

# Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

A DIRECT RESULTS COMPANY

HEALTH &  
WELLNESS  
EDITION

APRIL 2025

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PUBLISHED BY  
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 CERTIFIED WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS

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 COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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## BETTER PERFORMANCE PHYSICAL THERAPY & FITNESS CENTER OPENS IN WAYNESBURG

A new business in the county hopes to better the lives of residents by providing services beyond the traditional gyms of the past. Better Performance hopes to elevate their patrons' health, strength and sense of community by offering a variety of integrated services. Owner Brian Coleman feels in today's fast-paced world, achieving optimal health and fitness requires more than just access to physical therapists, a gym, or a personal trainer.

BP utilizes a holistic approach that integrates expert coaching, a supportive community, and a welcoming environment. Their mission is to provide a clean, comfortable, and safe space for individuals to achieve their goals by focusing on individualized treatment, training, community engagement, and overall wellness.

These services can be found at the newly renovated Better Performance building at 249 Elm Drive in Waynesburg, a comprehensive suite of services designed to enhance health, wellness, and athletic performance. The staff integrates expert physical therapy, a state-of-the-art fitness center, specialized sports performance and personal training, and dedicated recovery options, all within a leading-edge



facility.

At the core of Better Performance is their commitment to personalized care. Patients receive one-on-one sessions exclusively with a Doctor of Physical Therapy, ensuring individualized attention and tailored treatment plans. Services encompass manual therapy, post-operative care, balance and fall prevention training, and customized exercise programs. This approach not only addresses immediate concerns but also promotes long-term health and functionality.

The Fitness Center operates 24/7, provid-

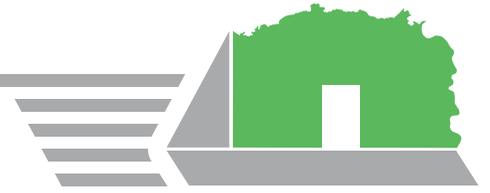
ing members with a clean, safe, and community-oriented space to pursue their fitness goals. The center emphasizes a holistic approach to health, offering member benefits such as access to an infrared sauna, discounted physical therapy services, and complimentary workshops led by industry experts. This environment fosters empowerment and encourages members to achieve better health through comprehensive support.

In addition, BP caters to athletes aiming to enhance their strength, speed, and power. The experienced staff offers sports performance

training that mirrors the intensity and structure of collegiate programs. Through individualized assessments and group settings that encourage healthy competition, athletes receive targeted training designed to translate into improved on-field or on-court performance.

Finally, a K2 Aesthetics & IV Lounge specializes in a range of wellness and cosmetic services to enhance your natural beauty and well-being. Services include cosmetic & wellness injectables, personalized weight loss programs, rejuvenating IV therapy, and advanced microneedling treatments.

# TOWNE SQUARE



## GREENE COULD, IF DOLLY WOULD

By Bret Moore

For years, I have been hearing local pundits extol the necessity of “diversifying” our economy.

Everyone, no matter their political or sociological leanings, can understand the common sense conclusion that overreliance on one economic sector can be precarious under the best of circumstances.

I am not naïve enough to believe our local economy could be solely reliant on what I am about to propose. However, given our unique geographical proximity to multiple population centers and the transportation infrastructure available, I feel there are ancillary economic opportunities available that could improve our diversification in some measure. Moreover, rather than compete with our traditional industries, these efforts would strengthen them by improving the quality of life, resulting in a larger and more stable workforce.

Any progress on these fronts would take a coordinated effort of local government, businesses and altruistic individuals. Unfortunately, I have been cursed with a horrible affliction called optimism, so I will proceed with my thesis.

The areas of which I speak are tourism and the arts. There are multiple areas of economic tourism. Obviously, we lack the large-scale amenities or natural resources of typical big tourist venues, i.e. beaches, canyons, or Dolly Parton. However, we are capable of catering to niche types of tourism. One of the most obvious might be agritourism.

**Agritourism** is a type of tourism that involves visiting farms, ranches, or other agricultural businesses. It can include activities like farm stays, vineyard tours, hayrides, you-pick operations, and harvest dinners. Agritourism can be a way for visitors to experience rural life, culture, and food. It can provide extra income for farmers and help visitors learn about agriculture and food systems. Many places have turned “agritainment”

into real tourist dollars.

In addition, **the arts** are often viewed as a form of cultural enrichment, but their impact extends beyond just elevating our spirits or broadening our minds. In fact, the arts can play a crucial role in stimulating local economies. Obviously, it depends on the individual community; however, there is no downside to expanding cultural activities for community improvement. Even the most apathetic naysayer must concede this point.

In fact, the arts can serve as a catalyst for community revitalization. In many urban, suburban and even rural areas, arts districts have turned underdeveloped areas into vibrant, desirable neighborhoods. These transformed areas attract new businesses, enhancing property values and increasing tax revenue. In this way, the arts can play a significant role in reversing economic decline and fostering community development.

Numerous economically distressed sites in the tri-state area have revitalized via the arts. Additional benefits include:

1. creating a welcoming quality of life.
2. improving the academic performance of students who become involved.
3. generating tax revenue by tourists spending money on art, accommodations, dining, and retail.
4. improving health and wellness by reducing stress and providing stimulating outlets.
5. fostering community cohesion by strengthening social networks.

Studies have shown every dollar invested in the arts generates several times that amount in economic impact. Hence, funding the arts is not just a cultural endeavor but an economic strategy as well.

Other types of tourism which could be within the realm of possibility

with some investment and grassroots planning are:

**Historical visits** are a popular form of cultural tourism. These sites offer a glimpse into the history and culture of a place.

**Business tourism** is a subset of regular tourism. While our hotel space may be limited, there could be rural team-building activities for “city slickers” associated with our bucolic settings.

**Wildlife sanctuaries** are an important part of ecotourism. Visitors can observe wildlife in their natural environment while learning about conservation efforts. Wildlife sanctuaries also offer opportunities for research and education.

**Spa and wellness retreats** are a popular form of health tourism that offers a range of wellness services, such as massages, yoga classes, and healthy meals.

**Sports tourism** is a fast-growing sector of the travel industry. Numerous travel teams around the county take their money every week to other towns and states to strengthen their economies.

Finally, “**Dark Tourism**” is all the rage. That’s an actual economic term. Dark tourism involves visiting places associated with macabre or supernatural events. There has been much written about the spooky sites around our county. People are always fascinated by horror themes and venues.

As I said, I am an eternal optimist, but I also recognize the challenges of getting disparate groups to work together for a common cause. Perhaps a committee of committed retired people could be formed to explore some of these possibilities. Those individuals can recall when there were a multitude of cultural, athletic and economic opportunities here for all ages. Rather than dolefully recounting those bygone days, these people could step up and actually be part of the solution.

I can hope.

The GreeneScene welcomes its readers to share their opinions on civic, economic, or cultural issues in Town Square Thoughts. All submissions must be respectful and constructive points of view aimed at improving our area. Please send Thoughts to [bret@directresults.us](mailto:bret@directresults.us) We reserve the right to edit submissions for grammar, length and clarity.

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# Executive Insights

with Pamela Marisa

## SUCCESS IN BUSINESS -

### *What Does That Really Mean?*

Most people believe that success in business means running a thriving company that generates substantial profits. They might also associate success with status, power, influence, respect, or even fame.

But after 23 years in business, my definition of success has evolved into something far more meaningful.

One of my biggest realizations is that my primary responsibility as a business owner is to ensure the success of my employees. This means providing them with everything they need to perform their jobs to the best of their ability—tools, resources, or training.

Every week, I offer personal and professional development opportunities to help my employees grow—not just at work, but also in their personal lives. It appears that a growing, happy, and fulfilled person consistently brings that positivity into the workplace.

By focusing on skill development, character growth, and leadership training, we cultivate a work environment where employees thrive—which defines a successful business. A happy team equals success.

When people think about giving back, they often think of donating to charities or volunteering. While those are important, I've learned that "giving back" can take many forms beyond charity or volunteering.

For example, at Direct Results, we partner with businesses—big and small—to help them succeed. We develop marketing strategies, provide tools, and support their growth. Watching another business thrive because of our efforts is incredibly rewarding.

Beyond that, providing an exceptional workplace is another way to serve the community. Offering careers—not just jobs—with excellent benefits ensures employees can support themselves and their families. When individuals are financially stable, they contribute back to their community in countless ways.

Successful businesses contribute to the local economy, helping to fund essential services and offset the strain caused by nonprofits that rely on tax-free status. This balance allows nonprofits to continue their vital work without overburdening the community.

Serving on boards is another way to create meaningful success. The experience and knowledge gained through business ownership can be invaluable to organizations seeking to make a positive impact. Giving back through mentorship and leadership strengthens our community.

A business that provides a service that genuinely benefits the community is essential. Imagine a town without small boutiques, local restaurants, or charming gathering places. Small companies like RGB Coffee and The Denny House add character and create experiences that attract visitors, boosting tourism and strengthening the local economy.

I invite you to ponder how your job, whatever it may be, can be your gift to the community.

Running a business is full of ups and downs—more like a rollercoaster than a train track. Early in my career, I worked tirelessly toward my goals, only to feel disappointed once I reached them. Why? Because I was so focused on the destination, I forgot to enjoy the journey.

Looking back, most of the daily challenges that felt overwhelming at the time were barely memorable weeks later. Now, I wake up every morning excited for what the day will bring—because I've learned to love the process, not just the results.

If I could offer one piece of advice to new business owners or anyone in any career, it would be this: **Enjoy the journey.** No matter what you're doing in life, take time to appreciate each step. Life is short—make every moment count.



Michael C. Wilson, CPA

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# PERSON PLACE OR THING

SCAN TO ENTER!



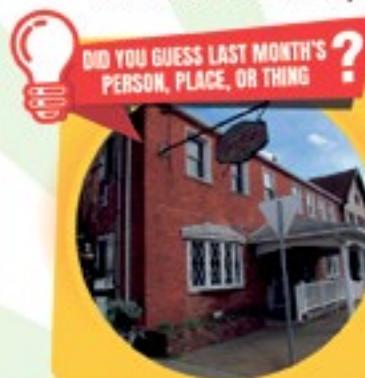
### April's Hint

*In fields of green, his youth began to shine,  
A Jacket star with dreams both bold and grand,  
Now suits and ties his new arena's sign,  
And upon the Federal green, he takes a stand.*

*Such prowess like the backs he used to chase,  
He leads the way through balance sheets and loans,  
From tackles made to business with such grace,  
He's forged a path where trust and skill are sown.*

*Yet in his heart, the spirit of the game,  
Remains a fire that fuels his every goal,  
A captain of finance, known by name,  
He guides his team, inspires their soul.*

*So, here's to him, the player turned to sage,  
In halls of finance, he writes a bright new page.*



DID YOU GUESS LAST MONTH'S  
PERSON, PLACE, OR THING?

### THE HARTLEY INN

The Hartley Inn is an iconic local landmark that serves as the hub of social gathering in Carmichaels. Its history as an inn dates back to 1847, when it was known as The Davidson House.

Karen Katusa Romah and her husband Phillip T. passed ownership to their six daughters in 1988. In 1994, the bar area was remodeled, and an expanded dining area was added. In 2020, Brian Curry took over the business. Today the Hartley Inn Restaurant is a casual and cozy dining establishment offering a delightful culinary experience, whether you're seeking breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

## ENTER TO WIN

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EACH MONTH, WE'LL PRESENT A TEASER - A SHORT RIDDLE ABOUT A PERSON, PLACE, OR THING IN OUR READERSHIP AREA - AND INVITE OUR READERS TO GUESS THE ANSWER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN GREENSCENE T-SHIRT! THE FOLLOWING MONTH, WE'LL REVEAL BOTH THE ANSWER AND THE LUCKY WINNER.

