

Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

A DIRECT RESULTS COMPANY



OCTOBER 2025

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J.R. Lemley of Khedive and his 1946 Ford Coupe at 50's Fest in Waynesburg.

PUBLISHED BY

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DIRECT RESULTS
CERTIFIED WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS

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GreeneScene
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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This November, GreeneScene Magazine will honor the veterans of Greene County — but we need your help.

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- 2025 EQT GIVE Greene Fund Grants
- Consol Energy Excellence in Education Grants for Public Schools

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You can find out more information on each of the above grant opportunities at www.cfgcpa.org/grants

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TOWNE SQUARE

SMALL TOWN TOURISM. WHY NOT HERE?

I have previously written in this column about the need to transform and diversify our county as it relates to economic growth via one of the many specific forms of tourism.

However, after a recent weekend trip to **Thomas and Davis, West Virginia**, I am more certain than ever that such a transformation is not a pipe dream. With a little planning, this goal presents a relatively easy path to sustainable economic growth. (Even if the growth is supplementary to our traditional industries)

Davis and Thomas are neighboring small towns in West Virginia's Tucker County. They are known for their scenic beauty, outdoor adventures, and artsy charm. In addition to popular tourist activities such as hiking, visitors can enjoy local art galleries, breweries, and live music.

When I say these towns are small – think twice the size of Rogersville. They have a combined population of just over a thousand people.

Despite their size and absolutely remote location, thousands of visitors traverse those back roads to listen to blue grass music at the Purple Fiddle (an establishment with a tiny stage and a large personality). An entire artisan community of unique restaurants and shops have sprung up on the three or four block stretch that make up the “downtowns” of each hamlet.

The kitschy, throwback motels are booked year-round with tourists looking for a weekend retreat from urban stress and congestion.

In the past couple of years, I have visited other small to tiny towns and wondered why some of our beautiful little communities couldn't achieve the same level of success.

I used to take my students to the high school theater festival in **New Hope, PA**. (I knew about the festival because Chuck Berryhill took us to the same festival when I was in high school.)

New Hope (1.5 square miles, population 2,000) is a tiny town on the Delaware River known for its artsy vibe, historic architecture, and vibrant cultural scene. It attracts tourists with its eclectic shops, art galleries, and fine dining.

The transformation started when they converted an old grist mill into a theater rather than demolish it. Theater festivals grew into a steady stream of visitors that supported a renaissance of culture and dining in the area around the theater.

Nearby **Ligonier, PA** (1.4 square miles, population 1,600) is another mecca for tourists in Western Pennsylvania. Storybook Forest, Idlewild, and Fort Ligonier are seasonal and only part of the draw. Moreover, these attractions have diminished in popularity over the years as they faced stiff competition from larger entities. However, Ligonier has deftly pivoted to hosting multiple fun festivals and attracting unique, quality merchants to their downtown area.

One of the best examples of cooperative economic planning is the **Ohio Amish Country**. The development of those traditional villages has expanded far beyond the simple “Amish experience.” It's an ideal destination situated between three large cities (Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Columbus) for those seeking relaxation and a slower pace away from modern life.

My trip to **Cooperstown, NY** to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame left me in shock at the size of the town (1.8 square

miles, population 1,800). It was like walking around an area the size of Carmichaels. Obviously, the main attraction is the Hall, but multiple shops and restaurants provide visitors with plenty of other options.

Interestingly, the whole story about Abner Doubleday inventing baseball there was a marketing myth. The story was completely made up to attract tourism. Yet, here we are over 100 years later, and thousands of fans make the annual pilgrimage to the tiny town each year.

But a small eastern Pennsylvania town similar in size to Waynesburg may take the Chutzpa Award for tourist marketing. **Jim Thorpe** (population 4,000) was once a struggling coal mining town on the verge of collapse. Its name was originally Mauch Chunk. In 1954, the city council reached an agreement with Jim Thorpe's widow to bury the sports legend in their town and provide him with a monument (even though he had never been there).

They even renamed the town Jim Thorpe and built a revitalized economy around this one bizarre event. Today, the town is swarming with tourists eager to ride the old, scenic railroad cars and experience the bucolic surroundings replete with shops and restaurants. This savvy revitalization showcases how small towns can reinvent themselves.

Small towns often hold hidden treasures such as rich histories, natural beauty, or unique cultures, which can be strategically developed and marketed. While major cities usually dominate the tourism spotlight, many travelers today seek more intimate, authentic experiences. This growing interest in local culture, slower travel, and off-the-beaten-path destinations opens the door for small towns to attract regional visitors.

The **first step in the transformation is identifying what makes a place unique**. Every town has a story, whether it's rooted in history, geography, tradition, or industry. Emphasizing this unique identity helps differentiate the town from other destinations. Authentic storytelling through local legends, historical figures, or cultural customs creates an emotional connection between the town and potential visitors.

For transformation to be successful and sustainable, **the entire community must be involved**. Local residents, business owners, and government officials need to share a collective vision and work together to enhance and promote the town's appeal. Small towns often rely on **grass-roots efforts**. Volunteers play a key role, especially in the early stages of tourism development.

To welcome tourists, small towns **must have, or develop, adequate infrastructure**. This includes lodging options, dining establishments, public restrooms,

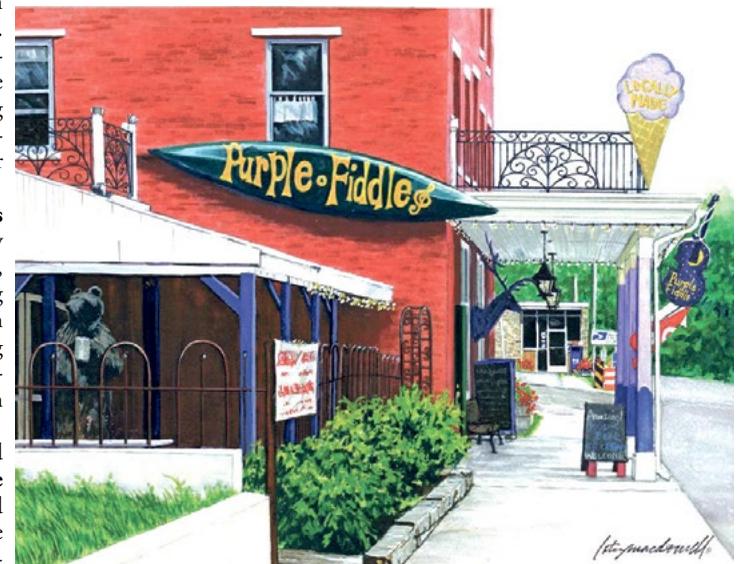
signage, parking, and reliable internet access. While it's important not to overdevelop or lose the town's charm, essential services must meet visitors' expectations.

Investing in preservation, such as restoring old buildings, maintaining public parks, or improving streetscapes, can **enhance visual appeal**. Consistent signage, pedestrian-friendly pathways, and decorative elements like flower boxes or murals make a big impression.

Tourism supports and is supported by local businesses. Restaurants, boutique shops, galleries, and service providers directly benefit from increased visitors. **Encouraging entrepreneurship and supporting small businesses is essential** to a town's success as a destination.

Many of our local events are a good starting point for attracting tourism. These well-run events featuring our culture and traditions create buzz and generate positive word-of-mouth. We just need to develop a coherent, long-range strategy to expand these events and draw people from around the region.

I know many people in the community share my opinion about capitalizing on our culture, location, and scenic beauty. With **thoughtful planning, community involvement**, and a **focus on authenticity**, we can unlock our potential and offer unique experiences to travelers.



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

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September Person Place or Thing Answer

WHITE COVERED BRIDGE

Built in 1919, this Queenpost truss wooden structure with a gable roof spans Whiteley Creek near Garards Fort. It's the longest covered bridge in Greene County (about 77 feet, 6 inches) with a clearance of 17 feet, 6 inches and a notable 10-ton load limit, though newer signage suggests four tons.

In 1979, it earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places. It was rebuilt by the county in 2008 following flood damage. It is one of nine remaining historic bridges in the county.

Today, it remains open to vehicular traffic and is a beloved focal point of the annual EQT Covered Bridge Festival, which is being held this weekend. The popular event features an array of delicious foods, music, crafts, reenactments, and more.

The event is regarded as the official kick-off to the fall festival season. It showcases the region's scenic charm and historical heritage.



PERSON PLACE OR THING

SCAN TO ENTER!



Hint:

*Upon High Street, a welcome door stands bright,
A humble shop where second chances bloom,
Its shelves of cloth and books bring gentle light,
Reviving homes, dispelling thriftless gloom.*

*Born long ago to aid the county's care,
Its earnings flow to heal, to teach, to mend;
Through changing streets it journeyed here and there,
Yet held its faithful purpose to the end.*

*Volunteers guard its heart with patient hands,
Each gift recycled tells a kindly tale;
The spirit of the town within it stands,
Where charity and history prevail.*

*So may this door stay open, ever more,
A steadfast grace in Waynesburg's treasured core.*

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Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 10-06-25. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

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A photograph of three women of diverse ages and ethnicities, all wearing green t-shirts, laughing joyfully on a hillside at sunset. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun, with a blurred background of trees and a body of water. A decorative trail of blue, glowing particles flows from the top left towards the bottom right, partially overlapping the women and the text area.

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A SALUTE TO FARMERS

By Lisa Lewis

Penn State Extension Master Gardener of Greene County

When I first moved to Eastern Kansas in 1979, I was at once struck by the richness of the soil and the vastness of the sky. Thunderheads forming and rolling in from the southwest, casting a moving line of shadows and rain over the black and green fields of winter wheat, was an impressive sight. I also loved seeing the roadside sign on my way to work depicting a bag of groceries and reading “one Kansas farmer feeds 155 people + you”.

We all owe a deep, daily vote of thanks to our farmers who feed us. We need to do what we can to make sure that our farmland continues to exist and stays fertile and healthy and that young people who want to choose farming have a path to making that dream a reality. After all, over half of all Pennsylvania farmers are age 55 or older! And in the 15-year period from 1982 to 1987 Pennsylvania lost 1.14 million acres or 1,800 square miles of fields and natural land to development.

This article addresses efforts to conserve our farmland. “Saving farmland for producing food, rather than losing it to warehouses and sprawl is an investment we can’t afford not to make.” Pennsylvania Agricultural Secretary Russell Reading said.

In Pennsylvania, farmers have three avenues to preserve their farmland. First, with the help of one of 68 different private, charitable land trusts ([items/1434\). Second, through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program \(\[https://conservationtools.org/library_items/1248\]\(https://conservationtools.org/library_items/1248\)\). Third, through a combination of these private and public options. The Farmland Preservation Option for Homeowners article cited below details the pros and cons of these public and private options and gives examples.](https://conservationtools.org/library_</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Pennsylvania leads the nation in preserved farmland. It has preserved 6,482 farms amounting to 646,754 acres in 58 counties since voters overwhelmingly voted for the Farmland Preservation Program in 1988. Last December Governor Shapiro announced the plan to purchase the development rights to 2,842 acres on 31 farms in 13 counties to preserve them for farmland and protect them from future residential or commercial use.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has the Bureau of Farmland Preservation, which administers and distributes the program funds to the counties. A farmer’s first step in becoming enrolled in this government program is enrolling in the Agricultural Security Area, which protects the farm against ordinances and nuisance lawsuits that would interfere with normal farming activities. Then, the landowner can file an application to be included in the Farmland Preservation Program. If the application meets with approval and the farmer accepts, the program pays the farmer the difference between “fair market value” and the “agricultural value” in exchange for a permanent deed



restriction preventing the use of the property for any use that negatively impacts its agricultural viability. The property owner keeps the title, can sell the property or pass it to heirs while still maintaining its agricultural use.

