

Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

A DIRECT RESULTS COMPANY

ANGLERS'
SHOWCASE 

AUGUST 2025

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LOGAN LESNETT, AGE 4, CASTING HIS LINE AT HIS GRANDPARENTS' CAMP NEAR KNOX, PA

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PART II: GREENE COUNTY'S PREDICTED, PREVENTABLE ECONOMIC CRISIS

Last month, I discussed the number one issue preventing economic growth and increased economic diversity in Greene County as our property tax rates. For decades, successive elected leaders failed to respond to predicted changes in the coal industry, failed to increase economic diversity, and failed to invest in infrastructure for future growth. This predicament was not caused overnight, or over the last decade for that matter. The time to act was twenty to forty years ago. Now businesses, industry and residential developers find the tax burden too high to be competitive in their respective markets and seek opportunities elsewhere.

As previously mentioned, property taxes are the number one burden, but there are several other contributing components to factor into proposed solutions.

By 2020, having run out of money, county officials made drastic changes in fiscal policy. Significant cost saving measures, restructuring debt, and new policies for restricted funding facilitated county government general administration expenses to drop by 13.9% from 2019 to 2020. 2020 also marked the first time during the 6-year period that the fund balance grew, instead of declining. New policies and an influx of the American Rescue Plan funding permitted balancing the county budget in 2022 and 2023. This hasn't "fixed" any of the tax revenue issues, it simply gave the county a little breathing room.

One of the most frequently mentioned barriers in Greene County is the lack of a public transportation system. Although there is a Share-Ride/Demand Response program for qualified riders, there is not a reliable mode of transportation for individuals requiring transportation to essential services including healthcare, work, grocery shopping, and other necessary travel. It is hoped a recent Rural County Mobility Platform (RAMP) pilot program will lead to a recommended public transportation solution for Greene County. Blueprints, Waynesburg University, and Greene County coordinated the test program developed by Carnegie Mellon University.

We also have a housing shortage. Although there are several planned developments, there are very few single-family houses being built. We desperately need smaller, patio type housing. This type of housing is more affordable for young

families and will free up larger homes currently occupied by "empty nesters" who desire to downsize but stay in the area.

Our population continues to decline. Greene County's population shrank 10.2% between 2010 and 2022. For comparison, the population of the U.S. grew 7.7% and the population of Pennsylvania grew 2.1% during the same period. The county's largest decline was between 2021 and 2022 when the population dropped 1.7%. The trend continued in 2023 experiencing a 1.44% decrease in population. The 35-49 age group experienced a substantial decline.

Greene County also faces an aging population, with a higher percentage of residents aged 65 and over compared to the state average. The 65+ age group saw significant growth between 2010 and 2022, increasing by 22.8%.

Declining population and aging can affect the local economy, leading to decreased business activity and workforce shortages. An aging population can put increased strain on social services, healthcare systems and infrastructure to support the needs of older adults.

Because of property tax burdens, housing shortages, declining and aging population, sixty-two percent of our workforce commutes into Greene County every day. Each payday, significant amounts of money leave Greene County because individuals' shop, eat, and invest (time, money, and leisure activities) where they live, not where they work.

Currently, Greene County is more than \$100 million dollars short of taxable assets to obtain a balanced budget with traditional revenue. Remember the three taxable assets: land value, improvement value and mineral value? Land value changes very little over time. We know the assessment in mineral value (coal) is ever decreasing with each train load of coal produced and shipped out of the county. Increasing improvement value is the only variable that can be affected by increasing the physical footprint of businesses, industry and residential construction projects.

So, what does it take to increase improvement value by \$100 million dollars? It would require construction equivalent to 32 Walmart stores or 504 metal prefab workstations or 76 Texas Roadhouse Restaurants or 400 single family homes. Of course, these are not reasonable solutions.

So, what's the solution?

After a decade of studying this issue and four years of actively trying to solve this problem, I have come to the conclusion that the only viable solution, is a "White Knight."

What or who is the "White Knight?" It's a company or industry large enough in scale that the disproportional tax rates for Greene County are inconsequential. The value they see in the property available

exceeds the disproportionate cost of doing business in Greene County. It may be a company that requires access to I-79, or our natural gas resources, or access to the Monongahela River for water or transportation. Proximity, energy resources or water availability may be well worth the cost of higher property taxation.

There are two geographic areas in Greene County the size required for this endeavor to have an investment significant enough to alter the economic decline of the county: the Greene County Airport and the Robena Coal Refuse Disposal Area.

The Greene County Airport is county owned and currently supports hobby aviation activities on a 3,500-foot asphalt runway. The airport property consists of more than 100 level, contiguous acres in very close proximity to I-79. All utilities are currently available at the site. The airport has been "for sale" for twenty-five years or more, but since 2020, more consulting has been done than ever before. As Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn, said, "In crisis times, it's actually not more difficult to motivate your staff, because everyone gets much more focused on how they control their own economic destiny."

Secondly, the Robena Coal Refuse Disposal Area. The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has developed a "Playbook" published in January 2021 for the 1,000-acre site, offering potential redevelopment strategies and highlighting its strengths, including its location on the Monongahela River, access to rail and roadways, and potential for energy-related industries. The playbook provides market information and detailed data to help interested parties understand the site's potential and facilitate due diligence. Business or industry development of this tract aims to attract investment and promote economic diversification in the region.

The only viable solution I see is business or industry site development on a scale Greene County has never seen before. Time is not on our side. Solutions to problems must be reasonable and feasible to even begin the rest of the analysis. It is certainly reasonable that a company or industry finds the need for either of these described properties. Feasibility would be analyzed through planning and due diligence, but either property offers valuable opportunities to the right partner.

Will this be quick? No! The scale of this investment requires a series of events that would include finding the buyer, initial planning, due diligence, permitting, building out the infrastructure, building improvements, and then the implementation of the operational plans. Agreement to production can realistically take 4-7 years. Not to mention, Greene County has a 5 year modified bases tax abatement program in which full taxes on assessed value are not realized until five years after the completion of construction.

We know how we got in this predicament, what will our future be?

Please note: The opinions represented above are those of the author.

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JULY PERSON, PLACE OR THING ANSWER

Gene Rush is the Coroner of Greene County. He was first elected to office in November 2017.

Rush's background is rooted in lifelong service. He spent four years in the U.S. Air Force, including a tour in Vietnam, eventually retiring as a Staff Sergeant. After his military service, he



earned a degree from Robert Morris College and graduated with honors from the Pittsburgh School of Mortuary Science. Rush then launched a 44-year career as a funeral director, including more than 30 years owning and operating Rush Funeral Home in Rogersville.

Rush has emphasized community outreach to comfort families and provide transparency in reporting causes of death in the fight against the opioid epidemic. A prominent civic figure, he and his wife Judy have a long record of volunteerism—Gene has been a member of the American Legion, Lions Club, local hospital board, funeral directors' associations, and was honored in 2016 with a Distinguished Service Award.

As coroner, Rush hired a new team of deputies to improve response times county-wide and secured \$40,000 in grant funding to modernize record-keeping from paper to digital systems. These changes also enhanced data-sharing with Greene County's Opioid Task Force, allowing for better substance-abuse prevention strategies.

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It welcomes all with calm and measured beat,
As if still touched by one grand lady's hands.*

*Her name lives on where children learn to play,
On diamonds groomed for baseball, bat, and cheer.
Soft echoes of the games from yesterday
Still drift along the walking trails held dear.*

*The pavilions wait in leafy shade,
Where families gather, stories intertwine.
And every breeze recalls the mark she made -
A quiet grace that time cannot outshine.*

*Though seasons turn, her memory won't depart -
This park, her gift, still beats with county heart.*

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Executive Insights *with Dolly Throckmorton*

I have been a business owner in several types of businesses over the last 38 years. I have managed anywhere from a handful of employees and customers to as many as one hundred employees and thousands of customers.

I would like to share some of the realizations I came to over this time, as well as some helpful advice. I would say one of the biggest misconceptions about operating your own business is people think you do not need to do any of the actual work, but that you are managing others to do it for you. Especially as you are establishing your business, you need to be doing the bulk of the work.

In some cases, this means you are doing all the work to get things off the ground. If things go well, then yes, you will be sharing or delegating responsibilities over time. You may put in an enormous number of hours during the infancy of your business, but you will know every aspect of running it.

Your goal is to be a successful leader, teacher, and business owner. You will always be teaching or training, and it is vital to know how to interact with employees. Not everyone learns at the same pace, manages difficulty in the same way, or interacts with people in the same manner as you might. It is important to have patience and know how to oversee problems as they arise, deal with them maturely and tactfully, and do the best damage control possible.

The hardest part for me to learn as a business owner was to not take everything so personally. As a woman in business, this was a huge challenge. Per the Taylor Swift song, I wanted to be "The Man." This took a couple of decades to completely come to terms with for me. Everything was personal to me. I did finally come to the realization that in most cases, it was not about me, my business, or how I managed things. It took a long time to be confident enough to know I was making the best decision after I sorted through everything to get to the facts.

I had no problem admitting when I was wrong or made a mistake. I learned to admit I was wrong even when I was not, because in some circumstances, it was a way to reconcile and move forward. Somewhere along the way, we have lost that ability. You can sell the greatest product in the world, offer the most wonderful services, but if you cannot tactfully and maturely deal with your employees and customers on a face-to-face basis at any given time, things will catch up with you.

Our egos tend to get in the way, and this creates drama, stress, and discord. Your customers and employees should trust that you handle the hard stuff. This creates loyalty. It creates a balance in your business between employees and customers. You will have those crazy instances that hit you out of nowhere, but do not take those hits personally.

Know that you have put in the time, weighed all the pros and cons, and sorted through the drama. Be confident in your decision. It took me too long to figure this out on my own. As an incredibly wise businesswoman told me in my 20s, "Do not make the rules of your business for 20% of the people. Focus on the 80% who follow the rules already."

That wisdom has certainly carried me through almost 40 years later. Trust that you are doing what's right and 80% will follow. All you can do with the 20% is lay controls in place and get serious when the situation calls for it. It takes consistency and blood, sweat, and tears to bring you a sense of balance and reward in your life and your business.

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Sheena Shannon captured this ethereal sunset from her back deck.



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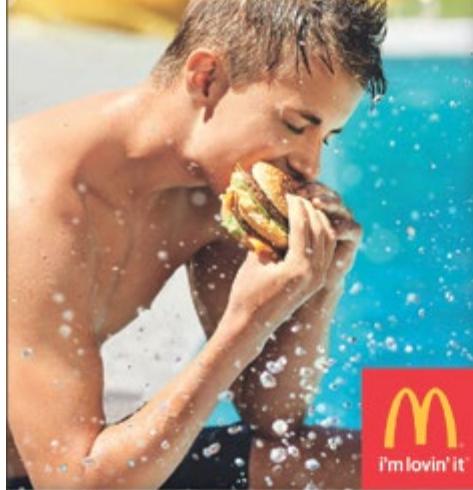
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Good NEWS

In Greene County

Dreamers Park Maintenance Crew



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

The Library's Summer Reading Programs Are Made Possible by a Grant From The Community Foundation of Greene County Through The Jamie and Jackie Campbell Family Fund.