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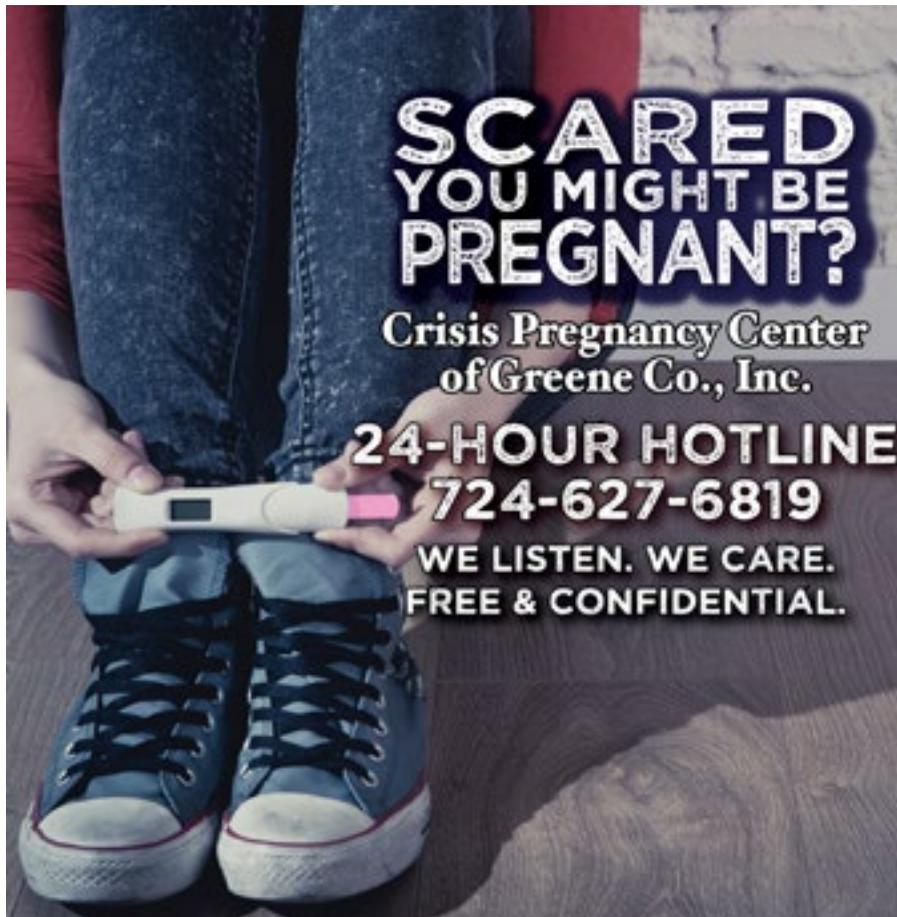
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**YELLOW DAFFODILS MARK THE START OF SPRING IN GREENE COUNTY, AND THE BLUE PINWHEELS ON THE COURTHOUSE LAWN REPRESENT ALL OF THE CHILDREN SERVED BY THE COUNTY'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM. APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH.**

Growing Up Greene protects our county's most important resource: its children. Volunteers give kids a voice in court, and our Overnight Housing Space gives shelter to children awaiting placement. COALBIE offers her calming support, and over 1400 kids have been outfitted in winter gear since 2020. Programs like Comfort Bags, the Pillow Project, and our Kids Clothing Locker ensure that foster children have all the essentials.

To support our mission and stay updated on our progress, follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Learn more about COALBIE's work at [growingupgreene.org](http://growingupgreene.org) and on her TikTok. **WE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE WHEN WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.**



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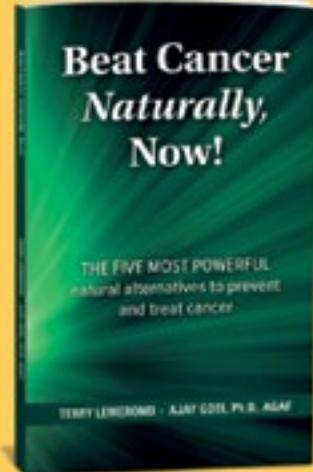
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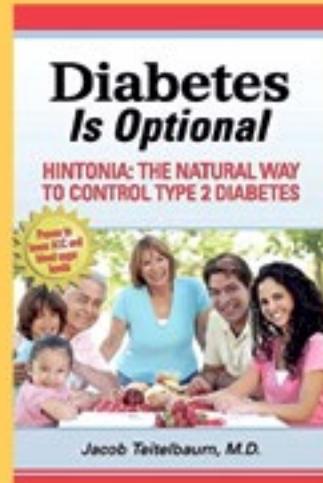
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## Benefit Bull Riding Event Returns to Waynesburg

A Greene County favorite is returning on April 25-26. Buckin' B Cattle Company is bringing in Extreme Bull Riding and Barrel Racing to benefit Angel Wings Rescue. Angel Wings is an organization that rescues horses, with the goal of placing them into a forever home through adoption.

The fundraiser was quite successful over the past two years. Over 1,000 fans packed each night at the Greene County Fairgrounds. In addition to the barrel racing and bull riding, the evening includes local food trucks favorites, musical performers, and even a mechanical bull if you're feeling adventurous.

Angel Wings founder Barbie McMinn uses the proceeds from the event to help fund her lifelong passion of caring for neglected horses.

There are a lot of challenges with rescuing animals and commitment is life changing. The entire board of directors of Angel Wing Rescue are committed to ensuring the horses they rescue are well cared for, their medical needs are met, and the animals are placed with the best possible match. The board is comprised of members that have had horses who will step in and plan such events.

The horses rescued by the group come from many places. Many of the animals in McMinn's care now have come from other online rescues and some from auctions. She even gained a horse that had been auctioned off from the Meadows. The horse was unfit for racing, but the owner wanted to treat the animal's issues. Sadly, it wasn't possible, so he put the horse up for sale. Angel Wings bid on the horse and initially lost the bid. A few days after the auction, the trainer from the Meadows who had worked with the horse called McMinn and asked her if she still wanted it. She did, and the horse was rescued.

She rescued another horse with a broken leg. The horse, much to his previous owners' surprise, is now thriving. McMinn also shared that it is very difficult to find veterinary services for horses in Greene County. Events such as Extreme Bull Riding and Barrel Racing raise the necessary funds so the organization can continue to rescue horses in need. Attending the event is a great way to support the rescue and have a night out.

An evening of tremendous entertainment and the support of such a wonderful cause cost only \$18 in advance for adults (\$20 at the door) and \$10 for children.

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# CONSUMERS ARE EGG-HAUSTED WITH RISING PRICES

By Aubrey Lesnett

It's no secret there's been an increase in the grocery bill in the past couple years, but the main increase throughout America is the price of eggs. This price hike is due in part to avian influenza, more commonly known as bird flu. The most recent outbreak started in 2022 and has only gotten worse. As of February, the virus had affected about 166.1 million birds in America. More specifically, it affected about 129.7 million egg-laying hens, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. When an outbreak occurs, egg producers are forced to cull their flocks, which impacts the supply of eggs headed for grocery stores.

When a bird flu outbreak occurs on a farm, the most common response is to depopulate the infected flock, disinfect the farm, and monitor the surrounding area. Since there is currently no cure for chickens infected with the bird flu, infected chickens are humanely euthanized. The rest of the farm is thoroughly inspected and disinfected, so other chickens won't fall victim. After the farmer thinks that the farm has been completely disinfected from the virus, the farm is tested for 21 days to ensure that all traces of the virus are gone and that egg production can begin once again.

As supplies tighten, the egg prices increase. Even though the prices have increased recently, the demand for eggs has stayed the same. As a result, the lower supply has caused grocery stores to change the way that they price their eggs. Before the outbreak, it was quite common for grocery stores to keep egg prices low in order to draw in customers, sometimes even pricing the eggs cheaper than what they paid for them wholesale. However, if a grocery store were to do that now, they'd be risking selling out, which would make many shoppers go somewhere else with their business.

With the continuing increase of the price of eggs, consumers are left wondering when prices will return to pre-virus levels. Unfortunately, this can't happen until producers can rebuild their affected flocks and recover their egg production levels. This may take a while, as major U.S. egg producers continue to report new cases of the virus affecting flocks across the country. Since October, reports of bird flu have spanned 10 states and affected more than 52 million egg-laying hens. That means, in just four months, producers have lost what amounts to roughly 17% of the total U.S. egg-layer population.

Although this issue has affected farms in Pennsylvania, it has yet to reach Greene County. Halie Gallagher from L&B Almosta Farm

said that the bird flu has actually positively affected her son's little egg farm, "I guess you could say that our farm has been directly affected by the bird flu pandemic, but in a positive way. Local stores increasing their cost of eggs plus the limited amount of eggs available in store has led people to small local egg dealers like my boys." Throughout the year, Halie's two sons run this little farm, doing most of the work themselves. "They've been doing their little farm now for two years. The boys



feeding and watering, collecting eggs, and cleaning the coops. During school months they get a little break from all of the morning work, but they always resume during the summer time. Our animals are very spoiled. If we need a chicken or duck caught, we send the boys after them. They love being hands on. They are truly two hardworking young boys."

Shane Cole of Cole's Greene Acres Farm stated, "Fortunately, our farm has not been directly affected by the bird flu outbreak. We typically maintain a flock of approximately 50 laying hens. However, due to the bird flu last year, we refrained from introducing any new hens, resulting in a reduced flock of about 25 laying hens. For the 2025 season, we have already purchased 24 additional laying hens, which will be available for pickup the first weekend of May. These 17-month-old hens were sourced locally to minimize the risk of infection."

After retiring from 26 years of military service, Shane wanted to return to his roots and did just that by settling on his family's 900 acre farm in Wayne Township. When he founded Cole's Greene Acres Farm, he initially focused on traditional agricultural practices, such as

heritage breed cattle, broiler chickens, laying hens, goats, ducks, and even a donkey. Over time, the farm has shifted its focus toward agritourism by offering things such as two stocked farm ponds for fishing, 10 miles of hiking trails, and a small wedding venue. Shane's farm isn't just a working farm, but a family-oriented operation. All of Shane's children and their families contribute to its management.

Finally, in 2019, Mikee Krieg and her chicken coop were crowned the "coolest chicken coop in America", which earned a feature in the Backyard Poultry magazine, which can be found in every Rural King and Tractor Supply across the country. When asked about her flock's health, she said "My operations have not been affected by Bird Flu. The demand for eggs is high, but unfortunately I do not have many chickens laying right now due to age. I recently purchased a new chick flock so that I can increase my supply of eggs without having to worry about the bird flu. Hopefully, I will be able to sell locally again." Something special about Mikee's chicken coop is the fact that it captures aspects of protection, comfort, and style all in one. The inside sanctuary is a 6' x 6' floor plan with two sides containing eight nesting boxes located conveniently for easy access.

The access allows for her children to be able to reach the eggs, making the daily chore even more fun and family-oriented.

When asked about how much they've been charging for their eggs during this epidemic, their answers varied. L&B Almosta Farm actually doesn't have a set price for their eggs, per Halie Gallagher. "We don't charge a specific amount. We do this for my boys to teach them responsibility. If they put the work in then they get the money from egg sales. If a family could only pay a penny one week but \$10 the next. We are always willing to help a family in need."

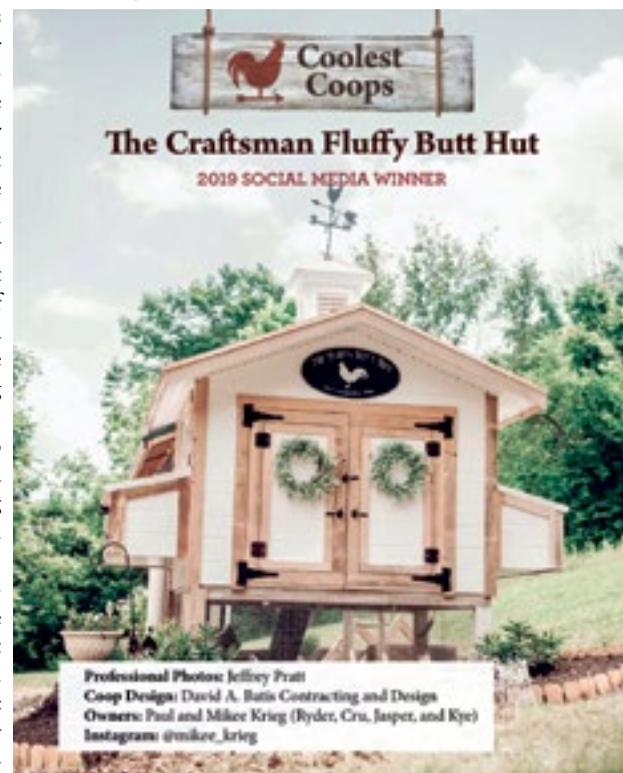
Shane Cole had this to say, "In the past, I supplied eggs to Waynesburg Milling Company. However, with our smaller flock last year, we couldn't support Waynesburg Milling. Instead, we provided eggs to VFW Post 4793 in Waynesburg, which offers an affordable, public breakfast every Sunday. Any surplus eggs I had were of-



Julie Yerkovich of Dilliner submitted this photo of her daughter Allison and one of her feathered friends. Allison enjoys spending time with her chickens and collecting eggs while waiting on spring weather.

ferred to members of VFW Post 4793. Both last year and presently, we've been charging just \$3.00 per dozen, as our egg sales are more of a community service than a profit-driven enterprise."

