

Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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IN HONOR AND
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REVOLUTION WAR
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BETWEEN 1775-1783.

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 **Honoring**
OUR VETS ★★
Special Tribute Edition

NOVEMBER 2025

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FRONT COVER PHOTO:
Newly dedicated monument in Veterans Park donated by Sons of The American Revolution - Fort Jackson Chapter.

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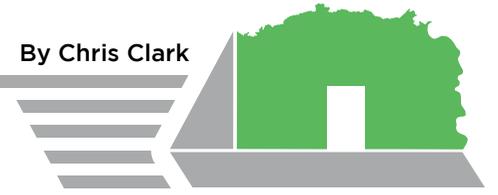
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TOWNE SQUARE



OUR DEBT, OUR DUTY

I didn't have to look far to find my heroes; they were right here in Greene County. My granddad, Jack, was a World War II veteran who served in a Tank Destroyer battalion. My uncle Bill was a Marine who fought in the Pacific. Another Bill, an educator I admired in elementary school, flew fighter planes during that same war.

Their stories and sense of service left a lasting impression on me in my youth. When I considered enlisting, it was individuals like Tim, an Army veteran who became a police officer, and Joe, an educator and Vietnam veteran, who offered guidance that set me on my own path. That path led to a 29-year career in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, including deployments to Kosovo and Iraq.

During my journey, I learned the true meaning of being a soldier and a leader from men like Marc, Paul, and Pete. Marc was more than just my platoon sergeant; he was like a cool uncle who genuinely cared about my success. Paul treated me like a younger brother, always believing in me; while Pete... well, Pete scared the hell out of me, but he also motivated me just as much. These men, along with many others, taught me the values of fidelity, integrity, and dedication to the organization.

The promise of service doesn't end when you take off your uniform. I witness it every day through veterans like Don, who served in Vietnam with the renowned "Wolfhounds" of the 27th Infantry Regiment. He continues to honor his comrades by participating in funeral details and visiting veterans in care homes. I also see this dedication in Dan, a fellow member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. After serving two tours in Iraq, he returned home, completed his college education, and now serves on active duty. Dan is passionate in ensuring that the stories of our generation's veterans are shared. Their commitment didn't end; it simply took on a new form.

This image of a strong, capable veteran conceals a harsh reality: the battle doesn't always end when you return home. Often, the most intense struggles are the ones fought in silence, long after the guns have fallen silent. No one understands this better than our families. My wife and child have sacrificed more than I can express—enduring deployments, missed holidays, and the quiet worry that comes with loving a soldier. They, along with all military families, serve alongside us, shouldering a burden that is often invisible to the rest of the world. Their support is invaluable, and their sacrifices should not go unnoticed.

The invisible wounds of war are often the most dangerous. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a genuine injury to the brain's alarm system. It can show up in various ways, such as nightmares that transport you back to the worst day of your life, a persistent feeling of being "on guard," or an emotional numbness that disconnects you from the very family you served to protect.

Moral injury refers to the suffering that arises not from what was done to you, but from the actions you were compelled to take. It embodies the shame of breaching your own moral code in the intense realities of combat. Alongside this,



Chris Clark and members of his platoon (110th Infantry) supervising security at an IED site in the Suni Triangle between Ramadi and Fallujah in 2005.

there is the heavy burden of survivor's guilt—the relentless questioning of "Why me? Why did I survive when others did not?" This combination creates a toxic mix of fear, shame, and grief.

These wounds, when left untreated, can be fatal. The statistics are a national tragedy: on average, 17 veterans die by suicide every day in America. They survived the war, only to struggle at home.

How can we fulfill our duty to the men and women who served? It requires a fundamental shift in how we, as a community, view our returning warriors. Psychotherapist Dr. Edward Tick argues that we must understand PTSD not just as a clinical disorder, but as a "soul wound." In ancient societies, warriors were welcomed home with rituals of purification and storytelling. Today, we typically offer a handshake and a "thank you for your service," leaving veterans to navigate their spiritual and psychological wounds alone.

Dr. Tick advocates for a "Warrior's Return"—a pro-

cess in which the community takes an active role in helping veterans transform their pain. We need to create safe spaces where they can share their stories without fear of judgment. Their healing is not solely their responsibility. It is our debt and duty to support them. We must actively engage in their healing, not just as a gesture of gratitude, but as a crucial step toward their reintegration into our community.

This may seem like a daunting task, but help is closer than you might think. There are effective resources available right now for any veteran in crisis.

The COMPACT Act ensures that any eligible veteran experiencing a suicidal crisis can go to any emergency room—whether it's a VA facility or a civilian hospital—and receive immediate care at no cost. No one should lose their life due to the fear of hospital bills.

Next, save this number in your phone: 988, then press 1. This is the Veterans Crisis Line, which is free, confidential, and available 24/7 for any veteran and their family members. It's a lifeline in your pocket.

Finally, reinforcements have arrived in Greene County. The County Office of Veterans Affairs is ready to assist you. Local VFW and American Legion posts, along with similar service organizations, serve as hubs of camaraderie. Additionally, a vital new group called Together with Veterans-Greene County is actively working to prevent suicide by connecting veterans. They host monthly coffee gatherings on the second Saturday of each month (except August), from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. The location varies to reach more veterans, so be sure to check their Facebook page or look for their schedule in the Greene Scene to find the next meeting.

The commitment to our veterans never fades. For those of us who have served, this is a promise. It should also be a promise to the community we served. Let us be a community that does more than just remember our veterans on holidays; let us actively engage in their homecomings, listen to their stories, share their burdens, and guide them to the help they have earned countless times over. Let us be the community that truly brings them all the way home.

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.*

2025 GREENE COUNTY
VETERANS DAY
PARADE

HONORING OUR VETERANS
 SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 8

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 Parade Starts at 11 a.m.

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CHERRY DOOR

October Person Place or Thing Answer

Since 1960, the Cherry Door Thrift Shop has stood as a symbol of generosity and community spirit in Greene County. Founded by the Greene County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, including Josephine Denny, the shop has provided deeply discounted clothing, books, household goods, toys, tools, and more to those in need. It's a place where kindness comes full circle. The community gives through donations, and the Cherry Door gives back through affordable prices.



In July 2022, management operations shifted to the Greene County Memorial Hospital Foundation because the auxiliary was struggling to find a new generation of volunteers. However, despite the Foundation's best efforts, financial challenges made it difficult to sustain the shop's operations.

In a true display of the community spirit that characterizes this town and county, caring individuals devised a plan to maintain the spirit and operations of the Cherry Door's mission.

As of August, **The Way Community Center** has officially taken over the venerable institution, ensuring that this beloved resource will continue to serve Greene County for years to come. The transition and much-needed renovations were overseen in a collaborative effort between leaders from Direct Results and The Way.

According to Pam Marisa, owner of Direct Results and the Denny House, "Jose-

phine Denny was deeply involved in many community causes. Her legacy of service set a high standard, one that continues to inspire local women today. I am certain, together, we can keep the Cherry Door open—and continue a legacy of giving that's touched generations."

Yet, it is important to note, now more than ever, community support is needed. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to help organize donations, arrange merchandise, and assist with general operations. The Way team—led by Sally Johnson and an enthusiastic crew—is also seeking donations of shelving, racks, and display cases to enhance the shopping experience.

Volunteers are central to the store's operation. Many current ones have served for long periods (20+ years in some cases). The volunteer-run model helps keep costs down and profits flowing to charitable causes.

The store has moved several times over its decades of operation. It started on Morris Street, then relocated to Greene Street, the Ross Auto Parts building, Elm Drive, and ultimately its current site at **120 W. High Street in Waynesburg.**

The Cherry Door accepts gently used **donations** (clothing, small household items, books, toys, kitchenware, etc.), then sells them at bargain prices. It's not just a retail outlet but part of the civic fabric of Waynesburg.

Store Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM



PERSON PLACE OR THING

SCAN TO ENTER!



Hint:

*Upon these fields where Maples proudly grow,
She's walked for decades, guiding hand and mind;
From chalk-lined boards to courts where young hearts glow,
Her steady flame has lit the path they find.*

*A teacher first, with wisdom's gentle art,
She shaped the thoughts of youth with patient care;
Then as a coach, she stirred the beating heart,
And taught the game of life played true and fair.*

*Now steward of the Maples' noble name,
She guards their banners, fosters every dream;
The Hall of Fame enshrines her hard-won fame,
A tribute shining with immortal gleam.*

*So sing, O Maples, let voices rise,
For she's the root from which your greatness flies.*

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ONLINE OR BY MAIL

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

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. **One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 11-03-25.** Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

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U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

2025-2026

Cool at School: McGUFFEY VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES

By Dan Gottron, EdD
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Veteran's Day is an important and significant recognition of the many brave men and women who have served our country. Here in the McGuffey community, as in many American communities, there is a proud history of local service members. Generations of these service members have sacrificed greatly in order to build, protect, and defend America. We are forever indebted to their service and are privileged to honor those who have served.

In commemoration of the tremendous service and sacrifice of our Military Veterans, each of our schools hold annual Veteran's Day Programs. These programs include the presentation of the colors by the Claysville American Legion Honor Guard Post 639, student vocal and instrumental performances, and various speakers.

As we prepare for these programs, we would like to invite any local community members who may have an interest in participating, particularly those who are Military Veterans or currently serving in an Active Duty or Reserve capacity, to join us.

The schedule for the McGuffey Veteran's Day programs is as follows:

Joe Walker Elementary

Monday, November 10, 2025

8:30-9:30, Breakfast for Veterans

9:30-10:30, Veteran's Day Program

Please call the school at 724-222-3061 or contact Mrs. Augustine, building principal, leah.augustine@mcguffey.k12.pa.us, for more information.

Claysville Elementary

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

9:30-11:00, Veteran's Day Program

11:15-12:15, Luncheon for Veterans

Please call the school at 724-663-7772 or contact Ms. Berdine, building principal, jennifer.berdine@mcguffey.k12.pa.us, for more information.

McGuffey Middle-High School

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

12:30-1:30, Luncheon for Veterans

1:30-2:30, Veteran's Day Music and Choral Program and Guest Military Veteran Speaker

Please call the school at 724-948-3328 or contact Mr. Bonus, building principal, mark.bonus@mcguffey.k12.pa.us, for more information.

Thank you to all who have served our country, we are humbled and grateful for all you've done.

Cool at School: PIONEERS CELEBRATE BANNED BOOKS WEEK

Aubrey Lesnett



West Greene Literacy Club members with their stuffed animal reading buddies.
From Left to Right: Gavin Cassidy, Lakota McElroy, Autumn Cumberledge, Gabby Tedrow, Jilissa Yeater, Bella Crawford, Katie Brudnock

West Greene High School's Literacy Club celebrated the American Library Association's Banned Books Week in a creative and spirited way. The club planned a themed spirit week that brought attention to the importance of reading freely and thinking independently.

This year's national theme was "Censorship is So 1984. Read for Your Rights"

Each day of the week featured unique dress-up themes and activities inspired by students wanting to remind their peers of the joys of reading freely. Through this celebration, the Literacy Club hoped to spark meaningful conversations, promote a love of reading, and remind everyone that every story deserves to be heard.

Mrs. Melissa Ullom, an English teacher at West Greene who leads the Literacy Club, spoke about what this week meant to the club. "The West Greene Literacy Club recognizes that words have the power to inspire, connect, and teach. We were celebrating the joy and freedom to read with fun spirit week themes, giveaways, and a library display. Our student leaders planned activities to remind everyone that reading freely is something worth celebrating — because every story has something to teach us."

The daily themes were:

Monday - Celebrate your freedom to read — Wear red, white, and blue

Tuesday - Every "buddy" read! Bring a stuffed animal reading buddy and wear school-appropriate pj's!

Wednesday - Plot twist! Dress up as a character from your favorite book!

Thursday - Read your way into the future! Dress for the career you want.

