

Greene Scene

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

A DIRECT RESULTS COMPANY



HOLIDAY | 2025

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FRONT COVER PHOTO:
Trunk or Treat held at Jefferson-Morgan Elementary Center, submitted by Becky Richards, of Jefferson.

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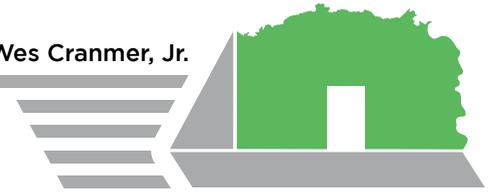
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TOWNE SQUARE

VISION FOR GREEN IN GREENE

Part I – Fertile Green Soil

The recent articles published herein over the last few months about Greene County's economic conditions and prospects, while not at all a shock to me, may have come like a bucket of ice water to others. Mike Belding and I have been talking about these issues for years. It was nice to see him call out the lack of past initiatives, poor leadership decisions, and the actual factors affecting our community: demographic decline, tax assessment-to-rate misalignment, and a lack of diversification of economic sectors. Yet I see this problem has deeper roots than believed, and it has impeded our ability even to begin considering the details that would move us away from the troublesome future.

As a people, we do not have a Vision. I recently saw the Greene County Commissioners develop one for their office, but we, as the People of Greene County, need a Green in Greene Vision for 2050, 2075, and beyond. We need to define what we believe will be the future of our rural American community, and how we plan to get there from here.

What is Vision? To start, let us show what it is not: a mission statement. A mission statement is what you tell the public you do. In basic terms, a grocery store would say, "We sell food." More importantly, what do they tell their shareholders? Their investors? Marketing? How do they get people to want to be stakeholders in the enterprise? Leadership must sell the Vision to other people. What makes us different or better? Why should you choose to do business with us? The answers to these questions are what form our Vision Statement. If I were to take a first swing at it, I would say, "Greene County 2050 will provide our citizens the premier, modern-day example of an integrated living and working rural American community." We would also expand to say how we would do it, in what sectors and how, but I will forego those details for now.

Our lack of a Vision is on a parallel track to what Mike Belding discussed. Mike speaks to why the plan failed; I talk to why we failed to plan. While other people are quick to say it was this democrat, or that republican, or this (insert random politician's name here) I do not blame any commissioner, representative, or other elected official. No, I place that at the feet of We the People. The citizens of the county are responsible. This County does not want to change. It is stuck in the muddy field, laden with hay to feed the dry cash cow. We want to pretend like it is still

the 1950s, while the human and economic means to keep that community together are being removed all around us. And we do not want to admit we are no longer a farming county. See the problem? Denial, or rather, should I say, Not Seeing (Vision) IS the problem? We ignored the issue, even though it had been right in front of our faces, thinking it was someone else's job. It is not. Improvement happens one person at a time; it is grassroots, and is the most quintessentially "Pioneer," rural-American trait.

I also see the issue from a different vantage point, or rather, as someone outside looking in, since my primary residence as a child was not in Greene County. I resided in the South Pittsburgh suburb of Brentwood, yet I constantly found myself at our West Greene farm. My grandparents had purchased the place out by Ryerson Station years before my parents ever met, so as far back as I can recall, memories of Duke Lake, Long Run Church, and the ever-coveted stop up to Burn's Dairy Delite in Jacktown. This place was special to us, so much so that when WTAE interviewed my Marine Corps brother about how he survived being hit by a grenade in the 2004 Battle of Fallujah, he said he remembered our time as kids on the farm and knew he would see the farm again. After my own active service in the Air Force, I wanted to live here and then moved permanently to Greene County in 2011. All my time stationed around the Country and the world, and still I wanted to be back on the farm. That is what we Pittsburgh boys signed up to defend: the countryside of rural America, which stands as the testament to both who and what we are as a people. It goes without saying, then, that if this place was worth dying to protect, it is worth fighting to see it improve and prosper.

Mike made his case soundly for the reasons behind the need to change. I will not reiterate it. He is right. But that does not matter unless there are enough of us willing to take a hard look in the mirror and say, "Yes, I am ready to think differently about Greene County." Until enough of us do that, we lack the agency for change, regardless of the efforts our elected leaders choose.

Many have asked (though some have already

insinuated), is it hopeless? Absolutely not, and do not listen to anyone who says that it is. But I want to make the jobs of our leaders easier, building a base for them upon which they can stand higher and be heard farther away. We need to encourage the entrance of businesses, entrepreneurs, and people to make ourselves more productive; to make the soil fertile for the growth we wish to see.

My sales pitch is to be a part of the agency of change. Think about what might be something that we could do better here in Greene? What could we bring to make our community stand out differently? Or build better here? Ben McMillen cannot be the only person in the County with at least three crazily interconnected business concepts! Ben found ways to interconnect people and resources, building a value-added chain. He is an example of an agent of change. I think there are more people like him in Greene, and their ideas need to be planted in an economically green-in-Greene soil.

The particulars of my Vision for Greene 2050 will be saved for the second article. Let me foreshadow that it is a concept that incorporates ideas of reorganization I have seen while traveling both as an airline pilot and in the military, but most notably, it mirrors something unique to my personal situation: importing people like us from Allegheny to live in Greene County. Let Greene County show her style, spirit, and potential to others as she did to the Cranmers, thereby earning the reverent devotions of duty and loyalty, which build her into the status of the Vision for Greene 2050 and beyond.

Wes Cranmer is a commercial airline pilot and military officer who has served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and the U.S. Air Force. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business from Duquesne University and a Master of Business Administration from Waynesburg University. He and his wife, Kim, reside in Franklin Township.

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

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As the first Republican Senator elected since 1927, and the first woman elected to represent the 46th Senatorial District, her election ushered in a Red Wave across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

Having been elected to Leadership by the Republican Caucus, Senator Bartolotta's advocacy has led to the following funding:

Iron Senergy Methane Abatement Project \$2M

East Dunkard Water Authority - \$1.9 M

The Way Community Center - \$773,300

WHS Greene Ambulance Entrance - \$345,000

Carmichaels Senior Center - \$113,428

Senator Bartolotta led 11 significant bills that change lives including:

- Domestic violence victim protection
- Safety for PennDOT workers
- Medical cost containment
- Permit reform
- Saving farmers thousands in taxes

Still fighting for:

- COLA for retirees
 - Property tax reform
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LINDA MESSICH

November Person Place or Thing Answer

This past summer, Linda Messich was among the 12 individuals who were inducted into the Washington-Greene Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

The West Greene graduate started her career at Mapletown 29 years ago. She is one of the most respected administrators in the county. Her commitment to her students, athletes, and programs is well known among her peers.

Her career has spanned the evolution of women's athletics, from the days of six-girl basketball to Caitlin Clark. Many young people take for granted the arduous and steady progress made by women like Messich, who led the way to the opportunities for our daughters and granddaughters we take for granted today.

Title IX would have just been empty legislation were it not for the efforts of the many women in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s who refused to yield to the ridiculous stereotypes of the day.

Ms. Messich accepted the HOF honor with her typical humility and grace, expressing her gratitude at being included in the illustrious group.



PERSON PLACE OR THING

SCAN TO ENTER!



Hint:

*Upon the corner, in the winter's chill,
A crimson bowl of humble iron waits.
A figure stands, whose hands are never still,
As silver whispers meet their gentle fates.*

*The little coin, it finds a hollow home,
A tiny song that echoes out of sight.
It journeys from a pocket, meant to roam,
And finds its purpose in the falling light.*

*The clapper rings, a chime of hopeful things,
A gift of grace for those without a bed.
A simple sound that every giver brings,
Against the cold and promises instead.*

*So let the song in wintry air be heard,
And answer kindness with a selfless word.*

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

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The **WAY**

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November 14th

Explorer's Oasis Homeschooling co-op

Friday,
November 14th
9am-12pm

All homeschooled students and parents are invited to attend. A brand new beginning for a Greene County Co-op organized and Formed by the parents of home schoolers.

November 15th

Event #2 "We are The Way"

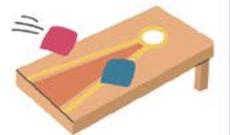
November 15th
9am-12pm

Lunch Provided
Come join us!
We will learn how to value each and every person

November 15th

Cornhole Tournament

November 15th
2pm- finish



November 21st

Soldiers and Sons Concert

November 21st
7-9pm

Free concert (donations accepted)



November 27th

County wide Thanksgiving Dinner

November 27th
11:00am-2pm

Free Thanksgiving dinner! All are welcome to the table!



December 5th

First Friday Vendor Fair

December 5th
4-7:30pm

Reserve your spot to sell your goods \$10.00 a table.

December 6th

Parade Warming Station

December 6th
10am-3pm

Come in and get warm with a free cup of hot cocoa!



December 19th

Holiday of Hope

December 19th
5-8pm

Join us help our hurting community get through tough times during the holidays. Stations of Hope, Together with Veterans support, refreshments and live music



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Good NEWS

In Greene County

Dreamer Park Turns 90

Parents and students from the Speiro Academy of Ministry & Fine Arts held a ceremony on Veterans Day commemorating the 90th anniversary of Dreamer Memorial Park.



The park's 35-foot obelisk was dedicated in 1935. The project was a gift to the community from Issac Newton Dreamer honoring those who served in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, as well as the Spanish American War and World War I.

Each side of the Vermont granite monument represents one of those conflicts. Four smaller stones designating the perimeter of the park are inscribed with the words "Nurses, Soldiers, Army & Sailors".

Mr. Dreamer, as well as his sister, Rebecca, and mother Rosanna are buried in the park. Several years ago, Mark and Charlotte McMillen received permission from the Greene County commissioners to maintain the park with the help of the Speiro Academy students.

UPMC Greene Receives New Emergency Department Canopy

When UPMC Washington acquired the former Southwest Regional Medical Center in 2015, it became clear the existing Emergency Department ambulance bay canopy wasn't built for today's larger, taller ambulances. Modern emergency vehicles are equipped with advanced technology and require greater clearance to safely transport patients. After one ambulance became stuck beneath the old structure, temporary fixes were made — but a permanent solution was essential.

With support from **Senator Camera Bartolotta**, UPMC Greene secured \$345,000 in state funding in 2022 to build a new canopy that meets the needs of modern emergency care. Completed in September, the project was designed with input from EMS teams, UPMC Greene Emergency Department and Facilities Management team members, and construction and design experts.

This new ED ambulance bay canopy enhances safety, improves access for patients and first responders, and represents a lasting community investment in the health of Greene County residents.

Flenniken Library News

Daily Hours: Mon. - Wed. 9:30-6:30; Thursday 9:30 – 5:00; Fri. & Sat. 9:30 – 4:30

November 18: Book Club Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

(This month's selections: Comfort and Joy, and A Christmas Duet)

November 19: Library Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

November 20: Cook Book Club – 1:00 p.m.

Movie Matinee Every Saturday at Noon

November 22, A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving & November 29, Klaus



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GreeneScene



Preston, Kennedy and Damian Whitmer enjoy the sunset. (Taken by Doug Willis on the family farm in Rices Landing).

Santa Trolley

November 28-30
December 6-7, 13-14, 20-21



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Cool at School:

PIONEERS WELCOME A FAMILIAR FACE BACK TO THE AG PROGRAM

By Aubrey Lesnett

West Greene High School is welcoming a new face to its agriculture science program this year following Mrs. Wright's transition to a new position within the school district. Stepping into



the role is **Ms. Adalyn Reed**, who brings energy and a passion for agricultural education to the classroom and FFA program. Ms. Reed has prior experience with West Greene, as she student-taught at the district during the 2021-2022 school year.

Ms. Reed is coming into the district with a lot of ideas and goals for not only this school year, but for the extended future. "I want students to see that agriculture is for everyone—whether their interests are animals, plants, mechanics, leadership, or business. My goal is to offer a variety of hands-on opportunities, competitions, and projects that help students find their niche," states Reed.

If students take anything away from her class, Reed hopes it will be confidence in themselves, and the ability to recognize the value of hard work, leadership, and teamwork. Even if the students don't want to pursue a career in agriculture, she feels she would have accomplished her goal if students left her classroom with practical life skills and an appreciation for the industry that feeds and sustains us all.

Reed expressed her clear excitement about her new position by stating, "I'm so excited to be back at West Greene and to work alongside our students and community. This program has deep roots and a bright future, and I can't wait to grow it together. Agriculture education is about more than just farming—it's about leadership, growth, and opportunity. I look forward to a great year ahead."

Cool at School:

MIKE STUDENTS AND STAFF PRODUCE MAGICAL EVENT FOR CHILDREN

By Emma Bates

Storybook forest has nothing on Carmichaels Area School District. Just ask any of the children (or their equally wide-eyed guardians) who attended the district's Halloween "Once Upon a Story" event on Tuesday, October 28. High school students under the direction of Mrs. Cassie Menhart, the middle and high school librarian, dressed in fairytale costumes and staffed the story walk along the elementary school's walking track on a chilly, moonlit evening.

Participating children advanced through a circuit of nursery rhymes, fables, and fairy tales narrated by the high school actors by "candlelight" who then led a corresponding activity and provided a treat or take-home item, whether some porridge from the three bears or some good, old fashioned Halloween candy. Giddy children were seen taking flight with the cow jumping over the moon, getting dizzy while encircling friends at "Ring Around the Rosy, or dancing to fiddle music with one storybook cat.

Carmichaels is proud to offer events where kids and their families can engage with one another in fun activities that foster reading, coordination, and cooperation.

Children, young and old, were touched by this event, a testament to the fact that a few simple materials and a common goal can produce fun for the whole family. Even school administration and teachers were found partaking in the merriment. It is said that giving is more blessed than receiving, and the same sentiment was found among the high school volunteers who unanimously stated they hope to host a similar event on the trail during the Christmas season.



Cool at School:

McGUFFEY ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY EVENTS

By Dan Gottron, ED

Director of Curriculum and Instruction



The Holiday season is a special time of year for many people. It tends to be full of laughter, joy, time with family and friends, and countless traditions and celebrations. Here at McGuffey, we most certainly have our share of holiday traditions and celebrations: elementary holiday programs, band and choral concerts, a special Thanksgiving luncheon hosted by our middle and high school life skills students, and a Christmas luncheon hosted by our Family and Consumer Science students, just to name a few.