At present, most local farmers are thankful that this harmful epidemic hasn't struck Greene County and most of our farms are still going strong.



# Greene Artifacts

By Matthew Cumberledge, GCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## ONLINE RESEARCH IN GREENE COUNTY

### Spring Chicks

How many of us remember, some time ago, visiting Grover C. Hughes Hardware, across the street from Waynesburg Milling and seeing spring chicks and ducklings in the window. I am sure that is a memory many of us look back upon fondly.

Well, that time of year will soon be upon us again, even though Grover C. Hughes has been closed for some time, many other hardware and farm supply stores will soon be getting in their shipments of spring chicks.

With the price of eggs soaring, many out there might be considering the possibility of getting some chicks to raise into chickens for a daily supply of fresh eggs, so we thought it prudent to give a few tips on doing just that.

Let's talk about cost first, while the cost of baby chicks can be quite low, often times just a few dollars, there is a lot of overhead that most people don't realize when they start a flock of back yard chickens. There can be significant cost in setting up a chicken coop and a fenced-in run for your chickens. Free ranging can decrease the cost of setting up a run, but it is extremely important to protect your flock from predators. Humans are just one of many species that find chickens tasty, and many predators can be relentless in attacking your flock. Chicken feed can also be a factor, again free ranging can help with reducing feed costs, but it is still important to have an adequate feed supply.

While many chicks when being purchased are "sexed", meaning you are told whether or not you are getting a male or a female, the accuracy in determining the sex of a recent hatchling is an artform, not a science. Depending on the breed, one in ten chicks that could be labeled as a female may, in fact, end up being a rooster. While many folks fear roosters, they can be an asset to a flock. Roosters will protect their hens and keep a pecking order that tends to mitigate a lot of stress within the flock. Roosters can end up being aggressive to people, but there are many wonderful resources online on how to properly care for a rooster and curb issues with aggression. Perhaps the best resource is the Facebook group Rooster Allies. One should also check local ordinances to see if there are any restrictions on owning a rooster or having a back yard flock in general.

Noise can also be an issue. Many find the sounds chickens make, even roosters crowing, to be quite a pleasant experience. However, not everyone feels this way. Roosters don't just crow at sunrise, sometimes they crow all night long and many times throughout the day. This can be bothersome to some people, so that should always be taken into consideration. When it comes to the potential for noisy animals, always be courteous to your neighbors.

These are just a few tips if you are on the fence about buying some spring chicks and starting a backyard flock. While many of the points above may deter you from starting a flock, you should also know that having chickens can be an extremely rewarding and therapeutic experience. Contrary to popular belief, chickens are highly intelligent birds, and each one has its own unique personality. They can be a lot of fun to watch and interact with, and you may find that they become more like pets than just livestock.



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Greene County Museum



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

# APRIL IS NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

By Zack Zeigler

Currently, there are 103,223 men, women, and children on the national transplant waiting list, with 17 people dying each day waiting for an organ transplant. If these numbers are shocking to you, know there is a way you can help. April is National Donate Life month, encouraging Americans to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors and to honor those who have saved lives through the gift of donation.

“The way we try to explain it to people is to try to make them think what would it be like if they were in someone else’s place,” said Director of Transplant Operations and Compliance at WVU Medicine Shelley Zomack. “The main question we want people to ask themselves is do I need my organs after I’m dead, or can I give them to someone else to live their life.”

National Donate Life Month was first established in 2003 by Donate Life America. The organization serves as the national symbol for the cause of organ, eye, and tissue donation and links the call to action to become a donor with a powerful visual image. More than 89 percent of their funding goes to mission spending, including education programs, campaign materials, the National Donate Life Registry, national meetings and conferences, and web technology.

For many, the need for organ donation surprises them, as was the case for West Greene School District teacher **Becci Watson**. Watson was living with Brittle Diabetes that was diagnosed her freshman year of college. The former teacher was very active teaching language arts, coaching, and sponsoring the yearbook and newspaper programs. However, her body was unable to keep her blood sugar under control. In 2008, she received the news she was in End Stage Renal Failure, when chronic kidney disease reaches an advanced state. Her doctor advised her at the time to get on the transplant list, start dialysis, or go home and call hospice. She immediately signed up for the transplant list.

“I received a call right away, which is very rare,” said Watson. “However, the first donor was a known drug addict, so I passed. When I got my second call, I was still teaching at the time, and it didn’t match up. On the third call, I had a donor who was a 99.9% match. The donor was a 17-year-old who had been in a car accident and later had an aneurysm. “She checked that she wanted to be an organ donor when she got her driver’s license. Her parents honored this decision,” stated Watson.

Watson would have her Simultaneous Pancreas/Kidney (SPK) transplant in November of 2009 and would spend the next year and a half in and out of the hospital. Initially, she was in the hospital for 13 days. Watson retired from teaching the following year, but she remains active in the community volunteering at 2nd Sam 9 and Blueprints. Fifteen years later, Watson has everything under control and hasn’t had to take a shot of insulin since getting her transplant. She is very grateful that her donor came at the right time and everything she does is for her.

“The transplant was a life-changing moment for me because I didn’t know how sick I was,” said Watson. “To be able to go back to doing all the things I love is an incredible gift. I try to have all the experiences that young lady missed out on. When you owe your life to someone you better live.”

While most people think of organ donors who have passed away, there are also living donors who are making a difference for those in their time of need. That was the case for Greene County native **Dave Rush**, who in June of 2020 was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, a form of cancer that affects the blood cells. By August of 2023, Rush’s cancer turned terminal and the need for a donor became critical. His siblings tried to help save his life, but none of them were a 100% match. Then, in his time of need a living donor was located who was a 100% match.

“My diagnosis came as a complete shock,” said Rush. “I felt completely fine, and I just thought that as I got older, I was feeling more tired in the evening. When the illness went terminal in August, I had to go to the hospital for a month to keep the cancer under control and a month later it was back out of control. The doctors went heavy and fast with the chemo, and I don’t know if I have ever been weaker.”

During the treatment it was discovered that Rush needed a stem cell transplant in order to keep him alive. He mentions how signing up was a long process as he realized that he would need to rely on someone else to keep him alive. The transplant would come just at the right time and Rush would get the transplant just a few weeks after signing up. The recovery process is still on-going and Rush has been battling for three years now.

“I am truly grateful to be honest. It was really divine timing the way it unfolded,” said Rush. “It didn’t sink in until afterwards that there is another living human DNA inside me.

I would really like to meet the guy who donated to me one day. It brings a flood of emotions just thinking about it.”

In just 30 seconds, you can be a part of the solution to help people in similar situations as Rush and Watson. You can sign up to be an organ donor or get more information about organ donation by visiting [donatelife.org](http://donatelife.org). One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and impact 75 others. Be part of the change and sign up today to save a life.

## WAYNESBURG MAN CURRENTLY ON THE TRANSPLANT LIST

Life-long Waynesburg resident and prominent businessman Randy Rohanna is currently receiving kidney dialysis three times a week while he awaits a donor. He has been on the transplant list at Ruby Memorial for the past three years. The entire Rohanna family is hoping for the blessing of a kidney match in the near future. Anyone interested in being tested for a match can call 304-974-3004. All expenses are paid by the recipient’s insurance.



## Waynesburg U. Student Tyler Kunz Awarded Competitive Au Sable Fellowship for summer 2025

Waynesburg University junior Environmental Science and Biology (BA) double major Tyler (Garret) Kunz was recently awarded the competitive 2025 Au Sable Calvin B. DeWitt Leadership Fellowship. The prestigious fellowship is awarded to one student each year by the Au Sable Institute, a global community dedicated to inspiring and educating people to serve, protect and restore God's creation.

"I am truly blessed and honored to have been chosen for this fellowship," said Kunz. "I understand that this is a very prestigious and competitive award and being chosen for it has continued to cement in my mind that I am on the path God has for me in my academics and in my future career."

Kunz completed his formal application for the fellowship during the spring 2025 semester and was nominated by Dr. Christian Hayes, assistant professor of Biology, director of Marine Science and Au Sable Institute Faculty Representative at Waynesburg University.

"I have known many outstanding students over the years, but Garret stands out, not only because of his proven academic record and skills as a scientist, but because of his obvious and infectious love for God's Creation and his humble leadership that seeks the betterment of all creatures," shared Dr. Hayes. "I cannot think of a more deserving recipient."

Kunz shared he felt blessed to be nominated let alone chosen for the fellowship. When he received the notification of his selection while sitting in the Stover Campus Center, he said he "felt a wave of thankfulness" wash over him.

During his fellowship, Kunz will complete 16 field-based credits at the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies in northern Michigan. He will also receive a wetland delineation certificate through completion of one of the courses. "Because of Au Sable's unique approach to learning through field-based experiences, I'll be getting real-world practical experience that I can use in my future career," he explained.

The coursework in the environmental science and biology programs at Waynesburg University coupled with the field-based experiences of Au Sable Institute will open the doors to a variety of career prospects for Kunz as he works to pinpoint where he wants to land after graduation.

"I know that I want to either work in agriculture with farmers looking at soil nutrition and health of farmland, environmental consulting, or work for organizations like the Natural Resource Conservation service or the USDA to work on different environmental issues we're facing throughout the United States," he said.

In addition to Au Sable Institute's course content and practical application, its Christian-focused mission and approach to environmental education and preservation closely mirrors Kunz's own values.

"One of the things that I'm most looking forward to during this experience would be the opportunity to be surrounded by like-minded people who view the environment from a biblical perspective in that we are to be stewards of the earth and to take care of the natural beauty God has given us," he said.

"Since starting at WU, Garret has been an active leader in helping organize community workdays to care for the local environmental education trail here on campus. Garret's care for his community extends beyond the physical environment around him and to his entire community," explained Dr. Hayes.

Consistently ranked a best value school, Waynesburg University's Strategy for the 21st Century affirms its commitment to developing an entrepreneurial mindset and ethical leadership skills for all students.

## West Greene Area Lions Club Honors Outstanding Students

Levi Meek is the son of John and Tonya Meek of Holbrook. Levi participates in the Future Farmers of America Program, in which he has earned his Greenhand and Keystone Degrees. He has been an honor roll student during every year of his high school career. Levi was a prom court attendant in his junior year. He works as a mechanic/shop hand at Powersports and Tractor Business. Levi also has volunteered with various local charities. His plans are to attend Rosedale Technical College to obtain an associate's degree as a diesel technician.



*Levi Meek pictured above.*



*Pieper Whipkey pictured here.*

Pieper Whipkey is the daughter of James and Toby Whipkey of Waynesburg. She participates in the National Honor Society, volleyball (Current Captain), track (Captain for two years), science club, peer mentoring, student government (Class President for four years) and FFA. She was also a three-year prom court attendant. Pieper's honors and awards include: Honor Roll (all grading periods grades 9-12), Citizenship Award (Grade 9), Academic Excellence (9-11), Letter in Softball (grades 9-10), Letter in Volleyball (grades 9-12), Letter in Track (grades 11 & 12), and Academic Letter (grades 9-11). Pieper has done various community-based volunteer activities for the Greene County United Way, St. Matthias Parish, Corner Cupboard Food Bank, Waynesburg Lions Club, Litter Gitter, AAA, Waynesburg Chamber of Commerce, Community Family, and a local women's shelter. She plans to attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania to major in Business Management/Entrepreneurship to own her own business.



*Waynesburg Central High School students Sophina Maute (Jr.), Joe Kirsch (Sr.), and Craig Rohanna (Jr.) auditioned and were selected to participate in the 44th Annual WVU Honor Band Invitational at West Virginia University in February 2025.*

## Carmichaels Area High School National Honor Society

American Red Cross SPRING Blood Drive  
Monday, April 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Carmichaels Area High School Gymnasium  
215 N. Vine Street, Carmichaels 15320

## Come to Give Blood for a NEW Red Cross T-shirt (Limited Quantity)

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: carmhs to schedule an appointment. Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment. Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

## Chamber of Commerce Scholarships Deadline Approaching

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce is reminding the public that the deadline for the Educational Fund Scholarship is approaching.

