

Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



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Holiday II 2023 Issue

In this issue...
HOLIDAY II 2023

- FEATURES**
- 4 **I LOVE THIS PLACE**
Good Santa Glenn
 - 6 **GREENESCENE OF THE PAST**
American Red Cross on parade
 - 7 **LOCAL. LIBRARY. LOVE**
Who uses Bowlby Library?
 - 8 **SHINING THE LIGHT**
Rolling Meadows Church of God
 - 9 **PUBLIC SERVICE PROFILE**
Paper drive provides hope for others
 - 10 **COOL AT SCHOOL**
Carmichaels' library dog helps students
 - 12 **GREENE ARTIFACTS**
Poor house history and new exhibits
 - 13 **GOING GREENE**
A holiday aroma
 - 14 **RECENT HAPPENINGS IN GREENE**
Check out the recent events & see what you're missing!
 - 20 **GOOD NEWS IN GREENE**
Awards & acknowledgements within our community
 - 26 **MESSAGE BOARD**
What's up in the area
 - 28 **HOMETOWN HERITAGE**
Current and vintage local sports highlights
 - 40 **TOGETHER WITH VETERANS**
Supporting veterans during the holidays

- EXTRAS**
- 38 **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2023**
Local organizations honor veterans' graves
 - 42 **HELPING HOMELESS PETS**
Helping pets during the holidays & holiday pet adoption
 - 44 **GREENE GARDENS**
Caring for your holiday cacti
 - 46 **THE GREAT 'CATS'BY**
Cats find second lives in local libraries

LETTERS TO SANTA
SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE ISSUE



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

GREENESCENE HOLIDAY PHOTOS PROVIDED BY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE BY WAYNESBURG PROSPEROUS AND BEAUTIFUL & CHRISTMAS PARADE BY GREENE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



COVER PHOTO by Halle Gallagher

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GreeneScene
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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LETTERS TO SANTA

WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO SHARE WITH YOU IN THIS HOLIDAY II ISSUE OF THE GREENESCENE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE SEVERAL FUN, ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AND LETTERS TO SANTA FROM MRS. GIOVANELLI'S SECOND GRADE CLASS AT CARMICHAELS AREA ELEMENTARY. THANK YOU TO MRS. GIOVANELLI AND HER STUDENTS FOR SHARING THESE FUN IMAGES AND HOPEFUL LETTERS. THE LETTERS WITH THEIR ILLUSTRATIONS ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT OUR PAGES.



Merry Christmas

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Winner drawn at random. Once notified, you must respond within 24 hours to receive prize.

I Love this Community — GOOD SANTA GLENN

By Colleen Nelson



Good Santa Glenn at Farleys Hotel Cafe during Waynesburg Holiday Open house December 1.



Free private school and board and a chance for free college can be on someone's wish list at Milton Hershey School, seen here at Farleys Hotel Cafe on December 1.

The house at the corner of Wayne and Morris Streets has arched brick columns on its front porch that, for a few magic weeks in December, open up to Santa's home at the North Pole. A family with wide-eyed preschoolers in tow was just leaving as I arrived to have my own session with Santa, aka Glenn Toothman. I found him in jolly repose in his easy chair surrounded by all the props of the season, including a comfy pillow-strewn couch for families to gather around for free photo-ops.

And yes, the beard is real. Toothman is a card-carrying member of FORBS (Fraternal Order of Real Bearded Santas), a role he cheerfully accepted "about five years ago. I was growing older and gaining a little extra weight around my middle. And from my days of working in the coal mine, it was common for me to give up shaving in the winter." When the beard started turning white, kids started taking notice. One December day in Walmart, Toothman was browsing the toy aisle when he heard a little girl ask in a loud whisper, "Momma, is that Santa Claus?" "Well, that was when I realized my new intended public service! Instead of being totally discouraged about my weight gain and whitening hair, I realized God was just transitioning me into a legitimate Santa."

Toothman found FORBS online and realized he could make the cut if he continued growing his beard. Admission into this select club includes attending eight weeks of online Santa training to fully embrace the spirit of his new persona. After completing background clearances and creating a Santa profile and resume, Good Santa Glenn began booking with agents both locally and as far away as California.

Back at home and here on the porch, local families can make reservations at set times on the Facebook account Good Santa Glenn. "It gets to be a very busy time of year attending local functions under arrangements made months in advance and offering the scheduled photo opportunities."

When Santa Season is over, the positivity that makes

Toothman such a jolly old elf remains. There's a happy, adventuresome kid still lurking in the man who values the power of positivity in whatever project he takes on. "I try to build a better world. One way or another."

Toothman admits, "I'm so appreciative of the way my parents raised me. They were well educated but didn't tell us what to do. They let us learn for ourselves."

Eight-year-old Glenn once rode his bicycle to his grandmother's house in Holbrook, lured by her wonderful cookies. When he called his mom, looking for a ride home, "She said how did you get there? And I said I rode my bike. And she said if it's good enough to get you out there, it's good enough to get you home!"

The kid who could ride his bike from Waynesburg to Holbrook and back would grow up to be a champion runner in high school and graduate with a law degree from Duquesne University. He would return home to take on many roles in



A photo op with Good Santa Glenn can be arranged on Facebook

the community, from lawyer to District Attorney to historian, as well as author and creator of the Memory Medallion—and more.

When I reached out to Toothman for this story in mid November, he was wearing his other hat, that of a historical researcher at the National Archives in Washington, DC. This is the Glenn I've known and admired for years; he's the guy who knows local history and doesn't mind sharing. Our paths continually cross at the Cornerstone Genealogical Society in Waynesburg. When I stop by to research my stories about the

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This project was supported, in part by grant number 2201PMBAA-06, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC 20201.

towns, villages and people of the area, there's a good chance I'll find him there.

"I am currently on a research project at the National Archives and not back in Waynesburg until Sunday, but available by phone almost any time this week," he texted me when I reached out. The message also included Good Santa Glenn's official FORBS membership for 2024 along with a shot of the backdrop his brother Farley was setting up at Farleys Hotel Café for the upcoming Holiday Open House in Waynesburg. Kids of all ages—including me!—would be there to enjoy free ice cream, compliments of Milton Hershey School. Representatives were set up on the front porch with plenty of Hershey kisses scattered on the table along with brochures describing MHS as a cost free private school for boys and girls age 4-15 from low-income backgrounds. It was a great chance to add the promise of quality education, a structured home life and a chance to attend college for free to someone's wish list as Good Santa Glenn slipped through the back door and settled in to hear what other presents are super hot this year. There would be a steady stream of kids, parents and the flash of smart phone cameras until closing time.

A few Sundays later, I got my chance to visit with Good Santa Glenn on his front porch.

After discussing all things Santa, Toothman filled me in on the latest project he's working on at the National Archives: tracking down the Civil War pension records of Greene County veterans, finding the names of those who requested benefits, adding these important details to the genealogical record keeping of Greene Connections. This includes occasional eye opening glimpses into the private lives of ancestors, like the names of multiple wives writing for the pension benefits of the same soldier. Good Santa Glenn chuckled. "I tell people don't be surprised at what you might find when you start doing your family history. They were people just like people are today."

One last question: how do you spread your quality time between Waynesburg and Washington, DC? That's quite a drive!

The answer is Santa's Magic Sleigh: Amtrak and the Internet.

Good Researcher Glenn drives to Connellsville on Monday, parks for free at the train station, scans the \$56 one-way ticket in his smart phone, then settles in for a 6-hour ride to Union Station and the Metro that can take him anywhere he needs to go.

"I take it easy on Monday, work from Tuesday until Thursday and come home Friday." Another grin. "It's a great way to get to DC and I highly recommend it!"

I Love This Community!

GOOD NEIGHBORS MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES

Neighbors in southwestern Pennsylvania make a difference in our small towns. From tasks such as helping a neighbor with yard work to organizing benefit dinners, our neighbors make a town a community.

Our "I Love This Place" feature is transitioning to "I Love This Community" and we want to know about your community and its people. We want to hear about your neighbors making a difference or having an impact in our communities. Help your neighbors get the recognition they deserve with a nomination to be featured in an upcoming issue.

Nominate a good member in YOUR community!

Your Name: _____

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Nomination: _____

Nomination Phone/Email/Contact Info: _____

How are they a good neighbor/community member? _____

If you need more space, please feel free to attach more information on a separate piece of paper.

Mail to: I Love This Community, 185 Wade Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370 or
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GreeneScene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

GreeneScene of the Past

By Colleen Nelson

I found this old photo of the American Red Cross on parade, circa 1918, when I clicked on the link to GreeneConnections.com that Candice Buchanan sent me during her workday at the Library of Congress. I was searching for a photograph to highlight the work she and Glenn Toothman have been doing since 2001 to preserve local family history and events and, more important, make them accessible online.

An old family photo from the World War I era would be a good segue into the research they have done on the 18 soldiers from Greene County who died in battle in Ceirges, France on July 28-29 1918. Their book *The Rain Day Boys* brings that past into sharp focus. It would be a week or more before the families who were celebrating Rain Day back home would learn of their tragic loss. It would be decades before the living memories would begin to fade. Thanks to the time and research that Buchanan and Toothman put into the book and the World War I Memorial in Greene County Veterans Park on Rolling Meadows Road, the 58 county fathers and sons who died in the “war to end all wars” are not forgotten. Bring your smart phone and link to their lives that can be seen through the Memory Medallions Toothman has embedded in each marker.

When I texted Candice to ask if she had a favorite photo to share, nothing came to mind. Instead, she sent me the link to Greene Connections and invited me to try my own hand at historical sleuthing.

This archive doesn't need a password and is free for public viewing. Plus, they invite the public to add their family histories to the mix. (If you go online, you can read all about it like I did. Watch out! One click leads to another and...history can be addicting!)

With my first click into the A category, I saw American Red Cross and clicked again.

Pure serendipity!—this snapshot dated c. 1918 is the perfect introduction to the era of the Rain Day Boys. The view is certainly recognizable today. “The brick house in the background was the home of Eleazer Luse Denny.”

This photo is part of the Hoskinson Series, which was originally owned by Nella Sophia (Hoskinson) Baily (1893–1975). She was the wife of Ralford Baily-Purman, daughter of Robert Luther Hoskinson and Margaret Rozella Smith.

The young woman, slightly out of focus on the left, is Nella; the other, more stoic woman remains unidentified.

The details in this “candid” old snapshot tease me with unanswered questions.

Their headscarves are classic Red Cross, white and flowing. Their outfits are modeled

after the countless posters made during the war that entreated women to join the cause. There's no sign that the women are actual Red Cross volunteers, nor is there any way to know if this parade was (remember the circa) from the year before, when the soldiers marched off to do a six-month training in trench warfare before being sent overseas the next May or was it afterwards, as the community mourned them in the next Veterans Day Parade. The sweaters they wear suggest November weather, but...who knows?

Look at the big wheel mounted in front of the poster. What was the meaning of this? I squint at the poster with the wagon wheel shadow cutting through what might be a face. Man or woman? Uncle Sam? Hard to tell.

But something in the rest of the description below catches my eye.

“Nella passed the items to her daughter, Peggy Louise Baily, who later gave them to her friend, Karan Maset. Karen donated the items to Glenn Toothman and Candice Lynn Buchanan for the Greene Connections.”

Karan Maset is a friend of mine! Suddenly, I find myself on the trail of living history. What will Karen have to say about the friend who left her these family photos, a last living link to the life and times of the early 20th century?

Karen certainly remembers meeting the never-married “short, older lady” Peggy Baily at Audrey Huffman's Corner Shoppe on High Street. It was sometime in the 1980s and they became instant pals. “She had white hair, and she wore it bobbed. We went everywhere together. [Husband] Dave used to say ‘If you two would slow down, I'd put new tires on the car!’” Peggy's father Ralford lived in Greene County and was involved in the Armory when it was in Waynesburg. When her parents got divorced, Peggy moved with her mom to Atlantic City and was back and forth between these two worlds for years. “She told so many stories!” Her family had money but lost it. “She knew some incredible people!” like James Mitchner and Chicken Testa the gangster. “She said Chicken was a nice man!” (I looked him up. It's icky!) Peggy taught Karan how to drink a martini and “she wouldn't take any guff from anyone. We'd go into stores in different aisles and she'd run into me with



her shopping cart and we'd start yelling at each other, then go sit in the car and laugh and laugh!”

Karen helped Peggy navigate life as she got even older, living on the South Side on the second floor and, finally, in the county nursing home where Karen kept her company. Even there, Peggy took no guff. “She had a red cigarette holder that was like 18 inches long. It was a snake, and it had red eyes. The cigarette fit in its mouth. She told her doctor she wanted one beer a day. I forget his name, but he wrote a prescription so she could have it.” The last details are hazy. “She died, oh, 15, 20 years ago and I still miss her. She's buried in Rosemont Cemetery.”

I have no luck finding Peggy's death certificate or obituary online, so I guess Karen's cheerful, personal memories will have to do for now. (But now I'm curious!) I take one last look at the photo and now I'm wondering who took the picture? I look again at Nella and now I see a smiling, stylish woman of 25

riding in a parade and getting her picture taken, a snapshot that her feisty daughter kept all her life and gave to another feisty friend for posterity. Nella—a post Edwardian woman who dared become a divorcee and move to Atlantic City with her daughter. She's a little out of focus, but I think I recognize that smile.

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Local. Library. Love.

Who uses Bowlby Library?

Last night at a board meeting when the budget was being discussed and agonized over, someone wondered out loud, “Who uses Bowlby Library?”

Director Kathy McClure had an immediate answer: Everyone! Parents, grandparents, toddlers, and pre-schoolers. Remote office workers. Veterans who use the computers to apply for jobs. Homeschoolers. Interest groups who meet at the library—book clubs, Dungeon & Dragons clubs, Mahjong players, and knitters. Lifelong learners. Readers and those learning how to read.

And in the summer? Kids of all ages come for Summer Reading Club, lunch, and activities. The library also provides weekly outreach visits to any daycares, preschools, and Head Start programs upon request. In 2023, 72,404 people walked through our doors, 8,170 people attended a program, and 16,115 people used our computers. That is a lot of people! If every person who walked through our doors donated \$2, our budget shortfall wouldn't exist.

