

Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



GREENE COUNTY
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July 2024 Issue

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I Love this Community — GREENE COUNTY FAIR BOARD

By Colleen Nelson

What kind of community-loving commitment does it take to make the Greene County Fair happen – year after year after year? Why not ask the managers?

“Our fair and the fair in Crawford County are the only two in Pennsylvania that are county-run,” Commissioner Jared Edgreen told me when I asked. “All the others are managed by separate organizations. So it’s up to us to make it great. When we go to the state fair convention [Pennsylvania Fairs and Showmen Convention] in January, we’re some of the only commissioners there.”

“The planning that goes into making a fair happen is its own amazing world. We go and learn from every one. This year was pretty exciting – we met ‘The Fair Chick’ Marla Calico [President and CEO of International Association of Fairs and Expositions]. Marla inspired us to change things up a little with scheduling, move things around to make it a fresh experience for the fairgoers. We’re keeping the tradition in novel ways while leaving room for new ideas to emerge for the future.”

When the fair board reorganized this year in January, commissioners Edgreen, Betsy Rohanna McClure and Blair Zimmerman knew they had something old and traditional, along with something new and exciting. New members recruited from the community ready to bring their expertise and enthusiasm to the table joined the commissioners, President Carol Adamson and Treasurer Courtney Hoy Hursey for a new year of action plans. Tammy Brookover was installed as secretary, and County Parks and Recreation Director Bret Moore took on the added role of Fair Manager. Pam Marisa, Molly Henderson, Kelly Morris, and Scott Hackenburg now make up the rest of the 11-member



Betsy Rohanna McClure, her husband Keith, Courtney Hursey and Carlie Brookover work the gate at June's truck pulls. Pulling off events like the truck pulls requires all hands on deck!

board.

“Our board members are in their zone and working on their specialty – they’re the experts.” Commissioner McClure said. “Our goal this year is to be bigger, better - and different. I feel we’re pulling together to honor the fair traditions that everybody loves and move forward to bring more of what people of all ages want today. Giving back to the community is critical and the willingness to share is absolutely at the top of the pile.”

“We’re getting the 4-H Horse and Pony Club back with a pre-fair rodeo on Saturday, like we used to have when I was in 4-H!” committee member (non voting) Greene County Chamber of Commerce director Melody Longstreth is very happy to report. Longstreth’s assignment since 2021 is the fair queen program. When the commissioners went to Harrisburg in January, so did Longstreth and others who accompanied 2023 Greene County Fair Queen Adysan Kern and Jacktown Fair Queen Marissa Tharp. Kern and Tharp were there to compete for State Fair Queen against more than 50 county queens from across the Commonwealth, with big points given for poise, confidence and the ability to respond to impromptu questions about everything – in-



Greene County Fair Queen, Adysan Kern, and Jacktown Fair Queen Marissa Tharp, here with Commissioners McClure and Edgreen. Kern and Tharp were in Harrisburg to compete for the State Fair Queen Title.

cluding agriculture.

“These are the skills that will last a lifetime,” Longstreth said. “We fair queen promoters from this corner of the state support each other. When Erica Teagarden of Washington County was chosen State Fair Queen 2024, I couldn’t tell who was cheering loudest! She’ll be joining us Monday for meet and greet when the Greene County Fair opens.”

During Fair week, board members will be everywhere they are needed, from taking tickets at the gate and parking duty to announcing winners and helping the fair’s newest events happen, Edgreen said.

“We’ve had many hurdles to clear, but with everyone working together with one mind and one voice, we think we put together a fair week that is bigger, better than ever. We’ll see you there - at the Greene County Fair!”

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On July 12 and 13, Washington County’s largest festival offers something for everyone while honoring the history of the area’s Whiskey Rebellion.

Kick off the festivities with the Whiskey & Spirits Walk. Join the walk from 5:30-9pm. (\$50 per person; must be 21 or over). Participants are given a wristband, a walking map, and a sampling glass at the Meeting House. (The wristband identifies you to the vendors.) Participating businesses around town will host a variety of spirit and wine vendors.

Walk from place to place, sampling different libations. If you like something you sample, purchase a bottle it! Runners collect all the bottles purchased, and at the end of the walk, you go back to the walk registration and collect your bottles. This way, you don’t have to walk around with your bottles. New for 2024, participants will be given a pretzel snack bag and bottle of water.

Friday night continues with food trucks and libations at Blue Eagle Tavern, the opening ceremony, and a performance by the Washington Symphony Orchestra at the Main Street Pavilion.

More festival events are happening on Saturday, beginning with a history march down Main Street. Other festival activities include history museum tours, local history group displays, historic street theater performances, demonstrators, reenactors, all-day music, wooly rebel area, MVAA Fife and Drum band, and a wide variety of food trucks and Blue Eagle Tavern’s libations. Courthouse tours will be held from noon to 4pm.

Visit the Bradford House Museum and tour the first floor of this Whiskey Rebellion leader’s home. Across the street is the Whiskey Rebellion Education and Visitor Center. Everything you want to know about the Whiskey Rebellion is here, including a big display of a whiskey still, FMI, and a complete schedule of events go to whiskeyrebellionfestival.com.

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

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

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

Public Service Profile: GREENE COUNTY FAIR BUREAU

By Colleen Nelson

Lura Cree, a spry, smiling 80-something remembers the good old days of 1972, when Greene County got its own Pennsylvania Farm Bureau chapter up and running, and she was a young mother on the Cree family dairy farm near Khedive. "We had big meetings in the spring and fall. Sometimes we met in churches, but monthly we met in small groups in our homes. We called ourselves the fertile farmers because many of us were having babies then!"

It's Sunday, June 9, and we're in the Goat Barn at the Greene County Fairgrounds, enjoying the Farm Bureau picnic lunch and meeting afterwards, one of those two yearly gatherings used to bring members together. In true farm fashion, the sideboard is loaded with covered dishes and desserts begging to be sampled, and the main course, roasted chicken purchased from the treasury by President Harley Gapen, is individually wrapped in foil—hot, juicy and delicious.

I'm happy to discover there's a tub of ice holding half-gallon jugs of milk to choose from. I fill my cup and head back to the table to eat with friends and neighbors who have farmed, some for generations, and some because, like me, they love living in wild, wonderful rural Greene County.

If you are part of a farm family tradition, you already know all about what this federation of farmers can do for you and your land to help grow healthy, sustainable crops. But for you, the non-farmer who loves living here—or better yet, is considering growing specialty crops for farmers markets or niche food related product startups like breweries, wineries, food trucks or restaurants—the shared knowledge, political clout and purchasing power that this state organization and national federation offers members is hard to resist.

In 1950, when Pennsylvania farmers decided they needed to "speak with one voice" the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau was legislated into place and became part of American Farm Bureau Federation. This federation is the national voice of farm and ranch families "working together to build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber and renewable fuel for our nation and the world."

"We need a working relationship with our legislators," Gapen told me on the phone before he invited me to the picnic. The other annual meeting in the fall is when they adopt resolutions that will be taken from the grass roots of the counties to the state level at Camp Hill, then nationally to

the American Farm Bureau Federation and Congress. This is where advocacy starts, at the grassroots level, where agricultural, environmental and economic factors are reckoned by those who live and work on the land that sustains us all.

"Clean and Green came from Farm Bureau advocacy," Gapen pointed out. Here at the county level, "We support FFA and the food bank. This year we supplied new

Scull says, "Everything we do here benefits the farmers, the kids, and the community. We need to grow this farm organization because with more members, we have more votes when we take our issues to Camp Hill."

The Greene County Farm Bureau will be at the Greene County Fair every night dishing out ice cream to hot fairgoers. Make sure to stop by and see them at the fair!



Longtime farming family Bill Cree, his wife Ami, Lura, and her husband Bill Cree, Sr. at the Farm Bureau Picnic on June 9. The Cree's operate the last remaining dairy farm in Greene County.

gates for the barns here at the fairgrounds. We all work together to help each other out."

"I joined five years ago. Harley and I are good friends from way, way back," newly elected Government Relations Director George Scull told me later, as we loaded up to go home. "I'm not really a farmer. My uncle was a dairy farmer. But when Harley told me about the benefits of working bipartisan for the farmer, I was ready to join in about 30 seconds. We need to work with the people in business here to make it sustainable. And we need to help each other and ask what can we do for you?"



Greene County Farm Bureau President Harley Gapen and Bureau Government Relations Director George Scull recruiting new members at the Farm Bureau picnic meeting at the fairgrounds.

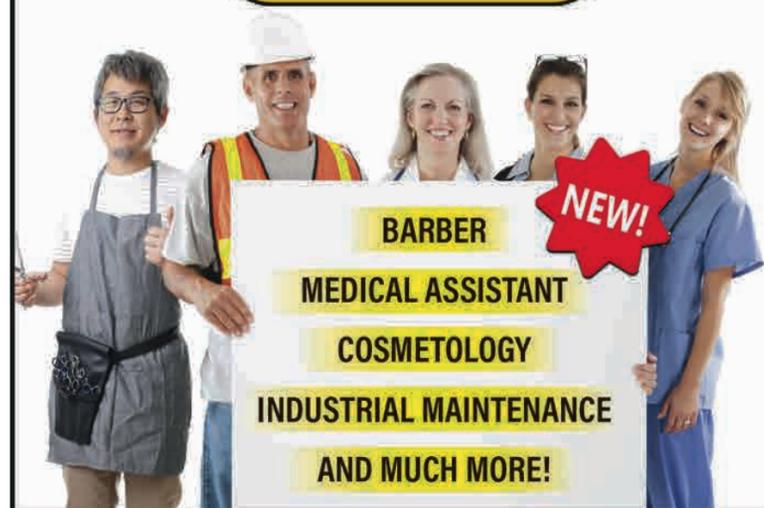


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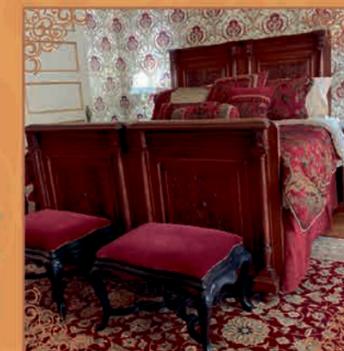
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Cool at School: Central Greene School District

By Michelle Church

The FFA – a wonderfully student-run organization – is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. It is a requirement that a student must be enrolled in an agriculture class.

“The curriculum offers classes in Forestry and Natural Resources, Food Science and Technology, Parliamentary Procedure and Public Speaking, Agricultural Business, Agronomy and Soils, Advanced Agriculture, Introduction to Agriculture, Floral Design, SAE, Horticulture, and Greenhouse Management,” says educator Jamie Willson.

The students of Waynesburg FFA often do informative and entertaining demonstrations at local schools that reflect their interest in agricultural education. These educational experiences provide a deeper understanding to young students.

Jackson Fisher taught first graders about ice cream. Willson elaborated: “The goal of this lesson was to show that there is a lot of work that goes into making ice cream. It’s not just going to buy it already made from the store, or buying the ingredients to make it yourself, but it involves all the steps the farmer must do as well, like feeding and watering, cleaning pens, setting up the milkhouse and milkers...”

Daniel Brookover taught fifth graders the dynamics of what makes popcorn pop with three different types of kernels. One batch of kernels was soaked in water, another dehydrated in the oven, and the final batch of kernels was purchased from the store. Students kept track of how many kernels did not pop, the size of the kernels that did pop, their texture, and

their taste. An interesting fact: it was the moisture inside the kernel that makes it pop when it reaches a certain temperature and goes from liquid to gas.

Peyton Cowell taught kindergarteners about sheep. “The goal of this lesson was to talk about what the wool from sheep is used for and the process that is used to shear a sheep for wool. They then got to participate in a shearing activity with shaving cream and a pair of cardboard shears.”

Many FFA members have been showing animals through 4-H since they were eight years old. The 4-H allows members to exhibit their animals until age 18, but FFA members can continue until they are 21. Students keep records through the years and make a transition from showing animals with 4-H to the FFA. To show animals after age 18, students must be enrolled in post-secondary education and maintain a C average.

“The students are the ones in charge. If there is something that they want to change, they bring it up and discuss it with the rest of the group. Prior to 1969, females were not allowed in the FFA, but a member brought it up as a delegate issue, and it made it all the way to the National Convention where it was adopted. [Now] the FFA has a large percentage of female members and advisors. In fact, this year,



we have an all-female Chapter Officer team.”

The most valuable thing that the FFA does for our community is to create future leaders. Check out the FFA’s efforts at the Jacktown and Greene County fairs!

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LEGENDARY CON RETURNS TO WAYNESBURG

Legendary Conventions presents Legendary Con, two days of celebrities, vendors, a costume contest, and more, returns to the EQT REC Center in Waynesburg on July 13 and 14, 2024. Legendary Con, formerly known as Mountaineer Comic-Con, moved from Morgantown to Waynesburg for the first time last year to “bring big city events to small towns, especially to focus on our home county,” said Legendary Conventions’ Dave Plavi about last year’s move.

Guests at the July event include John Wesley Shipp from The Flash and Dawson’s Creek; Robert Duncan McNeill from Star Trek Voyager and Masters of the Universe; Nicole Bilderbac, best known for her roles in the cult 90s classic Clueless, as well as Bring It On and Dawson’s Creek; Phillip Andrew, known for his role as Merrick the Lunar Wolf Ranger of Power Rangers Wild Force; Dan Cortese, a Pittsburgh area native, best known for hosting the Emmy Award-winning MTV Sports from 1992 to 1997, while appearing on a wide variety of television shows and movies, like Seinfeld, Melrose Place, Veronica’s Closet, Demolition Man and more; Gus Mauk, a comic and cover artist, co-creator of Shi No Kage. Most of the celebrities will be involved in discussion panels and photo ops during the weekend.

A costume contest will take place on Saturday, July 13 at 4pm. The contest is hosted by Co-

splay World, one of the newest and hottest cosplay conventions. Waynesburg is just one of their stops. FMI about Cosplay World, visit cosplayworldrichmond.com.