Friday - West Greene reads! Wear your blue and gold Pioneer gear!

Cool at School:

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE ON CARMICHAELS' PROPOSED CELL PHONE POLICY

By Emma Bates

When asked by my peers to speak out regarding changes to our district's cell phone policy, I wanted to make sure every stakeholder knew where we stood—and why.

I would be naive to say that phones, when permitted all the time, cannot lead to distraction and disconnection. However, providing students with the necessary freedom to practice digital literacy, time management, and discipline within the school day is a vital component of twenty-first century education.

Students who can monitor themselves and integrate useful technologies within their classroom pursuits, as well as responsibly use technology during non-instructional time, become intelligent and socially aware members of society.

But by disabling students from accessing their phones for the entirety of the school day, we are removing their ability to utilize tools that a wide array of courses have integrated into their curricula.

Without periodic access to their phones, students are also

unable to receive alerts from clubs and sports teams in a timely fashion through school communication apps like Remind, as well as coordinate logistics among one another.

Additionally, many upperclassmen participate in online college classes that require two-factor identification through a cell phone to access digital coursework.

However, if phones continue to be removed from classroom use, even by teacher discretion, two major considerations remain: lunch and MIKES period.

Lunch is a time to unwind and, for many students, connect with individuals in their support network who may not be within the school walls. Phones also permit working students to receive last-minute, time-sensitive alerts from employers that may be necessary for receiving hours required to support themselves and their families.

Many students, even with the allowance of cell phone use, choose to socialize with their peers in a screen-free manner, but the freedom to choose should still exist. Many students sit alone and enjoy using technology to relax, just as any adult in the

workplace is entitled to do on his or her break.

MIKES period is a half-hour block at the end of the school day where students may attend club meetings or seek additional help from teachers on assignments. As this time directly precedes dismissal, students benefit from having their devices to coordinate transportation with their guardians and stay abreast of changes in extracurricular activities.

Over these last weeks, I have encouraged my classmates to voice their concerns with nothing but respect and an open mind. Every conversation I have had with individual stakeholders has required me to take a step back and hear the other out—a difficult task when our mind is decidedly made up. Almost every student I have spoken with supports and respects teacher discretion regarding devices in the classroom.

If we cannot move forward using this more adaptable policy, we ask for the ability to, at very least, access personal devices during lunch and MIKES period, again creating an environment where responsibility and growth are fostered.



46th Annual Christmas Craft Show

Saturday
November 8, 2025
10AM - 4PM
at the Greene Academy

- Handmade Crafts
- Food in the Kitchen
- Loom Demonstration
- Photos & Cookies with Santa and Mrs. Claus 11am - 2pm

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Good NEWS

In Greene County

New Christian Theater Group Formed in Waynesburg

Five Solas Christian Theatre is a part of Five Solas Ministries. The remodeled theater is in the former Throckmorton United Methodist Church (built in 1897) in East View.

The purpose of the theatre ministry is to put on productions that promote the gospel of Jesus.

The Theatre has free admission and staged their first production in July. The show included two skits - "Why Wear a Parachute?" and "God's Chisel." In addition, the evening featured an original full-length show written by Mark and Luke Payson - "Pilgrim's Progress: The Musical, Part One".

The show was an adaptation of the John Bunyan Christian classic novel "The Pilgrim's Progress", originally printed in 1678. The skits and the musical are available to watch on the 5 Solas Christian Theatre YouTube channel.

Part Two of Pilgrim's Progress: The Musical will be staged in the summer of 2026. Auditions will be held in the spring. The Theatre is always looking for more volunteers to help in a variety of ways, including acting.

The best way to contact the ministry is by e-mail: fivesolaministry@yahoo.com



Members of the Pilgrim's Progress: The Musical, Part One cast were: Mona Stewart, Pam Wright, Caroline Kiger, Sadie Wright, Mark Payson, Luke Payson, and Ben Shaner. (Not pictured: Joel Saesan and Kable Dale)

Chamber Announces Distinguished Service Awards

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the Distinguished Service Award and McCracken Legacy Award recipients. Individuals **Andrew Corfont, Wayne Hart, Renee Jones and Chuck Wolfe** are the 2024 recipients. **Ross Tractor Sales** is the recipient of the 2024 McCracken Legacy Award.

All honorees will be recognized at the Greene County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet on Thursday, November 14th at Valley View Farm Venue.

Christmas Parade Applications Now Being Accepted by Chamber of Commerce

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce has begun planning the 87th Annual Downtown Waynesburg Christmas Parade to be held Saturday, December 6th at 2:00pm. The Parade is sponsored by EQT.

Schools, churches, civic organizations and other interested parties are encouraged to participate. Reservations to participate as a unit can be made on the chamber's website at www.greenechamber.org. A link on the home page will take you to the online application. All units must be pre-registered by Wednesday, November 26th to participate. Details on unit numbers and line-up locations will be emailed to all registered participants on Wednesday, November 26th.

Miss Rain Day 2025, Camryn Hawfield, and the Chamber's 2025 Distinguished Service Award honorees, Wayne Hart, Renee Jones, Pam Snyder, Albie Rinehart and Andrew Corfont, along with McCracken Legacy Award recipient, 4 Seasons Lawn and Garden, will have the honor of leading the parade down High Street as its Grand Marshals.

There is no central theme, but all entries are asked to portray the true Christmas Spirit. Float judging will take place prior to the start of the parade. Trophies will be awarded to the top three floats and three will receive honorable mentions. All floats and other entries are reminded that no live Santa is permitted on any unit in the parade as he is the guest of honor at the conclusion of the parade.

For more information contact the Chamber office at 724-627-5926 or info@greenechamber.org.

Animal Rescue Group Hosts Fundraiser

The Teddy Bear Care Corporation will be hosting a Gun and Cash Bash on November 1 at the Waynesburg VFW. Tickets are \$20 and the doors open at 3:30 p.m.

Food will be provided, and the bar will be open to purchase beverages. There will be a Chinese Auction, 50/50 tickets, and King Tuts. Please help support a great organization. Contact Janice at (724) 802-2439 or Donna (724) 998-6491.

GreeneScene
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE TEACHER!

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

9TH ANNUAL TURKEY TROT – Saturday, November 22, races start at 9:00 AM | Races include 5K Run/Walk, 1K Children's Fun Run, & 1K Pet Walk. Register for any of these races online through <https://evakbowlby.org/2025-turkey-trot>.

OPEN HOUSE COOKIE SALE – It's that time of the year again, order forms for the Friends of The Bowlby Library's Annual Cookie Sale are now available to be picked up in person, or online through the Bowlby Library's website. Please submit all order forms to the library by November 17.

BOOK CLUB – Wednesday, November 12 from 5:00 – 6:30 PM. This month's book discussion is on Mitch Albom's "The Stranger and The Lifeboat." There are several physical copies available at the front desk. New members are always welcome to join!

COSMIC BINGO – Join us at the library on Friday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m. for a fun night of Glow in the Dark "COSMIC" Bingo! The library will supply all needed items. Call 724-627-9776 to let us know you're coming.

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

PUZZLE CHALLENGE – Saturday, November 8 from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Do you trust your puzzle skills enough to compete against other puzzle lovers? 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, November 15 10:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Participants, alone or in groups, 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 they used. Please call 724-627-9776 to register but walk-ins are welcome!

MAHJONG CLUB – Meets every Wednesday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Walk-ins are welcome.

CPR/AED TRAINING [AHA] – The library is offering CPR Certification classes for Adult, Child, & Infant First Aid, and AED on Saturday, November 15. Class begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. 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 – Need help with one of your devices? Call the library to reserve a time-slot. Bring your electronic devices, account passwords, and your library card. One of our tech savvy librarians will help you.

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

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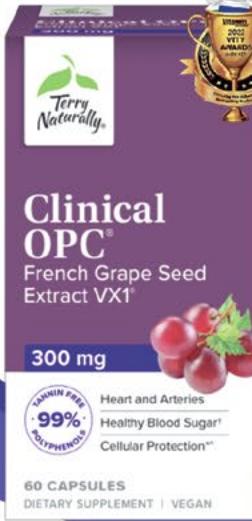
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Al Blozis, All-Pro Tackle for the NY Giants, (Army), KIA France

Charlie Behan, Detroit Lions (Marines), KIA Okinawa – received the Medal of Honor

Keith Birlem, Washington Redskins (Air Force Pilot) KIA England

Mike Basca, Eagles (Army), KIA France

Alex Ketzko, Lions (Army), KIA France

Waddy Young, NFL Dodgers (Air Force Pilot), KIA over Tokyo

Don Wemple, NFL Dodgers (Army), KIA India

Charlie Behan, Lions (Marines), KIA Okinawa – awarded the Navy Cross

Young Bussey, Bears (Army), KIA Philippines

Ed “King Kong” Kahn, Redskins (Army), KIA Philippines

Howard “Smiley” Johnson, Packers (Marines), KIA Iwo Jima

Vietnam

Bob Camody, Olympic Boxing Bronze Medalist

Bob Kalsu, Buffalo Bills tackle

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Pat Tillman, Arizona Cardinals



Pat Tillman of the Arizona Cardinals

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Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore

TOP ATHLETES WHO SACRIFICED THEIR PRIME FOR MILITARY SERVICE

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



The athletes who lost prime years to military service occupy a unique place in sports history. Their sacrifices force us to view statistics and records through a broader lens.

Beyond the numbers, their stories embody a sense of patriotism and selflessness. At a time when military service was seen as duty, these men left behind fame, fortune, and personal milestones to serve something greater. Their willingness to sacrifice illustrates that sports, however beloved, were still secondary to national needs.

Professional athletes who lost prime years to the military gave up more than games. They gave up irreplaceable time, glory, and records that would have defined their careers. But perhaps the true greatness lies in what they did off the field. These athletes showed that even the most celebrated stars were willing to sacrifice personal ambition for the sake of country. In doing so, they wrote a different kind of legacy, one measured not in statistics, but in service.

World War II

Ted Williams

Few stories illustrate the cost of service to athletic greatness better than Ted Williams. Known as "The Splendid Splinter," Williams is widely regarded as one of the greatest hitters in baseball history. But his career was interrupted not once, but twice.



In 1942, at the peak of his powers, Williams won the Triple Crown. Rather than continue dominating pitchers, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and became a flight instructor and later a Marine Corps pilot. He missed the 1943–1945 seasons entirely. Most remarkably, Williams returned from the war and picked up right where he left off, winning his second MVP in 1946 and leading the Red Sox to the World Series.

Yet his service didn't end there. In 1952, during the Korean War, Williams was recalled to active duty and flew 39 combat missions as a pilot, serving alongside future astronaut John Glenn. In total, Williams lost nearly five full seasons during his prime. Had he played uninterrupted, many historians argue he might have reached 700 career home runs.

Joe DiMaggio

Iconic Yankee center fielder Joe DiMaggio, also saw his

career interrupted. By 1943, DiMaggio had already won three MVP awards and led the Yankees to six World Series titles. But instead of padding his statistics, he spent three years in the U.S. Army Air Forces.

DiMaggio's service kept him off the field from ages 28 to 30, critical years for a player's career. When he returned in 1946, he was never quite the same dominant force. Nonetheless, he still finished his career with a .325 batting average and nine World Series rings. However, the lost years will always create a sense of "what if?"

Bob Feller

Pitchers often have shorter windows of dominance, which makes Bob Feller's sacrifice even more striking. In December 1941, the 23-year-old Cleveland Indians' ace became the first Major League player to enlist in World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Already a three-time All-Star with a blazing fastball, Feller could have stayed stateside and continued playing, but he volunteered for combat duty in the U.S. Navy and served as a gun captain on the USS Alabama. He spent nearly four years in the military, missing the 1942–1944 seasons and most of 1945.