SUMMER READING FIELD TRIPS – August 6, bus leaves at 8:30, return at 3:00 PM. Field Trip to Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. This trip is open to all children in any age group who have attended at least four weeks of summer programming.

August 8, 11:30 AM. Picnic and Pool Party at Ryerson Station State Park. All summer program participants and their families are invited! An optional bus will be leaving the library at 11:00 and arriving home at 3:30; otherwise, meet us at the playground pavilion at 11:30 and stay as long as you like!

ANNUAL BOOK BUCK AUCTION – Friday, August 15 starting at 11:00 AM. If you have been earning Book Bucks by logging your reading in our Summer Reading Challenges, now is your chance to use those Bucks to bid on Big Prizes. We'll start auctioning off prizes until they're gone and end the afternoon with a picnic lunch.

COMMUNITY ZOO TRIP – Saturday, August 16, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM. The bus will leave the library at 8:30 AM, Zoo arrival ~10AM, Bus leaves zoo at 3:30 PM with approximately 4:30 arrival back home. Cost is \$20 per person, but free for children who have participated in the Summer programs this year and for children under two. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register by calling the library at 724-627-9776.

VITALANT BLOOD DRIVE – Wednesday, August 20th, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Call 724-627-9776 to let us know if you're interested in participating.

MOSEY TO MORDOR – Until August 31 we are challenging the public to participate in our Mosey to Mordor Fundraising Challenge. A Special Edition Copy of the Lord of the Rings Trilogy illustrated by the author, J.R.R. Tolkien, will be awarded to the first five to complete the challenge. Challengers can start by registering for the program through ReaderZone on the library's website using this code: e9244 to select Mosey to Mordor and track their progress.

LORD OF THE RINGS READING CHALLENGE – Don't feel like walking all the way to Mordor. You can still have a grand adventure by reading one of the greatest stories ever told, The Lord of the Rings. Are you brave enough to read through The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings Trilogy before August 31? An Illustrated Edition of The Hobbit will be awarded to whoever completes the challenge. Register your progress through ReaderZone on the Library's website and then use this code: e9244 to select the Lord of the Rings Reading Challenge.

BOOK CLUB – Thursday, August 14th from 4:30 – 6:00 PM. This month's book discussion is on Charlie Lovett's "First and Novel Impressions", There are several physical copies available at the front desk. New members are always welcome!

COSMIC BINGO – Join us at the library on Friday, August 29th at 7:00 PM for a fun night of Glow in the Dark "COSMIC" Bingo. Call 724-627-9776 to let us know you're coming.

MOVIE NIGHT – Enjoy movie night here at the library Friday, August 1, beginning promptly at 7:00 PM. This Month's Movie is The Minecraft Movie. FREE snack and beverage. Doors open at 6:45 PM. Call the library to RSVP your seat(s)

PUZZLE CHALLENGE – Saturday, August 9 from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. The library is looking for 10 teams of two to compete in putting together a 750-piece puzzle in three hours or less. Contact the library to register. Prizes awarded.

JIGSAW JAMBOREE – Saturday, August 30th the Bowlby Library will be hosting a casual puzzle day.

MAHJONG CLUB – Meets every Wednesday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM. It's easy to learn the basics. Walk-ins are welcome.

WEIGHT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP – Meets every Friday, 10:00 – 11:00AM.

TECH TUTORING – Call the library to reserve a timeslot. Bring your electronic device, account passwords, any devices you use (and charging cords if needed), and your library card.

Call or stop in at Eva K. Bowlby Public Library for more info or to register for any of the above events.

724-627-9776 • 311 N. West St., Waynesburg, PA 15370 • www.evakbowlby.org

LOCAL. LIBRARY. LOVE. KATHY McCLURE RETIRES

Kathy McClure, Director of Waynesburg's Eva K. Bowlby Public Library for twenty years, has announced her retirement, effective at the end of this year.

Ms. McClure was hired as the Children's Librarian/Assistant Director in September of 1994, back when the Children's Department consisted of five stacks of kids' books and two stacks of picture books. The Children's wing of the library was relatively new, just seven years old, and she expanded services, books, story times, and had murals painted on the walls. One of her favorite memories is building a bank for summer reading club where the children received Book Bucks for books they read.

In a recent conversation, Ms. McClure looked back on her eleven years as Children's Librarian fondly, reminiscing about the summer when they built a castle for the kids to enjoy. "We established traditions that have continued to this day," she said.

A lifelong resident of Greene County, Ms. McClure graduated from Waynesburg College. When she became Director of the library in 2005, she returned to school for two years to get her masters degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

When asked what accomplishment she was most proud of, Ms. McClure didn't hesitate, "I think I'm most proud of maintaining the elegance of this building." "There was so much deferred maintenance that had to be done. The building was really in bad shape." The porches were redone; new drains around the building, new furnaces, and a new roof installed; the upper parking lot was put in; and the gazebo was added to the front yard. "The uniqueness of this library makes it stand out from the ordinary," she said.

In 1994, when Ms. McClure first started working at Bowlby, people were still checking books out by hand and using date stamps. "So much has changed," she said. "Now we have computer stations and data bases and materials we never dreamed we would be able to offer to the public." She oversaw the automation of the library system in 2012. A new security system was installed, a door counter, public computers and printers, and classes for the public on how to use them.

As Director, Ms. McClure also made sure that Bowlby Library placed an emphasis on literacy for everyone. A \$60,000 literacy grant over three years enabled the library to add to their adult literacy program and expand it to include English Language Learners and tutoring classes for kids. This emphasis on literacy for all contributed to Bowlby being named a Family Place Library, which came with an additional grant to purchase quality toys and materials to be used in the Baby Lap Sit and Toddler Share programs.

She also oversaw the EQT grant for the new Community Room where meetings and programming events are held.

Her years at Bowlby Library were often a family affair—her kids and grandkids were employed there, and after he retired, her husband Jeff helped so often that the Board of Directors offered him the job of Building Maintenance Supervisor. He's been at the library for ten years and is retiring along with his wife.

"I am humbled and grateful to have been involved with the library for my whole career. In my time here, the children and the people have been so wonderful. I'm grateful to have built connections and relationships with all the patrons who came into the library and into my life. I hope I have helped build the library into a true community asset."

For the generations of patrons and readers who have gotten to know Mrs. Kathy in her time at Bowlby Library, we invite you to stop by the library, and offer a memory and best wishes.





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THE THREE HOTTEST JULYS IN GREENE COUNTY HISTORY

By Bret Moore

1901

With the dogdays upon us, I thought it would be interesting to take a look at the most blistering summers of our past. Greene County is blessed with a relatively moderate climate compared to the rest of the world and nation. Our average July high temperature is a nice (for some people) 84 degrees. However, in the past we have endured some brutally hot days.

The hottest month on record in Greene County occurred in July 1901. That month, the county experienced an average temperature of 77°F, with daily highs around 90.

The last two weeks of that July were devastating for the entire East Coast. Conservative estimates placed the death toll from the heat wave at 9,500 in the cities alone. Undoubtedly, this was a gross underestimate because many immigrants and rural residents were not included in the count.

Rail lines warped, disrupting travel. What few electrical grids there were at the time failed. Horses died from heat exhaustion in the streets creating dangerous sanitation conditions.

This was a year before Willis Carrier even invented the prototype of the air conditioner and two decades before the first refrigeration units. It would be years before these items were common in most homes.

I went to the **Cornerstone Genealogy Library**, and their helpful staff allowed me to search the Waynesburg Republican of the time period to see how the heat affected Greene County.

The Waynesburg Chamber of Commerce was first organized during that year. I can imagine the merchants trying to convince the townsfolk to buy some heavy Edwardian clothing to add to their suffering.

In 1901, women's fashion was characterized by a continuation of the late Victorian silhouette, featuring long, flowing skirts. Day dresses often had high necklines and were adorned with various trimmings. Men's fashion included three-piece suits, high-collared shirts, and neckties. Working men wore canvas, duck cloth, or corduroy (often with protective aprons)

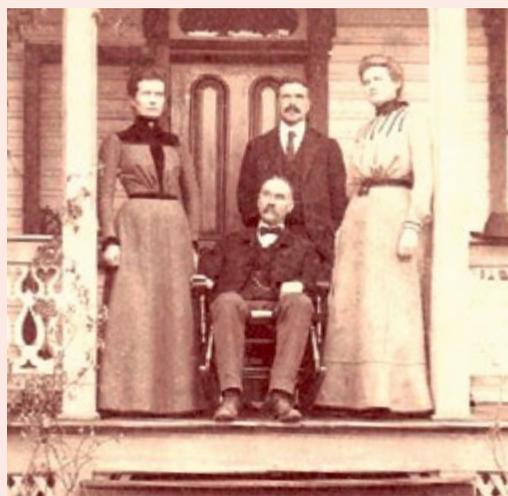
One can only imagine the uncomfortable nightmare these garments would bring to the average person in the street. Waynesburg Business College, which was on High Street, canceled classes on several days. Most church services were being held under tents.

The plight of the blue-collar workers during these times would seem unfathomable. However, in these conditions even they were granted a reprieve. Most of the sheet and hoop workers in our factory were idled because of the dangerous conditions.

One of the many intense evening thunderstorms caused by the heat took the life of a 35-year-old Whitley Township man. He was standing in the middle of his downstairs bedroom, and a bolt of lightning traveled down the chimney and struck him. Another lightning strike hit a Carnegie Company gas well derrick near Waynesburg, and it burned for several days.

A large ad in the Republican counseled people to drink Hire's Root Beer to beat the heat. It was advertised as "The Nation's Temperance Beverage" with "Pop-Fizz, Foam, and Sparkle!"

Meanwhile, according to another article, breweries in Pittsburg (no "h" at that time) and Wheeling were working overtime to make enough beer to quench men's thirsts.



Adam Hewitt family on the porch at the turn of the century. Photo from *Greene Connections* (Cornerstone Genealogical Society Collection)

One venerable institution found a way to beat the heat. An **"Ice Cream Social"** was hosted by the Christian Church at the **Jacktown Fair**. "Three well conducted young ladies were stationed around each table to take and fill orders of cream and lemonade." Apparently, it was "quite an attraction to the many young men present to partake in the delicious refreshments."

The fair crowd was larger than expected, but the "officer of the peace" was not required to control the crowd because they were "well entertained by the music of Mr. and Mrs. James Carter"

A cheeky, popular columnist for the Pittsburg Post, who went by the moniker of The Green Goods Man, ran a humorous column listing the

telegrams he received from his "country friends."

Some of the "telegrams" were as follows: In Claysville, potatoes baked in the ground and chickens hatched prematurely (one half at a time) due to the heat. In West Alexander, farmer Butabaga had his thermometer upside down and lost an ear to frostbite. The village of Good Intent, which consisted of three sycamore trees and a duck pond disappeared because of the heat, and all the village's mail should be sent to the Burnsville Post Office. Finally, in **Waynesburg the fish boiled in the stream** and were fully cooked. He also noted the oil drillers around here liked the heat because it saved them the trouble of lighting the fires under their boilers.