Tickets are available online at legendary-comiccon.com and at the door the day of the event. A VIP Weekend Pass is \$60 for prepurchase, Saturday admission is \$20 prepurchase, and Sunday general admission is \$15 prepurchase. Children under 10 are free with ticketed adults. One child per each adult ticket is free; each additional child is \$5.

Autographs and pictures with celebrity guests are not included with the price of admission. Prices for John Wesley Shipp are auto \$40, selfie \$40, combo \$60, and photo op \$60. Robert Duncan McNeill \$40/\$40/\$60/\$60, Dan Cortese \$40/\$30/\$50/\$50, Nicole Bilderback \$40/\$30/\$50/\$50, and Phillip Andrew \$40/\$20/\$50/\$40.

The event is being held at the EQT REC Center at 400 Evergreen Drive in Waynesburg, PA. VIP entrance is at 9am daily and general admission hours are 10am-5pm Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday. FMI, visit legendary-comiccon.com.

“With something for everybody, this family friendly event will provide an opportunity for an experience of a lifetime!”



Going Greene:

GREENE... WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Matthew Cumberledge, GCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In the late 1700s, it became apparent there was a sincere need to establish a new county in the very southwestern corner of the state of Pennsylvania. The early settlers were dissatisfied with the lengthy trip to Washington to conduct business. After years of attempts, on February 9, 1796, they split the southernmost portion of Washington County to form a new county. But what to name this county? Since it started as part of Washington County, they decided that there was no better name than Greene for the newly established County—to honor General Nathanael Greene, one of George Washington's most trusted generals. From that point forward, General Nathanael Greene was forever linked to our small corner of the state.

In 1850, the present, and third, courthouse was built to serve the County of Greene's judicial needs. This courthouse was built in a beautifully simplistic yet elegant Georgian design with a columned portico and a cupola on top, adorned by a statue of General Nathanael Greene.

The original statue of Nathanael Greene that sat upon the Courthouse cupola would watch over the town of Waynesburg for 75 years, until the courthouse was damaged by the Downey House fire in 1925, one of the most noteworthy and tragic events in the history of Waynesburg and Greene County.

The Downey House was a prominent hotel directly across the side street from the Courthouse. On the morning of December 23, 1925, around 3:30am, a fire was discovered in the Coney Island Restaurant inside the Downey House Hotel. This fire quickly engulfed the building, eventually spreading to the adjacent Grossman Building. Airborne embers made their way onto

the roof of the Courthouse (just across Washington Street), setting it afire and causing a great deal of damage to the structure.

While five young men unfortunately lost their lives during the Downey House fire, the event showed the generous spirit of community the area had. Once news of the fire broke out, volunteer fire departments from East Washington, Charleroi, Fredericktown, Jefferson, Carmichaels, Buckeye Coal Company, Brownsville, Nemaocolin, Rices Landing, Masontown and Bentleyville assisted. The Downey House fire also led to the establishment of the Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Company on March 4, 1926.

It was estimated that the Downey House Fire caused about one million dollars in damages. It forever changed the appearance of downtown Waynesburg and the area around the Courthouse. The Downey House Hotel was replaced by the Fort Jackson Hotel, which now serves as office space for the County of Greene.

Fortunately, the entire courthouse was not lost. The cupola and part of the roof structure of the Courthouse burned, including the original 1850 statue of General Nathanael Greene. In the fire's aftermath, as restoration work on the courthouse began, John Pauley designed a replacement statue; Albert Wise,

an employee of Acklin Lumber Company of Waynesburg, carved the design.

The Pauley statue served as watchman over Waynesburg for an additional seven decades. A statue carved from Greene County poplar by the late Miles Davin, Sr, replaced the Pauley statue. Davin restored the Pauley statue, and it now lives at the Greene County Historical Society Museum.

The statue of Greene is tipping his hat in an act of greeting, and local lore has it that Ol' General Greene is tipping his hat out of respect to the lady perched atop the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial in Monument Park next to the Waynesburg University campus.



Greene Artifacts

By Matthew Cumberledge, GCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A FIRE DAMAGED STATUE

One surviving artifact from the Downey House fire serves as a gripping reminder of the incident. In the aftermath of the fire, the hand from the original statue of Nathanael Greene was discovered. It eventually became part of the collection of the Greene County Historical Society Museum.

The hand was on display in the GCHS Museum for many years and is now part of an exhibit of Courthouse history on display on the first floor of the Greene County Courthouse. This

exhibit was installed by the GCHS in 2022 and showcases historical photographs and artifacts relating to this history of the courthouse.

Stop by during operating hours to get a glimpse of this artifact and tour the museum. Keep an eye out on the Greene County Historical Society Facebook page and website for information on our upcoming events and presentations, and to stay up to date on new exhibits and other exciting happenings at the GCHS!



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Recent Events in Greene & Nearby



RGB Vendor Show

RGB Vendor Show

RGB Coffee in Waynesburg hosted a multi-vendor show in their event space towards the end of May. The two-day show featured vendors: Rustique Crafts by Amanda, Hughes Farms, Neen's Soaps, WW Personalized designs, Dorie's Craft Room, Doterra and Carpenter Bracelets by Kelly Mackey, and Creative Roots & Refuge. (Check these ven-

dors out on Facebook to see what other local shows they will be this year!)

Other events RGB has hosted recently include live music with Soldiers & Sons; a book signing with local authors Robin Acton, Annette Dashofy, Sheryl Nantus, Linda Rettstatt, Doug Solter, B.A. Colella, Christina Bunner, and Susan Helene Gottfried; a tie dye party to create your own tie-dye shirt with

Jess from Harvest Life, a paint party with artist Angie Candell, painting a pig in a wash-tub with Queen E's Arts, and an essential oils class with Rachel Irvine. Follow RGB Coffee's Facebook page to keep up with future events.

Albert Gallatin Regatta

The Regatta started the Friday before Memorial Day and went through the entire weekend at the Point Marion Park along the Monongahela River. On Friday, the powerboats arrived for racing and had testing and tune ups, along with a public meet and greet that evening while the Regatta was setting up.

Saturday kicked off with the Regatta parade at 11am from the firehall to the park; prior to the parade military services were held at the Little Arlington Cemetery with wreath laying at the Point Marion Bridge.

That was followed by the Albert Gallatin Regatta Queen, Little Miss-Mister Regatta pageants on the main stage. Olivia Murphy of Uniontown High School was crowned the 2024 Albert Gallatin Regatta Queen. The 2024 Little Miss Regatta (age 6-8) was Chandler Rankin, and the 2024 Little Miss Regatta (age 4-5) was Ahna Jacobs. The 2024 Mr Regatta was Mitchum Reese

Habit.

The Regatta 5K Walk/Run was held that evening. Winners from the Regatta 5K Run were: 1st - Thomas Spencer, 2nd - Tommy Crary, and 3rd - David Bowlin. Winners of the 5k Walk were: 1st - Carl Kondrach, 2nd - Linda Keller, and 3rd - Blake Headen.

On Sunday, the day started with church service on the main stage and the youth fishing derby at the boat dock. At the t-ball field, the car show brought the classics and antiques out for display. More powerboat races were held that afternoon along the riverfront, while the carnival continued in the background. Variety Singers Barry & Pam and Daddy Long Legs Band provided musical entertainment. The anticipated fireworks show was postponed due to weather and will now happen in July.

Brodak Fly-In

The Brodak Fly-In brought people in from around the country for a week of control-line model airplane flying. The fly-in is the largest event of its type in America. Competitors compete in a variety of events in beginner, intermediate, advanced, and expert classes, for all ages.

The fly-in was launched in 1997 and, over the nearly 30 years of its operation, has brought competitors from all over the world - as far away as South America, South Africa, South Korea and Australia - to participate.

Throughout the week, participants competed in various events that tested their skills with speed, aerobatics, control, stunts, and precision. On Saturday, awards were presented to the top three competitors in all events, as well as awards for most arduous journey, competitors awards, craftsmanship, club participation award, Spirit of the Sport award, Rusty Brown award, and Spirit of '52 award. At the time of printing, the award winners were unavailable, but we hope to include the



Albert Gallatin Regatta



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list in next month's issue!

NTPA Mega Pulls

Greene County Fair Board vice-president Commissioner Jared Edgreen looked up at the sky on June 7 and grinned from the shadow of his cowboy hat. "We were praying for good weather and we got it! The dirt has to be just right—too wet and you might as well cancel. The way it's been raining, we really were praying!"

Fellow volunteer Justin Ziefel nodded as he held up a clump of freshly disked clay. "For pulling, you have to prepare the soil for moisture and consistency. It has to be right for every pull."

The long track in front of the grandstand at the Greene County Fairground was ready to be dragged and graded to perfection for the Greene County NTPA Mega Pull the next day. The fleet of machinery that would make it happen, donated by Haden Excavating, Black Diamond Equipment, Chaos Fab-

...continued on next page.



Brodak Fly In



NTPA Mega Pulls



Direct Results hosted a chicken roast, with all proceeds benefiting Greene County Foster Care.

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Recent Events in Greene & Nearby



Tiny Tim Tomato - Bowlby



Tiny Tim Tomato - Flenniken

rications, Bobcat of Pittsburgh, 4 Seasons, Ross Tractor, Morris Machinery and Franklin Township, sat along the berm, ready to scrape and roll. "We're all volunteers," Edgreen said. "We could never afford to do this if we didn't all work together. Once we're done with this, we'll be working on getting ready for the fair."

Truck and tractor pulling, or power pulling, is a form of motorsport competition that has nothing to do with speed. Modified trucks or tractors pull a heavy sled along a course or track that is about 35 feet wide and at least 330 feet long with the winner being the one that pulls the sled the furthest.

On June 8, local folks packed the grandstands at the Greene County Fairgrounds to watch the NTPA Mega Pulls. The event featured a variety of powerful diesel trucks and roaring tractors, competing in four classes.

Several food vendors were also onsite, offering everything from pulled pork to lemonade to loaded fries. One thing's for sure... after the black smoke cleared and the roar of the high-powered engines subsided, a fun-filled evening was had by all!

Sounds of Summer

The Sounds of Summer brings free musical concerts to Greene County all summer long! On Tuesdays from 6-8pm, heads out to the Waynesburg Lions Club Park with a comfy chair or your favorite blanket to enjoy an evening of music. This year's Sounds of Summer kicked off on June 4 with a concert of high-energy rock n' roll from the 1960s to now performed by Rick K. Road Trip.

Upcoming performances include June 11 - The Classics Rock, June 18 - Swingin' BopCats Big Band, June 25 - The Projects, July 2 - Helicopter Collective, July 9 - Slim Pickins, July 23 - Tom Ankrom & Luke Schroyer, July 30 - Quick Exit, August 13 - Longshot, August 20 - C&T Acoustic, and August 27 - Nuther Round.

Tiny Tim Tomato Project

Working with the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners, Eva K. Bowlby and Flenniken libraries held Tiny Tim Tomato Projects to teach children ages 3 to 9 that food doesn't just come from the grocery store. The free program teaches children about growing



Along with music from The Classics Rock band, Sounds of Summer attendees were treated to free ice cream from the GCCTC's CTC Eats food truck, compliments of Bailey Insurance.



The Greene County Historical Society Museum held its 6th annual Cruisin' the Museum Car Show. It was a beautiful day filled with great cars, trucks and motorcycles, music, food, ice cream and friends!

tomatoes, what foods tomatoes are in, and how the seed grows. The children are given plants to care for at home so they can raise their own tomatoes.

This year, Bowlby had nine children at the program, and Flenniken had over a dozen attend. "The children enjoyed a reading on the library Story Stroll on an adventure with Bare and Hare in 'Tops and Bottoms' by Janet Stevens. [They] learned what dishes tomatoes might be found in such as pizza and spaghetti among others in addition to learning how to plant and care for their very own tomato plant," says Kathy McClure of Bowlby Library.

"The Tiny Tim Tomato Project is a staple of the library programming and many children throughout the years have planted tomatoes and were encouraged to enter their plants or fruit in the local fairs. The Master Gardeners are full of knowledge and we are fortunate to have been able to partner with them for so many years. As the former Children's Librarian, it was one of my favorite programs with arts and crafts, stories, and of course, the star of the evening...planting our own tomatoes in newspaper pots so the

The Rotary Club of Waynesburg lends a hand at the Corner Cupboard Food Bank to make a difference in the lives of children - with some assistance from our area's fair and festival queens!



plants could be put right into the ground or pot when the children arrived home. As the Director, I still love the program and see my story time children returning as mamas and papas with their children."

A representative from Flenniken added, "We had a great showing of kiddos who were very attentive and soaking up all the knowledge shared with them this morning. They asked some good questions! We read 'I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato' by Lauren Child. Then the kiddos listen to the master gardeners talk about the Tiny Tim Tomato plant and before getting to plant their very own plants to take home."



Friends, fans, and family members gathered in the Carmichaels town square to cheer on the Mikes Lady Softball team as they headed out to the state championships. Read more about the Lady Mikes in our Hometown Heritage section this month.

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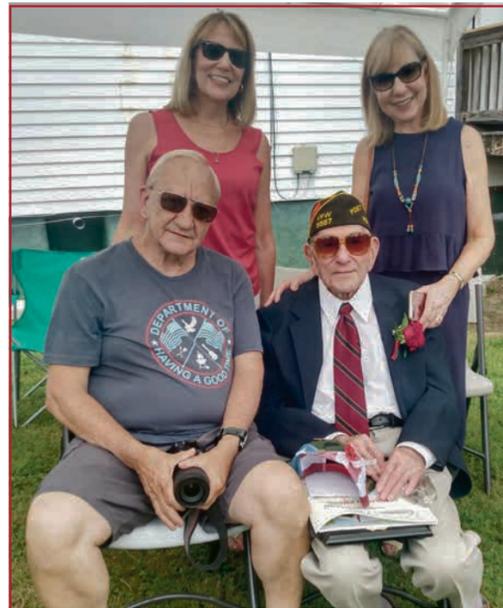
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Memorial Day Events in Greene & Nearby



The Memorial Day parade in Jefferson.



Orlando Prete at the Memorial Day services in Greensboro.

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is

designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed.

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I, the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations.