Despite the interruption, Feller still won 266 games and struck out over 2,500 batters. Without the lost years (He was averaging 25 wins and 260 strikeouts a season at that time), he could have easily ended up among the top three pitchers all-time in both categories)

Hank Greenberg

Detroit Tigers slugger Hank Greenberg was the first major baseball star drafted into World War II service, missing most of 1941 and then all of 1942–1944. He was known as "Hammerin' Hank," and was a two-time MVP and had already won a home run title.

He returned in 1945 and famously homered on the final day of the season to clinch the American League pennant for Detroit. Still, his career totals (331 home runs and 1,276 RBIs) would have been significantly higher had he not sacrificed nearly four full years.

Glenn Davis

Nicknamed "Mr. Outside," Davis was a college football star at Army during World War II, winning three National Championships and the 1946 Heisman Trophy. His professional career with the Los Angeles Rams was delayed until 1950 due to military service. Although he missed what would have been his early professional peak years, he played in two NFL championships with the Los Angeles Rams in 1950 and 1951 before a knee injury ended his career.

Chuck Bednarik

Chuck Bednarik, later famous as the last full-time two-way player in the NFL, also served in World War II. Bednarik was a waist gunner on a B-24 bomber and flew 30 combat missions

over Europe. While he still went on to a Hall of Fame career with the Philadelphia Eagles, his service delayed his entry into professional football.

Joe Louis

Heavyweight champion Joe Louis voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942, spending prime years touring bases, fighting exhibitions, and boosting morale rather than defending his title. While he retained the championship, critics argue his skills eroded from inactivity against top-level opponents.

Korea

Willie Mays

The "Say Hey Kid," was only 21 years old and fresh off winning the 1951 National League Rookie of the Year award when he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He missed nearly two full seasons (1952–1953).

When he returned, he quickly regained his brilliance, ultimately hitting 660 home runs, winning two MVPs, and cementing himself as one of the greatest all-around players in history. Yet, if we imagine those lost seasons at his prime age, he would have reached or surpassed 700 home runs, making the home run chase of the 1970s and 2000s a very different story.

Jerry Coleman

Jerry Coleman, of the New York Yankees, is unique in being the only Major League Baseball player to see combat in both World War II and Korea. He missed three full seasons across both conflicts. Though not a Hall of Fame-level player, Coleman still became an All-Star and World Series champion. However, his playing career never reached the statistical heights it might have.

Vietnam and the Later Years

By the time of the Vietnam War, professional sports had grown into enormous commercial enterprises, and draft deferments became more common for athletes. However, some still served.

Rocky Bleier

Pittsburgh Steelers running back Rocky Bleier was drafted into the Army in 1968 after his rookie NFL season. He was seriously wounded in Vietnam, suffering injuries to his legs and feet from grenade shrapnel. Doctors told him he would never play again, but Bleier defied the odds and eventually returned to become part of the Steelers' four-time Super Bowl dynasty in the 1970s.

Honorable Mentions

Outfielder Hank Bauer (MLB): Served in the Marines during WWII, saw heavy combat before MLB stardom; Phil Rizzuto (MLB): Yankee shortstop who lost three full seasons to WWII; The Naval Academy's Roger Staubach (4 years) and David Robinson (2 Years) both served their military commitments before starting their Hall of Fame careers.



Part of the excitement of high school football is the great music. Waynesburg Central's Daniel Lagaza, Sadie Moore, Craig Robanna, and Lucas Pettit entertain the crowd with their popular set. Photo courtesy of CREK Photography.



Kolbi Rastoka of Waynesburg Central checks a CV attacker. Photo courtesy of CREK Photography.



The Raiders' Emily Rafferty advances against a Chartiers Valley defender. Photo courtesy of CREK Photography.



Jefferson Morgan Volleyball Summary and Stats

JM vs Carmichaels (2-3) 25-23, 17-25, 23-25, 25-23, 12-15

Alaina McCollum: 5 serve receives, 13 digs; *Lucca Jellots*: 8 serve receive, 10 digs; *Mia Bertagnolli*: 1 kill, 3 blocks, 14 assists; *Kelsey Vessels*: 2 aces, 10 points, 10 serve receives, 21 digs, 2 kills; *Ava Wood*: 2 aces, 8 points, 6 digs, 9 kills; *Beautiful Medlen*: 3 ace, 6 points, 2 dig, 9 kills, 7 blocks; *Mallory McManis*: 11 points, 5 digs, 7 assists; *Emilee Bazzoli*: 1 ace, 5 points, 17 serve receives, 20 digs, 2 kills; *Kaelyn Martos*: 1 ace, 2 points, 3 digs, 2 kills, 6 blocks; *Gabby Marmie*: 2 digs; *Bailey Cervone*: 6 serve receive, 2 digs, 2 kills, 6 blocks

JM vs Avella (3-2) 22-25, 25-19, 25-27, 25-21, 15-9

Alaina McCollum 10 serve receives, 9 digs; *Lucca Jellots* 4 serve receive, 7 digs; *Mia Bertagnolli*: 3 digs, 4 blocks, 17 assists; *Kelsey Vessels* 1 ace, 6 points, 3 serve receives, 11 digs, 3 kills; *Ava Wood* 5 aces, 14 points, 12 serve receive, 22 digs, 9 kills; *Beautiful Medlen* 2 ace, 4 points, 1 serve receive, 5 dig, 9 kills, 7 blocks; *Mallory McManis* 4 aces, 6 points, 7 digs, 10 assists; *Emilee Bazzoli* 13 serve receives, 31 digs, 1 kill, 2 assists; *Kaelyn Martos* 3 ace, 4 points, 1 serve receive, 2 digs, 3 kills; *Bailey Cervone* 1 ace, 5 points, 7 serve receive, 5 digs, 5 kills, 1 block; *Belle Davis* 1 ace, 4 points, 5 serve receive, 7 digs, 6 kills

JM vs Beth Center (0-3) 19-25, 20-25, 12-25

Alaina McCollum 1 point, 5 serve receives, 8 digs; *Lucca Jellots* 12 serve receive, 3 digs; *Mia Bertagnolli* 3 digs, 4 assists; *Kelsey Vessels* 1 ace, 6 points, 4 serve receives, 15 digs, 4 kills; *Ava Wood* 2 aces, 2 points, 6 serve receive, 8 digs, 3 kills; *Beautiful Medlen* 2 points, 6 serve receive, 2 dig, 2 kills; *Mallory McManis* 3 points, 8 digs, 5 assists; *Emilee Bazzoli* 2 points, 8 serve receives, 10 digs; *Kaelyn Martos*: 1 dig, 1 kill; *Bailey Cervone* 1 ace, 1 dig, 2 kills

JM vs Mapletown (1-3) 19-25, 20-25, 12-25

Alaina McCollum 3 point, 9 serve receives, 11 digs, 2 kills; *Lucca Jellots* 9 serve receive, 8 digs, *Mia Bertagnolli*: 2 kills, 3 blocks, 15 assists; *Kelsey Vessels* 3 ace, 4 points, 3 serve receives, 11 digs, 2 kills; *Ava Wood* 1 ace, 2 points, 2 serve receive, 8 digs, 8 kills; *Beautiful Medlen* 1 ace, 4 points, 3 serve receive, 2 dig, 9 kills; *Mallory McManis* 6 aces, 9 points, 10 digs, 9 assists; *Emilee Bazzoli* 21 serve receives, 14 digs, 2 assists; *Kaelyn Martos* 4 points, 3 serve receive, 4 digs, 1 kill; *Bailey Cervone* 1 ace, 5 serve receive, 7 digs, 5 kills, 5 blocks; *Belle Davis* 4 serve receive, 9 digs, 3 kills

JM vs WG (1-3) 14-25, 25-15, 20-25, 23-25

Alaina McCollum 8 serve receives, 7 digs; *Lucca Jellots* 5 serve receive, 8 digs, 1 assist; *Mia Bertagnolli* 1 digs, 1 kills, 9 assists; *Kelsey Vessels* 1 ace, 5 points, 3 serve receives, 13 digs; *Ava Wood* 1 aces, 2 points, 1 serve receive, 11 digs, 10 kills; *Beautiful Medlen* 3 ace, 5 serve receive, 2 dig, 5 kills, 2 block; *Mallory McManis* 3 aces, 13 points, 6 digs, 11 assists; *Emilee Bazzoli* 3 points, 18 serve receives, 18 digs; *Kaelyn Martos* 1 ace, 4 points, 2 serve receive, 2 digs, 3 blocks; *Bailey Cervone* 1 serve receive, 1 digs, 5 kills, 1 blocks; *Belle Davis* 1 serve receive

JM vs Frazier (0-3) 19-25, 9-25, 10-25

Alaina McCollum 1 points, 9 serve receives, 5 digs; *Mia Bertagnolli* 2 blocks, 5 assists; *Kylie Webster* 1 block; *Kelsey Vessels* 1 ace, 5 points, 6 serve receives, 5 digs, 2 kills, 1 block; *Ava Wood* 2 aces, 5 points, 8 serve receive, 5 digs, 2 kills; *Beautiful Medlen* 1 point, 2 serve receive, 2 dig, 2 kills, 4 blocks, 1 assists

Mallory McManis 2 points, 1 digs, 3 assists; *Emilee Bazzoli* 16 serve receives, 6 digs; *Kaelyn Martos* 2 points, 5 serve receive, 1 digs, 1 kill, 3 blocks; *Bailey Cervone* 1 ace, 2 serve receive, 1 dig, 2 kills, 3 blocks; *Belle Davis* 1 serve receive, 1 dig

JM vs Carmichaels (3-1) 25-21, 25-19, 18-25, 25-21

Alaina McCollum 8 serve receives, 7 digs, 1 kill; *Lucca Jellots* 7 serve receives, 10 digs, *Mia Bertagnolli* 2 digs, 2 kills, 2 blocks, 6 assists; *Kelsey Vessels* 3 ace, 9 points, 6 serve receives, 14 digs, 11 kills, 2 block

Ava Wood 1 ace, 9 points, 5 serve receive, 4 digs, 7 kills, 1 block; *Beautiful Medlen* 5 aces, 4 point, 8 dig, 4 kills, 5 blocks; *Mallory McManis* 5 points, 9 digs, 13 assists; *Emilee Bazzoli* 5 points, 20 serve receives, 20 digs, 6 assists; *Kaelyn Martos* 1 ace, 5 points, 6 serve receive, 9 digs, 4 kill, 5 blocks, 1 assists; *Bailey Cervone* 2 serve receive, 2 digs, 3 kills, 3 blocks

BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE MONTH



Cannon Bupka is the son of William and Kelly Bupka of Carmichaels. Cannon plays football for the Mighty Mikes and is a member of the chess club and Eports.

In his free time, Cannon likes to ski and workout. After high school, he plans on attending WVU to study communications.



Carson Vanata is the son of Jeff Vanata of Dilliner and Codi Walker of Greensboro. He plays football, basketball, and baseball for the Maples. He is a junior and maintains a 3.5 GPA and works as a lifeguard at the Mon View Pool for Greene County Parks and Rec. He has been nominated for Mr. PA Football of the Week on three occasions. Carson enjoys weightlifting, hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and family.



Jillissa Yeater is the daughter of Tracy and Tyson Yeater of Aleppo. She is a sophomore and participates in cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, and track & field. In school, Jillissa is a member of the FFA, science club, PROM committee, and student government. She also participates in dance competitions for the Waynesburg Arts Academy.



Brenna Walker is the daughter of Aaron Walker and Joanna Modrick of Carmichaels. She plays volleyball for the Mikes and Rise Volleyball Academy in Morgantown.

In school, she is a member of the book club, NHS, student council, the Junior Standing Committee, and was the Junior representative at Homecoming. Brenna is also involved with the school's broadcasting class, where she helps produce and edit coverage of school events.

In her spare time, she enjoys fishing and hanging out with friends. She plans to attend college and major in Sports Medicine.



