple reasons. Through the efforts of the community and a Ferry Boat Commission, Fred was revitalized and put back to work in the late 1970s, with Fayette and Washington counties contributing 50% of the costs using Liquid Fuel dollars. Fayette oversaw the operation and maintenance of the ferry. (They later amended this agreement in 2003.)

The ferry received international attention when the 1984 film *Maria's Lovers* featured it in a scene. *Maria's Lovers*, starring Nastassja Kinski, as the titular Maria, is a period movie set in the late 1940s and filmed in Brownsville, California, and surrounding areas; Fred is just one of the many local sights you'll see in the film. In Fred's movie debut, Maria and a bus



Fred crossing the Monongahela River on a misty morning. Photo courtesy Evan Williams II.

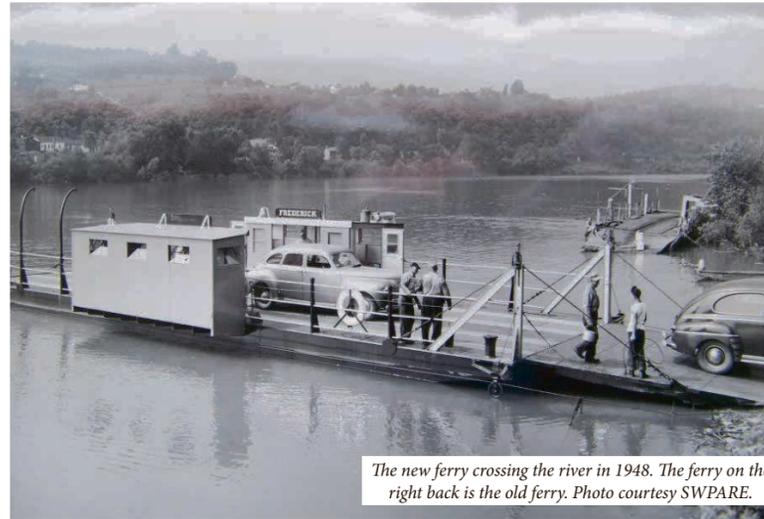
of schoolchildren are transported across the river.

As surrounding mines closed, the ferry's ridership declined and its future was often up for discussion. A fresh surge in ridership occurred when the maximum-security prison was built across the river in Fayette County. Maybe the ferry would be okay.

The counties received \$950,000 to rehabilitate Fred in 2009, with an additional \$100,000 from the state, \$25,000 from Greene County, and the rest coming from Fayette and Washington County. But the project was in debate. A new bridge was being built only five miles away on the Mon-Fayette Expressway and some feared that it would pull riders away. Commissioners from both counties argued over whether residents would continue to use the ferry once they built the bridge. Fred's future was in question.

For a few years before its closure, the community celebrated Fred at the annual Ferry Boat Festival. The event featured free pedestrian rides for the ferry (sponsored by Bower Brothers Lounge). Other activities were nearby: flea markets and yard sales, quality food at area restaurants and food trucks, and games for children and adults.

Once the bridge opened in 2012, many people's worst fears were realized. Ridership declined. That, in combination with sporadic working hours that didn't meet shift changes at the prison, losing a federally funded grant, and increased maintenance and operation costs, saw the ferry operating in the red. The ferry that had once made close to 250 daily trips was only making 90 trips a day now. Fayette County and later Washington County made the decision to discontinue use of the ferry.



The new ferry crossing the river in 1948. The ferry on the right back is the old ferry. Photo courtesy SWPARE.



The last ride on the Fredericktown Ferry.

A community effort to save the ferry, Friends of the Fredericktown Ferry, saw dedicated fans of Fred attempting to convince county commissioners that the ferry could be saved and promoted as a tourist attraction, like other historic ferries in the United States. While their efforts were unsuccessful, the group's love for Fred has never faltered. Check out their Facebook page for plenty of photos of Fred over the years.

The 'Farewell to Fred' party on August 28, 2013, brought riders from all over the area wanting one last ride on the ferry before its retirement. One couple traveled to ride the ferry as part of their anniversary celebrations. Others came to relive some of their favorite moments, share ferry memories and consider what it meant to them. Some expressed sadness that their children and grandchildren had such a brief time to ride the historic ferry, and other children would never get the chance. Reporters from the Herald-Standard, Observer-Reporter, and Tribune-Review arrived with photographers to capture the last hurrah of Fred and his loyal fans. Those that rode the ferry that day were the last passengers that Fred would see as a ferry. Although the ferry was scheduled to have its last voyage on August 30, weather prevented its operation.

In recent years, efforts have been made to revitalize downtown Fredericktown and the former ferry landing. In 2020, PennWest California (Cal U.) Art Professor Todd Pinkham and his students completed a mural project at the old landing. The mural, based on historic photos, stretches along the walls of the tunnel that runs from the road to the river and features

the ferry. A kayak launch is situated at the landing. Bower Brothers Bar on the landing's left is now Willy's Bar & Grill, and the old gas station on its right was torn down and the area revitalized.

The ferry itself was deconstructed and rebuilt into a work platform for a local tow boat. The ferry was changed to serve as a weld/equipment barge; modifications include removal of the vehicle ramps, safety chain stanchions, and wire guides, drive system, engines, fuel tanks, and propeller. Steel plate was added to cover openings, deck extensions were built to add length, timberheads added to hold the barge in place, and rub



The ferry was featured in the movie *Maria's Lovers*.

bars added for protection.

While the dear old Fred has been absent from Fredericktown for a decade, he is still a cherished memory to the community. Thanks to the mural decorating the landing, future generations and visitors will still get to glimpse this special piece of southwestern Pennsylvania history.

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