Yes, that was the reason for the agonizing budget meeting. We don't have enough money for 2024. The effects of the recession and the pandemic have reduced our funding from both the state and our endowment. And we wondered: Do our library patrons know we have so little cash?

Probably not. It's a beautiful, well-maintained building with amazing resources: books, magazines, computers, movies, hot-spots (Did you know you can check out a hot-spot?), as well as online resources that can be accessed from your phone or computer. There's also a teaching kitchen, a family literacy suite, and

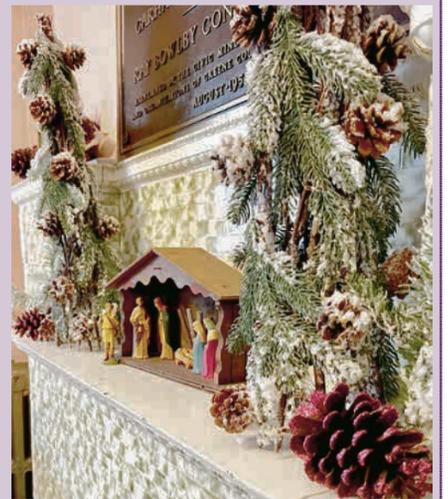
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a beautiful gallery for relaxing. The library doesn't look like it is hurting. And we'd like to keep it that way.

We take seriously our role as a community library. We want to provide services and programs and materials that help everyone here in Waynesburg and Greene County better themselves. We are free to all county residents and our children's programming follows the PA Early Childhood Standards.

Stop in to see for yourself. If you don't have a library card, sign up for one. Wander around and you're sure to find something that interests you. And donate your time, your talent, or your treasure. A vibrant library = A vibrant community.



SHINING THE LIGHT

By Colleen Nelson

Stars are showing as I pull into the driveway of the Rolling Meadows Church of God. The temperature is dropping, it's 6pm and I'm suddenly in the mood for hot chocolate. The church sits along its namesake road in the eastern corner of Franklin Township, where housing developments butt up against forested hills and old pastures. Below the church in a darkened field, animated strings of lights are going on—and off—and on—dancing gingerbread men, leaping dolphins, a herd of elephants, Noah's Ark, reindeers, Christmas trees, and horses in the barnyard. There's a green tractor (could it be a John Deere?), a snowman big as a kid and look! a train in the middle of it all!



Thomas Rush, along with mother Jesse, volunteer at the light display.

This is the second year Pastor Richard Berkey and his congregation have set up this wonderland to walk through. There's a crackling fire to sit beside in a gazebo full of friends and neighbors ready to share cookies, and hot chocolate and presents tucked into brown paper bags for good girls and boys. This free event will happen every Friday and Saturday night from 6-8pm until the last Saturday night before Christmas Eve.

Wife Linda Berkey is passing out glow sticks to kids from her table beside the Amazing Grace entrance sign when I get there. There's a URL code on the fence, for smartphones to scan the story being presented and listen during the walkthrough. Pastor Berkey is under the weather tonight, but he and his family are interchangeable parts when it comes to keeping this show on the road.

Last year, it was Pastor Burkey and son Richard who drove to Florida to bring home many of the handmade wired figures that are lighting up the night tonight. Pastor's brother Raymond worked for Campus Crusader for Christ in Florida and was donating the light show so Rolling Meadows could put on its first display for Christmas 2022.

This summer Linda made the journey south for the rest of the display, with a side trip to Arkansas "to pick up Jesus and the Bible" from pipe liner Bobby Reaper. Bobby attended their church a few years ago when working in Greene County. "He stays in touch with Pastor Rick and promised he'd make something for us." Linda points to a far corner of the field where Bobby's fabricating skills shines as the rock rolls away when Jesus rises and the six-foot-high bible that spells out John 3:16 on one page, Genesis 1:1 on the other. It's the life of Jesus being told amid the trappings of Christmas cheer, as families make their way past the crèche and its trumpeting angels to the story of salvation and everlasting life.

It takes many hands to bring this all together, Linda tells me. Betsy Rigglemen connects the lights and Jesse Rush and her girls set them up all around the field. Then the



Linda Berkey greets visitors and passes out glow-sticks from the entrance of the display.

legwork of arranging the stars of the show: things that light up, dance and be merry. Tonight I'll meet some of that light up team hanging out in the gazebo drinking hot chocolate as families stop by to walk through the lights. It doesn't surprise me that I meet up with some old friends.

When not throwing herself and her kids into church activities, Jessie Rush is busy at Waynesburg Senior Center where I deliver Meals on Wheels. Jesse works there and also leads the University of Pittsburgh-approved exercise program that happens twice a week for health conscious regulars and anyone else who wants to join in. Her youngest son Thomas just turned 10 and is the fireball that takes me on the tour tonight, running circles around us all. "Thomas came in third in the Turkey Trot at Bowlby Library this year and his age group goes up to 14!" Thomas runs with her every night. In a few more days he will have finished his goal of running every day for a year—with no plans to stop. "He does it because he loves it and we have fun. Sometimes when I get home from work I'll feel tired, but Thomas is always ready to go!"

Hey! There's Dave Stoneking, my favorite store manager when Mark IV was still open on High Street with its great selection of art and office supplies. "All the stores are gone now, it's all online," he informs me, and we both make faces and laugh. Dave is now part of the team at Direct Results and is a church regular here. We laugh some more when he reminds me I haven't seen his son Tyler since that time he was a toddler dressed up as a hot pepper. Now he's 13, working on his Elvis smile. As we gather around the fire sipping hot chocolate, Rusty Haney goes back to his truck to get me a handout for He's Alive! A Musical Passion Play, that Heaven Bound Ministries will perform at the Capitol Theatre in Wheeling, WV on Palm Sunday Weekend March 22 -24, 2024.

Rusty tells me to go online and look up Heaven Bound Ministries. And I say thanks for giving me a mission to write about for the February 2024 edition of GreeneScene Magazine. Now it's time for me to head home and finish this story about Christmas. I'll be talking to you next year, Rusty. Thanks for the tip!

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

We want to help you spread the word about your community event - for FREE! That's right, you read that correctly. We include area events in our readership area for free in our monthly community calendar. All you have to do is submit them to us by email info@greenescenemagazine.com, online at greenescenemagazine.com, or mail at 175 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

If you've already have your event, send us a picture and sentence or two about your event and its success and we'll include it in our Happenings in Greene section!



THE DENNY HOUSE FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 3	DISCO RETRO NIGHT - 6PM
FEB 9	VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER - 6PM
FEB 10	DADDY & DAUGHTER TEA - 12 NOON
FEB 10	VALENTINE'S DINNER - 6PM
FEB 11	GALENTINE'S DAY TEA - 12 NOON
FEB 11	THE SUPER BOWL PARTY - 6PM
FEB 14	VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER - 6PM OR 8:30 PM
FEB 17	MASQUERADE PARTY - 6PM
FEB 23	PAINT & SIP - 5:30PM
FEB 24	MOTHER & SON TEA - 12 NOON

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Public Service Profile

By Morgan Marisa

PAPER DRIVE PROVIDES HOPE

While most families associate the face of the famous clown with quick and affordable meals, millions also see Ronald McDonald as the face behind a completely different manner of affordability. With approximately 690 core programs worldwide, Ronald McDonald House Charities have been assisting in partially easing financial burdens for families with sick children across the globe. One Washington County family has taken it upon themselves to join the mission of RMHC by rallying support for the cause in their community.



Amanda Higinbotham-Fife, her husband, and her daughter Jaelyn, with the paper goods donation for the Ronald McDonald House.

When she was six and a half months pregnant, Amanda Higinbotham-Fife received news no parents want to hear—her unborn daughter was diagnosed with Dextro-Transposition of the Great Arteries (d-TGA). D-TGA is a congenital heart defect where the two major arteries carrying blood out of the heart are switched in position. Jaelyn, Amanda's youngest daughter, had to undergo open-heart surgery when she was only one week old in June 2022.

While Jaelyn recovered at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Amanda and her husband, Marshall, stayed at the Ronald McDonald House Charity. The RMHC is connected to the hospital, so they were only a five-minute walk away from their baby.

"During our stay, RMHC gave us everything we needed!" Amanda says. "Paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates, napkins, forks, trash bags, you name it, they gave it to us. We're very grateful for them as we didn't have to leave to go out and buy those things during such a difficult time."

RMHC additionally gave them common supplies, such as laundry pods and household supplies. The organization helps to take care of the small day-to-day costs and distractions so that parents and families can focus on their sick children. Even just the relief of not acquiring these small sup-

plies allows parents to be more available for their child undergoing care, which makes all the difference to both the parents and the child.

"As we left the hospital to take our daughter home for the first time, my husband and I both said we have to give back and plan something. Last year, we held a paper product drive at our local church and this year we held a paper product donation drive at local businesses within Greene, Washington, and Fayette counties."

Beth-Center Elementary School and California Area Elementary also helped push this second drive. In October, they delivered their collection of paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, paper plates, napkins, etc. to RMHC-Pittsburgh. The drive was a great success, and they were told it was the biggest delivery so far in the month.

It's people like Amanda and Marshall who prove every person and community can contribute to causes with a real impact on others' lives. Just one pack of paper towels can save a family a few more dollars to go towards saving their child or helping them recover. Those few dollars add up.

Amanda and her family plan to host future drives in the years to come to pass on the kindness that strangers once showed them.

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Cool at School: Carmichaels Area School District By Emma Bates

Step into the Carmichaels Area High School Library, known as the Lavins Media Center, and you'll find an inviting space for students to unwind and regroup before continuing the school day. Now, with the addition of a furry friend, the library is an even more popular spot.

Meet Lucy. This fun-loving puppy is now a licensed therapy dog who is brightening halls and touching lives. Mrs. Cassie Menhart, Carmichaels High School librarian, and proud owner of Lucy, explains that the pup joined her family on October 21, 2022. Cassie had long discussed the possibility of a library dog but was unsure of taking on the responsibility at first. After gaining insight from a similar program at California High School, and researching the benefits to mental health and development, Cassie knew that a therapy dog was exactly what the district needed.

Three to four weeks into Lucy's training for the role with Off Leash K9 Training of Pittsburgh, Cassie says Lucy had a breakthrough moment: "Lucy seemed to follow all her commands from that point forward in her training. The trainers even commented on how well she was doing and that they were sure she had the right temperament to pass the Therapy Dog Certification test." From

that day on, Cassie and Lucy have worked side by side to uplift every person who walks through the doors of Carmichaels.

And the reception has been more than encouraging. Cassie says that she can see students' mental health improving just from the short amount of time Lucy has been at school. "She certainly brings a smile to everyone's face when they see her," Cassie shares. She recalls one student visiting the library who simply said, "You don't know what this just did for my mood today," after spending some time petting Lucy.

Lucy's typical workday begins early, with she and Cassie arriving at the high school around 6:30 a.m. By 7:30, Lucy is poised to greet students as they enter the building; she then retires to the library, ready to serve anyone needing a pick-me-up throughout the day. During Cassie's prep and lunch periods, she takes Lucy to visit the elementary students across campus, sometimes reading with

them, and always spreading the puppy love. "We are willing to change our daily routine to accommodate anyone that might need some Lucy time," says Cassie.

Lucy's job is hardly all work and no play, however. When the library isn't crowded, Lucy enjoys playing fetch and frolicking with the high schoolers in the fenced-in courtyard or just indoors. But Lucy has made the library a more frequently visited space, especially for students who rarely utilized its services be-

fore. As the district's "poster dog" for reading, Lucy's favorite activity is simply listening to a story...and being petted, of course! While the workday can be tiring for both human and canine, Lucy is busy changing the culture of the school. Students are more kind, caring, and positive, and many are getting excited to read and learn from a young age. As Cassie says, "I often thought that our library couldn't get any better. Then we got Lucy!"



Lucy often visits children at the elementary center, like this visit with second-graders.

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Dear Santa,

My name is Madison, and I am 8 years old. This year I have been really good. What I did this year was help my mom. Something I would like to give to a family member or a friend is something special. This year I might like to receive a dog! I have a question for you: who is your favorite reindeer? I am leaving cookies and milk for you, and I am leaving 8 candy canes and 8 carrots.

Love, Madison

Dear Santa,

My name is Emma and I am 7 years old. This year I've been good. Something good I did this year was that I did really good on my tests. Something I would like to give to a family member or friend is a very very good year. This year I might like to receive a baby kitten, a blue shirt, and a Miko Robot. My Christmas wish is for my Grandma to feel better. I also have a question for you: who is your favorite elf? I can't wait to see what you bring me!

Love, Emma

Greene Artifacts

By Matthew Cumberledge, GCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

POOR HOUSE HISTORY & NEW EXHIBITS

Every day we learn new things about how the various rooms and areas were used in historic former Greene County Poor Farm (also known as the Almshouse and later as the County Home). As we process new information, it often inspires us to rearrange rooms, and set up new spaces. We are bringing this building back to life as a living testimony to the many people who lived and died within these walls.

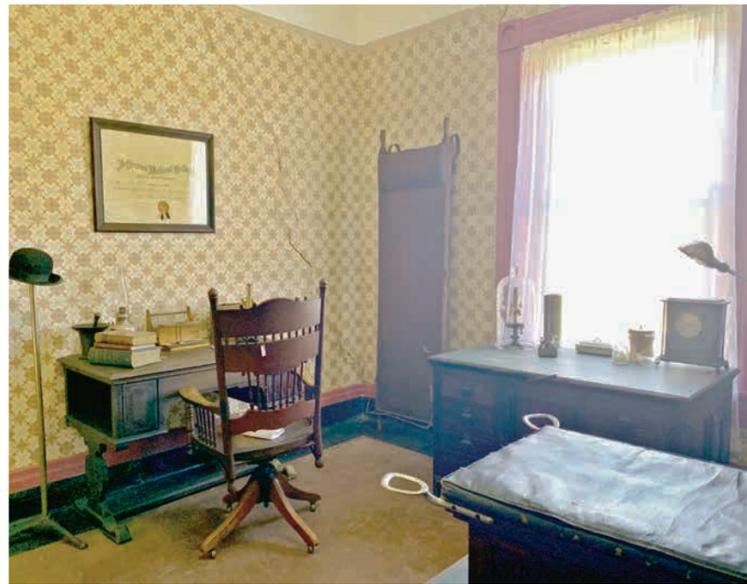
A recent discovery was that the second floor, towards the back of the building, was an infirmary and likely contained a doctor's office and other treatment rooms. Recently, we installed a doctor's office in that area. Our collection holds the contents of the office of Dr. Hiram C. Scott. Scott served as the doctor at the poor farm in the early 20th century. While the items we have are from his private practice and weren't used at the poorhouse, they lend an authentic layer of history to our recreated doctor's office on the second floor.