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce Educational Fund Scholarship was first awarded in 1991. The scholarship program is open to any Greene County student who will be a graduating senior. The individual chosen is selected by a panel of qualified judges and will be given a \$1,500 scholarship as well as a laptop, compliments of PCsquared. The winner is selected based on an essay.

Completed applications for the scholarship must be submitted no later than midnight on Monday, April 1st. The winner will be announced in early May, and the award for the Educational Fund Scholarship will be presented at the Chamber's monthly general membership luncheon in May at Waynesburg University.

Top-scoring applicants may be interviewed before a panel of judges as part of the process.

Applications are available to download from the Chamber website at [www.greene-chamber.org](http://www.greene-chamber.org)

## Grace Academy

Please join us at Grace Academy for our Open House. Wednesday, April 9 6:00-7:30, (724-963-0096) at 104 E. Greene Street, Carmichaels, PA. Half-Price Tuition for Kindergarten – 6th Grade for New Students Please stop in to take a tour, meet our amazing staff, and see all that God is doing. We are now enrolling Pre-K4 through 6th grade for the 2025-2026 school year.

## Grant Opportunity

The Greene County Association of School Retirees is pleased to offer a \$750 grant to each school district and the CTC. A winner will be selected from the grants submitted from each school. Both teachers and support staff are eligible to be a recipient of the grant.

Applications must be postmarked by May 5, 2025. Submit the completed application to David and Jane Schrock at 948 8th Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

The award will be granted in August prior to the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. We would like the winning recipient to attend our fall luncheon in October.

This is the ninth year that these grants are being made available to one staff member from each of the Greene County Schools plus the CTC.

## Waynesburg Milling

### Custom Hat Bar

We are excited to announce that Medved Farms will be joining the fun on our Equine Day, March 29 with a custom hat bar! Felt hats are \$50 includes your choice of hat, bands, scarves cards, feathers, embellishments, burning, and branding. All included for one price. Stop by and pick up your Equine essentials and a little something special for you!

## Waynesburg Chamber of Commerce Schedule

April 11 Women in Business Breakfast  
(7:30 at The Way Community Center)

April 23 Lunch and Learn at RGB Coffee

## Hoofprints & Angel Wings Rescue Easter Egg Hunt

274 Yukon Hill Road, Graysville

Easter Egg Hunt - Free to all kids - Raffle baskets

Pictures with the horses & Easter Bunny

Cow Patty Eats will be there to serve the community some good ole burgers & fries

Everyone is welcome to stop by for lunch

## FCCAA Prepares to Host 10th Annual Empty Bowls Event

The Fayette County Community Action Agency (FCCAA), Inc. is preparing to host the 10th Annual Empty Bowls fundraising event. Modeled after an international grassroots effort, this event raises hunger awareness while supporting FCCAA's Fayette County Food Bank and its 56 volunteer food pantries.

This year's Empty Bowls will take place on Sunday, April 6, 2025, from 11:00am to 3:00pm at the FCCAA Uniontown Senior Activity Center, located at 137 North Beeson Avenue, Uniontown, PA 15401. Tickets for the event are \$20 in advance with a limited number of \$25 tickets available at the door. Each ticket includes a humble lunch and a handcrafted ceramic bowl.

Attendees enter the event and select a bowl from hundreds of bowls created and donated by local groups of artists and individuals. They then use the bowl to enjoy an informal meal of local chef-created soups along with hearty breads. A bake sale, basket auction, silent auction and 50/50 drawing will also be available for attendees for an extra cost.

To purchase tickets in person, please visit the FCCAA Administrative Building located at 108 North Beeson Avenue, Uniontown, PA 15401 or visit the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce. To purchase tickets online visit [www.fccaa.org](http://www.fccaa.org) or [www.facebook.com/FCCAA.org](http://www.facebook.com/FCCAA.org). To learn more about the event, please contact Lora Thresher by telephone at 724.430.6426 or via email at [lthresher@fccaa.org](mailto:lthresher@fccaa.org)

## Pilgrim's Progress Musical

The 5 Solas Christian Theatre will be performing their musical adaptation of Pilgrim's Progress. Auditions will be held at the theatre on April 21 at 7:00pm and April 22 at 7:00pm. 4 adult singing roles and 10 or more adult acting roles are needed. Those auditioning for singing roles must have 16-20 bars of music prepared. Show starts in August 2025. The 5 Solas Christian Theatre is located at 193 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA.

Email: [fivesolaceministry@yahoo.com](mailto:fivesolaceministry@yahoo.com)

## 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](mailto:info@GreeneSceneMagazine.com).*



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An advertisement for Samson Glass & Mirror. It features a red background with a photo of a bathroom with a frosted glass shower door. The text lists various services: Mirrors, Screens, Shower Doors, Decorative glass, Closet Shelving, Window glass repair, Custom cut glass, and More! It also includes contact information: 724-228-9090, bradley@samsonglass.com, and www.samsonglass.com.

# Then & NOW

*A special thank you to Ben McMillen for providing the photos.*

## Community Bank in Carmichaels



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## BOWLBY BITS

Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 9am – 7pm | Tuesday & Thursday: 9am – 6pm | Friday & Saturday: 9am – 4pm

**STORY CLASSES** – Available for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary children! Stories, games, songs, crafts, and a snack tailored to each age group.

**Baby Lap Sit – ages 6 weeks to 18 months** Tuesdays at 9:30 AM

**Toddlers – ages 18 months to 35 months** Tuesdays at 10:30 AM | Fridays at 10:30 AM

**Preschoolers – ages 3-5 years** Mondays at 10:30 AM | Tuesdays at 1:30 PM

**Stories Under the Moon – ages 2-6 years** Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

*Please call 724-627-9776 for more information or to sign up for the following programs and events.*

**THURSDAY PROGRAMMING** – We will be offering a rotating selection of play-learning programs on Thursday mornings for toddlers and preschoolers. All start at 10:30 AM, in addition to story time or instead: 1st Thursday: Yoga & Movement | 2nd Thursday: Sensory-Friendly Storytime | 3rd Thursday: Dance Party | 4th Thursday: Messy/Sensory Art.

**BUILD IT, MAKE IT, DO IT!** – Thursdays @ 4:00 PM. A new Maker challenge to solve each week! Bring your art to life! Explore new materials that engage your whole brain!

**DROP EVERYTHING AND READ DAY** – Saturday, April 12 11:00. The Library will be hosting an egg hunt and other activities for all ages. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**POETRY WORKSHOP** – Tuesday, April 15th 5:00 - 6:00 PM.

**OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT** – Tuesday, April 29th 5:00 – 6:00 PM. Please pre-register your spot for the evening.

**BOOK CLUB** – Thursday, April 10 from 4:30 – 6:00 PM. This month's book discussion is on James McBride's "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store."

**MOVIE DAY** – On April 24 we will be showing Kaiju movies in celebration of the anniversary of the release of the first Godzilla movie!

**MOVIE NIGHT** – Friday, April 4, beginning promptly at 7:00 PM. This Month's Movie is Moana 2. FREE snack and beverage! Call the library to RSVP your seat(s)

**LIBRARY NIGHT LIVE** – Friday, April 11th @7:00 The Bowlby Library's first amateur comedy night.

**SEED TO SUPPER** – Starting on Tuesday, April 1 from 4:30 – 6:00 PM and running for 6 Weeks. Seed to Supper is a comprehensive beginning vegetable gardening curriculum designed for adults gardening on a budget. Registration forms can be picked up at the Circulation Desk.

**DIGITAL LITERACY & YOU** – April 30th 6:00 – 7:00 PM, This presentation by the Kinetic Digital

Literacy Program is focused on providing attendees of all ages with basic computer and internet skills.

**PUZZLE CHALLENGE** – Saturday, April 12 @ 9:30am – 12:30 PM. We are looking for 10 teams of two to compete in putting together a 750-piece puzzle in three hours or less. Contact the library to register. Prize awarded to the fastest team.

**JIGSAW JAMBOREE** – Saturday, April 26 is casual puzzle day! Challenge your own puzzling skills by attempting any of our in-house puzzles or bring your own!

**MAHJONG CLUB** – Meets every Wednesday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Please RSVP at the Circulation Desk.

**CPR/AED TRAINING [AHA]** – The library is offering CPR Certification classes for Adult, Child, & Infant First Aid, and AED. Saturday, April 26. All classes begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 PM. Please call Sharon at 724-984-5702 to register. Cost is \$88 and includes training, workbook, Take Home CPR Kit, 2 yr. certification card & manual.

**COMMUNITY SOLAR PRESENTATION** – A short 15-minute presentation on Community Solar for homeowners, renters and business owners followed by questions and answers. Starts at 2:30 PM after the CPR Class on April 26.

**T.O.P.S.: Take Off Pounds Sensibly** – Is a weight management support group that meets every Friday, 10:00 – 11:00AM.

**TECH TUTORING** – Call to reserve a time-slot. One of our tech savvy librarians will help you with a variety of tech services during weekly 20-30-minute appointments. Topics include: creating an email account, creating word documents, attaching files, using premium subscription library services, downloading and streaming content like movies, books, audiobooks, and so much more!

### Flenniken Public Library

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

### Eva K. Bowlby Library

724-627-9776 • 311 N. West Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370

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# Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore

## A QUESTION OF FAIR PLAY

*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.*

Currently, all 583 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) schools compete in one of six state playoff tournaments, depending on enrollment size.

The PIAA re-examines male and female enrollment numbers every other year to determine classification placements ranging from 1A-6A. The smallest schools play in Class 1A and the largest in Class 6A.

This includes 40 charter schools and 144 private schools. Despite being less than a third of the total schools, this group captures well over half of the WPIAL and PIAA titles. However, these figures mask the true level of dominance when it comes to the smaller divisions, where most of these schools compete because of their relatively small enrollment size. Unfortunately, all our local schools compete at those levels.

For the first time in years, bi-partisan legislation has been proposed to separate so-called boundary (public) and non-boundary (private) schools when it comes to the state playoffs. There are a couple of different bills which have received support with varying approaches as to the details of such a system.

This is also the first time in years that both sides have sat down in a non-adversarial setting to resolve these challenges and understand each other's goals. Leaders from the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and the public school superintendent-led Pennsylvania Athletic Equity Steering Committee each expressed their support for such legislation.

In 1972, the Public School Code was amended to allow non-public schools to be members of the PIAA, which led to the current combined playoff structure.

House Resolution 443 urges the PIAA to create a separate playoff and championship bracket for public and private schools in the Commonwealth. In another proposal, the Parity in Interscholastic Athletics legislation would change the playoff structure to include a public and nonpublic school champion in team sports facing competitive balance challenges. The two state champions would then meet for a final championship.

The new playoff proposals would apply to football, baseball, softball, girls' and boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, and girls' and boys' soccer. It should be noted that 10 other states have such divisions, including our neighbor Maryland.

While it is encouraging that such efforts have begun, there are many legislative and political hurdles to overcome before this becomes a reality. In the meantime, the ridiculous status quo continues. Perhaps I am missing some bigger picture, but to me the issue is incredibly obvious. This type of competitive imbalance is akin to Major League Baseball. In what world do a small number of teams get to select who they want and then face off against the rest of the have-nots?

At the high school level, this is not only unfair - it's actually dangerous. Around the county, I have watched on Friday nights as visiting Class A and AA football teams have taken the field with linemen that would dwarf those at Waynesburg University. The contests not only result in lopsided scores, but an inordinate amount of injuries. We wouldn't expect a Division III college team to take the field against Penn State with no regard for the safety of those young men.

Since the WPIAL only cares about money, the charade is now extended to the post-season tournaments. Tiny schools with fewer than 100 boys in the entire student body are forced to line up against teams with carefully recruited lineups. Of course, these private school opponents follow all the 10 Commandments... like, "thou shalt bench 300 pounds or run a 4.4 forty." Those first round matchups usually make General Custer look like he had a chance.