While there were several ceremonies across Greene County on Memorial Day, there was a very special event going on in Jefferson! The Jefferson Borough Council members have been working to "bring back

some of the past traditions in Jefferson that have been lost over the years." One of those traditions lost in time was the Memorial Day parade. The Jefferson Borough Council created a new Jefferson Borough Event Committee that seems to be right on track for creating those special and local events. Signa Coneybeer stated that, "There were so many involved with the planning and preparation. Jefferson Borough Council members, President- Jeff Coneybeer Sr., Vice President- Pam Phillips, Mayor- Dale Harshman, Secretary- Relda Litten, Council Members- Jeff Coneybeer Jr., Josh Forman, and Lance Sahady and the Borough Solicitor- Dennis Makel." She added that, "The Jefferson Firehall played a huge role in helping to keep everyone safe and control traffic." Several local businesses also helped by purchasing advertising signs.

The parade had several entries, including the Carmichaels Riders, Marianna Legion Post #744, Jefferson-Morgan Cadets, Senator Camera Bartolotta, State Representative Bud Cook, local Scout troops, baseball teams, cheerleaders, antique cars, The Richard Kronk Motorcade, Coal Queen Hadyn Chipps,



Memorial Day services at Laurel Point Cemetery in Carmichaels.



The Memorial Day services at the Greene County Veterans Memorial Park in Waynesburg.

Greene County Fair Queen Adysan Kern, Miss Rain Day Abby Ray, fair princesses Payton Duncan, Cameron Wendell, Harley Frye, Marissa Tharp, Marklee Beal, Harper Fuller, and Isabella Wise, JM Life Skills, Rices Landing VFD, Clarksville VFD, Jefferson VFD, and Smokey the Bear!

The Marianna Legion Post #744, led by Commander Dave Knizner, rode in the back of Richard Kronk's 1930 Ford Model AA truck and stopped briefly in front of the Jefferson post office for a short ceremony, prayer, and a gun salute.

The group is also hanging banners to

honor military members in Jefferson Township and Jefferson Borough. They are currently still taking orders for the Veteran Banners. Anyone interested may reach out to Signa Coneybeer. Signa adds, "Special thank you to Jefferson Township and our Borough Councilmembers Jeff Coneybeer Jr. and Josh Forman for hanging them."

The Jefferson Borough Event Committee has some other upcoming events, so stay tuned! And, as far as another Memorial Day parade... Signa says, "Mark your calendars for 2025! Same place, same time!"

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Cool at School: Graduations

Congratulations, Grads!
West Greene High School

West Greene High School held their sixty-fifth commencement exercises on Friday, May 31, 2024. Diplomas were presented to forty-eight students who graduated. Class valedictorian was Celia E. Parson and salutatorian was Ella G. Scott. Scholarships and various awards were presented to more than twenty individual students. Congratulations WG Class of 2024!



Jefferson Morgan High School

Jefferson Morgan High School held their graduation program on Thursday, May 30, for fifty-three students that received diplomas. Valedictorian was Ava Bertagnolli and Salutatorian was Adysan Kern. Sixteen students were recognized for scholastic honors and achievements. Congratulations J-M Class of 2024!



Carmichaels Area High School

Carmichaels Area High School held their graduation program on Friday, May 31, for 63 graduating seniors. Class Valedictorian was Chloe Mitchell and Salutatorian was Alexzander Lawrence. Multiple students were recognized for their scholastic achievements and scholarships. The keynote speaker was Thomas Pevarnick. Congratulations Carmichaels Class of 2024!



Mapletown High School

Mapletown High School held their 2024 commencement program on Friday, May 31, graduating 42 students. Valedictorian Hannah Knutson was and salutatorian was Erin Richmond. Congratulations Mapletown Class of 2024!

Waynesburg Central High School

Waynesburg Central High School held their graduation ceremony on Friday, May 31. Congratulations Waynesburg Class of 2024!





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SUPPORT CHRISTMAS IN JULY

There is a Christmas tree at the Eva K. Bowlby Library this July. It's not a traditional evergreen tree with twinkling white lights, and it's not a palm tree with multi-colored lights. It's a book tree covered in ornaments—ornaments that each advertise a special need on the library's Christmas in July wish list.

Any individual, family, group, or business can sponsor a contribution that will support specific library programs or services. Choose one month, two months, a year. Love to play Cosmic Bingo or participate in the puzzle challenge? For \$250 you can sponsor them for a month, and \$1500 sponsors them for six months.

If you love the Kindermusik classes for your kids, \$160 sponsors them for a month and \$920 for the year. Our movie nights cost \$100 month, or \$1200 annually—or perhaps you'd like to buy the license we need to show these films to the public? That's \$600 yearly.

The ornaments on the book tree are filled with all the information you need to sponsor a program. And for each program, the sponsors will be publicly recognized and thanked.

Our library's programs are free to everyone, but the budget is stretched tightly. Cutting library services or programs is not an option that the Board wants to consider. The library's Christmas in July fundraiser is one way those who have and want to give can help keep the library and its resources free for everyone!

In his new book, *The Secret Lives of Booksellers and Librarians*, James Patterson quotes Bill Kelly, a librarian from Cleveland, Ohio: "Libraries level the playing field. They're free and open to the public. All are welcome. Our doors are open. Come in and learn to become your best self. Follow your dreams and reach your true potential. Let your reach exceed your grasp. Whatever book you want to read, it's free on the honor system. It's hard to imagine anywhere else in our society so devoted to the concept of everyone being completely equal."

Visit the library in person and grab an ornament off the tree during the month of July and take it to the circulation desk. Or check out the virtual ornaments on www.evakbowlby.org.

SUMMER READING ACTIVITIES

Summer programming at Flenniken kicked off on June 4 with a Tiny Tim Tomatoes class and got into full swing on the Friday, June 14 at the Summer Quest

Flenniken Public Library

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Eva K. Bowlby Library

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kick-off party with special guest Smokey Bear! The kick-off party is the beginning of Flenniken's Friday Fun Days. Fridays Fun Days include June 21: Paint 'n' Snack, June 28: Rain Ready, July 5: Farm Day, July 12: Wacky Science Magic Show, July 19: Bluey Party and July 26: Harry Potter Birthday Party. Other special events include visits from the Crafty Alpaca, health seminars, and a presentation by The Good Zoo from Oglebay Zoo

Mondays are for Movie Mondays, featuring a children's movie at 1pm, and Middle School Mondays, with crafts and activities for older kids at 4:30pm. On Tuesdays, there are Pre-K and Kindergarten sessions at 11am and 1pm, and the middle school reading competition club meets at 3pm. Two classes on Wednesdays, one for grades 3-5 at 11am and one for grades 1-2 at 1pm, will keep your children's brains working with story time activities, crafts, and experiments; the high school reading competition club also meets at 3pm. Each Friday has a fun event at 3pm, as well as Toddler Time at 11am.

Summer reading at Bowlby begins on June 22, and a kick off party will be held from 1-3pm. Ready for Kindergarten classes will be held on Mondays from 10am-1pm. Preschool and toddler story classes will be held on Tuesdays: Ages 2-3 at 10:30am, Under 2 at 11:30am, and Ages 3-5 at 1:30pm. On Mondays, all ages of children Stories Under the Moon evening at 5pm. Summer Quest is from 10am-3pm for elementary aged children that have completed kindergarten, with team challenges, art, robotics, road trips, and more; Wednesday is for ages 6-8 and Thursdays for ages 9-12. For ages 13-18, Do Something MONdays 3-5pm and/or Fridays 1-3pm is an opportunity to hang out and enjoy two hours of loosely structured activities.

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Good NEWS

In Greene County

First Federal Donates to WVU Medicine Children's Child Life Program

First Federal of Greene County and its subsidiary, First Greene Mortgage, visited WVU Medicine Children's on Tuesday, May 28, to donate 240 plush bulldogs to the Child Life program at the hospital. Stuffed animals are given to young patients at the hospital to help comfort them and reduce fear and anxiety. First Federal and First Greene also presented their fourth installment of a 5-year pledge to sponsor a nurses' station in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) of the new Children's Hospital building.

In addition to those donations, employees and customers also raised \$500 and collected nearly 400 books for the Child Life, School Intervention, and Pediatric Clinic reading programs.

Pictured in front of the Children's Hospital building, from l. to r., are Dr. Jeff Lancaster, WVU Medicine Children's Associate Chief Medical Officer; Marisa Sayre, WVU Medicine Children's Executive Director of Development, Marketing, and Communications; Aimee Toothman, First Federal Assistant Vice President/First Greene Mortgage Loan Officer; Rachel Bishop, WVU Medicine Children's Child Life Specialist; Courtney Cook, WVU Medicine Children's School Intervention Specialist; Charles W. Trump, Jr., First Federal President/CEO; Amy L. Bush, WVU Medicine Children's Chief Administrative Officer; Liz Menhart, First Federal Marketing and Public Relations Manager; and Dee O'Palko, WVU Medicine Children's Director of Annual Giving.



Greene County Chamber Presents Scholarship Winners

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce recently presented the annual Educational Fund scholarship and the Dr. Nancy I. Davis Memorial Leadership Scholarship.

The 34th Annual Educational Fund Scholarship was presented to Kara Mackey, a homeschooled student and class of 2024 graduate. Kara is the daughter of Brad and Kelly Mackey of Waynesburg. Kara is undeclared for her course of study but will be attending Messiah University in the fall. In addition to the scholarship, Kara also received a laptop courtesy of John Frownfelter, owner of PCsquared to use during her col-





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lege career. A total of eighteen applicants from all over the county applied for the scholarship. The Dr. Nancy I Davis Memorial Leadership Scholarship was presented to Alexa Mori of Carmichaels Area High School. Alexa is the daughter of Anthony & Lois Mori of Carmichaels. Alexa is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Imaging at Mount Aloysius College in the fall. A total of twelve applicants from all over the county applied for the scholarship.

Both Mackey and Mori were special guests at the chamber's monthly Business Connection luncheon at which they both shared their scholarship essays. Both scholarship recipients proceed their older brothers, both of which received Chamber scholarships in recent years.

West Greene Area Lions Club Announces Scholarship Winners

The West Greene Area Lions Club awarded four \$1,000 scholarships this year to the following essay winners: From left to right are Alexxis Berdine, daughter of Hoyt and Stacy Berdine of New Freeport, Abigail Whipkey, daughter of Joe and Stacey Whipkey of Graysville, Celia Parson, daughter of Tim and Tina Parson of Graysville, and Noah Webster, son of Jason Webster and Brandy Vath of Graysville and Holbrook. Mr. Jeff Polander, current Lions Club President, presented the awards.



Congratulations Carmichaels Envirothon Team!

Congratulations to the Carmichaels Area High School Envirothon team for placing sixth in the Pennsylvania State Envirothon. The team had the highest score of all teams in the state in the Soils station with a 94, fourth highest Aquatics score of 83, sixth highest Forestry score of 83, 8th highest Current Issue score with a 65, and 12th highest score of 84 in Wildlife for a total score of 489.7 points for the competition.

For their sixth place finish, each team member received a \$200 scholarship. For the Soils high station score each team member received USDA backpack and Soils resources. The team was awarded a wooden plaque made from Pennsylvania hardwoods.

This year marks the eighteenth year in a row that the team has placed in the top 10 at the State Envirothon. The team placed first in the state in 2018 and 2019; they placed third in the world at the NCF-International Envirothon in 2019.

The team placed second in 2006 and 2010, third in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2023, fourth in 2011 and 2015, fifth in 2012 and 2013, seventh in 2009 and 2022, eighth in 2008, and tenth in 2007 and 2021.

L-R, front row: Alex Lawrence, Faith Willis, Hayden Yeager, and Blake Conard (team assistant coach); L-R, second row: Kevin Willis (team coach), Allie Miller, and Emma Bates.



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Free Summer Training for Adults 55+

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

Microsoft Word® Basics - 2-week course, 8 hours of total instruction, 4 hours per session. Explore capabilities; create, edit, format documents, add tables, lists, design elements; understand layout options; learn proofing abilities. Sessions will be held July 19 & July 26.

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

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

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

Stay Up-to-Date with Construction in Our Area This Summer!

Are you curious about the ongoing construction activities in and around Greene County this year? PennDOT has provided resources to help you navigate these projects more efficiently. Click on the link below or scan the QR code to stay informed about the latest developments in Greene County.



Washington Health System and UPMC Complete Affiliation

Washington Health System is pleased to announce it has officially joined UPMC, becoming UPMC Washington and UPMC Greene.

In June of 2023, the Boards of Directors of Washington Health System (WHS) and UPMC announced an affiliation agreement between the two entities that would integrate WHS into the UPMC system. One year later, on June 1, 2024, that affiliation became official, ensuring a future of excellent patient care for residents of Washington, Greene and surrounding counties.

"We are elated that the affiliation is complete and look forward to starting a new chapter of collaboration with UPMC," said Brook Ward, president of UPMC Washington and UPMC Greene. "This affiliation protects the vitality of an essential community asset and solidifies a healthy future for Washington and Greene counties for generations to come."

UPMC has committed to invest at least \$300 million over 10 years to enhance clinical services and upgrade facilities at UPMC Washington and UPMC Greene. These investments by UPMC, combined with contributions the WHS Foundation has made and will continue to make, ensures UPMC Washington and UPMC Greene can provide state-of-the-art health care for local residents for years to come and maintain its position as one of the largest employers in Washington and Greene counties.

"Our focus is on ensuring residents have access to life-saving services and advanced care that is sustainable into the future and preserving jobs of our talented health care workers," said Ward. "The community is gaining close-to-home access to the nationally recognized, high-specialty care of UPMC. Our local capabilities will expand,



creating a destination for world-class care in southwestern Pennsylvania."

Clinical collaborations between WHS and UPMC for oncology (UPMC Hillman Cancer Center joint venture), pediatric specialties (UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh), women's health (UPMC Magee-Womens) and heart and vascular care (UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute), have been in place for more than a decade, providing care for more than 10,000 patients annually. UPMC will continue to invest in and advance key services locally, including inpatient and emergency care, women's health, cardiology, surgical services, diagnostics, primary care and specialty and outpatient services.