Besides bringing more authentic rooms back to the poorhouse, we are also presently working on expanding the suite of children's rooms. What was once a former storage room for the museum was cleaned out and the items moved. We plan to add a nursery with a nanny's room. This set of

rooms will provide a glimpse of how a large home of the late Victorian Era may have been used. They will also pay a tribute to the Children's Home that was formerly on Jefferson Road that is no longer standing.

For 2024, we will also expand our railroad exhibit. Currently, a room in the first floor is dedicated to the Waynesburg & Washington Railroad, and over the winter and into 2024, we will complete a second room that featuring artifacts from other railroads that serviced various parts of the region, including the B&O, Pennsylvania Railroad, Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad, the Monongahela Railroad and more.

Please keep an eye out on our social media and website for more updates and progress photos, and join us for our open season starting at the end of April in 2025. Also, if you wish to contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of our building and collections, you can easily donate to the historical society through the online store on our website. Every little bit helps as we continue to maintain and preserve our historic building and our amazing collections!



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Going Greene: A HOLIDAY AROMA

By Matthew Cumberledge

Ooh! That smell! No, no, no—not the classic Lynyrd Skynyrd song! We're talking about the aroma of cooking, baking, and delectable goodies that fill kitchens during the holiday season!

Ginger, nutmeg, spices, cakes, and cookies not only excite us for the wonderfully tasty treats that they are, but the smells often take us back in time to happy memories of friends and family gatherings in the holiday season, relaxing, talking, sharing stories, and being together after an amazing holiday meal.

Let's go back in time, a little more than a century, and think about some of the things we might remember our grandmothers baking around Christmas time!

In 1906, The Ladies Aid Society of the M. E. Church in Jollytown published "The Cook's Friend and Home Guide" an amazing little book with fantastic recipes—many perfect for the holidays.

Sponge Gingerbread

"Melt a piece of butter the size of an egg. Mix with a pint of molasses, a tablespoonful of

ginger, and a quart of flour. Dissolve a heaping tablespoonful of soda in a half a pint of sour milk. Strain and mix with the rest of the ingredients. Add sufficient flour to make it roll out easily. Roll a half in thick and bake on flat tins in a quick oven. If a good Orleans molasses is used this cake will be very light and spongy."

The above was submitted by Mrs. S. L. White. Alternatively, a simpler recipe, from Ida Dye is also included for gingerbread:

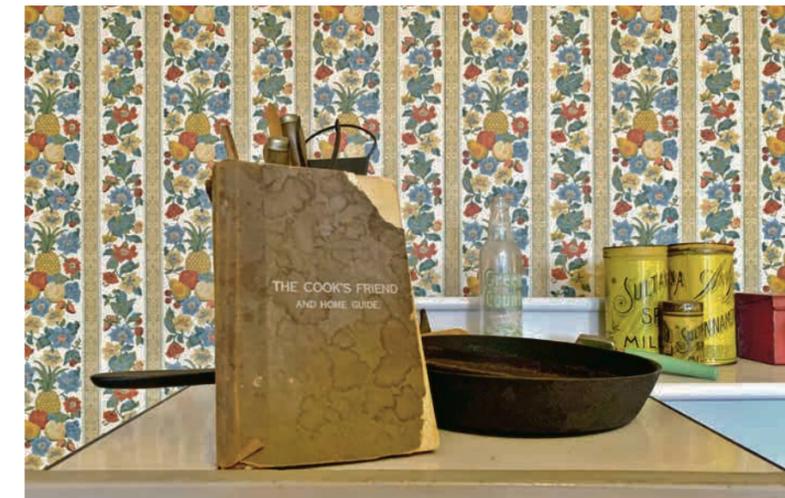
Soft Gingerbread

"One cupful molasses, one half cupful shortening, one egg, one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in one half cup of warm water, one teaspoonful of ginger. Use Flour enough to make a good batter.

While the last recipe may leave a few instructions to the instincts of the baker, such are the ways of a talented chef! Instinctual measuring and timing, and just "knowing" the process, are part of the game. Learning that instinct is perhaps the most enjoyable part of cooking!

With Christmas fast approaching, and

Do you have a favorite holiday family recipe? Share it with the GreeneScene! Email it to info@greenescenemagazine.com or mail it to GreeneScene Recipes, 185 Wade Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370.



New Year's right around the corner, let's all get into the kitchen and learn some new skills, or hone the skills we already have by interpreting these old recipes into the mod-

ern era and making new memories with our friends and families that they can carry with them into the future!

Recent Events in Greene & Nearby

Girl Scouts Host Badge Day at WU



Over 90 Girl Scouts from the Western Pennsylvania region visited Waynesburg University for Girl Scout Badge Day Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event was hosted by local Troop 80016 and was open to all Daisies, Brownies, Juniors and non-Girl Scout friends.

"The Girl Scout Badge Day was an amazing event for our female youth to experience a wide variety of educational, social and cognitive development initiatives at Waynesburg University," said Kelley Hardie, Dean of Students at Waynesburg University and Troop 80016 Leader. "The young scouts had the opportunity to learn about Women in STEM, Environmental Stewardship, First Aid, Self-Defense and Space Exploration. The mission of the Girl Scouts is building girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place; this mission was achieved through the programming offered at Waynesburg University."

A number of Waynesburg University faculty members took part in the day by facilitating sessions, which included a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) lesson by Dr. Evonne Baldauff, chairperson for the Departments of Chemistry and Forensic Science and Mathematics, Computer Science and Physics and professor of chemistry; music lessons from Eric Brewer, instructor of music and Music Program Director; and a nature lesson on the University's Unity Trail by Dr. Janet Paladino, professor of environmental science.

Included in registration was a t-shirt, all earned patches, an exclusive event patch, program supplies and lunch.

Waynesburg University has been involved in hosting scouting events on its campus throughout the years, including Merit Badge University for the Boy Scouts. In addition, the University offers a Scout Scholarship for incoming students who have accomplished Eagle Scout, Gold Award, or Venturing Summit Award status. Through this scholarship, students can receive up to \$2,000 over the course of four years (\$500/year).

Greene County Ribbon Cuttings

A ribbon cutting was held at The Eatery @ Kiln to Table on Thursday, November 16. New owners Natalie Harries and Dana Roe welcomed visitors at the ribbon cutting hosted by the Greene County Chamber of Commerce. Visit their Facebook for daily specials @kilntotable.

The grand opening of RGB Coffee in Waynesburg was held on Tuesday, November 21, with a ribbon cutting at noon

CHRISTMAS PARADE & HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The holidays have arrived! And the best way to get into the Christmas spirit in Greene County is to celebrate with the Holiday Open House, held by Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful on December 1, and the 85th Annual Christmas Parade, held by the Greene County Chamber of Commerce on December 2, in Waynesburg.

The execution of the parade was underwritten by West Penn Power, a First Energy Company, and without their support, this event would not happen. 106 entries appeared on Saturday representing various schools, churches, civic organizations, and businesses from all over the county.

Float Winners

- 1st - First Baptist Church
- 2nd - The Way Community Center of Greene County
- 3rd - Oak View Methodist Church
- Most Original - Girl Scout Troop #80012
- Most Spirit - Rain Day Festival/Special Events Commission
- Best Design - Corner Cupboard Food Bank

The "Miss Merry Christmas" winners were also selected at this annual Christmas celebration. The 2023 Miss Merry Christmas lineup is (pictured) L-R Front: Elizabeth Bell (West Greene) - Jenna Cyr (Jefferson Morgan).L-R Back: Kaylee Ayers (Waynesburg), Alexa Mori (Carmichaels), Kayleigh Halbert (Mapletown).

The Greene County Chamber of Com-

merce thanks all those businesses and individuals who helped to make this year's parade a success.

Kicking off the holiday season in Greene County, the Holiday Open House brought visitors to downtown Waynesburg where they were able to shop the stores, peruse local wares at the outdoor market, and participate in other holiday themed activities. Children visited Santa and were presented with gifts, and everyone had a chance to check out the decorated windows of downtown businesses.

Winners of the window decorating contests were: Best Overall Display - Phillips & Ross, LLC; Best Light Display - Fruition Bowls & Brews; Innovative Use of Space - High Street Hair; Most Whimsical Design - Family Dollar; and Community Choice - First National Bank.



Miss Merry Christmas



First Place Overall

...continued on page 16



Eatery at Kiln to Table



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that day. Owner Ben McMillen welcomed visitors at the ribbon cutting hosted by the Greene County Chamber of Commerce. Visit their Facebook for daily specials @RGBCoffee-Waynesburg.

DVSSP's Peace Begins at Home Dinner



The Salvetti Family



Crossroads Church of Christ

Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA recently honored a local family, church, and volunteer for their work to help survivors of domestic violence and their children find peace and safety at the 17th Annual Peace Begins at Home Dinner. Over 250 members of the community attended the event on Oct. 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh / Southpointe in Canonsburg. The event raised over \$63,000, and every dollar will help provide free and confidential services that help survivors of domestic violence and their children in Washington, Greene, and Fayette counties.

During the dinner, DVSSP CEO Lisa G. Hannum and COO Megan Hegedus presented awards to the following organizations for their efforts to help survivors of domestic violence and their children in Southwestern PA:

The Salvitti Family. For more than 20 years, the Salvitti Family has supported and partnered with DVSSP through sponsorships, grants, donations, and much more. Before her passing in 2011, Connie Salvitti was instrumental in establishing DVSSP's annual dinner and served as co-chair of the event. Dr. Jennifer Salvitti-Davis has also served as co-chair of the dinner in the past, and the family's support for DVSSP has continued to grow over the years. The Salvitti Family's commitment to survivors and to ending domestic violence in southwestern PA has been vital to DVSSP, and their dedication has been outstanding and inspiring. Accepting the award on behalf of the Salvitti Family was Dr. Jennifer Salvitti-Davis and her father Dr. Ronald Salvitti.

Crossroads Church of Christ. For more than 15 years, Crossroads Church of Christ has been dedicated to supporting DVSSP and survivors of domestic violence in southwestern PA. They have shown their support in many ways through

ongoing financial contributions, special collections, donation drives, use of their facilities, Minute for Mission presentations for their congregation, volunteer projects, and more. Most recently, a volunteer group from the church assembled the centerpieces for the Peace Begins at Home Dinner while other volunteers were outside painting and building shelves. Their continued partnership has raised awareness of DVSSP services and changed lives for families affected by domestic violence in southwestern PA. Jim and Chris Robison accepted the award on behalf of Crossroads Church of Christ.

Bowlby Turkey Trot



The turkey has come and gone, and another successful Turkey Trot has been completed! The race benefitting the Eva K. Bowlby Library was held on November 18. The top three male and female finishers in each 1K kids race, walker, and runner category received awards.

1K KIDS RACE - FEMALE: 1-4: 1st - Willa Cross; 2nd -; 3rd -5-6: 1st - Kaelyn Duncan; 2nd - Ella Patton; 3rd - Olivia Ullom. 7-8: 1st - Layla Romesburg; 2nd - Adalynn Sumpter; 3rd -9-10: 1st - Hailey Courtwright; 2nd - Lydia Juliano; 3rd - Lilah McCauley. 11-12: 1st - Maggie Courtwright*; 2nd - Kirston Moore; 3rd - Kaitlyn Courtwright.*Overall female 1K kids race winner.

1K KIDS RACE - MALE: 1-4: 1st Cooper Davis; 2nd -; 3rd -5-6: 1st - Malachi Courtwright; 2nd - Isaiah Cralton; 3rd - Lennox Coffman. 7-8: 1st - Jacob Kehoe*; 2nd - Dax Arrison; 3rd - Gilbert Cross. 9-10: 1st - Luke Patton; 2nd - Kaden Arrison; 3rd - Clark Grimes.v11-12: 1st -; 2nd -; 3rd -.*Overall male 1K kids race winner.

WALKERS - FEMALE: 14 and under: 1st - Elaina Beazell; 2nd - Heather Yeager; 3rd - Ellie Inmon. 15-19: 1st -; 2nd -; 3rd -. 20-29: 1st - Rachel Riggelman; 2nd - Peyton Chambers; 3rd -. 30-39: 1st - Michelle Courtwright; 2nd - Kayla Patton; 3rd - Amanda Grimes. 40-49: 1st - Kelley Murdock*; 2nd - Sarah Brandstetter; 3rd - Lainey White Duncan. 50-59: 1st - Katie Campsey; 2nd - Kinberly Lawless; 3rd - Andrea Whiplly. 60+: 1st - Linda Keller; 2nd - Dana Horton; 3rd - Deborah Stewart.*Overall female 5K walk winner.

WALKERS - MALE: 14 and under: 1st -; 2nd -; 3rd -. 15-19: 1st - Mason Inmon; 2nd - Sheldon Cassidy; 3rd -. 20-29: 1st - Austin Riggelman; 2nd - Hunter Jones; 3rd -. 30-39: 1st - Zack Patton; 2nd - Timothy Ross; 3rd -. 40-49: 1st - Michael Romesburg; 2nd - Nicholas Wise; 3rd - Jon Renner. 50-59: 1st - Carl Kondrach*; 2nd - Mike Campsey; 3rd - Blake Headen. 60+: 1st - Gerald Patton; 2nd - Dennis Cropp; 3rd - Edward Mendola.*Overall male 5K walk winner.

