

Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

A DIRECT RESULTS COMPANY



JUNE 2025

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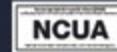
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TOWNE SQUARE



MORE Y'ALL THAN YINZ

By Bret Moore

Two decades ago, I wrote a column for a local newspaper on whether we in Greene County were more “Y’all” than “yinz”. I discussed the complex dichotomies of the county’s cultural allegiances because of our geographical location between the North and the South.

Let me begin this column by stating the obvious— that debate is now over, y’all.

Southwestern Pennsylvania in general, a region defined by the rugged Allegheny Mountains, steel-town legacies, and a mix of rural and urban communities, represents a unique cultural crossroads. Geographically situated in the North, yet culturally influenced by both Northern industrialism and Southern rural traditions, the region is emblematic of the complex tensions that emerge when differing cultural identities converge.

These tensions — rooted in history, economics, politics, and values — reflect a broader American narrative. However, they manifest in highly local ways, particularly in the hills, towns, and counties that define this part of the state. Greene County stands out as the most vivid example of the Southern cultural imprint on Northern soil.

The cultural clash in southwestern Pennsylvania dates to the earliest days of American settlement. During colonial times, the region was a frontier contested by various powers and influenced by both Northern European settlers from New England and Mid-Atlantic states and Scotch-Irish immigrants, who brought with them a more Southern, Appalachian ethos. These early settlers shaped the cultural backbone of the region: a blend of Northern industriousness and Southern independence.

As the 19th century progressed, Pittsburgh and its surrounding areas became key players in the Industrial Revolution. The steel mills, coal mines, and railroads drew a massive influx of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe. Pittsburgh, with its booming steel industry, aligned with the economic and political power centers of the North.

However, only 50 miles south of the city, Greene County retained a more agrarian and Appalachian character — closely tied to Southern traditions, in both economy and culture. Our rural nature, tight-knit communities, and reliance on industries like coal and farming set us apart from the Pittsburgh area.

What is fascinating about Greene County is even within its borders one can identify distinct cultural mini-regions. The eastern, western, southern, and central parts of the county have observable differences in dialect, ethnic heritage, religion, and traditions.

However, in general, Greene County has more in com-

mon sociologically with West Virginia than with Pittsburgh. Church attendance, gun culture, and traditional values dominate community life. Local events such as the fairs, festivals and fire department fundraisers bring people together in ways reminiscent of Southern communities.

Pittsburgh and its suburbs represent modernity, progressivism, and unionized labor. They lean toward policies associated with the North. In contrast, Greene County’s economy remains heavily reliant on extractive industries like coal and natural gas. These energy markets have been affected by both positive and negative global forces in recent decades. This volatility has at times fueled resentment and reinforced a cultural identity grounded in self-reliance and distrust of urban centers.

Economic struggle in the area has also deepened the feeling of being culturally marginalized by the urban North. In Pittsburgh, the future is seen in tech startups, medical research, and higher education. Here, people often feel left behind by the digital economy and dismissed as backward or out of touch. This tension exacerbates the cultural clash: urbanites may see rural areas as resistant to change, while rural communities feel abandoned and misunderstood.

This economic and cultural divide has sharpened politically. Greene County, once a Democratic stronghold thanks to union roots, has shifted firmly to the right in recent decades. Republicans won nearly 70% of the vote here since 2016, campaigning on promises to revive coal and reject globalist policies. For many in Greene County, these themes about forgotten Americans resonated deeply.

Meanwhile, Allegheny County voted overwhelmingly for more progressive candidates. Political differences are now deeply intertwined with cultural ones. Rural residents see gun control and green energy as threats, not reforms. In contrast, urban voters often view rural conservatism as an obstacle to progress. The divide isn’t just red versus blue — it’s also country versus city, tradition versus change.

Even speech and mannerisms reflect these cultural divisions. In Pittsburgh, the “Yinzer” dialect is a blend of Appalachian and Midwestern speech, whereas in many parts of Greene County, the accent and idioms resemble those heard in rural West Virginia, showcasing how cultural identity runs deep even in every-

day conversation.

Culturally, Greene County feels more Southern than Northern in many ways. Its strong church communities, love of hunting, reverence for community fairs, deep-rooted patriotism, and devotion to country music are strong indicators of the dominant culture.

Religion plays a central role in shaping the cultural landscape of Southwestern Pennsylvania’s rural areas. Greene County, like much of Appalachia, is home to numerous evangelical Protestant churches, where conservative values are emphasized. In contrast, Pittsburgh hosts a far more diverse religious landscape, including Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and secular communities. These differing religious views contribute to opposing stances on many social issues.

Despite the tensions, there are efforts to bridge the divide. Institutions like the University of Pittsburgh and Waynesburg University have launched community initiatives aimed at education, healthcare access, and economic revitalization. Some local leaders are trying to position Greene County for the future through investments in broadband internet and workforce development.

Additionally, shared regional symbols like loyalty to the Steelers, Mountaineers, Panthers, or Nittany Lions offer opportunities for unity. Community festivals, hunting seasons, and even high school football games remain shared cultural touchpoints that transcend political divides.

Greene County and our neighbors to the north, though geographically close, are worlds apart in how they see the nation and their place within it. Yet, both are essential to the fabric of the region. As the U.S. continues to grapple with deep political and cultural divisions, Southwestern Pennsylvania — and Greene County in particular — serves as a reminder that identity is complex, place matters, and understanding each other is the first step toward healing a fractured country.

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 *We reserve the right to edit submissions for grammar, length and clarity.*

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TO TRUST OR NOT TO TRUST

By Chuck Trump, President of First Federal Savings and Loan of Greene County

As I contemplated the topic to share and explore with readers of this article, trust came to mind. In a world where we are inundated with information, from a multitude of sources, discerning the difference between fact and fiction can be a difficult task at times. Trust is often the edge that applies the incision between what we believe, and what we don't. As many of our friends know, First Federal of Greene County's time-tested mantra is "The people you know, the people you can trust." In so many instances in our relationships in life, trust is the keystone of a relationship. Whether we are at work, at home, or chatting with friends, the better we get to know the other side of the relationship, generally, the more trusting we become.

I have often admired and trusted a person, especially in the business world, who can earn and cultivate trust while exhibiting both a personable demeanor and professional perspective. For those who are fortunate enough to have been divinely blessed with that balance, or who have been coached and mentored into that equilibrium, they have a very powerful and impactful formula for building trust. It has been moving to watch members of the First Federal of Greene County Family build and maintain trust through professional, yet personable characteristics. Our special team delivers the professional services and experiences you expect and need from a bank, while connecting with customers in a personal way. This has been a powerful dynamic throughout First Federal's 100 years.

To add additional perspective, another meaningful and requisite virtue in relationships is sincerity. As we get to know and trust people, the bond of trust is normally stitched and held together, in part, by sincerity, and I think you'd agree, we are often drawn to people who are genuine and sincere.

One last consideration is contemplating the byproduct of combining trust, professionalism, a personable nature, and sincerity. In my humble opinion, this unique blend of virtues produces integrity. As we maneuver, travel, and endure life's journey, the trust people have in us is often a reflection of integrity. As imperfect souls, we are frequently imperfect. Not always saying the right thing, reaching the desired outcome, and the list could continue with a multitude of ways we don't always get things right. However, if people feel they can trust us, if we show kindness, while being genuine and sincere, our relationships will normally flourish. The old adage "Walking with Integrity" could perhaps be more accurately coined "Acting with Integrity." Our actions speak volumes, and building trust often takes place through both actions and interactions. I pray that this short piece on trust and its elements has been thought-provoking and reflective. God has granted all of us gifts and talents. If you're one of the special members in our orbit of relationships who can naturally build trust, count your blessings, and put that special gift to use. The world will benefit from the trust you build...trust me!



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PURR-SUING KNOWLEDGE AT BOWLBY LIBRARY

By Bret Moore

Upon entering the doors of Bowlby Library, many of the young readers immediately scan the entryway for the calico curator named Molly. For the past decade, Molly has welcomed visitors and graciously accepted their affection.

Kathy McClure, the library's Executive Director for the past 31 years, recalled the story of how the stray became a beloved member of the staff. "She just followed me all the way to work one day. She was so friendly and sweet, I had to feed her."

At that time, the library had recently lost another cat who had become part of the family. Libby, another calico, had been a presence in the stacks for 15 years before she passed. The staff knew immediately that Molly would be a great fit.

However, the transition was a bit shaky at first. Although Molly was extremely friendly, her people-skills needed some polishing. She was prone to pouncing on unsuspecting patrons who were engrossed in their book or research.

On more than one occasion, McClure was awakened during the night by the library's security company who had been alerted something was afoot among the books. Molly's nocturnal kitten antics eventually subsided, and the alerts came to an end.

Last year, the library adopted another stray into the fold. Thomas was another affectionate soul and loved be-

ing part of the literary lives of the kids. However, there was one individual who was less than thrilled with the addition.

Molly was not impressed with her new acquaintance and refused to spend time in the same surroundings no matter how capacious they were. She prowled the exterior of the grounds and eventually sought solace in a couple of neighbors. Bob and Sharon Belesky began to feed Molly and developed their own special rapport with the "run-away" refugee.

With winter coming on, the staff at the library knew they had to make things right for Molly. Fortunately, a little girl bonded with Thomas and asked if she could take him home. By the time the first snowflake fell, Molly had returned home and settled back in as the queen of the castle.

After the homecoming, Molly's new friends approached McClure with an idea. They would donate materials and work with Direct Results to design a line of Molly-inspired drinking tumblers. The proceeds will benefit Bowlby's operating fund. Additional funds are always needed to sustain and expand the many services the library provides.

"We are so grateful to everyone who donated their time and services for us to have this opportunity," McClure concluded. The staff hopes Molly's merchandise will be a cat-alyst for their all their fundraising efforts.



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Good NEWS

In Greene County

W.U. CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2025 AT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Waynesburg University held its commencement exercises Sunday, May 4, honoring nearly 300 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students.

Toby Z. Rice, President and Chief Executive Officer of EQT Corporation, addressed the Class of 2025 as the Commencement speaker, and Jeffrey E. Arnold, Executive Director of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges & Universities, served as the Baccalaureate speaker.

During the commencement address, Rice reflected on his own unconventional journey, from chimney sweeping and oil rigs to co-founding Rice Energy and leading a major energy company.

Rice emphasized that traditional advice like hard work, innovation, risk-taking, and luck weren't responsible for his success. Instead, he highlighted the power of perseverance, encapsulated in the word "almost."

"When you're doing bold things, it's going to be difficult, and you are going to come to a place where you almost lose faith, you almost give up, but it's important to keep moving forward," Rice said.

Rice and Arnold were awarded honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees during the commencement ceremony.

Hailey Marks, an English (professional writing) major from Canonsburg, was named the valedictorian and delivered the valedictory to the University. Seth Robertson also gave remarks as the graduate program representative.

In addition, Ross Owens, a children and youth ministries major from Sewickley, was awarded the 2025 Douglas G. and Kathryn D. Lee Servant Leadership Award, to honor a graduating student who has demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities in the mission focus areas of faith, learning and serving.



MODERN SOLUTIONS FOR HISTORIC RECORDS: REGISTER AND RECORDER STREAMLINING ACCESS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Greene County's Register and Recorder's Office has always been the keeper of some of the most vital documents in the county's history. From property deeds to wills, the office safeguards important moments that shape the community's story.

Thanks to recent updates under the leadership of current Register and Recorder Tammy Brookover, these essential services are now more accessible and efficient than ever before. In an effort to better serve the public and preserve Greene County's rich history, the office has implemented IQS, a streamlined technology system that merges historical and modern record keeping into one user-friendly platform.