But we also recognize that the holiday season can be especially challenging for those in our community who may have a particular need or hardship. With this reality in mind, we try as a school to emphasize helping and serving others in our local community. While all

our traditions hold a special place in the holiday calendar, this focus on giving and generosity is something we are particularly proud of.

A few of the ways in which our staff and students try to embody this spirit of giving include:

Middle School Student Forum students are holding a November food drive to support families in need. For more information, please contact student forum sponsor Laura McAnallen at laura.mcanallen@mcguffey.k12.pa.us

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is collecting socks to donate to community members in need and providing wrapped Christmas gifts to local Meals on Wheels participants. For more information, please contact NJHS sponsor Cristin Litman at cristin.litman@mcguffey.k12.pa.us

The High School Student Council will be participating in the 2,000 Turkey Initiative on November 19th to help support people in Washington County who are facing food insecurity. For more information, please contact the student council co-sponsors Kristin Anderson (kristin.anderson@mcguffey.k12.pa.us) and Alison Gray (alison.gray@mcguffey.k12.pa.us).

The National Honor Society (NHS) will be filling shoe boxes with Christmas goodies as part of the Operation Christmas Child holiday initiative. For more information, please contact NHS co-sponsors Susan Hamilton (susan.hamilton@mcguffey.k12.pa.us) and Emily Lafferty (emily.lafferty@mcguffey.k12.pa.us)

McGuffey Teen Action and McGuffey FFA will be partnering together for an annual

McGuffey Holiday Gift Drive. Our FFA and Teen Action students will be collecting toys, clothing, coats, and shoes for kids in need. This long-running tradition supports around 70 total families and 150 students in grades K-12. Contributions of new and unused gifts or monetary donations are graciously accepted. For more information, please contact Teen Action co-sponsors Christina Geho (christina.geho@mcguffey.k12.pa.us) and Bobbie Jo Teagarden (bobbiejo.teagarden@mcguffey.k12.pa.us) and FFA Advisor Renee Cambuzzi (renee.cambuzzi@mcguffey.k12.pa.us).

As we look forward to a wonderful 2025 holiday season, we are proud to serve in support of our local community.

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The Waynesburg branch of The Frick Federal Credit Union gang dressed for success! Congratulations for winning the GreeneScene Magazine social media "Group Costume Contest."



Olivia Makel and Toby Whipkey joined in the fun at the Greene County Human Service's Party.

HUMAN SERVICES HOSTS HALLOWEEN BASH

Greene County Early Intervention hosted their third annual Good Old Fashioned Halloween Party on October 21 at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

With the help of community sponsors, partners, and volunteers, Greene County Human Services packed the Arena Barn with 47 stations offering treats, games, crafts, and more. Each activity was adapted to make children of all ages and abilities feel welcome and able to participate.

The night was filled with costume contests, a Toxic Waste Bouncy slide, a pick your own pumpkin patch, and hand dipped caramel apples. The children also participated in Pumpkin Bowling, Putt-Putt Pumpkin, Pumpkin Basketball, and more.

Six hundred and twenty-six community members were able to attend for free and enjoy an evening full of fun. For more information about this and other events, you can contact Greene County Early Intervention at 724-852-5276 (Ext.518).



Waynesburg Milling employees Harry Parker, Bridget Vernon, Hayden Fields, and Jeanette Lindsay got into the spirit of Halloween.



Attorney Jessica and Attorney Tim Ross, and their CCOs (Chief Cuddle Officers) - Frida, Ginsburg, and Stevie - dressed up as the Ball Park Franks to hand out candy in Waynesburg.



Halie Gallagher sent in this shot of the staff at J-M Elementary School celebrating a Minion Halloween.



The Direct Results team repping board games and card games for Halloween. Back row L to R is Chuck Scholtisek, Michelle Ziegler, Joelle Dorsey, Molly Usher, Kameron Marisa, Vicky Hughes, Rich Kronk, and Dave Stoneking. Front Row L to R is Spencer Sargent, Amanda Tustin, Ashley Loar, Katland Wilson, Carly Richter and Nichole Sowden.





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Special thank you to the Greene County 2025 Queen Team, Zoey Caldwell our Face Paint Artist, and the Lions members who donated their time.

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GREENE COUNTY THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

By Brad A. Braddock

Imagine the pioneers building log cabins and forts in the cool November air when they settled onto the land that would become known as Greene County. Originally part of Washington County, Greene didn't become its own entity until February 9, 1796.

By Thanksgiving Day during those early celebratory events, what was left of the autumn orange-red leaves could be heard rustling in the cool breeze, while dinner was being made by the hard-working women, mostly of Scots-Irish and German descent.

While they worked diligently to prepare turkey and what was called mash-filling, which was a mashed potato and stuffing dish, they would listen to the men hammering wooden pins into place for barn raisings and other building events that would help strengthen their tight-knit communities.

After the hard work was finished, families would join together to celebrate the harvest season. When dinner was over, that's when the real fun began.

Corn liquor was passed, and the men would challenge each other to various tests of strength, such as wrestling, running contests, and an old Greene County special, which was log rolling.

Log rolling would showcase two men on opposite sides of the log, rolling it vigorously as they tried to toss the other in the water while not being dumped in for a cool drink. It became extremely popular amongst the hard-working lum-

berjacks of the 1800s. It was a good way to wind down after the dangerous, hard work of sawing lumber, and gave them a chance to enjoy the end of their days.

But there were threats afoot, as the Native American people (mostly Lenape and Shawnee) were not far from earshot as they could be seen in the fields and woodlands that surrounded the pioneers. One can only imagine the indigenous people watching their new neighbors with uncertainty and curiosity.

There are no stories like the shared Thanksgiving celebration of the Pilgrim and Wampanoag story at Plymouth Rock in 1621. However, there was trade between the indigenous and settlers of the late 1700s in Greene County. Unfortunately, there was also conflict. The massacre of the Crow Sisters is one of the most tragic incidents of those hard times of mistrust and struggle.

A general day of Thanksgiving was first proclaimed a national holiday by George Washington in 1789. However, Congress left the celebrations largely up to the states because some objected to the government being involved in a "religious holiday," and Southern states did not want to take part in what they saw as a New England tradition.

Finally, in 1863 Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation making a national

day of "Thanksgiving" on November 26. In 1941, Franklin Roosevelt attempted to extend the Christmas shopping season by moving the date back to the third Thursday in November. Some states refused, so a joint resolution of Congress in 1942 finally settled on the fourth Thursday, which is not always the last one of the month.

The Greene County Historical Society has much more information on those early days of Thanksgiving, and a trip to the time-period log cabin that served as Greene County's first courthouse is a treat in itself. It is one of the oldest in the nation that still rests by its original construction.





ATTENTION PARENTS AND COACHES!

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

Intentional Walks

By Bret Moore

TURKEY, TRADITION, AND TOUCHDOWNS: A THANKSGIVING FOOTBALL LEGACY

*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 permeation of sports into our holiday traditions is nothing new. The bond between Thanksgiving and football dates to the 19th century. The holiday became the stage for local bragging rights. Rival schools met for “Turkey Day” showdowns. It was the perfect blend of homecoming and holiday, where families gathered in the stands before heading home for dinner.

Abraham Lincoln signed the proclamation declaring the first official Thanksgiving holiday in 1863. The first Thanksgiving football game took place only six years later in Philadelphia between the Young American Cricket Club and the Germantown Cricket Club.

Two weeks earlier, Rutgers defeated Princeton in what is recognized as the first official collegiate football game. By 1876, the Yale versus Princeton Thanksgiving contest became the unofficial college championship game.

In 1882, The Intercollegiate Football Association started inviting the top two schools in the country to New York City to play in the Thanksgiving Championship Game. That lasted until 1901 when Michigan became the first non-Ivy League school to win the championship. The Michigan-University of Chicago Thanksgiving rivalry games of the 1890s were national news and spread the game to a Midwestern fanbase.

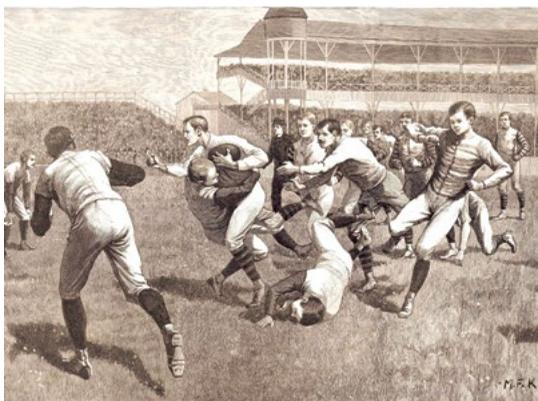
Locally, **Waynesburg College** played its first football contest on October 19, 1895. They beat West Virginia University 10-8 at the old fairgrounds. It is believed the Mountaineers sent their “reserves” because they were expecting an easy win against the “farmers”. Waynesburg then lost back-to-back away games against Washington & Jefferson and the Mountaineer’s varsity.

However, there is discussion about what constituted an official game and what was simply an exhibition. What many consider to be the Yellow Jackets’ first real game was played on Thanksgiving that year at the Fairgrounds in Waynesburg with the locals avenging their earlier defeat to W&J by a 4-0 score. (Note: A touchdown was worth four points at the time. Two points were awarded for extra points and safeties, while field goals were worth five.)

The following year, the W&J game was moved to the third Saturday in November because the Presidents had scheduled Duquesne Country Club for Thanksgiving. Two hundred

Waynesburg fans boarded the W&W train with the team to cheer them on against their archrivals. Unfortunately, Waynesburg was on the short end of a 20-0 score.

However, the season ended on a high note five days later with a 14-5 Thanksgiving Day victory over Western University of Pennsylvania, the school that would become Pitt in 1908. The following year, the season was canceled due to the Spanish-American War. Football resumed in 1899, and the season ended with a 20-0 victory over WVU on Thanksgiving.



Throughout the 1920s and halfway through the 1930s, the W&J / WVU Thanksgiving Day games alternated between the schools and were the center of media attention throughout the region. The Presidents were a national power at that time, even playing

in the Rose Bowl in 1922.

When **high schools started playing football in the early decades of the 20th century**, many young men were needed by their families to help harvest the crops in late summer. Therefore, the season often didn’t start until late September. Since there were no playoffs, Thanksgiving Day games were usually the season finale against a traditional rival.

The annual holiday game quickly became a community event. Traffic jammed the roads leading to the field, and bleachers overflowed with fans bundled in wool coats and school colors. The games were played on frosty fields, the band’s brass instruments froze, and cheerleaders warmed their hands over makeshift fire barrels.

The oldest high school Turkey Day rivalry is between Boston Latin and English High Schools in Massachusetts. They have played on that date every year since 1887. In Pennsylvania, Easton High School has taken on its rival across the river in Phillipsburg, New Jersey each Thanksgiving since 1916.

In 1920, **Waynesburg High School** decided to try to bring back football after a three-year hiatus because of World War I. A six-game schedule was announced in October with home and away games against Morgantown, Cameron, and Claysville. The season was to run from mid-October to Thanksgiving. However, they failed to finish the season because of too many injuries.

The following year’s Thanksgiving game was a 41-0 victory

over Bridgeville. The 1922 Thanksgiving season finale against Washington High School drew 3,000 people to College Field, despite the fact the team was “not exceedingly brilliant,” according to the school’s yearbook.

Jefferson started football in 1926 and began a holiday tradition against traditional powerhouse **Cumberland Township**. Their yearbook proudly reported the Jeffs held the Red Birds to a very respectable 12-0 score.

In the 1930s, the WPIAL started using different classifications and expanding the playoffs, and eventually the traditional high school holiday games began to dwindle.



However, the newly formed **National Football League** scheduled six Thanksgiving Day games in 1920 to generate interest. The struggling Detroit Lions franchise started their holiday tradition against the Chicago Bears in 1934. The game was such a financial success the tradition took root, and the Lions have played it every year since (Except for a couple years during WWII)

The fledgling Dallas Cowboys took the same path starting in 1966. Forty years later the league decided to completely monopolize the day and added a third game that rotated between cities and teams. That addition all but eliminated the college Thanksgiving games except for the occasional Egg Bowl (Ole Miss vs. Mississippi State) and the Tuskegee vs. Alabama State game, which has been played every Thanksgiving since 1926.

The Steelers have played on Thanksgiving seven times. Their only win came in 1950 against the Chicago Cardinals. They lost twice to the Eagles (1939, 1940) and the Lions (1983, 1998) and once to the Cowboys (1991) and Ravens (2013).

Unfortunately, the evening game this Thanksgiving is between the Bengals and the Ravens, which will force me to start searching for a college basketball game to help digest my turkey.