This season, half of the PIAA and WPIAL football final fours were private schools. In basketball and wrestling the disparity is even greater. The WPIAL boys' basketball Class A final four was Neighborhood Academy, Serra Catholic, Nazareth Prep, and Aquinas Academy. Two of the

teams on the girls' side of the bracket in that class were Aquinas Academy and Geibel Catholic.

In PIAA wrestling, it may be even worse. This year in AA, Faith Christian beat Bishop McCort in the finals. On their way to the finals, they beat Bishop McDevitt, Cathedral Prep, and Berks Catholic. McCort, McDevitt, and Faith Christian accounted for 9 of the 13 AA state champions this year. At the AAA level, Bethlehem Catholic won its seventh state title in the last 10 years.

*On a sidenote, that makes the accomplishments of the 2021 Waynesburg Raider team even more impressive. They were AA public school capturing the AAA state crown.*

Public school is supposed to be about opening doors for students and teaching them the importance of fair play, and the PIAA needs to help reinforce those lessons. The association has the authority to make this change. Although the path to reaching a legislative compromise will not be quick or easy, it is important to have an open dialogue with both sides working together.

## HOMETOWN HERITAGE



Waynesburg Central's Jake Stephenson Captured the 189-pound WPIAL title



Mapletown alumnae Ella Menear recently competed for Alabama at the 2025 SEC Swimming and Diving Championships at the University of Georgia. The Alabama team finished sixth in the conference. Ella placed 20th in the 100-yard backstroke and 23rd in the 200-yard backstroke. She will be competing at the NCAA National in Washington this month.

## WCHS ALUMS

### Track and Field

Drew Layton won the PSAC Indoor Pole Vaulting Championship (Slippery Rock)

Emily Mahle qualified for the PSAC Indoor High Jumping Championship (Penn West Cal)

### Wrestling

Luca Augustine (Pitt) – Finished 2nd at the ACC Tournament (189 Pounds) and qualified for the NCAA National Championships.

Wyatt Henson (Lock Haven)- Won the Mid-American Conference 141-pound title and qualified for the NCAA National Championships.

Colton Stoneking (Fairmont) – Qualified for the NCAA Division II National Championships after winning the Moun-



Drew Layton became a Division II All-American in the pole vault at the recent NCAA Championships

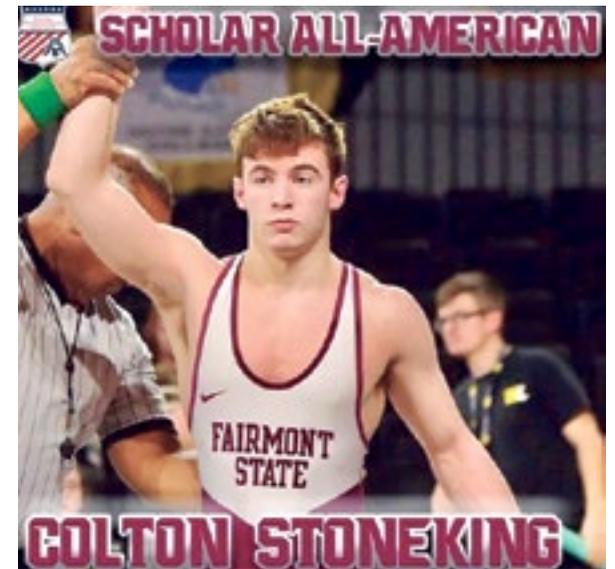
tain East Conference and being named the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler after defeating a former NCAA champion. He went on to the national tournament and placed 5th, earning All-American status.

Mac Church - Finished 3rd at the ACC Championships at 141 Pounds and Qualified for the NCAA National Championships.

Cole Homet – Placed seventh in the 184-pound bracket at the NCAA Division II National Tournament wrestling for Glenville State. He finished his season with a 41-12 record.

Zander Phaturos – Is wrestling at Division I Campbell University

Eli Makel and Brody Evans (Mapletown) – Are wrestling at Division I Edinboro University



Colton Stoneking reached All-American status at the recent NCAA Division II National Tournament.

## BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE MONTH



**Jase Zdravecky** is the son of Lisa and Justin Zdravecky. Jase is a senior and has carried a 4.125 GPA and will complete eight college credit courses with Carlow University before graduation. He is also currently enrolled in EMT class where he hopes to earn his EMT certification this spring. He is also a four-year member of the Mikes' golf and baseball teams. On the baseball diamond, Jase pitches but can also play multiple positions. He is an original member of the E-Sports team where he has competed in Rocket League, Smash Brothers, Rainbow Six Siege and Marvel Rivals. His extracurricular activities include marching band, National Honor Society, and Mikes' Nation Live broadcasting. He has volunteered to be a Big Brother for the past three years. During his summers, Jase has worked for Greene County Parks and Recreation as a day camp counselor and Southwest Training as an IT assistant. After graduation, he plans to attend W&J College to major in Neuroscience with a minor in Biology. His goal is to become a Neurosurgeon.



**Katie Waggett** is a senior and a member of the National Honor Society, STEM Club, and the varsity softball team. She is also a member of the Steel City Athletics travel softball team. Outside of school, she is a member of the St. Matthias Parish and works summers at the Greene County Country Club. Katie plans to attend Penn West California to play softball and obtain a degree in biology. She hopes to enter the chiropractic field upon graduation.

# BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE MONTH



**Cora Roberts** is a junior, and she is the starting pitcher for the Lady Maples softball team. She also plays fall softball for Fairchance. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is part of the building construction occupation studies at Greene County CTC. In her spare time, she babysits, rides horses, and helps out in the garage. Cora is the daughter of Tammy and Dale Carr of Dilliner.



**Ashtin Nesselroad** is a senior letterman on the Maples' football and baseball teams. He played on the offensive line and at the linebacker position this past fall. He currently plays in the infield for the baseball team, as well as handling pitching duties. Ashtin is on the year-book staff and likes to lift weights and hang out with friends. He is the son of Yvonne Burns and Jestin Nesselroad of Greensboro.



**Ava Wood** is the daughter of Jimmy and Jamie Wood of Waynesburg. She is an All-County softball player for the Rockets and also plays for the Smash travel team. Ava was also a member of the basketball and volleyball teams. In addition, she travels with the Morgantown Volleyball Club. In school, she is a member of the student council, Leo Club, Spanish Club, and National Honor Society. Outside school, she is a volunteer for Colby Stars and Adopt a Highway Clean Up. She is also a cart girl at Greene County Country Club and a member of the Calvary Baptist church. She will be attending college with the goal to be a nurse in a NICU.



**Brenton Barnhart** is the son of Troy and Lori Barnhart of Jefferson. He is a multi-year letterman on the Rockets' football, wrestling, and baseball teams. He maintains a 3.33 GPA and enjoys hanging out with friends and watching football and MMA fights. He plans to join the armed forces and continue his education after graduation.



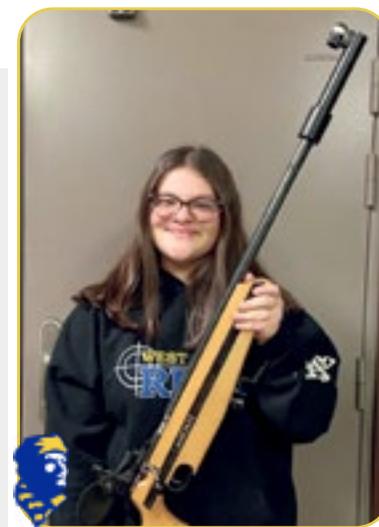
**J.J. Matinez** is the son of Jennifer and Dino Martinez of Waynesburg, PA. He runs on the varsity cross country and track and field teams. J.J. is a 4 X WPIAL qualifier in cross country and 2 X section champion in track and field. He is also a member of the National Honor Society. This fall, he will be attending Penn State University and majoring in Economics.



**Izzy Talpas** is the daughter of Jeremy and Brandy Talpas of Sycamore. She has lettered in soccer, basketball, track, and cross country. She is the 2025 senior class president and is also a member of the National Honor Society. Outside of school, she is an active member of the Waynesburg Nazarene Church and works at Dairy Queen. Her plans are to attend WVU and major in marketing.



**Dylan Hughes** is the son of Nick and Ashley Hughes of Rogersville. He is a junior and participates in rifle and baseball. Dylan is also a member of the Pioneers' FFA program and holds the position of Vice President of Ag Mechanics. He is an avid hunter and enjoys fishing and welding.



**Haylie Barner** is the daughter of Joe and Angela Barner of Rutan. She is a senior and participates in rifle and track & field. Haylie is the secretary of her class and is vice-president of the FFA program.

She recently received her FFA Keystone degree and was captain of the rifle team. She has been accepted to Slippery Rock University and will major in education.



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# Greene Artifacts

By Matthew Cumberledge, GCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## ONLINE RESEARCH IN GREENE COUNTY

## KEROSENE BROODER HEATER

It's safe to say that in the not-so-distant past, every farm and many households in Greene County raised chickens to have a steady supply of fresh eggs. Many people, both on and off the farm, do today as well.

If you have hens and a rooster, chances are you might try hatching some of your own eggs. In the "natural world" so to speak, Hens will gather a clutch of eggs, not necessarily all their own, and sit on them for roughly 21 days, keeping them warm until they ultimately hatch. Hens that have a strong desire to sit on eggs are considered "Broody." However, selective breeding over many, many years focused solely on egg production has caused hens to lose this broody nature. In today's world, you often will use an electric brooder that is heated, some even automatically rotate the eggs, and it can be a totally automated process.

In ages past, they had the need to incubate eggs and keep them warm, so that they could hatch. However, this was an entirely less automated process.

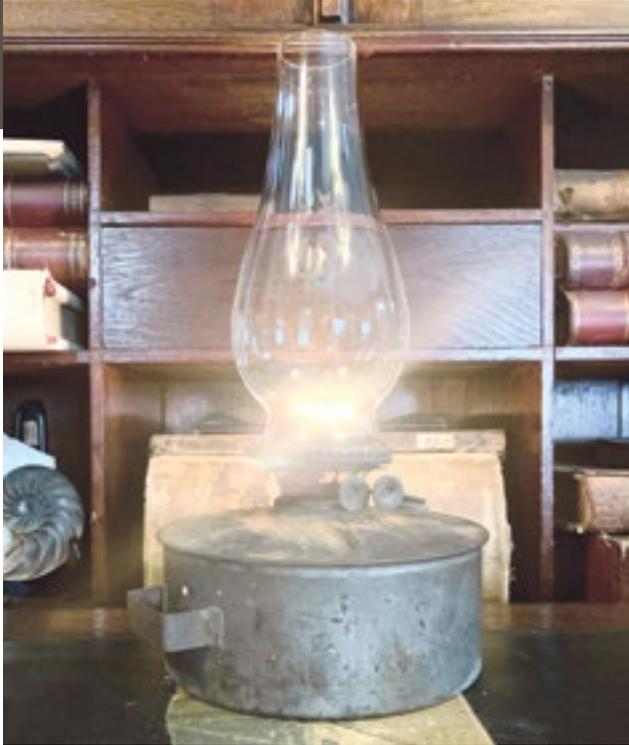
Such was the need for a Brooder Heater, as shown in the photo here. This specific type of heater could be used to heat a Coop, a Brooder House (A small structure designed solely for the process of incubating eggs) or a Brooder Box,

basically just a box with a heater to keep the eggs warm.

Note that this specific Brooder heater has a glass chimney. This is likely not original. In many cases the chimney (used to encase the burner and the flame) was made from either tin or galvanized steel, often with a mica window to see the size of the flame to help regulate temperature. Sometimes, they would come with attachments that could be used to candle eggs. Candling eggs is an extremely old method used to determine if an egg is fertilized and developing. Basically, you focus light on the egg, and you can see if there is a developing embryo or chick inside the shell.

Our agricultural past is something that is slowly becoming a thing of the past, and artifacts such as this can be an instant reminder of the way of life remembered by our parents and grandparents and many generations before them.

Please keep an eye on our Website and Facebook page for more information on our opening day and other events in our 2025 season.



WANT MORE? VISIT THE

# Greene County Museum

# DOCTOR TOOTHMAN CLOSES HER PRIVATE PRACTICE

By Zack Zeigler

Since 1982, Dr. Ingrid Toothman has served Greene, Washington, and Fayette counties on several levels of dentistry. She has worked every aspect of the profession, from dental assistant to dental hygienist, and grew up in the family dental laboratory. She went on to own her own practice, and it was through hard work she was able to pursue a career she was passionate about.