As one does when looking at old newspapers, I went down a rabbit hole of exploration of the crazy things going on at the time. First, I found it interesting that a man named Alex Ashbrook shot a crane in West Waynesburg that measured 6'6" from tip to tip. Of course, such news could be found in the Waynesburg Republican and Pittsburg Daily Gazette of the time. The two papers were running a subscription special where you could receive both for the low rate of \$3.00 a year.

However, the most amazing thing I saw was the Pittsburgh Pirates were in first place in the eight team National League standings. They finished the year seven games ahead of the Philadelphia Phillies. Interestingly, that was the first season for the American League. The inaugural World Series was two years away, and the Yankees were seven years from even existing.

1934

July of 1934 was the second hottest month on record here. The average temperature was 76.5°, highs again near 90° every day.

By this time, some public spaces in cities had large window air conditioners. However, the units were \$7,000 to \$14,000, the equivalent of \$100,000 to \$200,000 in today's money.

That whole summer the entire country baked. In fact, most of the 1930s saw severe droughts and poor soil conservation, leading to dust storms and crop failures. Bare, dry soil and lack of vegetation amplified heat through radiative heating and dust storms.

However, 1934 -1936 were particularly bad. Temperatures in the Plains often reached 110 to 121 degrees. New York City recorded multiple days of 106. Many of those highs still stand as records today. Forty-five of the 48 states recorded temperatures over 100 in 1934.

The death toll that summer was also listed as approximately 9,500. In addition, there were massive crop failures, especially corn and wheat. Livestock perished from heat and lack of water, creating food shortages on top of the depression's economic impacts.



Workers in the 1930's.

1955

In more recent local history, July 1955 stands out as the third hottest month in Greene County, with an average temperature of 75.9°F and daily highs also peaking at 89°F.

Air conditioning was still rare at that time around here, available only in select public buildings (like movie theaters). Most homes relied on fans and shaded porches. The broader national disaster accelerated interest in modern cooling systems and public health planning.

Recent Years

Five summers ago (the summer of Covid) was not far behind on the list. The average July temperature of 75.8° was no doubt uncomfortable; however, the effects were not nearly as devastating given the ubiquity of home and commercial air conditioning.

The summer of **2024 was the hottest on record globally**, surpassing previous milestones set in 2023.



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Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore



*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.*

DEAR PARENTS: YOUR 8-YEAR-OLD DOESN'T NEED AN AGENT YET

Last month, I wrote how the proliferation of travel teams is killing traditional youth baseball programs. However, the negative consequences of such early sports specialization are seen in multiple sports and affect participants in a variety of ways. No doubt the flood of specialization is water long over the dam; however, I always feel the need to try to put the toothpaste back in the tube. How's that for a mixed metaphor?

So your daughter is five and can't hit her three pointers consistently? She's way behind on that UConn scholarship pursuit? No doubt, it's time to double down and drive into Pittsburgh three times a week for private lessons with a former Olympian.

Such exaggerated (slightly) remarks reveal a troubling trend: the pressure to push children into **early sports specialization (ESS)**. Many parents are convinced without early and intense focus on a single sport, their child will miss out on critical opportunities for achievement in competitive sports, college scholarships, and beyond.

Research suggests this early specialization, while being of importance in some of our most elite athletes, has negative consequences for the vast majority of the other athletes.

We have seen the benefits some of our elite athletes have realized by engaging in a particular sport from a young age. The intense time and effort they put into their training truly paid dividends in their performance. We fans love a great success story like Tiger Woods.

But what about the overwhelming majority of kids who didn't earn the college scholarship, make it to the big leagues, or the Olympics?

Early sports specialization involves dedicating more than eight months of the year to one sport before 12 years of age. ESS has traditionally been associated with individual sports such as tennis, wrestling, gymnastics, and golf. However, this trend is now expanding to team sports, notably baseball/softball and soccer.

Many parents have come to believe that hyper-specialized and intense training from an early age is necessary. This belief has fueled an industry eager to profit from youth specialization by offering costly elite coaching, camps, club teams, specialized

equipment, and private sessions, all promising pathways to college scholarships and professional careers.

I'm sure you know what's coming next. The grumpy old man is about to throw a big bucket of cold water on your hopes and dreams.

First, participating in a variety of sports during youth fosters well-rounded motor skills, which are crucial for long-term athletic success. Research shows while ESS may cultivate niche sport-specific skills that facilitate early success, it **inhibits broad motor development** which is essential for peak performance.

Furthermore, ESS is linked to significantly **higher rates of overuse injuries** and an increased risk of severe injuries throughout an athlete's career. Athletes who specialize early are more than twice as likely to experience injuries compared to their less specialized peers. These injuries often result from the excessive strain placed on the developing bodies of young people.

For instance, young pitchers who engage in throwing more than eight months a year face increased risks of shoulder and elbow surgeries, and a staggering 57% of ulnar collateral ligament reconstructions are performed on adolescent pitchers, a statistic that continues to rise annually.

Burnout is also significantly more common among athletes who engage in ESS. Although the concept of early sports commitment may fuel the parents' drive, most kids are just kids. It doesn't take a sport psychologist to realize if they actually enjoy a sport, they will stick with

it longer.

In addition to the significant risks to the health and well-being of young athletes, ESS also presents considerable family and **socioeconomic challenges**.

Competitive youth sports often compel families to allocate a large percentage of their income to their children's activities, covering costs like equipment, travel, and specialized training. This financial strain can force families to make tough economic choices.

The financial strain associated with ESS not only impacts individual families but also exacerbates the divide between af-

fluent and less affluent households. As youth sports become increasingly commercialized, families with above average incomes and private insurance are more likely to engage in ESS, benefiting from private facilities and year-round participation.

In contrast, less affluent families face significant barriers, limiting their kid's opportunities. This disparity contributes to an array of societal issues. If the physical and emotional benefits of sports are out of reach for those in the most vulnerable economic situations, the long-term health, educational, and behavioral costs will inevitably mount.

Moreover, the time demands on families can be overwhelming, especially with multiple children in sports. The intense schedules of practices, games, and tournaments can consume family time, leaving little opportunity for relaxation and increasing stress for both parents and children.

Ultimately, the kicker is that early sport specialization does not correlate with long term elite achievement in sport. While ESS might be necessary for sports with young peak performance ages, such as gymnastics, most sports do not benefit from early specialization. Research shows that successful elite athletes often specialized at a later age and engaged in less focused training during childhood.

A study of 1,500 German athletes from various Olympic sports found those who attained international status generally started training in their primary sport later and participated in two additional sports alongside their main discipline.

In fact, many successful athletes started their careers later than is typical. Randy Johnson, a Hall of Fame baseball pitcher, didn't begin playing until college, soccer star Megan Rapinoe didn't begin playing seriously until her mid-teens, and Hakeem Olajuwon, didn't play basketball until he was 15.

I acknowledge there are some young athletes who simply demonstrate exceptional talent in a certain sport, and early and aggressive development is an obvious life course for these exceptional few.

Undoubtedly, early engagement in a single sport has allowed some athletes to achieve tremendous success. For these very special athletes, it was indeed the early involvement, innate talent, and countless hours of dedication to their sport that propelled them to greatness.

But for the vast majority of our kids, embracing a broader, more balanced approach to youth sports can enhance their chances for success, offering them a longer, healthier, and more enjoyable career.





THE HOUSE OF DAVID WAS THE ORIGINAL SAVANNAH BANANAS

By Bret Moore

The Savannah Bananas sold out two games for August 29 and 30 at PNC Park. The team is so popular, you had to enter a lottery just to get a chance to pay \$35 - \$125 dollars for a ticket.

For those of you who do not follow baseball or pop culture, the Savannah Bananas are an exhibition barnstorming team. They play a variation of baseball known as Banana Ball. The players engage in dance routines, comedic sketches, and other performances between and during innings. In other words, they are a baseball version of the Harlem Globetrotters, although their games are unscripted and competitive. Most of players are former minor league and college players, with former MLB athletes as occasional special guest players.

The team was founded in 2016 and until 2022 competed as a collegiate summer team in the Coastal Plain League, where they won three championships. In 2018, they began playing exhibition games outside of the CPL season under the Banana Ball format. In 2023, the team moved entirely to exhibition games against their partner touring teams, the Party Animals, the Firefighters, and the Texas Tailgaters.

The team has been featured by ESPN and Sports Illustrated because of their entertaining antics and viral videos. ESPN+ released a miniseries about them called Bananaland. As of 2023, the team had over six million followers on TikTok, more than any MLB team.

In 2020, the Savannah Party Animals debuted as the opponent in Banana Ball games, similar to the relationship between the Harlem Globetrotters and the Washington Generals. Unlike Globetrotter exhibitions, the teams are more even and the Bananas do not win all games.



The House of David baseball team.

However, more than a century before the Bananas there was another popular barnstorming team that relied on a unique marketing schtick.

The Israelite House of David was formed in 1903 in Missouri. It was a Christian Community that sought to reunite the twelve tribes of Israel to prepare for and await the return of Jesus in the year 2000.

The group's founder, Benjamin Purnell was a baseball enthusiast and encouraged playing the game as a way of building physical and spiritual discipline. The group lived communally and placed a great deal of value on physical labor and activity, citing the Apostle Paul who worked as a tent maker during his

missions. Members of the group were strict vegetarians, and espoused celibacy outside marriage. The famous long hair and beards were worn citing the book of Leviticus.

They began playing competitive baseball in 1913. In 1920, they became a barnstorming team and traveled the country making money for the colony and using the games as an opportunity to proselytize. Their long hair and beards became a marketing novelty, drawing crowds wherever they played. One of the biggest draws was their "famous pepper games."

There was a time when people loved to watch players warm up with what amounted to an improvisational juggling act.

The Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Department's films captured a game in Waynesburg between a barnstorming Pittsburgh Pirates team and the House of David. It was very common in those days for MLB teams or their players to barnstorm to supplement their relatively low salaries.

The House baseball team toured our county at least four other times that I found and played all-star teams of local players. In the late 1930's, The House of David Longbeards' basketball team packed the gyms in both Carmichaels and Waynesburg.

By the late 1920s, in need of more skilled players, the House of David began hiring professional players. The most notable was an aging Grover Cleveland Alexander. They also offered a contract to Babe Ruth after he retired. However, the team withdrew the offer because of the slugger's legendary hedonistic lifestyle. These recruited players were required to grow beards (or wear fake beards).

The team was known for its skill and played against some of the greatest teams in the country. Because of their egalitarian religious beliefs, they played against any competitors willing to take them on. Their schedule included Major League, minor league, independent and Negro League teams. The team even had its own portable light system which it would set up in various ballparks around the country in order to play more lucrative night games.

By the late 1920s, Benjamin Purnell had come into some legal troubles surrounding sexual indiscretions with the women of the community and was expelled from the group. The community divided into two factions. The first was led by Mary Purnell, wife of Benjamin. The second faction did not believe Mary to have any authority over the group and was led by a council of elders.



The Savannah Bananas baseball team engaging in some hilarity they are known for.

Mary's faction, the smaller of the two, purchased a plot of land across the street from the original community and became the City of David. Both the Israelite House of David and Mary's City of David fielded teams, and for publicity purposes, both used the House of David name.

