



GREENESPEAK

Greene County's All Local, Independent Newspaper



'Mpacting' their community with faith, hope & love

The Mpact Girls Club of First Assembly of God Church was awarded a \$500 grant from the Cindy's Wind Fund for Women and Girls through the Community Foundation of Greene County for a project designed to bring cheer to elderly neighbors. Similar to Girl Scouts, Mpact girls earn badges in education, community, personal growth and Bible study. Wearing T-shirts representing their classes, the future community leaders paused for a photo on Awards Night. Coordinator is Lena Hughes and teachers are: Katrina Whipkey, Sandy Cole, Chelsey Holloway, and Juli Benco. Call all the church at 724-627- 5356. The Community Foundation is now accepting applications through Oct. 1 at: cfgc.org. See more grant awards, Page 15.

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Greene Themes: The First Christian Church

By Darlene Haring
 charlemagne@windstream.net

The cornerstone for the First Christian Church in Waynesburg was laid Jan. 1, 1901. The building was dedicated on December 15, 1901, with A.A. Doak as minister. The sermon for the ceremony was given by Bethany College President, the Rev. Dr. Cramblet, who was assisted by Elder Campbell Jobes. The property was bought from Mrs. P.A. Ritchie for \$1,300. Trustees for the church were W.F. Blair, Dr. T.L. Blair, T.H. Wilkinson, John Fry, Henry Church, A.A. Purman, J.S. Jamison, Abner Hoge, and Norval Hoge. Cost of the building exterior was \$15,000; Waynesburg bluestone was hauled in from a Smith Creek quarry. The contractor was W.F. Blair.

In 1925, with F.S. Dowdy as minister, the sanctuary was remodeled at a cost of \$40,000. Contractor M.P. Headley raised the building three feet and remodeled the basement. After installing a new heating system and a new pipe organ, the church was rededicated June 27, 1926. The following year a four-week revival, led by the

Rev. Dowdy, brought in 100 new members. (G. Wayne Smith)

In 1946 cathedral chimes were added to the church organ and were dedicated on Dec. 15 of that year, the 45th anniversary of the building. The chimes could be heard throughout Waynesburg due to the amplification system.

Some First Christian Church members celebrated July 4th, 1907 by participating in a friendly game of baseball against the Presbyterian Church members. Even up to this day First Christian Church members have kept that friendly competitive spirit alive in the dartball league.

Some descendants of the original members are active in the church today. Charlene Blair Monas is a great-granddaughter of W. F. Blair. John Hoge, a deacon, is a relative of the original Hoge charter members. John's wife, Judy Hoge, is a relative of the White family whose names are in the stained glass window in the sanctuary.

These days, Minister Scott Chambers is a graduate of Hope International University and Lincoln Christian University. He is happy to be serving the community.

Take me back: Clowning around at East Ward, circa 1915



This original, candid image of young scholars making funny faces in front of East Ward School on Porter Street in Waynesburg, is archived at the Waynesburg Borough office. Researched and digitized for www.GreeneConnections.com Greene County, Pennsylvania, Archives Project, the photograph is also included in the book *Images of America: Waynesburg* by Glenn Toothman and Candice Buchanan.

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Brighter Greene Coalition President: 'We haven't quit.'

Nonprofit anti-drug organization moves on after West Greene rejects Graysville School addiction treatment center proposal

By Cindy Bailey, *GreeneSpeak* Ed/Publisher
 WAYNESBURG—Regarding the unsuccessful attempt to establish a faith-based, residential addiction treatment center at the former Graysville School, the Rev. Richard Berkey, president of the Coalition for a Brighter Greene, said, "Graysville was very educational. We learned a lot of things."

West Greene School Board rejected the proposal for the center that was to be based on the Teen Challenge model, at their July 27th attended by 100 people. One resident produced a petition with 428 residents' signatures against it. He said residents had not been properly informed and expressed tax concerns, as well as fears of addicts roaming the neighborhood. His comments received loud applause and a few other people echoed some of his remarks.

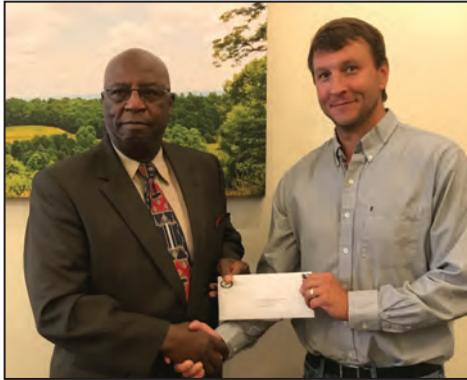
The Coalition earlier launched a GoFundMe page for the project, but now plans to use the funds for "Detox scholarships," said Treasurer Jonathan Johnson.

"The GoFundMe money will be used to help individuals suffering from addiction who are ready to get clean," he said. "We want to make sure people can get help as quickly as possible."

The Coalition is working with Recovery Wellness LLC in Uniontown, Johnson said, to offer this service close to home for Greene County residents, since no such program is available here yet. As soon as the paperwork is complete, the Coalition will publicize how people who are in need can access this resource. Detox programs cost about \$250 per day for a 3 to 5-day stay.

Also, for the 2nd year, the Coalition succeeded in raising funds, including a grant from the Community Foundation of Greene County, to provide the Botvin Life Skills drug and alcohol prevention program in every district, grades 3 through 9, according to Philomena Blaney, who coordinates the Coalition's School Prevention Project.

Blaney says she is encouraged by the



Community Foundation Chairman Dr. Morris Harper presents a \$2,000 check from the Good for Greene Fund to Coalition Treasurer Jonathan Johnson for the Botvin curriculum.

response of students, parents, and educators, adding, "We are also taking first steps toward informing and enrolling parents by attending Parent-Teacher nights in four districts this year."

The Coalition has also taken a leading role in working to establish the Court Appointed Special Advocate program in Greene County. According to the national CASA website, "Nearly 700,000 children experience abuse or neglect each year. They're attending court hearings, adjusting to new foster homes and transitioning to new schools. That's a heavy burden for a child to carry. With a CASA volunteer dedicated to their case, America's most vulnerable children will have someone speaking up for their best interests."

In July, the national organization approved Greene County for the CASA program, but much more work must be done before the search for and training of volunteers can begin.

The night West Greene scrapped the Graysville project, the Rev. Berkey told *GreeneSpeak* that the search for a venue would continue.

Since then he has been researching and exploring options, including the Teen Challenge model and others, noting, "I believe God is the answer to the drug problem. There will be something in Greene County. We're going forward. We haven't quit!"



With heartfelt thanks...

Dear Greene County Community and Coalition Partners,

We want to thank all of you who reached out to support the efforts of the Coalition for a Brighter Greene to bring a Christian-based recovery campus to our county. Our goal is to fill the gap in safe, effective and available treatment for local citizens suffering from drug addiction. The Coalition works to build a healthy, safe and thriving community through substance abuse prevention and supporting families and individuals struggling with addiction.