Marley Shiflett is the daughter of Matt and Erica Shiflett of Greensboro. She is an honor student and maintains a 4.5 GPA, while lettering in volleyball, basketball, and softball for the Lady Maples. She was named to both the All-Section and All-County softball teams last spring. Marley is also the captain of the cheerleading squad and has been a majorette for the Maple band for the past two years. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in Radiology.



Jeffrey Blair is the son of Mike and Laurie Blair of Waynesburg. He is a senior and maintains a 3.73 GPA. Jeffrey is currently a captain on the football team. He was named Team Defensive MVP in 2024. He was also named All-Conference Honorable Mention 2024 as a linebacker and tight end. Other gridiron awards included: All-GCADA Honor Roll (2023 & 2024), O-R All-District Team (2024), and the WPIAL Insider 2026 Top Prospect List.

He is also a three-year letterman in track and plays baseball. In school, Jeffrey is a member of the National Honor Society, yearbook, ski club, and Raider Nation News. He also volunteers at PA Chiropractic with Dr. Jason Cozart and hopes to attend college next year to obtain a degree in Kinesiology/Pre-Chiropractic.



Jack Shaffer is the son of John and Amy Shaffer of Jefferson. He is a two-time letter winner for the Rockets' golf team. His in-school clubs and activities include: the Leo Club, Envirothon, National Honor Society, and the Science Club. He is also involved in the Youth Group at Waynesburg First Church of the Nazarene. He plans to attend college to pursue a career as a registered nurse.

Kyan Berardi-Stockett is the son of Brianna and Keith Gatrell of New Freeport.

He is a freshman and plays on the Pioneers' football team. Kyan is a member of the FFA and Ski Club. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and riding four wheelers.



Ani Cree is the daughter of Billy and Ami Cree of Carmichaels. She is captain of the Raiders' volleyball team and a member of the track squad. She was twice named GreeneSports Player of the Week and was also First-team All-section and All-county in both 2023 and 2024. In school, Ani has a 4.0 GPA and is a member of National Honor Society. She is also a member of the FFA (Vice-President), Student Council, Alpha Beta, and Prom Committee.

Outside school, she plays travel volleyball at Pittsburgh Elite Volleyball Association and is president of the 4-H Sheep Club. She plans to attend a four-year college and play volleyball, while becoming a Physician Assistant.



Carrie Corbett is the daughter of Shannon and Mary Corbett of Fredericktown. She plays soccer and cheers for the Rockets.

In school, her clubs and activities include: the Leo, Drama, Science, and Foreign Language Clubs. She is also a member of NHS, SADD, Honey, Student Council (vice president), Debate, Academic Team, GATE, Envirothon, and Student Forum.

Carrie plans to attend college for psychology and ROTC. She hopes for a career in the military and law enforcement after graduation, which would lead to her becoming the first female President.

WEST GREENE HALL OF FAME INDUCTS THREE

2018 Graduate Madison Renner

Four-time letterwinner in Softball, and 1 letter in Volleyball; 3x Section and 3x WPIAL Team Champion (2016, 17, 18)

PIAA Class A State Runner Up (2016); 2x PIAA Class A State Champion (2017, 18) 4x All-County,

3x First Team All-State selection; 2018 Pennsylvania Class A Player of the Year

Started all 100 games in her career (2015-18); 34 pitching wins, 257 K's, 16 shutouts, 3 no-hitters, 2 perfect games

Career .529 hitter, 163 hits, 30 doubles, 33 HR, 199 RBI



1972 Graduate Arnold Wilson

Four-time letterman in Football, 3x letterman in Basketball and Track, and 1 letter in Baseball

1972 Greene County Football Scoring Champion in Football (108 points) 1972 Player of the Year (Observer-Reporter and Democrat-Messenger); 3,000 All-Purpose Yards, and nominated to play in the PA Big 33 game

In Track, 1972 Mountaineer Relays OVERALL Event MVP; Washington-Greene TEAM Runner Up; WPIAL 6th place finish in the 880 relay ('72), 2x WPIAL Champion in the High Jump ('71 & '72), school record 6'4"

WPIAL Champion in the 100-yard-dash ('72), school record 9.86, PIAA State Place-winner in the 100 yard dash ('72)

Little League Youth Football Coach; Served as President of Football and Wrestling Booster Clubs



1967 Graduate Kevin Guthrie

One letter in Track & Field, 3x letterman in Football, 4x letterman in Basketball; Lion's Club student of the month

All-County Football 1965, 1966. Greene County scoring champ in 1965 season (90 points)

1,210 career points in basketball. First player in Greene County history to be 4x All-County.

WPIAL Men's High Jump champion 1967, PIAA State Qualifier

1971 WVU graduate, bachelor's degree in finance; National Guard from 1971-77. 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery unit



SPORTS SHORTS

PIONEERS HIRE NEW BASEBALL COACH



Dillon Shields was recently named the new baseball coach at West Greene. He is a 2016 Pioneer alum who played collegiately at PennWest California. Shields has been the team's assistant coach for the past four years.



Waynesburg Central's Jarrett Tretinik won the WPIAL 2A Section 3 Individual Championship at Nemaacolin Country Club. He was the only local golfer to qualify for the semi-finals.

2025 Greene County Football Races

(After 7 Games)

(Carmichaels did not have a Week 0 Game)

PASSING

	Comp.	Attempts	Yards	TDs
T. Farabee (JM)	56	79	1052	14
T. Crouse (WC)	57	104	1048	7
J. Rizor (WG)	27	59	324	2
Z. Jibblits (WC)	12	20	198	0
C. McKnight (M)	12	24	129	0
C. Vanata (M)	6	17	51	1
C. Bupka (C)	5	20	41	0

SCORING

	TDs	XP	FG	2PT	Total
D. Dehoet (JM)	22	0	0	2	136
J. Woodward (JM)	11	0	0	0	66
T. Couse (WC)	8	0	0	0	48
C. Vanata (M)	5	1	0	3	37
J. Rizor (WG)	5	0	0	2	34
N. Ricciuti (WC)	0	2	2	0	29
C. Bupka (C)	4	0	0	1	24
L. Yeck (JM)	0	23	0	0	23
R. Tustin (WC)	3	0	0	0	18
T. Farabee (JM)	3	0	0	0	18
S. Fox (JM)	3	0	0	0	18
R. Tennant (WC)	3	0	0	0	18
C. McKnight (M)	3	0	0	0	18
W. Murray (C)	2	0	0	2	16
J. Ricciuti (WC)	2	0	0	0	12
J. Blair (WC)	2	0	0	0	12
Z. Jibblits (WC)	2	0	0	0	12
J. Robertson (JM)	2	0	0	0	12
M. Wassil (WG)	2	0	0	0	12
G. Kundly (C)	1	0	0	1	8
T. Orndoff (WG)	1	0	0	0	6
J. Brunell (WC)	1	0	0	0	6
Job (C)	1	0	0	0	6
Brooks (WC)	1	0	0	0	6
A. Palko (JM)	1	0	0	0	6
B. Harris (WG)	1	0	0	0	6
Berardi-Stockett (WG)	1	0	0	0	6
J. Smith (C)	1	0	0	0	6
K. Shook (C)	0	0	0	2	4
C. Whyte (WG)	0	3	0	0	3
K. Sumpter (WC)	0	0	0	1	2

RUSHING (AT LEAST 100 YARDS)

	Attempts	Yards	TDs
J Woodward (JM)	82	720	10
J. Rizor (WG)	107	579	5
C. Vanata (M)	70	511	5
D. Dehoet (JM)	31	510	10
T. Crouse (WC)	57	424	8
C. Bupka (C)	81	316	5
W. Murray (C)	67	249	2
A. Walker (M)	67	204	1
K. Cunningham (WG)	51	177	0
Z. Jibblits (WC)	25	155	2
J. Orndoff (WG)	34	134	1
G. Kundly (C)	21	126	1
L. Stephenson (WG)	28	107	0
R. Tennant (WC)	36	104	2

RECEIVING

	Catches	Yards	TDs
D Dehoet (JM)	30	741	11
J. Ricciuti (WC)	28	539	2
M. Wassil (WG)	14	231	2
J. Blair (WC)	12	221	2
Z. Jibblits (WC)	6	126	0
R. Tennant (WC)	9	104	2
W. Downs (M)	6	100	0
J. Robertson (JM)	6	100	1
S. Fox (JM)	4	98	2
D. Brookover (WC)	2	77	1





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In the Out-Door

By T.R. Mahle

THE TOP 5 PENNSYLVANIA WHITETAILS WITH A BOW AND RIFLE

As hunters, there is often an overwhelming excitement as the sky lightens on the opening morning of deer season. Anticipation that maybe, just maybe, this is the year that you will get a chance at a real trophy... a wall hanger that shatters the record books.

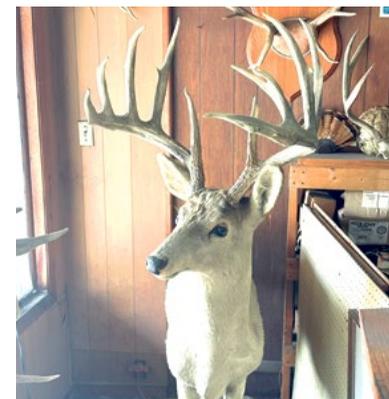
Unfortunately, most of us will walk up on a buck praying that the "ground shrinkage" (when a bucks' rack is miraculously smaller than it appeared when you squeezed the trigger) is minimal, but reality usually sets in, and we realize there is always next year.

While there are many respectable bucks taken every year, only a hand full of hunters have ever had the privilege of walking upon a true record class animal. A bucks' rack that grows bigger as you approach it, a rack that

exceeds all expectations and leaves you speechless.

With bow season in full swing and the anticipated arrival of the rifle season, I thought it appropriate to highlight the best whitetails that have been taken in the Keystone state both by arrow and by rifle.

Pennsylvania has produced some of the most impressive whitetail deer ever recorded under the Boone & Crockett (B&C) system. Between typical (symmetrical antlers) and nontypical (with abnormal points, extra tines, etc.) entries, the state holds several entries that rank nationally among the best. Below are five of the top whitetails from PA in each category with their scores, year taken, and county that they were harvested.



The Ivan Parry buck on display at Joe Riggs Sporting Goods.

Typical Entries (Rifle)

1. The Frederick Kyriss Buck

- Score: 2046/8 Boone and Crockett Points. (1962)
- Taken In: Montgomery County sometime in the late

1950s to early 1960s.

2. The Fritz Janowsky Buck

- Score: 1890 Boone and Crockett points. (1943)
- Taken In: Bradford County (1943)

3. The Ivan Parry Buck

- Score: 184-6/8 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Greene County (1974)

4. The Chester Allison Buck

- Score: 182-5 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Blair County (1951)

5. The Jeffrey Sitling Buck

- Score: 182-0 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Dauphin County (2010)

Non-Typical Entries (Rifle)

1. The Edward Dodge Buck

- Score: 238-6 Boone and Crockett Points.
- Taken In: Erie County (1941)

2. The Michael D. Ambrosia Buck

- Score: 230-2 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Lawrence County (2001)

3. The Edwin Tokarcik Buck

- Score: 224-3 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Westmoreland County (2016)

4. The A.L. Prouty Buck

- Score: 213-6 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Lycoming County (1949)

5. The Frank Cafardi Buck

- Score: 209-582-0 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Crawford County (2016)

Typical Entries (Archery)

1. The Ronald Shaulis Buck

- Score: 184-4 Boone and Crockett Points
- Taken In: Westmoreland County (2017).