Previously, the office utilized two separate systems, including the Cott System, which housed records dating from 1796 to 1940. Managing two different platforms was not only cumbersome for staff and the public, it was more costly for the county.

Recognizing the need for efficiency, Brookover led the transition to the IQS combined program, eliminating the need for multiple software systems. Now, everything is housed under one streamlined program—from historic records dating back to the founding of Greene County to today's most current property transactions.

Not only has this upgrade lowered costs for the county by consolidating technology expenses, it has also improved community access to critical information. One major advancement is the addition of lot records online, allowing the public to view property information remotely, saving valuable time and making the search process easier for researchers, attorneys, surveyors, and everyday residents.

"We're committed to preserving Greene County's history while making it easier for residents to access the information they need," said Brookover. "With the new IQS system, we've combined efficiency, transparency, and historical preservation into one powerful tool for our community."

The office's modernization efforts reflect a commitment to preserving the past while embracing the future. By investing in smarter, more accessible systems, the office continues to honor Greene County's history while making it simpler for today's citizens to connect with the records that matter most.

For more information or to access the available records, visit greenecountypa.gov/department-register-recorder.



Greene County Register and Recorder Tammy Brookover

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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ADVENTURE

By Emma Bates

She's a small-town girl from West Greene with a big heart and even bigger dreams. A standout athlete with a top spot in the state high jump finals, she's grown up working at her family's bar, the Triangle Tavern, dancing at Ginny McClelland's studio, and singing every chance she gets. But just as she arrives at the biggest track meet of her life, cancer strikes. Still, she refuses to back down—because her adventure is only beginning.

This isn't a movie description, it's the plot of Greene County native Emily Mathason Hoesman's life. And it's a life that Mathason is, as she puts it, "very blessed" to live today as an actress, director, and producer.

Mathason recalls that she started her acting career where many young people do— at a school drama club. "I was in every play from 7th-12th grade," she says. At that time, though, West Greene's theater department was only for high schoolers. But Mathason, not taking no for an answer, marched across the breezeway to ask Mr. Tanner, the program's director, if she could audition anyway. Luckily, he said, "yes", and Mathason got started on what would become, in some form or another, her lifelong passion.

What Mathason had thought was a small pinching in her chest during the PA state track meet led to radiation and chemotherapy the summer before her senior year. But rather than slowing down, Mathason only picked up speed in her many activities, competing in the Coal Queen and Rain Day pageants and winning the equivalent of Miss Congeniality in both.

It's no surprise, then, that Mathason took this passion, drive, and personality to earn her bachelor's degrees in Theatre and Business from Penn State University in 2008. But unlike many performers who often sought the stage, Mathason packed her bags and headed for the screen in Los Angeles.

"A friend of a friend helped me get my first apartment. My dad and I drove my little Saturn [to L.A.] with whatever would fit!" she recalls.

Mathason entered the world of background and commercial acting. Her first project was a three-day stint on the set of "Ghost Whisperer", where a "Golden Ticket" acting voucher allowed her to see all the opportunities in the world of movie production and helped her gain membership to the Screen Actors Guild.

"It was the craziest time to move," she explains, citing the housing crisis and the writer strikes that were taking place as challenges both personally and to the industry.

One of Mathason's favorite memories came from an inside joke with her father. On his flight home from helping her move, Mathason's dad called and told her that Vince Vaughn was on his flight. "We couldn't believe he was flying Southwest," Mathason remembers, smiling.

Fast forward many years, and Mathason was working as an extra in "Couples Retreat." As hundreds of background actors took a break from filming, Mathason ran into Vaughn, decked out in an Ohio State sweatshirt.

"Ohio State, huh? I went to Penn State," she remarked. Vaughn responded in good humor, then wished her a good day, saying "thanks for what you're doing."

These words have inspired Mathason throughout her career, and remind her that sometimes you do meet a kind and humble person even in the world of fame.

"I never got any massive roles," she says, but "I made a good living working as a background actor."

However, as streaming and social media rose to popularity, she realized she would have to "dip her toes in more pools," and "make friends on the other side of the camera." Fortunately, Mathason realized that she enjoyed "the power of the other side" just as well.

Mathason became a production assistant and eventually a director in the commercial world. In 2015, she produced and assistant directed what she describes as a horror film "brought to life on a shoestring budget," in Pittsburgh. The non-traditional project utilized innovative techniques such as wearable lighting for each of the movie's five actors, and was filmed entirely by go-pros rather than digital cameras. The film was shot primarily in the old Duquesne Brewing Building in below freezing temperatures.

Following that beloved project, Mathason assistant directed and produced promotional pieces for the CW's "Batwoman." She was here when COVID struck and the studio— just like many other industries— shut down.

After the pandemic, Mathason decided to change angles, so to speak, and she set out on yet another adventure, this time to Tulsa, Oklahoma. She joined Red Clay Studios, where she deliv-



ered her most recent on-screen performance to date in a Hallmark-style movie called "Love at the Christmas Contest" on Tubi.

This bit of acting came as a surprise for Mathason, however. While serving as the producer on set, an ice storm hit, prohibiting one of the supporting actresses from flying into the area for an unforeseeable amount of time. Mathason was given one night to read the lines of the character she would step in and play over the phone with her on-screen opposite.

"So, I played the aunt of the family," she says, laughing.

While in Oklahoma, Mathason also participated in another engaging film, this time behind the camera once more. She and her colleagues filmed the first three episodes in a series for Pure Flix that covers author Karen Kingsbury's first book in a Christian series entitled, "A Thousand Tomorrows." Mathason fondly recalls the rodeo-inspired set, where she often spent time with the horses and loved watching the actors perform stunts that brought the cowboy lifestyle to life.

It was at that point, Mathason reached a crossroads in her life and returned home to Pennsylvania to help care for her grandmother. While here, she not only met new opportunities, but more importantly, her husband, Justin and stepson, Henry.

Mathason and her family currently reside in Lancaster, PA, where she works in freelance film. She also creates visual magic through Atomic Design, a company specializing in scenic builds

for large, staged events like concert tours and various live performances.

But Mathason is looking to return to Greene County for a time this fall in hopes of filming a thrilling new project right here in our community.

"I'll Say It in the Dark" is a horror film set in the fictitious town of Auburn, West Virginia. The plot centers around "a high school boy who comes into some pretty crazy stuff," Mathason explains. She continues, joking, "I don't want to spoil it!"

"We'd love to film this fall. But if not this fall, next fall," she shares, optimistically. "We want to do this correctly on film— it adds that bit of nostalgia." Currently, Mathason and her team are looking for "collaborators and fundraising," in order to bring the project to life.

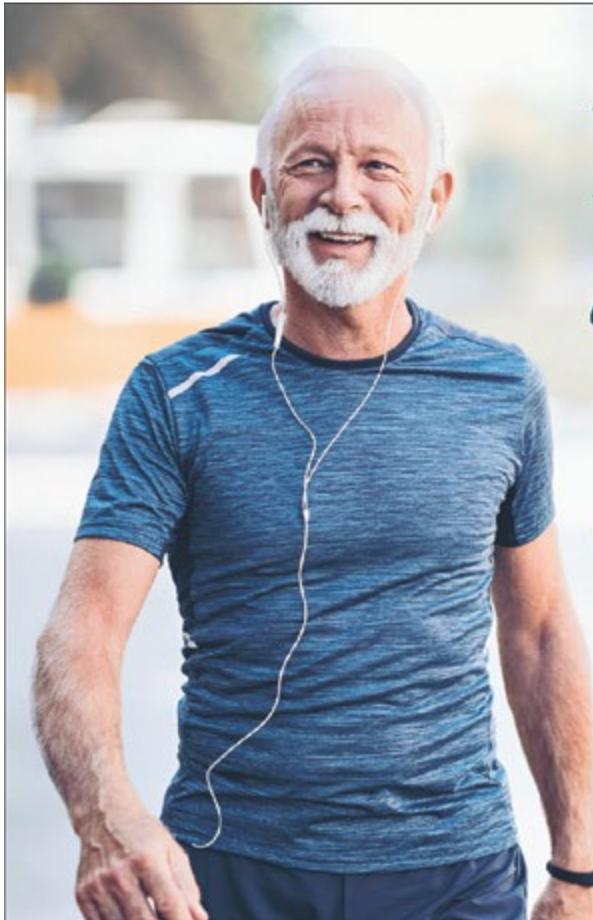
Even early in her career, Mathason remembers the local community being incredibly supportive of her dreams and career, so when deciding on a film location, she knew Greene County would be the right choice. "[I thought] the town would be so welcoming," Mathason said. "I want to bring in everyone I know."

Fortunately, our community is ready for its next adventure, too.

Connect with Emily via Instagram: @hollywoodtohomestead or Facebook: /Hollywoodto-Homestead.



Emily Mathason on the set of "The Gusset."



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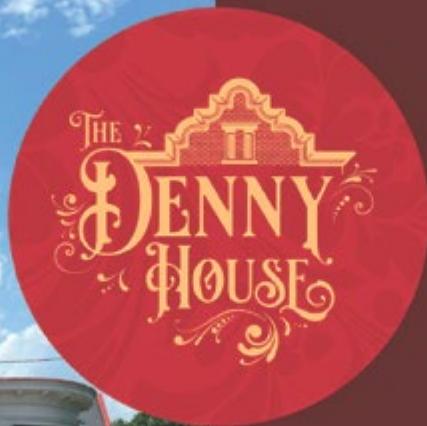
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WEST GREENE GRAD PIONEERS ALASKAN WILDLIFE CAREER

By Aubrey Lesnett

West Greene alumna Jade Renner has forged an impressive path from modest beginnings to the remote and rugged landscapes of Alaska, where she now serves as a wildlife biologist. Her work focuses on the study and preservation of complex ecosystems, contributing to ongoing research in one of the most ecologically significant regions of North America. Renner's transition from a quiet hometown to the forefront of field biology exemplifies the Pioneer spirit of her community.

Jade recently shared her experience with the GreeneScene. "It has been very interesting for sure." Speaking of her rural roots, she said, "It honestly made the transition easier. Dutch Harbor, the place I work in Alaska reminds me of home a lot. However, when I go to Seattle to work with NOAA, I learned I am not a city person. However, most of the people I work with prefer Seattle to Dutch Harbor."

She explained how her upbringing led her to her career. "Seeing nature all around me in our small community was something I always loved. I came to the realization that we live alongside nature and not against. As I grew older, I realized a lot of people didn't have that same point of view. That way of thinking made me very passionate about my work, and I want to help foster a world that feels the same way."

Though Renner's small-town roots gave her a deep appreciation for nature and a strong work ethic, the remote fieldwork she now conducts in Alaska demands a new level of focus, resilience, and adaptability. The quiet familiarity of home has been replaced by long days in unpredictable terrain, where the environment dictates the schedule. Yet, it's in these challenging conditions that Renner thrives. Her daily routine, far from ordinary, offers a glimpse into the demanding and rewarding life of a wildlife biologist working on the frontier of conservation science.