**Photos courtesy of CREK Photography.*



*Waynesburg's third and fourth grade cheerleaders show their spirit.**



*Robert Odum slides home for Waynesburg in Washington Bronco Fall League action.**



*Waynesburg's Teagen Crouse led the county in passing this year with 1,671 yards.**



*Jefferson-Morgan's outstanding running back John Woodward led all county rushers with 944 yards.**



*The Raiders Jack Ricciuti grabbed 41 receptions for 843 yards.**

2025 Greene County Football Races (After Regular Season) (Carmichaels did not have a Week 0 Game)

Passing (At Least 100 Yards)

	Comp.	Attempts	Yards	TDs
T. Crouse (WC)	96	172	1671	11
T. Farabee (JM)	60	85	1065	14
J. Rizor (WG)	32	77	373	3
Z. Jiblits (WC)	12	20	198	0
C. McKnight (M)	13	28	129	0
C. Bupka (C)	8	27	118	1

Rushing (At Least 100 Yards)

	Attempts	Yards	TDs
J Woodward (JM)	113	944	12
J. Rizor (WG)	145	829	7
D. Dehoet (JM)	64	816	16
W. Murray (C)	118	718	9
C. Bupka (C)	119	573	9
Z. Jiblits (WC)	58	525	8
C. Vanata (M)	70	511	5
T. Crouse (WC)	60	424	9
A. Walker (M)	91	230	1
K. Sumpter (WC)	26	196	1
K. Cunningham (WG)	53	185	0
J. Orndoff (WG)	28	145	1
L. Stephenson (WG)	38	143	0
G. Kundly (C)	21	126	1
R. Tennant (WC)	36	104	2
C. Lemmon (WG)	24	100	0

Receiving (At Least 100 Yards)

	Catches	Yards	TDs
J. Ricciuti (WC)	41	843	5
D. Dehoet (JM)	32	748	11
Z. Jiblits (WC)	19	282	0
M. Wassil (WG)	17	261	2
J. Blair (WC)	12	221	2
S. Fox (JM)	6	139	3
R. Tennant (WC)	9	104	2
W. Downs (M)	7	103	0
J. Robertson (JM)	6	100	1
D. Brookover (WC)	2	77	1

Scoring (At Least 10 Points)

	TDs	XP	FG	2PT	Total
D. Dehoet (JM)	28	0	0	2	170
J. Woodward (JM)	14	0	0	0	84
C. Bupka (C)	9	0	0	4	62
W. Murray (C)	9	0	0	3	60
C. Vanata (M)	5	1	0	3	37
J. Rizor (WG)	5	0	0	2	34
N. Ricciuti (WC)	0	26	2	0	32
S. Fox (JM)	4	0	0	0	24
J. Ricciuti (WC)	4	0	0	0	24
Z. Jiblits (WC)	4	0	0	0	24
T. Crouse (WC)	4	0	0	4	24
L. Yeck (JM)	0	29	0	0	29
R. Tustin (WC)	3	0	0	0	18
T. Farabee (JM)	3	0	0	0	18
R. Tennant (WC)	3	0	0	0	18
C. McKnight (M)	3	0	0	0	18
J. Blair (WC)	2	0	0	0	12
J. Robertson (JM)	2	0	0	0	12
M. Wassil (WG)	2	0	0	0	12

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2025 Volleyball Section All-Stars

Class A

First Team

Carmichaels: Bailey Barnyak (Sr.), Brenna Walker (Jr.)

Beth Center: Hannah Binns (Sr.), Kyleigh McDaniel (Sr.), Jenna Pohill (So.)

Jefferson Morgan: Beautiful Medlen (So.)

West Greene: Gabby Tedrow (So.), Kendra Tharp (Sr.)

Mapletown: Treslee Weston (Sr.)

Second Team

Carmichaels: Emma Arborgast (Jr), Giana Calarusso (So)

Beth Center: Abbey Novotney (Jr), Kendall Welsh (Jr)

Jefferson Morgan: Kelsey Vessels (So)

West Greene: Emmaline Bezell (Sr), Kylee Davis (Jr)

Mapletown: Rowan Eisiminger (Jr)

Third Team:

Carmichaels: Reese Marzo (Jr)

Beth Center: Ava Zibrida (Sr)

Jefferson Morgan: Ava Wood (Sr)

West Greene: Katie Brudnock (So)

Mapletown: Marley Shiflett

Class AA

Waynesburg Central: Railey Bochna (Jr), Ani Cree (Sr), Lelia McCollum (Jr)

Emily Rafferty (So) and Gina Tedrow (Sr)

McGuffey: Sarah Brownlee (Sr)



Waynesburg's Railey Bochna.
(Photo courtesy of CREK
Photography).

The Waynesburg Central's girls' soccer team finished the season 10-4-2 and advanced to the WPIAL semifinals. Kolbi and Rylei Rastoka were named to the All-WPIAL Class A Team.



Kolbi Rasoka (#4) and Emily Rafferty celebrate in the Raiders' quarterfinal victory. (Photo courtesy of CREK Photography).



Kaylee McLachlan inbounds the ball for the Raider women. (Photo courtesy of CREK Photography).

BUTCH BRUNELL LEAVES A LEGACY UNMATCHED IN COUNTY COACHING HISTORY.

For more than a half century, Butch Brunell assembled a resume of success that spanned education, sports, and mentorships. If one were to measure the Waynesburg Central icon's success in WPIAL and PIAA Champions, team titles, and personal accolades, it would still fall grievously short of the true impact he had on our area.

Brunell served as the Raiders' coach in both cross country and track and field throughout the seventies, eighties, and nineties. After his retirement in 2000, he continued to coach the team's pole vaulters, adding to his impressive list of laurels. Incredibly, he maintained that job and applied the same standards of ex-

cellence until he passed last month at the age of 81.

No other coach in Greene County history has six individual state champions and 14 WPIAL champions in a single sport. In addition to the state champions, he had seventeen more PIAA medal winners (five silver).

Since the event was first introduced, the WPIAL Girl's' AA pole vaulting record has always been held by one of Brunell's proteges. He was also instrumental in five-time track / cross-country PIAA champion Carlos Gibbs' success.

But it is the love and kindness he embodied and the joy and enthusiasm he spread for which he will be most remembered.



Brunell instructs former Raider and current California Vulcan Emily Mable on her technique



Five of Brunell's State Champion pole vaulters attended his induction ceremony at the Greene County Hall of Fame Banquet: Marissa Kalsey (2012), Drew Layton (2023), Taylor Shriver (2021), Brunell, Jocelyn Lindsay (1999 & 2002), and Chuck Baker (1973).

SPORTS SHORTS

West Greene senior **Colin Whyte** has announced his commitment to Division I Kent State University to wrestle for the Golden Flashes. He is a two-time PIAA qualifier already and finished fourth at States last year in AA. He also placed seventh at the Powerade Tournament, which features some of the best high school wrestlers in the nation. His career record is 116-30.

Former Waynesburg Central star and state champion **Marissa Kalsey Thomas** was inducted last month into the Westminster College Sports Hall of Fame. She was an eight-time (indoor & outdoor) All-American in pole vault for the Titans and the 2017 Division III National Outdoor Champion.

This is the second such honor for Thomas in the past ten months. In January, she was inducted into the Greene County Sports Hall of Fame.

Former Raider two-time State Champion **Rocco Welsh** placed seventh in the 86kg. (189 lb.) weight class at the U23 World Wrestling Championships in Serbia last month. Welsh is a sophomore at Penn State this year.

He began the tournament with two straight tech superiority victories, downing Israel's Aaron Ayzerov 10-0 and China's Minghui Liang 10-0. He lost a 7-4 bout to Iran's Abolfazl Firouzjael on a controversial call in the quarters.

The United States U23 World Team featured ten wrestlers, seven of whom were current Nittany Lions.



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FIVE INDUCTED TO THE GREENE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Greene County may be small, but it boasts a sports history that is anything but. Legendary high school, collegiate, and professional stars have carried the county's name onto the biggest stages. The area has produced talent that rivals much larger communities.

The Greene County Sports Hall of Fame will proudly induct its fifth class at a banquet this January. The evening will be a celebration of a new group of athletes whose achievements have left an indelible mark on the county's athletic legacy.

Nick Vukmanic (Jefferson High School & Penn State) PIAA, National Prep and NCAA Javelin Champion

Nick Vukmanic's name is etched in Pennsylvania track and field history as one of the state's premier javelin throwers, whose journey from small-town athletics to national prominence highlights dedication, talent, and technical mastery.

Vukmanic attended Jefferson Township High School, where he first showcased his versatility and athletic prowess in track and field events. Vukmanic excelled across multiple throwing events, establishing himself as a standout in the javelin, discus, and shot put. At one county competition, he threw the javelin 187 feet, 1 inch, captured first place in the discus with a throw of 117 feet, 6 inches, and finished second in the shot put.

At the state championships, he threw the javelin 206' 10" – a national scholastic record that would stand for 25 years.

His high school performances caught the attention of collegiate programs, and he enrolled at Penn State University, where he would elevate his skills to national levels. At Penn State, he became a dominant force in the javelin, earning back-to-back NCAA titles in 1938 and 1939. As a sophomore in 1938, Vukmanic captured the NCAA men's javelin championship with a throw of 215 feet, 8 inches, marking him as one of the nation's elite throwers. That same year, he set a javelin record at the prestigious Penn Relays with a throw of 223 feet, 10 inches. That throw stood as a benchmark of excellence and placed him among the top throwers worldwide for his era.

Vukmanic's collegiate career was distinguished not only by his throws but also by his leadership. He served as team captain during his senior year. He also competed in other throwing events during dual meets, including discus and shot put, highlighting his athletic versatility and competitive spirit.

During an era when javelin training, equipment, and technique were markedly different from modern standards, Vukmanic's ability to surpass 200 feet in competition underscored

both his physical prowess and technical mastery. He was selected for the U.S. Olympic team for the 1940 games in Helsinki, Finland, but the games were canceled due to World War II.

Tammy McIntire-Mandich (Waynesburg Central & California U. of PA) Basketball



Tammy McIntire-Mandich is widely regarded as one of the most accomplished athletes to emerge from Greene County. Her basketball career spanned her dominance from Waynesburg Central to her collegiate success at California University of Pennsylvania, leaving a lasting legacy in the region.

At Waynesburg Central, McIntire distinguished herself as a versatile and highly productive player. She was a four-year letter winner in basketball, demonstrating consistent excellence on

both ends of the court. Over her high school career, she amassed 1,592 points, 930 rebounds, 244 steals, and 482 assists. Her impact extended beyond raw numbers; she was a three-year All-Section and All-District selection and earned recognition as the Most Valuable Player for Washington/Greene County. She was a complete player who could influence every aspect of the game, whether through scoring, facilitating, or defending.

Mandich's remarkable high school performance

earned her the opportunity to play at the collegiate level, where she joined the Lady Vulcans of California University of Pennsylvania. During her time at Cal U, from 1986 to 1990, she continued to excel and became one of the program's standout athletes. She finished her college career with 1,122 points, over 500 rebounds, 230 steals, and 206 assists, placing her among the top contributors in school history at the time. She helped guide the Lady Vulcans to a series of post-season appearances, with her class achieving a 37-17 combined record over her final two seasons.

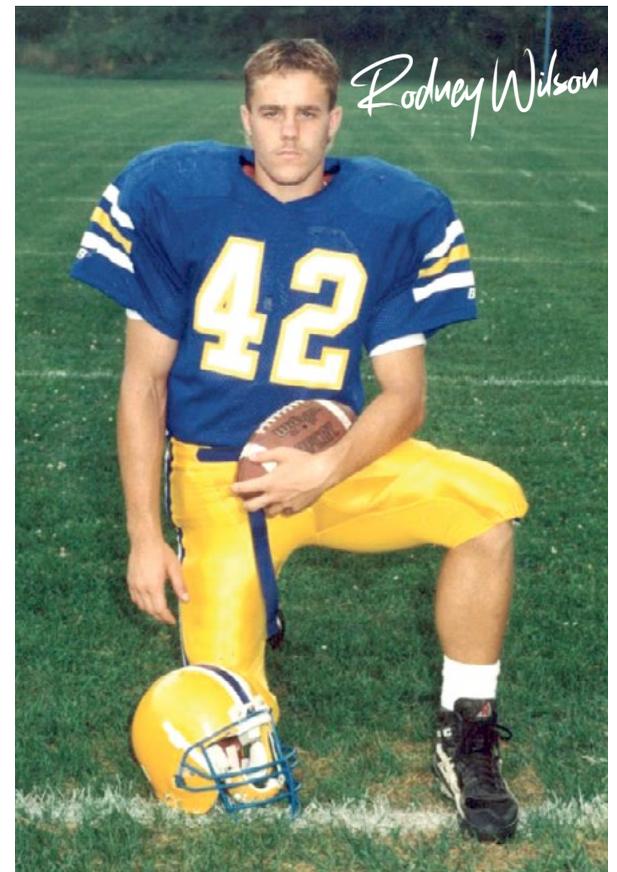
Mandich's individual accolades at the collegiate level are equally impressive. She was a two-time All-PSAC All-Star, a two-time All-ECAC All-Star, and a two-time NCAA Division II All-American. Her consistency and excellence in performance established her as a top-tier player in Division II women's basketball. She was also known for her composure in clutch situations, regularly making crucial shots that helped her team win tight games.

After her playing career, she remained involved in basketball and education, serving as an assistant coach at Cal U and contributing to the development of young athletes.

Mandich's accomplishments have been recognized through multiple hall of fame inductions. She was honored by the California University of Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and the Washington/Greene County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

Rodney Wilson (West Greene High School & Slippery Rock University) Football and Wrestling

West Greene's Rodney Wilson was known for his remark-





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able versatility and excellence in both football and wrestling. From his early days as a Pioneer to his collegiate career at Slippery Rock University, Wilson's athletic achievements reflect talent, dedication, and an enduring legacy.

At West Greene during the early 1990s, Wilson quickly established himself as a dominant football player. Over his high school career, he amassed an astonishing 6,304 rushing yards and 75 touchdowns, setting the all-time rushing record for the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) at the time. His performances were pivotal in leading the Pioneers to notable playoff runs, including an appearance in the WPIAL Class A championship game in 1993.

One of his most memorable moments came the previous year when he scored the decisive two-point conversion in a double-overtime playoff win over Serra Catholic. Wilson's excellence earned him multiple honors, including two-time PIAA All-State recognition, two-time Greene County Messenger Player of the Year, and the Dapper Dan Class A Football Player of the Year in 1993.

In addition to football, Wilson was a formidable wrestler. Over his high school wrestling career, he compiled a 106–25–1 record, won two WPIAL individual championships, and claimed a PIAA regional title in 1992. He was also part of West Greene's WPIAL Class AA team championship squad in 1994.

After high school, Wilson enrolled at Slippery Rock University, where he transitioned from running back to defense, playing both linebacker and defensive back. At the Rock, he earned All-PSAC honors twice—once as a linebacker and again as a defensive back—highlighting his adaptability and skill at multiple positions.

He also contributed significantly on special teams, finishing his college career with 489 kickoff return yards. His senior year, Slippery Rock advanced to the Division II national playoffs for the first time, reaching the quarterfinals and marking a historic milestone for the program.

Wilson was also inducted into the WPIAL Hall of Fame in 2025, illustrating his legacy endures not only in Greene County but across Pennsylvania athletics.