"I feel lucky and fortunate that I was able to do what I wanted to do, be successful at it, and carve my own path," said Toothman. "I have taken care of everybody, I have made house calls, I have gone to hospitals, I have gone to schools, I have had a private practice and worked in Public Health."

Toothman studied at The University of Pittsburgh's two-year dental assistant/dental hygiene program before moving on to dental school on a scholarship through the National Health Service Corps. Her first job would land her in a little town called Bobtown, Pennsylvania, where she would get her first introduction to Greene County.

"My first job was in Bobtown, and I didn't know much

about the town," said Toothman. "I saw a population of 1,000, and I said I can wipe out tooth decay in Bobtown in two years. Well, that didn't happen. I have been trying to wipeout tooth decay throughout my entire career, and I haven't been able to."

After working two years in Bobtown, Toothman would go into her own practice, opening Toothman Dental in 1984. For over 40 years, she served as a private practice in Waynesburg, helping patients of all ages. She never believed she would own her own practice, simply because she didn't want to manage it. However, it was her hardworking nature that helped her thrive.

"The thing about me is I have always been a hard worker, and I always say I won't ask you to do something unless I can do it myself." I overheard my sixth-grade teacher talking to my mother, and he said Ingrid can do whatever she wants to do. Since then, that's always been my motto – 'If I want to do it, I will get it done'. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity."

While Toothman Dental

is closed, Dr. Toothman still actively works in Greene, Washington, and Fayette Counties as the Dental Director to Centerville Clinics. She helps run five dental sites, and Centerville Clinics has 12 Medical sites and provides primary and specialty care, mental health, pharmacy lab, and x-ray services to 40,000 patients across Western Pennsylvania. Her advice to the future dentists of the county is to take a chance and work hard.

"I think it is a particularly good career for women," said Toothman. "When I started out there were 18 women out of 108 in my dental school class, and seven of us were dental hygienists. When I moved here in 1982, there were 26 dentists in the county. Today, not counting me, there are eight. Greene County needs dentists, and I would encourage those interested to pursue that path."

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## Cool at School:

By Aubrey Lesnett

### WEST GREENE EDUCATOR NOMINATED FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Any of Mrs. Karlie Wright's students would jump at the opportunity to talk about what kind of educator she is. Many describe her as caring, motivating, and supportive. Because of all the work she puts in with her students in the Ag Department at West Greene High School, she has earned a spot as a semifinalist for Pennsylvania's Teacher of the Year competition.

According to Wright, "The most rewarding part of this job is getting to watch all my students grow throughout their academic career, as I teach most of them from 7th grade through 12th. By having them in my classroom for that long, I get to see them change from kids to young adults and cheer them on through all their accomplishments."

With a handful of her students aspiring to become educators themselves, Wright offered this advice. "First of all, it's important that you're a hundred percent sure that being a teacher is the right choice for you. If you have any doubts, don't do it. This career is one that requires 100% effort and is often one that follows you outside of the classroom. Being a teacher is something you will take with you through all parts of your life. Do it for the right reasons and be prepared to make sacrifices. It's also extremely important to remember why you're there, and to always go into the classroom with passion."

Wright's initial path was not always in education. "When I started college, I was a chemistry major. The thought of being a teacher never even crossed my mind until my predecessor, Mr. Curt Hughes, retired and asked me to



West Greene's Karlie Wright is nominated for PA Teacher of the Year

take over his position. Initially, I said no. However, after a lot of conversation and thinking, I decided that it felt right. Looking back on my time here thus far, I wouldn't change a single thing. I feel that this was one of the best decisions I've ever made, and I'm forever grateful I get to play a part in my students' education and watch everything that they accomplish both inside and outside of the classroom."

Mrs. Wright's students are glad she changed her mind and know how deserving she is of this honor. She has received tremendous support from her students and the entire district as she advances through the competition and represents the county.

## Cool at School:

By Michelle Zeigler

### A GOLDEN WAKE-UP CALL: FRICK FEDERAL CREDIT UNION'S FINANCIAL REALITY FAIR AT JMHS

On Thursday, March 13, over 100 Jefferson Morgan High School students got a taste of the "real world" when they participated in a Financial Reality Fair, organized by Frick Federal Credit Union.

As part of a graded assignment with the purpose of teaching them the importance of responsible money management and financial literacy, the Junior and Senior students assembled in the JMHS gymnasium, selected a "career" of their choosing and were assigned to stay within a monthly budget. Along with several Frick FCU employees, volunteers from an assortment of backgrounds (including education, finance, marketing, and nonprofit management) manned booths set up to simulate the twists and turns of life, introducing the students to rent/housing, monthly bills, personal expenses, and unexpected hiccups.

Although the assignment was challenging to the students, Brittany Christoff, Marketing Manager of Frick FCU, believes that this was an excellent program to introduce to Greene County's youth.

"As a high schooler, it can be difficult to grasp how expensive things are and how to properly budget without any real experience," Christoff said. "This fair allows students the chance to budget a salary they could realistically earn in the future and understand the importance of being financially responsible. When they graduate, they'll have a better idea of what to expect and the value of making smart financial choices."

Frick FCU and other local credit unions, such as Chrome FCU in Washington County, plan on introducing the Financial Realty Fair program to other schools in the local region in the near future.



## Cool at School:

### AREA STUDENTS EXCEL AT MATHCOUNTS PROGRAM

Waynesburg Central students recently attended the MathCounts regional competition at the Penn State University Fayette Campus. The competition is a respected national program for those students who excel at math.

Teacher Jillian McGowan took a team and five individual competitors who are part of the Chicago Math Program. The team, consisting of Karmyn Szewczyk, Isaac

Whipkey, Aubrey Morris, and Jaxon Parker, delivered an impressive performance, placing 3rd overall at the competition.

Isaac Whipkey earned second place overall in the individual competition, securing a spot at the state competition in Harrisburg.

Other individual competitors were Kristen Coss,

Addonae Johnson, Ava DiAlesandro, Hunter Johnson, and Mia Cole, all of whom well represented their school with their skill.

The WCHS program is made possible by a generous grant from Consol Energy.

# MATHCOUNTS®

## Cool at School:

By Emma Bates

# CARMICHAELS' QUIZ TEAM SHOWS ITS CHOPS



*Carmichaels Victorious Varsity Quiz Team: Olivia Mata, Emma Bates, and Alexandria Miller. (Photo credit John Hess)*

Students at Carmichaels Area School District are celebrating this spring—three members of the high school Academic League were privileged to represent the school on KDKA's student trivia show "KD Quiz." Survey says, "the results came back even better than the team could have hoped." Senior Alexandria Miller, and Juniors Olivia Mata and Emma Bates, under the leadership of team sponsor and coach Mr. John Hess, were thrilled to take first place in the televised knowledge competition that aired Saturday, March 8.

Although the quiz show was taped virtually, the competition was extremely real. The Mikes faced off against students from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and Sharpsville High

School, eventually claiming the win with a score of 400 points in the ultra-competitive match. Questions on the show consisted of knowledge from every corner of the mind, from science and math to literature, history, geography, and everything in between. One minute, students wrack their brains for elements on the periodic table; the next, they're sifting through Shakespeare's plays and world leaders. "I was most proud watching our teammates work together," Miller shared, crediting the team's success to the high level of cooperation and discussion.

But this battle of the minds doesn't just take place once a year for the team. Students have the opportunity to compete for the Academic League year-round starting in the fifth grade, with divisions for age groups elementary through high school. The

team competes against other districts in the Tri-County area at matches that have been primarily hosted by the Penn State Fayette campus. High school students in the junior varsity and varsity divisions can advance to playoffs, and then to regional and state competitions.

However, the information learned in preparation for these competitions is only the beginning of this incredible experience. A day at Academic League continues well beyond

the buzzer. It prepares students from all walks of life for the future pathways available to them. From the moment students step off the bus on the college campus, they are met with the opportunities of the future. For many students, this is their first exposure to higher education and a real-world experience that allows them to picture themselves as career-bound young adults.

Mr. Hess states, "During my 13 years holding the position of Academic Team Sponsor, the most rewarding part by far is the relationships built with my students who I have interacted with over their four years of high school while participating on the team." He continues, "I am blessed to be surrounded by exceptional students with great character."

Following meets, the team usually enjoys lunch together, oftentimes at a sit-down restaurant. Students experience a day out with more independence than the typical school day, practicing formal etiquette and navigating ordering, paying a bill, and calculating a tip on their own. Every student treasures this opportunity, but for some, it may be the only family-like dining experience they have had in their developmental years.

"I've always loved being on Academic League," says Olivia, a seven-year team member. "It's...a great way to bond with new people and branch out."

Nothing compares to the joyful simplicity of kids learning, unplugging, sitting around a table laughing and talking, and celebrating their hard work. Our schools do well to provide such an experience for tomorrow's adults.

## Cool at School:

By Bret Moore

# WEST GREENE MATH TEAM

**MATHCOUNTS®**



*West Greene recently attended the Penn State Fayette Math Counts competition. Teacher Kayla Hildreth's team included Caitlin Whyte, Rylee Yeager, Cole Vaneck, and Joel Grimes.*

## Cool at School:

By Bret Moore

# JEFF-MORGAN'S LORING SEMI-FINALIST FOR PA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Maddy Loring, a fourth-grade math teacher at Jefferson-Morgan Elementary School, was named as a semifinalist for the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year award. Only a handful of teachers are so honored by the PA Department of Education each year.

"I am humbled to be recognized for such a prestigious honor. The Jefferson-Morgan community has been beyond supportive and compassionate. Having the opportunity to represent our school district, as well as sharing the dedication and efforts of our entire learning community is a blessing."

I think the reason I became a teacher is

because of the teachers that I was fortunate to work with right here at Jefferson-Morgan," Loring said. "They really sparked that in me, because they made my learning experience here so fun and memorable - I thought, 'If I can take that and I can give back to my community and provide those same experiences, I would just love to follow in their footsteps.'"

Loring was notified in February that she had been named a semi-finalist. She said the award came as a pleasant surprise, and she is honored to be considered for such a respected achievement. However, her motivation in teaching is the love of the kids and being part of the school community, which is like a family.

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## GREENE COUNTY AWARDED \$150,000 IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT BUSINESS INCUBATOR



(L to R) Betsy McClure, Jared Edgreen and Blair Zimmerman.

The County of Greene is proud to announce that it has been awarded two significant grants to support the development and operation of the Greene County Business Incubator. A \$75,000 grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and an additional \$75,000 grant from the EQT Foundation will provide critical funding to help the incubator become fully operational, fostering the growth of small, locally owned businesses throughout Greene County.

The business incubator will offer local entrepreneurs and startups affordable space, mentorship, and access to key resources designed to promote business sustainability and economic development. By providing a structured environment where businesses can grow and succeed, Greene County is investing in the long-term prosperity of the region.

“We are incredibly grateful for the support from both the Benedum Foundation and the EQT Foundation,” said Commissioner Jared Edgreen, Chairman of the Greene County Commissioners. “These grants will allow us to create real opportunities for small businesses, helping to build a stronger and more resilient local economy. The funding from the EQT Foundation will be instrumental in fully launching and operating the incubator, ensuring that it has the resources needed to support entrepreneurs from day one. The program

will track success through business participation, job creation, and other key performance indicators to measure its impact on the local economy.”

Commissioner Betsy McClure emphasized the importance of engaging with the community in shaping the incubator’s services. “We are currently surveying local businesses and the public to better understand the needs of our community. This incubator is an exciting new asset, and I look forward to the opportunities it will provide to both existing and new businesses in Greene County.” For more information about the Greene County Business Incubator or these grant awards, please contact the Greene County Commissioners’ Office at 93 E High St, Waynesburg, PA 15370, or call 724-852-5210.

### County Prepares for 2026 NFL Draft

Commissioners Betsy McClure and Jared Edgreen attended a government outreach meeting with the Pittsburgh Steelers to discuss the 2026 NFL Draft coming to Pittsburgh. The Steelers are looking for counties in our 10-county region to help with planning the event as the economic impact of this magnitude will bring 700,000 visitors to our region. Impact on our area will be hotels, bed and breakfast rentals, transportation and tourism.