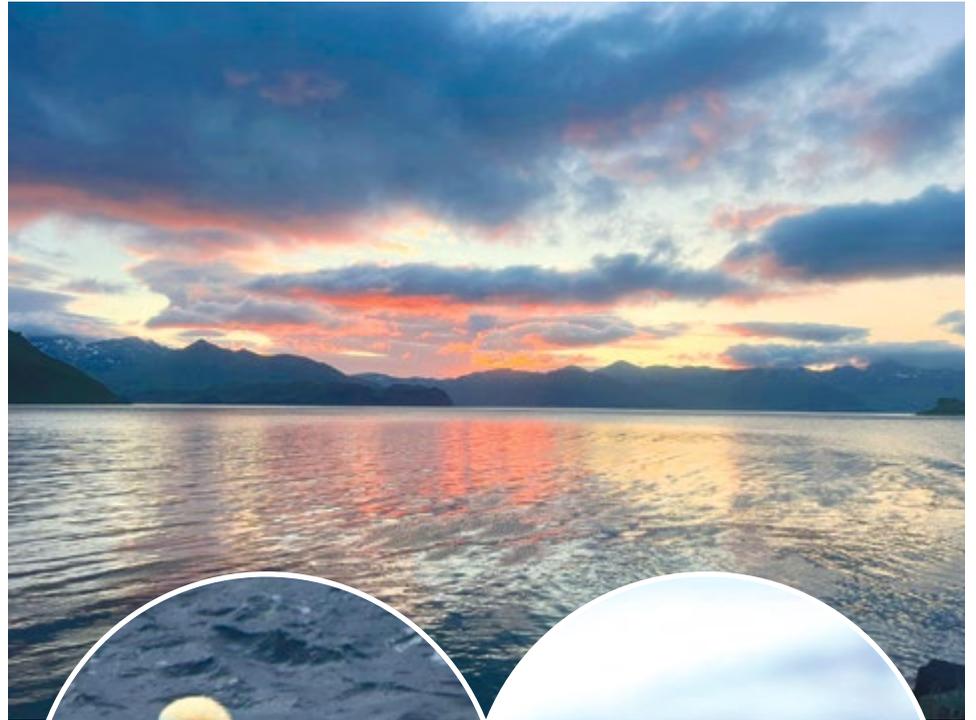
According to Renner, "A typical day is waking up to a phone call from the captain telling me a haul is coming. I get up, get dressed, and put on my bibs while trying not to fall because of the rocking of the boat. And yes, it looks as ridiculous as you probably think. I take samples of the boat's hauls. These samples include count, identification, sex, and weight. I also take otoliths which are the ear bones of fish. These can be looked at under a microscope to tell the age of the fish like you tell the age of a tree."

Once the data is collected, she sends it to NOAA, where they use it to establish the fishing quota for the following year. "A successful day in the field is determined by hauls with very little bycatch, meaning there aren't a lot of species being interrupted from their place in the ecosystem. Sampling is a huge part of my job. If everything goes according to plan with my sampling, it's usually a good day. If I see hauls with very little bycatch, collect all my data, and get to see a beautiful sunset over the mountains of Alaska, THAT is a truly successful day."

Renner describes her work as equal parts rigorous science and unpredictable seafaring, which makes it clear that her days are as physically demanding as they are purpose driven. But beyond the routines of sampling and data collection, it's the setting itself that leaves a lasting impression. Life in Alaska has challenged her in ways that go far beyond the scope of her fieldwork. The remoteness, the weather, and the raw beauty of the landscape have all shaped her experience, pushing her to adapt, reflect, and grow in ways she never anticipated when she first left her small hometown behind.

Renner's past successes on the athletic field and in the classroom made her a role model even before her latest career adventure. When asked what advice she would give someone from a small town who dreams of having a similar career, she replied, "Keep going. It might get rough, but you can do it. It's scary to take that first step. I fear failure more than anything else. It doesn't get easier to face the possibility of failure. However, if I didn't persevere through that fear, I wouldn't have achieved my dream."

Her journey from West Greene to the wilds of Alaska is a testament to the power of persistence, purpose, and passion. Her work not only contributes to vital ecological research but also serves as a source of inspiration for others from small communities with big dreams. Through grit, humility, and a deep respect for the natural world, she has carved out a meaningful career on her own terms. For anyone wondering if they're capable of something greater, Jade's message is clear: your roots don't limit you—they ground you for the climb ahead. Just keep going.



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WAYNESBURG GRAD MASTERS MULTI-MEDIA CAREER

By Morgan Marisa

Waynesburg High School has produced countless impressive alumni who have gone on to improve the world in their own ways. One alumna in particular has made her mark on every community she's been a part of through her dedication to service, avid community involvement, and boundless support for those around her. Although she now carries the last name Lexer, Waynesburg folks likely remember her as Autumn Marisa - sister of four brothers, daughter of the school's nurse and the college's basketball coach, and a woman of innumerable talents.

"I'm very fortunate for having grown up in Greene County," said Autumn, who graduated from Waynesburg High School in 1998. "In fact, my number one decision in choosing the town that I live in now was that it reminded me of home. I live in a small borough with a population of under 4,000, where everyone knows your name."

Autumn Marisa was born to Rudy and Jackie Marisa as their sole daughter and youngest of five. She grew up looking up to her four older brothers - Kurt, Kent, Kameron, and Kerry. She could be found at their games, courtside at the Waynesburg University men's basketball games watching her father coach, at church next to her mother, or participating in her multitude of activities. One pursuit specifically stood out to her from the moment she set eyes on it.

"When I was nine, my dance school, Barbara's Dance School (now Moschetta's Performing Arts Center) traveled to Atlantic City to see the Miss America Pageant, and I was completely mesmerized," said Autumn. "I found role models in these intelligent, talented, beautiful young women, and I wanted to be one of them. From that moment on, I began working toward that goal."

Autumn trained in dance, interview, and fitness while volunteering in her community for years. She read books written by former Miss America titleholders to educate herself on what



Autumn Guest Co-Hosting on Cooking for Baby and Me.

the path to that honor entailed. She started by entering the Miss Rain Day Pageant which she won on her third try in 1997 through her hard work and tenacity. In that same year, she also won the Coal Queen, which fueled her passion for pageantry.

While she attended Penn State University pursuing a Bachelors in Broadcast Journalism, she continued to compete in pageants and became a captain of the Lionette Dance Team. The same year she graduated, she also finally achieved her dream of winning Miss Pennsylvania 2002. Although she was hired by NFL Films in Mt. Laurel upon her graduation, her new title came with a one-year job commitment. She spent her first year out of college competing in the Miss America Pageant and traveling the state to serve the Commonwealth as a public servant, volunteering at events, speaking engagements, appearances, parades, etc.

After her year with the crown, Autumn stayed involved with the Miss Pennsylvania organization as a volunteer, mentoring young women and teens for over twenty years to help achieve their goals and dreams.

"I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to give back and pay forward what so many people helped me achieve when I was younger," added Autumn. "I loved my childhood, my amazing family, my teachers, my friends. They all shaped me into who I am today."

Autumn remains grateful to all those who supported her in her youth. She credits her parents and her brothers for being amazing mentors to this day. Her role models additionally extended to her dance teachers, Barbara and Jacqueline Moschetta, for teaching her both dance and life skills along with Ramonda Lipscomb, her cheerleading coach, and Andrew and Linda Corfont who always provided a positive support system. Above all, she credits her parents for the invaluable lessons and values they instilled in her.

"My Mom taught me so much about faith, service and being selfless, and giving back to your community," said Autumn, "And my dad taught me about having a good attitude, strong work ethic, and mental toughness."

Autumn now passes on the lessons she gained from her childhood in Greene County to her own children - Lily, Luke, Katherine, and Kolt. Alongside her husband, Todd Lexer, she sets a constructive example through her active community involvement from fundraising for their school and Parish to serving on several boards, including the Miss Pennsylvania Volunteer Organization and the CYO Youth Sports Organization. For the past eight years, she has also been the Cheer Director and Coach for grades 1st through 8th.

Despite not following the traditional broadcasting path, Autumn could be found free-lancing over the years in a number of roles, including acting, reporting, modeling, and hosting for TV, film, commercials, industrial and educational videos, and print. She's also acted as a spokesperson and Brand Ambassa-

dor for eighteen companies, including AnyBody for QVC, EA Sports, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and XBOX. At one point, she had the opportunity to meet and work for now president, Donald Trump, as a spokesperson for Trump Taj Mahal, in Atlantic City.

Nowadays, Autumn continues to represent brands on QVC, works as a lifestyle model for Bright Lights Media, and is a stylist at Main Line Fashionista Boutique. Most recently, she also launched her own business, AML Media LLC, where she continues to do the work she loves. While she appreciates all the opportunities that have come her way, family has stayed at the forefront of her life.



Autumn Marisa remains a volunteer mentor for the Miss Pennsylvania organization.

"My priority has always been my family," Autumn added. "It was always a dream to be a Mom, have a big family, so I always try to remember that when trying to balance everything. My kids come first. All of my kids' goals are my goals."

To keep up with her current work, follow Autumn's business Instagram @AML Media LLC. In the future, Autumn hopes to grow her business while supporting her four children's aspirations in any way she can. On the occasions she gets to bring them back to Waynesburg, she's extremely proud to show them where she grew up and introduce them to the community that molded her into the person she is today.



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Cool at School:



B-C STUDENTS PREPARE FOR FINANCES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Bethlehem Center High School partnered with CHROME Federal Credit Union to host a Financial Reality Fair on May 8, to help prepare juniors and seniors for life after high school, particularly finances.

The event provided hands-on experience in budgeting and personal finance, equipping students with the skills they need to navigate their financial futures confidently.

The Financial Reality Fair simulated real-life financial scenarios. Each participant received a “monthly salary” based on their chosen career path. They visited booths representing essential life expenses—housing, transportation, groceries, and entertainment—where they made decisions that impacted their financial health using their net take-home pay allocation. Following their selections, students met with financial counselors who reviewed their budget results.

“Too many times we hear from adults they wish they had understood finances before they made mistakes they have to pay for later on in life,” said Bob Flanyak, CEO & President of CHROME Federal Credit Union. “This collaboration is about supporting Beth-Center High School as they provide their students with preparation for adulthood.”

Cool at School:

PIONEERS SET TO CONQUER NEW CHALLENGES

By Aubrey Lesnett



The West Greene High School Class of 2025 stands on the threshold of a new chapter, ready to leave its unique mark on the school and the wider community. Over the past four years, these students have grown not only in knowledge but in character, resilience, and unity. From academic achievements and athletic victories to personal milestones and community involvement, the Class of 2025 has exemplified what it means to persevere, support one another, and strive for excellence. As graduation approaches, we take a moment to celebrate their journey, reflect on their impact, and look ahead to the promising futures that await each of them.

Payton Gilbert has earned the distinguished title of valedictorian for the Class of 2025, a recognition of her outstanding academic performance, leadership, and commitment to excellence throughout her high school career. Known for her strong work ethic and positive attitude, Payton has consistently gone above and beyond in the classroom and in her involvement with school activities. Joining her at the top of the class is Marissa Tharp, the Class of 2025 salutatorian, whose dedication, perseverance, and academic success have also set her apart. Both young women have demonstrated remarkable focus and determination, serving as role models for their peers and making their families and school community incredibly proud.

Half of the Class of 2025 has been actively involved in the school's FFA chapter, showcasing the strong agricultural roots and communi-

ty spirit that define the district. Through their participation, these students have gained valuable leadership experience, practical skills, and a deep appreciation for agriculture and service. From competing in county and regional events to organizing community projects and advocating for agricultural education, their dedication has strengthened the chapter and left a lasting impact on the school.

As the end of the school year approaches, the Class of 2025 is eagerly looking forward to their senior picnic, a long-standing tradition that offers one last chance for the graduating class to come together in celebration. Planned for the final week of school, the picnic promises an afternoon of fun, food, and shared memories as students reflect on their journey. With games, music, and plenty of opportunities for photos and laughter, the event will be a meaningful way for seniors to relax and enjoy each other's company before stepping into the next chapter of their lives. It's sure to be a highlight of their final days at West Greene.