The Coalition explored the potential of the vacant Graysville Elementary School as a Teen Challenge Treatment/Job Training Campus. We thank both the residents and the West Greene School Board for their robust and grace-filled consideration of this effort. Though it has been determined that this site is not a match as we had hoped, we pledge to continue to seek partnerships, volunteers and community advocates to bring much needed treatment to our citizens in Greene County.

We want to thank each and every one of you who came to the West Greene School Board meeting, shared your personal stories and expressed the true urgency of bringing rehabilitation and treatment services to our County. The Coalition for a Brighter Greene will continue to seek avenues to secure these services so that local citizens are not last in line.

As those who call Greene County home and have a stake in its future, we must pull together to create a better, brighter, hope-filled future. We can do this by strengthening the community and helping those in need.

Please let your voices be heard. Join us. Stand up, stand alongside, support, volunteer or advocate. We are working projects to enrich and uplift the community, as well as to address critical needs of those fighting addiction. Together we can save lives, unify families and ensure that our children thrive.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for a Brighter Greene

Stay informed, educated, & volunteer by following us:

Facebook: Coalition for a Brighter Greene@greenehope2017

Our website: www.coalitionforabrightergreene.org

Email: coalitionbrightergreene@gmail.com

Twitter: Coalition Greene @greenehope2017

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THE WET HEN: Still scratching under rocks where no one has scratched before

Now in our 14th year, the paper you hold in your hands is the 150th edition of *GreeneSpeak*, the county's only independent source for news and political commentary. It's been a ride for sure, launching in Feb. 2004, after the now-WET HEN was shut out of her position as editor of another paper, due to the influence of local public officials who did not appreciate her propensity to publish and analyze basic information.

After six months of publishing, *GreeneSpeak* was qualified to apply for membership in the PA Newspaper Association (now NewsMedia), which we did. A week or so later, a chuckling man, who identified himself as president of the PNA, called and asked, "What kind of a paper are you publishing down there in Greene?"

Packets from Waynesburg, addressed to every member of the PNA's board of directors had arrived at the Harrisburg headquarters. The packets contained "evidence" of why *GreeneSpeak* should be barred from inclusion. We responded with our own box containing multiple editions of every paper we had printed. Of course *GreeneSpeak* was accepted in the PNA, where we went on to win numerous Keystones and other awards before we stopped entering the contest because other small newspapers were getting annoyed.

Our first tag line was "The First Amendment still lives in Greene County, PA." Since then, despite many successful efforts to yank public documents from the claws of elected officials, middle managers, solicitors, and secretaries who highly resented it, The WET HEN regrets to inform you that, in Greene County, the battle for Open Records, Open Meetings, and inclusion in the democratic process, is like housework, NEVER DONE.

For several months, *GreeneSpeak* has collected information to provide readers a snapshot of "the opioid crisis" here. Just because someone has given it a name does not necessarily mean you can believe everything you read or hear about it. Numbers and demographics tell much of the story.

Asking for documents from the black hole known as the "Human Services Department" is

not easy, because of the many types of documents they produce and also because of bad press lately on a CYS worker who supposedly ignored reports of an abused child. Everybody's nervous, and nobody wants to explain any of the data, but we're working on that.

When it comes to open records and public meetings, The WET HEN has put up with nasty attitudes for 25 years as a journalist—from township secretaries to people in the Prothonotary's office to a state representative who ALWAYS excludes *GreeneSpeak* from all her press releases and events. Yet we're more committed than ever to the right to know, because local news outlets are dwindling. Independent papers operating on a shoestring like *GreeneSpeak* have the best odds of surviving. Together, along with ordinary citizens, we must keep turning over those rocks.

Following our public information request for basic drug death related statistics from this year to date, County Coroner Greg Rohanna agreed to did sit down with us to explain his job and why he feels unable to release those figures yet. (facing page).

Meanwhile *GreeneSpeak* was asked to find out why citizens and the Press were excluded from a drug "summit" held in August, as well as meetings of the Greene County Drug Task Force through Pitt's School of Pharmacy. (Did you even know we had a task force?)

In a conference call set up by the commissioners with Task force organizer Lynn Mirigian, she said the goal is to form a "drug coalition."

The only people invited to attend these seminal planning meetings are "people who have something to bring to the table," (like public officials and county staff who attend during their work day). Invitations are not extended to the Press or our own Coalition for a Brighter Greene, she said, at this time. Yet she gushed about collaborating with the community here.

We don't know about you, but the HEN smells a rat in the henhouse named "Exclusion."

Watch for an in-depth report soon. Here's to the next 150 chances to keep our local officials on their toes. Thanks for reading!

Heaven Bound Ministries
Upcoming Concerts

- Sept. 28...6:00 pm..... **Opening Ceremony Vietnam Traveling Wall**
Waynesburg Fairgrounds
- Oct. 22...3:30 pm..... **2nd Annual Southern Gospel Concert**
Capitol Theatre, Wheeling, WV
- Nov. 11...6:00 pm..... **Honoring the American Veteran**
Emmanuel United Presbyterian, Eighty-four, PA
- Dec. 3...5:00 pm..... **Christmas Concert**
First Christian Church, Carmichaels
- Dec. 10...6:00 pm..... **Christmas Concert**
Rolling Meadows Church of God
- Mar. 23-25, 2018..... **He's Alive 2017 Musical Passion Play**
Capitol Theatre, Wheeling, WV

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Clothing Giveaway ~ Sept. 17th ~ 3-5 pm
Carmichaels VFW ~ Sponsored by Pillar of Faith Church

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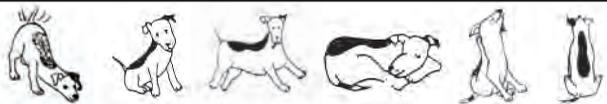
Cindy Bailey, Editor/Publisher 724-344-7980

cinswind1290@fairpoint.net Box 1003, Waynesburg, PA

Read complete back issues at: www.greenespeak.com

GreeneSpeak is a free, monthly newspaper available in 100+ locations in Greene County, circulating 3,000 copies. A proud member of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, and Greene County & Carmichaels Chambers of Commerce, our intent is to shed light on topics to improve the quality of life in Greene County. An independent voice, we are nonpartisan, launched in 2004, striving to present accurate, unbiased articles & investigative reports & informed opinions on politics, current events & social justice issues. *GreeneSpeak* has earned numerous awards from the PA Newspaper Assn, PA Press Club, & National Federation of Press Women. Subscription rate: \$15 per year (10 issues). Mail name, address, phone & payment to: *GreeneSpeak*, PO Box 1003, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

Can you spot SPOT?