From milk to apples to mushrooms Pennsylvania is a primary producer of food for the state and the nation. Do what you can to show thanks to our farmers by frequenting the local farmers market, buying locally produced products when available in the grocery store, and in any way you can.

Graziani, M & Petrella, J. Understanding Agricultural Preservation. Penn State University extension, February 2, 2023.

Farm Flavor to Pennsylvania: Top Pennsylvania Agricultural Facts From the 2024 Census of Agriculture, May 28, 2024.

Loza, A Farmland Preservation Options for Landowners, WeConserve PA, 2023

Pennsylvania Invests \$10.2 Million to Ensure 31 Farms in 13 Counties Stay Farms Forever, Bringing 2024 Total 167 New Farms and 13,847 Acres Preserved. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, December 12, 2024.

A promotional graphic for a fundraiser. The background is a photo of a crowded indoor event. Overlaid on the photo is text and graphics. At the top, it says "CENTER FOR COALFIELD JUSTICE" in a curved banner. Below that is "11TH ANNUAL" with two white pillar-like shapes. The main text is "Fall Fundraiser" in large, bold, white letters with a red outline. Below that is "October 4th | 5-9:00 PM" and "The Stone Pavilion at Washington Park". At the bottom left, there is a "Tickets:" section with prices: "Adults: \$30", "Kids Ages 6-18: \$10", and "5 and Under : FREE". Next to this is a QR code and the text "Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/ccjff-25". At the bottom right, there is a text box that says "CCJ invites you to eat, drink, and celebrate as we work to carve out hope in these challenging times together!" followed by a list of activities: "• Live music by Aristotle Jones", "• Delicious food, wine & beer", and "• Raffle and silent auction".A promotional graphic for a webcast. The background is a solid light orange color. At the top, it says "GREENE COUNTY GHOULS" in large, red, stylized letters. To the left is a black bat-like creature with red eyes. To the right is a large, detailed eye with a tongue sticking out. Below the title is the text "A WEBCAST CELEBRATING ALL THINGS SUPERNATURAL IN GREENE COUNTY, PA: FROM HAUNTED HOUSES TO CREEPY CRYPTIDS!". Below that is a red banner with the text "OCTOBER 24 | 6:30 PM". Below the banner is the text "Register for the livestream link and find out about more upcoming events at bit.ly/ccjcalendar". At the bottom left is a QR code. To the right of the QR code is a skeleton and a ghost surrounded by flowers.

Good NEWS

In Greene County

Bowlby Bits - October 2025

Hours: Mon & Wed: 9am - 7pm | Tues & Thurs: 9am - 6pm | Fri & Sat: 9am - 4pm

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR MEDICARE PLAN FOR 2026 - Free Educational Seminar | Saturday, October 11 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. | Come learn how upcoming changes will affect your Medicare Plans, and how to select the right plan. For more information, call 724-802-2601.

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION - Wednesday, October 8, at 5:00 p.m. | Call 724-627-9776 to register, limited seating available.

BOOK CLUB - Thursday, October 9 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. This month's book discussion is on William Kent Kruger's *This Tender Land*. New members are always welcome to join!

COSMIC BINGO - Join us at the library on Friday, October 24 at 7:00 PM for a fun night of Glow in the Dark "COSMIC" Bingo! We will be using special dabbers, paper bingo sheets and black lights to bring the magic alive. The Library will supply all needed items including prizes. Call 724-627-9776 to let us know you're coming.

MOVIE NIGHT - Enjoy movie night here at the library Friday, October 3, beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the Library's Community Room. This Month's Movie is *Superman* (PG-13). FREE snack and beverage! Doors open at 6:45 PM. Call the library to RSVP your seat(s)

PUZZLE CHALLENGE - Saturday, October 11th from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The library is looking for 10 teams of two to compete in putting together a 500-piece puzzle in three hours or less. Contact the library to register. Prize is awarded to the fastest team.

LEGO BUILD-A-BAG - Saturday, October 18 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Participants can build anything they can imagine out of a bag of random LEGOs within the allotted time and can keep their creations as well as the bag of LEGOs that they used. Please call 724-627-9776 to register, but walk-ins are welcome.

MAHJONG CLUB - Meets every Wednesday, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Mahjong is a tile-based game that's been played in Asia for over 300 years and is gaining global popularity. It's easy to learn the basics. Walk-ins are welcome.

CPR/AED TRAINING [AHA] - CPR Certification classes for Adult, Child, & Infant First Aid, and AED on Saturday, October 18. Class begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 PM. Please call Sharon at 724-984-5702 to register. There is limited seating for this event. Cost is \$88 and includes training, workbook, take home CPR kit, 2 yr. certification card & manual.

WEIGHT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP - Is a weight management support group that meets every Friday, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

TECH TUTORING - Bring your electronic device, account passwords, any devices you use (and charging cords if needed), and your library card. One of our tech savvy librarians will help you with a variety of technology services.



Wisecarver Park Improvements Underway

There is a newly completed access road at Wisecarver Park that allows vehicles easier access to the recently installed kayak launches. This is the second phase of the planned development in the area.



Greene County Fair Queen, Courtney Main attending 50's Fest in downtown Waynesburg.

Courtney Main Named 2025 Greene County Fair Queen

On July 26, eleven young women competed in four age divisions for titles to represent the Greene County Fair.

The Greene County Fair Queen Program recently expanded, opening three new divisions with age ranges of minis (ages 6-8), littles (9-12), juniors (13-15), and queens (16-20). Every division was tasked with a different requirement based on age.

Some of the judging areas are a "Greene County Fair Fan" coloring page for the younger age divisions, answering questions regarding their favorite fair experiences, a personal introduction, a written essay, and an on-stage question.

Junior Princess and Queen contestants take part in a private interview with the judges followed by an evening gown portion where they gave a presentation on "Why You Should Come to My Fair," and answered an impromptu question.

As part of the prize package, the queen is awarded a \$4,000 "Yellow Jacket" scholarship from Waynesburg University, as well as \$1,000 from the Queen Program and a \$1,000 premium by the Greene County Fair Board. She is also offered a Professional Development Training course along with many other items. The other age divisions also receive a smaller premium, along with many other items including a beautiful crown, sash and bouquet.

The title holders for 2025 are:

Queen Courtney Main, the 17 year old daughter of Bobbi Jo and Craig Main of Holbrook
Princess Cameron Wendell, the 16 year old daughter of Chad and Courtney Wendell of Holbrook

Junior Princess Paige Borovichka, the 15 year old daughter of Nathan and Kristy Borovichka of Waynesburg

Little Princess Danika Grim, the 12 year old daughter of Jamie Grim of Graysville

Mini Princess Addison Orndoff, the 6 year old daughter of Megan Orndoff and Damien Miller of Waynesburg

Over the coming year, all winners will have the opportunity to make many appearances promoting the Greene County Fair and the importance of agriculture across the county and state. The Queen will travel to the State Capitol to meet with legislators and take part in the State Fair Queen Advocacy Day. In January, the Queen will attend the Pennsylvania Association of Fairs convention in Hershey and compete for the title of 2026 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen.

During the week of the Greene County Fair, the girls were busy performing their duties such as handing out ribbons, welcoming fair goers, volunteering in various positions and serving as ambassadors for the fair. They also hosted queens and princesses from other fairs and festivals and the 2025 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen, Iva Immel.

The program is made possible through the generous support of many individuals and businesses who help make the program a success each year.

The 2026 contest will mark the 40th anniversary of the contest. Planning is currently underway for a special anniversary celebration in July.

For more information, visit www.greencountyfair.org, www.facebook.com/greencountypa-fairqueen or email greencountypa-fairqueen@gmail.com

CFGFC Awards Over \$30,000 to Help Local Kids Over the Summer

Thanks to a big-hearted community of donors, **Corner Cupboard Food Bank and The Way Community Center of Greene County** just wrapped up another successful season of giving kids what they need to succeed.

United Way of Greene County found a good fit for its longtime Stuff the Bus project when they chose to pass it on to The Way Community Center, with its strong ties to the community. United Way of Greene County started **Stuff the Bus** in 2002 to benefit Greene County families with children K-12th grade, including alternative and home-based school programs.



This year, a \$10,000 grant from the Greene County Community Foundation's Campbell Family Fund helped The Way hit the ground running, program director Dawn Mankey said. "We had amazing support! First Federal donated \$3,000, and we got so many other donations. Machal Forbes (former UWGC director) is on our board, so we ran like a well-oiled machine."

On August 13, more than 300 kids and their families came to The Way's spacious Center on 209 W. High Street in Waynesburg. The afternoon consisted of lunch, games, and planning for after-school activities and programs. In addition, students were given an opportunity to pick out cool school clothes and supplies. They could even grab a haircut.

The real adventure for the youngest would be climbing in the school bus in the parking lot to get a backpack from Waynesburg University students, then do an assisted emergency exit jump out the back door.

Starting in 2023, Corner Cupboard Food Bank saw the need for its free Summer Youth Café and hit the road to deliver.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, who started a non-endowed fund at the Community Foundation with a \$20,000 donation, the Café was able to grow this year, according to director Candace Webster. That anonymous challenge brought in additional funds from the Daniel and Lizzie Tharp Fund, the Peters Family Fund, and the Bernie and Nelson Fox Fund.

These funds helped pay for transportation, supplies and Corner Cupboard's food. "We're a non-profit. A \$5 donation buys \$25 worth of food through the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank," Webster said. Locally, Corner Cupboard trucks pick up year-round from Dollar General, Sheetz and Walmart, along with Aldis and Walmart in Washington County and Giant Eagle in Rices Landing.

Produce For Kids began June 20 at sites in Mount Morris, Carmichaels and Waynesburg on Tuesdays, then Dilliner, Mather and Graysville on Thursdays. Kids could also "Grab and Go" five days' worth of breakfasts and lunches a week while shopping for fruits and vegetables. More than 550 kids were served during the first two weeks of the Café this year. Meals prepared by the West Greene School District were partially reimbursed through the USDA, with Corner Cupboard picking up the remaining costs. According to Dave Calvario, Director of CFGFC, "Food insecurity is a terrible thing for anyone to experience, but especially children. We were excited that donors and our community pulled together to meet identifiable needs in our community." This year, Webster, her staff and Corner Cupboard volunteers were also able to deliver Produce to Kids at Ryerson Station State Park one Saturday a month until the Café program ended on August 14.

Community Foundation of Greene County is the central philanthropic vehicle for county-wide donations, currently managing over \$8 million in assets through more than 100 endowments and restricted funds. For more information, go online www.cfgcpa.org or contact cfgcpa@gmail.com or call 724-627-2010.



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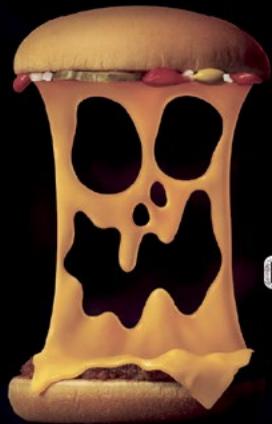


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“EQUIPPING THE CALLED”

Often on the campaign trail, candidates fixate on maintaining the “right” persona, using political jargon, and appearing to be the “perfect” selection. Proud Greene County native Ben Humble turns this narrative around with his transparency and, well...humility, as he seeks to give the 50th district a fresh voice as a state representative.

Humble is a community fixture who has actively served the Waynesburg area and greater county for a lifetime. Raised in his family’s eponymously-named flooring business, Humble acquired the skills of self-motivation, reliability, and integrity at an early age. As a third-generation employee of Humble Flooring in Waynesburg, Ben knew how his path might unroll, even early on to an extent. “I graduated from Jefferson-Morgan in 2007 on a Friday. By Monday morning, I was starting work,” he recalls, good-naturedly.

A lifelong learner, Humble has always been up for a challenge, as well as the chance to try something new to benefit another.