As the school year winds down, excitement and anticipation continue to build throughout the halls. From final exams and yearbook signings to last-minute preparations for graduation, students are soaking in every remaining moment of their senior year. Teachers, staff, and families are also reflecting on the growth and accomplishments of the group, proud of how far each student has come. While goodbyes are never easy, there's a shared sense of pride in all that's been achieved, and a hopeful outlook for what lies ahead.

Cool at School:

CARMICHAELS TEAMS SWEEP 2025 GREENE COUNTY ENVIROTHON



The 37th Annual Greene County Envirothon was held on April 23 at Hunting Hills in Dilliner. Carmichaels Team #1 took First place; Team #3 took second place and Team #2 took 3rd Place.

Carmichaels Team 1 had high station scores in Soils (77 out of 100), Wildlife (81 out of 100), Forestry (89.5 out of 100), Aquatics (82 out of 100), and received a Current Issue score of 83 out of 100 for a total score of 412.5 out of 500.

Team 1 will now compete in the PA State Envirothon competition at Windber Recreation Park near Johnstown, PA.

Carmichaels Team members (Pictured): Allie Miller, Emma Bates, Hayden Yeager, Isiah Currey, and Joselyn Carter

Carmichaels Team 3 members: Katelynn Schoenfeldt, Stephen Lewis, Mario Pascuzzo, Bridget Pollock, and Maya Makel

Carmichaels Team 2 members: Ruah Dobosh, James (Rhythm) Caffrey-Bauman, Sydon Myers, Kaitlyn Kramer, and Brody Schiffbauer



Cecilia Christopher enjoying the flowers in Carmichaels Pa.

Cool at School:

DEAR OLD CARMICHAELS, A TOAST TO YOU

By Emma Bates



A few more weeks, and graduation night will be here for the class of 2025. Each final exam, field trip, and fun celebration is one step closer to the culminating event that will bring high school to a close for many this spring. Soon, the young children that once ran the playground hills will stride through the blue and gold gymnasium as young adults, ready to take on the world. Caps will go flying, speeches will be made, photos will be taken. But the memories that memorialize this night don't take just a single evening to be made... they take a lifetime.

From the moment senior year begins for Carmichaels students, the air is full of something special. On the first day of school, 12th grade students are invited to get their pictures taken in front of the "Last First Day of School" sign that stands to welcome new generations of seniors each year.

Throughout the following months, teams celebrate their oldest members with unique traditions that go beyond a mere senior night.

Cheerleader Kaylee Bialko explains that the squad signs the wall of their room at the culmination of the season. Ali Jacobs, a member of the Carmichaels softball team, points out that she enjoyed the seniors' cars being decorated by underclassmen to

represent the college destination or post-high school plans for each senior. Duski Staggers, a basketball player for the Mikes, enjoyed the team's glow-up practice where the girls experienced an illuminated night on the court.

But sports teams aren't the only groups that recognize the accomplishments of senior members.

On the final day of band camp for Carmichaels' marching band, the new 12th grade class is invited to spend a cathartic moment sitting onstage for "senior spotlight." Surrounded by other peers from their grade, students share favorite stories from previous seasons and offer advice to the younger audience that sits in the seats below, awaiting their turn in the years to come.

Carmichaels' Envirothon Team has a unique tradition that has physically been handed down through years of competitions. This tight-knit team values the leadership that each member must demonstrate to be successful but marks the special role of captain by passing on a pocket square to the next rising senior.

There are many opportunities for every Carmichaels student to get involved with his/her class and connect with peers. Senior class sponsor Mrs. Carrie Thomas tries to make every year special for the soon-to-be graduates. "I try to incorporate

bonding activities for the kids throughout the year, but especially towards the end so they have a good send-off," she explains.

In April, the senior class held a lock-in at the high school, consisting of food, games, (and very little sleep), for all to enjoy. The event typically culminates with "senior sunrise"—a symbolic way to close the event while welcoming the new futures on the horizon for each student.

Additionally, the class organized a senior skip day in March, where many students met for a breakfast outing and a relaxing day off. Senior girls also enjoyed a jeans-painting night earlier in the year where they decked out their favorite denim with true Carmichaels pride.

Of course, many of the favorite senior activities are still to come in these last weeks of school. The Elementary Walk is a sentimental trip down memory lane for seniors to greet their old teachers and inspire the future generations of graduates. This year's senior trip is also awaited with great anticipation, as students will spend time in Universal Studios and SeaWorld, Orlando.

From elaborate trips to simple moments, the seniors of Carmichaels have made memories to cherish and have even more to look forward to. Congratulations, class of 2025!

Cool at School: CTC NEWS

A large contingent of students from the county's Career and Technical Center competed at the SkillsUSA PA State Competitions in Hershey, PA on April 2-4.

They were accompanied by Mr. Kieffer and Mrs. Goodwin, who served as SkillsUSA Advisors.

Blake Nash took first place in Collision Repair Technology. He will advance to the Nationals held this month in Atlanta, Georgia.

Other place-winners included: Zander Hall (second place in Automotive Refinishing Technology), Kayleigh Rush (second place in Collision Damage Appraisal), and Eleanor Turner (second place in Restaurant Service).

Linzy Rush, who competed in First Aid/CPR, and Wyatt Franklin, who competed in Precision Machining, also made a strong showing and well-represented the school.



Todd Kieffer (Advisor), Blake Nash (1st Place Collision Repair), Zander Hall (2nd Place Automotive Refinishing), Wyatt Franklin (Precision Machining), Eleanor Turner (2nd Place Restaurant Service), Linzy Rush (First Aid/CPR), Kayleigh Rust (2nd Place Collision Damage Appraisal), Natalie Goodwin (Advisor)

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GET READY FOR THE DUCK DROP FAMILY EVENT

Benefiting The Way Community Center

Mark your calendars and gather your flock because the **Duck Drop Family Event** is coming back to Waynesburg. The Way Community Center will host a day of fun, food, and games for the entire family on Saturday, June 21 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Whether you're 5 or 95, there's something for everyone at the Duck Drop Family Event.

First, get into the spirit with colorful **face painting and sparkling glitter tattoos**. Perfect for kids—and the young at heart.

Feel the rhythm and enjoy **live music performances** that will keep the energy high and the vibes fun.

Classic Carnival Games will test your skills with pick-up ducks, a ping pong fishbowl, balloon darts, and so much more. Each activity will feature fun prizes.

Indulge in classic carnival fare like **cotton candy, popcorn, and a tasty lunch** to keep you fueled for the fun.

The actual **Duck Drop Extravaganza** begins at 12:00 noon. Hundreds of rubber ducks will soar from a Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Department ladder truck, aiming for a bullseye below. The lucky duck that lands closest to the target waddles away with **\$500 cash**.

Scan the QR Code to purchase your ducks or T-shirts. You can also **stop by Direct Results or McCracken Pharmacy** to pick them up in person.

You can also become a sponsor and show your support for this amazing community event.

For more information on the event, contact Dawn Mankey, Director of Programming at Dawn@thewaygc.org or at 724-833-1355.

We hope to see everyone there to cheer on the ducks, play games, and enjoy a spectacular day for a great cause.

Let's make a splash together for The Way Community Center. Are you ready to get your quack on?



Jude, Noah and Landon at the WCES kindergarten program.



ATTENTION PARENTS AND COACHES!

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

Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore

ATHLETICS VS. EDUCATION, SAME OLD STORY

Since this is the education issue, I thought it might be fun to look back at the uncomfortable relationship between scholastic academics and athletics. The unnatural marriage of these two entities has been fraught with tension from the beginning.

It should be noted that the U.S. (and Canada to a lesser extent) are the only countries that attempt this odd balancing act. Athletics in schools is so ingrained in our culture we take it for granted this is the norm. In fact, throughout the rest of the world, club sports are not associated with educational institutions.

While sports have been a celebrated part of our educational institutions for over a century, concerns over academic integrity, eligibility, and the role of education in student development have shaped policies and practices over time. From the early 20th century to the present day, the balance between athletic success and academic achievement has remained a topic of debate and reform.

The roots of organized school sports in the United States date back to the late 19th century, when football, baseball, and track and field were first introduced in colleges. At the time, athletics were seen as a way to build character and promote physical health among young men. However, academic considerations were minimal. "Student-athletes" were often selected for their physical prowess rather than scholarly aptitude, and formal rules governing academic eligibility were largely absent.

When I started researching my books, I was always amazed and confused when local newspapers of the early 20th century reported baseball, basketball and football games where Waynesburg High School defeated Waynesburg College. I then discovered that the "high school" team was usually just men around town who enjoyed embarrassing the scholarly nerds up on the hill.

In 1912, the Waynesburg High School Athletic Association was formed, which required their teams' players to actually attend classes there.

The earliest collegiate sports programs, such as those at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, prioritized competition and prestige over academics. This lack of oversight led to concerns about professionalism in college sports, with some athletes receiving financial incentives and playing for multiple schools under assumed names.

During this period, when W&J played Waynesburg College in baseball, they would hire a pitcher from the Pirates for \$100 a game. Such practices prompted calls for reform to ensure that student-athletes were, first and foremost, students.

In response to growing concerns about the dangers and lack of regulation in college football, President Theodore Roosevelt convened a meeting in 1905 that eventually led to the formation of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States (IAAUS), which became the National Collegiate Athletic

Association (NCAA) in 1910. The NCAA was established to create standards and ensure safety and fairness in college sports. Roosevelt's interest was spurred by the fact his son was badly injured while playing for Harvard and nearly lost his life.

One of the NCAA's primary concerns became the enforcement of academic standards. Throughout the early 20th century, it developed rules to monitor student-athlete eligibility, such as requiring players to be enrolled full-time and maintain passing grades. These measures, however, were often inconsistently enforced and varied from school to school.

In 1924, Waynesburg College hired former W&J star Britt Patterson as coach. Local businesses raised \$25,000 for the Jackets program to go "big time." Patterson boarded a train bound for the mid-west with a pile of cash. He bought two running backs. One from the University of Illinois and the other from the University of Michigan. Although, he had a very successful season, the school changed direction again at the end of that year because they were facing a \$7,000 budget deficit in the athletic department.

As high school sports gained popularity during the 20th century, many of the same challenges seen at the collegiate level emerged. State athletic associations were created to oversee competitions and establish eligibility rules. The National Federation of State High School Associations, founded in 1920, helped promote consistency in rules across states.

In the 20s and 30s, a couple of well-known local high school coaches would sneak their alumni into games. I found several occasions where they even hired Waynesburg College players. After they were discovered, those players were chased from the field by riotous fans.

By the mid-20th century, most high school athletic programs required students to maintain a minimum GPA or receive a certain number of academic credits to remain eligible. However, enforcement depended heavily on individual schools and districts. In some areas, pressure to win led to the bending or ignoring of rules.

In the 1950s and 1960s, several scandals involving academic fraud and "diploma mill" recruiting shook the college sports world. Athletes were being passed through courses or enrolled in special programs with minimal academic rigor. These issues prompted the NCAA to strengthen academic eligibility requirements. Yet, enforcement remained "inconsistent."

The 1980s marked a perceived turning point in the NCAA's approach to academic standards. In 1983, Proposition 48 was introduced, requiring incoming athletes to have a minimum GPA of 2.0 in core high school courses and a minimum SAT or ACT score. Although controversial, Proposition 48 signaled a renewed attempt to emphasize academics.

These reforms led to some measurable improvements in student-athlete academic outcomes. Graduation rates increased, and schools invested more in academic support services for ath-

*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.*

letes, including tutoring, academic advisors, and learning specialists. At the high school level, eligibility standards have also become more uniform and rigorous. Most state athletic associations require students to pass a minimum number of courses each semester to participate in sports.