Kristin Polosky-Puskas
(Mapletown High School & Northern Kentucky University)
Basketball

Kristen Polosky is remembered as one of the area's most accomplished basketball players. Her journey from dominating in a small-school setting at Mapletown High School to contributing to a national powerhouse program at Northern Kentucky University earns her entry into this illustrious group.

At Mapletown, Polosky was a four-year standout who left a lasting mark on the basketball program. Over her career, she amassed 1,570 points, 1,020 rebounds, 235 assists, 387 steals, and 364 blocks, establishing herself as a school record holder in multiple categories. Averaging 16.5 points per game across her career, she could both score efficiently and influence the game in every phase. Her senior season was particularly impressive: she tallied 614 points, 320 rebounds, 88 assists, 175 steals, and 122 blocks, averaging 25.6 points per game. Polosky's performances were highlighted by individual game feats, including a 44-point game and a 14-block effort, underscoring her dominance on both ends of the court.

Her accomplishments earned her multiple honors and recognition. She received All-State accolades from the Associated Press, was named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette "Fab Five," and was twice recognized as the Uniontown Herald-Standard Player of the Year as well as the Observer-Reporter Player of the Year.



She continued her career at Northern Kentucky University, joining the women's basketball program from 1999 to 2003. Playing as a forward, she racked up 948 points, 501 rebounds, 307 assists, and 105 blocks, placing her among the program's all-time leaders in multiple categories. She also made 278 free throws, reflecting her ability to score in pressure situations.

Polosky's leadership became increasingly evident in high-stakes moments; for instance, in the NCAA Division II semifinal in March 2003, she calmly sank two critical free throws in the final two minutes to help NKU defeat top-ranked California University of Pennsylvania 45–43.

During her time at NKU, Polosky was part of a highly successful program, contributing to a national championship in 2000 and a national runner-up finish in 2003. Her consistent performance, leadership, and versatility made her a key player in the team's success, complementing her academic accomplishments as a four-time Academic All-Great Lakes Valley Conference honoree and recipient of the Margery Rouse Athlete of Distinction Award in 2003.

Bobby Hathaway
(Carmichaels High School & West Virginia University)
Football

Bobby Hathaway is remembered as one of the most prolific players in the Mike's storied gridiron history. Known for his speed, versatility, and competitive drive, Hathaway left a lasting mark on the program.

At Carmichaels, he quickly established himself as an elite multi-sport athlete. During his high school career, he consistently demonstrated playmaking ability and leadership on the field, excelling as a running back and linebacker. His dominance earned him recognition at the county and regional levels. In his senior year (2002) at Carmichaels, Hathaway rushed for 1,455 yards and scored 24 touchdowns, helping the team to a school-record 11 wins and the Mikes' first two playoff wins since 1980.

On defense, he finished with over 100 tackles. He earned his third All-Conference selection and was named the Uniontown Herald-Standard Offensive Player of the Year. He was also selected to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Fabulous 22 Team. On the basketball court that year, he averaged 18.3 points a game.

Despite his success, Hathaway went unnoticed by Division I football programs, although he received a great deal of interest from Division II programs and the Ivy League. However, his sights were set higher, and he earned a chance to be a walk-on at WVU.

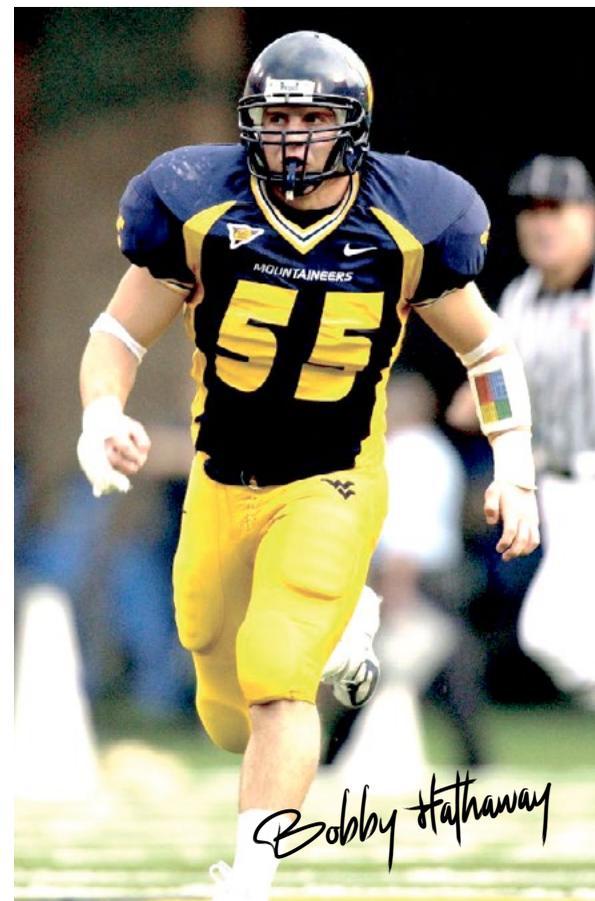
Although he dressed his freshman year, he was redshirted following the season. His sophomore year, he began catching the coaching staff's attention with his outstanding special teams play and appeared in 10 games. By his junior year, his incredible work ethic and dedication impressed the coaches enough to earn him a scholarship and significant playing time at linebacker on one of the top teams in the country.

Over his WVU career, he played in 45 games, recorded 114 total tackles, including 10 tackles for loss, and one interception.

Hathaway's academic success was also rewarded when he was selected as a semifinalist for the 2007 Draddy Trophy (now called the William V. Camp Foundation Award) which recognizes scholar-athletes combining academic success, football performance and leadership.

His collegiate career was marked by key plays in high-pressure situations, showcasing the same competitive instincts that had defined his high school days. Coaches and teammates noted his work ethic, field awareness, and ability to perform under pressure, qualities that earned him respect within the program.

His journey from a single A program to a Division I football scholarship exemplifies the combination of talent, dedication, and perseverance required to succeed in athletics.



In the Out-Door

By T.R. Mahle

45 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP AND HUNTING IN THE MONTANA WILDERNESS



Randy Conklin displays his Big Sky trophy.

Over the past forty-five years, hunting in Montana has been more than just a seasonal activity, it has become a way of life for me and a close-knit group of lifelong friends. It has also become clear to me that the true legacy we've built isn't just measured in filled tags; it's in the tradition itself.

As time passes and our group grows older, the focus has shifted from the chase to ensuring that this story continues to grow and that it has no ending. What started as a "one time event" for me, evolved into a time-honored yearly tradition that forged an unbreakable bond with friends in the wilds of Big Sky country.

My first hunt was in the mountains of Wolf Creek, Montana in the fall of 1982. Wolf Creek was mentioned in the movie **A River Runs Through It**, and I quickly learned the difference between reading about mountain hunting and doing it. We hiked miles through rough terrain and battled very unpredictable weather. Looking back on that hunt, I think it was "youthful determination" that helped me survive. We managed to bag a few animals that year, but I came home with something far more valuable—a shared memory that would mark the beginning of something enduring.

Over the years, Montana became "sacred ground" for us. From the breaks of the Missouri River to the timbered ridges of the Judith mountains in Lewistown, we returned year after year. Elk, mule deer, and antelope filled our tags and the land owners' freezers, but the real prize was always the camaraderie. We passed around stories like a flask of fine whiskey, each year adding new chapters, revisiting old ones, and laughing at the same old jokes as if they were new.

The friendships grew deeper with every hunt. We celebrated marriages, grieved the loss of friends and family, supported each other through illness, and watched as our own children grew into the roles we once filled. Teaching them how to track game, respect wildlife, and navigate the wilderness has been one of the most rewarding parts of the journey. It's not just about hunting, it's about understanding the land, appreciating the quiet, and building the same kind of bonds that brought us together decades ago.

Time changes all things, and so it is in Montana. Our group established many wonderful friendships over the years with the local residents. Unfortunately, many of these old friends have

long since passed on leaving younger family members to assume the responsibilities of the ranches. Technology changed too, GPS units replaced topo maps, modern gear makes the cold more bearable, and photos are now instantly shareable. But at the core, the heart of our traditions remains untouched. The beauty of the mountains and wildlife, and the unspoken satisfaction of just being together is what it's all about.

As I mark 45 years of hunting together with these guys, it's impossible not to reflect on how much this tradition has shaped my life. Now in my sixties, my pace is slower, but my passion to return to this land year after year burns just as brightly. I know each hunt could be our last together...a dreadful thought that is hard to put to paper...but it's a reality.

It makes me appreciate every opportunity we have to be together. Forty-five years of friendship in the Montana wilderness is more than a milestone. It's a legacy that our group hopes to pass on for generations to come. Keeping the hunting tradition alive is about more than just going out each fall, it's about handing down a way of life, one sunrise and story at a time.



Three generations of Robannas are included in the group that makes the annual pilgrimage to Montana. Trey, Joel, Mike, and Gary return each year in search of game and memories.

December 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) 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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ME AND THE HUTTERITES OF MONTANA

By T.R. Mahle

Expanding further on my article, “45 Years of Friendship and Hunting in the Montana Wilderness” (see page 22 of this issue), I felt the need to expand on a subject that seems to have sparked a lot of interest. I have fielded many questions regarding our living arrangements while we were in Montana...staying with the “Hutterites”.

I recently had the pleasure of participating in our GreeneScene podcast to discuss my annual trip. While the hunting was the main focus of conversation, things quickly changed once the subject of “where we stayed” was mentioned.

While hunting a ranch near Winnett Montana in the mid 70’s, Gary Robanna had the pleasure of meeting a couple of the ranch hands who happened to be Hutterites. Delightful characters with bubbly personalities, they became instant friends. A friendship that has grown and flourished for over 50 years, and they are truly...just like family.

The Hutterites are a communal Anabaptist group, tracing heritage back to the Radical Reformation of 16th century Europe. Like the Amish and Mennonites, they emphasize adult baptism, nonviolence (pacifism), simplicity, and a strong sense of community. Their name comes from Jakob Hutter, one of their early leaders. Over time Hutterite groups migrated to North America in order to preserve their way of life.

Many Hutterite colonies originated from Europe (especially regions of what is now Ukraine) and in the late 1800s and early 1900s moved into the U.S. and Canada. Much like the Amish, antiwar sentiment in World War I made life difficult in the U.S. for communities who refused military service, which prompted many to relocate to Canada, especially to the Prairie Provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

There are **over 500 colonies** of Hutterites in North America (the U.S. & Canada) with most (70-75%) calling Canada home. The U.S. colonies are concentrated mostly in states like South Dakota, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Washington. Colony sizes tend to be in the range of **80 - 150 people**, and are formed of multiple families.

Every Hutterite has communal obligations that must be attend to first and foremost. Once these communal obligations are completed, they have the opportunity to make extra money by offering their services and expertise to outside sources...thus working as ranch hands on neighboring ranches.

After being invited back to their colony in Grass Range, we were greeted by an extremely friendly and welcoming group of people. No longer strangers, they welcomed us right into their homes...giving us warm beds and tables full of homemade food to enjoy. The Hutterites are very gifted singers and musicians and the evenings are filled with songs, fine guitar strumming, and of course some of the best homemade pies you have ever tasted...a perfect ending after a long day of hunting.

In the beginning we had very little knowledge of their way of life and their customs. With an obvious ignorance of their

ways, and not wanting to ask a hundred questions, we opted for research instead to find the answers to our questions. We were always careful not to overstep and asking for permission to do anything was generally the norm for us.

Hutterites only marry within their religion and from other colonies. Once married, the bride moves to the groom’s colony...never the other way around. Men don’t leave the colony they were born on...except to start a new colony. One interesting custom practiced by the Hutterites is separation...when attending church or eating meals (in the cafeteria) the men sit on one side of the room and the women sit on the other.

The Hutterite colony is male oriented, and the men always enter buildings first and are seated before the women and children sit down. Only members of the colony are allowed in the church and outsiders are generally not permitted to eat in the cafeteria. Because of our long-time affiliation with the colony, we are per-

mitted to

tions, sometimes manufacturing or equipment repair. Colonies often invest in efficient, modern agricultural technology. Their life is very structured. They share their meals usually in a communal state-of-the-art dining hall.

The oversight, and day-to-day operations of the colony, are handled by elders or colony leadership (usually the preacher). Beliefs shape the norms for the colony for such things as modesty, dress, patterns of social interaction, and schooling (a one room, on-sight schoolhouse, K through 8th grade only). German is their first language, with English taught as a second language.

Furthering education past the 8th grade is recommended but not required. With most, their colony duties are usually well defined by this stage of their lives. However, others (especially girls) chose to pursue further educational opportunities. High school is delivered in various formats, including public schools, or interactive television (IITV) broadcast via broadband Internet (HBNI). Most of the teachers on the HBNI-IITV system are Hutterites.

They are a very adaptive people. However, there is a fine line between adaptation and tradition. There is a dynamic tension between maintaining traditional values and adopting useful technologies. For example, most colonies use tractors, computers, and state-of-the-art or modern livestock practices, while resisting entertainment technologies (no TV’s) in private life or other aspects they see as conflicting with their values.

The Hutterite communities contribute significantly to agriculture in the regions where they are located. Their scale of operation creates efficiencies in production. In some provinces, they supply large percentages of eggs, poultry, dairy, pork, etc.

Culturally, they represent a unique alternative model of communal life, showing how religious conviction, shared property, and collective decisionmaking can persist in modern society. They preserve German dialects and heritage, maintain communal architecture, and keep practices like shared meals and mutual aid. Their educational arrangements, though adapted, still reflect their values.

Hutterite colonies in the U.S. and Canada remain a living example of communal religious life in the contemporary era, rooted in Anabaptist tradition, yet adapting to the demands of modern agriculture, changing social conditions, and regulatory environments. Their population is growing, their economic contributions are significant, and their way of life raises questions about how tradition and modernity can coexist.

Although we are from two different cultures, having the Hutterites as friends is a valuable and enriching experience. Through our friendship, I realized that these differences help to strengthen our relationship and I’m just happy they allow us to be a part of their world for a few weeks out of every year.



stand in the foyer of the church for events like weddings, and they give us our own table (separated from the group) in the cafeteria.