"UPMC has a long, successful track record of affiliations with like-minded organizations. We know how essential these hospitals are to this region to preserve needed health care services and livelihoods of thousands touched by them, and we are thrilled to welcome UPMC Washington and UPMC Greene to UPMC," said Leslie C. Davis, president and CEO of UPMC.

UPMC Washington and UPMC Greene will maintain a local Board of Directors consisting of 11 legacy WHS board members and five newly appointed members from UPMC. The affiliation does not affect community members' in-network access to WHS hospitals or doctors. UPMC Washington, UPMC Greene and their affiliated outpatient facilities will continue to honor the contracts that are in place with regional and national insurers.

A formal celebration of the affiliation and a press conference will be announced in the coming days.

Students Learn About the Civil War

Doug Wilson of the 140th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Re-enactors visited the sixth grade class at West Greene School District. Wilson shared his personal Civil War artifacts and described his re-enacting experiences. His presentation preceded the students' field trip to Gettysburg. The students spent two days in Gettysburg, exploring sites like the PA Monument, the Eisenhower Farm, the National Military Park and Visitors Center, the Shriver House Museum, and the Gettysburg National Cemetery.



This Message Board Is For You!

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



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Intentional Walks By Bret Moore

Carmichaels Softball: A Legacy of Greatness

Given the recent success of the Carmichaels' girls' softball team in the PIAA tournament, I thought it might be appropriate to revisit the program's accomplishments of the 1990s. Those young women won section championships every year in the 1990s except 1994.

To open the decade, the girls went 17-2 and 12-2 with one playoff win. In 1993, they

were undefeated in the section and beat Burgettstown in the first round before losing a 5-4 heartbreaker to Burrell. That was to be the last season at the helm for the program's founder John Krajnak. Rob Cole took over for the 1994 campaign. By his second year, the team was back on top of the section with a 13-2 (11-1) record.

From 1996-99, the Mikes won 56 straight section games. They won four section titles from 1995-98 with Nikki Gasti on the mound. They also claimed back-to-back AA WPIAL titles in 1997 and 1998. During the latter season, the Mikes also won the first PIAA State Title by a Greene County girls' team (and the first of any kind since 1943).

The first WPIAL title season was a result of an 18-1 record. The only loss was a 2-1 game against WPIAL AAA champions Connellsville. The team was so dominant, they only played one seven inning game in the regular season. In the playoffs, they defeated Charleroi (4-2), Beth-Center (10-0), and Sto-Rox (2-1) on their way to the championship game victory over Burgettstown (8-6). In the PIAA tournament, they defeated Fort LeBoeuf 8-0 before falling to

Central Cambria.

In 1998, Cole's team won both the AA WPIAL and PIAA girls' title. They finished the season 26-0 with 20 shutouts. They were led by pitcher Nikki Gasti, who went 24-0 with 293 strikeouts in 146 innings. She had 18 shutouts and five no-hitters. Her ERA was an astounding 0.14 after she gave up only three runs all seasons. Gasti was named the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Player of the Year. Her backup, Daysha Grimes went 2-0 on the year and went on to pitch at Alderson- Broaddus College. That year's senior class finished their careers with a 79-7 record.

That year, the Mikes scored 257 runs on the season and surrendered only seven. Early in the season, they defeated traditional AAA power Connellsville 5-0 as Gasti tossed a perfect game.

The WPIAL championship game was a 2-0 win over traditional power Sto-Rox. The PIAA playoffs began with a no-hit 5-0 win over District 5 champion Tyrone. Gasti remained dominate in the next round with an 8-0 shutout of the District 9 champion Brookville. They faced Sto-Rox again in the state semi-final. The result was another 2-0 win.

In the PIAA Championship game, the Mikes trailed South Williamsport 2-1 after

four innings, thanks to five uncharacteristic errors. It was only the second time all season the team trailed at any point in a game. However, the next four Carmichaels' runs went unanswered. The rally started when centerfielder Megan Shirley tripled home the tying run with one out. She scored the go-ahead run after Dee Watson reached on an infield single. The Mikes went on to capture the 5-2 victory and the first girls' PIAA title by any Greene County team.

What is so great about Greene County sports is the family and cultural ties that bind generations. Last year, I wrote an article highlighting the family connections between Mapletown's regular season undefeated football teams of 1968 and 2023. This year's Lady Mikes team also has a strong connection to their program's forerunners of a generation ago. Nikki (Gasti) Onderko's daughter, Baily Barnyak had an incredible sophomore campaign on the way to the state championship game. In addition, Tiffany (Zuspan) Schwalm has two daughters on this year's team - Allie and Sydney Miller. Although the legacy of this team's final chapter remains unwritten, they have already added to the canon of our sports history.

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



The mother/daughter connections on the Mikes' championship teams include Sydney and Allie Miller, Tiffany (Zuspan) Schwalm, Nikki (Gasti) Onderko, and Bailey Barnyak.



Ron Ferek and his son Stush Ferek recently visited the house from the movie Field of Dreams. The house and field are located in Dyersville, Iowa. The story of the first "Stush" Ferek, Greene County's own Moonlight Graham, was chronicled in my column last month.

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Alek Palko won the PA Junior High Wrestling State championship, 147-pound title at the Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling Junior High State Tournament. This was Alek's third state championship win. He's also won titles in the 8-and-under and 12-and-under age divisions. Alek, the son of Tom and Melissa Palko of Jefferson, is a high honors student at Jefferson Morgan school district. He is coached by his father, Jim Hanning, Troy Barnhart, Ron Headlee, and Brian Framell.



The 26th annual West Greene Area Lions Club Golf Tournament was held on June 14, 2024 at Rohanna's Golf Course. The winning team, with a score of 19 under par, are pictured from right to left: Eric Bedilion, Larry Bedilion, Scotty Bedilion, and Justin Bedilion. The organizers would like to thank the teams and sponsors for making this event a success.

Mapletown alumnae Ella Menear competed in the 2024 US Olympic Trials in Indianapolis on June 17. She swam the 100 meter backstroke. Ella improved her seed time from 40th to 35th.



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GREENE COUNTY CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce held their annual Golf Outing at Rohanna's Golf Course last month. Breakfast was catered by Aladdin Campus Dining and lunch was provided by Back Bay Catering, with snacks by Giant Eagle. Next year's event is planned for Carmichaels Golf Course on Friday, May 30, 2025.

The Chamber wishes to thank its volunteers and sponsors: New Way Excavating, First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Greene County, Washington Health System Greene, Community Bank, Edward Jones-Matt Baculik, Mountain State Waste, State Senator Camera Bartolotta, Laick Design, Wilson Accounting Group, Blueprints, State Representative Bud Cook, Waynesburg Milling Company, Rotary Club of Waynesburg, World Kinect Energy Services, Hampton Inn Waynesburg, Hoy's Construction Company - Solid Rock Concrete, EQT Rec Center, Waynesburg University, R.G. Johnson, Stuck Enterprises, Baily Insurance, and the PA National Guard.

Winners were: First Place - Bedrock

Environmental, Second Place - Waynesburg University, Third Place - Stuck Enterprises, Longest Putt and Close to Pin - JD DeVaul of Team Mountain State Waste, Longest Drive Women - Laura Grandel of Team Community Bank, Close to the Pin - Doug Fleisner of Team Baily Agency, Longest Putt - Sheila Stewart of Team Community Bank, Longest Putt Men - Jordan Linck of Team Blueprints, Cash Hole - Mike Cippoletti of Team Waynesburg University, Prize Hole - Matt Stuck of Team Stuck Enterprises, Putting Contest - Nick Hood of Team Blueprints, and 50/50 - Craig Haywood of Team Bedrock Environmental.



POOL HOURS IN GREENE COUNTY

Ryerson Station State Park's Swimming Pool opened Memorial Day weekend. The Pool and Spray Park will be open daily from 11:30 am to 6:30 pm with weather and operations permitting; the cost is free. Please check the park advisory section of our website: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/ryersonstation for up to the minute updates as to the status of the pool and spray park and the hours.



The Greene County Water Park and Mon View Pool opened in June 1. The hours at both pools are from 12pm to 6pm daily. Daily admission costs at the Greene County Water Park are: Child (1-17) & Senior Citizen (62+) \$8, and Adult \$10.

Daily admission costs at the Mon View Pool are: Child (1-17) & Senior Citizen (62+) \$6, and Adult \$8. Family pool passes, individual memberships, and pool pass deals are available for both pools. Contact the Greene County Department of Recreation to purchase or FMI: 724-852-5323.

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The Carmichaels Lady Mikes softball team is no stranger to the WPIAL or the PIAA play-off games. In fact, they have been a dominant force over the course of several years and always make a solid game appearance.

On Monday, June 10, the Mikes faced section rival, Chartiers-Houston, in the state semi-finals game. Carmichaels was trailing 4-0 after four innings of play, but with fierce determination, came back to score four times in the fifth inning on only one solid hit. The Chartiers-Houston defense fell apart and was charged with four errors in the inning.

The Mikes, under head coach Dave Briggs, suffered two of their three losses this season to Char-Houston, who won the WPIAL championship.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, standout sophomore shortstop Carys McConnell came to the plate and with a 3-0 count, got a pitch that looked irresistible. She took a swing, connected, and sent the ball to the right-field corner. Carmichaels pitcher Bailey Barnyak scored from first and the Lady Mikes won the game 5-4 and sailed into the state championship!

The Mikes (19-3) traveled to Penn State University to face DuBois Central Catholic for their first state champion-



ship game since 1998. Twenty-six years ago, Carmichaels won the Class 2-A title, with winning pitcher Nikki (formerly Gasti) Onderko on the mound. Onderko, who is one of the assistant coaches to Briggs, is also sophomore Bailey Barnyak's

mother. The state championship game was played on Thursday, June 13, at Penn State University's Beard Field. Carmichaels lost to DuBois 0-2.

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COMES BUT ONCE A DEER

By Zack Zeigler

If you are traveling in nearby Lippencott, Pennsylvania, you might feast your eyes on a rare sight. Blue Ghost is an albino deer living with Willie and Kari Golden on their deer farm. He is a rarity only seen in just one of 30,000 deer.

"He is a big baby and knows no strangers," says Willie Golden, who owns and cares for Blue Ghost. "When people come to see him, he always wants pets and wants to lick you like a dog."

Willie found Blue Ghost by pure happenstance when White Tail Haven in Madison, Pennsylvania, contacted him. Their facility breeds white-tail deer, and they came across the rare albino deer as part of one of their breeding programs. Willie, who has one piebald deer on his property already, jumped at the opportunity and brought Blue Ghost to Greene County.

"I was contacted by White Tale Haven asking if I wanted to buy Blue Ghost since I already raise deer on my property," Willie says. "He was named Blue Ghost because he was all white and had beautiful blue eyes. I went up, worked out a deal, and was able to bring him home with me."

Since bringing him to his property, Willie's collection has expanded to three albino deer, one piebald deer, and 15 other brown deer on his property. One of the albino deer is a daughter of Blue Ghost, while the other is not a direct relative. Willie raises all of his

deer by hand and takes joy in getting to be out with them every day.

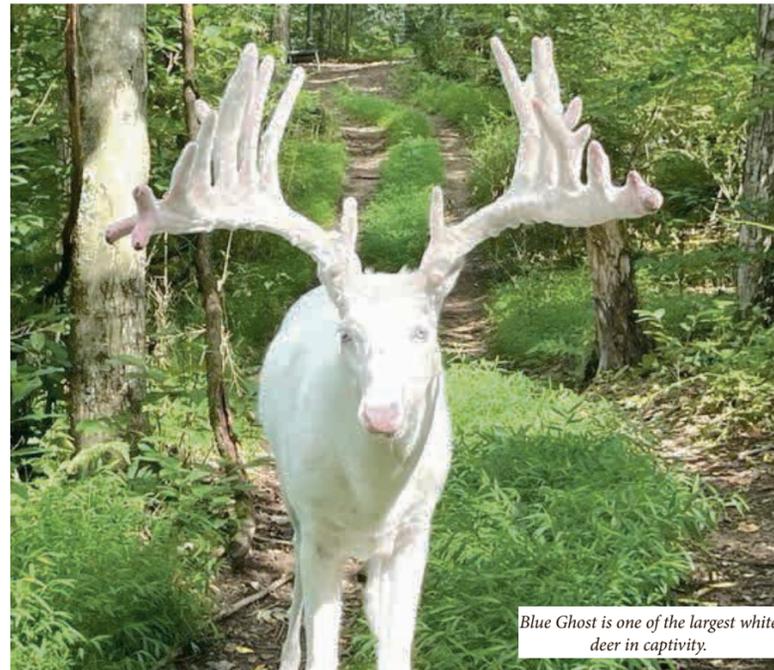
"We mix our own feed that is a secret mix," Willie says. "Once you raise these deer and have them, it completely changes your perspective on hunting. I don't even want to go out hunting anymore because I think of these guys and how much I love having them."

Not only is Blue Ghost a rarity because he is an albino deer; his size among albinos is also an oddity. Due to their white color, albino deer rarely last long in the wild because they stand out to predators. Blue Ghost is protected on the Golden's property, and it turns out he might be one of the largest albino deer in captivity in North America.

"Right now, we know that Blue Ghost is one of the largest white deer in captivity," Willie says. "When he sheds his antlers this spring, we are entering them in the North American Deer Farmers Association contest in French Lick, Indiana. Once they are submitted, we will know for sure whether he is the largest albino deer in captivity."

For Willie, working with these animals every day is the joy of a lifetime. He has a passion for deer farming and loves working with them.

"It is really fun and I look forward to going out and feeding them every day," Willie says. "When they start dropping fawns, it is extremely special for me."



Blue Ghost is one of the largest white deer in captivity.

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Arts in the Community: JM Art Show

By Emma Bates



The High School Art Club with one of their large installations. Mr. Lesko is in the back row, farthest left.



John F. Kennedy once said, "If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him." Fortunately, at Jefferson Morgan High School, artists are being set free to pursue their diverse interests and experiment creatively in ways that benefit not only themselves, but their peers and fellow community members.

The 14th annual Jefferson Morgan High School Art Show was held on May 9, from 6-8pm in the high school cafeteria. This year, the Art Show featured a silent auction, where students not only received the opportunity to display their best work, but each piece was labeled with a minimum bid price. Throughout the evening, community attendees bid, dollar by dollar, for any piece they felt especially

drawn to. At the end of the night, the auction winners claimed their artwork and left for home with their own special piece created by a student artist.