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In JULY-AUG, Spot hid on Pages 4 & 11.

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Greene County Coroner: Buried alive under 'a multitude of paperwork'

Coroner Greg Rohanna says he's too understaffed to provide drug-related statics on demand; has privacy concerns about other information

**A Special Report by Cindy Bailey
GreeneSpeak Editor/Publisher**

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *GreeneSpeak* filed a *Right to Know* request with Coroner Greg Rohanna last month, for statistics on drug-related deaths this year. He provided a spreadsheet with limited information on 2016 deaths he investigated, and nothing in regard to 2017, but agreed to an interview, with his attorney present. *GreeneSpeak* also obtained the Coroner's budget and expenses from the county.]

WAYNESBURG—Coroners nationwide are finding themselves under scrutiny. Politicians, the Press, and everybody else wants the latest local statistics on drug-related deaths. Citing limited staff and resources, coroners in small, rural offices often release reports that are many months or over a year old. In the Age of Facebook and instant breaking news apps, this seems unacceptable to the public.

But Greene County Coroner Greg Rohanna says he is busy doing his job, which includes "a multitude of paperwork," from about 275 deaths annually in Greene that occur outside a medical facility. Other deaths are referred to him if there's any question about the cause and manner.

Each year, he orders 50-60 autopsies, which include toxicology or other lab tests, as well as removal services and transport, costing as much as \$3,000 each.

In 2016, 255 deaths, including 19 from "acute drug toxicity" were investigated by the coroner's office, with 53 autopsies and associated services totaling \$135,474. The autopsies are done in Westmoreland County at a private facility owned by Dr. Wecht.

"I always err on the side of caution," Rohanna said regarding autopsies, which are performed on all SCI-Greene inmates who die there and all drug-related deaths in the county. For each death, Rohanna keeps a file on the investigation and autopsy, as well as medical, mental health, dental records and more. Although PA law requires coroners to keep "all official records and papers" on file at the Prothonotary's office for public review, the only records available from Rohanna's two decades as coroner consist of one

folder of "Coroner's Inquest" reports from 2016, which list name, cause and manner of death. Rohanna says this is all the information that the state requires him to release to the public.

He says he's too short-staffed to have anyone sit and pick out the deaths caused by "acute drug toxicity" for the first half of 2017 and redact personal information.

People seem to want to blame the crisis in Greene on opioids and other illegal drugs, but Rohanna says more people die here from overdoses related to prescription drugs. "It is a common misconception to think of the current drug epidemic as relating only to illegal substances, such as, heroin, synthetic fentanyl, and cocaine," he said. "A person may overdose on prescription medications by taking more than a therapeutic level or through the interaction of combined prescription medications at a therapeutic level."

The coroner's 2017 expense report lists 28 autopsies completed though July, costing \$55,402, which he says is "on par" with last year.

Employee costs in 2016 for Rohanna (who is salaried) and his staff totaled \$122,305, a little less than half the total expenditures for the year of \$264,080.

Staff includes a part-time clerical worker; solicitor Greg Hook; Chief Deputy Coroner Mary Lewis (a salaried employee) and her son Deputy Coroner Bill Lewis (an independent contractor).

Usually on the scene to make the pronouncement, the Lewis' names appear in newspapers stories more often than Rohanna's, for which he's been criticized.

"This office handles death calls 24/7, 365 days a year; no one person could cover that time all by themselves. My office is concerned about providing a thorough investigation of each case, not how many times I can get my name in print."

Rohanna says he does paperwork without expensive software that can cherry-pick specific statistics. In addition to just \$7,500 in revenues from licenses, permits and services, "our office depends on the tax base," he says, leaving him reluctant to ask the commissioners for nonessentials.

The longtime director of Behm Funeral Home in Jefferson and a 1982 graduate of Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, he served as Deputy and Chief Deputy Coroner, prior to being appointed Coroner following the retirement of Frank J. Behm, his father-in-law. Rohanna (D). has run unopposed since then, until this year when retired Funeral Director Gene Rush of Rogersville ran in the Primary and won the Republican nomination.

Rohanna also served 13 years with the National Guard and Reserves.

As a funeral director, he provides funeral services for some of the deaths he investigates. Witnessing firsthand the agony of grieving families, he feels protective of private information in his files which his attorney says is guarded by HIPPA.

The Observer newspaper filed suit recently to view the coroner's "2016 annual report" claiming that the spreadsheet Rohanna provided with the names, cause, and manner of death was only a "partial report."

Rohanna has formally responded that the

GREG ROHANNA
AUG. 25, 2017



information they want is protected. "If I let the Observer see it, that means I have to let anyone see it," he says.

Rohanna and Hook believe the Observer's lawsuit to view the complete files containing the coroner's investigation, autopsy reports, photos, and medical records is "political" and "voyeuristic."

Meanwhile, Rohanna keeps plugging away methodically at a melancholy job that has no short cuts. "I've felt good over the twenty years of decisions I've made, but they're not always popular," he said. "I'd ask the voters for their continued support come November."

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Deeper Still Retreat, slated for October, will minister to the 'abortion-wounded'

Waynesburg mom and retreat volunteer Kelly Mackey says her first experience with the program was 'life-changing'

By Cindy Bailey, *GreeneSpeak* Ed/Publisher
WAYNESBURG—Deeper Still of Mountaineer Country is a Christian organization designed “to bring healing and lasting freedom to abortion wounded hearts.” (See: deeperstillmc.org).

By hosting free and confidential retreats for people in this struggle, Deeper Still offers compassion and hope, reminding people “that Christ came to bring good news of salvation to the afflicted, to bind up the broken hearted and to set the captive free.”

Locally, the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Greene County (featured in the July-August *GreeneSpeak* available at www.greenespeak.com) has partnered with Deeper Still to provide two retreats annually for Greene County residents. Retreats will be held in October 2017 and May 2018.

Kelly Mackey, now 42, of Waynesburg, probably wouldn't have described her younger self as “abortion-wounded” but she says she walked around for 17 years knowing something wasn't right.

Back in the early 90s, after what she calls a

string of “college decisions,” she learned that she was pregnant at 18 in her freshman year at Waynesburg College.

Scared and ashamed, but feeling uncomfortable with the idea of an abortion, Kelly nonetheless allowed herself to be consoled a friend said, “Everybody does it these days.”

Recalling the experience at that Pittsburgh clinic as “traumatic,” she says hardly a word was spoken to her and certainly no information was offered about birth control.

Not surprisingly, she became pregnant a second time only three months later, but she was firm about keeping this very special baby.

Sadly, the baby's father died in a car accident before the child was born, but Kelly soon met and married her now-husband Brad.

Her life was settling down at last, so she tried not to think about her first child, adding, “I just stuffed those thoughts down.”

In 1994, Kelly had a conversion experience and felt that God had forgiven her for what she had done.