One of the defining features of Hutterite colonies is communal ownership. Everyone is equal. Property, income (everyone gets paid the same monthly amount), many resources are shared. Each member has a specific job...be it either agriculture, livestock, crafts, cafeteria duties, or colony enterprises. The Grass Range colony has a very successful slaughterhouse business (*Stabl’s Meat Processing*). All necessities are provided by the community.

In most cases, agriculture remains the base resource of production. Crops (corn, hay, alfalfa), poultry, pig and dairy opera-

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A PIECE OF MY MIND



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

Thanksgiving has long been one of America's most cherished holidays as a time for family, gratitude, and, of course, food. Thanksgiving has always been more than just a holiday, it's a feeling, a collection of moments that linger long after the last slice of pie is gone. Each year, as autumn's leaves fall to the ground and the air grows crisp, families and friends gather to celebrate gratitude, tradition, and love. For many, Thanksgiving memories form a cherished thread woven through generations, linking past and present in the shared joy of togetherness.

Some of the most vivid Thanksgiving memories often begin in the kitchen. The day starts early, with the aroma of roasting turkey drifting through the house and the sound of laughter mingling with clattering pans. There's a rhythm to the preparations—a kind of unspoken choreography passed down from one generation to the next. Someone stirs the gravy while another kneads dough for the dinner rolls. These small, familiar moments become the foundation of our fondest memories.

For many families, the table itself is a symbol of connection. It's where stories are retold year after year. The food might change slightly with each passing year with new

recipes discovered, old favorites revived, but the sense of belonging remains constant. The meal is never just about the dishes; it's about the people who gather around them. Whether it's a large, boisterous family or a small circle of friends who've become family, the Thanksgiving table invites everyone to pause and appreciate the simple joy of being together.

I have so many memories of Thanksgiving meals and traditions. I remember as a young girl going to Grandma's for the biggest family feast of the year. Grandma was always in her apron and spent hours preparing, cooking, and then serving the meal. At Grandma's, all of the men had to be seated around the table while the women served them. I didn't understand it as a girl, but as I grew up, I realized that Grandma insisted on that because of the culture and the way she had been raised.

One of my other favorite Thanksgiving memories is watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade every year. The musical acts were always popular, the bands were magnificent, the Broadway performers were so entertaining, and the enormous balloons were always amazing. And, of course, at the end of the parade was Santa, whose appear-

ance made the entire string of endless commercials worth the wait.

Perhaps the most profound Thanksgiving memories are not about the food or the festivities, but about gratitude itself. Around the table, as each person shares what they're thankful for, there's a moment of reflection, a collective recognition of the good in our lives. In those quiet pauses, amid laughter and the clinking of glasses, we remember that gratitude isn't just an emotion, it's a practice. Thanksgiving reminds us to slow down, to look around, and to recognize the blessings that might otherwise go unnoticed.

So, here's a piece of my mind... this year, if you are fortunate enough to sit at a table with loved ones, whether family or friends, at Thanksgiving, take a moment to take it all in. As years pass, Thanksgiving memories deepen and evolve. Some faces at the table may change, but their stories and spirit remain. The scent of roasting turkey, the laughter echoing down hallways, the glow of candlelight on smiling faces—these are the details that stay with us. In the end, Thanksgiving is not just a day on the calendar, but a feeling we carry in our hearts: a reminder that gratitude, love, and connection are the true feast we share.

FROM MAIN STREET TO MOUSE CLICKS:

The Evolution of Holiday Shopping in Greene County

By Bret Moore

For generations, the holiday season in small-town America was defined by the glow of downtown lights, the crunch of snow beneath boots, and the familiar ring of a shopkeeper's bell as customers stepped through the door. Shopping for Christmas wasn't just about buying gifts. It was about connection.

In Waynesburg, families strolled block by block through mom-and-pop stores like Doody's Jewelers, Carol Lee's Dress Shop, Meighen's Shoes, Heasley's Men's Store, Betsy Ross Gift Shop, and Levine's Furniture. They chatted with merchants they knew by name, often paying for purchases on store credit or layaway. The experience was personal, local, and deeply woven into the fabric of the community.

But over the past seventy-five years, that ritual has undergone a transformation as sweeping as any cultural shift in American life. From the family-owned hardware and clothing stores of the mid-twentieth century to the rise of regional shopping centers, the dominance of big-box retailers, and finally the digital reign of Amazon, each stage of this evolution has reshaped how and where rural Americans spend their holiday dollars.

In the 1950s, Main Street served as both an economic and social hub. Businesses like **G.C. Murphy's Five-and-Dime, McCrory's, Roth's Army & Navy, and Long & Co. Department Store** weren't just places to buy gifts - they were the backbone of our commercial existence. Merchants like **Ross Drug, Ullom & Baily and The Fashion Shop** sponsored Little League teams, hung garland across the streetlights, and stayed open late on December evenings so families could shop after games or school concerts.

Credit was personal. The owner might jot your purchases in a ledger, knowing you'd pay after the first of the year. Kids visited Santa in the basement of Murphy's on the way to the toy department. The atmosphere was one of anticipation and community, and every dollar spent circulated back into the same small-town economy that sustained local families.

But by the late 1960s, the first tremors of change began to ripple through that traditional model. Many of us are old enough to remember **Western Auto** stores. For those of you who aren't, it was a precursor to Walmart, albeit on a much smaller scale. It was indeed an auto store, but it also sold toys, appliances, sporting goods, firearms, bicycles, and musical instruments.

In 1968, the **H-P Department Store** had its grand opening three weeks before Christmas in the Long Building across from the police station. Their ad claimed, "Joy begins with one of our exciting dresses from our fabulous holiday collection." (The dress prices were listed between \$7.95 - \$10.95)

Unfortunately, the store's run was short-lived. By the end of that decade, more families were starting to have two cars in the garage and Interstate 79 opened to Washington. Suddenly, people were willing to drive farther for more choices and cheaper prices.

In the 1970s, the shopping experience shifted toward regional business centers. Shoppers increasingly made weekend trips to Washington and South Hills, where the enclosed malls promised variety, comfort, and convenience. I can remember the anticipation of such trips when my mother would pile us in the back of our '68 Ford Country Squire station wagon in my search for a prized G.I. Joe to rescue from his retail stalag.

Stores like **JCPenney, Sears, and Montgomery Ward** provided a sense of modernity and efficiency that Main Street shops often couldn't match. Unfortunately, the appeal was simple: everything was under one roof, protected from the weather, with extended hours and consistent prices. Small-town businesses fought to keep up, but the gravitational pull of the mall proved hard to resist.

By the 1990s, many rural downtowns had emptied out, leaving behind vacant storefronts or niche shops catering to a shrinking clientele. Western Auto stores were bought up by Sears, and their remaining assets became Advanced Autos. G.C. Murphy was bought out by Ames Department Stores, who headed to the strip malls outside of town.

Then came the **big-box era**. It was a retail tsunami that swept across rural America in the 1990s and early 2000s. Walmart, Target, Lowe's, and Home Depot didn't just compete with local stores; they replaced entire sectors of them. One stop could cover everything from groceries to toys to electronics. Prices were lower, inventory was vast, and hours were convenient.

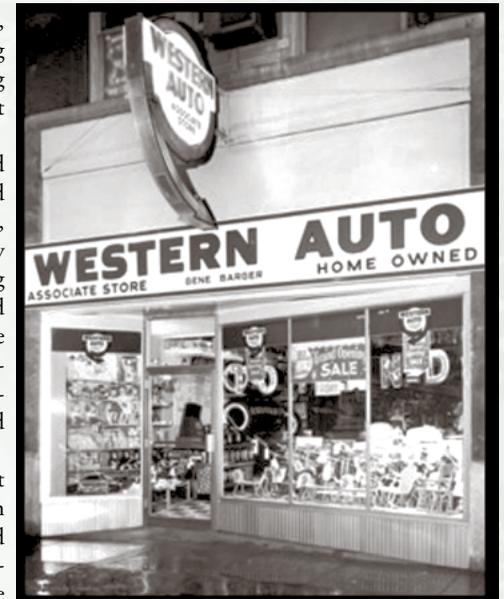
For families on tight budgets, especially in working-class rural communities, these stores were a financial lifeline. But the cost to local economies was steep. Independent clothing shops, toy stores, and grocers couldn't match the buying power of multinational chains.

Main Streets across rural America dimmed even further. Storefronts that once buzzed with holiday cheer turned dark, while the glow of a big-box sign on the highway became the new beacon of the season. Parking lots replaced sidewalks as the stage for the annual shopping rush.

Although in some ways, there was still a sense of shared experience. Love it or hate it, Black Friday became an event. People lined up before dawn, bundled in winter coats, swapping coffee and stories while waiting for the store to open. At least, shopping remained physical and tangible even if it had moved a few miles down the road.

Then, almost overnight, the ground shifted again. When **Amazon** launched its Prime service offering fast shipping, it began rewriting the rules of holiday shopping. At first, online shopping seemed like a novelty. But as broadband expanded and smartphones became ubiquitous, the digital checkout line replaced the physical one. Instead of braving crowds, rural shoppers clicked "Add to Cart" from their living rooms.

The pandemic accelerated that shift dramatically. Lockdowns, supply chain disruptions, and health concerns pushed even the most traditional shoppers online. Amazon, already dominant, became



nearly essential.

Today, the holiday rush looks very different. Delivery vans rumble down our roads, and porch pirates are more of a concern than crowded aisles. The convenience is undeniable. There's no driving, no crowds, no closing hours. But something intangible has been lost.

The economic effects are complicated. On one hand, online retail has given rural Americans access to goods once unavailable locally and created delivery and logistics jobs. On the other hand, the **money leaving small communities for national corporations never returns in any significant manner.** Local tax bases have shrunk, and with them, the budgets for public services and community events.

Some small-town retailers have adapted, blending old-fashioned service with new technology. Some shops and boutiques throughout the county now maintain social media pages, offer online ordering, and promote "Small Business Saturdays" to remind customers of the human side of commerce.

Farmers markets, craft fairs, and holiday pop-ups have also seen a resurgence, serving as a nostalgic antidote to the facelessness of e-commerce. They may not reverse the tide, but they restore a sense of connection. They are undoubtably proof that many Americans still crave a shopping experience rooted in place and community.

Ultimately, the transition from mom-and-pop stores to Amazon reflects more than just changing retail models. It mirrors broader cultural shifts toward efficiency, scale, and isolation. The old Main Street Christmas was built on relationships and the sense that your purchases mattered to someone you knew.

Now, our holiday shopping is mediated through algorithms and warehouses, optimized for speed but stripped of intimacy. The ritual remains. We still buy, give, and celebrate, but the experience has become more solitary.

And yet, glimmers of our past remain. Local organizers in several towns around the county are creating events to capture the zeitgeist of those traditional community holiday experiences. Fortunately, we still have those who hang festive lights, hold parades, and welcome shoppers who value the warmth of human exchange over the click of a mouse.

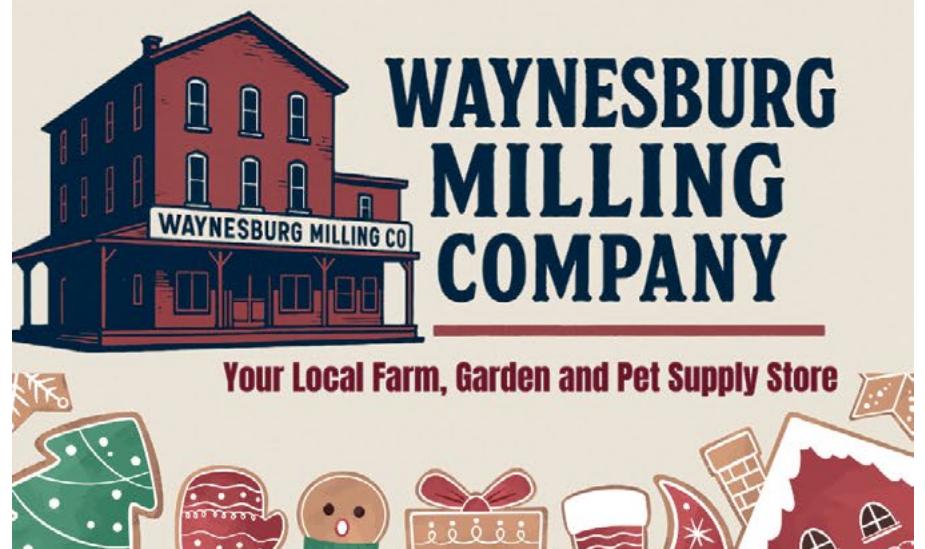
The story of holiday shopping in rural America isn't over—it's simply evolving. The question for the next generation is whether convenience will continue to outweigh community, or if the pendulum might someday swing back toward the personal, the local, and the beautifully imperfect.

Robert Frost once said, "I can sum up everything I've learned about time in three words: it goes on. Yet, we can still mourn inwardly, even as we accept that time and technology have forever altered the charm of Main Street at Christmastime.



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2025 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AROUND THE COUNTY

The holiday season takes on a special charm in small towns, where long-held traditions and neighborly spirit combine to create something truly magical. As snow dusts the rooftops and wreaths adorn lampposts, our communities come alive with festive anticipation. Unlike the bustle of big-city celebrations, these hometown holidays are rooted in the connection of families and friends gathering to share joy, light, and laughter.

From the tree-lighting ceremonies to caroling, each event carries its own story and sense of belonging. Choirs fill the pews with Christmas melodies, while local artisans showcase handmade gifts at winter markets. Churches host nativity reenactments, fire halls serve pancake breakfasts with Santa, and volunteers organize toy drives to ensure every child feels the magic of the season.

These traditions, simple yet heartfelt, reflect the best of small-town life: community pride, shared generosity, and the comforting rhythm of familiar faces coming together year after year. Whether it's sipping cocoa at the parade or gathering around a fireplace after midnight mass, these moments remind everyone the holidays are defined by gratitude, warmth, and the enduring ties that make a small town feel like home.

A Charlie Brown Murder Mystery Dinner at The Denny House

Join us for an unforgettable evening of delicious food, festive fun, and a mystery waiting to be solved!