Despite the progress, the intersection of academics and athletics continues to face criticism. Balancing practice, travel, and competition with coursework remains a challenge. In high schools, concerns persist regarding the overemphasis on athletic success at the expense of academic achievement, especially in communities where sports are seen as a primary path to upward mobility.

However, the NCAA's adoption of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) rights in 2021 signaled a dramatic shift in the student-athlete paradigm, empowering athletes while raising new questions about the balance between athletics, academics, and commercial interests. It seems the issue has come full circle from the dawn of the last century.

When it comes to the "professionalization" of amateur sports, the veil of hypocrisy has been lifted, and we can now admit the unfortunate truth. When it comes to the academic/athletic relationship, the latter runs the show.



This season, West Greene softball coach Bill Simms passed the legendary Buzz Walters' career record for the most wins in a single sport at the school. Simms captured his 285th win, surpassing coach Walters' victory total with the Pioneer wrestling teams.



WAYNESBURG ALUM HAS BALL PARK NAMED IN HIS HONOR

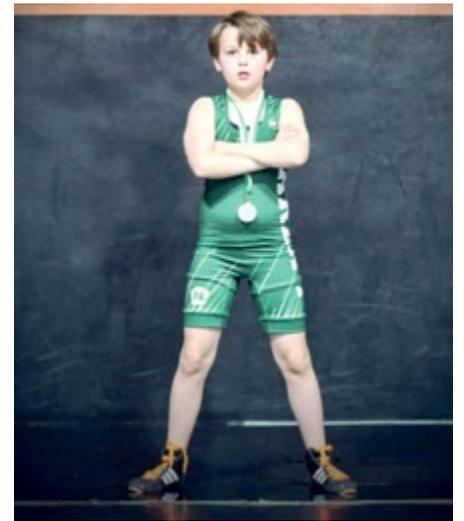
Joe Maize (fourth from left) and a host of dignitaries from the Peters Township area cut the ribbon on the newly named Joe Maize Field in Peterswood Park. The refurbished baseball field features a synthetic infield surface, new dugouts and a press box, as well as upgraded lights. The Field is the home of the Peters Township Indians.

Maize coached the Indians' baseball team for 35 years, winning 422 games, and guiding them to two WPIAL championships, two PIAA runner-up finishes and eight section titles. His teams reached the WPIAL playoffs 17 times and the PIAA playoffs five times.

The former Raider also played collegiately at Slippery Rock. In addition to his coaching duties, Maize served 20 years as athletic director. His wife, Kim, and their sons, Aaron and Ryan, along with his 93-year-old mother, Mildred, were among the honored guests at the dedication.



Rylee and Raylyn Brozik competed at the Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling Tournament in Harrisburg. Rylee placed second

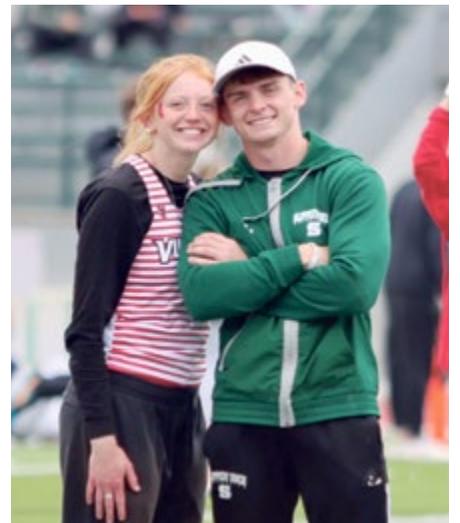


in her weight class and Raylyn placed eighth. Both girls wrestle for the Jefferson-Morgan program, while attending Carmichaels Area.

TRACK AND FIELD UPDATE

At the recent Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference meet at Slippery Rock two Raider alumni reached the podium. Drew Layton (Slippery Rock) won the pole vault, while Emily Mahle (Penn West California) finished 8th in the high jump.

At the prestigious Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Waynesburg Central alum Gabe McConville broke a school record at the University of Tampa when he recorded a time of 3:47.95 at the in the 1500 meter. McConville also qualified for the Division II National Meet in Pueblo, Colorado



Emily Mahle posing with fellow Raider alumni, Drew Layton.

BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE MONTH



Allie Miller is the daughter of Craig Miller and Tiffany Schwalm of Carmichaels. She is a senior third baseman for the Mikes' softball team. In school, Allie is president of the NHS, History Committee, and Spanish Club. She is also class vice president, newspaper editor, team captain for Envirothon, and a member of the Leo Club, SADD, student council, Academic League and the debate team. Outside of school, she fundraises for Type 1 diabetes and was a Youth Ambassador for the 2024 JDRF Community One Walk. She volunteers at the local food bank, announces the CAHS basketball games, runs local blood drives, and is an afterschool tutor. She is a member of St. Matthias Parrish. Upon graduation, Allie plans to attend W&J College and pursue a career as an environmental attorney.



Colin is the son of Jerod and Tracy Andrews of Carmichaels. He is a member of the Carmichaels baseball and basketball teams. Colin is also a member of E-Sports and the National Honor Society. After graduation, he will be attending West Virginia University, majoring in Exercise Physiology, with plans to become a physical therapist.

Applications Are Being Accepted for 1, 2, 3 & 4 Bedroom Apartments

Income limits apply. All utilities included. Rental office open weekdays between the hours of 10 am - 12 noon, and 1 pm - 4 pm. Privately owned and managed. Spacious apartments, playground & security.

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COUNTY BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL LEADERS (As of 5/8)

Girls Batting Averages

| | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|
| .550 | C. McConnell (C) | .400 | G. Tedrow (WC) |
| .532 | K Waggett (C) | .389 | A. Teagarden (JM) |
| .527 | P. Gilbert (WG) | .385 | D. Staggers (C) |
| .500 | A. Batis (C) | .385 | M. Shiflett (M) |
| .500 | B. Barnyak (C) | .370 | E. Beazell (WG) |
| .465 | B. Snyder (JM) | .366 | K. Rastoka (WC) |
| .455 | A. Jacob (C) | .359 | K. Chun (C) |
| .450 | S. Zimmerman (WG) | .357 | J. Ladlosky (WC) |
| .448 | M. Lotspeich (M) | .354 | B. Kerr (WC) |
| .447 | E. Bazzoli (JM) | .345 | M. Roberts (WG) |
| .444 | A. Davis (WC) | .333 | K Davis (WG) |
| .441 | E. Makel (WC) | .316 | A. Wood (JM) |
| .405 | G. Marmie (JM) | | |

Home Run Leaders

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 | C. McConnell (C) |
| 3 | G. Tedrow (WC) & G. Marmie (JM) |
| 2 | M. Lotspeich (M), K. Tharp (WG), K. Rostoka (WC), E. Bazzoli (JM), A. Batis (C) A. Jacobs (C) |
| 1 | M. Tharp (WG), B. Kerr (WC), K. Schaum (WC), K. Chun (C), D. Staggers (C), D. Staggers, (C), B. Barnyak (C), K. Waggett (C) |

Girls' Pitching

| | ERA | Record | S.O/Inning |
|-----------------|------|--------|------------|
| B Barnyak (C) | 0.62 | 14-0 | 2.1 |
| P. Gilbert (WG) | 2.28 | 13-2 | 1.1 |
| G. Tedrow (WC) | 2.99 | 10-0 | 2.0 |
| E. Bazzoli (JM) | 2.78 | 7-5 | 1.4 |

Boys Batting Averages

| | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|------------------|
| .558 | A. VanSickle (WC) | .357 | D. Fox (M) |
| .500 | A. Walker (M) | .351 | C. Corwin (WC) |
| .500 | S. Yeager (M) | .349 | X. Lucey (WG) |
| .489 | J. Woodward (JM) | .333 | L. Allison (WG) |
| .467 | D. Turcheck (WC) | .321 | E. Kiger (WC) |
| .447 | B. Ellsworth (JM) | .321 | K. Taylor (WC) |
| .435 | R. Wilson-Jones (C) | .321 | J. Robinson (JM) |
| .429 | L. Stevenson (M) | .314 | A. Surber (WC) |
| .400 | B. Andrews (C) | .311 | R. Krieg (C) |
| .391 | T. Groves (WC) | .308 | C. Halbert (M) |
| .378 | D. Reynolds (C) | .304 | G. Pack (WC) |
| .357 | J. Stephenson (WC) | | |

Home Run Leaders

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 3 | J. Woodward (JM) |
| 1 | {Turcheck, Stephenson, Surber} (WC) |

Boys Pitching

| | ERA | Record | S.O/Inning |
|---------------------|------|--------|------------|
| A. Surber (WC) | 0.78 | 5-0 | 1.5 |
| A. VanSickle (WC) | 1.26 | 1-0 | 1.5 |
| T. Groves (WC) | 1.35 | 7-0 | 1.4 |
| J. Woodward (JM) | 1.75 | 5-1 | 1.3 |
| J. Zdravecky (C) | 1.80 | 3-1 | .78 |
| D. Adams (JM) | 1.91 | 5-1 | 1.1 |
| R. Wilson-Jones (C) | 1.97 | 0-1 | 1.0 |
| C. Andrews (C) | 2.61 | 5-1 | 1.0 |



West Greene's, Peyton Gilbert brings the heat against the Raiders.



Waynesburg Central Catcher, Ellie Makel guns out a Pioneer runner.

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724-710-8056 or email dennyhousewbj.com

Baseball Section Standings (As of 5/8)

Section 4 (3A)

| | | |
|------------------|------|--------|
| Waynesburg Cent. | 11-1 | (15-3) |
| Charleroi | 8-4 | (10-6) |
| Seton LaSalle | 6-4 | (8-6) |
| McGuffey | 5-5 | (10-7) |
| Keystone Oaks | 5-6 | (8-8) |
| Brownsville | 3-9 | (5-11) |
| Washington | 1-10 | (4-14) |

Section 1 (1A)

| | | |
|---------------------|------|--------|
| Greensburg Catholic | 10-1 | (13-2) |
| Jefferson-Morgan | 9-3 | (13-3) |
| Carmichaels | 9-3 | (12-4) |
| Avella | 6-6 | (10-7) |
| Jeanette | 5-7 | (8-10) |
| West Greene | 2-10 | (3-14) |
| Mapletown | 0-6 | (1-8) |

BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE MONTH



Helena Cumpston is a sophomore and plays second base for the Lady Maples' softball team. She is also a starter for the varsity basketball team. Helena maintains a 4.1 GPA and is a member of National Honor Society as well as student council. Outside of school, she participates in Greene County 4-H. She is the daughter of Doug and Jacki Cumpston of Mapletown.



Daniel Fox is the son of Jesse and Susan Fox of Garards Fort. He is a senior four-year starter for the baseball team, receiving All-County honors twice. He also played basketball for the Maples for four years. Daniel is a member of the National Honor Society and maintains a 4.2 GPA. Outside of school, he enjoys hunting, fishing, restoring cars, and traveling. After graduation, Daniel will be attending WVU majoring in Mechanical Engineering.



Joey Bair is the son of Erica Chidester and L.J. Stickovich and John Bair and Carrie Waters of Jefferson. He is a letterman on the Rockets' baseball team and plays travel ball with the Ghosts.

In school, he is a member of SADD, Leo Club, National Honor Society, Envirothon, Upward Bound, and the GATE Program. Joey is also involved with the Boys Scouts of America and is currently working on his Eagle Scout badge. He plans to attend college to obtain a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.



Gabriella Marmie is a freshman member of the Jefferson-Morgan softball team. She also plays travel ball for the Nitro 18U team. In the fall, she played volleyball for the Rockets. In school, she is a member of the Jr. National Honor Society and yearbook staff. Gabriella also volunteers as a coach for Jefferson's Little League program. She hopes to play softball in college and major in Sports Psychology.