RUNNERS - FEMALE: 14 and under: 1st - Sofie Strosnider; 2nd - Shae Hopkins; 3rd -Naomi Brandstetter. 15-19: 1st - Eryka Hackney; 2nd - Marissa Meyer; 3rd - Ember

Webber. 20-29: 1st - Sydney Urbine*; 2nd - Emily Viglianco; 3rd - Sarah Courtwright. 30-39: 1st - Angela Courtwright; 2nd - Jessica Sumpter; 3rd - Michelle Cross. 40-49: 1st - Kelly Kiger; 2nd - Holly Thurman; 3rd - Melissa Johnson-Husenits. 50-59: 1st - Michelle Wissinger; 2nd - Christine Demore; 3rd - Carla Martin. 60+: 1st - Marcia Sonneborn; 2nd - Janet Cunningham; 3rd - Julianne Mastroianni.*Overall female 5K run winner.

RUNNERS - MALE: 14 and under: 1st - Will Maxwell; 2nd - Joel Grimes; 3rd - Thomas Rush. 15-19: 1st - Bruce Goodman, Jr; 2nd - Olivier Sanvicente; 3rd - Morgan Kiger. 20-29: 1st - Christian Georgeianna*; 2nd - Jacob Horne; 3rd -. 30-39: 1st - Brian Canny; 2nd - Kevin Courtwright; 3rd - Jesse Baker. 40-49: 1st - Tim Thurman; 2nd - Mark Strosnider; 3rd - Kevin Davis. 50-59: 1st - Douglas Basinski; 2nd - Bill Cain; 3rd - Rob Inmon. 60+: 1st - Leonard Davis; 2nd -; 3rd -.

Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot



Rocco Saab

Alicia Gails & Dayton Reynolds

On Thanksgiving morning, the turkey headed out for another trot at Wana B Park in Carmichaels. Organized by Be Your Best You Coaching & Mindset Training, the free race event also collected toys for Greene County Toys for Tots. A donation of water, fruit, and photo booth by Cumberland Township Supervisors and Barbie McMinn rounded out the fun morning event. The overall winners were: Kids - Rocco Saab, 5K Male - Dayton Reynolds, 5K Female - Alicia Gails.

All Things Christmas Festival



The All Things Christmas Festival organizers would like to thank everyone that came out and donated their trees, crafts and time. The generous donations brought in a total of \$9,132.00 for the food pantry. The top three selling trees were 1st Place "Have a Sweet Christmas", donated by Terri and Jeff Donaldson; 2nd Place "S'mores, Hot Chocolate Firepit", donated by the First Christian Church of ...continued on page 18

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Carmichaels; and 3rd Place “ Twinkles & Tangled”, donated Carmichaels Women’s Civic Club.

Corner Cupboard Holiday Drive



The Corner Cupboard Food Bank hosted a Holiday Drive to feed the community on Thursday, November 30. From 9am to 6pm that day, they collected non-perishable food items and monetary donations on the steps of the Greene County Courthouse. The event was held to address food insecurity in Greene County during the holiday season. There were raffle tickets, games of chance, and prizes throughout the event. The Corner Cupboard Food Bank raised a little over \$3,000 and collected 670 pounds of food. “It was a wonderful day and we are so grateful to CNX for partnering again with us to make this a successful drive and for the many community supporters,” says Executive Director Candace Tustin,

WU Hosted TUBACHRISTMAS

Waynesburg University’s Department of Fine Arts hosted the annual TUBACHRISTMAS concert on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Goodwin Performing Arts Center. The free event was open to the public.

Created by Harvey Phillips in 1974, this was the 50th anniversary of the MERRY TUBACHRISTMAS concerts. These annual concerts garner attention and participation nationally and internationally each year. All concerts are made possible with permission from the Harvey Phillips Foundation, Inc.

Carmichaels Light Up Night



Following the Christmas parade in downtown Waynesburg, Carmichaels residents celebrated with a light up night of their own in Carmichaels town square. Santa arrived on a fire truck and visited with children while the Carmichaels Area High School band played festive music. *Picture provided by Miss Rain Day Pageant.*

Waynesburg Toy & Comic Con



Waynesburg Toy & Comic Expo returned to the EQT REC Center the first weekend of December. Vendors, artists, and creators (many of them local) sold their wares that Saturday. Attendees had the chance to meet wrestlers Billy Gunn and Lisa Marie Varon, as well as Bumblebee from Transformers.

Nemacolin Light Up Night

A light up night was held at the Nemacolin Volunteer Fire Department on December 8 at 6pm. Santa arrived at 6pm to visit with the children, and children’s snacks included free hot dogs, popcorn, and hot chocolate. There was a Chinese auction and additional food was available for purchase.



GCHS Museum Christmas Open House

Each year, the Greene County Historical Society decorates the museum for Christmas and hosts an open house the weekend after Thanksgiving and the first weekend of December.



As always, Santa Claus visited with the children, and children could deliver letters to Santa, grab a treat, and take a picture with him. Other activities over the two weekends included a basket raffle, puppet shows, a model train display, a scavenger hunt, and self-guided tours through the open parts of the museum.

Uniquely decorated Christmas trees were set up in the main hall to be auctioned off. Trees included a wooden tree frame with canned goods from Corner Cupboard, a tree from books, and a tree from grapevine created by Thistlethwaite Vineyards, and a gift card trees, just to name a few.

In addition to the Christmas trees, basket raffles for other items were available. And the Gift Shop was open, full of books about local and Pennsylvania history, locally handcrafted items, and small toys - perfect for some early Christmas shopping. Raffle basket winners were

Michele Hagenbuch, Jackie Headlee, Ron Shipley, Jeff Taylor, Delores Henry, Warren Hlafcsak, and Rhoda Dulaney.

Tree raffle winners were Peggy Boyer, Marlene & Dave Reid, Louise Gapen, Jackie Headlee, Leeanne Zablosky, Lisa Petro, David Huntley, Jared Hirtz, and Jaimie Durdevich.

Children and adults could color a Christmas tree ornament to hang on the museum’s tree, and the scavenger hunt took visitors throughout the lower floor of the museum searching for historic items.

Free Christmas Trees at the Fairgrounds



On Saturday, December 9, EQT partnered with the Waynesburg Lions Club to distribute 150 live trees - free of charge - to community members at the EQTree Giveaway. From 9am to noon, anyone needing a free live tree could stop by and pick one up.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Holiday Spectacular Concert

Waynesburg University hosted a Holiday Spectacular concert by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Brass Section in Roberts Chapel Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Twelve members of the symphony brass and percussion sections of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performed works from the Baroque era, along with arrangements of beloved holiday melodies.

The Holiday Brass Spectacular was sponsored by Baily Insurance, Community Bank, EQT, First Federal Savings

Loan Association of Greene County, Iron Senergy, JWL Wealth Management, Range Resources and United Sound & Electronics.

Visitors were also free to browse the Holiday Village open house in Johnson Commons (the campus quad behind Miller Hall). During this event, student organizations and campus partners hosted booths offering a range of free festive activities, including photos with Santa, handmade gift items for sale, hot cocoa and s’mores, coloring Christmas cards for nursing home residents, and more, with Christmas music throughout the evening.

This event kicked off Waynesburg University’s 175th Anniversary celebrations. As part of the anniversary celebration, the University will be hosting a special calendar of events on campus and fundraising initiatives throughout 2024.

Christmas in the Park

Children in the Carmichaels area gathered for a new event at Wana B Park on Saturday, December 9. Christmas in the Park, sponsored by STARS Foundation and the Cumberland Township Supervisors, featured a variety of holiday activities to create a fun Christmas workshop experience. Children decorated cookies, created ornaments, drank hot chocolate, made reindeer food, met with Santa and the Grinch, participated in a candy cane hunt, and took pictures at the photo booth at the free event.



Dear Santa,

My name is Aarabella, and I am 8 years old. This year I've been good. Something good I did was being kind to others. Something I would like to give to a family member or friend is a gift. This year I might like to receive 2 twin babies and a Nintendo Switch. My Christmas wish is to give my family a special gift. I have a question for you: what is your favorite reindeer? Thank you Santa for leaving presents under the Christmas tree. I hope your elves do good at their job. I love you Santa.

Love, Aarabella

West Greene Lions Club Recognizes Outstanding Students

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

Ali Goodwin is the daughter of Dave and Michelle Goodwin of Sycamore, PA. Ali participates in the Ski Club, Peer Mentoring, National Honor Society, Future Farmers of America, Science Club Treasurer, Aquaponics Club, Volleyball and Softball. Her awards and honors include Honor Roll, Hometown Heritage Athlete of the Month, Homecoming Queen, WPIAL All Section for Softball 2023, participated in the WPIAL Championship and was runner-up team for 2021. Ali volunteered to raise money for the Humane Society, West Greene Middle School Coach, West Greene Little League Football, and (Cinderella Service Project) raising money to purchase tickets and bouquets for students to attend the prom. Her future plans are to attend West Virginia University majoring in Elementary Education to be an elementary teacher.

Celia Parson is the daughter of Tim and Tina Parson of Graysville, PA. She belongs to the National Honor Society, Calculus Club, FFA, Floral Design, Student Government, and Science Club. Celia's accomplishments and awards include: being treasurer of the National Honor Society, president of the Calculus Club, past treasurer of the Calculus Club, Vice President of the Class of 2024, and second vice president of the FFA. She received the Principal's Honors award, Challenge Program



Ali Goodwin



Celia Parson



Noah Webster



Abigail Whipkey

Academic Excellence, Math Excellence Award, First Runner Up for Miss Dance of PA, and the Die Hard Dance Scholarship. Celia is a teacher/demonstrator for Moshetta's Performing Arts Center, Volunteer for the Farm Bureau Stand, Sunday School Teacher, and Thanksgiving Meal Deliveries. She plans to attend Duquesne University's accelerated Physical Therapy Program to obtain a doctorate. She also plans on joining the Dukettes Dance Team while attending college.

Noah Webster is the son of Jason Webster of Graysville, PA and Brandy Vath of Holbrook, PA. Noah has participated in the marching band for six years and is the current drum major. He is the captain of the cross country team. This is his third year in track and field. He plays basketball, belongs to the Ski Club, Science Club, Concert Band, Choir, and is president of the Chess Club. His community service includes volunteering at the Corner Cupboard Food Bank, Waynesburg Health and Rehabilitation, and Evergreen Assisted Living. Noah plans to attend Waynesburg University with a Pre-med/Biology major.

Abigail Whipkey is the daughter of Joe and Stacey Whipkey of Graysville, PA. Abigail is active in clubs and has received various awards. She is the secretary of the Science Club, belongs to the National Honor Society, Aquaponics Club, and Peer Mentoring. She is a four year Cheer Letterman and two year Cheer Captain. Abigail has received the Challenge Program Community Service Award and is on the Honor Roll. She frequently volunteers at Crystal's Children Center. Abigail's future plans include attending a four year college majoring in Forensic Psychology.

Girls Scout Troop Packs Shoeboxes for Children

Girl Scout Troop #80012, along with their leader Lainey White Duncan and the girls' mothers, packed 50 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse International Relief. Each shoebox held 20-25 items that included school supplies, hygiene items, hair accessories, toys and other fun items. The girls included a personal letter and a card, and they hope the recipients will write back. The shoebox gifts were dropped off during collection week in November, before being shipped all over the world. If you'd like to be a part of Troop #80012, they hold meetings on Thursdays from 5-6pm at the Jefferson Baptist Church in Jefferson, PA.



Student Selected for Honors Band

On October 2nd, Waynesburg Central High School Junior Joe Kirsch traveled to Baldwin H.S. for PMEA District 1 Band Auditions (Allegheny, Greene, Fayette, Washington & Westmoreland Counties). After a lengthy process, Joe was selected for both the PMEA District 1 Honors Band and District Band. He will perform with the Honors Band at a concert on November 19th at North Hills M.S. and with the District Band at Peters Twp. H.S. in January.



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WCHS Lions Club Students of the Month

The WCHS Lions Club Students of the Month for November are Kaylee Ayers and Kaley Rohanna.

Kaylee Ayers is the daughter of Shane and Amy Ayers of Waynesburg. She has carried a 4.0 GPA into her senior year. She has stayed very busy at WCHS. She has been a member of Alpha Beta, the Hope Squad, the Prom Committee, Spanish Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, Art Club (treasurer), Youth Alive (president), and Class Secretary. Kaylee has also been on the Track, Cross Country and Cheerleading teams.

Kaylee is a three-year letterman in track and field and a two-year letterman in cross country and cheerleading. She was a freshman Homecoming attendant and is the 2023 Miss Merry Christmas. Outside of school Ms. Ayers dances at In Motion Studio in Waynesburg. She also attends the First Church of the Nazarene and the Jefferson Baptist Youth group.

Kaylee has spent the past two summers lifeguarding for the Greene County Department of Recreation. In her free time Kaylee enjoys photography and bible journaling. Her future plans are to attend Waynesburg University and major in education and entrepreneurship.

Kaley Rohanna is the daughter of Nikki and Jeremy Rohanna of Waynesburg. She has earned straight 'A's throughout high school. Kaley has been a member of the basketball team, the soccer team, Encore! Music Appreciation Club, Alpha Beta, Theatre Tech and Drama Club.

Kaley has been recognized as a four-year letterman in soccer and basketball. She also was honored as the 2023 Century Conference Basketball Player of the Year, 2023 Greene County Messenger Player of the Year, First Team All-Conference, and All-Academic Team. Kaley loves basketball. She has volunteered to help with youth basketball teams. In the summer, she takes basketball lessons and has attended the Nate Smith Basketball School.

In her free time Kaley enjoys writing, painting, drawing, and playing video games. She is a United Methodist and attends youth group at the First Baptist Church of Waynesburg. Kaley's future plans are to attend a four-year university and major in graphic communications, UX/UI design.



Kaylee Ayers



Kaley Rohanna

CFGC Awards over \$46,000 in 2023 Fall Grants to Local Non-Profit Organizations

The Community Foundation of Greene County (CFGC) recently announced a distribution of six grants totaling \$46,235 as a part of CFGC's 2023 Fall Community Grants.

"We are honored to partner with businesses and members of the community to help our non-profits address the needs of Greene County children, adults and families," said Thelma Szarell, chairperson of the Foundation Board of Directors. "These grants are made possible through the generosity of local residents and businesses who established funds at CFGC to support local programs."

The following grants were made:

\$5,000 for Humane Society of Greene County to support, "Honoring Every Soul." Due to its growth, the Humane Society will be adding an addition to their current building for those animals in need of extra or long-term care (injured, ill, abused and senior animals), and will also serve as a visiting area for human families.