Saturday, December 20th, at 6 pm. Admission \$75. For reservations, call 724-710-8056 or email: innkeeper@dennyhousewbg.com

Downtown Waynesburg Christmas Parade

Hosted by the Greene County Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, December 6 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

High Street, Downtown Waynesburg

Features: Marching bands, fire trucks, holiday-themed floats, local royalty, animals, and mascots. FMI go to visitgreene.org.



Waynesburg University Holiday Concerts & Performances

Chamber Works II Concert:

A free, hour-long concert featuring student small ensembles and soloists.

Thursday, December 4 at noon at the Marsh Center

TUBACHRISTMAS

Friday, December 5 | 7:30 PM

Goodwin Performing Arts Center, Waynesburg University

A free public performance by tuba and euphonium players of all ages.

Waynesburg University Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 6 | 7:30 PM

Roberts Chapel, Waynesburg University

A free concert featuring festive music by the university's Lamplighter Choir and Symphonic Band.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Holiday Brass Spectacular

A free concert featuring the brass section of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Seating is limited and tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 7 p.m. at Roberts Chapel



Greene County Family Center

Presents Christmas on the Grounds

December 6 - 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Greene County Fairgrounds

Breakfast with Santa, Cookie Decorating with Elves

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Greene County Fairgrounds

Live Nativity at Unity Presbyterian Church in Graysville December 5, 2025 from 5:30-6:30pm

Eva K. Bowlby Public Library Open House

Wednesday, December 3

Christmas Themed Activities for the Little Ones

Mt. Morris Craft & Vendor Show

Saturday, December 6 | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Mt. Morris Fire Hall & Senior Center

Craft and vendor booths

Kids' cookie decorating and story time

Raffle baskets benefiting the Mt. Morris VFD and Senior Center

The Denny House

The Grinch and Santa Party

A ticketed lunch event with The Grinch and Santa. Activities include face painting, cookie decorating, and a creative station.

Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 12 p.m.

The Denny House, 145 West High Street, Waynesburg.

Admission: \$30 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and under.
Reservations are required.



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DECK THE HALLS... BUT NOT YET!

The Never-Ending Argument Over Christmas Decorating

By Bret Moore

There are two kinds of people in this world: those who hang Christmas lights before the Thanksgiving turkey hits the oven, and those who believe early decorators belong on Santa's naughty list. Every year, as soon as the last piece of Halloween candy disappears, the debate begins anew. So, when is the *right* time to decorate for Christmas?



For early birds (like my daughters), there's no such thing as too soon. The moment the calendar flips to November, they're climbing ladders, untangling lights, and turning their homes into winter wonderlands. They ask me, why not stretch out the most wonderful time of the year? If twinkle lights and peppermint candles spark joy, who's to say it's wrong? After all, isn't Christmas supposed to be about cheer, not calendars?

Then there are the traditionalists, those stoic defenders of the "after Thanksgiving" rule. They see premature decorating as a form of holiday heresy, an offense against the sanctity of the turkey. For them, Thanksgiving deserves its own moment in the spotlight—a day of gratitude unspoiled by inflatable snowmen lurking in the yard. Only when the last slice of pumpkin pie has been eaten may the bins marked "Christmas" emerge from the attic.

I must admit. Most of my life I have been in that camp. However, the older I get the more open I am to the former argument.

And finally, there's the third group: the procrastinators. These brave souls find themselves in mid-December staring at a half-strung string of lights, wondering how the neighbor managed to finish in early November. Their decorations often go up around the same time the early decorators are already taking theirs down. They tell themselves they're "keeping the season alive," but really, they just misplaced the extension cords.

Retailers, of course, love the early decorators. By mid-October, stores are piping in "Jingle Bells" and swapping out pumpkins for poinsettias. Starbucks starts serving their Pumpkin Spice Lattes when it's still 90 degrees and break out the Peppermint Mochas before the World Series is over. I am painfully aware of this because, like I said, I have daughters.

Walking into a department store in early November can feel like stepping through a time warp—turkeys to tinsel in a single aisle. It's no wonder that by the time December 25 actually arrives, some folks are already ready to pack it all up and start fresh for New Year's.

Psychologists might say that decorating early is a mood booster. Studies have shown that Christmas decorations trigger feelings of nostalgia and happiness, and in stressful times, people crave those warm, familiar comforts. Maybe that's why lights start twinkling earlier every year. It's less about rushing the season and more about chasing a little extra joy.

On the other hand, waiting can make the anticipation sweeter. There's something deeply satisfying about flipping the switch on your lights for the first time on a crisp December evening, knowing you've earned that glow after weeks of restraint. It's like saving the best bite of dessert for last.

In truth, there's no wrong time to deck the halls. Whether your tree's been up since November 1 or you're still wrestling with the light strands on December 20, Christmas decorating is less about timing and more about spirit. The world can always use a little more sparkle, a little more joy, and maybe even a few too many blinking lights.

So, when's the right time to decorate for Christmas? The simple answer: whenever your heart says it's time. Just try not to plug in those lights before the trick-or-treaters have gone home - or at least wait until the Halloween spider webs come down. Even Santa would agree that ghosts and garland don't mix.

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THE HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

By T.R. Mahle

The community Christmas tree is more than a festive decoration. It is a powerful symbol that brings together residents of all ages to celebrate the holiday season with warmth, unity, and a festive spirit. The tree fosters a spirit of giving, encourages kindness, strengthens community bonds, and stands as a reminder of the joy that the holiday season can bring.

Rooted in centuries-old customs, the tree has evolved to represent not only the spirit of Christmas but also the values of togetherness and goodwill within a community. Each year, as towns and neighborhoods gather to light the community Christmas tree, they participate in a celebration that bridges cultural, social, and generational divides.

The community Christmas tree serves as a focal point for seasonal celebrations. It often marks the start of the holiday season, drawing crowds for lighting ceremonies. These events foster a sense of belonging and joy, inviting people of all backgrounds to come together in the spirit of peace and celebration. In this way, the tree becomes a unifying landmark, reflecting the collective spirit of a community.

Moreover, the tree often serves as a centerpiece for giving and charitable acts. Many communities use the occasion to collect toys, food, or donations for families in need. In this way, the community Christmas tree becomes a beacon of generosity and compassion, encouraging acts of kindness and reminding people of the deeper values that the holiday season embodies.

The Christmas tree tradition began in Germany during the 16th century, where devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Over time, this tradition spread globally, and public tree displays became common, especially in town centers

and communal spaces. The first community Christmas trees appeared in the early 20th century, with one of the most famous being the annual tree in Rockefeller Center, New York City, which has become a globally recognized symbol of the season.

Closer to home, research shows, and was chronicled by historian **G. Wayne Smith**, the first community Christmas tree at the Greene County Courthouse was erected in 1916. A towering 50-foot spruce donated by John Hoge. The event was sponsored by the Federation of Women's Club and the Waynesburg Board of Trade. The County Commissioners purchased the lights, and the local power company paid to run them for a week.

In the early years (1927-1950), the holiday tradition was continued with the help of Equitable gas and other gas and water companies. In the early 60's, the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge took over the project with continued help from local gas companies and the Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Today, locating/selecting, transporting, installing, and decorating the holiday tree is a combined process between the Waynesburg Moose and the Waynesburg and Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Departments... spearheaded by **Mike Harmon, John Meter** (Waynesburg Moose), and **JoAnne Marshall** (Waynesburg and Franklin Township VFD Auxiliary).

This year, the county Christmas tree "countdown to lighting" will begin at 6:00 p.m. during the annual **Christmas on High Street** celebration that takes place on November 29 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the courthouse in downtown Waynesburg.

The event usually attracts hundreds of community mem-

bers who gather to witness the symbolic beginning of the holiday season. Most trees selected for this event are massive evergreens that reach at least 25 feet in height. Carefully selected for its shape and size, the tree is usually transported to the courthouse in late November.

The community Christmas tree will remain lit throughout the holiday season, acting as a symbol of hope and celebration. Residents are encouraged to visit the tree, take photos, and enjoy the festive atmosphere. Many families have made it a tradition to visit the tree each year, making it an enduring part of the town's holiday cultural fabric.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

Someone to be There

By Emma Bates



Genea and Krista McCartney pay homage to late husband and father, 2nd Lieutenant John McCartney.

Stepping out of the car at Jefferson Volunteer Fire Department on a brisk, autumn afternoon brought an encouraging community environment to the scene. The air was buzzing as numerous volunteers prepared to welcome countless families around the area to the department's **100th year anniversary celebration** with a community open house. The company's numerous emergency vehicles were proudly displayed outside, and children were encouraged to climb inside and witness the scale of these massive rigs. Three local food trucks offered a variety of lunch options, and more vendors congregated inside the fire station's bays. Children's games and bounce houses were also featured. But it wasn't just families who came to visit for this special occasion—family is the concept upon which the Jefferson VFD is built.

Genea McCartney, paramedic of 31 years and current president of the department, provided a wonderful introduction to the numerous families who devoted their lives to the service of those in the community, especially many of her own relatives. "My first memory, I was five years old. I was at my Aunt Diane and Uncle Earl's house (then Jefferson's fire chief) and I remember them getting a call. I remember him putting on his orange jumpsuit uniform." Since 911 services had not yet been established at the Greene County Courthouse, the McManneses personally housed the fire whistle, and took turns answering emergency calls with Frank Behm, just down the road.

McCartney grew up around the firefighting family and came to raise her own with her late husband, Second Lieutenant John McCartney. She now serves as a paramedic at the department alongside her firefighter daughter, Krista.

The company's history dates back a century to its inception on April 16th, 1925. The Downey House Fire in Waynesburg was a devastating disaster to Greene County and prompted the creation of a volunteer response service in the Jefferson area.

In those days, Jefferson's fire department was housed in the present-day Senior Citizens' Center. Only in 1977 was the fire-hall built at its current location less than half a mile down the

road. In 1979, the new facility was finished, complete with a social hall to facilitate community fellowship through years of bingo, carnivals, and gatherings, as well as a second story to accommodate emergency workers' 24-hour needs. The first meeting was held on December 7, 1979, and the services provided—as well as the needs arisen—have only grown since.

Jefferson's Fire Chief Joe Petek remarks that the company is on track to hit 500 total emergency calls just within this year. He explains that ambulance calls account for the highest number of call-outs, but fire services are also critical. However, with this growing need for trained emergency professionals comes the equally difficult challenge to secure individuals who are willing or able to support the company.

Chief Petek cites growing challenges on the National Registry Test as a stumbling block to certifying "good and experienced" individuals, as well as off-the-charts equipment and training costs. "To outfit just one firefighter, it takes \$10,000. It's \$45,000 for a cot system in an ambulance. We just spent \$80,000 at the company."

Training requirements are also becoming stricter, with difficult biannual certifications needed for paramedics and EMTs, as well as expensive costs associated with achieving higher levels within the firefighting world.

These challenges often prevent potential volunteers from lending their time and talents to their local departments. "Our rosters used to be full, with waiting lists to get on with the department," says McCartney. "Now, we're in the low forties with only two junior members."

"People assume we're good," continues the chief. "But maintaining state-of-the-art rigs and equipment takes top-notch supporters and volunteers."

Thanks to a recent grant, however, the department is excited to provide a new piece of crucial safety equipment designed to decrease cases of "Fireman's Cancer" in volunteers who serve in smoky, toxic environments. Large, yellow hoses serve as air vacuums, filtering disease particulates from within the firetrucks and purifying the air firefighters are breathing.

The department is also excited to restart its Auxiliary at the beginning of 2026 as a means for community participation from those who aren't necessarily able to fight fires themselves, but can contribute to the work being done through facility maintenance and staffing fundraisers.

Petek and McCartney agree that operating a volunteer fire department is always a learning process. "I read everyday," Petek says. McCartney explains that the Western Pennsylvania Fireman's Association also provides an enlightening

training opportunity at the annual Western Convention for emergency responders. She shares that this week-long event of education and comradery inspired the idea for the community celebration held. "We wanted a day for people to come in and talk. We didn't really want to be doing anything."

And, as it turns out, this event provided equal parts education and comradery. Many tables inside the department functioned as mini workshops in emergency training, such as Linda Coen's medical information station. Coen serves as the company's EMS instructor and is herself a Jefferson paramedic and firefighter. She shares that the company offers public courses in CPR, AED use, and Stop the Bleed practices. "We need younger folks involved," she says. "It's a lot of fun, and it's rewarding."

Krissa is one such young person. A junior member of the Jefferson VFD, she trains at the Greene County CTC's EMT program and serves as a medical responder along with the other adults in the company.

Jay Adamson, Jefferson's assistant chief and longest-standing member of the company with 48 years of service, sums up the family-like passion that drives each member to serve in such a capacity. "I started in 1978 because my Dad did it, and I figure someone's got to do it!"

In all seriousness, when asked about the most rewarding part of his role, Adamson replies, "Seeing people smile when you help them, seeing their gratitude. Doing CPR on someone and then three months later shaking their hand. We're a big family."

It is more than evident that each member of the Jefferson Volunteer Fire Department is not only committed to their role but fully invested in the sacrifices required of them. Petek says "If my house were on fire, I'd want someone there." Fortunately for the families of this community, there is indeed a dedicated, highly qualified family ready to serve and sacrifice for another hundred years.





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WCHS LIONS CLUB STUDENTS OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER

Craig Rohanna is the son of Jeremy and Nikki Rohanna of Waynesburg. He has earned a 4.0 GPA throughout high school. Craig is a member of the Marching Band, the Envirothon Team and the Theater Tech Crew.

He has played in the PMEA district and regional bands. At WCHS Craig has performed in the student pep band at volleyball and basketball games. He also earned a position in the WVU Honor Band. In the summers he has worked as an instructor at elementary music camps.

Craig has also worked at the Greene County Waterpark concession stand and at a local restaurant as a dishwasher.

His plans to attend college and dual major in music education and performance with the goal of becoming a music teacher or joining a military band.



Peyton Cowell is the daughter of Wade and Michelle Cowell of Waynesburg. She has earned straight A's through high school. Peyton is a member of National Honors Society, Leo Club, Youth Alive, Alpha Beta, Book Club, FFA, Student Council, Debate Team, Spanish Club, Girls Basketball Team, Girls Soccer Team, and the Girls Track & Field team.

She has been recognized as a three-time letterwinner in soccer, basketball, and track. She earned All-County honors in basketball and twice in soccer.