2. The Cory Gulvas Buck

- Score: 181-7 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Tioga County (2020)

3. The Michael J. Nicola Sr. Buck

- Score: 178-2 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Allegheny County (2004)

4. The Dennis Andres Buck

- Score: 177-2 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: McKean County (2019)

5. The Joseph Repasky Buck

- Score: 176-2 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Crawford County (2017)

Non-Typical Entries (Archery)

1. The Eric Carns Buck

- Score: 228-6 Boone and Crockett Points
- Taken In: Clearfield County (2016)

2. The Gerald Simkonis Buck

- Score: 209-1 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Allegheny County (2007)

3. The William Andrews Buck

- Score: 204-7 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Perry County (2017)

4. The Craig E Krisher Buck

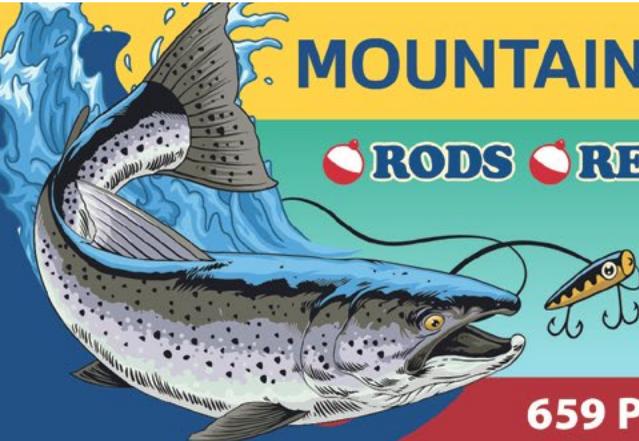
- Score: 203-3 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Lehigh County (1988)

5. The Jordan Poploskie Buck

- Score: 203-2 Boone and Crockett points
- Taken In: Northumberland County (2024)

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IT WON'T LAST FOREVER... AN AGING HUNTER

By T.R. Mahle

The forest has changed, and so have I. Once swift-footed and sharp-eyed, now in my mid-sixties, I move through the woods with deliberate care rather than speed. What used to take minutes now takes hours. My joints ache a little more in the cold, and my hearing isn't what it used to be. But what I lack in youth, I can now make up for in knowledge. Decades of hunting have given me an almost supernatural sense for the woods. I know where the deer are, where the turkey roost, and which woods hold the most squirrels. The woods now seem like an old friend to me that I am always happy to see.

I am a relic in a world that is quickly forgetting the old ways. Today's hunters (especially the younger ones) hunt with high-tech gear, trail cams, and rifles that can shoot farther than my eyes can see. But they just don't know...they don't know what it's like to be cold because we didn't have moisture wicking base layers of clothing. They don't remember 300-yard shots being long. They don't remember walking steep hills and deep valleys because there were no side-by-sides. They don't remember not having a heated shed to stand in.

I have always hunted not just for food but for the connection...a connection to the

outdoors, to memories, and to a simpler time that now lives mostly in my old stories. Each hunt has now become more personal to me, more reflective. I enjoy the silent company of the forest, and I enjoy watching the wildlife. I enjoy being outside while it's snowing and listening to the wind in the trees. I enjoy reflecting on the memories of past hunts with friends and family, and I especially like watching the sun rise and set. I also enjoy the slow ride home, often empty handed but always fulfilled and never disappointed. And nothing beats walking into a warm home to a family and supper on the table.

For me, the old way of hunting is gone. Gone are the days on White's Ridge when we would get together for the first day of deer season. In reality, the hunt actually started weeks before as we all enjoyed "spotting" for deer. Next was the sighting-in of our guns and talking about past hunts. We would talk about who was going to stand where...even though we all knew where everyone was going. It seldom changed from year-to-year.

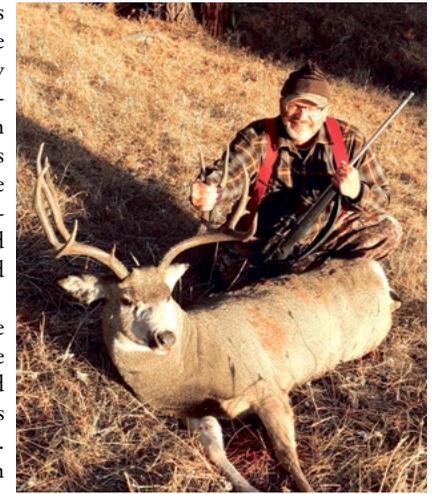
Even the hunting strategies have changed. We used to sit or still hunt in the morning and "drive" deer in the afternoon for all the hunters who still had tags to fill. The morning hunt was always successful for a few and the meat pole (an old swing set) was usually heavy with deer. However, oddly enough, my favorite memories of this time are not about the hunting. Instead, my mind takes me back to the gathering at Ann Mayhle's kitchen for lunch after the morning hunt. This was usually standing room only as we had a large number of hunters in our party. I will always cherish the memories and smells of that old kitchen on the opening day of deer season. I'm so glad that my dad cared enough to include me on these hunts.

Don't get me wrong, I still get excited about the possibility of seeing a big buck. But filling the tag just to fill it is not a part of my thought process any longer. I think I am a "true" hunter now, very select, and I have no problem watching a "decent" buck walk away. If he lives, he'll be bigger next year.

Many things have changed since those early days of hunting for me. The old house where we gathered is gone and the meat pole has disappeared. Many of my closest hunting companions have long since passed away and what use to be a fire to hunt has now become a glowing ember...an ember that still flares up when I see an antler.

For me now, as an aging hunter, my mind is still strong, and I can still recall the memories of past hunting seasons easily. "I remember when..." starts most sentences. This is comforting, but I know that nothing stays the same...it won't last forever. But always remember...today is the day that someone in the future is longing to go back to. So, make the most of it!

Fortunately for us, like all things, life replenishes itself and we are able to make new memories. Much of my hunting and shooting enjoyment now centers around spending time with my son. And I too, now take advantage of the warm hunting sheds with friends and family...always keeping an eye out for deer. I pursue other things too like moments of stillness and echoes of my past self. Hunting, for me, is no longer about survival or trophies. It is about being part of something timeless. As the seasons pass and my steps grow slower, the forest remains my constant companion...wild, patient, and forever welcoming...just like an old friend.



NOVEMBER OUTDOOR CALENDAR

Small Game

- Squirrels Sept. 13 – Nov. 28
- Ruffed Grouse Oct. 18 – Nov. 28
- Rabbit (Cotton Tail) Oct. 18 – Nov. 28
- Ring-Necked Pheasant Oct. 25 – Nov. 28
- Bobwhite Quail Sept. 1 – Nov. 28
- Groundhogs July 1 – June 30, 2026
- Crows Aug. 21 – March 22, 2026

Big Game

- Turkey (WMU 2, Greene Co.) Nov. 1 – Nov. 15 and Nov. 26 – Nov. 28
- Black Bear (Firearms) Nov. 22 – Nov. 25
- Elk (General) Nov. 3 – Nov. 8
- Deer (Archery) Oct. 4 – Nov. 21 and Dec. 26 – Jan. 19, 2026
- Deer (Regular Firearms) Nov. 29 – Dec. 13
- Deer (Flintlock) Dec. 26 – Jan. 19, 2026

Furbearer Hunting

- Coyotes No Closed Season
- Foxes Oct. 25 - Feb. 21, 2026
- Raccoons Oct. 25 – Feb. 21, 2026

Trapping

- Minks & Muskrats Nov. 22 – Jan. 11, 2026
- Coyote & Fox Oct. 25 – Feb. 22, 2026
- Opossums & Raccoons Oct. 25 – Feb. 22, 2026

Migratory Game Birds (Sunday Hunting Prohibited)

- Ducks (South Zone) Nov. 19 – Jan. 19, 2026
- Ducks (South Zone) - Junior, Veteran & Active-Duty Military Nov. 8
- Canada Geese Oct. 25 – Nov. 28 and Dec. 15 – Jan. 17, 2026
- Canada Geese - Junior, Veteran & Active-Duty Military Nov. 8
- Doves Sept. 1 – Nov. 28 and Dec. 20 – Jan. 3, 2026
- Woodcock Oct. 18 – Nov. 28 and Dec. 15 – 24

Falconry

- Squirrel, Bobwhite Quail, Ruffed Grouse, Rabbits and Ring-Necked Pheasant Sept 1 – Mar. 31, 2026

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Honoring OUR VETS

As November 11 nears, we recognize those who have served our country and helped mold the world in which we live. Without such sacrifices from these dauntless men & women, our freedoms would be greatly limited and our spirits humbled. *GreeneScene Magazine* is privileged to join our readers in paying tribute to our veterans, including those submitted by readers.

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VETERAN BRINGS BBQ TO THE FRONT LINES OF FLAVOR

By Emma Bates

What do freedom, family, and a food truck have in common? They're all key components of What's Smokin' BBQ, owned and operated by Troy and Lori Hellen of Jefferson.

Troy, a proud U.S. Air Force veteran, began his service not long after his high school graduation. "I went to college at California University of PA as a computer Science major," he shares. "After college, I decided to enlist in the military." And so, in 1988, Hellen did just that.

Based in Wyoming for the duration of his time of service, Hellen worked as a security specialist where he was assigned to the 88th Missile Security Squadron escorting maintenance and providing security to the Missile Fleet located in Wyoming and Nebraska. He also provided security for convoys related to missile transportation.

Hellen was awarded the Air Force Accommodation Medal for his role in the START program (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) and trained for air base ground defense during his 4-year assignment at F.E. Warren AFB in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Hellen served during the early days of Operation Desert Storm. Although never deployed to the Middle East, "I was the next on the list," he says.

Hellen met his wife Lori before sign-

ing up for the USAF while residing in Greene County. While in Wyoming, they were married and had their first child, Josh. The family returned to the East Coast, where Troy entered a 25-plus year career in retail management for a variety of corporations.

Troy later took a position with Consol Energy Coal for about 12 years in the mining and extraction field, where he earned a degree in Mining Technology at Penn State University. But there was always another dream itching to climb out and become reality.

"We were always waiting for the right time," explains Hellen. "I had always wanted a food truck...and registered for a name back in 2008. Then 2020— that was going to be the year." And although COVID times took a toll on many aspects of many lives, 2020 proved that it was, indeed, the year.

"Our kids were graduating, moving out, and getting married," says the full-hearted Dad. "I kind of decided and my wife 'rode along!'"

Hellen ordered the truck from Custom Trailer Pros and picked it up just in time for the business' debut outing. During the pandemic, Waynesburg Lions Club Park hosted a food truck festival where the BBQ truck made its debut. "The first day was insane. We got our butts handed to us," he recalls, laughing. "But each time, we did something to make it smoother."

And so, the businesses grew, in both customer base and staff. Lori, who previously worked for First Federal Savings and Loan, decided to take the jump and head out on the

truck full-time.

Troy and Lori's daughter, Jenna is also a fixture onboard the BBQ truck, along

with her one-and-a-half year old daughter, Emmie, who loves greeting customers from the truck's back porch. Lori's niece and sister also lend a helping hand often, making the business a truly family-orientated one.

"Working this close to family is fun and a challenge," says Troy. "I may have started [the business], but we make decisions together. Sometimes we argue, but it's all for the best."

"The women always win," Lori adds. "I let them," replies Troy, good naturedly. "To literally work beside each other every day— it's a dream."

This summer cooked up lots of business— and delicious new menu items, along with the trusty favorites customers have grown to rely on. The new Smoked Brisket Philly Sandwich made headlines as the menu's bestseller. What's Smokin' is also preparing to bottle two of its signature sauces, the house-made sauce of the same name and the Applebutter.

The What's Smokin' truck made appearances at many local festivals, including Waynesburg's weekly Farmers Markets, the Carmichaels Covered Bridge Festival, Greene County Historical Society's Harvest Festival, and No-Cook Wednesdays at Wana B. Park. It also pulled into a number of fundraisers, namely "Riding for a Legend" in honor of Colby Simkovic, and the Veteran's Picnic with Senator Bartolotta, both causes dear to the Hellen's hearts.

The food truck also spends time catering events, from personal moments like weddings, school events, and open houses to corporate lunches, trainings, and VFW events.

Troy and the family are grateful for this mobile platform to serve community guests from all walks of life and look to especially provide support and encouragement to fellow veterans.