\$5,000 for Dress for Success Pittsburgh to provide Dress for Success Mobile Services for Greene County women. Dress for Success empowers woman who are entering or returning to the workforce across the region through clothing, connections, and confidence. Four additional mobile boutique

service events will be provided in Greene County in 2024 and serve approximately 80-100 women at each event.

\$5,000 for Junior Achievement of Western PA for JA BizTown: Greene County Schools. Junior Achievement's purpose is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. JA BizTown: Greene County combines in-class learning with a day-long visit to a simulated town. This simulation allows students to operate banks, manage restaurants, write checks, and vote for a mayor in order to connect the dots between what they learn in school and the real world.

\$5,000 for Beverly's Birthdays to hold a free Community Baby Shower, coinciding with a pop-up formula distribution event in Greene County. Beverly's Birthdays provides birthday cheer and critical baby care supplies for children experiencing homelessness and families in need.

\$500 for Jefferson-Morgan School District to host, Ruling Our Experiences (ROX) Girls Group. The ROX empowerment program for girls was developed to assist girls in developing the skills necessary to address the social, personal, and academic issues of adolescence such as: drops in confidence and self-esteem, concerns with weight and body image, and navigating difficult friendships and relationships to name a few. The program lasts 20 weeks and works with 8 th grade girls.

\$25,735 for Vision Services of Washington-Greene for the Greene County Vision Assistance program to provide residents of Greene County free access to life altering assistive technologies and medical devices. These devices will help the blind and visually impaired to maintain their independence by providing devices that would normally be out of reach financially.

Funds used to provide the above grants were the following: L&M Medical Needs Fund, Donald R. and Sally S. Cameron Funds, Cindy's Wind Fund for Women and Girls, Kathleen Hamilton Davis and William R. Davis Memorial Fund, Good for Greene Fund, and the Forever Greene Fund.

Since 2001, CFGC has been able to award more than \$4 million in grants and scholarships that have helped meet the needs and improve lives of Greene County residents.

For more information about CFGC and our grants, visit www.cfgcpa.org, or email cfgcpa@gmail.com.

Graduate Counseling faculty member receives award from BMHA

Assistant Professor of Graduate Counseling at Waynesburg University Dr. Dennis Winkler ('22) was recently awarded The Maxie T. Collier Phoenix Arising Award, Peoples' Choice For Impact on the Mental Health And Substance Use In the Community by the Black Mental Health Alliance for Education & Consultation, Inc. (BMHA).

Dr. Winkler was presented the award at the Dr. Maxie T. Collier Awards Ceremony and 40th Anniversary Gala Friday, Dec. 1, at the Baltimore World Trade Center in Maryland.

The Phoenix Arising Award is named in tribute to Dr. Collier, BMHA principal founder. Recipients are nominated and selected based on their work, life and vision for building human development in the Black community.

"This is an honor, as luminaries in the field whom I have studied for years have received this award," said Dr. Winkler of his selection. "Moreover, it feels good to be awarded as it was unexpected, and many times, mental health professionals' work goes unnoticed."

Some of Dr. Winkler's recent work in the field includes providing responses to mass shootings in Baltimore, Maryland, where he has assisted community members, students and community activists in processing these traumatic events.

In addition, Dr. Winkler co-presented with Waynesburg University Master of Arts in Counseling student, Maia Hawk, at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's Annual Conference. Their 90-minute presentation was titled, "Advocacy for Adolescent Substance Users: Addressing the Stigma."

"I am blessed to be at WU, as our service-oriented mission aligns with the work I strive to carry out each day," added Dr. Winkler. "Awards like these aren't bigger than mission, but they can be fuel along the way."

As a counselor, Dr. Winkler specializes in working with underserved communities, which includes clinical and research focus on trauma, family and spiritually integrated psychotherapy.

Dr. Winkler holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Sojourner Douglass College, a Master of Science degree in clinical mental health counseling from Loyola University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in counselor education and supervision from Waynesburg University.

BMHA is a nonprofit mental health and social advocacy organization focused on the mission of developing, promoting and sponsoring culturally-relevant services to support the health and well-being of Black communities. It works to serve clinicians, individuals, families and children, and the community.



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Love, Teagan





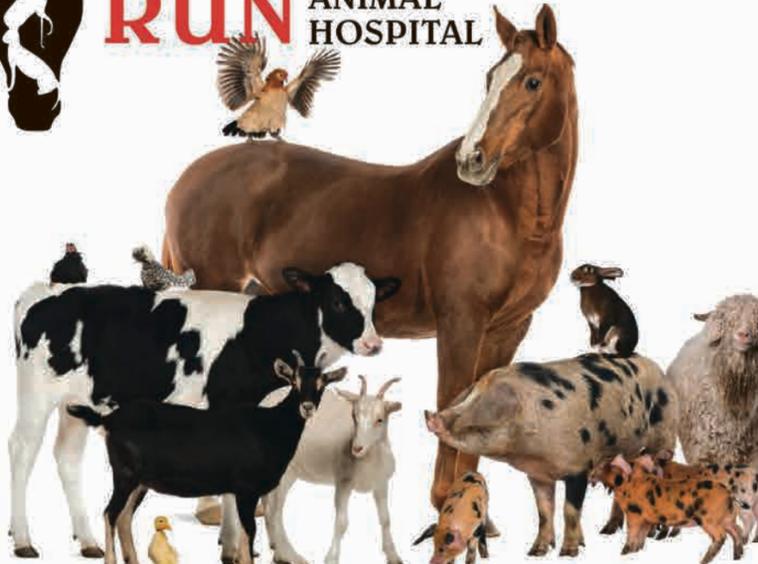
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Free Christmas Dinner

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

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

Blueprints in Need of Tax Assistance Volunteers

Blueprints is currently seeking volunteers in Washington and Greene Counties for its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. The program provides low-to-moderate-income working households with free income tax filing services, protects them from predatory or expensive filing services, and ensures they receive all the tax credits for which they are eligible.

Volunteers are needed for various positions including greeting and screening taxpayers and preparing income tax returns during the afternoon and/or evening hours, one day per week in the City of Washington and the Borough of Waynesburg during income tax return season.

Volunteers do not need prior experience in tax filing as they receive training and certification through the program. Individuals may volunteer as little as two hours each week and more if their schedule allows.

VITA is part of the agency's continuum of services designed to help participants break barriers and build their futures.

Last tax season, Blueprints' assisted 346 households in completing and filing their income tax returns resulting in more than \$400,000 in refunds. The United Way of Washington County and the United Way of SWPA partner with Blueprints on this initiative.

For additional information, please contact Rebecca by telephone at 724-225-9550 ext. 516 or by email at rwhoolery@my-blueprints.org

Greene County Seeks Fair Board Members

The Greene County Commissioners are seeking individuals interested in serving on the Greene County Fair Board. The fair board meets nine to ten times a year and reviews and votes on matters concerning the Greene County Fair. Fair Board members invest significant amounts of time during the fair ensuring success of the programs and entertainment value of the fair's guests.

Individuals interested in serving on the Greene County Fair Board should send a letter of interest to the Greene County Commissioners, 93 East High Street in Waynesburg.

Additional information on the county's programs can be obtained through the



West Greene Senior Bryce King took a break from catering the CTC Holiday Luncheon last week to strike a pose with instructor Dan Wagner and grandmother Donna Provost. That's Bryce and grandfather Phil Provost on the cover of the 2024 Greene County Calendar commemorating the blue ribbon they won this year at the Jacktown Fair Parade. Way to go Bryce!

For a peek inside to see more original art by Colleen Nelson featuring all things Greene, or to purchase, stop by Waynesburg Mill, RBG Coffee Shop, Kiln to Table, Specialty Herbal, or call 724-833-2622

Greene County Commissioners' Facebook page or by calling 724-852-5210.

Corner Cupboard Food Bank Hosting a Virtual Fund Drive

Corner Cupboard Food Bank Inc is hosting a Holiday Virtual Fund Drive from now until December 31. Help them reach their goal to raise \$30,000 by the end of 2023, allowing them to continue to feed thousands of Greene County individuals experiencing hunger throughout the coming winter months.

Please give generously and extend your giving spirit to your Greene County neighbors most in need. With your support, the food bank can continue providing food security to over 2,500 individuals each month through their network of pantry sites in Greene.

You can help make a difference safely with a secure donation online by visiting their website, www.cornercupboard.org, and clicking on the "Donate Now" button. Contributions are also graciously accepted by mail, or you may drop off at: CCFB, 881 Rolling Meadows Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

Mon Valley Academy for the Arts in Brownsville Offering Classes

The Mon Valley Academy for the Arts opened a location in Brownsville, PA earlier this year and has been offering a variety of music lessons, art classes, programming and more to the community.

Are you interested in learning an instrument? Consider signing up for drum lessons with Pete Harris on Wednesdays, guitar and mandolin lessons with Gary Antol on Tuesdays, piano and woodwind lessons with Carla DellaPenna on Mondays, trombone lessons with Jeannie Swinker, flute lessons with Evan Kovach, or bagpipe lessons with Brad Wilson of Kilted Greene.

Their recently opened Elementary Music Academy holds classes on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm and focuses on children's choir, individual lessons, intro to music, and beginning band.

On Fridays at 6pm, drawing lessons for kids are held by Rev. Kristen Emrick. The group lessons are \$15/child and all materials are provided.

Other classes and events held since their opening include crochet and knitting classes, learn to create web comics, painting classes, crafting events, choir and musical performances, breakfast and photos with Santa, a crafting fair, and more.

Also wanted are students in grades seven through twelve that would be interested in playing in the Regimental Drum & Fife. They are looking for interested drummers (beginner, intermediate, or experienced) and fife players (piccolo, flute, or saxophone players). The MVAA Regimental Drum & Fife has traveled to Gettysburg and other areas to perform.

For more information about their programs, visit monvalleyacademy-forthhearts.org or find them on Facebook.

Corrections: In the Holiday I issue of GreeneScene Community Magazine, the GreeneScene of the Past feature article referred to Waynesburg High School/Waynesburg Central High School incorrectly as Central Greene High School. Danny Humble played for Waynesburg High School in 1969, and Waynesburg Central High School in 1970 and 1971.

In Shining the Light, the church referred to as Clay Lick should have been Coal Lick Methodist Church.

This Message Board Is For You!

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

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Dear Santa,

My name is Ellie and I am 7 years old. This year I've been really good. Something good I did this year was I helped my friends if they got hurt. Something I would like to give to a family member or friend is pretty earrings for my mom. This year I might like to receive a white camera. My Christmas wish this year is for everyone to have a good Christmas. I also have a question for you: do you really like cookies? I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT YOU BRING ME!!!

Love, Ellie



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Intentional Walks ————— By Bret Moore

The First Dean of Waynesburg College Basketball

Anyone who actually reads this column is old enough to remember the glory days of Waynesburg College basketball in the 70s and 80s. Many of you may be old enough to remember the moribund state of the program before Rudy Marisa took the reins and led the jackets to national prominence. However, few people are aware of the Renaissance man and Jacket alum who became a national basketball icon a half century earlier.

Claire Bee played football, baseball, and basketball at Waynesburg College after serving in the First World War. The Grafton, WV native was only 5'8" and weighed 150 pounds, but he was all heart and hustle. Although he was a student, he had to support his widowed mother, so he worked as the school's registrar and bursar. He was given housing in the basement of Miller Hall. Those who boarded there were called "the rats," while those who boarded in the attic were called "the bats."

As a student/employee he organized the college's first wrestling and tennis teams, while supervising the building of the tennis courts. Prexie Stewart took him under his wing because he so admired the young man's tenacity. He became a graduate assistant football coach under Britt Patterson and taught economics. In 1924, he was sent to scout West Virginia Wesleyan in their game against Navy. The Bobcats defeated the Midshipmen and looked invisible. However, Bee devised a game plan that led to a 14-2 upset for the Jackets the following week. Wesleyan got back on track their next game when they defeated national powerhouse Syracuse. Bee's bona fides as a coach were born that season.

After graduate work at Pitt, he started his basketball coaching career at Rider College in New Jersey. Two years later, he was hired as a football, basketball, baseball, and tennis coach at Long Island University. He was also the head of the

Accounting Department. He never signed a contract at L.I.U. because he wanted the school to feel free to move on if they were dissatisfied.

That seemed unlikely considering he went on to be one of the most successful basketball coaches in the nation's history. In fact, he holds the highest career winning percentage of NCAA Division I coaches at 83%. The only other coaches in history above 80% are John Wooden (82%) and Adolph Rupp (81%). From 1935 to 1937, he won 95% of his games, including 43 straight. His Blackbirds won national titles in 1939 and 1941.

He finished his career in 1954 after coaching the NBA's Baltimore Bullets. He is also considered the inventor of the 1-3-1 defense and was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1968.

However, his legacy goes beyond even those incredible accomplishments. His degrees included a BA, BS, BCS, MCS, and an MA. He authored 24 books and is considered the "father of basketball in Puerto Rico", where he used to take his teams for exhibitions. In fact, he had the rules of basketball translated into 30 languages and distributed through various means to over 60 countries.

In a gesture of gratitude and respect, he arranged for Waynesburg to come to play his L.I.U. team on their home court at Madison Square. However, the College's Board of Trustees refused to pay for the trip. He told the newspapers at the

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.

time he was trying to repay the debt he felt toward Waynesburg College for giving a poor boy from the coal fields of West Virginia a chance to get a degree.

These are the types of incredible success stories we must not allow time to wash away. Our County and University have an obligation to keep these memories alive and enshrined in our collective cultural conscience.



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Dear Santa,

My name is Sophia, and I am 8 years old. This year I've been really good. Something I did this year was help my mom with cooking. I would like to give my mom a gift basket. I might like to receive a lot of decor for my room. My Christmas wish this year is a cooking set and an art set. I have a question for you: how old are you? I hope your elves work hard because Christmas is coming soon.

Love, Sophia

Dear Santa,

My name is Ahnika, and I am 7 years old. This year I've been really good. Something good I did this year was play with my sister. I would like to give my mom is an ornament. This year I might like to have my big sister come back home. My Christmas wish this year is for my sister's finger to heal. What do you want for Christmas? Thank you for everything - the gifts, the toys and everything in the world!