Outside school, Peyton raises lambs as a member of 4H. She is also an active member of the First Baptist Church where she participates in the Youth Group, Praise Team and Mission Team.

Peyton also babysits and has worked as an intern for Coastal Well Services.

Her future plans are to attend the University of Pittsburgh to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She hopes to continue her education by earning a Doctorate in Nurse Anesthesiology, with the goal of making a meaningful difference in the lives of her patients.



OCTOBER

Camryn Hawfield is the daughter of Tim and Betsy Hawfield of Waynesburg. She is a 4.0 student. At WCHS she has been a member of Alpha Beta, Student Council, Prom Committee, Youth Alive, Art Club, Spanish Club, Raider Rose Floral Club, FFA, and the Leo Club.

She dances at the Waynesburg Arts Academy where she has won multiple awards and serves as an assistant dance teacher. Camryn has competed for the past three years in the Rain Day Pageant. She is Miss Rain Day 2025 and volunteers weekly to fundraise for the Miss Rain Day Scholarship Foundation.

Camryn is a member of the First Baptist Church where she works with the youth group, the praise team and the mission team. In her free time, Camryn enjoys art and fashion.

She plans to attend Kent State University to major in Fashion Design and Merchandising and graduate with a bachelor's degree.



Duncan Barto is the son of Mark and Christi Barto of Waynesburg. He is a straight "A" student at WCHS and has been a member of the Marching Band, Concert Band, Debate Team, Engineering Club, Enviro-Thon, Book Club, Student Council, Soccer, Track, Encore, ASL Club, Leo Club, Safety Club, Academic League, Science Olympiad Team, National Honor Society.

Duncan has served as a soccer team captain for the past two years. He also qualified for WPIALS for the past two seasons of Track and Field. He has lettered in every season of varsity sports. Duncan has also represented his class as a Cinderella Ball and Prom Court Attendant.

He is the recipient of the Bausch and Lomb Science Award, Something from Nothing Award, the Range Resources STEM Award, first place in his FBLA competition and was twice a finalist in the Powering Pittsburgh competition. Mr. Barto has also earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

In his free time Duncan enjoys lifting weights and walking his dog. Duncan loves science and plans to attend a college/university to pursue a degree in aerospace engineering.



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FREE THANKSGIVING MEALS PROVIDED BY LOCAL CHURCHES

By Aubrey Lesnett

As Thanksgiving approaches, a coalition of local churches is coming together to ensure that no one in the community goes without a warm meal or a sense of belonging this holiday season. Led by **Pastor Richard Berkey** and his congregation, this year's community Thanksgiving dinner—hosted at *The Way*—is shaping up to be a heartfelt expression of unity, generosity, and faith in action. Dinner will be from 11am to 2pm on Thanksgiving Day.

The inspiration for the dinner came naturally, Pastor Berkey explained. "It's the right thing to do when people don't have anything. The church was already talking about helping the homeless, especially with the government shutting down." His congregation quickly partnered with other local churches, combining their resources and volunteers to make the event possible.

The idea was proposed a couple of months ago when Pastor Berkey met with community members to discuss how *The Way* could serve those in need. From that meeting, the plan grew into a collaborative mission with multiple churches donating food, while Berkey's congregation prepares the meals in the kitchen at *The Way*.

The menu reflects the warmth of a traditional Thanksgiving feast—complete with turkey, homemade stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rolls, butter, desserts, and drinks. Several churches are donating homemade desserts, and the organizers hope to serve around 200 people or more. But the generosity doesn't end with dinner. Guests will also receive groceries to take home, along with blankets and socks to help them through the colder months.

For those who wish to get involved, the organizers welcome donations and volunteers. Community members can reach out to **Dawn Mankey at *The Way*** (724-833-1355) to sign up or learn more. Volunteers are needed on Wednesday evening before the dinner for setup, as well as on Thanksgiving Day to help clean up afterward. In addition, a food drive is underway to collect groceries, turkeys, instant mashed potatoes, and desserts—with a goal of gathering 15 to 20 turkeys before the event.

The purpose behind this effort goes beyond simply providing a meal. "We serve a great God who loves people, and we're the servants He's chosen to use," Pastor Berkey said. "We're all part of one family—the family of God—and we hope everyone walks away with a sense of unity and the love of Jesus Christ."

Organizers also hope that both guests and volunteers experience a deep sense of community and shared purpose. "We want the people attending to know that they're not alone and that they have support in this community," one volunteer explained. With recent cuts to the SNAP program, the dinner also serves as a reminder that local faith communities can step in when needed. For those unable to attend in

person, the group is even providing delivery to individuals who are in need. They need only register with the organizers to receive the service.

This Thanksgiving, the message is simple and powerful: **Everyone needs to be seen, valued, and fed – both physically and spiritually.**



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THE JOY OF MAKING HARD TACK CANDY

By T.R. Mahle

We recently added yet another “tradition” to our holiday season. Last year we hosted an event at our house that we hope will continue for many years to come...making hard tack or “rock” candy! The process fills the kitchen with fragrant bursts of peppermint, cinnamon, and fruit flavored essence and makes for a very pleasant and cozy gathering of friends and family.

Making hard tack candy is a delightful blend of science, artistry, and nostalgia. Unlike many modern sweets that come ready-made, this old-fashioned treat invites you to take part in the magic of transformation...turning simple ingredients like sugar, corn syrup, and water into sparkling, jewel-like candies that crackle with sweetness.

The process begins with dissolving sugar and corn syr-

up over heat until the mixture reaches the “hard tack” stage, around 300°F. Watching the clear syrup bubble and thicken is mesmerizing...each stage marks a step closer to that perfect, glassy texture. Once removed from heat, flavoring and coloring are added, followed by pouring the molten candy into greased molds. It feels almost ceremonial as the glossy liquid cools and hardens before being dusted with powdered sugar to prevent sticking.

The joy of making hard tack candy lies not only in its vibrant appearance but in its handmade charm. Every batch is unique, colors and scents swirl all around the room, pieces pop out of the holiday molds, and “testing” all the different flavors add to its rustic beauty. For me and my family, it’s now a cherished holiday tradition and a reminder of a bygone era.

Before there were holiday molds, pouring the mixture onto a marble slab was the norm...after a cooling period the hard tack was broken into many small pieces, with no two pieces being the same. Personally, I like the various molds that are now available.

Sharing homemade hard tack candy brings special satisfaction. Its bright, translucent shards catch the light like stained glass, offering both beauty and flavor. In every crunchy bite is the joy of creation, the warmth of tradition, and the sweetness of something made by hand. Dividing up the many flavors of candy to each participant is the final piece of the party. Hard tack makes an excellent seasonal gift that everyone enjoys sharing around the holiday season.

Here is the recipe that we used:

2 cups sugar

1 cup of water

½ cup of karo

- Stir until dissolved over medium heat
- Boil until it reaches 300 degrees (very important, don't over/under heat & watch closely)
- Turn the heat off once you reach 300 degrees
- Add 1 bottle of oil (flavoring) and food coloring to the mix
- Gently pour into funnels over the holiday molds
- Let cool, remove from the molds and dust with powdered sugar (optional)





Scene and Heard

By Dolly Throckmorton



TIME TO PIVOT

There comes a point when an individual or a business must pivot. In dance, a half right pivot turn involves stepping forward on the right foot and turning to the left or away from the right foot to the back. Seems super simple, but it creates difficulty in the transfer of weight.

The key is to transfer weight from one foot to the other smoothly. The proper execution lies in the transition, which ironically is the most difficult part of dance to master. Many times, starting strong on a new foot, in a new direction, with a new plan, is the only option.

Various times in my life I needed to pivot, either personally or professionally. Although not always easy or even obvious, it becomes necessary to pivot when all possibilities have been exhausted. This is what I have pondered for the last couple of years with my own business.

It was time for me to make some changes. It does not have anything to do with not loving what I do but realizing that I have other work to do. I now have some limitations. It was holding back progress in my students and allowing complacency to brew in many areas. It is hard to admit, but it was time for me to pivot.

As I look around downtown, I see resolute merchants, shopkeepers, and others working diligently to keep things alive. It is a daunting task as small, rural downtowns are suffering. As my husband and I take our RV out for weekends, I see small towns who have pivoted, taken chances, and completely reinvented themselves.

In September, our editor authored an article about small town tourism. He has been contemplating, like the rest of us, why can't we be a Thomas or Davis, West Virginia? Certainly, our location is prime. We have the most beautiful countryside and a community that really cares. I have seen generosity for decades when someone is in need. I am not sure what the answer is, but I am sure it does not lie in keeping the status quo.

Since Covid, we have seen an uptick in remote workers. Whether it is good or bad is a moot point. Companies, governments, and organizations have encountered opposition in demanding workers work in-person. What the pandemic revealed in a not-so-subtle way is that workers are now demanding a work-life balance. Period.

What does it matter how or when it is completed? What has opened in our lives is the ability to work from anywhere at any time. Last

year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics did a study showing the increase in remote workers by industry. Many industries jumped to over 40%. In almost all industries, remote workers doubled.

This has created an opportunity for small rural towns close to cities. People can spend their time (and their money), enjoying the outdoors, hiking, shopping, eating, and being entertained on "long weekends". They can find unique stay options in these rural areas like yurts, glamping tents, barns, renovated school buses, RVs, and one-room schoolhouses.

As soon as Covid hit, I thought this was it! People are going to want to get out of their apartments in the cities and get fresh air. They will want to find rejuvenation in nature and dabble in the rural scene. It seemed to me that Waynesburg had a huge opportunity. My dad used to say, "when opportunity knocks, you better open the door." I heard the knocking, but I ignored it because it wasn't loud enough.

Over the last year, it has become very annoying and disruptive in my head. **The opportunity to pivot has arrived.** I only know one way to attack it, and that is by starting small. I decided to create a small monthly event in our downtown. I talked to merchants and organizations and got their ideas (ALL have been receptive and offered excellent suggestions). We will set up food trucks and give attendees some added benefit each month.

Could we add a free movie, music, or other entertainment? Let's try this on Friday night since that used to be a huge night for downtowns. And let's pick the first Friday of each month so it's easy for people to remember.

All these wonderful events we have in Greene County throughout the year could help drive promotion. And we must promote it regionally, not just locally, through social platforms and cross promotions with other events as much as possible. Like everything, it will take time. Working together is key. Lines of communication between ALL county organizations and businesses must be open and show the region that we are working to revitalize our downtown.

Having a university one block from our main street should give us an even better advantage. It is not time to do another study, to start discussions, or to see what happens. We are at critical levels, and action must happen immediately. Let's really figure out what our

strengths are and focus on those first. Find that low-hanging fruit: those properties, those projects, those changes we can make quickly. I am over the naysayers. NO success ever came about from whining, complaining, making excuses, and being negative.

I do not know all the answers, but I know I need to try something. Fortunately, I have encountered overwhelming support. I knew I would. There was no doubt in my mind because there are outstanding businesses, individuals and organizations feeling the same way as me.

No doubt, many pivots will happen as some ideas will work, and others will fail. Either way, success is never achieved by waiting. When it comes around to the very **First Friday on December 5**, and you are wondering how you can help your community, stop in downtown Waynesburg for a coffee, gift buying, and a little socializing. Stroll down one side of the street, then pivot and walk up the other side.

Say hello to someone you have not seen in a while and take a moment to visualize what you want your downtown to embody. Really get a mental picture of what it should look like as a vital, thriving community. Do NOT lose that picture in your mind even when people tell you nothing can be done.

Then, let's get to work because we have so much to do, and time is not on our side. Ideas need to flow, bridges need mended, changes to our way of doing things must happen, and tough conversations must occur. The door has been ajar. We have failed to open it and step through. Let's bust that door open and see what lies on the other side.

Side Note: Small Business Saturday and the Downtown Holiday Open House are Saturday, November 29, from 3-8 PM. The Christmas parade is Saturday, December 6, following First Friday. All of these are opportunities to help your community.

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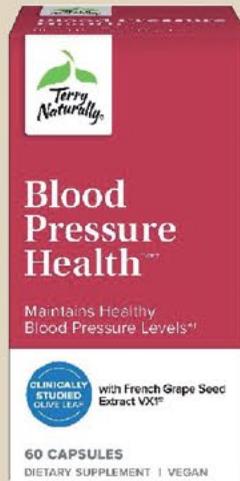


 West Virginia University

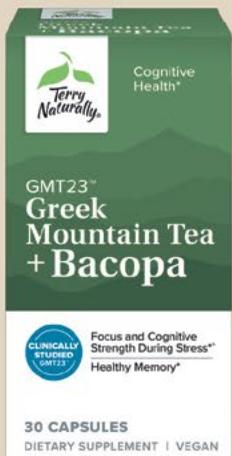
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Count the number of turkeys you find in this issue and enter the number below for a chance to win

\$50.00 Gift Card for Waynesburg Giant Eagle.



Count only the cartoon turkeys that look like this one.

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Name: _____

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Phone: _____

Town of Residence: _____

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Say hello to...

-THE- GreeneScene
PODCAST



We're taking the stories you love off the page and bringing them straight to your ears. From local legends to hidden gems, hometown heroes to everyday folks doing big things, we're talking about it all...on The GreeneScene Podcast.

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Local voices.
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- EPIISODE #1: Introducing The GreeneScene Podcast
- EPIISODE #2: Greene County's One Room School Houses
- EPIISODE #3: Pickles, Possums, & New Pages
- EPIISODE #4: Engines & Eats: September Events in Greene County
- EPIISODE #5: Faith, Family, & Fusion: Behind the Scenes with Baily Insurance
- EPIISODE #6: Interviewing Local Author Tim Denman
- EPIISODE #7: The Ghosts of Greene County: Paranormal Encounters with Ronnie Gaskins
- EPIISODE #8: Greene County School Consolidation Discussion
- EPIISODE #9: Greene County's Predictable, Preventable Economic Crisis
- EPIISODE #10: The Legacy of the Waynesburg Social Service League
- EPIISODE #11: Troy Hellen's Flavor-Filled Journey with What's Smokin' BBQ
- EPIISODE #12: Hunting & Hutterites: T.R. Mahle's Montana Adventures

FIRST FRIDAYS

STARTING DECEMBER 5
& EVERY FIRST FRIDAY IN 2026

DOWNTOWN WAYNESBURG

BUSINESSES OPEN LATE — UNTIL 7 PM

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD TRUCKS & LOCAL EATS

THEMED EVENTS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

THE DENNY HOUSE

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SPECIAL MENU & MUSIC

Cream Chicken over biscuits, plus our regular menu. Including our Famous Reuben Sandwich.
Open until 10 pm

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TOP 10 (REAL) CHRISTMAS MOVIES

Christmas movies embody the warmth and nostalgia that define the holiday spirit. They remind us of the importance of love and family while rekindling childlike wonder and belief in miracles.