Troy shares, "All roads I have taken have led me to this point. [The military] was a good foundation; it taught me discipline, respect, and how to be a good father, a good husband, and a good business owner."

Through this avenue, he passionately empowers other veterans who may be struggling with how to move forward in civilian life following their tour of duty. "There are other things you can do out there— there's no ceiling! You CAN apply your skills."

With this encouragement and some home-cooked barbecue, What's Smokin' will have you geared up and ready for whatever this season brings.

*Troy Hellen will be featured on the GreeneScene's upcoming podcast to highlight even more of his story.

Visit WhatsSmokinBBQ.com to find out where the food truck will be heading next!



Troy Hellen in his US Air Force uniform in the 90's



Troy, wife Lori, and daughter Jenna, ready to cook up some mouth-watering BBQ aboard the food truck.

CARMICHAELS VET ATTENDS SUBMARINE REUNION

By Bret Moore

Edward Streit of Carmichaels is a Navy submarine veteran. He volunteered to join the service right after his high school graduation in 1990. After basic training in Great Lakes, Illinois, he spent two years in Connecticut while completing Submarine School and the Navy's second hardest curriculum: (Submarine Advanced electronics pipeline, submarine escape training, firefighting, and damage control).

He was then assigned to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and the USS HELENA SSN725, a vertical launch capable, fast attack submarine. As a Fire Control technician, he was responsible for all the equipment operations, maintenance, and repair for the systems that launched the Tomahawk missiles and MK 48ADCAP torpedoes.

He also served in several ports in the U.S. and Canada, as well as Yakuska, Japan, and Singapore.

He was in the Persian Gulf in 1993-94, specifically Bahrain and Dubai, before heading to Australia, Guam, and back to Hawaii.

After six and a half years in the Navy, he came home and ended up with the Department of Corrections for four years as a correctional officer. That stint was followed by 20 years as the electronics trades instructor at both SCI Waynesburg, then at SCI Fayette. He retired from corrections in 2022. Streit is active in the Rices Landing American Legion, the Sons of the American Legion, and the Legion Riders.

This past July, the USS Helena that he and his fellow bubble heads called home for many years was decommissioned. Streit and his wife of 25 years, Brandi, traveled to Bremerton, Washington for an emotional reunion with many others who served on this submarine through its long line of service at sea.

Ed feels you can travel around the world and still choose to call Greene County home.



USS Helena reunion in Bremerton, Washington




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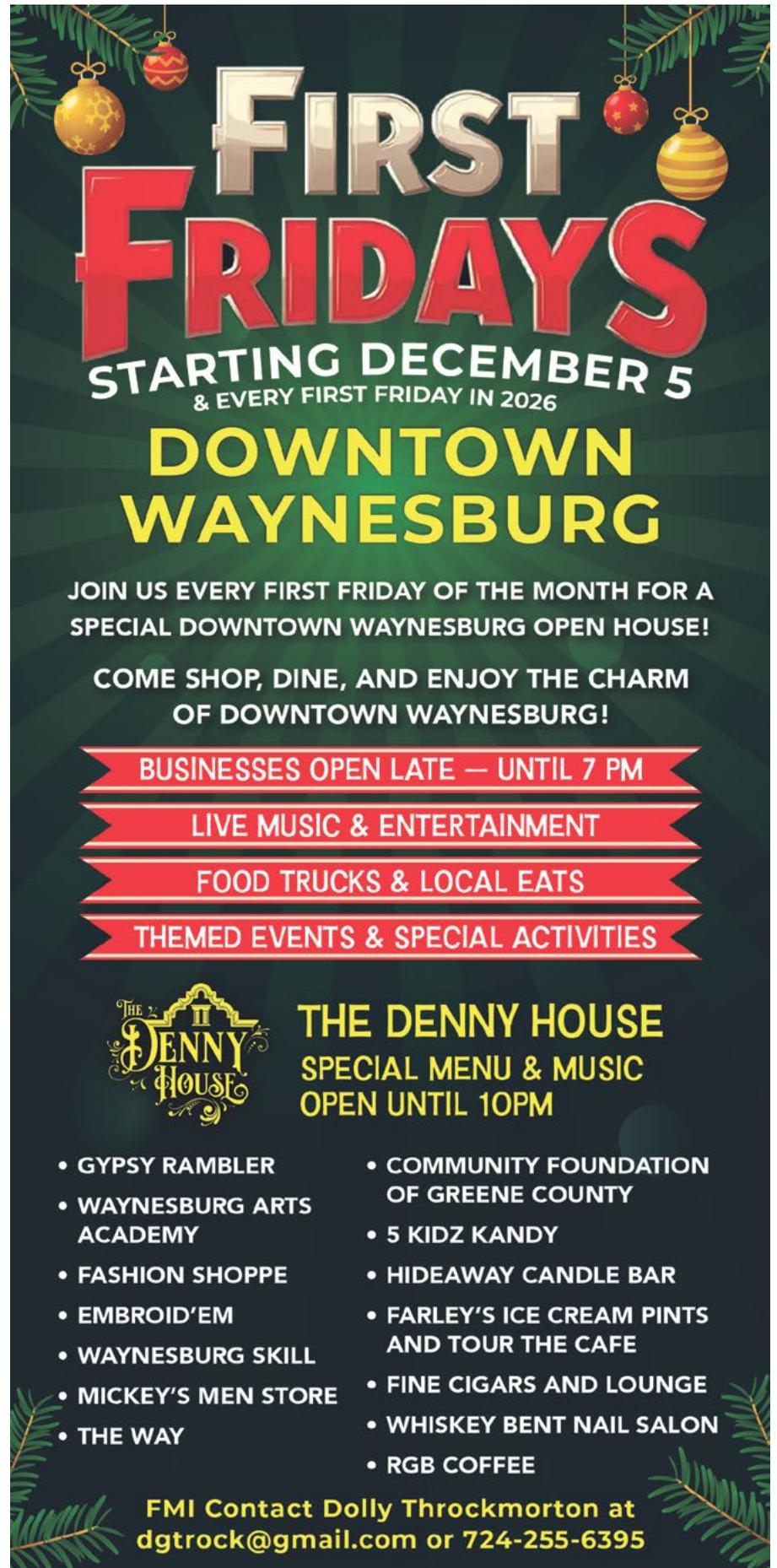
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TOP MILITARY MOVIES OF ALL-TIME



Military movies are important for society because they preserve history, honor sacrifices, and spark dialogue about the human and societal costs of conflict. They educate audiences about past struggles, inspire reflection on patriotism and peace, and provide cultural memory. By dramatizing hardship and courage, they provide insight into both our basest and noblest instincts.

The films were ranked based on the average scores from Metacritic and Rotten Tomatoes, which aggregate reviews from multiple critics. Only widely released films featuring American or British ally protagonists were considered, while smaller art-house titles were excluded.

RATING

Casablanca (1942)	★ 99.5
Dr. Strangelove (1964)	★ 97.5
Lawrence of Arabia (1962)	★ 96.5
The Hurt Locker (2008)	★ 95.5
Gone with the Wind (1939)	★ 93.5
Dunkirk (2017) & Zero Dark Thirty (2012)	★ 93
Saving Private Ryan (1998)	★ 92.5
Bridge on the River Kwai (1957) & Apocalypse Now (1979)	★ 92
The Great Escape (1963)	★ 90
THE "ARE YOU KIDDING ME. HOW DID THEY NOT RATE 90% OR ABOVE" HONORABLE MENTION LIST	
Platoon (1986) & Patton (1970)	★ 89
The Deer Hunter (1978)	★ 88
Stalag 17 (1953)	★ 87.5
Glory (1989)	★ 86
Full Metal Jacket (1987)	★ 85

Please send your vote for the "Best Military Movie of All Time" to info@greenscenemagazine.com. You can use the list or vote for another favorite. A prize winner will be selected from the entrants.

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Favorite Movie: _____

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Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 11-03-25. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.

October's Top 10 List Readers Choice of the Best Car Songs of All Time

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. "Mustang Sally" (Wilson Pickett)* | 6. "Fast Car" (Tracy Chapman) |
| 2. "Hot Rod Lincoln" (Commander Cody) | 7. "Life is a Highway" (Rascal Flatts) |
| 3. "GTO" (Ronny and the Daytonas) | 8. "Thunder Road" (Bruce Springsteen) |
| 4. "Fun, Fun, Fun" (Beach Boys) | 9. "Guitars, Cadillacs" (Dwight Yoakam) |
| 5. "Little Deuce Coupe" (Beach Boys) | 10. "On the Road Again" (Willie Nelson) |

*Top Readers Choice by a Landslide

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VETERAN, ROLE MODEL, AND MAN OF PRINCIPLE

By Alex Hughes

James Hughes, known to some as Jim Hughes, and known to me as Pappy, is my grandfather and a veteran who served in the Vietnam War. He was born on June 4, 1943, in Cameron, West Virginia. As the conflict in Vietnam escalated in the early 1960s, the US drafted more men as troop levels increased.

At this time, the way the draft worked was that all young men would register with their local selective service when they turned 18. Then, the local draft boards had a monthly quota set, and they would select until meeting their quota.

In 1964, Pappy was drafted and started his service on December 15. He went through training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina but did not stay there long. After only 10 to 15 days, his assignment took him to Fort Gordon, Georgia, to continue training.

After being in Georgia, he went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he spent roughly two and a half months continuing his training. After training, he wanted to go to Germany, but would instead be sent to Hawaii, where he was a part of the 25th Division, which

would be deployed to Vietnam.

He and the rest of the 25th would be stationed in Cu Chi, Vietnam during their time overseas. They set up base, to guard any approaches to Saigon, which was the capital of South Vietnam at the time. By April of 1966, all units of the 25th were in country.



The living conditions at the Cu Chi base were far from ideal. The troops mainly stayed in tents and dealt with extreme heat conditions. They had to be up and active, even during times of “relaxation.”

During Pappy’s time in Vietnam, his main responsibility was being a truck driver. He had experience driving big trucks before being drafted. He had driven a logging truck, transporting logs from New Freeport to Parkersburg, West Virginia. He also spent time training new recruits to drive trucks in a war zone.

One of the other stories that Pappy shared about his time in Vietnam was about a monkey that would hang around the base. The guys on base named the monkey “Charlie,” and he was known to get in some trouble at

times. One time, to the delight of the enlisted men, Charlie got into the hut of the lieutenant and wreaked havoc, making the officer very upset with the primate.

As his time in Vietnam was ending, he spent some time working back near the base building a mess hall. After approximately six months in Vietnam, he was honorably discharged on December 6, 1966, after nearly two years of service.

It took some time after returning to the states to adjust to “normal life.” Eventually, Pappy married his wife, Linda, who I call Ma. They had two sons, my dad, John, and my uncle Ed. They were also blessed with two grandchildren, myself and my sister Emily.

My grandfather’s service in Vietnam was more than a chapter in history—it was a testament to his strength, courage, and unwavering sense of duty. Though the war left its marks, it also revealed the depth of his character and the resilience that would guide him through the rest of his life.

He has carried his experiences with quiet dignity, never seeking recognition, yet always deserving it. As a veteran, a grandfather, and a man of principle, he continues to inspire those of us who know him. We should acknowledge not only his service, but the love, wisdom, and honor for which he stands.



Jim Hughes in his US Army uniform

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Tara Haines snapped this photo of her son Noah at her father's farm near Jollytown.

SALUTE TO WILLIAM BROWN

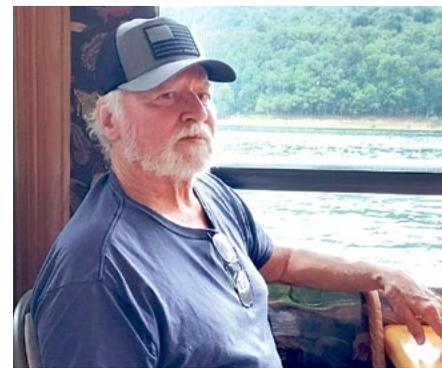
By Kathie Kenneally

I would like to acknowledge my father-in-law, William Brown. I have been with my husband for 18 years. However, I didn't have the opportunity to get to know Bill until last year because my husband and I just moved here from Arizona. Although we have visited and communicated over the years, it's difficult to really know someone by phone.