Love, Ahnika



Dominic Colarusso is the son of Vince Colarusso and Nikki McIntire. He is a member of the Mike's golf, basketball and baseball teams. He was First Team All-Section in both basketball and baseball, and he was a two-time WPIAL individual qualifier in golf. In school, he is a library aide and a member of the National Honor Society, Esports, Leo Club, Spanish Club, and yearbook. He also volunteers at the local food bank. He maintains a 4.1 GPA and plans to attend college for political science/pre-law. He also wants to continue playing baseball in college.



Megan Voithofer is the daughter of Justin and Kristen Voithofer of Carmichaels. She is a four-year starter for the Mike's basketball team and plays right field for the softball team. Last year, she was named to the GCADA All-County basketball team. She was also on the all-tournament teams for the Donna Furnier Tip-Off and Carmichaels Lions Club "Coal Bowl" Christmas tournaments. She is a member of the school's Leo Club and National Honor Society. Megan volunteers at the Corner Cupboard Food Bank and is a member of St. Hugh Church. She achieved Highest Honors and plans to attend a four-year school to study architecture.



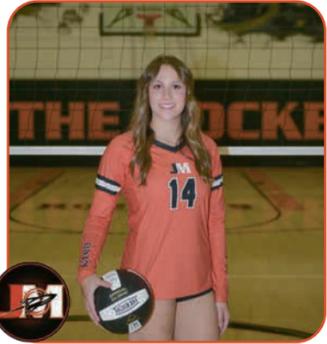
Jake Stephenson is a junior on the Raiders' football and wrestling Teams. He is a three-year letterman in football, a two-year letterman in wrestling and a one-year letterman in baseball. He was chosen as team captain for the last three years in football. He is one of only four Raider quarterbacks to throw for over 1,000 yards in a season. In football, he was selected as First Team All-Conference his freshman and junior years. He won a WPIAL Gold Medal as a member of the WPIAL Championship Wrestling Team in 2022. Jake was selected as a GCADA recipient five times- one baseball (freshman), two wrestling (freshman, sophomore), and two football (freshman, junior). He maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA. He participates in the young adult Bible group called The Crosswalkers and attends the First Church of the Nazarene. He is the son of Bob and Kristi Stephenson of Waynesburg.



Peyton Cowell is the daughter of Wade and Michelle Cowell of Waynesburg. She is a sophomore member of the soccer team and basketball teams. She was a GCADA recipient for both soccer and basketball her freshman year. In addition, she was named All-Section 2nd Team and All-Tournament Team for the Lions Club Coal Bowl, and recognized as the girls' basketball Rookie of the Year. In school, she is a member of Alpha Beta, LEO Club, Student Council, Youth Alive, FFA, the Debate Team, Spanish Club, and Book Club. Peyton has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Outside of school, she participates in Greene Co. 4-H and is an active member at First Baptist Church of Waynesburg and its youth group.



Jase Bedilion is the son of Dan and Beth Bedilion of Clarksville. He is a junior linebacker/tight end for the Rockets. He is a three-year football letterman and served as defensive captain this season. He was named All-GCADA and Tri-County this year. Jase also plays on the school's basketball team. In school, he is a member of the National Honor Society, yearbook, student council, and he is the secretary/treasurer of his class. Jase also volunteers for a variety of school events and the Colby Stars organization.



Emilee Bazzoli is the daughter of Dan and Jessica Bazzoli of Jefferson. She is a freshman libero/defensive specialist on the Rockets volleyball team. She recorded 220 digs this past season. Emilee also plays travel softball for Team Pennsylvania. In school, she maintains a 4.38 GPA.



Noble Campbell is the son of Stefanie and Noble Campbell of Graysville. He is a freshman and plays football. He also plans to participate in basketball and track and field. Noble is enrolled in an academic line of classes and enjoys fishing.



Chloe Harris is the daughter of Crystal Fortner and Doyle Harris of Sycamore. She is a freshman and participates in cheerleading and volleyball. She also plans to participate in basketball and softball. Chloe is a member of the Science Club and the Pioneer's FFA program.



A.J. Vanata is a three-sport letterman. He is the son of Andrew Vanata and Nicole White of Dilliner. A.J. is the senior class president, a member of the Debate Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Interact Club and National Honor Society. He is a three-time All-Conference, All-County, All-District and All-Area football recipient. In addition, AJ is a three time All-County and All-Area baseball honoree. After the 2023 baseball season, he was chosen as All-Section and one of the Greene County Top 3. After graduation, A.J. plans to further his education and extend his athletic career in football or baseball.



Isabella Garnek is the daughter of Bo and Jessica Garnek of Bobtown. She is a junior and plays on the volleyball, basketball, and softball teams. She has been named to the All-County list in volleyball and basketball and was third team All-Section in volleyball. In addition to maintaining a 4.6 GPA, Isabella is a member of Student Council, FBLA, FTA, Envirothon, NHS, Interact Club and Maples for Christ. In her free time, she enjoys hunting, fishing, baking, and traveling. Isabella attends St. Matthias Parish, where she is an altar server and member of the youth group.

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Dear Santa,

My name is Sapphire, and I am 7 years old. This year I've been really good. Something good I did was help my mom. Something I would like to give to a family member is an ornament for my mom. This year I might like to receive a LOL doll. My Christmas wish this year is a horse. I also have a question for you: how is Mrs. Claus? Thank you Santa Claus for giving us gifts.

Love, Sapphire

Dear Santa,

My name is Jocelyn, and I have been good this year. Something I did that was good this year was that I helped clean my Grandma's house. Something I would like to give this year is to give my mom a necklace. This year I might like to receive a bike, an iPad, and a baby doll that breathes. My Christmas wish is love for all. Who is your favorite reindeer? Thank you for coming to see me. I will leave you cookies and milk, and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Jocelyn



Lanfer Simpson is a member of the Greene County 4,000-Yard Rushing Club in football. This accomplishment is even more impressive considering he was a full-back who shared a backfield with Lee Fritz and Brice Cree. In addition, the first two years of his career were against AAA competition. His junior year, he was named All-State and was the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's Player of the Year after gaining 1,542 yards and scoring 19 touchdowns. He also made First Team All-State his senior year

and was named the Observer-Reporter's Player of the Year. That year, on defense he had 115 tackles, four forced fumbles and three interceptions. He went on to play fullback at WVU for two seasons. In wrestling, he was a WPIAL Champion and runner-up, and PIAA place winner. In 2003, while he was at WVU. The team's heavyweight was injured, and they asked Simpson to fill in. Although he had not wrestled since high school, he pinned his Bloomsburg opponent in 38 seconds

of his opening match. In his third match, he upset the #8-ranked wrestler in the NCAA. He finished the season 8-3 before hanging up his shoes for good. Simpson also won a WPIAL Track and Field gold medal when he won the 2001 shotput with a throw of 51'9.5". He bettered that throw by almost two feet at the PIAA Meet to claim a Silver Medal. The winner had set a new state record to beat him.

In 1998, long-time Waynesburg Central coach **Joe Ayersman** was inducted to the Pennsylvania State Wrestling Coaches' Hall of Fame and the Washington-Greene Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. In addition to his outstanding individual collegiate career, he continued the string of legendary coaches at his alma mater. Frank Bonifield was his high school coach. Bucky Murdock was his college coach, and he served as an assistant to Ernie Closser for 13 years. Six times Ayersman was named Section Coach of the Year and five times received the WPIAL

Coach of the Year award. In 1989, he was the Pennsylvania Coach of the Year. He is the only coach to have won both the AA and AAA WPIAL Wrestling Team Title. In 20 years as a head coach, his teams won five WPIAL Championships and finished as runner-up three other times. He also had teams finish third and sixth in the PIAA. His wrestlers won three individual state championships and 23 WPIAL titles. Upon his retirement in 1993, he held a 248-79-4 career coaching record. Ayersman was also an outstanding collegiate wrestler himself. He won a 4-1

Conference title as a member of one of Bucky Murdock's Waynesburg College teams. The conference at the time was equivalent to Division I. It was made up of teams that are now the Mid-American Conference as well as Rochester Tech and Marquette. That title put him in the company of legendary wrestlers such as National Champions George Lewis and Tony Gizzoni; in addition to Murdock, Ralph Adamson, Ralph Schneider and Paul Eckley - all 41 Conference champions.



George Messich was a three-year football starter at Mapletown from 1970-1972. He was named All-County and All-Conference. Messich also played three years of varsity basketball, where he was a member of the only County team to win a WPIAL hoop title. He also played a year of high school baseball. When Messich graduated, he played football at Potomac State for two years and was named All-Conference, All-Region and first-team Junior College All-American as a sophomore. He was also selected as team captain. After Potomac State, he ended up at Pitt, where he was a two-year

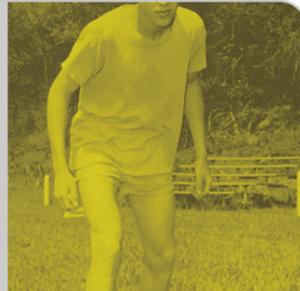
letterman and starting offensive tackle as a senior on the Panthers' 1976 NCAA championship team. He was named the Panthers' offensive lineman of the week three times in 1976. Messich takes great pride in having played with Hall of Famer and Heisman Trophy winner Tony Dorsett. "It was unbelievable blocking for Dorsett," Messich said. "You didn't have to block real long. After graduation, Messich's first stint as the Maples head football coach began in 1978 and ended in 1981. Two years later, he returned as an assistant coach. He was hired as head coach of the Maples again

the next year in 1987 and has remained at that position ever since. He just completed his 41st year as head coach and 45th year in coaching overall. At Mapletown, one of the smallest schools in the WPIAL, he has won three Tri-County South Conference titles, including 2022's 11-1 record, which saw the Maples win the school's first WPIAL playoff game and record the second undefeated regular season in school history. After that season, he was named Tri-County South Coach of the Year for the fourth time. Messich is the winningest and longest tenured football coach in Greene County history.

Jeff Culp was a star player on the 1973-74 Jefferson-Morgan teams who won back-to-back WPIAL titles. He was named First Team All-County and All-WPIAL both years. In addition, the first of those seasons, he was named the WPIAL Player of the Year. In the 1974 championship game, Midland's star running back threw down his helmet and refused to come back into the game after he was hit repeatedly by Culp. That year, he received a Big 33 nomination and was named the Dapper Dan Football MVP. His abilities extended to the baseball diamond and the mat, where he won a WPIAL wrestling title in 1975. After transferring to Waynesburg College from the U.S. Military Academy, he continued his dominance for the nationally ranked Jackets. He received First Team NAIA All-American status in both his junior and senior years. His junior year, he also placed sixth in the NAIA wrestling tournament, becoming a two-sport All-American.

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West Green's **Doug Crouse** was a two-time WPIAL and PIAA State Champion in the Mile Run in 1964 and 1965. His junior year, he won with a time of 4:28.7. That season, he also won the 880 and mile at the County Meet, setting records in both. The following year, he set a state record in the mile when he posted a time of 4:20.9, breaking the old record by almost two seconds. That season, he also placed 4th in the 880 at states. He also played football and was a Section IV wrestling champion for the Pioneers. He went on to run cross country for Waynesburg College. As a freshman, Crouse led the team to a 10-0 record, and they even snapped top-ranked Carnegie-Mellon's 42-meet win streak. That season, he qualified for Nationals and finished 27th in the country. The team remained undefeated and won the conference the following two years. Crouse won the individual conference title in both his junior and senior years.



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In 1999, Waynesburg Central freshman **Jocelyn Lindsay** won the women's WPIAL and PIAA Pole Vault. It was the first year the event was held for women. Lindsay had routinely won meets during the season with personal bests of 9'6" because she was never pushed. She was also "stiff vaulting." At the PIAA Meet she debuted a bending pole and vaulted 11 feet despite having never come close to that height at competitions before. That year was her first year even trying the event. She had been a gymnast, and her friends talked her into coming out for track.

Lindsay is one of the most successful track and field stars in the history of Greene County. She won four WPIAL and two PIAA State Pole Vaulting Titles (1999 and 2002). She also overcame serious injuries to finish as the PIAA Runner-up in 2000 and 2001. When she was healthy again, she won her second title her senior year with a leap of 12', a WPIAL record. Her 12'5" jump at the 2000 WPIAL Meet set a national record for sophomores. She received an athletic scholarship to Purdue University where she became team captain and finished as high as third in the Big 10. Her vault of 13' 1.5" remains in the school's top 10. Jocelyn was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

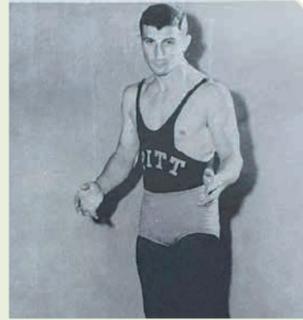


During his career at West Greene High School in the early 1970s, **John Bristor** lettered in football, baseball, track, wrestling and basketball. The star high school quarterback/defensive back attended California University of Pennsylvania after graduation and earned the starting safety spot for the Vulcans by his fourth game. However, he transferred to Waynesburg College and became a keystone of the Jackets' vaunted defenses on several nationally ranked teams. He received All-District 18 honors in 1976 and set a school record after an 86-yard interception return against Geneva.

Bristor also played baseball for the Yellow Jackets before returning to the track his senior year. He and fellow inductee Dennis Garrett were part of a nine-man team that set school records in several events and won the prestigious Mountaineer Relays shorthanded.

He almost made the Miami Dolphins as a free agent in 1978, lasting until the final cut. The next season, he made the opening day roster of the San Francisco 49ers. Other members of that team were Joe Montana, Tony Dungy, O.J. Simpson, Randy Cross, Dennis Green, and Sam Wyche. Bristor signed a free agent contract the following year with the Green Bay Packers and had a good camp and preseason but again narrowly missed the cut.

Tom Alberts was a PIAA and WPIAL Wrestling Champion for Waynesburg in 1949 and 1950. After high school, he served four years in the U.S. Navy. During that time, he won an AAU Championship and competed in the Pan American games. He went on to win the 1957 NCAA Title at 167 pounds while wrestling for the University of Pittsburgh. Ironically, he defeated Waynesburg College's Ralph Schneider 8-5 in the finals. That year, Pitt finished second in the nation behind Oklahoma. After a shoulder injury forced him to miss the 1958 season, he finished as NCAA runner-up in 1959. He did so, even though he was supporting a wife and three kids while he was finishing his student teaching.