In her 30s, she knew others could learn

from her experience, so she began volunteering at the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Waynesburg, where law requires counselors to discuss all options, including abortion.

Center director Marie “Cricket” Coffman says their goal is to steer women away from abortion, adding, “We are a pro-life organization,” she said.

But Kelly said she had trouble saying the word out loud when talking with young women and had not shared her own experience with anyone at the center.

In 2010, Kelly and Cricket attended a Deeper Still Retreat together and both felt God's healing hand upon them. Kelly describes it as “life-changing.”

In the non-judgemental atmosphere, Kelly began to open up to these people who understood and wept with her.

“I cried more there than I had in my whole life...I was made to feel worthy and was given the freedom and opportunity to grieve for this child. I grieved and released everything.”

These days, the baby she resolved to keep is now 22, joined by a brother, 18,



Kelly Mackey

and 12-year-old sister, whom Kelly homeschools.

An essential oils consultant and Deeper Still Retreat volunteer, Kelly says that although she moved on and has truly forgiven that frightened young college freshman, she says, “I still regret that decision and often think about what that child would look like now.”

For details on the times and location of upcoming Deeper Still Retreats, call: 724-344-3105 or see the ad below.

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Deeper Still of Mountaineer Country, Knoxville, TN, operates under the auspices of Crisis Pregnancy Center of Greene County, PA Inc.

At WHS Greene, the future of MRI is now

Public is invited to see MRI unit, other upgrades at their Fall Festival Oct. 19

WAYNESBURG—Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exams at WHS Greene, Waynesburg are faster and more comfortable for patients, thanks to a recent equipment upgrade.

Earlier this year, WHS Greene replaced its previous 13-year-old MRI unit with a new machine from Siemens that has a shorter, wider bore. The additional space inside the circular opening helps patients feel less claustrophobic during exams.



Greene County Memorial Hospital Foundation contributed \$450,000 toward the new MRI, which provides state of the art imaging capabilities.

Also, the MRI department received a face lift.

“Patient comfort was a big reason we purchased the new unit,” said John Ireland, Director of Radiology at Washington Health System. “The shorter bore allows us to image many parts of the body without the patient’s head having to be inside the bore, which is a wonderful advantage. The speed of the exam also plays an important part in keeping patients as comfortable as possible. Many tests now take 30 minutes or less.”

Patients are delighted with the new atmosphere and MRI equipment. For New Freeport retiree Cindamae Kiger, the compassion of the radiology team at WHS Greene was also a key factor that helped her through a recent series of MRI testing. Doctors were having trouble pinpointing the cause of her chronic back pain. With her severe claustrophobia, facing the tests was daunting, but fortunately she was in good hands.

“The technicians truly took care of me,” she said. “They reassured me during the exam. The care I received was excellent. If I ever need another MRI, I want the staff at WHS Greene to do it.”

Wilson Pyle, MD, Radiologist at WHS, said diagnosing cases like Cindamae’s is now easier for patients as well as staff, “We can perform certain complex techniques more efficiently so patients spend as little time as possible in the machine.”

More recently, upgrades to the WHS Greene Emergency Department have also been completed. “The three remaining curtained rooms are now private rooms,” said Stephanie Wagoner, WHS Manager of Marketing and Community Relations. “This change was made to create a private, quiet and comfortable atmosphere for patients and their families.”

Terry Wilttrout, President of WHS Greene and Vice-President of Operations with Washington Health System, is encouraged by the positive responses to the updates, noting, “Patients are much more relaxed and feel more cared for with the new MRI and new private rooms in the Emergency Department. These are just a few of the improvements we’ve made at WHS Greene.”

If you haven’t visited WHS Greene for awhile to see the many updates, the public is invited to attend the Hallow Greene Community Fall Festival from 4-7 p.m. Oct. 19 at the main facility, 350 Bonar Ave. in Waynesburg.

“Come on our tour and see, firsthand what’s new at WHS Greene,” Wilttrout said.

“We’ll have free health screenings, trick-or-treating, refreshment and prizes, like Steelers tickets. Bring the whole family.”

PRESENTED BY WHS GREENE



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WASHINGTON HEALTH SYSTEM GREENE

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Visit whs.org to learn how to preregister for the event and skip the registration lines.



CARMICHAELS KING COAL SHOW PARADE featured, above: “Coal made America Great” float, sponsored by Carmichaels Free Methodist Church and Steps Inside, Inc. Community Recovery; 2017 Coal Queen and her court; American Legion Women’s Auxiliary; young spectator wearing a T-shirt proclaiming, “I am a Coal Miner’s Son,” and 2017 Jacktown Fair Queen Courtney Ross and helper. (Photos by Michelle Deems).



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SUMMER MEMORIES FROM GREENE COUNTY, PA.

There's no shortage of fun fairs and festivals in our neck of the woods each summer. How swiftly it flies! How many did you attend? (Photos by Michelle Deems).

GREENE COUNTY FAIR



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DON KELLER



DONNIE MARTIN



Local Vietnam vets believe Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will bring healing

By Cindy Bailey, *GreeneSpeak* Editor/Publisher

WAYNESBURG—With four Purple Heart Medals between them, Vietnam combat veterans Don Keller, 69, of Waynesburg and Donnie Martin, 68, of Dunns Station know something about healing.

Yet they certainly know about the visible and invisible wounds that linger. Still, both men have high hopes that the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall coming to Waynesburg this fall will be a balm for all veterans who need healing following their military service.

The Wall arrives Sept. 27 in Waynesburg and will be on display 24/7 Sept. 28 through Oct. 1 at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Traveling Wall Committee Chairman Rick Black, also a Vietnam vet, said V.F.W. Post 4793, along with Greene County Veteran's Council, have worked much of this year to raise funds, man power, and awareness for this historic event.

Black said the exhibit is free and open to the public. The Traveling Wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., standing six feet tall at the center and almost 300 feet in length.

Martin, who served with the infantry, 25th Division, on a long range reconnaissance team from 1969-71, said he grew up on his family's farm built in the 1700's where he now lives and "always wanted to serve in the military." Enlisting at the height of the war, he says wryly, "I got my draft notice when I was in Vietnam."

Returning home with the rank of Major, he said he didn't experience any backlash from people who were against the

war, and felt that he was a better man having served. So it was no surprise when he went on to 16 years with the Army Reserves and National Guard, serving as commander of then-Charlie Company for three years.

He was awarded Purple Hearts for injuries caused when he was hit with rockets and mortar in Hobo Woods on the Cambodian border. Retired after 37 years at Jessop Steel Mill, he and his wife Cindy have 3 grown children. For many years, he has collected and restored antique tractors and is active with the National Pike Steam, Gas, & Horse Assoc.