From that first day I met him, Bill was always teaching us survival tips. We live in a very rural area. Bill would point to trees or bushes and say, "Do you know what that is." Then we would listen to everything there was to know about that tree or bush. He loved to ask, "Did you know you can eat that?"

Bill was always, ALWAYS, teaching us new things about life. It was him that gave me my first pistol, but not before teaching me every single thing there was to know about it. I can now take it completely apart, clean it and put it back together in a matter of minutes. Bill would have us target shoot, and with every shot, we would hear a new story about the gun, the ammo or the targets he used to shoot at as he grew up.

Bill was very proud of his Cherokee heritage, his service in the army, and the country he fought for. After his service time, he met my mother-in-law, Terry, and fell in love at first



sight. They married, and he took her four very young children and loved them as his own. Bill is the only 'dad' the kids have ever known.

Bill became ill and passed away in January 2025. I miss his stories.. and if I can be selfish, I wasn't finished learning from him. There was so much more I wanted to learn.

He would always say "Life is like a Kaleidoscope... with every turn, it's something new". We all have Kaleidoscopes now, and when we're missing him, we look into the kaleidoscope and smile. With every turn, there is a new view and a new memory. Bill was a proud husband, father and grandfather. His military experience sculpted him to the amazing and incredible man he was.



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Mark Fox, Rob Kaffl, and Dan Balestrieri — left to right.



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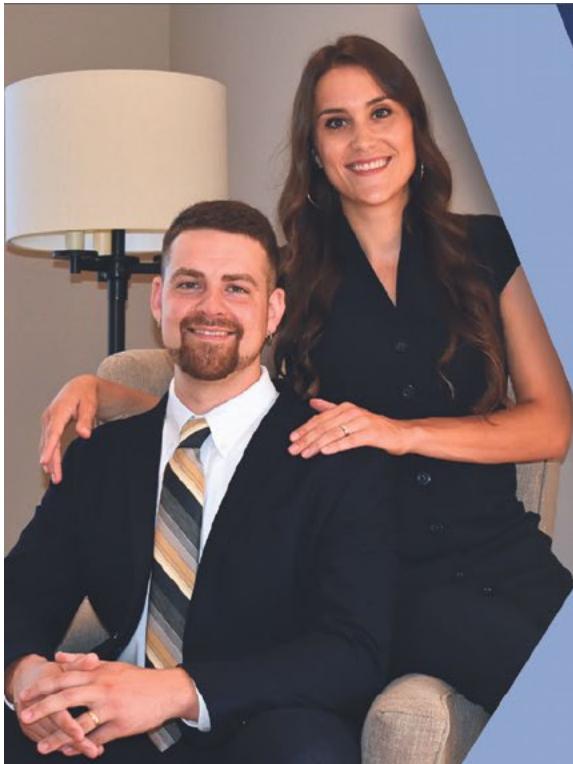
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STIRRING THE POT...MAKING APPLE BUTTER

By T.R. Mahle

Making apple butter... It's another seasonal opportunity to gather with family and friends. The process usually takes place in early October and uses copper kettles and old-fashioned, customized tools designed specifically for this purpose... most are handed down from generation to generation. Making apple butter is a time-consuming process that fosters and strengthens bonds between friends and family while everyone takes their turn "stirring the pot".

The process, especially peeling, coring, and slicing between ten to twelve bushels of apples, depending on the amount of apple butter you want to make, is a tedious chore... usually done in advance of the actual event... that takes several participants many hours to complete.

Apple butter is a concentrated fruit spread made by slow-cooking apples with sugar and spices until the mixture reaches a thick, smooth, and deeply caramelized consistency. Despite its name, apple butter contains no dairy. The "butter" in its name refers to its smooth, spreadable texture. It's a beloved preserve in many cultures, especially in the United States and parts of Europe, and is often enjoyed on toast, biscuits, or used as a flavorful ingredient in baked goods.

Experience is a great teacher, and **Tom Mayle**, Apple Butter Guru, has been a counselor, mentor and teacher for the process for over 80 years. "As far back as I can remember, my mom and dad made apple butter, and we still use the same recipe". This experience is priceless and helps guide the process of the annual gathering.

This year's annual apple butter "festival" took place at the **Nazarene Church** in Waynesburg and drew a large crowd to help celebrate the traditional art of apple butter making. The festival blended history, culture, and community spirit. Participants and volunteers were treated to live demonstrations of apple butter being made in large copper kettles over open fires, stirring memories of old-fashioned autumn traditions.

The church provided plenty of food, baked goods, and of course, jars of freshly made apple butter for all the participants. The air was filled with the sweet scent of simmering apples and spices, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Participants were entertained throughout the day with various activities for all to enjoy. The event not only celebrated a beloved seasonal treat, but also supported and fostered a sense of community togetherness. Organizers reported a record turnout and expressed gratitude for the many volunteers who made the event a success.

Making apple butter is a rewarding process that transforms humble apples into a rich, flavorful spread. Whether made in a cozy kitchen during fall or as a year-round treat, apple butter captures the essence of traditional home cooking. It's a delicious way to preserve apples and share their flavor long after the harvest has passed.

If you're interested in trying to make apple butter for yourself here are some helpful hints!

Ingredients

The basic ingredients for apple butter are simple and wholesome:

- **Apples:** Typically, a mix of sweet and tart apples is used for depth of flavor. Popular choices include Fuji, Gala, Granny Smith, and McIntosh.
- **Sugar:** Some use white, pure cane sugar, and some use brown sugar for its molasses content, which contributes to the deep flavor and color.
- **Spices:** Cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and allspice give apple butter its warm, autumnal taste.
- **Liquid:** Water or apple cider is often added to help the apples cook down at the beginning.



Tom Mayle and Jill Heldreth tending the kettle to produce the fruity nectar.



Preparation Process

1. **Peeling and Cutting Apples:** Begin by washing, peeling, coring, and slicing the apples.
2. **Initial Cooking:** Place the apples in a large pot (copper preferred) or slow cooker with a small amount of liquid (water or cider). Cook on low heat until the apples are soft and begin to break down.
3. **Spicing and Sweetening:** Add the sugar and spices to the mix. Continue slowly cooking for several more hours, uncovered, allowing excess moisture to evaporate and the sugars to caramelize. Stirring regularly is important to prevent scorching.
4. **Final Texture and Storage:** Apple butter is done when it holds its shape on a spoon and has a deep brown color. Once cooled, it can be refrigerated for up to three weeks, frozen for months, or canned using sterilized jars and a water bath for long-term storage.

Tips for Success

- **Low and Slow:** The key to great apple butter is patience. Cooking it slowly allows flavors to develop and sugars to caramelize naturally.
- **Taste and Adjust:** The sweetness and spice levels can vary depending on apple variety and personal preference. Taste as you go.
- **Use the Right Tools:** If a copper pot over an open fire is not an option, a slow cooker is ideal for hands-off cooking, while a heavy-bottomed pot works well for stovetop methods.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

Go to: www.greenescenemagazine.com or scan the QR code

A graphic featuring a calendar for 2025. The calendar is a grid with days of the week (S, M, T, W, T, F, S) and dates from 01 to 31. The date 17 is highlighted in purple. To the right of the calendar is a QR code with the letters "GS" in the center. Above the calendar is a location pin icon, and below it is a clock icon.

TOO STRESSED TO REST: HOLIDAY ANXIETY

As we approach the holiday season and the end of 2025, many find themselves in a higher state of stress. These emotions can be influenced by so many factors and vary by individual. Causes may include finishing end-of-year projects (work or personal), navigating financial burdens, dealing with family members during the holidays, preparing for the holidays in general, attending extra work/school events, and the list goes on.

I'm suggesting a few hacks for managing stress, so you can enjoy this time of year rather than hate it. Some suggestions will seem simple, while others may be a little out of the reader's comfort zone. I invite you to take a couple of ideas that seem doable to you and try them. Remember that stress never goes away completely. It's always going to be there, unfortunately. The key is learning to manage it better instead of letting it control us. I am not a therapist or counselor I am just sharing techniques that have helped me when stress levels get out of control.

1. Take a Breath

We take breathing for granted. On a daily basis, the average healthy person breathes 12-18 times per minute, without giving it a second thought. Everyone has experienced at one time or another their respiratory rate and heart rate increasing when they are agitated, angry, or stressed about something. Likewise, when you are calm and relaxed, those rates lower. By leaning into deep, intentional breathing, we may find peace and relief. There are so many breathing techniques that could span an entire article, but I'm suggesting one of my favorites:

The Long Exhale:

Find a quiet space where you will not be interrupted for 1-5 minutes (this takes practice, so give yourself grace; start with 1 minute)

Inhale for 4-8 counts Exhale for 8-12 counts

Do not try to extend your inhale/exhale longer than what feels comfortable. If you are struggling with extending that exhale, back off the counts of each. The point is, when you extend that exhale for a longer duration, you can shift your internal state to a more relaxed and calm state.

2. Prepare or Beware

We know preparation for anything is effective; however, the pull of procrastination can be very intense. Take a hard look when your stress is triggered. Could any of it be stemming from a lack of preparation? For example, are you finding your mornings overwhelming getting ready for work, getting kids ready for school, and making sure you/they have what is needed for the day?

Some people are amazing at getting up earlier to have everything ready to go in the morning. However, many are scrambling at the last minute to get out the door. Figure out which type of person you are. I know people who love to get up before the crack of dawn and take care of all those daily tasks first thing in the morning.



Midnight, Turbo, and Wilma from L&B Almosta Farm smile for treats from owner Halie Gallagher.

If you are not that person, taking 15-20 minutes on Sunday afternoon or evening to prepare for the week ahead is so helpful. Lack of preparation is a huge contributor to stress levels. Start with a manageable routine or just a couple of routine tasks you could do ahead that will help you. Start small and build. Too many times, we add too much, too quickly, and we defeat the purpose of what we were trying to accomplish: alleviate stress. (Women, I am talking to you!)

3. Let Live

There are many aspects of our lives we have absolutely no control over. We cannot control other's thoughts, emotions, words, beliefs, and actions. Whether they are friends, family, co-workers, or customers, we cannot control what they say or do.

We can only control our reaction. We can choose to let others make our stress skyrocket, or we can choose to let live. This is much easier said than done. But when I look back at the stress other people's words or actions caused me, and the toll it took on me, I realized way too late, it was absolutely NOT worth it.

Empathy is certainly an admirable trait but can also be to a person's detriment. Putting ourselves in someone else's shoes to have a better understanding of a situation is absolutely essential. However, letting empathy control you to a point that you are suffering is not the goal. Deciding to let go of the idea that you are going to change someone's beliefs is very liberating. Work on yourself instead.

4. Lean into Nature

Last month, I wrote about being a tree. For me, nothing relieves stress, helps you reflect or gather your thoughts, or is rejuvenating like talking a walk. Preferably, I like to go out in the woods or on a trail so I can feel the breeze, smell the outdoors, see the trees, and hear the birds.

If you have the luxury of living out in the country a bit, you might be able to just take a trek through your property. If not, find a park or trail. Realistically, most of us can't get out in nature each day due to obligations, but when we are feeling overwhelmed, a walk, a hike, a bike ride, or just sitting in the woods, can really bring us to a more relaxed state. Do not underestimate the power of nature. In addition, the physical activity itself relieves stress.

5. Get Some Zzzzzz's

There is so much buzz about sleep quality lately. I have been one of those lucky individuals who can sleep. I have family members and friends who are plagued by not being able to fall or stay asleep.