“My calling is to be a public servant. I’d been praying, ‘God, how can I give back?’” Humble explained, feeling that the community has always supported his family through the business.

And one such opportunity arose after completing a flooring project near the Waynesburg Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department. Humble explained, “I spent the day beside the station and it hit me... ‘This is it’. These men and women who serve selflessly- it was almost instinctive. I needed to do the same.”

Since 2019, Humble has been proud to count himself part of the brotherhood of first responders that serve our area. Now a lieutenant and trustee, he has qualified with both his Firefighter I and II levels. Humble shares, “It’s not always fun the things we see, but these guys are family. We have some of the best firefighters here in Greene County. It is always an honor to serve alongside our counterparts throughout the county.”

Through the fire department, Ben met the late Fire Chief and President of Borough Council Larry Marshall. “He was the one that opened my eyes to the needs of the borough and a further capacity to serve the community.”

Humble feels that God has opened many doors in his life. He recognizes that prayer is the essential step for any decision being made. “I don’t always feel equipped, but my wife often reminds me that God doesn’t call the equipped, he equips the called.”

Case in point, another door opened for Humble to join the Waynesburg



Borough Council in 2020. He worked his way from councilmen to vice president and currently serves as President of Council. Throughout his tenure, he and others on the council have worked tirelessly to secure grant funding for our region and improve borough infrastructure and utilities. The goal is to “make the funds stretch” to help grow the area, and the opportunities found within.

Humble’s platform is faith, family, and freedom, and he does not take these values lightly. “I’m not perfect, but I have core values that hold me accountable. Transparency cultivates trust. People often say that’s not politics, but that’s not their politics.”

Much of Humble’s experience has been acquired over the course of many years and roles in the community, often ones of leadership. From his days as a high school basketball captain to his business career and beyond, Humble cites each one as an opportunity to hone his management and communication skills.

“Working with the public, seeing and meeting people’s needs...[and] wanting what’s best for the people,” are only a few of the parallels between Humble’s career/service and where he may go next. Whether managing a project for his own family business, actively working toward positive change at the borough level and beyond, or answering a late-night fire call, Humble knows the mean-

ing of hometown, hard work, and heart.

When asked what single lesson he would like to impart upon his two children, Humble responds, “Never quit. Always do what’s right at the end of the day, even if it’s the path less traveled. Being able to lay your head down at night and know you did the right thing is

always better than the stress of knowing you didn’t make it right.”

Ben and his wife, Shastina, have been together since high school. They recently celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary. Having met at church, the couple built their relationship and their family on their greater relationship with the Lord. Their nine-year-old son, Eli and five-year-old daughter, Olivia both keep mom and dad busy.

The Humble family worships together at Crosspoint Assembly of God in Waynesburg. Ben is also a member of Waynesburg Church of the Nazarene, where he grew up.

When asked of his interests beyond the workplace, Humble responds, “I try to spend as much time with my family as I can. I’m also an outdoorsman.” Hunting, fishing, and camping with his wife and kids all make it onto the year-round roster of fun. He shares that he and Olivia enjoy riding bikes on the Greene River Trail and that he and Eli can often be found “kicking the soccer ball around” and playing other sports together at the EQT REC Center.

To get to know Ben and the Humble family a little better, visit humbleforhouse.com.



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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.*

Black & Gold Identity Crisis: The Struggle of a Steelers Fan in the Aaron Rodgers Era

Being a Pittsburgh Steelers fan is more than just wearing the team colors on Sundays. It's a legacy passed down through generations. A legacy of toughness that reflects the steel mills and coal mines of Western Pennsylvania. A legacy that is heralded by the scenes of Terrible Towels waving in the icy winds of Heinz Field (or Three Rivers depending on your age).

Since the Steelers were first broadcast on local TV in the mid-70s, I have not missed a down. (A very few times, I had to rely on Myron Cope's radio broadcasts to get me through the game.)

To be a Steelers fan is to venerate the grit, loyalty, and sense of unpretentious pride our teams have embodied for generations. That's why, when the news broke that Aaron Rodgers — yes, that Aaron Rodgers — was named the new quarterback of the Pittsburgh Steelers, my body and soul convulsed in abject confusion. It is not hyperbole to say I experienced a full-blown identity crisis.

To understand the pain, one has to understand the lore. Steelers fans don't just root for football. We root for our culture. We cheer for legacy quarterbacks like Terry Bradshaw and Ben Roethlisberger. Although each had issues and were far from perfect role models, they were undeniably "ours."

Moreover, we admired the grind of guys like Jack Lambert, Jack Ham, Troy Polamalu, Hines Ward, and James Harrison. They were players who bled black and gold, who seemed as connected to the city of Pittsburgh as the three rivers themselves.

Aaron Rodgers? He's always felt like the antithesis of that.

Don't get me wrong. Rodgers is a future Hall of Famer, who could make jaw-dropping throws look effortless. But in Pittsburgh, greatness isn't just measured by stats and MVPs. It's measured in toughness, team-first mentality, and a certain humility that aligns with the city's blue-collar roots.

Rodgers, with his headline-grabbing interviews, celebrity and family feuds, offseason disappearances, and bizarre list of conspiracy theories, has never quite fit that mold.

Most fans excuse (or even enjoy) a little quirkiness in their hometown heroes. In the 1970s, even the most curmudgeonly mill worker found humor in Frenchy Fuqua's

platform shoes with goldfish in the heels. But Rodgers' outlandish views and lies are beyond the pale of "eccentricity" — they are outright mean and dangerous.

For years, we mocked the Packers. We rolled our eyes at "Rodgers' drama." We comforted ourselves in the knowledge that while Green Bay had a more "famous" quarterback, we had a real team. Our quarterback controversies were tough, yes, but they felt authentic. They were the result of injuries, age, or draft struggles, not ego or philosophical rants.

Despite the months of pre-draft rumors, it seemed unimaginable that we could wake up one day to find that Rodgers is not only on our team — he's actually leading it.

I remember the moment the announcement dropped. "Steelers trade for Aaron Rodgers." I thought it was a meme. My phone blew up with friends asking, "How do I root for this guy?"

But there it was. Rodgers, holding up a Steelers jersey at his press conference, grinning like he'd just been handed the keys to the Iron City. His beard was a little too manicured, his tone a lot too smug. He talked about "honoring the legacy" and "bringing championships back to Pittsburgh," but it felt like PR-speak. Scripted. Hollow.

As Steeler fans we've been through weird transitions before. (Bradshaw to Cliff Stoudt, Kordell Stewart to Tommy Maddox, Maddox to Big Ben). Change is part of the game. But this wasn't just a roster move. This was a cultural earthquake.

Unbelievably, many in the national and local media jumped back on the "Steelers are a contender" bandwagon. But I couldn't feel the usual pride.

Even if there is success, every win will be tainted. His celebrations consisting of that smug smirk, tossing the ball into the stands like a king bestowing gifts. We're used to blood and guts, not enlightenment monologues and condescending sideline glances.

Off the field, there will be his musings about energy fields and ancient knowledge and "the need for Pittsburgh to expand its mind." He will spew some pseudo-intellectual

nonsense about the "quantum nature of competition" and how he was helping "elevate the collective frequency of the locker room." True Yinzers should find this cognitive disconnect with their roots unbearable.

Because as a fan, you're supposed to want your team to win. That's the contract. But what happens when winning doesn't feel good? What happens when each victory chips away at your sense of identity?

I can imagine many conversations in bars, at tailgates, and at work. "I mean, yeah, he's good, but he ain't us." That's if he does well and brings victories. If he plays like he has over the past few years and things go south, it will be far worse.

Being a fan is not always easy. It's not always clean. Sometimes, the jersey on the back and the player inside it don't match and you cheer anyway. Not for him, but for the city. For the emblem on the helmet. For the memories. For the people around you who still show up, who still believe, even when it's complicated.

Of course, there are Steeler fans who would root for the devil himself if he put up a 100+ quarterback rating or if he could cover a crossing route.

However, I just can't get there. As much as the Steelers have meant to me over the years, I will be rooting this season for any team with one or fewer Super Bowls in their trophy cases (except the Browns or Bengals, of course).



BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE MONTH



Joel Grimes is the son of Jeff and Kim Grimes of Holbrook.

He is a freshman at West Greene and participates in cross country and plans to run track & field.

Joel is a member of the Ski Club and attends Valley Chapel Church. He enjoys helping his parents and grandparents on the family farm.



Bethany Courtwright is the daughter of Jacob Courtwright of Aleppo.

She is a junior at West Greene and participates in volleyball, and track & field.

Bethany is a member of the FFA Chapter and is in the Science and Ski Clubs. She enjoys playing clarinet in the concert band, and attends First Christian Church in Waynesburg.



Kelsey Vessels is the daughter of Jerry Vessels and Morgen Miller of Clarksville. She plays volleyball and softball for the Rockets. Kelsey is a member of the Academic Team, GHTE, NHS, SADD, and the Art, Leo and Spanish Clubs.

Outside school, she volunteers at the National Academy of Future Medical Leaders, and she hopes to someday become an orthopedic surgeon.



Eli Hill is the son of Mike and Melissa Hill of Jefferson. He is an All-County and All-Conference football player for the Rockets. In school, Eli is involved with student council and SADD. He is also a member of the 4.0 Club and hopes to major in mechanical engineering and play football in college.



Baylee Landau is a senior at Carmichaels Area. She is the daughter of Brian and Kelly Landau of Rices Landing. Baylee is a four-year member of the Carmichaels volleyball team and plays for Morgantown Volleyball Traveling Cub. In school, she is a member of the National Honor Society, Senior Standing Committee, Student Council and Art Club.



Gage Kundly is a senior at Carmichaels Area. He is the son of Michael and Sheena Kundly of Crucible. Gage has been a member of the Mike's football team for four years. He is also an E.M.T. student. Gage's post- high school plans are to join the workforce and pursue a career as an electrical lineman.



Waynesburg Central's Kolbi Rastoka battles for the ball with a Yough defender while Emily Rafferty looks on. Photo courtesy of CREK Photography.



Benson Bland tears through the West Greene defense during the Raiders 31-7 victory. Photo courtesy of CREK Photography.



Jarett Tretinik and Cole Headlee had the privilege to help the community youth with a Putt-A-Thon hosted by Tee to Greene - Rachel Rohanna Foundation at the Greene County Country Club/Swing Lab.

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SPORTS SHORTS



Alex VanSickle of Waynesburg Central was not listed as a Greene County athlete who will be competing collegiately this school year. He will be **playing baseball for Indiana University of PA.**

Waynesburg Central alum Danny Humble was drafted by the **Chicago Cubs** in the **13th round of the 1971 MLB June Amateur Draft.** He played two minor league seasons before injuries cut short his career. The new softball complex at Crawford Field is named in his honor.

In a fascinating sidenote, **five future NFL quarterbacks were also selected in that year's baseball draft.** Joe Theismann was picked in the 39th round by the Minnesota Twins. Other eventual starting quarterbacks who were drafted included Jim Plunkett (Red Sox), Archie Manning (Braves), Dan Pastorini (White Sox), and Steve Bartkowski (Royals).

Future baseball Hall of Famers Jim Rice, George Brett, and Mike Schmidt were selected in the first two rounds.



Benson Bland celebrates in the endzone. Photo courtesy of CREK Photography.