We thought it would be fun to gauge our readers' favorite holiday classics compared to the critics' choices. We are going to make an editorial call on the parameters of films that qualify.

Please do not submit Hallmark or Lifetime movies for consideration. While we don't pretend the other movies on the list are Oscar worthy, at least they have stood the test of time and usually have actors whose names one knows.

(MOVIES' RATINGS ARE BASED ON ROTTEN TOMATOES' MEGA-RATING)

ANIMATED:

Mickey's Christmas Carol (1983)	★ 100%
How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1967)	★ 100%
The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)	★ 95%
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)	★ 95%
Santa Claus is Comin' to Town (1970)	★ 93%
Toy Story That Time Forgot (2014)	★ 92%
The Year Without a Santa Claus (1974)	★ 90%
A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)	★ 86%
The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)	★ 85%
Frosty the Snowman (1969)	★ 83%

LIVE ACTION MOVIES

Holiday Inn (1942)	★ 100%
A Christmas Carol (1938)	★ 100%
Meet Me in St. Louis (1944)	★ 99%
Miracle on 34th Street (1947)	★ 96%
It's a Wonderful Life (1946)	★ 94%
Little Women (1994)	★ 92%
A Christmas Story (1983)	★ 89%
Gremlins (1984)	★ 87%
Elf (2003)	★ 86%
White Christmas (1954)	★ 82%

To vote for your favorite holiday movie send in this ballot or shoot us an email at info@greenescenemagazine.com. We will announce the favorite movies of our readers next month. We will also draw a random entrant to win a \$50 cash prize.

SCAN TO ENTER!



Favorite Movie: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

ONLINE OR BY MAIL Town of Residence: _____

Mail to: GreeneScene Contest, 185 Wade St, Waynesburg, PA 15370. One Entry per person per category. Drawing on 12-08-25. Winner must respond within 24 hours of notification to receive prize.



THE DENNY HOUSE

Christmas Tea Party

Step into a world of warmth, joy, and festive cheer! Join us for an enchanting Christmas Tea Party where every sip and every bite is sprinkled with holiday magic.

Reservations required
\$30 per person

SUNDAY
DEC 21ST 1:00 PM

DELIGHTFUL TEAS: A curated selection of seasonal blends to warm your heart.
FESTIVE TREATS: Scrumptious pastries, cookies, & finger sandwiches, all with a holiday twist.
HOLIDAY TUNES: Christmas music to set the perfect cozy ambiance.
ELEGANT DECOR: Twinkling lights, tinsel, and old Christmas charm.
WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE: Bring a gift if you would like to participate.

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Adults & Children Welcome!
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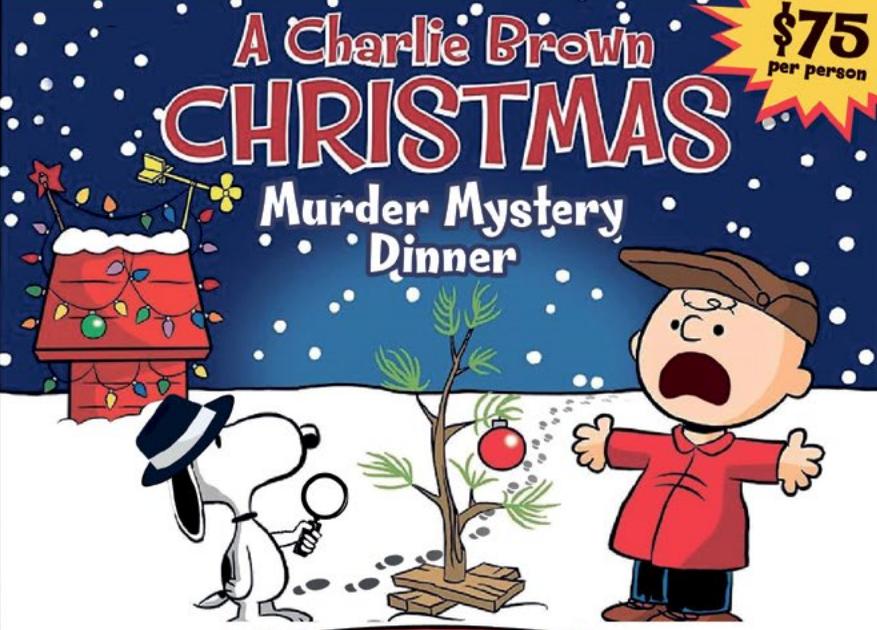
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A Charlie Brown

CHRISTMAS

Murder Mystery Dinner

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Saturday December 20th 6pm

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

THE DENNY HOUSE

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We wish you a Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS SONGS THAT HAVE REACHED THE TOP 10 OF THE BILLBOARD HOT 100 CHART SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN AUGUST 1958

This might be fun trivia around the table this holiday.

Number 1's: "The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)" by The Chipmunks
 "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" by Brenda Lee
 "All I Want for Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey
 (It's been #1 every year since 2019)

Number 3's: "Last Christmas" by Wham! and "Jingle Bell Rock" by Bobby Helms

Number 4: "A Holly Jolly Christmas" by Burl Ives

Number 5's: "Santa Tell Me" by Ariana Grande and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" by Andy Williams

Number 6: "Feliz Navidad" by José Feliciano

Number 7's: "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" by Dean Martin and "This One's for the Children" by New Kids on the Block
 "Auld Lang Syne" by Kenny G (But that's really a New Years Song)

Number 8: "Sleigh Ride" by The Ronettes

Number 9's: "The Christmas Song (Merry Christmas to You)" by Nat King Cole and "Underneath the Tree" by Kelly Clarkson

Number 10: "Run Rudolph Run" by Chuck Berry



Let it Snow Let it Snow Let it Snow

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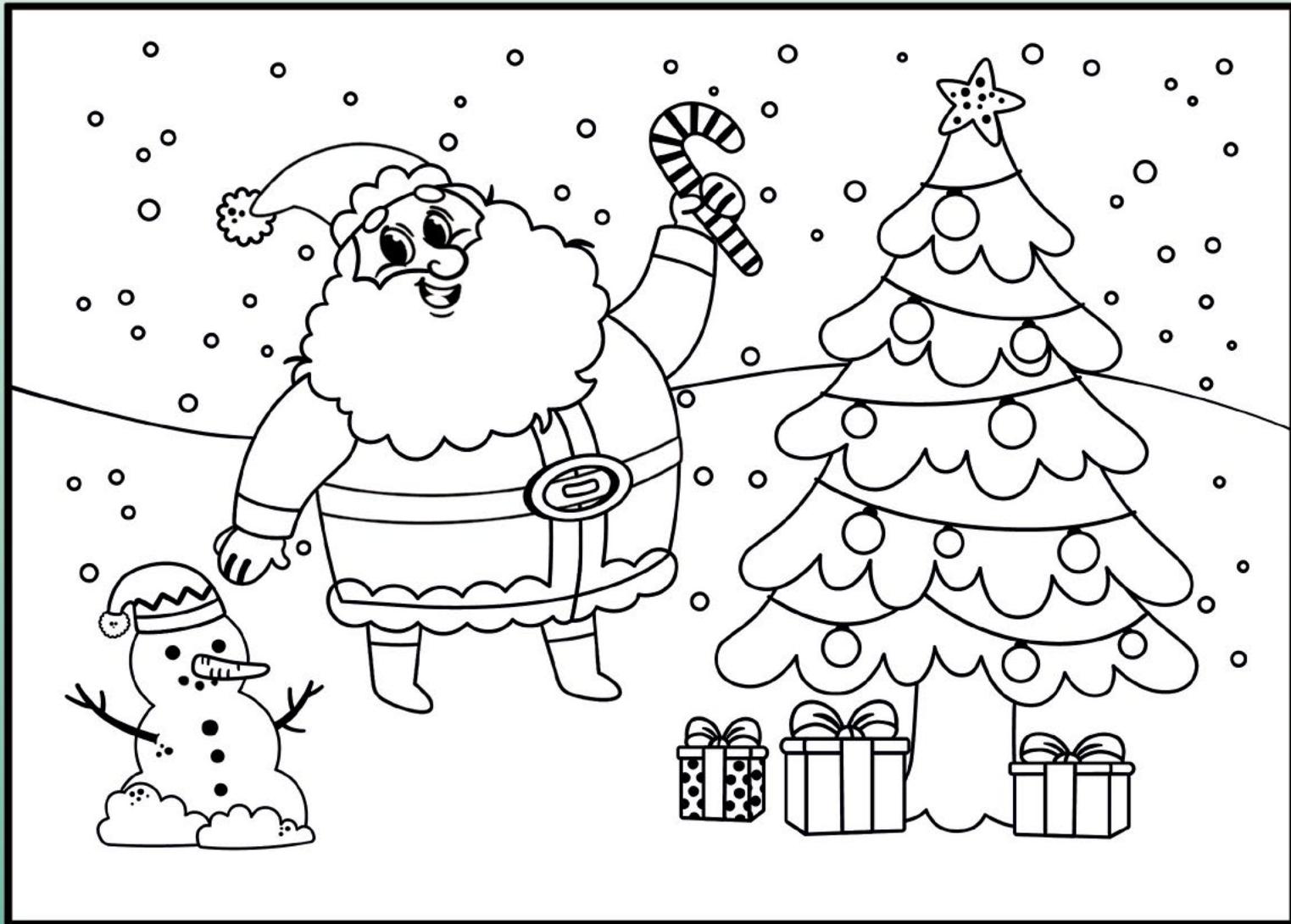
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Be sure to complete the bottom section and drop off or mail to GreeneScene, 185 Wade Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370, OR drop off or mail to any First Federal of Greene County location! **Deadline for entries is Friday, Dec. 5th, 2025.**



Name: _____ Age: _____ Hometown: _____

9 WINNERS from 3 AGE GROUPS

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Ages 6 & 7

Ages 8 & 9

Phone: _____

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2nd - \$40

2nd - \$40

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3rd - \$30

3rd - \$30

Winning pictures will be displayed in the lobby of First Federal of Greene County's main office at 25 E. High St., Waynesburg. All winners will be contacted and invited to visit First Federal on Friday, Dec. 19th for photos and the presentation of prizes.

WISHING YOUR FAMILY A SAFE AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!

BOWLBY BITS

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

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE – Wednesday December 3rd from 3:30 – 7:00 PM. Join us for live music and refreshments. Bring the little ones for a visit with Santa and special Christmas themed programming. There will also be a reception celebrating our Director Kathy's upcoming retirement. Friends of the Bowlby Library Cookie Orders will be available for pickup at this time. Children can bring a stuffed animal friend to our Storytime to participate in Fetch's annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover.

POLAR EXPRESS ACTIVITY NIGHT – Friday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. the Bowlby Library will be hosting a night full of fun holiday activities. We'll end the night with a showing of The Polar Express movie starting at 7:00 PM. Hot Chocolate and cookies will be provided to all who attend. Be sure to wear your pajamas...even the grown-ups! Call 724-627-9776 or come into the library to sign up today.

BOOK CLUB – Wednesday, December 10th from 5:00 – 6:30 PM. This month's book discussion is on Richard Paul Evans' "The Christmas Box", There are several physical copies available at the front desk. New members are always welcome.

COSMIC BINGO – Join us at the library on Friday, December 26th at 7:00 p.m. for a fun night of Glow in the Dark "COSMIC" Bingo. Call 724-627-9776 to let us know you're coming.

MOVIE NIGHT – Enjoy movie night here at the library Friday, December 5th, 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 p.m. Call the library to RSVP your seat(s)

PUZZLE CHALLENGE – Saturday, December 13th from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. 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, December 20th 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM | Participants can build anything they can imagine out of a bag of random LEGOs within the allotted time and can keep their creations as well as the bag of LEGOs they used. Please call 724-627-9776 to register but walk-ins are welcome.

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

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

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

LOCAL. LIBRARY. LOVE.

Eva K. Bowlby Public Library will be holding two holiday open houses this coming December. The first is the annual Cookie Open House from 3:30 to 7:00 on Wednesday, December 3. Stop in to admire the Christmas decorations, listen to some Christmas music, enjoy some Christmas cheer, and of course, pick up your cookies if you ordered them. Heather Gapen of Willow Tree Farms Bakery is baking the Christmas Cookies this year for the ever-popular Friends of the Library Cookie Sale.

A farewell open house will be held on Thursday, December 11 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. to celebrate Executive Director Kathy McClure's upcoming retirement. This is open to the public, and everyone is invited to come and share stories and best wishes to Kathy on her retirement.

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

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CHRISTMAS Cookie RECIPES

We're asking you, the reader, to send us your favorite Christmas Cookie recipe for a special section in next month's GreeneScene Magazine. One participant will be chosen at random to win a **\$25.00 Gift Certificate to Bettie Mae's Bakery in Masontown**

SCAN TO ENTER!



Name: _____

Email: _____

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Town of Residence: _____

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November Contest Winners

Winners Not Pictured

Where is this, Contest Winner!
Vickie Plum

Military Movie Contest Winner!
Norma Riley

Murder Mystery Trivia Contest Winner!
Mary Corbett

Person Place or Thing Contest Winner!
Rita King

Results of November Readers' Poll

Top 10 Military Movies of All Time:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| #1. Full Metal Jacket | #6. A Few Good Men |
| #2. Saving Private Ryan | #7. American Sniper |
| #3. Gone with the Wind | #8. Fury |
| #4. Glory | #9. Platoon |
| #5. The Deer Hunter | #10. The Hurt Locker |



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