Tyler Groves is the son of Nicole Ealy and James Groves and the grandson of John and Gladys Ealy. He is a four-year letterman and three-year captain of the Raiders' baseball team. He was named to the All-County team as both a sophomore and a junior. Tyler was also named Herald Standard First-Team Big School, the Post-Gazette Player of the Week, and All-tournament Perfect Game First-Team in Atlanta, GA. In school, he maintains a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society and newspaper club. He plans to attend Penn Commercial in the fall and become a certified electrician.



Railey Bochna is the daughter of Derek and Amanda Bochna. She is a sophomore and maintains a 4.0 grade average. Railey has been a member of the track and volleyball teams for the past two years, where she has earned four letters. She was First-Team All-Section in volleyball and a WPIAL qualifier in the high jump after breaking the school record (5'2.5") at a meet this year. She is her class vice president and a member of Alpha Beta Club, Spanish Club, and Student Council.



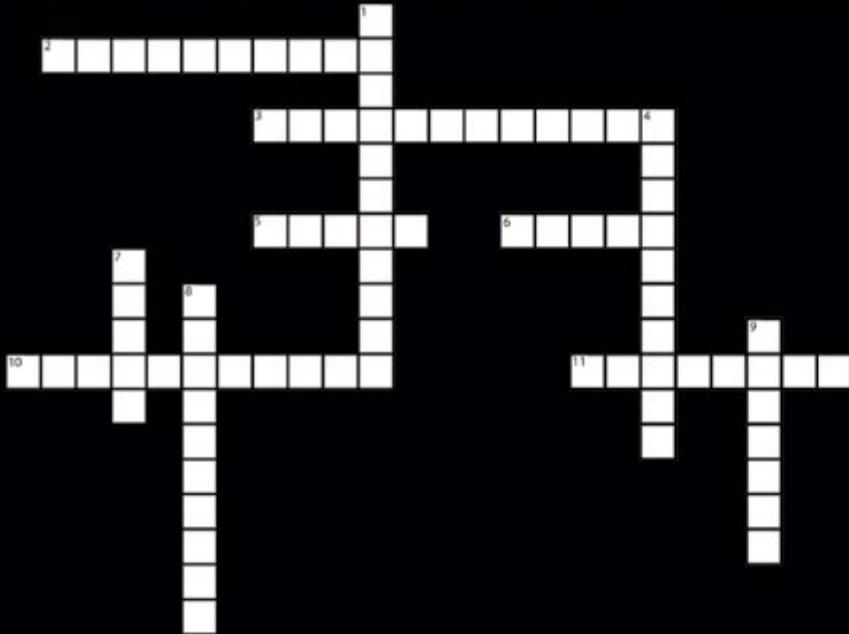
Will Roher is the son of Adam and Brandy Rohrer of Waynesburg. He is a freshman and participates in band, cross country, basketball, and track & field. Will plays trombone in both the marching and jazz bands. He enjoys hunting in his spare time and playing hoops as much as possible.



Khyler Davis is the daughter of Tyler and Jillian Davis of New Freeport. She is a freshman and participates in volleyball, basketball, and softball. Khyler is a member of the FFA program at West Greene. She is an avid hunter and enjoys spending time with her family.



BASEBALL CROSSWORD PUZZLES



Win Wild Thing Tickets

The answers to this month's crossword puzzle are both names of Greene County towns, villages, or township AND names of famous people associated with baseball.

ACROSS

2. Southwestern hamlet that might be home to former manager Dallas _____, who won the 1980 World Series with the Phillies.
3. Where a legendary Red Sox slugger might have gotten off the river boat.
5. A singular mascot of a team that has played in Boston, Milwaukee, and Atlanta.
6. Beloved Twin's legend and career .318 hitter.
10. Possibly six-time MLB All-Star first baseman Will the Thrill's home.
11. Late actor Hal _____ played Tommy "Santa" Santorelli in the third installment of the Sandlot film series, *Heading Home*.

DOWN

1. Western "ville" and a 1942 MLB Hall of Fame inductee and a career .358 lifetime hitter.
4. Western "ville" that shares a name with a legendary Negro League team that used to barnstorm in the county.
7. Famous spitball pitcher Gaylord, who was the first to win a Cy Young Award in both leagues.
8. Last name of a colorful owner of the Oakland A's and a directional village.
9. Possible abode of the Cardinal's Hall of Fame pitcher of the 60s and 70s.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Town of Residence: _____

Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 06-09-25.

Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.



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In the Out-Door

SUMMER CAMPING IN GREENE COUNTY: A JOURNEY BACK TO NATURE

By T.R. Mahle

Camping is a popular outdoor recreational activity that allows individuals to immerse themselves in nature, escape the stresses of modern life, and reconnect with the natural world. Whether it's pitching a tent, setting up a camper, or simply enjoying a night under the stars in a local park, camping provides a unique experience that combines adventure, relaxation, and simplicity. For families, camping can foster bonding, teamwork, and an appreciation for the environment. For individuals, it can offer solitude, reflection, and a sense of personal achievement.

One of the most appealing aspects of camping is its versatility. There are many forms of camping, each catering to different preferences and levels of comfort. Traditional tent camping is the most common, involving sleeping in a tent, cooking over a campfire or portable stove, and often carrying all necessary supplies. For those seeking more convenience, RV or camper camping offers the luxury of modern amenities such as electricity, running water, and kitchens while still enjoying the great outdoors. There is also backcountry or wilderness camping, which involves hiking into remote areas with minimal gear, offering solitude and a deeper connection with nature.

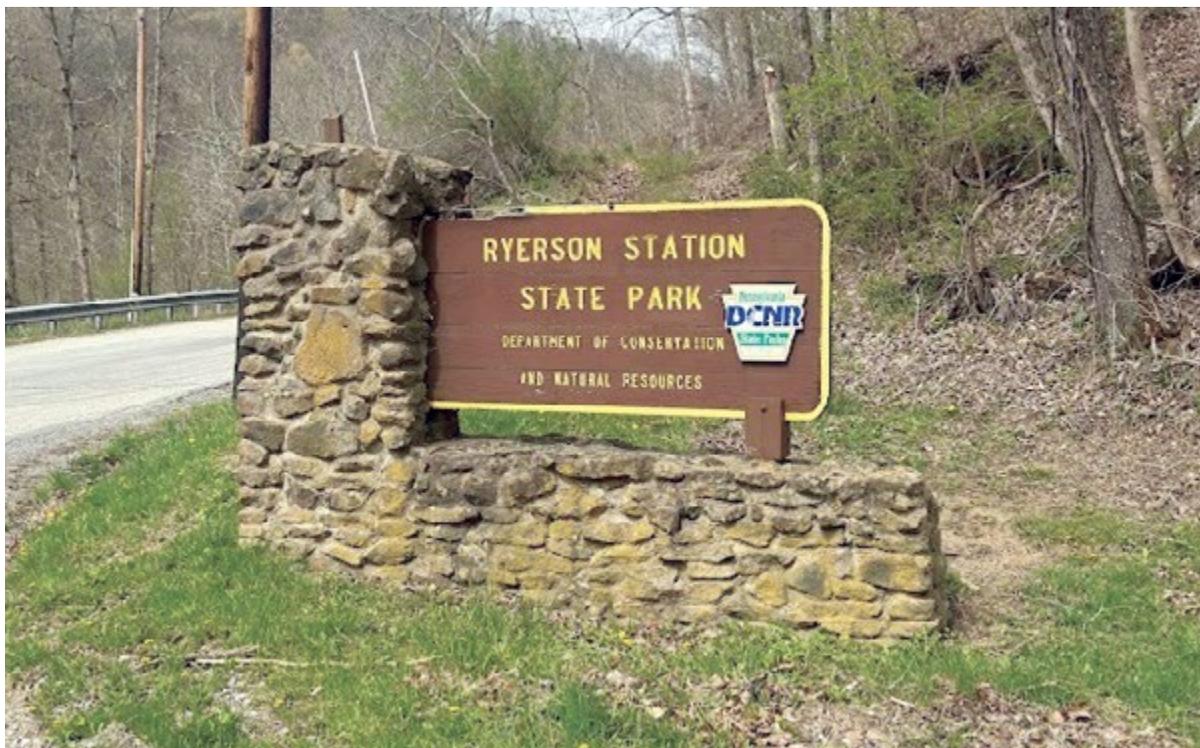
Preparation is key to a successful camping experience. Beginners should start with well-established campgrounds that offer basic amenities like restrooms, potable water, and fire pits. Essential gear typically includes a tent, sleeping bag, cooking supplies, appropriate clothing, and a first-aid kit. Understanding the local environment, weather conditions, and wildlife is crucial for safety. It's also important to follow Leave No Trace principles, which emphasize minimizing human impact on the environment by disposing of waste properly, respecting wildlife, and preserving natural features. A basic rule to follow in all outdoor activities is "if you pack it in... pack it out".

In recent years, camping has seen a surge in popularity due to increasing interest in sustainable living and outdoor recreation. National and state parks, private campgrounds, and wilderness areas offer countless opportunities for people to explore and enjoy nature. With the right planning and mindset, camping can be accessible and rewarding for people of all ages and backgrounds.

In conclusion, camping is more than just a getaway; it is a valuable experience that promotes well-being, environmental awareness, and a deeper appreciation for the world around us. Whether it's a weekend trip with friends or a solo journey into the wilderness, camping invites people to slow down, disconnect from technology, and rediscover the simple joys of life outdoors.

Spotlight on Ryerson State Park:

Nestled in Greene County Ryerson Station State Park spans 1,164 acres in southwestern Pennsylvania. Established in 1967, the park is named after Ryerson's Fort, a historic fortification used during the late 18th century. To my surprise, however, after having not been there for quite some time, it is completely different from my last memory of the sprawling lake (Duke Lake) and the surrounding areas. While still a very scenic area, the lake was drawn down in 2005 for safety reasons and no longer exists in its former capacity. A stream now winds through the area where the lake once was. However, many of the newest updates and changes to the park amenities have made a considerable positive impact to the overall comfort, convenience and



enjoyment of the park.

The park offers a variety of outdoor activities. Visitors can enjoy 13 miles of hiking trails that meander through diverse habitats, including mature forests, wet valley bottoms, evergreen plantations, and fields in ecological succession. For winter enthusiasts, the park provides opportunities for cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, sledding, and tobogganing. During the summer months, the park features a free swimming pool, open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The pool complex includes a zero-gravity pool and a spray park (splash pad), offering accessible water recreation for all visitors.

Additionally, Ryerson Station State Park provides a 35-site campground (*Polly Hill Campground*) that is open year-round, with options for tent and trailer camping. Amenities include electric and full-hookup sites, modern restrooms with showers, and coin-operated laundry facilities. Additionally, the park offers two camping cottages and three deluxe cottages, accommodating up to five people each, with features such as electric heat, bunk beds, and nearby shower houses. Payments are made via the "honor system"...cabin rentals must be handled through the park office in advance.

The park is also equipped with over 275 picnic tables and grills, along with four picnic pavilions. Two of these pavilions are available for reservation up to 11 months in advance at the park office, while the others are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

Visitor Information

Located at 361 Bristoria Road in Wind Ridge, Ryerson Station State Park is open daily from sunrise to sunset, with day-use areas accessible from 8:00 A.M. to sunset. For reservations and more information, visitors can contact the park office at

724-428-4254 or visit the official website. A special "thank you" goes out to **Ranger Andrew Brock** and the rest of the staff for taking the time to show us around the park and answer all of our questions.