Jefferson-Morgan Volleyball

JM vs McGuffy (0-3) 19-25, 19-25, 5-25

Alaina McCollum: 1 ace, 7 serve receives, 15 digs; Lucca Jellots: 3 serve receives, 9 digs; Mia Bertagnolli: 2 blocks; Kelsey Vessels: 3 points, 4 kills, 5 serve receives; Ava Wood: 2 points, 2 kills, 5 digs; Mallory McManis: 4 points, 8 digs, 8 assists; Emilee Bazzoli: 17 serve receives, 15 digs; Kaelyn Martos: 4 blocks; Gabriella Marmie: 9 digs, 8 serve receive, 3 kills, 3 blocks; Belle Davis: 2 serve receive, 3 digs, 1 kill

JM vs California (0-3) 12-25, 17-25, 14-25

Alaina McCollum: 1 ace, 1 point, 9 serve receives, 5 digs; Lucca Jellots: 8 serve receive, 9 digs; Mia Bertagnolli: 1 kill, 2 blocks, 3 assists; Kelsey Vessels: 1 ace, 1 point, 4 serve receives, 9 digs, 2 kills, 1 assist; Ava Wood: 2 aces, 5 points, 5 digs, 2 kills; Beautiful Medlen: 1 ace, 1 serve receive, 1 dig, 3 kills, 4 blocks; Mallory McManis: 1 ace, 4 points, 4 digs, 3 assists; Emilee Bazzoli: 1 ace, 4 points, 15 serve receives, 15 digs; Kaelyn Martos: 1 serve receive, 1 block; Bailey Cervone: 1 dig, 1 block; Belle Davis: 2 serve receives, 2 digs

JM vs GCC (3-0) 25-21, 25-9, 26-24

Alaina McCollum: 3 point, 8 serve receives, 6 digs; Lucca Jellots: 1 ace, 6 points, 4 serve receive, 4 digs; Mia Bertagnolli: 4 digs, 3 kill, 2 blocks, 5 assists; Kelsey Vessels: 2 serve receives, 3 digs, 2 kills, 1 assist; Ava Wood: 2 aces, 5 points, 2 serve receive, 8 digs, 8 kills; Beautiful Medlen: 1 ace, 3 points, 2 serve receive, 2 dig, 3 kills, 2 blocks; Mallory McManis: 2 ace, 6 points, 10 digs, 9 assists; Emilee Bazzoli: 2 ace, 9 points, 7 serve receives, 17 digs, 1 kill, 1 assist; Kaelyn Martos: 1 ace, 6 points, 1 serve receive, 2 digs, 1 kill, 1 assist, 4 serve receive, 4 digs; Bailey Cervone: 1 serve receive, 4 digs, 1 kill, 1 block

JM vs Geibel (3-2) 25-13, 26-28, 26-24, 14-25, 15-6

Alaina McCollum: 2 aces, 3 point, 15 serve receives, 10 digs, 1 assist; Lucca Jellots: 7 serve receive, 19 digs, 1 kill; Mia Bertagnolli: 2 kill, 3 blocks, 15 assists; Kelsey Vessels: 3 aces, 9 points, 7 serve receives, 32 digs, 8 kills, 1 block; Ava Wood: 1 ace, 8 points, 2 serve receive, 15 digs, 10 kills; Beautiful Medlen: 2 ace, 7 points, 2 dig, 7 kills, 4 blocks; Mallory McManis: 1 ace, 5 points, 10 digs, 16 assists; Emilee Bazzoli: 4 ace, 9 points, 13 serve receives, 24 digs, 1 kill; Kaelyn Martos: 2 serve receive, 3 digs, 3 kills, 1 block; Bailey Cervone: 6 serve receive, 9 kills, 2 blocks, 1 assist; Belle Davis: 1 serve receive, 4 digs, 1 kill.



Jefferson-Morgan's Deakyn Dehoet leads the county in scoring with 54 points after 3 games. Photo courtesy of CREK Photography.



Waynesburg's Teagan Crouse leads the county in passing with 662 yards after 3 games. Photo courtesy of CREK Photography.

2025 Greene County Football Races

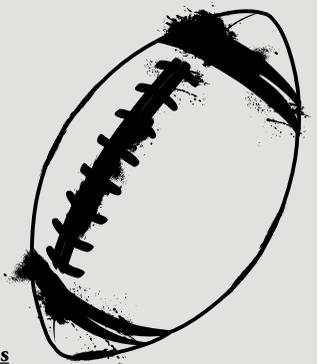
(After 3 Games) (Carmichaels did not have a Week 0 Game)

Passing	Comp.	Attempts	Yards	TDs
T. Crouse (WC)	31	56	662	5
T. Farabee (JM)	27	32	318	3
C. Vanata (M)	2	5	30	1
C. Bupka (C)	5	14	26	0

Rushing	Attempts	Yards	TDs
C. Vanata (M)	58	431	3
J. Woodward (JM)	55	378	5
D. Dehoet (JM)	16	257	6
T. Crouse (WC)	27	172	6
C. Bupka (C)	24	148	4
W. Murray (C)	23	100	1
G. Kundly (C)	9	95	1
R. Tennant (WC)	24	83	2
C. McKnight (M)	16	63	2
T. Farabee (JM)	18	43	1
J. Brunell (WC)	6	40	1

Receiving	Catches	Yards	TDs
J. Ricciuti (WC)	9	272	2
D Dehoet (JM)	12	255	3
J. Blair (WC)	8	165	1
Z. Jibblits (WC)	6	126	0
R. Tennant (WC)	7	86	2

Scoring	TDs	XP	FG	2PT	S	Total
D. Dehoet (JM)	9	0	0	0	0	54
T. Crouse (WC)	5	0	0	0	0	30
C. Bupka (C)	4	0	0	1	0	24
R. Tennant (WC)	3	0	0	0	0	18
J. Woodward (JM)	3	0	0	0	0	18
C. Vanata (M)	2	1	0	1	0	15
N. Ricciuti (WC)	0	8	1	0	0	11
W. Murray (C)	1	0	0	2	0	10
G. Kundly (C)	1	0	0	1	0	8
T. Orndoff (WG)	1	0	0	0	0	6
J. Ricciuti (WC)	1	0	0	0	0	6
J. Brunell (WC)	1	0	0	0	0	6
L. Yeck (JM)	0	6	0	0	0	6
T. Farabee (JM)	1	0	0	0	0	6
J. Smith (C)	1	0	0	0	0	6
K. Shook (C)	0	0	0	2	0	4
K. Sumpter (WC)	0	0	0	1	0	2



In the Out-Door

By T.R. Mahle

ELK FARMING IN PENNSYLVANIA: BRADDOCK'S VALLEY ELK RANCH

Elk farming has become a growing agricultural niche in Pennsylvania, offering both economic and ecological benefits. As consumer demand increases for specialty meats and alternative livestock products, more farmers in the Commonwealth are turning to elk as a profitable and sustainable enterprise. Pennsylvania's natural landscape, with its rolling hills, forested areas, and moderate climate, provides ideal conditions for raising elk, making the state well-suited to support this unique agricultural venture.

Elk, also known as wapiti, are large members of the deer family. They are primarily raised for their lean, nutritious meat, which is lower in fat and cholesterol than beef and higher in protein. Elk meat, or venison, has gained popularity among health-conscious consumers and gourmet markets. In addition to meat, elk are also valued for antlers, which are harvested in the spring and used in traditional medicine, especially in Asian markets. Antlers, once fully grown and shed, are also sold as dog chews or

decorative items.

The elk horn is the fastest growing bone there is...reaching full development within a ninety to a hundred and ten days (90-110), a truly amazing feat of nature. There are currently about a hundred (100) active elk farms in Pennsylvania. Elk horns generally sell for about twenty (\$20) per pound.

Located in the Western end of the county, **Paul Braddock**, along with his son **Brad**, own and operate the **Valley Elk Ranch**, a 450-acre parcel of pristine wildlife habitat that houses Elk, deer, turkey, fox, and an abundance of other wildlife species. The **Valley Elk Ranch** is free roaming for all wildlife except for the Elk which are kept on a fenced-in 40-acre parcel of land.

With well maintained side-by-side trails that wind throughout the entire property, they are able to maintain, feed and patrol the entire ranch. Caring for the abundance of wildlife on the property is a daily routine and takes about two hours to complete. It encompasses feed-

ing, checking fence, watering, vaccinating and a visual inspection of the animals to make sure all is well.

According to Paul, *"managing and maintaining such a wonderful place is an expensive endeavor to say the least, and all you can do is 'hope' to turn a profit at the end of the year"*. There is feeding (approximately \$40,000 yearly), fencing (over \$20,000), fuel, barns and vaccinations...all necessary to ensure a healthy population of wildlife on a daily basis. Paul went on to say that *"when you're dealing with wild animals and the constant forces of nature...nothing is for certain"*.

Ten years ago, the ranch was also well known as a deer farm. Unfortunately, a large tree falling on the fence enabled many of the animals to escape their sanctuary thus ending years of breeding and genetics completely lost with no chance of recovery...a devastating loss for the ranch. At this point the decision was made to concentrate mostly on the elk. The ranch is currently home to nine bulls and a herd of 15-20 cows and calves. Purchasing a bull would start at approximately \$15,000, and they weigh between 800 -1,100 pounds.

Two of the largest bulls to ever inhabit the ranch (pictured) both met their demise with very unfortunate circumstances. "Legend" fell to a competitor after being gored in the side while fighting for control of the herd. He was a massive bull with a towering rack that scored over 572 B&C points. Legend was one of the top five bulls in the country at the time of his death and was valued at between fifty and seventy thousand dollars.

Unfortunately, for the second bull, trying to cool off in the heat of summer cost him his life. He was lying in a stream and got his antlers caught in a willow tree and drowned. His score was also near 500 B&C points. Both of these magnificent animals are mounted and on display at the ranch.

Paul and Brad welcome anyone who wants to view the wildlife on their ranch. Paul asks that you remain respectful of his property when viewing the animals and be mindful



of the fact that these are very large and wild animals. They should be viewed from a safe distance and you should never approach the animals or get near the fences and gates during certain times of the year (the rut).

Over the years, not all visitors to the ranch have had good intentions. Poaching is a major concern to the owners, and they have had to prosecute over 20 individuals for various violations.

Elk farming in Pennsylvania is regulated by the PDA, which classifies elk as "livestock." This classification provides elk farmers with certain protections and access to state agricultural programs. They are subject to regular inspections and strict biosecurity protocols to ensure herd health.

In recent years, elk farming has gained momentum due to increased consumer interest. They require less intensive management than traditional livestock and are known for their hardiness and adaptability.

Despite its growth, elk farming in Pennsylvania faces challenges. Public concern about disease transmission between farmed elk and wild deer populations has prompted stricter oversight. In addition, the relatively high start-up costs can be a barrier for new entrants. However, those who invest wisely and follow best practices can tap into a niche market with high return potential.

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TIME IN A TREE STAND: A HUNTER'S REFLECTION

By T.R. Mahle

It's been 55 years since I followed my dad into the darkness of the woods for the first time on a squirrel hunt. Half scared and half excited, I followed him closely, trying to be as stealthy as an eight-year-old boy could possibly be. I still look back at my first morning hunt in the woods as one of my favorite outdoor experiences. Still too young to carry a gun, I opted for an old broom stick that was cut down to size and had a nail driven into it (my trigger). This was my pretend weapon...careful to keep the end always pointed towards the ground for safety reasons. Safety was the first lesson learned...instilled in me by my father from the very beginning.

To this day, I truly believe that led me on a path which I hope to travel as long as I'm able to get around. That first morning in the woods opened a door to a whole new world and left a pleasant and permanent track in my memory.

As I grew, so did my passion for bow hunting. There was something about climbing a tree in the dark and sitting for hours that completely captivated me. Time in a tree stand is unlike any other. Suspended above the forest floor, nestled among branches and leaves, you become both observer and participant in the quiet, unfolding drama of the natural world. In those long, still hours, time seems to stretch and compress in odd ways...hours

and hours of sweet anticipation graced with moments of incredible excitement when the woods come alive. Whether you hunt for food, sport, or simply for the peace it brings, the time spent in a tree stand offers more than just the chance of a successful harvest—it provides space for reflection or “think time” as I like to call it. There are many things that pass through my mind while sitting in a tree stand.