The latest research on health and longevity lists sleep as a large contributor to better health and a longer life. Stress can certainly play an enormous role in our sleep. Many cannot shut off intrusive thoughts, and those keep us up at night. A few suggestions to help improve your sleep are:

-Limit caffeine. Stopping consumption 10 or more hours before bedtime is extremely helpful for good sleep. If you rely on caffeine to gain all your energy, there might be something else going on.

-Turn off your electronic devices one hour before bedtime. I am horrible at this, I will admit. This is so hard, but so worth it for a better night's sleep. It is not just the light from the device, but the anxiety and emotions that can surface by scrolling on your phone.

-No late-night eating. I did not used to believe this because so much of my career dictated eating dinner at a late hour. Of course, when I was younger, I stayed up later. General rule is stopping consumption about 2-3 hours before bedtime. We all metabolize differently, and many suffer with acid reflux, heart burn, etc.

-Take deep breaths - Really, what matters is you are trying to connect to your breath. Give yourself grace. You did your best today. Tomorrow is another day, and it will be waiting for you. For now, give your brain the reset it deserves.

As the holidays approach, I hope these little hacks will help you enjoy the moment as the year comes to a close.



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POOR NOVEMBER: THE FORGOTTEN MONTH

By Bret Moore



Every month on the calendar seems to carry its own distinct mood, reputation, or claim to cultural importance. December is wrapped in holiday cheer, lights, and festivity. January, though cold and dark, comes with the optimism of a new year. September has the crispness of beginnings at school and on the football field. October brings pumpkins, costumes, foliage, and a cultural obsession with all things autumn. Yet nestled between the orange glow of October and the twinkling lights of December is November, a month often overlooked, underappreciated, and overshadowed by the holidays that surround it. **November is the calendar's Cooper Manning.** It's part of the family, but too often forgotten in the rush from Halloween (Eli) to Christmas (Peyton).

October is a tough act to follow. With its vibrant leaves, pumpkin patches, and Halloween celebrations, it is arguably the crown jewel of the fall season. The month exudes atmosphere and traditions that delight both children and adults. By the time October ends, the cultural momentum is so strong that November often feels like a cooldown, a place where the energy dips before it **ramps back up again for December.** The marketing machine plays its role here as well. Almost overnight, on November 1, stores replace jack-o'-lanterns with Christmas trees. Holiday music starts to creep onto the radio, and television pushes festive specials weeks before Thanksgiving even arrives. November barely has a chance to stand on its own.

One of the clearest reasons November feels forgotten is the relentless cultural shift toward December's holidays. For many, Christmas and the holiday season are not confined to late December. Retailers, eager to capitalize

on consumer spending, start advertising holiday sales in early November, or even October. Black Friday, which technically takes place in November, has become more synonymous with Christmas shopping than with Thanksgiving. The result is that November becomes a corridor leading to December rather than a month to savor on its own. Instead of being appreciated for what it uniquely offers, it is treated as an interminably long countdown to Christmas.

Weather also plays a role in November's reputation. Around here, November marks the transition from colorful autumn to the gray prelude of winter. Leaves fall, trees go bare, and the dazzling oranges and reds of October give way to muted browns. The early sunsets become more noticeable, plunging evenings into darkness long before dinner. The temperatures are too cold for outdoor fall festivals but not yet cold enough for fun winter activities. The dichotomy of the month's weather can be characterized by an old phrase. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the traditional dates for Indian Summer are November 11 (St. Martin's Day) to November 20. The entire month feels like an in-between stage—dreary at times, uncertain in mood, and lacking the excitement of the months it borders.

The one major holiday that gives November distinction is Thanksgiving. On that fourth Thursday, families gather around the table and gratitude takes center stage. It is, in many ways, one of the most meaningful holidays of the year. Yet Thanksgiving itself also contributes to November's overshadowed status. Rather than elevating the month, it often feels like a single bright spark within an otherwise subdued stretch of weeks. Moreover, **Thanksgiving has**

increasingly been tied to shopping and the holiday season, with Black Friday beginning almost before the leftovers are packed away. Thanksgiving is beloved, but it does not define the entire month in the same way Halloween defines October or Christmas defines December.

I believe **November does not deserve its reputation as forgettable.** For those who pause long enough to notice, the month has its own quiet beauty and meaning. It is a time of reflection, a natural pause between the excitement of early fall and the frenzy of the holidays. The bare trees and long nights invite introspection, a slowing down before the rush of December. It should be a month of gratitude, not just on Thanksgiving but throughout.

In rural communities, **November carries deep agricultural importance.** It is the time when fields are cleared and the harvest is brought to completion. For many farmers, November represents both an ending and a preparation for the next cycle of work. Similarly, in the natural world, November is when wildlife prepares for winter, gathering food and conserving energy. Heck, even the full moon in November is called the Beaver Moon for that reason. In this sense, the month embodies tran-

sition, resilience, and endurance.

November has other cultural and historical moments worth remembering. **Veterans Day** honors those who served in the armed forces, a solemn and significant commemoration that deserves more recognition. Sports fans also find November to be a pivotal month: football season enters its high-stakes stretch, basketball and hockey seasons begin, and high school athletes transition into winter sports. In the arts, November is when studios release their best work in time for Oscar consideration.

Still, despite all these qualities, **November's image as the "forgotten month" persists.** It is squeezed between two cultural giants. People often treat November as a month of waiting: waiting for the holidays, waiting for the year to end, waiting for winter to fully arrive.

Perhaps the month's underdog status is also its strength. In being overlooked, it offers a chance for calm and authenticity in a calendar otherwise dominated by commercialism and spectacle. November invites us to be intentional. Instead of rushing through it, we might pause to appreciate the balance it offers, grounded in reflection, gratitude, and preparation.



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What makes this story even better is the fact that Dorland Anderson is, in fact, a veteran of the US Navy. When Anderson turned eighteen, he signed up for the draft and later that year headed to boot camp in San Diego. Anderson was raised in a military family, with his father, uncles, and cousins, all part of the US Marine Corps. He was born in Michigan but enlisted while living in Beaver County. He has roots in Greene County, as his grandparents are from Springhill Township.

After boot camp, he found himself on board the AE28, an ammunition ship from Santa Barbara, CA. He literally traveled the world, being stationed aboard the vessel outside the Philippines during the Vietnam War,



Dorland Anderson

and spent time near Thailand, Taiwan, Cuba, Greece, Italy, and the Bahamas.

In July 1975, Dorland returned to the States. He met his first wife on New Year's Eve, 1978, and the two were married about three weeks later. They were happily married for forty-two years before she passed away from cancer.

Currently, Anderson and his second wife, Karen, live in Washington, PA, where he proudly serves as commander of the AmVets post. He is specifically proud of the project of reconstruction of a former school in Pancake, PA, to make apartments for American veterans who may be struggling after discharge. AmVets steps in to provide healthcare, mental healthcare, education, training, and daycare.

Dorland Anderson has found the strength and courage to serve his country, battle thyroid cancer, and has had multiple joint replacements, and suffers from rheumatoid arthritis. None of that stops his mission or his life's work. He stated, "Joining the Navy was a choice. Being a veteran of the Navy is an honor." Congratulations on your winnings, and *thank you for your service, sir.*

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LOCAL AUTHOR FINDS SUCCESS IN BOTH THE LITERARY AND FILM WORLDS

Introspection by Tim Denman

It took thirty-eight stitches to close the gap left in Neve Richards' leg by the boar's tusk." That was the sentence that introduced the world to Cryptozoologist Neve Richards. The life of this small-town dreamer has not been the same since. The book debuted at number one on Amazon's new releases for Science Fiction & Fantasy and started a small cult-like following for Neve Richards and Cassi Stein. It was amazing for me as a writer to see the connection that was made between the readers and the characters I hold so dear. Those connections are why we are now three books into *The Neve Richards' Chronicles*, and why I was asked to write an article about the books and my two short screenplays, one of which is on the local film festival circuit and the second one, which is in post-production.

It is odd to say I owe a lot to anxiety and a fictional character, but I owe them both dearly because without either, the lifelong dream of this high school dropout would never have come true. I have struggled with anxiety my whole life and always looked for an escape from it. I found that escape in movies after seeing *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. I now had an escape and direction, but anxiety won the war during my high school years and forced me to drop out. It was that same anxiety years later that pushed me to finish not only my undergraduate but also my graduate degree as well. During those studies, I had a scriptwriting class and spent all my spare time writing scripts to be like my hero, Wes.

Over the years I had been close to selling a screenplay, but nothing had panned out. It was during the writing of one of those scripts that Neve Richards made the choice to enter my life. You read that right; she was not a character I created. She made the choice to enter my life. It was on the suggestion of my favorite writer, turned friend and mentor, Lee Murphy, to try writing a novel. I worked on *Devil's Half Acre* for years and made no progress until Neve decided to once again put herself in the story. The book was finished, but it felt off. One night while working on it, I started thinking about a friend who had recently passed and decided to honor her by naming a character after her. It changed the dynamic of the whole story, and she became the perfect balance to Neve. I rewrote the whole book because of that, and once the talented local artist Roxy Roberts created the perfect cover, Neve and Cassi Stein were introduced

to the world.

Devil's Half Acre started as a one-and-done with Neve, but as I started writing *Dreamer Man*, it became clear this book was the next chapter in Neve's story, and her universe was born. As a storyteller, it was an amazing journey getting to blend elements

of history with real-life local killer Bob Dreamer and events like Rain Day into a crazy story centering around Neve and Cassi's jobs as cryptozoologists.

*When asked what I remember most about writing this book, it is the fight Neve and I had over the ending. It was at that point that I understood as a writer I have no power to make the characters do something they don't want to. After a tense period of negotiations, I conceded that Neve was right and finished the book the way she wanted. My plan was to jump right into *The Missing Link* because I was excited to write about Bigfoot, but it was put on the back burner after a message from Wendy Whittick, owner of WCC Productions; she provided me a chance to make my movie dreams come true. She asked me to write a film noir script, which would become *The Crystal Dove*.*

It was a chance to not only write a movie but also to pay homage to my favorite film noir movie, *Laura*, and to my other hero, Orson Welles, and the films *The Third Man* and *A Touch of Evil*. The script was all about Victoria McKnight, a fallen actress who uses all of her "assets" to get what she wants. After around fifteen rewrites, the film was shot over several weekends in February. Words cannot describe the feeling of being on the set of a movie you have written and later seeing your characters come to life on the silver screen. I thought that was the end of my scriptwriting journey, and I started working again on *The Missing Link*. However, I got a request to work with Wendy and WCC Productions again to write a script based on a story by Wendy. This was my first project that was not my original idea, and it was such an amazing learning experience working with someone to turn their vision into a movie script.

As I look back on the last several years, I have been blessed more than I deserve. This small-town boy with crazy dreams of writing books and movies has achieved what for years I thought was impossible. I still look up at *The Crystal Dove* and *Devil's Half Acre* posters on my wall and think I am glad I never stopped chasing my dream. If you want to join The Neve Richards' Universe, the books are available online through Amazon and locally at Dean's Water. I also provide writing updates from my Tim Denman Author's page through Facebook.

To learn more about Tim and his stories, listen to his recent episode on GS Podcast (see page 13 to scan code for podcast episodes).



Cover Art Roxy Roberts



Halloween Word Scramble Contest Winner!

Beth Clark

OCTOBER CONTEST WINNERS

Contest Winners not pictured

Halloween Word Scramble Contest Winners!

Brynn Neely
Jessica Work
Kathie Kenneally

Person, Place or Thing Winner!

Ki Lynn Squires

GreeneScene Where is this Winner!

Lillian Ruble

Best Car Songs of All Time Contest Winner!

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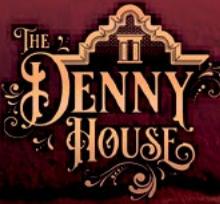
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