Don Keller grew up in Waynesburg in a family with 13 kids, graduating from Waynesburg in 1968, enlisting that same year. On the aptitude test everybody had to take, he scored high in skills needed by Radio Telephone Operators. He wasn't particularly thrilled. "The average RTO lasted 27 days at the time," he said. RTOs carried their unit's bulky radios with long antennas on their back, making them an easy target for enemy snipers.

Shipped to the Mekong Delta as an RTO squad leader, Keller said, "I had to call in our position constantly so we didn't get bombed by friendly fire."

At night, reconnaissance teams were sent out look for snipers. Keller and six others set out one night and he was hit twice in the arm and armpit before they stepped into a booby trap. He's been told the shrapnel that killed his commander passed through his body, slamming into Keller's chest and face. In addition to massive chest injuries, both jaws were broken, one eye was destroyed, and half the skin had been blown off his face. Blind and wheelchair bound, he spent 18 months in Walter Reed Hospital, undergoing 23 operations, but he says now, "It was fun. I was alive. I was back home. My jaws were wired shut and I couldn't talk or walk, but I could do wheelies all over the halls." He was awarded two Purple Hearts.

In fact, he felt lucky to be one of four survivors from that team of seven. Eventually, he regained his sight and learned to walk again and had reconstructive surgery on his face.

Worse than all that pain and suffering, he says, was a group of civilians at Andrews Air Force Base shouting and throwing obscene things at them as he and the other injured soldiers were being moved on stretchers to an-

other plane. In spite of it all, Keller, like his buddy Donnie Martin, feels proud to have served his country and holds no bitterness. Keller is retired after 37 years with Cumberland Mine. He and his wife Karen have four grown children.

The two men talk a lot about the camaraderie of the "elite" who have served. "It's a brotherhood," Martin says.

Keller adds, "We're all one."

Both men are looking forward to seeing the Traveling Wall, although Keller is a little uneasy. He has not been able to look at the names on the Wall in Washington D.C. "Seven times I have started down into it," he says, "but I can't breathe," and each time he had to turn away.

This isn't surprising to Martin, a big burly man with a deep booming voice, who describes what it was like for him at the Washington D.C. Vietnam Wall. "You think you're tough, but we're all standing there balling like babies," he said. "You never forget. It still hurts."

Martin, Keller and Black all believe the smaller version of the Wall, with family and friends nearby, will make it easier for people like Keller who have had particularly traumatic injuries and experiences, to read the names and touch it.

Black said several counselors who specialize in veterans' issues will be available in mobile offices 24/7 while the exhibit is here.

"We've had exceptional support from public officials, citizens, and businesses, as well as veterans organizations, with many local vets signing up to volunteer for security detail throughout the week," Black said, adding that the event will draw people from Greene County and nearby areas, bonding them as Americans.

Opening Ceremony, Sept. 28th at 6 p.m. will include a helicopter fly-over by the National Guard, Black said.

Other activities will include: Veterans Resource Fair – Sept. 28, 3-5:30 p.m.; Veterans Resource Fair – Sept. 30th, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Recognition Ceremony – Sept. 30 at 1 p.m. and Closing Ceremony – Oct. 1 at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit www.travelingwall.us.

PHOTOS, FROM LEFT: RTO Don Keller, Mekong Delta, 1968; standing by the Waynesburg V.F.W. tank are: Rick Black, left, Don Keller, and Donnie Martin; and Donnie Martin in Vietnam, 1968.

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Waynesburg Matters: The Ullom-Rice-Hook House

By Mary Beth Pastorius
mbpastorius@gmail.com

At the height of Waynesburg's "Golden Age" of oil and gas prosperity, in 1898, Dr. J. T. Ullom built a grand residence at the corner of High and Richhill Streets. Today it's the headquarters of Hook and Hook law firm.

Constructed of locally quarried sandstone, the house is a well preserved example of "Queen Anne" architecture with elements of other late Victorian influences: Shingle, Richardsonian Romanesque and Classical Revival.

Typical of the Queen Anne style, the Ullom House has an opulent profusion of design elements. Among them, most dominant is a round tower that rises three stories from the SW corner of the house, topped by a conically-shaped roof covered with fish-scaled slate. The tower is balanced on either side by massive gables, steeply pitched.

The side gable is cantilevered beyond the plane of the wall below and covered with wood shingles. It contains a triple window of diamond-cut glass, topped by a broad Richardsonian arch. A rounded, two-story bay and an arched staircase window are below the gable.

On the front façade, there's another Richardsonian arch, this one constructed of heavily rusticated stone. It shelters a recessed porch and small, stained glass window. The front façade is united by a broad porch extending the full width of the house. The porch is classically detailed with a denticulate cornice, Ionic



The Ullom-Rice-Hook House, ca. 1930. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, razed in 1942, is on the right. On the left is an early Esso gas station. (greeneconnections.com)

columns and carved gable medallion.

There are two entrances facing High Street. The main door has a window of cut lead glass with transom above. The second door opens directly into the front parlor, facilitating use as a doctor's office.

Inside, the curved glass windows of the tower are lined with original, curved wooden shutters, a masterpiece of carpentry skill. Many of Dr. Ullom's cousins were carpenters and staircase builders who likely

created the beautiful woodwork that's preserved throughout the house. Stone mason S. A. Rinehart built the exterior at the same time he was working on Soldiers and Sailors Monument in the Commons.

The Queen Anne style was the first to eschew the narrow, central hallway of earlier architectural fashion. Guests were welcomed into a large "Living Hall" with fireplace, paneled staircase and cozy tower nook with beaded spindle-work screens. Pocket doors leading into the parlor and dining room could be opened to accommodate large groups.

Five years before he built his house, Dr. Ullom served as chair of the building committee of Washington Street Methodist Church, increasing the probability that the same craftsmen created both buildings.

In 1910, Dr. Ullom sold the house to another prominent local businessman, George E. Rice. Both were investors in oil, coal and gas. However, Rice was also a land developer and owner of the first Ford dealership in town. Occupancy continued with his son, James P. Rice, professor of business administration at Waynesburg College.

The family sold to Hook & Hook in 1993.

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Relief without the 'high' Medicinal hemp is available now at Specialty Herbal Store

By Cindy Bailey,
GreeneSpeak Editor/Publisher

WAYNESBURG—Many people with chronic pain and neurological disorders are waiting anxiously until medicinal marijuana is legally available for purchase in PA. Medical marijuana was legalized in PA last year, and Agrimed Industries of PA, LLC was recently permitted to grow and process the product in Cumberland Township, Greene County. However, medical marijuana won't be available until late 2018.

Registered Pharmacist Brian King, owner of Specialty Herbal in Waynesburg, says the good news that most people don't know, is medicinal hemp (cannabis sativa) is available at the store now. That's because it was legalized in 2014 through the Industrial Hemp Act. Medicinal hemp contains CBD, the same active compound found in Marijuana. "Of all the compounds found in the hemp plant, CBD is the one with the most healing/medicinal properties," King said.