In the early hours before dawn, climbing into the stand in silence becomes a kind of ritual. The world is still dark except for the soft shimmer of stars or a sliver of moon. Slowly, as the first golden rays of sunlight appear over the horizon, (my favorite time to be in the woods) the forest awakens. Birds begin to call, squirrels chatter, turkeys begin their morning rituals and we, as hunters, watch it all unfold from our elevated perch...unnoticed by most of the animals below. It is a front-row seat to the rhythms of nature, uninterrupted by the noise of modern life.

Time in a tree stand requires patience. Hours can pass without a single glimpse of game. There are no phone calls, no meetings to attend and no television to watch...just the distant rustle of leaves or the crack of a twig. It is in this stillness that the mind slows down. You become attuned to every sound and movement. Focus sharpens. There is space to think, to breathe,

to listen...not only to the woods, but to one's own thoughts. Many hunters speak of clarity that comes only in these moments, a kind of mental reset that is increasingly rare in today's fast-paced world.

The tree stand also teaches humility. No matter how carefully you plan or how still you sit, nature operates on its own terms. The deer may never appear. The wind might shift. Rain could fall. There is no guarantee. And yet, these quiet failures are part of the appeal. Each trip into the stand is a reminder that we are not in control, but participants in something larger, older, and wilder than ourselves.

When the hunt is successful, it is a moment of gratitude and reverence. A clean shot, a respectful harvest, and a full freezer are rewards not just for the act itself, but for the many silent hours that led to it. Even without a kill, time in a tree stand offers its own rewards: peace, patience, and perspective.

In the end, time in a tree stand is about more than hunting. It's about presence. It's about stepping away from the artificial noise of life and remembering what it means to be still, to be aware, and to be part of the natural world. And in that stillness, many find exactly what they didn't know they were looking for.



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ROCKIN' DOWN THE HIGHWAY

By Aubrey Lesnett

In Greene County, cars are more than just a way to get from one place to another. They're a source of pride, tradition, and community. From classic cruisers polished to perfection to modern muscle cars that roar down the backroads, the county's car culture brings people together in a way few other pastimes can.

Whether it's the **50s Fest** that shuts down Waynesburg's High Street, the Flashlight Drags at the Greene County Airport, or the various car shows, such as the one at the Ice Plant, locals love to bring people together with their fascinating automobiles. For many, it's about preserving history, celebrating craftsmanship, and connecting with others who share the same passion for the open road.

One of the biggest parts of Greene County's car culture is the upcoming 50s Fest. "What makes the event especially unique is how far people will travel just to be part of it. One young woman from England first stumbled upon the festival by accident—and for several years since, she has planned her U.S. vacations around making it back for the celebration.

Others drive hundreds of miles so their cars can line High Street during 50's Fest. To honor that dedication, organizers even award a prize to the participant who has traveled the farthest with their vehicle.

50s Fest takes up so much room, the whole street gets shut

down for the day of the festival. Although the festival is advertised as a car show, it's much more than that. 50s Fest includes not only cars, but any kind of vehicle you can think of, ranging from motorcycles to vintage emergency vehicles.

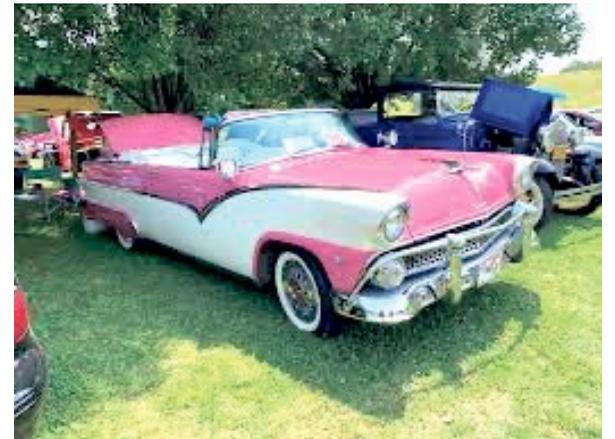
To really set the mood, festival co-chair Doug Wilson is in the DJ booth playing various hits from the time, ranging from the Beach Boys to Elvis Presley.

If you're looking for something a bit faster paced, no problem. Just take a trip down to the Greene County airport once a month during the summer and early fall to watch the Flashlight Drags.

This event hosts a plethora of speedy cars, all of which are vying to be the fastest on the track. The event starts out with what they call the "Parade Lap", where one by one each car that's competing that day goes down the airstrip at whatever speed they choose to model their car, but it's all competition from there.

Throughout the course of the day, each driver will be matched against as many cars as they can to find out who is the fastest. Vehicles range from older trucks/muscle cars to newer electric cars.

When asked about how the event benefits the county, Dave "Buzz" Cognetti, one of the many people who makes the event run smoothly, had this to say. "The event not only brings



the community together for a Sunday filled with excitement, but it also provides a boost to the local economy.

Hosted five times a year, it draws crowds that support local food vendors and helps small businesses thrive. For many, it's a day to enjoy cars, food, and fellowship, but it also plays an important role in keeping community traditions alive and supporting the people who make Greene County special."

Not only is the **Ice Plant** a phenomenal restaurant located in Greensboro, it also plays host to yet another exciting car show that brings people from as far as Florida and everywhere in between. The restaurant initially started this car show to draw in more customers when they first opened the restaurant, according to owner Lisa Rumble-Miller.

"We had only 18 cars at the first one and now we sometimes exceed 200, which is great for our area. Participants are what makes our show so successful. They continually come back year after year to support us, and many of them have never missed one of our shows."

As they continue the tradition, the Ice Plant is approaching their 30th anniversary of the show. Something unique about this show is that it has a different theme every year, with Rumble-Miller recalling one of her personal favorites, "My favorite was "Follow the Yellow Brick Road", which featured decorations from the Wizard of Oz."

In addition to the cars, there are horse and buggy rides, tethered balloon rides and, of course, the fireworks display. The various awards include: Top 50 Classic Cars, Top 10 Newer Model Cars, and a couple of memorial awards - the Jerry Dorsey Jr. Memorial award and the James L. Rumble Memorial award.

"Jerry was a local young man that passed away at only 16. James Rumble was my father, and he loved the car show and played a big role in helping prepare for them," said Rumble-Miller.

The big awards include Best of Show Car and Best of Show Truck, both of which come with a monetary reward.

Car culture in Greene County isn't just about engines and chrome—it's about community. These events give people a reason to come together, celebrate their shared passion, and support local businesses along the way. Whether you're a car enthusiast or just someone enjoying the atmosphere, car culture has become a meaningful part of life in Greene County, keeping tradition and connection alive.





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BEST CAR SONGS OF ALL-TIME

By Bret Moore

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Cars appear in so many rock and country songs because they symbolize freedom, rebellion, and the open road core themes in both genres. There are literally hundreds of songs about cars or driving down the highway.

In rock and rap, cars often represent speed, youth, and defiance, aligning with the genres' edgy spirit.

In country music, they evoke small-town life, nostalgia, and personal stories. Cars also serve as settings for romance, escape, or heartbreak, making them powerful, relatable symbols in storytelling across both musical traditions.

To get your motor running, we have listed 40 of the most iconic car songs by genre.

To vote on your favorite, shoot us an email at info@greenscenemagazine.com

We will announce the top song in our readers' poll next month. **We will also draw a random entrant to win a \$50 cash prize.**



Country

1. "Fast Car" - Luke Combs
2. "Mercury Blues" - Alan Jackson
3. "Guitars, Cadillacs" - Dwight Yoakam
4. "'68 Fastback" - Zach Bryan
5. "Hot Rod Lincoln" - Asleep at The Wheel
6. "Life Is a Highway" - Rascal Flatts
7. "The One I Loved Back Then (The Corvette Song)" - George Jones
8. "Drivin' My Life Away" - Eddie Rabbit
9. "I Got a Car" - George Strait
10. "All I Wanted Was a Car" - Brad Paisley

Rock/Pop

1. "Rockin Down the Highway" - Doobie Brothers
2. "Low Rider" - War
3. "Drive My Car" - The Beatles
4. "One Headlight" - The Wallflowers
5. "Thunder Road" - Bruce Springsteen
6. "Highway Star" - Deep Purple
7. "Two Lane Highway" - Pure Prairie League
8. "Radar Love" - Golden Earring
9. "Racing in the Street" - Bruce Springsteen
10. "Runnin' Down a Dream" - Tom Petty

Oldies (Even for me)

1. "Mustang Sally" - Wilson Pickett
2. "Hot Rod Lincoln" - Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen
3. "G.T.O." - Ronny & The Daytonas
4. "Fun, Fun, Fun" - The Beach Boys
5. "No Particular Place to Go" - Chuck Berry
6. "Little Deuce Coupe" - The Beach Boys
7. "Dead Man's Curve" - Jan & Dean
8. "Hey Little Cobra" - The Rip Chords
9. "Maybelline" - Chuck Berry
10. "Dead Man's Curve" - Jan and Dean

Rap/Hip Hop

1. "Let Me Ride" - Dr Dre f. Snoop Dogg
2. "Still Tippin'" - Mike Jones f. Paul Wall
3. "Wanna Be a Baller" - Lil' Troy
4. "Roll Out" - Ludacris
5. "Ridin' Dirty" - Chamillionaire
6. "Still Fly" - Big Tymers
7. "Ride With Me" - Nelly
8. "Ice Ice Baby" - Vanilla Ice
9. "Boyz-N-Da-Hood" - Eazy E & N.W.A.
10. "Two Dope Boyz in a Cadillac" - Outkast

Choose one of the above as the Best Car Song of All Time (or pick one of your own)

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2025 Coal Queen, Emma Mihalco, at the Charles Workman Memorial Car & Motorcycle Show.

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Cool at School: GOOD MORNING, MIKES NATION!

By Emma Bates

Every Tuesday and Friday morning at Carmichaels Area School District dawns with a familiar greeting from the student news anchors on the Mikes Nation Live broadcast team: “Good morning, Mikes Nation!”

The Carmichaels Communications Department boasts a full line-up of technological gadgets as well as streamlined software and editing systems, but it is the creative minds behind the camera and computer that create such a beautiful marriage of STEM and the arts.

Miss Jessica Hathaway, Communications and English teacher, makes sure that all sorts of communications are covered, not just video shot on campus for the twice-weekly features of school news and humorous anecdotes. Students are introduced to multiple forms of media, which essentially serve as some of their many options for a voice in today’s digital world.

Hathaway states that, “While my primary goal is to help [students] strengthen their communication skills, I love that I can do so in a hands-on environment where they actively practice and apply those skills. Watching their ideas take shape and come to life is truly my favorite part of the job.”

But Miss Hathaway makes sure the basics are covered before the camera starts rolling. Public speaking and writing skills are taught as the anchor of good news reporting and communication in general. Students are also taught how to explore a variety of news outlets, and then to convey their ideas on a plethora of platforms, whether through the keyboard on a blog, the microphone on a podcast, a letter to the editor, or a video from a new angle.

Everyone plays a role in the newsroom, which goes far beyond the studio today. Each

one of us is a journalist with the duty to share truth with others. We can all be published authors via the internet, with the majority of the equipment in our back pockets. Learning how to use our minds and our technology is the key to using our many platforms responsibly.

Many alumni of the Communications pathway have gone on to pursue careers in related fields, from radio broadcasting and sports announcing to meteorology for a start. But a career in this area specifically isn’t the only mark of success. “Even if my students don’t pursue a future in media, I know they leave my classroom with skills they can carry and apply wherever life takes them,” Hathaway says.

Communicating effectively in today’s world using various media styles, such as video production, video and audio editing, podcasting, graphic design, public speaking, and writing/blogging is crucial to any career and lifestyle.