DAILY ADMISSION: \$10
WEEKLY PASS: \$35

Admission includes Parking,
 Amusement Rides,
 and Grandstand

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Spotlight on Four Seasons Resort & ATV Adventures

Located in the scenic hills of southwestern Pennsylvania, Four Seasons Resort & ATV Adventures offers a family-friendly escape amidst nature. Spanning 850 acres and bordered by nearly 1,050 acres of state game lands, the resort features over 35 miles of meticulously groomed ATV trails, catering to riders of all skill levels.

Originally built in 1973, the resort location was formerly owned by the Falconi family of Washington, PA and was opened to the public in 2000. Current owner **Steve Presto** has been associated in one manner or another with the resort for many years. In its early days the resort was called *Big Country Dude Ranch* where Steve was a real-life cowboy. Later, when the resort took on its current state he was in charge of keeping the grounds mowed and clean. As luck would have it, the opportunity to eventually own the resort presented itself, and Steve was quick to realize it was something he wanted for his own. "I never in my wildest dreams imagined that I would some day own this place," explained Steve. "But it's been a labor of love for me."

Guests can choose from a variety of lodging options, including seasonal RV sites, tent camping, fully furnished cabins, apartments, and a 12-room motel. Amenities encompass a gated entrance, a well-stocked store, a snack bar, laundry facilities, a quad wash station, and five comfort stations with shower facilities.

The resort offers a plethora of recreational activi-

ties, such as an Olympic-sized swimming pool, exercise room, softball field, basketball court, sand volleyball, pickleball, tetherball, bocce ball, street hockey, ping pong, playground, arcade, and fishing (poles not provided). Organized events like Bingo, scavenger hunts, and themed weekends add to the vibrant atmosphere.

Location and Contact

Conveniently located in West Finley, Four Seasons Resort is easily accessible with your GPS. For more information or reservations, visit their official website at campfourseasonsresort.com or contact them at 724-428-4407. Whether you're an ATV enthusiast or seeking a peaceful retreat, Four Seasons Resort provides a memorable experience for all ages.

Other Local Greene County Camping Sites to Checkout:

- **Burns RV Campground** (Wind Ridge)
878-379-0327
- **Cole's Greene Acres Farm** (Holbrook)
724-484-3276
- **State Line Campground** (Blacksville)
304-376-5970
- **R & B Country Campground** (Waynesburg)
724-998-0567
- **Two Rivers Campground & Marina** (Dilliner)
724-943-4997



Steve Presto, owner of Four Seasons Resort & ATV Adventures.



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Greene County Parks and Recreation Schedule

- June 7 - Opening Day for the Waynesburg Water Park and Mon View Swimming Pools
- June 15 - Flashlight Drags at Greene County Airport
- June 23 - Opening Day of County Day Camps
- June 28 - Buck Motorsports Monster Truck Show at the Greene County Fairgrounds

Blessing of the Bikes

The annual Blessing of the Bikes at the Greene County Fairgrounds will be held on June 18th, offering a family-friendly experience with food trucks, vendors, and live music.

Bowlby Summer Reading Program | Color Our World

Sign-ups are open for The Eva K. Bowlby Public Library's Annual Summer Reading Program

We have so many activities planned for all ages: The Reading Challenge, Summer Quest, Ready for Kindergarten, the Zoo Trip, Teen activities, and Storytimes.

Call the library at 724-627-9776 to register.

We look forward to seeing everyone here this Summer!

NFL Looking for Business Contractors for 2026 Draft in Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh Draft is around the corner and the NFL is looking to engage event-ready businesses within the greater Pittsburgh area to support the production of this world-class event.

This procurement program is an opportunity for local businesses and certified diverse businesses (minority, woman, person with disabilities, LGBTQ+ and veteran-owned) to gain exposure to subcontracting opportunities related to the 2026 NFL Draft and provide networking and capacity building for all accepted businesses.

Businesses selected for the program will be profiled in a directory, which NFL primary contractors and event producers will use to identify and select local and certified diverse suppliers to fulfill their subcontracting needs. Becoming a member of the procurement program is a competitive process, and acceptance within the program does not guarantee contracts and/or RFP invites.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The NFL requires the following business requisites to be eligible for participation in the 2026 Draft Source program.

1. Be the direct source of the goods and services offered

2. Be in good standing and eligible to do business within the state of Pennsylvania

3. Be headquartered in the greater Pittsburgh area

Businesses that meet the characteristics below are encouraged to apply. Those who do not meet all criteria are eligible to participate in the program.

- Be a certified diverse business (51% owned and operated by a minority, woman, person with disabilities, LGBTQ+ or veteran individual)
- Provide a product or service requested by the 2026 Pittsburgh Draft Source program
- Been in operation since April 2023

2026 NFL DRAFT SOURCE PROGRAM | PROCUREMENT NEEDS

Below is a list of the most common business disciplines needed to support the production of the Draft and surrounding events.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Catering and Food Trucks

EVENT PROMOTION

- Graphic Design, Large Format Printing/Signage, Marketing & Outreach Services
Promotional Items

EVENT SUPPORT

- Audio Visual, Carpet/Flooring, Décor, Entertainment, Event Production, Florals/Plants/Trees, Golf Carts, Laundry Services, Photography/Videography
- Port-O-Lets, Temporary Event Staffing, Tenting, Venues

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

- Barricades/Fencing, Cable Wire Contractors, Contract Labor, Electrical
- Equipment Rentals (Heavy), Fabrication, General Contractors, Janitorial Services
- Scaffolding, Shoring, Temporary Structures/Containers, Waste Removal

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation (Freight), Transportation (High-Capacity Passenger Vehicles)

The Dryerson Festival

The Dryerson Festival will be held June 25th at Ryerson Station State Park.

Mount Morris Community Center

June 5 - Cow Patty Eats Food Truck 4p.m. - 7 p.m. Super Delicious Burger Menu.

June 6 - Free Bingo 10 a.m. - Noon Free Coffee and Refreshments. Small Prizes

June 7 - Annual Yard Sale (Open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.) Center selling food items from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Special Guest: PA Poppers with a wide variety of pop corn

June 20 - Juliet's Empanadas LLC Food Truck (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.) Famous Empanadas and Frappes

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.

Then & NOW

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



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A PIECE OF MY MIND

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



One of my favorite movie quotes that I find insightful and inspiring serves as a powerful reminder that we must be able to face challenges, adapt to adversity, and cope with change. Forrest Gump's Mama said that "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." That quote has become widely recognized and is used in everything from everyday conversations to speech presentations. In fact, I used that quote in my own valedictory address when I graduated from nursing school. Since graduation season is in full swing, there's a good chance it might pop up again. Graduating is a milestone that deserves celebration, reflection, and a deep breath. A new chapter is ready to unfold, and it is filled with possibilities but uncertainty as well.

Richard and I have exactly one niece and two great-nephews graduating from high school in the next few weeks, so I thought this would be a great place to share some advice with them and anyone else that wants to read on. I don't think of myself as someone who always offers the best advice. I listen better than I speak. I don't have all the answers, but I'm happy to share some of my experience and things I like to think I know. I'm also a firm believer in "keeping it real." When my daughter, Emily, moved to her college campus, my advice for her was summed up in three words... "Don't Be Stupid."

I won't say anything like "Don't Drink." Instead, I will say "If you choose to drink, don't set your drink down and don't drive." I won't say "Make a plan." I will say "It's great to have a plan but be ready for change and know that it's ok to change your mind." I would also encourage each of you to live with intentionality. Don't let anyone tell you what's important. Make your own decisions. Use your talents. Make a difference. Learn to say no when you need to. Chase your dreams. Grow in faith. Try new things. Build relationships and connections. Never be afraid to ask for help.

Graduation is hard. Life is hard and unpredictable, but it's also a journey. You learn and grow with each experience. As a baby, you learn to crawl and then walk. You don't go through the experience without hesitation and even some fear. You don't learn to walk without developing some patience and trusting in the fact that someone will walk with you or behind you and help you get up when you fall. Winston Churchill said that "Success is not final, and failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts."

So, here's a piece of my mind for Aubrey, Jackson, Jacob, and anyone else that wants to listen- take those steps, try to make good choices, and live every day as a

gift. Don't be afraid to fail or fall because no matter what, you have people behind you and beside you that will always love you, including me. And we will always help you get back up. Yes, life is like a box of chocolates. It is a flavorful journey with a grand assortment of experiences. You never know what you're gonna get, so make some memories as you go.



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THIS MONTH'S GUEST CHEF IN THE CROWDED KITCHEN IS DAN WAGNER

Dan is the award-winning Director of the Greene County Culinary Program at the Career and Technical Center. His contribution this month is a great light summer-time meal using the freshest of ingredients and some from your own garden.

California Fish Tacos

- 4 - Thick white fish fillet, cut in half
- Olive oil
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

MARINADE

- 2 - tbsp olive oil
- 1 - Finely grated lime zest and juice of lime
- 1 - Finely grated mandarin zest and juice
- ½ tsp - Chili powder
- 1 tsp - Ground cumin
- ½ tsp - Dried oregano
- 1 tsp - Garlic powder
- 1 tsp - Salt

TOMATO, GRAPEFRUIT AND CHILI SALSA

- 4 - green tomatoes or red (diced)
- ½ - red onion (diced)
- 1 - garlic clove (minced)
- 1 - pink or red grapefruit, segmented and diced
- 1 - red chili, finely chopped
- Pinch of ground cumin
- 1 - fresh lime – juice
- 1 - tsp red wine vinegar
- 2 - tbsp fresh chopped cilantro

- Prepare fish, take all ingredients for marinade and whisk together. Place fish in bowl and marinate for 1 hour.

- Cut all ingredients for salsa. And let sit for building of flavors. Add salt and pepper to taste.

- Heat a saute' pan with a touch of olive oil. Add fish fillets and cook evenly on each side. Place on tortillas and top with shredded lettuce, salsa and additional avocado if wanted chunks.



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- 1** What is the only species of Hummingbird that lives in Southwestern PA/Northern WV?
- 2** Hummingbird cake is a popular dessert. Its main ingredients are bananas, pineapple, and what nut that is commonly found in the Southern US?
- 3** What can hummingbirds do that other flying birds can't?
- 4** Hummingbirds create their nests using what natural material related to a creepy creature and Halloween?
- 5** How many eggs does a female hummingbird lay during each mating season?

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Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 06-9-25. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.



The James D. Randolph Kiltie Band (Fuzzy) continues to honor the memory of the beloved university icon.

PURPLE MARTINS RETURN TO THE AREA

By Michelle Zeigler

Now that spring is in full force, Greene County residents might notice a few feathered guests soaring across the sky. With their striking raven and plum-tinted plumage, purple martins have now settled into the greater region to nest, breed, and raise their young. This unique, omnivorous species of migratory birds travels across the Americas, settling mostly in Brazil during the fall and winter and heading into North America for the spring and summer.

However, the most unique feature about these birds is they live in what is called a colony, comprised of dozens of individuals that nest in close proximity to each other. These colonies are often in compartmentalized human-made structures that are specifically designed for them (usually made from wood or hollowed and dried gourds).

One of the most prominent local places to see these beautiful birds is at the Mason-Dixon Historical Park, located on the border of Greene County and Core, WV. Established in 1994, the park's purple martin colony is maintained by park employees and members of the Dunkard Creek Watershed Association.

Every April, approximately 30-40 purple martins return to the park to lay their eggs in the safety of the sanctuary and raise their young. The sanctuary box has 14 individual nesting boxes that must be monitored by humans to ensure the survival of the chicks. Martin fledglings are susceptible to fleas, blowflies, and predatory birds (like sparrows and starlings). Humans must clean out their boxes and

provide them with fresh nesting materials to help the baby birds thrive and carry on the species' survival.