Mary's City of David sent out barnstorming teams from 1930 until 1940 and then again from 1946 until 1955. Throughout this period, there were numerous teams which bore the House of David name and beards for publicity purposes. Many of these teams just "borrowed" the name and had no real affiliation with the original team. The most famous of these was probably the Black House of David, an all African-American barnstorming team that played solely within the Negro Leagues

Despite the Bananas incredible success, they have a way to go to catch their predecessors from a business perspective.

At its peak, The House of David ran the Eden Springs amusement park. It was the Midwest's premiere tourist attraction during the first half of the 20th century. It featured a zoo, resort, dairy farm, restaurant, arcade, movie theater, bowling alley, amphitheater, and the world's largest miniature locomotive set.

Their other businesses included the making and distribution of ice cream, grape juice, string instruments, and jewelry. It is also believed the cult invented the waffle cone, first introduced at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.

Maybe *Bananaland* can be more than a documentary. Sounds like the perfect name for a baseball-themed resort.

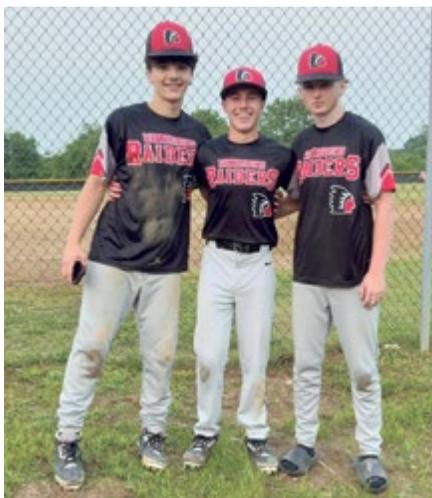
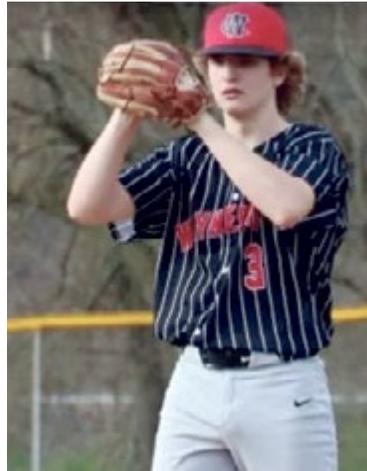


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Waynesburg Central pitchers **Austin Surber** and **Tyler Groves** were both named Second Team **All-State** for their sterling efforts last spring.



Daniel Tapija, Maddox Hass, and Logan Bochna celebrate after a win.



Smash catcher, Rylee Yeager in action.

PAHSSBCA All-State Softball Team

First Team

Bailey Barnyak, Carmichaels (Pitcher)
Ashton Batis, Carmichaels (2B)
Carys McConnell, Carmichaels (SS)

Second Team

Peyton Gilbert, West Greene (Pitcher)
Kaitlyn Waggett, Carmichaels (Catcher)
Kendra Tharp, West Greene (SS)
Marissa Tharp, West Greene (OF)

Raider alum **Rocco Welsh** will represent Penn State as a member of the United States team at the U23 World Championships in Serbia this October. Welsh transferred to Penn State from Ohio State this off season. He cruised to the 86-kilogram (189.5 lb.) quarterfinals with three technical falls by a combined score of 30-0. He then beat Cornell All-American Simon Ruiz, Lehigh's Rylan Rogers, and Maryland All-American Jaxon Smith on his way to the title.

Jefferson Morgan's **Deaken Dehoet** finished fifth in the AA 100 Meters at the PIAA Track Championships this past season.



Chloe Shaffer has struck out 112 batters for the Smash 13U softball team this summer with more tournaments scheduled.



Lelia McCollum, Ani Cree, and Railey Bochna competed at the AAU Nationals in Orlando.

Rohanna's Golf Course Schedule

- August 2/3 Club Championship
- August 16 WCHS Boys Basketball Scramble
- August 23/24 The King Cup
- September 20 The Big Cup
- October 4 The Daniel Davis Invitational



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In the Out-Door

By T.R. Mahle

HUNTING HILLS SHOOTING PRESERVE NEWS

Hawkeye Shooters Shine in State Sporting Clay Championships

The Hunting Hills Hawkeyes, based in Dilliner are a Scholastic Clay Target Program team that has significantly impacted youth shooting sports since their establishment in 2009. The team provides students in grades 5 through 12 with opportunities to develop skills in clay target shooting while emphasizing gun safety, teamwork, and proficiency in shooting sports.

The Hawkeyes have consistently excelled in regional and national competitions.

2025 STATE SPORTING CLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS (June 14, 2025 @ Central Penn Sporting Clays in Wellsville, PA)

(1 round of 100 clay birds)

	SCORE		SCORE
Senior Varsity			
William Boden	81	Intermediate/Entry	
Brendan Cole	97	Parker Bland	73
Micah Crowe	73	Kaylen Caldwell	41
Carrigan Henry	64	Raeleigh Crowe	56
Benjamin Horne	80	Beau Miller	69
Parker Jones	85	Parker Rice	64
Kory Taylor	95	Ryker Thompson	58
Deakin Whipkey	89	Sonny Roebuck	67
Hunter Bowlen	73	Steven Roebuck	64
Mackenzie Bowlen	57	Intermediate/Advanced	
Nathaniel Letourneau	90	Blake Miller	80
Senior/Jr. Varsity			
Carson Henry	87	Braden Rayle	74
Charles Kenny	94	Alexzander Smith	73
Dominic Thompson	69	Rookie	
Andrew Mahle	79	Trevor Corwin	64
		Anson Lewis	53
		Gunnar Novotny	74
		Isaac Caldwell	57
		Collegiate	
		Kenneth Jones	69



Hunting Hills Hawkeye News Spotlight on Kory Taylor

The Hunting Hills Hawkeyes have had several outstanding shooters over the years. Kory Taylor, from Waynesburg, is one of them and has been with the Hawkeyes for seven years. Kory will soon be joining the Lions of Emanuel University (Georgia) as a member of their clay target team where he will be pursuing an academic degree in Biology with an emphasis on pre-veterinarian studies.

Kory's shooting accomplishments are numerous, and he is a proud member of the *Caesar Guerini Ambassador* team. "Joining the Hawkeyes was one of the best decisions I've ever made". He went on to say, "over the years I have had a ton of fun, won multiple state and national titles, been to some of the nicest facilities in the country, and most importantly, met a ton of great people along the way".

Taylor's impressive list of accomplishments include:

- 2024 SCTP HOA National Champ**
- 2024 NSCA AA Class National Champion**
- 2023 NSCA B Class National Champion**
- 2024 SCTP Make-A-Break National Champion Team**
- 6x SCTP PA State All State Team Member**
- 2x SCTP PA State Skeet HOA**
- SCTP PA State Sporting HOA**
- 4x SCTP Western PA Cup HOA**
- SCTP Regional Skeet Champion**
- SCTP Regional Sporting Champion**
- 11x SCTP PA State Team Champion**
- 4x SCTP National Champion Team**

Congratulations to Kory for an outstanding career. Not only is he an ambassador for the *Caesar Guerini* team, he is also an outstanding ambassador for the entire sport shooting community.



GOVERNOR SIGNS SUNDAY HUNTING BILL

Harrisburg: House Bill 1431, legislation introduced by Rep. Mandy Steele, D-Allegheny, which would fully repeal Pennsylvania's prohibition on Sunday hunting, passed the final State House and Senate by a vote of 142-61 and was signed into law on Tuesday, July 9, by Governor Josh Shapiro, marking a historic day for hunters in Pennsylvania.

Sunday hunting has been prohibited, one of the last of the states "blue laws", which banned certain activities and businesses on Sundays. This positive momentum is welcome news for supporters of expanded Sunday hunting.

Now that house bill 1431 is the law, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, through its appointed Board of Commissioners, will authorize and implement additional Sunday hunting opportunities. The Game Commission plans to implement the new hunting opportunities this fall. Further information regarding these additional opportunities will be released as they become available.

It's been a long time coming, but the change is going to give hunters more opportunity to get out, especially if they work and don't have the time otherwise. It's something a lot of hunters will appreciate.



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CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHED ANGLERS IN GREENE COUNTY, PA

By T.R. Mahle



Gordon Vanderpool.



“The sound of a stream can wash away a thousand worries” - John Muir

Greene County, Pennsylvania, is a hidden gem for fishing enthusiasts, offering a diverse array of waterways teeming with various fish species. From the meandering streams of Tenmile Creek to the serene Enlow Fork, the region attracts both seasoned anglers and those eager to learn. While specific names of accomplished anglers in Greene County are not widely publicized, the area's rich fishing culture provides ample opportunities to connect with knowledgeable locals and guides. This article will shed light on some of the top anglers that call or have called Greene County their home. This is by no means a complete list of accomplished anglers, but simply a compilation of anglers that have outstanding reputations or individuals that I communicate with personally. Their ability to not only locate, but actually catch fish, is truly astonishing.

Individual guru anglers in Greene County may not be widely recognized, but there are several who would be considered well above average with their knowledge and fish catching skills. More importantly, in addition to this knowledge and skill, is their dedication to the sport or “time on the water”. Their passion for the sport is what separates them from the average weekend fisherman. This passion also drives them to travel to far destinations to satisfy their lust for the sport of fishing, and they log hundreds of hours perfecting their skills.

Morgan Watkins, Jason Hampson, Craig Brewer, Wayne Smith, Jason Wilson and Bill D’Eletto are just a few of the names that come to mind when discussing accomplished anglers from Greene County. In addition to being great anglers, they make it a point to share their expertise and give guidance to anyone who seeks it...whether it’s “what bait are you using?” or “where should I cast?”, there is absolutely no selfishness in these guys, and they are eager to help anyone.

In addition to these individuals, the county has also produced several “professional” anglers...individuals who profit from the sport as tournament pros, guides and internet phenoms:

- **Gordon Vanderpool**, from Ruff Creek, operates (Turning Stone’s Fly Fishing) in North Carolina. Many say Gordon is one of the best anglers to ever come out of the area. He is also considered one of the best tight-line European and Czech nymphing anglers in the country. Gordon is also an assistant coach of the SE Regional US Youth Fly Fishing Team. (828) 307-3375, flyfishingnc.com

- **Colton Higgins**, from Waynesburg, is a member of the (Outcast’s Bass Club). He is also considered by many to be one of the top anglers from the county with superior instincts for catching fish.

- **Kaitlyn Conti**, (Stream Queen), has amassed over 80,000 followers on her social platform. Kaitlyn fishes and documents countless hours of fishing every year all across the country. (the_stream_queen)

- **Rachelle (Humble) and Josh Hedrick**, Rachelle is from Waynesburg, and together with her husband Josh they operate (Smoke Hole Outfitters). They oversee one of the best fishing areas in West Virginia, and they offer “Catch & Release” trophy trout fishing and fly fishing lessons. (724) 998-5703, josh@smokehole.com

- **Sean Bradish**, from Waynesburg, operates (Renegade Sport Fishing). They offer charter fishing, manatee tours, and scalloping trips out of the Crystal River, Florida area. (352) 257-7868, conchycharters.com

- **Sam Crawford**, a member of the (Outcast’s Bass Club), is considered by many to be a top angler for smallmouth bass and has consistently placed in tournaments.