Mikes Nation Live students also break the fourth wall frequently, serving viewers beyond the school setting. Announcements are broadcast to the entire district and community on the MNL YouTube channel. Students volunteer their time outside of the school day to film school board meetings, senior videos, sporting events, musical showcases, and seasonal events within the community. Whether spreading Christmas cheer on a chilly night or sweating on the sidelines of a neck-and-neck football game, the MNL crew is always “rolling” through Carmichaels.

Journalists are the storytellers of history, as the old cliché says, but it couldn’t be any closer to the truth. And at Carmichaels, we’re excited to see the footage from the next chapter.

Cool at School:

NEW WG PRINCIPAL HAS A TRUE HOMECOMING

By Aubrey Lesnett

West Greene High School’s homecoming is more than just a football game. It’s a celebration of school spirit, tradition, and community pride. Each year, students, alumni, and families come together to cheer on the Pioneers, crown the homecoming court, and enjoy a weekend full of festivities that bring the school and community closer together.

Michael Hildreth is not only the principal of West Greene High School, but also an alumnus of West Greene, graduating in 2009. He came back to the district as the principal last school year. And who better to share the excitement of homecoming with than someone who once held the title of Mr. West Greene?

When asked how it felt to experience homecoming now as a principal after once being a student at West Greene, Hildreth said, “As a principal coming back to my alma mater, homecoming becomes more than just another home football game on the calendar. It’s an invitation for every current and former Pioneer to reminisce on days past and celebrate the glory of yesterday. They can remember what it was like to walk these halls, learn from our teachers, and to support their beloved Pioneers. Homecoming is a celebration of what it is to be a Pioneer and to celebrate the culture of this small school ‘nestled in the hills so noble.’”

West Greene is known for its sense of community and knowing how to bring people together, and Homecoming does exactly that. The football game brings together students of past and present, all with a common goal—to cheer the Pioneer football team onto a victory against their opponent.

The message that Mr. Hildreth would like to share with West Greene students for this year’s Homecoming is one of sentiment. “Enjoy yourselves, participate, and take it all in. In a very short time, you will live experiences that one day will only be a memory. So, take the leap and have fun because my memories are all that I have left from my time as a student. I am one of the few who are truly blessed to ensure that these cherished traditions live on as I remember them, in a role that allows me to make more memories from the school and community that I cherish so much.”

West Greene’s homecoming is more than a tradition. It’s a reminder of the pride, unity, and lasting memories that make the school and community special. From the game to the court, and all the celebrations in between, homecoming continues to bring together generations of Pioneers in a way that only West Greene can. So, let’s all come together to cheer West Greene on for their Homecoming game on October 17 when they play Carmichaels.

Cool at School:

*We want to welcome
McGuffey School District
to the GreeneScene!*

McGUFFEY VISION

By Dan Gottron: Director of Curriculum and Instruction

As we kick off the 2025-2026 school year, McGuffey School District is excited to start sharing our story in the GreeneScene Community Magazine.

This school year marks many exciting new developments in support of our students. This marks the first year in our current three-year future ready comprehensive planning window. During these next three years we will be em-

barking on a journey to improve our schools by focusing on four priority areas of need in our district: student attendance, a vision and culture for high expectations, staff recruitment and retention, and artificial intelligence.

We feel strongly that growing in each of these areas will help us fully embody our district mission, which is “Better today than yesterday, McGuffey will TEACH (Together, Excellence,

Achievement, Community, and Hope).”

These goals will ultimately help us realize our vision for all students to reach their greatest potential. With each of the coming months, we will look forward to sharing our stories and successes with our local community through our monthly contribution the GreeneScene.





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FROM PIGSKIN TO PROMENADE: HOW FOOTBALL HOMECOMINGS TOOK ROOT

By Bret Moore

October is by far my favorite month, and I know many people feel the same way. The weather, the foliage, and football are at their apex in my opinion.

Many of the festivals and traditions associated with the season balance cozy reflection and lively celebration. This is especially true of the tradition of “homecomings.”

Today, almost all of us have the same collective memories of football games, pep rallies, bonfires, and dances. However, these traditions, like others, evolved slowly over the years.

While the core elements of homecoming have remained consistent, modern celebrations often include additional activities. However, the primary focus to unite the community remains the same. The name perfectly captures the essence of the event: the act of returning home to where friendships were made, and where a sense of belonging was first forged.

Collegiate Origins

Multiple colleges claim to be the progenitor of the homecoming tradition.

Of course, Harvard and Yale claim their traditional rivalry games dating back to the 1870s were the original homecomings. However, most historians give one of three other Mid-western schools credit.

In 1909, Baylor University held a large alumni gathering during a football game. The following year, the University of Illinois staged a big alumni weekend tied to multiple athletic events.

However, the University of Missouri (1911) is widely credited with hosting the first official Homecoming. The story goes that Missouri’s athletic director, invited alumni to “come home” for the annual football game against their big rival Kansas. To encourage attendance, the school planned parades, rallies, and events around the game.

The gathering was an immediate success, sparking similar events at other colleges across the country. Schools quickly recognized that homecoming was more than just an opportunity to boost school spirit. It was a way to strengthen the connection between alumni and their alma mater.... and get money from them.

Why Football?

Originally, many alumni weekends were scheduled around commencement. However, attendance was usually sparse and drew mostly local graduates.

Savvy administrators understood the need for a more enjoyable inducement to bring people back to campus. Football was central to early Homecomings because it was by far the biggest spectator sport on campus at the time. These games drew townspeople and alumni in addition to current students. The big rivalry game gave schools a natural anchor for a gathering.

Eventually, colleges realized they needed to schedule “cupcakes” for easy victories to keep the morale high on campus for the after-game festivities.

The games created an excuse for alumni to travel back, see old classmates, and show pride in their alma mater... and donate money. By the 1920s, the tradition had spread across the Midwest where college football was booming.

These early Homecomings typically featured a parade with floats by student groups, pep rallies and bonfires, and a dance or banquet for alumni. The tradition of crowning a Homecoming Queen did not become part of the celebration until mid-century.

Waynesburg College/University Homecomings

Like many colleges, Waynesburg’s Homecoming began as an opportunity to draw alumni back to campus to watch a football game and reconnect with friends and faculty.

Though precise dates of the earliest Waynesburg homecomings are hard to pin down, the first mention of a “homecoming football game” on the schedule came in 1938. The Jackets tied St. Vincent 0-0 in that November 13th game to share the Class B Title with the Bearcats. (Their only losses that year were to WVU, Duquesne, and Fordham). However, the yearbook did not mention any activities surrounding the game.

The first mention of a Homecoming Court and festivities did not occur until the post-war period. The earliest photographic evidence of such a celebration was 1947 when Prexie Stewart crowned a queen at halftime.

By the 1950s and 1960s, Homecoming at Waynesburg had expanded into a full weekend.

There were parades through the borough, featuring floats created by student and Greek organizations and even community groups. The Queen Coronations at halftime became a beloved custom. Alumni Luncheons and Ban-

quets brought generations together during the day. More importantly, depending on your age, Alberts, Rohanna’s, the VFW, the Elks, the Jury Box, and the Waynesburg Hotel brought alumni together after the game.

It was during these years that Homecoming solidified as a highlight of the college calendar, a mixture of school spirit and community festival.

Local High School Homecomings

By the 1930s, high schools (especially in the Midwest and South) began to adopt the tradition to build spirit, honor alumni, and showcase school pride. The idea was to invite graduates “home” for the big game, just like universities did.

The earliest high school homecomings included events like the colleges’ celebrations. There were parades, pep rallies, bonfires, and a dance, which was often the biggest social event of the school year.

Unlike colleges, where alumni were the primary focus, high school homecomings quickly became more about students—with alumni welcome but less central.

By the 1940s and 1950s, most high schools had added the Homecoming Queen and King tradition. This became one of the most recognizable parts of the ritual, symbolizing school spirit and student popularity. Crowning the queen at halftime of the football game became standard practice nationwide.



Prexie Stewart crowns the college's first homecoming queen in 1947.

I always assumed the tradition would have been around in Greene County high schools for years. It turns out that my parents who graduated in the 1950s would have never experienced a “homecoming queen.”

After researching the yearbooks of the five county schools, I was surprised to find that we were relatively late to the party. In the 1950s, there were many queens in those pages: Coal Queen, May Queen, Prom Queen, Cinderella, and Miss Merrie Christmas... but no Homecoming Queen.

Finally, in 1957 **Mapletown** listed a homecoming queen among the others honored in the yearbook. Carol Stoneking was crowned at the final game of the year on the first Friday in November. Alumni who graduated in years ending in four and nine were also honored at the game. A dance was sponsored the following night by the junior class.

In 1956, **Waynesburg High School** chose a “Football Queen” at their last game. That tradition would last five years before they finally selected Brenda Meek Baker as their first “official homecoming queen” in 1962.

A year later, **West Greene’s** yearbook featured a spread entitled “First Homecoming a Success”

The accompanying copy predicted the event “will become a tradition.” After the parade, the Pioneers defeated Clay Battelle in the game and crowned Queen Ada Lou Andrews at halftime. The next night the Journalism Club sponsored the Homecoming Dance.

Carmichaels and **Jefferson** didn’t crown queens until 1965 (Janice Lindstrom) and 1966 (Melvina Collage) respectively.

By the 1970s and 80s, high school homecomings expanded even further. While football remained central, high schools added new twists such as Spirit Week, hallway decorating contests, and powderpuff football games.

Ultimately, homecomings endure because they serve multiple purposes.

They are a celebration of shared history, memories, and pride. They serve as a way to build school spirit, create traditions, and bring together past and present members of the community. For many students, the sense of belonging fostered during homecoming events stays with them long after they graduate.



Homecoming parade 1969.

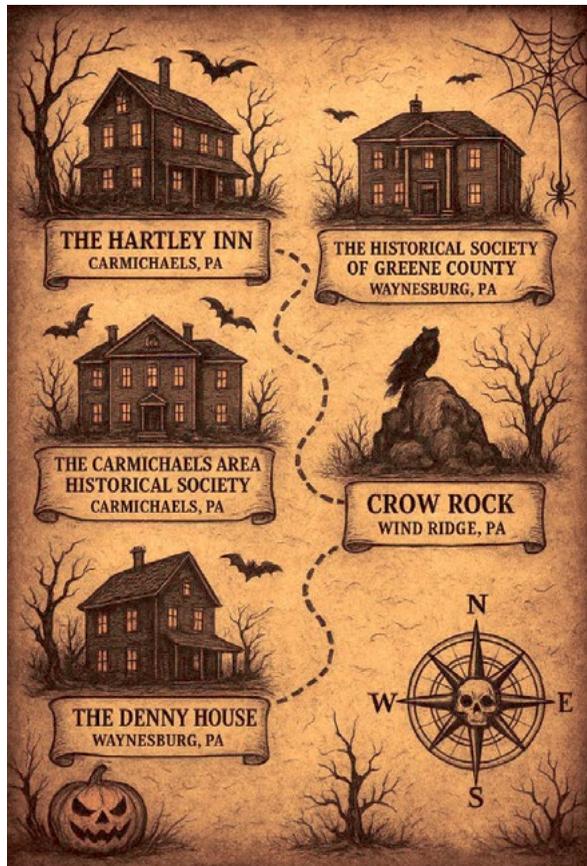


Waynesburg College's first homecoming court.

GREENE COUNTY GHOST TOUR

By Brad A Braddock

Have you experienced creaky floors that no one is walking on? Cold spots, flickering lights, or unexplained sounds lurking in the night? Then you may have been an unwilling participant of the unknown.



A phenomenon that some label as paranormal. Mapping out some of Greene County's haunted locations can be fun events, even for the squeamish of heart.

Starting with the **Hartley Inn** that was built in 1847, the old, reddish brick building still stands and serves as a restaurant today.

The many antiques that fill the establishment will transport you to a bygone era as you enter the diner. Towards the back



of the restaurant, there are pictures of the establishment from the days of old. One of them has a strange image of a shadowy man wearing a 1940s style Fedora and trench-coat standing behind the bar. When you go there for a bite to eat, take time to have a look.