"Come check them out for yourself and set up around their nesting area," said Angela Hinerman, Superintendent for Mason Dixon Historical Park. "They tend to stay within eyesight of the colony, and you can watch them perform aerial tricks for hours, catching bugs out of the air."

Hinerman urges community members to help in the park's conservation efforts of these unique avian friends by refraining from the use of any pesticides/rodenticides/insecticides and spreading the message about their need for human intervention and help. She also suggests establishing and monitoring your own colony if you live in an area where the birds can thrive.

"Purple martins like to nest in wide, open spaces where water is nearby to stay near their greatest food source, flying insects," says Scott Cavallaro, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited Morgantown. "If you have that close to your house, you have a chance of successfully establishing a colony of your own and becoming a purple martin landlord."

And while these birds are eye-catching and entertaining, having purple martins in your community can actually serve a practical purpose, benefiting farmers and gardeners in reducing the invasive insect population.

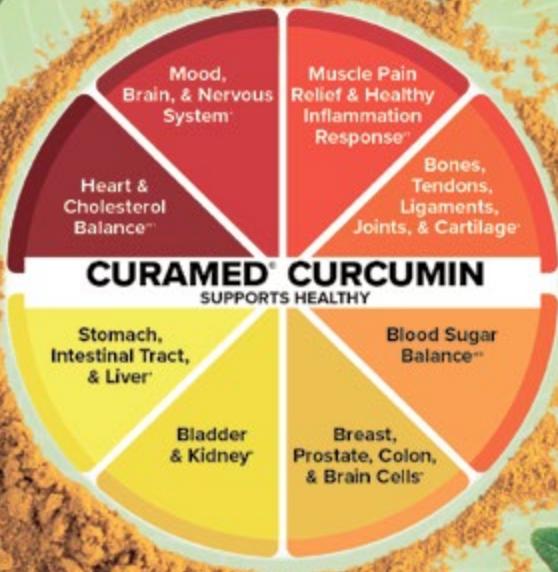
"They act similar to bats, swooping and grabbing any small flying bugs they can catch, like mosquitoes and fruit flies," Cavallaro added. "They're a great form of natural pest control."



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BACK WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE: SUMMER JOBS EDITION

By Bret Moore

Every parent has used the “Back when I was your age” phrase on their children. The aphorism has undoubtedly been used to elicit sympathy, reverence, or humor. Often, the individual using those words is either exaggerating or misremembering the facts being presented as evidence of the superiority of the older generation.

Since it's that time of year when some of our youth are applying for their first summer jobs, we thought it might be interesting to see how the seasonal job landscape has shifted over the decades.

My own summer employment history through high school and college was an eclectic assortment of jobs to say the least. It's easy to tell which ones were my choices and which were thrust upon me by my parents.

I worked serving ice cream at **Bryan's Dairy**, slicing chipped ham at “Big” Howards, pumping gas at Greenwood's Service Station, managing young workers for the county CETA program, and as a laborer for Equitable Gas pipelines and at the Mather plant for Atlas Railroad. My father insisted on the latter two jobs because he thought they would help remind me to concentrate on my studies in college. I guess it was a solid (though unsuccessful) theory.

Summer jobs have long been a rite of passage for young people in rural areas. These jobs not only provided financial support but also instilled a sense of responsibility and community engagement. The history of summer jobs in rural areas is deeply intertwined with agricultural cycles, economic necessity, and social changes.

Summer work in our area originated from our agrarian economy that once dominated. Rural life revolved around agriculture, and entire families were involved in seasonal labor. During the summer, when planting, cultivating, and harvesting required many hands, teenagers played essential roles. There was no clear distinction between work and daily life.

The early 20th century saw significant changes in rural labor dynamics. Mechanization began reducing the demand for manual labor. At the same time, growing awareness of child labor abuses in urban factories led to the implementation of child labor laws. While these regulations were primarily aimed at industrial settings, they gradually extended to rural work as well.

However, exceptions were often made for farm work. The Fair Labor Act of 1938 restricted child labor in industry but allowed minors as young as 12 to work on farms with parental consent. This leniency preserved the tradition of rural summer jobs for youth, reinforcing the notion that such work was beneficial for character development.

The Great Depression created widespread economic hardship in rural areas. Families relied heavily on all members, including children, to contribute financially. Summer jobs were a survival mechanism, with teenagers often working on larger farms, in local stores, or doing odd jobs around their towns.

During World War II, labor shortages across the U.S. drew more young people into the workforce. Many young men left to fight, creating a gap in labor. Summer work became not just a financial necessity but a patriotic duty.

After the war, economic prosperity and educational reforms transformed the landscape of rural summer jobs. With increased school enrollment and the rise of suburban culture, fewer teenagers were needed year-round on family farms. However, the summer remained a prime time for temporary employment.

In the 1950s, summer jobs for non-farming young people were still largely paper routes, lawn mowing, and odd jobs. For those old enough to remember Leave It to Beaver, I recall the episode where Wally was buying a car. He had saved \$180

through his mowing and odd jobs, but the car he sought was an astronomical \$220. Ultimately, Ward talked some sense into him and financial sanity was restored.

Beaver Cleaver on the other hand had his trusty paper route. In one notable episode, Beaver struggled to manage the



responsibilities of his new job. He had trouble waking up early, dealing with customer complaints, and eventually got fired, which became a life lesson in accountability.

While the entrepreneurial spirit of mowing lawns continues to be a central foundation of summer employment for young people, other traditional jobs would be anachronistic today. All my friends who lived in town had paper routes. The payment was miniscule for the dedication and stamina the job took, but my buddies still talk of those days with pride.

The thought of any parent today letting their 12-year-old get up at 4:30 a.m. to deliver newspapers around the neighborhood for an hour in darkness, rain or freezing temperatures strains credulity on so many levels. However, the “job” no teenager today could even fathom was collecting old pop bottles for two cents each (the big Canada Dry bottles were a nickel) and lugging them to collection sites for the big payout.

The 60s and 70s saw the rise of more structured summer job programs. Governments and local organizations began to create formal employment opportunities for rural youth, often linked to public works and conservation efforts.

Many rural teens also took jobs at summer camps, local fairs, or small businesses such as diners and gas stations.

Retired WCHS teacher **Mark McCurdy** recalls one of his summer jobs during this time. He was a “pin setter” at the six-lane bowling alley in the bottom of the Long Building on High Street (across from the police station). “It wasn't too bad dodging the balls during the afternoon. However, when the leagues came in at night, it got pretty crazy and a little dangerous”, he said with a chuckle. “My pay was getting to play unlimited free pool, which was a dime a game back then”

These jobs were often seen as stepping stones toward greater independence, helping young people save for college or their first vehicle.

Other businesses who provided summer job opportunities in Waynesburg were grocery stores such as Big and Little Howard's, Tracy's Market, A&P, Foodland, and Acme. In addition, eateries such as the Chicken House,

Waynesburg Restaurant, the Pancake House, the two Dari Delights, and several pizza parlors offered opportunities to work in the service industry.

When the national chains finally arrived, options expanded. McDonald's provided jobs for young people after it opened in late 1973. My sister's first job was at the fancy new department store in town- **Fisher's Big Wheel**.

Service stations actually required people to provide services. Young men would pump gas, clean wind shields, and check oil for customers. Something that would seem incredibly bizarre to today's young people.

One of the major areas of summer employment that has stayed relatively the same for the past 75 years is working at our public pools. Lifeguards and concession workers have remained an iconic representation of summer employees in many small towns across the country.

Generations of our county lifeguards are a band of brothers and sisters bound by the knowledge they served under **Betty Walker**, the legendary maven of the county pools. Her charges speak of her in the same communal tones of reverence that Rudy Marisa's basketball players assign to their mentor.

Another retired teacher, **Vicki Snyder** remembers her days as a lifeguard fondly. “Betty was an honest and hard-nosed boss. She made us stay focused for the safety of the children. During breaks, she would make us pick clover to minimize the bee stings. After a seven-hour shift and two hours of teaching swimming lessons, we still had to sanitize the locker rooms. Betty taught us discipline, but she had a soft side too. Our staff became like family every summer.”

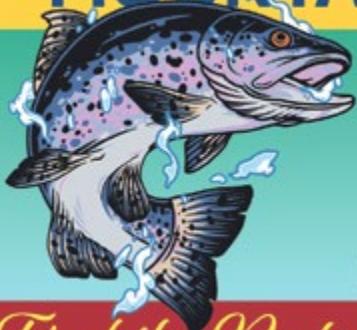
By the 21st century, several factors contributed to the decline of traditional rural summer jobs. Continued mechanization reduced the need for many seasonal jobs. Simultaneously, rising educational expectations, extracurricular commitments, and concerns about youth safety and liability led to fewer work opportunities.

In recent years, wage increases, spurred by larger national and regional corporations, have put pressure on local businesses and county government to keep up. At present, the sustainability of those dynamics seems tenuous at best.

This trend reflects broader shifts in our society, economy, and culture. From haylofts to cafes and computers, these jobs have evolved while continuing to serve as important formative experiences for young people. While the nature of summer work has changed, its role in fostering independence and responsibility remains vital.



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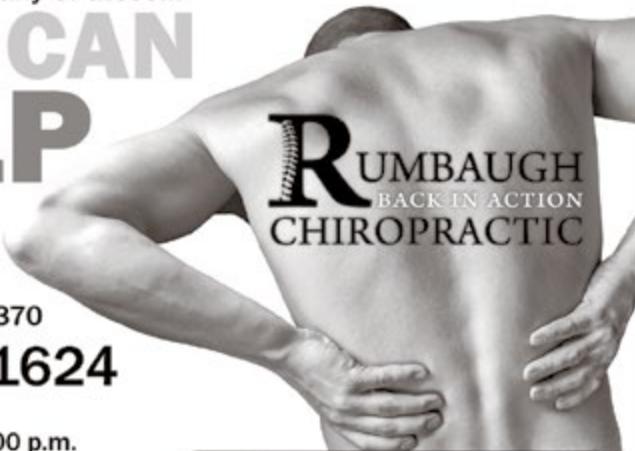
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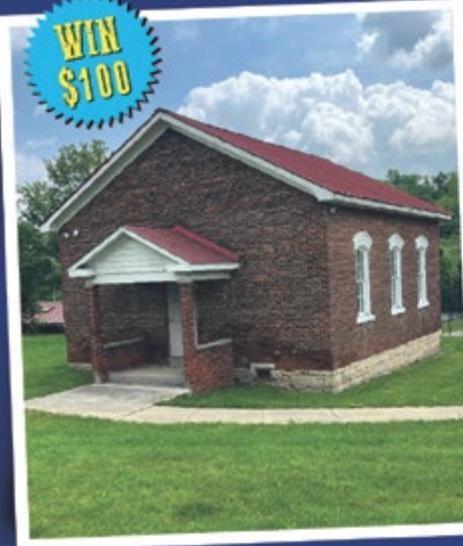
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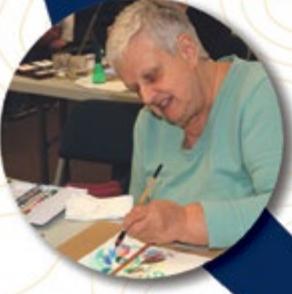
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It has been an honor of Greentree Medical Center and all employees to get to know Sayde! It's our pleasure to say she is a great asset with a wonderful work ethic helping in a clinical research study at our office. We know in our hearts that she will excel in everything she does!

*Thank you,
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- Dr. Jayesh Gosai & the Staff of Greentree Medical

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