Alberts also played football at Pitt and was a two-time All-WPIAL guard for the Raiders' football team. He was also inducted into the Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame after a highly successful coaching career at Trinity High School.

Carlos Gibbs won five PIAA track titles from 1988 to 1990 while at Waynesburg Central. He claimed three consecutive 3,200 Meter titles, the first two coming in class AA, while the third was a AAA win. He is the only athlete in meet history to win that event three times. He also won cross country state championships his junior and senior years. The summer after his graduation, he broke the record in the 3,000 Meter Steeple Chase at the Junior National Championships in Fresno, California. It was only the fourth steeple chase he had ever entered. One week earlier, he had won the prestigious Keebler International Prep Meet in Elmhurst, Illinois with a time of 9:14. He went on to a successful running career that included a scholarship to Auburn University, where he was an NCAA qualifier in the 3,000M Steeple Chase in 1994.



Dennis Garrett was a three-sport star at Jefferson-Morgan High School from the early to mid-1970s. He was a star receiver and defensive back on the team's back-to-back WPIAL championship teams. He was the first Rocket and second player in County history to score 1,000 career basketball points (1,356). It should be noted, this was before freshman eligibility and the three-point line. He was named All-WPIAL his junior year, and All-WPIAL and All-State his senior year. On the track, he was a three-time PIAA qualifier in the Long Jump. He also set County Meet and school records in the 100-Yard Dash (9.9), 220 Meter Run (22.6), Broad Jump, and Long Jump.

In college, he was the leading receiver on the nationally-ranked Waynesburg Yellow Jacket football team for both the 1978 and 1979 seasons. He and several football teammates continued to run track in college. Garrett and fellow Jefferson-Morgan alum Jon Culp joined John Bristor and Wayne Cauthorn to enter the Mountaineer Relays in Morgantown. The group won the 880 Relay and 4 X 100. Both times still stand today as school records.

But his greatest contribution to our area was his ability to touch the lives of the young people he coached in high school and college in multiple sports over four decades. Garrett was also one of the most respected officials in the WPIAL for 35 years, working multiple championship games.



Don Williams began his coaching career at Carmichaels in 1975. Forty-four years later, he left the Mike's bench as one of only 19 coaches in over 100 years of WPIAL history to win 500 or more games. He compiled a record of 512 - 452 with five section championships, and his teams made the WPIAL playoffs 19 times.

Williams was destined to coach basketball. He played high school basketball under the tutelage of Hal Weightman at Connellsville High School in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He started his own career immediately after he graduated from Slippery Rock.

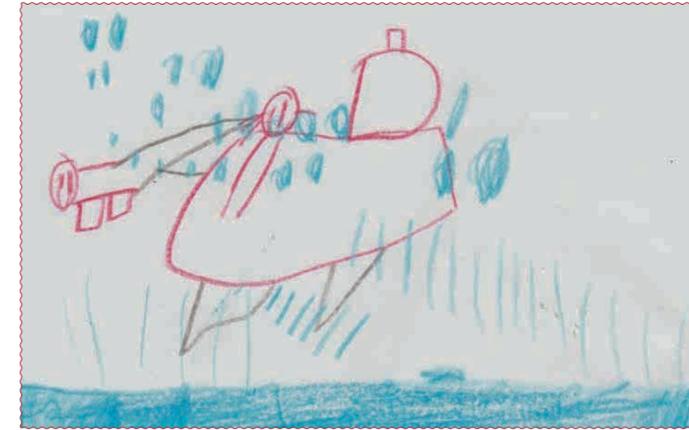
The apex of Williams' career was the 1995-96 season, when the Mikes made it to the WPIAL semifinals. The Mikes went 22-6 advancing to the WPIAL Class A semifinals before falling to Rochester 69-56. Carmichaels went on and notched the first two wins in school history in the PIAA playoffs that season. The 22 wins were a school record for the Mikes. "That was a dream season for us," Williams explained. "To go that far in the WPIAL playoffs and then be that successful in the PIAA playoffs was definitely a dream season. I had some good athletes on that team, but we didn't have a starter over six feet tall."

Correction: In the Holiday I issue of the Hometown Heritage Football Statistics, Carmichaels' quarterback A.J. Donaldson was listed as having five rushing touchdowns and one passing touchdown. In fact, he had seven rushing touchdowns and three passing touchdowns.

Dear Santa,

My name is Colby, and I am 7 years old. This year I've been good. Something good I did this year was help others. Something I would like to give to someone this year is my baby brother some love. This year I might like to receive a Furby and a Nintendo Switch. My Christmas wish this year is that my baby brother was better. I also have a question for you: how is Mrs. Claus? I will leave reindeer food.

Love, Colby



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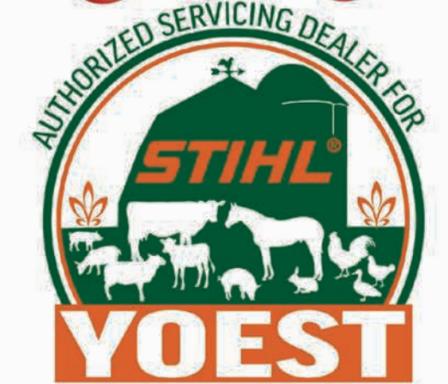


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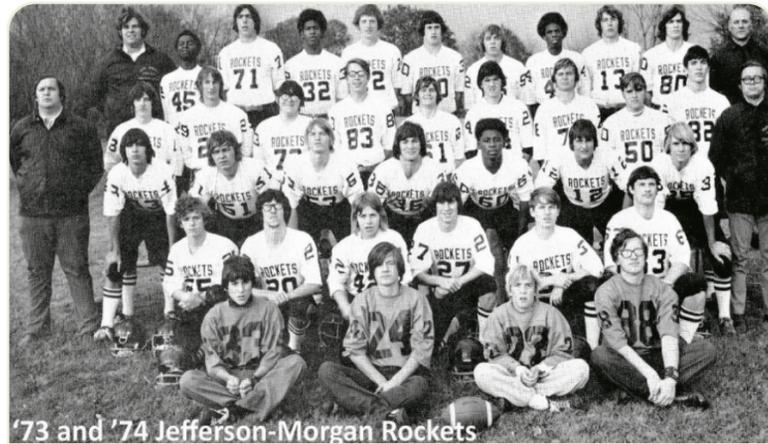
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Dear Santa,

My name is Drysten, and I am 8 years old. This year I have been really good. Something I would like to give someone is a book. This year I would like a Nintendo Switch for Christmas. This year I want to spend time with my family. I also have a question for you: who is your favorite reindeer?

Love, Drysten





'73 and '74 Jefferson-Morgan Rockets

The 1973 Jefferson-Morgan Rockets, coached by Walt Whitehead, won the WPIAL Class B Championship after beating Western Beaver 35-6. Earlier in the season, the team had snapped Chartiers-Houston's two-year unbeaten streak with a 15-0 victory. Only a tie with archrival Carmichaels blemished their season record. The dominating defense recorded three shutouts and allowed only 43 points all season.

The following year, coach Dave Eavenson took over the team and led them to another title. The team featured two Division I players, Frank Paci (Yale) and Jeff Culp (Army). In addition, future Waynesburg College stars such as Keith and Kevin Martin, Jon Culp, and Dennis Garrett were on the roster. After rolling through the regular season undefeated, the team faced a highly regarded Midland team in the WPIAL finals. Over 3,500 fans were in attendance to witness the Rockets win 20-0 to secure back-to-back titles. Kevin Martin and Jon Culp each had interception returns for touchdowns, in addition to 27-yard TD run by Garrett.



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Dear Santa,
My name is Leo, and I am 7 years old. Something good I did this year was that I was good. Something I would like to give a family member is a love note for my mom. This year I might like to receive a Sonic stuffed animal and a Venom toy. My Christmas wish is to have a baby turtle. I also have a question for you: how old are you?

Love, Leo



Dear Santa,
My name is Cameron, and I am 7 years old. I've been really good this year. Something I would like to receive is a baby German Shepard. I would like to give Elliott a five thousand dollar gift card. My wish is to have powers like you. How fast are you?

Love, Cameron



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2023

When Morrill Worcester, owner of Maine-based Worcester Wreath Company, found himself with a surplus at the end of the 1992 holiday season, he donated those 5,000 wreaths to the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Little did Worcester realize that this act of benevolence would morph into a national nonprofit organization and annual wreath-laying event that honors veterans far and wide...including right here in Greene County, PA!

This year, Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 16, and two local organizations will be instrumental in Greene County's representation: the Carmichaels Women's Civic Club, and the John Corbly chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). Thanks to the groups' various sponsors and volunteers, more than 500 Greene County graves will be decorated!

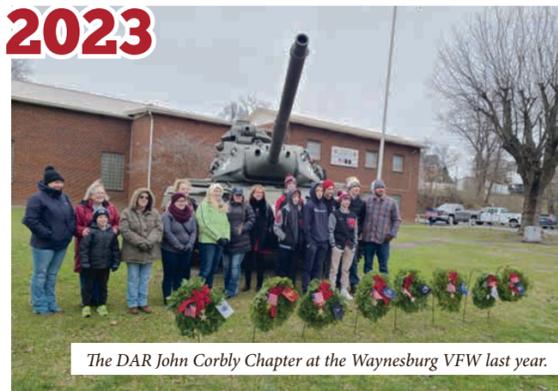
Andrea Semenoff, Carmichaels Women's Civic Club president says, "As stated on the [General Federation of Women's Clubs, PA] website, 'All of our members are united by a dedication to community improvement through volunteer service.' The members of the Carmichaels Women's Civic Club take this statement to heart!"

And it shows. The Carmichaels Women's Civic Club has multiple annual projects including Wreaths Across America. For the past 13 years the Club has held annual wreath-laying ceremonies in Laurel Point Cemetery in Carmichaels. This year, with the assistance of the American Legion Post 400, Girl Scout Troop #80012, and Cub Scout Pack #1168, the Civic Club will decorate the 369 veterans' graves located there.

Similarly, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is also community minded. This nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization was founded in 1890 and, according to its national website, has the "simple mission of promoting historic preservation, education, and patriotism." According to Shelvajeane Baysinger, chaplain of Greene County's John Corbly chapter of the DAR, her organization has been concentrating their efforts on the roughly 200 veterans' graves at Waynesburg's Oakmont Cemetery. This year, they've also added Fairall Church Cemetery for a total of 300 wreaths. This will be the third year that DAR has participated, with assistance by the VFW and its auxiliary, in the Wreaths Across America ceremonies.

According to the Wreaths Across America website, more than 2.7 million veterans' graves were decorated at 3,702 participating locations across the nation in 2022. Their goal is to place a wreath on every veteran's grave each December. Wreaths still come from Worcester Wreath Company, which remains a thriving enterprise.

All Wreaths Across America Day ceremonies take place rain or shine during the noon hour. The public is invited to attend. If you are interested in being a part of Wreaths Across America, you can reach out to either the Carmichaels Women's Civic Club or the John Corbly Chapter of the DAR. You can also sponsor wreaths, a specific cemetery, or a specific volunteer group directly on the website at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>.



The DAR John Corbly Chapter at the Waynesburg VFW last year.



The Carmichaels Women's Civic Club organizes Wreaths Across America at the Laurel Point Cemetery.

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Dear Santa,

My name is Braysen, and I am 8 years old. This year I have been really good. Something good I did this year was help my mom take down the trash. I would like to get my mom a ring for Christmas. Something I would like this year is a race bike. My Christmas wish is for everyone to have a good Christmas.

Love, Braysen

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Dear Santa,

My name is Waylon and I am 7 years old. This year I've been really good! Something good I did was that I never quit. Something I would like to give my mom is money. This year I might like to receive a cat. My Christmas wish this year is Pokemon cards. I also have a question: are you really real?

Love, Waylon

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VETERANS CORNER

By Alex Hughes

HELPING VETERANS THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season can be a time that brings great happiness to many people as it's typically a joyous time. However, for some people, the holiday season doesn't represent the same things as it does for others. Depression or severe stress can hit anyone during the holiday season. There's so much going on during the season that it can be a lot to handle for people. And veterans are no exception to this.

There are many veterans who struggle with depression around the holiday season due to different things. Some struggle with loneliness during the holidays and others with PTSD-related events. No matter what's causing these issues, there are countless things that anyone can do to help them with their struggles and brighten up their spirits.

One of the simplest things you can do is reach out to veterans you know and check on them. Letting them know they have people who are thinking of them and want to be a part of their life can have a positive impact on their morale and deter their feelings of loneliness. It's also a kind gesture to pay them a visit, or set up a lunch, or another meet up, such as local veteran-related events like Coffee with Veterans.

If you don't know any veterans person-

ally, there are still ways to help veterans in your community. Community events and outreaches allow you to donate food or gifts for veterans in need. Consider the gift of your time and donate to help with events in your community. If you still believe in the power of a warm Christmas card and note, there are multiple organizations that can assist you with this, such as Holiday Cards 4 Our Military Challenge (militaryholiday-cardchallenge.com) and Christmas Cards for Our Troops (usasoa.org/christmas-cards-for-our-deployed-troops). This is a great activity for schools and educators to participate in to brighten up the day of a veteran.

These small gestures can make a great impact in the life of someone who needs a pick me up. It's also the least we can do in return for these brave men and women who choose to serve this country and keep it safe while putting their own lives at risk. Any little gesture can make such a significant impact and that is what makes them so important.

For any veteran dealing with depression, there is always someone out there that can help you. You are not alone.

Email info@twvgreene.com FMI.



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

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My name is Brent, and I am 8 years old. This year I've been really good. Something good I did this year was I gave my cousins some cars. Something I would like to give a family member or friends is slime and a statue car. This year I want our puppy girl to feel better. I also have a question for you: how do your reindeer fly?

Love, Brent



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Dear Santa,

My name is Evander, and I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good. Something good I did this year was take care of my cat. I would like to give my mom a pretty ring this year. This year I am asking for a phone and a science box. My Christmas wish this year is for a new president. I have a question for you: how many elves do you have? Merry Christmas!