According to Hartley employee Harmony Dare, "You definitely see apparitions out of the corners of your eyes. A hair flick is not uncommon, or a brush on the ear." Her calm demeanor assures the listener these phenomena were nothing malicious. She continued, "Sometimes, even a little tug of the hair, very playfully, like a child would do."

"In the basement, there is someone lurking. We call him Fred," she paused and giggled for a moment. She continued, "A lot of the workers are afraid of the basement. Me personally, I don't fear anything."

Harmony became a bit vague when it came to talking about the entity they call Fred.

When you visit the Hartley Inn, perhaps Harmony will share more details about Fred while you enjoy a delicious, homecooked meal.

Just down the road from the Hartley Inn is another beautiful building that is a mixture of half cut stone that was built in 1790 as an Episcopal church. The other half, a red brick section, was constructed in 1810. It was the first school of higher learning west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Located next to the covered bridge in Old Town, the **Greene Academy of Art** on North Market Street has many reports of paranormal activities that occur at both the academy and the nearby Laurel Point Cemetery.

Another local gem is the **Greene County Historical Society Museum**, which houses thousands of historical items that help preserve the complex history of the county's Native American culture, as well as the European settlers.

The museum's Executive Director, Matt Cumberledge, is happy to share the paranormal activity that lurks on the premises.

"I can hear children playing in the building and grounds at times. Shadowy images in the glass cases are not uncommon. Footsteps on staircases and flickering lights happen often."

Believers maintain the building's tragic history as an institution for the poor, elderly, and mentally ill is the cause of the spiritual unrest. The barbaric treatments of the era undoubtedly resulted in horrific trauma and deaths. Those chained and mistreated souls are reportedly unable to find peace to this day.

However, Cumberledge does not feel threatened by these experiences. He enjoys his time at the museum and feels it is a noble job preserving the history of the county.

A tour of the incredible structure will reveal painstakingly restored period rooms. In addition, there are civil war reenactments, a popular fall festival, and an open house around the Christmas season. And don't miss the restored log cabin on the grounds.

The next stop on the ghost tour takes us to one of Waynes-

burg's most prestigious homes, the **Denny House** that is located on High Street. Open to the public on Thursdays for delicious drinks and great food, the location has a past of hauntings and paranormal investigators have located multiple female entities and one male that still makes a claim to the house.



An overnight investigation by local ghost hunters led to the team witnessing a ghastly woman dressed in white upstairs, disembodied voices, and other unexplained sounds. There is a small entity of a dog still on the grounds, and a little ghost boy named Jack that likes to play in the basement.

Candelabras will mysteriously move and fall onto the floor. According to the investigations, the house holds a high level of activity, but nothing was ever dangerous or caused harm.

The Denny House is also a beautiful destination to have your wedding, reception, or other gatherings. The surroundings will make for unforgettable, enchanted memories.

Our last stop takes us to the western part of Greene County, to the historic **Crow Rock** in Wind Ridge.

Crow Rock has an infamous past of pain, woe and death. The Crow sisters, who were wandering along on a spring day, came face to face with two Native Americans and a renegade. The renegade had possibly been taken by the Indians as a child



and was raised by them.

Of the four sisters, three were brutally murdered, but a fourth managed to escape and survive.

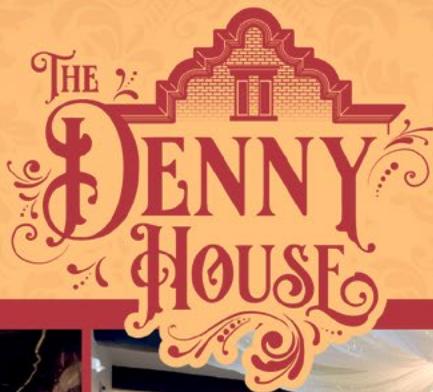
During an intensely bloody period between the Native Americans and the settlers, the girls were taken capture and interrogated about local settlements and forts before they were marched to Crow Rock and slaughtered.

The sight, known for its ghastly apparitions and disembodied voices, is the real thing. Individuals have heard terrible moaning as if someone is in pain in the woodland. If you sit quietly, listening to the fall leaves rustle in the cool breeze, you may come across a haunting yourself.

In addition, visitors have reported the sounds of hoofbeats and felt phantom scratches or hair pulling.

If you find yourself among these locations and dig into the history of them, don't be surprised if you get a little chill up your spine along the way.

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FROM DAVEY CROCKETT TO HARLEY QUINN

THE MOST POPULAR HALLOWEEN COSTUME BY YEAR

It's interesting to look back at the top kids' Halloween costumes through the years to grab a cultural snapshot of the year. Obviously, the list demonstrates movies and television shows have been the biggest influences. Characters from superhero franchises, animated films, or trending series often dominate, allowing kids to connect with their favorite stories and heroes.

However, some costumes reflect significant events in our

history such as 1960's Hula Girl (Alaska joining the country the previous year), 1969's astronaut (moon landing), and 1974's post-resignation Richard Nixon masks.

I was surprised to see multiple movie characters from films that would probably not be seen by young children: Singin' in the Rain, The King and I, Cleopatra, Breakfast at Tiffany's, The Godfather, and V for Vendetta.

Then there was the list of characters that I HOPE parents

didn't take their young children to see: Jaws, Saturday Night Fever, Halloween, Nightmare on Elm Street, Scream, and Austin Powers.

Although, there are also questions to be asked about having a nine-year-old dress up as Marilyn Monroe, Madonna, a Spice Girl, or Britney Spears.



1950 A Cowboy
1951 Tarzan
1952 Don Lockwood
1953 Mickey Mouse
1954 Batman
1955 Davey Crockett
1956 Anna (King and I)
1957 Frankenstein
1958 Zorro
1959 Marilyn Monroe

1980 Tony Manero
1981 Indiana Jones
1982 ET
1983 Michael Jackson
1984 Madonna
1985 Freddy Krueger
1986 California Raisins
1987 Alf
1988 Beetlejuice
1989 Ghostbusters

1960 Hula Girl
1961 Holly Golightly
1962 Rocky & Bullwinkle
1963 Cleopatra
1964 The Beetles
1965 Sonny & Cher
1966 Barbie
1967 Morticia Addams
1968 Casper
1969 Astronaut

1990 Marty McFly
1991 Terminator
1992 Barney
1993 Power Ranger
1994 Bart Simpson
1995 Dumb & Dumber Guys
1996 Spice Girls
1997 Austin Powers
1998 Ghostface
1999 Neo

1970 Elvis
1971 Willy Wonka
1972 Don Corleone
1973 Marcia Brady
1974 Richard Nixon
1975 Jaws
1976 Charlie's Angels
1977 Star Wars
1978 Michael Myers
1979 Rocky

2000 Britney Spears
2001 Harry Potter/Hermione
2002 Spider-Man
2003 Jack Sparrow
2004 Sponge Bob
2005 Darth Vader
2006 V (Vendetta)
2007 Hannah Montana
2008 The Joker
2009 Buzz Lightyear





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Cooking Venison By T.R. Mahle

Cooking venison requires care to retain its tenderness and enhance its rich, gamey flavor. Leaner than beef, venison benefits from quick, high-heat methods like grilling or searing, or low-and-slow braising to prevent dryness. Marinating can tenderize the meat and add depth. Cook steaks medium-rare to medium for the best texture. Ground venison pairs well with fatty cuts like pork for burgers or meatballs. Always rest the meat after cooking to preserve juices. Herbs like rosemary, juniper, and garlic complement its bold taste. Venison's versatility makes it excellent for stews, roasts, or even jerky when prepared with attention and respect.

Venison Preparation:

This is important as the final product is only as good as what you put into it. I like to hunt and process my own deer (or take it to my cousin who does this for a living) to ensure it is done as cleanly as possible. If doing it at home by yourself, break the deer down into smaller more manageable parts...it helps a lot.

1. Remove any fat (most deer don't have a lot of fat)
2. Remove bruised pieces (around bullet entry and exit)
3. Remove silver skin (membrane surrounding the meet)

One of my favorite recipes for venison:

Honey Bourbon Venison

- One Venison backstrap (stripped of the silver skin and cut to length...1-1.5 lb. portions)
- Marinade the backstrap in a honey bourbon marinade for two hours in the refrigerator...marinade consists of equal portions of olive oil, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, Dijon mustard, and garlic
- Make a lot of marinade as it will be used for a glaze latter on
- After marinating...pat dry and season with salt and pepper
- Sear the venison backstrap in a hot skillet
- Finish cooking the backstrap in the oven at 350 degrees until it reaches the desired internal temperature... ideally medium rare
- The reserved marinade id simmered to create a sauce
- Slice and top with the remaining marinade

Who Doesn't Want Comfort Foods on a Crisp Fall Night?

Long before there was Manwich
Mary Goodwin made Homemade Sloppy Joes (or Toms)
By Dolly Throckmorton

Ingredients:

- 2 lb. ground beef (or ground turkey)
- 1 Cup chopped onion
- 1 Tsp salt or to taste
- 1/2 Tsp pepper or to taste
- 1 Tsp dry mustard
- 1 - 8 oz can tomato sauce
- 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 Tbsp cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 Tsp Worcestershire sauce



In a deeper skillet, heat your fat (I prefer olive oil, but use what you like. If using a higher fat meat, you won't need this.) Add ground meat, onion, salt, and pepper. When browned, add dry mustard, tomato sauce, cheese, vinegar and Worcestershire sauce. Simmer 15-20 minutes or until thickened. Spoon onto your favorite sandwich buns. Makes 12 or so servings.

Fact: no high fructose corn syrup or added sugars!

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A PIECE OF MY MIND

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



I clearly remember one of my high school English assignments as one of the first times I struggled with what to write. The teacher assigned the class to write an essay about someone you admire and explain why. My teenaged mind went directly to celebrity, and I thought I would write about the great Michael Jordan, or perhaps a previous president, or maybe a movie star.

I put my pencil to paper and tried to develop a thought. Then erased, scribbled, erased again, and eventually sat at my desk staring at a blank sheet of paper. My teacher saw my struggle and told me that I was thinking too hard and maybe too far. She encouraged me to open my mind and said that the words would come. I remember closing my eyes and thinking about the “why” part of the assignment and realized exactly what I needed to write. My first sentence was something like this, “She sits at her kitchen table placing together pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, much

like she has pieced together the parts of her life.” She was my great-grandmother, Elizabeth Meighen, affectionately known as “Grandma.”

Born in 1903 in Carnegie, PA, Grandma was a first-generation American. Her parents



were from France, near the border with Germany, and Grandma was fluent in three languages- English, French, and German. She married and had two sons, and she and my great-grandfather that I never met, owned and operated a “service station” on Rt. 19 north of Waynesburg prior to buying and working a farm on Rt. 19 south, near Kirby. My great-grandfather passed away in 1967, and Grandma sold their farm the following year. She lived out of the area for a brief time but eventually returned to Greene County and settled into a small trailer in Lemley’s Trailer Court, so that she could be close to family members. It was in that small trailer that I spent many weekends and summer weeks with Grandma where she taught me how to bake!

Grandma was, in my eyes, famous for her Snickerdoodles, her raisin cookies, her seafoam candy, potato candy, divinity candy, and most importantly, her peanut butter

fudge. She spent hours preparing, mixing, baking, and creating these delicious treats. But one of the things that I admired was that those cookies and candies were not for her. Grandma kept tins and foam trays and packaged a variety of goodies for everyone from neighbors to nurses to family members. We would no sooner finish the baking when the assembly line took form. “We need some for Jeanne, and some for Sue and Tina, and your dad likes the raisin cookies, and don’t forget about Giles and ‘Little’ Bill.”