Each of the 15 Art Club members contributed their work to this year's Art Show, under the direction of High School Art teacher Mr. Michael Lesko. Every grade from 9 to 12 is represented in the Art Club, and these students take part in several special experiences on and off campus throughout the school year. In the art room, students work with various media, experimenting with different tools and styles to discover what methods they enjoy using to produce their best work. Students used various paint types, such as acrylic, watercolor, and oil. They also spent a great deal of time perfecting their pottery

skills, making hand-thrown pottery on the potter's wheel in three unique techniques: raku, horsehair, and gloss glaze. Many students even created pieces in less traditional art forms, exhibiting resin pieces, tie-dye, glass, and jewelry. The work displayed at the culminating art show was a testament to the creativity and passion behind each young artist.

Some of the proceeds from the Art Show are donated to charitable organizations, while others are used to renew the art supplies students need to continue making amazing projects. The funds are also used to give students art experiences beyond the classroom walls on field trips, such as to museums to view other artists' work first-hand. These experiences emphasize the importance of creativ-

ity and inspire students to create beauty once they arrive back at home. The art students have created many permanent installations that brighten their school building for all to see.

"I have always held our Art program and students to a high-level to succeed in all their processes they take on," Lesko says. "Many people take for granted that this is a great avenue that students can really express [themselves] in different ways...I always see great pride in students, especially when their artwork is out in the community or is a permanent fixture throughout the school." And through this art, the students of Jefferson can continue to nourish one another and their community for the years to come.

Get Competitive with Your Art!

Along with warm weather and fun in the sun, the summer brings a chance to showcase your art at local events. First up, the Jacktown Fair's Home & Garden exhibits allow exhibitors three entries per class in oil painting, acrylics, watercolors, mixed media, crayon, pen & ink, charcoal, pastels, pencil drawings, colored pencils, markers, collage, photography, and more. There are also a variety of hand-craft classes, with up to five entries per person per class. Premiums are awarded for first to third place.

The Rain Day Coloring contest offers two categories for budding artists to show off their skills. Winners in both categories will receive a goody basket of Rain Day items. The coloring pages/forms can be found on www.raindayfestival.com or on Facebook.

The Fayette County Fair has many similar classes to the Jacktown and Greene County fairs, with premiums for first through fourth place. Entries for the Fayette County fair will be accepted July 25 from 8am-5pm with judging the next day. Visit fayettefair.com for classes and information.

The Greene County Fair has classes in acrylic, cartoons, charcoal/pastel, crayon, etching, marker, oil, pen & ink, prints, stippling, watercolor, mixed media, paint by number, coloring pages, photography, poetry, short stories and more. Two entries per exhibitor in most classes; one entry per exhibitor per class in photography classes. Premiums are awarded for first to third place. Entries must be dropped off August 4 from 10am-3pm.

Join Local Art Organizations & Support Local Artists!

Did you know that there are two area art organizations that sell art in their galleries, host classes, and offer other art opportunities to artists in this area? Although outside of the county, both clubs accept Greene County members.

Uniontown Art Club - uniontownartclub.org

The Uniontown Art Club is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote local artist and their artwork within the community. The Uniontown Art Club sponsors Gallery 86 (86 W Main St, Uniontown, PA). To participate, become a member by paying their annual dues of \$32.

Morgantown Art Association - morgantownartassociation.com

The mission of the Morgantown Art Association is "to bring together all those individuals interested in the creative arts". The MAA Gallery is at Mountaineer Mall (5000 Greenbag Rd, Morgantown, WV 26501). To participate, become a member by paying their annual dues of \$35.

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Little Miss FIRECRACKER

The Little Miss Firecracker Pageant sponsored by the Waynesburg Lions Club will be held on Tuesday, July 4, 2024, at the Waynesburg Lions Club Park Stage at 6:30pm.

The pageant is a non-competitive event for girls ages 5-8, the girls appearing in patriotic attire while being interviewed on stage. Little Miss Firecracker is determined when each contestant draws a wrapped flower from a basket, with the winner being the one drawing the different colored flower.

The winner will receive a crown, trophy, and bouquet. Each contestant receives a participation medal and gifts. The 2023 Little Miss Firecracker, Bristol Whyte, will crown the new queen. The contestants will rehearse on Wednesday, July 3 at 6pm at the Waynesburg Lions Club Park on the stage of the amphitheatre.



2023 Little Miss Firecracker, Bristol Whyte



Brooklynn Czako



Briella Yanak



Gemelia Virgili



Addalynn Knisely



Lillian Knisely

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Independence Day CELEBRATIONS



Fireworks Over Fayette & Founding Day

The Fayette County Chamber of Commerce and 84 Lumber present Fireworks Over Fayette on June 29, 2024. The fireworks are the star-spangled finale to the 2024 Founding Day Festival. The fireworks will begin at dusk and are best viewed from the vicinity of the Uniontown Mall.

The Founding Day Festival is on June 29 from 11am - 7pm at Marshall Park in Uniontown. Founding Day Festival activities include a car show from 11am - 4pm (registration at 10am), Lids Zone with inflatables and activities, Uniontown Art Club art display and sale, narrated history wagon tours, Conestoga wagon rides, self-guided walking tours, food trucks (Gyros Hoagies Pierogies, Juliet's Empanadas, World Importing, and World Wide Eatz) and vendors, live music, and - of course - fireworks to end the day. The day's music is provided by the VFW Band from 11am - 1pm, Arnie Amber's Golden Oldies from 1pm - 4pm, and C&T Acoustic from 4pm - 7pm. FMI, check out founding-dayfestival.com.

Waynesburg Lions Club

The Waynesburg Lions Club July 4th celebration returns to the Waynesburg fairgrounds and Lions Club Park. The event will feature a pancake breakfast, car show, Little Miss Firecracker competition, live music, and - of course - fireworks!

In the morning stop over at the fairgrounds for pancakes and sausage. Breakfast lasts from 7am to 11am and is \$6/person. Children under 6 eat free.

Head on over to the Waynesburg Lions Club Park after breakfast for more fun Fourth of July festivities. The car show's registration is from 10am to 12pm, and the show lasts from 12pm to 3pm. The Lions Club food stand will have plenty of delicious food for sale and will be open from 11 am to 3pm and from 5pm to the end of the festivities.

The July 4th celebrations start at 6:30pm.

The Little Miss Firecracker competition will be held at 6:15pm at the Lions Club stage. After the competition, live music - Part Time Cowboys - starts at 7pm and ends at 9:30pm. Stay after the music to enjoy the fireworks, starting at dusk. Make sure to bring a blanket or chair to enjoy the music and fireworks!

Masontown Matters

Masontown, PA will have fireworks on July 4 at dusk. Look to the sky over the old water tank hill! FMI, email masontownmatters@yahoo.com.

Fredericktown Riverfest

The Fredericktown Area Chamber of Commerce presents the 19th Annual Fredericktown Riverfest on Saturday, July 6, 2024. The Riverfest starts at 2pm along the Monongahela riverfront in Fredericktown, PA, with craft and food vendors. There will also be face painting for children by Candace Orlandi. Enjoy live classic rock, oldies, and Southern rock by The Allies Band along the river while enjoying delicious food and browsing craft vendors. Fireworks begin around 9:30pm.

If you are interested in being a food or craft vendor, contact Michele Battaglini (Vendor Coordinator) at 724-986-9279. For other information, contact Denise Prodan (Event Coordinator) at 724-809-8458. If you are interested in donating to the fireworks, please make the check out to the Fredericktown Area Chamber of Commerce and send check to: Denise Prodan, 514 S Market St, Carmichaels, PA 15320. Stay up-to-date with times and entertainment by following Fredericktown Riverfest Fireworks Spectacular on Facebook.

Point Marion

Point Marion, PA will have fireworks on July 6 at dusk at Point Marion Park (postponed from the Albert Gallatin Regatta).

While not held on July 4, the Rain Day Festival will have fireworks on July 29, and the Nemaocolin VFD Street Fair will have fireworks on August 3.

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EVERYBODY LOVES A (JACKTOWN FAIR) PARADE!



The legendary Jacktown Fair, held July 16-20, 2024, is celebrating 159 years! The celebration begins with a worship service at 10am on Sunday, July 14 and the Queen and Princess Competition & Crowning at 7pm that evening at the fairgrounds in Wind Ridge, Pa.

The 159th Annual Jacktown Fair will kick off with the Jacktown Fair Parade on Tuesday, July 16, beginning at 6:30pm.

In addition to the Grand Marshall (the Board of Directors of the Richhill Agricultural Society has not named the Grand Marshall as of this time), the parade will feature the reigning 2023 Jacktown Fair Queen Marissa Tharp, daughter of Cory and Natasha Tharp. Marissa is a senior at West Greene High School, where she plays on the softball,

volleyball and basketball teams and cheers. She serves as both an FFA and Class of 2025 officer, and helps plan events for both organizations. She enjoys giving back to the community by working the football and baseball concession stands.

Also featured will be the 2024 Jacktown Fair Princess who will be crowned July 14, and the contestants vying to be this year's Fair Queen. In addition, state and local dignitaries will participate in this year's parade.

The Jacktown Fair Parade offers prize money in two float contests. The mini float contest, with prizes of \$40, \$30, \$20, & \$10 features floats constructed on a child's wagon, a wheel barrow, garden cart, small cart, etc. It can be hand pulled or pulled by a lawn size tractor. In the regular float contest, winning

entries receive \$100, \$75, \$50, and \$25. Both float contests will utilize this year's fair theme "Pennsylvania Fairs: Flourishing with Opportunity Rooted in Agriculture". Float entries will be judged on their attractiveness, design, workmanship, use of the theme, originality, and other elements. Groups, individuals - anyone wishing to enter a float corresponding to this year's theme is encouraged to do so.

The Jacktown Fair Board invites all interested bands, businesses, churches, fire companies, groups, organizations and individuals to participate in the parade. If you have an interesting, entertaining, showy or unusual item - your entry is welcomed. Antique and classic cars, clowns, horses, regional/ local queens, and princesses... everyone's invited to join the parade!

The Jacktown Fair is sponsored by the Richhill Agricultural Society, originally named The Richhill Agricultural, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Association in its charter formed July 6, 1866. The first Jacktown Fair (as it was initially named) occurred on October 3 and 4 of that same year.

Be a part of the Nation's oldest continuous fair by being in the Jacktown Fair annual parade! Contact parade chair Marcia Sonneborn as soon possible, so the parade's line can be constructed. Your date of entry will be taken into consideration when forming the parade line. For more information or to reserve your place, call 724-747-4631 or email marciasonne@windstream.net. Entry forms are also available on jacktownfair.org.

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JULY 18 - KARAOKE NIGHT	AUGUST 22 - KARAOKE NIGHT
JULY 25 - STEVE HALOW	AUGUST 29 - COLE LEATHERS
SEPT 5 - KARAOKE NIGHT	SEPT 12 - MARKS BROTHERS
SEPT 12 - MARKS BROTHERS	SEPT 19 - CASSIDY PAIGE
SEPT 19 - CASSIDY PAIGE	SEPT 26 - KARAOKE NIGHT

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2024 JACKTOWN FAIR SCHEDULE

<p>SUNDAY - JULY 14 10:00 am - Worship Service 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Home & Garden Entries Accepted 7:00 pm - Queen Competition & Princess Competition & Crowning 7:00 pm - Public Judging of Special Baking Contests</p>	<p>THURSDAY - JULY 18 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Bingo 7:00 pm - Tractor Pull 7:30 pm - Music by Foggy Meadows</p>
<p>TUESDAY - JULY 16 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Bingo 6:00 pm - Float Contests 6:30 pm - Parade 7:00 pm - Opening Ceremony & Crowning of Miss Jacktown Fair 8:00 pm - Music by Bluegrass Express 8:00 pm - ATV & UTV Barrel Races</p>	<p>FRIDAY - JULY 19 9:30 am - Tractor Driving Contest 11:00 am - Livestock Judging Contest 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Bingo 7:00 pm - Keystone Mini Mod Pull 7:00 pm - 4-H Rabbit & Goat Sale 7:00 pm - Music by Iron Horse Band 9:30 pm - DNT Fireworks</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY - JULY 17 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Bingo 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm - Youth Night (Ages 14 & under free rides sponsored by First Federal S & L of Greene Co.) 7:00 pm - Truck Pull 7:00 pm - Youth Fun Night Games 7:00 pm - Music by Honky Tonk Sweethearts 9:30 pm - DNT Fireworks</p>	<p>SATURDAY - JULY 20 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Bingo 7:00 pm - Hardcore Demolition Derby 7:00 pm - Music by Shortline Junction</p>

JUDGING SCHEDULE

Monday - July 15
10:00 am - Home & Garden

Wednesday - July 17
9:00 am - Horses
10:00 am - Beef Cattle
1:00 pm - Goats
7:00 pm - Rabbits

Thursday - July 18
8:00 pm - Sheep
2:00 pm - Dairy Cattle

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2024

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HOPING FOR RAIN: RAIN DAY RETURNS TO THE PARKS TO CELEBRATE 151 YEARS



It's the one day of the year when the Waynesburg community members wish for rain – Rain Day! This year marks the 151st Rain Day celebration, where everyone watches the skies for a sign of rain. Head into downtown Waynesburg's picturesque parks for a day fun in the sun (and rain!), where you'll find Rain Day festivities spread throughout the downtown area's Fountain (College) and Monument parks.

"I would ask that everyone make 'wish upon a cloud' for rain on Rain Day," says Waynesburg Mayor Lynn Bussey. "Most people consider rain to be an inconvenience, but rain on Rain Day are 'Tears of Joy' to us!"

Headlining is the Cassidy Paige Band, and the performance begins at 7:00pm on the main stage. The Cassidy Paige Band is a six-piece country/rock band comprised of vocals, lead and rhythm guitar, keys, bass, and drums. On their set list, you'll find covers of well-known country and rock songs, as well as many original pieces. Several members of the band were born and raised in Greene County, making Rain Day a special performance for the group.