Greene County’s diverse waterways and active fishing community make it an ideal destination for anglers seeking both tranquility and adventure. Whether you’re a seasoned fisherman or a novice eager to learn, the county’s rivers, streams, and lakes offer abundant opportunities to cast your line and connect with fellow enthusiasts.

Prime Fishing Locations in Greene County

1. **Tenmile Creek & South Fork Tenmile:** These creeks are renowned for their accessibility and variety of fish, including smallmouth bass, catfish, and trout. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stocks these waters annually, making them popular among anglers.

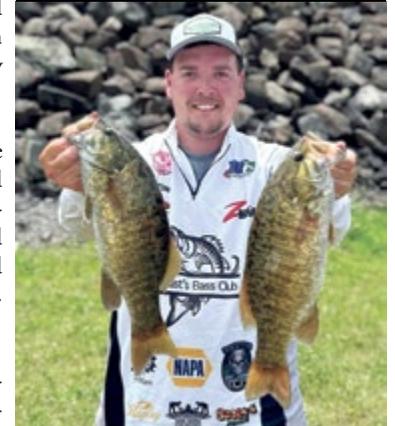
2. **Enlow Fork of Wheeling Creek:** Flowing through the wilds of State Game Lands 302, Enlow Fork offers a more secluded fishing experience. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stocks this stream with rainbow and brown trout each spring.

3. **Ryerson Station State Park:** Once home to Ronald J. Duke Lake, this park now features the North and South Forks of Dunkard Fork. These streams are stocked with trout and panfish each spring, providing excellent fishing opportunities.

4. **Whiteley Creek:** Located near Garards Fort. This creek is stocked with trout in late March and mid-April. Its gentle terrain and easy access make it a favorite among families and novice anglers.

5. **Monongahela River:** Stretching along the eastern border of Greene County, the Monongahela River offers accessible fishing sites in towns like Greensboro, Nemaocolin, Crucible, and Rices Landing. Anglers can expect to catch species such as smallmouth bass, catfish, and walleye.

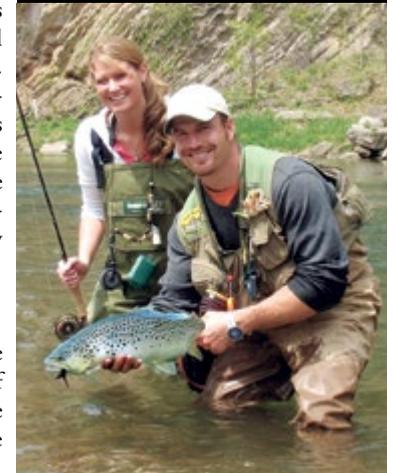
Colton Higgins.



Kaitlyn Conti



Rachelle Humble and Josh Hedrick



Sean Bradish



Sam Crawford



COOKING LOCAL GAME FISH By T.R. Mahle

Cooking local game fish is a rewarding way to enjoy fresh, sustainable protein while celebrating regional flavors. Whether it's trout from streams, bass from local ponds, pan fish, catfish from the river and ponds, or walleye from the lakes, local fish often taste better because they're fresh and haven't traveled far. Cooking them requires only simple methods to highlight their natural flavor.

Grilling is a favorite technique, especially for firm fish like bass or walleye. A hot grill and light seasoning—perhaps just salt, pepper, and lemon—let the fish's natural taste shine through. For more delicate varieties like trout or perch, pan-frying in butter with herbs such as dill, thyme, or parsley enhances flavor without overpowering it.

Fish stews and chowders are another great way to use smaller fillets or leftover cuts. These dishes can include local vegetables, creating hearty meals that reflect the landscape and seasons. Smoking is also popular, especially with oily fish like largemouth bass or catfish, adding rich depth and preserving the catch. It's important to clean and prepare game fish properly—removing scales, bones, and guts to ensure the best texture and flavor.

Fish recipes are far too numerous to even consider selecting a few to highlight. Instead, I will give a general breakdown of what some of the local species has to offer you. Frying, baking, smoking, and grilling are just a few of the many ways you can enjoy local catches. Adding your favorite seasonings and herbs will help you fix a fish meal that suites your own personal taste.

Trout: Trout is generally considered a delicious and healthy fish to eat. It's known for its mild, delicate slightly nutty flavor, and flaky texture. Many people find it to be a versatile fish that can be cooked in various ways. The taste of trout can vary depending on certain bodies of water...the cleaner the water the more appealing the taste.

Walleye: Is a versatile fish that can be prepared in many ways. Walleye fillets are highly prized for their delicate flavor and are enjoyed in various dishes. It's known for its mild, slightly sweet flavor and flaky texture, making it a favorite among freshwater fish enthusiasts.

Largemouth Bass: Largemouth bass is generally considered a good-tasting fish, but the flavor can vary. It is often described as having a mild, white, and flaky flesh, with a slightly fishy and oily taste. Some people find it delicious while others find it too fishy or oily, especially in

larger or older fish. Factors like water quality and how the fish is prepared also play a role in its taste.

Smallmouth Bass: Smallmouth bass is generally considered a good fish to eat. It has a mild, slightly sweet flavor and firm, white flesh, similar to walleye. Some anglers even prefer it over largemouth bass due to its cleaner taste.

Catfish: The most common cooking method is deep-frying, but catfish can be grilled, baked and pan-fried with great success. Catfish has a mild, sweet flavor and is less flaky and denser than other white fish, allowing for a variety of cooking choices.

Panfish: Panfish is a term for small freshwater fish like bluegill, crappie, and perch. These fish are a popular choice for frying due to their size, which fits well in a frying pan. Panfish are excellent to eat. They have a delicate, mild, sweet, and flaky meat that is relatively easy to fillet. Panfish are often found in an easily accessible locations, making them an ideal option for anglers. The only down side is that you need several to make a meal.



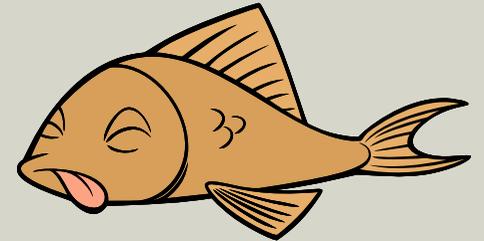
Carp Recipe

Courtesy of special guest chef Fin Diesel

Grilled Cedar Planked Carp (Hold the Carp)

Ingredients:

- 1 (7-10 lb) fresh carp (preferably one that's been giving you trouble)
- 1 green, rough-sawed cedar board
- Plenty of butter
- Aluminum foil
- Lemon juice (optional)



Instructions:

1. Find a good sturdy cedar board, preferably one that's seen a few things.
2. Clean the carp thoroughly.
3. Liberally butter the carp, making sure to coat it completely.
4. Wrap the carp tightly in aluminum foil, ensuring no little fins poke out.
5. Nail the wrapped carp firmly to the cedar board. Don't be shy.
6. Build a roaring fire in your firepit.
7. Place the cedar board with the nailed carp into the firepit.
8. Roast overnight.
9. Carefully unwrap the cooked carp (be careful, it'll be hot!).
10. This is the critical step: Throw the carp away.
11. Serve the cedar plank (with a side of lemon juice if you like) and enjoy your culinary masterpiece.

The GreeneScene Community Magazine invites you, the reader, to send in your favorite recipes to be included in future issues. Email your recipes to info@greenescenemagazine.com.

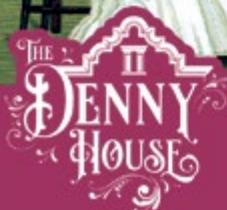
Miss Denny's 132nd Birthday Tea

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Cool at School:

Carmichaels Area: Cool (Back to) School By Emma Bates

Across the district, Carmichaels Area staff members are ushering in the new year with anticipation and preparation. As the smell of freshly waxed floors coats the halls of our alma mater, the scent of fall is on the horizon. Desks ready themselves for the next students to take their place in another year of learning. Buses await their maiden voyage of the 2025-26 school year.

Within the district, some leadership changes are taking place, with Mrs. Amy Todd serving as Interim Superintendent, and Mr. Gary Syriac stepping up as the new Director of Buildings and Grounds.

In the elementary, the music department is excited to welcome Miss Cynthia Hayhurst, who will bring the delight of rhythm and song to students in grades Pre-K to 5.

The district's Pre-K program is filled for the school year, but the school's partnering Blueprints program still has openings. Families are invited to contact Kris Krivanek, the Program Manager for Early Learning, at 724-225-9550 for more information. Pre-K and Kindergarten orientation will take place August 8th.

Mrs. Marissa Sacco, Elementary Principal, is looking to continue many of the engaging activities that took place last year, including the first grade "March Madness" book challenge. High school seniors read a variety of books to young students and "I did the championship round," Sacco says. "It was really a lot of fun."

She also credits the elementary staff for a successful "Learning Night" for students and families. The evening featured educational games in every discipline, providing an opportunity for

intergenerational connection.

Across campus, Carmichaels Middle/High School is a scheduling storm, with administration working diligently to match students with their class preferences.

Mrs. Lisa Zdravecky, High School Principal, shares that among these options are over 15 Advanced Placement and College in the Classroom courses through Carlow University. These classes provide students with three, transferable credits that are accepted by a number of universities. Additionally, four new college courses— Zoology, Government, Economics, and Literature— will be joining the ranks of engaging offerings.

Students can extend their education beyond the classroom at the Greene County Career and Technology Center starting in tenth grade. These students are equipped with training in numerous technical fields, with many earning OSHA certifications by the end of their time in the program.

Carmichaels also prepares students for their future careers with on-campus offerings. The rigorous EMT training program allows students to dive into the fundamentals of medical care, and provides them with the opportunity to become certified paramedics by the end of the year. Since this past school year, five students have already passed their Psycho-Motor and Practical exams, with many more still working toward this qualification.

In-school, clubs represent interest areas from each of the four core subjects and broaden from there. From fabrication to finance, from the stage to the screen, students can branch out within many areas of study and develop passions for future careers or lifelong pursuits.

Student-led clubs are just as important as structured programs, and success is flooding in from these offerings. Merciful Mikes Christian Club, a student-led faith and service organization, will celebrate its 5th anniversary this school year, and many other clubs pioneered by young learners will also be growing and celebrating their voices within the school.

Middle school principal Mr. Dan Poland shares a positive outlook for the upcoming months: "Everything really picks up after the Fourth of July. We're excited for the new school year... it's a good little school we've got."

Now, more than ever, our "little school" is ready to take on another year.



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Cool at School:

West Greene Partners with Arizona State to Offer Associate Degrees

By Aubrey Lesnett

Students at West Greene High School can now obtain an associate's degree in addition to their high school diploma. Although students can already earn college credit through various dual enrollment AP courses, this new program can help take their education even further. Through a new partnership with Arizona State University, students can take online college courses during high school that count toward a two-year degree.

This incredible opportunity is completely free for participating students, thanks to the Clark Foundation, established by Howard and Leslie Clark. Known for their deep commitment to supporting education in the West Greene community, the Clarks are covering the cost of tuition and any other fees that come with the program, removing financial barriers and making higher education more accessible than ever.