Grandma’s gifts were more than just tasty goodies. One of the things I admired most was her generosity. She gave freely of her time and talents to those around her, and always with a warm heart and kind spirit. She knew exactly how to bring people together and make everyone feel cared for. She taught me so much more than measurements and recipes. Waiting for your boiling mixture that will become fudge to “spin a thread” will teach patience, trust me!

Grandma had many health battles as she aged. She was very hard of hearing and had Meniere’s disease. Neighbors always knew when the Pittsburgh Pirates had a game on TV or radio or when it was time for The Guiding Light. Anyone visiting could hear those broadcasts from beyond the sidewalk.

I could fill pages with memories about Grandma, but another one I treasure is listening to Grandma pray every night. Often, I couldn’t really make out the words, but I didn’t have to. I knew she was praying for those sick or struggling, praying for peace, and counting her blessings. I didn’t need to hear the words. I knew that she was talking to God, and it was an important conversation that she NEVER missed. She prayed every night.

Grandma passed away three days before my high school graduation, after losing a courageous battle with breast cancer. At graduation, my English teacher handed me an envelope and inside was a copy of that long ago essay I wrote about Grandma sitting at her table putting together the pieces.

So, here’s a piece of my mind and some of the things I loved and admired about Grandma... try to have an open mind and open your heart. Be willing to listen and accept that not everyone has the same opinion that you do. Give freely of your time and talents and try to help others. Appreciate the little things and find the joy in them. And be kind, always.

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THE JOHNSON SCHOOL HOUSE MEMOIRS OF PATRICIA EDDY

By Brad Braddock

Patricia Eddy attended the Johnson School House that was located between Spraggs and Blacksville. She was born in 1935, went to school in 1941, and remembers the leaves falling into the autumn air that was quickly turning to winter.

When those frigid months hit, and the soft snow fell, she would try to catch a flake or two on her tongue as she rode to school on a horse pulled sled that was driven by her father. Pot belly stoves were paramount for warmth in the schoolhouse. The fire was started by the teacher, who was also her aunt. She worked hard carrying the wood.

No electricity was available for the teacher and her students, and battery-operated radios were used sparsely just to get an update on their surrounding world. World War II was at its height. Hearing an update of the bloody battles of Europe was sure to hush the children. Patricia and her classmates would listen with somber faces – worried what their futures may hold.

To relax these tense moments, Patricia said, “Us children would go outside, no matter the weather, and play, Andy-Over.” The game consisted of the kids throwing a lightweight ball up and over the schoolhouse. The

children would wait on the other side with big smiles to see who would make the next catch.

Inside, competitive spelling bees were a highlight of instruction. A student who misspelled a word found their way to a seat and quietly awaited the outcome of the game.

Patricia went on to say, “We lived in an old log house on the Eddy Farm. We walked down to Rush Run, back to where Philip’s Church was.” That old wooden framed school held eight grades.

One’s lunch was brought from home in a sturdy pail. When there was snow outside, the children pulled on their heavy boots to use the outhouse. When it was warm, youngsters would trek to the hand-dug well to retrieve a drink of water for themselves and their classmates.

“Half of my mind was running down the road, and the other half was chasing after it,” Patricia recalls with a smile. No doubt a sentiment that most people can recall from their school days no matter the building.

You can almost hear the calls of those Greene County children echo through the hollows, “Andy-Over, Here It Comes!”



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BE A TREE

By Dolly Throckmorton

I love autumn or fall. We tend to use “fall” in American English, while “autumn” is the more formal term, if you will. Whichever your preference, the word doesn’t matter. To me, it’s more than a season; it’s a concept. For Greene County, fall is the most glorious season of all.

For most, fall is the time of year when winter is around the corner. The cold and snow are approaching, and that creates some anxiety. For others, it may be the stress of the holiday rush and finalizing something they’ve been putting off for months. It is also the time of that hectic back-to-school schedule ramping up: work, school, activities, practices, and literally running from here to there until you think there is no end in sight. All these things have one thing in common: stress. While nature might be settling in, humans are racing to the finish line.

I was one of those people. My fall revolved around the holidays approaching and work being so busy at that time of year that I wanted to cry. And I did, many times. I was picking my kids up after school to race to dance, soccer, basketball, volleyball, band, theater, goalie lessons, and appointments on top of working and teaching. My husband was in there too, running as much as he could when three girls had to be in two to three places at once. Friends, families, and our dear babysitter picked up the slack. It took a village. The interesting part: it was all a

blur. My mother used to say, “I don’t know how you do it.” I didn’t see it at the time. I thought this is what parents do: run yourself ragged so your kid can be a productive adult. If they don’t work hard at something and excel, how will they survive in this world? Maybe this was that Gen X mentality: get an education, work hard (even if you don’t love that job, it pays the bills), have a family, and retire with something left as Social Security won’t be there for you (as told to me by numerous professors between 1983-1987)! Hmm... sounds really awesome, doesn’t it?

So here I am, in fall. Not just physically in the season of fall in SWPA (for those of you who live here and know that means Southwestern Pennsylvania, or where you pay your sewer bill), but in the fall of my lifespan. Did I just say that? Yes. Spring took me from birth to maybe age 30, and I rode the wave of summer to 50-something. Now, at 60, I’m in the early beginnings of fall, or at least I hope so! I know for most, it is scary. For me, I’m trying to look at it a little differently. I’ll explain.

As I was walking my dogs this morning, I noticed the leaves starting to change color. Some years, they are not so colorful. I don’t know the science behind this, but I am sure there is an explanation. In any case, it made me stop and reflect. Just be a tree. I said it. Be a tree. The tree graciously gives in to its fall color change as it knows in spring, it will be reborn. Its leaves

will come back, it will stand tall, and create that beautiful lush, green landscape once again. It doesn’t give up in winter. It knows that this time will pass and once again, it will be back to its spring self. It’s fearless, if you will.

I will preempt this by saying, I have dabbled in forest bathing, thanks to my wonderful sister. She gifted me a little book that I’ve referred to time and time again. Many will think it’s a little “out there”, but the general theme is: we can learn a lot from trees. They stand tall in all kinds of weather, their roots run deep to withstand storms, and they eliminate their leaves each autumn (baggage as humans might say). Through all of this, they blossom in the spring, lap up those spring rains, and become lush and green once again. For me, I think of the trees as fearless, and that’s exactly how I’d like to tackle fall and winter.

If I’m going to be fearless, I know that means finishing strong. I want to soak up all those glorious colors of fall, accept the winter with grace as much as is humanly possible, and enjoy the peacefulness of winter, reflecting on all that has transpired. Enjoy the fall walks, hikes, and bike rides. Soak up some wisdom from the trees. Visualize their roots running deep into the earth, creating a sturdy foundation. Take some time to listen to that breeze rustling through those leaves. Enjoy this upcoming season in Greene County being a tree.



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Winners not pictured

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6 and under Category - Mavrick Richards
7 - 12 Category - Thomas Rush and Kaleb Wilson
13 and above Category - Regina Tuscano

Person, Place or Thing Winner!
Gina Pujia

Riverhounds Soccer Tickets Winners!
Michelle Popernack
Kathy Nicholson

Sunflower Trivia Challenge Winner!
Deborah Penska

GreeneScene Where is this Winner!
Lou Ann Abbadini

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

A SURVIVOR'S JOURNEY

By Aubrey Lesnett

Nancy Faieta's journey is one of strength, resilience, and hope. After being diagnosed with breast cancer, she faced the challenges of treatment with courage and determination. Today, Nancy shares her story not only as a survivor, but as an inspiration to others who may be walking the same path.



I had the pleasure of speaking with this strong woman about her story, and the courage it must take to share a story like this is truly admirable. I first asked Nancy what her life was like before her diagnosis and how she got her diagnosis.

She was originally diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer in 2013 during a busy time in her life. She was in the process of getting her son ready for his freshman year of college and helping her daughter

recover from her recent back surgery.

Nancy has a background in the medical field, working as a respiratory therapist. She was actually the one to discover her cancer by performing a self-breast exam, which was something she did monthly.

On that occasion, she felt a lump and told herself she just simply didn't have time for it. She put it on the back-burner until her daughter was fully recovered from her surgery. It was at that point, she got a mammogram. It revealed she did, in fact, have breast cancer.

Fortunately, her treatment was successful.

However, nine years later, shortly before her son's wedding, Nancy felt another lump in her breast. (Once again by doing a self-breast examination)

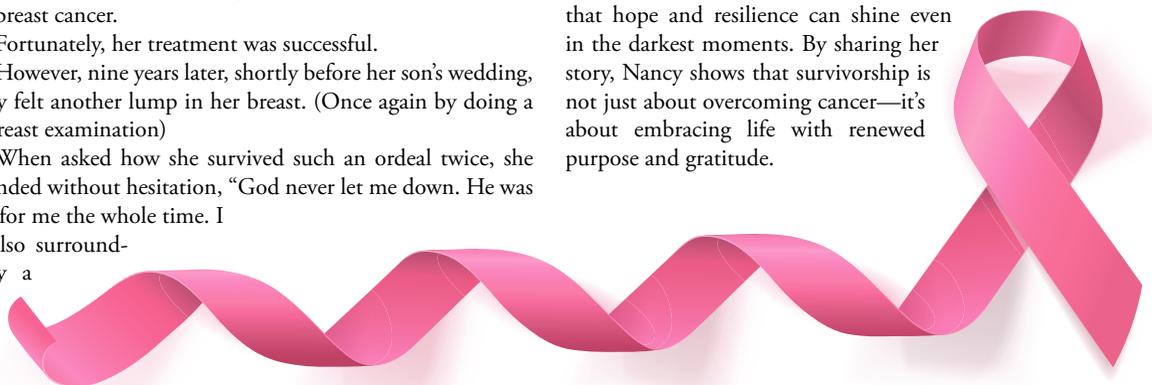
When asked how she survived such an ordeal twice, she responded without hesitation, "God never let me down. He was there for me the whole time. I was also surrounded by a

great crowd of people - my family and close friends."

She added, "All of my colleagues at work were there for me as well. I just dealt with it through my faith and the people around me."

The one thing she really wants people to understand is the importance of self-breast exams. "Be proactive about your health and taking care of yourself, keep yourself mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy."

Nancy's journey is a powerful reminder that hope and resilience can shine even in the darkest moments. By sharing her story, Nancy shows that survivorship is not just about overcoming cancer—it's about embracing life with renewed purpose and gratitude.





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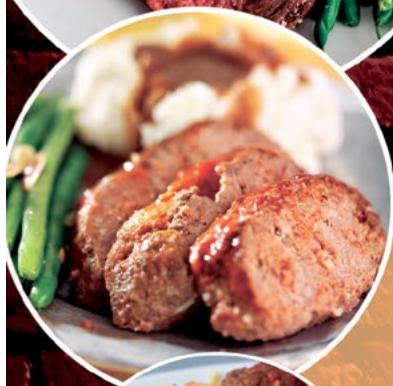
5pm-9pm



SPECIAL MUSICAL GUESTS:
 Sept 25 - Timm Reeves
 Oct 2 - Lucien Schroyer
 Oct 9 - Two to Win
 Oct 16 - Marks Brothers
 Oct 23 - Timm Reeves
 Oct 30 - Steve Halow - Halloween party

Specialty Dinners

Eat In or Take Out



- Sept 25** Roast Pork Loin, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes & Vegetable
- Oct 2** Chicken Stuffed Shells, mashed potatoes, and vegetables
- Oct 9** Prime Rib Dinner, Buttered Potatoes, and vegetables
- Oct 16** Hot roast beef sandwiches, mashed potatoes, or French Fries & vegetables
- Oct 23** Spaghetti & Meatballs, side salad & garlic knots
- Oct 30** Monster Meatloaf, Potatoes & vegetables - Halloween party. Costumes optional. Prizes for best costumes.



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