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## GCCTC INTERACT CLUB AND WAYNESBURG ROTARY PREPARE FLAGS



*CTC Interact students help prepare for Memorial Day*

The students from the Greene County Career and Technology Center Interact Club recently helped the Rotary Club of Waynesburg get their flags ready for the club's annual "Flags for Heroes" display at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Rotary places over 50 flags at the fairgrounds for Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veteran's Day. About 35 students helped to count and repair poles while also sorting flags to be used or disposed of with appropriate respect. Students learned how to properly fold the flags which needed to be burned. The school is planning a disposal ceremony in conjunction with the VFW.

The GCCTC Interact Club is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Waynesburg, whose members work with the students throughout the year. Bridget Dennison is the faculty advisor for the group.

## ROTARY CLUB OF WAYNESBURG BRINGS LITERACY PROJECT TO COUNTY SCHOOLS

Members of the Rotary Club of Waynesburg have been visiting third grade classrooms in Greene County sharing a story of helpfulness and cooperation. It is a part of the Rotary International's commitment to empower communities and help support education in those communities. Rotary programs aim to improve literacy for all ages by collaborating with local schools and providing educational materials.

The Rotary Ideals Program uses the children's story "Elmer and Andy's Apple Dumping Adventure" written by Andrew Shoup outlining the Rotary's guiding principles -the Four Way Test- to teach young children about ethics. This program has been adopted by many clubs across the U.S., Canada and beyond. The 2025 school year marks the first year that Waynesburg Rotary has participated.

Over 280 third graders at West Greene,

Waynesburg Central, Jefferson-Morgan, Carmichaels and Open Door Christian School were treated to the story of how a group of friends completed a project that was beneficial and fair to all along with building good will and better friendships. These are the core standards of the Rotary Four Way Test. Along with the actual reading, Rotary volunteers reinforce literacy skills and good citizen behaviors during the lesson. Each classroom teacher was presented with a copy of the book and classroom poster outlining the Four Way Test. Each student received a matching bookmark.

In addition to our rotary members' building goodwill and making better friendships", it is our hope to plant the seeds for new generations of Rotarians. If you are interested in becoming a Rotary member, email us at [rotary-clubofwbg@gmail.com](mailto:rotary-clubofwbg@gmail.com)



*Rotary Club members reading to third graders as part of their literacy program.*

# RALPH CONKLIN HITS CENTURY MARK

By Bret Moore



Ralph O. Conklin turned 100 years of age last month. He was born to Floyd and Fannie Conklin in their home on Hopewell Ridge near Sycamore. Mr. Conklin is a huge Steeler fan and played football himself for Center Township High School under legendary coach Bob Wiley. After graduating in 1944, he enlisted in the Navy and spent two years in the South Pacific on the destroyer escort Kenneth Willett.

Upon returning home, he became the bus contractor for the West Greene School District. A position he held for 49 years. He earned his pilot's license and purchased a small plane. He would fly over the Hundred, WV bank to wave at a pretty young teller named Jeannette Cunningham. After a month-long courtship, they were married. Their

74-year marriage produced three sons: Doug, Randall (Randy), and Kevin.

He became a stockholder and manager of a small company called Natural Gas of West Virginia. Eventually, he purchased other wells and a larger company called Greenridge Oil and Gas, of which he is still the president.

Ralph started taking golf lessons and "slowing down" in his mid-70's. He even purchased a condo in Jupiter, Florida to take advantage of the extended golf season. After raising his family in New Freeport most of his adult life, he now resides back on Hopewell Ridge less than a mile from where he was born.



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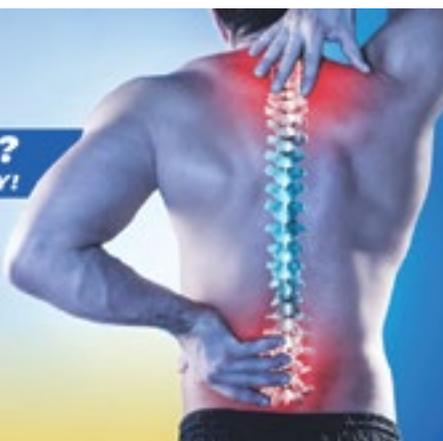


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# A PIECE OF MY MIND

Random Thoughts, Reflections & Memories That Occupy Space in My Mind by Vicky Hughes



After receiving, reviewing, and reading articles for this edition of GreeneScene, I noticed a recurring theme. At the time, I was also contemplating the idea of writing my own monthly column. Then, another “sign” of things to come appeared when I was traveling with my dad last week and a chicken ran out in the road in front of us in Waynesburg.

What does this all mean? For me, the recurring chicken theme, along with chicken pictures and the chicken literally crossing the road all take me to the same place in my mind, precious memories of my friend Melinda.

Melinda McNeely was a daughter of Dr. AJ (Pat) and Grace Patterson. She was born and raised in Waynesburg, married the love of her life, Jim, and started a family. Some may fondly remember her as the “crazy chicken lady.”

In addition to raising her children, Michael and Angie, Melinda took pride and pleasure in raising chickens, ducks, horses, and quail. She loved her family unconditionally and loved her animals the same way.

I met Melinda in the spring of 2004, when I started a new job at the general surgery office of Dr. AJ Patterson, Jr and Dr. Rob Cicchino as an office nurse. Melinda and I became fast friends as we spent many mornings together in the office, talking, laughing, and sharing our joys and concerns. Her daily schedule was very different. She had to leave at 2:00 every afternoon. She said she had to go home to “put the kids to bed.” I can only imagine the confused look on my face, since I knew that her kids were grown adults with jobs and families of their own. Then she explained that the “kids” she referred to were the chickens. They had names and personalities. Every single one was something special, even if only to her.

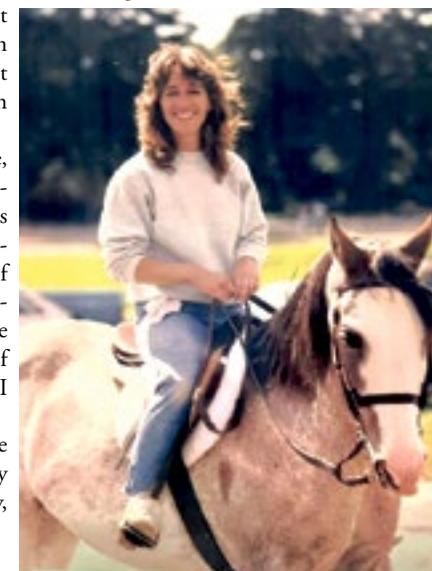
If you find that peculiar, imagine the surprise of her taxidermist. Melinda was an avid hunter, and she sent several trophy bucks to be mounted and eventually displayed in her den. Likewise,

some of her chickens and her quail were sent for preservation. However, they were never displayed as trophies, but instead as part of her life that she couldn't part with.

I sat in a chair next to Melinda the day her cancer diagnosis was confirmed. She underwent aggressive treatments, lost weight, and lost her hair. I only saw her cry once; despite the pain and adversity she faced. She showed me what it means to have inner strength while focusing on the fierceness of fighting.

Unfortunately, Melinda McNeely, a wife, mother, sister, and friend, passed away in September 2009 at age 55. I could probably fill pages with stories about Melinda. And, if you're wondering if she was a bit crazy, maybe she was. If it's crazy to love unconditionally, whether family, farm animals, or feathered friends, then the answer is absolutely, positively YES! Memories of Melinda will always occupy space in my mind. I miss my friend.

So, here's a piece of my mind- Be bold but be kind always. Embrace a bit of craziness, especially if that means loving others. Love unconditionally, like Melinda did.





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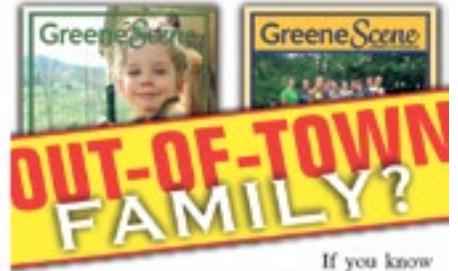
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GreeneScene

# LOCAL CHILDREN DIAL 911 AND SAVE A LIFE

By Bret Moore

Two local children were honored last month at a ceremony at the Carmichaels Fire Hall. Eight-year-old Aaron Hilverding and his nine-year old sister Kaitlyn saved the life of a family friend by calling 911 after a horrible accident.

Tim Howard was cutting a tree near Carmichaels when it kicked back and landed on him. Howard suffered multiple, life-threatening injuries. Luckily, Aaron had accompanied him into the woods. As soon as the accident occurred, the youngster sprinted to find his sibling, who was nearby.

The two Beth-Center students called 911 and proceeded to relay the urgent situation with a maturity beyond their years. Mike Varner, a paramedic with Fayette/Greene EMS, was one of the first responders on the scene. He and his partner Josh Lucosh were determined to see the Hilverding children rewarded for their efforts. "It's important that children know how to dial 911. If these two kids hadn't done so, it would have been a much different outcome," said Varner.

A second EMS crew of Joseph Podlogar and Brent Roberts arrived soon after to assist in the vital medical procedures that took place.

In addition to making the emergency call, the children helped lead a squad of responders that included Cumberland Township police officers, Carmichaels/Cumberland Township firemen, and Greene EMS paramedics to the general area of the accident. All three entities coordinated and quickly ascertained the site in what became a heroic life-saving rescue.

Howard, who was also at the ceremony, expressed his gratitude, "I'm so proud of what these kids did. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them. They were the first, first responders."

Experts emphasize the importance of teaching your children how to dial 911. It is important to follow these four rules:

**1. Clearly explain what an emergency is and isn't.**

Tell your child that 911 is a special phone number to call when they need help. Give real examples of an actual emergency. Also, give examples of when NOT to call 911.

**2. Walk through how to use any phones available to your child.**

If your cell phone has a security lock, use a simple code that's easy for your child to remember. Consider keeping a visual step-by-step guide by your phone or in a designated area if you don't have a landline.

**3. Go over important information.**

Teach your child what personal information they'll need to provide to the call taker. You can also create an emergency profile at Smart911 that allows emergency dispatchers to see your home address, the layout of your home, existing medical conditions and any other helpful information you choose to provide.

**4. Practice, practice, practice**

Consider using an app to simulate calling 911, so children can safely rehearse calling for help and relaying important details. For example, the Kid's Practice 911 Dialer app is available through the Center for Childhood Safety.



*Kaitlyn and Aaron Hilverding pose with family members and Tim Howard (far right) at a ceremony at the Carmichaels Fire Hall.*



*Members of the Cumberland Township police department, Carmichaels/Cumberland VFD, and Fayette/Greene EMS were all vital in the rescue mission to save a Carmichaels man.*

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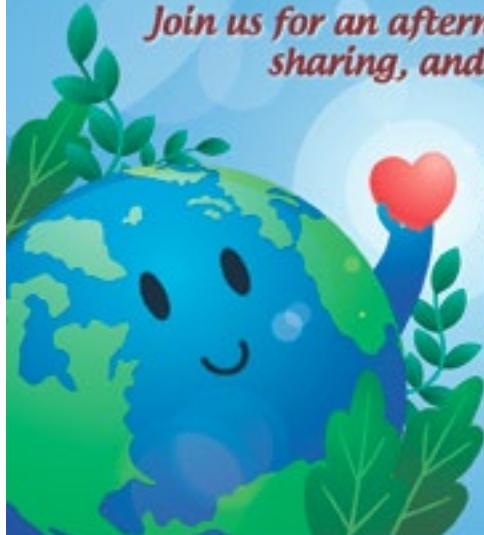
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# MARCH CONTEST WINNERS

**Congratulations to all Winners!**

## Crossword Puzzle Winner

**Alicia Jones of Waynesburg**

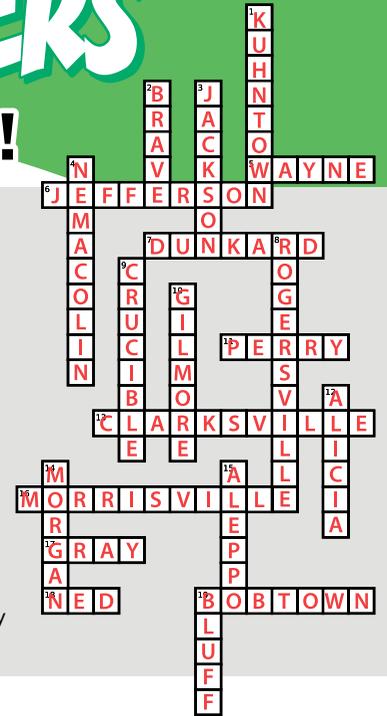
### Crossword Puzzle Answers

Down:

- Shares a surname with former baseball commish Bowie **Kuhntown**
- Shares a name with a 2012 Pixar animated movie **Brave**
- Trail of Tears President **Jackson**
- Delaware Chief **Nemacolin**
- Every day is a wonderful day in this neighborhood **Rogersville**
- An Arthur Miller Play **Crucible**
- Rory and Lorelai's last name **Gilmore**
- Clueless actress **Alicia**
- Shawshank actor or local township **Morgan**
- A Syrian city **Aleppo**
- A poker term **Bluff**

Across:

- Hockey GOAT or local township **Wayne**
- George and Weezie's surname **Jefferson**
- Anabaptist group **Dunkard**
- "If I Die Young" band **Perry**
- The Monkees caught the last train to this town **Clarksville**
- Where the lead singer of The Time might live. **Morrisville**
- Original author of an 1858 revered reference book **Gray**
- First name of Homer Simpson's well-meaning neighbor **Ned**
- Where one might obtain seasonal apples the hard way **Bobtown**



**The Great  
GreeneScene Egg  
Hunt Winner!**



**Sarah Speelman  
of Nemacolin**

**GreeneScene Contest  
Winner!**

**Tracy Tennant  
of Waynesburg**

**Person, Place or Thing  
Contest Winner!**

**Jessica Bonnell  
of Dilliner**

## PA LOTTERY WINNERS FOR MARCH 2025



**Denis Dille  
of Prosperity**



**Chrysan Smith  
of Carmichaels**



**Toby Whipkey  
of Waynesburg**



**Rudolph Sadlek  
of Rices Landing**



**Darlene Linderman  
of Crucible**



**Cheryl McCreedy  
of Waynesburg**



**Diana Adams  
of Jefferson**



**Harriet Kozlowski  
of Nemacolin**



**Stephen Burless  
of Carmichaels**

**Gail Harshall  
of Graysville**

# FLAVORS OF SPRING... A CULINARY ADVENTURE

By Emma Bates

Green shoots are starting to sprout in Greene County, and winter's Lion is slowly being replaced by the Lamb of spring. With the days getting longer and brighter, we're starting to venture out again after the chill of winter snows and negative temperatures, and we have found ourselves looking for that next adventure just waiting to be discovered. Fortunately, our local food trucks are speeding on scene at just the right time and are ready to provide the quality service and hometown flair that will pique our taste buds.

**What's Smokin' BBQ**, owned and operated by Troy and Lori Hellen of Waynesburg is a full-time enterprise of family love and commitment. Troy grew up enjoying the preparation (and consumption) of barbecue and always sought the opportunity to share the flavor of his homestyle creations with others. "It was a dream of mine since about 18 or 19 years ago," Troy shares.

In the wake of the 2020 COVID pandemic— a time when many businesses were forced to close— the Hellen family saw the shutdown as an opportunity to try something new and share it with customers who were ready for some good food and a unique way to get out of the house. The food truck business was a safe and exciting means of food preparation during the pandemic, and the family built a strong customer base right away.

Troy explains that, once registered, the business was invited to various locations and traveled to 10 different neighborhoods in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It didn't take long for the catchily-named kitchen on wheels to become a permanent fixture in the greater Waynesburg and Carmichaels areas.

However, both Troy and Lori were still working full-time at that point. "It got so big in a short time, we got our daughter [Jenna] on board," Lori says. "It's a lot for a few people."

As the company— and the family's passion for their new endeavor— grew, Troy and Lori both knew they needed to make another big change. The couple quit their day jobs and decided to commit to full-time work on the food truck.

The key part of this commitment is the quality that What's Smokin' BBQ stands on. "We gained so many customers being able to serve the same quality food day after day," Troy explains. "It's not the size of the menu, but the quality that takes utmost priority," Lori elaborates.

However, the food truck is certainly not lacking in menu items. "We started basic and expanded, forming everything around the meats we carry and [putting] a twist on it," says Troy. Each protein-based, made-from-scratch item is a hand-fired work of love, from mouth-watering classics like brisket, burgers, and sandwiches, to inventive concoctions like loaded nachos, "garbage plate" style baked potatoes, and a family-developed top-secret mac & cheese recipe.

"Juggling life is a big challenge," Lori says. "The days start really early— around 1 am." "That's the life of a pit master," Troy adds, laughing.

Giving back to the community is another focus of the company. What's Smokin' BBQ now offers a scholarship for one graduating senior in the five local school districts, in addition to providing gift cards to families in need and often donating their catering services at fundraising events.

What's Smokin' BBQ is available to cater events for up to 500 guests. Visit [WhatsSmokinBBQ.com](http://WhatsSmokinBBQ.com) to find out where the food truck will be heading next.

Troy and Lori are grateful for the support of this community and are proud of their numerous culinary accolades, including the GreeneScene's Greatest in Greene BBQ Award. "It makes us work harder— lots of responsibility," Troy says gratefully.

But hard work on wheels is happening in many other places in the county, including on the **Greene County Career and Technology Center's CTC Eats Food Truck**.

Chef Dan Wagner and his students in the Culinary Arts program are celebrating their first year of operation on the food truck that has made headlines at local fairs, festivals, and private corporate events. Mr. Wagner credits the project's success to the immense support of the Community Foundation of Greene County, as well as "several local businesses throughout the county."

The food truck is a mobile extension of the CTC classroom, where Mr. Wagner has been teaching for 35 years. "I have so many great memories and proud moments from the last three plus decades," he states. "But seeing students blossom and mature over the three years they are in the program and then taking what they have learned as a foundation for a successful career— that is what teaching is all about."

Mr. Wagner explains that four or five students man the truck at a time. "Training includes food costs, ordering, creative menu planning, line production, short order cooking, problem solving and understanding the equipment on the truck." Additionally, he identifies "troubleshooting, management, customer service, [and] work ethics" as other crucial skills that students develop on board the mobile classroom kitchen.

"Where most food trucks have a niche menu, we have explored different menu options that have come from the extraordinary and creative minds of the CTC Culinary Arts students," Mr. Wagner states. Some of the food truck favorites include the Mob Boss, Bavarian Burger, and Philly Steak Fries.

Mr. Wagner shares that "CTC Eats" is "looking to spend more time doing private events and pop ups. We are working on developing new, exciting and fresh menu items." To book the truck, be sure to fill out the Updated Food Truck Request Form on the CTC website.

Want to try out these food trucks and sample even more local goodness? Be sure to put Greene County's second annual Food Truck Festival on your calendar for May 10. The event will run from 11 a.m.- 7 p.m. and will consist of live music, crafts, kids' activities, mascot meet-and-greets, not to mention delicious food. Tickets for those 13 and older are \$10. Admission for children 12 and under is free. All proceeds benefit the Battle and Thrive scholarship for resilient county students,

according to the organization's website.

Don't wait for your next culinary adventure...the smells of spring are just around the corner!



# HONEY PROGRAM AIMS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF COUNTY YOUTH

By Bret Moore



Jefferson Morgan students sticking with the HONEY program.

Change can be intimidating, but the HONEY program tries to make your journey easier by providing personalized guidance on nutrition and workouts tailored to you. It's not just about physical fitness; it's about having the energy and resilience to live life to the fullest.

HONEY stands for Healthy Options, Nutrition, Exercise & Youth. The HONEY Program is a grant-funded program for Greene County residents 12 years old and older. The HONEY team travels to all five Greene County school districts one time per week during the school year. Through hands-on cooking demonstrations and group physical activities, the HONEY program explores how students can implement a healthy lifestyle in beautiful, rural Greene County.

All HONEY enrollees have access to a personalized fitness plan, a Garmin watch for fitness tracking, a HONEY cookbook designed by the HONEY team, and health coaching sessions. The HONEY team also works with a registered dietician (RD) for any nutritional needs/questions that may come up. The RD has also created several presentations for nutritional education that participants can access.

HONEY uses a food categorization system to help you make better dietary decisions. You will be introduced to: Go foods, Slow foods, and Woah foods. Recognizing the challenge of maintaining fitness with a busy schedule, HONEY provides free in-person fitness classes. Instructors present adaptable fitness plans, empowering you to exercise at your convenience.

Along with accessible fitness options, HONEY provides a Fitbit Inspire 2 when you sign up. This allows you to track your health journey, and when other family members or friends join HONEY, you can link Fitbits to challenge each other.

The program has recently partnered with The WAY Community Center of Greene County. HONEY Sundays have been started at The Way from 5:00-6:00 pm every Sunday. These events are open to current HONEY enrollees as well as prospective participants. During these events, there is a healthy snack option, gym access, and the opportunity to ask the HONEY team any questions one may have on a personal health and wellness journey.

HONEY also offers complimentary cooking classes designed to equip you and your family with the skills to make delicious, healthy meals. They will help you find recipes that work for you, so you enjoy each meal.

If you are interested in the program or would like more information, please contact Cornerstone Care HONEY Program: 501 W. High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370 Fax: 724-627-0726.

## CHICKEN ALFREDO STUFFED ZUCCHINI



**Ingredients:**

- 1 zucchini, washed & dried
- 1 shredded chicken breast
- 1/2 cup cottage cheese
- 1/3 cup Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 TBSP Cornstarch
- 2 tsp onion powder, garlic powder, Italian seasoning,
- 1 tsp salt, pepper
- 1 cup parmesan cheese
- 1/2 block of frozen spinach

**Instructions:**

- Cut ends off of zucchini and slice in half long ways. Remove seeds with spoon, making zucchini line boats.
- Lightly coat zucchini with olive oil, place on baking sheet and bake at 375 for ten minutes.
- In blender, add cottage cheese, Greek yogurt, milk, cornstarch, & spices and blend.
- Add blended mixture, shredded chicken, 1/2 cup parm, and thawed & dried spinach to medium skillet and cook over medium heat until melted.
- Add mixture to zucchini boats and top with remaining parmesan. Bake at 375 degrees until cheese on top is golden brown.



## Guest Recipe Contributor Leigh Ann Shaner of the Denny House

Enjoying a winter salad offers a delightful combination of flavors and textures. The crisp sweetness of the pears and apples complements the creamy tangy feta while the earthy richness of pecans adds a satisfying crunch. Pomegranate arils bring a burst of juicy sweetness adding both color and a refreshing contrast to the salad making it a perfect dish good for the cooler end of winter days. This salad is topped with a unique ginger apple cider dressing which balances sweetness, tanginess, and a hint of spice enhancing the natural flavors of this salad.

### Winter Salad with Ginger Apple Dressing:

Spring Mix Greens  
2 oz crumbled feta cheese  
1 large bartlett pear thinly sliced  
1 cosmic crisp apple thinly sliced  
1/4 cup raw whole pecans  
Pomegranate arils

### For the Ginger Apple Cider Dressing:

1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil  
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar  
1 tablespoon honey  
1 teaspoon finely grated fresh ginger root  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/4 teaspoon (about 10 twists) freshly ground pepper

### Directions for dressing:

Combine ingredients into a shaker bottle and shake until dressing comes together. Do not use in a blender as it will become thick and grainy.

### Directions to assemble salad:

Place desired amount of greens into a bowl, and place 4 slices of apples and 4 slices of pears along the sides. Place a few pecans over the center and sprinkle desired amount of feta cheese. Lastly sprinkle about 1 teaspoon of pomegranate arils over the cheese. Drizzle dressing on just before serving and enjoy!

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# SPRING WORD SEARCH

Find the hidden words in the puzzle. They can be diagonal, horizontal or vertical.



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 One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 04-14-25.

## HIGHLAND ACRES FARM FEATURED IN GREENESCENE CONTEST

Highland Acres Farm was spotlighted in last month's GreeneScene "Where Is This?" contest. Tracy Tennant of Waynesburg correctly identified the farm's location at 585 Bull Run Road in Spraggs, PA.

Owned and operated by William and Laura Hilverding, along with their son Sean, Highland Acres has been a family-run farm since 1976. The Hilverdings proudly raise Scottish Highland cattle, even purchasing some from The Queen's Herd.

Look for more about Highland Acres in next month's *Home, Farm & Garden* issue of GreeneScene!



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# CONTEST

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SCAN TO ENTER!



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