This isn't the first time the Clark Foundation has invested in West Greene students' futures. They also fund a field trip known as P20, where students travel to West Virginia University to present a variety of research projects. The event gives students a real taste of the college experience, giving them the ability to present a months-long project to professors. It's an inspiring moment that shows just how much potential West Greene students have when given the chance to shine.

This opportunity for the incoming freshman is a tremendous gift. However, these new Pioneers must be able to prepare properly to take advantage of everything that awaits.

Here are a few simple, relatable tips to help any high school student do their best:

1. Don't Wait Until the Last Minute. Everyone procrastinates sometimes, but doing a little each day makes assignments feel way less overwhelming. Try starting big projects earlier than you think you need to; future you will thank you. Trust me, you can't finish a 5,000-word paper in three days.

2. Use Class Time to Your Advantage. When teachers give you time to work in class, take it seriously. Knocking out homework during the day frees up your evenings and helps reduce stress.

3. Get Involved in What Interests You. Whether it's sports, FFA, music, or a school club, joining something helps you meet new people and feel more connected to school. Plus, it looks great on resumes and college applications.

4. Speak Up and Ask for Help. If you're struggling with a subject or just need advice, don't be afraid to ask. Teachers, counselors, and even classmates are there to help you succeed.

5. Be Kind to Yourself. Nobody's perfect. You're allowed to have bad days, to make mistakes, and to learn at your own pace. Keep showing up and doing your best, that's what matters most.

Thanks to the generosity of the Clark Foundation and the dedication of the West Greene staff, students now have more tools than ever to prepare for a bright future. Whether they're exploring college-level courses or discovering their passions through hands-on experiences like P20, one thing is clear: big opportunities are growing right here at West Greene.

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Become a Master Gardener in Greene County

The next training for becoming a Penn State Extension Master Gardener in Greene County will be in the fall of 2025.

Our program is accepting applications for residents to enroll in our 2026 Master Gardener Basic Training classes. This program consists of a training course designed to provide participants with information and skills necessary to share their knowledge with others. Volunteers will then use this science-based knowledge to teach the community about growing vegetables, attracting pollinators, educating the public of all ages, keeping plants healthy, and more. This is not a garden club; it is a 40-week course taught by Penn State educators.

Online weekly classes start in October 2025. They will be held Thursday evenings via zoom with Penn State Faculty. Should you miss the class, recordings will be available. Participants will also meet in person monthly and can attend our monthly Master Gardener meetings. This allows students to learn more about activities in Greene County. We will also do hands-on activities for some of the classes.

The cost of the class is \$250 and includes an award-winning Master Gardener Manual and hands-on materials.

After completing the class training, candidates must complete 50 hours of volunteer work by September 30th, 2026, to become certified. Each year following the original certification, 20 hours of volunteer activities and 10 hours of continuing education are required to maintain certification. There is a variety of activities including demonstration gardens, writing articles, teaching, answering garden questions, growing plants for our programs, teaching our youth about growing plants and more.

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



The Marvels of Vanilla

Lisa Lewis, Penn State Master Gardener of Greene County and Jay Coughlin, Vanilla Grower, Hawaii

Did you know that Americans consume an average of four gallons, or 20 pounds, of ice cream a year and that vanilla is the most popular ice cream flavor? Did you ever wonder what vanilla is and where it comes from? There are several surprising and interesting facts about vanilla, so read on.

The story about vanilla begins in the tropical forests of southwestern Mexico, its native country. The vanilla flower is pale yellow and produced by a vining type of orchid plant, the vanilla orchid, that uses the trunks and limbs of trees to support its growth towards the sun. A vanilla vine grows 30 to 50 feet or more and does not begin producing flowers for three years. Each flower blooms for only one day and the window for pollination lasts for only a few hours after the bloom opens. Although the orchid flower is hermaphroditic, meaning it contains both male and female parts, it is incapable of self-pollinating. Its pollen is difficult to access within the flowers, and they are pollinated only by species of bees that are native to that region.

In the majority of places the vanilla orchid is grown, it must be pollinated by hand, which is an extremely labor-intensive process given the flowers are opening on different days and each flower must be hand-pollinated within a few hours of opening. Not to mention the pollination is done while standing on a ladder or tree limb several feet above ground. Typically, pollination occurs during the months of October through January. Fertilized flowers then require another nine months to produce the long vanilla pod, which is then harvested by hand, "sweated" in a closed container for several days, and finally cured by weeks of slow drying. The vanilla pods or beans are around six inches long, and inside each pod is a large number of tiny black seeds used to make vanilla extract or flavoring.

After European colonists arrived in Mexico, they brought cuttings of the vanilla vine back with them across the Atlantic. While they were successful in propagating the plants, the flowers did not yield seed pods. Years later, a Belgian horticulturist discovered that plants grown in their natural habitat were being pollinated by a native stingless bee species, and since they did not exist in Europe, pollination was unsuccessful.

The solution to the pollination problem was discovered by a twelve-year-old enslaved boy named Edward Albius after vanilla had been introduced to his island in the Indian Ocean in the 1800s. Albius used a thin stick, much like a toothpick, to painstakingly hand-pollinate each flower during its short blooming period. This is the method still used today.

Currently, 80% of the world's vanilla is produced in Madagascar. Other producers include Mexico, Tahiti and Hawaii. Vanilla connoisseurs talk about the differences in flavor and aroma of vanilla from these parts of the world. A single pound of cured vanilla pods or beans can bring up to \$300 per pound, but only a small percentage of the vanilla consumed today comes from vanilla beans. Most of the vanilla flavoring in our foods is now synthetically produced. Yet the story of vanilla reveals the global connectivity and agricultural complexity behind the everyday foods we buy at the grocery store.

Local Woman Celebrates 100th.



Ruth Gray receives a certificate from commissioners Blair Zimmerman and Jared Edgreen upon 100th birthday.

This Message Board Is For You!

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



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THE 3RD ANNUAL BIGFOOT & CRYPTID EVENT

By Brad Braddock

So, you say you are interested in the unknown? Then look no further. A fun filled, kid friendly Bigfoot and cryptid event will be held at the Jefferson Volunteer Fire Department August 15th and 16th.

The Fayette County Pennsylvania Bigfoot Research Project will have round table discussions on Friday, August 15 from 6p.m.-9p.m.

Saturday, August 16 from 10a.m.-5p.m. will feature some of the most highly regarded specialists of Bigfoot, cryptids, and UFOs in the state of Pennsylvania. Talks will last around an hour per guest, and Q&As will follow.

Organizers and researchers, Sara Knight and Greg Kotyuha have labored hard to bring this **FREE** to the public event to life.

Pennsylvania is home to hundreds of cryptid sightings, and speakers like Daniel Hageman, who has had personal experiences with the unknown, will share his knowledge and theories. Daniel is a retired police officer and has been interviewed by local radio and TV stations in the Butler area. Daniel is part of the Butler Organization for Research of the Unexplained ... also known as (BORU). If you have had an experience with UFOs, which is Daniel's specialty, feel free to send sightings and strange happenings to: sightings@boru-ufo.com

Writer and investigator, Kevin Paul, who is also a Greene County native and resident, was fascinated with folklore at an early age. Paul is a lifelong experimenter of the unexplained. He believes that Appalachia is a hotbed of paranormal activities, which serves as a perfect lens to observe the unknown surrounding us. Paul believes in an interdimensional earth that increasingly reveals

itself to those who are sensitive to its powers.

Fred Saluga, who has been a member of the Fayette County Bigfoot society for decades, also believes in this interdimensional universe. The author of this article had the chance to sit down with Fred to discuss his findings over the years.

Fred said, "I believe the reason Bigfoot has not been found, is the fact it has a supernatural ability to jump between time and space. A creature that can shadow itself and disappear. That's why images of the creature are typically distorted or blurry."

If one walks the woodlands of West Greene with Fred, he points out how certain stick formations and trees will be placed and bent in the direction of water sources for the ease of traveling cryptids to find.

Fred will not be speaking at this year's event, but he will have a booth where you can capture one of his three books on Bigfoot, UFOs, and the supernatural (Phone: (412) 298-0031).

Bill Rigby will also be a keynote speaker. Bill has been researching the unknown full-time for seven years now. He first witnessed a UFO at the age of fourteen and has been hooked on these types of phenomena ever since. He is highly sensitive, as he has also seen ghostly apparitions and Bigfoot close to him in the forest.

Bill started the group: Agents of the Unexplained Cryptid and Paranormal Research. He also has a podcast available on YouTube and Facebook called: Agents of the Unexplained.

A special treat for veterans will be Ron Howes, who is an Air Force veteran himself. Ron is a motivational speaker for those who are suffering from PTSD. He is a champion of raising aware-

ness on the subject to help and protect those who have fought and suffered for our beautiful nation.

Carey and David Rupert will also be speaking on Saturday. They are the dynamic duo behind Paranormal Griddler. Together, they have nearly two decades in paranormal investigation, Bigfoot research, and exploring historical ghost towns. They are the chapter leads for the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Project in Jefferson, Elk and Clearfield Counties. They pride themselves on bringing professionalism and passion to each of their many investigations.

They have been featured on shows like: Paranormal Paparazzi and Kaleidoscope, and the films: Mountain Devil, A Paranormal Life, The Lost Gold of Dense Run, and I've seen Bigfoot. Look for them on Facebook: @ParanormalGriddler and website: paranormalgriddler.com

Children will have the chance to win a prize for the best Bigfoot call. Organizer, Greg Kotyuha, will also do a presentation on how to cast the elusive Bigfoot's prints.

He will also be doing casts of children's hands, which is sure to be terrific fun.

Hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks will be for sale, courtesy of the Jefferson Fire Department. There will also be vendors showcasing and selling handmade crafts, products and services.

Last, but not least... don't miss Biker Bigfoot, who rides his Harley Davidson dressed as Bigfoot to many of these wonderful events.

For more information call Sarah Knight at (724)-322-3180.



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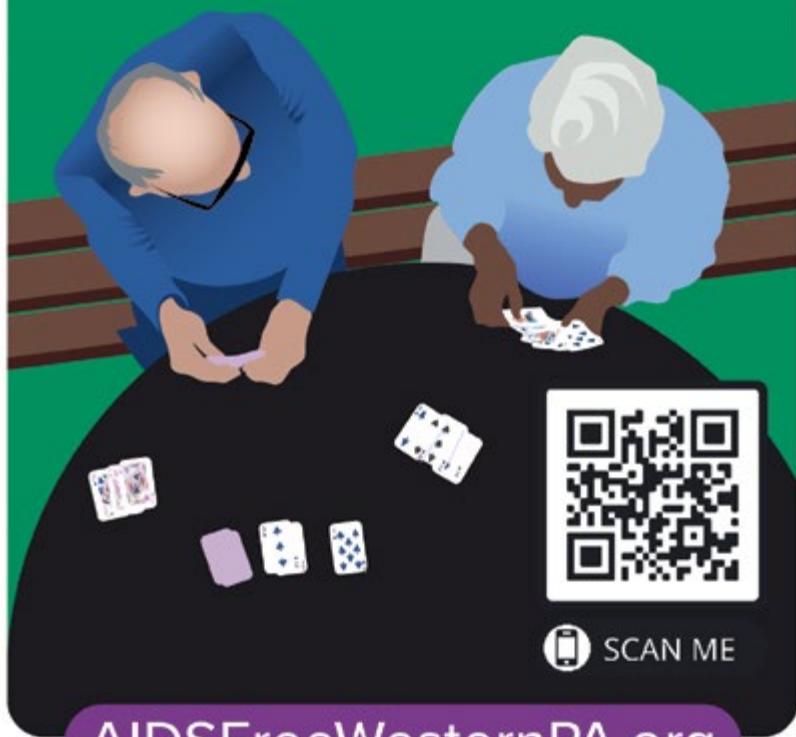
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 West Virginia University

GreeneScene
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Win a Summer
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Find the Scoop



HOW TO ENTER:



- Visit our website and search for the ice cream cone.
- When you find it, click the icon and fill out the entry form.
- You're in the running for a Summer Fun Prize Pack - featuring local gift cards, gear, and sweet surprises!