Other performances include the National Anthem sung by Sydney Fox, a junior at Waynesburg Central High School; live music by Samuel James from Lewisburg, WV; Lucien Schroyer, a musician and songwriter from Morgantown, WV and guitarist/backup singer for Cassidy Paige Band; Rebecca Krofcheck, a senior at Wheeling Central Catholic High School; classic rock from Recycled Vinyl; Andy & Randy; Tyler Jeffries, a recent graduate of Waynesburg Central High School; 13-year-old Josie Salvitti, who has performed with Lainey Wilson, Jelly Roll, and Riley Green; and instrumental guitarist Dan Baker. These performances will take place on either the main stage (near E. Wayne Street) or the second stage (Fountain Park).

Don't forget to bring your lawn chair or blanket – and maybe an umbrella!

In the Kidz Zone, Waynesburg First Assembly Church will be providing children's activities and games in Fountain Park from noon-6 pm. Jeff Harris will be creating his amazing caricatures, and there will be performances by Pittsburgh Puppet Works. JMS Balloons will be providing balloon art throughout the day. Mascots will be roaming periodically throughout the day along with strolling characters. Mascots attending include Sting from Waynesburg University, the Wild Thing, the WVU Mountaineer, and Andy Armadillo. Jonathan Dohanich returns, performing as Jack Sparrow.

The usual contests will be held, including Baby Rain Day, the Umbrella contest, window decorating, and more. Make sure to check out the downtown businesses with Rain Day specials while in town, and to see their decorated windows. Who will win the coveted golden watering can this year? FMI on Rain Day contests, see our other article or visit rainydayfestival.com.

The event this year will also bring some new food vendors, along with recurring food vendors with traditional festival foods. Crafters, artists, and vendors will also be scattered throughout the parks, with homemade items. If you are interested in being a vendor at Rain Day, applications are available at rainydayfestival.com; the deadline is July 12, 2024.

And don't forget to shop local businesses in the area! For your convenience, a shuttle from downtown to the event will be provided all day long. The shuttle will provide an opportunity for people to shop local businesses while visiting Waynesburg for Rain Day, as well as make parking easier.

The shuttle will stop at three locations: Near borough parking lot #2 at Morgan and Franklin Street, in front of First National Bank on High Street, and in borough parking lot #3 across from Don Patron's off High Street/Morris Street. The shuttle is sponsored by WVU Medicine, and shuttle service provided by Greene County Transportation.

Each year, Rain Day planning starts in January and ends around August. It is organized by the Special Events Committee. The SEC was created in 1979 "to organize and execute the Rain Day Festival." The committee's history reaches back to 1874, with the first recorded rainfall on July 29.

This year, the Special Events Committee has a new face coordinating the organization of Rain Day this year, Krysten DeBolt. "The committee is very excited to be celebrating this 151st annual rain tracking tradition in our hometown of Waynesburg, we are especially excited to have Ryan and the Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation as our 2024 hat bet with high hopes of having a new hat to add to our window display," Krysten says. "With a rain record of 118 out of 150 years, I think we have some promising odds. We hope it rains!"

"[And] at this year's Rain Day Festival we will be trying an alternative to fireworks, a drone light show with music, sponsored by EQT Corporation. We are extremely excited to bring something new to the event as well as the county!"

The festival is spread out over four plus acres with ample room for its entertainment, including live musicians, food, crafts, games, contests, and vendors, as well as individuals looking to relax and enjoy the cool shady parks or watch the fireworks.

"With some hesitation of bringing Rain Day to the parks we ultimately think this was the best decision that could've been made. Allowing the festival in the parks has led our event to expand, far larger than it could have been on High Street. The parks are more spacious and allow the public to spread out and not feel overwhelmed in a confined area. We are very happy with the decision that was made to move the event to the parks!"

So, how is a rain day in Waynesburg determined? The SEC works closely with the festival's official rain watchers, local Waynesburg Troop Greene 1280 and 9280 of Waynesburg, to determine rainfall on the day of July 29. The Waynesburg Troop Greene 1280 and 9280 camp out on the courthouse lawn to monitor rain during the night. During the campout, the committee, mayor, and local police monitor the rain during the day of the event. To count as a rainfall year, there only needs to be a few drops of rain falling within borough limits.

If you'd like to be part of this annual tradition as a volunteer or join the Special Events Committee, reach out to the Borough Office, or submit a letter of interest to the Special Events Commission at 90 E. High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

Contact the Special Events Commission for details on all the Rain Day events at 724-627-8111. FMI on Rain Day, including a schedule of events, entertainer biographies, and more, visit rainydayfestival.com.

RAIN DAY FESTIVAL JULY 29, 2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MAIN MOBILE STAGE: E. Wayne Street near Soldiers & Sailors Monument
SECOND STAGE: Fountain Park (College Park)
KIDZ ZONE: Fountain Park near Kids Activities
SPECIAL EVENTS BOOTH: Look for yellow & purple tent in Monument Park! Stop by to purchase Rain Day merchandise or vote for Baby Rain Day until 2pm!

- 7:00am - 10:00am Buckwheat Pancake Breakfast at St. Ann's Church
- 10:50am Sydney Fox (National Anthem)
- 11:00am Umbrella Contest (Line up at 10:45am)
- 11:00am - 1:00pm Samuel James & The New Impulse
- 11:00am - 1:00pm JMS Balloonist
- 11:00am - 6:00pm E.L.F Entertainment Inflatables
- 11:30am - Noon Lucien
- Noon Miss Rain Drop Contest (Mini, Little, Jr. Miss)
- Noon - 6:00pm Children's Games by Waynesburg First Assembly
- Noon - 7:00pm Jeff Harris Caricatures
- 12:30pm Pittsburgh Puppet Works
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Rebecca Krofcheck
- 1:20pm Pittsburgh Puppet Works
- 1:30pm - 3:30pm Recycled Vinyl
- 2:00pm - 3:00pm Andy & Randy
- 2:00pm - 4:00pm JMS Balloonist
- 2:10pm Pittsburgh Puppet Works
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm Zack Brewer
- 3:00pm Pittsburgh Puppet Works
- 3:00pm - 7:30pm P.G.H. Party Creations Strolling Characters: Cocomelon & Elmo, Minion & Cat in the Hat, Mickey & Minnie Mouse, Spongebob & Blue (both parks)
- 3:30 pm Miss Rain Day Contestants
- 3:50pm Pittsburgh Puppet Works
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm Tyler Jeffries
- 4:00 pm - 6:00pm Josie Salvetti
- 4:40pm Pittsburgh Puppet Works
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm Dan Baker
- 6:00pm Company K Moment of Silence
- 6:00pm Award Presentations: Window Decorating, Baby Rain Day, Jack McCracken Award, Waynesburg Troop 1280 & 9280 "Official Rain Watchers" Donation
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Strolling Characters Meet & Greet: Jack Sparrow.
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm Grace Campbell
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Cassidy Paige Band (Headliner)
- 9:30pm EQT Drone Light Show. Immediately following the final band performance.



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Enter your guess on the forms provided at your nearest First Federal Branch Office in Waynesburg, Carmichaels or Mt. Morris, or fill out the entry form with this ad and bring it in starting Wednesday, June 26.

Entry deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 26. So drop in and make a guess, and who knows...into your life a shower of Rain Day prize money may fall.

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(You must select A.M. or P.M., not both)

Waynesburg, Carmichaels or Mt. Morris
Deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 26, 2024. One entry per person - Thank You!

*If rain is continuous from the preceding night (July 28th) or no rain falls, the contest will be cancelled and the award will be carried over to the ensuing year.

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Miss Rain Day

It wouldn't be Rain Day without the Rain Day Pageant!

Six young ladies from around Greene County will compete in the 46th annual Miss Rain Day Scholarship Pageant, sponsored by Rain Day Scholarship Inc. The competition will begin at 4pm on July 28 at Waynesburg Central High School Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased online only beginning mid-July at showtix4u.com.

The contestants will be judged on the basis of personal interview, sportswear, talent and evening gown competitions. Awards will be presented to those with top scores in these areas as well as Miss Personality, Miss Photogenic, the Kelly Smotzer Memorial Award, the Bryn Patton Smile Award, the

Spirit Award and the Scholastic Achievement Award. Participation awards will be given to all contestants. A Rain Maker Award will be presented to the contestant who collected the most sponsorships, and the John O'Hara Award will be given to the contestant who composes the best essay on what Rain Day means to them. The Remo C. Bertugli Memorial Award will also be presented, judged from essays submitted by the contestants on how volunteering changed their life. New this year is a "Walk for Hearing" fundraising award to be given to the contestant raising the most donations for a walk benefiting Voices for Independence. This award is sponsored by Miss Rain Day Abby Ray.

2023 MISS RAIN DAY

Abby is the 16-year-old daughter of Jason and Natalie Ray of Carmichaels. In addition to the Miss Rain Day 2023 title, Abby won the Top Evening Gown and Top Interview. She performed a musical theater jazz dance to All That Jazz the day of the pageant.



Abby is a junior at Carmichaels High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club, high school marching and concert band. She is also the JV cheer captain of her cheer team. Outside of school, Abby dances at For The Love of Dance where she studies contemporary, jazz, tap, ballet, and hip hop. She is also an assistant dance teacher, where she helps teach beginner to intermediate dancers. As a member of the competitive dance team, she participated in several dance competitions.

Abby's Community Service Initiative is "Let's Get Turnt Up - Bringing awareness in the HOH community!" As someone diagnosed with hearing loss (in her left ear) she wants to work with organizations throughout the county to assist people with hearing disabilities and bring more awareness on behalf of the HOH community. She competed in the Miss Pennsylvania Teen competition in York, PA this June.

In her free time, Abby enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, going to concerts, and watching her younger brother Owen play baseball. After high school, she plans to attend college and major in broadcast journalism.

CROWN BEARER



Ellie is the 7-year-old daughter of Mike and Joey Udovich of Rices Landing, and the granddaughter of Joe and Mary Ann Hardy of Crucible, and Sharon Udovich, of Crucible. Ellie is the youngest of three sisters. She is entering her fourth year at the For the Love of Dance dance studio. Ellie will be entering third grade at Carmichaels Area Elementary Center, as well. She is a straight A student who excels at reading.

In her spare time, Ellie enjoys taking piano lessons, swimming with her Pappy, playing board games, playing soccer, being outside, playing with friends, and riding her four-wheeler. Currently, Ellie would love to join Taylor Swift on her Era's Tour and be her "bestie!" As for the future, she isn't quite sure what she wants to do, but her family knows that, without a doubt, she will change the world with whatever she decides to be!

BRYN LEAH ISABELLA CAMRYN



Bryn Lahew is the 17-year-old daughter of Michelle Shannon and Chay Lahew of Waynesburg. She will be a senior at Waynesburg Central High School.



Leah Williamson is the 15-year-old daughter of Michael and Sondra Williamson of Greensboro. She will be a sophomore at Mapletown High School.



Isabella Wise is the 14-year-old daughter of Brian and Heather Wise of Mather. She will be a freshman at Jefferson Morgan High School.



Camryn Hawfield is the 16-year-old daughter of Tim and Betsy Hawfield of Waynesburg. She will be a junior at Waynesburg Central High School.

MEAH



Meah Branham is the 15-year-old daughter of Kassie Branham of Bobtown. She will be a junior at Mapletown High School.

SIENNA



Sienna Stoneking is the 14-year-old daughter of Amanda and Daniel Stoneking of Carmichaels. She will be a freshman at Carmichaels High School.

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MEET WAYNE DROP!

If you've ever attended Rain Day in recent years, you've surely seen the larger-than-life blue rain drop making his way around town. Wayne Drop, Rain Day's official mascot, is always ready to celebrate his favorite day of the year.



After years of inviting and hosting other local mascots, the Special Events committee decided to create their own in 2015. After lots of research - and finding the perfect costume - the bright blue rain drop mascot was born. But

what to do about a name? After throwing some various names around, the committee felt there was no more perfect way to get the name than to ask the public.

Wayne's first official outing was at the Food Truck Festival in Washington, PA. Since then, he's been seen at many other local events such as Sheep & Fiber Fest, Riverfest, the Jacktown Fair parade, car shows, mascot races, and has even attended Wild Things games in Washington. And, of course, he's always a guest of honor at Rain Day on July 29!

2024 COAL SHOW INFO NEXT ISSUE!

While this issue is usually our Rain Day & King Coal Show issue, we'll be sharing that info in the next issue. Stay tuned for August 2024, where you'll learn more about the upcoming Coal Show, Coal Queen pageant, and other Coal Show activities!



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SCAN ME

COME RAIN OR SHINE IT'S COMPETITION TIME!

Here comes the rain - and the annual Rain Day celebration contests! Pre-registration is required for all the Rain Day contests. Rules of entry and entry forms are available online at raindayfestival.com. If you have missed the deadline to pre-register for this year's events, feel free to spend this year as a spectator at all the Rain Day contests, and start your planning for next year!

WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST

Downtown Waynesburg's businesses compete in the annual Rain Day Window Decorating Contest! All businesses in downtown Waynesburg are invited to decorate their windows with a Rain Day theme. Take some time during the Rain Day Festival to walk the streets of downtown Waynesburg and see the awesomely decorated windows. First place receives \$100 AND the ownership of the coveted Golden Watering Can for the year. Second place receives \$50, and third place receives \$25. Pre-registration is required, and the entry deadline is July 17, 2024. Judging will be held on July 19 at 10am.

MISS RAIN DROP

The Mini/Little/Jr. Miss Rain Drop pageant will be held on the Main Stage during the Rain Day Festival. Three age categories (Mini Miss 6 to 8, Little Miss 9 to 11, and Jr. Miss 12-13) will be introduced on stage and asked a question about Rain Day. The contestants will be judged on stage presence, general appearance, their answers, personality, style, and poise. The winner will receive \$100, a tiara, trophy, and title banner; special awards will be presented to Miss Personality and Miss Photogenic. Contestants must be Greene County residents. There is a \$5 entry fee and pre-registration is required. Entry deadline is July 17, 2024.