The biggest difference between the two plants is that medicinal hemp won't make you "high" because the psychoactive THC compound has been removed. "Industrial hemp has less than 0.3% THC," King explains. "Medicinal hemp is actually industrial hemp that is grown to have high levels of CBD."

Additionally, your doctor will have recommend medical marijuana for you, which you will buy at a dispensary, like the one coming to Washington, PA, where a pharmacist will decide on what form and concentration you need.

Medical marijuana has neither been approved by the FDA, nor gone through FDA



Registered Pharmacist Brian King, owner of Specialty Herbal in Waynesburg holds 2 varieties of Medicinal Hemp available at the store, concentrated oil & cream. All Hemp products at Specialty Herbal are THC free, meaning it will not show up in a drug test.

clinical trials, so your insurance will not cover it. Also since most banks are guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Corp., you can only purchase it with cash; no credit cards.

Medicinal hemp is not covered by insurance for the same reason, but all you have to do is walk in the store and purchase it.

Specialty Herbal offers various forms and concentrations of the product, including drops and creams. The brand sold at the store has no detectable THC in it, good news for working people who must routinely submit to drug testing.

The politicizing of medical marijuana, has been a hot topic, but Hemp has been controversial as well.

For 3,000 years, King, says, hemp was used in most medicines, but the plant became a

political football "when all hemp products were outlawed just prior to World War I," he said. The plant's properties, like mold resistance, made it useful for parachutes, uniforms, ropes, and sails.

Call Specialty Herbal at 724-852-1949 for more information.

Roots of Health • By Brian King, R. Ph. • Medicinal hemp

With all the news of late about Medical Marijuana, what has gone under the radar is Medicinal Hemp. Whereas Medicinal Marijuana will be very regulated by law, very selective as to who can buy it, and carries a stigma or otherwise ethical dilemma for many; Medicinal Hemp has none of these.

Medicinal Hemp is Hemp with the psychoactive THC removed from it. THC is the compound in Marijuana that makes people "high." THC is one of many compounds (cannabinoids) found in Hemp.

What most people don't know is that the most active therapeutic cannabinoid in Hemp is not THC, but CBD. Of all the compounds found in the hemp plant, CBD is the one with the most healing/medicinal properties.

CBD and other hemp cannabinoids (not THC) can be purchased right now from Specialty Herbal in Waynesburg and other retailers without a prescription or a certified dispensary. This is great news for people suffering from various diseases.

CBD does not make people "high"; it is not psychoactive; and it has far more medicinal uses than THC.

Scientific and clinical research, much of it sponsored by the U.S. government, underscores CBD's potential as a treatment for a wide range of conditions, including **arthritis, diabetes, alcoholism, MS, chronic pain, schizophrenia, PTSD, depression, epilepsy, and other neurological disorders.** CBD is currently being investigated at several academic research centers for its potential anti-cancer properties. I was recently contacted by a Rheumatoid Arthritis patient who told me that CBD has made all the difference in the world with her arthritis pain.

"Buyers beware: not all CBD is created Equal." I have personally met with 3 major suppliers of CBD/ Medicinal Hemp; and an associate of mine has done extensive research, including urine testing, to find a quality supplier who can guarantee a superior product with guaranteed no detectable THC. The research has been enlightening.

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ELEVATION STRENGTH TEAM ATHLETES COMING TO GREENE COUNTY.

Rolling Meadows Church of God Youth Pastor Kevin Beal, working with other local youth leaders, has booked the strong man Gary Keylon, a professional weightlifter and founder of the Strength Team, who break boards and lift firey logs in front of school and church groups. Keylon explains, "We combine unique feats of strength with a powerful message of destiny and purpose."

Beal notes, "It's a non-religious program that promotes moral and character building. We're just trying to find exciting, enriching things for our youth to do in these troubled times."

In October, Keylon will be on stage at schools in Southeast Greene Oct. 12 in Carmichaels Oct. 13. Also, the public is invited to attend his program at the Church of God in Waynesburg, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. Keylon provides the programs free of charge but does accept donations. Call the church: 724-627-9430.

Center Township couple say proposed steel footbridge over Ten Mile will cause flooding

By Cindy Bailey, *GreeneSpeak* Editor/Publisher
ROGERSVILLE—Before you read any farther, Brian and Lena Hughes of Rogersville, lifelong residents of Center Township, want you to know that they are two of the many of residents who loved the former wooden and wire mesh foot bridge that spanned Ten Mile Creek in Rogersville for many years. The bridge, which was torn down recently amid safety concerns, connected the Creek Road area to the township park, and is sorely missed by all, including the Hughes family.

Brian, (above, left, as a child on the bridge his dad built), and Lena walked their boys when they were small to the park via the bridge. They've been told the new bridge will be constructed of solid steel and built on the existing pilings (above, right photo). A lifelong welder, who worked construction for years, Brian says that, at the very least, the new bridge should be built up higher.

For months, the couple have attended the public meetings, asking supervisors Paul Cook, Edward "Butch" Deter, and Sean McCollum to see plans for the new bridge. Lena says they referred her to the DEP, but nobody returned calls at the number they provided.

At the Aug. 8 township meeting, the supervisors said they will move the a floating ramp to the Creek Road side of the bridge, which should help.

"We just think they should consider a different design," Lena said.

The couple's home on Creek Road has been flooded "every time there's a hard rain," she said. They have learned to live with the muddy mess and the clean-up, but they now fear the new bridge will be more like a dam, aggravating the situation.

In other business, the supervisors approved a change to the sewage permit for the proposed Dollar General store (bottom photo) located directly across from Rosemont Cemetery. McCollum opposed, noting that he feels the Dollar Store won't add much to the "harmony of the area."

Supervisors meet the second Thurs. at 7 p.m. at the municipal building in Rogersville.



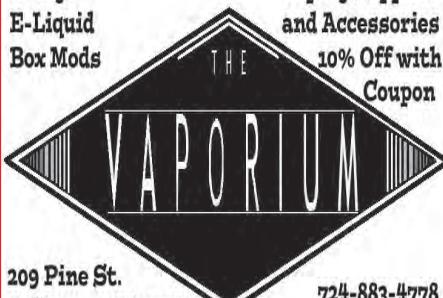
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Cindy's Wind • By Cindy Bailey • See more Cindy's Wind on Facebook
Frog lessons

Frogs and toads are among my favorite forms of Dividing Ridge wildlife so I was not surprised when Bob showed up with this photo of a froggy fellow basking in a sun-warmed puddle on a brisk September day. I think he was smiling at the sun, and Bob captured that moment forever (this may do more to explain why I married him as anything else I could tell you).