Contest ends August 30th — winner announced on social media!

SCAN TO ENTER!



CATFISH ROUND-UP!



ANSWER:

COUNT HOW MANY CARTOON CATFISH ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THIS ISSUE OF THE GREENSCENE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN 4 TICKETS TO SEGHI'S 5 LAKES! 2 WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED

SCAN TO ENTER!

ONLINE OR BY MAIL



Name: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____
 Town of Residence: _____

Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 08-11-25. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.



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yourpathways.org/careers



Rainbow's End Learning Center

At our **Rainbow's End Learning Center** in Greene County, children from birth to 13 years interact in a learning center environment that encourages intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth and development.

Learn more at
<https://yourrainbows.org>



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Our compassionate and talented **Early Intervention** team understands the challenges of your child's formative years, and we're here to help families meet them.

Learn more at
<https://yourearlyintervention.org>



Adult Training Facility

Our **Adult Training Facility** helps individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or autism contribute their talents to the community by utilizing a person-centered approach to help them build social, physical, emotional, and life skills.

Learn more at
<https://youratf.org>



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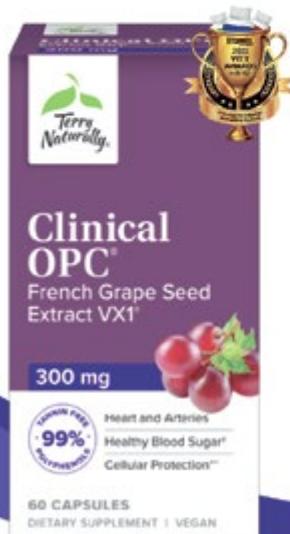
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GreeneScene COMMUNITY MAGAZINE CONTEST

WIN \$100



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ONLINE OR BY MAIL

JULY'S "WHERE IS THIS" ANSWER: PUMPKIN RUN PARK IN RICES LANDING.

Where is this?: _____
Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Town of Residence: _____

Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St. Waynesburg, PA 15370. One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 08-11-25. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

GET OUTSIDE & MAKE MEMORIES!



Summer might be winding down but there's still so much to do and see at Monongalia county parks. Enjoy end-of-summer adventure in a local county park ... practically right in your own backyard!

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COMMUNITY. RECREATION. NATURE.

Keep up with your favorite park on social media.



A PIECE OF MY MIND

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



If you've never seen *The Bucket List*, you're missing out on a journey that is heartwarming, hilarious, and deeply human. The film stars Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman, and it's one of those rare movies that can make you laugh, make you cry, and maybe even make you think about life from a different perspective.

The plot starts with the two main characters sharing a hospital room, and though they are from different worlds, they are each diagnosed with terminal cancer. As the story progresses, the characters deal with harsh chemotherapy treatments, and a setting that is honest and emotional. When they eventually come to terms with their terminal prognoses, they develop a list of things to do before they die or "kick the bucket," hence the movie title and the addition of the term, "bucket list" to modern culture.

For "Edward" and "Carter," their bucket list includes things like skydiving, racing classic cars, and world travel. While some of the scenes are light-hearted and humorous, there are also some deep philosophical undertones. Engaged viewers may wonder or ask themselves about what really matters in life - is it success or money or is it relationships and peace?

I have many, many memories of my Pap. He was a devoted family man who had the strongest faith I have ever seen or known. He never hesitated to share advice and since he lived to

be 100, I found great value in everything he said.

Pap lived by the belief that "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift." I can't remember the first time Pap shared those words with me, and I doubt that I truly understood. Now, the meaning of those words not only make sense, but their meaning has continued to evolve.

The things I did or said yesterday are done and over. We can't go back and there are no mulligans in the game of life. Yesterday is history.

There are no promises for tomorrow. As human beings, we know that life is fragile. There are no guarantees, and we never know what tomorrow will bring. Tomorrow is a mystery.

I will never forget the conversation I had with Pap at his 100th birthday party. I asked him for the best piece of advice he could share. He looked at me intently, and said, "Every day is a gift. Every day that you wake up... that's a blessing. So be thankful for that." Today is a gift.

Sometimes, then, I wonder... why do we spend our time waiting for the right time or the perfect moment? Because it's safe and we avoid risk, failure, and discomfort. Waiting for those right times and perfect moments gives us the illusion of control, but in reality, progress happens in those imperfect moments.

So, here's a piece of my mind... LIVE NOW! Live without regret and live well. Life is not measured by all that we can acquire, but by the impact we have on others. It's never too late to chase your passions, repair relationships, or try something new. Make your own bucket list, and make it count! Appreciate the people around you and count your blessings. TODAY is a GIFT.



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2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

RULES AND DETAILS FOR EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

GREENECOUNTYFAIR.ORG

THANKS TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS!



Saturday, July 26, 2025

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC
NO RIDES**

4 PM FAIR QUEEN CONTEST - BLD # 10, FAIRGROUNDS

Saturday, August 2, 2025

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC
NO RIDES**

10 AM 4-H HORSE AND PONY CLUB ROUND-UP

Sunday, August 3, 2025

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC
NO RIDES**

8:30 AM-3 PM CHECK-IN: LIVESTOCK
10 AM-3 PM CHECK-IN: HOME & GARDEN
10 AM DRAFT HORSE HALTER SHOW
1 PM DRAFT HORSE HITCH SHOW
5 PM WOOL & HAY SHOW (CLOSED SHOW)
5:30 PM VESPER SERVICE

Monday, August 4, 2025

**KID'S NIGHT. SPONSORED BY FIRST FEDERAL
FIRST 500 KIDS (12 & UNDER) ARE FREE WITH THE
PURCHASE OF AN ADULT TICKET**

9:30 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN GOAT SHOW
4 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 OPENS
4 PM-6 PM FAIR QUEEN & COURT MEET AND GREET
4 PM-8 PM KID'S ACTIVITIES BY GC FARM BUREAU
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
6 PM MAGIC JAMIE SHOW
7 PM LEADLINE CONTEST
7 PM-9 PM ROAMING MASCOTS
7 PM MASCOT MAYHEM
MASCOT MEET AND GREET FOLLOW MASCOT MAYEM

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

**SENIOR & VETERAN'S DAY
SPONSORED BY PA LOTTERY**

9 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN DAIRY CATTLE SHOW
9:30 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN RABBIT SHOW
11:30 AM 4-H & FFA LIVE CARCASS LAMB CLASS
12 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 OPENS
2 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
2 PM-4 PM GREENE COUNTY MINI SENIOR FAIR
BY BLUEPRINTS AND THE GREENE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
6 PM 4-H & FFA MARKET STEER SHOW
6 PM-9 PM 50'S THEMED ACTIVITIES
8:30 PM LIVE ELVIS TRIBUTE SHOW

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

8:30 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN BEEF CATTLE SHOW
4 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 OPENS
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
6 PM LIVE MUSIC BY STEVE HALLOW
6:30 PM 4-H & FFA MARKET LAMB SHOW
7 PM RAFTER M RODEO

Thursday, August 7, 2025

8:30 AM 4-H, FFA & OPEN SHEEP SHOW
4 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 OPENS
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
5:15 PM 4-H & FFA AWARDS
6 PM 4-H & FFA MARKET STEER AND LAMB MARKET SALE
6 PM LIVE MUSIC BY THE PROJECTS
7 PM TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS

Friday, August 8, 2025

10 AM 4-H & FFA TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST
FOLLOWED BY STOCKMEN'S CONTEST
4 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 OPENS
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
6 PM LIVE MUSIC BY COLE LEATHERS
7 PM HARDCORE DEMOLITION DERBY

Saturday, August 9, 2025

4 PM HOME & GARDEN HALL OPENS
4 PM BINGO BY F.O.E. #598 OPENS
5 PM-11 PM AMUSEMENT RIDES
5:30 PM WOOD CARVING AUCTION
6 PM LIVE MUSIC BY FLIGHT RISK
7 PM TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS

Daily Shows & Events

**DAILY
MONDAY - SATURDAY**

5 PM-10 PM BARNYARD PETTING ZOO
6 PM-10 PM ANDY ROTZ WILD WEST SHOW

**DAILY
MONDAY - THURSDAY**

5 PM-10 PM MAGIC JAMIE STROLLING
MAGIC SHOWS

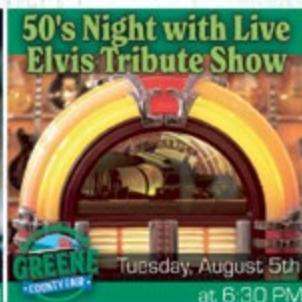
**DAILY
TUESDAY - FRIDAY**

5 PM - 10 PM WOOD CARVING SHOW BY NATE HOWARD

September Events

**SEPTEMBER 13TH - ROLLIN' COAL PULL
SEPTEMBER 27TH - WRECK N' ROLL DERBY**

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



CARRIAGE HOUSE 

ROARING 1920S

MURDER MYSTERY

August 23rd
6:30 pm

\$75 per person
Enjoy a fun evening of
dinner and mystery.

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WORD SCRAMBLE GAME

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SOER	_____
BDAERUXO	_____
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DAYNHCRANO	_____



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JULY CONTEST WINNERS



Living Treasures Zoo Passes
Kaydee Caldwell of Waynesburg, PA



Waynesburg Milling Co Gift Card
Missy Black of Holbrook, PA

COLORING CONTEST WINNERS



A Group Winner
Ellie Whitlatch



B Group Winner
Aubrey Lash



C Group Winner
Maleena Coffman

Winners not pictured

Person Place or Thing Winner
Lanny Hewitt of Wind Ridge, PA

Photo Contest Winner
Kimberly King of Carmichaels, PA

WIN \$500

**GUESS WHEN THE FIRST
RAINDROP WILL FALL ON
TUESDAY, JULY 29TH, AND
YOU COULD WIN A
DOWNPOUR OF CASH!**

Just guess the time (or be the one who comes closest to the official time) of the first raindrop, and First Federal Savings and Loan will award you \$500 and a complimentary umbrella.

Enter your guess on the forms provided at your nearest First Federal Branch Office in Waynesburg, Carmichaels or Mt. Morris, or fill out the entry form with this ad and bring it in starting Wednesday, June 25.