BABY RAIN DAY

Vote for your favorite baby contestants in Baby Rain Day by putting money (bills not coins) in the canisters at First Federal Savings & Loan from July 22 to July 26; voting will continue July 29 at the Rain Day Special Events booth until 2pm. Contestants must clean and decorate an empty Pringles canister list. The winners will receive \$100, crown/tiara, title banner, and the honor of

representing the festival throughout the coming year. The best decorated can will receive \$25. Contestants must be Greene County residents. Pre-registration is required, and entry deadline is July 17, 2024.

UMBRELLA DECORATING CONTEST

An annual favorite, the Rain Day Umbrella Contest calls for participants ages 3 to 12 to decorate an umbrella with a Rain Day theme. First place receives \$100, second place \$50, and third place \$25. Trophies will also be awarded. Contestants will bring their decorated umbrella to the second stage (Fountain Park) are on July 29 at 10:45am for judging at 11am. Pre-registration is required, and entry form must be received by July 17, 2024.

COLORING CONTEST

The Rain Day Coloring contest offers two categories for budding artists to show off their skills. The Wayne Drop coloring page, for ages 5 to 8, can be printed and young artists can color the page and submit it. For those ages 9 to 12, color an umbrella art page. Winners in both categories will receive a goody basket of Rain Day items. The coloring pages/forms can be found on www.raindayfestival.com or on Facebook. Coloring pages should be submitted to the Special Events Commission, 90 E. High St., Waynesburg, PA 15370. Entries must be received by July 17, 2024.





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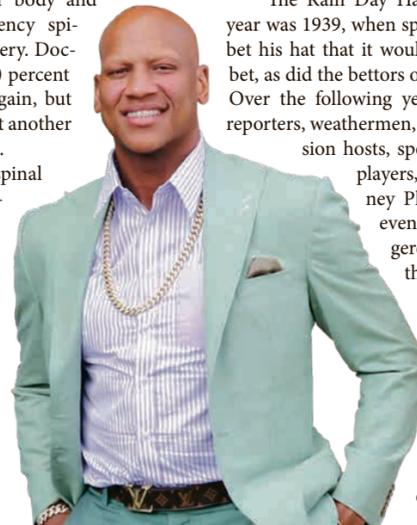
BET YOUR HAT ON RAIN THIS JULY 29!

2024 HAT BET WITH RYAN SHAZIER & THE RYAN SHAZIER FUND FOR SPINAL REHABILITATION

As Rain Day nears, its time for celebrities to take a chance with their hats as part of the legendary annual Hat Bet. "Our hat bet is with Ryan Shazier and I hope we get his rain, soaked hat!" says Waynesburg Mayor Lynn Bussey.

The Special Events committee is honored to have made this year's Rain Day Hat Bet with Ryan Shazier & the Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation. Ryan Shazier was a star linebacker with the Pittsburgh Steelers, when, during a Monday night game in Cincinnati in 2017, Ryan suffered a spinal contusion, or a crushing of the spinal cord. The nerve signals in his spine were disrupted, paralyzing his lower body and necessitating emergency spinal stabilization surgery. Doctors said he had a 20 percent chance of walking again, but for Ryan, this was just another obstacle to overcome.

After 130 spinal rehabilitation sessions, Ryan not only gained back strength to walk, but he was able to dance with his wife at their wedding just two years after the devastating injury. Ryan is now making it his personal goal to help SCI patients get the treat-



ment they deserve and meet their own goals through the Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation.

Ryan says, "I've done an advance check on the weather for July 29th, and I'm clearing space in my trophy room for the Rain Day hat I'll be receiving. I will display it proudly."

Last year, Craig Wayne Boyd had to hand over one of his special cowboy hats to the Special Events committee. This year it looks like Ryan Shazier & the Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation will be handing over a hat because everyone knows that it's going to rain in Waynesburg on July 29. That's what makes it Rain Day!

The Rain Day Hat Bet's first recorded year was 1939, when sportswriter Al Abrams bet his hat that it wouldn't rain. He lost the bet, as did the bettors over the next six years. Over the following years, television sports reporters, weathermen, writers, actors, television hosts, sports personalities and players, singers, Punxsutawney Phil and his club, and even entire towns have wagered their hats against the rain. Interested in an entire listing of the Rain Day Hat Bets? Visit raindayfestival.com/hat-bet/ to see everyone that took a chance with their hat, and whether they won or lost.

Two-time Pro Bowl NFL Linebacker, Ryan Shazier, was selected 15th overall by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2014. Known for his positivity and toughness on and off the field, Ryan's resilience is inspiring as he continues to make progress after suffering a spinal injury during a game versus the Bengals in December 2017. After his retirement in 2020, Shazier continued to pursue his passion for football by calling college football games for ESPN. Committed to giving back to others, Ryan founded the Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation dedicated to giving those with spinal cord injuries and their caregivers the support, resources, and funding they need to live independent and meaningful lives. The Ryan Shazier Fund has granted more than 60 stipends, totaling nearly \$750,000, bringing much-needed resources to those recovering from spinal cord injuries.

In addition to his many titles, Ryan added author, Regional Emmy Award Winning Host and business owner to his resume after retiring from the NFL. In September 2021, Ryan founded his own company alongside his father, Vernon Shazier. Shazier Logistics, a Pittsburgh-based general freight brokerage firm offering services across the contiguous United States.

His first book, *Walking Miracle*, was released in November 2021. Speaking from personal experience, Ryan hosts "Don't Call It A Comeback" an Amazon Podcast and is entering his 3rd season hosting "50 Phenoms", an episodic series highlighting the comeback stories of UPMC patients who defied the odds.



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July 23 - Tom Ankrom & Luke Schroyer (& Students), Sponsored by First Federal S&L

July 30 - Quick Exit, Sponsored by Washington Health System

August 13 - Longshot, Sponsored by Mickey's Men's & Women's Fine Clothing and the Fashion Shoppe

August 20 - C&T Acoustic, Sponsored by Waynesburg Rotary

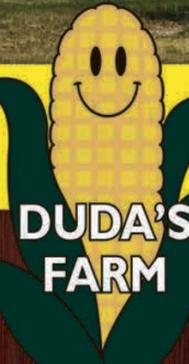
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SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

By Colleen Nelson

FUN, RIDES, AND MORE AT THE GREENE COUNTY FAIR

When I attended my first fair board meeting on March 25 (upstairs in the 4-H Building #10. Meetings are open to the public.), members were already deep into the business of getting ready for the Greene County Fair, August 4 - 10. Old standbys and new visions were on the agenda, waiting to be voted on and factored in. Some new events, like a wine tasting to showcase local wineries on Tuesday from 5-10pm on the ground floor of the 4-H building, were board-generated, with an eye for drawing in a new cultural niche of fair goers. (Tuesday night will also feature local live entertainment, including Ruff Creek Band.)

Others, like the Sunday, August 4, free-to-the-public grand opening, would put a fresh face on an old tradition, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at noon from the grandstand, with local high school bands, speakers, honorariums and invocations.

Booking NTPA Mega Pull for a second year as a pre-fair event was a shout out to what's been happening since this historic fairground first opened in 1911. When the 60-acre Sayer Farm was purchased in 1910, a half-mile track for horses was the first thing built. But by the time the grandstand was finished in 1911, a three-mile motorcycle heat between a seven horsepower, twin cylinder Reading Standard and a four and a half horsepower, single cylinder Arrow was added to the 4th of July races christening the new fairground. Reading Standard won and a great new tradition - this one piston driven - was born.

A quick look at the 2024 fair schedule online shows that the rip-roar of truck and tractor pulls and demolition derbies are still a huge crowd pleaser.

Steel City Pullers are on the schedule for Senior and Veterans Day Thursday at 6pm and will also kick off Saturday with Tractor Pulls at 10am, then finish out the fair with Truck & Tractor Pulls at 7pm. On Friday, sandwiched between them is everyone's favorite smash 'em up - Chaos in Coal Country Demolition Derby.

But keeping contact with our four-legged past and building childhood memories to last a lifetime is still the priority of any county fair. It's free admission on Saturday August 3, with the long-anticipated return of the pre-fair 4-H Horse and Pony Club Roundup.

Free admission continues on Sunday, as the animals arrive to be registered and home and garden entries are delivered. Rides haven't started yet, but competition begins with Draft Horse Halter Show at 10 am, followed by the ribbon cutting, then the Draft Horse Hitch Show at 1pm. Rev. Don Wilson leads Vesper Service at 5:30pm and will most likely be in the dessert-loving crowd that gathers for Live Judging of the Special Cake Contests at 6:30pm. While prizewinning entries remain intact and on display, all others are divvied up as free samples to the audience. Be there!

Monday is when the rides start to whirl, from 5 - 11pm and tickets are taken at the gate. But kids still get in free that day with adult ticket buyers, thanks to First Federal Savings & Loan.

Monday's kid-centric critter schedule starts with 4-H and FFA Open Goat Show at 9:30am and ends at 7pm with the Lead Line Contest. When the Home and Garden Hall officially opens at 4pm, so does the Farm Bureau Women's Committee Kids Activity Center in the Soil Conservation building. This year offers a passport to learning about Spotted Lantern Flies, Lima Bean Sprouts, Alpacas, Bees, Fire Safety and free ice cream - if your passport gets at least four stamps, that is. Completed passports get collected for a chance to win fantastic pool and skate parties for 50 friends. The newly minted 2024 Greene County Fair Queen, Princess, Little Princess and Mini Princes - whose identities won't be known until they compete on July 27 - will meet and greet fairgoers when the halls open at 4pm, then join them when the Magic Kingdom comes to life onstage with the Disney tribute band, the Little Mermen, rocking out in classic costumes.

Greene County's love of the Wild West finally gets its moment Wednesday at 6pm with the addition of Rafter M Ro-



deo, "featuring skilled cowboys and cowgirls battling it out." Seating will be on a first come basis but "you're welcome to bring your own chairs for the track area."

Also new this year will be Bounce Houses and Photo Booth.

Home and Garden has made pre-entering free—as long as entries are received before the July 24 deadline, department head Courtney Hoy Hursey added. "After that, and the day of, it will be a dollar an entry. Make sure to check out the new classes in the fair book. We're very excited to be able to add new things while keeping some of the things attendees have come to expect over the years."

But the newest new thing that's happening this year, I got to see in action when I returned to cover the Mega Pull on June 8 and met up with Commissioner McClure and husband Keith taking tickets at the back entrance to the fairgrounds on State Rt. 188. While some were paying in cash, many were holding up their smartphones.

The era of ordering fairground events tickets online has arrived! Look for the ticket QR code when you log on to see what's happening this year, at greencountyfair.org.

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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!



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READY, SET, BAKE! DELICIOUS COMPETITIONS AT THE GREENE COUNTY FAIR

While for some the fair is about the rides, or the livestock competitions, or the entertainment, for others it's all about showcasing their baking skills in the fairs' many home & garden entries, especially the big four of baking contests: The Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest, The Incredible Angel Food Cake Contest, the Chocolate Cake Contest, and the PA Preferred Junior Baking Contest. These contests offer some of the highest premiums and a chance to advance to the state competition.

Entrants in each of these contests must be Pennsylvania residents and may not have won first place in the same contest at any other 2024 fair. Cash prizes will be awarded at all the local

contests and the first place winners in each will also advance to the state finals at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January.

The live judging for the Jacktown Fair will be held on Sunday, July 14 at 7pm. All entries must be preregistered and brought to the Greene County fair one hour prior to live judging. Live judging for the Greene County Fair's special baking contests will be held on Sunday, August 4 at 6pm.

FMI on deadlines, entry forms, and full contest rules, visit jacktownfair.org, and for the Greene County Fair visit greencountyfair.org.

20TH ANNUAL INCREDIBLE ANGEL FOOD CAKE CONTEST

SPONSORED BY PENNSYLVANIA ECC FARMERS AND THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

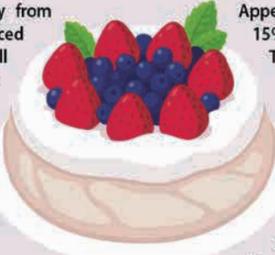
**FIRST PLACE: \$20
SECOND PLACE: \$15
THIRD PLACE: \$10**

There are two main types of cakes: butter and foam (or egg-leavened). Angel food is a classic example of a foam cake. The cake is 100% fat free and, because of the eggs, is a good source of protein, as well as choline, which is essential to memory and brain development.

quantities, and preparation instructions.

Cakes will be judged on the following categories and percentages: 30% Flavor (smell, taste, flavoring), 25% Inside Characteristics (texture, lightness), 20% Overall Appearance (surface, size, color), 15% Creativity, and 10% Topping, Icing or Decoration.

The cakes must be made fully from scratch, should use eggs produced in Pennsylvania and all decorations must be edible. It should be displayed on disposable, food-safe cardboard or similar material. When entering your cake, you must also submit the recipe. The recipe should include all ingredients,



The first place winner will be required to enter the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show competition for a chance to win up to \$500. If unable to do so, the second place winner will be eligible to go.

36TH ANNUAL BLUE RIBBON APPLE PIE CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

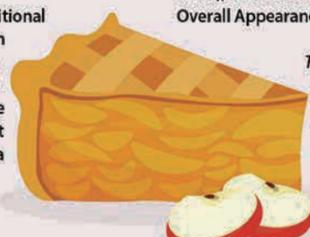
**FIRST PLACE: \$20
SECOND PLACE: \$15
THIRD PLACE: \$10**

The Blue Ribbon Apple Contest is among the most popular fair baking contests with a sought-after award. Over 100 fairs across Pennsylvania will offer cash prizes for the best pie. So, dig out that favorite apple pie recipe and give it a try. You could end up being the Blue Ribbon Apple Pie winner!

entry. The recipe should include all ingredients, quantities, and preparation instructions.

Pies will be judged on the following categories and percentages: 30% Flavor (smell, taste, flavoring), 25% Filling (consistency, doneness, flavor), 20% Crust (texture, color, flavor), 15% Overall Appearance, and 10% Creativity.

Pies do not have to be traditional two crusted pies, and can have other ingredients in the filling, though it must be 60% apples. The pies must be made fully from scratch. It should be displayed in a disposable, food-safe pie pan. The recipe for the pie must be submitted with the



The first place winner will be required to enter the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show competition for a chance to win up to \$500. If unable to do so, the second place winner will be eligible to go.

HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE CAKE CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS (PSACF)

**FIRST PLACE: \$25
SECOND PLACE: \$20
THIRD PLACE: \$15**

The cakes must be made fully from scratch, feature chocolate and cocoa as the main ingredient, and all decorations must be edible. The entry must be a layered chocolate cake and must be frosted; the frosting must also be made from scratch. It should be displayed on disposable, food-safe cardboard or similar material. When entering your cake, you must also submit the recipe. The recipe should include all ingredients, quantities, and preparation instructions.

Characteristics (texture, lightness), 15% Outside Characteristics (size, shape, appeal), and 10% Frosting.

The first place winner will be required to enter the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show competition for a chance to win up to \$500. If unable to do so, the second place winner will be eligible to go.



Cakes will be judged on the following categories and percentages: 30% Flavor (smell, taste, flavoring), 25% Texture (crumb), 20% Inside

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**FIRST PLACE: \$25
SECOND PLACE: \$20
THIRD PLACE: \$15**

The PA Preferred Junior Baking Contest encourages young people to participate in Pennsylvania's agricultural fairs by showcasing Pennsylvania grown and produced products in their contest entries.

food-safe cardboard or similar material. Recipes must be submitted with the entry and include all ingredients, quantities, and preparation instructions. The PA Preferred ingredients should also note the company that grew/made them.

Contest participants must be an amateur baker age 8 to 18 years old and a resident of PA. The dessert entry must include two PA Preferred ingredients, such as oats, flour, butter, milk, eggs, fruits, and/or vegetables. A list of products is available at papreferred.com.

Desserts will be judged on the following categories and percentages: 30% Flavor (smell, taste, flavoring), 25% Texture, 20% Inside Characteristics, 15% Outside Characteristics (size, shape, appeal), and 10% Creativity.

Entries must be made fully from scratch, and all decorations must be edible. It should be displayed on disposable,



The first place winner will be required to enter the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show competition for a chance to win up to \$500. If unable to do so, the second place winner will be eligible to go.



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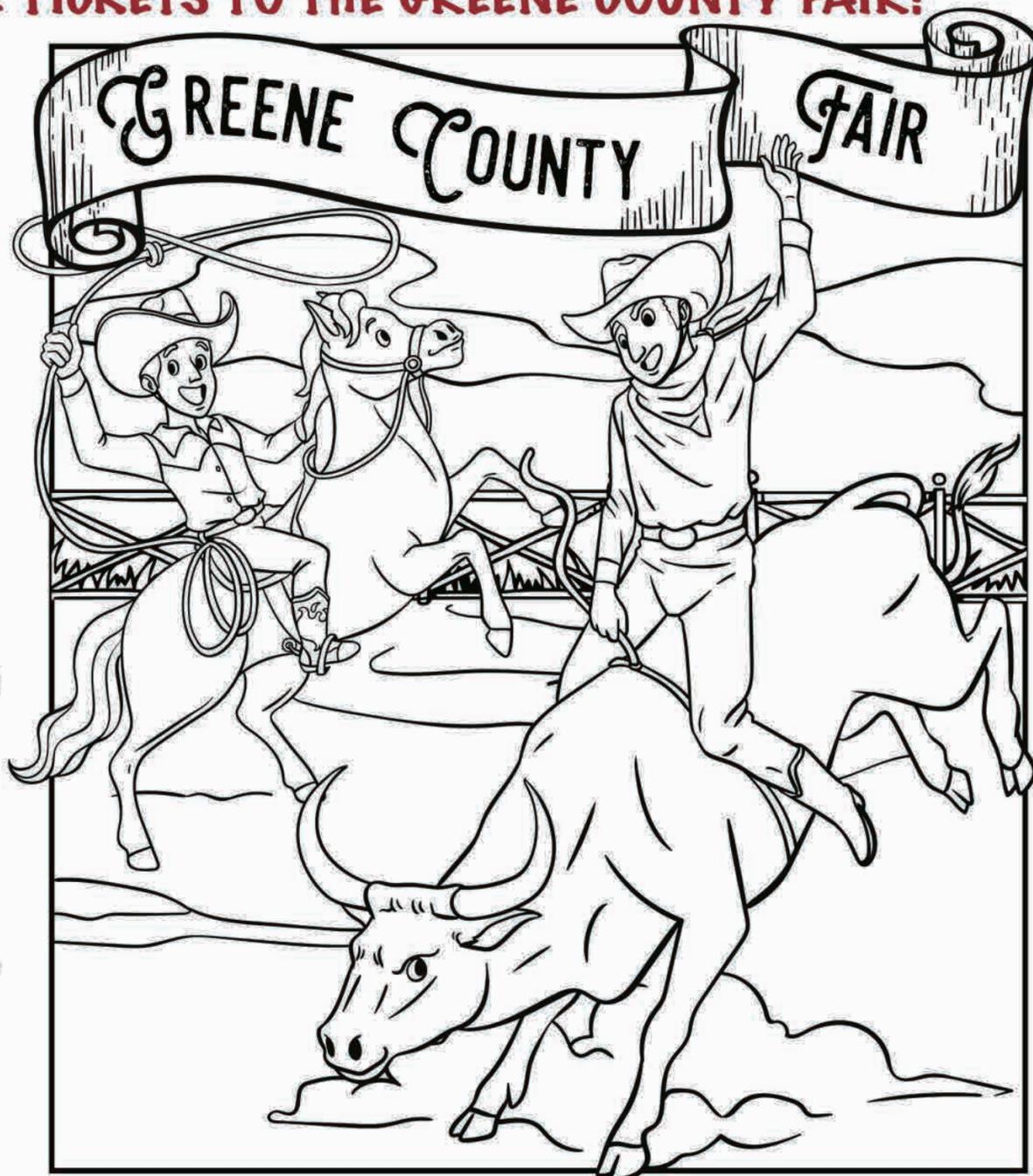
- A. 6 years & under**
- B. 7 to 12 years**
- C. 13 years & UP!**

That's right! You can be 8, 18 or 81... **any age can enter!**

The winner in EACH category will receive **4 FREE TICKETS** to the Greene County Fair. So get out your crayons (and your specs if you need 'em) and get coloring!

Fill in your name, age category and daytime phone number, and send this entire page **no later than July 8, 2024** to:

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A DISNEY EXPERIENCE WITH THE LITTLE MERMEN AT THE GREENE COUNTY FAIR

Are you ready for an unsurpassed Disney music experience? It's coming to the Greene County Fair this year. Get geared up for The Little Merman – the ultimate Disney tribute band! Playing rock covers of all your favorite Disney tunes (in costume), the band is just what you need for a nostalgia-fueled night out.

The band performs in full costume with band members dressing up as characters from the films. While attendees are often encouraged to wear their favorite-Disney costumes, but you don't have to if dressing up isn't your style. The show is great for both casual fans and Disney superfans.

The Little Merman travel across the United States, covering nearly a century of Disney music. Throughout their shows across the nation, they've shared festival stages with Stevie Nicks, Green Day, and Joan Jett. The band's lineup includes lead singer and guitarist Alexis Babini, vocalists Carly Kin-

cannon and Melinda Porto, drummer Cody Rahn, keyboardist Ryan Slatko, and bassist Andrew Grau. The Little Mermen invite you to be their guest for a magical experience jam-packed with nostalgic fun & rockin' sing-alongs. Don't miss your chance to sing along and relive the magic with The Little Mermen at the fairgrounds!

The Little Merman's performance is part of The Greene County Fair First Federal of Greene County Kids Day celebration on Monday, August 5. On that day, the first 500 kids age 12 & under are free with the purchase of an adult tickets. There will be kids activities from 4-8pm, bounce houses and photo booth from 4-10pm, a Greene County Fair Queen and Princesses Meet & Greet from 4-6pm, amusement rides from 5-11pm, and the Little Mermen's performance at 6pm. FMI, check out greene-countyfair.org.



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STEERED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

By Emma Bates

Farmer, 4-H showman, aspiring businessman, and student— 12-year-old Zach Butler epitomizes all of these. The son of Mike and Peggy Butler and a third-generation resident of the Butler Farm in Waynesburg, PA, Zach knows a thing or two about the value of hard work that comes with a farmer's lifestyle. To quote his father, "That's what we do."

Growing up on the family farm, Zach has been working the land since he was a toddler, and has become skilled at running farm equipment, harvesting hay in the summer months, and maintaining the property year-round. This drive is what makes Zach a successful farmer and showman.

This year will mark Zach's second season as a member of the PA 4-H Program, Greene County chapter, under the leadership of Wesley Simpson. After his 4-H friends, Beau and Bryce Balint, encouraged Zach to get pigs as well, he followed their advice, and made his debut in the show ring last October showing swine at the Greene County Fairgrounds. The show environment was an exciting but nerve-wracking one, and Zach overcame each challenge with excitement. "It was really fun, but I was really stressed before the first showing," he recalls, describing the various checkpoints of the show, such as leading the pigs around a show ring as a live auction takes place and the swine are judged. However, the experience proved to be enjoyable for Zach. "I liked it so much!" he recalls. "We got [the pigs] first, then moved up to steer."

This year, Zach will be making his bovine debut at the Greene County Fair, where he looks forward to showing his Black Angus Steer, Oliver. If Zach thought preparation for the swine show was intensive, he is more ready than ever to take on the even more particular— and labor intensive— steer show and auction. "You have to lead them a certain way, and brush them a certain way," Zach explains. Not a single detail goes unnoticed. To make fair day a success, coming home with not only a blue ribbon, but green bills as well, Zach follows a specific daily routine to prepare himself and his livestock beyond their daily feeding needs.

Zach rises at 7 o'clock in the morning, and gives his steer,

Oliver, his first meal of hay and grain with fresh water. By late afternoon, he feeds Oliver again, and follows this second meal with show preparation. Zach brushes Oliver thoroughly, then begins their daily regimen of showmanship practice, making laps around the farm to calibrate Oliver to walking well on a lead, and allowing boy and steer to work together seamlessly. After this, Zach gives Oliver some unstructured "alone time" to free graze in the pasture. After no time at all, the sun has set and risen again, and Zach is ready for a new day on the farm. When asked of his favorite part of the 4-H experience, he emphatically responds, "The shows! Just walking the animals around the ring." With the goal of a great competition and a high auction sale price ever at the forefront of his mind, Zach approaches his routine with equal amounts of discipline and excitement.

But livestock shows are not the only thing on Zach's agenda. Zach is moving into his sixth-grade year with PA Cyber, and his favorite subject, not surprisingly, is science. Zach is an active member of his community and is busy with a myriad of activities. He and his family worship at First Baptist Church in Waynesburg, and Zach participates in Hapkido at the American Judo-Hapkido Institution, also in Waynesburg. He is a member of the Warrior Trail Association, where he attends club meetings and helps at trail clean-up days. At home, when he isn't busy working around the farm, Zach enjoys riding his side by side, and acting toward his big dreams for the future.

Zach aspires to one day own his own gas and oil company— as well as invest in the stock market— and he is already working toward achieving these goals. Just this year, Zach has opened his own lawn care and landscaping business, ZJB Enterprises, to step into the world of finances, and is proud to have a custodial account with First Federal Savings and Loan of Greene County to help him do so. Although Zach has only one lawn as of right now, he is excited to take on more as his business picks up steam. Ever a young man with a plan, he says, "I'm going to hand out flyers now."

"He's definitely a hard worker; very mature," Mike says, laughing. "He's pretty skilled at Powerpoint and Excel. He even showed us how to use new skills like cameo recording!" Zach is well on his way to being a businessman, but his dad makes sure he understands many of the challenges he will face along the way. "What's the hardest part of running a business?" Mike asks his son. They both reply, "Doing the books!"

Zach is supported and inspired by many family members, friends, and colleagues, each helping to "steer" him down the path to a successful future. He is inspired to pursue his future career goals by his Uncle Joey, who holds a degree in business, as well as Pam Marisa from Direct Results, and of course, every day by his mom and dad. He also extends a huge thank you to the many local businesses that do so much to support the 4-H program in our community. "Thanks, EQT!" Zach adds.

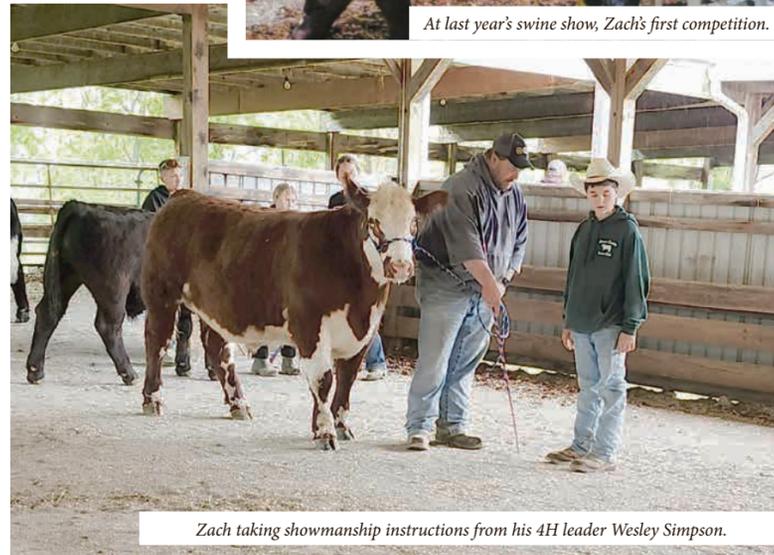
We all have that one activity that makes us feel more alive than anything else we do, that one task that connects us with our purpose, that one place where we truly feel at home. From the farm to the show ring, and everywhere in between, Zach has found his place, and the many ways he can, and will, influence the world for the better.



At last year's swine show, Zach's first competition.



Zach caring for his cattle and preparing them for the fair with a good brushing.



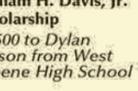
Zach taking showmanship instructions from his 4H leader Wesley Simpson.



Community Foundation of Greene County 2024 Scholarships

Congratulations to our 2024 Scholarship Award Recipients! Many thanks to the donors and their families and friends who have made these awards possible!

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