Love, Evander



HELPING HOMELESS PETS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

By Michelle Church

The Greene County Humane Society is funded solely by donations. What better time of year to show support for the Humane Society than during the holidays? Jane Gapen, Executive Director of the Humane Society, offers some helpful information on how the community can support the Humane Society.

Now that we have entered the holiday season, the Humane Society is offering their yearly lottery calendar. The lottery calendar is the biggest fundraiser of the year, and a fun way to support the Humane Society. Every day offers a chance to win money! Every calendar has a three-digit number assigned to it and if your number is picked during the evening Pennsylvania Daily Number you will receive the amount of money assigned for that day. Prizes are mailed by check. Calendars can be purchased for \$30 and are available to purchase online at www.greenevet.org or by calling 724-627-9988. Calendars can be picked up from the Humane Society or shipped, so this can also be a great gift for an out-of-town friend. It also makes a great gift for the impossible-to-shop-for friend.

Another fun opportunity in December is Pet Photos with Santa. On December 9 from noon to three pm, people brought any and all types of pets to have their photos taken with Santa. There was no cost for the photo, but the society collects donations. One hundred percent of the proceeds benefit the Humane Society of Greene County.

There are also other ways to support the Humane Society. This year, there are more dogs than usual at the Greene County Humane Society. Because of this, and other reasons, the Humane Society would very much benefit from donations of pet food. According to veterinarians, it is important for an animal's health to keep them on a steady diet of the same type of food. Both cats and dogs at the Greene County Humane Society enjoy a diet of Purina and Pedigree dry or canned foods. While the Humane Society welcomes donations of any kind of food, the absolute best you could provide would be Purina or Pedigree so the animals can maintain their optimal health. If you are interested in donating food or other supplies, donations can be dropped off at the Humane Society twenty-four hours a day. They have a drop off box available and welcome donations of food, treats, cat litter, toys, and cleaning supplies.

Are you considering adding a pet to the family this holiday season? Do you have questions about whether they would be a good fit in your household? The Greene County Humane Society can help you find the perfect pet! There is a bit of "matchmaking" involved with finding your perfect pet. First, you need to know that you are ready for the responsibility and long-term commitment of having a pet. Then, the Humane Society can steer you towards pets that are the right fit for your environment and personality.

If you currently have pets and are concerned about whether they would get along with a new addition, you can arrange a meet and greet with your potential pet. During the meet and greet, you can bring your current dog to the Humane Society to meet the pet you are interested in to see if they get along. But keep in mind that there is always an adjustment period.

When you bring a new cat or kitten home, Jane advises that you keep the new cat in a separate room for a week to allow the pets

to become acclimated. Ultimately, if you bring a new pet home and are unable to keep them, the Humane Society will take them back.

Pet adoptions during the holidays can be a wonderful choice. In the past, it has always been advised against adopting pets during the holidays. But Jane says because of their stringent application policy that most pets are likely to go to forever homes regardless of the time of year they are adopted. But Jane does offer some advice for those who chose to adopt during the holidays: Do not hesitate to leave the pet at the Humane Society and wait to bring them home after the holidays. If you have a pet in your home during the holidays, you need to take

extra precautions. Strangers in the house can be scary for pets, especially when they've already been placed in a new situation. You need to be diligent and aware of what your pets are being fed. The wrong type of food, or bone, could wind up with everyone at an emergency vet – a scary and costly experience for both you and your pet. In addition, be careful that your Christmas decorations are not potentially dangerous. Also, research plants that are in the home; mistletoe and poinsettias can prove dangerous.

If you are interested in adopting a pet, the adoption fees are the same anytime of year. All cats and dogs from the Humane Society will be spayed, blood tested, vaccinated, wormed, and given flea medication before being adopted. Dogs are also given a flu vaccination. Cats can be adopted for a fee of \$75 and dog adoption fees are \$125. It is a small amount of money to spend for a new best friend and the chance to give a lonely pet a new chance at life.

The holiday season is a great time of year to reflect on our own blessings and find ways to help others. There are many



Baxter and Doug are just two of the animals the humane society has helped unite with a family.



The Humane Society Calendar supports the humane society while giving you a chance to win cash.

ways you can support the Greene County Humane Society. Any way that you choose to help is always appreciated. Jane says she cannot thank people enough for their help. She is, "blown away by the kindness and donations," and says the Humane Society, "wouldn't be here without you."

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Photo By Calllyn Main

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SeniorCare Network

Greene Gardens

By Lisa Lewis of the Greene County Master Gardeners

Caring for Your Holiday Cacti

Though they mainly originated from the mountainous rainforests of Brazil, holiday cacti can find a happy home in many Greene County abodes.

These houseplants live up to 100 years, being passed down from generation to generation. Holiday cacti can produce a wide range of bloom colors including white, cream, peach, orange, red, lavender, and purple. They do not have true leaves so photosynthesis occurs in their segmented green stems. Pinching back the stem after blooming is finished causes increased branching and greater bloom production the next year. Because of their pendulous stems, they make great hanging baskets but grow equally happily in a pot on a table or shelf.

There are three main types of holiday cacti: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. They can be distinguished not only by the bloom time for which they are named, but by the appearance of their stems and flowers. Thanksgiving cacti have stem segments with saw-toothed, serrated edges and their flowers have purplish-brown anthers (the pollen producing protrusion from the throat of the flower).

The stem segments of the Christmas cacti are more pear shaped with scalloped edges and their flowers are more drooping with yellow anthers. The stem segment of the Easter cacti are more rounded, with flowers being flat and star-shaped and held horizontal to the stem.

All holiday cacti enjoy growing in bright, but filtered or indirect sunlight. This replicates the amount of sunlight they received growing in the tree limbs of the Brazilian rainforest where they primarily originated. They are considered short-day plants meaning they require a seasonal shift toward shorter days and longer nights with at least 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness. Exposure to lamplight or streetlights at night can disrupt the budding process.

They enjoy reasonable levels of humidity such as are common in our region. They like to grow in well-draining potting medium roughly 60% soil and 40% perlite (perlite is good) in pots with drainage holes and saucers to collect excess water. They like to have their soil only moist while blooming, but never water-logged, and to have their soil dry out between watering when not in bloom.

Thanksgiving Cactus vs Christmas Cactus vs Easter Cactus



Thanksgiving Cactus
Schlumbergera truncata
broad, pointy leaves



Christmas Cactus
Schlumbergera bridgesii
scalloped flat leaves



Easter Cactus
Hatiora gaertneri
rounded scalloped leaves with soft hairs

Sunny Home Gardens

Holiday cacti bloom best when pot bound. So, re-pot no more frequently than every three years or so or when the roots are growing out of the drainage holes. Over-watering is the most common problem and causes root rot as well as attracting other pests and diseases. Fertilize once a month with houseplant fertilizer at half strength. Avoid drafty areas or areas with abrupt temperature changes.

Propagating is simple to do. Simply pinch off a branch three or four segments long and either root in water, with or without rooting solution, or directly place several pinched off branches approximately one inch deep in a four- to eight-inch pot filled with potting medium. Water well and cover with a clear plastic bag secured to the pot with a rubber band, creating a mini greenhouse. Remove the bag and water again when roots have developed three to eight weeks later. These fairly undemanding and cheerful houseplants will reward your efforts with several weeks of blooms, again and again for many years to come.

SOURCES:

Bogart, T. *Holiday cacti care*. Penn State extension, Nov 15, 2022.

Welsenhorn, J & Meyer, M. *holiday cacti*. University of Minnesota Extension, 2022.

Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti. Clemson Cooperative Extension HGIC, Nov 29, 2018.

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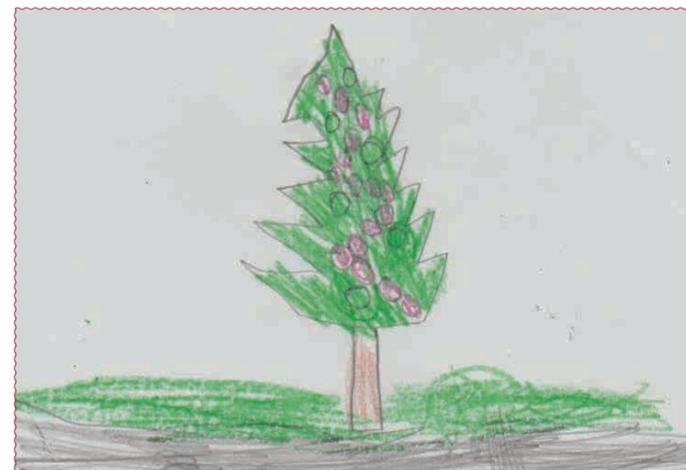
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Love, Ryker



Dear Santa,

My name is Kyla, and I am 8 years old. This year I've been really good. Something good I did this year was that I helped my mom. I would like to give to my family is a new scorpion. This year I might like to receive a puppy. For Christmas, could you help my mom tidy the house so she does not have to? I have another question for you how is Mrs. Claus? P.S. I will feed you cookies!

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"God knew us and formed us in our mother's womb" -Psalm 139:13-16

THE GREAT 'CATS' BY

Cats Find New Lives in Local Libraries

Libraries have long been known as places of comfort and learning, and adding cats to the mix is nothing new. Even the ancient Library of Alexandria had cats to keep mice from getting into the massive amounts of paper stored within. Today, rodent problems are less pressing in libraries, although here in Greene County, bats, rats, and other rogue Dr. Seuss-like creatures are not entirely out of the question! All jokes aside, cats now play a new, yet equally important domestic role in our local libraries.

Just ask Kathy McClure, director of the Eva K. Bowlby Public Library of Waynesburg. "Cats make a library feel like home," she says as the current feline representative saunters by. Bowlby has opened its doors to cats since the mid-90s and has been home to Molly the Calico since 2018. Molly was originally a staff member's pet but began calling the library home after her owner was unable to keep her. Feisty at first, but soon settling right in, Molly became a well-loved member of Bowlby's team. Kathy describes Molly as having a typical "cat personality." "If she wants to be petted, you will know... and she likes her treats."

Molly is well-known among Bowlby's patrons, and certainly has her regulars. One couple visits the library on a regular basis specifically to see their feline friend. A favorite story among the librarians is of a patron using the computer one afternoon. After being warned that a cat might try to approach him, Molly walked up to the patron and pounced on his head. The patron reportedly replied with- "Okay, I see what you mean now!" and a laugh. Patrons are typically good sports about the company of a feline companion, but in the case of an allergy, Molly typically contains herself to certain areas of the library, and the staff vacuums daily.

Kathy jokes that Bowlby and the neighbor across the street share joint ownership of Molly. Since the feline is free to come and go as she pleases, she often ends up on the neighbor's porch, enjoying the change of scenery. He "really likes her, feeds her, and sends her on her way," says Kathy, chuckling. But Molly is no stray- she knows exactly where she belongs and allows the children and adults at the library to feel that same sort of safety and belonging when they see her. "The little ones always look for her, even before they reach speaking age," Kathy says. "They'll verbalize 'kitty' because they know she belongs here."

Belonging is also a priority at the Flenniken Public Library in Carmichaels. Luckily for cats Harriet Beecher Stowe and Jane Austin, the two belong together. Library Director Nicole Mitchell explains that these literary kitties were found in a barn on the same day in November of 2020, although it is unsure if they are biological sisters. Flenniken Library adopted the two cats from the humane society, and naturally named them after two famous female authors. They have been a staple for many good visits to the library ever since. But just like any human sisters, Jane and Harriet have completely opposite personalities, making them more relatable to a wide variety of patrons.

Jane is the greeter and will rush to the door to see if the approaching visitor might offer a treat or a belly rub. Harriet is more skittish, but equally loveable as she is typically found lying on her cat tower or napping on a pillow near her favorite worker.

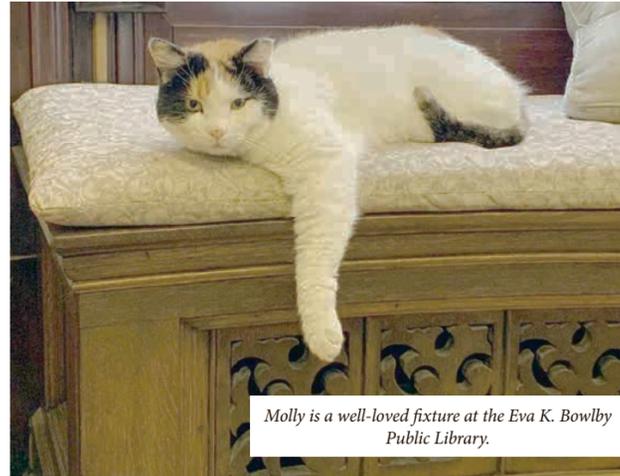
Nicole says that the cats make wonderful companions at the library, especially for older patrons. Many patrons don't get out much to socialize, and Jane is especially beloved by seniors in the community. Both cats cultivate a "stay awhile" attitude at Flenniken. Nicole shares that "on several occasions, [a patron's] bag is too heavy when they go to leave..." We soon figure out why, as the ornery stowaway slinks out of her temporary hiding place in a purse or backpack. "Pets are scientifically proven to calm anxiety," Nicole says, and this is apparent in patrons' interactions with Harriet and Jane.

Mostly, the cats bring the Carmichaels community together, and never was this so apparent as in a time of catastrophe for the library. "When Jane went missing, people came out of the woodwork, people we didn't even know," says Nicole. The town was concerned for their missing pet, and people flooded the library offering to join the search, and checked in regularly after she was found.

Flenniken, too, is concerned with the comfort and health of all patrons, so the library utilizes three air cleaners especially suited to pet dander, and two other regular purifiers. Additionally, the cats can be taken to the second floor, which is not open to the public, upon request, or for sanitary purposes if an event involves food.

No matter the library in question, each one should aim to be a safe and welcoming place for patrons. Both libraries' cats are instrumental in achieving this goal. As Nicole says, "Pets give you

affection, and it goes both ways." A library with cats fosters a more connected community and makes us more empathetic to the needs and struggles of our town as a whole. "It's becoming a movement," shares Kathy, and this is one movement that hopefully continues well into the future.



Molly is a well-loved fixture at the Eva K. Bowlby Public Library.



Patrons enjoy spending time with Harriet (left) and Jane (right) at the Flenniken Public Library.



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