Entry deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 28. So drop in and make a guess, and who knows...into your life a shower of Rain Day prize money may fall.



www.ffgc.bank

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Please drop in box at

First Federal
savings and loan association
of GREENE COUNTY

Waynesburg, Carmichaels
or Mt. Morris

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

FIRST RAINDROP WILL FALL AT
Write time here _____ A.M. or _____ P.M.
(You must select A.M. or P.M., not both)

Deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 28, 2025. One entry per person - Thank You!

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

MISS RAIN DAY CONTESTANTS SHINE

Nine young ladies from around Greene County will compete in the 47th annual Miss Rain Day Scholarship Pageant. Sponsored by Rain Day Scholarship Inc., the competition will begin at 4 p.m. on July 27th at Waynesburg Central High School Auditorium. Tickets will be sold online only beginning mid-July at www.cur8.com

Contestants will be judged on personal interviews, sportswear, talent and evening gown competitions. Awards will be presented to those with top scores in these areas as well as Miss Personality, Miss Photogenic, the Kelly Smotzer Memorial Award, the Bryn Patton Smile Award, the Spirit Award and the Scholastic Achievement Award. A Rain Maker Award will be presented to the contestant who collected the most sponsorships, and the John O'Hara Award will be given to the contestant who composes the best essay on what Rain Day means to them. The Remo C. Bertugli Memorial Award will also be presented, which is judged from essays submitted by the contestants on how a volunteering experience changed their life. New this year is the Abby Ray Dedication to Service Award, sponsored by the Ray Family, for the candidate who presents the strongest service initiative and demonstrates the potential to make a meaningful impact within the community.

Miss Rain Day 2025 Contestants

Isabella Walker

Isabella is the 14-year-old daughter of Tina and Paul Walker of Carmichaels. This fall she will be a freshman at PA Cyber School. She will be performing a dance.

Sophie Batchelder

Sophie is the 14-year-old daughter of William and Xela Batchelder of Waynesburg. This fall she will be a freshman at Oxrose Online School. She will be performing a tap dance.

Eilidh Batchelder

Eilidh is the 16-year-old daughter of William and Xela Batchelder of Waynesburg. This fall she will be a sophomore in Homeschool. She will be performing an acro dance.

Camryn Hawfield

Camryn is the 17-year-old daughter of Tim and Betsy Hawfield of Waynesburg. This fall she will be a senior at Waynesburg Central High School. She will be performing a dance.

Abigail Yenchik

Abigail is the 16-year-old daughter of Becky Yenchik of Waynesburg. This fall she will be a junior at Waynesburg Central High School. She will be performing a sign language routine.

Meah Branham

Meah is the 16-year-old daughter

of Kassie Branham of Bobtown. This fall she will be a senior at Mapletown High School. She will be performing a vocal selection.

Isabella Wise

Isabella is the 15-year-old daughter of Brian and Heather Wise of Mather. This fall she will be a sophomore at Jefferson Morgan High School. She will be performing a tap dance.

Kayle Lemley

Kayle is the 15-year-old daughter of Brian and Nichole Lemley of Carmichaels. This fall she will be a sophomore at Carmichaels High School. She will be performing a vocal selection.

Sienna Stoneking

Sienna is the 15-year-old daughter of Amanda and Daniel Stoneking of Carmichaels. This fall she will be a sophomore at Carmichaels High School. She will be performing a dance.

Stella Ray Dikun (Crown Bearer)

Stella Ray Dikun is the 9-year-old, the daughter of Kirsten and Matthew Blasinsky of Jefferson and Colton Dikun of Crucible. Stella attends Jefferson-Morgan Elementary School. She enjoys dancing, cheering, swimming, riding her bike, reading, playing outside on the farm, and spending time with the family's beloved dogs. One of her favorite places to be is in her Nana's salon. Stella's role model is current Miss Rain Day, Bryn Lahew, who has inspired her in many ways. She dreams of becoming a teacher when she grows up.

Bryn Lahew - Miss Rain Day 2024

Bryn Lahew is the 18-year-old daughter of Chay Lahew and Michelle Shannon of Waynesburg. Bryn recently graduated from Waynesburg Central. While in high school, she was very involved in various clubs and extracurricular activities and maintained a 4.0 GPA. Bryn has been a dancer for 15 years, studying multiple forms of dance and winning numerous awards. She also enjoyed teaching the young dancers at her studio. This fall Bryn will be a freshman at Waynesburg University where she plans to study Elementary Education and minor in business. After college, she hopes to teach in a local elementary school and have a bigger role and responsibility at her dance studio. Bryn fulfilled a lifelong dream when she was crowned Miss Rain Day and enjoys being a role model for younger children. In addition to the MRD title, Bryn won the John O'Hara award, the Pageantry Spirit Award, Miss Photogenic Award, tied for Sportswear and Top Evening Gown. Bryn would like to bring awareness to suicide prevention and mental health with Team Hope and educate everyone on the importance of mental health.





**4 TICKETS,
1 PARKING PASS,
& 4 HOT DOGS:
\$99**



Scan the QR code and get four (4) Edgeview tickets, four (4) hot dogs, and a parking pass, all for just **\$99**



Jennifer Stagers snapped this image of the July 1 double rainbow.

RAIN-BO-NUS BRIGHTENS THE COUNTY

Double rainbows carry rich cultural meanings across different societies, often tied to spirituality, transformation, and good luck. The County received that gift on both June 28 and July 1.

In Native American cultures, double rainbows symbolized the pathway between the human and spirit worlds.

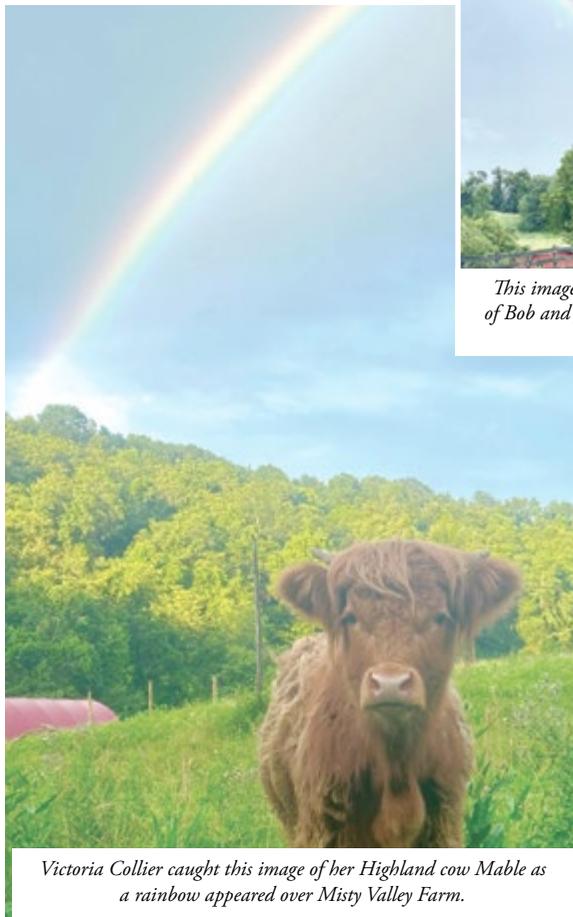
In Celtic and Irish Lore, the double rainbows were also a bridge between worlds

and symbolized extraordinary luck or double blessings

The Chinese viewed them as symbols of yin and yang, suggesting blessed fortune. We just think they're really pretty.



This image of a double rainbow over the barn of Bob and Janet Smith was captured by Katlyn Moore.



Victoria Collier caught this image of her Highland cow Mable as a rainbow appeared over Misty Valley Farm.



Maddie Loring captured this image of Eeve (7), Ellie (3), and Edee (2) admiring the double rainbow on the Snyder Farm.



THE TRIVIA TRACTOR



ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW CORRECTLY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GIFT BUNDLE FROM MORRIS MACHINERY WORTH \$140!

- 1

WHAT ITALIAN LUXURY CAR BRAND STARTED OUT MAKING TRACTORS IN 1948 BEFORE SWITCHING TO AUTOMOBILES?

- 2

IN 2023, THE LONG-STANDING TRACTOR BRAND BRANSON MERGED WITH TYM USA TO FORM TYM NORTH AMERICA. IN WHAT COUNTRY WAS TYM CREATED?

- 3

IN 1996, THE JOHN DEERE COMPANY WORKED WITH NASA TO CREATE THE WORLD'S FIRST TRACTOR GPS. WHAT DR. SEUSS-INSPIRED NAME WAS GIVEN TO THIS UNIQUE-LOOKING DEVICE?

SCAN TO ENTER!



ONLINE OR BY MAIL

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Town of Residence: _____

Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. **One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 08-11-25.** Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

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Our team treats minor illnesses and injuries and performs services like on-site lab and imaging, vaccinations, and sports physicals.



WAYNESBURG OUTPATIENT CENTER

451 Murtha Drive • Waynesburg, PA 15370

WVUMedicine.org/Waynesburg





**Waynesburg
Lions Club**

THANK YOU!!!

Thanks to the following groups and individuals for their support and participation that made the 2025 July 4th Celebration a great success this year!

Berkshire Hathaway Energy, Iron Senergy, Greene County Commissioners, J.D. Higgins & J.D. Enterprises, Greene County Parks & Recreation Department, Aladdin Food Service, ALDI, Masontown Trophy, Waynesburg Walmart, Milliken & Throckmorton Funeral & Cremation Services, 'Nuther Round Band, UPMC Greene, Lion Vickie Funk, Lion Russ Hall, & all Lions & Volunteers that worked to make the Day's Activities possible.

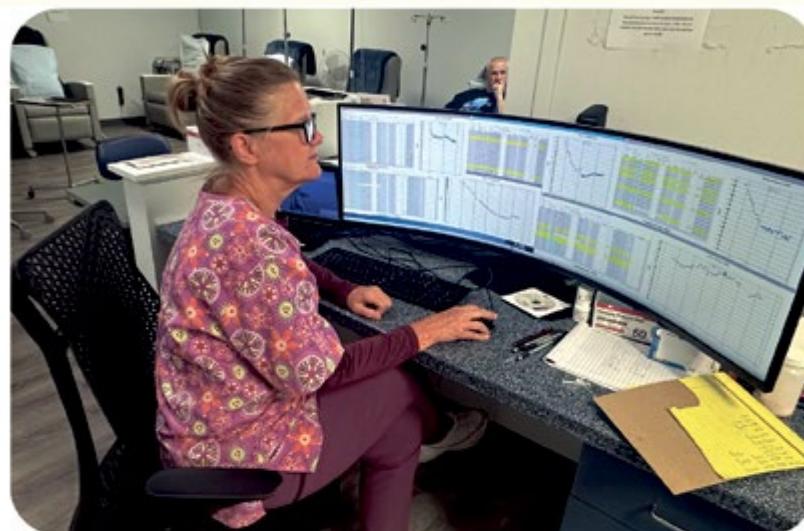
Waynesburg Lions Club thanks everyone that attended for their continued support for our charitable projects & endeavors.

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PARTICIPATION CRITERIA:

- Age: 4–18 years
- Diagnosis: Confirmed Type 1 Diabetes

All study-related procedures and visits will be provided at no cost to the patient or their family. Participants are also eligible to receive up to \$3000 **\$1000.00/week** for their time and travel, as approved by our IRB.

**CALL 724-883-2223 OR EMAIL
RESEARCH@GREENTREEMC.COM
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