Honestly I wouldn't have even noticed this little guy (the frog, not Bob). It's easy for Bob because he's one of these people who floats around on little ballerina feet (smaller than mine) and just appears. I cannot tell you how many times he caused me to jump out of my skin having returned home from work early, tiptoed up the stairs and just said "It's me." The girls think he missed his call to be an FBI reconnaissance operative.

Anyhow frogs floating with their feet straight down, oblivious to the world, is the kind of curious little spectacle you see on the shorter days of late summer when the strange mantises and walking sticks also turn up and fade away before you know it. Deer and wild turkeys are restless as it gets cooler, as the spotters (future hunters) come out at night.

The frog didn't mind having his photo shot, was unconcerned that he was an easy target for a chicken hawk or raccoon that couldn't rustle up any snacks the night before. Risking a few minutes for soul food is good for everyone, great or small.

I read in *Scientific American*, that frogs around here burrow in the ground where their metabolism virtually stops. Their extremities can

become frozen, but their life juices stay in gel form, flowing around their internal organs. Occasionally they will pop their nostrils out for a long drag for fresh air.

This frog couldn't have cared less about Bob standing there with his phone, totally unconcerned that he (the frog, not Bob) was an easy target for a chicken hawk or raccoon that couldn't rustle up any snacks the night before. Risking a few minutes for soul food is good for everyone, great or small.

I think maybe I should start scouting out little patches of sunlight on the waters, rather than nervously scanning the skies for rain clouds all the time.

Who knew frogs were so wise?

"From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised." Ps. 113:3

Optional Bible study moment

1. How important is rest? What are some ways you can find more? Discuss or reflect.
2. How often can you truly say, like the old hymn: "There is sunshine in my soul today" ?
3. Does it give you more perspective to realize that Jesus got away from the crowds during his short 3-year ministry? See Luke 5:16.
4. Where is your "patch of sunshine" today?



Minding the Mind • By Beth Wallach, MA, Psychologist
When reality stinks

In this article, I have used the ideas of Robin Chancer, a North Carolina social worker, in case you want to look up her work.

Sometimes things happen that are so horrible for us that we "can't stand it." Unfortunately, we need to do just that, to bear an unbearable reality. How can we not go crazy in these situations?

First, to live in our world, we need to accept that things are the way they are, whether or not we like it. On the surface, this seems obvious. It is raining on my picnic -- I don't like it, but it is. But humans often pretend we have power over things we don't.

We try to make reality into something we can like: We ignore it. We bargain with God. We decide it's all for the best. We say "if only I had ..." to mentally undo it. We tell ourselves someone else will fix it. This takes a lot of mental energy. And we still remain anxious because we are lying to ourselves!

Accepting reality DOES NOT mean liking reality. Acceptance is very hard when a situation feels hopeless or tragic. But it is worth the struggle, because there is no internal resolution without living in reality.

We Americans have a cultural myth that Good always triumphs over

Evil, and that things always get better eventually. Hollywood encourages this myth--after all, we like movies that make us feel good! But real life tragedies teach us otherwise. Recognizing this myth helps us to reconcile "accepting reality" while hating it.

We choose what we focus our attention on. We can look for the silver linings in tragedies. A nurse told my client that the manner in which her father died caused feelings of tranquility and euphoria right before death. She can look to this comforting fact when the sadness of his loss is too much to bear.

Finally, while we must accept what is real, we must also accept our responsibility to do what we can to make things better. Our choice with unbearable realities is DESPAIR vs. ACTION. No individual can cure childhood cancer, but most of us can donate a dollar to cancer research. No one of us can remove all the world's pollution, but each of us can recycle our pop bottle. Doing something also focuses us in on the present moment, not on a future that seems hopeless. It is another way to focus our attention on something more hopeful than the gravity of the problem itself -- and it moves us toward less tragedy in the future, even if ever so slightly.

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Greene Community Foundation presents \$12,000 in local grant awards

WAYNESBURG—Community Foundation of Greene County awarded \$12,000 in grants to 12 county organizations August 16 in their summer grant round.

The awards were presented by Foundation Board Chairman Dr. Morris Harper, who noted, "Educating our youth, assisting those recovering from illness, and bringing new cultural opportunities to Greene County are the desires that lay at our heart."

Grant recipients were: Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Western PA (\$1,000); Community Youth Outreach of Bobtown United Methodist Church (\$500); Coalition for a Brighter Greene (\$2,000); Flenniken Public Library (\$1,000); Greene County Historical Society (\$2,000); Laurel Highlands Council, Boy Scouts (\$500); Nathanael Greene (\$1,000); SOAR (\$500); STARs Foundation (\$2,000); Washington Hospital Foundation Patient Transportation System (\$1,000); Greene County Career & Technology Center (\$500); and First Assembly of God Mpart Girls (\$500).

Executive Director Bettie Stammerjohn said the Foundation is already collecting grant applications for the Fall Round.

Nonprofit 501c3 organizations, churches, schools, and government agencies are encouraged to apply online at www.cfgcpa.org. Or Contact her at: 724-627-2011 or cfgcpa@gmail.com



BETTIE STAMMERJOHN

OBITUARY INDEX—Recent Greene County deaths—SEPT. 2017

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<u>Judith Ann Adamson</u> , 76, of Waynesburg, died Aug. 1.	<u>Nicholas Hunter Hillsman</u> , 19, of Rices Landing died August 16.	<u>Randy Litton</u> , 50, Waynesburg native, died July 11.	<u>Jean Ross</u> , 74, of Waynesburg, died July 15.
<u>Peggy S. Barnhart</u> , 69, of New Freeport, died July 11.	<u>Gloria K. Huffman</u> , 89, Waynesburg native, died July 17.	<u>Arnetta Lemley McClelland</u> , 96, Waynesburg native, died Aug. 26.	<u>Guy L. Rush</u> , 67 of Waynesburg died August 10
<u>Anna K. Coneybeer</u> , 83 of Jefferson, died August 11.	<u>Ann Kolick</u> , 89 formerly of Clarks-ville, died July 29.	<u>Russell "Pete" E. McClellan</u> , 83, of Holbrook, died August 21.	<u>Ronald E. Shaffer</u> , 72 of Jefferson died August 3.
<u>Louise Baily DeWeese (Dotty)</u> , 97, Carmichaels native, died July 23.	<u>Bernice M. "Millie" Kolvek</u> , 81, of Center Township died August 7.	<u>Lillian Dell (Miller) Marling</u> , 99, of New Freeport, died August 14.	<u>Mona Geraldine Shields</u> , 97, of Spraggs, died, July 20.
<u>Anna Kathryn Barrickman Eddy</u> , 93, of Waynesburg, died Aug. 24.	<u>Donald Edward Lemasters</u> , 70, of Waynesburg, died July 14.	<u>Marjorie R. Reagan</u> , 89, Waynesburg, died July 10.	<u>April A. Slicko</u> , 49, of Rogersville, died July 15.
<u>Beatrice L. Estle</u> , 79, of Rices Landing, died August 21.	<u>Robert L. Lemasters</u> , 77, of New Freeport, died July 15.	<u>Joetta J. Reed</u> , 73, of Oak Forest, died July 24.	<u>Charles Bryan Snyder</u> , 53 of Jefferson, died July 31.
<u>Donald Lee Fox</u> , 75, of Waynesburg, died August 8.	<u>James Raymond Fordyce</u> , 81, of Brave, died August 19.		<u>Benjamin A. Tate</u> , 61, of Waynesburg, died July 27.
<u>Nellie Arlene Rogers Haines</u> , 84, of Waynesburg, PA, died July 31.	<u>Paul E. Haines</u> , 81, Mt. Morris native, died July 18.		<u>Donald A. Teagarden</u> , 87 of Waynesburg, died August 15.
<u>Robert S. Harvilla Sr</u> , 86, of Clarks-			<u>Mary Laurine (Schneck) Williams</u> , 91, of Waynesburg, died July 31.
			<u>Anthony Edward Zurca</u> , 78 of Rices Landing, died August 10.



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—M. Tanner, Librarian

Stories that matter**Walking for 'Anna Banana'****Sept. 30th PeacefromDV Walk raises funds, awareness, for domestic violence victims****By Cindy Bailey, GreeneSpeak Editor/Publisher**

WAYNESBURG—Gina Lutz says if she had known more about the help available at Domestic Violence Services Southwestern PA, things might have turned out differently for her sister Anna.

That's why Gina and the "Anna Banana" Team will participate in the PeacefromDV Walk set for 11 a.m. Sept. 30 in Washington. The Walk is a fund-raiser and awareness event for DVSSP, and all ages are welcome to participate. Theme of this year's event is "Make the Call," meaning if you see something, say something.

Gina wishes she had said much more eight years ago when her sister Anna didn't seem like her usual self.

Fun-loving and always kidding around, "My sister would introduce herself as 'Anna Banana' at Laverne's in Jefferson where she was a waitress," said Gina, now 34, and an active volunteer with DVSSP.

But in the summer of 2009, Anna was drinking too much and seemed withdrawn. "She just wasn't the same person," Gina says. Only months before, Anna and her then-fiance were looking forward to the birth of their baby. "She was so happy," Gina recalls. But Anna suffered a miscarriage and the stress was too much for the relationship and the couple broke up.

Within a few weeks, Anna moved in with another man in Washington. In her large, close family, including her parents, George and May Ann Lutz, and siblings Renee, Dawn, Malynda, Gina, Josh, and Mary, it was hard to hide the fact that something was terribly wrong. She avoided them all.

"I tried to get her to come back to Philadelphia with me," Gina said. But Anna refused and wouldn't talk about it. Her family was at a loss as to why she would stay since she seemed miserable. The situation escalated; he stopped taking her to work and she rarely left home. When they realized Anna's phone had been shut off, "We freaked out and called the cops," Gina says. "An officer came to the door, but Anna wouldn't leave." With tears streaming down her face, Gina said, "Within a week, she was dead."

It happened on Sept. 26, 2009 after the couple went out to dinner with his boss. At home that night, her boyfriend accused Anna of embarrassing him in front of his boss.

Nobody will really ever know the true course of events, but this man who Anna had known just a few months literally beat her to death with his bare hands over the next several hours, taking a break at one point. "He could have saved her if he had stopped then," Gina said. But he went back and finished the job, dragging her partially clothed body into the backyard and going back in to drink and watch TV. Anna was just 24 years old.

"He chased her all over the house," Gina says. "There was blood everywhere." (He was later charged, tried, and sentenced to 29-58 years for aggravated assault and 3rd degree murder with no possible parole before 29 years).

After the funeral and the grueling trial, Gina says she spiraled downward, returning to the city where she says she drank too much and eventually found herself pregnant. "I was in a dark place," she says. She needed her family, so she returned to Greene County with her son George, now 6. "I was on a mission to improve myself."



Sisters Mary Lutz (left), Malynda (Lutz) Clair, Anna Lutz, and Gina Lutz share a happy moment at Malynda's wedding, in one of the last known photos of Anna (<http://www.photobypault.com/>).

Walking by the Washington DVSSP office last September, she spontaneously stepped in the door, introduced herself and asked if she could volunteer. The PeacefromDV Walk was only a few days away, and she quickly gathered a group and formed the Anna Banana Team.

These days, in addition to her full-time job as chef at Greene Cove Restaurant, she volunteers at the DVSSP legal advocacy office.

But Cheryl McCready, Greene County DVSSP Satellite office coordinator, says Gina helps out with whatever is needed, such as wrapping Christmas presents for children of domestic violence victims. "It was so much fun," she said.

"I have leaned so much through the experiences here and have so much more understanding of how and why it happened," Gina says. "Before, I didn't understand why they stay."

Gina also had no idea of how much help DVSSP offers, including shelters, transitional housing, help with PFAs, legal advocacy, support groups and one-on-one counseling. [Services are free and confidential].

Kelly Young, Donations & Resources Coordinator, added, "We give victims tools to overcome." This could be choosing 'safe word' to use as a signal of trouble, copying important papers or hiding an old cell phone to dial 911.

From July 2016 though June 2017, the Greene County DVSSP office served 337 victims of domes-

tic violence, including 289 women and 48 men, McCready said.

Funding for the nonprofit DVVSP comes from agencies like the PA Coalition against Domestic Violence and Victims of Crime Act, McCready said, adding, "we also rely heavily on donations from private individuals, businesses and church or civic organizations." Operating a shelter for one month costs about \$15,000.

DVVSP also collects paper products, OTC medications, food, clothing for women and children, and small household items," McCready said, "as well flip-flops, jackets, scarves, hats and gloves for victims who left their homes with only the clothing on their backs."

The goal of the PeacefromDV Walk is to raise \$24,000 - the annual cost of running the 24/7 hotline, which serves Greene, Washington and Fayette counties. "You can talk with a real person 24 hours a day," Young said. (800-791-4000).

Adults, kids, and even pets on leashes are welcome to join in the Walk, Young said. The day includes Bluegrass music, basket raffle, 50/50 drawing, guest speakers, kids' activities, and info tables.

"Anna's story is why I want to be involved in prevention and awareness events like the PeacefromDV Walk," Gina said. Volunteering has been therapeutic but she will never stop missing her vivacious sister, adding, "Our family will never be the same."

• TO FIND OUT MORE: 724-852-2373 • www.peacefromdv.org

• DONATE TO THE ANNA BANANA TEAM:
<https://www.crowdrise.com/anna-banana1/fundraiser/reginalutz>

• IF YOU NEED HELP: Greene Hotline: 724-852-2463

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